



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

TRICIA L. FOSTER
DIRECTOR

October jobless rates edge down slightly in most Michigan regions

LANSING, Mich. -- Nonseasonally adjusted jobless rates in October moved down slightly in 13 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Three metro areas had noticeable jobless rate increases related to manufacturing job cuts associated with an auto sector labor dispute.

"Michigan's regional jobless rates were generally little changed in October, despite the strike in the state's auto sector," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, the manufacturing industry reported temporary job reductions in a few Michigan metro areas."

October regional jobless rates ranged from 2.5 to 4.7 percent. Rate reductions ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 percentage points, with a small median decline of 0.3 percentage points. The Ann Arbor metropolitan statistical area (MSA) recorded the largest over-the-month rate reduction of 0.5 percentage points. Four Michigan regions displayed jobless rate advances over the month, primarily due to auto-related layoffs. These regions included the Bay City MSA (+0.1), the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (+0.5), the Flint MSA (+0.6), and the Saginaw MSA (+0.6).

Unemployment rates mixed over year

Unemployment rates decreased in nine labor market areas since October 2018. Rate reductions ranged from 0.1 to 1.0 percentage points, with a median decline of 0.2 percentage points. The Monroe MSA had the largest over-the-year rate cut (-1.0). Six Michigan regions exhibited over-the-year rate advances, with the largest increase in the Saginaw metro region (+0.9). The Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and Midland region jobless rates remained unchanged over the past year.

Modest employment change over month and year in multiple regions

In October, total employment rose in 10 regions and fell in seven. The largest employment gain was seen in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (+1.1%). The most prominent employment reduction occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region, down seasonally by -1.9 percent, followed closely by the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.4%).

Over the past year, employment advanced in nine regions and declined in eight. The largest percent employment reduction occurred in the Bay City MSA, with a cut of -1.5 percent since October 2018.

Workforce levels mixed over month and year

During the month of October, total workforce levels increased in eight regions, receded in seven, and remained unchanged in the Bay City and Grand Rapids MSAs. Labor force expansion was mostly minor, with the notable exceptions of the Lansing (+1.6%), Flint (+1.6%), and Saginaw (+0.9%) metro areas. The most pronounced over-the-month labor force reductions occurred in the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions, which dropped seasonally by 1.7 and 2.0 percent, respectively.

Nine Michigan regions recorded labor force advances over the year, led by the Detroit MSA (+2.1%). Seven regions displayed workforce level declines, led by the Monroe metro area (-1.4%). The Northeast Lower Michigan labor force level remained unchanged since October 2018.

October manufacturing jobs decline in Michigan

The monthly survey of employers indicated that unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan remained essentially unchanged in October, edging down by 400 over the month. A large job reduction of 21,000 occurred in Michigan's manufacturing industry, reflecting workers on strike in the auto sector and associated layoffs. However, jobs advanced in October in several other industries, including government (+12,000), trade, transportation, utilities (+6,000), and professional and business services (+4,000).

Nonfarm employment rose in six metro regions in October, led on a percentage basis by the Ann Arbor MSA (+1.2%). Payroll employment fell in six regions as well, with the largest decline in the Flint metro area (-3.7%).

Since October 2018, payroll jobs in Michigan were little changed, but this was distorted by the impact of the auto strike. During the first nine months of 2019, Michigan unadjusted payroll jobs averaged 4,433,000, or about 29,000 above year-ago levels.

County jobless rates down over month and mixed over year

Sixty-two Michigan counties demonstrated jobless rate decreases in October, with a median reduction of 0.4 percentage points over the year. Unemployment rates fell in 41 counties, advanced in 33, and remained unchanged in nine.

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

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

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	195,400	194,700	195,800	0.6%	0.2%
Total Employment	189,900	188,900	190,800	1.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	5,500	5,800	5,000	-13.8%	-9.1%
Rate (percent)	2.8	3.0	2.5		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	62,500	61,800	61,900	0.2%	-1.0%
Total Employment	60,300	59,400	59,800	0.7%	-0.8%
Unemployment	2,200	2,400	2,200	-8.3%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.9	3.5		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	49,800	49,300	49,300	0.0%	-1.0%
Total Employment	48,000	47,400	47,300	-0.2%	-1.5%
Unemployment	1,800	2,000	2,000	0.0%	11.1%
Rate (percent)	3.6	4.0	4.1		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,150	2,178	2,174	-0.2%	1.1%
Total Employment	2,056	2,088	2,093	0.2%	1.8%
Unemployment	93	90	82	-8.9%	-11.8%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.1	3.8		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	180,500	181,400	184,300	1.6%	2.1%
Total Employment	173,400	173,700	175,500	1.0%	1.2%
Unemployment	7,100	7,700	8,800	14.3%	23.9%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.2	4.8		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	575,200	574,600	574,500	0.0%	-0.1%
Total Employment	560,600	558,500	560,300	0.3%	-0.1%
Unemployment	14,600	16,100	14,200	-11.8%	-2.7%
Rate (percent)	2.5	2.8	2.5		

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,900	73,400	73,200	-0.3%	-0.9%
Total Employment	71,500	70,900	70,800	-0.1%	-1.0%
Unemployment	2,400	2,500	2,400	-4.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.2	3.4	3.3		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,700	168,200	169,000	0.5%	0.2%
Total Employment	163,700	162,500	163,800	0.8%	0.1%
Unemployment	5,100	5,700	5,200	-8.8%	2.0%
Rate (percent)	3.0	3.4	3.1		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	249,400	248,900	252,800	1.6%	1.4%
Total Employment	242,300	241,100	243,700	1.1%	0.6%
Unemployment	7,100	7,800	9,100	16.7%	28.2%
Rate (percent)	2.9	3.1	3.6		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,100	40,000	39,700	-0.8%	-1.0%
Total Employment	38,800	38,600	38,500	-0.3%	-0.8%
Unemployment	1,300	1,300	1,200	-7.7%	-7.7%
Rate (percent)	3.1	3.4	3.1		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,200	74,900	75,100	0.3%	-1.4%
Total Employment	73,200	72,400	72,900	0.7%	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,000	2,500	2,200	-12.0%	-26.7%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.3	2.9		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	77,800	77,900	0.1%	0.9%
Total Employment	74,300	74,800	75,100	0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	2,900	3,100	2,800	-9.7%	-3.4%
Rate (percent)	3.8	3.9	3.6		

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,400	73,500	73,100	-0.5%	1.0%
Total Employment	69,900	70,900	70,800	-0.1%	1.3%
Unemployment	2,500	2,600	2,300	-11.5%	-8.0%
Rate (percent)	3.4	3.5	3.1		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-841-5634

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	86,200	86,200	87,000	0.9%	0.9%
Total Employment	82,900	82,700	82,800	0.1%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,300	3,500	4,100	17.1%	24.2%
Rate (percent)	3.8	4.1	4.7		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	136,800	138,100	136,500	-1.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	131,900	132,500	131,500	-0.8%	-0.3%
Unemployment	5,000	5,500	4,900	-10.9%	-2.0%
Rate (percent)	3.7	4.0	3.6		

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

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,300	83,000	81,300	-2.0%	0.0%
Total Employment	77,700	79,300	77,800	-1.9%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,600	3,700	3,500	-5.4%	-2.8%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.4	4.3		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-241-8272

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,700	151,400	148,900	-1.7%	0.8%
Total Employment	142,900	146,200	144,200	-1.4%	0.9%
Unemployment	4,800	5,200	4,700	-9.6%	-2.1%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.4	3.1		

Contact: Nick Gandhi, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst, 517-335-3875

	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Sep-19</u>	<u>Oct-19</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,909	4,944	4,941	-0.1%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,728	4,759	4,767	0.2%	0.8%
Unemployment	181	185	174	-5.9%	-3.9%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.7	3.5		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst, 313-456-3145

Please note: The large auto industry labor dispute began Monday, Sept. 16, and ended Friday, Oct. 25.

There are two basic measures published each month on employment. The statistical programs producing these two measures handle persons on strike in different ways.

- **Household survey - Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS)** - Estimates of the number of employed and unemployed in Michigan; and the unemployment rate.
 - Persons who are away from their job due to a labor dispute are considered employed in the LAUS program.
- **Establishment survey – Current Employment Statistics program (CES)** - Estimates of the number of payroll jobs in various industry sectors in the state.
 - The monthly estimates of the number of jobs by industry in Michigan will decline to reflect jobs involved with labor disputes.

MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - October 2019

1	Ottawa County	2.3	43	Chippewa County	3.8
2	Allegan County	2.4	44	Delta County	3.8
3	Leelanau County	2.4	45	Gratiot County	3.8
4	Kent County	2.5	46	Manistee County	3.8
5	Washtenaw County	2.5	47	Mason County	3.8
6	Barry County	2.6	48	Otsego County	3.8
7	Grand Traverse County	2.6	49	Shiawassee County	3.8
8	Clinton County	2.8	50	Branch County	3.9
9	Huron County	2.9	51	Eaton County	3.9
10	Livingston County	2.9	52	Oceana County	3.9
11	Mackinac County	2.9	53	Gogebic County	4.0
12	Monroe County	2.9	54	Kalkaska County	4.0
13	Osceola County	2.9	55	Keweenaw County	4.0
14	Ionia County	3.0	56	Bay County	4.1
15	Kalamazoo County	3.0	57	Crawford County	4.1
16	Menominee County	3.0	58	Luce County	4.1
17	Montcalm County	3.0	59	St. Clair County	4.1
18	Oakland County	3.0	60	Iron County	4.2
19	Berrien County	3.1	61	Lapeer County	4.2
20	Isabella County	3.1	62	Tuscola County	4.2
21	Midland County	3.1	63	Gladwin County	4.4
22	Charlevoix County	3.2	64	Schoolcraft County	4.4
23	Dickinson County	3.2	65	Baraga County	4.5
24	Alpena County	3.3	66	Clare County	4.5
25	Emmet County	3.3	67	Wayne County	4.5
26	Jackson County	3.3	68	Hillsdale County	4.6
27	Newaygo County	3.3	69	Iosco County	4.6
28	Benzie County	3.4	70	Lake County	4.6
29	Cheboygan County	3.4	71	Lenawee County	4.6
30	Marquette County	3.4	72	Ontonagon County	4.6
31	Missaukee County	3.4	73	Presque Isle County	4.7
32	Van Buren County	3.4	74	Saginaw County	4.7
33	Calhoun County	3.5	75	St. Joseph County	4.7
34	Houghton County	3.5	76	Genesee County	4.8
35	Wexford County	3.5	77	Ogemaw County	4.8
36	Antrim County	3.6	78	Alcona County	4.9
37	Mecosta County	3.6	79	Alger County	4.9
38	Muskegon County	3.6	80	Roscommon County	5.1
39	Cass County	3.7	81	Arenac County	5.4
40	Ingham County	3.7	82	Montmorency County	6.1
41	Macomb County	3.7	83	Oscoda County	6.4
42	Sanilac County	3.7			