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LANSING

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Michigan regional jobless rates surge in April with COVID-19 pandemic

LANSING, Mich. -- Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates jumped significantly in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas and in all 83 counties during April, according to data released today from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The April data reflected the first month of the initial impact of COVID-19 on employment and unemployment trends in regional labor markets. Most of the COVID-19 related layoffs began in the second half of March and continued through all of April.

"Jobless rates in April exceeded 20 percent in most Michigan regions, reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Industry jobs plunged throughout the state, particularly in the leisure and hospitality and manufacturing sectors."

Regional jobless rates ranged from 14.9 to 30.1 percent. The April unemployment rate monthly advances ranged from +12.6 to +26.0 percentage points, with a median increase of 20.8 percentage points. The largest over-the-month rate jump occurred in the Flint Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which also exhibited the highest metro area jobless rate of 30.1 percent. Flint also recorded the largest percent nonfarm job reduction in April, mainly due to a pronounced decrease in the manufacturing sector (-55.5 percent). The smallest jobless rate advance of 12.6 percentage points occurred in the Ann Arbor MSA.

Jobless rates well above year-ago levels

April 2020 regional unemployment rates in Michigan were far above prior year levels, with a substantial median rate hike of 20.8 percentage points. Like over-the-month changes, the largest over-the-year rate gain occurred in the Flint MSA (+25.7), while the smallest occurred in the Ann Arbor region (+12.3).

Total employment down steeply over month and year

Total employment fell significantly in all 17 major Michigan labor market areas in April. Employment reductions ranged from 17.5 to 29.4 percent, with a median decline of 22.2 percent. The largest over-the-month employment decrease was observed in the Detroit

MSA (-29.4 percent), followed by the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-26.4 percent). The smallest employment reduction was observed in the Upper Peninsula (-17.5 percent).

Similar to the over-the-month movements, employment declined sharply in all major Michigan labor market areas over the year, with the largest reduction observed in the Detroit metro area (-28.7 percent).

Workforce levels down over month and year

Labor force levels fell in 13 of Michigan's 17 labor market areas in April. Workforce reductions ranged from 0.3 to 10.9 percent, with the most pronounced decline observed in the Detroit MSA.

Workforce levels receded in 14 regions over the year. The Detroit metro area recorded the largest labor force reduction of 9.2 percent. Flint, Monroe, and Muskegon all demonstrated workforce increases since April 2019.

April payroll jobs plunged dramatically in Michigan metro regions

The monthly survey of employers indicated that, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, seasonally unadjusted April payroll jobs in Michigan fell by a record 977,000, or 22.3 percent, to 3,404,000. Substantial job cuts occurred in all industries, with the largest observed in the leisure and hospitality sector (-225,000 jobs). On a numeric basis, the second largest industry employment reduction occurred in manufacturing, with a loss of 173,000 jobs. The broad sectors with the largest monthly job losses tended to be those that were not deemed essential or in which working remotely was not widely possible.

Payroll employment fell sharply in all 14 metro regions during April. Reductions ranged from 14.9 to 24.1 percent, with the largest percentage job drop in the Flint region. Flint also had the highest percentage job decrease in manufacturing, plunging by 55.5 percent over the month. Ann Arbor exhibited the smallest over-the-month nonfarm employment reduction of 14.9 percent.

Michigan's unadjusted payroll employment total receded by 1,009,000 over the year, or 22.9 percent. All 14 metro regions exhibited nonfarm employment declines over the year, led by the Detroit MSA (-24.5 percent). Detroit also led the metro areas in several industry employment cuts over the year, including education and health services (-18.2 percent); other services (-37.5 percent); and mining, logging, and construction (-51.1 percent).

County jobless rates up over month and year

With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all 83 Michigan counties registered sharp jobless rate hikes over the month and year. In fact, 80 Michigan counties in April recorded the highest unemployment rate since 1990. Over-the-month rate advances ranged from 10.7 to 28.1 percentage points, with a median increase of 21.0 percentage points. The smallest rate gain occurred in Menominee County, while the largest was observed in Cheboygan County. Over-the-year jobless rate hikes among counties ranged widely from 10.6 to 29.6 percentage points.

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

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

Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	186,100	198,300	198,100	-12,200	-6.2%	-12,000	-6.1%
Employment	158,500	193,700	193,100	-35,200	-18.2%	-34,600	-17.9%
Unemployment	27,700	4,600	5,100	23,100	502.2%	22,600	443.1%
Rate (Percent)	14.9	2.3	2.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	60,400	61,500	62,300	-1,100	-1.8%	-1,900	-3.0%
Employment	45,500	59,300	59,900	-13,800	-23.3%	-14,400	-24.0%
Unemployment	14,900	2,200	2,400	12,700	577.3%	12,500	520.8%
Rate (Percent)	24.6	3.6	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Bay City MSA (Bay County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	48,700	48,500	49,700	200	0.4%	-1,000	-2.0%
Employment	36,400	46,300	47,600	-9,900	-21.4%	-11,200	-23.5%
Unemployment	12,300	2,200	2,200	10,100	459.1%	10,100	459.1%
Rate (Percent)	25.3	4.5	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)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	1,930	2,165	2,125	-235	-10.9%	-195	-9.2%
Employment	1,458	2,065	2,046	-607	-29.4%	-588	-28.7%
Unemployment	472	100	79	372	372.0%	393	497.5%
Rate (Percent)	24.4	4.6	3.7	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Flint MSA (Genesee County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	184,000	180,800	181,800	3,200	1.8%	2,200	1.2%
Employment	128,600	173,300	173,900	-44,700	-25.8%	-45,300	-26.0%
Unemployment	55,500	7,500	8,000	48,000	640.0%	47,500	593.8%
Rate (Percent)	30.1	4.1	4.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	538,500	576,000	579,400	-37,500	-6.5%	-40,900	-7.1%
Employment	421,000	561,200	564,300	-140,200	-25.0%	-143,300	-25.4%
Unemployment	117,500	14,700	15,100	102,800	699.3%	102,400	678.1%
Rate (Percent)	21.8	2.6	2.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Jackson MSA (Jackson County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	73,100	74,300	-400	-0.5%	-1,600	-2.2%
Employment	54,900	70,600	71,800	-15,700	-22.2%	-16,900	-23.5%
Unemployment	17,800	2,500	2,500	15,300	612.0%	15,300	612.0%
Rate (Percent)	24.4	3.4	3.4	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Kalamazoo - Portage MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	157,200	166,400	168,400	-9,200	-5.5%	-11,200	-6.7%
Employment	128,900	161,300	163,100	-32,400	-20.1%	-34,200	-21.0%
Unemployment	28,300	5,200	5,300	23,100	444.2%	23,000	434.0%
Rate (Percent)	18.0	3.1	3.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

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

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	237,500	249,000	251,900	-11,500	-4.6%	-14,400	-5.7%
Employment	192,200	241,800	244,500	-49,600	-20.5%	-52,300	-21.4%
Unemployment	45,300	7,100	7,400	38,200	538.0%	37,900	512.2%
Rate (Percent)	19.1	2.9	2.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Midland MSA (Midland County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,400	39,600	40,400	-1,200	-3.0%	-2,000	-5.0%
Employment	30,700	38,100	39,000	-7,400	-19.4%	-8,300	-21.3%
Unemployment	7,700	1,500	1,400	6,200	413.3%	6,300	450.0%
Rate (Percent)	20.0	3.7	3.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Monroe MSA (Monroe County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	77,000	73,700	75,600	3,300	4.5%	1,400	1.9%
Employment	57,200	71,300	72,800	-14,100	-19.8%	-15,600	-21.4%
Unemployment	19,800	2,400	2,700	17,400	725.0%	17,100	633.3%
Rate (Percent)	25.8	3.2	3.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	79,100	75,600	76,100	3,500	4.6%	3,000	3.9%
Employment	55,900	72,600	73,200	-16,700	-23.0%	-17,300	-23.6%
Unemployment	23,100	3,000	2,900	20,100	670.0%	20,200	696.6%
Rate (Percent)	29.3	3.9	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Niles - Benton Harbor MSA (Berrien County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,400	72,700	73,100	-2,300	-3.2%	-2,700	-3.7%
Employment	56,300	70,100	70,500	-13,800	-19.7%	-14,200	-20.1%
Unemployment	14,100	2,600	2,600	11,500	442.3%	11,500	442.3%
Rate (Percent)	20.0	3.6	3.6	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Saginaw MSA (Saginaw County)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	84,100	85,200	86,100	-1,100	-1.3%	-2,000	-2.3%
Employment	62,500	81,500	82,400	-19,000	-23.3%	-19,900	-24.2%
Unemployment	21,500	3,700	3,700	17,800	481.1%	17,800	481.1%
Rate (Percent)	25.6	4.3	4.3	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Upper Peninsula LMA (15 counties)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	131,000	133,600	134,900	-2,600	-1.9%	-3,900	-2.9%
Employment	104,400	126,500	127,100	-22,100	-17.5%	-22,700	-17.9%
Unemployment	26,600	7,200	7,800	19,400	269.4%	18,800	241.0%
Rate (Percent)	20.3	5.4	5.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Northeast Lower Michigan

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

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	76,300	78,900	79,700	-2,600	-3.3%	-3,400	-4.3%
Employment	53,900	73,200	74,200	-19,300	-26.4%	-20,300	-27.4%
Unemployment	22,400	5,700	5,500	16,700	293.0%	16,900	307.3%
Rate (Percent)	29.4	7.2	6.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Northwest Lower Michigan

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

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	144,000	144,400	144,500	-400	-0.3%	-500	-0.3%
Employment	104,400	137,600	137,600	-33,200	-24.1%	-33,200	-24.1%
Unemployment	39,600	6,800	6,900	32,800	482.4%	32,700	473.9%
Rate (Percent)	27.5	4.7	4.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

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

Michigan (Data in Thousands)

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,576	4,900	4,885	-324	-6.6%	-309	-6.3%
Employment	3,487	4,702	4,705	-1,215	-25.8%	-1,218	-25.9%
Unemployment	1,089	198	179	891	450.0%	910	508.4%
Rate (Percent)	23.8	4.0	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 on a monthly basis using information from the week of the 12th of each month. The information in this release covers labor market trends for the week of April 12–18, 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 April employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan’s workforce.

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 April 2020](#)

Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate- April 2020

1	Menominee County	14.5	43	Newaygo County	26.0
2	Washtenaw County	14.9	44	Iosco County	26.4
3	Houghton County	15.8	45	Benzie County	26.5
4	Dickinson County	16.6	46	Ionia County	26.9
5	Kalamazoo County	17.2	47	Montcalm County	27.0
6	Gogebic County	17.6	48	Oceana County	27.0
7	Ingham County	18.2	49	Macomb County	27.4
8	Alpena County	18.6	50	Hillsdale County	27.7
9	Clinton County	18.8	51	Ontonagon County	27.7
10	Iron County	18.9	52	Baraga County	27.8
11	Keweenaw County	19.6	53	Missaukee County	27.8
12	Oakland County	19.8	54	Gladwin County	27.9
13	Berrien County	20.0	55	Huron County	27.9
14	Luce County	20.0	56	Osceola County	27.9
15	Midland County	20.0	57	Lenawee County	28.2
16	Chippewa County	20.4	58	Presque Isle County	28.4
17	Marquette County	20.8	59	Kalkaska County	28.7
18	Van Buren County	20.8	60	Antrim County	29.0
19	Ottawa County	21.2	61	Shiawassee County	29.2
20	Eaton County	21.5	62	Muskegon County	29.3
21	Kent County	21.6	63	Crawford County	29.4
22	Livingston County	21.9	64	St. Clair County	29.4
23	Isabella County	22.1	65	Ogemaw County	29.8
24	Leelanau County	22.1	66	Otsego County	30.0
25	Schoolcraft County	22.2	67	Genesee County	30.1
26	Barry County	22.4	68	St. Joseph County	30.3
27	Gratiot County	22.5	69	Emmet County	30.4
28	Allegan County	22.8	70	Lake County	30.4
29	Branch County	23.0	71	Lapeer County	30.6
30	Delta County	23.5	72	Sanilac County	31.0
31	Alger County	23.8	73	Wexford County	31.5
32	Grand Traverse County	24.2	74	Manistee County	31.7
33	Jackson County	24.4	75	Charlevoix County	32.2
34	Calhoun County	24.6	76	Tuscola County	32.2
35	Alcona County	24.8	77	Arenac County	32.3
36	Cass County	24.9	78	Clare County	32.9
37	Bay County	25.3	79	Oscoda County	33.2
38	Mason County	25.5	80	Montmorency County	34.2
39	Saginaw County	25.6	81	Roscommon County	34.3
40	Mecosta County	25.8	82	Mackinac County	38.1
41	Monroe County	25.8	83	Cheboygan County	41.2
42	Wayne County	25.9			