



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

TRICIA L. FOSTER
DIRECTOR

September unemployment rates decline in all Michigan regions

LANSING, Mich -- Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates in September decreased in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Employment levels and unemployment were both down over the month across most Michigan regions.

"The state's regional labor markets reported expected movements in September, including seasonal labor force declines," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "September's payroll employment gains largely reflected seasonal recalls in education-related industries and marked the beginning of the academic year."

In the month of September, regional unemployment rates ranged from 2.8 to 4.4 percent. Jobless rate declines ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 percentage points, with a median decline of six-tenths of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate reduction was recorded in the Upper Peninsula (-0.9 percent). Michigan's nonseasonally adjusted jobless rate in September was 3.7 percent, four-tenths above the national rate of 3.3 percent.

September Jobless Rates Rise Over Year

Since September 2018, unemployment rates rose in 15 Michigan labor market areas. Rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.4 percentage points. The largest over-the-year rate increases were recorded in the Battle Creek, Bay City, and Upper Peninsula regions, at 0.4 percentage points each. Monroe was the only region to exhibit a jobless rate decline over the year (-0.2 percentage points), while the Niles-Benton Harbor region remained unchanged since September 2018.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

Since August, total employment fell in 13 regions and advanced in four. Employment declines ranged from 0.1 to 4.8 percent, with a median drop of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-month reduction occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-4.8 percent). The Lansing metropolitan statistical area (MSA) exhibited the largest over-the-month increase in employment, advancing by 1.9 percent since August.

Over the year, total employment grew in 13 regions, led by the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (+1.6 percent). Employment fell in four Michigan labor market areas over the year. The Bay City MSA demonstrated the largest decline in employment since September 2018, edging down by 0.6 percent over the year.

Regional Workforce Levels Fall Over Month, Rise Over Year

Labor force levels receded in 15 regions in September. Declines ranged from 0.1 to 5.1 percent, with a median reduction of 1.8 percent. The Northwest Lower Michigan region exhibited the largest decline in workforce (-5.1 percent). The Ann Arbor and Lansing metro regions were the only labor market areas with labor force advances over the month, increasing by 0.1 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

Fourteen Michigan regions demonstrated labor force hikes over the year, led by the Detroit MSA (+1.8 percent). The Bay City (-0.2 percent) and Monroe (-0.4 percent) regions demonstrated workforce reductions since September 2018, while the Midland labor force remained unchanged over the year.

September Payroll Jobs Rose Slightly Over Month

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged up by 22,000, or 0.5 percent, in September to 4,467,000. Noteworthy industry advances in government (+8.7 percent) and education and health services (+1.1 percent) were partially offset by declines in most other major industry sectors.

Payroll employment advanced in 13 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan regions in September, led on a percentage basis by the Lansing MSA (+3.9 percent). Muskegon was the only area to demonstrate a decline in nonfarm jobs over the month, edging down by 0.6 percent since August.

Since September 2018, Michigan's seasonally unadjusted employment rose by 22,000, or 0.5 percent. Seven regions demonstrated job advances over this period, while five regions exhibited job declines. The Detroit, Jackson, and Saginaw metro regions all exhibited no change in payroll employment over the year.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month and Up Over Year

All 83 Michigan counties reported jobless rate declines in September, with a median reduction of six-tenths of a percentage point. Over the year, unemployment rates advanced in 76 counties, declined in three, and remained unchanged in four.

Note: A large auto industry labor dispute began on Monday, Sept. 16. Labor statistics published for the month of September 2019 reflect the employment status of workers for the week of Sept. 8 through 14. Therefore, the labor dispute began after the September survey week and had no measurable impact on September employment data.

The impact of the strike on layoffs and jobs will be seen in data published for October 2019. The state unemployment rate and payroll job counts for October 2019 will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,400	194,400	194,500	0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	187,000	188,000	188,700	0.4%	0.9%
Unemployment	5,400	6,400	5,800	-9.4%	7.4%
Rate (percent)	2.8	3.3	3.0		

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

	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	61,700	62,800	61,900	-1.4%	0.3%
Total Employment	59,600	60,000	59,500	-0.8%	-0.2%
Unemployment	2,200	2,800	2,400	-14.3%	9.1%
Rate (percent)	3.5	4.5	3.9		

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

	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	49,400	50,200	49,300	-1.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	47,600	47,900	47,300	-1.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment	1,800	2,300	2,000	-13.0%	11.1%
Rate (percent)	3.6	4.6	4.0		

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

	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,140	2,180	2,178	-0.1%	1.8%
Total Employment	2,055	2,082	2,088	0.3%	1.6%
Unemployment	85	98	90	-8.2%	5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.5	4.1		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	178,400	185,000	181,400	-1.9%	1.7%
Total Employment	171,400	176,000	173,700	-1.3%	1.3%
Unemployment	7,100	9,000	7,700	-14.4%	8.5%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.9	4.3		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	570,900	585,400	574,100	-1.9%	0.6%
Total Employment	556,200	567,100	557,900	-1.6%	0.3%
Unemployment	14,700	18,300	16,100	-12.0%	9.5%
Rate (percent)	2.6	3.1	2.8		

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

	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	74,300	73,300	-1.3%	0.5%
Total Employment	70,500	71,300	70,700	-0.8%	0.3%
Unemployment	2,400	2,900	2,500	-13.8%	4.2%
Rate (percent)	3.3	4.0	3.4		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,100	168,700	167,900	-0.5%	0.5%
Total Employment	161,900	162,300	162,200	-0.1%	0.2%
Unemployment	5,100	6,500	5,700	-12.3%	11.8%
Rate (percent)	3.1	3.8	3.4		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	245,800	245,400	249,000	1.5%	1.3%
Total Employment	238,700	236,600	241,200	1.9%	1.0%
Unemployment	7,100	8,800	7,800	-11.4%	9.9%
Rate (percent)	2.9	3.6	3.1		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	39,900	40,600	39,900	-1.7%	0.0%
Total Employment	38,700	39,100	38,600	-1.3%	-0.3%
Unemployment	1,300	1,500	1,300	-13.3%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.1	3.8	3.4		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,100	75,600	74,800	-1.1%	-0.4%
Total Employment	72,400	72,600	72,300	-0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	2,600	3,000	2,500	-16.7%	-3.8%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.9	3.3		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	79,800	77,800	-2.5%	1.3%
Total Employment	73,900	76,400	74,800	-2.1%	1.2%
Unemployment	2,900	3,400	3,100	-8.8%	6.9%
Rate (percent)	3.8	4.3	3.9		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,400	75,000	73,600	-1.9%	1.7%
Total Employment	69,900	71,800	71,000	-1.1%	1.6%
Unemployment	2,500	3,200	2,600	-18.8%	4.0%
Rate (percent)	3.5	4.2	3.5		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	85,400	87,400	85,800	-1.8%	0.5%
Total Employment	82,100	83,300	82,300	-1.2%	0.2%
Unemployment	3,300	4,100	3,500	-14.6%	6.1%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.7	4.1		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	137,400	139,200	138,100	-0.8%	0.5%
Total Employment	132,400	132,400	132,600	0.2%	0.2%
Unemployment	5,000	6,800	5,500	-19.1%	10.0%
Rate (percent)	3.6	4.9	4.0		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,300	85,300	83,000	-2.7%	0.9%
Total Employment	78,800	80,900	79,300	-2.0%	0.6%
Unemployment	3,500	4,400	3,700	-15.9%	5.7%
Rate (percent)	4.3	5.2	4.4		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	149,100	159,600	151,500	-5.1%	1.6%
Total Employment	144,300	153,700	146,300	-4.8%	1.4%
Unemployment	4,800	5,900	5,200	-11.9%	8.3%
Rate (percent)	3.2	3.7	3.4		

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	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Aug-19</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,882	4,985	4,943	-0.8%	1.2%
Total Employment	4,710	4,777	4,758	-0.4%	1.0%
Unemployment	173	208	185	-11.1%	6.9%
Rate (percent)	3.5	4.2	3.7		

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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.

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

MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - SEPTEMBER 2019

1	Clinton County	2.7	43	Cass County	3.9
2	Ottawa County	2.7	44	Delta County	3.9
3	Allegan County	2.8	45	Marquette County	3.9
4	Kent County	2.8	46	Muskegon County	3.9
5	Barry County	2.9	47	Sanilac County	3.9
6	Grand Traverse County	2.9	48	Bay County	4.0
7	Leelanau County	2.9	49	Macomb County	4.0
8	Mackinac County	2.9	50	Otsego County	4.0
9	Eaton County	3.0	51	Tuscola County	4.0
10	Ionia County	3.0	52	Mason County	4.1
11	Washtenaw County	3.0	53	Mecosta County	4.1
12	Livingston County	3.2	54	Oceana County	4.1
13	Cheboygan County	3.3	55	Saginaw County	4.1
14	Huron County	3.3	56	Houghton County	4.2
15	Ingham County	3.3	57	Iron County	4.2
16	Kalamazoo County	3.3	58	Kalkaska County	4.2
17	Monroe County	3.3	59	Chippewa County	4.3
18	Osceola County	3.3	60	Genesee County	4.3
19	Charlevoix County	3.4	61	St. Clair County	4.3
20	Dickinson County	3.4	62	Lapeer County	4.4
21	Jackson County	3.4	63	Manistee County	4.4
22	Lenawee County	3.4	64	Crawford County	4.5
23	Midland County	3.4	65	Iosco County	4.5
24	Montcalm County	3.4	66	Luce County	4.5
25	Oakland County	3.4	67	Gogebic County	4.6
26	Berrien County	3.5	68	Clare County	4.7
27	Menominee County	3.5	69	Baraga County	4.8
28	Newaygo County	3.5	70	Keweenaw County	4.8
29	Branch County	3.6	71	Gladwin County	4.9
30	Emmet County	3.6	72	Presque Isle County	4.9
31	Shiawassee County	3.6	73	Schoolcraft County	4.9
32	Hillsdale County	3.7	74	Wayne County	4.9
33	Isabella County	3.7	75	Alcona County	5.0
34	Missaukee County	3.7	76	Ogemaw County	5.0
35	St. Joseph County	3.7	77	Oscoda County	5.0
36	Wexford County	3.7	78	Ontonagon County	5.1
37	Alpena County	3.8	79	Arenac County	5.2
38	Benzie County	3.8	80	Alger County	5.3
39	Gratiot County	3.8	81	Roscommon County	5.5
40	Van Buren County	3.8	82	Lake County	5.6
41	Antrim County	3.9	83	Montmorency County	5.7
42	Calhoun County	3.9			