

Economic Development Winnipeg

WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST



MANITOBA'S EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO EXPAND

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS AND RETRAIN MANITOBA CAN HELP IMPROVE JOB MATCHING

Chris Ferris, Senior Economist

Bottom Line

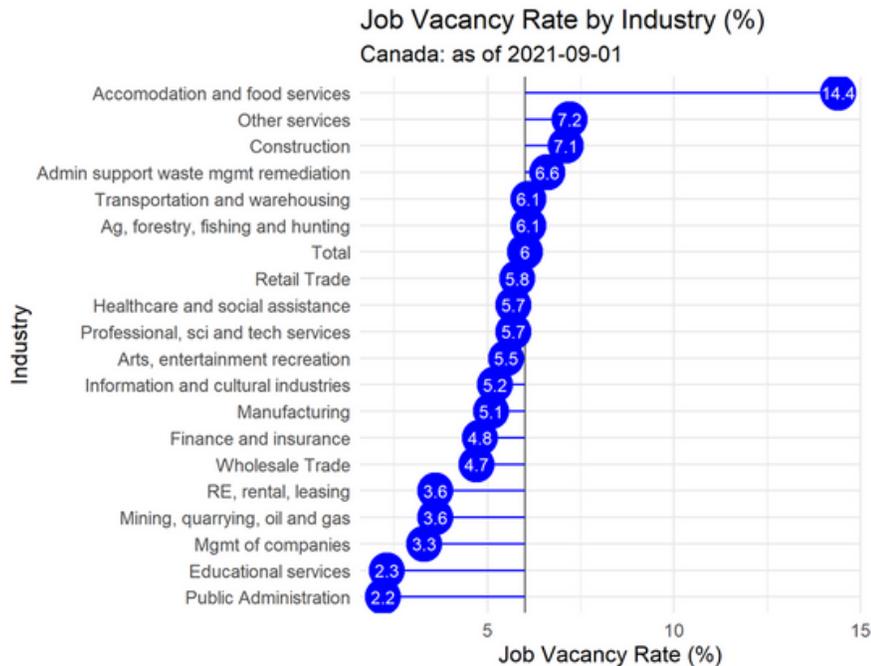
In this issue we covered the latest labour force data to understand differences by **age group, gender, industry, occupation**, along with **labour force skills mismatches**, and **the status of long-term unemployment by age group**.

We also examine **why getting apprenticeships is taking longer than expected, or even resulting in a considerable number of apprentices dropping out of their program**. The pandemic has worsened the situation.

ANALYSIS

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls, and Hours (SEPH)

The [September 2021 Surveys of Employment Payrolls and hours, and job vacancies](#) was released on Nov. 25, 2021. The September 2021 job vacancy rate at a national level was six per cent, with Manitoba at 4.6 per cent. In September 2021, the number of job vacancies for Canada was approximately one million, and 27,200 for Manitoba.



Source: Statistics Canada, Job vacancies, payroll employees and job vacancy rates
Tables 14-10-0372-01 Chart by Chris Ferris

In September 2021, the job vacancy rate for accommodation and food services (AFS) became more elevated, reaching 14.4 per cent of all AFS jobs. AFS job vacancies filled month/month totaled 19,800. But new job vacancy listings overwhelmed this effect, resulting in a net gain of 39,300 AFS job vacancies. Thus, AFS job vacancies for Canada have reached 196,100 in September 2021.

Manitoba's AFS employment data in September 2021 was 40,200, which was 10 per cent below its February 2020 level of 44,900. /1 The month/month change in jobs has already cycled down and up three times during the pandemic.

If COVID-19 restrictions do not become more intense or stricter for AFS businesses over the winter, we should see the gap continuing to close during the first quarter of 2022 for restaurants and food services. The restoration of accommodation jobs tends to follow what is going on with broader tourism trends and timelines since business travelers and personal tourists form the largest segment using hotels and motels.

/1 Source: Statistics Canada table [14-10-0223-01](#), "Employment and average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted."

ANALYSIS



The time it's taking to get sufficient staff for work sees many restaurants in a precarious situation still; some may have to close their doors. [Restaurants Canada](#) continues to urge the federal government to change their business support programs for a sliding scale of support. They suggested eligibility for the new **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program** start at a 10 per cent revenue decline threshold (vs the current 40 per cent), and a wage subsidy rate of 1.2 times the percentage decline in revenues (up to a maximum of 75 per cent).

Getting trained people in place would be helpful for this sector (and others). [Retrain Manitoba](#) may be a relevant means of getting this training in Manitoba. **See also Box 1 on apprenticeship programs.**

BOX 1: SPEEDING UP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COMPLETION

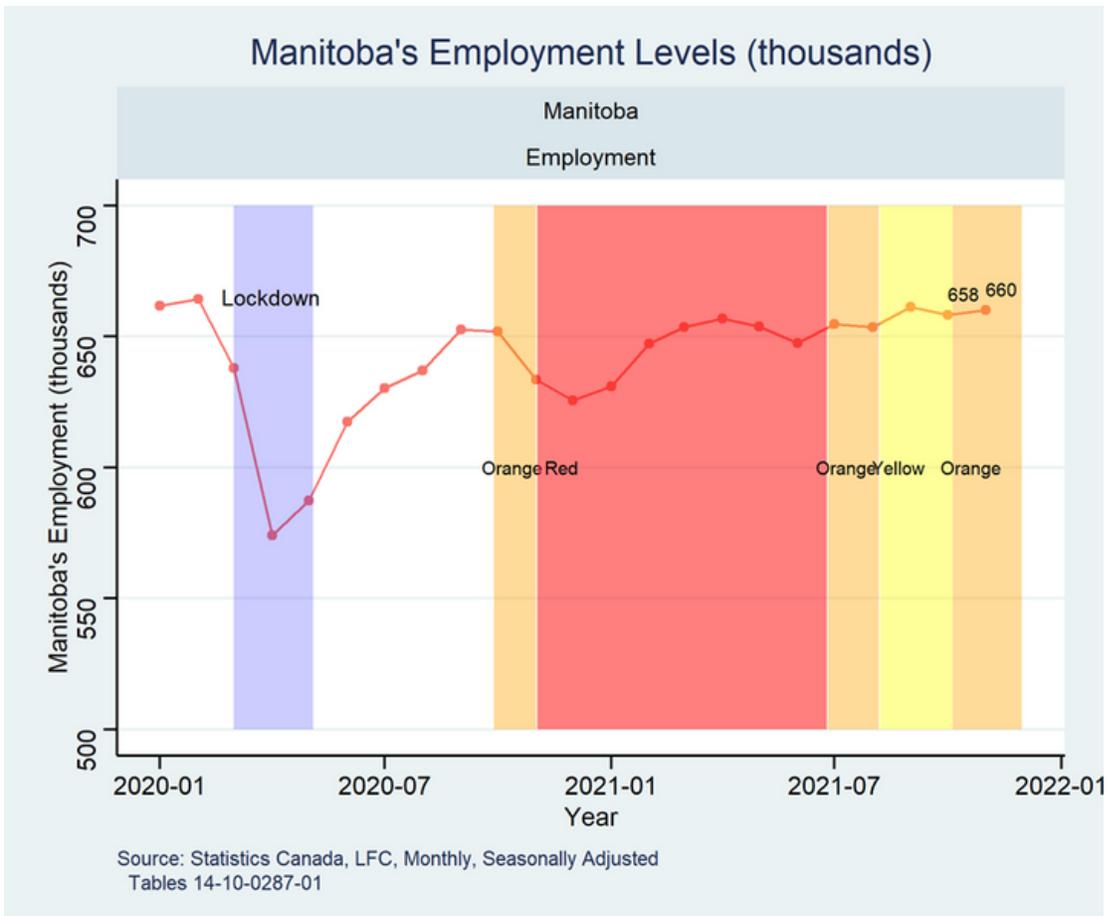
Recent information on [Canadian Apprenticeship Registrations and Certifications](#) from Statistics Canada has indicated a decline in both registrations and certifications during the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic hit, there were serious problems with people taking a long time to complete their certification or dropping out altogether ^{1/2}. Resolving these long-standing problems could go a long way to boost the supply of trades people. Given the issues listed in the report, this could include:

- **Improve strength, use, and transferability of Standards:**
 - Standardizing requirements across the country would widen labour supply and demand across Canada,
 - Convert more programs to Red Seal Standards,
 - Convert more programs to be compulsory for new entrants (grandfather in those already in the profession),
- **Incentives for employees and employers:**
 - As part of the program, suggest a structure of wage increases tied to successful completion of each training step. Thus, incentivizing people to stick with the program.
 - Find ways of incentivizing the employer and employee to take required classroom technical training.
 - For older workers, especially those from lower income families, it may be useful to offer some form of grant or bursary to enter the program tied to wage and age.
- **Flexibility of classes:**
 - While not listed in the report, it may be that timing of classes, or the travel distance to physical classrooms is an issue. Perhaps finding ways of leveraging hybrid classroom experiences may be a possibility.
- **Gender-related considerations:**
 - For male dominated trades, extra supports for women may be required.
 - For female dominated trades, extra supports may be required for men.

^{1/2} This was noted in [Jin, Hyeongsuk, et al](#) (2020). "Factors associated with the completion of apprenticeship training in Canada," Insights on Canadian Society. December, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X.

ANALYSIS



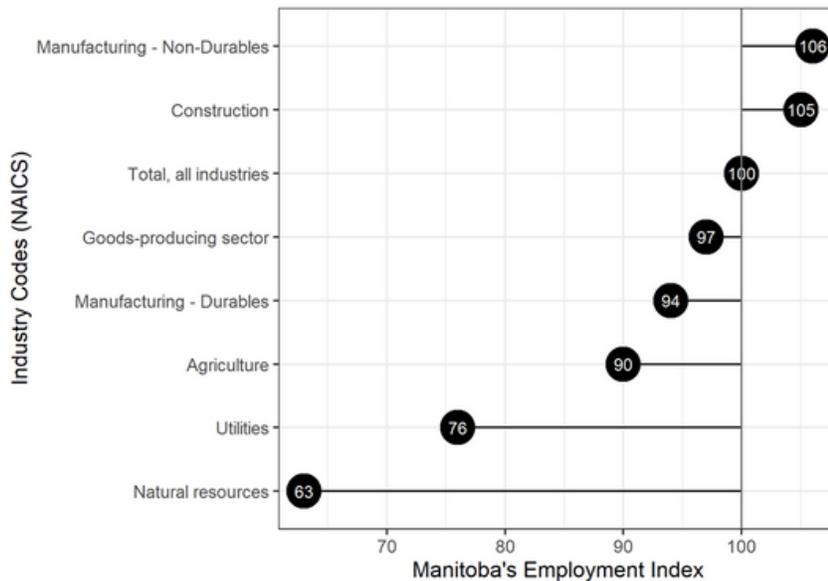
Labour Force Survey - November 2021

The [November 2021 Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#) was released Dec. 3, 2021. Manitoba's seasonally adjusted employment rose by about two thousand to 660,000. Canada's seasonally adjusted employment rose by 154,000 to 19.3 million.

/1 Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0287-01

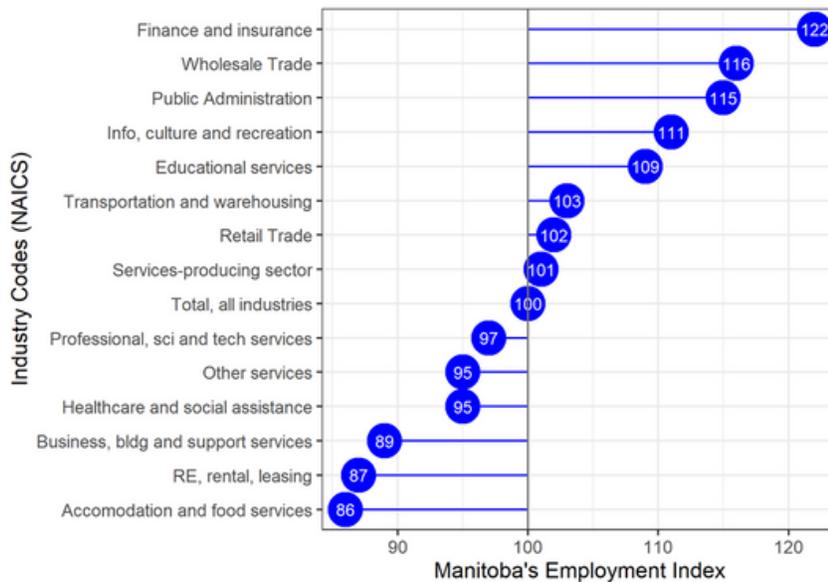
ANALYSIS

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



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

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



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

LFS by Industry

Goods-Producing: The **Non-durable manufacturing** and **construction** employment is slightly above their February 2020 level. **Natural resources**, and **utilities** remain well below the February 2020 level; this is driven by longer-term structural adjustments or commodity cyclical reasons.

Services Producing:

Compared to the February 2020 employment level, the following industries have increased:

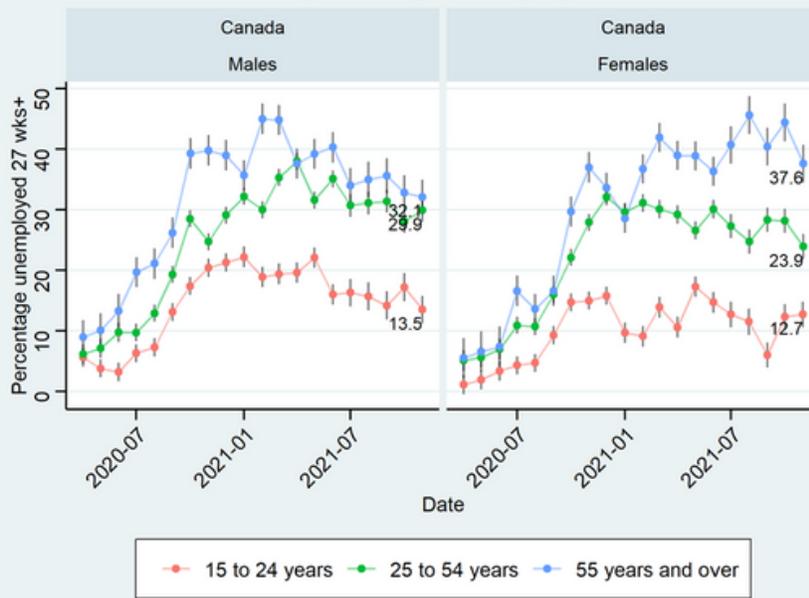
- **Finance and insurance** is up 22 per cent,
- **Wholesale trade** is up 16 per cent and
- **Public administration** is up 15 per cent.

Compared to their February 2020 level the following industries have decreased:

- **Business, building, and support service** is down 11 per cent,
- **Real Estate, rental and leasing** is down 13 per cent, and
- **Accommodation and food services** is still down 14 per cent. (This is an improvement of three percentage points m/m).

ANALYSIS

Canada - percentage unemployed 27 wks+

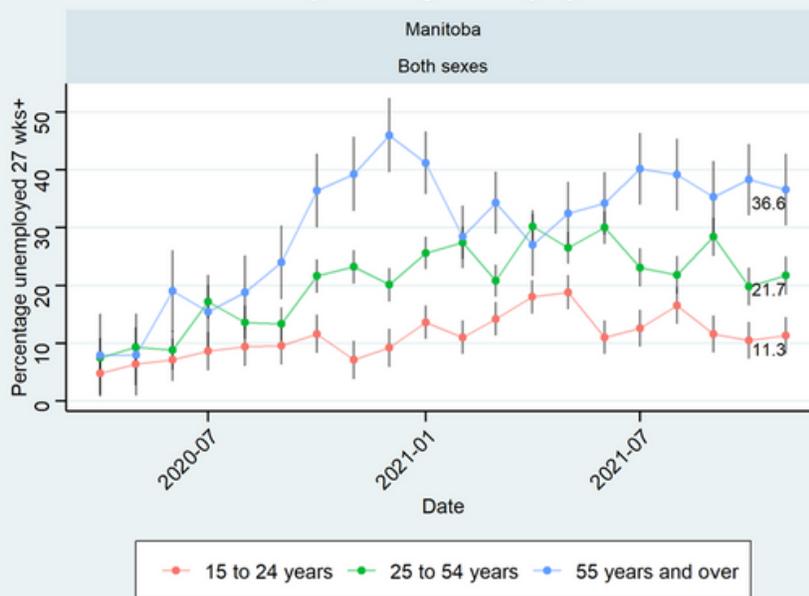


Source: Statistics Canada, Duration of unemployment, Monthly, Seasonally adjusted
Tables 14-10-0342-01, Chart by Chris Ferris

Long-term Unemployment Canada:

While the share of Canadian men aged 55+ who have been unemployed for at least 6 months has eased since Q1-2021, it has increased for women. The November 2021 long-term unemployment rate for men aged 55+ is now 32.1 per cent, while for women aged 55+ it is 37.6 per cent. In both cases, long term unemployment for those 55+ remains elevated.

Manitoba - percentage unemployed 27 wks+

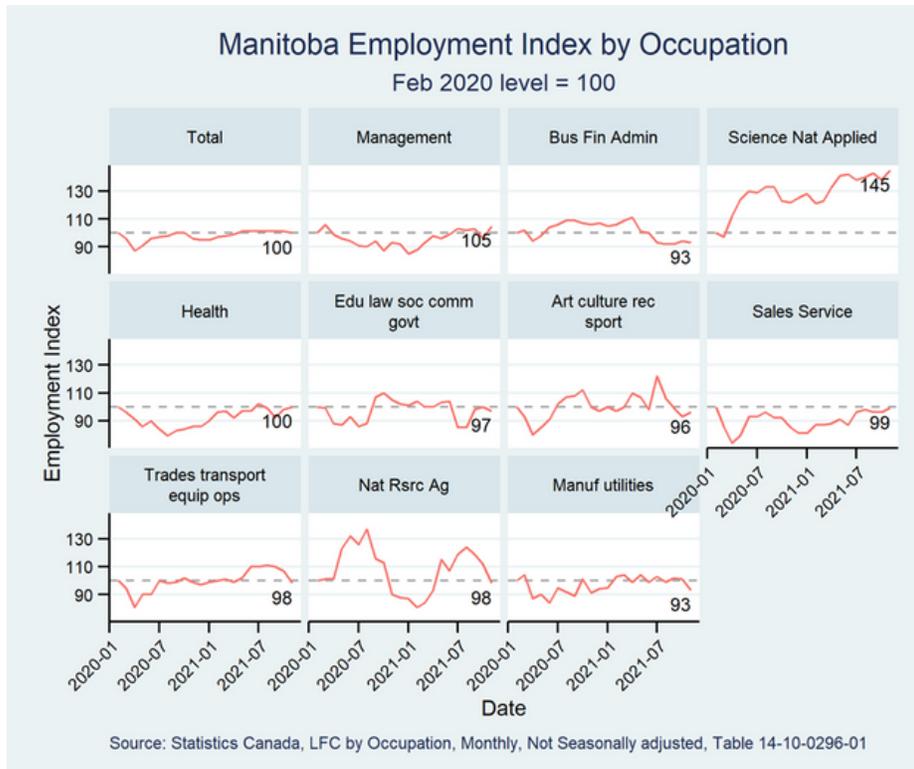


Source: Statistics Canada, Duration of unemployment, Monthly, Seasonally adjusted
Tables 14-10-0342-01, Chart by Chris Ferris

Manitoba:

The same holds for older workers at the Manitoba level. The long-term unemployment rate for those aged 55+ is 14.8 per cent higher than for those aged 25 to 54 years.

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For Manitoba, **science** occupations have continued to surge - up 45 per cent over its February 2020 level, continuing its longer-term upward trend. Only **management** occupations have experienced a similar increase.

Strongly cyclical **natural resource and agriculture** occupations are sliding lower, which is typical over the winter season.

INQUIRIES AND CONTACTS

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