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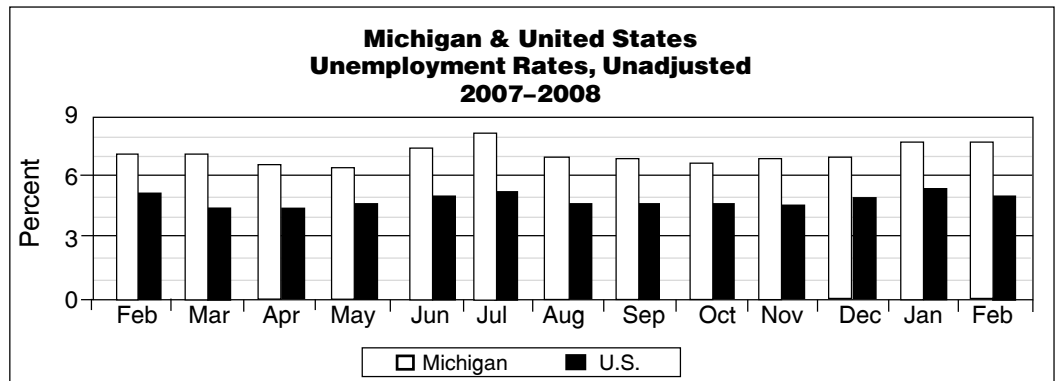
April 2008

Michigan's February Jobless Rate Remains Unchanged at 7.8 Percent

Michigan's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) did not change during the month of February, holding steady at 7.8 percent. Labor force, employment, and unemployment levels were also stable during the month. The state's civilian labor force increased by 6,000 to 4,959,000, employment moved up by 9,000 to 4,574,000, while unemployment totals declined by 4,000 to 384,000. In general, Michigan's monthly labor force trends were typical for February, with construction and retail trade reporting seasonal

reductions, and most other major sectors remaining flat for the month. The nation's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in February, dropping by 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.2 percent.

Compared to a year ago, February's labor force fell by 49,000, employment contracted by 69,000, and unemployment moved up by 19,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year increase of 0.5 percent in the state's jobless rate.



Payroll Jobs Edge Up With Seasonal Gains in Education

Michigan's nonfarm employment moved up during the month of February, as industry jobs advanced to 4,156,000. Employment opportunities increased by 17,000, with gains recorded in the service-providing sectors of the economy. Service-providing jobs increased by 22,000 during the month, as state and local educational facilities recalled their teachers, and non-faculty staff members following the end of winter vacation. Private colleges and universities also recalled staff during the month. The remaining major service industries, including financial activities, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and other services remained flat in February. Goods-producing employment declined by 5,000 jobs during the month, due to seasonal cutbacks in the construction industry (mostly in specialty trade contractors, and construction of buildings). Manufacturing employment remained virtually unchanged during February.

In February, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing sector moved up to 43.3, from 42.9 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings increased by 17 cents to \$22.40. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing moved up to \$969.92, a gain of \$16.25 from the previous month's total.

Michigan Hours and Earnings February 2008 and January 2008				
	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2008 FEB	2008 JAN	2008 FEB	2008 JAN
Manufacturing	\$22.40	\$22.23	43.3	42.9
Durables	24.03	23.83	45.6	45.0
Transport Equipment	28.31	28.29	45.2	44.6
Nondurables	15.86	15.90	36.0	36.1

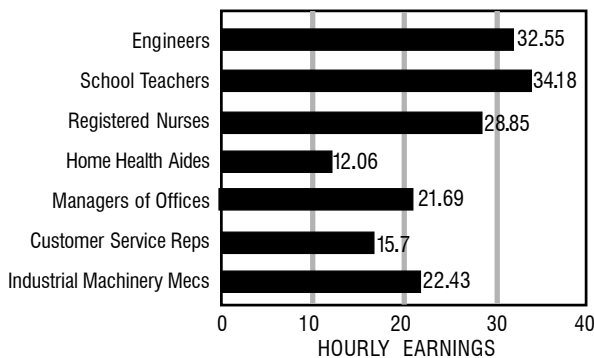
Highlights of the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA National Compensation Survey (NCS), April 2007

The U.S. Department of Labor's, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released results from the April 2007 National Compensation Survey (NCS) of the Grand Rapids-Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The NCS data for the area include earnings for 18 major occupational groups, and covers 281 establishments with one or more workers in private industry, as well as state and local government. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the federal government workers. This sample of 281 establishments represented 503,700 workers in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA which is comprised of Barry, Ionia, Kent, and Newaygo Counties in Michigan. Following are some highlights of the findings:

- In general, workers in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA earned an average of \$18.08 per hour during April 2007.
- Full-time workers averaged \$19.46 per hour, while their part-time counterparts averaged hourly wages of \$10.22. Union workers earned \$23.11 and non-union workers \$17.27.
- Workers in establishments with 1 to 99 workers averaged \$17.18 per hour; those in establishments with 100 to 499 workers earned \$16.94; and those in establishments with 500 employees or more, earned \$20.73
- Among the major occupational groups surveyed, the education, training, and library occupations earned the highest hourly wages at \$34.62. Within this group, secondary school teachers commanded the highest wages at \$45.19 per hour.
- The next three major groups with the higher average hourly earnings were: management occupations with \$31.87, computer and mathematical occupations with \$30.81, and architecture and engineering occupations with \$29.12 per hour.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2008

Average Hourly Earnings of Selected Occupations in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA, April 2007



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Feb 2008 Jan 2008 Feb 2007

Place of Residence

Labor Force	4,959	4,953	5,008
Employment	4,574	4,565	4,643
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	384	388	365
	7.8	7.8	7.3

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,156	4,139	4,213
Goods-Producing	734	739	782
Nat Resources & Mining	7	7	7
Construction	136	141	145
Manufacturing	591	592	630
Durable Goods	454	454	488
Fabricated Metals	78	78	81
Machinery Manufact.	68	68	70
Transportation Equip.	189	187	215
Nondurable Goods	137	137	142
Service-Providing	3,422	3,400	3,431
Trade, Transport & Util.	767	775	770
Wholesale Trade	166	166	167
Retail Trade	474	482	477
Motor Vehicle Dealers	54	54	56
Food & Beverage Stores	79	80	79
General Merchandise	109	112	109
Transp, Warehousing & Util	127	127	127
Information	65	65	66
Financial Activities	207	207	211
Finance & Insurance	156	156	159
Real Estate & Rental	52	52	52
Prof & Business Services	556	554	563
Prof, Scientific & Technical	246	245	250
Management Scientific Services	20	19	19
Administrative Support	255	253	255
Education & Health Services	603	597	591
Education Services	83	78	81
Health Care & Social Asst	520	519	510
Leisure & Hospitality	377	378	378
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	52	51	51
Accommodation & Food	325	326	327
Other Services	173	173	174
Government	673	652	678
Federal	53	53	53
State	178	169	178
Local	443	430	446

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Battle Creek			Detroit-Warren-Livonia (Data in Thousands)		
	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	188,300	187,300	191,400	68,400	68,600	70,200	2,114	2,111	2,132
Employment	179,000	178,400	182,600	63,400	63,600	65,100	1,952	1,939	1,979
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	9,300	9,000	8,800	5,100	5,000	5,000	162	173	153
	5.0	4.8	4.6	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.7	8.2	7.2
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	198,300	195,800	200,100	57,000	56,900	58,200	1,909	1,908	1,951
Nat Resources & Construction	4,000	4,100	4,200	1,500	1,600	1,600	58	61	62
Manufacturing	16,300	16,900	18,900	12,900	12,900	13,400	244	243	266
Trade, Transport & Utilities	26,400	26,800	26,800	9,600	9,700	9,700	356	361	361
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,900	5,900	*	*	*	89	89	90
Retail Trade	16,900	17,300	17,300	6,400	6,500	6,600	204	209	207
Information	3,500	3,500	3,500	*	*	*	34	33	34
Financial Activities	5,900	5,800	5,600	1,500	1,500	1,600	110	110	112
Professional & Business Services	26,000	26,400	27,300	4,800	4,800	5,000	336	335	346
Educational & Health Services	24,300	24,000	23,900	9,200	9,100	9,200	283	280	276
Leisure & Hospitality	13,200	13,100	13,000	4,800	4,800	4,900	172	172	174
Other Services	6,500	6,400	6,400	2,200	2,200	2,300	86	86	88
Government	72,200	68,800	70,500	9,800	9,600	10,000	232	226	232
Flint									
	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
Grand Rapids-Wyoming									
Holland-Grand Haven									
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	204,800	206,000	212,100	411,000	411,000	411,900	135,400	135,000	136,500
Employment	185,700	186,400	192,800	384,300	385,200	386,400	126,600	126,800	128,500
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	19,100	19,600	19,300	26,700	25,800	25,500	8,800	8,200	8,000
	9.3	9.5	9.1	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.1	5.9
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	144,000	143,400	148,900	387,400	386,300	387,700	110,500	110,000	112,000
Nat Resources & Construction	4,300	4,500	4,600	14,500	14,900	15,500	4,600	4,700	4,800
Manufacturing	14,000	13,700	16,800	70,200	70,500	71,000	34,200	34,500	35,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	30,400	30,800	31,000	72,400	73,300	73,400	17,400	17,500	17,000
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,200	6,200	22,200	22,300	22,100	*	*	*
Retail Trade	20,500	20,900	20,900	39,800	40,500	40,800	10,100	10,200	9,800
Information	2,800	2,800	2,800	5,400	5,400	5,300	800	800	900
Financial Activities	6,900	6,900	7,000	21,900	21,900	21,800	2,900	2,900	3,000
Professional & Business Services	13,200	13,200	13,700	57,700	57,100	56,400	11,300	11,400	11,200
Educational & Health Services	25,500	25,300	25,700	60,800	59,700	59,700	10,300	10,000	10,100
Leisure & Hospitality	15,300	15,200	15,600	30,800	30,700	31,300	7,800	7,700	7,700
Other Services	5,900	5,800	6,100	16,100	16,000	16,100	4,900	4,900	4,800
Government	25,700	25,200	25,600	37,600	36,800	37,200	16,300	15,600	16,800

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Jackson			Kalamazoo-Portage			Lansing-East Lansing		
	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	76,400	76,100	78,100	176,000	175,200	177,500	249,700	249,500	252,200
Employment	70,100	70,000	72,000	165,000	164,700	167,000	233,900	234,400	237,300
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	6,300 8.3	6,100 8.0	6,100 7.8	11,000 6.3	10,600 6.0	10,500 5.9	15,900 6.4	15,200 6.1	14,900 5.9
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	56,800	56,400	57,900	145,100	143,900	145,400	223,300	222,400	224,500
Nat Resources & Construction	1,600	1,600	1,700	5,200	5,300	5,400	6,700	6,900	7,000
Manufacturing	9,200	9,200	9,600	21,900	21,900	22,600	20,500	20,700	21,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	12,000	12,100	12,200	24,400	24,600	24,500	34,300	34,800	34,900
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	5,100	5,100	5,000	5,400	5,400	5,300
Retail Trade	7,200	7,300	7,500	15,400	15,600	15,500	22,600	23,100	23,400
Information	500	500	500	1,500	1,500	1,400	2,900	2,900	2,900
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	7,900	7,900	7,700	15,100	15,100	15,100
Professional & Business Services	4,400	4,400	4,200	15,600	15,400	15,600	19,700	19,700	20,100
Educational & Health Services	9,600	9,500	9,600	21,800	21,700	21,800	28,600	28,300	27,900
Leisure & Hospitality	5,000	5,000	5,200	15,500	15,300	15,100	17,900	18,000	18,200
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,800	6,900	6,800	6,600	11,600	11,400	10,900
Government	9,800	9,400	10,200	24,400	23,500	24,700	66,000	64,600	65,800
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	89,200	89,300	89,100	80,200	80,200	78,300	95,300	95,600	98,300
Employment	82,100	82,700	82,600	73,900	74,000	72,300	87,500	87,800	90,800
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	7,000 7.9	6,700 7.5	6,500 7.3	6,300 7.9	6,100 7.6	6,000 7.6	7,700 8.1	7,800 8.2	7,500 7.6
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	63,900	64,100	63,600	64,100	63,900	61,800	86,600	86,300	89,300
Nat Resources & Construction	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,900	3,000	3,900
Manufacturing	12,500	12,600	12,800	14,400	14,400	14,500	11,400	11,300	12,300
Trade, Transport & Utilities	13,600	13,700	13,500	11,100	11,200	11,100	16,900	17,000	16,700
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	*	*	*	2,500	2,500	2,500
Retail Trade	11,000	11,200	10,800	6,900	7,000	7,000	12,100	12,200	11,800
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	800	800	800	1,400	1,400	1,700
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,200	2,200	2,200	4,200	4,300	4,200
Professional & Business Services	3,600	3,600	3,400	5,600	5,600	5,200	9,300	9,200	9,400
Educational & Health Services	10,900	10,800	10,700	9,900	9,800	9,400	16,000	15,900	15,600
Leisure & Hospitality	6,500	6,600	6,400	5,500	5,500	5,500	8,100	8,200	8,600
Other Services	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,400	3,300	3,600
Government	9,800	9,700	9,700	9,800	9,500	8,100	13,000	12,700	13,300

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Upper Peninsula			Northeast Michigan			Northwest Michigan		
	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	157,700	156,400	159,300	93,400	93,600	94,700	153,300	153,200	154,200
Employment	143,200	142,700	145,300	81,200	82,000	83,000	138,300	139,100	140,000
Unemployment	14,600	13,700	14,000	12,200	11,600	11,700	15,000	14,100	14,200
Rate (Percent)	9.2	8.8	8.8	13.0	12.4	12.3	9.8	9.2	9.2

Industry Focus

INDUSTRY (Super Sector): Construction (NAICS 23)

SUBSECTOR: Specialty Trade Contractors (NAICS 238)

WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Specialty Trade Contractors subsector comprises establishments whose primary activity is performing specific activities (e.g., pouring concrete, site preparation, plumbing, painting, and electrical work) involved in building construction or other activities that are similar for all types of construction, but that are not responsible for the entire project.

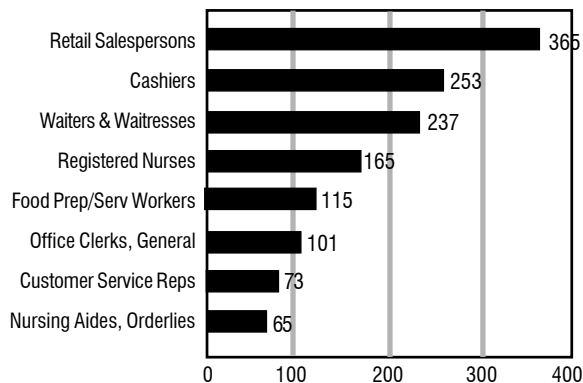
Statistical Comparison of Specialty Trade Contractors, February 2008

	Michigan	U.S.
Total Employment	91,000	4,747,000
Percent Of Construction Industry	67.2%	64.1%
Average Hourly Earnings	\$23.04	\$21.45
Average Weekly Hours	34.0	37.4
Percent Employment Changes Feb 2007–2008	-4.0%	-2.0%

Staffing Patterns (occupations most likely to be found in this industry):

Electricians, construction laborers, carpenters, plumbers, pipefitters & steamfitters, first line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers.

Selected Occupations with the Largest Number of Projected Annual Openings, Saginaw MSA, 2004–2014



Regional Focus

Projected Number of Annual Openings of Selected Occupations in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA, 2004 – 2014

The average number of total annual openings by occupation in the Saginaw MSA between 2004 and 2014 is projected to reach 5,794. Among the major occupational groups, the sales & related occupations will take the lead with 825 annual openings, followed by office & administrative support occupations with 743, and food preparation occupations with 715. Within the individual occupations, forecasts show a concentration of annual job openings among: retail salespersons (365), cashiers (253), and waiters & waitresses (237). Noteworthy are registered nurses, with 165 annual openings.

February Unemployment Rates Move Up In Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Market Areas

February seasonally unadjusted jobless rates moved up in 12 of Michigan's 15 regional major labor market areas, while employment and labor force levels showed a mixed picture throughout the month. Rate increases in the 12 areas ranged from 0.1 to 0.6 percent, with an average gain of 0.3 percentage points. The highest over-the-month rate hikes took place in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan Regions. The three areas to show jobless rates declines for the month were the Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the Detroit MSA leading the way with a drop of 0.5 percent. Most of the shifts in Michigan's regional labor markets were seasonal in nature, caused mainly by employment declines in construction and retail trade. From January to February changes in total employment were generally minor. Ten areas recorded employment decreases averaging 0.3 percent, while the remaining five regions reported modest gains.

From February 2007 to February 2008, jobless rates moved upward in all 15 of the state's major labor market areas. Rate advances over the year ranged from 0.2 percent (the Battle Creek and Flint MSAs), to 0.7 percentage points (the Detroit MSA), with an average increase of 0.5 percent. During this period, labor force and employment fell in 14 regions and increased slightly in one (the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA).

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 5.0 percent, followed by the Kalamazoo-Portage and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs with 6.3 and 6.4 percent, respectively. The highest jobless rate in the month of February was recorded by the Northeast Lower Michigan Region at 13.0 percent, followed by the Northwest Lower Michigan Region with 9.8 percent, and the Flint MSA, with 9.3 percent.

Payroll Employment Moves Up Slightly in All But One of Michigan's Metropolitan Areas During February

Total nonfarm jobs advanced in 11 of Michigan's 12 MSAs during the month of February. The only area to record a small drop was the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA. Job gains in most areas were seasonal and were concentrated in the service providing industries. Among the MSAs, the Ann Arbor region had the largest percentage job growth at 1.3 percent, followed by the Kalamazoo-Portage, and Jackson MSAs with gains of 0.8 and 0.7 percent, respectively. Employment increases in the Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and Lansing MSAs were primarily the result of resumption of classes in educational facilities, including their respective universities, following the end of the winter break. The largest increases in government employment were recorded in the Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo areas, up by 4.9 and 3.8 percent, respectively. In all but one area, the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA, employment gains in education were more than enough to make up for seasonal reductions in retail trade (primarily general merchandise stores). Most other major sectors (information, financial activities, professional and business, leisure and hospitality, and other services) exhibited only minor employment changes in the MSAs during the month of February.

In the goods-producing sector, payroll jobs fell in eight areas, three areas (Jackson, Niles-Benton Harbor and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North) remained unchanged,

and one area, the Flint MSA, reported a small gain. Job reductions in most areas were mainly due to seasonal declines in the construction industry. All the major regions but one reported declines in construction, with the Battle Creek MSA showing the highest drop at 6.3 percent. Manufacturing employment revealed a mixed picture during February, with five areas reporting decreases, three areas (Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw MSAs) showing gains, and four MSAs remaining unchanged for the month. The largest percent increase in manufacturing jobs was recorded in the Flint MSA, up by 2.2 percent. Among the areas showing reductions in the manufacturing sector, the Ann Arbor MSA had the largest drop of 3.6 percent followed by the Lansing area, down by 1.0 percent.

Average weekly earnings among the industries within Michigan's goods-producing sector exhibited a mixed picture during February. Weekly earnings in the construction industry fell by \$12.97, following small reductions in its average weekly hours and average hourly earnings. However, the manufacturing industry more than made up for this loss, exhibited an average weekly earnings gain of \$16.25. In comparison, the industries representing the service-providing sector reported mixed movements in their average weekly wages, ranging from an increase of \$2.01 in leisure and hospitality, to a drop of \$8.47 in health care and social assistance services.

Hours and Earnings For Selected Industries In Michigan February 2008 and January 2008

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	FEB	JAN	FEB	JAN	FEB	JAN
Construction	34.5	34.9	21.96	22.08	757.62	770.59
Manufacturing	43.3	42.9	22.40	22.23	969.92	953.67
Durable Goods	45.6	45.0	24.03	23.83	1,095.77	1,072.35
Transportation Equipment	45.2	44.6	28.31	28.29	1,279.61	1,261.73
Nondurable Goods	36.0	36.1	15.86	15.90	570.96	573.99
Retail Trade	29.8	30.1	12.48	12.31	371.90	370.53
Financial Activities	35.7	35.1	18.85	19.35	672.95	679.19
Professional & Business Services	33.7	33.9	20.30	20.26	684.11	686.81
Health Care & Social Assistance	35.3	35.3	17.39	17.63	613.87	622.34
Leisure & Hospitality	21.7	21.6	9.25	9.20	200.73	198.72

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Detroit Metropolitan Area February 2008

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, moved up from an average of 200.2 index points in December 2007 to an average of 202.4 points in February 2008. The 1.1 percent increase was primarily due to higher costs for apparel, and housing. Price for medical care, and education and communication fell by 1.1 and 0.8 percent, respectively. Prices for motor fuel and energy in general exhibited some moderation during this period, moving up by 1.6 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Detroit Metropolitan Area February 2008

	Index Number for February 2008	Percent Change from Dec.'07 to Feb.'08
Detroit Metro All Items	202.4	+1.1
Food And Beverages	191.0	+0.1
Food At Home	187.8	+0.7
Food Away From Home	195.5	-0.5
Housing	191.1	+2.1
Shelter	216.3	+2.5
Fuels & Utilities	209.2	-0.7
Apparel	111.4	+7.2
Transportation	209.6	+0.3
Motor Fuel	264.8	+1.6
Medical Care	350.7	-1.1
Education & Communicat.	129.4	-0.8
Energy	218.0	+0.5
Recreation	118.6	+0.1



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University of Michigan's Economic Outlook, Forecast Update 2007-2009

The University of Michigan's forecasting group (Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics – RSQE) has recently prepared projections for the development of the state's economy. In April 2008 a new forecast was published projecting Michigan's economic growth for 2007 through 2009.

In this article the RSQE economists forecast that the difficulties experienced by Michigan's economy during 2007 will be slowly but steadily easing during the next two years. The forecasting group points out that job losses moderated between 2006 and 2007, and this trend is expected to continue during 2008 and 2009. By the end of 2009, job growth will finally occur. The RSQE economists included the labor dispute at American Axle in their projections, and suggest that this will cause a disruption in Michigan's economy during March and April 2008. However, they expect that the effects of the strike on employment levels will quickly diminish by May 2008.

The RSQE group projects that a drop of 1.9 percent (annual rate) in payroll employment during the second quarter of 2008 will be followed by a gradually improving situation over the remainder of 2008 and 2009. Job losses will moderate from 1.2 percent in the second half of 2008 to 0.9 percent in the first half of 2009, and reach slightly above zero by the fourth quarter of 2009. This pattern will be associated with an improving national economy. On an annual basis, the forecast shows job losses of 69,300 during 2007, 50,000 in 2008, and 23,300 during 2009.

The Detroit's Consumer Price Index (CPI) registered an inflation rate of 1.9 percent during 2007, but food and energy price increases are projected to push consumer prices up by 2.6 percent in 2007. However, with food and energy prices easing during 2009, local inflation will drop to 2.2 percent.

Source: Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE), University of Michigan, April 2008.

