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LANSING

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Regional Michigan jobless rates display mixed trends in March

LANSING, Mich. – Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates edged down slightly in 10 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas during March, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Unemployment rates inched up in three regions and remained unchanged in four areas.

“Michigan regional jobless rates displayed little change in March,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Nonfarm job levels advanced modestly in nearly all Michigan metro areas over the month.”

Michigan regional unemployment rate changes were minor in March, with monthly rate decreases ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 percentage points. Minor rate advances were observed over the month in the Detroit, Lansing, and Ann Arbor metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). The Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Midland MSA rates, as well as the Upper Peninsula region rate, were all unchanged in March.

Regional unemployment rates increase over the year

Jobless rates rose over the year in 15 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market regions, with a median increase of 1.8 percentage points. The Muskegon metro area recorded the largest over-the-year rate gain of 2.9 percentage points.

Total employment up over month, down over year

Regional total employment levels rose over the month in 14 Michigan labor market areas. Employment advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.7 percent, with a median increase of 0.4 percent. The largest over-the-month employment addition occurred in the Detroit MSA. Employment edged down slightly in the Muskegon and Flint MSAs and remained unchanged in the Grand Rapids metro region.

All 17 Michigan major labor market areas exhibited employment declines over the year with a pronounced median employment cut of 5.0 percent. The Lansing MSA exhibited the largest over-the-year decline, with employment down by 7.2 percent since March 2020.

Workforce levels mixed over month, down over year

Regional labor force levels advanced in 10 Michigan areas during March, with a median increase of 0.4 percent. The largest workforce addition occurred in the Detroit metro area. Workforce levels fell in five regions, led by the Muskegon MSA (-0.5 percent). The labor force levels in Bay City and Kalamazoo remained unchanged over the month.

All 17 regions exhibited labor force decreases over the year, with a median reduction of 3.1 percent. The largest over-the-year percent decline occurred in the Detroit metro area.

Nonfarm employment increases slightly in March

The monthly survey of employers indicated that not seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged up in March by 33,000, or 0.8 percent, to 4,090,000. Employment increases were seen in most statewide industries, led on a numerical basis by the leisure and hospitality sector (+13,000).

Payroll jobs advanced in 13 metro areas over the month, with a median increase of 0.8 percent. The Midland MSA exhibited the largest over-the-month job gain of 1.2 percent. Muskegon was the only region to record a minor job decline in March (-0.2 percent).

Michigan nonfarm jobs fell sharply by 284,000 over the year, or 6.5 percent, with the largest percentage job reduction in leisure and hospitality (-76,000). All Michigan metro areas registered payroll job decreases over the year, led by the Monroe MSA (-9.1 percent).

County jobless rates mixed over month, up over year

Forty-nine Michigan counties had jobless rate reductions in March, while 22 counties exhibited rate gains and 12 county rates were unchanged. Over the year, 70 counties had jobless rate increases, led by Muskegon County (+2.9 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 March workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for March.

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	190,700	189,900	200,300	800	0.4%	-9,600	-4.8%
Employed	182,500	182,000	194,900	500	0.3%	-12,400	-6.4%
Unemployed	8,100	8,000	5,400	100	1.3%	2,700	50.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.2	2.7	0.1	XXX	1.6	XXX

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	60,000	59,800	61,800	200	0.3%	-1,800	-2.9%
Employed	56,200	55,900	59,200	300	0.5%	-3,000	-5.1%
Unemployed	3,800	3,900	2,600	-100	-2.6%	1,200	46.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.5	4.2	-0.1	XXX	2.2	XXX

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	48,200	48,200	49,700	0	0.0%	-1,500	-3.0%
Employed	45,200	45,000	47,100	200	0.4%	-1,900	-4.0%
Unemployed	3,100	3,200	2,600	-100	-3.1%	500	19.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.6	5.2	-0.2	XXX	1.2	XXX

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Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

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

(Data in Thousands)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,017	1,979	2,138	38	1.9%	-121	-5.7%
Employed	1,926	1,894	2,034	32	1.7%	-108	-5.3%
Unemployed	91	85	104	6	7.1%	-13	-12.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.3	4.9	0.2	XXX	-0.4	XXX

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Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	174,800	175,300	179,300	-500	-0.3%	-4,500	-2.5%
Employed	162,300	162,400	170,500	-100	-0.1%	-8,200	-4.8%
Unemployed	12,400	12,900	8,800	-500	-3.9%	3,600	40.9%
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.3	4.9	-0.2	XXX	2.2	XXX

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

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	563,500	563,700	581,800	-200	0.0%	-18,300	-3.1%
Employed	537,000	537,000	564,500	0	0.0%	-27,500	-4.9%
Unemployed	26,500	26,700	17,400	-200	-0.7%	9,100	52.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.7	3.0	0.0	XXX	1.7	XXX

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Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	71,700	75,200	-100	-0.1%	-3,600	-4.8%
Employed	67,400	67,300	72,300	100	0.1%	-4,900	-6.8%
Unemployed	4,200	4,400	2,900	-200	-4.5%	1,300	44.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.1	3.9	-0.2	XXX	2.0	XXX

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Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	161,300	161,300	169,800	0	0.0%	-8,500	-5.0%
Employed	152,600	152,500	163,700	100	0.1%	-11,100	-6.8%
Unemployed	8,700	8,700	6,100	0	0.0%	2,600	42.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	3.6	0.0	XXX	1.8	XXX

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

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	237,200	236,200	251,100	1,000	0.4%	-13,900	-5.5%
Employed	225,300	224,700	242,700	600	0.3%	-17,400	-7.2%
Unemployed	11,900	11,500	8,400	400	3.5%	3,500	41.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	3.3	0.1	XXX	1.7	XXX

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Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,800	38,600	39,600	200	0.5%	-800	-2.0%
Employed	36,800	36,500	37,800	300	0.8%	-1,000	-2.6%
Unemployed	2,000	2,000	1,700	0	0.0%	300	17.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.2	4.4	0.0	XXX	0.8	XXX

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Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,500	71,700	75,100	-200	-0.3%	-3,600	-4.8%
Employed	67,500	67,400	72,200	100	0.1%	-4,700	-6.5%
Unemployed	4,000	4,300	2,800	-300	-7.0%	1,200	42.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.9	3.8	-0.3	XXX	1.8	XXX

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Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	74,400	76,400	-400	-0.5%	-2,400	-3.1%
Employed	68,500	68,700	72,900	-200	-0.3%	-4,400	-6.0%
Unemployed	5,600	5,700	3,500	-100	-1.8%	2,100	60.0%
Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.6	4.6	-0.1	XXX	2.9	XXX

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Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,600	70,500	72,900	100	0.1%	-2,300	-3.2%
Employed	66,500	66,300	70,000	200	0.3%	-3,500	-5.0%
Unemployed	4,100	4,200	2,900	-100	-2.4%	1,200	41.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.0	4.0	-0.2	XXX	1.8	XXX

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Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	82,800	82,700	85,400	100	0.1%	-2,600	-3.0%
Employed	77,200	76,900	81,100	300	0.4%	-3,900	-4.8%
Unemployed	5,600	5,800	4,300	-200	-3.4%	1,300	30.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.0	5.0	-0.2	XXX	1.8	XXX

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

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	131,400	130,900	133,900	500	0.4%	-2,500	-1.9%
Employed	122,900	122,300	125,500	600	0.5%	-2,600	-2.1%
Unemployed	8,500	8,600	8,300	-100	-1.2%	200	2.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.5	6.2	0.0	XXX	0.3	XXX

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Northeast Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	79,300	78,700	79,400	600	0.8%	-100	-0.1%
Employed	72,600	71,900	72,800	700	1.0%	-200	-0.3%
Unemployed	6,700	6,800	6,700	-100	-1.5%	0	0.0%
Unemployment Rate	8.4	8.6	8.4	-0.2	XXX	0.0	XXX

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Northwest Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	143,800	142,700	143,900	1,100	0.8%	-100	-0.1%
Employed	134,400	133,000	135,900	1,400	1.1%	-1,500	-1.1%
Unemployed	9,400	9,700	8,000	-300	-3.1%	1,400	17.5%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.8	5.5	-0.3	XXX	1.0	XXX

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Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,687	4,643	4,895	44	0.9%	-208	-4.2%
Employed	4,444	4,405	4,677	39	0.9%	-233	-5.0%
Unemployed	243	239	218	4	1.7%	25	11.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.1	4.5	0.1	XXX	0.7	XXX

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Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - March 2021

1	Livingston County	3.3	43	Tuscola County	6.3
2	Oakland County	3.5	44	Bay County	6.4
3	Clinton County	4.3	45	Calhoun County	6.4
4	Macomb County	4.3	46	Delta County	6.4
5	Ottawa County	4.3	47	Sanilac County	6.4
6	Washtenaw County	4.3	48	Van Buren County	6.6
7	St. Clair County	4.5	49	Charlevoix County	6.7
8	Ionia County	4.7	50	Iron County	6.8
9	Menominee County	4.7	51	Saginaw County	6.8
10	Kent County	4.8	52	Benzie County	6.9
11	Barry County	4.9	53	Mason County	6.9
12	Eaton County	4.9	54	Otsego County	6.9
13	Lapeer County	4.9	55	Mecosta County	7.0
14	St. Joseph County	4.9	56	Genesee County	7.1
15	Branch County	5.0	57	Keweenaw County	7.2
16	Allegan County	5.1	58	Chippewa County	7.3
17	Kalamazoo County	5.1	59	Crawford County	7.3
18	Cass County	5.2	60	Alcona County	7.4
19	Dickinson County	5.2	61	Emmet County	7.5
20	Ingham County	5.2	62	Gladwin County	7.5
21	Midland County	5.2	63	Iosco County	7.5
22	Hillsdale County	5.4	64	Muskegon County	7.5
23	Houghton County	5.4	65	Luce County	7.6
24	Isabella County	5.5	66	Manistee County	7.6
25	Lenawee County	5.5	67	Antrim County	7.8
26	Gogebic County	5.6	68	Ontonagon County	7.8
27	Gratiot County	5.6	69	Baraga County	8.0
28	Monroe County	5.6	70	Kalkaska County	8.0
29	Shiawassee County	5.6	71	Oceana County	8.0
30	Wayne County	5.6	72	Clare County	8.1
31	Grand Traverse County	5.7	73	Oscoda County	8.3
32	Huron County	5.7	74	Lake County	8.4
33	Berrien County	5.8	75	Ogemaw County	8.5
34	Montcalm County	5.8	76	Alger County	8.8
35	Osceola County	5.8	77	Schoolcraft County	8.9
36	Jackson County	5.9	78	Arenac County	9.3
37	Marquette County	5.9	79	Presque Isle County	9.5
38	Alpena County	6.0	80	Roscommon County	9.9
39	Newaygo County	6.0	81	Montmorency County	10.2
40	Leelanau County	6.1	82	Cheboygan County	13.1
41	Missaukee County	6.2	83	Mackinac County	16.2
42	Wexford County	6.2			