



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **March Jobless Rates Rise in Most Michigan Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* –Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in March rose in 16 of the state’s 17 major labor markets, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Total employment declined in most regions while workforce levels were mixed over the month.

“Michigan’s labor market area trends were mixed in March,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Monthly jobless rate changes were minor across the regions, while unadjusted payroll jobs edged up slightly in most areas.”

During March, jobless rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.4 percentage points with a moderate median advance of 0.3 percentage points. The only region to exhibit a slight unemployment rate decline over the month was the Monroe MSA, edging down by a tenth of a percentage point in March.

### ***Unemployment Rates Down Over Year***

Unemployment rates fell in 14 Michigan regions since March 2018, increased in two regions by a tenth of a percentage point, and remained unchanged in the Detroit MSA. Over-the-year rate declines ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 percentage points. The Northeast Lower Michigan Region and the Northwest Lower Michigan Region exhibited the largest over the year jobless rate cuts, down by 0.8 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively.

### ***Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year***

Over the month, total employment levels receded in ten regions, increased in three, and remained unchanged in four (the Detroit, Jackson, and Monroe MSAs as well as the Northwest Lower Michigan region). Employment declines ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 percent with a median reduction of 0.5 percent. The most notable employment cut occurred in the Upper Peninsula (-0.8%).

Over the year, total employment advanced in 13 labor market areas. Employment gains ranged from 0.2 to 2.1 percent with a median rise of 0.8 percent. The largest over-the-year addition occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan Region (+2.1%). Four metro areas had employment declines over the year, including Midland, Lansing, Bay City, and Niles-Benton Harbor.

### ***Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year***

Between February and March, workforce levels were up in 7 Michigan regions, down in six, and flat in the Kalamazoo, Midland, Monroe, and Muskegon metro areas. Labor force changes were mostly minor over the month, with the largest advance posted in the Niles-Benton Harbor region (+0.6%). The most pronounced over-the-month reduction occurred in the Bay City (-0.4%) and Upper Peninsula (-0.4%) regions.

Since March 2018, labor force levels rose in 11 regions and declined in six. Workforce advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 percent with a median increase of 0.8 percent. The Detroit MSA recorded the largest over-the-year labor force advance of 1.5 percent. Midland exhibited the most pronounced workforce decline since March 2018 (-1.0%).

### ***Payroll Jobs Advance in March in Most Michigan Regions***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted March payroll jobs in Michigan moved up slightly by 11,000, or 0.3 percent, to 4,396,000. Notable job gains were seen in seasonal industries such as *Leisure and Hospitality* (+5,000), *Construction* (+2,400), and *Government* (+2,300) as the very beginning of spring hiring occurred in a few industries and schools returned to session.

During March, nonfarm jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 metro regions. Metro area job advances ranged from 0.2 to 1.5 percent with the largest percent addition reported in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (+1.5%). Payroll employment fell in the Bay City (-0.6%) and Battle Creek (-0.2%) MSAs, and remained unchanged on a percentage basis in Grand Rapids and Midland.

Over the year, unadjusted nonfarm jobs rose statewide by 21,000, or 0.5 percent. Nine Michigan regions advanced in employment over this period. On a percentage basis, Muskegon led the way with a 1.6 percent job gain. Four areas receded in payroll employment over the year, and the Saginaw area job level remained unchanged.

### ***County Jobless Rates Up Over Month and Down Over Year***

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties reported jobless rate advances in March while three reported rate declines. Over the year, unemployment rates fell in 67 counties, increased in ten, and remained unchanged in six.

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

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

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	196,800	196,400	197,400	0.5%	0.3%
Total Employment	191,100	191,000	191,500	0.3%	0.2%
Unemployment	5,700	5,300	6,000	13.2%	5.3%
Rate (percent)	2.9	2.7	3.0		

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

	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,200	63,500	63,400	-0.2%	0.3%
Total Employment	60,200	60,900	60,600	-0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,000	2,600	2,800	7.7%	-6.7%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.1	4.4		

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

	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,500	50,400	50,200	-0.4%	-0.6%
Total Employment	47,600	47,800	47,500	-0.6%	-0.2%
Unemployment	2,900	2,600	2,700	3.8%	-6.9%
Rate (percent)	5.8	5.1	5.3		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,124	2,146	2,156	0.5%	1.5%
Total Employment	2,030	2,059	2,060	0.0%	1.5%
Unemployment	94	86	96	11.6%	2.1%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.0	4.4		

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

	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,500	183,000	183,900	0.5%	0.8%
Total Employment	172,500	174,100	174,300	0.1%	1.0%
Unemployment	10,000	9,000	9,600	6.7%	-4.0%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.9	5.2		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	580,800	588,400	587,600	-0.1%	1.2%
Total Employment	561,800	571,500	568,900	-0.5%	1.3%
Unemployment	18,900	16,900	18,700	10.7%	-1.1%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.9	3.2		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,000	74,900	75,100	0.3%	0.1%
Total Employment	71,800	72,000	72,000	0.0%	0.3%
Unemployment	3,200	2,900	3,100	6.9%	-3.1%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.9	4.1		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	169,100	170,500	170,500	0.0%	0.8%
Total Employment	162,100	164,400	163,800	-0.4%	1.0%
Unemployment	7,000	6,100	6,700	9.8%	-4.3%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.6	3.9		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	251,300	250,800	250,600	-0.1%	-0.3%
Total Employment	242,100	242,500	241,600	-0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment	9,200	8,300	9,000	8.4%	-2.2%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.3	3.6		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,800	40,400	40,400	0.0%	-1.0%
Total Employment	38,800	38,800	38,700	-0.3%	-0.3%
Unemployment	2,000	1,600	1,800	12.5%	-10.0%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.0	4.3		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,800	76,500	76,500	0.0%	0.9%
Total Employment	72,700	73,300	73,300	0.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,000	3,200	3,100	-3.1%	3.3%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.2	4.1		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,900	78,300	78,300	0.0%	0.5%
Total Employment	73,900	75,000	74,700	-0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	4,000	3,300	3,600	9.1%	-10.0%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.2	4.6		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,500	72,700	73,100	0.6%	-0.5%
Total Employment	69,900	69,500	69,800	0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,600	3,200	3,300	3.1%	-8.3%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.4	4.5		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,300	87,300	87,400	0.1%	0.1%
Total Employment	82,500	82,900	82,800	-0.1%	0.4%
Unemployment	4,800	4,400	4,600	4.5%	-4.2%
Rate (percent)	5.5	5.1	5.3		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	138,000	138,400	137,800	-0.4%	-0.1%
Total Employment	128,200	129,800	128,700	-0.8%	0.4%
Unemployment	9,800	8,600	9,100	5.8%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.2	6.6		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,600	81,300	81,500	0.2%	-0.1%
Total Employment	73,800	74,400	74,400	0.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	7,800	6,900	7,200	4.3%	-7.7%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.4	8.8		

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	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Feb-19</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,300	147,800	147,400	-0.3%	1.4%
Total Employment	136,000	139,500	138,800	-0.5%	2.1%
Unemployment	9,300	8,300	8,600	3.6%	-7.5%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.6	5.8		

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<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,900	4,938	4,948	0.2%	1.0%
Total Employment	4,677	4,736	4,729	-0.1%	1.1%
Unemployment	222	202	220	8.9%	-0.9%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.1	4.4		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - March 2019**

1	Ottawa County	3.0	43	Huron County	5.6
2	Washtenaw County	3.0	44	Houghton County	5.7
3	Kent County	3.1	45	Marquette County	5.7
4	Clinton County	3.3	46	Sanilac County	5.7
5	Eaton County	3.5	47	Alpena County	5.8
6	Kalamazoo County	3.5	48	Gogebic County	5.8
7	Oakland County	3.6	49	Otsego County	5.8
8	Allegan County	3.7	50	Missaukee County	5.9
9	Ingham County	3.7	51	Charlevoix County	6.0
10	Livingston County	3.7	52	Mason County	6.0
11	Barry County	3.8	53	Tuscola County	6.0
12	Ionia County	3.8	54	Delta County	6.1
13	Branch County	4.0	55	Gladwin County	6.4
14	Jackson County	4.1	56	Lapeer County	6.4
15	Monroe County	4.1	57	Antrim County	6.8
16	St. Joseph County	4.1	58	Crawford County	6.8
17	Lenawee County	4.2	59	Iron County	6.8
18	Midland County	4.3	60	Luce County	6.9
19	Calhoun County	4.4	61	Manistee County	6.9
20	Dickinson County	4.4	62	Benzie County	7.0
21	Isabella County	4.4	63	Baraga County	7.5
22	Macomb County	4.4	64	Clare County	7.5
23	Menominee County	4.4	65	Kalkaska County	7.5
24	Berrien County	4.5	66	Lake County	7.6
25	Grand Traverse County	4.5	67	Chippewa County	7.8
26	Hillsdale County	4.5	68	Iosco County	7.8
27	Cass County	4.6	69	Keweenaw County	7.8
28	Muskegon County	4.6	70	Emmet County	7.9
29	Montcalm County	4.7	71	Oscoda County	7.9
30	Newaygo County	4.9	72	Oceana County	8.0
31	Shiawassee County	4.9	73	Alcona County	8.3
32	Osceola County	5.0	74	Ontonagon County	8.4
33	Gratiot County	5.1	75	Arenac County	8.7
34	Wayne County	5.1	76	Ogemaw County	8.7
35	Wexford County	5.1	77	Schoolcraft County	8.7
36	Genesee County	5.2	78	Alger County	9.2
37	Bay County	5.3	79	Roscommon County	9.5
38	Mecosta County	5.3	80	Presque Isle County	10.3
39	Saginaw County	5.3	81	Montmorency County	10.4
40	Van Buren County	5.3	82	Cheboygan County	16.4
41	Leelanau County	5.5	83	Mackinac County	20.2
42	St. Clair County	5.5			