



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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February Jobless Rates Fall in All Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in the state's 17 major labor market areas decreased over the month, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Total employment in February advanced in all regions, and workforce levels rose in most areas.

"Michigan's February regional labor markets showed distinct monthly seasonal trends," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Seasonal job increases occurred in local schools and state universities as students returned from holiday break. Recalls also occurred in February among auto workers on temporary layoff."

February regional jobless rate declines ranged from 0.2 to 0.7 percentage points with a median decrease of four-tenths of a percentage point. Notable over-the-month rate cuts occurred in the Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (-0.7) and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-0.6).

Jobless Rates Decrease Over Year

Since February 2018, unemployment rates fell in all 17 labor market areas. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from 0.6 to 1.8 percentage points. The Northeast Lower Michigan Region and the Northwest Lower Michigan Region exhibited the largest jobless rate declines of 1.8 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.

Total Employment Up Over Month and Year

Between January and February 2019, total employment advanced in all labor market regions. Monthly gains ranged from 0.6 to 3.3 percent with a notable median increase of 1.3 percent. The largest seasonal employment additions occurred in the Upper Peninsula (+3.3%) and the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (+2.2%), and were partially education-related. Over the year, total employment rose in 16 labor market areas. Increases ranged from 0.2 to 2.5 percent with a prominent median advance of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-year employment increases occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan Region (+2.5%) and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+2.1%).

Note: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all months of 2018 have been recently revised. Revised data will be released in coming weeks for 2014-2017. Payroll job data for all industries was revised for 2017 and 2018, and for certain industries back to 1990. For newly published estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi.

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

Over the month, workforce levels rose in 16 of Michigan's 17 labor market regions. Labor force gains ranged from 0.2 to 2.7 percent. The largest over-the-month labor force advances occurred in the Upper Peninsula (+2.7%) and the Ann Arbor metro area (+1.8%). The Detroit MSA was the only area to exhibit no change in labor force over the month.

Since February 2018, workforce levels rose in eight regions, declined in eight regions, and remained unchanged in the Flint MSA. Grand Rapids-Wyoming exhibited the largest over-the-year labor force increase (+1.3%) while Midland demonstrated the most pronounced workforce decline (-1.2%).

February Payroll Jobs Up Over Month and Year

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 22,000, or 0.5 percent, since January to 4,387,000. Over-the-month nonfarm job gains were primarily due to increases in *Government* (+17,000) and *Manufacturing* (+9,000). *Government* sector job gains occurred in the subsectors *State government educational services* (+9,000) and *Local government educational services* (+8,000) as students returned to schools and colleges following holiday break. Job additions in *Manufacturing* primarily reflected recalls in the auto industry following January layoff activity.

In February, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the state's 14 metro regions. Metro area job gains ranged from 0.2 to 1.5 percent with the largest percentage advances reported in the Ann Arbor (+1.5%) and Lansing-East Lansing (+1.2%) MSAs. Payroll jobs edged down in Bay City (-0.9%) and remained unchanged in the Saginaw metro area.

Since February 2018, unadjusted nonfarm jobs rose statewide by 38,000, or 0.9 percent. Nine Michigan regions advanced in employment over this period, led on a percentage basis by Monroe (+2.0%). Four areas receded in payroll employment over the year, and Midland's job level remained unchanged.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month and Year

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties reported jobless rate declines in February while three remained flat over the month. Since February 2018, unemployment rates moved down in 82 counties.

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

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

	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	197,100	192,400	195,900	1.8%	-0.6%
Total Employment	190,700	186,800	190,600	2.0%	-0.1%
Unemployment	6,400	5,600	5,300	-5.4%	-17.2%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.9	2.7		

Contact: Marcus Reason, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-8341

	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,200	62,600	63,500	1.4%	0.5%
Total Employment	60,000	59,800	60,900	1.8%	1.5%
Unemployment	3,200	2,700	2,600	-3.7%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.4	4.1		

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

	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,800	50,300	50,400	0.2%	-0.8%
Total Employment	47,600	47,500	47,800	0.6%	0.4%
Unemployment	3,200	2,900	2,600	-10.3%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.7	5.2		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,120	2,146	2,146	0.0%	1.2%
Total Employment	2,021	2,047	2,060	0.6%	1.9%
Unemployment	99	99	86	-13.1%	-13.1%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.6	4.0		

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

	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,000	182,200	183,000	0.4%	0.0%
Total Employment	172,100	172,300	174,000	1.0%	1.1%
Unemployment	10,900	9,900	9,000	-9.1%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	6.0	5.4	4.9		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	581,000	582,700	588,700	1.0%	1.3%
Total Employment	559,900	564,600	571,700	1.3%	2.1%
Unemployment	21,100	18,100	16,900	-6.6%	-19.9%
Rate (percent)	3.6	3.1	2.9		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,800	74,000	74,900	1.2%	0.1%
Total Employment	71,200	70,900	72,000	1.6%	1.1%
Unemployment	3,600	3,100	2,900	-6.5%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.2	3.9		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	169,700	168,100	170,500	1.4%	0.5%
Total Employment	161,800	161,600	164,400	1.7%	1.6%
Unemployment	7,900	6,600	6,100	-7.6%	-22.8%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.9	3.6		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	252,700	247,400	251,100	1.5%	-0.6%
Total Employment	242,400	237,500	242,800	2.2%	0.2%
Unemployment	10,300	9,800	8,300	-15.3%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	4.1	4.0	3.3		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,900	40,000	40,400	1.0%	-1.2%
Total Employment	38,700	38,300	38,800	1.3%	0.3%
Unemployment	2,100	1,700	1,600	-5.9%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.3	4.0		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,900	75,600	76,500	1.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	72,200	72,300	73,300	1.4%	1.5%
Unemployment	3,700	3,400	3,200	-5.9%	-13.5%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.4	4.2		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,800	77,800	78,400	0.8%	0.8%
Total Employment	73,500	74,200	75,000	1.1%	2.0%
Unemployment	4,300	3,600	3,300	-8.3%	-23.3%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.6	4.2		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	71,900	72,700	1.1%	-0.7%
Total Employment	69,200	68,400	69,500	1.6%	0.4%
Unemployment	4,000	3,500	3,200	-8.6%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.8	4.4		

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	<u>Feb-18</u>	<u>Jan-19</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,500	86,800	87,200	0.5%	-0.3%
Total Employment	82,300	82,000	82,800	1.0%	0.6%
Unemployment	5,200	4,900	4,400	-10.2%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	6.0	5.6	5.1		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	139,300	134,800	138,400	2.7%	-0.6%
Total Employment	128,800	125,600	129,800	3.3%	0.8%
Unemployment	10,500	9,200	8,700	-5.4%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.8	6.3		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,900	80,900	81,300	0.5%	-0.7%
Total Employment	73,400	73,600	74,400	1.1%	1.4%
Unemployment	8,500	7,300	6,900	-5.5%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.0	8.5		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,400	146,700	147,800	0.7%	1.0%
Total Employment	136,100	138,000	139,500	1.1%	2.5%
Unemployment	10,200	8,700	8,300	-4.6%	-18.6%
Rate (percent)	7.0	5.9	5.6		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,903	4,905	4,939	0.7%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,662	4,680	4,736	1.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	241	225	203	-9.8%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.6	4.1		

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MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - FEBRUARY 2019

1	Ottawa County	2.7	43	Mecosta County	5.2
2	Washtenaw County	2.7	44	Otsego County	5.2
3	Kent County	2.8	45	St. Clair County	5.2
4	Clinton County	3.1	46	Gogebic County	5.5
5	Kalamazoo County	3.1	47	Marquette County	5.5
6	Oakland County	3.1	48	Sanilac County	5.5
7	Eaton County	3.3	49	Alpena County	5.6
8	Allegan County	3.4	50	Charlevoix County	5.7
9	Ingham County	3.4	51	Missaukee County	5.7
10	Livingston County	3.4	52	Tuscola County	5.8
11	Barry County	3.5	53	Lapeer County	5.9
12	Ionia County	3.5	54	Delta County	6.1
13	Branch County	3.8	55	Mason County	6.1
14	St. Joseph County	3.8	56	Crawford County	6.3
15	Jackson County	3.9	57	Iron County	6.3
16	Hillsdale County	4.0	58	Baraga County	6.4
17	Isabella County	4.0	59	Gladwin County	6.4
18	Lenawee County	4.0	60	Antrim County	6.5
19	Macomb County	4.0	61	Keweenaw County	6.5
20	Midland County	4.0	62	Luce County	6.7
21	Calhoun County	4.1	63	Benzie County	6.8
22	Menominee County	4.1	64	Manistee County	6.8
23	Dickinson County	4.2	65	Ontonagon County	7.0
24	Grand Traverse County	4.2	66	Clare County	7.2
25	Monroe County	4.2	67	Lake County	7.2
26	Muskegon County	4.2	68	Kalkaska County	7.3
27	Cass County	4.3	69	Emmet County	7.4
28	Berrien County	4.4	70	Iosco County	7.4
29	Montcalm County	4.5	71	Chippewa County	7.5
30	Shiawassee County	4.6	72	Oscoda County	7.5
31	Osceola County	4.7	73	Alcona County	7.8
32	Wayne County	4.7	74	Oceana County	7.8
33	Gratiot County	4.8	75	Ogemaw County	8.5
34	Newaygo County	4.8	76	Schoolcraft County	8.5
35	Genesee County	4.9	77	Arenac County	8.7
36	Houghton County	5.0	78	Alger County	9.0
37	Wexford County	5.0	79	Roscommon County	9.1
38	Leelanau County	5.1	80	Montmorency County	9.7
39	Saginaw County	5.1	81	Presque Isle County	10.9
40	Van Buren County	5.1	82	Cheboygan County	16.3
41	Bay County	5.2	83	Mackinac County	20.0
42	Huron County	5.2			