



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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February unemployment rates down throughout Michigan ahead of the coronavirus pandemic reaching the state

LANSING, Mich. -- February seasonally unadjusted jobless rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Michigan's February monthly regional labor market movements were mainly seasonal," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll job gains were largely observed in the state's government sector as local schools and universities returned from break. These February estimates do not reflect the recent impact on local jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic."

Regional unemployment rate reductions ranged from 0.3 to 1.4 percentage points, with a median decrease of seven-tenths of a percentage point. Notable over-the-month rate cuts occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.4) and the Upper Peninsula (-1.0).

Jobless rates decrease since February 2019

Over the year, regional unemployment rates in Michigan moved down in all 17 labor market areas, with a notable median reduction of a full percentage point. The largest over-the-year rate declines occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.7), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.4), and the Upper Peninsula (-1.4).

Total employment up over month and year

In February, total employment rose in all 17 major labor market regions in Michigan. Employment advances ranged from 0.2 to 3.3 percent, with a median increase of 1.7 percent. The largest over-the-month employment gains were seen in the Upper Peninsula (+3.3 percent), followed by the Ann Arbor metro region (+2.8 percent).

Over the year, total employment advanced in 16 regions. Increases ranged from 0.4 to 3.1 percent, with a median expansion of 1.6 percent. The Flint metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the largest over-the-year employment gain (+3.1 percent), followed by the Ann Arbor MSA (+3.0 percent). The Midland MSA was the only major Michigan labor market area to exhibit no change in employment over the year.

Labor force levels up over month and year

Over the month, workforce levels rose in 15 of Michigan's 17 labor market areas. Labor force gains ranged from 0.3 to 2.5 percent. The largest over-the-month workforce advances occurred in the Ann Arbor MSA (+2.5 percent), the Lansing-East Lansing metro area (+2.2 percent), and the Upper Peninsula (+2.2 percent). The Detroit metro region and the Northeast Lower Michigan region were the only two areas to exhibit workforce declines over the month.

Since February 2019, workforce levels expanded in 11 regions. The Ann Arbor MSA recorded the largest over-the-year increase, rising by 2.2 percent. Four metro regions exhibited labor force decreases. The largest workforce reduction was observed in the Midland region (-0.7 percent). Both the Saginaw and Battle Creek metro area labor force levels remained unchanged over the year.

February payroll jobs up over month, mixed over year

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 33,000 over the month, or 0.8 percent, to 4,407,000. Over-the-month nonfarm job gains were primarily concentrated in the government (+17,000) and professional and business services (+7,000) industries.

During February, payroll employment rose in 12 of the state's 14 metro areas. Metro area job gains ranged from 0.2 to 2.0 percent, with the largest percentage advance reported in the Ann Arbor MSA. Monroe and Muskegon were the only two metro areas to exhibit slight declines in nonfarm jobs over the month, with each region's job count down by 0.2 percent since January.

Unadjusted payroll jobs moved up statewide by 32,000 (+0.7 percent) over the past year. Eight metro regions exhibited employment gains during this period, led by the Flint MSA (+2.0 percent). Six regions demonstrated nonfarm job reductions since February 2019, led by the Bay City metro area (-1.7 percent).

County jobless rates down over month and year

All 83 Michigan counties reported jobless rate cuts in February, with a median reduction of 0.9 percentage points. All 83 counties also demonstrated jobless rate declines over the year.

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 & Budget."

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	203,700	198,800	199,400	4,900	2.5%	4,300	2.2%
Employment	199,300	193,800	193,500	5,500	2.8%	5,800	3.0%
Unemployment	4,500	5,000	5,900	-500	-10.0%	-1,400	-23.7%
Rate (Percent)	2.2	2.5	3.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	63,100	61,900	63,100	1,200	1.9%	0	0.0%
Employment	60,800	59,400	60,200	1,400	2.4%	600	1.0%
Unemployment	2,300	2,500	2,900	-200	-8.0%	-600	-20.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.6	4.1	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	50,000	49,700	50,300	300	0.6%	-300	-0.6%
Employment	47,700	47,000	47,500	700	1.5%	200	0.4%
Unemployment	2,300	2,700	2,800	-400	-14.8%	-500	-17.9%
Rate (Percent)	4.6	5.5	5.7	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)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,149	2,159	2,152	-10	-0.5%	-3	-0.1%
Employment	2,069	2,064	2,057	5	0.2%	12	0.6%
Unemployment	80	94	96	-14	-14.9%	-16	-16.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	4.4	4.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	185,800	183,300	182,800	2,500	1.4%	3,000	1.6%
Employment	178,200	174,200	172,900	4,000	2.3%	5,300	3.1%
Unemployment	7,600	9,100	9,900	-1,500	-16.5%	-2,300	-23.2%
Rate (Percent)	4.1	5.0	5.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	588,900	580,300	584,300	8,600	1.5%	4,600	0.8%
Employment	574,500	563,500	565,700	11,000	2.0%	8,800	1.6%
Unemployment	14,500	16,800	18,600	-2,300	-13.7%	-4,100	-22.0%
Rate (Percent)	2.5	2.9	3.2	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	75,000	74,200	74,600	800	1.1%	400	0.5%
Employment	72,400	71,300	71,400	1,100	1.5%	1,000	1.4%
Unemployment	2,600	2,900	3,200	-300	-10.3%	-600	-18.8%
Rate (Percent)	3.4	3.9	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	171,500	168,900	169,900	2,600	1.5%	1,600	0.9%
Employment	166,200	162,800	163,300	3,400	2.1%	2,900	1.8%
Unemployment	5,300	6,100	6,700	-800	-13.1%	-1,400	-20.9%
Rate (Percent)	3.1	3.6	3.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	255,200	249,600	253,400	5,600	2.2%	1,800	0.7%
Employment	248,200	241,700	244,200	6,500	2.7%	4,000	1.6%
Unemployment	7,000	7,900	9,100	-900	-11.4%	-2,100	-23.1%
Rate (Percent)	2.7	3.2	3.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	40,300	39,900	40,600	400	1.0%	-300	-0.7%
Employment	38,800	38,200	38,800	600	1.6%	0	0.0%
Unemployment	1,500	1,700	1,800	-200	-11.8%	-300	-16.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.7	4.3	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	76,000	75,400	76,100	600	0.8%	-100	-0.1%
Employment	73,400	72,200	72,500	1,200	1.7%	900	1.2%
Unemployment	2,600	3,200	3,500	-600	-18.8%	-900	-25.7%
Rate (Percent)	3.4	4.3	4.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	77,800	77,200	76,800	600	0.8%	1,000	1.3%
Employment	74,900	73,800	73,100	1,100	1.5%	1,800	2.5%
Unemployment	2,900	3,400	3,600	-500	-14.7%	-700	-19.4%
Rate (Percent)	3.8	4.4	4.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	73,000	72,900	1,000	1.4%	1,100	1.5%
Employment	71,200	69,700	69,500	1,500	2.2%	1,700	2.4%
Unemployment	2,800	3,300	3,500	-500	-15.2%	-700	-20.0%
Rate (Percent)	3.8	4.5	4.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	87,200	86,400	87,200	800	0.9%	0	0.0%
Employment	83,400	82,000	82,300	1,400	1.7%	1,100	1.3%
Unemployment	3,800	4,400	4,800	-600	-13.6%	-1,000	-20.8%
Rate (Percent)	4.4	5.1	5.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Upper Peninsula LMA (15 counties)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	137,700	134,700	137,500	3,000	2.2%	200	0.1%
Employment	130,000	125,900	128,100	4,100	3.3%	1,900	1.5%
Unemployment	7,600	8,800	9,500	-1,200	-13.6%	-1,900	-20.0%
Rate (Percent)	5.5	6.5	6.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Jeffrey Aula, Economic Analyst, 313-456-3144

Northeast Lower Michigan

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

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	80,800	81,000	80,500	-200	-0.2%	300	0.4%
Employment	74,600	73,700	73,000	900	1.2%	1,600	2.2%
Unemployment	6,200	7,300	7,500	-1,100	-15.1%	-1,300	-17.3%
Rate (Percent)	7.6	9.0	9.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Northwest Lower Michigan

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

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	148,100	147,600	146,300	500	0.3%	1,800	1.2%
Employment	141,000	139,400	137,200	1,600	1.1%	3,800	2.8%
Unemployment	7,100	8,200	9,100	-1,100	-13.4%	-2,000	-22.0%
Rate (Percent)	4.8	5.5	6.2	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Feb 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,952	4,924	4,933	28	0.6%	19	0.4%
Employment	4,772	4,714	4,710	58	1.2%	62	1.3%
Unemployment	180	211	223	-31	-14.7%	-43	-19.3%
Rate (Percent)	3.6	4.3	4.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Note data revisions:

The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. All states in the nation participate in this revision process, which is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor force estimates for Michigan counties have been revised for all months of 2019. Revised data will be released in coming weeks for 2015–2018.

In addition, unadjusted payroll job data for Michigan and all metro areas was revised for 2018 and 2019. Certain industries had more extensive data revisions, some back to 1990. For newly revised data, go to www.milmi.org/datasearch or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

Previously published data for these years should be replaced with these new series.

Note COVID-19 pandemic:

Regional and county employment estimates are produced on a monthly basis using information from the week of the 12th of each month. The information in this release covers labor market trends for the week of Feb. 9–15, 2020, and does not show any impact from the coronavirus pandemic.

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - February 2020

1	Washtenaw County	2.2	43	Wexford County	4.6
2	Ottawa County	2.3	44	Marquette County	4.7
3	Kent County	2.4	45	Mecosta County	4.7
4	Clinton County	2.5	46	St. Clair County	4.7
5	Kalamazoo County	2.7	47	Sanilac County	4.8
6	Ingham County	2.8	48	Otsego County	4.9
7	Allegan County	2.9	49	Tuscola County	5.1
8	Eaton County	2.9	50	Charlevoix County	5.2
9	Ionia County	2.9	51	Mason County	5.2
10	Oakland County	2.9	52	Missaukee County	5.2
11	Livingston County	3.0	53	Delta County	5.4
12	Barry County	3.1	54	Gogebic County	5.4
13	St. Joseph County	3.2	55	Keweenaw County	5.4
14	Branch County	3.3	56	Antrim County	5.6
15	Jackson County	3.4	57	Lapeer County	5.7
16	Lenawee County	3.4	58	Gladwin County	5.8
17	Monroe County	3.4	59	Manistee County	5.8
18	Grand Traverse County	3.5	60	Benzie County	5.9
19	Calhoun County	3.6	61	Luce County	5.9
20	Hillsdale County	3.6	62	Baraga County	6.0
21	Isabella County	3.6	63	Crawford County	6.0
22	Macomb County	3.7	64	Iron County	6.0
23	Midland County	3.7	65	Lake County	6.0
24	Montcalm County	3.7	66	Emmet County	6.3
25	Shiawassee County	3.7	67	Ontonagon County	6.3
26	Berrien County	3.8	68	Chippewa County	6.5
27	Menominee County	3.8	69	Clare County	6.5
28	Muskegon County	3.8	70	Kalkaska County	6.5
29	Osceola County	3.8	71	Oscoda County	6.5
30	Cass County	3.9	72	Oceana County	6.7
31	Gratiot County	3.9	73	Iosco County	6.9
32	Leelanau County	3.9	74	Arenac County	7.2
33	Genesee County	4.1	75	Alcona County	7.3
34	Newaygo County	4.1	76	Alger County	7.3
35	Dickinson County	4.2	77	Schoolcraft County	7.7
36	Houghton County	4.3	78	Ogemaw County	7.8
37	Saginaw County	4.4	79	Roscommon County	8.3
38	Wayne County	4.4	80	Montmorency County	9.4
39	Huron County	4.5	81	Presque Isle County	10.4
40	Van Buren County	4.5	82	Cheboygan County	14.3
41	Alpena County	4.6	83	Mackinac County	17.9
42	Bay County	4.6			