



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

January 2022



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

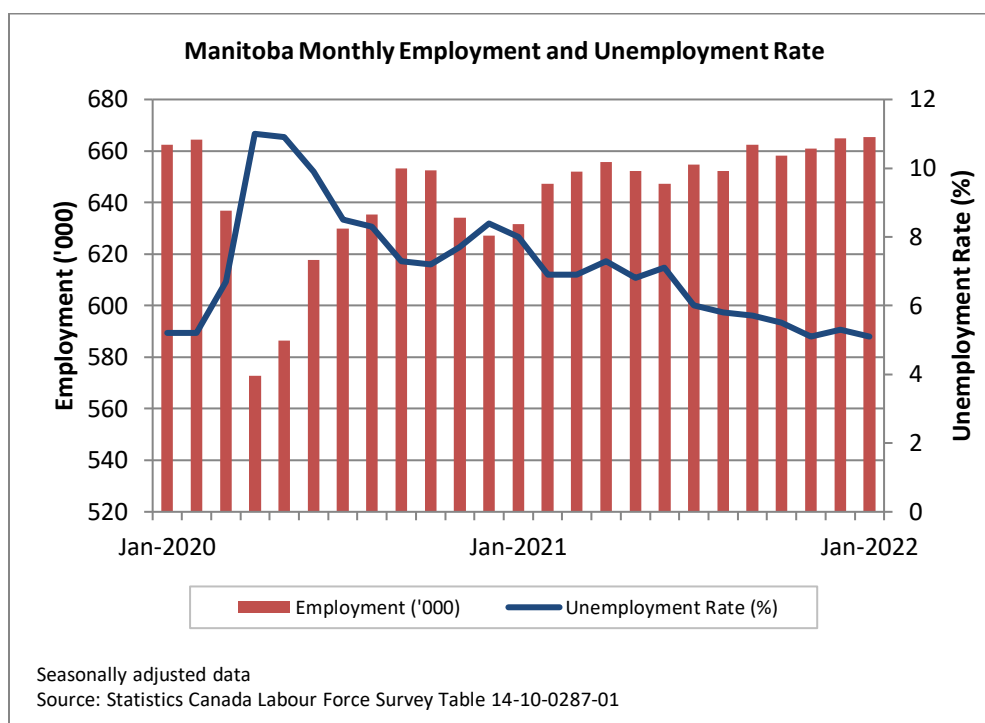
Employment in Manitoba remained relatively unchanged 0.11% (+700) in January compared to December 2021. Job gains were centered on full time positions (+7,800) while part-time employment decreased (-7,100). Job losses occurred in both the public sector (-5,600) and private sector (-1,200). Meanwhile, self-employment increased significantly (+7,400).¹

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2022	December 2021	January 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,055.7	1,054.3	1,049.4	1.4	0.1	6.3	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	701.0	701.6	686.6	-0.6	-0.1	14.4	2.1
Employment ('000)	665.5	664.8	631.6	0.7	0.1	33.9	5.4
Full-Time ('000)	541.9	534.1	525.5	7.8	1.5	16.4	3.1
Part-Time ('000)	123.6	130.7	106.0	-7.1	-5.4	17.6	16.6
Unemployment ('000)	35.5	36.9	55.1	-1.4	-3.8	-19.6	-35.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	5.3	8.0	-0.2	-	-2.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.4	66.5	65.4	-0.1	-	1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.0	63.1	60.2	-0.1	-	2.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Manitoba's unemployment rate decreased in January 2022, down 0.2 percentage points to 5.1%, and remained below the national average (6.5%). The unemployment rate for young women in Manitoba decreased significantly in January 2022, down 2.3 percentage points to 6.5%. Meanwhile the unemployment rate for young men remained the highest among all demographic groups (10.7%), though this rate has been trending down (-8.5 percentage points year-over-year).

Youth continued to be disproportionately impacted by public health measures meant to limit the spread of COVID-19. Measures implemented earlier in the pandemic restricting business activities for retail trade and accommodation and food services had a direct impact on jobs often held by youth. In turn, youth employment growth and stability will continue to be linked to re-opening strategies and a return to pre-pandemic consumer spending.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2022 (%)	December 2021 (%)	January 2021 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.1	5.3	8.0	-0.2	-2.9
25 years and over	4.4	4.4	6.0	0.0	-1.6
Men - 25 years and over	4.1	4.6	4.9	-0.5	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	4.2	7.3	0.4	-2.7
15 to 24 years	8.7	9.6	19.1	-0.9	-10.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.7	10.3	18.8	0.4	-8.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.5	8.8	19.5	-2.3	-13.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The Government of Manitoba continued to enforce public health measures throughout January in an attempt to lower transmission of the COVID-19 virus.² These measures limited the size of private gatherings, while public gatherings at entertainment, recreation and sporting facilities were reduced to 50% capacity or a 250-person limit, whichever is lower. Restaurants also were subject to a reduction of capacity by 50% as well as limits on table capacity.³ Vaccination rates in Manitoba continue to increase. As of February 4th, 85.8% of eligible persons had received their first dose, 80% of eligible persons had received two doses, and 41.1% of eligible Manitobans had received a third dose⁴.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Monthly employment growth in Manitoba's **services-producing** sector (+2,400) outpaced losses in the **goods-producing** sector (-1,600) in January 2022. Growth in the services-producing sector was led by employment gains in **business, building and other support services** (+2,800) and **wholesale and retail trade** (+400). Meanwhile, employment losses in **manufacturing** (-1,400) and **agriculture** (-300) contributed to a significant portion of monthly job losses in the goods-producing sector.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2022	December 2021	January 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	665.5	664.8	631.6	0.7	0.1	33.9	5.4
Goods-producing sector	139.4	141.0	144.3	-1.6	-1.1	-4.9	-3.4
Agriculture	20.7	21.0	25.3	-0.3	-1.4	-4.6	-18.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.3	3.6	3.8	-0.3	-8.3	-0.5	-13.2
Utilities	4.9	5.0	4.7	-0.1	-2.0	0.2	4.3
Construction	48.3	47.9	48.0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.6
Manufacturing	62.2	63.6	62.6	-1.4	-2.2	-0.4	-0.6
Services-producing sector	526.1	523.7	487.2	2.4	0.5	38.9	8.0
Trade	99.5	99.1	89.6	0.4	0.4	9.9	11.0
Transportation and warehousing	42.9	42.7	40.4	0.2	0.5	2.5	6.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	38.8	37.8	35.4	1.0	2.6	3.4	9.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.7	31.9	31.6	0.8	2.5	1.1	3.5
Business, building and other support services	22.6	19.8	21.1	2.8	14.1	1.5	7.1
Educational services	55.9	59.3	55.9	-3.4	-5.7	0.0	0.0
Health care and social assistance	103.7	103.8	101.2	-0.1	-0.1	2.5	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	25.5	26.3	19.8	-0.8	-3.0	5.7	28.8
Accommodation and food services	36.3	35.5	27.5	0.8	2.3	8.8	32.0
Other services	27.8	27.1	27.9	0.7	2.6	-0.1	-0.4
Public administration	40.3	40.4	36.7	-0.1	-0.2	3.6	9.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Agriculture employment in Manitoba declined 1.4% on a monthly basis and was down 18.2% on an annual basis. Significant droughts across the Canadian prairies in summer 2021 presented challenges for the industry, including a reduction of crop yields. Canola production was down 35.4% nationally, while wheat production fell 38.5%, leading to an increase in crop prices.⁵

Manitoba Agriculture announced that AgrilInsurance coverage for the province is expected to reach a record \$463 per acre, compared to \$321 per acre in 2021. The increase in coverage, combined with record payments in 2021, resulted in an approximately 10% rise in insurance premium expenses.⁶ Farmers have also been contending with supply chain disruptions in the hog industry. Transportation disruptions have caused a shortage of feed for livestock driving an increase in feed costs.⁷

Construction industry employment was up 0.8% on a monthly basis. Housing starts for the month of December increased by 14.9% from November, up 11.6% year-over-year.⁸ Builders across the country are still grappling with the increased cost of materials.⁹ The Manitoba Home Builders' Association estimated that the cost of building a new home increased by around \$60,000 in the latter half of 2021.¹⁰

The **wholesale and retail trade** industry in Manitoba showed growth on a monthly basis, up 0.4%. The industry has faced significant challenges over the course of the pandemic, being subject to lockdowns and capacity restrictions. Demand for workers in this industry remained extremely high at the beginning of 2022, with shortages persisting throughout the industry.¹¹ The latest retail sales data for Manitoba indicates the industry is recovering as sales were up 14.8% between November 2020 and 2021.¹²

The number of people employed in **accommodation and food services** rose 2.3% on a monthly basis, with employment up 32% year-over-year. The industry continues to face significant challenges as one of the most severely impacted sectors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Many workers in this industry are seeking higher wages and better working conditions, leaving some businesses that are unable or unwilling to meet the requests with ongoing staffing issues.¹³ Staff shortages are being compounded by staff missing work due to COVID-19 infections.¹⁴ Public health restrictions have also continued to take a financial toll on the industry, as the shift to food delivery apps over in-person dining has further reduced restaurant operating margins.¹⁵

Employment in Manitoba's **education services** sector fell 5.7% on a month-to-month basis, with no change year-over-year. The recent surge in COVID-19 cases in late December prompted the Government of Manitoba to delay the 2022 return to in-person classes and move K-12 learning online as a measure to reduce the spread of the virus.¹⁶ However, the move was short-term, as K-12 students returned to in-person learning in the latter half of January.¹⁷ Post-secondary institutions across the province made the decision to move to remote learning as well, with the University of Manitoba announcing at the end of January that remote learning would remain for the rest of the winter term¹⁸. The shift to remote learning has taken its toll on teaching staff at all levels across the province. Teachers in Manitoba have been facing exhaustion and burnout as a result of the stressful conditions presented throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁹

Employment in **health care and social assistance** was down 0.1% on a monthly basis, but was still up 2.5% year-over-year. Going into 2022, the industry is still facing significant challenges with nursing shortages across the province. The increase in case counts related to the COVID-19 pandemic has put further strain on Manitoba's health care system with Shared Health reporting a surge in infections among health care professionals at the end

of 2021.²⁰ The strain on the healthcare system has contributed to Manitoba's backlog of surgical and diagnostic procedures, which grew to 153,320 in mid-January.²¹ There is also a growing strain on the province's ambulance services, with vehicles having to sit idle due to a lack of paramedics in rural areas.²² In Brandon, the Manitoba Transport Coordination Centre has faced a shortage of dispatchers who are integral to the operation of the ambulance service.²³

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Year-over-year, employment grew in four of Manitoba's six economic regions in January 2022. **Interlake** (+15.3%) posted the largest increase and **Southwest** (-5.8%) the largest decline. Employment growth year-over-year in the **Winnipeg** region represented the majority of gains with 27,200 total jobs added for this period. The unemployment rate decreased drastically year-over-year in three of Manitoba's regions while remaining mostly unchanged in all others.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2022 ('000)	January 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2022 (%)	January 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	657.5	625.0	5.2	4.8	7.7	-2.9
Economic Regions						
Southeast	63.5	60.1	5.7	5.4	5.8	-0.4
South Central and North Central	56.0	58.4	-4.1	3.4	3.3	0.1
Southwest	52.0	55.2	-5.8	6.0	5.8	0.2
Winnipeg	408.8	381.6	7.1	4.8	8.9	-4.1
Interlake	45.2	39.2	15.3	4.6	7.8	-3.2
Parklands and Northern	32.0	30.5	4.9	4.5	7.6	-3.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Winnipeg's employment recovered over the course of 2021, up 7.1% year-over-year. However, certain sectors in the region still face challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public sector workers such as police and paramedical professions have dealt with staff shortages. On January 5th, the Winnipeg Police Service declared a state of emergency due to high rates of transmission and COVID-19 related leave among staff. Similarly, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service has been exploring ways to maintain staffing levels and recruit more people as COVID-19 transmission increased at the beginning of January. Winnipeg City Council has responded to these concerns by passing a motion to explore solutions and increase paramedic-staffing levels.

Winnipeg's social assistance sector also received support from multiple levels of government. The Governments of Canada and Manitoba provided \$1.5M in funding to the Main Street Project to aid in expanding its shelter facilities²⁴. In addition, the Federal Government's rapid housing initiative is providing 12.7M for three new affordable housing projects which are aimed at helping Indigenous people, women and children fleeing domestic violence, and 2SLGBTQ people.²⁵

Parklands and Northern

The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.5% in the **Parklands and North** region in spite of a yearly increase in employment of 4.9%. The shortage of health care professionals continues to be particularly acute in the north, significantly impacting Indigenous people. The Leaf Rapids Health Centre was able to reopen in mid-January after being closed for a number of weeks due to staff shortages,²⁶ while the ongoing shortages in the Pimicikamak Cree Nation has been made worse by the pandemic.²⁷ Mid-January data for COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations have shown that Indigenous peoples made up 25% of hospitalizations and 40% of ICU cases in Manitoba despite making up 12% of the population, further highlighting health disparities.²⁸

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 Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months \(x1,000\)](#). Accessed February 4, 2022.
- ² CBC News (January 07, 2022). [Manitoba extends public health orders for 3 more weeks](#).
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Government of Manitoba. [Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). Accessed February 4, 2022.
- ⁵ CBC News (December 15, 2021). [Prairie drought drives Canada's canola, wheat production down more than 35%: StatsCan](#)
- ⁶ Government of Manitoba (January 25, 2022). [Manitoba agriinsurance dollar values reach record highs](#).
- ⁷ Manitoba Cooperator (January 21, 2022). [Empty roads a headache for hog producers](#).
- ⁸ Statistics Canada. [Table: 34-10-0158-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly \(x 1,000\)](#). Accessed February 4, 2022.
- ⁹ Canadian Mortgage Professional (February 02, 2022). [CHBA on Canadian home builders' confidence](#).
- ¹⁰ Global News (November 4, 2021). [Home building costs on the rise again in Manitoba, association says](#).
- ¹¹ Retail Insider (January 13, 2022). [Staffing Shortages to Persist/Worsen for Retailers in Canada as Vacancies Hit Highs: Expert](#).
- ¹² Statistics Canada. [Table: 20-10-0008-01 Retail trade sales by province and territory \(x 1,000\)](#). Accessed February 4, 2022.
- ¹³ Global News (January 11, 2022). [Manitoba businesses feeling crush of labour shortages under Omicron as workers set higher standards](#).
- ¹⁴ CBC News (January 12, 2022). [2 years into pandemic, restaurant industry once again facing shortages of staff, customers](#).
- ¹⁵ Winnipeg Free Press (January 21, 2022). [The cost of convenience: Delivery apps have helped many struggling eateries through the pandemic but customers need to know they are paying more while restaurants are getting less](#).
- ¹⁶ CTV News (January 4, 2022). [Manitoba delays in-person return to school, will start with remote learning Jan. 10](#).
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- ¹⁹ The University of Winnipeg (March, 2021). [Latent Profile Analysis of Manitoban Teachers' Burnout during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
- ²⁰ CBC News (January 8, 2022). [At least 915 Manitoba health-care workers off sick with COVID-19 over holidays](#).
- ²¹ CBC News (January 13, 2022). [Manitoba's surgical backlog swells 1 month after province created task force to tackle problem](#).
- ²² CBC News (January 7, 2022). [Ambulances in rural Manitoba increasingly sitting idle due to staff shortages](#).
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²³ The Brandon Sun (January 21, 2022). [Dispatchers short-staffed in rural Manitoba, union claims.](#)

²⁴ Government of Manitoba (January 26, 2022). [Manitoba, federal governments provide \\$1.5 million to main street project to support shelter expansion.](#)

²⁵ CBC News (January 11, 2022). [\\$12.7M in funding coming for 3 affordable housing projects in Winnipeg.](#)

²⁶ CTV News (January 23, 2022). [Leaf Rapids Health Centre reopening.](#)

²⁷ The Toronto Star (January 15, 2022). [First Nations feeling strain of Omicron-fuelled staff shortages.](#)

²⁸ CBC News (January 19, 2022). [First Nations people in Manitoba account for 25% of COVID-19 hospitalizations.](#)