



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

MICHELLE LANGE  
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## **Regional unemployment rates fall in October**

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revised Michigan September 2021 jobless rate,  
impacting regional rates*

**LANSING, Mich.** – Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates declined in all 17 of Michigan’s major labor market areas during October, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [identified a distortion in their statistical estimates](#) and has revised Michigan’s September not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate upward by 1.7 percentage points to 5.5 percent. The median September upward jobless rate revision for Michigan counties and regions was +1.2 percentage points, with a range of rate revisions from +0.7 to +3.1 percentage points. (For a full explanation, please see the BLS note at the end of this release.)

“Jobless rates declined in all major Michigan labor markets in October, although labor force levels were generally down over the month,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Payroll job levels advanced in most metro areas in October.”

Major area unemployment rate decreases in October ranged from 0.5 to 1.9 percentage points, with a median decline of 0.7 percentage points. These monthly rate cuts were led by the Lansing metropolitan statistical area (MSA) largely due to recalls from layoffs in the auto sector.

### **Regional unemployment rates move down over year**

Over the year, all 17 Michigan regions displayed jobless rate reductions, with a median decrease of 0.7 percentage points.

October 2021 regional jobless rates remained above pre-pandemic October 2019 levels. All 17 major labor market areas exhibited higher unemployment rates over the last two years, with a median increase of 1.9 percentage points.

### **Regional employment levels increase over month, down since October 2019**

Eleven Michigan regions recorded employment gains between September and October. Increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.8 percent, with a median advance of 0.8 percent. Five regions exhibited employment decreases over the month, and employment was unchanged in the Muskegon MSA during October.

All 17 Michigan regional employment levels remained below pre-pandemic October 2019 levels, with a median decline of 6.5 percent over the two-year period.

### **Labor force levels decrease over month and year**

Twelve Michigan regions had workforce level declines over the month, with a median decrease of 0.7 percent. The largest labor force cut was in the Northwest Lower Michigan region and reflected the typical drop in the area summer tourism workforce.

All 17 labor market areas exhibited workforce reductions over the year, with a median decrease of 2.2 percent.

### **Regional payroll job levels advance significantly during October**

Not seasonally adjusted Michigan nonfarm jobs rose sharply by 63,000, or 1.5 percent, according to the monthly survey of employers. This was the largest monthly job gain in Michigan since February, and the largest October job advance in at least 10 years. Employment rose in most major industries, led by professional and business services (+21,000).

October payroll jobs moved up in 12 Michigan metro areas, with a median increase of 1.1 percent. The largest job addition was in the Lansing metro area (+2.2 percent), with recalls in transportation equipment manufacturing and a seasonal job advance in public education.

Over the year, statewide nonfarm jobs increased by 134,000, or 3.2 percent. Thirteen metro areas exhibited payroll employment advances since October 2020, with a median gain of 2.2 percent.

### **County jobless rates fall over month and year**

Eighty-two Michigan counties displayed jobless rate declines over the month. Over the year, 69 counties exhibited unemployment rate reductions.

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

**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 October workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for October.

**Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 188,100      | 187,500       | 193,100      | 600            | 0.3%    | -5,000        | -2.6%   |
| Employed             | 180,800      | 178,800       | 184,100      | 2,000          | 1.1%    | -3,300        | -1.8%   |
| Unemployed           | 7,300        | 8,700         | 9,000        | -1,400         | -16.1%  | -1,700        | -18.9%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 3.9          | 4.6           | 4.7          | -0.7           | XXX     | -0.8          | XXX     |

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**Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 58,700       | 58,700        | 60,900       | 0              | 0.0%    | -2,200        | -3.6%   |
| Employed             | 55,200       | 54,800        | 56,800       | 400            | 0.7%    | -1,600        | -2.8%   |
| Unemployed           | 3,500        | 3,900         | 4,100        | -400           | -10.3%  | -600          | -14.6%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 6.0          | 6.7           | 6.7          | -0.7           | XXX     | -0.7          | XXX     |

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**Bay City MSA (Bay County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 46,800       | 47,300        | 48,700       | -500           | -1.1%   | -1,900        | -3.9%   |
| Employed             | 44,300       | 44,400        | 45,900       | -100           | -0.2%   | -1,600        | -3.5%   |
| Unemployed           | 2,500        | 2,800         | 2,800        | -300           | -10.7%  | -300          | -10.7%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 5.3          | 5.9           | 5.7          | -0.6           | XXX     | -0.4          | XXX     |

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**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**

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

(Data in Thousands)

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 2,094        | 2,076         | 2,137        | 18             | 0.9%    | -43           | -2.0%   |
| Employed             | 2,000        | 1,965         | 1,933        | 35             | 1.8%    | 67            | 3.5%    |
| Unemployed           | 94           | 111           | 203          | -17            | -15.3%  | -109          | -53.7%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.5          | 5.4           | 9.5          | -0.9           | XXX     | -5.0          | XXX     |

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**Flint MSA (Genesee County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 171,200      | 173,200       | 178,000      | -2,000         | -1.2%   | -6,800        | -3.8%   |
| Employed             | 159,000      | 158,900       | 165,000      | 100            | 0.1%    | -6,000        | -3.6%   |
| Unemployed           | 12,200       | 14,200        | 13,000       | -2,000         | -14.1%  | -800          | -6.2%   |
| Unemployment Rate    | 7.1          | 8.2           | 7.3          | -1.1           | XXX     | -0.2          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 560,200      | 558,700       | 570,100      | 1,500          | 0.3%    | -9,900        | -1.7%   |
| Employed             | 538,100      | 533,000       | 542,900      | 5,100          | 1.0%    | -4,800        | -0.9%   |
| Unemployed           | 22,200       | 25,800        | 27,200       | -3,600         | -14.0%  | -5,000        | -18.4%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.0          | 4.6           | 4.8          | -0.6           | XXX     | -0.8          | XXX     |

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**Jackson MSA** (Jackson County)

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 71,000       | 71,100        | 72,600       | -100           | -0.1%   | -1,600        | -2.2%   |
| Employed             | 67,400       | 66,900        | 68,300       | 500            | 0.7%    | -900          | -1.3%   |
| Unemployed           | 3,700        | 4,200         | 4,300        | -500           | -11.9%  | -600          | -14.0%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 5.1          | 5.9           | 5.9          | -0.8           | XXX     | -0.8          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 162,600      | 162,400       | 165,900      | 200            | 0.1%    | -3,300        | -2.0%   |
| Employed             | 155,200      | 153,900       | 157,200      | 1,300          | 0.8%    | -2,000        | -1.3%   |
| Unemployed           | 7,400        | 8,500         | 8,700        | -1,100         | -12.9%  | -1,300        | -14.9%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.6          | 5.2           | 5.3          | -0.6           | XXX     | -0.7          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 238,900      | 239,400       | 240,300      | -500           | -0.2%   | -1,400        | -0.6%   |
| Employed             | 228,200      | 224,200       | 228,000      | 4,000          | 1.8%    | 200           | 0.1%    |
| Unemployed           | 10,800       | 15,200        | 12,200       | -4,400         | -28.9%  | -1,400        | -11.5%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.5          | 6.4           | 5.1          | -1.9           | XXX     | -0.6          | XXX     |

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**Midland MSA (Midland County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 38,400       | 38,700        | 39,600       | -300           | -0.8%   | -1,200        | -3.0%   |
| Employed             | 36,800       | 36,900        | 37,700       | -100           | -0.3%   | -900          | -2.4%   |
| Unemployed           | 1,600        | 1,800         | 1,900        | -200           | -11.1%  | -300          | -15.8%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.2          | 4.8           | 4.7          | -0.6           | XXX     | -0.5          | XXX     |

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**Monroe MSA (Monroe County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 72,000       | 72,300        | 73,500       | -300           | -0.4%   | -1,500        | -2.0%   |
| Employed             | 68,200       | 67,200        | 69,100       | 1,000          | 1.5%    | -900          | -1.3%   |
| Unemployed           | 3,800        | 5,000         | 4,300        | -1,200         | -24.0%  | -500          | -11.6%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 5.3          | 7.0           | 5.9          | -1.7           | XXX     | -0.6          | XXX     |

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**Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 72,900       | 73,400        | 75,900       | -500           | -0.7%   | -3,000        | -4.0%   |
| Employed             | 67,700       | 67,700        | 69,800       | 0              | 0.0%    | -2,100        | -3.0%   |
| Unemployed           | 5,100        | 5,700         | 6,100        | -600           | -10.5%  | -1,000        | -16.4%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 7.0          | 7.8           | 8.0          | -0.8           | XXX     | -1.0          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 70,100       | 70,400        | 72,100       | -300           | -0.4%   | -2,000        | -2.8%   |
| Employed             | 66,600       | 66,500        | 67,900       | 100            | 0.2%    | -1,300        | -1.9%   |
| Unemployed           | 3,500        | 3,900         | 4,300        | -400           | -10.3%  | -800          | -18.6%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.9          | 5.6           | 5.9          | -0.7           | XXX     | -1.0          | XXX     |

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**Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)**

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 81,200       | 81,700        | 84,100       | -500           | -0.6%   | -2,900        | -3.4%   |
| Employed             | 75,900       | 75,600        | 78,500       | 300            | 0.4%    | -2,600        | -3.3%   |
| Unemployed           | 5,300        | 6,100         | 5,600        | -800           | -13.1%  | -300          | -5.4%   |
| Unemployment Rate    | 6.5          | 7.5           | 6.6          | -1.0           | XXX     | -0.1          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 133,100      | 134,100       | 134,000      | -1,000         | -0.7%   | -900          | -0.7%   |
| Employed             | 127,000      | 127,300       | 127,400      | -300           | -0.2%   | -400          | -0.3%   |
| Unemployed           | 6,100        | 6,900         | 6,700        | -800           | -11.6%  | -600          | -9.0%   |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.6          | 5.1           | 5.0          | -0.5           | XXX     | -0.4          | XXX     |

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**Northeast Lower Michigan LMA**

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 79,700       | 81,200        | 81,000       | -1,500         | -1.8%   | -1,300        | -1.6%   |
| Employed             | 75,000       | 76,000        | 76,100       | -1,000         | -1.3%   | -1,100        | -1.4%   |
| Unemployed           | 4,700        | 5,200         | 4,800        | -500           | -9.6%   | -100          | -2.1%   |
| Unemployment Rate    | 5.8          | 6.4           | 6.0          | -0.6           | XXX     | -0.2          | XXX     |

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

|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 145,300      | 148,200       | 147,400      | -2,900         | -2.0%   | -2,100        | -1.4%   |
| Employed             | 138,600      | 140,700       | 140,000      | -2,100         | -1.5%   | -1,400        | -1.0%   |
| Unemployed           | 6,700        | 7,500         | 7,500        | -800           | -10.7%  | -800          | -10.7%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.6          | 5.1           | 5.1          | -0.5           | XXX     | -0.5          | XXX     |

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|                      | Oct.<br>2021 | Sept.<br>2021 | Oct.<br>2020 | Over the Month |         | Over the Year |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                      |              |               |              | Numeric        | Percent | Numeric       | Percent |
| Civilian Labor Force | 4,757        | 4,750         | 4,854        | 7              | 0.1%    | -97           | -2.0%   |
| Employed             | 4,535        | 4,487         | 4,503        | 48             | 1.1%    | 32            | 0.7%    |
| Unemployed           | 222          | 263           | 351          | -41            | -15.6%  | -129          | -36.8%  |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.7          | 5.5           | 7.2          | -0.8           | XXX     | -2.5          | XXX     |

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

|    |                       |     |    |                     |     |
|----|-----------------------|-----|----|---------------------|-----|
| 1  | Livingston County     | 2.8 | 43 | Delta County        | 4.9 |
| 2  | Mackinac County       | 3.2 | 44 | Hillsdale County    | 4.9 |
| 3  | Oakland County        | 3.3 | 45 | Newaygo County      | 4.9 |
| 4  | Ottawa County         | 3.5 | 46 | Sanilac County      | 4.9 |
| 5  | Clinton County        | 3.7 | 47 | Shiawassee County   | 4.9 |
| 6  | Allegan County        | 3.9 | 48 | Van Buren County    | 5.0 |
| 7  | Barry County          | 3.9 | 49 | Jackson County      | 5.1 |
| 8  | Menominee County      | 3.9 | 50 | Chippewa County     | 5.2 |
| 9  | Washtenaw County      | 3.9 | 51 | Mecosta County      | 5.2 |
| 10 | Grand Traverse County | 4.0 | 52 | Tuscola County      | 5.2 |
| 11 | Houghton County       | 4.0 | 53 | Wexford County      | 5.2 |
| 12 | Ionia County          | 4.0 | 54 | Antrim County       | 5.3 |
| 13 | Lapeer County         | 4.0 | 55 | Bay County          | 5.3 |
| 14 | Cass County           | 4.1 | 56 | Luce County         | 5.3 |
| 15 | Dickinson County      | 4.1 | 57 | Mason County        | 5.3 |
| 16 | Huron County          | 4.1 | 58 | Monroe County       | 5.3 |
| 17 | Kent County           | 4.1 | 59 | Manistee County     | 5.7 |
| 18 | Leelanau County       | 4.1 | 60 | Otsego County       | 5.7 |
| 19 | St. Clair County      | 4.1 | 61 | Presque Isle County | 5.8 |
| 20 | Midland County        | 4.2 | 62 | Wayne County        | 5.8 |
| 21 | St. Joseph County     | 4.2 | 63 | Crawford County     | 5.9 |
| 22 | Branch County         | 4.3 | 64 | Kalkaska County     | 5.9 |
| 23 | Cheboygan County      | 4.3 | 65 | Alcona County       | 6.0 |
| 24 | Macomb County         | 4.3 | 66 | Calhoun County      | 6.0 |
| 25 | Charlevoix County     | 4.4 | 67 | Gladwin County      | 6.0 |
| 26 | Eaton County          | 4.4 | 68 | Ontonagon County    | 6.0 |
| 27 | Emmet County          | 4.4 | 69 | Schoolcraft County  | 6.0 |
| 28 | Kalamazoo County      | 4.4 | 70 | Iosco County        | 6.1 |
| 29 | Marquette County      | 4.4 | 71 | Oceana County       | 6.1 |
| 30 | Benzie County         | 4.5 | 72 | Alger County        | 6.5 |
| 31 | Gogebic County        | 4.5 | 73 | Saginaw County      | 6.5 |
| 32 | Iron County           | 4.5 | 74 | Ogemaw County       | 6.6 |
| 33 | Isabella County       | 4.5 | 75 | Oscoda County       | 6.6 |
| 34 | Osceola County        | 4.6 | 76 | Baraga County       | 6.7 |
| 35 | Alpena County         | 4.7 | 77 | Clare County        | 6.8 |
| 36 | Keweenaw County       | 4.7 | 78 | Arenac County       | 6.9 |
| 37 | Missaukee County      | 4.7 | 79 | Muskegon County     | 7.0 |
| 38 | Gratiot County        | 4.8 | 80 | Genesee County      | 7.1 |
| 39 | Ingham County         | 4.8 | 81 | Lake County         | 7.3 |
| 40 | Lenawee County        | 4.8 | 82 | Montmorency County  | 7.8 |
| 41 | Montcalm County       | 4.8 | 83 | Roscommon County    | 7.9 |
| 42 | Berrien County        | 4.9 |    |                     |     |

**BLS note: Data revision causing temporary series break in September 2021**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is responsible for examining the inputs to the statistical model that produces the Michigan monthly employment and unemployment estimates. Due to the impact of the pandemic on employment, BLS implemented a revised method of examining models for outliers on a monthly basis, as opposed to their usual practice of designating outliers annually. This involved implementing level shifts monthly in response to outliers in the Current Population Survey data, where appropriate. These level shifts are designed to preserve movements in the published estimates that the models otherwise would have discounted.

BLS implemented a level shift due to an outlier identified in the Current Population Survey input to the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn metro area unemployment model in January 2021. This adjustment produced some distortions in the benchmarking factors used for Michigan, the Detroit metro area, and the Balance of Michigan. To reduce these distortions, BLS has modified this outlier intervention with the publication of September revised and October preliminary estimates. This modification resulted in estimates that better reflect the model inputs for the most recent two months and produced a revised September not seasonally adjusted Michigan unemployment rate of 5.5 percent. This also resulted in an upward revision in September unemployment rates for all Michigan metro areas, regions, and counties. Data corrections for January - August 2021 will be addressed during the usual annual revision process at the end of 2021. The revised estimates will be published in March 2022.

**The revised estimates for September 2021 and the newly published October 2021 data can be fully compared with data for all months of 2020 and prior years. However, the data for September and October 2021 should not be compared with previously released estimates for January - August 2021 until all months of 2021 are revised in March 2022.**