

Economic Development Winnipeg

WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST



MANITOBA LABOUR FORCE DATA - APRIL 2021

MANITOBA'S EMPLOYMENT GAINS BUCK THE CANADIAN TREND.

Chris Ferris, Senior Economist

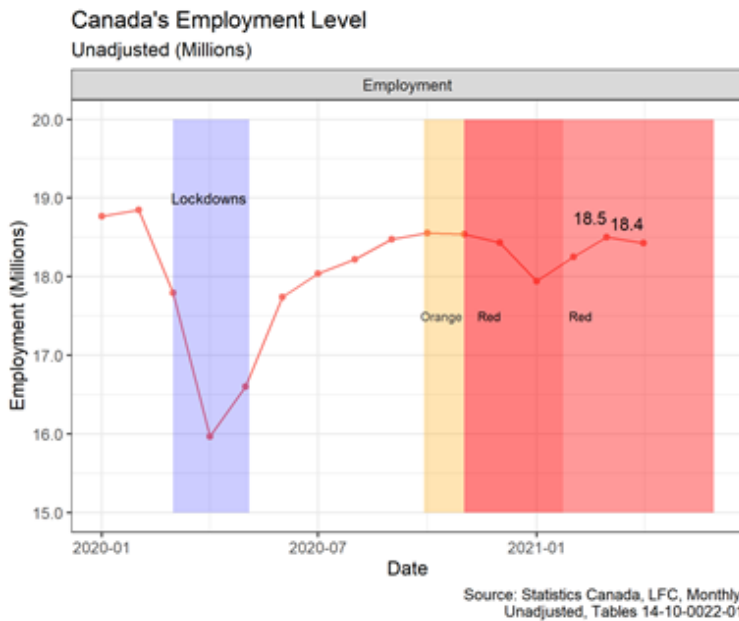
Bottom Line

In April 2021, Manitoba's labour market bucked the Canadian trend, adding about 6,000 jobs, while the rest of the country saw a decline of 100,000 jobs. Tightening COVID-19 restrictions in other provinces led to the overall Canadian drop in employment. Manitoba's tightening COVID-19 restrictions that began May 9 and extend to May 30 are expected to be a drag on Manitoba's employment growth for the May 2021 data.

The rapid pace of COVID-19 vaccinations is expected to result in 70 per cent or more of those aged 18+ vaccinated by June 4 to 8, 2021. The expansion of eligibility to those 12 to 17 (able to book appointments as of Friday May 14) is expected to result in a similar share of this age group reaching 70 per cent or more within a week or two. Given this vaccination rate Manitoba could see restrictions begin easing mid to late June 2021.

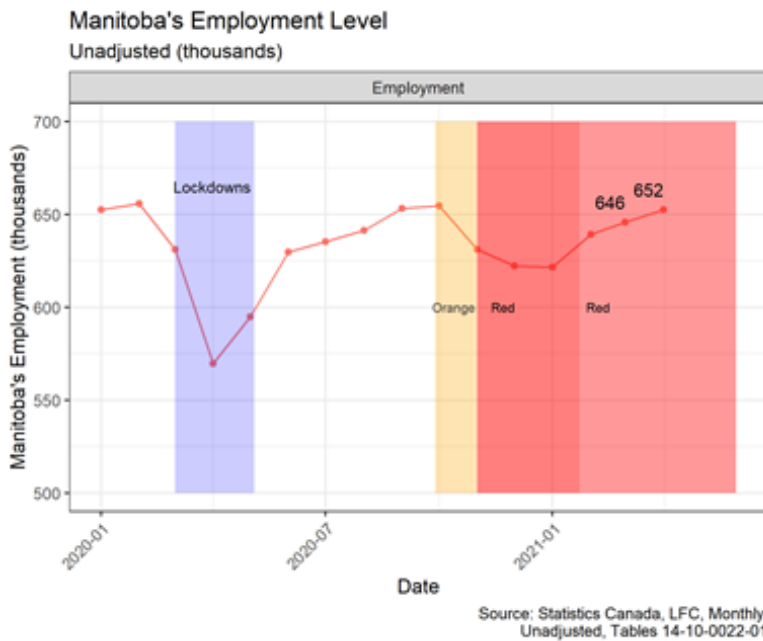
Keeping up the pace on first and second shot COVID-19 vaccinations will enable the return to a more normal life and business activity. From there, more of our efforts can be spent re-opening to the rest of the world.

ANALYSIS



Canada and Manitoba Employment Levels

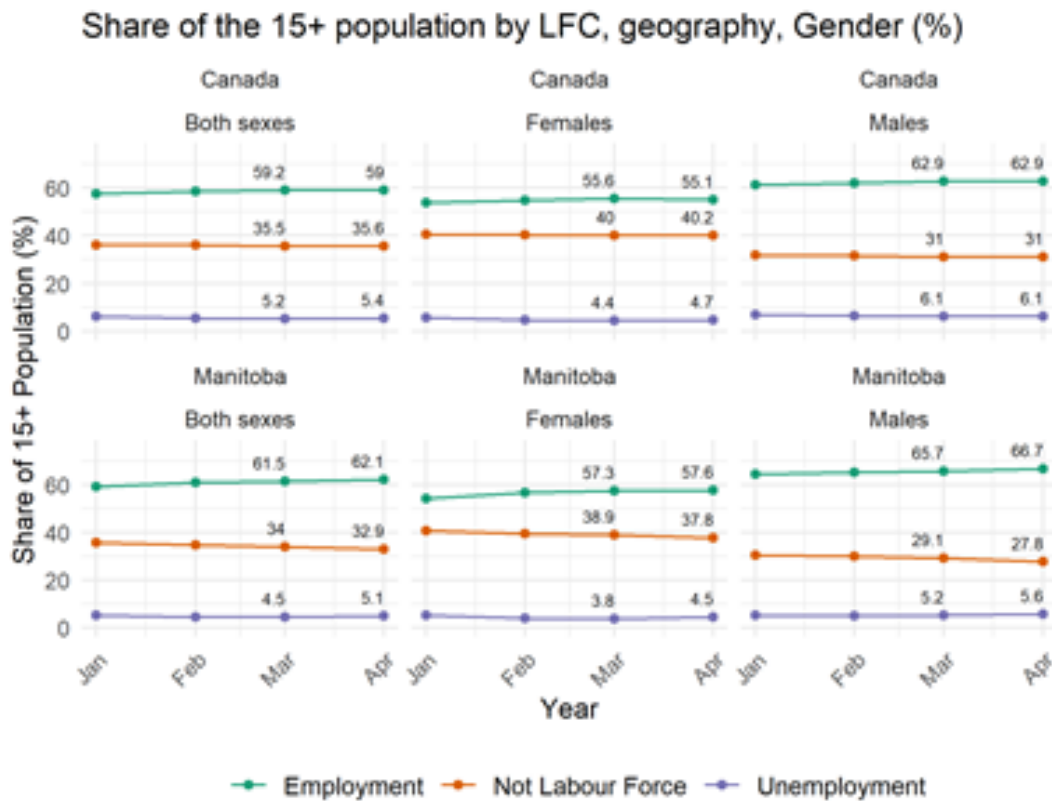
Statistics Canada released the April 2021 Labour Force Survey results on May 7, 2021.



While Canada saw a decline in employment of more than 100,000 jobs, Manitoba showed a small gain of 6 thousand jobs in April 2021.

Sources:
Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0022-01, Labour force characteristics by industry, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality.

ANALYSIS



Source: Statistics Canada, LFC, Monthly, Unadjusted Tables 14-10-0287-01, Chart by Chris Ferris

Those aged 15+ who are in, and not in, the labour force

Due to COVID-19’s significant disruption to labour markets, it is important to monitor the share of the population that is not in the labour force (NLF), along with those in the labour force (LF) = employed (E) + unemployed (U). The unemployment rate is calculated on U/LF.

Canadian women saw the largest share of the decline in employment from March to April 2021. Female employment fell by 0.5 % of the population aged 15+, while those unemployed rose by 0.2 %, and those NLF rose by 0.3 per cent. Likely those women no longer in the labour force have dropped out temporarily to care for family.

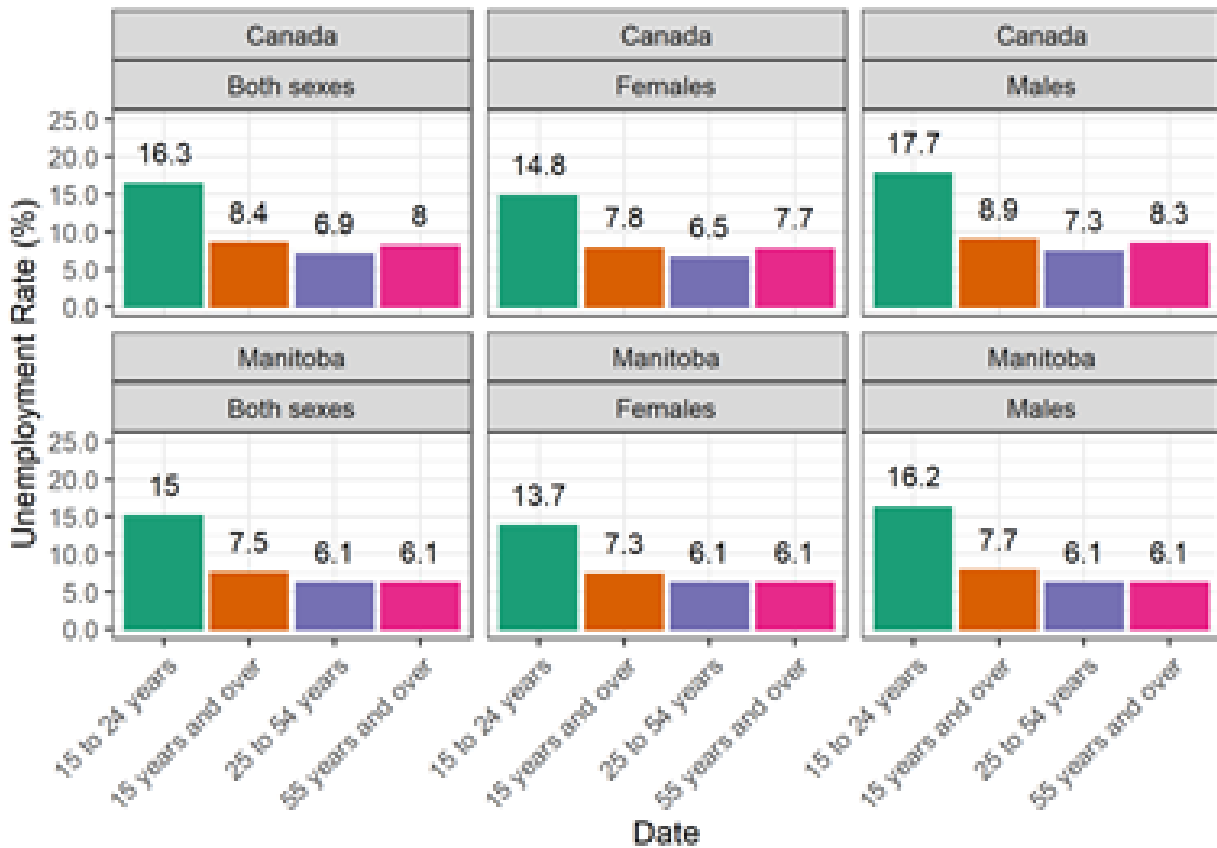
In Manitoba, the population aged 15+ saw the share NLF fall by 1.1 percent. In aggregate, for men who were re-entering the workforce, around ¾ of them found work, and ¼ are looking for work, so are considered unemployed. For women, it was the opposite, with just 1/3 of them finding work, and the rest were looking for work, so are considered unemployed.

So, while Canada’s overall labour market is showing weakness, Manitoba’s was showing some strength in April vs March 2021.

Sources:
 Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01, Labour force characteristics, monthly, not seasonally adjusted.

ANALYSIS

2021-04 Unemployment Rate (%)
by Geography, Sex and Age Group; Unadjusted (%)



Source: Statistics Canada, LFC, Monthly, Unadjusted, Tables 14-10-0022-01

2021-04 Unemployment Rates

For both Canada and Manitoba, the unemployment rate rose month-over-month.

Manitoba's overall unemployment rate is lower than Canada's. Regardless of age and gender combinations, Manitoba's unemployment rate is lower than Canada's overall.

Sources: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0022-01, Labour force characteristics by industry, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality.

ANALYSIS

Manitoba's Goods Industries Employment Index (100 = same as Feb 2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, LFC, Monthly, Unadjusted, Tables 14-10-0022-01

Manitoba's Goods Industries Employment vs Feb 2020

To show the effects of the pandemic on employment, April 2021 will be compared against February 2020 results.^{/1} Employment in goods producing industries is equal to the level in February 2020.

Employment is above the Feb 2020 result for:

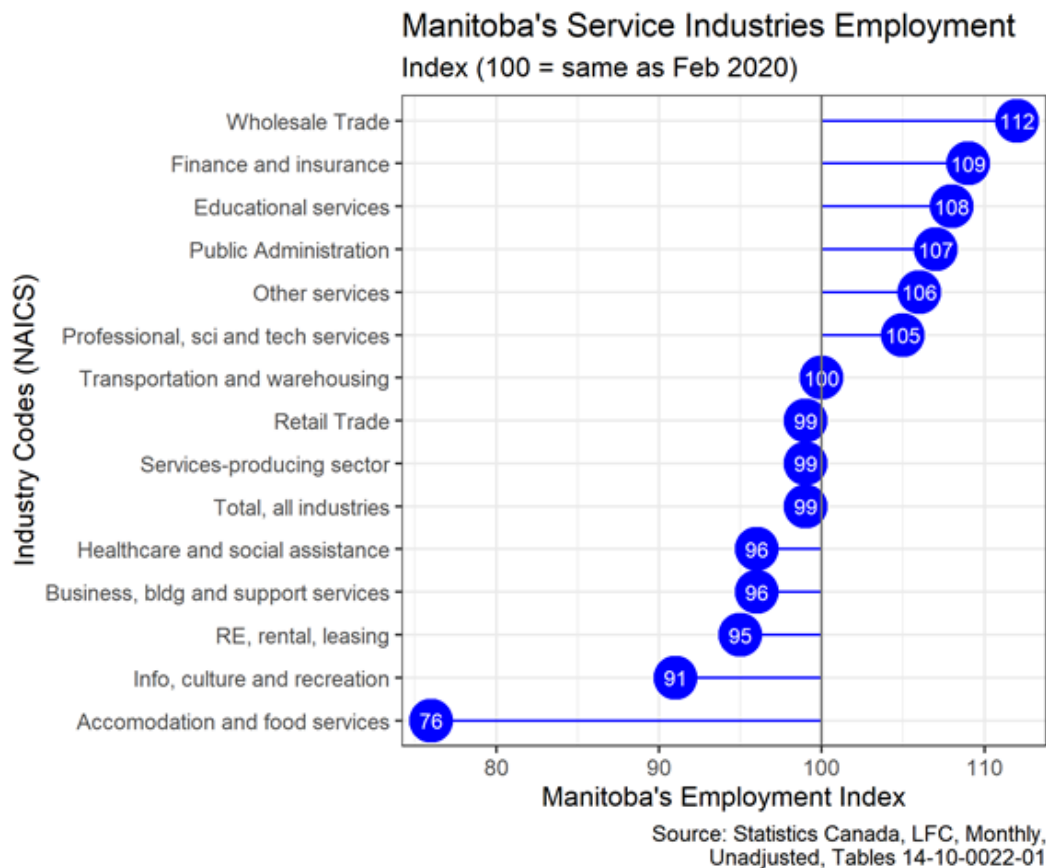
- Manufacturing of non-durables (+12%), and
- Construction (+6%).

The two goods-producing sectors down the most vs February 2020 are:

- Utilities (-27%), and
- Natural resources (-31%).

^{/1}. We will be comparing to Feb 2020 for April and May 2021. After that we will move back to a year-over-year comparison. This is because April and May 2020 were dramatically lower than the rest of the data series, and the comparison gives off an excessively rosy view of the current state of employment by comparison. We will then switch back to a year-over-year comparison for the June 2021 data.

ANALYSIS



Manitoba's Services Industries Employment vs Feb 2020

Employment in services-producing industries are one percent below their level in February 2020.

The top two sectors where employment is above Feb 2020 are:

- wholesale trade (+12%), and
- Finance and insurance (+9%).

The two services-producing sectors down the most vs February 2020 are:

- Information, culture and recreation (-9%), and
- Accommodation and food services (-24%).

ANALYSIS

Looking toward the May 2021 Labour Market

The province announced on [May 7, 2021](#) that further restrictions were needed to help combat COVID-19. These [restrictions](#) began to taking effect on Sunday, May 9, 2021. The province announced on [May 9, 2021](#) that all K-12 schools in Brandon and Winnipeg will move to remote learning for May 12 to May 30, 2021. This includes public and private schools. This will be a challenge for some working parents and may mean some have to reduce hours or temporarily leave the labour market.

The province announced on [May 10, 2021](#) that up to \$75 million new money will be available to businesses affected by the latest pandemic restrictions. This funding will flow via the MB Bridge Grant. Affected businesses will be eligible for up to \$5,000. This money is expected to flow by May 14, 2021.

Tighter restrictions are expected to soften the job market for affected businesses. Some businesses are not as affected, and some may see enhanced hiring. We expect to see some net weakness in the job market from both the demand and supply sides in May.

COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out Bodes Well for June Onwards

The Manitoba's [May 5, 2021](#) vaccine technical briefing estimates when 70% of Manitoban's aged 18+ will be vaccinated with their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine between June 4 and 8.

The provincial government announced that Manitoba's [children aged 12 – 17 can book a COVID-19 vaccination today, May 14, 2021](#). This is based on Health Canada approving the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 12 – 17 on May 5, 2021. Clinical trials are going ahead for younger children.

Given the expectation around COVID-19 vaccinations, we can expect to see an increasingly stronger underpinning to the Manitoba labour market from June onward. Second shot bookings will be available for before the end of May for those aged 12+.

INQUIRIES AND CONTACTS

If you require help accessing government programs, contact our YES! Winnipeg team through the [Help us help you form](#).

General inquires: wpginfo@edwinnipeg.com

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