



# Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

April 2017



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

Manitoba's labour market has remained unchanged in March as provincial employment decreased by only 500 on a monthly basis. Monthly losses were entirely in full-time employment (-2,700), while the number of individuals employed part-time increased by 2,200.

On an annual basis, employment increased by 6,900, but most of these gains were in part-time employment (+5,700). Over the same period, public sector employment has fallen by 1.8% (-2,900 jobs) while private sector employment grew by 2.4% (+9,300).<sup>1</sup>

Looking ahead, RBC Economics is forecasting employment in Manitoba to rise by 1.0% and 0.9% in 2017 and 2018, respectively.<sup>2</sup> The Bank of Canada also estimates that the new Canadian Free Trade Agreement could provide an economic boost of \$120M per year for Manitoba.<sup>3</sup> Employment could be positively impacted.

### Unemployment

The province's unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.4% in April. Manitoba currently has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada, well below the Canadian average of 6.5%.<sup>4</sup> However, the current low unemployment rate is associated with low participation rates and it is not expected to remain at these low levels. In fact, the Conference Board of Canada expects the province's unemployment rate to hover around 6.0% over the next two years.<sup>5</sup>

Despite a small decline in unemployment for those aged 15 to 24 (11.6% to 11.1%), youth unemployment remained high in March. By comparison the unemployment rate for individuals aged 25 years and older sat at

4.4% over the same period. Compared to this time last year, the youth unemployment rate decreased 1.1 percentage points, while the rate for those 25 years and older was down 0.6 percentage points.

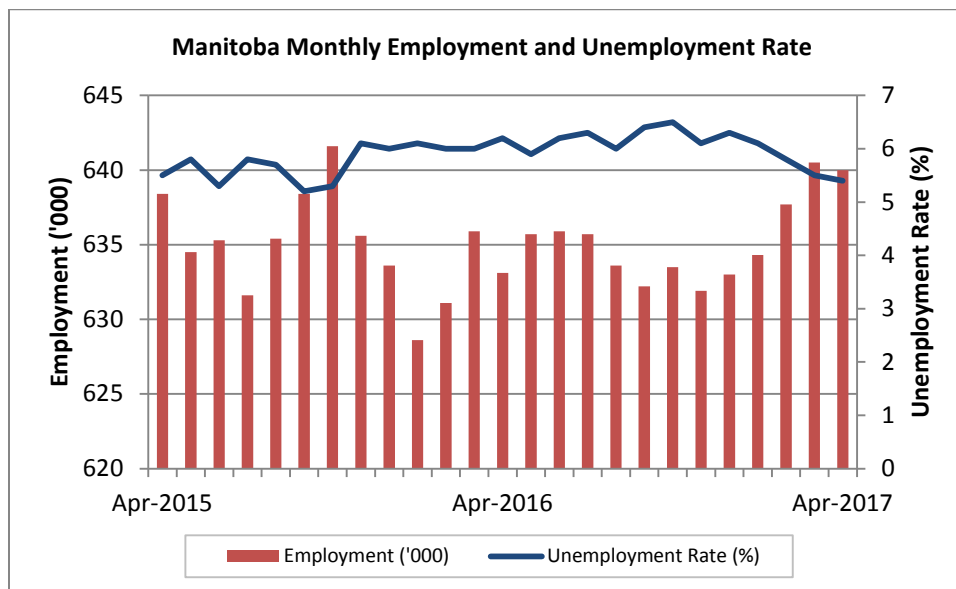
Looking at trends by gender, the unemployment rate was the highest among young men at 12.5%; however, down from the previous month. Unemployment among young women stood at 9.5%; more than twice the rate of women over the age of 25 (3.9%).

**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,010.4	1,008.8	996.3	1.6	0.2	14.1	1.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	676.8	678.0	674.6	-1.2	-0.2	2.2	0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	640.0	640.5	633.1	-0.5	-0.1	6.9	1.1
Full-Time ('000)	516.9	519.6	515.7	-2.7	-0.5	1.2	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	123.1	120.9	117.4	2.2	1.8	5.7	4.9
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	36.8	37.5	41.5	-0.7	-1.9	-4.7	-11.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.4	5.5	6.2	-0.1	-	-0.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.0	67.2	67.7	-0.2	-	-0.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.3	63.5	63.5	-0.2	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



## Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2017 (%)	March 2017 (%)	April 2016 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.4	5.5	6.2	-0.1	-0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.4	4.4	5.0	0.0	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	4.8	4.6	5.4	0.2	-0.6
Women - 25 years and over	3.9	4.2	4.5	-0.3	-0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.1	11.6	12.2	-0.5	-1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.5	13.4	13.5	-0.9	-1.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.5	9.5	10.6	0.0	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manitoba's good-producing sector employed 700 less people in April compared to the previous month. However, yearly performance was still good with 3,700 additional workers compared to April 2016. Employment growth in the goods-producing sector over the past year can partly be attributed to gains in construction, which now employs 1,900 more people. These good yearly results come despite the fact that employment in the sector decreased by 1,700 in April. Moving forward, economists suggest that construction spending will be sustained and will be a key factor contributing to Manitoba's growth in 2017.<sup>6</sup> A number of projects being undertaken by Manitoba Hydro, as well as announced expenditures in commercial and residential projects in the Winnipeg area should help maintain this outlook.<sup>7</sup>

Employment in the province's manufacturing industry grew in the last month (+1,100). The sector also grew 2,900 over the year. Growth should continue as Bank of Canada reports improvements in business confidence.<sup>8</sup> TD Economics also notes that ongoing strength in the food, wood products, machinery, and transportation equipment sectors should help support manufacturing moving forward.<sup>9</sup>

The forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry had the largest yearly growth rate (+13.4%) among all goods-producing industries. This translates to an additional 900 jobs over the year.

## Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	640.0	640.5	633.1	-0.5	-0.1	6.9	1.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	154.4	155.1	150.7	-0.7	-0.5	3.7	2.5
Agriculture	22.1	22.3	24.2	-0.2	-0.9	-2.1	-8.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.6	7.5	6.7	0.1	1.3	0.9	13.4
Utilities	9.6	9.4	9.4	0.2	2.1	0.2	2.1
Construction	49.7	51.4	47.8	-1.7	-3.3	1.9	4.0
Manufacturing	65.5	64.4	62.6	1.1	1.7	2.9	4.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	485.6	485.5	482.4	0.1	0.0	3.2	0.7
Trade	91.1	90.8	90.9	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Transportation and warehousing	37.5	36.6	34.8	0.9	2.5	2.7	7.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	37.0	37.5	33.1	-0.5	-1.3	3.9	11.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.7	27.9	27.9	0.8	2.9	0.8	2.9
Business, building and other support services	17.9	18.1	17.7	-0.2	-1.1	0.2	1.1
Educational services	49.5	50.0	50.8	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3	-2.6
Health care and social assistance	100.2	100.8	101.0	-0.6	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8
Information, culture and recreation	23.1	23.8	23.7	-0.7	-2.9	-0.6	-2.5
Accommodation and food services	41.1	40.2	41.7	0.9	2.2	-0.6	-1.4
Other services	26.1	26.0	28.8	0.1	0.4	-2.7	-9.4
Public administration	33.6	33.7	32.0	-0.1	-0.3	1.6	5.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's services-producing industries remained mostly unchanged (+100) in April. Monthly variations ranged between +900 in the transportation and warehousing sector to -900 in the accommodation and food services sector. Noteworthy is the annual decreases in health care and social assistance and educational services sectors (-800 and -1,300 respectively). Additionally, the short-term employment outlook for these industries is not positive as the Government of Manitoba is currently facing a budget deficit and is implementing restraint and saving measures in an effort to move the budget back to balance.<sup>10</sup>

The finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry saw a large growth in employment over the last year (+3,900). These gains brought the industry's employment up nearly 11.9% compared to the same time last year. This was in spite of Great-West Lifeco recently announced plans to reduce its workforce across Canada, including 450 positions at its Winnipeg headquarters.<sup>11</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Yearly provincial employment gains translated across all of Manitoba's regions. The Interlake region saw the largest year over year growth. Employment increased 6.1% and unemployment decreased 4.1 percentage points. This decrease meant that the unemployment rate went from 8.2% in April 2016 to 4.2% in April 2017. Over that period, the largest growth occurred in the business, building and other support services sector

(+1,700 jobs), followed by the educational services and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing sectors (both +900 jobs).<sup>12</sup>

The Southwest region had been the sole region with negative year-over-year results over quarter one of 2017 in Manitoba. However, April's results are very positive. The region experienced the second highest yearly growth in the province (+2,500 jobs; -1.1 unemployment percentage points). The region saw a series of positive announcements recently. For example, European food-manufacturing giant Roquette planned to build the world's largest pea protein facility in Portage la Prairie. Construction of the facility is expected to begin in late 2017 and should create about 350 construction as well as design-related jobs over two years. The plant is anticipated to employ about 150 workers when production begins in 2019.<sup>13</sup>

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2017 ('000)	April 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2017 (%)	April 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	633.4	626.7	1.1	5.6	6.2	-0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	60.7	59.6	1.8	5.3	5.2	0.1
South Central and North Central	54.3	53.7	1.1	3.6	3.8	-0.2
Southwest	53.9	52.6	2.5	5.8	6.9	-1.1
Winnipeg	381.4	381.5	0.0	6.3	6.4	-0.1
Interlake	47.2	44.5	6.1	4.1	8.2	-4.1
Parklands and North	36.0	34.8	3.4	4.8	4.4	0.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in Winnipeg stagnated over the last year, showing little growth over that period. Unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage points over the year and sat at 6.3% in April 2017. The region's finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing industry led employment growth over the past year.<sup>14</sup> The region recently saw the announcement of major real estate projects such as the Red River College's plan to construct a new \$95.4M Innovation Centre across from its main downtown campus centre.<sup>15</sup> Public administration and manufacturing also saw strong employment growth.<sup>16</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> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0089 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by class of worker and sex, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 5, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Paul Ferley. RBC Economics – Research. Manitoba: Provincial outlook. March 2017.  
<http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/provincial-forecasts/man.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/canadas-own-free-trade-pact-418703753.html>

<sup>4</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 5, 2017)

<sup>5</sup> The Conference Board of Canada. Provincial Outlook Executive Summary: Winter 2017. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> TD Economics, Provincial economic forecast. December 20, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Paul Ferley. RBC Economics – Research. Manitoba: Provincial outlook. March 2017.  
<http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/provincial-forecasts/man.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Bank of Canada. Business Outlook Survey. Results of the Winter 2016–17 Survey | Vol. 13.4 | 9 January 2017

<sup>9</sup> TD Economics. Provincial Economic Forecast. March 27, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Deloitte. 2016-2017 Manitoba budget highlights. Retrieved from:  
<https://www2.deloitte.com/ca/en/pages/tax/articles/2016-2017-manitoba-budget-highlights.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/great-west-life-layoffs-1.4084179>

<sup>12</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, quarterly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 5, 2017)

<sup>13</sup> <https://steinbachonline.com/ag-news/400-million-pea-processing-plant-to-be-built-near-portage>

<sup>14</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 5, 2017)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/red-river-college-princess-campus-expansion-elgin-1.4086516>

<sup>16</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 5, 2017)