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## **Michigan's unemployment rate increases to historic level in April as a result of COVID-19-related layoffs**

**LANSING, Mich.** -- Michigan's seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose sharply in April to 22.7 percent, a monthly jump of 18.4 percentage points, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Employment in Michigan plunged by 1,130,000, while the number of unemployed grew by 839,000, resulting in a labor force drop of 291,000 over the month.

The large monthly unemployment rate advance reflected a continuing and deepening of the pandemic's impact on the workforce, as most COVID-19-related layoffs began in the second half of March and continued through April.

The national unemployment rate grew significantly by 10.3 percentage points in April to 14.7 percent. Michigan's rate was 8.0 percentage points above the U.S. rate. Over the year, the national jobless rate advanced by 11.1 percentage points, while the state rate climbed by 18.4 percentage points.

"April's historic unemployment rate and job declines reflected the first full month of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the state's labor market," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Job losses were widespread across all industry sectors, with especially large employment reductions in leisure and hospitality and manufacturing."

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### Monthly labor force trends and highlights

- Michigan’s April 2020 unemployment rate of 22.7 percent is the highest rate since at least 1976 (as far back as comparable estimates go), likely making it an all-time high. The previous high rate over this period was 16.5 percent in December 1982.
- The number of unemployed in Michigan was 1,048,000, also an all-time high. The previous peak was 725,000 in June 2009.
- Michigan’s labor force level tumbled by 291,000 in April 2020. This dropped the state workforce in one month down to 1991 levels.

**Michigan**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,612	4,903	4,932	-291	-5.9%	-320	-6.5%
Employment	3,564	4,694	4,721	-1,130	-24.1%	-1,157	-24.5%
Unemployment	1,048	209	211	839	401.4%	837	396.7%
Rate (Percent)	22.7	4.3	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

### Detroit metropolitan area’s unemployment rate advances sharply in April

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area’s (MSA) seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose substantially to 21.6 percent in April, a monthly gain of 17.0 percentage points. Total employment fell steeply by 539,000, while the number of unemployed jumped by 323,000. The Detroit MSA labor force was down by 216,000 in April.

Over the year, the Detroit jobless rate surged by 17.1 percentage points. Employment plunged by 526,000, while unemployment moved up by 324,000, resulting in a net workforce reduction of 202,000 since April 2019.

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**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	1,955	2,171	2,157	-216	-10.0%	-202	-9.4%
Employment	1,533	2,072	2,059	-539	-26.0%	-526	-25.5%
Unemployment	422	99	98	323	326.3%	324	330.6%
Rate (Percent)	21.6	4.6	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

**Michigan payroll jobs plummeted in April**

The monthly establishment survey indicated Michigan seasonally adjusted jobs dove by 1,009,000 in April to 3,414,000. The reductions were widespread across all major sectors, with the greatest losses seen in industries deemed nonessential and those that required person-to-person contact. April job cuts were most pronounced in leisure and hospitality (-237,000); manufacturing (-174,000); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-159,000).

**Industry employment trends and highlights**

- Michigan payroll jobs dropped substantially in April to the lowest level in the state since prior to 1990.
- Previously, Michigan’s largest monthly job cut since 1990 occurred in January 2009, with a seasonally adjusted reduction of 100,000 jobs.
- One of the most impacted industries was accommodation and food services, which accounted for two of every 10 jobs lost in April.
- Some industries were impacted less by job cuts in April. As a result, financial activities, natural resources and mining, government, and information recorded the most modest job reductions on a percentage basis over the year.

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**Michigan**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	Apr** 2020	Mar* 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month***		Over the Year ***	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3,414	4,423	4,431	-1,009	-22.8%	-1,017	-23.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	7	7	7	0	-5.4%	0	-4.1%
Construction	100	179	171	-79	-44.0%	-71	-41.6%
Manufacturing	445	619	630	-174	-28.1%	-185	-29.4%
Transportation Equipment	97	185	192	-88	-47.4%	-95	-49.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	645	805	794	-159	-19.8%	-149	-18.7%
Retail Trade	353	466	466	-114	-24.4%	-113	-24.3%
Information	51	54	55	-3	-5.5%	-4	-6.9%
Financial Activities	215	230	223	-14	-6.2%	-8	-3.6%
Professional and Business Services	512	655	655	-143	-21.9%	-143	-21.9%
Education and Health Services	567	676	681	-109	-16.2%	-114	-16.7%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	180	417	435	-237	-56.8%	-255	-58.7%
Other Services	108	164	167	-56	-34.0%	-59	-35.1%
Government	583	617	612	-34	-5.5%	-29	-4.7%

\* Revised data for March 2020

\*\* Preliminary data for April 2020

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

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**Michigan**  
**Hours and Earnings for Production Workers**  
 Seasonally Adjusted

<b>Manufacturing</b>							
	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Average Weekly Earnings	\$867.92	\$963.87	\$942.33	-\$95.95	-10.0%	-\$74.41	-7.9%
Average Weekly Hours	38.5	43.0	42.4	-4.5	-10.5%	-3.9	-9.1%
<b>Transportation Equipment Manufacturing</b>							
	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,157.61	\$1,230.46	\$1,202.98	-\$72.85	-5.9%	-\$45.37	-3.8%
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	47.1	46.5	-3.0	-6.4%	-2.4	-5.2%

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**Note COVID-19 pandemic:**

State employment estimates are produced on a monthly basis using employment information from the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month. The information in this release covers labor market trends for the week of April 12–18, 2020, in the midst of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s [Executive Order 2020-42](#) “Stay Home, Stay Safe.”

As such, the information in this release significantly reflects the April employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan’s workforce.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic’s effect on workforce statistics, please visit the following resources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

[Effects of COVID-19 on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program](#)

[FAQs – The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on The Employment Situation for April 2020](#)

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