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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **October Michigan regional jobless rates decline**

**LANSING, Mich.** -- Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas during October, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

"Regional jobless rates continued to decrease in October with modest recalls of workers from pandemic-related layoffs," said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, industry jobs remain well below October 2019 levels."

### **Employment and labor force trends over the month and year**

Total employment levels advanced in all Michigan metro regions during October, with a median gain of 1.0 percent. The Detroit metro area exhibited the largest employment increase over the month. Employment fell in 15 Michigan labor market areas over the year. Monroe had the largest over-the-year reduction, with employment receding by 5.6 percent since October 2019.

Michigan regional labor force levels fell over the month, with a median decrease of 1.9 percent. Thirteen Michigan regions exhibited labor force declines over the year, while four recorded workforce advances since October 2019.

### **Recent pandemic-related regional labor market trends**

Michigan regions in October had large percentage drops in the number of unemployed, which were somewhat difficult to evaluate. The impact of the pandemic on labor market trends can be better seen by a comparison of three-month averages for August through October 2020 with pre-pandemic values in February 2020.

### **Jobless rates up since February**

Michigan average regional jobless rates for the three-month period between August and October ranged from 5.5 to 9.3 percent. Sixteen labor market regions exhibited rate advances since February. The most pronounced rate gain occurred in the Muskegon metropolitan statistical area (MSA), with a rate increase of 5.5 percentage points.

## **Total unemployment up since February**

Regional average unemployment levels for the three-month period between August and October moved up sharply in most regions since February, with the largest percentage advance seen in the Ann Arbor MSA.

## **October jobless rates up over the year**

Jobless rates rose in all 17 Michigan labor market areas over the year. The most notable over-the-year unemployment rate advance occurred in the Muskegon metro area, with a rate increase of 2.9 percentage points since October 2019.

## **Payroll jobs increase slightly in October**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan advanced moderately in October by 35,000, or 0.9 percent, to 4,072,000. The largest over-the-month nonfarm job addition occurred in the state's professional and business services sector, with an advance of 14,000 jobs.

Eleven Michigan metro areas exhibited job gains in October. Over-the-month job hikes ranged from 0.2 to 1.7 percent, with the largest percentage job addition in the Lansing MSA. The Monroe metro area was the only region to register a minor decline in employment over the month, and both the Bay City and Niles areas recorded no job change in October.

Total nonfarm jobs in Michigan fell by 386,000, or 8.6 percent, over the year. All 14 metro regions exhibited employment declines over the year, led by the Monroe MSA (-14.1 percent).

## **County jobless rates down over the month, up over the year**

All 83 Michigan counties exhibited jobless rate reductions over the month, led by Wayne County (-4.4 percentage points). Over the year, 70 counties registered unemployment rate advances.

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

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

**Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	200,900	203,300	199,400	-2,400	-1.2%	1,500	0.8%
Employment	193,800	191,000	194,800	2,800	1.5%	-1,000	-0.5%
Unemployment	7,100	12,300	4,700	-5,200	-42.3%	2,400	51.1%
Rate (Percent)	3.5	6.1	2.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	60,200	61,600	62,000	-1,400	-2.3%	-1,800	-2.9%
Employment	57,000	56,200	59,900	800	1.4%	-2,900	-4.8%
Unemployment	3,200	5,300	2,000	-2,100	-39.6%	1,200	60.0%
Rate (Percent)	5.3	8.6	3.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Bay City MSA (Bay County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	47,400	48,600	49,500	-1,200	-2.5%	-2,100	-4.2%
Employment	45,200	44,900	47,600	300	0.7%	-2,400	-5.0%
Unemployment	2,200	3,600	1,900	-1,400	-38.9%	300	15.8%
Rate (Percent)	4.6	7.5	3.8	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)

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,124	2,036	2,180	88	4.3%	-56	-2.6%
Employment	1,991	1,835	2,093	156	8.5%	-102	-4.9%
Unemployment	133	201	87	-68	-33.8%	46	52.9%
Rate (Percent)	6.3	9.9	4.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Flint MSA (Genesee County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	178,900	184,000	183,200	-5,100	-2.8%	-4,300	-2.3%
Employment	168,800	166,700	174,900	2,100	1.3%	-6,100	-3.5%
Unemployment	10,100	17,300	8,300	-7,200	-41.6%	1,800	21.7%
Rate (Percent)	5.6	9.4	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	574,800	585,000	576,000	-10,200	-1.7%	-1,200	-0.2%
Employment	553,700	548,300	562,600	5,400	1.0%	-8,900	-1.6%
Unemployment	21,100	36,700	13,300	-15,600	-42.5%	7,800	58.6%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	6.3	2.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Jackson MSA (Jackson County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,800	74,100	73,200	-1,300	-1.8%	-400	-0.5%
Employment	69,500	68,400	70,900	1,100	1.6%	-1,400	-2.0%
Unemployment	3,400	5,700	2,300	-2,300	-40.4%	1,100	47.8%
Rate (Percent)	4.6	7.7	3.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	169,200	171,200	168,800	-2,000	-1.2%	400	0.2%
Employment	162,400	159,600	163,900	2,800	1.8%	-1,500	-0.9%
Unemployment	6,800	11,600	4,900	-4,800	-41.4%	1,900	38.8%
Rate (Percent)	4.0	6.8	2.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	241,100	243,100	252,500	-2,000	-0.8%	-11,400	-4.5%
Employment	231,500	226,800	244,000	4,700	2.1%	-12,500	-5.1%
Unemployment	9,500	16,300	8,500	-6,800	-41.7%	1,000	11.8%
Rate (Percent)	3.9	6.7	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Midland MSA (Midland County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	39,300	39,900	39,600	-600	-1.5%	-300	-0.8%
Employment	37,900	37,400	38,500	500	1.3%	-600	-1.6%
Unemployment	1,400	2,500	1,200	-1,100	-44.0%	200	16.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	6.3	2.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Monroe MSA (Monroe County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	73,100	74,800	-1,100	-1.5%	-2,800	-3.7%
Employment	68,700	68,100	72,800	600	0.9%	-4,100	-5.6%
Unemployment	3,400	5,000	2,100	-1,600	-32.0%	1,300	61.9%
Rate (Percent)	4.7	6.9	2.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	75,100	77,700	76,200	-2,600	-3.3%	-1,100	-1.4%
Employment	70,300	69,800	73,600	500	0.7%	-3,300	-4.5%
Unemployment	4,700	7,900	2,600	-3,200	-40.5%	2,100	80.8%
Rate (Percent)	6.3	10.2	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,400	74,500	72,600	-2,100	-2.8%	-200	-0.3%
Employment	69,000	68,800	70,500	200	0.3%	-1,500	-2.1%
Unemployment	3,300	5,700	2,100	-2,400	-42.1%	1,200	57.1%
Rate (Percent)	4.6	7.7	2.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	83,200	85,600	85,400	-2,400	-2.8%	-2,200	-2.6%
Employment	78,900	78,200	81,500	700	0.9%	-2,600	-3.2%
Unemployment	4,300	7,400	3,800	-3,100	-41.9%	500	13.2%
Rate (Percent)	5.2	8.7	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Upper Peninsula Labor Market Area (LMA) (15 counties)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	139,300	142,000	136,600	-2,700	-1.9%	2,700	2.0%
Employment	134,100	133,400	132,000	700	0.5%	2,100	1.6%
Unemployment	5,200	8,600	4,600	-3,400	-39.5%	600	13.0%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	6.1	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

**Northeast Lower Michigan LMA**

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

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	80,100	82,500	81,100	-2,400	-2.9%	-1,000	-1.2%
Employment	76,300	76,100	77,900	200	0.3%	-1,600	-2.1%
Unemployment	3,800	6,400	3,300	-2,600	-40.6%	500	15.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.7	7.8	4.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Northwest Lower Michigan LMA**

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

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	154,200	158,300	148,700	-4,100	-2.6%	5,500	3.7%
Employment	148,400	148,200	144,300	200	0.1%	4,100	2.8%
Unemployment	5,800	10,200	4,400	-4,400	-43.1%	1,400	31.8%
Rate (Percent)	3.8	6.4	2.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Michigan (Data in Thousands)**

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,869	4,834	4,943	35	0.7%	-74	-1.5%
Employment	4,621	4,437	4,770	184	4.1%	-149	-3.1%
Unemployment	247	397	174	-150	-37.8%	73	42.0%
Rate (Percent)	5.1	8.2	3.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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**Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - October 2020**

1	Mackinac County	3.0	43	Antrim County	4.2
2	Clinton County	3.1	44	St. Joseph County	4.2
3	Ottawa County	3.1	45	Wexford County	4.2
4	Huron County	3.2	46	Ingham County	4.3
5	Leelanau County	3.2	47	Cass County	4.4
6	Houghton County	3.3	48	Cheboygan County	4.4
7	Marquette County	3.3	49	Mason County	4.4
8	Allegan County	3.4	50	Mecosta County	4.4
9	Barry County	3.4	51	Gogebic County	4.5
10	Grand Traverse County	3.4	52	Bay County	4.6
11	Benzie County	3.5	53	Berrien County	4.6
12	Ionia County	3.5	54	Jackson County	4.6
13	Washtenaw County	3.5	55	Otsego County	4.6
14	Dickinson County	3.6	56	Alger County	4.7
15	Isabella County	3.6	57	Arenac County	4.7
16	Keweenaw County	3.6	58	Kalkaska County	4.7
17	Missaukee County	3.6	59	Manistee County	4.7
18	Alpena County	3.7	60	Monroe County	4.7
19	Charlevoix County	3.7	61	Presque Isle County	4.7
20	Eaton County	3.7	62	Gladwin County	4.8
21	Emmet County	3.7	63	Iosco County	4.8
22	Gratiot County	3.7	64	Oakland County	4.8
23	Midland County	3.7	65	Ogemaw County	4.8
24	Osceola County	3.7	66	Lapeer County	4.9
25	Iron County	3.8	67	Alcona County	5.0
26	Luce County	3.8	68	Crawford County	5.0
27	Menominee County	3.8	69	Oceana County	5.0
28	Sanilac County	3.8	70	Ontonagon County	5.0
29	Chippewa County	3.9	71	Saginaw County	5.2
30	Delta County	3.9	72	St. Clair County	5.2
31	Kent County	3.9	73	Calhoun County	5.3
32	Livingston County	3.9	74	Oscoda County	5.3
33	Schoolcraft County	3.9	75	Genesee County	5.6
34	Shiawassee County	3.9	76	Baraga County	5.7
35	Kalamazoo County	4.0	77	Roscommon County	5.7
36	Van Buren County	4.0	78	Macomb County	5.8
37	Branch County	4.1	79	Montmorency County	5.8
38	Hillsdale County	4.1	80	Clare County	5.9
39	Lenawee County	4.1	81	Muskegon County	6.3
40	Montcalm County	4.1	82	Lake County	6.4
41	Newaygo County	4.1	83	Wayne County	8.2
42	Tuscola County	4.1			