



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

November 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

A surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Manitoba initiated the Province to re-introduce measures to contain the virus. The Government of Manitoba originally re-imposed stricter regulations for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region in early November and expanded these measures to the entire province on November 12. Manitoba's Critical level restrictions include the temporary closure of most non-essential businesses and forbids social gatherings outside of the household.

While the province made strides in employment recovery between May and September, the second wave of the pandemic negatively impacted employment in November — employment fell 18,100 to 632,400. Over 85% of these job losses are in part-time employment.

Total employment in Manitoba is down almost 20,000 year-over-year. Most of these job losses are in the private sector (-16,700), while the public sector lost fewer positions (-4,100) and self-employment increased slightly (+900).<sup>1</sup>

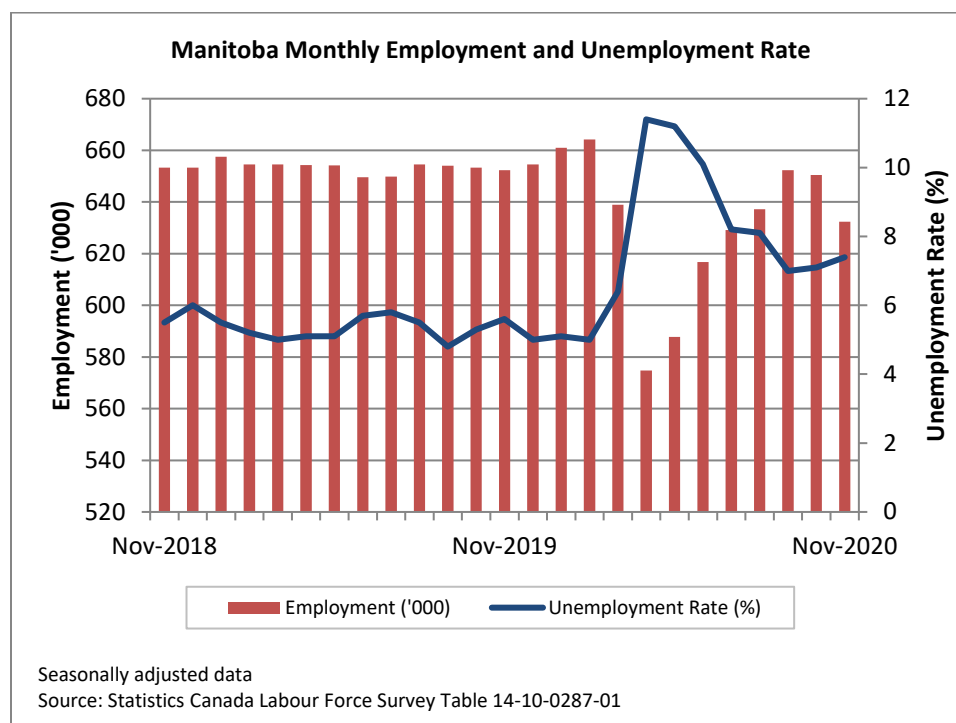
According to the Conference Board of Canada, Manitoba's economic recovery from the pandemic is not expected to occur until 2022 due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases.<sup>2</sup> Initially, the Conference Board forecast provincial employment to reach pre-pandemic levels by the first quarter of 2021.<sup>3</sup>

## Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,048.2	1,047.9	1,043.0	0.3	0.0	5.2	0.5
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	683.4	700.2	690.7	-16.8	-2.4	-7.3	-1.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	632.4	650.5	652.3	-18.1	-2.8	-19.9	-3.1
Full-Time ('000)	514.5	517.0	527.8	-2.5	-0.5	-13.3	-2.5
Part-Time ('000)	118.0	133.5	124.5	-15.5	-11.6	-6.5	-5.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	50.9	49.7	38.4	1.2	2.4	12.5	32.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.4	7.1	5.6	0.3	-	1.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.2	66.8	66.2	-1.6	-	-1.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	60.3	62.1	62.5	-1.8	-	-2.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Manitoba's unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 7.4% in November — 1.1 percentage points below the national average. The provincial unemployment rate remains much higher than last November (5.6%).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	November 2020 (%)	October 2020 (%)	November 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.4	7.1	5.6	0.3	1.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.0	5.9	4.4	0.1	1.6
Men - 25 years and over	6.0	6.2	4.6	-0.2	1.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.9	5.6	4.1	0.3	1.8
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.9	13.6	11.7	2.3	4.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.4	13.7	14.1	5.7	5.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.5	13.5	9.1	-1.0	3.4

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

Manitoba's youth unemployment rate increased 2.3 percentage points to 15.9% in November, edging closer to the national average (17.4%). While the unemployment rate for young women edged down a percentage point, the unemployment rate for young men increased significantly this month — up 5.7 percentage points to 19.4%. Indeed, the unemployment rate for this demographic group now exceeds the national average (18.2%) for the first time since the pandemic began. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for men (25 years and over) decreased 0.2 percentage points to 6.0% in November.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** decreased 1,000 in November with job losses in **construction** (-2,000) only partially offset by gains in **agriculture** (+800) and **manufacturing** (+800). Declining monthly employment in Manitoba's **services-producing sector** (-17,100) was primarily due to job losses in **accommodation and food services** (-9,800) and **information, culture, and recreation** (-2,000).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	632.4	650.5	652.3	-18.1	-2.8	-19.9	-3.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	140.6	141.6	149.3	-1.0	-0.7	-8.7	-5.8
Agriculture	25.1	24.3	26.1	0.8	3.3	-1.0	-3.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.3	3.5	5.4	-0.2	-5.7	-2.1	-38.9
Utilities	5.0	5.5	6.5	-0.5	-9.1	-1.5	-23.1
Construction	46.5	48.5	49.2	-2.0	-4.1	-2.7	-5.5
Manufacturing	60.7	59.9	62.1	0.8	1.3	-1.4	-2.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	491.8	508.9	503.0	-17.1	-3.4	-11.2	-2.2
Trade	90.9	89.9	90.4	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.6
Transportation and warehousing	41.5	41.7	39.3	-0.2	-0.5	2.2	5.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.5	34.6	33.7	-0.1	-0.3	0.8	2.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	30.7	32.2	29.7	-1.5	-4.7	1.0	3.4
Business, building and other support services	22.1	22.4	21.4	-0.3	-1.3	0.7	3.3
Educational services	56.3	57.5	51.6	-1.2	-2.1	4.7	9.1
Health care and social assistance	102.5	103.6	105.8	-1.1	-1.1	-3.3	-3.1
Information, culture and recreation	19.8	21.8	22.6	-2.0	-9.2	-2.8	-12.4
Accommodation and food services	27.3	37.1	43.9	-9.8	-26.4	-16.6	-37.8
Other services	30.2	31.0	28.1	-0.8	-2.6	2.1	7.5
Public administration	36.0	37.0	36.3	-1.0	-2.7	-0.3	-0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in Manitoba's **construction** industry was down 4.1% in November. While construction is deemed a critical service and can continue to operate under restrictions, the resurgence in COVID-19 cases throughout the province has impacted some large construction projects. For instance, Manitoba Hydro implemented a temporary workforce reduction at the Keeyask Generating Station project in November following an outbreak. Total staff was reduced from over 760 workers to approximately 550.<sup>4</sup>

According to BuildForce Canada, residential construction investment in Manitoba is anticipated to decline 11.6% in 2020, while non-residential expenditures are forecast to drop 10.5%.<sup>5</sup> The Government of Manitoba's plan to spend \$3.5 billion on infrastructure over the next two years is expected to partially offset expected declines in non-residential construction.<sup>6</sup>

In the services-producing sector, employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry decreased 26.4% in November and is down 37.8% year-over-year. Indeed, over half of all Manitoba job losses for the month of November are in accommodation and food services. This industry had been on a slow path to recovery since the beginning of the pandemic when travel restrictions and restaurant closures prevented many from working. Due to an uptick in positive cases of COVID-19, the Province re-implement several public health measures in November, effectively shutting down restaurants and bars, with only take-out and drive-thru options remaining for these businesses.

The **information, culture, and recreation** industry is also heavily impacted by the increased restrictions with employment down 9.2% for the month. As part of these measures, all recreational activities, sports facilities, casinos, museums, galleries, libraries, movie theatres and concert halls were mandated to shut down throughout the province in November. These widespread closures have lead to many layoffs. Approximately 600 temporary staff working for the City of Winnipeg were laid off due to the closure of city-owned recreation facilities and libraries. Some staff were redeployed to the Province or in other municipal roles.<sup>7</sup>

Employment in **health care and social assistance** also contracted in November (-1,100 or -1.1%). Regulated health care professions and child-care centres can continue to provide services under the new regulations. However, the closure of many non-essential services likely had a negative impact on employment in this industry due to a reduced need for childcare services.

Meanwhile, trained healthcare workers continue to be in high demand as Manitoba faces the second wave of COVID-19. Shared Health is in immediate need of nurses, care aides, and workers for testing sites, contact tracing, and call centres.<sup>8</sup> The Province is also collaborating with Red River College to create accelerated training programs to bolster the qualified healthcare labour pool.

Red River College, in collaboration with the Government of Manitoba, is developing a cost-free, one-week accelerated online training program focused on the fundamentals of disability support work. This training is part of a partnership between the Government of Manitoba and Manitoba Possible that is meant to address staffing challenges in the disability services sector. The new initiatives include a recruitment program to connect service providers with job seekers, in addition to the disability support training.<sup>9</sup>

Red River College and the Government of Manitoba already recently collaborated to create a COVID-19 micro-credential course to expand testing in the province. This course was introduced in October to train health-care workers and students to collect samples to test for the virus. The course is in high demand and the Province plans on offering more training opportunities in rural Manitoba.<sup>10</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment is down in three of Manitoba's six economic regions on an annual basis. Southwest (-6.1%) and Interlake (-5.5%) saw the largest year-over-year percentage declines in employment. Meanwhile, the Winnipeg region saw the most job losses (-6,900) during this period, and also has the highest unemployment rate (8.2%) among all Manitoba regions.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	November 2020 ('000)	November 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	November 2020 (%)	November 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	645.5	654.3	-1.3	6.7	4.9	1.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	60.3	59.7	1.0	4.7	4.8	-0.1
South Central and North Central	56.9	55.0	3.5	2.6	3.5	-0.9
Southwest	55.8	59.4	-6.1	4.9	5.3	-0.4
Winnipeg	398.3	405.2	-1.7	8.2	5.0	3.2
Interlake	42.7	45.2	-5.5	4.7	4.0	0.7
Parklands and Northern	31.6	29.9	5.7	3.7	6.0	-2.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There were 2,500 fewer people employed in the **Interlake** region in November 2020 compared to the same period last year. While the unemployment rate is relatively low (4.7%), it has increased 0.7 percentage points from last year and the labour force has also decreased by 2,300.

The largest population centre in this region is Selkirk where approximately 10,000 people reside.<sup>11</sup> Black Cat Wear Parts recently laid off almost all of its 70 employees at the AMSCO Cast Products foundry in Selkirk due to reduced orders and the facility will be idled until further notice. Some staff were offered employment at two local company-owned industrial blade-manufacturing operations.<sup>12</sup>

Meanwhile, employment in **Southwest** region fell 3,600 year-over-year. However, the regional unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points to 4.9% compared to last November. This was partially due to a decrease in the labour force (-4,000) between November 2019 and November 2020.

Southwest region's largest population centre is Brandon where close to 50,000 people reside.<sup>13</sup> In 2020, the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, the Manitoba Summer Fair and the Ag Ex, all scheduled to be hosted in Brandon at the Keystone Centre, were cancelled due to COVID-19. These cancellations have had a total estimated impact of \$18 million for the local economy.<sup>14</sup> Now, for the second consecutive year, the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba has cancelled the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair scheduled to take place in March 2021. The fair typically brings over 100,000 people to Brandon and generates \$7.2 million for the local economy.<sup>15</sup>

**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](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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0288-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0089) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x1,000). Accessed December 4, 2020:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028801>

<sup>2</sup> Conference Board of Canada (November 25, 2020). Tough Times Ahead: Provincial Outlook. Retrieved from:

<https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10894>

<sup>3</sup> Conference Board of Canada (September 29, 2020). Tough times ... but it could be worse: Manitoba's two-year Outlook – September 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10811>

<sup>4</sup> Manitoba Hydro (November 5, 2020). Workforce reduction at Keeyask allows project to continue. Retrieved from:

[https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2020/11/workforce\\_reduction\\_at\\_keeyask\\_allows\\_project\\_to\\_continue/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2020/11/workforce_reduction_at_keeyask_allows_project_to_continue/)

<sup>5</sup> BuildForce Canada (July 2020). Construction and maintenance looking beyond COVID-19. Retrieved from:

[https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast\\_summary\\_reports/BuildForce%20Looking%20beyond%20COVID-19%202020-2022%20investment%20update\\_0.pdf](https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast_summary_reports/BuildForce%20Looking%20beyond%20COVID-19%202020-2022%20investment%20update_0.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Global News (November 25, 2020). Hundreds of City of Winnipeg employees face temporary layoffs under coronavirus closures. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7484219/coronavirus-winnipeg-city-layoffs/>

<sup>8</sup> CTV News (October 19, 2020). Shared Health searching for more healthcare workers to fight COVID-19. Retrieved from:

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/shared-health-searching-for-more-healthcare-workers-to-fight-covid-19-1.5151866>

<sup>9</sup> Government of Manitoba (November 30, 2020). Province launches new training and recruitment initiatives to support and protect the disability services sector. Retrieved from:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=49917&posted=2020-11-30>

<sup>10</sup> Government of Manitoba (October 23, 2020). Red River College COVID-19 micro-credential in high demand. Retrieved from: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=49457&posted=2020-10-23>

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. 2016 Census. Accessed on December 4, 2020: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp->

---

[pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4613047&Geo2=CD&Code2=4613&SearchText=selkirk&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Labour&TABID=1&type=0](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4613047&Geo2=CD&Code2=4613&SearchText=selkirk&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Labour&TABID=1&type=0)

<sup>12</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (November 24, 2020). Nearly 70 to be laid off in foundry shutdown. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/nearly-70-to-be-laid-off-in-foundry-shutdown-573188101.html>

<sup>13</sup> Statistics Canada. 2016 Census. Accessed on December 4, 2020: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4607062&Geo2=CD&Code2=4607&SearchText=brandon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1&type=0>

<sup>14</sup> Manitoba Co-operator (November 25, 2020). Pandemic puts time out on RMWF planning. Retrieved from: <https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/pandemic-puts-time-out-on-rmwf-planning/>

<sup>15</sup> CBC News (November 25, 2020). Royal Manitoba Winter Fair cancelled for 2<sup>nd</sup> time due to COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/royal-manitoba-winter-fair-covid-19-1.5816978>