

BACKGROUNDER - Municipal Spending

AUGUST 2018

City of Brandon

From 2008 to 2015, the City of Brandon grew its real operating spending beyond the sustainability benchmark of population growth. Real operating spending was 19 percentage points above its 2008 level, and seven percentage points higher than the level of population growth during the same period (12%).

However, between the *Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch* 3rd Edition report and this 4th Edition, municipal operating spending grew sustainably.

Unsustainable operating spending growth has cost Brandonites a combined \$37.0 million over the eight years studied. This cost every resident roughly \$756 during this timeframe.

Brandon once again ranks 6th amongst Manitoba's 10 largest cities and towns on measures of sustainable spending growth for the *Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch* 4th Edition report.

Real labour costs in the City increased by 32 per cent above 2008 levels (see Figure 2). In relation to population growth, this has left the City of Brandon with a sustainability gap¹ of about 20 per cent. These trends cannot be sustained indefinitely.

About the Report:

CFIB's *Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch* 4th Edition report evaluates the ability of Manitoba's 27 largest local governments to hold real operating spending to the level of population growth.

This summary is based on the full report: [Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch: 4th Edition](#).

Figure 1:

Real Operating Spending Growth, 2008 – 2015

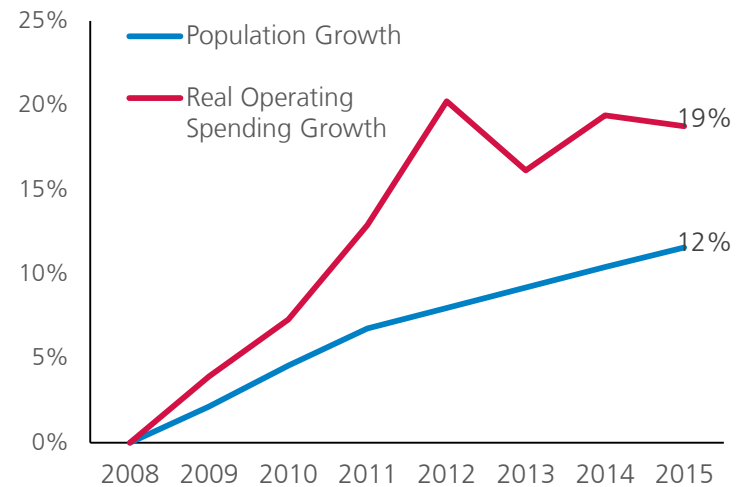
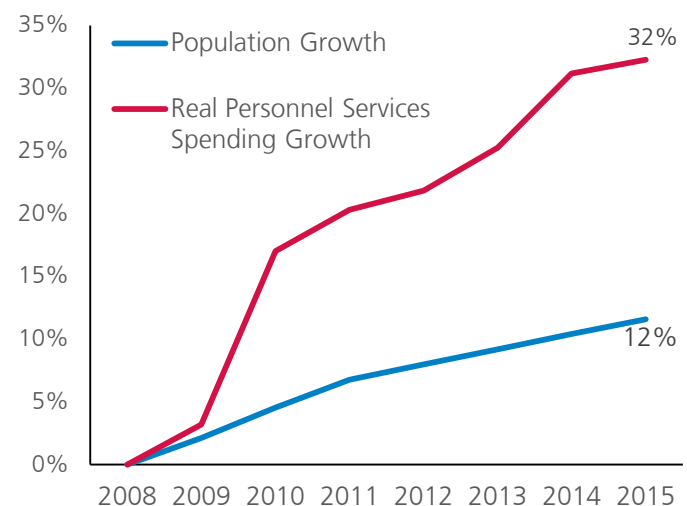


Figure 2:

Real Labour Spending Growth, 2008 - 2015



Source: City of Brandon Annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2008-2015, Manitoba Municipal Population Estimates 2008-2015 Statistics Canada.

¹The **sustainability gap** is found by subtracting the percentage of population growth from the percentage of real operating spending growth above 2008 levels.