



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## Regional jobless rates up seasonally in December

**LANSING, Mich.** -- Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates in December moved up in 16 of Michigan's 17 major labor markets, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Typical trends were seen in Michigan's local labor markets in December," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "While many areas saw jobless rates up seasonally over the month, most areas reported small rate reductions over the year."

During December, unemployment rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.6 percentage points, with a minor median advance of 0.2 percentage points. The largest over-the-month seasonal rate hikes occurred in Michigan's northernmost regions, including the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.6), the Upper Peninsula (+1.4), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+0.9). Michigan's December nonseasonally adjusted jobless rate of 3.5 percent was three-tenths of a percentage point above the November rate of 3.2 percent.

### Annual average unemployment rates inch down over year

Preliminary annual average data indicates that regional jobless rates edged down slightly in 15 of Michigan's 17 major regions (see page 7). Rate declines ranged from 0.1 to 0.4 percentage points, with a median decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point. The largest jobless rate reduction occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Both the Saginaw and Flint metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had no change in the annual jobless rate in 2019.

### Total employment down over month, up over year

From November to December, total employment fell in 16 of Michigan's 17 regions. Reductions ranged from 0.2 to 1.8 percent, with a median decline of 0.8 percent. The largest over-the-month employment cuts occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.8 percent) and the Lansing metro area (-1.4 percent). Detroit was the only metro area to exhibit a slight employment gain over the month, edging up by 0.2 percent.

Over the year, employment advanced in 15 regions, fell in the Bay City metro area (-1.0 percent), and remained unchanged in the Midland region. Over-the-year advances ranged from 0.2 to 2.4 percent, with a median increase of 1.6 percent.

### **Labor force levels down over month, up over year**

Workforce levels fell seasonally over the month in 13 regions, with reductions ranging from 0.1 to 1.2 percent. The largest labor force declines occurred in the Lansing (-1.2 percent) and Monroe (-0.9 percent) MSAs. Workforce levels advanced in the Detroit (+0.6 percent), Upper Peninsula (+0.3 percent), and Northwest Lower Michigan (+0.2 percent) regions and remained unchanged since November in the Saginaw MSA.

Since December 2018, regional workforce levels rose in 11 areas and fell in six. Workforce advances ranged from 0.4 to 1.7 percent, with a median increase of 1.0 percent.

### **December payroll jobs down seasonally**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan fell by 18,000 in December to 4,468,000. Seasonal job cuts were seen in professional and business services (-13,000), construction (-9,000), and government (-5,000). The only over-the-month nonfarm job increase of note occurred in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+8,000).

Nonfarm jobs receded in 10 of Michigan's 14 metro regions in December. Payroll employment edged up slightly in the Detroit MSA and remained unchanged in the Flint, Muskegon, and Saginaw regions. Regional job declines ranged from 0.1 to 1.4 percent.

Over the year, unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 20,000, or 0.5 percent. Six Michigan metro regions registered percentage job gains over this period.

### **County jobless rates up over month, down over year**

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties exhibited seasonal jobless rate increases in December, with a median hike of 0.7 percentage points. St. Joseph County's rate edged down slightly, while Lenawee and Washtenaw counties' jobless rates remained unchanged since November.

Over the year, unemployment rates fell in 78 counties, with a median decrease of 0.6 percentage points. Rates edged up in four counties and remained unchanged in Lapeer County 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 December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for December.

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

	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	195,800	199,200	197,700	-0.8%	1.0%
Total Employment	190,400	194,800	193,400	-0.7%	1.6%
Unemployment	5,400	4,400	4,300	-2.3%	-20.4%
Rate (percent)	2.8	2.2	2.2		

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

	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,000	62,900	62,600	-0.5%	-0.6%
Total Employment	60,400	60,900	60,500	-0.7%	0.2%
Unemployment	2,600	2,000	2,200	10.0%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.2	3.5		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-6574

	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,200	49,800	49,600	-0.4%	-1.2%
Total Employment	47,900	48,000	47,400	-1.3%	-1.0%
Unemployment	2,300	1,800	2,100	16.7%	-8.7%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.7	4.3		

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

	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-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	2,140	2,148	2,161	0.6%	1.0%
Total Employment	2,048	2,076	2,081	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	91	73	80	9.6%	-12.1%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.4	3.7		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,900	184,400	184,200	-0.1%	1.3%
Total Employment	173,400	177,400	176,800	-0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment	8,500	7,000	7,400	5.7%	-12.9%
Rate (percent)	4.7	3.8	4.0		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	578,400	579,900	576,800	-0.5%	-0.3%
Total Employment	561,700	566,400	562,700	-0.7%	0.2%
Unemployment	16,800	13,500	14,100	4.4%	-16.1%
Rate (percent)	2.9	2.3	2.4		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,500	74,500	74,300	-0.3%	-0.3%
Total Employment	71,700	72,300	71,900	-0.6%	0.3%
Unemployment	2,800	2,200	2,400	9.1%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	3.8	3.0	3.2		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo, Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,300	170,500	169,900	-0.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	162,100	165,700	164,700	-0.6%	1.6%
Unemployment	6,200	4,800	5,200	8.3%	-16.1%
Rate (percent)	3.7	2.8	3.0		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	247,800	254,500	251,400	-1.2%	1.5%
Total Employment	239,800	248,100	244,600	-1.4%	2.0%
Unemployment	8,000	6,500	6,800	4.6%	-15.0%
Rate (percent)	3.2	2.5	2.7		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,300	40,400	40,100	-0.7%	-0.5%
Total Employment	38,800	39,100	38,800	-0.8%	0.0%
Unemployment	1,500	1,200	1,300	8.3%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	3.8	3.0	3.3		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,800	76,300	75,600	-0.9%	-0.3%
Total Employment	72,700	74,100	73,300	-1.1%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,100	2,200	2,300	4.5%	-25.8%
Rate (percent)	4.0	2.9	3.1		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,700	79,200	79,000	-0.3%	1.7%
Total Employment	74,300	76,400	76,100	-0.4%	2.4%
Unemployment	3,400	2,800	3,000	7.1%	-11.8%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.6	3.7		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,300	73,800	73,400	-0.5%	1.5%
Total Employment	69,200	71,500	70,800	-1.0%	2.3%
Unemployment	3,200	2,300	2,600	13.0%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.1	3.6		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	86,900	87,400	87,400	0.0%	0.6%
Total Employment	82,900	84,000	83,800	-0.2%	1.1%
Unemployment	4,000	3,400	3,600	5.9%	-10.0%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.9	4.1		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	135,500	136,000	136,400	0.3%	0.7%
Total Employment	127,400	130,300	128,700	-1.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	8,000	5,700	7,700	35.1%	-3.8%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.2	5.6		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-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	80,300	80,800	80,600	-0.2%	0.4%
Total Employment	74,200	76,600	75,200	-1.8%	1.3%
Unemployment	6,100	4,200	5,500	31.0%	-9.8%
Rate (percent)	7.6	5.2	6.8		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,400	147,800	148,100	0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	138,900	142,800	141,700	-0.8%	2.0%
Unemployment	7,500	5,000	6,400	28.0%	-14.7%
Rate (percent)	5.1	3.4	4.3		

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	<u>Dec-18</u>	<u>Nov-19</u>	<u>Dec-19</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,897	4,933	4,933	0.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,695	4,776	4,758	-0.4%	1.3%
Unemployment	201	157	175	11.5%	-12.9%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.2	3.5		

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**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2018 – 2019**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	3.0	2.9
BATTLE CREEK MSA	4.2	4.1
BAY CITY MSA	4.8	4.7
DETROIT - WARREN - DEARBORN MSA	4.3	4.2
FLINT MSA	4.9	4.9
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	3.0	2.9
JACKSON MSA	3.9	3.7
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	3.7	3.5
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	3.5	3.4
MIDLAND MSA	4.0	3.7
MONROE MSA	4.2	3.9
MUSKEGON MSA	4.5	4.2
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	4.3	4.0
SAGINAW MSA	4.8	4.8
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	5.5	5.3
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	6.7	6.3
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	4.7	4.4
MICHIGAN	4.1	4.0

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

1	Washtenaw County	2.2	43	Marquette County	4.3
2	Ottawa County	2.3	44	Mecosta County	4.3
3	Kent County	2.4	45	St. Clair County	4.3
4	Clinton County	2.5	46	Tuscola County	4.4
5	Ingham County	2.7	47	Wayne County	4.4
6	Kalamazoo County	2.7	48	Otsego County	4.5
7	Allegan County	2.8	49	Charlevoix County	4.6
8	Eaton County	2.8	50	Missaukee County	4.6
9	Ionia County	2.8	51	Gogebic County	4.8
10	Barry County	2.9	52	Antrim County	5.0
11	Livingston County	2.9	53	Menominee County	5.0
12	Oakland County	2.9	54	Benzie County	5.1
13	Lenawee County	3.0	55	Mason County	5.1
14	Monroe County	3.1	56	Lapeer County	5.4
15	Grand Traverse County	3.2	57	Manistee County	5.5
16	Jackson County	3.2	58	Gladwin County	5.6
17	Branch County	3.3	59	Iron County	5.6
18	Leelanau County	3.3	60	Emmet County	5.8
19	Midland County	3.3	61	Kalkaska County	5.9
20	St. Joseph County	3.3	62	Crawford County	6.0
21	Calhoun County	3.5	63	Lake County	6.0
22	Hillsdale County	3.5	64	Oceana County	6.0
23	Isabella County	3.5	65	Clare County	6.1
24	Berrien County	3.6	66	Iosco County	6.1
25	Cass County	3.6	67	Delta County	6.2
26	Macomb County	3.6	68	Chippewa County	6.4
27	Montcalm County	3.6	69	Alcona County	6.6
28	Muskegon County	3.7	70	Baraga County	6.8
29	Newaygo County	3.8	71	Luce County	6.8
30	Osceola County	3.8	72	Arenac County	6.9
31	Shiawassee County	3.8	73	Ogemaw County	6.9
32	Gratiot County	3.9	74	Roscommon County	7.3
33	Genesee County	4.0	75	Oscoda County	7.4
34	Huron County	4.0	76	Schoolcraft County	7.5
35	Saginaw County	4.1	77	Ontonagon County	7.6
36	Wexford County	4.1	78	Keweenaw County	7.7
37	Sanilac County	4.2	79	Presque Isle County	8.0
38	Van Buren County	4.2	80	Alger County	8.6
39	Alpena County	4.3	81	Montmorency County	9.5
40	Bay County	4.3	82	Cheboygan County	11.8
41	Dickinson County	4.3	83	Mackinac County	17.0
42	Houghton County	4.3			