



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

## May 2020



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Manitoba, including the regions of Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba and Southern Manitoba.

### OVERVIEW

In May, the Government of Manitoba lifted some of the precautionary measures put in place to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and entered Phase 1 of their strategy to re-open the economy. While critical public health measures and travel restrictions remained in place, non-urgent medical services restarted and some non-essential businesses re-opened.<sup>1</sup> Employment increased 13,100 in Manitoba in May — up 2.3% from the previous month but still down 66,400 (-10.1%) from May 2019.

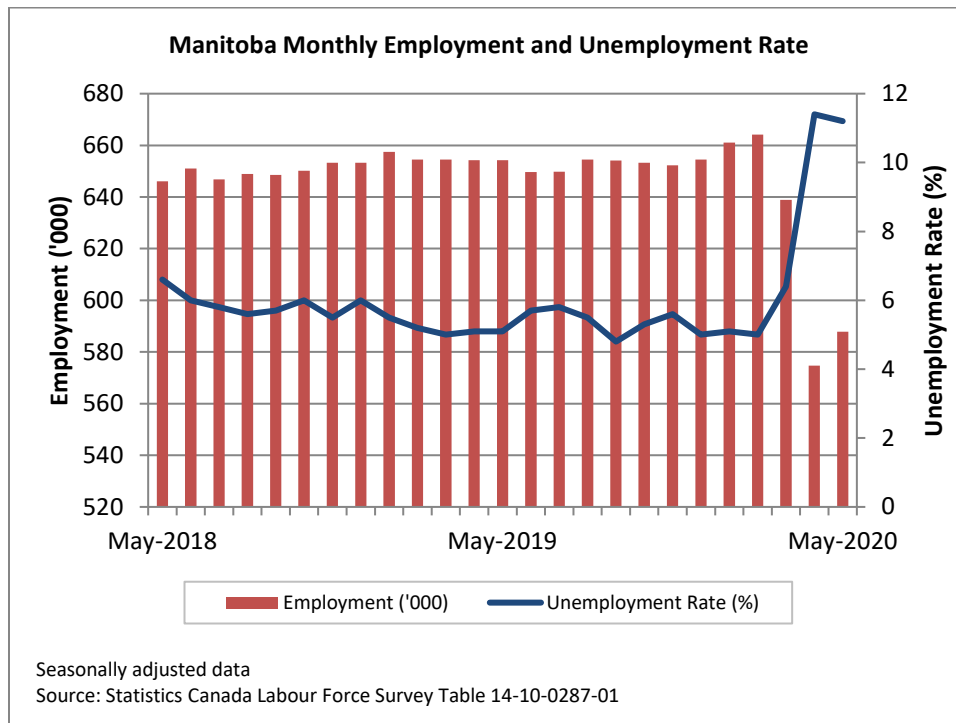
Monthly gains in employment were mostly offset by large numbers of people (+13,800) returning to the labour force. As a result, Manitoba’s unemployment rate edged down only slightly to 11.2%. The province had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada in May, well below the national average of 13.7%. Manitoba’s unemployment rate remains well above February’s pre-pandemic rate of 5.0%.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,046.2	1,046.2	1,035.2	0.0	0.0	11.0	1.1
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	662.2	648.4	689.3	13.8	2.1	-27.1	-3.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	587.8	574.7	654.2	13.1	2.3	-66.4	-10.1
Full-Time ('000)	480.8	477.7	522.5	3.1	0.6	-41.7	-8.0
Part-Time ('000)	107.0	97.0	131.7	10.0	10.3	-24.7	-18.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	74.4	73.7	35.1	0.7	0.9	39.3	112.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.2	11.4	5.1	-0.2	-	6.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.3	62.0	66.6	1.3	-	-3.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.2	54.9	63.2	1.3	-	-7.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0287-01, formerly CANSIM 282-0087



Over three-quarters of May’s employment gains were in part-time positions. Nonetheless, part-time employment is still down 18.8% (-24,700) from May 2019, while full-time employment is down 8.0% (-41,700).

Manitoba’s monthly employment gains were concentrated in the private sector (+17,400) and self-employed workers (+5,000). These gains were partially offset by losses in the public sector (- 9,300).

**Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2020 (%)	April 2020 (%)	May 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	11.2	11.4	5.1	-0.2	6.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	9.2	9.2	4.2	0.0	5.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.4	9.1	4.5	-0.7	3.9
Women - 25 years and over	10.3	9.2	3.9	1.1	6.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	22.8	24.6	9.7	-1.8	13.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.7	24.0	11.6	-3.3	9.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	25.3	25.7	7.9	-0.4	17.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

Manitoba’s youth unemployment rate (22.8%) was over twice that of those 25 years of age and over (9.2%). Young women saw a significant year-over-year increase in their unemployment rate (+17.4 percentage points); reflecting their high representation in industries most affected by the pandemic such as retail and food services.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The majority of monthly employment growth in Manitoba was in the services-producing sector (+11,700 or +2.7%), primarily due to gains in wholesale and retail trade (+7,000) and accommodation and food services (+2,800). Employment in the goods-producing sector grew more modestly (+1,300 or +1.0%), led by growth in the construction industry (+2,600). Both sectors have yet to fully recover from the pandemic with employment down on an annual basis in the services-producing sector (-48,100) and the goods-producing sector (-18,300).

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	587.8	574.7	654.2	13.1	2.3	-66.4	-10.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	137.2	135.9	155.5	1.3	1.0	-18.3	-11.8
Agriculture	27.4	28.5	26.0	-1.1	-3.9	1.4	5.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	4.7	3.7	5.4	1.0	27.0	-0.7	-13.0
Utilities	5.7	6.4	6.2	-0.7	-10.9	-0.5	-8.1
Construction	43.7	41.1	51.8	2.6	6.3	-8.1	-15.6
Manufacturing	55.5	56.2	66.0	-0.7	-1.2	-10.5	-15.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	450.6	438.9	498.7	11.7	2.7	-48.1	-9.6
Trade	81.6	74.6	88.0	7.0	9.4	-6.4	-7.3
Transportation and warehousing	35.6	35.7	42.6	-0.1	-0.3	-7.0	-16.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	31.4	32.2	33.7	-0.8	-2.5	-2.3	-6.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	30.5	29.8	28.5	0.7	2.3	2.0	7.0
Business, building and other support services	21.8	20.6	22.7	1.2	5.8	-0.9	-4.0
Educational services	49.5	52.2	52.7	-2.7	-5.2	-3.2	-6.1
Health care and social assistance	93.9	93.0	103.6	0.9	1.0	-9.7	-9.4
Information, culture and recreation	17.0	15.3	22.1	1.7	11.1	-5.1	-23.1
Accommodation and food services	28.2	25.4	41.9	2.8	11.0	-13.7	-32.7
Other services	26.3	25.6	27.7	0.7	2.7	-1.4	-5.1
Public administration	34.8	34.4	35.2	0.4	1.2	-0.4	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

**Construction industry** employment increased 6.3% in May. Employment in the industry is still down 15.6% compared to the same time last year (-8,100). The Province is spending an additional \$500 million over the next two years on shovel-ready construction projects throughout Manitoba. The funds, which will go towards water and sewage projects, road and highway resurfacing and repairs, bridge repairs, and municipal infrastructure, are in addition to the two-year \$3 billion infrastructure plan the province already had in place.<sup>2</sup>

Construction work on the \$8.7 billion Keeyask Generating Station in northern Manitoba is set to re-start. A ten-day blockade stopping the construction of the generating station was lifted on May 24 following an agreement between Manitoba Hydro and the four Keeyask Cree Nations. About 1,000 workers will gradually return to the site over the next few weeks.<sup>3</sup>

Employment in the **utilities industry** was down 700 in May and more losses are expected. Manitoba Hydro issued up to 200 temporary layoff notices expected to remain in force for four months. The layoffs were announced as part of cost-saving measures based on direction given by the Government of Manitoba.<sup>4</sup>

Employment in the **manufacturing industry** was down for a third consecutive month (-700 or -1.2%) in May. The industry employed 10,500 fewer people in May 2020 compared to the same time last year and it may fall even further. Boeing plans to lay off approximately 400 employees in Winnipeg or about a quarter of its local workforce.<sup>5</sup> The aerospace company announced extensive layoffs throughout the U.S. and abroad due to the pandemic's significant impact on the airline industry.<sup>6</sup>

Employment in Manitoba's **wholesale and retail trade** industry grew (+9.4%) at twice the national average in May after the province was among the first to allow non-essential businesses to re-open.<sup>7</sup> Nonetheless, there were still 6,400 fewer jobs in Manitoba's trade industry in May compared to the same month last year.

Services sector industries that rely on tourism will likely continue to have their recovery hampered by travel restrictions and social distancing measures. According to Destination Canada, measures to restrict travel and business operations mean Manitoba's tourism industry could lose between \$400 million and \$900 million this year.

Phase 3 of Manitoba's strategy to re-open its economy is set to begin no earlier than June 21, and it will undoubtedly cause an uptick in employment. This phase will open up many **information, culture and recreation (ICR)** businesses supported by tourism, such as casinos, indoor recreational facilities, amusement parks and other outdoor recreation businesses.<sup>8</sup> Since March, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries has temporarily laid off 1,300 employees or approximately 40% of its total workforce due to casino closures.<sup>9</sup>

Employment in the ICR sector could soon benefit from renewed activity in Manitoba's film industry, which received the green light to restart work effective June 1. As part of Phase 2 of the re-open strategy, Manitoba became the first province in Canada to allow film and television productions to resume operations. Manitoba Film and Music already reported interest from producers in others provinces and major international studios.<sup>10</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Statistics Canada's employment statistics available by economic region are based on a three-month moving average. Therefore, the data reflects information from March, April, and May 2020. For this reason, the uptick in Manitoba's total employment discussed in the previous sections of this document is not as clearly reflected in the regional data.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic reached every economic region in Manitoba. Employment is down in all six economic regions; with **Southwest** region posting the largest percentage decline on a year-over-year basis (-11.8%).

## Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2020 ('000)	May 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2020 (%)	May 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	598.9	652.6	-8.2	9.6	5.1	4.5
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	55.1	61.9	-11.0	6.8	3.1	3.7
South Central and North Central	52.1	54.4	-4.2	6.6	4.6	2.0
Southwest	50.9	57.7	-11.8	9.4	5.6	3.8
Winnipeg	371.6	403.0	-7.8	10.5	5.3	5.2
Interlake	40.8	44.4	-8.1	10.3	4.9	5.4
Parklands and Northern	28.5	31.3	-8.9	7.5	6.8	0.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

Over the last three months, the majority of job loss in Manitoba occurred in the **Winnipeg** region (-31,400). This region also has the highest unemployment rate of any in the province (10.5%), up 5.3 percentage points from May 2019. Travel restrictions and the closure of non-essential businesses had a significant impact on employment for this urban region. The Winnipeg region has over 60% of the province's wholesale, retail trade labour force, and almost 70% of the province's accommodation and foodservices workers.

The **Parklands and Northern** region had the smallest annual increase in the unemployment rate among regions (+0.7 percentage points to 7.5%). Annual employment gains in Agriculture (+400), Utilities (+500), and Educational Services (+800) helped to offset losses in industries directly impacted by the pandemic.

**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Manitoba (April 29, 2020). Premier unveils Manitoba’s roadmap to expanding services safely. Retrieved from:

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<sup>2</sup> Government of Manitoba (May 7, 2020). Province unveils major infrastructure package to help restart Manitoba recovery amid COVID-19 pandemic. Retrieved from:

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<sup>3</sup> Manitoba Hydro (May 25, 2020). Manitoba Hydro, Keeyask Cree Nations come to understanding. Retrieved from:

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<sup>4</sup> CTV News (June 5, 2020). Manitoba Hydro to issue layoff notices starting today. Retrieved from:

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<sup>6</sup> Boeing (May 27, 2020). Boeing CEO Provides Update on Workforce Actions. Retrieved from:

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<sup>7</sup> Government of Manitoba. Restoring services (Phase One). Accessed June 8, 2020:

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<sup>8</sup> Government of Manitoba. Restoring Safe Services - Phase Three. Accessed June 8, 2020:

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<sup>9</sup> CBC News (May 30, 2020). Casino shutdowns cut Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries payroll costs by millions. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/casino-shutdowns-cut-manitoba-liquor-lotteries-payroll-costs-by-millions-1.5591868>

<sup>10</sup> CBC News (May 22, 2020). Reopening of Manitoba's film industry could draw productions from across North America. Retrieved from:

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