



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

December 2015



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

After employment fell for three consecutive quarters, Manitoba's labour market showed signs of strength in the fourth quarter of 2015. Driven by employment gains in the goods-producing sector, the province had 2,000 more people working in the fourth quarter compared to the third. Compared to the fourth quarter last year, employment was up 3,500.

Quarterly gains were found entirely in part-time employment (+3,000), off-setting a decline in full-time employment (-1,000). Measured against the fourth quarter of 2014, growth was limited to part-time employment (+6,600), while full-time employment shrank by 3,100.

The public sector was responsible for all employment growth both over the quarter (+6,300) and over the year (+7,500). In contrast, private sector employment dropped sharply in the fourth quarter (-5,400). After a year of weak growth in the sector, this quarter's decline left 6,600 fewer individuals employed in the sector compared to the same period in 2014. Meanwhile, the number of self-employed persons in Manitoba increased by 1,000 in the fourth quarter.

Unemployment

Despite strong employment growth this quarter, an expansion in Manitoba's labour force outpaced the number of available positions. As a result, unemployment in Manitoba increased 2,100, and the province's unemployment rate rose accordingly from 5.5% to 5.8%. Even so, Manitoba retains the second lowest unemployment rate nationwide for the third quarter in a row, and it should remain low in the future. Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects the provinces unemployment rate to drop to 4.9% in 2016.¹

Youth unemployment remained high this quarter, with the rate for those aged 15 to 24 averaging 12.2%; more than double the rate of 4.6% for those aged 25 and older. Compared to a year ago, the youth unemployment

rate is up 1.8 percentage points. Those aged 55 and older had the lowest unemployment rate (3.5%) among all age groups in the fourth quarter of 2015.

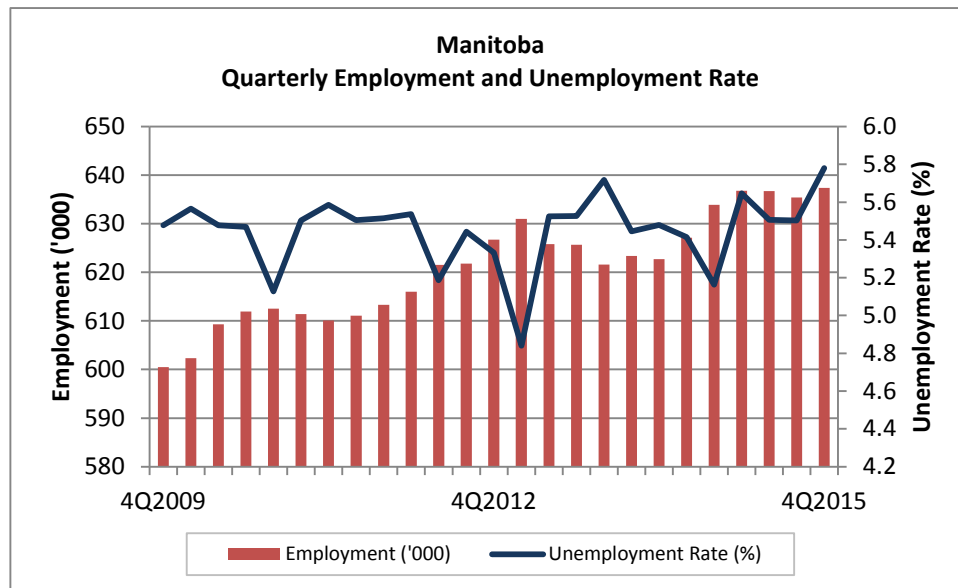
Looking at trends by gender, the unemployment rate was the highest among young men at 12.4% after rising 2.3 percentage points over the quarter. Unemployment among young women sat at 11.8%, well over twice that of women over the age of 25.

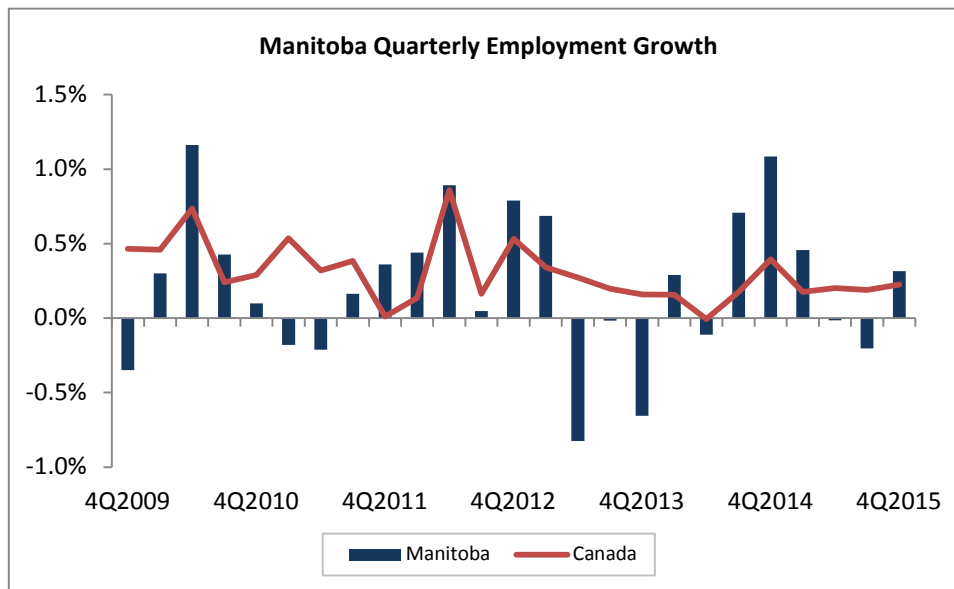
Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	991.3	988.6	980.6	2.7	0.3	10.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	676.5	672.4	668.3	4.1	0.6	8.2	1.2
Employment ('000)	637.4	635.4	633.9	2.0	0.3	3.5	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	512.1	513.1	515.2	-1.0	-0.2	-3.1	-0.6
Part-Time ('000)	125.3	122.3	118.7	3.0	2.5	6.6	5.6
Unemployment ('000)	39.1	37.0	34.5	2.1	5.7	4.6	13.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	5.5	5.2	0.3	-	0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	68.2	68.0	68.2	0.2	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	64.3	64.3	64.6	0.0	-	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087





Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.8	5.5	5.2	0.3	0.6
25 years and over	4.6	4.6	4.1	0.0	0.5
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	4.3	4.0	0.4	0.7
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	4.8	4.2	-0.4	0.2
15 to 24 years	12.2	10.5	10.4	1.7	1.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.4	10.0	11.2	2.3	1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.8	11.0	9.4	0.8	2.4

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manitoba’s goods-producing sector added 2,000 workers in the fourth quarter, building on strong growth from fall 2015. In spite of the upward trend, the sector remains down -0.2% compared the same period last year. Leading growth in the sector was the agriculture industry which employed 800 more individuals in the fourth quarter than the previous one. Year-over-year, employment in the industry was up 1,000 this quarter, bucking a long-term downward trend in the industry. Farmers can expect a good return from 2015, as the drought affecting Saskatchewan and Alberta did not impact Manitoba.

Manufacturing saw similar growth this quarter (+500), following half a year of downward movement. The industry is likely benefitting from a recovery in the United States and a weakening Canadian dollar which is increasing foreign demand and translating into a rise in employment. Some of Manitoba’s larger manufacturers are capitalizing on the positive trade environment. Winnipeg bus manufacturer New Flyer recently purchased

Motor Coach Industries for \$604-million CAD, establishing the company as one of the largest bus manufacturers in the world.

Construction remained virtually unchanged in the fourth quarter (+200), although employment in the industry remained down on an annual basis (-1,100). Nonetheless, the outlook for construction employment in the near-term is positive, as core infrastructure investment remains a priority for the province, and a number of major hydro projects are scheduled to start in 2016. The Manitoba government recently extended its infrastructure plan by three years and increased total funding to \$10-billion throughout the province. Originally, \$5.5-billion was to be invested over five years. Moreover, BuildForce Canada forecasts that employment in the industry will expand and peak in 2016 and 2017.²

Finally, employment in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and gas increased 500 in the fourth quarter. Time will tell if the increase marks an end to the downward trend in employment within the industry over the last year. Employment in the industry was 17.1% lower in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. Meanwhile, employment in utilities increased by 100 workers this quarter, reflecting an upward trend that started in the spring. Employment in this industry is up 10.3% compared to the final quarter of 2014.

Focusing on the services-producing sector, employment remained unchanged this quarter as ongoing losses in the transportation and warehousing industry (-2,200) offset gains found across publically-funded industries. Over the year, transportation industry employment is down 1,600. Nonetheless, shipping requirements of a strong provincial manufacturing sector and the introduction of low-cost airline NewLeaf Travel to Winnipeg should positively impact employment trends going forward. Across Manitoba's publically funded industries, educational services (+600) and health care and social assistance (+1,100) expanded moderately while public administration saw strong growth (+1,400). Among the three, only public administration has fewer individuals employed this quarter compared to the same period last year.

Trade industry employment remained virtually unmoved this quarter (-100), slowing to a halt a year-long downward trend. Year-over-year, the industry employed 4,400 fewer people in the fourth quarter of 2015. Losses were mainly in retail trade, but this downward trend may reverse in coming years. Construction of a 100-store outlet mall recently began in Winnipeg, which will create an estimated 1,300 jobs when it opens for business in early 2017.³ Supermarket-chain Save-On-Foods also announced plans to open 12 new stores in Winnipeg as well as an undisclosed number of new stores across rural Manitoba over the next three to five years. Each store is expected to create 150 new retail positions.⁴

Despite a quarterly loss (-800), accommodation and food services remained up 1,400 compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 as the industry retains a large portion of the employment gains it experienced over the summer.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	637.4	635.4	633.9	2.0	0.3	3.5	0.6
Goods-producing sector	149.2	147.2	149.5	2.0	1.4	-0.3	-0.2
Agriculture	24.0	23.2	23.0	0.8	3.4	1.0	4.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.8	5.3	7.0	0.5	9.4	-1.2	-17.1
Utilities	8.6	8.5	7.8	0.1	1.2	0.8	10.3
Construction	46.2	46.0	47.3	0.2	0.4	-1.1	-2.3
Manufacturing	64.7	64.2	64.5	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.3
Services-producing sector	488.2	488.2	484.3	0.0	0.0	3.9	0.8
Trade	90.9	91.0	95.3	-0.1	-0.1	-4.4	-4.6
Transportation and warehousing	36.7	38.9	38.3	-2.2	-5.7	-1.6	-4.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	32.0	31.6	33.9	0.4	1.3	-1.9	-5.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	25.5	26.2	23.7	-0.7	-2.7	1.8	7.6
Business, building and other support services	19.5	18.8	16.7	0.7	3.7	2.8	16.8
Educational services	52.9	52.3	49.9	0.6	1.1	3.0	6.0
Health care and social assistance	102.8	101.7	100.9	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.9
Information, culture and recreation	22.9	22.6	21.3	0.3	1.3	1.6	7.5
Accommodation and food services	41.4	42.2	40.0	-0.8	-1.9	1.4	3.5
Other services	28.8	29.9	29.2	-1.1	-3.7	-0.4	-1.4
Public administration	34.7	33.3	35.1	1.4	4.2	-0.4	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Mixed labour market results were observed across Manitoba, with annual employment growth occurring in half of the province's economic regions and moderate to severe losses occurring in the others.

Winnipeg led the way in employment gains, with employment rising 1.9% (+7,100) year-over-year thanks mostly to gains across services-producing industries. Accommodation and food services jumped 9.7%, or 2,600 jobs, since fourth quarter 2014. Winnipeg held a number of large sporting events throughout 2015. Most recently, the city welcomed an estimated 28,000 visitors while hosting the 2015 Grey Cup game; an event that infused an estimated \$85.5-million into the economy.⁵ Nonetheless, Winnipeg's unemployment rate jumped to 5.8% from 5.3% the previous year.

Employment also grew in the Parklands and Northern (+2.6%) and Southeast (+0.9%) regions. Job growth helped drive Parklands and Northern's unemployment rate down over the year but had no positive effect on Southeast's, which rose slightly. Transportation options to the Parklands & North region were uncertain after the Port of Churchill and accompanying Hudson Bay rail line were put up for sale. The track provides a vital link to northern communities and ships an annual average of 550,000 tonnes of grain each year. A consortium of

northern Manitoba First Nations led by Mathias Colomb Cree Nation has offered to purchase the port, a move that should ensure the line remains in use going forward.⁶

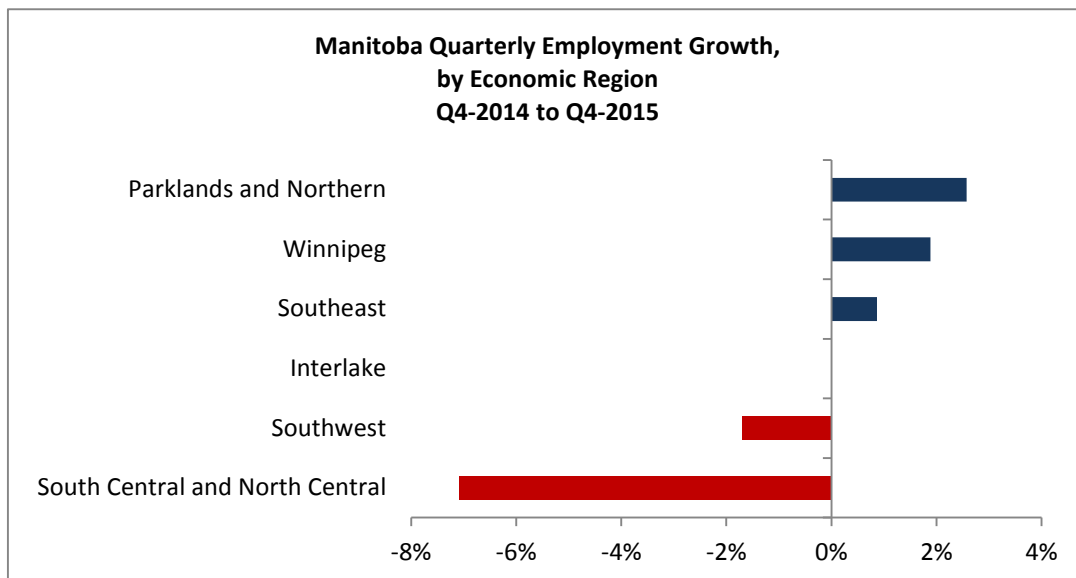
In contrast, South Central and North Central underwent the largest decrease (-7.1%) in employment among Manitoba’s regions this quarter. The region also saw a large yearly unemployment rate increase during the same period. Losses also occurred in the Southwest (-1.7%) while the Interlake region remained unchanged. The unemployment rate in Interlake dropped moderately while Southwest saw a 2.3 percentage point increase over the year.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2015 ('000)	4th Quarter 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2015 (%)	4th Quarter 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	637.4	634.1	0.5	5.2	4.7	0.5
Economic Regions						
Southeast	58.1	57.6	0.9	4.8	4.6	0.2
South Central and North Central	53.7	57.8	-7.1	3.9	2.9	1.0
Southwest	57.7	58.7	-1.7	5.1	2.8	2.3
Winnipeg	383.8	376.7	1.9	5.8	5.3	0.5
Interlake	48.3	48.3	0.0	3.6	4.3	-0.7
Parklands and Northern	35.9	35	2.6	4.3	5.4	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122



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: NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrscd-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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¹ Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Winter 2015

² BuildForce Canada, Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward: Manitoba

³ Talia Ricci. (September 25, 2015). First outlet mall arrives in Manitoba. Global News. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2242267/first-outlet-mall-arrives-to-manitoba/>

⁴ Wayne Glowacki. Save-On-Foods announces it will consider downtown site. Winnipeg Free Press. Retrieved from : <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/Winnipeg-market-big-enough-for-dozen-Save-On-Foods-stores-president-312916761.html>

⁵ Adrian Cheung. (November 25, 2015). Busy days and big dollars ahead for business in Winnipeg. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2359438/busy-days-and-big-dollars-ahead-for-business-in-winnipeg>

⁶ (January 8, 2016) Mathias Colomb Cree Nation makes offer to buy Port of Churchill. CBC News. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/mathias-colomb-omnitrax-port-churchill-1.3396389>