



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

August 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 8,100 in August — up 1.3% from the previous month but still down 17,300 (-2.6%) from August 2019. Employment increased for the fourth consecutive month with peak employment growth occurring in June (+28,900 or +4.9%). As of August, Manitoba effectively regained almost 70% of jobs lost since April 2020.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,047.2	1,046.8	1,039.4	0.4	0.0	7.8	0.8
Labour Force ('000)	693.1	685.3	692.9	7.8	1.1	0.2	0.0
Employment ('000)	637.2	629.1	654.5	8.1	1.3	-17.3	-2.6
Full-Time ('000)	507.5	501.8	530.1	5.7	1.1	-22.6	-4.3
Part-Time ('000)	129.7	127.3	124.5	2.4	1.9	5.2	4.2
Unemployment ('000)	56.0	56.3	38.4	-0.3	-0.5	17.6	45.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	8.2	5.5	-0.1	-	2.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.2	65.5	66.7	0.7	-	-0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.8	60.1	63.0	0.7	-	-2.2	-

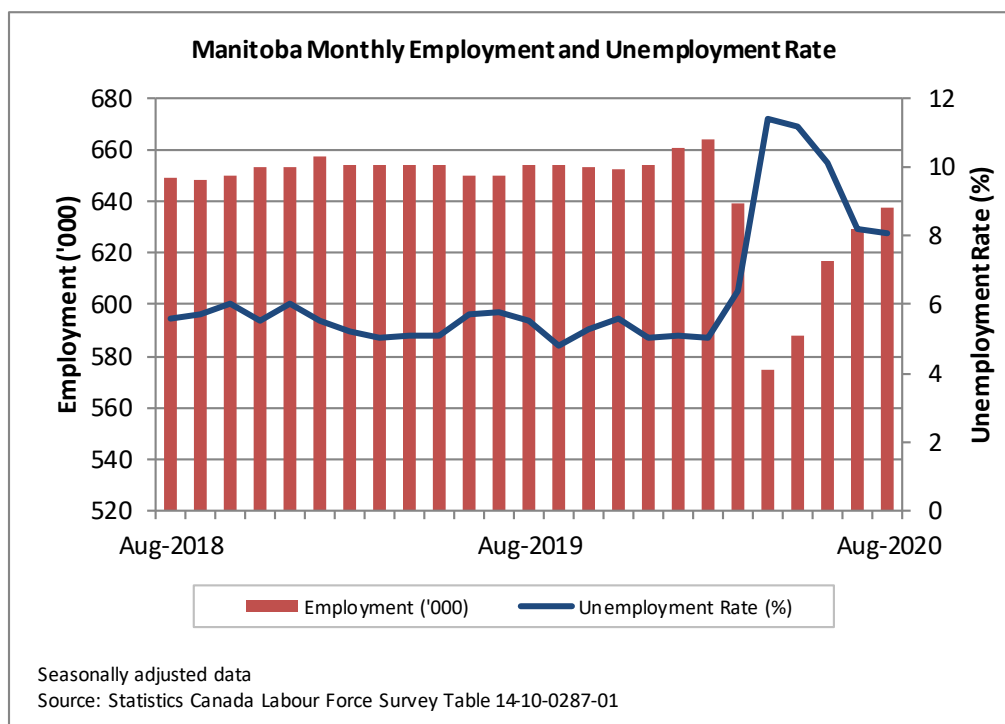
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

All monthly job gains were in the private sector (+11,800) while public sector employment (-100) remained relatively unchanged and self-employment (-3,600) declined more significantly.¹

Both full-time (+5,700) and part-time (+2,400) employment increased in August 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 with more businesses and workplaces continuing to reopen throughout the month of August. Meanwhile, due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases in southern Manitoba, the Province re-implemented travel restrictions to Northern Manitoba and remote communities on September 4.²



Manitoba's unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 8.1% in August — representing the second lowest unemployment rate of any province after Saskatchewan and 2.1 percentage points below the national average. The province's unemployment rate is still much higher than last August (5.5%).

Manitoba's youth unemployment rate dropped 1.8 percentage points to 15.6%, remaining well below the national average (23.1%). While the unemployment rate for young women in Manitoba declined 3.0 percentage points to 11.5% in August, the unemployment rate for young men remained much higher, edging down 0.9 percentage points to 19.2%.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2020 (%)	July 2020 (%)	August 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	8.1	8.2	5.5	-0.1	2.6
25 years and over	6.7	6.5	4.1	0.2	2.6
Men - 25 years and over	7.0	6.6	4.4	0.4	2.6
Women - 25 years and over	6.2	6.4	3.7	-0.2	2.5
15 to 24 years	15.6	17.4	13.2	-1.8	2.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.2	20.1	16.6	-0.9	2.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.5	14.5	9.6	-3.0	1.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Monthly employment growth in Manitoba's **services-producing sector** (+8,900 or +1.8%) was led by gains in **wholesale and retail trade** (+2,100) and **transportation and warehousing** (+2,100). Meanwhile, employment in the **goods producing sector** decreased 700 (-0.5%) in August. Both sectors have yet to fully recover from the pandemic with employment down on an annual basis in the services-producing sector (-6,400 or -1.3%) and the goods-producing sector (-10,900 or -7.2%).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	637.2	629.1	654.5	8.1	1.3	-17.3	-2.6
Goods-producing sector	139.9	140.6	150.8	-0.7	-0.5	-10.9	-7.2
Agriculture	25.8	25.4	25.0	0.4	1.6	0.8	3.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	4.9	5.1	5.1	-0.2	-3.9	-0.2	-3.9
Utilities	5.5	5.7	6.6	-0.2	-3.5	-1.1	-16.7
Construction	46.6	46.6	50.2	0.0	0.0	-3.6	-7.2
Manufacturing	57.0	57.7	64.0	-0.7	-1.2	-7.0	-10.9
Services-producing sector	497.3	488.4	503.7	8.9	1.8	-6.4	-1.3
Trade	88.7	86.6	89.0	2.1	2.4	-0.3	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	38.0	35.9	40.6	2.1	5.8	-2.6	-6.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	35.5	33.7	34.4	1.8	5.3	1.1	3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.0	32.4	30.6	-0.4	-1.2	1.4	4.6
Business, building and other support services	20.7	21.3	22.5	-0.6	-2.8	-1.8	-8.0
Educational services	55.7	55.0	54.1	0.7	1.3	1.6	3.0
Health care and social assistance	101.5	99.9	102.3	1.6	1.6	-0.8	-0.8
Information, culture and recreation	21.5	20.2	23.8	1.3	6.4	-2.3	-9.7
Accommodation and food services	37.8	37.9	42.1	-0.1	-0.3	-4.3	-10.2
Other services	30.9	29.7	28.3	1.2	4.0	2.6	9.2
Public administration	35.1	35.8	36.2	-0.7	-2.0	-1.1	-3.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The most significant employment losses in the goods producing sector occurred in the **manufacturing** industry. Employment was down 700 (-1.2%) in August and 7,000 (-10.9%) on an annual basis. Earlier this year, New Flyer Industries suspended Winnipeg bus manufacturing operations due to the impacts of COVID-19 — affecting up to 2,700 workers. The company also permanently laid off 300 of its Winnipeg-based employees due to the anticipated cancellation or deferral of orders in 2020.³

Food and beverage processing, which is the largest manufacturing sector by employment in Manitoba, has remained operational throughout the pandemic in spite of being subject to strict health regulations. However, meat-processing plants in Manitoba are encountering risks related to COVID-19. Recently, Maple Leaf faced increased absenteeism and a suspension of exports to China after numerous employees tested positive for COVID-19.^{4,5} Manitoba is responsible for approximately 30% of all pork production in Canada and most of the

provincial production originates from two large plants located in the southwest of the province: Maple Leaf Foods in Brandon and HyLife Foods in Neepawa. The industry has already been dealing with low hog prices during the pandemic and now faces the possible added burden of export restrictions to China, one of its largest trade partners.^{6,7}

In the services-producing sector, employment in **health care and social assistance** increased for the fourth consecutive month (+1,600). This industry includes many care services such as daycares, dentistry, chiropractic, and elective surgery clinics that were deemed non-essential and ordered to suspend operations to reduce the spread of COVID19. For this reason, employment in health care and social assistance dropped 4,100 in March and a further 11,200 in April. As the Province gradually re-opened non-essential services, employment in this industry nearly returned to August 2019 levels (-800) this month.

Going forward, the Province is spending \$22 million to create and sustain over 1,400 childcare spaces as part of its re-opening plan⁸ and offered \$18 million in temporary childcare grants that enabled licenced childcare providers to offer care from their home.⁹

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On an annual basis, employment was down in most economic regions in Manitoba. **Southwest** (-7.2%) and **Interlake** (-9.1%) saw the largest year-over-year percentage declines in employment. Meanwhile, the **Winnipeg** region had the most job losses (-22,500) for this period and has the highest unemployment rate (11.2%) among all Manitoba regions, up 5.0 percentage points from August 2019.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2020 ('000)	August 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2020 (%)	August 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	634.4	658.6	-3.7	9.5	5.9	3.6
Economic Regions						
Southeast	58.4	61.4	-4.9	6.1	3.8	2.3
South Central and North Central	54.1	53.8	0.6	4.6	5.8	-1.2
Southwest	55.1	59.4	-7.2	8.8	5.1	3.7
Winnipeg	394.5	406.5	-3.0	11.2	6.2	5.0
Interlake	43.1	47.4	-9.1	6.3	4.6	1.7
Parklands and Northern	29.1	30.2	-3.6	7.3	9.3	-2.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In August 2020, the unemployment rate in the **South Central and North Central** region declined 1.2 percentage points to 4.6%, the lowest unemployment rate in Manitoba, while also being the only region to register year-over-year employment growth (+300).

Effective September 3, the Province re-imposed travel restrictions to the **Northern** region to prevent the spread of COVID-19 but later clarified that direct travel with precautions will be allowed. The tourism industry in

Churchill was hard hit by travel restrictions earlier this year during the lockdown and a new ban will likely affect the busy polar bear viewing season that runs between October and November.¹⁰

Over 60% of all employment in Manitoba is located in the **Winnipeg** region. While the unemployment rate was the highest in the province in August, Winnipeg also had the highest percentage of people attempting to work or find work (69.0%). The **Winnipeg** region will now become the home of Canada's first testing facility for personal protective equipment (PPE). The Government of Canada and Manitoba are contributing a total of almost \$400,000 towards Winnipeg's Orthopaedic Innovation Centre (OIC) to help set up standardized testing services for personal protective equipment (PPE). The new services are expected to shorten the approval process for Canadian made respiratory products from the current 12-week wait times down to two weeks.¹¹

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

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¹ Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0288-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0089) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x 1,000). Accessed on September 4, 2020:

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² Government of Manitoba (September 3, 2020). COVID-19 BULLETIN #176. Retrieved from:

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⁷ Manitoba Co-operator (August 10, 2020). Manitoba Pork Council seeking new general manager. Retrieved from:

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⁸ Government of Manitoba (August 26, 2020). Provincial investments support choice in childcare for Manitoba families. Retrieved from:

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⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Thompson Citizen (September 8, 2020). Churchill train travel on track. Retrieved from:

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