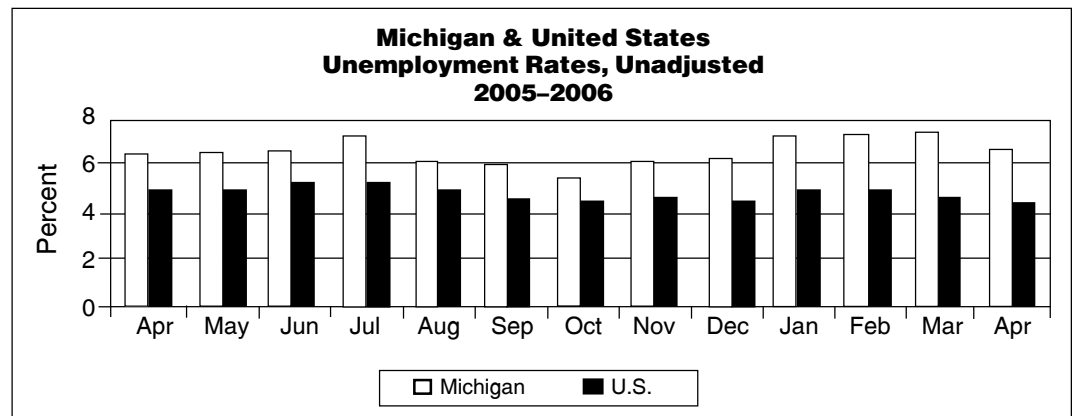


April Brings Seasonal Drop in Michigan's Jobless Rate

Michigan's unemployment rate decreased by seven-tenths of a percentage point during the month of April, bringing the state's unadjusted rate down to 6.8 percent. The decline in the unemployment rate represents 37,000 fewer individuals out of work, as unemployment moved down to 346,000. The state's civilian labor force fell by 16,000 during the month, to 5,086,000, while employment increased by 21,000 to 4,740,000. The decline in unemployment during April was mostly caused by a seasonal drop in the state's labor force, as some workers seeking temporary jobs stopped looking and left the labor market. Other workers found work

mainly in construction, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services, causing employment totals to move up. The nation's jobless rate (unadjusted) also fell during April, moving down by 0.3 percentage points to 4.5 percent.

Compared to a year ago, April's labor force advanced by 44,000, employment expanded by 30,000, while unemployment moved up by 14,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year increase of 0.2 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



Nonfarm Employment Increases Seasonally During April

Michigan's nonfarm employment increased during the month of April, as industry jobs advanced to 4,371,000. Employment opportunities moved forward by 54,000, with gains recorded in both the service-providing and goods-producing sectors of the economy. Service-providing jobs moved up by 35,000 during the month, with seasonal increases in the leisure and hospitality sector, up by 17,000 jobs, mainly in arts, entertainment, amusement and gambling, as well as accommodation and food services. Seasonal gains were also reported in the following industries: professional and business services (up by 13,000), mainly in administrative and support services; and retail trade (up by 4,000), mostly in building materials and garden equipment. Goods-producing employment expanded by 18,000 jobs in April, mostly due to seasonal increases in the construction industry, up by 16,000 (specialty trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering). The manufacturing sector remained basically flat, showing only minor upward adjustments in the durable goods sector.

In April, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries decreased to 40.5 hours from 41.7 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved down by three cents to \$21.85. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing contracted to \$884.93, a loss of \$27.47 from the previous month's total.

| | Average Hourly Earnings | | Average Weekly Hours | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| | 2006 Mar. | 2006 Feb. | 2006 Mar. | 2006 Feb. |
| Manufacturing | \$21.85 | \$21.88 | 40.5 | 41.7 |
| Durables | 23.44 | 23.47 | 41.3 | 42.6 |
| Transport Equipment | 29.16 | 29.45 | 42.2 | 43.7 |
| Nondurables | 15.73 | 15.66 | 37.8 | 38.4 |

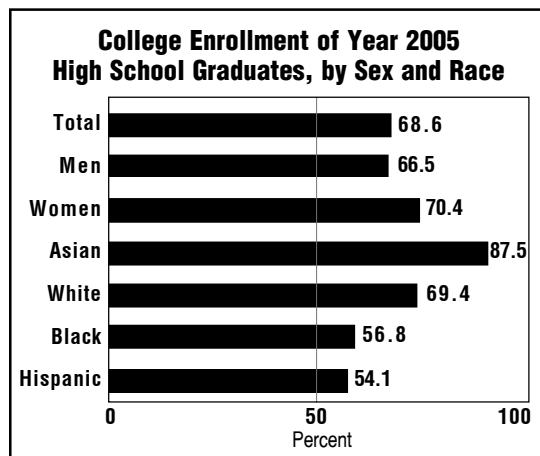
College Enrollment of High School Graduates, U.S. 2005

In October 2005, more than two out of every three high school graduates in the U.S. (68.6 percent) were enrolled in colleges or universities. The college enrollment rate for recent high school graduates was a historical high for these series, almost two percentage points higher than a year earlier, dating back to 1959.

Of the 2.7 million youth who graduated from high school between October 2004 and October 2005, 1.8 million (68.6 percent) were enrolled in colleges or universities in October 2005. The college enrollment rate of young women at 70.4 percent, continued to exceed that of young men, at 66.5 percent. The percentage of women attending college following high school graduation has exceeded that of men in almost every year since 1988. Among ethnic groups, a greater percentage of Asian graduates (87.5 percent) were enrolled in college than white (69.4 percent), black (56.8 percent), or Hispanic (54.1 percent), graduates.

The vast majority of recent high school graduates who enrolled in college in the fall of 2005 (91.2 percent) were full time students. Of these full-time students, 44.3 percent were employed or looking for work in October 2005. In contrast, 79.0 percent of part-time college students participated in the labor force. About two-thirds of the 2005 high school graduates enrolled in college attended 4-year institutions. The labor force participation rate of these students was 39.9 percent and their unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. In contrast, 61.3 percent of the recent high school graduates enrolled in 2-year institutions were in the labor force and their unemployment rate was 11.0 percent.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2006.



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Apr 2006 Mar 2006 Apr 2005

Place of Residence

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Labor Force | 5,086 | 5,102 | 5,042 |
| Employment | 4,740 | 4,719 | 4,710 |
| Unemployment Rate (Percent) | 346 | 383 | 332 |
| | 6.8 | 7.5 | 6.6 |

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Nonfarm | 4,371 | 4,317 | 4,393 |
| Goods - Producing | 853 | 835 | 872 |
| Nat Resources & Mining | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Construction | 184 | 168 | 183 |
| Manufacturing | 661 | 657 | 680 |
| Durable Goods | 515 | 513 | 532 |
| Fabricated Metals | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| Machinery Manufact. | 74 | 74 | 75 |
| Transportation Equip. | 231 | 230 | 242 |
| Nondurable Goods | 146 | 146 | 148 |
| Service-Providing | 3,518 | 3,483 | 3,522 |
| Trade, Transport & Util. | 787 | 781 | 797 |
| Wholesale Trade | 170 | 169 | 170 |
| Retail Trade | 490 | 486 | 501 |
| Motor Vehicle Dealers | 60 | 59 | 61 |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 82 | 82 | 84 |
| General Merchandise | 108 | 108 | 112 |
| Transp, Warehousing & Util | 127 | 126 | 126 |
| Information | 67 | 67 | 68 |
| Financial Activities | 219 | 217 | 218 |
| Finance & Insurance | 164 | 163 | 162 |
| Real Estate & Rental | 55 | 54 | 56 |
| Prof & Business Services | 592 | 579 | 591 |
| Prof, Scientific & Technical | 249 | 249 | 248 |
| Management Scientific Services | 20 | 20 | 19 |
| Administrative Support | 268 | 255 | 266 |
| Education & Health Services | 578 | 575 | 574 |
| Educational Services | 82 | 81 | 82 |
| Health Care & Social Asst | 495 | 494 | 492 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 403 | 386 | 400 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Rec | 64 | 54 | 62 |
| Accommodation & Food | 339 | 332 | 338 |
| Other Services | 178 | 178 | 178 |
| Government | 694 | 699 | 696 |
| Federal | 54 | 54 | 55 |
| State | 175 | 176 | 176 |
| Local | 465 | 469 | 466 |

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

| | Ann Arbor | | | Battle Creek | | | Bay City | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 |
| Place of Residence | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor Force | 193,900 | 195,900 | 191,600 | 73,700 | 74,100 | 72,600 | 56,900 | 57,000 | 55,800 |
| Employment | 185,700 | 186,600 | 183,800 | 68,800 | 68,800 | 68,200 | 52,700 | 52,400 | 51,800 |
| Unemployment | 8,200 | 9,200 | 7,800 | 5,000 | 5,300 | 4,500 | 4,200 | 4,600 | 3,900 |
| Rate (Percent) | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 6.2 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 7.1 |

Place of Work

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 204,700 | 204,000 | 206,300 | 62,500 | 61,900 | 63,000 | 39,200 | 38,800 | 39,200 |
| Nat Resources & Construction | 6,500 | 6,200 | 6,400 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 2,100 | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,500 |
| Manufacturing | 20,700 | 20,400 | 22,000 | 13,700 | 13,700 | 14,100 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Trade, Transport & Utilities | 26,800 | 26,600 | 26,900 | 9,800 | 9,600 | 9,900 | 8,900 | 8,700 | 8,800 |
| Wholesale Trade | 5,300 | 5,200 | 5,300 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| Retail Trade | 17,800 | 17,800 | 18,000 | 6,800 | 6,600 | 6,900 | 6,200 | 6,100 | 6,300 |
| Information | 3,600 | 3,700 | 3,700 | * | * | * | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Financial Activities | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,800 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Professional & Business Services | 28,000 | 27,400 | 27,600 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,600 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Educational & Health Services | 23,800 | 23,600 | 23,400 | 10,300 | 10,300 | 10,200 | 5,900 | 5,900 | 5,700 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 14,700 | 14,100 | 14,800 | 6,100 | 5,600 | 5,900 | 4,500 | 4,400 | 4,600 |
| Other Services | 6,200 | 6,200 | 6,200 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 |
| Government | 68,700 | 70,100 | 69,500 | 10,600 | 10,700 | 10,600 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,600 |

Detroit-Warren-Livonia (Data in Thousands)

Flint

Grand Rapids-Wyoming

| | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Place of Residence | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor Force | 2,162 | 2,170 | 2,176 | 217,200 | 218,100 | 212,900 | 414,800 | 415,000 | 404,500 |
| Employment | 2,012 | 2,005 | 2,023 | 199,400 | 198,700 | 196,900 | 390,900 | 388,600 | 382,000 |
| Unemployment | 150 | 164 | 153 | 17,800 | 19,300 | 16,000 | 24,000 | 26,400 | 22,500 |
| Rate (Percent) | 6.9 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 7.5 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 5.6 |

Place of Work

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 2,032 | 2,007 | 2,050 | 155,100 | 153,300 | 155,900 | 394,700 | 390,300 | 392,600 |
| Nat Resources & Construction | 78 | 74 | 81 | 6,200 | 5,900 | 6,200 | 18,500 | 17,200 | 18,200 |
| Manufacturing | 274 | 276 | 285 | 20,800 | 20,200 | 22,200 | 73,500 | 73,100 | 73,500 |
| Trade, Transport & Utilities | 375 | 372 | 378 | 31,200 | 30,800 | 31,300 | 75,600 | 74,500 | 75,000 |
| Wholesale Trade | 93 | 92 | 93 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 22,900 | 21,800 | 22,000 |
| Retail Trade | 218 | 216 | 220 | 21,400 | 21,000 | 21,500 | 42,300 | 42,300 | 42,600 |
| Information | 34 | 35 | 35 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 |
| Financial Activities | 119 | 118 | 118 | 6,600 | 6,500 | 6,400 | 22,300 | 22,200 | 21,900 |
| Professional & Business Services | 370 | 362 | 371 | 15,100 | 14,800 | 15,100 | 53,500 | 52,100 | 53,400 |
| Educational & Health Services | 269 | 267 | 265 | 24,600 | 24,700 | 24,500 | 56,700 | 56,500 | 55,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 184 | 176 | 183 | 15,800 | 15,400 | 15,700 | 31,800 | 31,700 | 32,300 |
| Other Services | 90 | 90 | 90 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,800 | 17,800 | 17,700 | 17,700 |
| Government | 238 | 238 | 243 | 25,500 | 25,700 | 25,300 | 39,300 | 39,600 | 39,400 |

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

| | Holland-Grand Haven | | | Jackson | | | Kalamazoo-Portage | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 |
| Place of Residence | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor Force | 138,400 | 138,100 | 135,300 | 79,600 | 80,500 | 79,200 | 176,300 | 177,300 | 172,400 |
| Employment | 131,600 | 130,300 | 128,900 | 74,200 | 74,500 | 74,300 | 166,900 | 166,600 | 163,500 |
| Unemployment | 6,900 | 7,800 | 6,400 | 5,400 | 6,000 | 4,800 | 9,400 | 10,700 | 9,000 |
| Rate (Percent) | 5.0 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 6.8 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 5.2 |
| Place of Work | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 116,500 | 115,000 | 116,900 | 60,400 | 60,200 | 61,800 | 146,400 | 145,300 | 146,100 |
| Nat Resources & Construction | 6,400 | 6,100 | 6,500 | 2,200 | 2,100 | 2,500 | 6,300 | 5,900 | 6,300 |
| Manufacturing | 37,500 | 37,100 | 37,600 | 10,100 | 10,100 | 10,300 | 23,400 | 23,400 | 24,100 |
| Trade, Transport & Utilities | 18,200 | 18,400 | 18,300 | 12,400 | 12,300 | 12,700 | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,800 |
| Wholesale Trade | 4,900 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,300 |
| Retail Trade | 10,600 | 10,900 | 10,800 | 7,800 | 7,700 | 7,900 | 16,500 | 16,200 | 16,500 |
| Information | 900 | 900 | 900 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,600 |
| Financial Activities | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,200 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,400 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,500 |
| Professional & Business Services | 11,200 | 10,800 | 11,200 | 4,700 | 4,700 | 4,800 | 15,400 | 14,900 | 15,200 |
| Educational & Health Services | 10,300 | 10,300 | 10,400 | 9,600 | 9,600 | 9,800 | 20,400 | 20,300 | 20,300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8,100 | 7,600 | 8,000 | 5,600 | 5,400 | 5,600 | 15,300 | 14,900 | 15,200 |
| Other Services | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 6,500 | 6,600 | 6,500 |
| Government | 16,200 | 16,200 | 16,400 | 10,100 | 10,300 | 10,200 | 25,000 | 25,600 | 24,600 |
| Place of Residence | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor Force | 255,800 | 257,100 | 250,200 | 78,500 | 78,900 | 78,300 | 91,000 | 92,400 | 89,800 |
| Employment | 240,800 | 240,800 | 237,300 | 73,900 | 73,700 | 73,900 | 84,900 | 85,800 | 84,000 |
| Unemployment | 15,000 | 16,300 | 13,000 | 4,600 | 5,200 | 4,400 | 6,100 | 6,600 | 5,800 |
| Rate (Percent) | 5.9 | 6.3 | 5.2 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 6.5 |
| Place of Work | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 230,400 | 228,100 | 231,000 | 43,500 | 43,200 | 44,800 | 66,000 | 66,100 | 66,600 |
| Nat Resources & Construction | 8,700 | 7,700 | 8,400 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,800 | 2,400 | 2,300 | 2,500 |
| Manufacturing | 21,600 | 21,600 | 22,700 | 7,900 | 8,000 | 8,400 | 13,400 | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| Trade, Transport & Utilities | 36,500 | 36,100 | 36,300 | 9,700 | 9,300 | 9,600 | 13,900 | 13,900 | 13,900 |
| Wholesale Trade | 5,800 | 5,700 | 5,600 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,400 |
| Retail Trade | 24,500 | 24,300 | 24,500 | 5,700 | 5,300 | 5,600 | 11,100 | 11,100 | 11,200 |
| Information | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,200 | * | * | * | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Financial Activities | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,300 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 2,000 |
| Professional & Business Services | 20,400 | 19,900 | 20,800 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 4,000 | 4,100 | 4,100 | 4,000 |
| Educational & Health Services | 27,400 | 27,500 | 27,100 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 4,600 | 10,300 | 10,200 | 10,300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 19,700 | 18,900 | 19,500 | 4,500 | 4,300 | 4,800 | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,800 |
| Other Services | 10,900 | 10,900 | 11,100 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,900 |
| Government | 66,700 | 66,900 | 66,600 | 6,900 | 7,000 | 6,800 | 9,500 | 9,800 | 9,700 |

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

Niles-Benton Harbor

Saginaw-Sag. Township North

| | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

Place of Residence

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Labor Force | 80,400 | 80,700 | 79,200 | 100,700 | 100,900 | 99,200 |
| Employment | 75,000 | 74,700 | 74,200 | 92,900 | 92,400 | 91,600 |
| Unemployment | 5,400 | 6,000 | 5,000 | 7,700 | 8,500 | 7,600 |
| Rate (Percent) | 6.8 | 7.4 | 6.3 | 7.7 | 8.4 | 7.7 |

Place of Work

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 64,900 | 64,200 | 65,600 | 92,500 | 91,100 | 92,700 |
| Nat Resources & Construction | 2,100 | 2,000 | 2,300 | 3,700 | 3,400 | 3,800 |
| Manufacturing | 14,700 | 14,700 | 15,200 | 13,000 | 12,900 | 14,100 |
| Trade, Transport & Utilities | 11,900 | 11,800 | 11,900 | 16,900 | 16,600 | 17,100 |
| Wholesale Trade | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,700 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| Retail Trade | 7,300 | 7,200 | 7,300 | 11,700 | 11,500 | 11,900 |
| Information | 900 | 900 | 900 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Financial Activities | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,000 |
| Professional & Business Services | 4,900 | 4,800 | 5,200 | 9,300 | 9,100 | 9,000 |
| Educational & Health Services | 10,200 | 10,100 | 10,100 | 15,500 | 15,300 | 15,300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 6,600 | 6,200 | 6,600 | 9,300 | 9,000 | 9,100 |
| Other Services | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 4,200 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Government | 8,400 | 8,500 | 8,300 | 13,300 | 13,500 | 13,200 |

Upper Peninsula

Northeast Lower Michigan

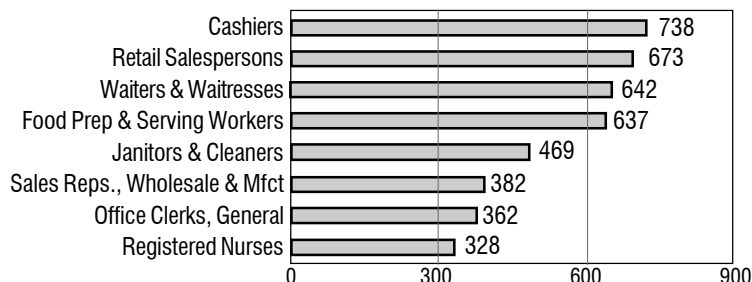
Northwest Lower Michigan

| | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 | Apr 2006 | Mar 2006 | Apr 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

Place of Residence

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Labor Force | 161,400 | 161,600 | 156,900 | 98,900 | 98,100 | 96,900 | 158,400 | 158,100 | 154,200 |
| Employment | 147,900 | 147,200 | 144,700 | 89,100 | 86,600 | 87,900 | 146,200 | 144,200 | 143,200 |
| Unemployment | 13,500 | 14,500 | 12,200 | 9,700 | 11,500 | 8,900 | 12,200 | 13,900 | 10,900 |
| Rate (Percent) | 8.4 | 9.0 | 7.8 | 9.9 | 11.7 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 8.8 | 7.1 |

Selected Occupations with the Largest Number of Projected Annual Openings, Grand Rapids MSA, 2002—2012



Regional Focus

Projected Number of Annual Openings of Selected Occupations in the Grand Rapids MSA, 2002—2012

The total number of annual openings by occupation in the Grand Rapids MSA between 2002 and 2012 is projected to reach 20,323. More than 38 percent of the projected openings will come from employment growth, while the rest will come from the need to replace workers. The occupations with the largest number of annual openings are: cashiers (738), followed by retail salespersons (673), and waiters and waitresses (642). Noteworthy are registered nurses, with 328 annual openings.

April Jobless Rates Move Down in all of Michigan's Major Areas

April seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas. Unemployment rate reductions over the month were moderate in most areas, with a median drop of 0.6 percentage points. However, two areas stood out from the rest, having noticeably larger unemployment rate decreases in April. These areas were the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Northwest Lower Michigan region, recording seasonal drops of 1.8 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively. The rate declines in these areas were not unexpected and were caused by the initial ramping up of hiring for the tourism and recreational season. The remaining 15 areas recorded jobless rate reductions between 0.4 and 0.7 percent. From March to April, total employment increased in 12 areas with an average gain of one half of one percent. Total employment fell in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Ann Arbor, and Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and was essentially unchanged in the Battle Creek and Lansing MSAs.

From April 2005 to April 2006, unemployment rates moved up in 15 of the state's major labor market areas, with an average rise of one half of a percentage point. Eight of the 15 regions recorded jobless rate increases of 0.5 to 0.7 percent, while the remaining seven areas showed only minor over-the-year hikes of 0.3 percent or less. The rate in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA remained unchanged since April of 2005, while the rate in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA dipped by 0.1 of a percentage point.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor MSA had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.2 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven MSA with 5.0 percent, and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA with 5.3 percent. The highest jobless rates in the month of April were recorded by the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Upper Peninsula, with 9.9 and 8.4 percent, respectively.

Modest Seasonal Payroll Job Gains in Most Metropolitan Areas

Total nonfarm employment increased in 13 of Michigan's 14 MSAs during the month of April, with the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA the only area to show a small decline for the month. Among the MSAs, Saginaw-Saginaw-Township North reported the largest percentage growth at 1.5 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven MSA with 1.3 percent and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and Flint MSAs both up by 1.2 percent. Employment gains were seasonal and in most areas were recorded in both the service-providing and goods-producing industries.

In many MSAs, increases in the service-providing industries were most evident in two sectors: leisure and hospitality services, and professional and business services (mainly in administrative support and employment services). In both sectors, employment advances were seasonal and were related to the approach of warmer weather. The areas that recorded the strongest gains in the administrative support sector were the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA up by 2.7 percent or 1,400 jobs, and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA up by 2.2 percent or 7,800 jobs. Employment advances in leisure and hospitality (arts, entertainment, and recreation; amusement and gambling; as well as accommodation, food and drinking services) were observed in all but one area (Muskegon). The largest gains in this sector were reported in the Holland-Grand Haven MSA (6.6 percent) and the Detroit MSA (4.8

percent). In the Detroit MSA most of these gains were in amusement, gambling and recreation, up by 3,400 jobs for the month.

In the goods-producing sector, employment increased in most areas, and were due to seasonal advances in the construction industry, mainly specialty trade contractors and construction of buildings, with the Lansing MSA (up by 13.0 percent), the Saginaw MSA (8.8 percent), and the Grand Rapids MSA (7.6 percent), leading the way. Employment in the manufacturing industries showed only small changes in April, remaining basically flat in most areas.

During April, average weekly hours in manufacturing dropped in four of the five major areas for which data is currently available. The losses were due to less hours worked in both the durable and nondurable goods sectors. Average hourly earnings declined in three areas during the month, with reductions reported in the durable and nondurable goods industries. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings contracted in all five major areas. The largest decreases in weekly earnings were reported in the Flint MSA, down by \$64.01, followed by the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA with a drop of \$27.59. In the remaining three areas, the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Lansing-East Lansing and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs, average weekly wages decreased by \$6.61, \$4.87 and \$3.48, respectively.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings Michigan & Selected Metropolitan Areas* April and March 2006

| Area | Average Weekly Hours | | Average Hourly Earnings | | Average Weekly Earnings | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Apr | Mar | Apr | Mar | Apr | Mar |
| Michigan | 40.5 | 41.7 | 21.85 | 21.88 | \$884.93 | \$912.40 |
| Detroit-Warren-Livonia | 42.8 | 43.4 | 25.00 | 25.29 | 1,070.00 | 1,097.59 |
| Flint | 41.9 | 43.2 | 29.30 | 29.90 | 1,227.67 | 1,291.68 |
| Grand Rapids-Wyoming | 39.2 | 39.6 | 18.11 | 17.76 | 709.91 | 703.30 |
| Kalamazoo-Portage | 39.3 | 39.8 | 14.91 | 14.81 | 585.96 | 589.44 |
| Lansing-East Lansing | 40.6 | 40.6 | 24.20 | 24.32 | 982.52 | 987.39 |

* Hours and earnings data for the manufacturing sector is currently available only in the above MSAs.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Detroit Metropolitan Area April, 2006

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes CPI's for two population groups: 1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population, and 2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial and technical workers, the unemployed, retirees, and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country, including the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). The Detroit CPI is published every other month.

Consumer prices (CPI-U) in the Detroit CMSA, rose from an average of 194.8 index points in February 2006 to an average of 197.2 points in April 2006. The 1.2 percent increase was primarily due to higher costs for motor fuel, energy, apparel and recreation. Price increases for motor fuel, and energy in general continued to show the highest gains during this period, moving up by 19.9 and 8.9 percent, respectively.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Detroit Metropolitan Area April, 2006

| | Index Number For April 2006 | Percent Change From Feb To Apr 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Detroit Metro All Items | 197.2 | +1.2 |
| Food And Beverages | 180.9 | -0.9 |
| Food At Home | 176.6 | -1.7 |
| Food Away From Home | 186.4 | +0.2 |
| Housing | 188.6 | +0.1 |
| Shelter | 212.9 | +0.2 |
| Fuels & Utilities | 216.8 | -1.0 |
| Apparel | 112.2 | +3.3 |
| Transportation | 203.2 | +5.3 |
| Motor Fuel | 240.0 | +19.9 |
| Medical Care | 325.0 | +0.4 |
| Education & Communication | 122.8 | +0.5 |
| Energy | 211.1 | +8.9 |
| Recreation | 120.9 | +2.5 |

Michigan Teen (16-19) Job Outlook, Summer 2006

Michigan's recent employment trends and normal seasonal patterns for June, July, and August indicate that the teen summer labor market situation will be very competitive this year. Since the year 2000, teen summer labor force participation has shown a steady decline. However, teen summer labor force participation was unchanged in 2005 compared to 2004 levels. During the first quarter of 2006 teen labor force participation has edged up slightly compared to the same period of the prior three years. This is expected to continue in the summer of 2006 with 341,700 teens in the Michigan job market, a slight increase of 2,800 over the June through August period in 2005. As a result of the projected minor increase in teen labor market participation, along with the very competitive nature of the state's job market, the teen summer unemployment rate is forecast to be 18.4 percent, up from the summer 2005 rate of 17.9 percent. The number of unemployed teens is also expected to be higher than year-ago levels. Teen jobless rates are always relatively high compared to the overall unemployment rate. In total, 278,800 teens are expected to find jobs this summer.

Michigan's Teen Job Outlook, Summer 2006

| Summer | Teen Labor Force | Teen Employment | Teen Unemployment | Teen Unemployment Rate (%) |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2005, Actual | 338,900 | 278,200 | 60,600 | 17.9% |
| 2006, Forecast | 341,700 | 278,800 | 62,900 | 18.4% |
| Change | 2,800 | 600 | 2,300 | 0.5% |

Tips for a successful summer job search include:

- Start looking early.
- Keep looking.
- Visit local businesses.
- Let friends/neighbors know you are looking for work.
- Think about self employment: lawn service, pet sitting, etc.

Job Opportunities By Occupation:

Delivery person • waiter/waitress • fast food worker • food market clerk • usher/attendant • golf course worker • camp counselor • sales clerk • cashier • receptionist • construction helper • library aide • stock clerk • car washer.

Job Opportunities By Industry:

Agriculture • landscaping • fruit and vegetable stores • restaurants • camp and trailer parks • hotels and motels • grocery stores • and department and retail stores • warehousing • amusement and recreation services • museums/zoos/galleries.

Visit our website at www.michlmi.org



Michigan Dept. Labor & Economic Growth
Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives
Cadillac Place
3032 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 9-100
Detroit, Michigan 48202

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