

The Conference Board of Canada confirms after a minor slow down in 2015, Brandon's diversified economy is expected to deliver solid economic growth in 2016 and 2017 thanks to widespread gains across most sectors.

Real GDP is expected to grow by 2.2% in 2016, and 2.3% in 2017 supported by increased exports from Manufacturing and Agri-foods sectors.

The construction sector is expected to continue the annual growth trend experienced the previous four years. Commercial, industrial and infrastructure construction will remain solid. New housing starts are projected to hit 274 in 2016 and 303 in 2017.

Brandon's service sector is projected to expand an average 1.9% through 2016 and 2017.

Employment is projected to climb in both 2016 and 2017. Though the unemployment rate will be above historical lows, it is projected to remain well below the provincial and national averages.

Brandon's population has grown by an average 1.1% over the past three years matching the national average. This trend is projected to continue for 2016 and 2017.

#### Sectoral Gross Domestic Product (\$ growth is in 2007 \$ millions)

Goods Sector	2016 \$millions	2016 % change	2017 \$millions	2017 % change
Manufacturing	376	3.3	388	3.1
Construction	213	3.2	221	3.7
Primary and Utilities	129	2.2	131	1.7
Services Sector	2016 \$millions	2016 % change	2017 \$millions	2017 % change
Transportation and warehousing	65	1.1	67	2
Information and cultural industries	91	-0.5	91	-0.2
Wholesale and retail trade	347	2.1	354	1.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	467	2.9	483	3.3
Business services	58	0.1	58	1.0
Personal services	119	1.3	120	1.5
Non-commercial services	420	1.4	427	1.7
Public administration	134	1.6	136	1.3

#### Sectoral Employment

Goods Sector	2016 Total Employment in 000s	2016 % change	2017 Total Employment in 000s	2017 % change
Manufacturing	3.8	2.1	3.9	0.6
Construction	2.3	11.4	2.3	1.6
Primary and Utilities	0.7	2.7	0.7	0.6
Services Sector	2016 Total Employment in 000s	2016 % change	2017 Total Employment in 000s	2017 % change
Transportation and warehousing	0.7	-8.6	0	0.5
Information and cultural industries	0.5	-28.4	0.5	-2.5
Wholesale and retail trade	6.3	1.5	0.1	1.5
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.5	12.7	1.5	1
Business services	1.1	15.6	1.1	-1
Personal services	3.7	-6	3.7	1
Non-commercial services	8.5	0.7	8.7	2.1
Public administration	1.6	6	1.6	-0.6

Source: The Conference Board of Canada, Mid-Sized Cities Outlook 2016