



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

July 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

Employment in Manitoba increased 12,400 in July — up 2.0% from the previous month but still down 20,700 (-3.2%) from July 2019. Employment increased for the third consecutive month with peak employment growth occurring in June (+28,900 or +4.9%). The province has now effectively regained over 60% of jobs lost since the onset of the pandemic.

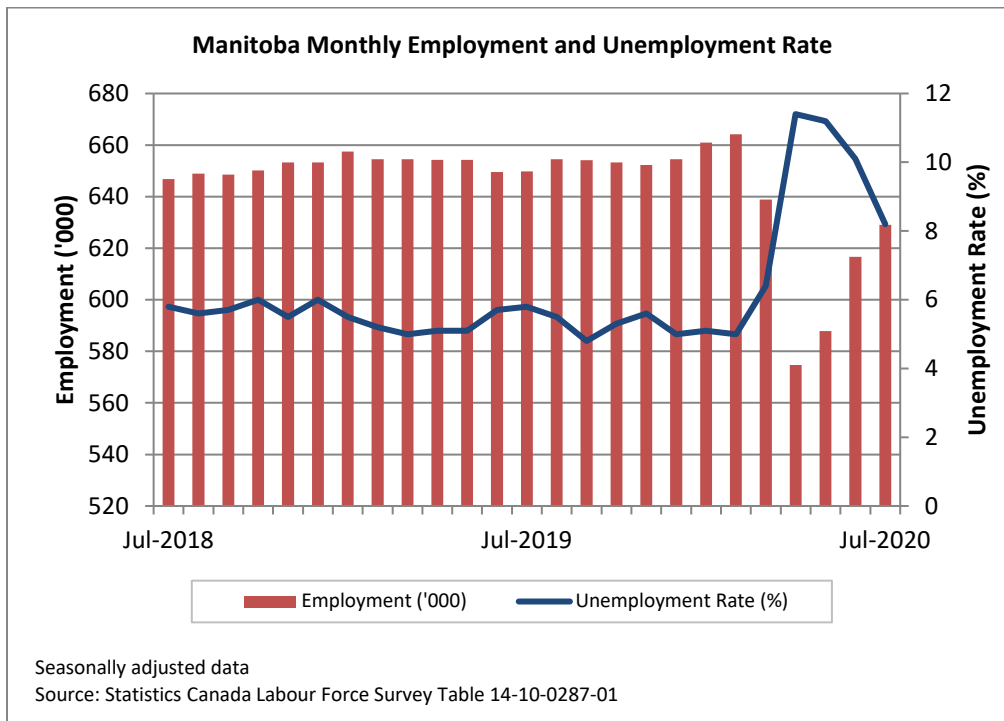
Both full-time (+6,200) and part-time (+6,100) employment increased in July as the Government of Manitoba continued to ease restrictions put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Province moved into phase four of Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba’s Pandemic and Economic Roadmap on July 23. This new phase allows casinos and movie theatres to reopen, while live theatrical performances can also resume. Indoor gathering limits remain the same as in phase 3 (up to 50 people), and the outdoor gathering limit is 100 people.¹

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,046.8	1,046.5	1,038.2	0.3	0.0	8.6	0.8
Labour Force ('000)	685.3	685.8	689.6	-0.5	-0.1	-4.3	-0.6
Employment ('000)	629.1	616.7	649.8	12.4	2.0	-20.7	-3.2
Full-Time ('000)	501.8	495.6	519.3	6.2	1.3	-17.5	-3.4
Part-Time ('000)	127.3	121.2	130.4	6.1	5.0	-3.1	-2.4
Unemployment ('000)	56.3	69.1	39.8	-12.8	-18.5	16.5	41.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.2	10.1	5.8	-1.9	-	2.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.5	65.5	66.4	0.0	-	-0.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.1	58.9	62.6	1.2	-	-2.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Along with continued employment growth, Manitoba’s unemployment rate declined 1.9 percentage points to 8.2% in July — representing the lowest unemployment rate of any province and 2.7 percentage points below the national average.

Manitoba’s youth unemployment rate (17.4%) is the lowest of any province for the second consecutive month and well below the national average (24.2%). While the unemployment rate for young women in Manitoba declined 6.5 percentage points to 14.5% in July, the unemployment rate for young men increased 2.1 percentage points to 20.1%.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2020 (%)	June 2020 (%)	July 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	8.2	10.1	5.8	-1.9	2.4
25 years and over	6.5	8.3	4.5	-1.8	2.0
Men - 25 years and over	6.6	8.4	4.7	-1.8	1.9
Women - 25 years and over	6.4	8.3	4.2	-1.9	2.2
15 to 24 years	17.4	19.3	12.4	-1.9	5.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.1	18.0	15.3	2.1	4.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.5	21.0	9.2	-6.5	5.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The pandemic has significantly affected the provincial and national economies. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, approximately 5,000 Manitoba small businesses are currently at risk of closure or bankruptcy.² Meanwhile, as of August 2, 261,360 Manitobans had applied for the federal Canadian

Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).³ Manitoba is expected to fair better than other provinces though. For example, BMO is forecasting a 4.8% decrease in GDP in 2020, compared to an expected 6.0% decline nationally.⁴

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Monthly employment growth in Manitoba's services-producing sector (+13,100 or +2.8%) was led by gains in **educational services** (+6,500) and **accommodation and food services** (+4,200). Meanwhile, employment decreased 800 (-0.6%) in the goods-producing sector in July. Both sectors have yet to fully recover from the pandemic with employment down on an annual basis both in the services-producing sector (-11,100 or -2.2%) and in the goods-producing sector (-9,600 or -6.4%).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	629.1	616.7	649.7	12.4	2.0	-20.6	-3.2
Goods-producing sector	140.6	141.4	150.2	-0.8	-0.6	-9.6	-6.4
Agriculture	25.4	26.2	25.1	-0.8	-3.1	0.3	1.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-3.8
Utilities	5.7	6.1	6.4	-0.4	-6.6	-0.7	-10.9
Construction	46.6	46.9	50.4	-0.3	-0.6	-3.8	-7.5
Manufacturing	57.7	57.1	63.0	0.6	1.1	-5.3	-8.4
Services-producing sector	488.4	475.3	499.5	13.1	2.8	-11.1	-2.2
Trade	86.6	86.6	88.7	0.0	0.0	-2.1	-2.4
Transportation and warehousing	35.9	36.7	40.9	-0.8	-2.2	-5.0	-12.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	33.7	33.3	34.3	0.4	1.2	-0.6	-1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.4	30.5	29.2	1.9	6.2	3.2	11.0
Business, building and other support services	21.3	23.1	23.5	-1.8	-7.8	-2.2	-9.4
Educational services	55.0	48.5	53.3	6.5	13.4	1.7	3.2
Health care and social assistance	99.9	98.8	101.0	1.1	1.1	-1.1	-1.1
Information, culture and recreation	20.2	19.7	23.2	0.5	2.5	-3.0	-12.9
Accommodation and food services	37.9	33.7	41.9	4.2	12.5	-4.0	-9.5
Other services	29.7	28.8	27.5	0.9	3.1	2.2	8.0
Public administration	35.8	35.5	36.0	0.3	0.8	-0.2	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment fell in three of the five goods-producing industries in Manitoba in July. **Agriculture** was down 800, followed by **utilities** (-400), and **construction** (-300). **Manufacturing** (+600) was the only goods-producing industry to register an increase in employment for the month of July. However, this industry could see some employment losses in the near term as NFI Group Inc. is combining New Flyer and Motor Coach Industries into one company. This change is expected to have a significant impact on the Winnipeg operations workforce.⁵ Winnipeg is home to NFI Group Inc.'s corporate headquarters and their largest manufacturing facilities. New Flyer Industries had suspended their Winnipeg bus manufacturing operations in March due to the impacts of

COVID-19 — affecting up to 2,700 workers. The company also already permanently laid off 300 of its Winnipeg-based employees due to the anticipated cancellation or deferral of orders in 2020.⁶

In the services-producing sector, employment in the **information, culture and recreation** industry was up 500 (+2.5%) in July but still down 3,000 (-12.9%) on an annual basis. Employment in this industry should continue to climb in August as phase four of Manitoba's Restart program allows more businesses to reopen including casinos. Club Regent and McPhillips Station Casino in Winnipeg both reopened on July 29.⁷

Employment in **educational services** is up both on a monthly and annual basis. Provincial funding outlined in Budget 2020 may help to continue this upward trend. The Government of Manitoba is spending \$160 million towards K-12 capital projects, which includes the construction of seven new schools. These projects will create 4,425 new classroom spaces that will open or be under construction by March 2021 — increasing the need for more teachers and support staff.⁸

The **professional, scientific and technical services** industry also saw a rise in employment both on a monthly (+1,900) and annual (+3,200) basis. Employment in this industry has bounced back quickly from the pandemic. While employment dipped in March (-100), and dropped more significantly in April (-1,300), recovery began in May, and surpassed pre-pandemic levels by July.

Employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry increased for the third consecutive month, but remains well below levels from a year ago (-4,000 or -9.5%). This industry has been particularly hard hit during the pandemic amid restrictions on social gatherings and travel. A new deal that could see Winnipeg designated as a host city for a Canadian Football League (CFL) shortened 2020 season would help to support the industry. The Province estimates the season could generate approximately \$4 million in hotel stays, and support 600 jobs.⁹

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On an annual basis, employment is down in every economic region in Manitoba. **Southwest** (-9.0%) and **Interlake** (-10.9%) saw the largest year-over-year percentage declines in employment. Meanwhile, the **Winnipeg** region saw the most job losses (-22,500) for this period and has the highest unemployment rate (11.5%) among all Manitoba regions.

The **Parklands and Northern** region is the only economic region in the province to see a decline in its unemployment rate on an annual basis — down 0.6 percentage points to 8.1%. The City of Churchill, located in the Northern region, has a significant tourism industry centered on polar bear and whale watching. This industry generates up to \$37 million a year in expenditures. Approximately 530,000 people visit Northern Manitoba every year but this number will be vastly different in 2020 due to travel restrictions.¹⁰ This region will benefit from \$100,000 in new federal funding that will support 50 businesses in Churchill by helping them comply with physical distancing guidelines and apply for recovery programs.¹¹

In the **Winnipeg** region, municipal employment is on the rise. While the City of Winnipeg had laid off 927 staff members at the beginning of the pandemic, it has been recalling employees as services reopen. Almost 400 community services staff were recalled in June and another 195 were recalled in July as the City began reopening

indoor pools and libraries.¹² The City is resuming full transit service in August, recalling about 120 transit drivers and 41 drivers-in-training.¹³

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2020 ('000)	July 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2020 (%)	July 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	619.0	659.2	-6.1	9.9	5.5	4.4
Economic Regions						
Southeast	57.9	61.9	-6.5	6.5	3.0	3.5
South Central and North Central	52.5	53.8	-2.4	5.6	4.8	0.8
Southwest	53.4	58.7	-9.0	8.2	5.2	3.0
Winnipeg	384.9	407.4	-5.5	11.5	5.8	5.7
Interlake	41.9	47.0	-10.9	8.5	4.7	3.8
Parklands and Northern	28.5	30.5	-6.6	8.1	8.7	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Manitoba

For further information, please contact the LMI team at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2020, all rights reserved

¹ Government of Manitoba. Restoring Services: Phase 4. Accessed August 7, 2020:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-four.html>

² The Winnipeg Free Press (July 30, 2020). Small businesses at risk, CFIB says. Retrieved from:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/small-businesses-at-risk-cfib-says-571952522.html>

³ Government of Canada. Canada Emergency Response Benefit statistics. Accessed August 7, 2020:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/claims-report.html>

⁴ BMO (July 22, 2020). BMO Blue Book: Canadian Small Businesses Begin the Post-Lockdown Recovery. Retrieved from:

<https://newsroom.bmo.com/2020-07-22-BMO-Blue-Book-Canadian-Small-Businesses-Begin-the-Post-Lockdown-Recovery>

⁵ Winnipeg Free Press (July 28, 2020). New Flyer, Motor Coach uniting Streamlining effort aims to save NFI Group up to \$75 million by 2023. Retrieved from:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/new-flyer-motor-coach-uniting-571927822.html>

⁶ CBC News (March 24, 2020). Bus maker NFI to permanently lay off approximately 300 Winnipeg staff. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/new-flyer-covid19-layoffs-1.5508040>

⁷ CTV News (July 24, 2020). What Manitoba casinos will look like when they reopen. Retrieved from:

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/what-manitoba-casinos-will-look-like-when-they-reopen-1.5038177>

⁸ Government of Manitoba. Moving Manitoba Forward, Budget 2020. Accessed on August 10, 2020:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/budget2020/index.html>

⁹ CBC News (July 24, 2020). Hub city committee aims to ensure Manitoba sees return on investment from proposed CFL season. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/cfl-hub-city-committee-winnipeg-1.5662530>

¹⁰ Winnipeg Free Press (July 30, 2020). Forks, Churchill get \$600K in federal tourism funding. Retrieved from:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/forks-churchill-get-600k-in-federal-tourism-funding-571962022.html>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² CBC News (July 7, 2020). Pan Am, Cindy Klassen pools to reopen July 20 to visitors who pre-register. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indoor-pools-libraries-reopening-winnipeg-1.5640950>

¹³ Global News (July 17, 2020). Winnipeg to resume regular transit service in August, masks recommended. Retrieved from:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7188741/winnipeg-to-resume-regular-transit-service-in-august-mayor-to-give-details-friday/>