



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

## May 2021



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

The province of Manitoba has been under a state of emergency for over a year now. Public health measures meant to decrease the spread of COVID-19 have also diminished the number of people employed in the province, reduced the number of hours worked, and forced many to switch to telework. Manitoba's COVID-19 response has been at the Critical level since early November 2020.

Measures were slowly eased in the first part of 2021, leading to four consecutive months of employment growth in Manitoba. However, rising case counts led to a re-tightening of restrictions on April 28. A return to stricter measures resulted both in part-time (-1,700) and full-time employment losses (-1,200) for the month of May. While there has been some improvement over the last year, provincial employment is still down 10,500 compared to February 2020, before the pandemic began.

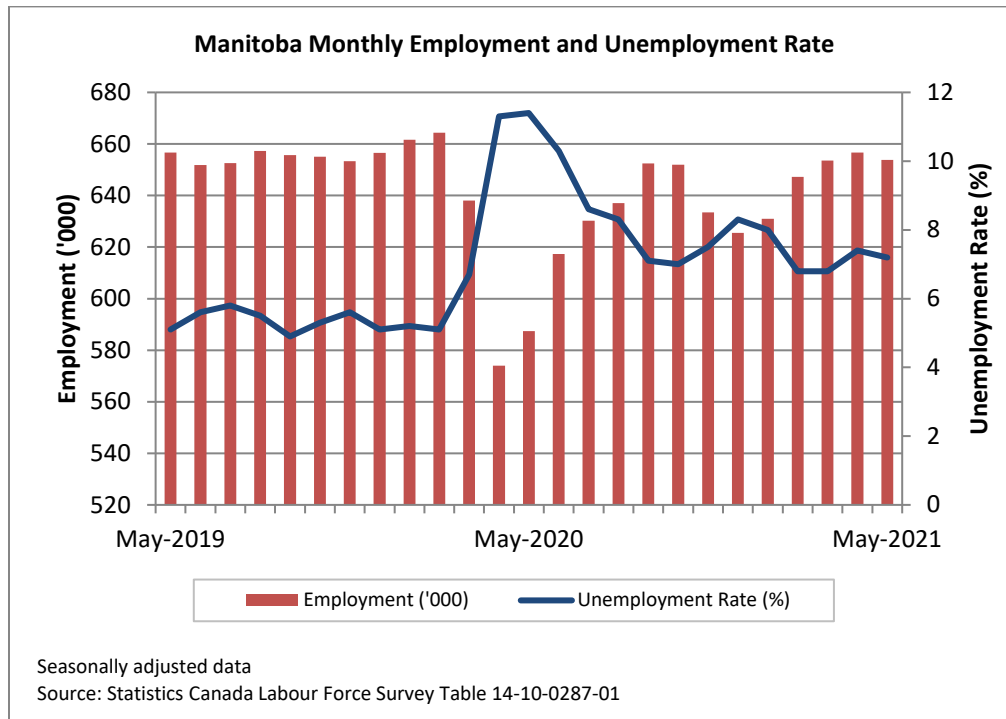
**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,050.6	1,050.8	1,047.1	-0.2	0.0	3.5	0.3
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	704.7	709.3	662.9	-4.6	-0.6	41.8	6.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	653.8	656.7	587.4	-2.9	-0.4	66.4	11.3
Full-Time ('000)	530.0	531.2	481.9	-1.2	-0.2	48.1	10.0
Part-Time ('000)	123.8	125.5	105.6	-1.7	-1.4	18.2	17.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	50.8	52.7	75.4	-1.9	-3.6	-24.6	-32.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.2	7.4	11.4	-0.2	-	-4.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.1	67.5	63.3	-0.4	-	3.8	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	62.2	62.5	56.1	-0.3	-	6.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Monthly employment losses in the private sector (-3,600) were only partially offset by gains in the public sector (+200) and in self-employment (+500).<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, small business recovery took a hit this month with only 53% of Manitoba businesses reporting they were fully open in the latest survey conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.<sup>2</sup> This represents a significant drop from April survey results where almost 70% of respondents stated their business was fully open.



The unemployment rate in Manitoba declined 0.2 percentage points to 7.2% in May, remaining below the national average of 8.2%. On an annual basis, the unemployment rate is significantly lower than it was in May 2020 (11.4%) when the province recorded its highest unemployment rate during the pandemic.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2021 (%)	April 2021 (%)	May 2020 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.2	7.4	11.4	-0.2	-4.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.2	6.0	9.3	0.2	-3.1
Men - 25 years and over	5.5	5.3	8.4	0.2	-2.9
Women - 25 years and over	7.0	6.8	10.3	0.2	-3.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.7	14.8	23.3	-2.1	-10.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.5	15.4	22.4	-3.9	-10.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.0	14.0	24.6	0.0	-10.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba’s youth unemployment rate is also significantly lower than it was in May 2020 (23.3%), down 10.6 percentage points to 12.7%. On a monthly basis, the unemployment rate for young women remains unchanged

at 14.0%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men dropped 3.9 percentage points to 11.5% in May – the lowest it has been since the start of the pandemic. This improvement could be partly due to employment gains seen in construction, an industry that is one of the top employers of young men.

Public health orders implemented in early May to combat the third wave of the virus have impeded the recovery of youth employment. These restrictions have affected businesses in food services, retail, and other services-producing industries that employ a large number of young workers in Manitoba.<sup>3</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment was flat in Manitoba's **goods-producing sector** in May with **construction** industry employment growth (+1,300) offsetting job losses in all other industries in the sector. Meanwhile, employment decreased in the services producing sector (-2,900), primarily due to losses in **transportation and warehousing** (-1,300) and **other services** (-3,400).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	653.8	656.7	587.4	-2.9	-0.4	66.4	11.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	148.1	148.1	138.1	0.0	0.0	10.0	7.2
Agriculture	24.3	24.5	26.6	-0.2	-0.8	-2.3	-8.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.7	3.9	5.1	-0.2	-5.1	-1.4	-27.5
Utilities	4.8	4.9	5.7	-0.1	-2.0	-0.9	-15.8
Construction	50.7	49.4	44.2	1.3	2.6	6.5	14.7
Manufacturing	64.6	65.4	56.5	-0.8	-1.2	8.1	14.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	505.7	508.6	449.3	-2.9	-0.6	56.4	12.6
Trade	96.2	96.5	81.7	-0.3	-0.3	14.5	17.7
Transportation and warehousing	39.5	40.8	36.0	-1.3	-3.2	3.5	9.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	35.1	35.0	31.4	0.1	0.3	3.7	11.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.7	32.8	31.0	-0.1	-0.3	1.7	5.5
Business, building and other support services	21.7	22.2	22.0	-0.5	-2.3	-0.3	-1.4
Educational services	59.0	59.5	49.2	-0.5	-0.8	9.8	19.9
Health care and social assistance	106.1	103.3	93.5	2.8	2.7	12.6	13.5
Information, culture and recreation	20.2	19.8	16.0	0.4	2.0	4.2	26.3
Accommodation and food services	30.9	31.9	27.9	-1.0	-3.1	3.0	10.8
Other services	26.8	30.2	25.6	-3.4	-11.3	1.2	4.7
Public administration	37.5	36.6	35.1	0.9	2.5	2.4	6.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

**Construction** industry employment is on the rise in Manitoba, up 2.6% on a monthly basis and 14.7% annually. Government stimulus programs should continue to generate employment in the construction industry in the near term. For instance, the Province allocated \$2.1 billion in Budget 2021 on infrastructure spending. Meanwhile, existing programs such as the National Housing Strategy, will also fuel construction industry employment.

Employment in Manitoba's **manufacturing** industry dipped slightly in May (-1.2%), but is still up 14.3% on an annual basis. Economic Development Winnipeg (EDW) reports provincial manufacturing sales are up 13.0% compared to pre-pandemic levels.<sup>4</sup> According to EDW, this growth is driven by manufacturing facilities supplying machinery, wood products, food and chemicals. Food product manufacturing is Manitoba's largest manufacturing sub-sector, bolstered by the expansion of plant-based protein manufacturing.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, aerospace products and parts manufacturing sales have declined across the country due to diminished air passenger traffic. In Manitoba, aerospace products and parts manufacturing exports declined almost 48% to \$331.7M in 2020. Manitoba is the third largest exporting province for aerospace products and parts manufacturing in Canada. According to the Conference Board of Canada, this industry will remain challenged in the near term due to its close link to travel services.<sup>6,7</sup>

Due to the decline in commercial airline traffic, Boeing recently signalled plans to further reduce its workforce in Canada with most of these job cuts affecting their Winnipeg facilities.<sup>8</sup> Boeing had already reduced their Winnipeg workforce by 34% in 2020, down to 1,050 workers from their pre-pandemic staff of 1,600. There has been a significant reduction in new orders from commercial airlines, which directly impacts Boeing's Winnipeg sites that manufacture composite parts for commercial jets.<sup>9</sup>

Boeing is only one of Manitoba's three main employers in the aerospace industry. StandardAero and Magellan Aerospace are not as reliant on commercial aviation. StandardAero has had minimal workforce reductions in Winnipeg where the company has its global helicopter maintenance, repair, overhaul centre of excellence, and employs over 1,600 people.<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, Magellan Aerospace's Winnipeg operations produce defence-related products and have been largely unaffected by the pandemic. Magellan employs approximately 600 people in Winnipeg.<sup>11</sup>

While employment in Manitoba's services-producing sector edged down less than 1% on a monthly basis, the sector has recovered 90% of jobs lost due to the pandemic. The most significant job growth in the services producing sector is in the **health care and social services** industry, up 2.7% in May and 13.5% annually. This industry is experiencing a labour shortage; 35% of all job vacancies in Manitoba are in health care and social services.<sup>12</sup> Recently, home care workers employed by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority have been asked to expand their duties to include certain tasks traditionally performed by nurses.<sup>13</sup> While Manitoba has been struggling with a nursing shortage since long before the pandemic, COVID-19 has only amplified the problem.<sup>14</sup>

Other industries saw declining employment due to tighter provincial restrictions. For instance, employment in the **other services** industry dropped almost 12% on a monthly basis. Occupations in this industry include auto repair and maintenance. These jobs were directly impacted over the last year with each subsequent wave of the pandemic and accompanying restrictions. Indeed, stay at home orders and increased telework have diminished the need for vehicle use and, in turn, repair and maintenance.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in five of Manitoba's six economic regions on an annual basis. In the **Southwest** region, employment is up 11.8% year-over-year (+6,000), while in **Parklands and Northern** region, employment is down 0.6% over the same period (-200). **Winnipeg** had the highest regional unemployment rate in May, remaining unchanged from April at 7.7%.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2021 ('000)	May 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2021 (%)	May 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	653.1	598.5	9.1	7.1	9.7	-2.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	60.4	55.7	8.4	6.6	6.9	-0.3
South Central and North Central	55.4	52.8	4.9	6.7	7.0	-0.3
Southwest	56.9	50.9	11.8	5.3	9.4	-4.1
Winnipeg	405.5	367.6	10.3	7.7	10.6	-2.9
Interlake	44.2	40.5	9.1	5.6	10.6	-5.0
Parklands and Northern	30.8	31.0	-0.6	6.4	7.5	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0387, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

Employment in **Winnipeg** increased 37,900 (10.3%) year-over-year, with significant employment growth occurring in the education services industry. In fact, hundreds of substitute teachers were hired in Winnipeg this year to address staffing shortages in the school system resulting from COVID-19-related absences.<sup>15</sup> Despite this improvement, two Winnipeg-area school divisions recently informed employees that staffing reductions will be necessary in order to offset the costs associated with the implementation of new collective agreements. The River East Transcona School Division is looking to identify over \$3 million in budget cuts across all departments,<sup>16</sup> while the Winnipeg School Division plans to eliminate up to 130 teaching positions through a combination of attrition and layoffs before the upcoming school year.<sup>17</sup>

Manitoba's **Southwest** region has become a hub of manufacturing activity. Currently, manufacturing represents about 13% of all employment in this region, up 6.0 percentage points from a little over a year ago when the pandemic began. The top manufacturing employers for this region include food-product manufacturers Maple Leaf Consumer Foods and Saputo Dairy Products, and steel building systems manufacturer Behlen Steel Buildings.<sup>18</sup>

Manufacturing is also expanding in the **South Central and North Central** region. In fact, industry employment is up 20% compared to February 2020. New developments include Roquette's \$600 million pea processing plant in Portage la Prairie that started operations earlier this year. In addition, Buhler Industries has relocated some of their farm equipment production from the US to their Morden manufacturing operation.<sup>19</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.

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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> 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 June 8, 2021:

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<sup>2</sup> CFIB (June 7, 2021). Small business recovery dashboard. Retrieved from:

<https://www.smallbusinesseveryday.ca/dashboard/>

<sup>3</sup> CBC News (May 7, 2021). Salons, gyms among many businesses closing Sunday for Manitoba's 3-week lockdown.

Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/covid19-sick-leave-benefit-manitoba-1.6017754>

<sup>4</sup> Winnipeg Sun (May 31, 2021). Huge spike in Manitoba's manufacturing sector offset by supply chain worries. Retrieved

from: <https://winnipeg.sun.com/news/news-news/huge-spike-in-manitobas-manufacturing-sector-offset-by-worries-of-chip-shortage>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Trade data online. Accessed May 31, 2021:

[https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/tdst/tdo/crtr.html?grouped=GROUPED&searchType=KS\\_CS&naArea=P46&countryList=TOP&toFromCountry=CDN&reportType=TE&timePeriod=5%7CComplete+Years&currency=CDN&productType=NAICS&hSelect edCodes=%7C336410&runReport=true](https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/tdst/tdo/crtr.html?grouped=GROUPED&searchType=KS_CS&naArea=P46&countryList=TOP&toFromCountry=CDN&reportType=TE&timePeriod=5%7CComplete+Years&currency=CDN&productType=NAICS&hSelect edCodes=%7C336410&runReport=true)

<sup>7</sup> The Conference Board of Canada (May 27, 2021). Growing Canada's exports in a more insular world; Canada's trade

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<sup>8</sup> BNN Bloomberg (June 6, 2021). Boeing's Winnipeg operations to bear the brunt of Canadian workforce reductions.

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<sup>9</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (October 15, 2020). City's aerospace industry feeling pandemic pinch. Retrieved from:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/citys-aerospace-industry-feeling-pandemic-pinch-572763921.html>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0326-01 (formerly CANSIM 285-0002) Job vacancies, payroll employees, job vacancy rate, and average offered hourly wage by industry sector, quarterly, unadjusted for seasonality. Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410032601&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.8&cubeTimeFrame.startMonth=10&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2019&cubeTimeFrame.endMonth=10&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2020&referencePeriods=20191001%2C20201001>

<sup>13</sup> CBC News (June 4, 2021). Winnipeg home care workers asked by health authority to take on duties outside their training: union leader. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-home-care-workers-union-manitoba-1.6054612>

<sup>14</sup> CBC News (May 1, 2021). Nursing shortages create burnout, more vacancies, Winnipeg health-care workers. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-hospital-nursing-shortages-1.6008975#:~:text=Manitoba,Nursing%20shortages%20create%20burnout%2C%20more%20vacancies%2C%20Winnipeg%20health%2Dcare,vacancy%20rate%20in%20late%20December.>

<sup>15</sup> CBC News (May 3, 2021). Substitute hiring spree could plug staffing holes in Winnipeg schools due to COVID-19, divisions say. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-covid-19-teachers-absences-substitutes-1.6011812>

<sup>16</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (May 28, 2021). River East Transcona sounds staffing cuts alarm. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/river-east-transcona-sounds-staffing-cuts-alarm-574518842.html>

<sup>17</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (May 28, 2021). Winnipeg division to slash up to 130 teaching jobs. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/winnipeg-division-to-slash-up-to-130-teaching-jobs-574513832.html>

<sup>18</sup> Economic Development Brandon. You belong in Brandon 2021. Accessed on June 9, 2021: [http://economicdevelopmentbrandon.com/images/pdf/communityProfile/Brandon\\_Community\\_Profile\\_2021.pdf](http://economicdevelopmentbrandon.com/images/pdf/communityProfile/Brandon_Community_Profile_2021.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Pembina Valley Online (December 21, 2020). Buhler Industries consolidation good news for Morden. Retrieved from: <https://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/local/buhler-industries-consolidation-good-news-for-morden>