

A man with a red beard and safety glasses is working on a red car. He is wearing a black t-shirt with white speckles and a blue wristband. He is holding a black tool with a yellow and black handle. The background is a red car body.

# MICHIGAN'S LABOR MARKET NEWS

VOL. 79, NO.8  
NOVEMBER 2023

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## **Data Spotlight: Unemployment and Labor Force by Gender and Race, 3rd Quarter 2023**

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## **Map of the Month: Union Membership Rates Across the U.S., 2022**

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## **Ask the Economist: "How Will a Strike Impact Monthly Labor Market Estimates?"**

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# Payroll jobs fell over the month for only the second time in 2023.

SEPTEMBER 2023 JOBLESS RATE

MICHIGAN

3.9%

NATIONAL

3.8%

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*Michigan's Labor Market News* is a product of the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics (MCDA), which enhances and promotes evidence-based decision making across state government through advanced research and analytics.

The Labor Market Information division of the MCDA is the official source for Michigan's employment, occupation, and industry data through a partnership with U.S. Department of Labor.

# MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EDGED UP IN SEPTEMBER

On a seasonally adjusted basis, Michigan's unemployment rate edged up by two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent during September.

The U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent during the month. Michigan's jobless rate was 0.1 percentage points above the U.S. rate. Comparable to trends seen last month, Michigan's unemployment rate was greater than most states. In September, Michigan's jobless rate of 3.9 percent was the 11th highest rate in the nation. Across the U.S., jobless rates ranged from 1.6 percent in Maryland to 5.4 percent in Nevada.

Since September 2022, the national unemployment rate edged up by three-tenths of a percentage point, while the statewide unemployment rate was reduced by four-tenths

of a percentage point. Over the year, Michigan's unemployment rate decrease of 0.4 percentage points was tied with Alabama and South Carolina as the 19th largest drop observed nationally.

Over the month, Michigan's labor force levels rose by 0.5 percent, while the U.S. workforce was little changed, inching up by 0.1 percent. Statewide employment levels increased by 0.3 percent during September, while national employment levels edged up by 0.1 percent. Total unemployment in Michigan increased by 4.9 percent over the month, while total unemployment in the U.S. rose minimally by 0.1 percent.

Over the year, Michigan's labor force rose by 3.2 percent, 1.2 percentage points above the workforce gain seen nationally. Since September 2022, statewide employment

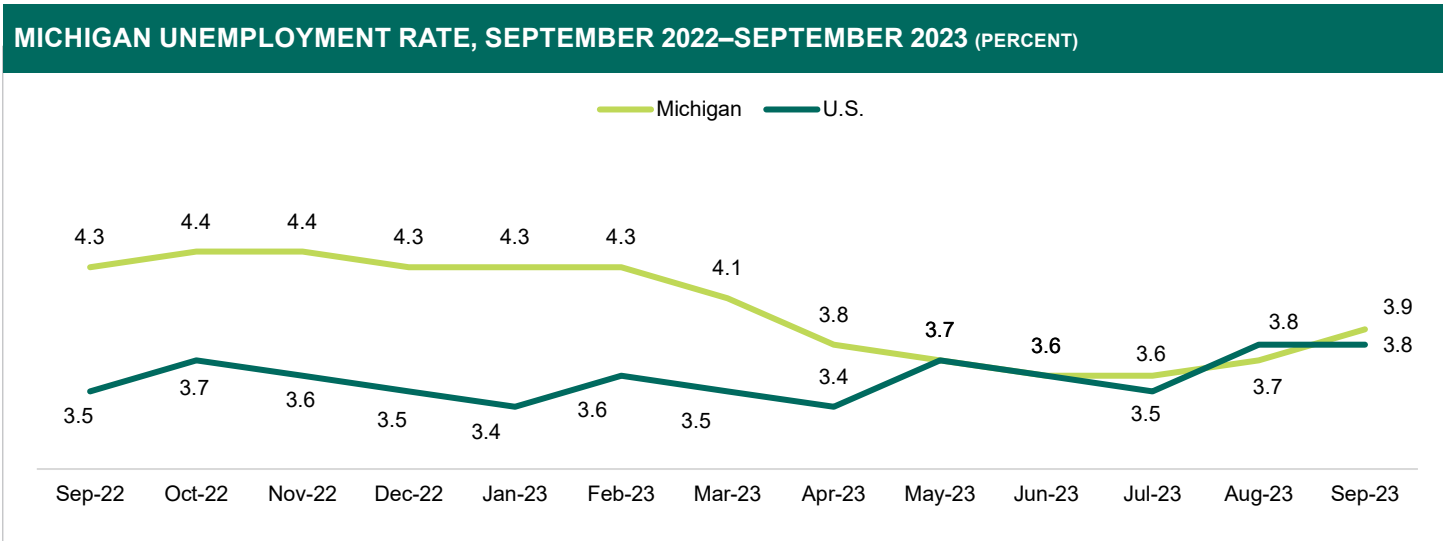
levels rose by 3.7 percent, while nationwide employment levels increased by 1.7 percent. Total unemployment in Michigan receded by 8.6 percent over the year, while total unemployment in the U.S. rose by 10.2 percent.

For more information on state and regional unemployment rates for Michigan, view full [press releases](#) at [Michigan.gov/LMI](#).

**REIMA NASSER**  
Economic Analyst

MICHIGAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES, SEPTEMBER 2023 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	SEP 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2022	OVER THE MONTH		OVER THE YEAR	
				NUMERIC	PERCENT	NUMERIC	PERCENT
Civilian Labor Force	4,990,000	4,967,000	4,836,000	23,000	0.5%	154,000	3.2%
Employed	4,797,000	4,784,000	4,626,000	13,000	0.3%	171,000	3.7%
Unemployed	192,000	183,000	210,000	9,000	4.9%	-18,000	-8.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.7	4.3	0.2	XXX	-0.4	XXX

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget



# MICHIGAN NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS DECLINE FOR ONLY SECOND TIME THIS YEAR

Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Michigan fell during September, edging down by 10,000 or 0.2 percent over the month, to 4,432,800. This is the second month during 2023 that Michigan recorded a job decline at the seasonally adjusted total nonfarm level. Statewide employment remained 16,700 or 0.4 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level. Additionally, Michigan was only one of six states that noted a seasonally adjusted total job decline during September.

On the nationwide level, total nonfarm payroll jobs rose marginally in September, increasing by 0.2 percent over the month. This employment uptick added to the streak of consecutive monthly job additions since December 2020.

Only four of the 11 statewide supersectors recorded seasonally adjusted job additions this month. On a percentage basis, jobs within the *Information* (+0.7 percent) and

*Trade, transportation, and utilities* (+0.3 percent) recorded the largest gain during September. Noteworthy employment declines occurred within several major industries including the *Leisure and hospitality* (-2.0 percent) and *Manufacturing, Private education and health services*, and *Other services* (-0.4 percent) sectors.

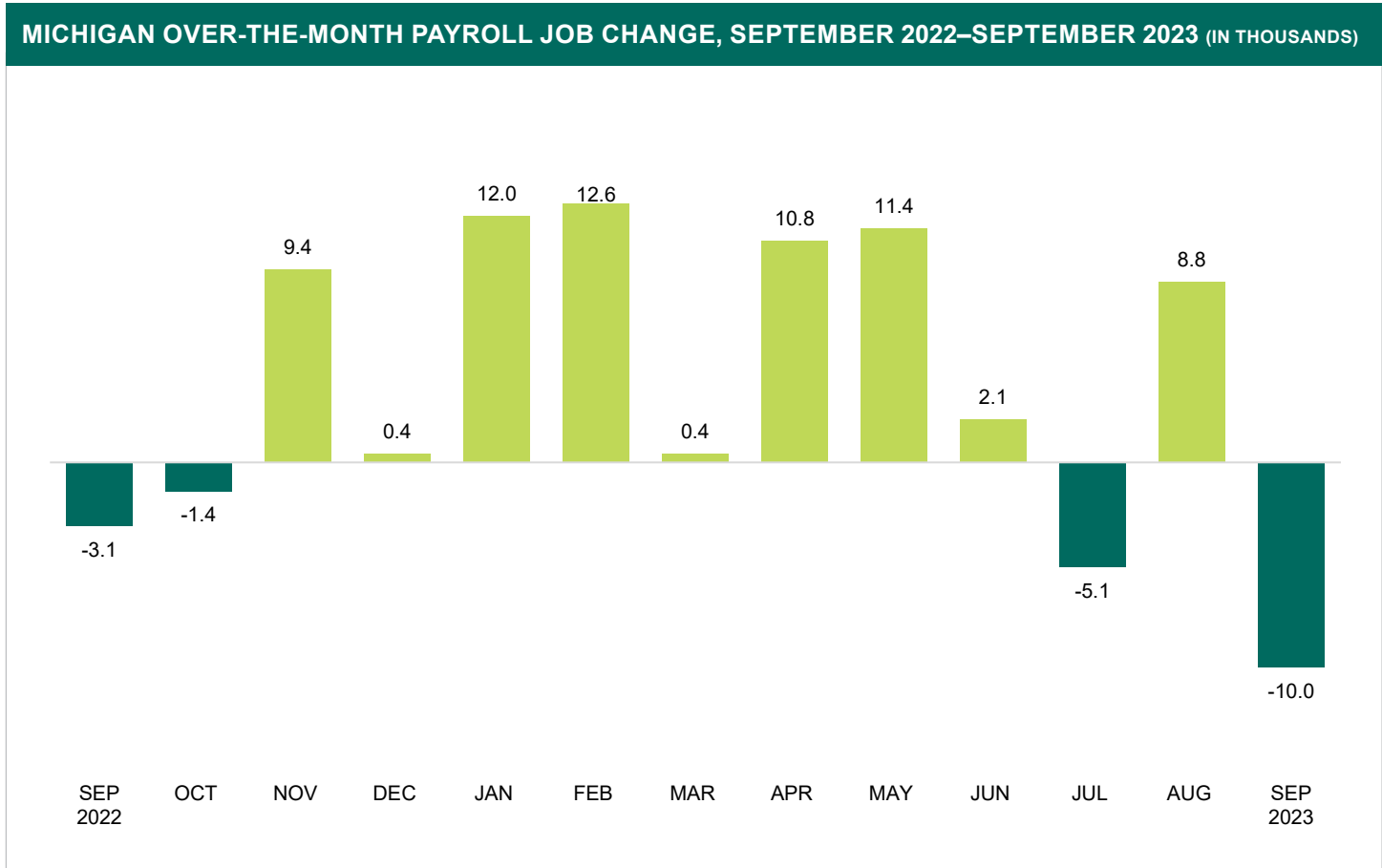
Nationally, seasonally adjusted job gains were recorded in every major industry sector besides *Information*, which declined by 5,000 or 0.2 percent in September.

## Yearly Employment Growth Observed in Majority of Michigan Industry Sectors

Seven of Michigan's 11 major industry sectors recorded seasonally adjusted job growth over the year. Consequently, total nonfarm payroll jobs moved up by only 51,400 or 1.2 percent

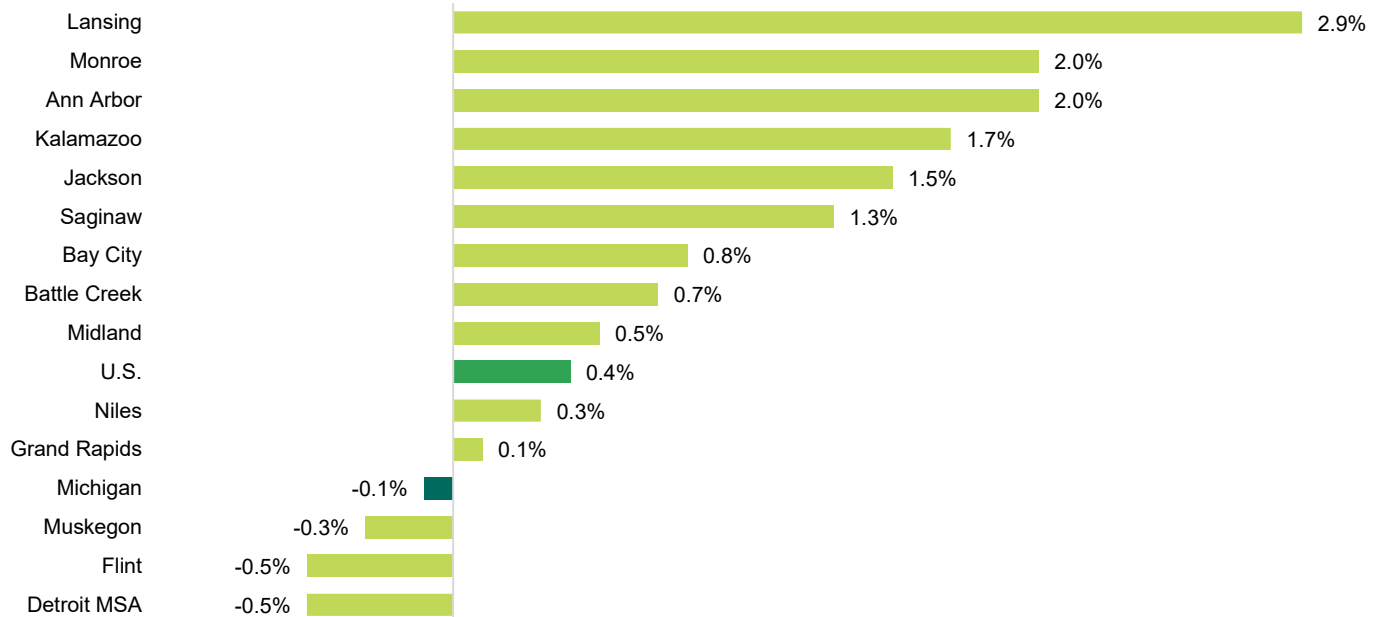
since September 2022. This rate increase was tied with Wisconsin and Virginia for the seventh smallest yearly increase among all states. Notable additions were found within several major sectors including *Government* (+24,000) and *Private education and health services* (+16,400). Other noteworthy increases were recorded within industries such as the *Construction* (+7,200) and *Trade, transportation, and utilities* (+6,400) sectors.

On the nationwide level, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll jobs advanced by 2.1 percent, 0.9 percentage points higher than Michigan, as of September 2022. Nationally, the *Information* (-77,000) sector was the only major industry sector that displayed job declines during this time frame. Numerically, the largest over-the-year job additions occurred within the *Private education and health services* (+1,011,000), *Leisure and hospitality* (+687,000), and *Government* (+625,000) major industry sectors.



Source: Current Employment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget

## MICHIGAN METRO AREA JOB CHANGE, AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2023 (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



Source: Current Employment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget

### Most Michigan Metro Areas Record Job Gains During September

Eleven of Michigan's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) recorded job additions in September, on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Three regions, Muskegon, Flint, and the Detroit MSA all noted job growth below the statewide average (-0.1 percent). Nine of the 11 metro areas that recorded a positive job gain this month had a rate higher than the national average (+0.4 percent).

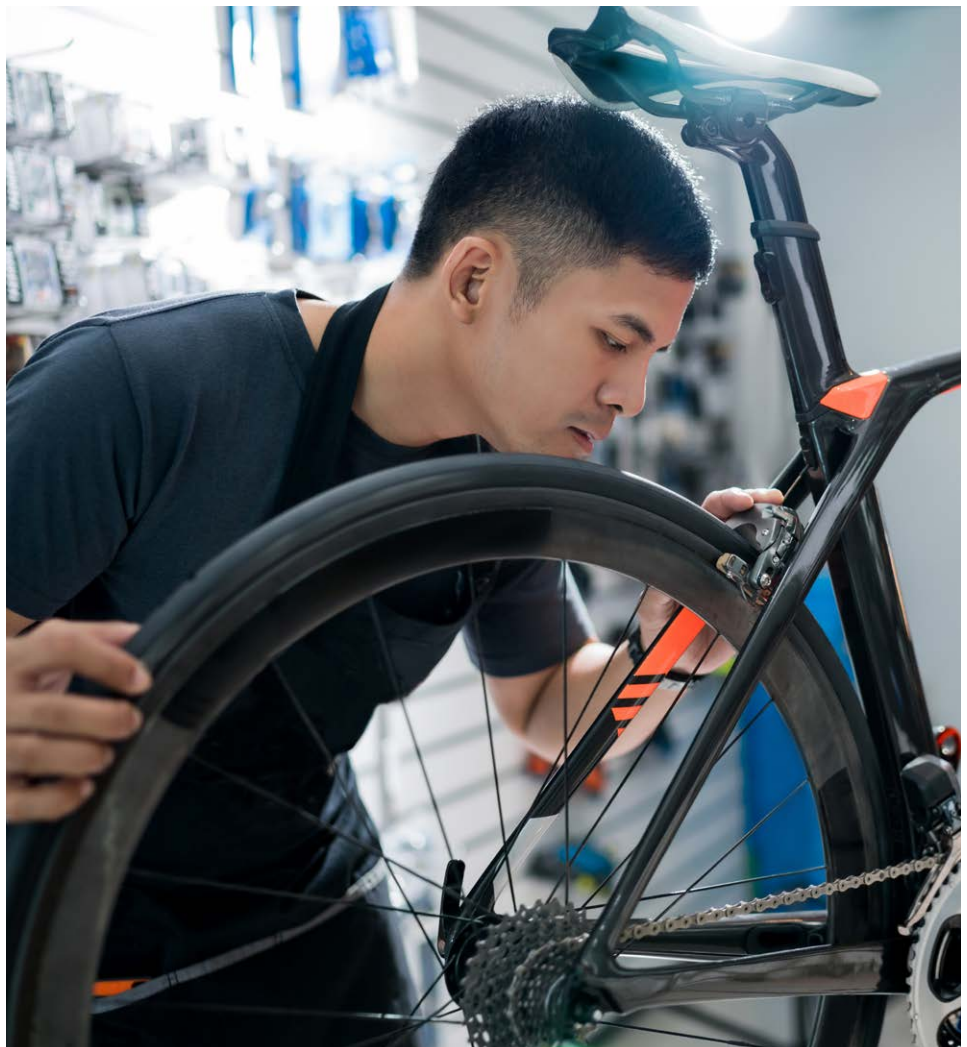
Over the month, jobs within most regional *Mining, logging, and construction; Trade, transportation, and utilities; Leisure and hospitality; and Other services* recorded typical seasonal job declines.

Conversely, employment within *Professional and business services* and *Government* industry sectors in most areas recorded typical seasonal job gains.

Since September 2022, total nonfarm employment across 13 of Michigan's 14 metro areas noted not seasonally adjusted job growth, led by Ann Arbor (+4.3 percent), Lansing (+2.5 percent), and Midland (+2.4 percent). Battle Creek saw no change in employment over the year.

**JIM BIRNEY**

Economic Analyst





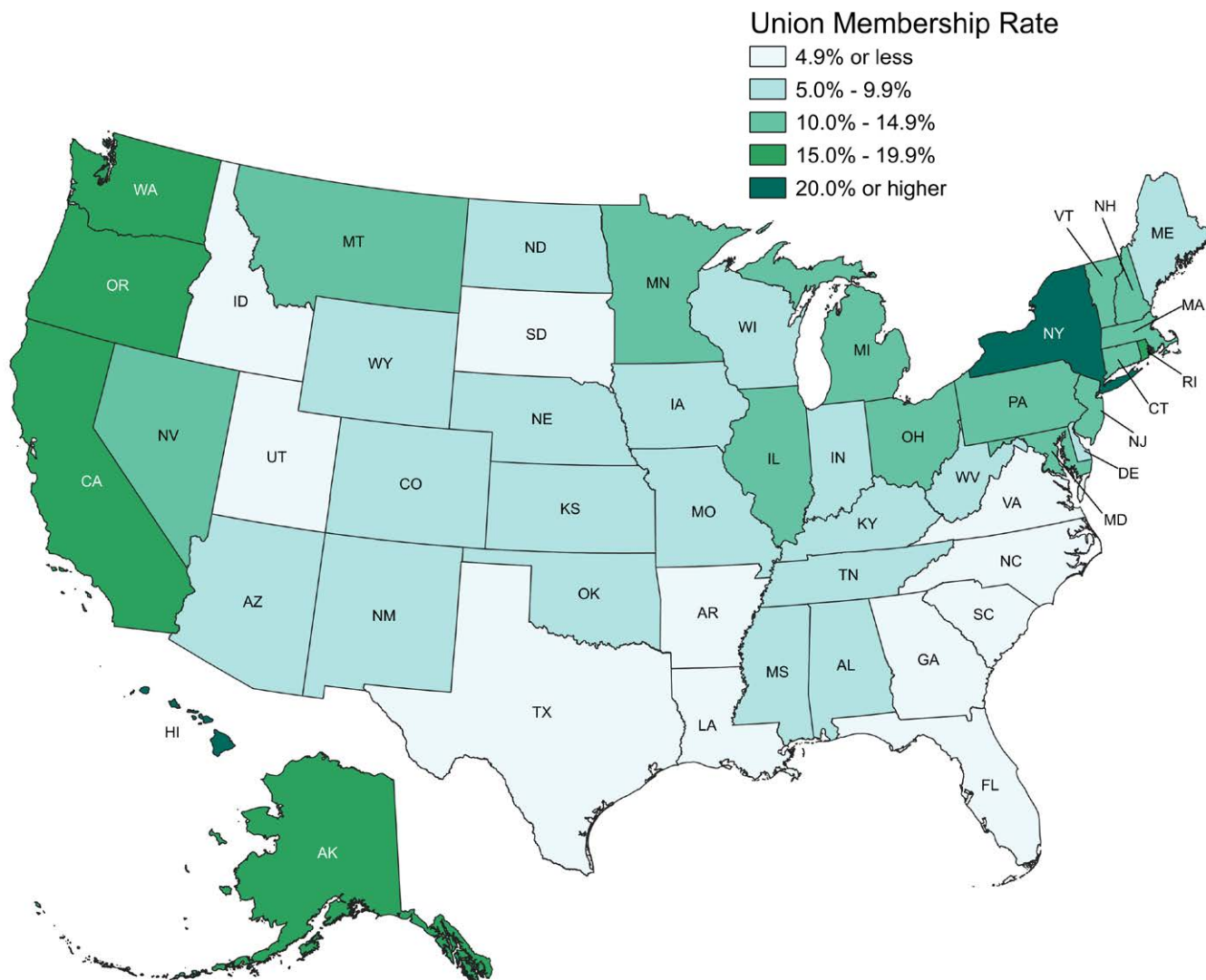
MICHIGAN PAYROLL JOBS (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
INDUSTRY	SEP 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2022	OVER THE MONTH		OVER THE YEAR	
				LEVEL	PERCENT	LEVEL	PERCENT
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>4,432,800</b>	<b>4,442,800</b>	<b>4,381,400</b>	<b>-10,000</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>51,400</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Total Private	3,816,600	3,827,700	3,789,200	11,100	0.3%	38,500	1.0%
Private Service-Providing	3,011,700	3,020,500	2,991,600	-8,800	-0.3%	20,100	0.7%
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>804,900</b>	<b>807,200</b>	<b>797,600</b>	<b>-2,300</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	199,800	199,900	192,200	-100	-0.1%	7,600	4.0%
Mining and Logging	7,600	7,600	7,200	0	0.0%	400	5.6%
Construction	192,200	192,300	185,000	-100	-0.1%	7,200	3.9%
Manufacturing	605,100	607,300	605,400	-2,200	-0.4%	-300	0.0%
Durable Goods	451,700	455,600	452,600	-3,900	-0.9%	-900	-0.2%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	186,800	186,400	185,600	400	0.2%	1,200	0.6%
Non-Durable Goods	153,400	151,700	152,800	1,700	1.1%	600	0.4%
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>3,627,900</b>	<b>3,635,600</b>	<b>3,583,800</b>	<b>-7,700</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	815,000	812,500	808,600	2,500	0.3%	6,400	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	180,800	181,000	173,500	-200	-0.1%	7,300	4.2%
Retail Trade	457,800	456,200	456,100	1,600	0.4%	1,700	0.4%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	176,400	175,300	179,000	1,100	0.6%	-2,600	-1.5%
Information	56,900	56,500	57,000	400	0.7%	-100	-0.2%
Financial Activities	228,700	228,500	232,100	200	0.1%	-3,400	-1.5%
Finance and Insurance	171,300	171,000	175,000	300	0.2%	-3,700	-2.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	57,400	57,500	57,100	-100	-0.2%	300	0.5%
Professional and Business Services	661,100	661,700	659,400	-600	-0.1%	1,700	0.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	318,800	320,200	314,500	-1,400	-0.4%	4,300	1.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	69,700	70,000	70,800	-300	-0.4%	-1,100	-1.6%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	272,600	271,500	274,100	1,100	0.4%	-1,500	-0.5%
Education and Health Services	680,200	682,600	663,800	-2,400	-0.4%	16,400	2.5%
Educational Services	76,300	76,200	74,000	100	0.1%	2,300	3.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	603,900	606,400	589,800	-2,500	-0.4%	14,100	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	408,900	417,200	405,600	-8,300	-2.0%	3,300	0.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	55,400	59,600	52,100	-4,200	-7.0%	3,300	6.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	353,500	357,600	353,500	-4,100	-1.1%	0	0.0%
Other Services	160,900	161,500	165,100	-600	-0.4%	-4,200	-2.5%
Government	616,200	615,100	592,200	1,100	0.2%	24,000	4.1%
Federal Government	56,800	56,700	54,200	100	0.2%	2,600	4.8%
State Government	183,700	184,000	177,400	-300	-0.2%	6,300	3.6%
Local Government	375,700	374,400	360,600	1,300	0.3%	15,100	4.2%

Source: Current Employment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget



## MAP OF THE MONTH:

# UNION MEMBERSHIP RATES ACROSS THE U.S., 2022



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

This issue's Map of the Month looks at union membership across the U.S. in 2022. Historically, union membership rates in Michigan have been above the U.S. average. Back in 1989, the first year comparable state data is available, Michigan had its peak union membership rate of 26.0 percent, then trended downward until hitting a low point in 2021.

Union membership in Michigan fell to 13.3 percent of jobs in 2021 before rebounding last year. On average, there were 589,000 union members in Michigan in 2022, making up 14 percent of payroll employment. This was 49,000

members greater than in 2021, when union membership hit an all-time low. Nationally, union membership in 2022 accounted for 10.1 percent of wage and salary workers.

Among the states, Michigan's 14 percent union membership in 2022 ranked 11th highest. Ten years prior in 2012, Michigan's percentage of union workers ranked 7th highest at 16.6 percent. The states with the highest percentage of union workers in 2022 were Hawaii (21.9), New York (20.7), and Washington (18.0). The lowest state rankings for percentage of union membership were

South Dakota (3.1), North Carolina (2.8), and South Carolina (1.7).

Updated state data on union membership for 2023 should be available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in February 2024.

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Economic Analyst

**WAYNE ROURKE**  
Labor Market Information Director

## DATA SPOTLIGHT:

# UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY GENDER AND RACE, 3RD QUARTER 2023

Reviewing recent trends in the labor market among demographic populations can highlight disparities among these groups. Demographic data are published for states as an annual average by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics once a year. The Michigan Center for Data and Analytics can produce a 12-month moving average of these metrics periodically for analysis throughout the year.

The demographic data provided here is not included in the monthly employment situation press release and should not be directly compared to information in the release. This data comes from the Current Population Survey, which is a different source than the standard monthly labor market information containing Michigan's official unemployment rate, labor force, and payroll jobs. Additionally, while the press release presents information for the most recent single month of data, the demographic information presented here is a 12-month moving average for Michigan and the U.S.

### Unemployment Rate by Race

The unemployment rate for both white and Black workers has sharply declined in the past two years. The 12-month average white unemployment rate saw less change since September 2021, dropping by 1.9 percentage points to 3.5 percent, similar to levels seen in 2019. The 12-month average unemployment rate for Black workers has dropped substantially in that time frame, falling

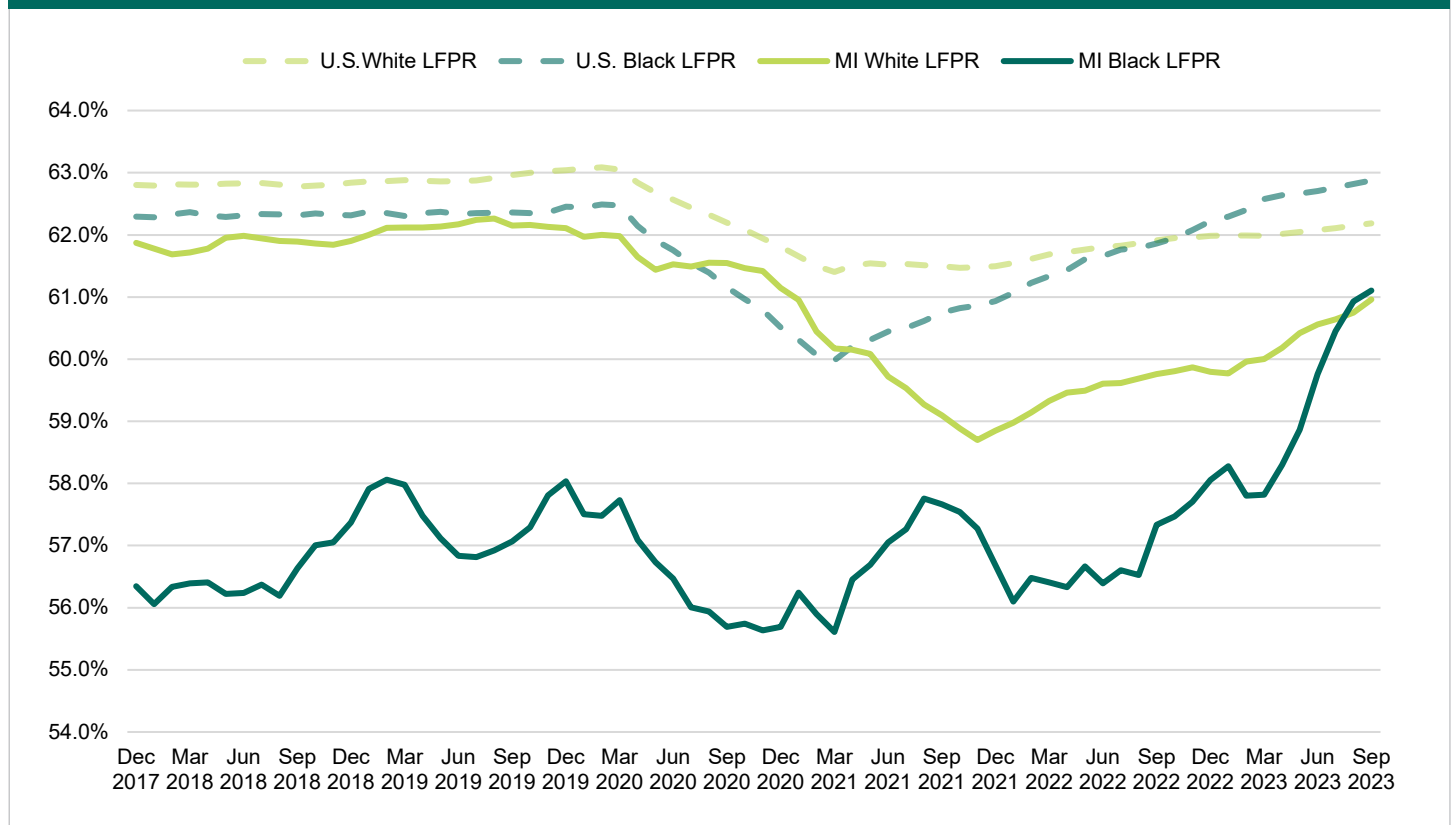
by 6.8 percentage points to 5.7 percent in September 2023, near record lows. This was lower than in 2018 and 2019 when the average unemployment rate for Black individuals was 6.4 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively.

### Labor Force Participation Among Black Workers

There were over 650,000 Black individuals in the labor market on average in the past 12

months, the highest level for this group in at least 24 years. The 12-month average labor force participation rate among Black workers is also surging, and recently passed the 12-month average participation rate for white workers. This trend is similar to what is happening nationwide where the annual average participation rate for Black individuals crossed the rate for white individuals in late 2022.

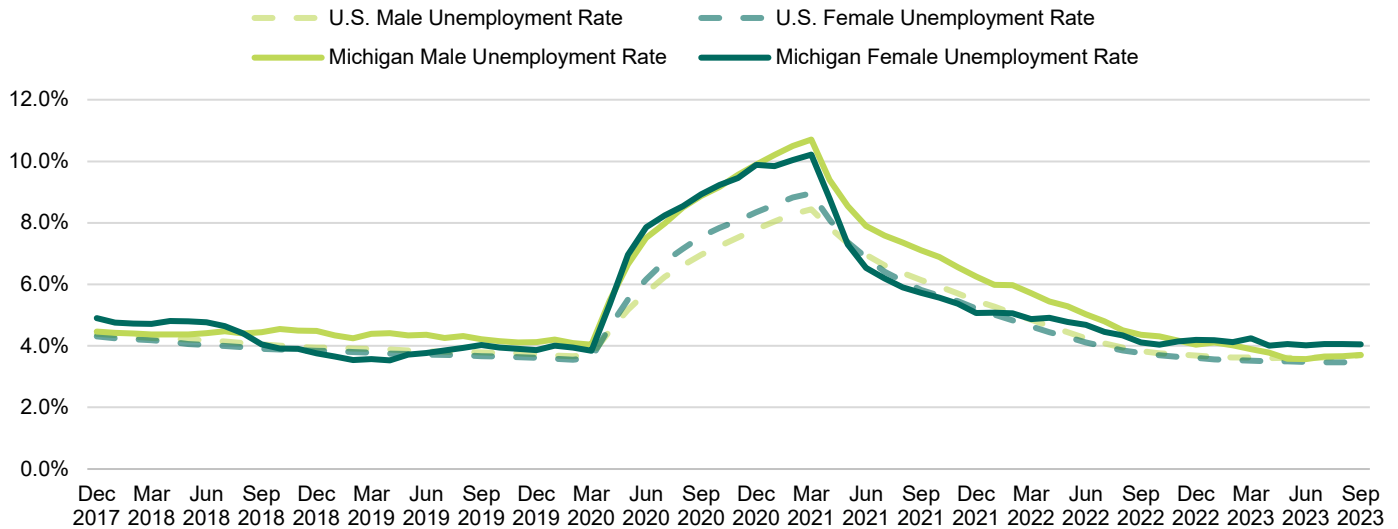
## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY RACE IN MICHIGAN AND U.S. (12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE)



Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY GENDER, MICHIGAN AND U.S. (12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE)



Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Unemployment Rate by Gender

The 12-month average unemployment rate for men has declined slightly more than women in the past year, however both of these rates have remained stable in the third quarter of 2023. In the U.S., the 12-month average unemployment rate for men was 3.7 percent in September, matching the male rate in Michigan. The 12-month average rate for women in the U.S. was 3.5 percent, slightly less than the female rate in Michigan.

### Labor Force Participation by Gender

The number of both men and women in the labor force continues to rise. Since the end of the second quarter 2023, the 12-month average labor force for men and women grew by 28,000 and 26,000 respectively. Both genders have also experienced a rise in their labor force participation rate in the third quarter, each by about 0.6 percentage points. On a 12-month average basis, Michigan's

male participation rate was 66.5 percent in September, while the female rate was 56.3. These rates were slightly lower than the U.S. 12-month average participation rates for men (68.1) and women (57.2).

#### WAYNE ROURKE

Labor Market Information Director

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY GENDER AND RACE, 3RD QUARTER 2023 (12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE)

	WHITE		BLACK		MALE		FEMALE	
	SEP 23	SEP 22	SEP 23	SEP 22	SEP 23	SEP 22	SEP 23	SEP 22
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	5.7	8.1	3.7	4.4	4.0	4.1
Labor Force Participation Rate	61.0	59.8	61.1	57.3	66.5	65.2	56.3	54.6

Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING IN THE MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST AREA

*The Michigan Works! Association is an important resource for job seekers across the state and a key partner of the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics. There are 16 Michigan Works! regions, each with unique local economies. This article is part of a recurring monthly section featuring labor market updates on a rotating selection of Michigan Works! areas.*

**Counties: Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Washtenaw**

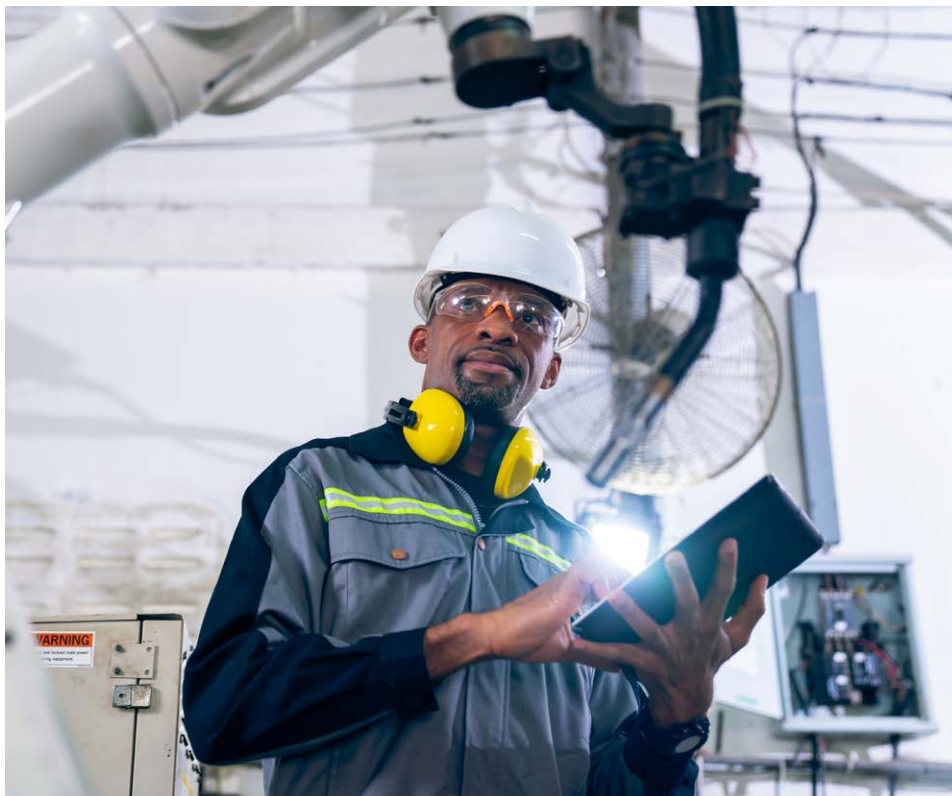
There has been a spotlight on Michigan's automotive industry in recent months coinciding with the United Auto Workers strike that concluded in late October. The industry has and continues to be a crucial part of Michigan's economy. This article examines trends in the *Transportation equipment manufacturing* industry sector in the Michigan Works! Southeast area, which saw a strike at the Ypsilanti Processing Center in Washtenaw County.

In the first quarter of 2017, the share of statewide employment in *Transportation equipment manufacturing* in the Michigan Works! Southeast area measured 7.5 percent, employing 14,100. This share has fluctuated around 7 percent since the first quarter of 2019 and sat at 7.1 percent in the first quarter of 2023.

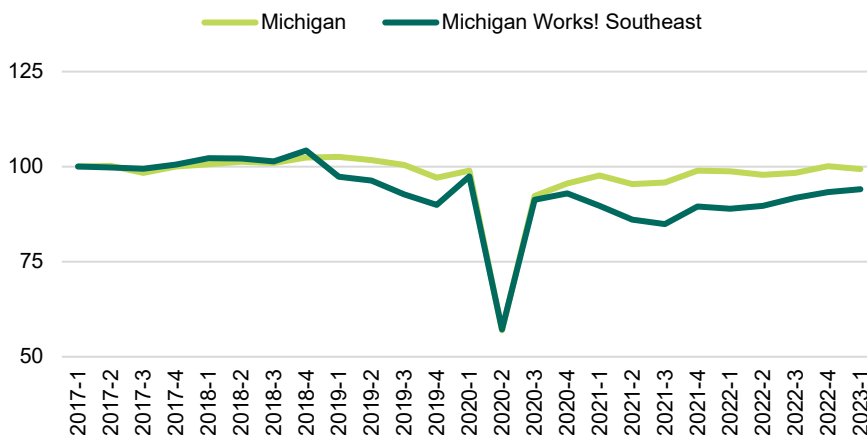
The pandemic hit the industry nearly equally as hard in both Michigan and the Michigan Works! Southeast region. The second quarter of 2020 saw a 41 percent decrease in *Transportation equipment manufacturing* employment in the area. Recovery in the industry has not been even, however. As of first quarter 2023, employment in the sector statewide has increased 0.4 percent from what was observed pre-pandemic. In the Michigan Works! Southeast region, employment is 3.5 percent less than what was recorded pre-pandemic.

*If you are interested in a customized analysis for a particular Michigan region, please submit a request through [the contact page on the Michigan labor market information website](#).*

**NICK GANDHI**  
Economic Analyst



## QUARTERLY INDEX OF TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT (INDEX: FIRST QUARTER 2017)



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics



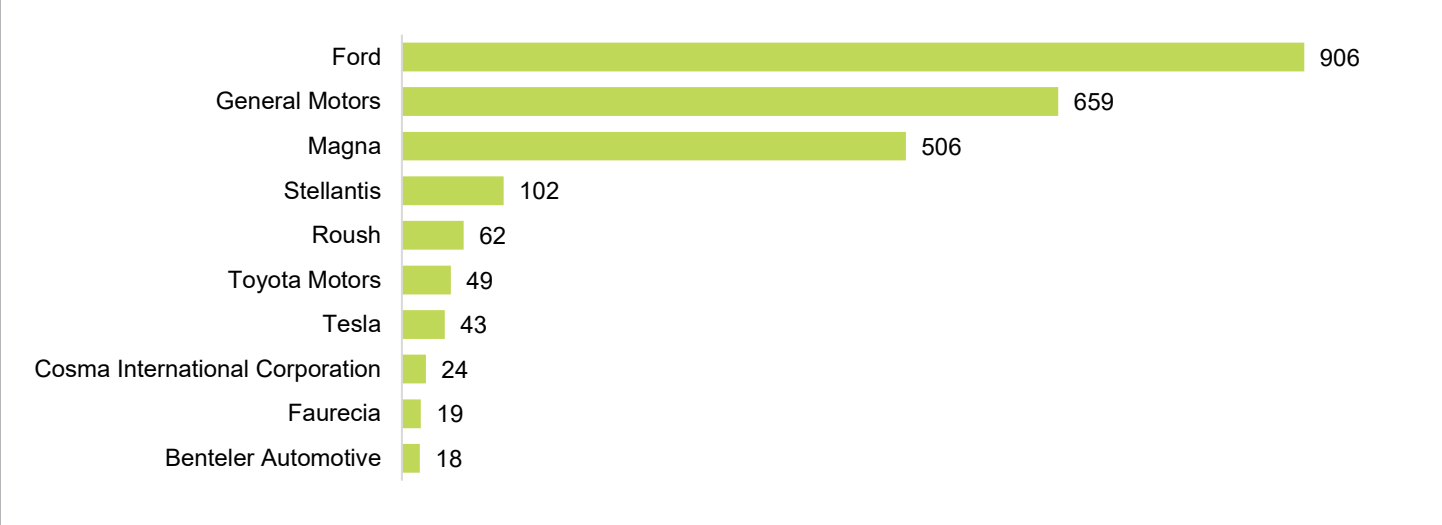
# ONLINE JOB ADVERTISEMENTS DROP IN SEPTEMBER

There were just over 73,330 newly posted job advertisements in September 2023. This was a 6.2 percent decline in ads over the month (-4,810 ads) and a 10.1 percent drop over the year (-8,230 ads). A majority (68.8 percent) of Michigan's job advertisements were posted for positions within the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Grand Rapids-Kentwood, and Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

Not all advertisements specify an educational requirement, but the ones that do provide insight to what is needed across the state. Of the job ads that list a minimum educational attainment requirement, high school diploma or GED was in highest demand at 50.8 percent. The next most requested education level was a bachelor's degree with 34.8 percent. Significantly fewer advertisements required associate degrees or master's degrees and higher with only 9.6 and 4.8 percent respectively.

The companies with the greatest number of newly posted advertisements were Corewell Health (1,560 ads); Henry Ford Health Corporation (1,070 ads); and Trinity Health (740 ads). Similar to August 2023, Corewell Health and Trinity Health have remained in the top three companies with the most new advertisements, and currently represent 3.2 percent of all newly posted job ads for September.

## TOP 10 EMPLOYERS IN AUTOMOBILE AND LIGHT DUTY MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURING BY TOTAL AVAILABLE ONLINE JOB ADS, SEPTEMBER 2023



Source: Lightcast Developer, Help Wanted OnLine

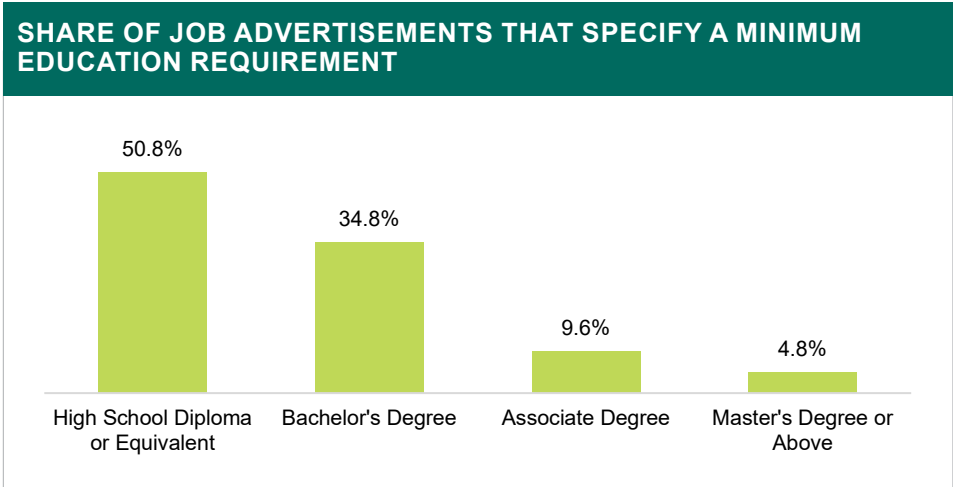




### Industry Spotlight: Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing

Firms categorized in the *Automobile and light duty motor vehicle manufacturing* industry had just under 2,460 total available advertisements with 760 ads newly posted in September. The occupations within this industry that drew the most advertisements were, *Software developers* (60 ads), *Industrial engineers* (40 ads), and *Automotive service technicians and mechanics* (30 ads). The majority of advertisements for this industry were posted by Ford, General Motors, and Magna.

Of the online advertisements with a minimum education listed within this industry, most (72.8 percent) requested at least a bachelor's degree. This was followed by high school diploma or GED (17.6 percent), master's degree and above (6.1 percent), and lastly, associate degree (3.6 percent). The top three occupations within this industry that requested a bachelor's degree were, *Software developers*, *Industrial engineers*, and *Electrical engineers*. As for occupations that require a high school diploma, *Automotive service technicians and mechanics*; *Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers*; and *Stockers and order fillers* received the highest quantity of job postings.



Source: Lightcast Developer, Help Wanted OnLine

In addition to education requirements, many of the advertisements request skills and certifications to be successful in the position. Within this industry, the most requested skills fall into three categories: common, specialized, and software skills. A common skill can be defined as a skill that is nonspecialized and can be applicable to a variety of occupations. The top common skills were communications, problem solving, and leadership. A specialized skill refers to occupation-specific skills and might require more training than

common skills. The most requested specialized skills were computer science, new product development, and project management. Lastly, software skills include the knowledge of specific computer programs and/or applications. The top software skills were Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Office, and Microsoft PowerPoint.

**AMELIA ARNOLD**  
Student Assistant



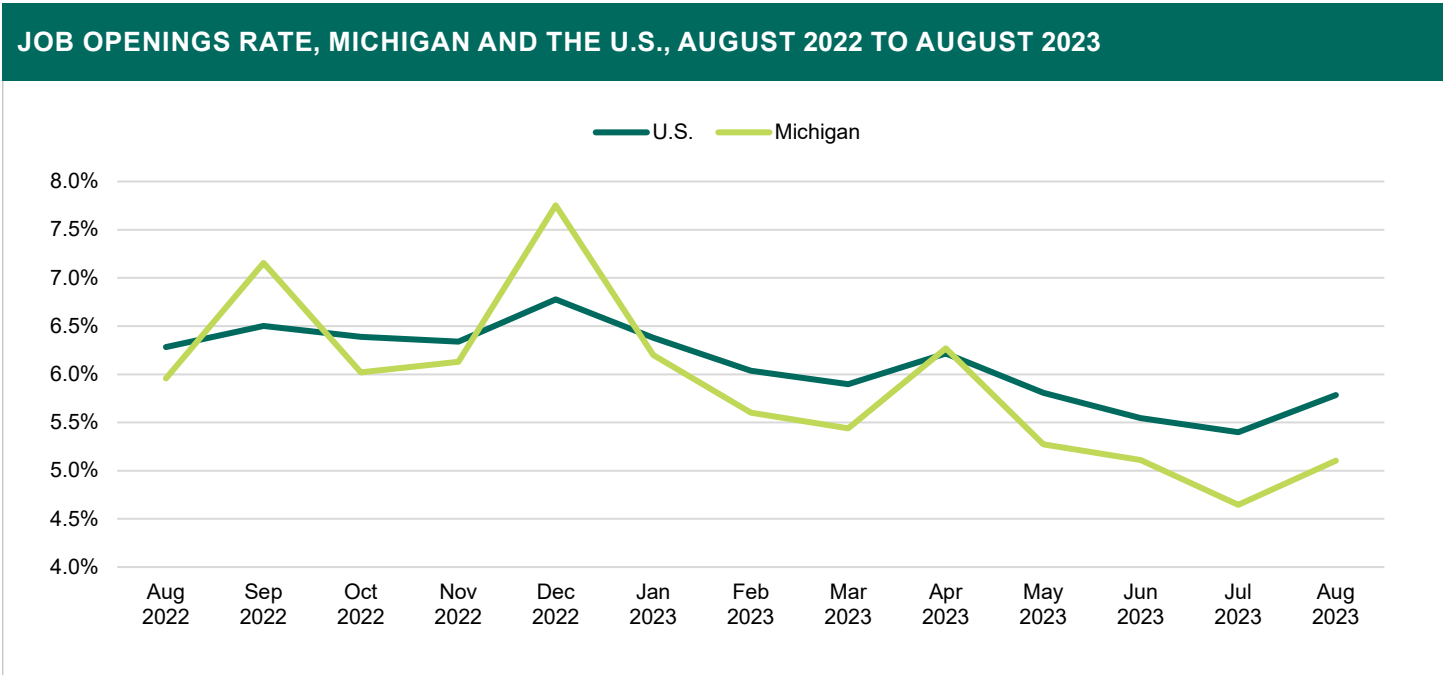
# HIRES RATE DROPS TO NEAR FOUR-YEAR LOW

Michigan's job openings rate (5.1 percent) saw a half percentage point jump in the latest release of the state Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS). The separations rate also increased over the month (3.6 percent). Conversely, the hires rate (3.4 percent) and labor turnover rate (7.0 percent) were down in August. Both the quits rate (2.1 percent) and layoffs/discharges rate (1.2 percent) remained the same.

## Job Openings Grew

Job openings increased by approximately 23,000 openings from the month prior, moving from 216,000 in July to 239,000 in August. This was reflected in a 0.5 percentage point increase in Michigan's job openings rate to 5.1 percent. Despite this jump, Michigan remained one of the states with the lowest rate of openings at 5th, which was (and still remained) below the national rate at the time (5.8 percent).

The unemployed persons to job openings ratio dropped from 0.82 to 0.77 in August. This meant that there were around 7 unemployed persons for every 10 job openings. Michigan had the 10th highest ratio of unemployed persons to job openings for the second month in a row and was above the national ratio for the same period (0.66).



Source: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Separations Increased Marginally

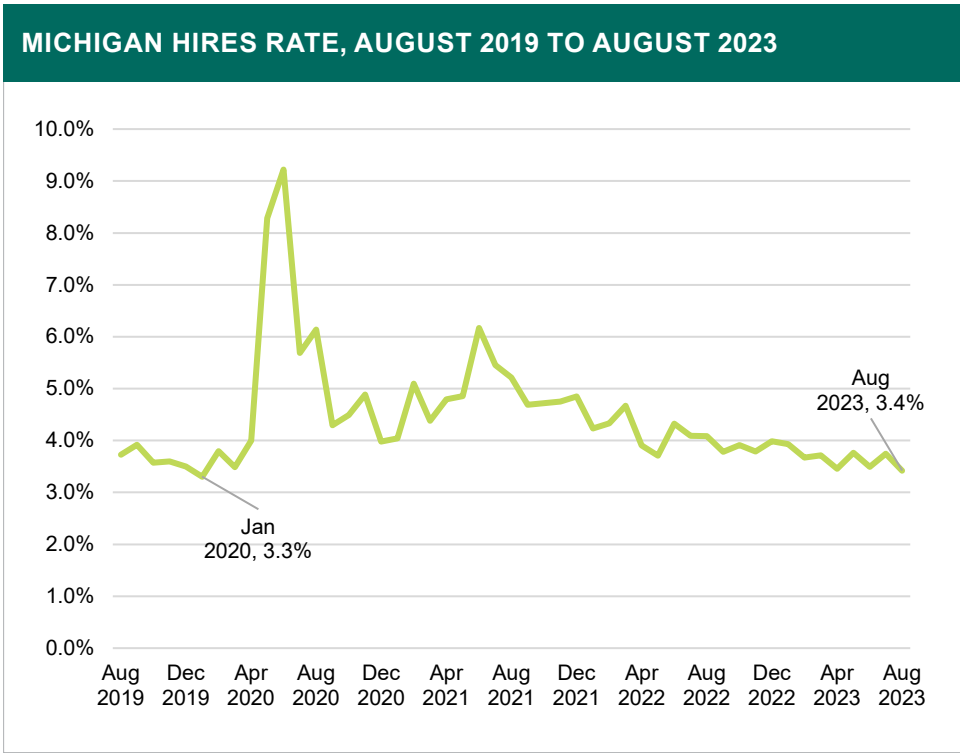
The separations rate experienced a small increase from July to August, moving 0.2 percentage points to 3.6 percent. Numerically, 6,000 more individuals separated from their jobs than in the previous month (158,000). Michigan's separations rate was equal to the national rate at the time and had the 12th highest rate of all other states.

Both the quits rate and the layoffs/discharges rate were stagnant, measuring 2.1 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively. While Michigan's quits rate was below the national average at the time (2.3 percent), layoffs/discharges was slightly above the national rate (1.1 percent).

Michigan Hires Rate Hits Near Four-Year Low

The hires rate for Michigan dropped by 0.3 percentage points to 3.4 percent in August. Michigan had the 9th lowest rate compared to all other states and was below the national rate (3.7 percent). Notably, this was the lowest the hires rate has been since January 2020 (3.3 percent). After peaking in the wake of mass COVID-19 layoffs and subsequent hires at 9.2 percent in June 2020, hires have been on a downward trend. Over the past year, the decline in hires has begun to slow down as Michigan's rates begin to stabilize back to pre-2020 values.

KRYSTAL JONES  
Economic Analyst



Source: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics





# RELEVANT RANKINGS

UNION MEMBERSHIP NATIONALLY BY INDUSTRY, 2022				
RANK	INDUSTRY	TOTAL EMPLOYED (IN THOUSANDS)	TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP (IN THOUSANDS)	PERCENT OF EMPLOYED
1	Public Sector	21,318	7,062	33.1%
2	Utilities	968	190	19.6%
3	Transportation and Warehousing	6,596	958	14.5%
4	Educational Services	4,897	606	12.4%
5	Construction	8,671	1,019	11.7%
6	Information	2,361	198	8.4%
7	Manufacturing	14,577	1,139	7.8%
8	Health Care and Social Assistance	18,747	1,235	6.6%
9	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	556	36	6.5%
10	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,281	144	6.3%
11	Retail Trade	14,988	648	4.3%
12	Management, Administrative, and Waste Services	5,390	230	4.3%
13	Agriculture and Related Industries	1,252	48	3.9%
14	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,219	80	3.6%
15	Wholesale Trade	2,879	94	3.3%
16	Other Services, Except Public Administration	5,932	168	2.8%
17	Accommodation and Food Services	9,745	198	2.0%
18	Finance and Insurance	7,117	90	1.3%
19	Professional and Technical Services	11,182	143	1.3%

Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## UNION MEMBERSHIP NATIONALLY BY OCCUPATION, 2022

RANK	OCCUPATION	TOTAL EMPLOYED (IN THOUSANDS)	TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP (IN THOUSANDS)	PERCENT OF EMPLOYED
1	Protective Service	3,071	1,062	34.6%
2	Education, Training, and Library	8,976	3,027	33.7%
3	Construction and Extraction	6,831	1,120	16.4%
4	Community and Social Service	2,749	436	15.9%
5	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	4,439	577	13.0%
6	Transportation and Material Moving	10,844	1,412	13.0%
7	Production Occupations	7,898	903	11.4%
8	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	9,381	1,058	11.3%
9	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,595	438	9.5%
10	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,679	152	9.1%
11	Office and Administrative Support	15,621	1,313	8.4%
12	Healthcare Support	4,777	395	8.3%
13	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,352	187	8.0%
14	Architecture and Engineering	3,335	200	6.0%
15	Legal	1,547	80	5.1%
16	Personal Care and Service	2,776	118	4.3%
17	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	910	39	4.3%
18	Business and Financial Operations	8,319	329	4.0%
19	Management	15,693	603	3.8%
20	Food Preparation and Serving Related	7,749	279	3.6%
21	Computer and Mathematical	5,948	195	3.3%
22	Sales and Related	12,183	361	3.0%

Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



# ASK THE ECONOMIST

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“How will a strike impact  
monthly labor market  
estimates?”



**It is important for individuals to understand how a strike may affect the monthly estimation of Michigan's labor market. To provide some insight, there are two programs within the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics that produce monthly estimates of Michigan's labor market: The first is the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, and the second is the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.**

### **How will a strike affect the unemployment rate?**

The LAUS program provides a monthly estimate of civilian labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rates for census regions and divisions, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and cities. Estimates for the LAUS program are derived from a monthly survey of households called the Current Population Survey, payroll estimates from the CES program, and unemployment insurance claims data. The reference week for LAUS estimates for a given month is the calendar week including the 12th day of the month. This means that if any individual is employed at any point during the week of the 12th, they will be considered employed within LAUS estimates.

Within the LAUS program, workers on strike are still considered employed, therefore they will have no impact on Michigan's monthly labor force, employment, and unemployment estimates. However, a strike may lead to strike-related layoffs, which would impact monthly LAUS estimates. Workers impacted by strike-related layoffs would be considered unemployed and would have an effect on monthly LAUS estimates if they were laid off during the entirety of the week of the 12th.

Workers actively participating in a strike are likely not able to apply for temporary financial assistance through the Unemployment Insurance Agency, which will result in no additional unemployment insurance claims being recorded. Those who became unemployed as a result of a strike would likely be eligible to claim unemployment benefits, which may result in an uptick in the number of unemployment insurance claims that month.

### **Will industry employment be impacted by a strike?**

The CES program produces detailed monthly industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of nonfarm industries for states, metropolitan statistical areas, and divisions. Data for the program is collected through a national establishment survey, which provides estimates based on payroll records of business establishments. Similar to the LAUS program, the survey reference period is the pay period including the 12th of the month.

As workers go on strike, this can have a substantial impact on monthly payroll job estimates for the CES program in Michigan. Workers on strike during the entirety of the reference week who do not receive pay will not

be counted in the monthly CES employment estimates because they are not on the payroll. If a worker goes on strike anytime during the reference week, but had been paid for a portion of the week, they will still be considered employed for that month's estimates.

Beyond influencing CES payroll job counts, strikes can also affect estimates for industry level average weekly hours and average hourly earnings. When striking workers work part of the reference week, but not all, they will still be counted as employed, but with reduced hours and earnings. The influence of a strike on an industry's hours and earnings will depend on the proportion of the workers striking within the industry.

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