



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **Regional Michigan jobless rates move up during May**

**LANSING, Mich.** – Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates rose in 14 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas between April and May, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Michigan regional jobless rate gains in May were often due to an increase in the number of persons active in the labor force,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Payroll employment advanced in May in most metro areas.”

Michigan major area unemployment rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.0 percentage points, with a median advance of 0.6 percentage points. The largest rate gain occurred in the Muskegon metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The Northeast Lower Michigan jobless rate moved down seasonally by 0.5 percentage points over the month, and the Northwest Lower Michigan region and the Upper Peninsula rates both remained unchanged in May.

### **Regional unemployment rates decline significantly over year**

Jobless rates fell sharply in all 17 of Michigan’s major labor market regions since May 2020, when rates were extremely elevated due to pandemic-related layoffs. Since May 2020, major area jobless rates dropped by a notable median of 13.9 percentage points. The largest over-the-year rate decline was in the Detroit metro area, with the jobless rate plunging by 20.2 percentage points since May 2020.

Despite over-the-year rate reductions, regional unemployment rates remained well above May 2019 levels. All 17 labor market areas displayed rate advances since May 2019, with a median increase of 2.0 percentage points. The largest rate gain occurred in the Muskegon MSA (+4.0 percentage points).

### **Total employment up over the month and year**

Regional total employment levels rose in May in 15 Michigan labor market areas. Employment advances ranged from 0.1 to 3.7 percent, with a median increase of 0.9 percent. The largest percent over-the-month employment addition occurred in the

Northeast Lower Michigan region. The Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo MSAs were the only regions to exhibit employment reductions in May, due to seasonal job cuts in state government education.

All 17 Michigan major labor market areas exhibited pandemic-related recalls of workers over the past year, with a pronounced median employment gain of 12.4 percent. The Detroit metro region exhibited the largest over-the-year advance, with employment up a sharp 32.4 percent since May 2020.

Employment, however, remained below the levels recorded in May 2019 in all labor market regions, with a median decrease of 6.2 percent. The largest employment reduction occurred in the Lansing MSA (-8.7 percent).

### **Workforce levels up over month, down over year**

Regional labor force levels advanced in 16 Michigan areas during May, with a median increase of 1.6 percent. The largest percent workforce addition occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region. The Ann Arbor metro area was the only region to exhibit a workforce reduction over the month (-1.0 percent).

Sixteen labor market areas had workforce cuts over the year, with a median decline of 2.9 percent. The Detroit MSA was the only region to exhibit a labor force addition since May 2020.

### **Nonfarm payroll job gains in May in most regions**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that not seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose in May by 49,000, or 1.2 percent, to 4,145,000. Employment increases occurred in most statewide industries, led on a numerical basis by the leisure and hospitality sector (+24,000).

Payroll jobs advanced in 11 metro areas between April and May, with a median increase of 1.4 percent. The largest percentage job addition occurred in the Niles-Benton Harbor region. Nonfarm jobs fell in the Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo MSAs and remained unchanged in the Bay City region.

Michigan payroll employment rose by 594,000 over the year, or 16.7 percent, reflecting pandemic-related job recalls since May 2020. All 14 metro regions had job rebounds over this period, with a significant median advance of 14.4 percent. Nonfarm jobs during May remained 328,000, or 7.3 percent, below the May 2019 total.

### **County jobless rates up over month, down over year**

Sixty-three Michigan counties displayed jobless rate increases in May, while 14 counties exhibited rate declines and six county rates were unchanged. Over the year, all 83 counties recorded jobless rate reductions.

**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 May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking 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 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	187,000	188,800	192,400	-1,800	-1.0%	-5,400	-2.8%
Employed	178,300	181,200	166,000	-2,900	-1.6%	12,300	7.4%
Unemployed	8,700	7,600	26,400	1,100	14.5%	-17,700	-67.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.0	13.7	0.7	XXX	-9.0	XXX

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

**Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	60,500	59,400	64,300	1,100	1.9%	-3,800	-5.9%
Employed	56,400	55,900	50,300	500	0.9%	6,100	12.1%
Unemployed	4,100	3,500	14,000	600	17.1%	-9,900	-70.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.8	6.0	21.8	0.8	XXX	-15.0	XXX

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

**Bay City MSA (Bay County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	48,200	47,800	50,400	400	0.8%	-2,200	-4.4%
Employed	45,300	45,100	40,700	200	0.4%	4,600	11.3%
Unemployed	2,900	2,800	9,700	100	3.6%	-6,800	-70.1%
Unemployment Rate	6.1	5.8	19.3	0.3	XXX	-13.2	XXX

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**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
 (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)  
 (Data in Thousands)

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,027	1,993	1,944	34	1.7%	83	4.3%
Employed	1,935	1,919	1,462	16	0.8%	473	32.4%
Unemployed	93	74	482	19	25.7%	-389	-80.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.6	3.7	24.8	0.9	XXX	-20.2	XXX

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**Flint MSA (Genesee County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	177,500	174,500	182,600	3,000	1.7%	-5,100	-2.8%
Employed	164,300	162,600	136,600	1,700	1.0%	27,700	20.3%
Unemployed	13,200	12,000	46,100	1,200	10.0%	-32,900	-71.4%
Unemployment Rate	7.5	6.9	25.2	0.6	XXX	-17.7	XXX

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

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	571,700	560,000	575,900	11,700	2.1%	-4,200	-0.7%
Employed	544,600	536,400	479,500	8,200	1.5%	65,100	13.6%
Unemployed	27,100	23,600	96,300	3,500	14.8%	-69,200	-71.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.2	16.7	0.5	XXX	-12.0	XXX

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**Jackson MSA (Jackson County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	71,000	75,800	1,000	1.4%	-3,800	-5.0%
Employed	67,800	67,200	60,800	600	0.9%	7,000	11.5%
Unemployed	4,300	3,800	15,000	500	13.2%	-10,700	-71.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.4	19.8	0.5	XXX	-13.9	XXX

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**Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	161,000	160,600	166,600	400	0.2%	-5,600	-3.4%
Employed	152,100	152,800	141,200	-700	-0.5%	10,900	7.7%
Unemployed	8,800	7,800	25,400	1,000	12.8%	-16,600	-65.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.5	4.8	15.2	0.7	XXX	-9.7	XXX

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

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	237,400	235,100	246,500	2,300	1.0%	-9,100	-3.7%
Employed	224,100	222,200	206,800	1,900	0.9%	17,300	8.4%
Unemployed	13,300	12,900	39,700	400	3.1%	-26,400	-66.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.5	16.1	0.1	XXX	-10.5	XXX

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**Midland MSA (Midland County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	39,400	38,800	40,200	600	1.5%	-800	-2.0%
Employed	37,500	37,000	34,000	500	1.4%	3,500	10.3%
Unemployed	1,900	1,700	6,200	200	11.8%	-4,300	-69.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.5	15.4	0.4	XXX	-10.5	XXX

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**Monroe MSA (Monroe County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	72,000	76,700	900	1.3%	-3,800	-5.0%
Employed	68,000	67,600	60,600	400	0.6%	7,400	12.2%
Unemployed	4,900	4,400	16,100	500	11.4%	-11,200	-69.6%
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.1	21.0	0.6	XXX	-14.3	XXX

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**Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	74,900	73,500	80,600	1,400	1.9%	-5,700	-7.1%
Employed	69,000	68,400	60,700	600	0.9%	8,300	13.7%
Unemployed	5,900	5,100	19,900	800	15.7%	-14,000	-70.4%
Unemployment Rate	7.9	6.9	24.7	1.0	XXX	-16.8	XXX

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**Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,700	70,400	72,500	1,300	1.8%	-800	-1.1%
Employed	67,600	66,700	59,000	900	1.3%	8,600	14.6%
Unemployed	4,100	3,700	13,500	400	10.8%	-9,400	-69.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.2	18.6	0.5	XXX	-12.9	XXX

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**Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	83,200	82,500	84,400	700	0.8%	-1,200	-1.4%
Employed	77,300	77,200	66,500	100	0.1%	10,800	16.2%
Unemployed	5,900	5,400	17,900	500	9.3%	-12,000	-67.0%
Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.5	21.2	0.5	XXX	-14.2	XXX

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

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	132,400	130,500	133,200	1,900	1.5%	-800	-0.6%
Employed	124,800	122,900	111,000	1,900	1.5%	13,800	12.4%
Unemployed	7,600	7,600	22,200	0	0.0%	-14,600	-65.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.8	16.7	0.0	XXX	-10.9	XXX

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**Northeast Lower Michigan LMA**

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

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	81,000	78,600	83,500	2,400	3.1%	-2,500	-3.0%
Employed	75,400	72,700	65,500	2,700	3.7%	9,900	15.1%
Unemployed	5,700	5,900	18,000	-200	-3.4%	-12,300	-68.3%
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.5	21.5	-0.5	XXX	-14.5	XXX

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**Northwest Lower Michigan LMA**

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

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	148,100	142,900	148,700	5,200	3.6%	-600	-0.4%
Employed	139,800	134,900	117,800	4,900	3.6%	22,000	18.7%
Unemployed	8,300	8,000	30,900	300	3.8%	-22,600	-73.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	20.8	0.0	XXX	-15.2	XXX

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**Michigan (Data in Thousands)**

	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,724	4,647	4,712	77	1.7%	12	0.3%
Employed	4,478	4,433	3,717	45	1.0%	761	20.5%
Unemployed	246	214	995	32	15.0%	-749	-75.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.6	21.1	0.6	XXX	-15.9	XXX

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**Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - May 2021**

1	Livingston County	2.9	43	Jackson County	5.9
2	Oakland County	3.4	44	Iron County	6.0
3	Lapeer County	4.2	45	Wayne County	6.0
4	Ottawa County	4.3	46	Bay County	6.1
5	St. Clair County	4.3	47	Mason County	6.1
6	Macomb County	4.4	48	Van Buren County	6.1
7	Barry County	4.6	49	Charlevoix County	6.2
8	Clinton County	4.6	50	Chippewa County	6.2
9	Menominee County	4.6	51	Sanilac County	6.2
10	Washtenaw County	4.7	52	Tuscola County	6.2
11	Allegan County	4.8	53	Cheboygan County	6.4
12	Grand Traverse County	4.8	54	Mackinac County	6.4
13	Cass County	4.9	55	Mecosta County	6.4
14	Ionia County	4.9	56	Alcona County	6.7
15	Kent County	4.9	57	Antrim County	6.7
16	Midland County	4.9	58	Kalkaska County	6.7
17	Branch County	5.0	59	Manistee County	6.7
18	Dickinson County	5.0	60	Monroe County	6.7
19	Leelanau County	5.0	61	Calhoun County	6.8
20	Isabella County	5.2	62	Crawford County	6.8
21	Houghton County	5.3	63	Iosco County	6.8
22	Kalamazoo County	5.3	64	Oceana County	6.9
23	Missaukee County	5.3	65	Gladwin County	7.0
24	Marquette County	5.4	66	Otsego County	7.0
25	Alpena County	5.5	67	Saginaw County	7.0
26	Eaton County	5.5	68	Keweenaw County	7.4
27	Gogebic County	5.5	69	Ogemaw County	7.4
28	Hillsdale County	5.5	70	Presque Isle County	7.4
29	Gratiot County	5.6	71	Genesee County	7.5
30	Huron County	5.6	72	Luce County	7.5
31	Lenawee County	5.6	73	Schoolcraft County	7.6
32	St. Joseph County	5.6	74	Baraga County	7.7
33	Shiawassee County	5.6	75	Clare County	7.7
34	Benzie County	5.7	76	Arenac County	7.9
35	Berrien County	5.7	77	Muskegon County	7.9
36	Montcalm County	5.7	78	Lake County	8.3
37	Newaygo County	5.7	79	Ontonagon County	8.3
38	Osceola County	5.7	80	Alger County	8.4
39	Delta County	5.8	81	Montmorency County	8.8
40	Wexford County	5.8	82	Roscommon County	8.9
41	Emmet County	5.9	83	Oscoda County	9.0
42	Ingham County	5.9			