



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

June 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

Employment in Manitoba grew in the second quarter of 2021, up 8,700 to 652,600. Significant gains in part-time employment (+9,300) were slightly offset by losses in full-time employment (-600). Job gains occurred in both the public sector (+5,000) and private sector (+4,800), while the number of self-employed workers declined by 1,200.¹

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	2nd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,050.6	1,050.2	1,047.2	0.4	0.0	3.4	0.3
Labour Force ('000)	704.8	693.7	666.1	11.1	1.6	38.7	5.8
Employment ('000)	652.6	643.9	592.9	8.7	1.4	59.7	10.1
Full-Time ('000)	529.5	530.1	485.9	-0.6	-0.1	43.6	9.0
Part-Time ('000)	123.1	113.8	107.0	9.3	8.2	16.1	15.0
Unemployment ('000)	52.2	49.7	73.1	2.5	5.0	-20.9	-28.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	7.2	11.0	0.2	-	-3.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.1	66.1	63.6	1.0	-	3.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	62.1	61.3	56.6	0.8	-	5.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

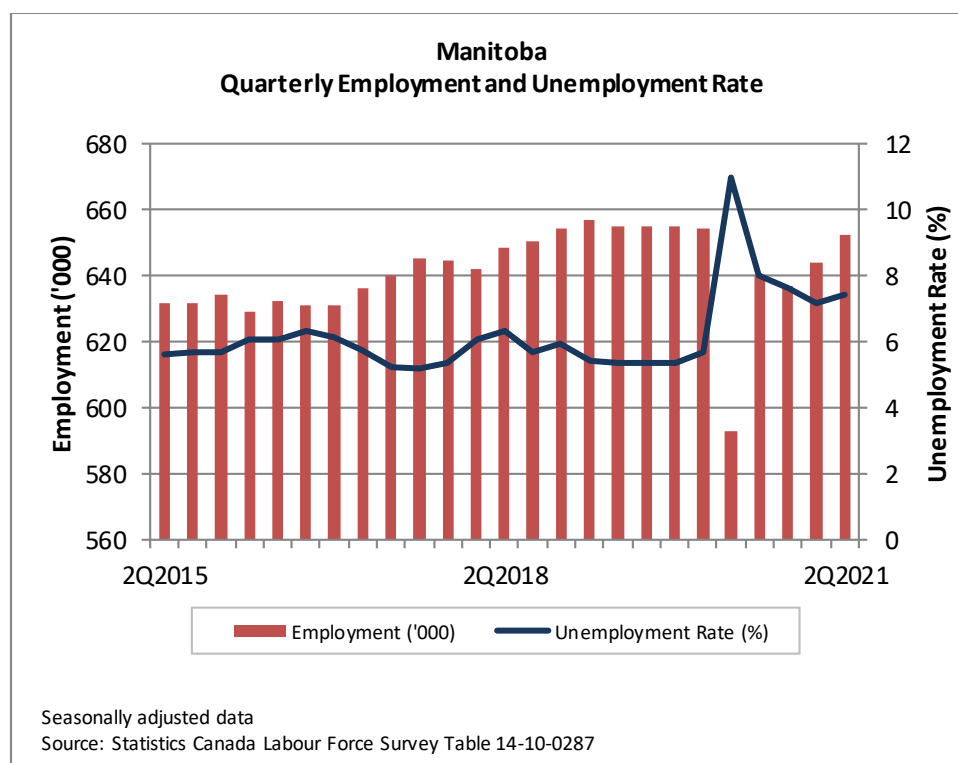
After tightening restrictions in late April and early May to combat the spread of COVID-19, a number of government initiatives were launched in June to encourage vaccine uptake among Manitoba residents, including a province-wide lottery,² immunization cards,³ and community outreach and incentive grants.⁴ The \$30 million

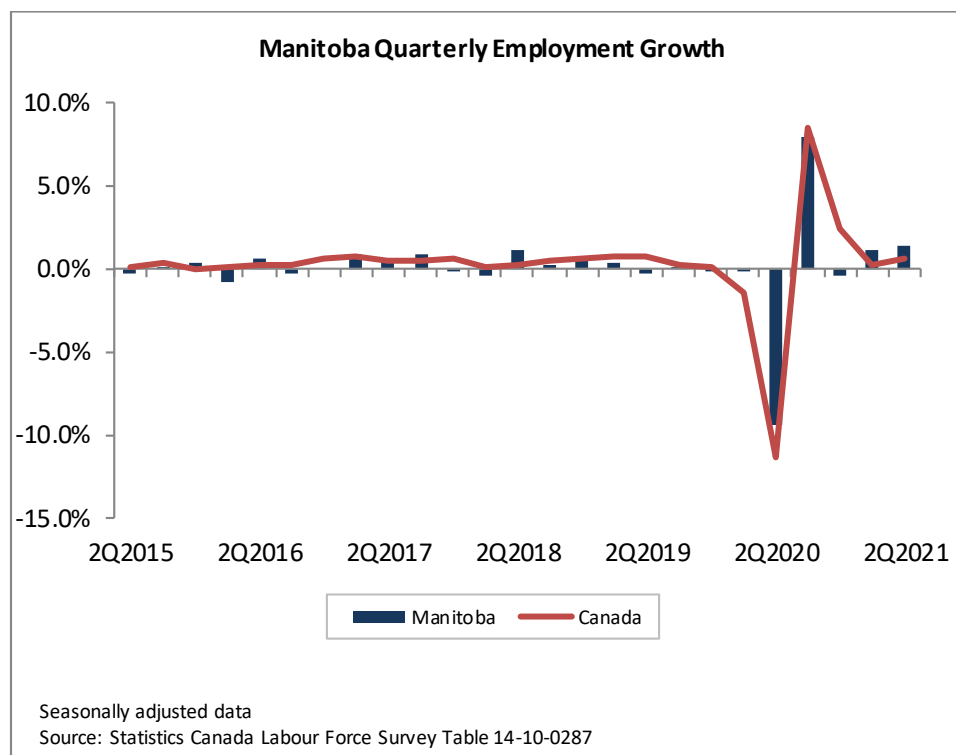
Healthy Hire Manitoba Program was also introduced to help private-sector employers reopen and encourage employees to get vaccinated and return to work.⁵ As of early June, over 3,100 people had been hired to assist with Manitoba’s vaccination efforts.⁶

The Government of Manitoba’s “4-3-2-One Great Summer” plan for reopening links the easing of restrictions to COVID-19 vaccination targets, with the first stage requiring over 70% of all eligible Manitobans to have received their first dose and over 25% to have received both doses by Canada Day (July 1). This milestone was achieved on June 26, prompting restrictions to be eased one week ahead of schedule. Most businesses were allowed to reopen to at least 25% capacity, with varying upper limits depending on the venue.⁷ As the Labour Force Survey results for June reflect conditions during the week of June 13 to 19, the effects of this first stage will not be known until the release of the July survey in August.

Despite rising vaccination rates, small businesses in Manitoba appear to be struggling in their recovery. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), 63% of Manitoba businesses surveyed were fully open in June, with 41% fully staffed, and only 35% experiencing normal sales – among the lowest numbers nationwide in all three categories.⁸ A public opinion poll conducted by CFIB also found that 60% of consumers spent less at small businesses and more at big-box stores or online giants during the pandemic.⁹

After declining for three consecutive quarters, Manitoba’s unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 7.4% in the second quarter of 2021. Still, the unemployment rate remains below the national average of 8.0%. Manitoba’s unemployment rate is also significantly lower than it was one year ago in the second quarter of 2020 (11.0%), when the province recorded its highest unemployment rate since the start of the pandemic.





Despite the temporary tightening of restrictions in April and May, employment growth in Manitoba continued to rise, increasing 1.4% during the second quarter of 2021. With vaccinations well under way, employment in Manitoba is forecast to expand 4% by the end of this year and 2.3% in 2022.¹⁰

Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally adjusted data	2nd Quarter 2021 (%)	1st Quarter 2021 (%)	2nd Quarter 2020 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.4	7.2	11.0	0.2	-3.6
25 years and over	6.2	5.5	8.9	0.7	-2.7
Men - 25 years and over	5.6	4.8	8.6	0.8	-3.0
Women - 25 years and over	6.9	6.2	9.3	0.7	-2.4
15 to 24 years	13.7	16.2	22.5	-2.5	-8.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.9	16.2	21.8	-2.3	-7.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.6	16.1	23.5	-2.5	-9.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The unemployment rate for Manitoba's youth (aged 15 to 24) decreased in the second quarter of 2021, dropping 2.5 percentage points to 13.7%. This improvement may be partly due to quarterly employment gains seen in retail, food services, and health care and social assistance – industries that are among the largest employers of youth in the province. On an annual basis, significant improvements were recorded in the unemployment rates for both young women (-9.9 percentage points) and young men (-7.9 percentage points). Still, the youth unemployment rate remains more than double that of workers aged 25 years and over.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment decreased in Manitoba's goods-producing sector (-400) in the second quarter of 2021, as gains in manufacturing (+1,000) were offset by job losses in agriculture (-1,400). Meanwhile, quarterly employment growth in the province's services-producing sector (+9,100) was led by job gains in the health care and social assistance (+3,900), wholesale and retail trade (+2,600) and educational services (+2,100) industries.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	652.6	643.9	592.9	8.7	1.4	59.7	10.1
Goods-producing sector	147.4	147.8	139.3	-0.4	-0.3	8.1	5.8
Agriculture	24.1	25.5	26.6	-1.4	-5.5	-2.5	-9.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.8	3.8	4.7	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-19.1
Utilities	4.9	4.8	6.1	0.1	2.1	-1.2	-19.7
Construction	49.8	50.0	44.6	-0.2	-0.4	5.2	11.7
Manufacturing	64.8	63.8	57.2	1.0	1.6	7.6	13.3
Services-producing sector	505.2	496.1	453.6	9.1	1.8	51.6	11.4
Trade	96.7	94.1	81.0	2.6	2.8	15.7	19.4
Transportation and warehousing	40.0	40.3	36.2	-0.3	-0.7	3.8	10.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	35.4	34.7	32.3	0.7	2.0	3.1	9.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.7	31.8	30.5	0.9	2.8	2.2	7.2
Business, building and other support services	21.7	21.5	22.0	0.2	0.9	-0.3	-1.4
Educational services	59.1	57.0	50.0	2.1	3.7	9.1	18.2
Health care and social assistance	105.2	101.3	94.6	3.9	3.8	10.6	11.2
Information, culture and recreation	19.2	19.9	16.8	-0.7	-3.5	2.4	14.3
Accommodation and food services	30.8	29.2	28.9	1.6	5.5	1.9	6.6
Other services	27.3	29.2	26.1	-1.9	-6.5	1.2	4.6
Public administration	37.0	36.9	35.1	0.1	0.3	1.9	5.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

Goods-producing industries

Manufacturing industry employment in Manitoba increased on both a quarterly (+1.6%) and an annual basis (+13.3%). Food product manufacturing is the province's largest manufacturing sub-sector, bolstered by the expansion of plant-based protein manufacturing. In support of continued growth in this sector, the Government of Canada recently provided Prairie Fava, a Glenboro-based manufacturer of fava bean ingredients for the plant-based market, over \$1 million in funding to help the company scale-up its production capabilities, create six new jobs, and capture new opportunities for the fava bean market.¹¹

Transportation equipment manufacturing, Manitoba's second-largest manufacturing sub-sector, centers on aerospace and motor vehicle manufacturing in the province. In June, Winnipeg-based bus manufacturer NFI Group Inc. secured a contract to deliver 195 single- and double-decker buses for use in the United Kingdom, just days after confirming an order for 20 zero-emission buses for California in the United States.¹² The Government of Manitoba later announced it would be working with NFI Group Inc. to provide vaccines to staff and family members of the company who did not have the means to attend a designated super site, as part of its targeted outreach efforts in low immunization communities. Early estimates indicate that clinics would see around 1,000 employees and family members vaccinated, with about half of the immunizations being for the first dose.¹³

Employment in Manitoba's **agriculture** industry is down on both a quarterly (-5.5%) and an annual basis (-9.4%). The majority of these job losses are in animal production, while employment in crop production has increased year-over-year.¹⁴ The Conference Board of Canada forecasts agriculture output in the province to expand by only 0.9% in 2021, due to dry weather conditions and a lower total seeded area.¹⁵

Current weather conditions in Manitoba are far from ideal. Extreme heat and low levels of precipitation and soil moisture are causing stress to crops and livestock. By the end of May, nearly all of Manitoba's agricultural landscape was classified as abnormally dry or in moderate to exceptional drought.¹⁶ As of June 30, severe to exceptional drought continued to dominate the Interlake and Southern regions of the province despite scattered storms.¹⁷ Crop conditions have already started to deteriorate. Canola crops are maturing earlier than usual, and wheat fields experiencing uneven growth from the heat, leaving some farmers worried about the state of their harvests for this year.¹⁸

Services-producing industries

Employment in Manitoba's **educational services** industry increased on both a quarterly (+3.7%) and an annual basis (+18.2%). In Winnipeg alone, hundreds of substitute teachers were hired over this year to address staffing shortages in the school system resulting from COVID-19-related absences.¹⁹ Looking forward, the Government of Manitoba has earmarked \$58 million for K-12 schools in the upcoming 2021-22 school year to support the hiring of more staff along with the implementation of other pandemic-related needs.²⁰

Manitoba's **other services** sector experienced the largest decrease of all industries in the second quarter of 2021, declining by 6.5% (-1,900 jobs). This industry includes many client-facing occupations such as hairstylists, estheticians, and others involved in personal care and religious services. Due to the close contact required in some of these occupations, the **other services** industry was adversely affected by the re-tightening of provincial restrictions in early May. Personal services businesses were required to cease operations, while indoor religious, cultural, and community gatherings were prohibited.²¹ Restrictions were eased on June 26, allowing personal services and indoor faith-based and community gatherings to resume at limited capacities.²²

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in all of Manitoba's six economic regions on an annual basis. The **Interlake** region recorded the largest percentage increase with employment up 14.4% year-over-year (+5,800). **Winnipeg** and **South Central and North Central** had the highest unemployment rates in the second quarter of 2021, at 7.8% and 7.3% respectively.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2021 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2021 (%)	2nd Quarter 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	657.6	598.1	9.9	7.2	10.7	-3.5
Economic Regions						
Southeast	61.5	56.4	9.0	6.1	7.4	-1.3
South Central and North Central	54.6	52.7	3.6	7.3	6.7	0.6
Southwest	56.5	50.4	12.1	5.8	10.6	-4.8
Winnipeg	407.4	367.6	10.8	7.8	11.8	-4.0
Interlake	46.1	40.3	14.4	5.7	11.0	-5.3
Parklands and Northern	31.7	30.8	2.9	5.1	8.4	-3.3

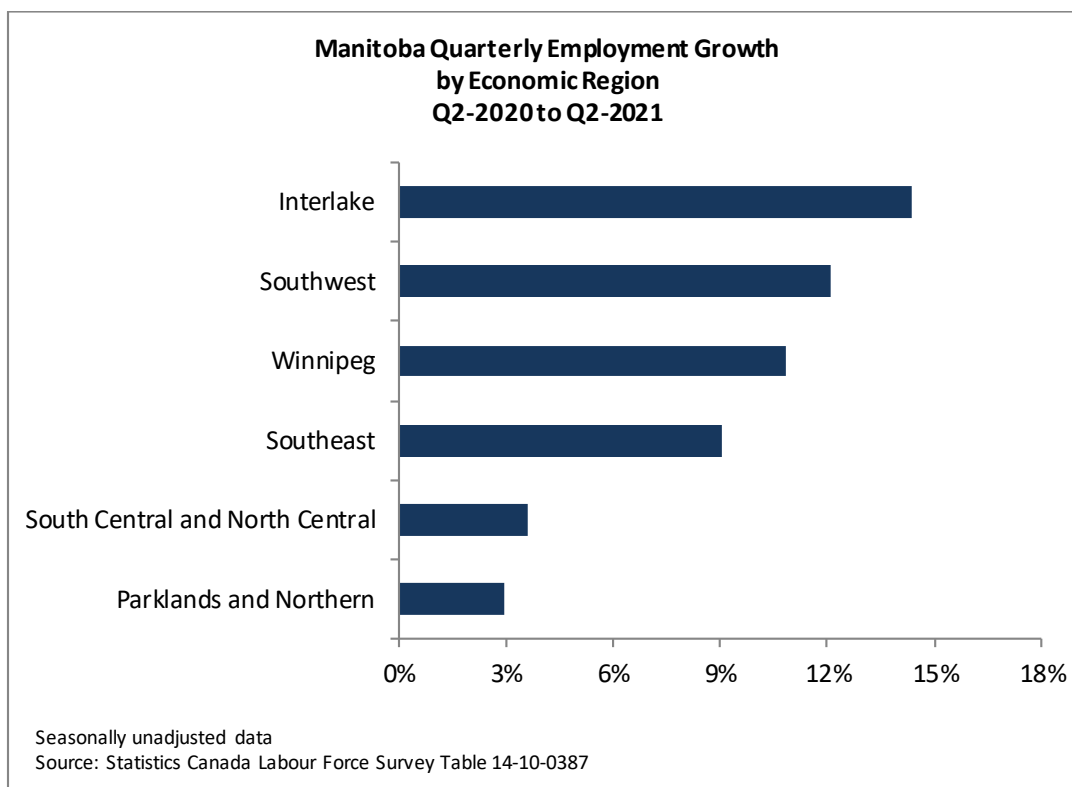
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in **Winnipeg** increased 39,800 (10.8%) year-over-year, with strong employment growth in the construction industry. As of mid-May, the Winnipeg Construction Association reported experiencing a 40% increase in residential building permit application compared to the same period last year.²³ The Manitoba Home Builders' Association expects the high levels of residential permit applications to continue throughout 2021 and well into 2022.²⁴ Overall, construction output for the City of Winnipeg is forecast to rebound by 4.8% this year and by 2.1% in 2022.²⁵

Construction is also on the rise in the **South Central and North Central** region, with industry employment up 31% on an annual basis. Projects underway in the second quarter of 2021 include drainage pipe upgrades in downtown Altona,²⁶ the reconstruction of southbound lanes on PTH 75 in Morris,²⁷ and the construction of a flood route on PTH 75 between Morris and Aubigny.²⁸ In addition, over \$73 million in funding was recently confirmed for a significant regional project to upgrade the Winkler-Stanley-Morden wastewater treatment system.²⁹

The **Parklands and Northern** region recorded the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 5.1%, down 3.3 percentage points year-over-year. Mining activity is anticipated to increase in the region, with Vale investing \$150 million on the first phase of a project to extend the life of its Thompson nickel mine by 10 years.³⁰ The provincial government has also provided additional funding to the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund with the aim of supporting mineral and economic development initiatives in northern communities.³¹



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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