



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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Regional jobless rates decline in September

LANSING, Mich. – Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fell in 16 of Michigan’s 17 labor market areas between August and September, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Michigan jobless rate reductions in September were influenced by a workforce decline in several regions over the month,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Payroll employment advanced in September as local schools and colleges re-opened for the fall.”

Regional unemployment rates displayed a median decrease of 0.4 percentage points. The largest over-the-month jobless rate decline occurred in the Flint metropolitan statistical area (MSA) due to auto-related recalls from a large layoff in August. The Monroe MSA was the only major region with a minor unemployment rate increase in September.

Regional jobless rates decline over year

All 17 Michigan labor market areas exhibited unemployment rate decreases over the past year.

However, September 2021 regional jobless rates were above pre-pandemic September 2019 levels. Sixteen Michigan labor market areas had jobless rate increases since September 2019, with a median advance of 1.3 percentage points.

Regional employment levels recede over month, display mixed trends over year

Total employment declined in 11 major labor market areas in September. Reductions were from 0.1 to 2.6 percent, with a median decrease of 1.1 percent. The Northwest Lower Michigan region had a large monthly seasonal employment reduction, reflecting reduced tourism activity in September. Six metro areas had employment gains in September, led by the Lansing and Ann Arbor MSAs, due primarily to hiring at local colleges and schools for the start of the semester.

Regional labor market areas exhibited mixed employment trends over the year, with eight areas recording employment additions, seven showing employment reductions, and employment in the Midland and Jackson metro areas remaining unchanged since September 2020.

Employment totals in all 17 labor market areas remained below September 2019 levels, with a median decrease of 5.0 percent over the two-year period. The largest drop occurred in the Saginaw metro area.

Workforce levels decrease over month and year

Twelve major labor market areas displayed labor force cuts over the month, with a median reduction of 1.5 percent. The largest over-the-month workforce decline was in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-2.9 percent).

Over the year, 16 regions exhibited labor force reductions, with a median decrease of 1.9 percent. The largest decline occurred in the Muskegon metro area (-4.3 percent).

Regional nonfarm jobs generally up in September

According to the monthly survey of employers, not seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs advanced by 23,000 over the month, or 0.6 percent, to 4,207,000. Minor reductions in many statewide industries were overshadowed by a 44,000 seasonal job increase in the government sector as hiring began at local schools and universities.

Total nonfarm employment rose in 13 metro areas during September, with a median increase of 1.0 percent. The largest payroll job advances occurred in both the Ann Arbor and Lansing MSAs, with gains in each area of 3.8 percent.

Payroll jobs increased by 107,000, or 2.6 percent, over the year. All 14 metro regions had nonfarm employment advances since September 2020, with a median gain of 2.0 percent.

County jobless rates down over month and year

Over the month 81 Michigan counties recorded jobless rate declines. All 83 counties exhibited unemployment rate reductions over the year.

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 September workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas is included in the full release, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for September.

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	190,500	188,500	192,300	2,000	1.1%	-1,800	-0.9%
Employed	183,700	181,300	182,100	2,400	1.3%	1,600	0.9%
Unemployed	6,800	7,200	10,100	-400	-5.6%	-3,300	-32.7%
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.8	5.3	-0.2	XXX	-1.7	XXX

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	58,900	59,600	60,800	-700	-1.2%	-1,900	-3.1%
Employed	55,700	56,100	56,400	-400	-0.7%	-700	-1.2%
Unemployed	3,100	3,500	4,400	-400	-11.4%	-1,300	-29.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.8	7.3	-0.5	XXX	-2.0	XXX

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	47,300	48,100	48,800	-800	-1.7%	-1,500	-3.1%
Employed	45,100	45,600	45,800	-500	-1.1%	-700	-1.5%
Unemployed	2,200	2,500	3,000	-300	-12.0%	-800	-26.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.1	6.2	-0.4	XXX	-1.5	XXX

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Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA

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

(Data in Thousands)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,056	2,075	2,133	-19	-0.9%	-77	-3.6%
Employed	1,996	1,998	1,917	-2	-0.1%	79	4.1%
Unemployed	60	77	216	-17	-22.1%	-156	-72.2%
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.7	10.1	-0.8	XXX	-7.2	XXX

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Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	172,800	174,000	177,800	-1,200	-0.7%	-5,000	-2.8%
Employed	161,500	159,700	163,500	1,800	1.1%	-2,000	-1.2%
Unemployed	11,300	14,400	14,300	-3,100	-21.5%	-3,000	-21.0%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	8.3	8.0	-1.8	XXX	-1.5	XXX

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

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	560,400	570,600	570,300	-10,200	-1.8%	-9,900	-1.7%
Employed	540,000	548,100	539,900	-8,100	-1.5%	100	0.0%
Unemployed	20,400	22,400	30,500	-2,000	-8.9%	-10,100	-33.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.9	5.3	-0.3	XXX	-1.7	XXX

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Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	71,300	71,200	72,800	100	0.1%	-1,500	-2.1%
Employed	68,000	67,600	68,000	400	0.6%	0	0.0%
Unemployed	3,300	3,600	4,700	-300	-8.3%	-1,400	-29.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.1	6.5	-0.4	XXX	-1.8	XXX

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Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	162,900	162,700	165,300	200	0.1%	-2,400	-1.5%
Employed	156,200	155,300	155,700	900	0.6%	500	0.3%
Unemployed	6,800	7,500	9,600	-700	-9.3%	-2,800	-29.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.6	5.8	-0.5	XXX	-1.7	XXX

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

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	239,400	235,700	238,400	3,700	1.6%	1,000	0.4%
Employed	227,400	222,900	224,900	4,500	2.0%	2,500	1.1%
Unemployed	12,000	12,800	13,500	-800	-6.3%	-1,500	-11.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.4	5.7	-0.4	XXX	-0.7	XXX

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Midland MSA (Midland County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,900	39,300	39,500	-400	-1.0%	-600	-1.5%
Employed	37,400	37,800	37,400	-400	-1.1%	0	0.0%
Unemployed	1,500	1,500	2,100	0	0.0%	-600	-28.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	5.3	-0.1	XXX	-1.5	XXX

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Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	71,800	72,900	200	0.3%	-900	-1.2%
Employed	68,200	68,000	68,800	200	0.3%	-600	-0.9%
Unemployed	3,800	3,800	4,200	0	0.0%	-400	-9.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	5.7	0.1	XXX	-0.4	XXX

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Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	74,400	76,500	-1,200	-1.6%	-3,300	-4.3%
Employed	68,700	69,400	69,900	-700	-1.0%	-1,200	-1.7%
Unemployed	4,500	5,000	6,600	-500	-10.0%	-2,100	-31.8%
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.7	8.6	-0.5	XXX	-2.4	XXX

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Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,400	71,700	72,300	-1,300	-1.8%	-1,900	-2.6%
Employed	67,200	68,300	67,600	-1,100	-1.6%	-400	-0.6%
Unemployed	3,200	3,400	4,700	-200	-5.9%	-1,500	-31.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.8	6.5	-0.3	XXX	-2.0	XXX

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Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	81,800	82,900	84,200	-1,100	-1.3%	-2,400	-2.9%
Employed	76,900	77,400	78,000	-500	-0.6%	-1,100	-1.4%
Unemployed	4,800	5,400	6,100	-600	-11.1%	-1,300	-21.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.6	7.3	-0.7	XXX	-1.4	XXX

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

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	134,600	135,400	134,800	-800	-0.6%	-200	-0.1%
Employed	129,100	129,500	127,700	-400	-0.3%	1,400	1.1%
Unemployed	5,400	5,900	7,100	-500	-8.5%	-1,700	-23.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.4	5.3	-0.4	XXX	-1.3	XXX

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Northeast Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	81,300	83,100	81,800	-1,800	-2.2%	-500	-0.6%
Employed	77,100	78,500	76,400	-1,400	-1.8%	700	0.9%
Unemployed	4,100	4,500	5,300	-400	-8.9%	-1,200	-22.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.4	6.5	-0.3	XXX	-1.4	XXX

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Northwest Lower Michigan LMA

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

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	148,700	153,100	149,100	-4,400	-2.9%	-400	-0.3%
Employed	142,800	146,600	140,700	-3,800	-2.6%	2,100	1.5%
Unemployed	5,900	6,400	8,400	-500	-7.8%	-2,500	-29.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.2	5.7	-0.2	XXX	-1.7	XXX

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Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,737	4,779	4,852	-42	-0.9%	-115	-2.4%
Employed	4,557	4,569	4,473	-12	-0.3%	84	1.9%
Unemployed	180	210	378	-30	-14.3%	-198	-52.4%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.4	7.8	-0.6	XXX	-4.0	XXX

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Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - September 2021

1	Livingston County	1.9	43	Sanilac County	4.4
2	Oakland County	2.2	44	Van Buren County	4.4
3	Mackinac County	2.5	45	Antrim County	4.5
4	Lapeer County	2.7	46	Berrien County	4.5
5	St. Clair County	2.7	47	Gratiot County	4.5
6	Macomb County	2.8	48	Keweenaw County	4.5
7	Ottawa County	3.2	49	Luce County	4.5
8	Allegan County	3.5	50	Mason County	4.5
9	Cheboygan County	3.5	51	Lenawee County	4.6
10	Menominee County	3.5	52	Bay County	4.7
11	Barry County	3.6	53	Jackson County	4.7
12	Grand Traverse County	3.6	54	Mecosta County	4.7
13	Washtenaw County	3.6	55	Tuscola County	4.7
14	Emmet County	3.7	56	Otsego County	4.8
15	Huron County	3.7	57	Alcona County	4.9
16	Leelanau County	3.7	58	Shiawassee County	4.9
17	Charlevoix County	3.8	59	Crawford County	5.1
18	Dickinson County	3.8	60	Ingham County	5.1
19	Houghton County	3.8	61	Kalkaska County	5.1
20	Kent County	3.8	62	Manistee County	5.1
21	Midland County	3.8	63	Iosco County	5.2
22	Missaukee County	3.8	64	Schoolcraft County	5.2
23	Wayne County	3.8	65	Alger County	5.3
24	Marquette County	3.9	66	Calhoun County	5.3
25	Benzie County	4.0	67	Gladwin County	5.3
26	Branch County	4.0	68	Monroe County	5.3
27	Cass County	4.0	69	Oceana County	5.3
28	Gogebic County	4.0	70	Presque Isle County	5.3
29	Osceola County	4.0	71	Baraga County	5.4
30	St. Joseph County	4.0	72	Eaton County	5.4
31	Ionia County	4.1	73	Ogemaw County	5.7
32	Iron County	4.1	74	Ontonagon County	5.8
33	Isabella County	4.1	75	Arenac County	5.9
34	Kalamazoo County	4.1	76	Clare County	5.9
35	Clinton County	4.2	77	Saginaw County	5.9
36	Delta County	4.2	78	Muskegon County	6.2
37	Newaygo County	4.3	79	Oscoda County	6.3
38	Wexford County	4.3	80	Lake County	6.4
39	Alpena County	4.4	81	Genesee County	6.5
40	Chippewa County	4.4	82	Roscommon County	6.6
41	Hillsdale County	4.4	83	Montmorency County	6.7
42	Montcalm County	4.4			