

Manitoba Employment Improves in September 2020

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Bottom Line

Manitoba's employment rate is closer to its February 2020 and year-over-year level than Canada's. Manitoba's unemployment rate fell month-over-month as well, remaining lower than that of Canada overall.

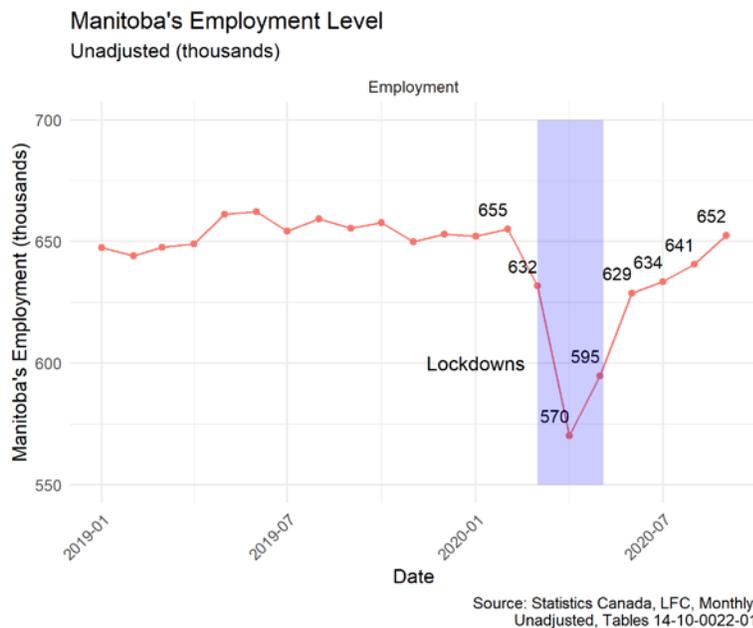
Employment in Manitoba continue to rise in September, with education services staff returning to work in primary, secondary, and post-secondary roles. With those aged 15 to 24 also returning to schooling, we are seeing a drop in their employment and unemployment rates. This is a typical seasonal pattern.

We will continue watching changes in the labour force, keeping an eye on industries that seem to be at risk due to actual/perceived COVID-19 transmission risks.

Service industries that typically serve crowds of people (e.g. accommodation and food services, and information, culture, and recreation) remain particularly vulnerable. These types of firms may be more vulnerable as the weather turns colder and people want to remain indoors. **A lot depends on how firms change their business process to be COVID-19 safe and maintain/grow their ability to maintain revenue-generating activities.**

Analysis of the September 2020 Labour Force Data

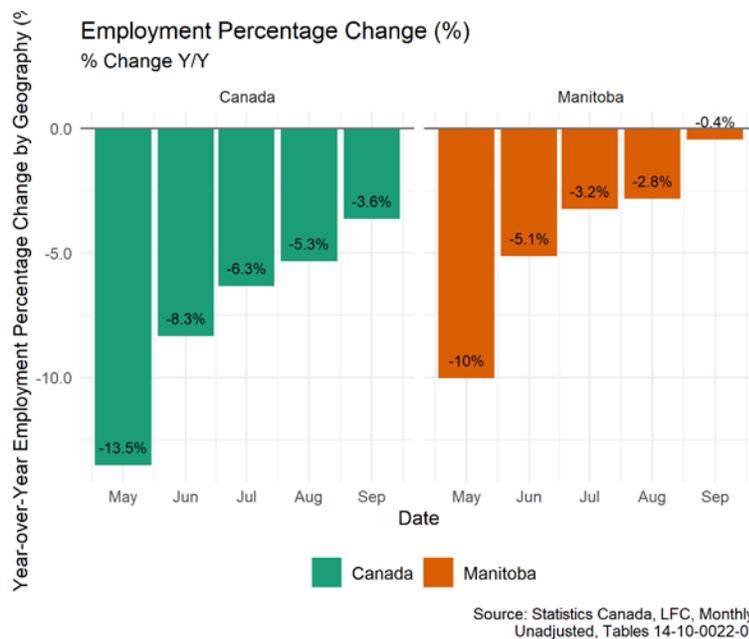
Figure 1: Manitoba's Employment by Month (000's)



Manitoba's unadjusted employment in September 2020 reached 652 thousand, only 0.5 per cent of the February 2020 level of 655 (**Figure 1**).

Canada's unadjusted employment numbers for September 2020 reached 18.6 million, which is only 2 per cent below the February 2020 level of 18.9 million.

Figure 2: Year-over-year Percentage Change in Employment by Geography (%)

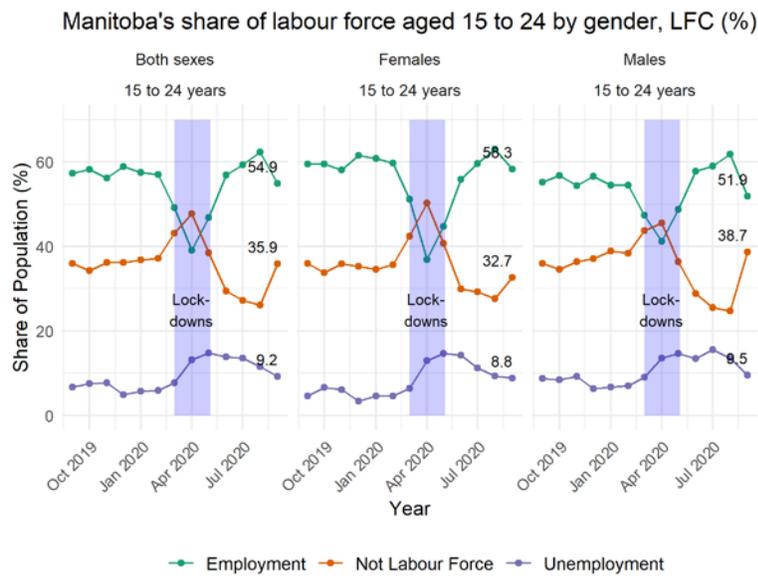


On a year over year basis, Manitoba's September 2020 employment is only 0.4 per cent below its level in Sep 19 (**Figure 2**). Thus, this is not simply a seasonal effect run rampant.

For Canada, employment in September 2020 is 3.6 per cent below its level the year before.

Thus, Manitoba's recovery in September appears to be further along than the Canadian average, compared to Feb 2020 and on a year-over-year basis.

Figure 3: MB's Share of the labour force aged 15 to 24 by gender and labour force characteristic (%)



The number of 15 to 24-year olds employed and unemployed dropped month-over-month, across both genders (**Figure 3**).

The main reason is because they dropped out of the labour force. **This was primarily due to a return to secondary or post-secondary school, since it follows the seasonal pattern.**¹

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

Figure 4: MB's Goods Industries Employment Y/Y Index in Sep 2020



On a year-over-year basis, MB is level with the prior year (**Figure 4**). Employment in **Non-durable manufacturing** is up 11 per cent year-over-year.

Year-over-year, the following sectors are down the most:

- **Durable manufacturing** is still down 19 per cent,
- **Natural resources** are still down 30 per cent. This would include oil services.

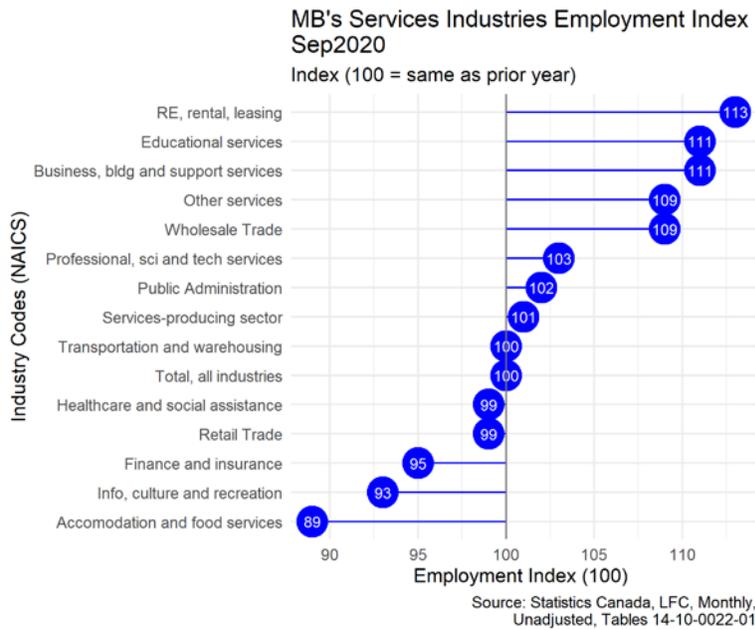
When we look at service industries in September 2020 vs September 2019, we see that the three industries up the

most are:

- **real estate, rental, leasing** (index of 113),
- **Education services** (index of 111) which was up sharply with students returning to primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions in September, and

¹ The lockdowns had disrupted the typical pattern. Extra incentives to hire young people had moved their employment to a more typical pattern after the lockdowns.

Figure 5: MB's Services Industries Employment Y/Y Index in Sep 2020



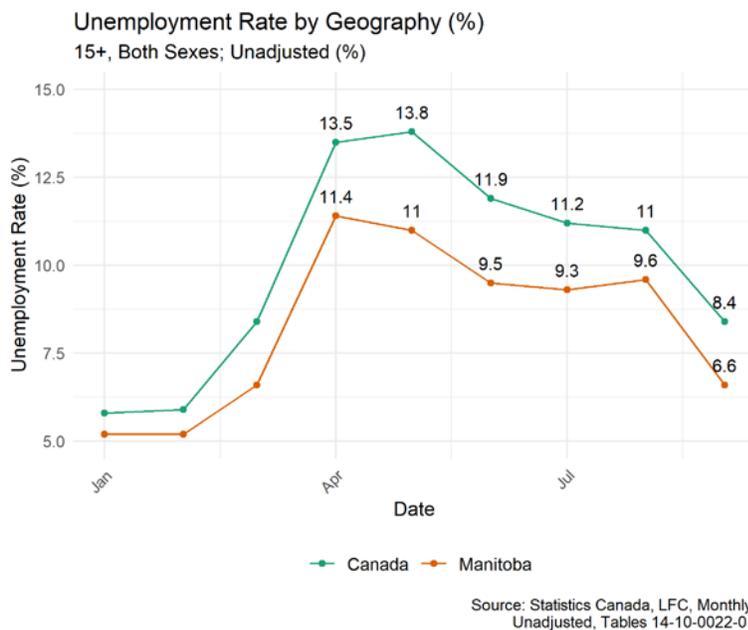
- **Business, building, and support services** (index of 111) up in part due to extra required cleaning to enhance safety in the face of the pandemic.

In the meantime, the following industries saw their employment down on a year-over-year basis:

foodservices (down 11 per cent).

- **Finance and insurance** (down 5 per cent),
- **Information, culture, and recreation** (down 7 per cent), and
- **Accommodation and**

Figure 6: Unemployment Rate by Geography

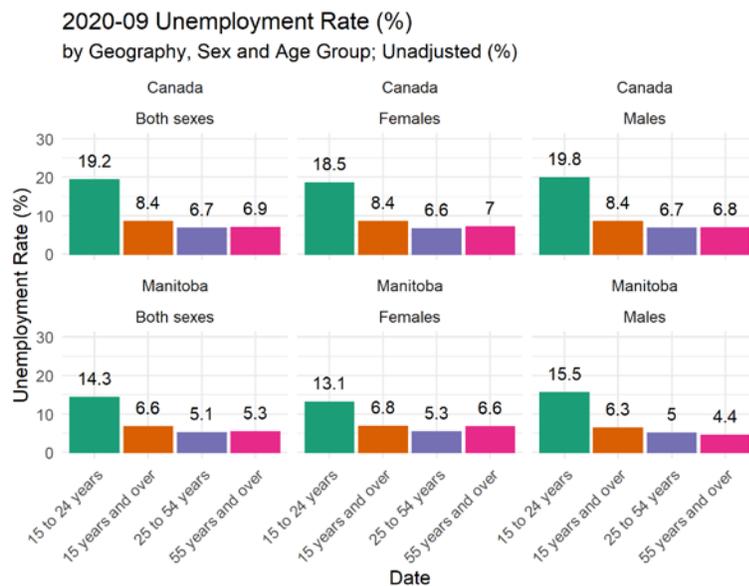


The unemployment rate for both Canada and Manitoba dropped sharply. Two of the contributing factors are noted above.

- Fewer people aged 15 to 24 engaging in the labour force due to a return to schooling.
- Another reason was the reactivation of educational services staff.

Manitoba's unemployment rate of 6.6 per cent stays below that of Canada at 8.4 per cent (**Figure 6**).

Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Geography, Gender and Age Group (%)



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

When we compare Canada and Manitoba unemployment rates, Manitoba has a lower unemployment rate, except among women aged 55+.

When we compare unemployment rates between genders, women have a higher unemployment rate. The sole exception is young men 15 to 24, who have a higher unemployment rate than young women.

EDW Contacts for Assistance or Inquiries:

- **For Winnipeg businesses looking for help accessing government programs, please reach out to our Yes! Winnipeg Team** through our [Help us help you form](#) if you are not sure who to contact on the Y!W team.
- For general inquires please email wpginfo@edwinnipeg.com.
- For Marketing & Communications Inquiries, please email marketingandbranding@edwinnipeg.com.