

July 2017; The Conference Board of Canada confirms that Brandon's local economy expanded for the 7th consecutive year in 2016. Brandon's diversified economy is expected to deliver solid economic growth in 2017 and 2018 thanks to gains across most sectors.

Real GDP is expected to grow by 1.8% in 2017 and 1.9% in 2018 supported by increased momentum amongst service producing industries with annual average expansion of 2.2 percent over the past 2 years.

Brandon's Manufacturing is expected to advance by 1.7% in 2017 and 1.9% in 2018.

The construction sector is marking its 6th annual consecutive expansion with 250 housing starts projected for 2017 and 272 for 2018, thanks to steady population growth and healthy gains in employment and personal income. Commercial, industrial and infrastructure construction will remain solid. Overall, construction output is forecast to increase by 2.0 per cent in 2017 and 1.8 per cent next year.

Brandon's service sector is projected to increase by 2.2% in 2017. Wholesale and retail trade activity are expected to pick up.

Employment is projected to climb by 2.8% in 2017 and a further 1.5% in 2018. Though the unemployment rate will remain above historical lows, it is expected to remain below the provincial and national averages.

Brandon's population is projected to grow 1.6% in 2017 and 1.5% in 2018, slightly higher than national averages and on par with Manitoba's projected population growth.

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

Goods Sector	2017 \$millions	2017 % change	2018 \$millions	2018 % change
Manufacturing	335	1.7	341	1.9
Construction	202	2.0	206	1.8
Primary and Utilities	133	-2.1	130	-1.9
Services Sector	2017 \$millions	2017 % change	2018 \$millions	2018 % change
Transportation and warehousing	75	0.3	75	0.5
Information and cultural industries	100	0.6	101	0.8
Wholesale and retail trade	357	1.5	361	1.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	501	3.4	519	3.6
Business services	54	0.7	54	0.9
Personal services	117	1.2	118	1.4
Non-commercial services	418	2.6	428	2.4
Public administration	143	1.7	146	1.8

Sectoral Employment

Goods Sector	2017 Total Employment in 000s	2017 % change	2018 Total Employment in 000s	2018 % change
Manufacturing	3.6	22.9	3.3	-9.7
Construction	2.2	10.8	2.3	5.3
Primary and Utilities	0.6	-36.9	0.9	35.9
Services Sector	2017 Total Employment in 000s	2017 % change	2018 Total Employment in 000s	2018 % change
Transportation and warehousing	0.8	-12.5	0.7	-4.2
Information and cultural industries	0.6	-19.1	0.6	3.4
Wholesale and retail trade	5.0	9.6	5.2	3.7
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.5	-9.1	1.4	-9.3
Business services	1.1	26.7	1.1	-4.7
Personal services	3.5	-7.5	3.7	6.5
Non-commercial services	8.3	5.5	8.6	3.6
Public administration	1.6	-9.1	1.6	-3.8