

## Manitoba Labour Force Survey – March 2021

*Employment gains were strong in March.*

[Chris Ferris](#), Senior Economist

April 16, 2021

### Bottom Line

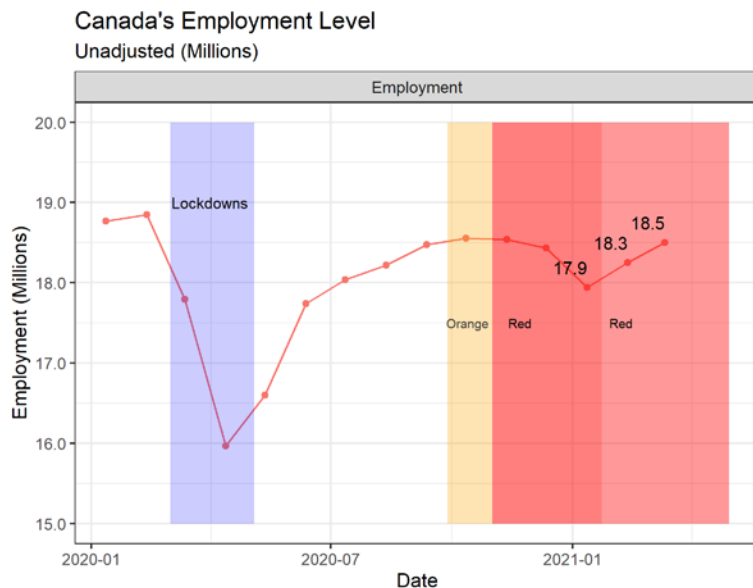
Employment levels continued to climb in both Manitoba and in Canada month-over-month according to the March 2021 Labour Force Survey released by Statistics Canada on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Our major trading partner, the US, saw total non-farm payroll rise by 916,000 jobs in March 2021, and unemployment fall to 6.0%. Increased activity in the US typically leads to orders from Canadian suppliers, so this will be supportive for Canada as well.

Until we reach widespread vaccination, there is still a risk to maintaining employment gains. Caution with respect to COVID-19 protocols as well as a focus on our vaccination program will be important in the coming months. Targeted support for high-contact industries is critical to prepare these firms to respond to increased market demand as we recover. The air passenger value-chain and tourism sectors are particularly at risk.

### Analysis

Figure 1: Canada's Employment Level by Month (Millions)



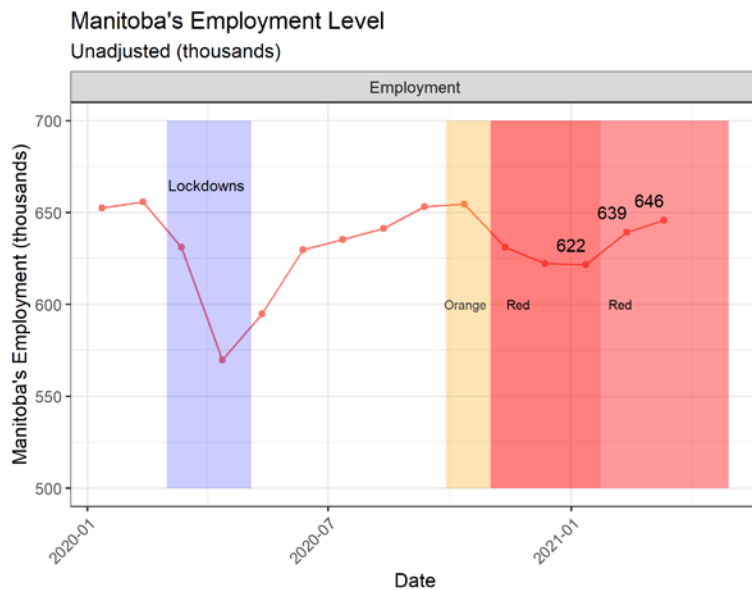
Source: Statistics Canada, LFC, Monthly, Unadjusted, Tables 14-10-0022-01

Canada's unadjusted employment level in March 2021 rose by about 200 thousand jobs to reach 18.5 million (**Figure 1**).

This is 4 per cent above the employment level of 17.8 million in March 2020.

When we compare March 2021 employment to February 2020 however, employment is still down 2 per cent.

Figure 2: Manitoba's Employment by Month (thousands)

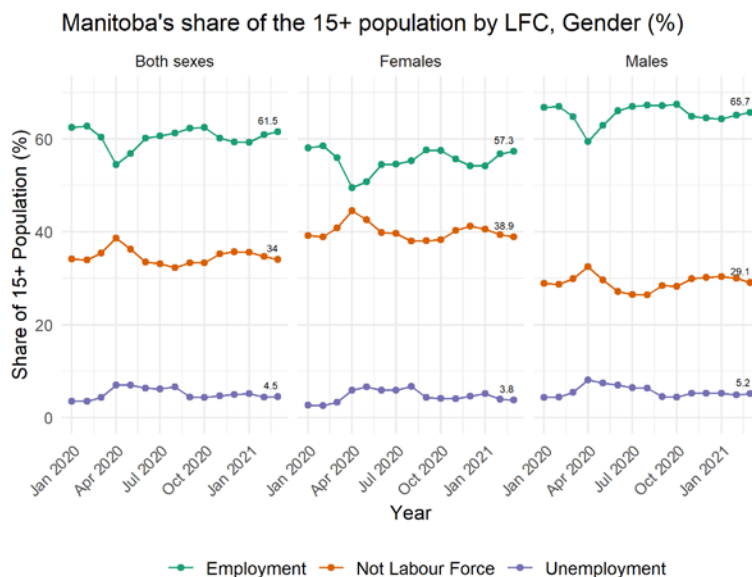


Source: Statistics Canada, LFC, Monthly, Unadjusted, Tables 14-10-0022-01

Manitoba's unadjusted employment level in March 2021 rose by seven thousand (Figure 2). This up two per cent higher on the year.

March 2021 over February 2020 comparison shows, employment is still down 2 per cent on the year.

Figure 3: Manitoba's share of the 15+ population by LFC, Gender (%)



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

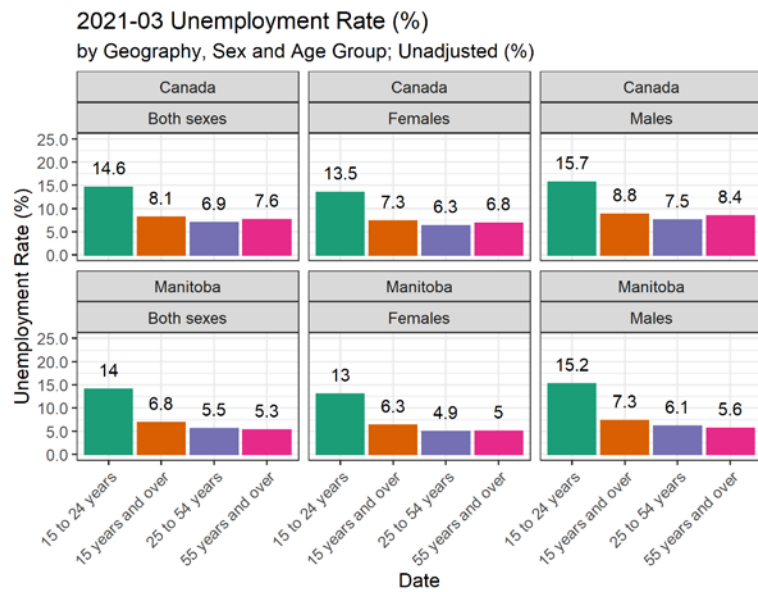
Figure 3 shows us the share of the working age population that is employed, not in the labour force and unemployed. <sup>1</sup>

The share of working age Manitoba women that is not in the labour force continued to decline this month, as has the share unemployed. Therefore, the share of Manitoba women who are employed has surged 3.1 points since January 2021 to 57.3 per cent in March 2021. This is due to the reopening of industries that typically have a high ratio of female staff.

The share of working age Manitoba men that are not in the labour force continued to decline this month, as the share of unemployed men has risen slightly. The net result is an increase the share of working age men employed.

<sup>1</sup> To help avoid the confusion that often arises when those not in the labour force are mentioned. Please note that the unemployment rate is calculated from  $U/(E+U)$ . It does not include those not in the labour force.

Figure 4: March 2021 Unemployment Rate (%)



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

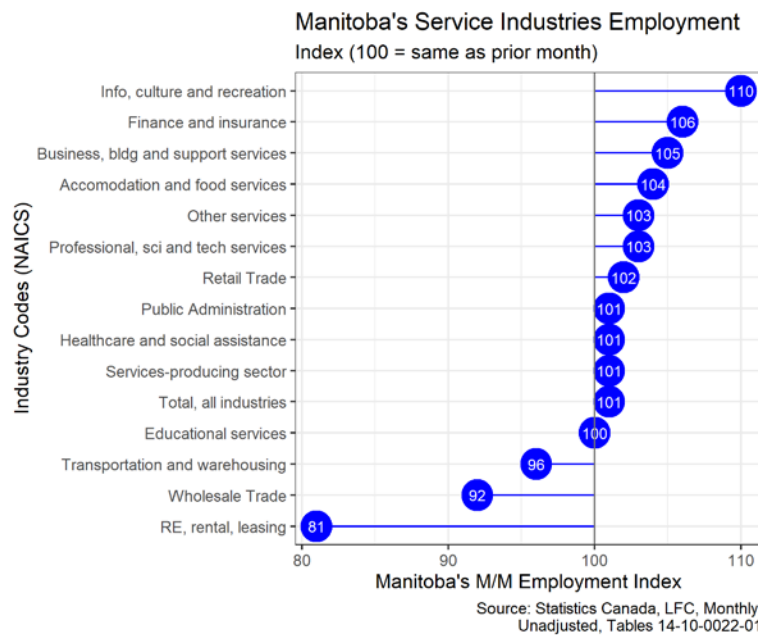
Canada's unemployment rate declined from 8.6% to 8.1% month-over-month (m/m). Manitoba's was unchanged on the month at 6.8%.

When we look at **Figure 4**, we see that the unemployment rate for women is lower than that of men regardless of age and geography. This is tied to the falling share of unemployed women and a rising share of women who are employed.

The unemployment rate of young people across gender, age and geography has fallen

as well.

Figure 5: M/M Manitoba's Services Industry Employment Index (100 = same as last month)



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

For the goods producing industries, the only notable change m/m was unemployment up 4 per cent on the month.

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions had a positive effect on employment levels in several industry sectors.

For the services industries, employment was up m/m:

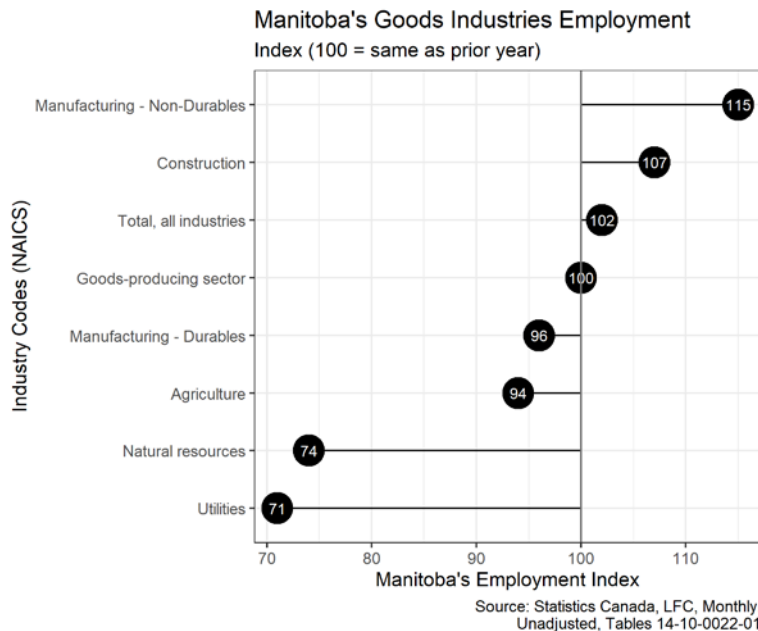
- **Info, culture, and recreation** up 10%,
- **Finance and insurance** up 6 per cent,
- **Business, building and**

- **support service** up 5 per cent, and
- **Accommodation and foods services** up 4 per cent.

**Real estate, rental and leasing** employment fell 19 per cent on the month, and **wholesale trade** fell 8 per cent on the month.

Recall that March 2020 was the beginning of our first lockdown, so gains will seem a bit larger due to a falling base in March 2020.

Figure 6: Year-over-year, Manitoba's Goods Producing Industries (100 = same as last year)



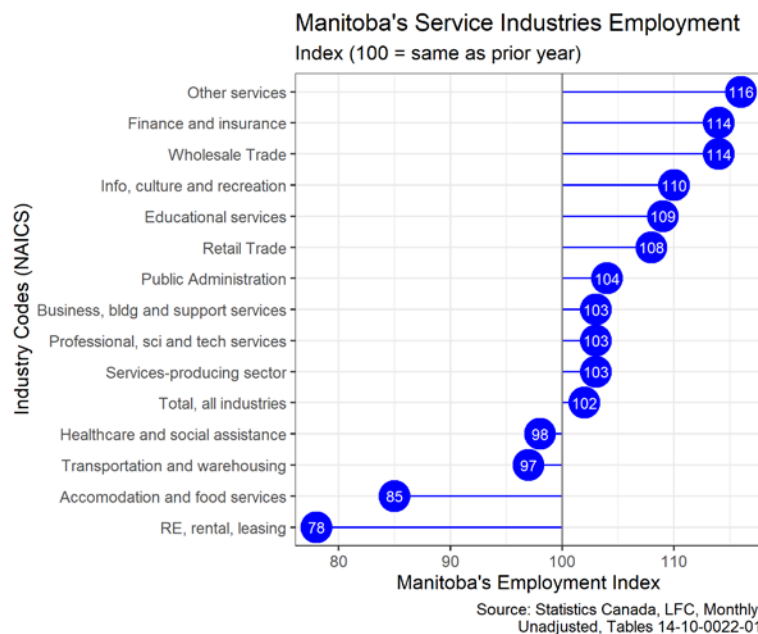
The top two gains on the year for goods producing industries were:

- **Manufacturing – non-durables**, up 15 per cent,
- **Construction** is up 7 per cent.

Those in decline were:

- **Natural resources**, down 26 per cent, and
- **Utilities** down 29 per cent.

Figure 7: Y/Y Manitoba's Services Industries Employment (100 = same as prior year)



The easing of COVID-19 restrictions had a positive effect on employment levels in several industry sectors.

For the service producing industries, we can see that on a year-over-year basis:

- **Finance and insurance**, and **wholesale trade** up 14%,
- **Info, culture, and recreation** are 10 per cent higher.

The two services sectors down on the year are:

- **Accommodation and food services** is still down 15 per cent, and
- **Real Estate, Rental and Leasing** is down 28 per cent.

Our major trading partner, the US saw total non-farm payroll rise by 916,000 jobs in March 2021, and their unemployment rate fall to 6.0%.<sup>2</sup> The extra activity in the US typically leads to orders from Canadian suppliers, so this will be supportive for Canada as well.

EDW Contacts for Assistance or Inquiries:

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

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<sup>2</sup> See US BLS (April 2, 2021). [Employment Situation Summary, USDL-21-0582](#) for March 2021.