



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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May Jobless Rates Increase in Majority of Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing –Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in May edged up in 12 of Michigan’s 17 regional labor markets, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Both total employment and total workforce levels rose in most labor market areas over the month.

“Most metro areas in Michigan recorded modest jobless rate advances in May,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, “Significant employment gains were seen in the state’s northern Lower Michigan regions due to seasonal hiring in the recreation services industry.”

During May, regional unemployment rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.3 percentage points with a median increase of a third of a percentage point. The Flint metropolitan statistical area (MSA) recorded the largest jobless rate advance (+1.3 percentage points), due to a temporary layoff in the auto industry. Both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions recorded jobless rate declines over the month, as well as the Upper Peninsula. Jobless rates in the Bay City and Midland MSAs remained unchanged in May.

Unemployment Rates Mixed Since May 2018

Over the past year, unemployment rates advanced in seven regions, fell in six, and remained unchanged in four. The most prominent over-the-year rate increase occurred in the Flint MSA (+1.3) while both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions had the largest over-the-year jobless rate declines of 0.4 percentage points. The Bay City, Kalamazoo-Portage, Lansing-East Lansing, and Niles-Benton Harbor MSA jobless rates all remained unchanged over the year.

May Employment Levels Advance in Most Regions

Between April and May, total employment levels moved up seasonally in twelve labor market areas. Employment gains ranged from 0.2 to 5.9 percent with a median increase of 0.8 percent. The largest over-the-month percent employment hikes occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan (+5.9%) and Northwest Lower Michigan (+5.1%) regions. Four areas exhibited employment declines over the month, led by the Ann Arbor MSA (-1.3%). The Saginaw MSA employment level remained unchanged in May.

Since May 2018, total employment advanced in 15 regions, up by 0.1 to 1.8 percent. The Northwest Lower Michigan region exhibited the largest percent employment

addition over the year. Two regions registered small employment reductions since May 2018, led by Midland (-0.3%).

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

Between April and May, workforce levels rose seasonally in 15 regions with gains ranging from 0.1 to 4.2 percent and a median increase of 0.7 percent. The Kalamazoo-Portage and Ann Arbor MSAs exhibited workforce cuts over the month.

Fifteen Michigan regions had labor force additions since May 2018. Advances ranged from 0.4 to 2.1 percent with a median gain of 0.9 percent. The Bay City and Midland MSAs were the only regions to show workforce reductions over the year.

Seasonal Hiring Rose in May

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan moved up by 44,000 or 1.0 percent in May to 4,470,000. May job gains were largely seasonal and led on a percentage basis by *Construction* (+6.6%) and *Leisure and hospitality* (+6.1%). Both the *Government* and *Education and health services* industries recorded employment declines since April, due to the end of the winter/spring semester at local schools and colleges and universities.

Nonfarm employment rose seasonally in 12 Michigan metro regions during the month of May. Job additions ranged from 0.2 to 1.7 percent with the largest percentage gains recorded in the Muskegon (+1.7%) and Midland (+1.6%) metro areas. The Ann Arbor and Flint MSAs were the only metro regions with job declines over the month.

Since May 2018, seasonally unadjusted jobs increased statewide by 22,000, or 0.5 percent. Eight Michigan regions added jobs over this period, led on a percentage basis by Monroe (+1.7%). Nonfarm jobs fell in six regions over the year, led by the Flint (-1.0%) and Midland (-1.0%) metro areas.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month and Year

Out of Michigan's 83 counties, 46 had jobless rate cuts in May, 29 exhibited rate hikes, and eight remained unchanged. Over the year, unemployment rates edged down in 44 counties, rose in 29, and remained unchanged in ten.

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

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

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	193,000	198,000	196,000	-1.0%	1.6%
Total Employment	187,500	193,000	190,400	-1.3%	1.5%
Unemployment	5,500	5,000	5,600	12.0%	1.8%
Rate (percent)	2.8	2.5	2.9		

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

	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,400	63,200	63,900	1.1%	0.8%
Total Employment	61,000	60,900	61,400	0.8%	0.7%
Unemployment	2,400	2,300	2,400	4.3%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.7	3.8		

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

	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,500	50,300	50,400	0.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	48,400	48,200	48,300	0.2%	-0.2%
Unemployment	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.3	4.3		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,121	2,134	2,141	0.3%	0.9%
Total Employment	2,047	2,051	2,049	-0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment	74	84	92	9.5%	24.3%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.9	4.3		

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

	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,100	184,500	185,000	0.3%	1.6%
Total Employment	174,200	176,600	174,700	-1.1%	0.3%
Unemployment	7,900	7,900	10,300	30.4%	30.4%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.3	5.6		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	584,100	587,300	591,000	0.6%	1.2%
Total Employment	568,600	572,400	574,800	0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	15,600	14,900	16,300	9.4%	4.5%
Rate (percent)	2.7	2.5	2.8		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,300	75,700	76,300	0.8%	1.3%
Total Employment	72,600	73,200	73,700	0.7%	1.5%
Unemployment	2,600	2,500	2,600	4.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.3	3.4		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,700	170,400	170,000	-0.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	163,100	165,100	164,300	-0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment	5,600	5,300	5,700	7.5%	1.8%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.1	3.3		

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LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	251,500	252,300	252,800	0.2%	0.5%
Total Employment	243,800	244,900	245,000	0.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	7,700	7,300	7,800	6.8%	1.3%
Rate (percent)	3.1	2.9	3.1		

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MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,300	40,600	41,100	1.2%	-0.5%
Total Employment	39,800	39,200	39,700	1.3%	-0.3%
Unemployment	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.4	3.4		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,700	76,800	77,300	0.7%	2.1%
Total Employment	72,900	74,000	74,200	0.3%	1.8%
Unemployment	2,800	2,700	3,100	14.8%	10.7%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.5	4.0		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	78,700	78,400	79,500	1.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	75,500	75,500	76,400	1.2%	1.2%
Unemployment	3,200	2,900	3,100	6.9%	-3.1%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.7	3.9		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	73,800	74,600	1.1%	0.8%
Total Employment	71,100	71,200	71,800	0.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	2,800	2,600	2,800	7.7%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.8	3.6	3.8		

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SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	86,900	87,000	87,400	0.5%	0.6%
Total Employment	83,200	83,300	83,300	0.0%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,700	3,700	4,000	8.1%	8.1%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.3	4.6		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	136,300	136,600	136,800	0.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	129,400	128,800	130,000	0.9%	0.5%
Unemployment	6,900	7,800	6,700	-14.1%	-2.9%
Rate (percent)	5.1	5.7	4.9		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-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	83,300	80,500	83,700	4.0%	0.5%
Total Employment	78,800	75,100	79,500	5.9%	0.9%
Unemployment	4,500	5,400	4,200	-22.2%	-6.7%
Rate (percent)	5.4	6.7	5.0		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	150,000	146,100	152,200	4.2%	1.5%
Total Employment	143,800	139,300	146,400	5.1%	1.8%
Unemployment	6,300	6,800	5,800	-14.7%	-7.9%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.7	3.8		

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	<u>May-18</u>	<u>Apr-19</u>	<u>May-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,907	4,927	4,952	0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	4,734	4,743	4,757	0.3%	0.5%
Unemployment	173	184	195	6.0%	12.7%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.7	3.9		

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MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - May 2019

1	Ottawa County	2.6	43	Mecosta County	4.2
2	Clinton County	2.7	44	St. Joseph County	4.2
3	Kent County	2.7	45	Bay County	4.3
4	Allegan County	2.8	46	Sanilac County	4.3
5	Barry County	2.9	47	Benzie County	4.4
6	Washtenaw County	2.9	48	Antrim County	4.5
7	Eaton County	3.0	49	Otsego County	4.5
8	Ionia County	3.0	50	Emmet County	4.6
9	Grand Traverse County	3.1	51	Kalkaska County	4.6
10	Kalamazoo County	3.1	52	Saginaw County	4.6
11	Ingham County	3.2	53	St. Clair County	4.6
12	Leelanau County	3.3	54	Crawford County	4.8
13	Livingston County	3.3	55	Manistee County	4.8
14	Jackson County	3.4	56	Marquette County	4.8
15	Menominee County	3.4	57	Delta County	4.9
16	Midland County	3.4	58	Tuscola County	4.9
17	Branch County	3.5	59	Gladwin County	5.1
18	Lenawee County	3.5	60	Houghton County	5.1
19	Oakland County	3.5	61	Lapeer County	5.1
20	Dickinson County	3.6	62	Wayne County	5.1
21	Isabella County	3.6	63	Gogebic County	5.2
22	Montcalm County	3.6	64	Iron County	5.2
23	Osceola County	3.6	65	Oceana County	5.2
24	Berrien County	3.8	66	Clare County	5.3
25	Calhoun County	3.8	67	Iosco County	5.3
26	Gratiot County	3.8	68	Chippewa County	5.5
27	Hillsdale County	3.8	69	Genesee County	5.6
28	Wexford County	3.8	70	Ogemaw County	5.6
29	Alpena County	3.9	71	Presque Isle County	5.6
30	Charlevoix County	3.9	72	Alcona County	5.7
31	Mackinac County	3.9	73	Oscoda County	5.7
32	Missaukee County	3.9	74	Arenac County	5.8
33	Muskegon County	3.9	75	Lake County	6.0
34	Newaygo County	3.9	76	Luce County	6.0
35	Cass County	4.0	77	Schoolcraft County	6.0
36	Cheboygan County	4.0	78	Roscommon County	6.2
37	Huron County	4.0	79	Baraga County	6.4
38	Monroe County	4.0	80	Montmorency County	7.0
39	Shiawassee County	4.0	81	Ontonagon County	7.4
40	Van Buren County	4.1	82	Keweenaw County	7.7
41	Macomb County	4.2	83	Alger County	7.8
42	Mason County	4.2			