



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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March regional jobless rates move up, reflecting early impact of COVID-19 on Michigan's workforce

LANSING, Mich. -- Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates rose in 14 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in March, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. The data in this release reflects the Michigan employment status for the week of March 8–14, which was prior to the full impact of COVID-19 on the state labor market. Most of the COVID-19-related layoffs that occurred in the second half of March are not reflected in the data in this release.

"Regional monthly jobless rate changes in March did not reflect most of the impact of COVID-19 on Michigan's major labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The data did show payroll job reductions in the leisure and hospitality sector, likely due to some early layoffs in the restaurant industry."

Unemployment rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.2 percentage points, with a median increase of two-tenths of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate change occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn metropolitan statistical area (MSA), with a rate gain of 1.2 percentage points. The Northeast Lower Michigan region exhibited a slight jobless rate decline (-0.1), while both Monroe and Niles-Benton Harbor MSA rates remained unchanged.

Jobless rates down over the year

Since March 2019, regional unemployment rates in Michigan declined in 16 labor market areas. The largest over-the-year rate reduction occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.7 percentage points). The Detroit MSA was the only Michigan labor market to exhibit an increase in jobless rate over the year (+0.2).

Total employment down over month and year

Total employment fell in all 17 major Michigan labor market areas during the month of March. Employment reductions ranged from 0.2 to 3.2 percent, with a median decline of 2.7 percent. The largest over-the-month employment decrease was seen in the Upper Peninsula (-3.2 percent).

Total employment moved down in 12 regions over the year, with the most prominent over-the-year reduction occurring in the Bay City MSA (-2.5 percent). Four regions recorded employment advances since March 2019.

Workforce levels down over month and year

Over the month, labor force levels receded in 16 of Michigan's 17 labor market areas. Workforce reductions ranged from 1.7 to 3.0 percent, with the largest percentage decline in the Upper Peninsula (-3.0 percent). The Detroit metro region was the only labor market area with a monthly increase in labor force (+1.0 percent).

Workforce levels fell in 16 regions over the year. The Bay City MSA exhibited the largest over-the-year decrease, down by 3.4 percent since March 2019. The Detroit metro region had a modest labor force advance over the year (+0.6 percent).

March payroll jobs decline in leisure and hospitality

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan fell by 16,000 over the month, or 0.4 percent, to 4,392,000. The largest over-the-month employment reductions were observed in the leisure and hospitality sector (-8,000), likely reflecting the beginning of COVID-19-related layoffs in the restaurant industry.

Payroll employment fell in eight of the state's 14 metro areas during March. Metro area job reductions ranged from 0.3 to 0.6 percent, with the largest percentage job cut in the Bay City region. Five regions added nonfarm jobs over the month, and the Jackson area registered no job change in March.

Michigan's unadjusted payroll employment total remained essentially unchanged over the year, declining by a mere 3,000, or 0.1 percent. Ten metro regions recorded payroll job cuts over this period, led by the Bay City MSA (-3.7 percent). Three regions showed payroll job advances since March 2019, while the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA had no job change over the year.

County jobless rates up over month, down over year

Fifty-four Michigan counties demonstrated jobless rate advances in March with a median increase of 0.2 percentage points. Fifteen counties exhibited rate declines over the month, while rates in 14 remained unchanged. Over the year, 77 counties demonstrated jobless rate reductions. Five regions experienced rate gains, while Livingston County's rate remained unchanged since March 2019.

Note: Data in this release is not seasonally adjusted. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted March workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for March.

Note to editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	199,500	203,700	200,000	-4,200	-2.1%	-500	-0.3%
Employment	194,700	199,300	193,700	-4,600	-2.3%	1,000	0.5%
Unemployment	4,800	4,400	6,300	400	9.1%	-1,500	-23.8%
Rate (Percent)	2.4	2.2	3.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, Economic Specialist, 313-456-3145

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	61,400	63,100	63,100	-1,700	-2.7%	-1,700	-2.7%
Employment	59,100	60,800	60,200	-1,700	-2.8%	-1,100	-1.8%
Unemployment	2,300	2,300	2,900	0	0.0%	-600	-20.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	3.6	4.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	48,600	50,000	50,300	-1,400	-2.8%	-1,700	-3.4%
Employment	46,300	47,600	47,500	-1,300	-2.7%	-1,200	-2.5%
Unemployment	2,300	2,300	2,800	0	0.0%	-500	-17.9%
Rate (Percent)	4.7	4.6	5.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)

(Data in Thousands)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,170	2,148	2,158	22	1.0%	12	0.6%
Employment	2,064	2,068	2,057	-4	-0.2%	7	0.3%
Unemployment	106	80	101	26	32.5%	5	5.0%
Rate (Percent)	4.9	3.7	4.7	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, Economic Specialist, 313-456-3145

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	180,500	185,800	182,500	-5,300	-2.9%	-2,000	-1.1%
Employment	172,700	178,200	172,600	-5,500	-3.1%	100	0.1%
Unemployment	7,800	7,600	9,900	200	2.6%	-2,100	-21.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.3	4.1	5.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Grand Rapids - Wyoming MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	575,500	589,700	584,400	-14,200	-2.4%	-8,900	-1.5%
Employment	560,200	575,300	564,900	-15,100	-2.6%	-4,700	-0.8%
Unemployment	15,300	14,500	19,500	800	5.5%	-4,200	-21.5%
Rate (Percent)	2.7	2.5	3.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	73,300	75,000	74,800	-1,700	-2.3%	-1,500	-2.0%
Employment	70,700	72,500	71,600	-1,800	-2.5%	-900	-1.3%
Unemployment	2,600	2,600	3,200	0	0.0%	-600	-18.8%
Rate (Percent)	3.5	3.4	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	166,700	171,600	170,300	-4,900	-2.9%	-3,600	-2.1%
Employment	161,300	166,300	163,400	-5,000	-3.0%	-2,100	-1.3%
Unemployment	5,400	5,300	6,900	100	1.9%	-1,500	-21.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.2	3.1	4.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Lansing - East Lansing MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	248,300	255,500	252,400	-7,200	-2.8%	-4,100	-1.6%
Employment	240,900	248,500	243,000	-7,600	-3.1%	-2,100	-0.9%
Unemployment	7,400	7,000	9,400	400	5.7%	-2,000	-21.3%
Rate (Percent)	3.0	2.7	3.7	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, Economic Specialist, 313-456-3145

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	39,600	40,300	40,700	-700	-1.7%	-1,100	-2.7%
Employment	38,100	38,800	38,900	-700	-1.8%	-800	-2.1%
Unemployment	1,500	1,500	1,800	0	0.0%	-300	-16.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.9	3.7	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	73,900	76,000	75,800	-2,100	-2.8%	-1,900	-2.5%
Employment	71,400	73,400	72,500	-2,000	-2.7%	-1,100	-1.5%
Unemployment	2,500	2,600	3,300	-100	-3.8%	-800	-24.2%
Rate (Percent)	3.4	3.4	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	75,900	77,900	76,800	-2,000	-2.6%	-900	-1.2%
Employment	72,800	74,900	73,100	-2,100	-2.8%	-300	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,100	2,900	3,700	200	6.9%	-600	-16.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.1	3.8	4.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,500	74,000	73,600	-1,500	-2.0%	-1,100	-1.5%
Employment	69,700	71,300	70,200	-1,600	-2.2%	-500	-0.7%
Unemployment	2,700	2,800	3,400	-100	-3.6%	-700	-20.6%
Rate (Percent)	3.8	3.8	4.7	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	84,900	87,100	87,200	-2,200	-2.5%	-2,300	-2.6%
Employment	81,100	83,300	82,400	-2,200	-2.6%	-1,300	-1.6%
Unemployment	3,800	3,800	4,700	0	0.0%	-900	-19.1%
Rate (Percent)	4.5	4.4	5.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Upper Peninsula LMA (15 counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	133,600	137,700	136,700	-4,100	-3.0%	-3,100	-2.3%
Employment	126,000	130,100	127,300	-4,100	-3.2%	-1,300	-1.0%
Unemployment	7,500	7,600	9,400	-100	-1.3%	-1,900	-20.2%
Rate (Percent)	5.6	5.5	6.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Jeffrey Aula, Economic Analyst, 313-456-3144

Northeast Lower Michigan

(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	78,900	80,800	80,300	-1,900	-2.4%	-1,400	-1.7%
Employment	72,900	74,700	72,900	-1,800	-2.4%	0	0.0%
Unemployment	5,900	6,100	7,400	-200	-3.3%	-1,500	-20.3%
Rate (Percent)	7.5	7.6	9.2	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Northwest Lower Michigan

(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	144,200	148,200	145,600	-4,000	-2.7%	-1,400	-1.0%
Employment	137,200	141,100	136,700	-3,900	-2.8%	500	0.4%
Unemployment	7,100	7,100	8,900	0	0.0%	-1,800	-20.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.9	4.8	6.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, Economic Specialist, 517-241-6574

Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	March 2020	Feb 2020	March 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,904	4,953	4,937	-49	-1.0%	-33	-0.7%
Employment	4,697	4,774	4,709	-77	-1.6%	-12	-0.3%
Unemployment	208	180	229	28	15.6%	-21	-9.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.2	3.6	4.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, Economic Specialist, 313-456-3145

Note COVID-19 pandemic:

Regional and county employment estimates are produced on a monthly basis using information from the week of the 12th of each month. The information in this release covers labor market trends for the week of March 8–14, 2020, 10 days prior to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s [Executive Order 2020-21](#) “Stay Home, Stay Safe.”

As such, the information in this release does not reflect the majority of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan’s workforce.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic’s effect on workforce estimates, please visit the following resources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

[Effects of COVID-19 on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program](#)

[FAQs – The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on The Employment Situation for March 2020](#)

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate- March 2020

1	Washtenaw County	2.4	43	Marquette County	4.8
2	Ottawa County	2.5	44	Sanilac County	4.8
3	Kent County	2.6	45	Wexford County	4.8
4	Clinton County	2.7	46	Macomb County	4.9
5	Kalamazoo County	2.9	47	Tuscola County	5.0
6	Allegan County	3.0	48	Mason County	5.2
7	Ingham County	3.0	49	Missaukee County	5.2
8	Eaton County	3.1	50	Otsego County	5.2
9	Ionia County	3.1	51	Charlevoix County	5.3
10	Barry County	3.3	52	Delta County	5.4
11	Branch County	3.4	53	Antrim County	5.6
12	Monroe County	3.4	54	Wayne County	5.7
13	Jackson County	3.5	55	Benzie County	5.9
14	Lenawee County	3.5	56	Gladwin County	5.9
15	St. Joseph County	3.5	57	Lake County	5.9
16	Calhoun County	3.7	58	Manistee County	5.9
17	Grand Traverse County	3.7	59	St. Clair County	6.0
18	Berrien County	3.8	60	Keweenaw County	6.1
19	Montcalm County	3.8	61	Crawford County	6.2
20	Cass County	3.9	62	Emmet County	6.2
21	Gratiot County	3.9	63	Luce County	6.2
22	Isabella County	3.9	64	Iron County	6.3
23	Livingston County	3.9	65	Baraga County	6.4
24	Midland County	3.9	66	Chippewa County	6.4
25	Oakland County	3.9	67	Kalkaska County	6.4
26	Osceola County	3.9	68	Oceana County	6.5
27	Hillsdale County	4.0	69	Clare County	6.7
28	Menominee County	4.0	70	Oscoda County	6.7
29	Newaygo County	4.0	71	Iosco County	6.9
30	Shiawassee County	4.0	72	Lapeer County	7.0
31	Muskegon County	4.1	73	Alcona County	7.1
32	Genesee County	4.3	74	Arenac County	7.2
33	Leelanau County	4.3	75	Ontonagon County	7.3
34	Dickinson County	4.4	76	Ogemaw County	7.6
35	Gogebic County	4.4	77	Alger County	7.7
36	Van Buren County	4.4	78	Schoolcraft County	8.1
37	Saginaw County	4.5	79	Roscommon County	8.3
38	Huron County	4.6	80	Montmorency County	9.1
39	Alpena County	4.7	81	Presque Isle County	9.5
40	Bay County	4.7	82	Cheboygan County	13.7
41	Houghton County	4.7	83	Mackinac County	17.7
42	Mecosta County	4.7			