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LANSING

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Michigan regional unemployment rates mostly down in April

LANSING, Mich. – Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 15 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas during April, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Jobless rates in Michigan regions have dropped very sharply since April 2020, which was the peak of COVID-19 pandemic layoffs,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Despite these improvements, jobless rates still remain above April 2019 levels.”

Regional unemployment rate decreases ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 percentage points, with a median rate cut of 0.6 percentage points. Both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions exhibited the largest jobless rate drops of 0.9 percentage points. The Monroe and Lansing metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were the only two major Michigan regions with jobless rate advances over the month, primarily due to auto-related layoffs during April.

Regional unemployment rates fall dramatically since April 2020

April 2020 was the peak month for pandemic-related layoffs in Michigan, so regional unemployment rates in the state were down substantially in all 17 Michigan major labor markets over the past year. Rates plunged by a median 18.2 percentage points over this period. The largest over-the-year jobless rate drop occurred in the Flint MSA (-24.1 percentage points).

Despite these substantial over-the-year rate declines, 15 Michigan regions recorded jobless rate increases since April 2019, with a median advance of 1.6 percentage points. Rate hikes were led by the Muskegon metro area (+3.1 percentage points). The Detroit MSA and the Upper Peninsula were the only two labor market areas with jobless rate reductions since April 2019.

Total employment down over month, up over year

Employment levels receded in 11 Michigan regions over the month, with a median decrease of 0.3 percent. The largest over-the-month decline occurred in the Lansing

MSA (-1.2 percent), reflecting layoffs in the auto sector. Four labor market areas exhibited employment increases over the month, including the Flint, Niles, and Midland MSAs and the Northwest Lower Michigan region. The Jackson metro area and the Northeast Lower Michigan region exhibited no change in employment over the month.

All Michigan major labor markets had sharp employment gains since the lows recorded in April 2020, with a substantial median over-the-year advance of 23.7 percent. The largest increase occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region, with employment rising by 35.9 percent since April 2020.

Despite substantial over-the-year employment increases, April 2021 regional employment levels remained well below April 2019 employment totals in all 17 regions, with a median decrease of 6.2 percent.

Labor force levels down over month, up over year

Regional workforce levels moved down in 15 major Michigan areas in April, with a median decline of 0.7 percent. The largest labor force reduction occurred in the Muskegon metro area (-1.3 percent).

Labor force levels advanced in 13 labor market areas over the year, led by the Ann Arbor region with a gain of 4.6 percent. Workforce levels fell in the Muskegon, Monroe, Jackson, and Battle Creek regions since April 2020.

Payroll jobs advance slightly in April

The monthly survey of employers indicated that not seasonally adjusted Michigan nonfarm jobs inched up by 5,000, or 0.1 percent, to 4,095,000. Minor employment increases were seen in most major statewide sectors. One notable exception was the manufacturing industry, where jobs fell by 11,000 over the month, due to auto layoffs related to a nationwide semiconductor chip shortage.

Payroll employment rose in 9 metro areas in April, but job gains were minor with a median increase of just 0.4 percent. The Midland metro area had the largest over-the-month advance (+1.7 percent) for the second consecutive month. Five regions had payroll job cuts in April, led by the Lansing and Muskegon metro areas with declines of 0.9 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Payroll employment in the state advanced by 718,000 over the year, or 21.3 percent, which reflected the recalls that have occurred since the April 2020 pandemic-related job lows. All 14 metro areas had nonfarm job additions over the year, led by the Flint MSA

(+30.0 percent). Statewide payroll jobs remained 326,000, or 7.4 percent, below April 2019 levels.

County jobless rates down over month and year

Seventy-seven Michigan counties recorded rate reductions in April, led by Mackinac County (-2.1 percentage points). Over the year, all 83 counties exhibited unemployment rate declines. Since April 2019, 66 Michigan counties had jobless rate increases, led by Muskegon County (+3.1 percentage points).

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 not seasonally adjusted April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for April.

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	189,200	190,300	180,800	-1,100	-0.6%	8,400	4.6%
Employed	181,600	182,100	154,000	-500	-0.3%	27,600	17.9%
Unemployed	7,500	8,100	26,800	-600	-7.4%	-19,300	-72.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.3	14.8	-0.3	XXX	-10.8	XXX

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	59,400	60,000	59,700	-600	-1.0%	-300	-0.5%
Employed	55,900	56,200	45,200	-300	-0.5%	10,700	23.7%
Unemployed	3,500	3,800	14,500	-300	-7.9%	-11,000	-75.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.4	24.2	-0.4	XXX	-18.2	XXX

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	47,900	48,200	47,700	-300	-0.6%	200	0.4%
Employed	45,100	45,200	35,800	-100	-0.2%	9,300	26.0%
Unemployed	2,800	3,100	12,000	-300	-9.7%	-9,200	-76.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.4	25.1	-0.6	XXX	-19.3	XXX

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Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, and St. Clair counties)

(Data in Thousands)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	1,992	2,017	1,914	-25	-1.2%	78	4.1%
Employed	1,919	1,926	1,443	-7	-0.4%	476	33.0%
Unemployed	74	91	471	-17	-18.7%	-397	-84.3%
Unemployment Rate	3.7	4.5	24.6	-0.8	XXX	-20.9	XXX

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Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	174,900	175,000	174,400	-100	-0.1%	500	0.3%
Employed	162,900	162,600	120,500	300	0.2%	42,400	35.2%
Unemployed	12,000	12,500	53,900	-500	-4.0%	-41,900	-77.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.1	30.9	-0.3	XXX	-24.1	XXX

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

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	559,200	563,500	544,300	-4,300	-0.8%	14,900	2.7%
Employed	535,600	537,000	430,200	-1,400	-0.3%	105,400	24.5%
Unemployed	23,600	26,500	114,100	-2,900	-10.9%	-90,500	-79.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.7	21.0	-0.5	XXX	-16.8	XXX

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Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,200	71,500	73,000	-300	-0.4%	-1,800	-2.5%
Employed	67,300	67,300	55,700	0	0.0%	11,600	20.8%
Unemployed	3,800	4,200	17,300	-400	-9.5%	-13,500	-78.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.9	23.6	-0.5	XXX	-18.2	XXX

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Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	160,600	161,700	155,600	-1,100	-0.7%	5,000	3.2%
Employed	152,800	153,000	128,100	-200	-0.1%	24,700	19.3%
Unemployed	7,800	8,700	27,500	-900	-10.3%	-19,700	-71.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.4	17.7	-0.6	XXX	-12.9	XXX

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

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	235,100	236,600	232,900	-1,500	-0.6%	2,200	0.9%
Employed	222,200	224,800	188,900	-2,600	-1.2%	33,300	17.6%
Unemployed	12,900	11,900	44,000	1,000	8.4%	-31,100	-70.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.0	18.9	0.5	XXX	-13.4	XXX

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Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,800	38,800	37,700	0	0.0%	1,100	2.9%
Employed	37,100	36,800	30,200	300	0.8%	6,900	22.8%
Unemployed	1,700	2,000	7,500	-300	-15.0%	-5,800	-77.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	5.2	19.8	-0.7	XXX	-15.3	XXX

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Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	71,700	74,000	300	0.4%	-2,000	-2.7%
Employed	67,600	67,700	54,700	-100	-0.1%	12,900	23.6%
Unemployed	4,300	4,000	19,400	300	7.5%	-15,100	-77.8%
Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.6	26.2	0.4	XXX	-20.2	XXX

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Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	73,100	74,100	76,200	-1,000	-1.3%	-3,100	-4.1%
Employed	68,000	68,500	53,700	-500	-0.7%	14,300	26.6%
Unemployed	5,100	5,600	22,500	-500	-8.9%	-17,400	-77.3%
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.5	29.5	-0.5	XXX	-22.5	XXX

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Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,300	70,700	68,600	-400	-0.6%	1,700	2.5%
Employed	66,700	66,500	54,900	200	0.3%	11,800	21.5%
Unemployed	3,700	4,100	13,700	-400	-9.8%	-10,000	-73.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.9	20.0	-0.7	XXX	-14.8	XXX

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Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	82,600	82,900	79,900	-300	-0.4%	2,700	3.4%
Employed	77,200	77,300	58,900	-100	-0.1%	18,300	31.1%
Unemployed	5,400	5,600	20,900	-200	-3.6%	-15,500	-74.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.8	26.2	-0.3	XXX	-19.7	XXX

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Upper Peninsula Labor Market Area (LMA) (15 counties)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	130,400	131,500	125,700	-1,100	-0.8%	4,700	3.7%
Employed	122,800	123,000	99,900	-200	-0.2%	22,900	22.9%
Unemployed	7,600	8,500	25,800	-900	-10.6%	-18,200	-70.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.5	20.6	-0.7	XXX	-14.8	XXX

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Northeast Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	78,600	79,300	77,800	-700	-0.9%	800	1.0%
Employed	72,700	72,700	56,000	0	0.0%	16,700	29.8%
Unemployed	5,900	6,700	21,800	-800	-11.9%	-15,900	-72.9%
Unemployment Rate	7.5	8.4	28.0	-0.9	XXX	-20.5	XXX

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Northwest Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	142,900	143,900	137,800	-1,000	-0.7%	5,100	3.7%
Employed	134,900	134,500	99,300	400	0.3%	35,600	35.9%
Unemployed	8,000	9,400	38,500	-1,400	-14.9%	-30,500	-79.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.5	27.9	-0.9	XXX	-22.3	XXX

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Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,646	4,688	4,530	-42	-0.9%	116	2.6%
Employed	4,433	4,445	3,459	-12	-0.3%	974	28.2%
Unemployed	214	243	1,071	-29	-11.9%	-857	-80.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.2	23.6	-0.6	XXX	-19.0	XXX

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Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - April 2021

1	Livingston County	2.4	43	Van Buren County	5.7
2	Oakland County	2.7	44	Bay County	5.8
3	Macomb County	3.4	45	Eaton County	5.8
4	Lapeer County	3.6	46	Sanilac County	5.8
5	St. Clair County	3.6	47	Mason County	5.9
6	Ottawa County	3.7	48	Mecosta County	5.9
7	Washtenaw County	4.0	49	Tuscola County	5.9
8	Barry County	4.2	50	Calhoun County	6.0
9	Allegan County	4.3	51	Iron County	6.0
10	Cass County	4.3	52	Monroe County	6.0
11	Menominee County	4.3	53	Charlevoix County	6.2
12	Kent County	4.4	54	Crawford County	6.3
13	Branch County	4.5	55	Chippewa County	6.4
14	Midland County	4.5	56	Emmet County	6.4
15	Clinton County	4.6	57	Saginaw County	6.5
16	Ionia County	4.6	58	Gladwin County	6.6
17	Kalamazoo County	4.6	59	Manistee County	6.6
18	St. Joseph County	4.6	60	Alcona County	6.7
19	Dickinson County	4.7	61	Antrim County	6.7
20	Grand Traverse County	4.7	62	Iosco County	6.7
21	Hillsdale County	4.8	63	Genesee County	6.8
22	Isabella County	4.8	64	Kalkaska County	6.8
23	Wayne County	4.8	65	Otsego County	6.8
24	Leelanau County	4.9	66	Keweenaw County	7.0
25	Houghton County	5.0	67	Muskegon County	7.0
26	Marquette County	5.0	68	Oceana County	7.0
27	Huron County	5.1	69	Clare County	7.3
28	Lenawee County	5.1	70	Baraga County	7.4
29	Missaukee County	5.1	71	Ontonagon County	7.4
30	Osceola County	5.1	72	Ogemaw County	7.5
31	Berrien County	5.2	73	Presque Isle County	7.6
32	Montcalm County	5.2	74	Arenac County	7.8
33	Alpena County	5.3	75	Lake County	7.9
34	Gratiot County	5.3	76	Oscoda County	7.9
35	Newaygo County	5.3	77	Schoolcraft County	8.1
36	Jackson County	5.4	78	Alger County	8.3
37	Gogebic County	5.5	79	Luce County	8.5
38	Wexford County	5.5	80	Roscommon County	8.6
39	Delta County	5.6	81	Montmorency County	9.0
40	Ingham County	5.6	82	Cheboygan County	11.5
41	Benzie County	5.7	83	Mackinac County	14.1
42	Shiawassee County	5.7			