



Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Michigan's Labor Market News

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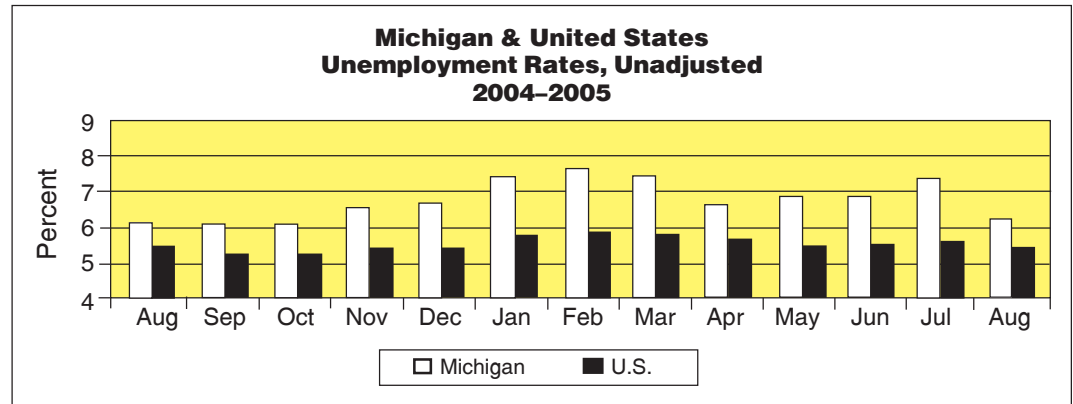
October 2005

Michigan's August Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.3 Percent

Michigan's unadjusted unemployment rate moved down by 1.3 percentage points during the month of August, bringing the state's rate to 6.3 percent, the lowest since April of 2004. The decrease in the jobless rate represents 70,000 fewer individuals out of work, as unemployment fell to 324,000. The state's civilian labor force dropped by 37,000 during the month, declining to 5,148,000, while employment expanded by 32,000 to 4,824,000. The decline in the unemployment rate during the month of August was primarily credited to local auto plants completing their annual model changeover activities and recalling workers

who were on temporary layoff. Additionally, there was a seasonal drop in the state's labor force, as temporary summer workers, most notably college and high school students began leaving the summer job market. The nation's unemployment rate (unadjusted) also declined during August, moving down by 0.3 percentage points to 4.9 percent.

Compared to a year ago, August's labor force increased by 42,000, employment jumped by 57,000 and unemployment fell by 15,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year drop of 0.3 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



Auto Workers Return to Work With the End of Model Changeover

Michigan's nonfarm employment moved up during the month of August, as industry jobs increased to 4,321,000. Employment opportunities advanced by 21,000 jobs, with gains recorded in both the goods-producing and service-providing sectors of the economy. Goods-producing employment expanded by 14,000 during the month with worker recalls following the annual retooling shutdowns in the automotive and auto supplier industries. Service-providing employment increased by 6,000 positions during the month as seasonal gains in professional and business services (mainly administrative and support services), more than made up for small seasonal reductions in state government, as higher educational facilities released staff with the end of the summer semester.

In August, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries increased to 41.5

hours from 39.7 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved up by 72 cents to \$21.28. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing expanded to \$883.12, a gain of \$66.89 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2005		2005	
	Aug.	July	Aug.	July
Manufacturing	\$21.28	\$20.56	41.5	39.7
Durables	22.87	22.24	42.4	39.9
Transport Equipment	28.91	28.29	43.0	39.0
Nondurables	14.86	14.56	38.2	39.0

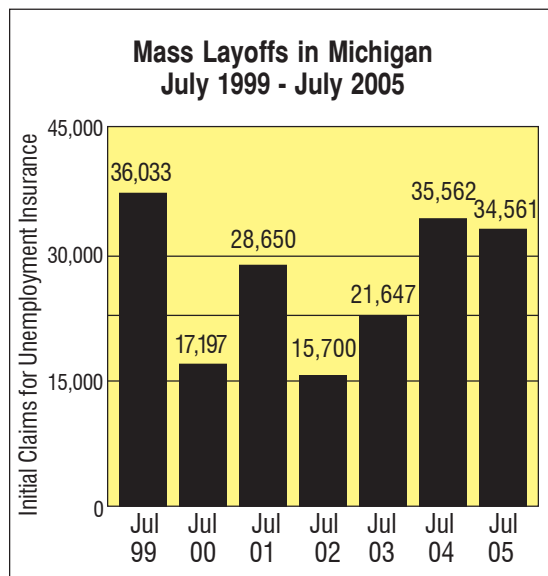
Mass Layoffs in Michigan, July 2005

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employers initiated 248 mass layoff actions in Michigan during July 2005 (preliminary data), and the number of workers filing initial unemployment insurance claims totaled 34,561. Each mass layoff action involved at least 50 persons from a single establishment. Compared with July 2004, the number of events declined by five (two percent), and the number of workers involved fell by 1,001 (2.8 percent). The unusually large number of mass layoff events is seasonal, and is partly attributed to temporary layoffs due to model changeover and retooling activities in the automotive industry. Among the states, California reported the largest number of initial claims (41,741), followed by Michigan with 34,561 and Ohio with 25,306.

The monthly data releases cover mass layoffs of 50 or more workers beginning 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 1,981 mass layoffs in July of 2005, and the number of workers involved totaled 244,216, a drop of 9,713 or 4.0 percent from July 2004. The manufacturing sector accounted for 43 percent of all mass layoffs events and 56 percent of all initial claims filed in July of 2005.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. August 2005.



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Aug 2005 Jul 2005 Aug 2004

Place of Residence

Labor Force	5,148	5,185	5,106
Employment	4,824	4,792	4,767
Unemployment	324	394	339
Rate (Percent)	6.3	7.6	6.6

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,321	4,300	4,371
Goods-Producing	881	867	916
Nat Resources & Mining	9	9	9
Construction	203	205	207
Manufacturing	669	653	701
Durable Goods	521	506	552
Fabricated Metals	83	82	83
Machinery Manufact.	76	76	76
Transportation Equip.	233	219	259
Nondurable Goods	148	147	149
Service-Providing	3,440	3,434	3,454
Trade, Transport & Util.	811	809	814
Wholesale Trade	172	171	172
Retail Trade	510	510	516
Motor Vehicle Dealers	65	65	64
Food & Beverage Stores	88	89	90
General Merchandise	108	108	114
Transp, Warehousing & Util	129	127	125
Information	65	65	68
Financial Activities	221	221	220
Finance & Insurance	164	163	162
Real Estate & Rental	58	58	59
Prof & Business Services	590	580	598
Prof, Scientific & Technical	246	242	244
Management Scientific Services	21	20	19
Administrative Support	265	259	273
Education & Health Services	548	550	544
Educational Services	59	60	59
Health Care & Social Asst	489	490	485
Leisure & Hospitality	431	431	429
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	75	76	73
Accommodation & Food	356	355	356
Other Services	181	182	180
Government	592	595	600
Federal	55	55	56
State	155	156	155
Local	382	384	389

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Battle Creek			Bay City		
	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	190,200	190,000	186,600	73,300	74,400	73,100	56,500	57,500	57,300
Employment	182,400	180,800	179,100	69,100	68,900	68,700	53,100	53,200	53,500
Unemployment	7,700	9,200	7,500	4,300	5,500	4,500	3,400	4,200	3,800
Rate (Percent)	4.1	4.8	4.0	5.8	7.4	6.1	6.0	7.4	6.7

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	198,700	195,200	197,500	62,500	62,000	63,200	39,300	39,200	40,400
Nat Resources & Construction	6,100	6,200	6,300	2,400	2,500	2,500	1,600	1,700	1,700
Manufacturing	22,000	19,100	23,600	14,400	14,300	14,200	4,200	4,100	4,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	27,800	27,600	27,400	10,400	10,300	10,400	9,500	9,200	9,200
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,500	5,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300
Retail Trade	19,000	18,800	18,900	7,900	7,800	7,900	6,700	6,500	6,500
Information	3,700	3,700	3,800	*	*	*	600	600	600
Financial Activities	5,900	5,900	5,900	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,400
Professional & Business Services	28,400	27,900	27,200	6,200	6,200	6,400	3,700	3,700	3,800
Educational & Health Services	23,000	22,900	22,400	9,100	9,200	9,100	5,400	5,500	5,700
Leisure & Hospitality	14,500	14,600	14,900	6,200	6,300	5,900	5,000	5,000	5,100
Other Services	6,200	6,200	6,200	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Government	61,100	61,100	59,800	9,400	9,100	9,400	5,300	5,400	5,700

Detroit-Warren-Livonia (Data in Thousands)

Flint

Grand Rapids-Wyoming

	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	2,247	2,232	2,225	210,000	216,600	210,500	405,200	410,600	400,400
Employment	2,089	2,050	2,063	194,600	196,100	194,500	383,100	382,500	375,400
Unemployment	158	182	161	15,400	20,600	15,900	22,100	28,100	25,000
Rate (Percent)	7.0	8.1	7.3	7.3	9.5	7.6	5.5	6.8	6.3

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	2,022	2,009	2,044	153,600	154,300	156,600	382,300	378,600	381,500
Nat Resources & Construction	94	95	93	7,700	7,900	7,300	20,100	20,300	20,900
Manufacturing	286	274	300	21,100	21,700	23,400	73,000	72,500	74,000
Trade, Transport & Utilities	383	381	383	31,500	31,400	31,400	74,000	73,700	73,400
Wholesale Trade	95	94	95	6,600	6,600	6,700	20,500	20,600	20,100
Retail Trade	222	221	223	21,300	21,200	21,200	43,000	43,100	43,100
Information	35	35	36	2,000	2,000	2,100	5,600	5,600	5,800
Financial Activities	119	119	117	6,800	6,900	6,500	21,200	21,100	20,900
Professional & Business Services	358	354	364	19,100	18,500	19,200	55,900	52,600	55,000
Educational & Health Services	256	257	254	23,800	24,100	24,200	50,900	50,900	49,000
Leisure & Hospitality	188	189	188	15,300	15,200	15,600	32,300	32,800	32,700
Other Services	97	98	99	6,800	6,900	7,000	16,800	17,000	17,100
Government	206	208	210	19,500	19,700	19,900	32,500	32,100	32,700

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Holland-Grand Haven			Jackson			Kalamazoo-Portage		
	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	132,900	135,000	133,500	79,800	81,100	79,200	173,900	175,400	171,900
Employment	126,800	127,100	126,800	74,900	75,100	73,700	165,200	164,300	162,200
Unemployment	6,100	7,900	6,600	5,000	6,000	5,500	8,700	11,000	9,700
Rate (Percent)	4.6	5.9	5.0	6.2	7.4	6.9	5.0	6.3	5.6

Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	110,000	109,100	113,500	61,700	61,700	61,700	142,500	141,400	141,400
Nat Resources & Construction	6,800	6,900	6,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	6,800	6,800	7,000
Manufacturing	35,700	35,300	38,400	10,100	10,100	10,400	24,600	24,100	24,600
Trade, Transport & Utilities	17,200	17,200	17,500	12,600	12,600	12,500	25,800	25,800	25,600
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,700	1,700	1,700	4,400	4,400	4,300
Retail Trade	10,300	10,400	10,700	7,700	7,700	7,800	17,500	17,500	17,400
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	1,400	1,400	1,400
Financial Activities	3,400	3,400	3,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	7,800	7,800	7,600
Professional & Business Services	12,600	12,400	10,800	4,900	4,800	4,900	14,600	14,200	14,500
Educational & Health Services	9,700	9,700	9,700	9,200	9,300	9,200	19,800	19,900	19,600
Leisure & Hospitality	8,900	8,600	8,600	6,000	6,000	5,700	15,400	15,200	14,900
Other Services	4,400	4,400	4,600	2,700	2,800	2,800	6,600	6,700	6,700
Government	10,300	10,200	12,700	10,600	10,500	10,700	19,700	19,500	19,500

	Lansing-East Lansing			Monroe			Muskegon-Norton Shores		
	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	250,700	257,000	247,800	78,100	78,800	77,800	90,200	93,500	90,100
Employment	236,800	239,100	234,400	73,400	72,700	73,300	84,600	86,000	83,700
Unemployment	13,800	17,900	13,400	4,700	6,000	4,500	5,600	7,500	6,400
Rate (Percent)	5.5	7.0	5.4	6.0	7.7	5.7	6.2	8.0	7.1

Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	224,100	225,200	225,500	42,800	41,900	44,100	65,900	66,900	66,000
Nat Resources & Construction	10,300	10,500	10,400	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,600
Manufacturing	20,800	21,000	22,400	8,200	6,800	9,200	13,600	13,600	13,900
Trade, Transport & Utilities	36,500	36,300	36,600	9,900	9,900	9,900	13,300	13,400	13,700
Wholesale Trade	5,700	5,700	5,800	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,400	1,400	1,400
Retail Trade	24,100	23,900	24,300	5,800	5,800	5,900	10,500	10,700	11,000
Information	3,000	3,000	3,100	*	*	*	900	900	900
Financial Activities	15,800	15,700	15,800	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,900	1,900	1,900
Professional & Business Services	21,200	21,200	21,100	3,300	3,300	3,400	4,200	4,200	4,200
Educational & Health Services	25,500	25,900	25,400	4,400	4,500	4,300	10,400	10,400	10,000
Leisure & Hospitality	20,600	20,300	20,100	4,500	4,500	5,100	8,600	9,000	8,500
Other Services	10,800	10,900	10,900	2,200	2,200	2,000	2,700	2,600	2,700
Government	59,600	60,400	59,700	5,600	5,800	5,400	8,300	8,300	8,000

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

Niles-Benton Harbor

Saginaw-Sag. Township North

	Aug 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2004	Aug 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2004
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	78,400	80,000	78,700	100,800	103,400	101,300
Employment	73,400	73,800	73,000	93,900	94,400	93,400
Unemployment	5,000	6,200	5,600	6,900	9,000	7,900
Rate (Percent)	6.3	7.8	7.2	6.8	8.7	7.8

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	63,000	62,900	63,500	93,400	93,200	94,100
Nat Resources & Construction	2,500	2,500	2,500	4,300	4,300	4,600
Manufacturing	14,500	14,300	15,200	13,500	13,800	14,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	12,700	12,900	12,600	18,000	17,700	17,400
Wholesale Trade	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,800	2,700	2,700
Retail Trade	7,700	7,900	7,800	12,400	12,200	12,100
Information	800	800	900	2,000	2,000	2,100
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300	5,100	5,100	5,200
Professional & Business Serv	4,800	4,800	4,900	8,700	8,600	9,100
Educational & Health Serv	9,400	9,300	8,800	15,200	15,300	14,700
Leisure & Hospitality	6,300	6,200	6,700	10,500	10,300	10,200
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,800	4,300	4,400	4,400
Government	6,900	7,000	6,800	11,800	11,700	11,700

Upper Peninsula

Northeast Lower Michigan

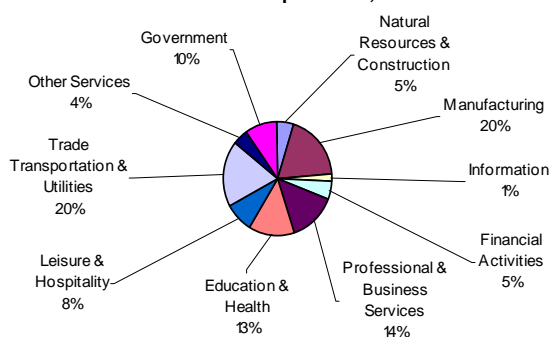
Northwest Lower Michigan

	Aug 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2004	Aug 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2004	Aug 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2004
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	164,800	167,700	162,900	103,500	105,800	102,100	168,100	172,700	166,100
Employment	155,900	157,300	153,400	97,400	98,000	95,300	159,500	162,000	156,800
Unemployment	8,900	10,400	9,500	6,200	7,800	6,800	8,600	10,700	9,300
Rate (Percent)	5.4	6.2	5.8	6.0	7.4	6.7	5.1	6.2	5.6

**Percent Share Of Total Jobs
In The Grand Rapids MSA, 2004**



Regional Focus

Percent Share of Total Employment by Industry in the Grand Rapids MSA, 2004

During 2004, nonfarm employment in the Grand Rapids MSA stood at 384,100, a drop of 1,500 from 2003 totals. The manufacturing industry recorded the largest number of jobs for the year at 74,100, followed closely by trade, transportation and utilities with 73,200, each accounting for close to 20 percent of the total. Professional and business services, and education and health services followed, with 14 and 13 percent, respectively.

Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

August seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas. Labor force and employment levels declined in the majority of the areas over the previous month, while unemployment levels fell in all the areas. The drop in the jobless rates in August reflect typical seasonal labor market patterns brought about by two main factors. First, the number of the unemployed fell in most areas with the recall of auto-related workers on temporary layoffs due to model changeover activities. Second, many job seekers, particularly college and high school students began leaving the job market either in preparing to resume classes, or giving up the search for summer employment, causing the labor force as well as unemployment to drop.

From July to August, regional jobless rate decreases were seasonal but substantial, ranging from 0.7 to 2.2

percentage points. Fifteen areas displayed rate declines of over a full percentage point. The largest over-the-month unemployment rate declines were recorded in the Flint, Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Muskegon-Norton Shores, and Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the rates in these four areas falling by roughly two percentage points each.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.1 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven MSA with 4.6 percent, and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA with 5.0 percent. The highest jobless rate in the month of August was recorded by the Flint area at 7.3 percent, followed by the Detroit and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs with 7.0 and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Most of Michigan's Metropolitan Areas Report Minor Gains in Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment increased in 10 of Michigan's 14 MSAs during the month of August, with the Jackson MSA remaining unchanged and the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Flint, and Lansing MSAs showing a small decline for the month. Among the major areas, the Monroe MSA had the largest percentage job growth at 2.1 percent, followed by the Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs with increases of 1.8 and 1.0 percent, respectively. Employment gains in most areas were seasonal and were the result of automotive plants and their suppliers recalling workers from the annual model changeover and retooling layoffs.

The service-providing industries remained basically flat in many areas. However, minor gains were reported by nine areas, while four others reported losses, and one area, the Jackson MSA, remained unchanged. The areas recording the strongest monthly job gains in the service-providing sector, were Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Battle Creek, up by 1.2 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively. Professional and business services (mostly the administrative and support services), was one sector to exhibit increases in most MSAs, with the largest gains reported by the Grand Rapids-Wyoming area at 6.3 percent, followed by Flint with 3.2 percent, and Kalamazoo-Portage with 2.8 percent. In all but four

MSAs, the gains in professional and business services were enough to make up for seasonal losses in state government, as educational facilities released staff with the end of the summer semester.

The goods-producing sector exhibited a somewhat mixed picture in August. Employment moved up in seven areas, declined in four, and remained unchanged in three. Employment gains were attributed mainly to worker recalls in the manufacturing sector. The largest gains in the goods-producing sector were reported by the Monroe, Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, up by 15.1, 11.1 and 3.0 percentage points, respectively.

During August, average weekly hours in manufacturing increased in three major areas for which data is currently available. The gains were due to advances in overtime hours worked in the durable goods sector. Average hourly earnings moved up in four areas during the month, with gains reported mainly in the durable goods industries. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings expanded in four major areas. The largest advances in weekly earnings were reported in the Flint area, up by \$260.73, followed by the Lansing-East Lansing MSA with an increase of \$119.63.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings* Michigan & Selected Metropolitan Areas August and July 2005

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	August	July	August	July	August	July
Michigan	41.5	39.7	21.28	20.56	883.12	816.23
Detroit-Warren-Livonia	42.2	41.1	24.59	24.28	1,042.62	997.91
Flint	45.8	40.1	31.25	29.19	1,431.25	1,170.52
Grand Rapids-Wyoming	38.8	39.5	17.96	17.16	696.85	677.82
Kalamazoo-Portage	38.8	38.8	14.83	14.84	575.40	575.79
Lansing-East Lansing	41.5	37.9	24.07	23.20	998.91	879.28

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA AUGUST 2005

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 189.6 index points in June 2005 to an average of 192.2 in August 2005. The 1.4 percent increase was primarily due to higher costs for motor fuel, apparel, recreation, energy, medical care and housing. Price increases for motor fuel, and energy in general continued to increase during this period and are expected to continue this trend in 2005.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U) DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA AUGUST 2005

	Index Number For August 2005	Percent Change From June To August 2005
Detroit Metro All Items	192.2	+1.4
Food And Beverages	180.0	0
Food At Home	177.3	-0.5
Food Away From Home	182.9	+0.7
Housing	182.2	+0.3
Shelter	207.9	-0.2
Fuels & Utilities	196.1	+2.6
Apparel	118.7	+9.2
Transportation	194.6	+4.0
Motor Fuel	214.4	+14.7
Medical Care	314.7	+0.4
Education & Communicat.	118.3	-0.4
Energy	187.6	+8.5
Recreation	120.0	+1.0

Consumer Spending Patterns in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, 2002-2003

Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint metropolitan area households spent during 2002-2003 an annual average of \$44,039. This was 8.1 percent higher than the level of typical household expenditure (\$40,748) in the nation. Detroit area consumers not only spent more than the U.S. average, but they also allocated their dollars differently. Expenditures on apparel, services and transportation in Detroit, accounted for larger portions of their total budget than nationwide. Conversely, spending on health care, entertainment and cash contributions represented smaller shares than the national average.

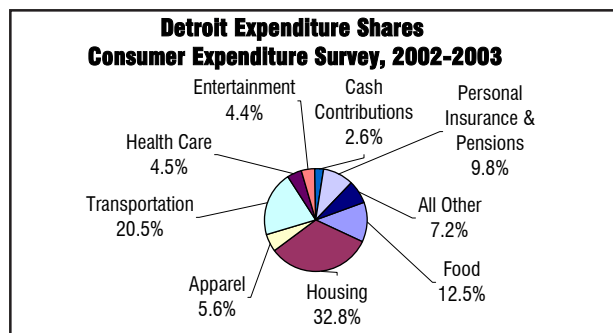
The percentage of the total budget spent by a typical Detroit area household for food, housing, and transportation was 65.8 percent, slightly larger than the 65.0 percent spent by the average U.S. household. Housing, the largest expenditure category for Detroit households,

accounted for 32.8 percent, matching the share spent nationally. The majority of housing costs in Detroit (61.1 percent) went for shelter, which includes mortgage interest, property taxes, repairs and rent, among other items. Utilities, fuels and public services accounted for 20.2 percent of housing expenditures; nationally it made up 20.6 percent. The rate of home ownership in the Detroit area, at 74 percent, was well above the national average of 67 percent.

At 20.5 percent, transportation was the second largest expenditure category in the Detroit area, above the national average of 19.1 percent. Of the \$9,024 average annual expenditure on transportation in Detroit, 94.6 percent was spent buying and maintaining private vehicles. The remaining 5.4 percent of the transportation budget was spent on public transit which includes taxis, buses, trains, and planes; this was not very different from the national share of 5.0 percent.

Detroit consumers spent \$5,511 or 12.5 percent of their budget on food. Of this amount, 55.8 percent was allocated to food prepared at home while the remaining 44.2 percent was spent on food prepared away from home, such as restaurant meals, carry-outs, board at school, and catered affairs.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. March, 2005



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