



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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May jobless rates lower in all regional labor markets, but remain high due to COVID-19 impact

LANSING, Mich. -- Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates moved down modestly in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas between April and May, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

"Regional jobless rates declined in May, but remained at historically high levels," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "A rebound in jobs occurred in several industries, led by a job gain in construction."

May jobless rates ranged from 13.7 percent in the Ann Arbor metro area to 24.8 percent in the Muskegon region. May jobless rate declines ranged from 0.5 to 7.1 percentage points, with a median reduction of 4.4 percentage points. The highest over-the-month unemployment rate change was in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-7.1), followed by the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-6.9). The smallest rate reduction of 0.5 percentage points occurred in the Detroit metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Jobless rates increase substantially over year

Regional unemployment rates surged over the year, with a notable median rate jump of 16.1 percentage points. The largest over-the-year rate hike was seen in the Muskegon MSA (+20.8), while the smallest was observed in the Ann Arbor MSA (+10.9).

Total employment rebounds slightly over month, remains down over year

Total employment advanced in all 17 major Michigan regions between April and May. Employment gains ranged from 2.2 to 19.1 percent, with a median increase of 10.6 percent. The most pronounced over-the-month employment hike was in the Northwest Lower Michigan region, while the smallest was recorded in the Detroit MSA.

Total employment declined in all regions since May 2019. The largest reduction was registered in the Detroit metro area (-28.4 percent), while the smallest decrease was seen in the Upper Peninsula region (-8.9 percent).

Labor force levels advance in May but were mixed over the year

Workforce levels moved up in all 17 Michigan regions between April and May. Increases in levels showed variance, ranging from 1.5 to 9.3 percent. The most modest monthly labor force changes were registered among counties in the Detroit metro area.

Labor force trends were mixed over the year and were difficult to evaluate due to the extreme shifts in employment and unemployment levels since May 2019.

May payroll jobs rebound slightly in Michigan metro areas

The monthly survey of employers indicated that, after the massive pandemic-related layoffs in April, Michigan seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in May advanced by 215,000, or 6.3 percent. The largest numeric industry job gains occurred in construction (+62,000) and trade, transportation, and utilities (+58,000). The only major industry sector with a large employment decline over the month was government (-27,000).

Payroll jobs rose in May in all 14 Michigan metro areas. Advances ranged from 2.0 percent to 10.2 percent, with the largest percent job hike in the Jackson MSA. Ann Arbor exhibited the smallest monthly percentage job addition (+2.0 percent).

Despite the monthly increase, Michigan's nonfarm job levels remain far below May 2019 levels. Jobs over the past year fell sharply by 857,000, or 19.2 percent. All 14 metro regions had double-digit job cuts over the year, led by the Monroe MSA (-21.1 percent).

County jobless rates down over month, up over year

Eighty-two Michigan counties recorded jobless rate declines in May, with the largest percentage point drop seen in Cheboygan County (-11.2 percentage points). Wayne County was the only county with a rate advance in May (+0.6). Over the year, all 83 counties had notable jobless rate hikes, led by Mackinac County (+26.5) and Cheboygan County (+25.7).

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 seasonally unadjusted May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for May.

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	198,000	186,500	197,100	11,500	6.2%	900	0.5%
Employment	170,800	158,900	191,500	11,900	7.5%	-20,700	-10.8%
Unemployment	27,200	27,600	5,600	-400	-1.4%	21,600	385.7%
Rate (Percent)	13.7	14.8	2.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	65,500	59,900	62,600	5,600	9.3%	2,900	4.6%
Employment	51,100	45,000	60,200	6,100	13.6%	-9,100	-15.1%
Unemployment	14,400	14,800	2,400	-400	-2.7%	12,000	500.0%
Rate (Percent)	22.0	24.8	3.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	50,200	49,000	50,100	1,200	2.4%	100	0.2%
Employment	40,100	36,800	48,000	3,300	9.0%	-7,900	-16.5%
Unemployment	10,000	12,300	2,100	-2,300	-18.7%	7,900	376.2%
Rate (Percent)	20.0	25.0	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

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

(Data in Thousands)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	1,931	1,902	2,140	29	1.5%	-209	-9.8%
Employment	1,473	1,441	2,057	32	2.2%	-584	-28.4%
Unemployment	458	461	82	-3	-0.7%	376	458.5%
Rate (Percent)	23.7	24.2	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	193,900	184,200	181,400	9,700	5.3%	12,500	6.9%
Employment	146,500	128,900	171,200	17,600	13.7%	-24,700	-14.4%
Unemployment	47,400	55,300	10,200	-7,900	-14.3%	37,200	364.7%
Rate (Percent)	24.5	30.0	5.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	581,700	544,900	583,500	36,800	6.8%	-1,800	-0.3%
Employment	482,500	427,700	567,300	54,800	12.8%	-84,800	-14.9%
Unemployment	99,200	117,200	16,200	-18,000	-15.4%	83,000	512.3%
Rate (Percent)	17.1	21.5	2.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	77,100	72,000	74,700	5,100	7.1%	2,400	3.2%
Employment	61,600	54,300	72,200	7,300	13.4%	-10,600	-14.7%
Unemployment	15,400	17,700	2,500	-2,300	-13.0%	12,900	516.0%
Rate (Percent)	20.0	24.6	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	167,900	156,400	168,600	11,500	7.4%	-700	-0.4%
Employment	141,800	128,200	162,900	13,600	10.6%	-21,100	-13.0%
Unemployment	26,200	28,200	5,700	-2,000	-7.1%	20,500	359.6%
Rate (Percent)	15.6	18.1	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	249,300	235,900	252,400	13,400	5.7%	-3,100	-1.2%
Employment	208,400	190,700	244,600	17,700	9.3%	-36,200	-14.8%
Unemployment	40,900	45,200	7,700	-4,300	-9.5%	33,200	431.2%
Rate (Percent)	16.4	19.2	3.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	40,200	38,000	40,800	2,200	5.8%	-600	-1.5%
Employment	33,900	30,300	39,400	3,600	11.9%	-5,500	-14.0%
Unemployment	6,400	7,700	1,400	-1,300	-16.9%	5,000	357.1%
Rate (Percent)	15.8	20.2	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	78,200	76,000	76,300	2,200	2.9%	1,900	2.5%
Employment	61,600	56,200	73,200	5,400	9.6%	-11,600	-15.8%
Unemployment	16,600	19,800	3,100	-3,200	-16.2%	13,500	435.5%
Rate (Percent)	21.2	26.1	4.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	82,600	79,300	77,100	3,300	4.2%	5,500	7.1%
Employment	62,100	56,200	74,000	5,900	10.5%	-11,900	-16.1%
Unemployment	20,500	23,100	3,000	-2,600	-11.3%	17,500	583.3%
Rate (Percent)	24.8	29.1	4.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,900	69,200	74,400	5,700	8.2%	500	0.7%
Employment	60,900	55,100	71,600	5,800	10.5%	-10,700	-14.9%
Unemployment	13,900	14,100	2,800	-200	-1.4%	11,100	396.4%
Rate (Percent)	18.6	20.4	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	88,900	85,300	86,600	3,600	4.2%	2,300	2.7%
Employment	70,500	63,800	82,700	6,700	10.5%	-12,200	-14.8%
Unemployment	18,400	21,500	4,000	-3,100	-14.4%	14,400	360.0%
Rate (Percent)	20.7	25.2	4.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	140,100	131,400	135,300	8,700	6.6%	4,800	3.5%
Employment	117,200	104,900	128,600	12,300	11.7%	-11,400	-8.9%
Unemployment	22,900	26,500	6,700	-3,600	-13.6%	16,200	241.8%
Rate (Percent)	16.3	20.2	4.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

Contact: Jeffrey Aula, Economic Analyst, 313-456-3144

Northeast Lower Michigan LMA

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

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	83,000	76,500	82,900	6,500	8.5%	100	0.1%
Employment	64,500	54,200	78,800	10,300	19.0%	-14,300	-18.1%
Unemployment	18,500	22,400	4,200	-3,900	-17.4%	14,300	340.5%
Rate (Percent)	22.3	29.2	5.0	xxx	xxx	xxx	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)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	156,700	144,400	151,000	12,300	8.5%	5,700	3.8%
Employment	124,900	104,900	145,200	20,000	19.1%	-20,300	-14.0%
Unemployment	31,800	39,500	5,800	-7,700	-19.5%	26,000	448.3%
Rate (Percent)	20.3	27.4	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,754	4,553	4,924	201	4.4%	-170	-3.5%
Employment	3,769	3,477	4,739	292	8.4%	-970	-20.5%
Unemployment	985	1,076	185	-91	-8.5%	800	432.4%
Rate (Percent)	20.7	23.6	3.7	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Note COVID-19 pandemic:

Regional and county employment estimates are produced monthly using information from the week of the 12th of each month. The information in this release covers labor market trends for the week of May 10–16, 2020, in the midst of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s [Executive Order 2020-21](#) “Stay Home, Stay Safe.”

As such, the information in this release significantly reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment trends in Michigan regions.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic’s effect on workforce estimates, please visit the following resources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

[Effects of COVID-19 on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program](#)

[FAQs – The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on The Employment Situation for May 2020](#)

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate – May 2020

1	Dickinson County	12.3	43	Jackson County	20.0
2	Menominee County	12.7	44	Montcalm County	20.0
3	Iron County	13.2	45	Gladwin County	20.5
4	Gogebic County	13.7	46	Ionia County	20.5
5	Washtenaw County	13.7	47	Saginaw County	20.7
6	Houghton County	13.8	48	Iosco County	20.8
7	Luce County	14.9	49	Ogemaw County	20.8
8	Kalamazoo County	15.3	50	Oceana County	20.9
9	Clinton County	15.5	51	Monroe County	21.2
10	Schoolcraft County	15.5	52	Antrim County	21.4
11	Alpena County	15.6	53	Ontonagon County	21.4
12	Midland County	15.8	54	Alger County	21.7
13	Ingham County	16.0	55	Lake County	21.8
14	Ottawa County	16.1	56	Shiawassee County	21.8
15	Chippewa County	16.3	57	Calhoun County	22.0
16	Barry County	16.4	58	Emmet County	22.0
17	Cass County	16.8	59	Presque Isle County	22.0
18	Van Buren County	16.8	60	Wexford County	22.1
19	Allegan County	17.0	61	Kalkaska County	22.4
20	Delta County	17.0	62	Lenawee County	22.4
21	Gratiot County	17.1	63	Hillsdale County	22.7
22	Keweenaw County	17.1	64	Otsego County	22.7
23	Leelanau County	17.1	65	Sanilac County	22.8
24	Kent County	17.3	66	Arenac County	23.0
25	Isabella County	17.4	67	Charlevoix County	23.0
26	Marquette County	17.8	68	Tuscola County	23.2
27	Eaton County	18.2	69	Crawford County	23.5
28	Grand Traverse County	18.3	70	Manistee County	23.7
29	Huron County	18.3	71	Baraga County	23.9
30	Osceola County	18.4	72	Clare County	24.1
31	Berrien County	18.6	73	Genesee County	24.5
32	Mecosta County	18.7	74	Muskegon County	24.8
33	Alcona County	18.9	75	Oscoda County	25.0
34	Benzie County	18.9	76	Montmorency County	25.2
35	Mason County	18.9	77	Macomb County	25.4
36	Newaygo County	19.1	78	Roscommon County	25.5
37	Branch County	19.2	79	St. Clair County	25.5
38	Missaukee County	19.2	80	Wayne County	26.4
39	Oakland County	19.3	81	Lapeer County	26.6
40	St. Joseph County	19.5	82	Cheboygan County	29.8
41	Livingston County	19.7	83	Mackinac County	30.3
42	Bay County	20.0			