



Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Michigan's Labor Market News

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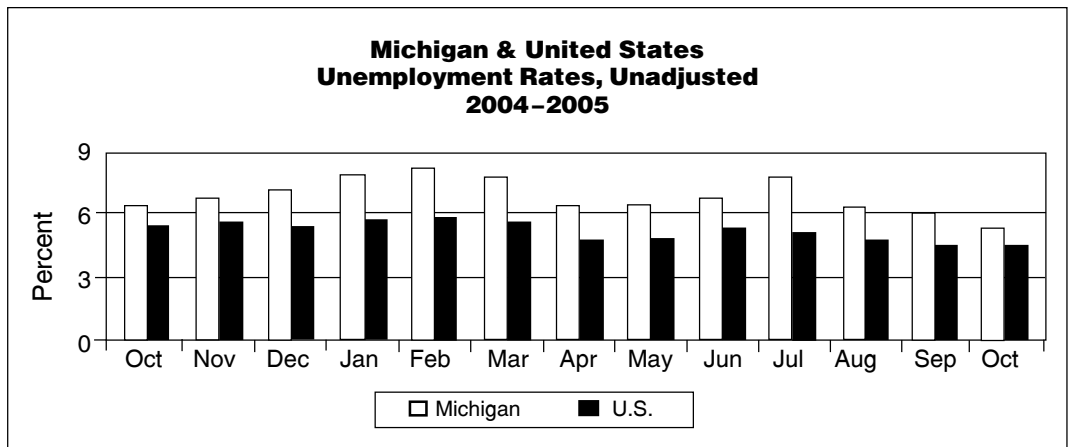
December 2005

Michigan's Jobless Rate Down To 5.4 Percent In October

Michigan's unemployment rate moved down by six-tenths of a percentage point during the month of October, bringing the state's unadjusted rate to 5.4 percent, the lowest rate recorded since October 2002. This was the third consecutive month in which the unemployment rate declined in Michigan. The decrease in the jobless rate represents 33,000 fewer individuals out of work, as unemployment declined to 274,000. The state's civilian labor force fell by 14,000 during the month, down to 5,106,000, while employment expanded by 19,000 to 4,832,000. One important reason for the decline in the jobless rate during October was

the withdrawal of summer and seasonal workers (including youth) out of the labor force with the conclusion of the tourism and recreation season. The nation's unemployment rate (unadjusted) also moved down during October, decreasing by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent.

Compared to a year ago, October's labor force remained basically flat, moving up by 2,000, employment jumped by 63,000, while unemployment fell by 60,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year drop of 1.2 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



October Brings Seasonal Increases In Nonfarm Employment

Michigan's nonfarm employment increased during the month of October, as industry jobs moved up to 4,409,000. Employment opportunities advanced by 16,000 jobs, with gains recorded in the service-providing industries. Payroll jobs increases were concentrated mainly in the government sector, up by 21,000 jobs, as state and local educational facilities recalled nonfaculty staff for the fall semester. Seasonal gains were also reported in the private educational and health services (up by 5,000), with the largest share of the increases going to private education, mainly colleges and universities (up by 4,000). Leisure and hospitality was one sector to show seasonal employment decline for the month (down by 10,000) while retail trade, financial activities, and professional and businesses services remained flat. Goods-producing employment declined by 5,000 jobs during October, mostly due to production adjustments in the durable goods sector, particularly the automotive industry and its suppliers. Construction

employment remained virtually unchanged during the month.

In October, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries increased to 42.6 hours from 42.2 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved up by six cents to \$21.58. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing expanded to \$919.31, a gain of \$11.17 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2005		2005	
	Oct.	Sep.	Oct.	Sep.
Manufacturing	\$21.58	\$21.52	42.6	42.2
Durables	23.20	23.05	43.7	43.1
Transport Equipment	29.70	29.28	44.8	43.7
Nondurables	14.89	15.09	38.7	38.5

Work At Home In 2004

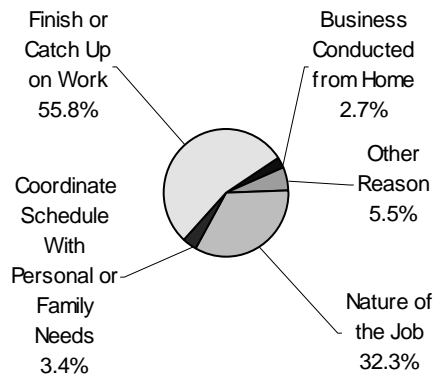
During the month of May 2004, 20.7 million people usually did some work at home as part of their primary job. These workers, who reported working at home at least once a week, accounted for about 15 percent of total nonagricultural employment in May 2004. The likelihood of working at home varies greatly by occupation. This is not surprising, since some jobs are more readily done away from the workplace than others. Almost 30 percent of workers in management, professional, and related occupations reported working at home in May 2004. Nearly two-thirds of people who usually worked at home were employed in these occupations. About one in five sales workers usually worked at home. In contrast, only three percent of workers in production, transportation, and material moving occupations performed job-related work at home.

About one-third of the people who usually worked at home (7.0 million) were self-employed. Two-thirds of these individuals had home-based businesses — that is, a business run from their home and no other location. On the average, self-employed people with a home-based business worked 25 hours per week at home.

Women and men were about equally likely to work at home in 2004, at about 15 percent each. Whites (16 percent) were twice as likely as blacks (eight percent) and Hispanics (seven percent) to work at home, reflecting, at least in part, the relatively higher concentration of whites in occupations that are associated with work at home. In comparison, nearly 13 percent of Asians worked at home in 2004. The work-at-home rate of parents was slightly higher than that of people without children. Married people were more likely to work at home than their non-married counterparts.

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

**REASON FOR WORKING AT HOME,
WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS,
MAY 2004**



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Oct 2005 Sep 2005 Oct 2004

Place of Residence

Labor Force	5,106	5,120	5,104
Employment	4,832	4,813	4,769
Unemployment	274	307	334
Rate (Percent)	5.4	6.0	6.6

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,409	4,393	4,458
Goods-Producing	880	885	905
Nat Resources & Mining	9	9	8
Construction	199	200	203
Manufacturing	672	677	695
Durable Goods	525	531	546
Fabricated Metals	83	83	83
Machinery Manufact.	76	76	76
Transportation Equip.	237	243	254
Nondurable Goods	147	146	148
Service-Providing	3,529	3,508	3,553
Trade, Transport & Util.	806	804	815
Wholesale Trade	171	171	172
Retail Trade	508	506	518
Motor Vehicle Dealers	64	64	64
Food & Beverage Stores	87	87	89
General Merchandise	109	108	115
Transp, Warehousing & Util	127	127	126
Information	64	64	67
Financial Activities	219	219	217
Finance & Insurance	163	162	160
Real Estate & Rental	56	56	57
Prof & Business Services	593	591	595
Prof, Scientific & Technical	246	246	245
Management Scientific Services	21	21	19
Administrative Support	268	266	270
Education & Health Services	560	555	556
Education Services	71	65	70
Health Care & Social Asst	490	490	486
Leisure & Hospitality	407	417	407
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	65	70	64
Accommodation & Food	343	347	344
Other Services	182	181	181
Government	698	577	715
Federal	55	55	55
State	176	171	177
Local	468	451	482

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Battle Creek			Bay City		
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	194,000	192,500	190,500	72,900	73,000	73,100	56,100	56,200	56,500
Employment	187,600	184,700	183,300	69,100	68,700	68,800	53,200	52,900	52,900
Unemployment	6,400	7,800	7,300	3,800	4,400	4,300	2,800	3,300	3,600
Rate (Percent)	3.3	4.1	3.8	5.2	6.0	5.9	5.1	5.9	6.3

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	206,900	204,600	206,100	63,100	63,000	64,400	39,900	39,800	40,300
Nat Resources & Construction	6,000	6,000	6,100	2,400	2,400	2,500	1,600	1,600	1,700
Manufacturing	22,600	22,600	23,600	14,300	14,200	14,300	4,300	4,300	4,600
Trade, Transport & Utilities	27,900	27,800	27,500	10,400	10,300	10,500	9,200	9,200	9,100
Wholesale Trade	5,400	5,400	5,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300
Retail Trade	19,200	19,100	18,900	7,900	7,800	8,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
Information	3,700	3,700	3,700	*	*	*	600	600	600
Financial Activities	5,700	5,700	5,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,400
Professional & Business Services	28,000	28,100	26,900	6,400	6,300	6,500	3,800	3,800	3,800
Educational & Health Services	23,400	23,100	22,400	9,400	9,300	9,200	5,600	5,500	5,400
Leisure & Hospitality	14,300	14,600	14,600	5,600	5,900	5,600	4,800	4,900	4,800
Other Services	6,200	6,100	6,200	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Government	69,100	66,900	69,500	10,600	10,300	10,900	6,000	5,900	6,400

Detroit-Warren-Livonia

(Data in Thousands)

	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Aug	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004

Flint

Grand Rapids-Wyoming

Place of Residence

Labor Force	2,207	2,222	2,228	213,600	213,000	213,600	403,900	402,500	400,100
Employment	2,075	2,079	2,064	200,700	198,200	198,600	384,900	380,500	376,500
Unemployment	132	143	165	12,900	14,800	15,000	19,000	21,900	23,600
Rate (Percent)	6.0	6.4	7.4	6.0	7.0	7.0	4.7	5.4	5.9

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	2,044	2,043	2,070	161,000	159,900	163,200	388,200	386,900	388,500
Nat Resources & Construction	93	93	92	7,400	7,400	7,200	19,800	20,000	20,200
Manufacturing	287	294	299	22,100	22,100	23,200	72,900	72,400	74,200
Trade, Transport & Utilities	380	378	383	31,700	31,400	32,000	72,900	73,200	73,300
Wholesale Trade	94	94	94	6,500	6,500	6,600	20,500	21,600	19,900
Retail Trade	222	220	224	21,600	21,300	21,900	42,400	42,500	43,100
Information	34	34	36	2,000	2,000	2,100	5,600	5,600	5,700
Financial Activities	117	117	117	6,700	6,900	6,600	21,300	21,200	20,700
Professional & Business Services	357	355	361	19,400	19,100	19,800	54,500	54,800	54,700
Educational & Health Services	260	259	257	24,500	24,300	24,400	53,200	53,600	51,100
Leisure & Hospitality	182	184	182	15,200	15,400	15,600	31,700	31,600	32,400
Other Services	96	97	97	6,900	6,800	7,000	16,900	16,800	17,100
Government	239	232	247	25,100	24,500	25,300	39,400	37,700	39,100

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Holland-Grand Haven			Jackson			Kalamazoo-Portage		
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	134,100	132,000	134,400	80,100	79,900	79,100	174,800	174,400	173,100
Employment	128,800	125,900	128,900	75,900	75,100	74,100	167,300	165,800	163,900
Unemployment	5,300	6,100	6,500	4,200	4,800	5,000	7,500	8,700	9,200
Rate (Percent)	4.0	4.6	4.8	5.2	6.0	6.3	4.3	5.0	5.3

Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	114,000	111,500	117,300	63,100	62,700	62,700	147,000	146,300	147,000
Nat Resources & Construction	6,500	6,600	6,700	2,600	2,600	2,600	6,600	6,600	6,800
Manufacturing	34,000	34,100	37,600	10,000	10,100	10,300	24,100	24,300	24,600
Trade, Transport & Utilities	16,700	16,800	17,400	12,700	12,600	12,400	25,800	25,700	25,800
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,700	1,700	1,700	4,400	4,400	4,200
Retail Trade	9,900	9,900	10,600	7,900	7,800	7,700	17,500	17,400	17,700
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	1,400	1,400	1,400
Financial Activities	3,400	3,400	3,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	7,900	7,900	7,600
Professional & Business Services	12,400	12,700	11,200	4,900	4,900	4,900	14,700	14,700	14,500
Educational & Health Services	10,000	9,900	10,400	9,500	9,400	9,600	20,000	19,900	20,000
Leisure & Hospitality	7,900	8,400	8,000	6,000	6,000	5,800	15,100	15,200	14,800
Other Services	4,400	4,400	4,500	2,700	2,700	2,800	6,600	6,600	6,700
Government	17,700	14,200	17,200	11,700	11,500	11,500	24,800	24,000	24,800

	Lansing-East Lansing			Monroe			Muskegon-Norton Shores		
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	256,400	256,100	252,900	78,500	78,700	77,300	89,300	90,800	89,000
Employment	244,200	241,900	237,900	74,800	74,200	73,200	85,000	84,200	82,900
Unemployment	12,200	14,200	15,100	3,700	4,400	4,100	5,000	5,500	5,800
Rate (Percent)	4.8	5.5	6.0	4.7	5.6	5.3	5.6	6.1	6.6

Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	233,700	232,700	232,700	44,500	44,500	44,500	66,400	66,300	65,900
Nat Resources & Construction	9,800	10,000	9,800	2,400	2,400	2,600	2,400	2,400	2,600
Manufacturing	21,500	21,400	20,400	8,300	8,500	9,000	13,400	13,600	13,800
Trade, Transport & Utilities	36,300	36,500	36,800	9,900	9,900	9,900	13,600	13,500	13,600
Wholesale Trade	5,600	5,600	5,600	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,400	1,400	1,400
Retail Trade	24,100	24,200	24,600	5,800	5,800	5,900	10,800	10,700	10,900
Information	3,000	3,000	3,100	*	*	*	900	900	900
Financial Activities	15,500	15,500	15,300	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,900	1,900	1,900
Professional & Business Services	21,300	21,100	21,000	3,400	3,400	3,400	4,200	4,200	4,200
Educational & Health Services	26,400	26,200	26,000	4,600	4,500	4,400	11,100	10,800	10,000
Leisure & Hospitality	20,200	20,600	20,500	4,300	4,400	4,800	7,200	8,100	6,900
Other Services	10,900	10,800	10,900	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,600	2,600	2,700
Government	68,800	67,600	68,900	7,200	7,000	6,500	9,800	9,000	9,700

* Data Not Available

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

Niles-Benton Harbor

Saginaw-Sag. Township North

	Oct 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2004	Oct 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2004
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	77,800	78,100	78,900	99,900	100,000	100,800
Employment	73,700	73,300	73,800	94,000	93,100	93,400
Unemployment	4,100	4,900	5,100	6,800	6,900	7,800
Rate (Percent)	5.3	6.2	6.5	5.9	6.9	7.4

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	63,900	63,800	65,400	93,800	93,600	95,300
Nat Resources & Construction	2,400	2,400	2,500	4,000	4,100	4,400
Manufacturing	14,100	14,200	15,200	13,500	13,700	14,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	12,700	12,800	12,700	17,800	17,900	17,900
Wholesale Trade	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,700
Retail Trade	7,800	7,900	7,900	12,400	12,400	12,600
Information	800	800	900	2,000	2,000	2,000
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300	5,100	5,100	5,100
Professional & Business Services	4,900	4,900	4,900	8,700	8,700	9,200
Educational & Health Services	9,800	9,600	9,500	15,300	15,200	14,800
Leisure & Hospitality	5,700	5,900	6,200	9,700	10,000	9,500
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,800	4,300	4,300	4,400
Government	8,400	8,100	8,400	13,300	12,600	13,300

Upper Peninsula

Northeast Lower Michigan

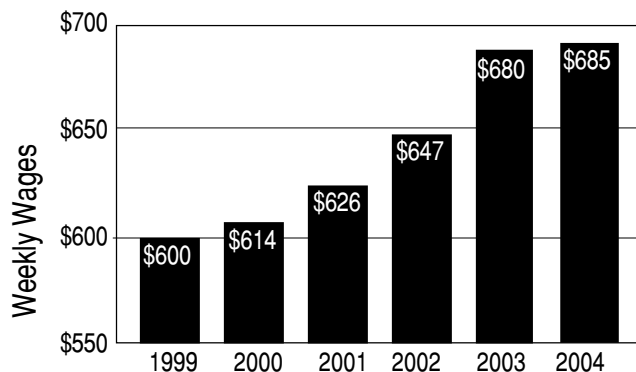
Northwest Lower Michigan

	Oct 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2004	Oct 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2004	Oct 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2004
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	163,000	163,900	160,500	101,000	102,600	98,900	160,300	162,200	157,900
Employment	155,600	155,400	151,900	95,500	96,500	92,400	152,800	153,700	149,000
Unemployment	7,300	8,500	8,600	5,500	6,100	6,500	7,500	8,500	8,900
Rate (Percent)	4.5	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.9	6.5	4.7	5.2	5.6

**Average Weekly Wages
Kalamazoo MSA, 1999-2004**



Regional Focus

Average Weekly Wages Kalamazoo MSA, 1998 - 2003

Average weekly wages (AWW) in the Kalamazoo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in 2004 reached a new high of \$685. This was only \$5 higher than 2003 when the area's annual AWW stood at \$680. Average weekly wages are calculated by dividing the total wages paid that year in the area by the average number of workers and by the number of weeks in the period (i.e., 52 if calculated for the year). The weekly wages contain all the area's earnings, including overtime wages.

October Jobless Rates Fall in All of Michigan's Major Areas

October seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates moved down in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas, averaging a drop of 0.7 percent for the month. Employment increased in most regions, while labor force levels were mixed. The employment growth and the unemployment rate decreases were fairly typical for October in Michigan's various regional labor market areas. From September to October, labor force levels were down in 9 regions and up in eight. Although labor force changes in most areas were minor over the month, total employment increased in 14 regions, averaging a significant gain of one full percentage point. Of the three areas that recorded employment declines, the Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) reported only a slight drop, while the Northeast Lower Michigan and the Northwest Lower Michigan Regions experienced larger seasonal employment reductions following the winding down of the summer tourism season.

From October 2004 to October 2005, jobless rates moved down in all 17 major labor market areas. The rate decreases ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 percentage points, with an average drop of one full percent. The most significant jobless rate declines were registered in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, down by 1.5 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven MSA with 4.0 percent, and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA with 4.3 percent. The highest jobless rates in the month of October were recorded by the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Flint MSAs, both with 6.0 percent, followed by the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA with 5.9 percent.

October Nonfarm Jobs Inch Up in Most Metro Areas

Total nonfarm employment increased in 13 of Michigan's 14 MSAs during October, with the Monroe MSA remaining unchanged for the month. Among the MSAs, the Holland-Grand Haven area had the largest percentage increase at 2.2 percent, followed by the Ann Arbor MSA with 1.1 percent, and the Flint and Jackson MSAs, both with 0.7 percent. Employment gains were seasonal and in most areas were concentrated in the service-providing industries.

Increases in the service-providing industries were most evident in state and local government as local colleges and universities continued recalling their support personnel for the fall semester. Many areas also recorded seasonal gains in private education and health services, mostly in higher educational facilities. The area to experience the strongest gains in state education was the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA, with an increase of 6.2 percent or 800 jobs, followed by the Kalamazoo-Portage and Ann Arbor areas with increases of 4.3 and 4.0 percent, respectively. Most other major sectors (retail trade, information, financial activities, professional and business, and other services) exhibited little employment changes during the month, with minor scattered gains in retail trade and professional and business services. The sector recording seasonal job reductions throughout the state was leisure and hospitality (mainly in amusement, gambling and recreation, and accommodation and food

services) following the conclusion of the tourism and recreation season.

In the goods-producing sector, employment fell in most areas mainly due to production adjustments in the durable goods sector, particularly the automotive industry and its suppliers. The largest reductions were recorded in the Monroe and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, down by 2.4 and 2.1 percent, respectively. The construction industry exhibited only minor changes in October, remaining stable throughout the state.

During October, average weekly hours in manufacturing increased in three of the five 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 down in three areas during the month, with reductions reported mainly in the nondurable goods industries. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings contracted slightly in three major areas. The largest reductions in weekly earnings were reported in the Lansing-East Lansing area, down by \$18.74, followed by the Kalamazoo-Portage and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs with decreases of \$4.66 and \$3.43, respectively. In the remaining two areas, the Flint and the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs, average weekly wages increased by \$59.68 and \$10.91, respectively.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings* Michigan & Selected Metropolitan Areas October and September 2005

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Oct.	Sep.	Oct.	Sep.	Oct.	Sep.
Michigan	42.6	42.2	21.58	21.52	919.31	908.14
Detroit-Warren-Livonia	44.2	43.6	24.61	24.87	1,087.76	1,084.33
Flint	45.6	44.4	31.60	31.11	1,440.96	1,381.28
Grand Rapids-Wyoming	41.3	40.3	17.76	17.93	733.49	722.58
Kalamazoo-Portage	38.2	38.8	14.89	14.78	568.80	573.46
Lansing-East Lansing	40.9	41.4	24.33	24.43	995.10	1,013.85

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Detroit Metropolitan Area October 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 192.2 index points in August 2005 to an average of 195.1 in October 2005. The 1.5 percent increase was primarily due to higher costs for motor fuel, education and communication, housing, food and beverages, transportation, and energy. Prices for motor fuel, and energy in general rose during this period and may continue this trend throughout 2005.

Consumer Price Index All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Detroit Metropolitan Area October, 2005

	Index Number for October 2005	Percent Change From August to October 2005
1982-84=100		
Detroit Metro All Items	195.1	+ 1.5
Food and Beverages	182.6	+1.4
Food at Home	181.5	+2.4
Food Away from Home	183.9	+0.5
Housing	184.9	+1.5
Shelter	209.5	+0.8
Fuels & Utilities	208.6	+6.4
Apparel	122.3	+3.0
Transportation	199.4	+2.5
Motor Fuel	230.3	+7.4
Medical Care	318.2	+1.1
Education & Communication	120.6	+1.9
Energy	201.5	+7.4
Recreation	118.0	-1.7

University of Michigan's Economic Outlook, Michigan 2004 - 2007

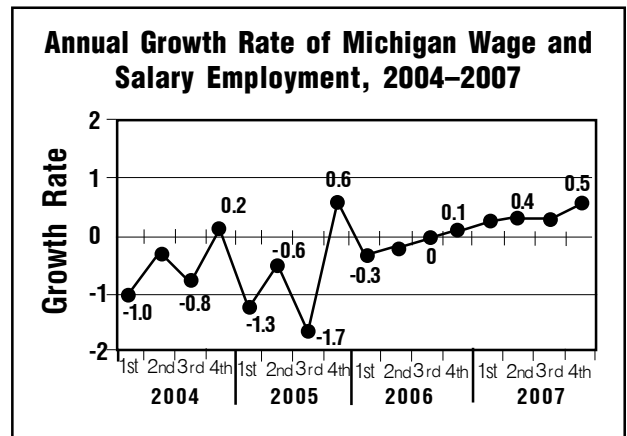
Every year the University of Michigan's forecasting group, Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE) prepares projections for the development of the state's economy. In November 2005 a new forecast was published projecting Michigan's economic growth for 2005 through 2007.

In this article the RSQE economists expect that in 2006, the job impact of the automotive industry's restructuring process will be strong enough to erase improvements in the service-providing sector and will extend Michigan's job losses to a sixth consecutive year. Despite a small increase in employment in the fourth quarter of 2005, it is expected that payroll jobs for all of 2005 will drop by 0.8 percent. Job losses will continue during the first half of 2006, but at a slower rate than 2005. Employment will level off in the second half of 2006.

The RSQE group forecasts that job gains will improve during 2007, with payroll employment increasing in every quarter. However, the auto industry cuts will continue to slow down the pace of job growth during the year to 0.4 percent. After contracting by 33,000 jobs during 2005, payroll employment will decrease by an additional 3,200 workers during 2006 before finally adding 17,400 jobs during 2007.

Consumer price increases, as measured by the growth rate of the Detroit CPI, will move up from the modest 2004 rate of 1.6 percent to 2.8 percent for 2005. One reason for the increase in the inflation rate during 2005 is the sharp increase in energy prices. In the next two years, energy prices are expected to ease and local inflation will slow steadily, reaching 2.4 percent in 2006 and 2.0 percent in 2007.

Source: Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE), University of Michigan, November 2005.



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