

Spring 2018; The Conference Board of Canada confirms that Brandon's real GDP growth jumped to a post-recession high of 2.7 per cent in 2017. Brandon's diversified economy is expected to deliver solid economic growth in 2018 and 2019 thanks to gains across most sectors.

Real GDP is expected to grow by 2.0% in 2018 and 1.7% in 2019. Services have steadily expanded faster than goods for the past five years; this will continue to have an impact on growth over the next two years.

Brandon's Manufacturing is expected to expand by 2.7% in 2018 and 2.3% in 2019.

The construction sector is marking its 6th annual consecutive expansion with 268 housing starts projected for 2018 and 272 projected for 2019, thanks to steady population growth and healthy gains in personal income. Modest advances are expected to continue over the next two years, with annual output increases averaging 1.8 per cent.

Brandon's service sector is projected to increase by 2.1% in 2018 and 1.8% in 2019; all industries are expected to expand. The cumulative growth of the service sector in 2017 was the fastest since 2014.

Employment is projected to drop by 2.4% in 2018 with a slight rise of 0.7% in 2019. Brandon's employment jumped 9.6 per cent in 2017, the long term employment trends have been positive. Though the unemployment rate will remain above historical lows, it is expected to remain below the national averages and on par with provincial averages.

Brandon's population will continue to grow, predicting a 1.4% growth in 2018 and 2019, slightly higher than national average.

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

Goods Sector	2018 \$millions	2018 % change	2019 \$millions	2019 % change
Manufacturing	346	2.7	354	2.3
Construction	206	1.9	210	1.6
Primary and Utilities	143	-0.8	141	-1.1
Services Sector	2018 \$millions	2018 % change	2019 \$millions	2019 % change
Transportation and warehousing	90	2.3	91	1.5
Information and cultural industries	121	0.6	122	0.7
Wholesale and retail trade	412	2.0	418	1.6
Finance, insurance and real estate	477	2.7	489	2.5
Business services	64	2.6	66	2.3
Personal services	130	2.5	133	2.2
Non-commercial services	426	1.9	433	1.7
Public administration	136	1.8	137	1.1

#### **Sectoral Employment**

Goods Sector	2018 Total Employment in 000s	2018 % change	2019 Total Employment in 000s	2019 % change
Manufacturing	3.5	-2.8	3.5	0.6
Construction	2.3	2.8	2.3	1.4
Primary and Utilities	0.9	-24.8	0.8	-1.9
Services Sector	2018 Total Employment in 000s	2018 % change	2019 Total Employment in 000s	2019 % change
Transportation and warehousing	0.9	-30.7	0.9	-0.7
Information and cultural industries	0.7	-16.2	0.7	-1.6
Wholesale and retail trade	5.2	-5.5	5.2	-0.7
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.5	48.7	1.5	0.7
Business services	1.1	-31.6	1.1	-0.2
Personal services	3.8	-3.3	3.9	1.5
Non-commercial services	8.6	5.1	8.8	2.0
Public administration	1.5	12.7	1.5	-0.9