



Bearing the Brunt: Manitoba Fact Sheet

Poverty

- Poverty rate 2007: 9.8%
- Child poverty rate 2007: 11.1%
- Third highest poverty rate and second highest child poverty rate in the country in 2007

Unemployment

- Manitoba and Saskatchewan together lost 3,400 jobs (0.3%) between October 2008 and October 2009, the smallest job loss in the country
- Unemployment increased from 4.3% in October 2008 to 5.8% in October 2009
- Manitoba had the second lowest unemployment rate in the country in October 2009

Employment Insurance

- Less than half of unemployed workers qualified for EI during the recession
- The Beneficiaries to Unemployed rate increased from 39.2% in October 2008 to 45.1% in October 2009

Employment and Income Assistance

- Manitoba had the 4th highest increase in social assistance cases during the recession
- The EIA caseload rose 9.3% between October 2008 and December 2009
- There were 33,632 cases of EIA in December 2009

Cost of living

- Food prices increased 5.3% in 2009 compared to core inflation of 0.6%
- Prices for meat (6.8%), dairy (5.5%), fruits (5.9%) and vegetables (6.5%) all increased more than 5%
- Shelter costs increased 1.6% in 2009
- Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased 4.1% between October 2008 and October 2009
- Affordability in Winnipeg declined over this period; median rent is now 30% of the median income earner's income

Bankruptcy

- The number of bankruptcies in Manitoba increased by 24.2% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009

Food bank use

- Food bank use increased 18% in 2009
- 47,925 people used a food bank in March 2009
- 49% of food bank users in Manitoba are children, the highest proportion in the country
- 15.5% of food bank clients report employment income; 3% are EI recipients