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Michigan unemployment rate advances in December

Annual average jobless rate increases over year

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan’s seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose by two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 5.0 percent in December, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Employment receded by 11,000 over the month, while unemployment rose by 8,000, resulting in a workforce decline of 3,000 since November.

“After three consecutive years of jobless rate declines, Michigan’s annual average unemployment rate rose during 2024,” said Wayne Rourke, labor market information director for the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics. “However, the state’s annual average labor force level and payroll jobs total both increased over the year.”

The national unemployment rate receded by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent during December. Michigan’s December unemployment rate was nine-tenths of a percentage point larger than the U.S. rate. Over the year, the national jobless rate advanced by three-tenths of a percentage point, while the statewide rate increased by 0.9 percentage points since December 2023.

Labor force trends and highlights

- Michigan’s unemployment rate rose for the third consecutive month in December.
- Michigan’s December jobless rate of 5.0 percent was the largest rate seen in the state since October 2021 (5.1 percent).
- Total employment in Michigan fell by 0.2 percent over the month, while the national employment level advanced by 0.3 percent since November.
- Michigan’s number of unemployed people increased by 21.7 percent over the year, a gain 12.7 percentage points larger than the growth in unemployed persons seen nationally (+9.0 percent).
- The December statewide labor force participation rate was unchanged for the third consecutive month at 62.2 percent. Michigan’s employment-population ratio receded by one-tenth of a percentage point to 59.1 percent during the same period.

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Michigan
Labor Force Estimates
 Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	Dec. 2024	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2023	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	5,050	5,053	5,043	-3	-0.1%	7	0.1%
Employed	4,799	4,810	4,836	-11	-0.2%	-37	-0.8%
Unemployed	252	244	207	8	3.3%	45	21.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.8	4.1	0.2	XXX	0.9	XXX

Michigan’s 2024 preliminary annual average labor force data

Michigan’s preliminary annual average unemployment rate in 2024 was 4.5 percent, six-tenths of a percentage point larger than the 2023 annual average rate of 3.9 percent. Total employment in Michigan averaged 4,821,000 in 2024, and there was an average of 228,000 unemployed people. The state’s annual labor force level was 5,049,000 during 2024.

Annual average trends and highlights

- Michigan’s 2024 annual average unemployment rate rose for the first time after three consecutive years of drops in the annual jobless rate.
- The state’s 2024 average jobless rate was five-tenths of a percentage point larger than the preliminary national annual average unemployment rate for 2024 (4.0 percent).
- Annual average employment in the state rose by 9,000, or 0.2 percent, over the year, while the state’s average number of unemployed advanced by 33,000, or 16.9 percent.
- Michigan’s annual average workforce total in 2024 increased by 41,000, or 0.8 percent, over the year.

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Detroit metro area unemployment rate rises in December

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area’s (MSA) seasonally adjusted jobless rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent during December. The region’s employment total fell by 12,000, while the number of unemployed rose by 2,000 over the month. The Detroit region’s labor force was reduced by 10,000 in December.

The Detroit MSA jobless rate increased by 0.9 percentage points over the year. Employment fell by 62,000, and the number of unemployed increased by 20,000 since December 2023.

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA Labor Force Estimates Seasonally Adjusted (Data in Thousands)

	Dec. 2024	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2023	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,161	2,171	2,203	-10	-0.5%	-42	-1.9%
Employed	2,054	2,066	2,116	-12	-0.6%	-62	-2.9%
Unemployed	107	105	87	2	1.9%	20	23.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.8	4.0	0.1	XXX	0.9	XXX

Detroit MSA 2024 preliminary annual average labor force trends

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA’s preliminary annual average jobless rate in 2024 was 4.5 percent, 0.9 percentage points above the 2023 average jobless rate of 3.6 percent. The Detroit region’s annual jobless rate during 2024 was identical to the statewide annual unemployment rate.

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Michigan payroll employment increases during December

According to the monthly survey of employers, Michigan's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 6,000, or 0.1 percent, during December.

Industry employment trends and highlights

- Nonfarm payroll jobs advanced for the fourth consecutive month in December, with employment increasing by 22,000, or 0.5 percent, since August 2024.
- Michigan's leisure and hospitality sector observed the most significant over-the-month numerical employment gain during December (+3,000).
- Job losses in December were found in the manufacturing (-2,000) and construction (-1,000) sectors.
- Since December 2023, Michigan seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 43,000, or 1.0 percent.
- The largest over-the-year numerical job gains occurred in the government (+18,000), construction (+14,000), and private education and health services (+12,000) sectors.
- Michigan's annual average total employment rose for the fourth consecutive year in 2024. Over the year, Michigan average nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 39,000, or 0.9 percent.

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Michigan

Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	Dec** 2024	Nov* 2024	Dec 2023	Over the Month***		Over the Year***	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,509	4,503	4,466	6	0.1%	43	1.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	8	8	7	0	0.0%	0	2.7%
Construction	203	204	190	-1	-0.5%	14	7.2%
Manufacturing	601	604	612	-2	-0.4%	-11	-1.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	820	819	819	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Retail Trade	453	452	459	1	0.2%	-6	-1.2%
Information	57	57	58	0	0.7%	-1	-0.9%
Financial Activities	234	232	231	2	0.6%	3	1.2%
Professional and Business Services	645	644	648	1	0.1%	-3	-0.5%
Private Education and Health Services	707	706	695	2	0.2%	12	1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	432	428	426	3	0.8%	6	1.5%
Other Services	174	174	170	0	-0.1%	4	2.2%
Government	628	626	610	2	0.3%	18	3.0%

* Revised data for November 2024

** Preliminary data for December 2024

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

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