

BACKGROUNDER - Municipal Spending

AUGUST 2018

Town of The Pas

From 2008 to 2015, operating spending in the Town of The Pas grew well beyond the sustainable spending benchmark¹. Over the eight year study period, The Town of The Pas increased its real operating spending by 20 per cent, while its population declined by 2 per cent from 2008 levels (see Figure 1). This represents the largest sustainability gap² of any city or town in our current rankings (22%).

Unsustainable increases to real operating spending have cost residents of The Pas a combined \$10.4 million over eight years. This additional cost is equal to \$236 a year per resident, or \$1,893 in total since 2008.

The Pas remains 9th amongst Manitoba's 10 largest cities and towns on measures of sustainable spending growth in the *Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch 4th Edition* report.

It is important to note that in this edition of the *Manitoba Municipal Spending Watch (MMSW)* report, The Pas has experienced a decline in real labour costs. Previously, municipal spending on personnel services was up 34 percentage points above its level in 2008 as reported in the 3rd Edition of the *MMSW*. It has since dropped by 15 percentage points over the span of just one year to 19 per cent above base levels (See Figure 2).

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

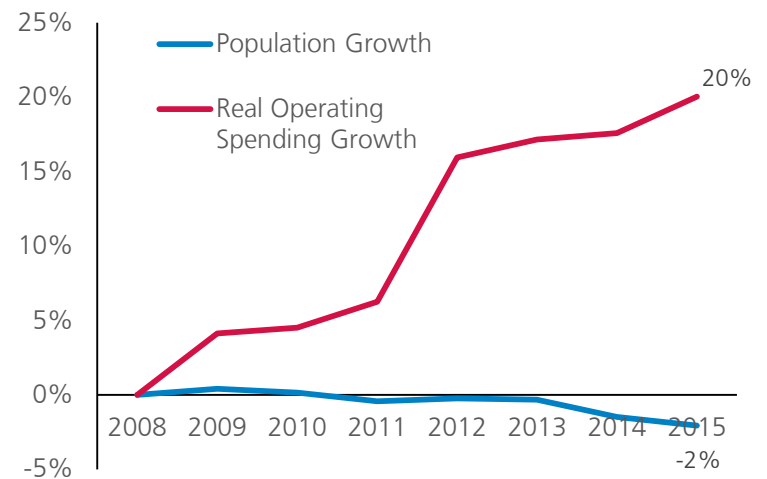
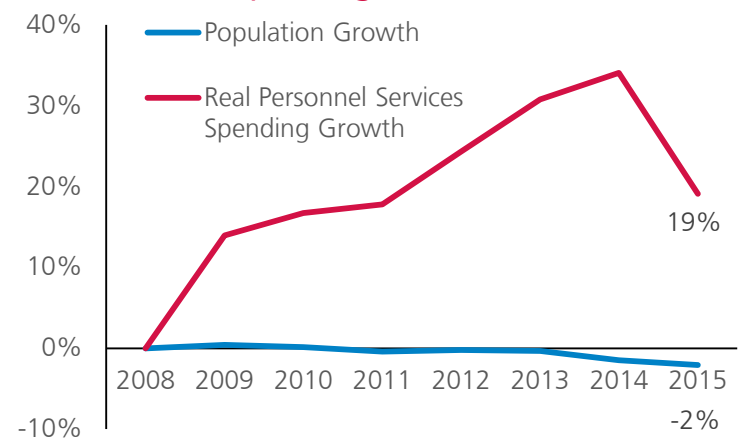


Figure 2:

Real Labour Spending Growth, 2008 - 2015



Source: Town of The Pas Annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2008-2015, Manitoba Municipal Population Estimates 2008-2015 Statistics Canada.

¹ The **sustainability benchmark** allows for operating spending to grow at the level of inflation and population growth. Therefore direct comparisons can be made between real operating spending and population growth, as in Figures 1 and 2

² The **sustainability gap** is found by subtracting the percentage of population growth from the percentage of real operating spending growth above 2008 levels.