

Michigan's Jobless Rate Increases Slightly in March

Michigan's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.2 percentage points during the month of March, bringing the state's jobless rate to 7.9 percent, up from the 7.7 percent recorded in February. The rate increase represents 7,000 additional individuals out of work, as unemployment expanded to 391,000. The state's civilian labor force advanced by 7,000 to 4,967,000, while employment remained unchanged at 4,576,000. The increase in the jobless rate during March was caused mainly by a drop in the state's manufacturing jobs, reflecting the initial layoff activity caused by a major strike in the

automotive sector. The impact of the strike-related layoffs was reflected mainly in the Flint and Detroit areas, reducing their manufacturing employment totals by 19.6 and 2.3 percent, respectively. The nation's unemployment rate (unadjusted) remained unchanged during March, holding steady at 5.2 percent.

Compared to a year ago, March's labor force declined by 50,000, employment dropped by 74,000 and unemployment moved up by 24,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year increase of 0.6 percent in the state's jobless rate.



Michigan's Payroll Jobs Flat in March

Michigan's nonfarm employment levels were essentially unchanged during March, as industry jobs edged upward to 4,162,000. Employment opportunities grew by 1,000, with job gains recorded in the service-providing sector of the economy. Service-providing jobs advanced by 12,000 during the month, most noticeably due to seasonal increases in leisure and hospitality services, up by 5,000. Job gains were also recorded in other sectors, including retail trade (up by 4,000), educational and health services (up by 2,000), and other services and government, both moving up by 1,000 positions. Goods-producing employment fell by 12,000 jobs during the month, following cuts in the manufacturing sector. These reductions were the result of layoffs caused by the strike in the automotive industry. The impact of the strike-related layoffs was concentrated chiefly in the Detroit and Flint metropolitan areas, where manufacturing contracted by 6,000 and 3,000 jobs, respectively.

In March, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries expanded to 43.3 hours, from 43.0 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings advanced by 22 cents to \$22.67. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing increased to \$981.61, a gain of \$16.26 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2008 MAR	2008 FEB	2008 MAR	2008 FEB
Manufacturing	\$22.67	\$22.45	43.3	43.0
Durables	24.37	24.10	45.6	45.2
Transport Equipment	28.50	28.43	45.1	44.9
Nondurables	15.89	15.81	36.1	36.1

Michigan's Food and Beverage Inflation Increases in 2007

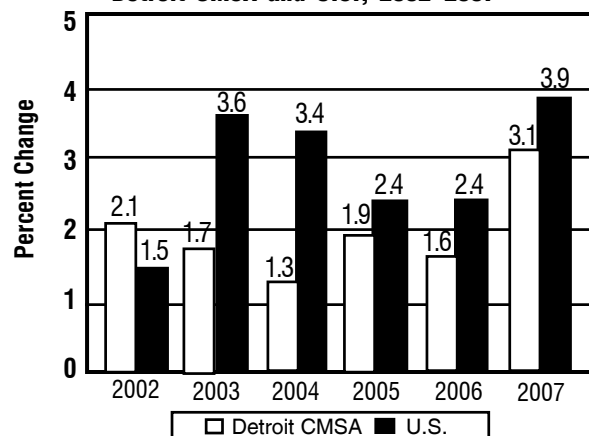
Food and Beverages is one of the major item groups within the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This group consists of three main sectors: Food at Home, Food Away from Home, and Alcoholic Beverages. Food at Home, the dominant component, is organized into the following expenditure categories: cereals and bakery goods; meat, poultry, fish and eggs; dairy products; fruits and vegetables; and other food at home.

Although the rate of Food and Beverage inflation in the Detroit CMSA (Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, including the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Ann Arbor and Flint MSAs), moved up by 3.1 percent during 2007, it remained below the national rate of gain. Food inflation in 2007 was substantially higher than in 2006, when it stood at 1.6 percent. The Food at Home index (mainly grocery store food) advanced by 2.9 percent during the year, while the Food Away from Home index (restaurant food) expanded by 3.2 percent. Alcoholic Beverages increased by 2.3 percent.

Nationally, Food and Beverage inflation stood at 3.9 percent during 2007, a considerable increase from the 2.4 percent gain recorded in the prior year. Advances in the nation's prices of food were reported in all the major categories, and were higher than all the comparable categories in the Detroit CMSA. Food at Home moved up by 4.2 percent, while Food Away from Home advanced by 3.6 percent, and Alcoholic Beverages increased by 3.2 percent.

Source: Consumer Expenditure Report, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2008.

Annual Change for Food in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Detroit CMSA and U.S., 2002-2007



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Mar 2008 Feb 2008 Mar 2007

Place of Residence

Labor Force	4,967	4,960	5,017
Employment	4,576	4,576	4,650
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	391	384	367
	7.9	7.7	7.3

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,162	4,161	4,234
Goods-Producing	724	736	785
Nat Resources & Mining	7	7	7
Construction	137	136	150
Manufacturing	581	594	628
Durable Goods	443	457	487
Fabricated Metals	78	78	81
Machinery Manufact.	68	68	70
Transportation Equip.	179	191	214
Nondurable Goods	137	137	142
Service-Providing	3,437	3,425	3,449
Trade, Transport & Util.	772	769	772
Wholesale Trade	166	166	167
Retail Trade	479	475	479
Motor Vehicle Dealers	54	54	56
Food & Beverage Stores	79	79	79
General Merchandise	112	110	110
Transp, Warehousing & Util	127	127	126
Information	65	65	65
Financial Activities	207	207	211
Finance & Insurance	156	156	159
Real Estate & Rental	52	52	52
Prof & Business Services	558	558	564
Prof, Scientific & Technical	245	246	246
Management Scientific Services	20	20	19
Administrative Support	259	256	260
Education & Health Services	605	603	594
Education Services	84	83	82
Health Care & Social Asst	522	520	512
Leisure & Hospitality	382	377	385
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	53	52	53
Accommodation & Food	329	325	332
Other Services	175	174	175
Government	673	672	683
Federal	53	53	53
State	177	177	179
Local	443	441	451

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Battle Creek			Detroit-Warren-Livonia (Data in Thousands)		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2008	2008	2007	2008	2008	2007	2008	2008	2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	188,500	188,700	191,600	68,700	68,400	70,300	2,114	2,115	2,141
Employment	179,200	179,400	182,700	63,900	63,300	65,300	1,942	1,953	1,983
Unemployment	9,300	9,300	8,800	4,800	5,100	5,000	172	162	158
Rate (Percent)	4.9	4.9	4.6	7.0	7.4	7.2	8.1	7.7	7.4
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	198,400	199,000	201,700	57,400	57,000	58,600	1,910	1,910	1,955
Nat Resources & Construction	4,200	4,000	4,400	1,600	1,500	1,700	59	58	64
Manufacturing	15,900	16,600	18,800	12,800	12,900	13,300	238	244	264
Trade, Transport & Utilities	26,300	26,400	26,700	9,700	9,600	9,700	358	357	361
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,900	5,900	*	*	*	89	89	89
Retail Trade	16,800	16,900	17,200	6,500	6,400	6,600	207	206	207
Information	3,500	3,500	3,500	*	*	*	33	34	34
Financial Activities	5,800	5,900	5,700	1,500	1,500	1,600	110	110	112
Professional & Business Services	26,300	26,300	27,400	4,900	4,800	5,100	337	337	344
Educational & Health Services	24,300	24,300	24,100	9,300	9,200	9,300	284	283	278
Leisure & Hospitality	13,400	13,200	13,300	5,000	4,800	5,100	174	171	177
Other Services	6,600	6,500	6,400	2,200	2,200	2,300	86	86	88
Government	72,100	72,300	71,400	9,800	9,800	10,000	231	231	234
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	205,400	205,600	211,000	411,600	410,900	411,500	135,800	135,500	136,700
Employment	183,600	186,400	192,900	385,800	384,200	386,300	127,500	126,700	128,800
Unemployment	21,800	19,100	18,000	25,800	26,800	25,200	8,400	8,800	7,900
Rate (Percent)	10.6	9.3	8.6	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.5	5.7
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	141,800	144,800	149,800	389,300	387,600	389,400	111,500	110,600	113,100
Nat Resources & Construction	4,400	4,400	4,700	14,700	14,500	15,700	4,700	4,600	4,900
Manufacturing	11,900	14,800	16,900	69,900	70,200	70,800	34,100	34,200	35,600
Trade, Transport & Utilities	30,600	30,400	31,200	72,700	72,400	73,600	17,600	17,400	17,200
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,200	6,200	22,200	22,200	22,200	*	*	*
Retail Trade	20,700	20,500	21,000	40,000	39,800	40,800	10,200	10,100	9,900
Information	2,700	2,800	2,700	5,400	5,400	5,200	800	800	900
Financial Activities	6,900	6,900	6,900	22,000	22,000	21,700	2,900	2,900	3,000
Professional & Business Services	13,200	13,500	13,700	58,100	57,700	57,200	11,500	11,300	11,700
Educational & Health Services	25,300	25,400	25,800	61,200	60,800	60,000	10,400	10,300	10,200
Leisure & Hospitality	15,400	15,100	15,900	31,300	30,900	31,600	7,900	7,800	7,900
Other Services	5,900	5,900	6,100	16,300	16,100	16,300	5,000	4,900	4,900
Government	25,500	25,600	25,900	37,700	37,600	37,300	16,600	16,400	16,800

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Jackson			Kalamazoo-Portage			Lansing-East Lansing		
	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	76,600	76,500	78,300	177,300	176,000	177,800	250,700	250,100	251,900
Employment	70,600	70,200	72,200	166,800	165,000	167,600	235,300	234,300	237,200
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	6,100 7.9	6,300 8.3	6,100 7.8	10,500 5.9	11,000 6.3	10,300 5.8	15,300 6.1	15,800 6.3	14,700 5.8
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	56,900	56,800	58,300	146,400	145,200	146,800	224,400	223,800	225,800
Nat Resources & Construction	1,600	1,600	1,700	5,300	5,200	5,500	6,700	6,700	7,100
Manufacturing	9,100	9,200	9,400	21,800	21,900	22,600	20,100	20,200	21,800
Trade, Transport & Utilities	12,000	12,000	12,300	24,700	24,400	24,700	34,800	34,500	35,200
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,300	5,400	5,300
Retail Trade	7,300	7,200	7,500	15,600	15,400	15,600	23,200	22,800	23,700
Information	500	500	500	1,500	1,500	1,400	2,800	2,900	2,900
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	2,000	7,900	7,900	7,800	15,100	15,100	15,100
Professional & Business Services	4,400	4,400	4,300	16,000	15,600	16,100	20,000	19,900	20,200
Educational & Health Services	9,700	9,600	9,700	22,000	21,900	21,900	28,600	28,500	28,100
Leisure & Hospitality	5,100	5,000	5,300	15,700	15,500	15,300	17,900	17,900	18,500
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,900	7,000	6,900	6,700	11,600	11,600	10,900
Government	9,800	9,800	10,200	24,500	24,400	24,800	66,800	66,500	66,000
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	89,500	89,100	89,100	80,800	80,300	78,500	95,800	95,300	98,100
Employment	82,700	82,100	82,700	74,900	74,000	72,800	87,700	87,600	90,700
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	6,800 7.6	7,000 7.9	6,400 7.2	5,900 7.3	6,300 7.8	5,700 7.2	8,100 8.5	7,700 8.1	7,300 7.5
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	64,300	64,000	63,900	64,700	64,100	62,500	86,600	86,700	89,700
Nat Resources & Construction	1,700	1,700	1,900	2,000	1,900	2,200	3,000	2,900	4,100
Manufacturing	12,400	12,500	12,800	14,400	14,400	14,600	11,200	11,500	12,300
Trade, Transport & Utilities	13,700	13,600	13,400	11,300	11,100	11,300	16,900	16,900	16,600
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	*	*	*	2,400	2,500	2,500
Retail Trade	11,100	11,000	10,800	7,000	6,900	7,100	12,200	12,100	11,900
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	800	800	800	1,300	1,400	1,600
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,200	2,200	2,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Professional & Business Services	3,600	3,600	3,400	5,600	5,600	5,200	9,300	9,300	9,500
Educational & Health Services	11,000	10,900	10,800	9,800	9,900	9,300	16,000	16,000	15,700
Leisure & Hospitality	6,700	6,600	6,500	5,800	5,500	5,800	8,200	8,100	8,700
Other Services	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,400	3,400	3,600
Government	9,900	9,800	9,800	9,900	9,800	8,200	13,100	13,000	13,400

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Upper Peninsula			Northeast Michigan			Northwest Michigan		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2008	2008	2007	2008	2008	2007	2008	2008	2007
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	158,100	157,600	158,800	93,700	93,400	94,900	153,200	153,200	153,700
Employment	144,000	143,100	144,900	82,200	81,200	83,500	138,900	138,200	139,600
Unemployment	14,100	14,600	13,900	11,500	12,200	11,400	14,300	15,000	14,100
Rate (Percent)	8.9	9.2	8.7	12.3	13.0	12.0	9.3	9.8	9.2

Michigan Occupations in Demand

REGISTERED NURSES

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Maintain accurate, detailed reports and records; monitor, record and report symptoms and changes in patients' conditions; record patients' medical information and vital signs; modify patient treatment plans as indicated by patients' responses and conditions; consult and coordinate with health care team members to assess, plan, implement and evaluate patient care plans; order, interpret, and evaluate diagnostic tests to identify and assess patients' condition; monitor all aspects of patient care, including diet and physical activity; direct and supervise less skilled nursing or health care personnel or supervise a particular unit; prepare patients for, and assist with, examinations and treatments; observe nurses and visit patients to ensure proper nursing care.

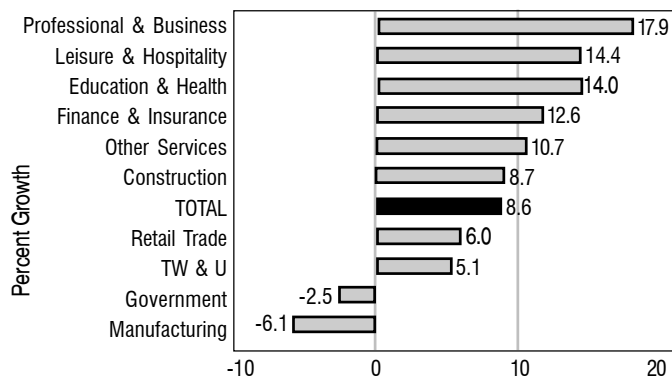
Fast Facts:

- ◆ Employment in 2004: 83,320
- ◆ Employment forecast for 2014: 100,870
- ◆ Projected job growth: 17,550
- ◆ Projected Percent Growth: 21.1
- ◆ Projected number of annual openings: 3,498
- ◆ Annual job openings due to growth in the occupation: 1,755
- ◆ Mean hourly earnings in 2006: \$28.70
- ◆ Education required: bachelor's degree or associate's degree

Skills Required:

Active listening, critical thinking, reading comprehension, instructing, speaking, time management, service orientation, monitoring, social perceptiveness, writing.

Lansing MSA Projected Employment Growth by Selected Industries, 2004 – 2014



Regional Focus

Projected Employment Growth in the Lansing MSA by Major Industries 2004 – 2014

Total nonfarm employment growth in the Lansing MSA between 2004 and 2014, is projected to reach 8.6 percent. Among the major categories, professional and business services will grow the fastest at the rate of 17.9 percent, followed by leisure and hospitality, and educational and health services, up by 14.4 and 14.0 percent, respectively. Employment in the government and manufacturing sectors is projected to decrease during the period by 2.5 and 6.1 percent, respectively.

March Jobless Rates Move Down Seasonally in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Market Areas

March seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates dropped over the month in 11 of Michigan's 15 regional major labor market areas. However, although many areas reported seasonal rate decreases, the initial impact of a major auto-related labor dispute caused unemployment to move up in a portion of the state. This was most evident in the Detroit and Flint Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). From February to March, jobless rate declines ranged from 0.2 to 0.7 percent with an average drop of 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate declines occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan Region, down by 0.7 percent, followed by the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA, and the Northwest Lower Michigan Region, both down by 0.5 percent. Unemployment rates increased in three areas, including the Flint, Detroit-Warren-Livonia, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs. The unemployment rate in one area, the Ann Arbor MSA, remained unchanged.

From March 2007 to March 2008, jobless rates moved up in 14 major labor market regions. Rate increases were wide ranging, from 0.1 to 2.0 percentage points; however, the median increase was only 0.3 percent. Above average over-the-year hikes were recorded in the Flint, Saginaw, and Detroit MSAs. The unemployment rate in the Battle Creek MSA fell by 0.2 of a percentage point since March 2007.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate for the month of March at 4.9 percent, followed by Kalamazoo-Portage with 5.9 percent, and the Holland-Grand Haven and Lansing MSAs, both with 6.1 percent. The highest jobless rate for the month was recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan Region at 12.3 percent, followed by the Flint MSA with 10.6 percent.

Most of Michigan's Metropolitan Areas Experience Minor Gains in Payroll Jobs During March

Total nonfarm employment increased in eight of Michigan's 12 MSAs during the month of March. Employment gains were modest and concentrated mostly in the service-providing sector. Three areas, the Flint, Ann Arbor, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs reported job reductions (down by 2.1, 0.3, and 0.1 percent, respectively), caused chiefly by strike related layoffs in the automotive industry. Nonfarm jobs in the fourth area affected by the strike, the Detroit MSA, stayed virtually unchanged, although manufacturing jobs fell. Among the areas showing employment advances for the month, the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA had the largest percentage job growth at 0.9 percent, followed by the Kalamazoo-Portage, and Holland-Grand Haven MSAs, both with a gain of 0.8 percent.

Job advances in the service-providing industries occurred mostly due to seasonal factors. Increases were recorded in leisure and hospitality services (arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services), with gains ranging from 5.5 percent (Niles-Benton Harbor MSA), to 1.2 percent (Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA). Retail trade jobs also rose (mainly in general merchandise stores), with the Lansing and Battle Creek MSAs leading the way, up by 1.8 and 1.6 percent, respectively. Other sectors in the service-providing industries remained basically flat, with minor upward

movement in education and health services, and local government.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment fell in several areas due to the strike in the automotive sector. These areas included the Detroit MSA, down by 5,500 jobs or 2.3 percent, the Flint MSA, down by 2,900 or 19.6 percent, the Ann Arbor MSA, down by 700 or 4.2 percent, and the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA, down by 300 or 2.6 percent. Construction employment experienced only minor gains during March, with the Detroit MSA reporting the largest increase, up by 800 jobs, or 1.4 percent.

Average weekly earnings among the industries within Michigan's goods-producing sector exhibited solid gains during March. Weekly earnings in the construction industry increased by \$17.00, following some improvements in the weather. The strike in the automotive sector did not impede weekly earnings in manufacturing, as both durable goods (+\$21.95), and nondurable goods (+\$2.89) showed gains for the month. The industries representing the service-providing sector all reported advances in their average weekly wages during March. Financial activities reported the largest weekly gains at \$25.11, followed by retail trade, and professional and business services up by \$9.88 and \$4.40, respectively.

Hours and Earnings For Selected Industries in Michigan March 2008 and February 2008

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	MAR	FEB	MAR	FEB	MAR	FEB
Construction	35.1	34.6	22.24	22.07	780.62	763.62
Manufacturing	43.3	43.0	22.67	22.45	981.61	965.35
Durable Goods	45.6	45.2	24.37	24.10	1,111.27	1,089.32
Transportation Equipment	45.1	44.9	28.50	28.43	1,285.35	1,276.51
Nondurable Goods	36.1	36.1	15.89	15.81	573.63	570.74
Retail Trade	30.5	29.9	12.47	12.39	380.34	370.46
Financial Activities	34.9	35.3	20.16	19.22	703.58	678.47
Professional & Business Services	33.9	33.8	20.39	20.32	691.22	686.82
Health Care & Social Assistance	35.1	35.2	17.46	17.41	612.85	612.83
Leisure & Hospitality	21.9	21.6	9.27	9.26	203.01	200.02

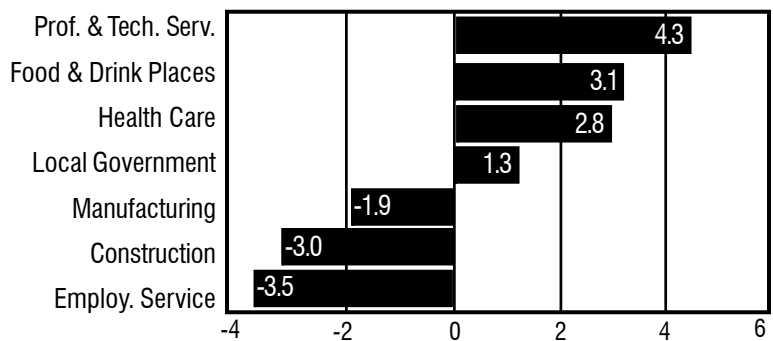
Trends in Industry Employment in the U.S., 2006–2007

During 2007, nonfarm payroll employment in the U.S. increased by slightly more than one million, to a level of 138.1 million. Job growth slowed from 1.6 percent in 2006 to 0.8 percent in 2007, the lowest annual growth rate since 2003. Employment trends varied by industry. Decreases in the housing industry, and problems with mortgage rates had a negative effect on jobs in construction and other housing-related industries, while the manufacturing sector continued its restructuring, and its long-term contraction. On the other hand, health care, professional and technical services, food services and drinking places, and local government, continued to expand. Although price increases for crude oil and related commodities stimulated growth in gas and oil production, higher fuel prices and weakened consumer confidence resulted in slower job growth in retail trade, and in transportation and warehousing.

In general, total payroll jobs in the U.S. have been increasing, but at a diminishing rate since 2005. In 2005, employment totals moved up by 2.5 million, or 1.9 percent, while in 2006 employment advanced by 2.1 million or 1.6 percent. In 2007 payroll jobs increased by 1.1 million or 0.8 percent. In comparison, Michigan has experienced nonfarm payroll employment reductions since 2001, due primarily to job losses in the manufacturing sector.

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

Percent Change in Number of Employee on Nonfarm Payrolls, Selected Industries in the U.S., 2006–2007





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Labor Market News

Mass Layoffs in Michigan March 2008

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employers initiated 41 mass layoff actions in Michigan during March 2008 (preliminary data), and the number of workers filing initial unemployment insurance claims totaled 3,980. Each mass layoff action involved at least 50 people from a single establishment. Compared with the prior month, claims from mass layoffs in Michigan fell by nine percent. Since March 2007, the number of events declined by 10, and the number of workers involved moved down by 2,528, a 39 percent reduction. This was the lowest number of claims for March since 2003. Among the states, California reported the largest number of mass layoff events at 296, and the highest number of initial claims totaling 21,812. California was followed by Pennsylvania with 103 events and 12,745 initial claims.

The monthly data releases cover mass layoffs of 50 or more workers beginning in a given month, regardless of the duration of the layoffs. Information on the length of the layoffs is obtained later and is issued in a quarterly release that reports on mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days (referred to as "extended mass layoffs"). This report also provides more information on the industry classification and location of the establishment and on the demographics of the laid-off workers.

Nationally, employers initiated 1,089 mass layoffs in March of 2008, and the number of associated initial claims of unemployment insurance totaled 114,541, a drop of 9,433, or 7.6 percent over March 2007. The manufacturing sector accounted for more than 21 percent of all mass layoffs events, and 28 percent of all associated initial claims filed in March 2008.

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

**Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance
Associated with Mass Layoffs in Michigan
March 2004–March 2008**

