



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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LANSING

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Michigan regional unemployment rates advance in December

LANSING, Mich. – Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates increased in all 17 major Michigan labor market areas over the month, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Regional labor markets experienced pandemic-related and seasonal job cuts in December,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Preliminary 2020 annual average jobless rates rose significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Regional jobless rates in the state ranged from 3.6 to 10.1 percent in December. Jobless rate advances over the month varied from 0.2 to 1.7 percentage points, with a median increase of six-tenths of a percentage point. The Northeast Lower Michigan region exhibited the largest unemployment rate gain between November and December.

Annual average unemployment rates up over year

Preliminary annual average data indicates that regional jobless rates rose significantly in all of Michigan’s 17 major regions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (see page 9). Rates jumped by 3.0 to 7.5 percentage points, with a median increase of 4.9 percentage points. The largest 2020 jobless rate hike occurred in the Muskegon metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Total employment declined in December and over the year

Total employment fell in all 17 Michigan regions between November and December. Employment declines ranged from 2.9 to 8.5 percent, with a notable median reduction of 4.1 percent. The largest over-the-month percent employment decrease occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

All 17 Michigan regions exhibited employment reductions over the year, with a large median decrease of 6.8 percent. The Monroe MSA had the largest decline, with employment falling sharply by 9.7 percent since December 2019.

Labor force levels drop across Michigan regions

All 17 Michigan labor market areas registered workforce reductions during December. Decreases ranged from 2.2 to 6.9 percent, with a median drop of 3.4 percent. The largest monthly percent workforce decline was seasonal and occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

Labor force levels dropped markedly in all Michigan regions over the year, reflecting pandemic-related reductions in workforce participation. The Monroe metro area recorded the largest workforce decrease since December 2019 (-8.1 percent).

Regional nonfarm job levels fall significantly in December

The monthly survey of employers showed that not seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs fell sharply in December by 84,000, or 2.1 percent, to 3,981,000, largely due to layoffs in the state's leisure and hospitality sector (-59,000).

Nonfarm jobs declined in all 14 Michigan metro regions over the month. December employment reductions ranged from 1.1 to 3.2 percent, with the largest percentage drops occurring in both the Flint and Bay City MSAs.

Since December 2019, Michigan nonfarm jobs fell substantially by 483,000, or 10.8 percent, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state's labor market. All 14 metro regions recorded payroll job reductions over the year, led by the Monroe metro region (-16.4 percent).

County jobless rates up over month and year

All 83 Michigan counties demonstrated jobless rate hikes in December, led by a seasonal increase in Mackinac County (+5.3 percentage points). Over the year, 66 Michigan counties exhibited jobless rate advances, led by Wayne County (+7.9 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 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."

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	192,200	199,700	200,300	-7,500	-3.8%	-8,100	-4.0%
Employed	185,300	193,000	196,100	-7,700	-4.0%	-10,800	-5.5%
Unemployed	7,000	6,700	4,300	300	4.5%	2,700	62.8%
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.4	2.1	0.2	XXX	1.5	XXX

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	58,600	60,500	62,400	-1,900	-3.1%	-3,800	-6.1%
Employed	55,200	57,300	60,200	-2,100	-3.7%	-5,000	-8.3%
Unemployed	3,400	3,200	2,200	200	6.3%	1,200	54.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.3	3.4	0.5	XXX	2.4	XXX

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	45,600	47,200	49,500	-1,600	-3.4%	-3,900	-7.9%
Employed	43,000	44,900	47,400	-1,900	-4.2%	-4,400	-9.3%
Unemployed	2,600	2,300	2,100	300	13.0%	500	23.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.7	4.8	4.2	0.9	XXX	1.5	XXX

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

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

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

(Data in Thousands)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,158	2,207	2,163	-50	-2.2%	-5	-0.2%
Employed	1,940	2,013	2,082	-73	-3.6%	-142	-6.8%
Unemployed	217	194	81	23	11.9%	136	167.9%
Unemployment Rate	10.1	8.8	3.8	1.3	XXX	6.3	XXX

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

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	171,100	178,000	183,600	-6,900	-3.9%	-12,500	-6.8%
Employed	160,400	168,000	176,300	-7,600	-4.5%	-15,900	-9.0%
Unemployed	10,700	10,000	7,300	700	7.0%	3,400	46.6%
Unemployment Rate	6.2	5.6	4.0	0.6	XXX	2.2	XXX

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

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

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	557,300	573,000	575,900	-15,700	-2.7%	-18,600	-3.2%
Employed	534,000	551,600	561,900	-17,600	-3.2%	-27,900	-5.0%
Unemployed	23,300	21,400	13,900	1,900	8.9%	9,400	67.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	3.7	2.4	0.5	XXX	1.8	XXX

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Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	69,900	72,500	74,000	-2,600	-3.6%	-4,100	-5.5%
Employed	66,200	69,100	71,600	-2,900	-4.2%	-5,400	-7.5%
Unemployed	3,700	3,400	2,400	300	8.8%	1,300	54.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.6	3.2	0.6	XXX	2.0	XXX

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Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	160,500	167,000	168,900	-6,500	-3.9%	-8,400	-5.0%
Employed	153,000	160,100	163,800	-7,100	-4.4%	-10,800	-6.6%
Unemployed	7,500	6,800	5,100	700	10.3%	2,400	47.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.1	3.0	0.6	XXX	1.7	XXX

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

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

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	230,700	239,600	249,700	-8,900	-3.7%	-19,000	-7.6%
Employed	220,600	230,200	243,000	-9,600	-4.2%	-22,400	-9.2%
Unemployed	10,100	9,400	6,700	700	7.4%	3,400	50.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.4	3.9	2.7	0.5	XXX	1.7	XXX

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

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	37,800	39,000	39,800	-1,200	-3.1%	-2,000	-5.0%
Employed	36,100	37,500	38,500	-1,400	-3.7%	-2,400	-6.2%
Unemployed	1,700	1,500	1,300	200	13.3%	400	30.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	3.8	3.3	0.7	XXX	1.2	XXX

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Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	69,100	71,300	75,200	-2,200	-3.1%	-6,100	-8.1%
Employed	65,800	68,300	72,900	-2,500	-3.7%	-7,100	-9.7%
Unemployed	3,200	3,000	2,300	200	6.7%	900	39.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.2	3.0	0.5	XXX	1.7	XXX

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Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,600	74,500	76,900	-1,900	-2.6%	-4,300	-5.6%
Employed	67,700	69,700	74,000	-2,000	-2.9%	-6,300	-8.5%
Unemployed	4,900	4,800	2,900	100	2.1%	2,000	69.0%
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.4	3.8	0.3	XXX	2.9	XXX

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

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	69,400	71,800	72,400	-2,400	-3.3%	-3,000	-4.1%
Employed	65,700	68,500	69,800	-2,800	-4.1%	-4,100	-5.9%
Unemployed	3,700	3,400	2,600	300	8.8%	1,100	42.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	4.7	3.6	0.7	XXX	1.8	XXX

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Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	80,500	83,400	86,700	-2,900	-3.5%	-6,200	-7.2%
Employed	75,700	78,900	83,100	-3,200	-4.1%	-7,400	-8.9%
Unemployed	4,900	4,500	3,500	400	8.9%	1,400	40.0%
Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.4	4.1	0.6	XXX	1.9	XXX

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

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	132,800	137,300	135,700	-4,500	-3.3%	-2,900	-2.1%
Employed	125,900	131,500	128,100	-5,600	-4.3%	-2,200	-1.7%
Unemployed	7,000	5,800	7,600	1,200	20.7%	-600	-7.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	4.3	5.6	1.0	XXX	-0.3	XXX

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

Northeast Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,700	79,100	79,700	-4,400	-5.6%	-5,000	-6.3%
Employed	69,300	74,700	74,300	-5,400	-7.2%	-5,000	-6.7%
Unemployed	5,400	4,300	5,400	1,100	25.6%	0	0.0%
Unemployment Rate	7.2	5.5	6.8	1.7	XXX	0.4	XXX

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

Northwest Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	141,400	151,800	147,000	-10,400	-6.9%	-5,600	-3.8%
Employed	133,100	145,500	140,700	-12,400	-8.5%	-7,600	-5.4%
Unemployed	8,200	6,300	6,300	1,900	30.2%	1,900	30.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	4.2	4.3	1.6	XXX	1.5	XXX

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Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,783	4,933	4,922	-150	-3.0%	-139	-2.8%
Employed	4,436	4,622	4,747	-186	-4.0%	-311	-6.6%
Unemployed	347	311	175	36	11.6%	172	98.3%
Unemployment Rate	7.3	6.3	3.6	1.0	XXX	3.7	XXX

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

**Michigan Major Labor Market Areas
Preliminary Annual Average Unemployment Rates, 2019–2020**

Area	2019	2020
Ann Arbor MSA	2.9	6.5
Battle Creek MSA	4.1	10.1
Bay City MSA	4.7	9.6
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA	4.3	11.0
Flint MSA	4.9	11.3
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA	2.9	7.7
Jackson MSA	3.8	9.4
Kalamazoo-Portage MSA	3.6	7.6
Lansing-East Lansing MSA	3.4	7.6
Midland MSA	3.7	7.7
Monroe MSA	3.9	9.3
Muskegon MSA	4.3	11.8
Niles-Benton Harbor MSA	4.0	8.9
Saginaw MSA	4.8	10.1
Upper Peninsula LMA	5.4	8.4
Northeast Lower Michigan	6.4	11.2
Northwest Lower Michigan	4.4	9.4
Michigan	4.1	9.7

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - December 2020

1	Clinton County	3.6	43	Mecosta County	5.7
2	Washtenaw County	3.6	44	Benzie County	5.8
3	Ottawa County	3.7	45	Calhoun County	5.8
4	Menominee County	3.9	46	Mason County	5.8
5	Ionia County	4.0	47	Alcona County	6.0
6	Barry County	4.2	48	Charlevoix County	6.0
7	Houghton County	4.2	49	Chippewa County	6.0
8	Allegan County	4.3	50	Keweenaw County	6.0
9	Eaton County	4.3	51	Saginaw County	6.0
10	Kent County	4.3	52	Genesee County	6.2
11	Dickinson County	4.4	53	Gladwin County	6.3
12	Cass County	4.5	54	Luce County	6.4
13	Isabella County	4.5	55	Ontonagon County	6.4
14	Kalamazoo County	4.5	56	Crawford County	6.6
15	Midland County	4.5	57	Iosco County	6.6
16	Branch County	4.6	58	Otsego County	6.6
17	Graiot County	4.6	59	Antrim County	6.7
18	Ingham County	4.6	60	Emmet County	6.7
19	Marquette County	4.6	61	Kalkaska County	6.7
20	Hillsdale County	4.7	62	Muskegon County	6.7
21	Huron County	4.7	63	Schoolcraft County	6.7
22	Lenawee County	4.7	64	Oceana County	7.0
23	Monroe County	4.7	65	Baraga County	7.1
24	St. Joseph County	4.7	66	Arenac County	7.2
25	Shiawassee County	4.7	67	Livingston County	7.2
26	Osceola County	4.8	68	Ogemaw County	7.3
27	Gogebic County	5.0	69	Presque Isle County	7.3
28	Missaukee County	5.0	70	Clare County	7.4
29	Montcalm County	5.0	71	Oscoda County	7.4
30	Sanilac County	5.0	72	Alger County	7.6
31	Alpena County	5.1	73	Oakland County	7.9
32	Grand Traverse County	5.1	74	Lake County	8.0
33	Iron County	5.2	75	Manistee County	8.2
34	Jackson County	5.2	76	Roscommon County	8.6
35	Leelanau County	5.2	77	Montmorency County	8.7
36	Newaygo County	5.3	78	Macomb County	9.7
37	Tuscola County	5.3	79	St. Clair County	9.8
38	Berrien County	5.4	80	Lapeer County	10.2
39	Delta County	5.4	81	Cheboygan County	10.5
40	Van Buren County	5.4	82	Wayne County	12.4
41	Wexford County	5.4	83	Mackinac County	12.6
42	Bay County	5.7			