



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

TRICIA L. FOSTER  
DIRECTOR

## **August jobless rates fall seasonally in all Michigan regional labor markets**

Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's regional labor markets in August, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Total employment rose in August, while regional workforce levels fell over the month.

"Regional jobless rate reductions were typical for August," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Employment levels displayed continued growth over the year in most labor markets."

During August, jobless rate reductions ranged from 0.7 to 1.8 percentage points, with a notable median decrease of nine-tenths of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month unemployment rate decline occurred in the Monroe metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The statewide seasonally unadjusted jobless rate in August was 4.2 percent, and the national unadjusted rate was 3.8 percent.

### **August Jobless Rates Up Over Year**

Since August 2018, unemployment rates rose in 15 of the 17 Michigan regions. Rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 percentage points, led by upticks in the Battle Creek MSA (+0.5) and the Upper Peninsula region (+0.5). Monroe was the only region to exhibit a jobless rate decline over the year (-0.9). The Detroit MSA jobless rate remained unchanged since August 2018.

### **Total Employment Up Over Month and Year**

From July to August, total employment levels advanced in 12 regions, fell in three, and remained unchanged in two. Increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.0 percent with a minor median advance of 0.3 percent. The Kalamazoo and Jackson metro regions both reported a gain of 1.0 percent, the largest over-the-month employment increase. The most pronounced August employment decline occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.0%). Employment in the Midland and Northeast Lower Michigan regions was unchanged in August.

Over the year, total employment grew in 16 regions, led by the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+2.3%). Bay City's employment level fell over the year, declining by 0.2 percent since August 2018.

### **Workforce Levels Decline Over Month, Rise Over Year**

Labor force levels receded in 15 regions during August. Reductions ranged from 0.4 to 1.8 percent, with a median decrease of 1.0 percent. The Monroe MSA had the largest workforce drop over the month (-1.8%). The only labor markets with slight labor force increases in August were the Jackson (+0.1%) and Kalamazoo (+0.2%) MSAs.

All 17 of Michigan's regional labor markets exhibited labor force gains since August 2018. Workforce advances ranged from 0.1 to 2.4 percent, with a substantial median gain of 1.7 percent. The largest over-the-year labor force advance occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-2.4%).

### **August Payroll Jobs Up Slightly**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged up by 10,000, or 0.2 percent in August to 4,441,000. Notable job additions in industries such as government (+8,000) and professional and business services (+7,000) were partially offset by job cuts in several industries, led by leisure and hospitality (-4,000).

Nonfarm jobs fell in seven regions and rose in seven regions in August. The largest decline on a percentage basis occurred in the Bay City region (-0.8%) while the most pronounced job increase occurred in the Jackson MSA (+0.9%).

Since August 2018, Michigan's seasonally unadjusted employment rose by 18,000, or 0.4 percent. Nine regions demonstrated job advances over this period while four exhibited job declines. The Battle Creek MSA was the only region with no job change over the year.

### **County Jobless Rates Down Over Month and Up Over Year**

All 83 Michigan counties demonstrated jobless rate drops in August, with a median reduction of nine-tenths of a percentage point. Over the year, unemployment rates advanced in 76 counties, declined in five, and remained unchanged in two.

**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 August workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for August.

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

Page 3, August Rates

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b><br>(Washtenaw County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                       | 191,600       | 195,000       | 194,300       | -0.4%             | 1.4%             |
| Total Employment                           | 185,500       | 186,700       | 187,900       | 0.6%              | 1.3%             |
| Unemployment                               | 6,100         | 8,200         | 6,400         | -22.0%            | 4.9%             |
| Rate (percent)                             | 3.2           | 4.2           | 3.3           |                   |                  |

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

|   | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b><br>(Calhoun County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                        | 62,100        | 63,100        | 62,800        | -0.5%             | 1.1%             |
| Total Employment                            | 59,600        | 59,800        | 60,000        | 0.3%              | 0.7%             |
| Unemployment                                | 2,500         | 3,300         | 2,800         | -15.2%            | 12.0%            |
| Rate (percent)                              | 4.0           | 5.2           | 4.5           |                   |                  |

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

|                                     | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>BAY CITY MSA</b><br>(Bay County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                | 50,100        | 50,900        | 50,200        | -1.4%             | 0.2%             |
| Total Employment                    | 48,000        | 48,100        | 47,900        | -0.4%             | -0.2%            |
| Unemployment                        | 2,100         | 2,800         | 2,300         | -17.9%            | 9.5%             |
| Rate (percent)                      | 4.2           | 5.5           | 4.6           |                   |                  |

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

|   | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b><br><b>(Data in thousands)</b><br>(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer,<br>Livingston, St. Clair counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 2,142         | 2,202         | 2,180         | -1.0%             | 1.8%             |
| Total Employment  | 2,045         | 2,086         | 2,081         | -0.2%             | 1.8%             |
| Unemployment  | 97            | 116           | 98            | -15.5%            | 1.0%             |
| Rate (percent)  | 4.5           | 5.3           | 4.5           |                   |                  |

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

|                                      | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>FLINT MSA</b><br>(Genesee County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                 | 180,200       | 185,600       | 184,200       | -0.8%             | 2.2%             |
| Total Employment                     | 172,000       | 174,300       | 175,200       | 0.5%              | 1.9%             |
| Unemployment                         | 8,200         | 11,400        | 9,000         | -21.1%            | 9.8%             |
| Rate (percent)                       | 4.6           | 6.1           | 4.9           |                   |                  |

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

|   | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b><br>(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 575,000       | 588,000       | 584,600       | -0.6%             | 1.7%             |
| Total Employment  | 558,400       | 565,100       | 566,300       | 0.2%              | 1.4%             |
| Unemployment  | 16,600        | 23,000        | 18,300        | -20.4%            | 10.2%            |
| Rate (percent)  | 2.9           | 3.9           | 3.1           |                   |                  |

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>JACKSON MSA</b><br>(Jackson County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                   | 73,100        | 74,600        | 74,700        | 0.1%              | 2.2%             |
| Total Employment                       | 70,400        | 71,000        | 71,700        | 1.0%              | 1.8%             |
| Unemployment                           | 2,700         | 3,700         | 2,900         | -21.6%            | 7.4%             |
| Rate (percent)                         | 3.7           | 4.9           | 3.9           |                   |                  |

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b><br>(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force   | 167,000       | 168,900       | 169,200       | 0.2%              | 1.3%             |
| Total Employment   | 161,200       | 161,100       | 162,700       | 1.0%              | 0.9%             |
| Unemployment   | 5,800         | 7,800         | 6,500         | -16.7%            | 12.1%            |
| Rate (percent)   | 3.5           | 4.6           | 3.8           |                   |                  |

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b><br>(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force   | 241,100       | 247,400       | 245,500       | -0.8%             | 1.8%             |
| Total Employment   | 233,100       | 236,000       | 236,700       | 0.3%              | 1.5%             |
| Unemployment   | 8,000         | 11,400        | 8,800         | -22.8%            | 10.0%            |
| Rate (percent)   | 3.3           | 4.6           | 3.6           |                   |                  |

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>MIDLAND MSA</b><br>(Midland County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                   | 40,300        | 40,900        | 40,500        | -1.0%             | 0.5%             |
| Total Employment                       | 38,800        | 39,000        | 39,000        | 0.0%              | 0.5%             |
| Unemployment                           | 1,400         | 1,800         | 1,500         | -16.7%            | 7.1%             |
| Rate (percent)                         | 3.6           | 4.5           | 3.8           |                   |                  |

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

|                                      | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>MONROE MSA</b><br>(Monroe County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                 | 75,500        | 77,000        | 75,600        | -1.8%             | 0.1%             |
| Total Employment                     | 71,900        | 72,600        | 72,700        | 0.1%              | 1.1%             |
| Unemployment                         | 3,600         | 4,400         | 3,000         | -31.8%            | -16.7%           |
| Rate (percent)                       | 4.8           | 5.7           | 3.9           |                   |                  |

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>MUSKEGON MSA</b><br>(Muskegon County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 78,500        | 80,700        | 79,800        | -1.1%             | 1.7%             |
| Total Employment                         | 75,200        | 76,300        | 76,400        | 0.1%              | 1.6%             |
| Unemployment                             | 3,300         | 4,400         | 3,500         | -20.5%            | 6.1%             |
| Rate (percent)                           | 4.2           | 5.4           | 4.3           |                   |                  |

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b><br>(Berrien County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                                 | 73,700        | 75,600        | 75,100        | -0.7%             | 1.9%             |
| Total Employment                                     | 70,800        | 71,800        | 71,900        | 0.1%              | 1.6%             |
| Unemployment   | 2,900         | 3,800         | 3,200         | -15.8%            | 10.3%            |
| Rate (percent)                                       | 4.0           | 5.0           | 4.2           |                   |                  |

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>SAGINAW MSA</b><br>(Saginaw County) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                   | 86,000        | 88,200        | 87,300        | -1.0%             | 1.5%             |
| Total Employment                       | 82,200        | 83,100        | 83,200        | 0.1%              | 1.2%             |
| Unemployment                           | 3,800         | 5,000         | 4,100         | -18.0%            | 7.9%             |
| Rate (percent)                         | 4.4           | 5.7           | 4.7           |                   |                  |

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

|   | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b><br>(15 counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                        | 137,200       | 139,900       | 139,200       | -0.5%             | 1.5%             |
| Total Employment                            | 131,200       | 131,600       | 132,400       | 0.6%              | 0.9%             |
| Unemployment                                | 6,000         | 8,300         | 6,800         | -18.1%            | 13.3%            |
| Rate (percent)                              | 4.4           | 5.9           | 4.9           |                   |                  |

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

|  | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b><br>(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford,<br>Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda,<br>Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force   | 84,000        | 86,300        | 85,400        | -1.0%             | 1.7%             |
| Total Employment   | 79,800        | 80,900        | 80,900        | 0.0%              | 1.4%             |
| Unemployment   | 4,100         | 5,500         | 4,400         | -20.0%            | 7.3%             |
| Rate (percent)   | 4.9           | 6.4           | 5.2           |                   |                  |

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

|   | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b><br>(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie,<br>Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau,<br>Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties) |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 155,900       | 162,500       | 159,700       | -1.7%             | 2.4%             |
| Total Employment  | 150,300       | 155,300       | 153,700       | -1.0%             | 2.3%             |
| Unemployment  | 5,600         | 7,200         | 6,000         | -16.7%            | 7.1%             |
| Rate (percent)  | 3.6           | 4.4           | 3.7           |                   |                  |

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

|                                     | <u>Aug-18</u> | <u>Jul-19</u> | <u>Aug-19</u> | % change<br>month | % change<br>year |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b> |               |               |               |                   |                  |
| Civilian Labor Force                | 4,902         | 5,025         | 4,984         | -0.8%             | 1.7%             |
| Total Employment                    | 4,703         | 4,771         | 4,776         | 0.1%              | 1.6%             |
| Unemployment                        | 199           | 254           | 208           | -18.1%            | 4.5%             |
| Rate (percent)                      | 4.1           | 5.1           | 4.2           |                   |                  |

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - August 2019**

|    |                       |     |    |                     |     |
|----|-----------------------|-----|----|---------------------|-----|
| 1  | Ottawa County         | 2.9 | 43 | Mason County        | 4.5 |
| 2  | Allegan County        | 3.1 | 44 | Otsego County       | 4.5 |
| 3  | Clinton County        | 3.1 | 45 | St. Joseph County   | 4.5 |
| 4  | Grand Traverse County | 3.1 | 46 | Van Buren County    | 4.5 |
| 5  | Kent County           | 3.1 | 47 | Bay County          | 4.6 |
| 6  | Leelanau County       | 3.1 | 48 | Oceana County       | 4.6 |
| 7  | Mackinac County       | 3.2 | 49 | Sanilac County      | 4.6 |
| 8  | Barry County          | 3.3 | 50 | Kalkaska County     | 4.7 |
| 9  | Washtenaw County      | 3.3 | 51 | Mecosta County      | 4.7 |
| 10 | Livingston County     | 3.4 | 52 | Saginaw County      | 4.7 |
| 11 | Eaton County          | 3.5 | 53 | St. Clair County    | 4.7 |
| 12 | Ionia County          | 3.5 | 54 | Alpena County       | 4.8 |
| 13 | Charlevoix County     | 3.6 | 55 | Lapeer County       | 4.8 |
| 14 | Cheboygan County      | 3.7 | 56 | Marquette County    | 4.8 |
| 15 | Kalamazoo County      | 3.7 | 57 | Genesee County      | 4.9 |
| 16 | Oakland County        | 3.7 | 58 | Iron County         | 4.9 |
| 17 | Ingham County         | 3.8 | 59 | Manistee County     | 4.9 |
| 18 | Lenawee County        | 3.8 | 60 | Tuscola County      | 4.9 |
| 19 | Midland County        | 3.8 | 61 | Delta County        | 5.0 |
| 20 | Benzie County         | 3.9 | 62 | Houghton County     | 5.0 |
| 21 | Dickinson County      | 3.9 | 63 | Crawford County     | 5.1 |
| 22 | Emmet County          | 3.9 | 64 | Iosco County        | 5.3 |
| 23 | Jackson County        | 3.9 | 65 | Wayne County        | 5.4 |
| 24 | Monroe County         | 3.9 | 66 | Chippewa County     | 5.5 |
| 25 | Branch County         | 4.0 | 67 | Clare County        | 5.5 |
| 26 | Isabella County       | 4.0 | 68 | Gogebic County      | 5.5 |
| 27 | Montcalm County       | 4.0 | 69 | Luce County         | 5.5 |
| 28 | Osceola County        | 4.0 | 70 | Gladwin County      | 5.7 |
| 29 | Huron County          | 4.1 | 71 | Schoolcraft County  | 5.7 |
| 30 | Missaukee County      | 4.1 | 72 | Alcona County       | 5.8 |
| 31 | Berrien County        | 4.2 | 73 | Presque Isle County | 5.8 |
| 32 | Newaygo County        | 4.2 | 74 | Alger County        | 5.9 |
| 33 | Antrim County         | 4.3 | 75 | Ogemaw County       | 5.9 |
| 34 | Hillsdale County      | 4.3 | 76 | Oscoda County       | 6.0 |
| 35 | Macomb County         | 4.3 | 77 | Arenac County       | 6.1 |
| 36 | Muskegon County       | 4.3 | 78 | Baraga County       | 6.1 |
| 37 | Shiawassee County     | 4.3 | 79 | Ontonagon County    | 6.1 |
| 38 | Wexford County        | 4.3 | 80 | Keweenaw County     | 6.3 |
| 39 | Gratiot County        | 4.4 | 81 | Lake County         | 6.5 |
| 40 | Menominee County      | 4.4 | 82 | Montmorency County  | 6.5 |
| 41 | Calhoun County        | 4.5 | 83 | Roscommon County    | 6.5 |
| 42 | Cass County           | 4.5 |    |                     |     |