



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

BROM STIBITZ
DIRECTOR

February Michigan jobless rates decline in all regions

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

“Labor force levels declined for the second consecutive month in most Michigan regions,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Payroll jobs rose in all Michigan metro areas in February, as significant recalls of workers occurred in the leisure and hospitality sector.”

Michigan regional jobless rates in February ranged from 4.2 to 8.6 percent. Rate decreases were from 0.6 to 1.6 percentage points with a median decline of one full percentage point. The Northeast Lower Michigan region demonstrated the most pronounced over-the-month rate cut.

Unemployment rates advance over year

Jobless rates remained higher since February 2020 in all 17 Michigan labor markets with a median gain of 2.2 percentage points. The largest over-the-year rate advance was observed in the Muskegon metropolitan statistical area (MSA), with a jobless rate increase of 3.8 percentage points.

Total employment mixed over month, down over year

Employment levels in February edged up in nine Michigan regions. Increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.6 percent with a median hike of 0.6 percent. Northwest Lower Michigan led the way with the largest percent gain in monthly employment. Total employment fell in five regions in February, with the largest reduction seen in the Detroit MSA. The Battle Creek and Saginaw metro areas both had no employment change over the month.

All major Michigan regions registered employment cuts over the year with a median decrease of 6.4 percent. The largest percent over-the-year employment reduction was in the Lansing metro region.

Regional labor force levels decline again in February

Workforce levels fell in most Michigan labor market areas for the second straight month. Labor force reductions ranged from 0.2 to 2.5 percent with a median decrease of 1.1 percent. The Detroit MSA exhibited the largest percent workforce decline over the month. The labor force in Ann Arbor edged up by 0.2 percent in February, and the Lansing MSA and Northwest Lower Michigan regional workforce levels were little changed.

Workforce levels dropped over the year in all 17 Michigan regions. Labor force declines ranged from 1.4 to 7.6 percent with a notable median cut of 3.6 percent.

Payroll employment rebounds with recalls in leisure and hospitality

The monthly survey of employers indicated that not seasonally adjusted Michigan nonfarm jobs advanced in February by 85,000, or 2.1 percent. This was the highest job gain since June 2020. These job additions largely reflected recalls of previously laid off workers in the state's leisure and hospitality sector (+56,000).

Payroll employment moved up in all 14 Michigan metro regions over the month. Job increases ranged from 0.3 to 2.7 percent with a median addition of 1.6 percent. The largest over-the-month percent nonfarm job advance occurred in the Lansing metro area.

Since February 2020, statewide jobs plunged by 336,000, or 7.6 percent, reflecting the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market. The largest numerical over-the-year industry job cuts occurred in the leisure and hospitality (-99,000) and education and health services (-47,000) sectors. All 14 Michigan metro areas exhibited payroll job reductions over the year, led by the Lansing MSA (-9.5 percent).

County jobless rates down over month, up over year

All 83 Michigan counties exhibited jobless rate reductions in February, led by Alger County (-2.6 percentage points). Since February 2020, 76 Michigan counties recorded jobless rate increases, led by Muskegon County (+3.8 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 February workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for February.

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	189,900	189,600	201,600	300	0.2%	-11,700	-5.8%
Employed	181,900	180,500	197,100	1,400	0.8%	-15,200	-7.7%
Unemployed	8,000	9,000	4,400	-1,000	-11.1%	3,600	81.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.8	2.2	-0.6	XXX	2.0	XXX

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	59,900	60,700	62,100	-800	-1.3%	-2,200	-3.5%
Employed	56,000	56,000	59,800	0	0.0%	-3,800	-6.4%
Unemployed	3,900	4,700	2,300	-800	-17.0%	1,600	69.6%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	7.7	3.7	-1.2	XXX	2.8	XXX

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	48,300	48,800	50,100	-500	-1.0%	-1,800	-3.6%
Employed	45,100	45,000	47,800	100	0.2%	-2,700	-5.6%
Unemployed	3,200	3,800	2,300	-600	-15.8%	900	39.1%
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.8	4.6	-1.2	XXX	2.0	XXX

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

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

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

(Data in Thousands)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	1,979	2,029	2,142	-50	-2.5%	-163	-7.6%
Employed	1,894	1,921	2,056	-27	-1.4%	-162	-7.9%
Unemployed	85	108	86	-23	-21.3%	-1	-1.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	5.3	4.0	-1.0	XXX	0.3	XXX

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

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	175,400	177,400	181,200	-2,000	-1.1%	-5,800	-3.2%
Employed	162,500	162,300	173,600	200	0.1%	-11,100	-6.4%
Unemployed	12,900	15,100	7,600	-2,200	-14.6%	5,300	69.7%
Unemployment Rate	7.3	8.5	4.2	-1.2	XXX	3.1	XXX

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

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

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	564,200	565,400	587,600	-1,200	-0.2%	-23,400	-4.0%
Employed	537,500	534,200	573,000	3,300	0.6%	-35,500	-6.2%
Unemployed	26,700	31,200	14,600	-4,500	-14.4%	12,100	82.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.5	2.5	-0.8	XXX	2.2	XXX

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

Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,500	72,300	75,300	-800	-1.1%	-3,800	-5.0%
Employed	67,100	67,300	72,700	-200	-0.3%	-5,600	-7.7%
Unemployed	4,400	5,100	2,600	-700	-13.7%	1,800	69.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.2	7.0	3.4	-0.8	XXX	2.8	XXX

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

Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	161,400	163,100	170,500	-1,700	-1.0%	-9,100	-5.3%
Employed	152,600	152,800	165,200	-200	-0.1%	-12,600	-7.6%
Unemployed	8,700	10,300	5,300	-1,600	-15.5%	3,400	64.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	6.3	3.1	-0.9	XXX	2.3	XXX

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

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

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeri c	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	236,200	236,300	253,000	-100	0.0%	-16,800	-6.6%
Employed	224,700	222,800	246,000	1,900	0.9%	-21,300	-8.7%
Unemployed	11,600	13,500	7,000	-1,900	-14.1%	4,600	65.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.7	2.8	-0.8	XXX	2.1	XXX

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

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,600	39,300	39,700	-700	-1.8%	-1,100	-2.8%
Employed	36,600	36,900	38,200	-300	-0.8%	-1,600	-4.2%
Unemployed	2,000	2,400	1,500	-400	-16.7%	500	33.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	6.0	3.7	-0.7	XXX	1.6	XXX

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

Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,700	72,400	75,600	-700	-1.0%	-3,900	-5.2%
Employed	67,500	67,600	73,200	-100	-0.1%	-5,700	-7.8%
Unemployed	4,300	4,800	2,400	-500	-10.4%	1,900	79.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.6	3.2	-0.7	XXX	2.7	XXX

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

Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,400	75,300	76,800	-900	-1.2%	-2,400	-3.1%
Employed	68,800	68,600	73,800	200	0.3%	-5,000	-6.8%
Unemployed	5,600	6,700	2,900	-1,100	-16.4%	2,700	93.1%
Unemployment Rate	7.6	8.9	3.8	-1.3	XXX	3.8	XXX

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

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,400	71,200	73,100	-800	-1.1%	-2,700	-3.7%
Employed	66,200	66,000	70,300	200	0.3%	-4,100	-5.8%
Unemployed	4,200	5,100	2,800	-900	-17.6%	1,400	50.0%
Unemployment Rate	6.0	7.2	3.8	-1.2	XXX	2.2	XXX

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

Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	82,900	84,100	85,900	-1,200	-1.4%	-3,000	-3.5%
Employed	77,200	77,200	82,100	0	0.0%	-4,900	-6.0%
Unemployed	5,800	6,800	3,800	-1,000	-14.7%	2,000	52.6%
Unemployment Rate	7.0	8.1	4.5	-1.1	XXX	2.5	XXX

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

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

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	130,800	132,800	135,700	-2,000	-1.5%	-4,900	-3.6%
Employed	122,300	122,800	128,300	-500	-0.4%	-6,000	-4.7%
Unemployed	8,600	10,100	7,500	-1,500	-14.9%	1,100	14.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.6	5.5	-1.0	XXX	1.1	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)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	78,700	79,300	79,800	-600	-0.8%	-1,100	-1.4%
Employed	71,900	71,200	73,700	700	1.0%	-1,800	-2.4%
Unemployed	6,800	8,100	6,200	-1,300	-16.0%	600	9.7%
Unemployment Rate	8.6	10.2	7.7	-1.6	XXX	0.9	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)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	142,600	142,600	145,300	0	0.0%	-2,700	-1.9%
Employed	132,900	130,800	138,200	2,100	1.6%	-5,300	-3.8%
Unemployed	9,700	11,700	7,200	-2,000	-17.1%	2,500	34.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.8	8.2	4.9	-1.4	XXX	1.9	XXX

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

Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,644	4,713	4,920	-69	-1.5%	-276	-5.6%
Employed	4,405	4,424	4,734	-19	-0.4%	-329	-6.9%
Unemployed	239	289	186	-50	-17.3%	53	28.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.1	3.8	-1.0	XXX	1.3	XXX

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

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - February 2021

1	Livingston County	3.1	43	Missaukee County	6.5
2	Oakland County	3.2	44	Bay County	6.6
3	Macomb County	4.0	45	Keweenaw County	6.6
4	Clinton County	4.1	46	Sanilac County	6.6
5	Ottawa County	4.2	47	Tuscola County	6.6
6	Washtenaw County	4.2	48	Delta County	6.7
7	St. Clair County	4.3	49	Iron County	6.7
8	Menominee County	4.4	50	Van Buren County	6.8
9	Eaton County	4.7	51	Saginaw County	7.0
10	Ionia County	4.8	52	Charlevoix County	7.1
11	Kent County	4.8	53	Mason County	7.1
12	Lapeer County	4.8	54	Mecosta County	7.1
13	Branch County	4.9	55	Benzie County	7.2
14	Barry County	5.0	56	Genesee County	7.3
15	Kalamazoo County	5.0	57	Crawford County	7.4
16	Allegan County	5.1	58	Ontonagon County	7.4
17	Dickinson County	5.1	59	Otsego County	7.4
18	Houghton County	5.2	60	Chippewa County	7.5
19	Ingham County	5.2	61	Alcona County	7.6
20	St. Joseph County	5.2	62	Iosco County	7.6
21	Isabella County	5.3	63	Luce County	7.6
22	Midland County	5.3	64	Muskegon County	7.6
23	Hillsdale County	5.4	65	Gladwin County	7.7
24	Wayne County	5.4	66	Manistee County	7.8
25	Gogebic County	5.5	67	Emmet County	7.9
26	Lenawee County	5.5	68	Antrim County	8.2
27	Cass County	5.6	69	Kalkaska County	8.4
28	Gratiot County	5.6	70	Oceana County	8.4
29	Huron County	5.7	71	Clare County	8.5
30	Alpena County	5.8	72	Baraga County	8.7
31	Grand Traverse County	5.8	73	Oscoda County	8.7
32	Osceola County	5.8	74	Ogemaw County	8.8
33	Monroe County	5.9	75	Alger County	8.9
34	Shiawassee County	5.9	76	Lake County	8.9
35	Berrien County	6.0	77	Schoolcraft County	8.9
36	Marquette County	6.0	78	Presque Isle County	9.6
37	Montcalm County	6.0	79	Arenac County	9.7
38	Leelanau County	6.1	80	Montmorency County	10.2
39	Newaygo County	6.1	81	Roscommon County	10.3
40	Jackson County	6.2	82	Cheboygan County	13.9
41	Wexford County	6.3	83	Mackinac County	17.5
42	Calhoun County	6.5			

Note:

Data Revisions:

The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. All states in the nation participate in this revision process facilitated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor force estimates for Michigan counties have been revised for all months of 2020. Revised data will be released in coming weeks for 2010-2019.

In addition, unadjusted payroll job data for Michigan and all metro areas was revised for 2019 and 2020. Certain industries had more extensive data revisions, some back to 1990. For newly revised data go to MILMI.org/datasearch.

Previously published data for these years should be replaced with these new series.