



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

May 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

In May, employment declined 500 in Manitoba, down 0.1% to 666,700. Employment losses were due to a decline in part-time employment (-700) only partially offset by full-time employment gains (+200). Overall, provincial employment is up 11,300 compared to a year ago (+1.1%). Annual employment increased in both Manitoba's public (+14,100 or +8.5%) and private sector (+8,700 or +2.2%). Meanwhile, the number of self-employed Manitobans is down 8,400 year-over-year (-10.0%).<sup>1</sup>

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Monthly Data | May 2022 | April 2022 | May 2021 | Monthly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
|                                     |          |            |          | Number            | %    | Number           | %     |
| <b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>       | 1,061.9  | 1,060.3    | 1,050.6  | 1.6               | 0.2  | 11.3             | 1.1   |
| <b>Labour Force ('000)</b>          | 699.5    | 702.5      | 699.8    | -3.0              | -0.4 | -0.3             | 0.0   |
| <b>Employment ('000)</b>            | 666.7    | 667.2      | 652.2    | -0.5              | -0.1 | 14.5             | 2.2   |
| Full-Time ('000)                    | 532.7    | 532.5      | 531.1    | 0.2               | 0.0  | 1.6              | 0.3   |
| Part-Time ('000)                    | 134.0    | 134.7      | 121.1    | -0.7              | -0.5 | 12.9             | 10.7  |
| <b>Unemployment ('000)</b>          | 32.8     | 35.2       | 47.6     | -2.4              | -6.8 | -14.8            | -31.1 |
| <b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>        | 4.7      | 5.0        | 6.8      | -0.3              | -    | -2.1             | -     |
| <b>Participation Rate (%)</b>       | 65.9     | 66.3       | 66.6     | -0.4              | -    | -0.7             | -     |
| <b>Employment Rate (%)</b>          | 62.8     | 62.9       | 62.1     | -0.1              | -    | 0.7              | -     |

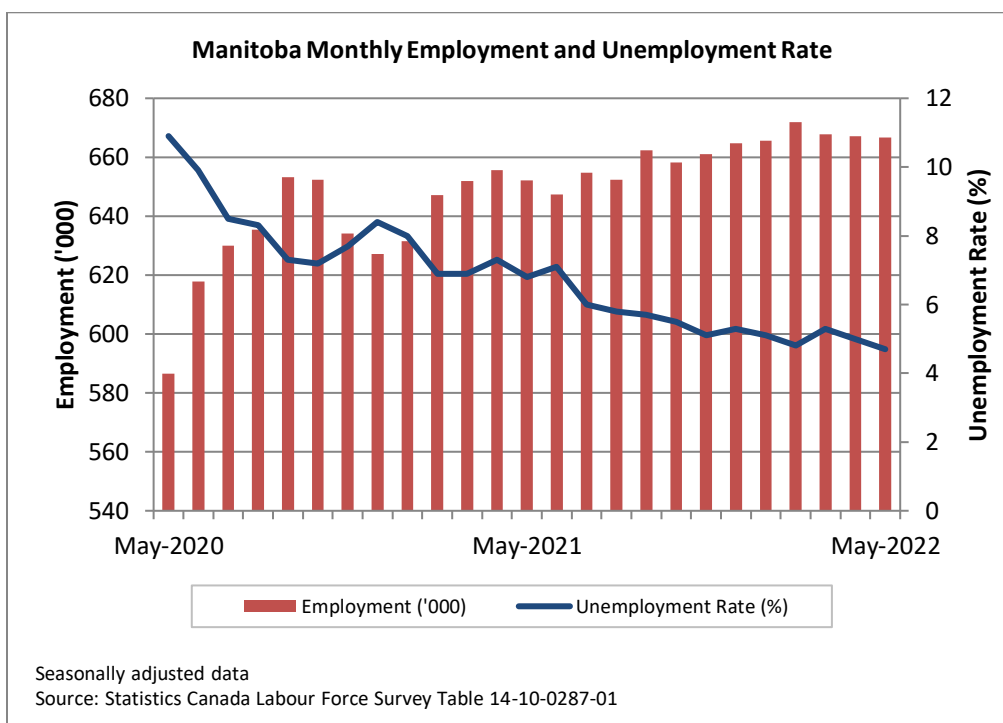
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There are now 12,000 fewer self-employed individuals working in Manitoba compared to February 2020. Public health measures meant to decrease the spread of COVID-19 over the last two years have adversely affected many small businesses that are still trying to recover. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), 65% of surveyed businesses in Manitoba have taken on pandemic related debt.<sup>2</sup> In addition, only

40% of Manitoba businesses indicated they were at or above pre-pandemic normal sales levels.<sup>3</sup> Small businesses in Manitoba are currently facing several additional challenges. Rising prices are significantly affecting 88% of Manitoba businesses surveyed by CFIB, while 71% are significantly impacted by supply chain issues, and 49% by labour shortages.<sup>4</sup>

According to the Conference Board of Canada, the Index of Consumer Confidence decreased 12.5 points in May for the Saskatchewan-Manitoba region — the largest decline of any region in Canada for this period.<sup>5</sup> With annual inflation at a 30 year high, the Bank of Canada is responding by increasing interest rates to moderate inflation. As a result, consumers and businesses alike are feeling the pinch on all fronts with higher costs for food, fuel, and loan payments. These pressures will likely limit discretionary spending, impacting retail and restaurant revenues.



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

| Seasonally Adjusted Data  | May 2022 (%) | April 2022 (%) | May 2021 (%) | Monthly Variation (% points) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Total</b>              | 4.7          | 5.0            | 6.8          | -0.3                         | -2.1                        |
| <b>25 years and over</b>  | 3.6          | 4.0            | 5.8          | -0.4                         | -2.2                        |
| Men - 25 years and over   | 3.5          | 4.2            | 5.6          | -0.7                         | -2.1                        |
| Women - 25 years and over | 3.6          | 3.8            | 6.0          | -0.2                         | -2.4                        |
| <b>15 to 24 years</b>     | 10.4         | 10.1           | 12.3         | 0.3                          | -1.9                        |
| Men - 15 to 24 years      | 12.8         | 10.6           | 11.4         | 2.2                          | 1.4                         |
| Women - 15 to 24 years    | 7.9          | 9.7            | 13.2         | -1.8                         | -5.3                        |

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

Manitoba's unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage points to 4.7% in May — remaining well below the national average of 5.1%. While there were 2,400 fewer unemployed people in the province, 3,000 Manitobans left the labour market, decreasing the participation rate by 0.4 percentage points to 65.9%.

In May, the unemployment rate for young men (15 to 24 years) increased 2.2 percentage points to 12.8% while the rate for young women (15 to 24 years) decreased 1.8 percentage points to 7.9%. On an annual basis, the most significant annual change was among women aged 25 years and over, dropping from 6.0% in May 2021 to 3.6% in May 2022.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In May, employment decreased in Manitoba's goods-producing sector (-400) due to losses in **manufacturing** (-3,000) that were only partially offset by gains in **construction** (+1,100) and **resource extraction** (forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying) (+1,200). Services-producing sector employment also edged down on a monthly basis (-200) with fewer people employed in **business, building and other support services** (-1,600), **finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (-1,300), and **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,100). Job losses in the services-producing sector were moderated by monthly employment growth in **educational services** (+2,000) and **public administration** (+1,100).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)                   | May 2022 | April 2022 | May 2021 | Monthly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |       |
|---|----------|------------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
|   |          |            |          | Number            | %    | Number           | %     |
| <b>Total employed, all industries</b>             | 666.7    | 667.2      | 652.2    | -0.5              | -0.1 | 14.5             | 2.2   |
| <b>Goods-producing sector</b>                     | 135.7    | 136.1      | 146.5    | -0.4              | -0.3 | -10.8            | -7.4  |
| Agriculture                                       | 19.0     | 18.8       | 23.7     | 0.2               | 1.1  | -4.7             | -19.8 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 4.4      | 3.2        | 3.7      | 1.2               | 37.5 | 0.7              | 18.9  |
| Utilities   | 5.0      | 4.9        | 4.8      | 0.1               | 2.0  | 0.2              | 4.2   |
| Construction                                      | 48.0     | 46.9       | 49.6     | 1.1               | 2.3  | -1.6             | -3.2  |
| Manufacturing                                     | 59.3     | 62.3       | 64.7     | -3.0              | -4.8 | -5.4             | -8.3  |
| <b>Services-producing sector</b>                  | 531.0    | 531.2      | 505.7    | -0.2              | 0.0  | 25.3             | 5.0   |
| Trade   | 96.4     | 97.5       | 96.4     | -1.1              | -1.1 | 0.0              | 0.0   |
| Transportation and warehousing                    | 40.3     | 40.3       | 39.6     | 0.0               | 0.0  | 0.7              | 1.8   |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing       | 38.6     | 39.9       | 35.5     | -1.3              | -3.3 | 3.1              | 8.7   |
| Professional, scientific and technical services   | 34.1     | 33.3       | 32.7     | 0.8               | 2.4  | 1.4              | 4.3   |
| Business, building and other support services     | 20.5     | 22.1       | 21.5     | -1.6              | -7.2 | -1.0             | -4.7  |
| Educational services                              | 61.6     | 59.6       | 59.1     | 2.0               | 3.4  | 2.5              | 4.2   |
| Health care and social assistance                 | 104.4    | 104.8      | 106.7    | -0.4              | -0.4 | -2.3             | -2.2  |
| Information, culture and recreation               | 23.9     | 23.8       | 19.8     | 0.1               | 0.4  | 4.1              | 20.7  |
| Accommodation and food services                   | 39.5     | 40.2       | 30.2     | -0.7              | -1.7 | 9.3              | 30.8  |
| Other services                                    | 28.6     | 27.7       | 26.6     | 0.9               | 3.2  | 2.0              | 7.5   |
| Public administration                             | 43.1     | 42.0       | 37.6     | 1.1               | 2.6  | 5.5              | 14.6  |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in the **agriculture** sector edged up 200 (+1.1%) this month, however, the provincial sector is still down 4,700 (-19.8%) workers year-over-year. In 2021, Manitoba experienced its worst drought in decades, significantly decreasing crop yields including an almost 30% drop in wheat and canola production.<sup>6</sup> Improved growing conditions and elevated commodity prices are expected to help farmers recover from the effects of last year's drought.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, new challenges have emerged this year with higher prices for fertilizer, fuel, and natural gas significantly increasing production costs for farmers.<sup>8,9</sup> In addition, the Province estimates that this year's spring flooding has already cost the agriculture industry approximately \$24 to \$36 million.<sup>10</sup>

**Manufacturing** employment decreased significantly in Manitoba both on a monthly (-3,000 or -4.8%) and annual basis (-5,400 or -8.3%). The majority of these job losses were in the Winnipeg region where over 60% of all manufacturing employment is located. Supply chain issues continue to negatively impact the manufacturing sector. A survey by Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters indicates over half of Canadian manufacturing companies surveyed are currently dealing with supply chain disruptions that are having a major or severe effect on their operations.<sup>11</sup> In fact, eight out of ten provinces had a drop in manufacturing employment for the month of May. In Manitoba, a global shortage of microchips has significantly slowed down production for aerospace and bus manufacturing over the last year.<sup>12</sup>

Employment in **public administration** increased 2.6% (+1,100) on a monthly basis and 14.6% year-over-year (+5,500). Annual employment gains in this sector were distributed evenly between federal, provincial, and municipal and Indigenous government jobs.<sup>13</sup> According to the Government of Manitoba, the province will need 5,900 new public administration workers between 2021 and 2025 to replace those leaving the workforce and another 1,400 people to fill new positions due to a small expansion in demand (+3.3%).<sup>14</sup> Recruitment strategies currently in place include student employment programs for public administration positions at the provincial and federal level.

In Manitoba, Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) services is an employment placement service that helps eligible students find part-time and summer employment with government departments, agencies and Crown corporations throughout the province.<sup>15</sup> For students interested in working for the federal government, the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) accepts applications on an on-going basis to create an inventory of qualified candidates.<sup>16</sup> The Government of Canada also has employment programs specifically targeting Indigenous students and students with disabilities.<sup>17</sup>

Within the services producing industries, employment in **health care and social assistance** declined 400 (-0.4%) in the month of May and 2,300 year-over-year (-2.2%). While there are 4,200 more people employed in hospitals compared to May 2021, this did not offset annual job losses in nursing and residential care facilities, social assistance, and ambulatory health care services.<sup>18</sup>

Despite provincial efforts to recruit and retain staff, Manitoba's health care and social assistance sector also has a shrinking labour force, down 2.1% year-over-year.<sup>19</sup> A group of 23 Northern Manitoba First Nations recently declared a state of emergency in health care following a meeting of the Keewatinohk Inniniw Okimowin Council.<sup>20</sup> The Indigenous leaders pointed to a critical shortage of staff and resources, both in provincially operated health centres and federally run nursing stations.<sup>21</sup> In an effort to bolster the number of local qualified health care providers, the Keewatin Tribal Council and Four Arrows Regional Health Authority are delivering emergency medical responder training in northern and northeastern First Nations communities.<sup>22</sup> The Emergency Medical

Responder and Medical Transportation Initiative is expected to increase the number of local Indigenous paramedics that can safely transport patients to larger centres to receive medical care.

Staffing shortages and a lack of in-patient capacity are issues found in health care centres throughout the province. These problems pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic and indicate systemic issues that require a new approach. According to Shared Health, one in seven patients in Winnipeg left the emergency department without seeing a doctor in March 2022.<sup>23</sup> A new pilot project at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre uses the physician-in-triage model that pairs an emergency room doctor with a nurse and nursing assistant to determine the sickest patients in waiting rooms. The Government of Manitoba is spending \$1.2 million to expand this project due to its success in improving patient wait times.<sup>24</sup> Introducing this type of new process could help alleviate workplace stress for healthcare workers while improving patient outcomes.

While employment in health care and social assistance is still down 4,100 compared to February 2020, the Government of Manitoba is allocating a substantial amount of funding towards bolstering its health care system. In fact, the Province is spending \$7.6 million to hire 35 additional paramedics and \$11 million towards strategies to increase the number of nursing students.<sup>25</sup> As part of Budget 2022, the Government of Manitoba is also spending \$812 million to build, expand and renovate health-care facilities across the province.<sup>26</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On an annual basis, employment increased in three of Manitoba's six economic regions. In the **South Central and North Central** region, employment is up 6.1% year-over-year (+3,400), while in **Southwest** employment is down 0.9% year-over-year (-500). The **Winnipeg** and **Southeast** regions had the highest unemployment rates in May, at 5.3% and 5.7% respectively.

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

| 3-Month Moving Averages<br>Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment            |                       |                            | Unemployment Rate  |                    |                                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
|   | May<br>2022<br>('000) | May<br>2021<br>('000) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(%) | May<br>2022<br>(%) | May<br>2021<br>(%) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(% points) |
| <b>Manitoba</b>                                       | 667.9                 | 653.1                 | 2.3                        | 5.0                | 7.1                | -2.1                              |
| <b>Economic Regions</b>                               |                       |                       |                            |                    |                    |                                   |
| Southeast   | 62.5                  | 60.4                  | 3.5                        | 5.7                | 6.6                | -0.9                              |
| South Central and North Central                       | 58.8                  | 55.4                  | 6.1                        | 3.5                | 6.7                | -3.2                              |
| Southwest   | 56.4                  | 56.9                  | -0.9                       | 3.8                | 5.3                | -1.5                              |
| Winnipeg  | 415.6                 | 405.5                 | 2.5                        | 5.3                | 7.7                | -2.4                              |
| Interlake   | 44.0                  | 44.2                  | -0.5                       | 4.8                | 5.6                | -0.8                              |
| Parklands and Northern                                | 30.6                  | 30.8                  | -0.6                       | 4.7                | 6.4                | -1.7                              |

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

On an annual basis, the **Winnipeg** region had the highest uptick in employment of any region in the province (10,100 or +2.5%). According to the City of Winnipeg, central and lower-income neighbourhoods have not seen the same level of employment growth compared to the more affluent neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.<sup>27</sup> The COVID-19 Pandemic Economic and Financial Update report suggests the pandemic had a greater negative effect on inner

city and low-income neighbourhoods and these neighbourhoods are still lagging behind the rest of the city in employment gains.<sup>28</sup>

Employment in the **Southeast** economic region increased 2,100 on an annual basis (+3.5%) while the unemployment rate decreased 0.9 percentage points to 5.7% for the same period. This economic region has a labour force approximately equal to its number of employed people in almost every industry resulting in a very tight labour market. Construction is the only regional sector with any significant unemployment (700 or 7.1%).<sup>29</sup>

In the region's largest urban centre, the City of Steinbach, the business community has signalled an alarming number of job vacancies. There are a total of 450 vacant positions in Steinbach with a working age population (15 to 64 years) of approximately 62,000 people.<sup>30,31</sup> The high vacancy rate is due in part to a significant decrease in immigration during the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>32</sup> To address this labour shortage, the City is hosting a bus tour and career fair on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. These events primarily aim to attract new immigrants while the City continues to work closely with the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program and other provincial refugee organizations to promote the City of Steinbach.<sup>33</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 \(x 1,000\)](#). Accessed on June 10, 2022.
- <sup>2</sup> CFIB (April 19, 2022). [Small business recovery dashboard](#).
- <sup>3</sup> CFIB (April 19, 2022). [Small business recovery dashboard](#).
- <sup>4</sup> CFIB (April 12, 2022). [Manitoba budget provides little relief for struggling small businesses](#).
- <sup>5</sup> Conference Board of Canada (June 2, 2022). [Consumers feel the pinch of higher prices](#).
- <sup>6</sup> CTV News (December 5, 2021). [Drought caused wheat, canola, and barley production to plummet in 2021: StatCan](#).
- <sup>7</sup> The Conference Board of Canada (April 13, 2022). [Tough times won't last: Manitoba's two-year outlook](#).
- <sup>8</sup> The Western Producer (March 3, 2022). [Farmers concerned as cost of production soars](#).
- <sup>9</sup> The Conference Board of Canada (April 13, 2022). [Tough times won't last: Manitoba's two-year outlook](#).
- <sup>10</sup> CBC (June 2, 2022). [Thousands of flood-damaged sites need repairs in Manitoba, tab already tens of millions and growing](#).
- <sup>11</sup> Global News (March 9, 2022). [Supply chain issues hitting 9 in 10 Canadian manufacturers, survey finds](#).
- <sup>12</sup> The Conference Board of Canada (April 13, 2022). [Tough times won't last: Manitoba's two-year outlook](#).
- <sup>13</sup> Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey ESDC Custom Table.
- <sup>14</sup> Government of Manitoba. [Manitoba Labour Market Outlook 2021-2025](#). Accessed June 12, 2022.
- <sup>15</sup> Government of Manitoba. [STEP services](#). Accessed June 12, 2022.
- <sup>16</sup> Government of Canada. [Federal Student Work Experience Program](#). Accessed June 12, 2022.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey ESDC Custom Table.
- <sup>19</sup> Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey ESDC Custom Table.
- <sup>20</sup> Thompson Citizen (May 30, 2022). [Health care for northern First Nations in a state of emergency, leaders say](#).
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Government of Canada (June 6, 2022). [Indigenous Services Canada investing in Four Arrows Regional Health Authority and Keewatin Tribal Council in Manitoba](#).
- <sup>23</sup> CBC News (May 4, 2022). [Nearly 14% of patients left Winnipeg ERs without receiving care in March: Shared Health](#).
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
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<sup>25</sup> Government of Manitoba (April 12, 2022). [Manitoba Government presents Budget 2022: Recover Together.](#)

<sup>26</sup> Government of Manitoba (April 12, 2022). [Manitoba Government presents Budget 2022: Recover Together.](#)

<sup>27</sup> CBC News (March 10, 2022). [Job recovery since COVID-19 slower in core, lower income neighbourhoods: city report.](#)

<sup>28</sup> City of Winnipeg (March 10, 2022). [COVID-19 pandemic economic and financial update.](#)

<sup>29</sup> Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey ESDC Custom table.

<sup>30</sup> Steinbach Online (June 6, 2022). [Steinbach dealing with high rate of job vacancies.](#)

<sup>31</sup> Statistics Canada. [Census Profile 2021, 2021 Census of Population, Steinbach, City, Manitoba.](#) Accessed June 13, 2022.

<sup>32</sup> Steinbach Online (June 6, 2022). [Steinbach dealing with high rate of job vacancies.](#)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.