



Michigan's Labor Market News

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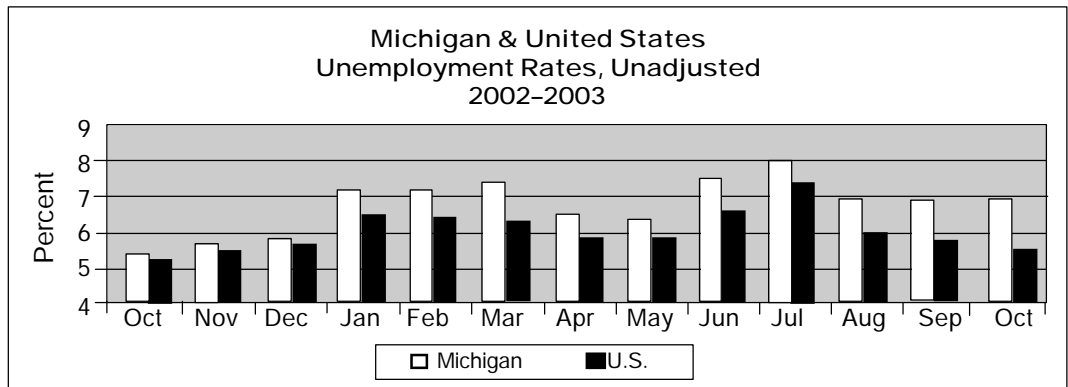
December 2003

Michigan's Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged at 6.9 Percent

Michigan's jobless rate showed no movement in the month of October, as the unadjusted unemployment rate held steady at 6.9 percent. However, although the unemployment rate did not change, the state's civilian labor force and employment levels did move forward during the month, as relatively large number of individuals entered the work force. Labor force increased by 52,000, advancing to 5,144,000, while total employment gained 48,000, moving up to 4,790,000. Unemployment totals expanded by 4,000, climbing to 354,000. The increase in labor force and employment levels during the month of October was not unusual and was concentrated in regions containing

higher education facilities, as many universities recalled their support personnel such as student assistants, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc., for the beginning of the fall semester. The nation's jobless rate (unadjusted) fell by 0.2 percentage points to 5.6 percent.

Compared to a year ago, October's labor force increased by 164,000, employment advanced by 78,000, and unemployment climbed by 86,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year hike of 1.5 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



October Brings Seasonal Increases in Nonfarm Employment

Michigan's nonfarm employment moved up during the month of October, as industry jobs advanced to 4,465,000. Employment opportunities expanded by 31,000 jobs, with gains recorded in the service-providing sector of the economy. Payroll job increases were concentrated mainly in the government sector, up by 27,000 jobs during the month, as state and local educational facilities recalled non-faculty staff for the fall semester. Seasonal gains were also recorded in private educational and health services (up by 14,000), with the largest share of the increases going to private education, mainly colleges and universities (up by 11,000). Retail trade employment also advanced during the month, gaining 9,000 positions, most notably in general merchandise and department stores. Goods-producing employment fell by 3,000 jobs during the month, chiefly due to seasonal losses in the construction industry, along with some production adjustments in the durable goods sector (transportation equipment).

In October, the average workweek in Michigan's manufacturing industries decreased to 42.6 hours from 43.1 in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved down by 73 cents to \$21.01. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing declined to \$895.03, a loss of \$41.96 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2003 Oct.	2003 Sept.	2003 Oct.	2003 Sept.
Manufacturing	\$21.01	\$21.74	42.6	43.1
Durables	22.40	23.25	43.6	44.0
Transport Equipment	27.05	28.56	44.9	45.7
Nondurables	14.55	14.61	38.8	39.0

Survey of Labor Supply for Michigan's Critical Occupations, October 2003

Michigan's Office of Labor Market Information (OLMI) is conducting a new survey to determine the level of labor supply in the state's critical occupations. The preliminary results of this survey are posted on the OLMI Web site: www.michlmi.org. The Web site will be updated with additional results over the next several weeks.

Survey Purpose

This survey was designed to address three basic questions:

- 1) What appears to be the supply of workers for certain key (critical) Michigan occupations?
- 2) How difficult is it for employers to find qualified workers in these occupations?
- 3) Are there differences among regions of Michigan in the ability of employers to find qualified workers?

Survey Process

- OLMI identified 15 critical Michigan occupations. Critical occupations were defined as high-demand, high-wage occupations requiring at least moderate on-the-job training or postsecondary education.
- The primary industries that employed each of the 15 critical occupations were also identified.
- Over 4,000 firms statewide in these industries were surveyed regarding their ability to find qualified workers in these occupations.
- To measure regional differences, the state was divided into six regions: *Southeast Michigan, Southwest Michigan, Mid-Michigan, West Michigan, Northern Lower Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula.*

Some Preliminary Results

- There are higher levels of difficulty finding qualified workers in Northern Lower Michigan and the UP, areas with labor shortages in some occupations, and where the number of the unemployed has not increased as much in the last year.
- Employers indicate high levels of difficulty finding qualified auto service technicians, pharmacists, and special education teachers.

For more detailed results, please visit the OLMI Web site at www.michlmi.org. On the home page, click on the button "Labor Supply Critical Occupations."

For more information please call the OLMI office at: (313) 456-3090.

	Michigan		
	(Data In Thousands)		
	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2003	2003	2002
Place of Residence			
Labor Force	5,144	5,092	4,980
Employment	4,790	4,742	4,712
Unemployment	354	350	268
Rate (Percent)	6.9	6.9	5.4
Industry Jobs (Place of Work)			
Total Nonfarm	4,465	4,434	4,534
Goods-Producing	943	946	975
Nat Resources & Mining	8	8	9
Construction	209	212	210
Manufacturing	726	726	756
Durable Goods	572	574	597
Fabricated Metals	80	79	83
Machinery Manufact.	77	77	78
Transportation Equipment	275	276	288
Nondurable Goods	154	152	160
Service-Providing	3,521	3,488	3,559
Trade, Transport & Utilities	843	834	843
Wholesale Trade	176	176	174
Retail Trade	540	531	535
Motor Vehicle Dealers	62	62	64
Food & Beverage Stores	89	90	88
General Merchandise	127	122	128
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	127	128	134
Information	74	74	74
Financial Activities	217	219	216
Finance & Insurance	166	167	163
Real Estate & Rental	52	52	54
Prof & Business Services	581	588	605
Prof, Scientific & Technical	252	253	258
Management Scientific Services	24	25	24
Administrative Support	250	256	264
Education & Health Services	551	537	538
Education Services	83	72	76
Health Care & Social Asst	468	465	462
Leisure & Hospitality	384	394	394
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	63	69	62
Accommodation & Food	321	325	332
Other Services	172	170	177
Government	699	672	713
Federal	57	57	58
State	173	166	178
Local	470	449	477

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Benton Harbor			Detroit		
	(Data in Thousands)								
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2003	2003	2002	2003	2003	2002	2003	2003	2002
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	321,200	314,700	314,600	82,400	81,100	79,900	2,273	2,257	2,200
Employment	308,900	301,900	305,100	76,700	75,300	75,800	2,113	2,095	2,076
Unemployment	12,300	12,800	9,500	5,700	5,800	4,100	160	162	124
Rate (Percent)	3.8	4.1	3.0	6.9	7.1	5.2	7.0	7.2	5.7
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	293,800	289,000	299,300	69,700	69,100	70,900	2,075	2,065	2,099
Nat Resources & Construction	13,000	13,200	12,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	94	94	95
Manufacturing	40,200	39,800	43,000	15,500	15,800	16,400	327	324	332
Trade, Transport & Utilities	45,100	44,400	45,800	13,700	13,100	13,200	394	390	397
Wholesale Trade	7,400	7,400	7,400	2,300	2,300	2,400	98	98	98
Retail Trade	32,600	31,900	33,100	9,000	8,400	8,300	234	229	230
Information	5,900	5,900	5,700	1,000	1,000	900	40	40	39
Financial Activities	10,100	10,300	11,300	2,200	2,300	2,300	113	115	114
Professional & Business Services	37,000	36,600	37,200	6,000	5,800	6,900	364	371	376
Educational & Health Services	30,300	30,000	31,600	11,100	10,900	10,300	250	246	246
Leisure & Hospitality	22,500	23,700	21,500	5,700	5,800	5,900	174	178	179
Other Services	8,100	8,000	8,300	3,100	3,100	3,200	78	77	78
Government	81,600	77,100	82,400	9,000	8,900	9,400	241	232	245
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	234,500	229,700	228,700	258,300	252,700	248,200	206,200	201,100	197,800
Employment	220,400	215,500	217,900	241,700	241,300	240,000	190,500	185,000	187,000
Unemployment	14,200	14,200	10,900	16,500	11,400	8,200	15,600	16,100	10,800
Rate (Percent)	6.0	6.2	4.7	6.4	4.5	3.3	7.6	8.0	5.4
Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	210,000	207,200	214,000	241,300	242,300	246,600	179,900	175,600	182,000
Nat Resources & Construction	10,200	10,000	10,300	13,200	13,300	10,800	8,700	9,500	9,900
Manufacturing	39,900	39,900	41,200	19,700	23,600	23,800	26,400	24,200	25,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	39,800	39,200	38,500	38,400	37,900	39,500	33,200	32,800	35,300
Wholesale Trade	6,300	5,900	5,600	6,200	5,900	5,900	4,400	4,400	4,600
Retail Trade	28,400	28,100	27,600	25,900	25,800	27,200	24,400	24,000	26,300
Information	2,400	2,400	2,300	3,900	3,900	3,700	3,100	3,100	3,000
Financial Activities	9,700	10,100	10,100	16,800	16,300	15,300	7,300	7,200	7,700
Professional & Business Services	19,300	19,000	20,500	21,300	21,200	22,000	22,600	22,500	23,500
Educational & Health Services	25,500	24,200	26,000	25,300	25,200	25,100	27,900	26,900	26,800
Leisure & Hospitality	19,900	20,800	20,900	17,000	18,000	18,100	16,800	16,300	16,300
Other Services	9,000	8,900	9,100	11,200	11,100	11,400	8,500	8,300	8,500
Government	34,300	32,700	35,100	74,500	71,800	76,900	25,400	24,800	25,300

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

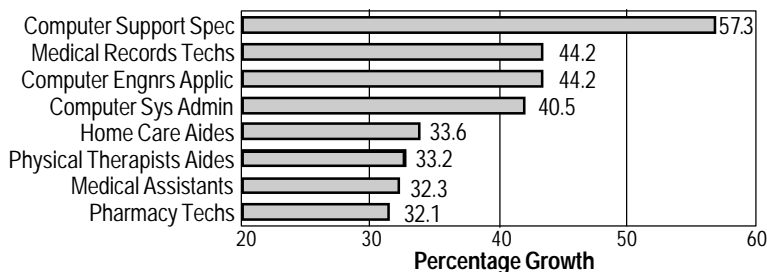
	Flint			Grand Rapids-Holland Muskegon			Jackson		
	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	189,700	188,100	182,700	624,800	619,100	605,100	81,000	80,000	79,100
Employment	172,400	170,800	168,900	579,800	574,000	569,700	74,900	73,900	74,500
Unemployment	17,300	17,300	13,800	45,000	45,000	35,400	6,100	6,200	4,700
Rate (Percent)	9.1	9.2	7.5	7.2	7.3	5.9	7.6	7.7	5.9

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	162,400	161,200	164,400	573,100	570,700	579,800	63,000	62,300	64,600
Nat Resources & Construction	6,900	7,500	7,700	28,700	28,800	28,600	2,800	2,900	2,900
Manufacturing	24,700	24,700	25,400	131,300	131,200	135,300	9,500	9,400	10,600
Trade, Transport & Utilities	32,400	32,100	32,400	112,600	113,200	112,300	13,800	13,700	14,000
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,500	6,700	30,700	31,200	30,000	1,600	1,600	1,700
Retail Trade	21,900	21,600	21,900	67,600	67,700	66,800	9,000	8,800	9,000
Information	2,500	2,500	2,400	8,300	8,000	8,500	600	600	600
Financial Activities	5,700	5,700	5,600	23,000	23,300	24,200	2,600	2,600	2,600
Professional & Business Services	17,900	18,700	18,800	65,900	65,800	65,900	4,600	4,700	4,900
Educational & Health Services	23,500	23,000	23,400	75,400	72,500	72,400	8,800	8,600	8,600
Leisure & Hospitality	15,900	15,700	15,900	42,100	44,200	45,000	5,400	5,400	5,700
Other Services	6,600	6,500	6,800	23,400	23,700	24,700	2,900	2,800	2,900
Government	26,300	24,800	26,000	62,400	60,000	62,900	12,000	11,600	11,800

	Upper Peninsula			Northeast Lower Michigan			Northwest Lower Michigan		
	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	157,500	157,800	151,600	95,400	95,700	92,700	153,600	154,200	146,900
Employment	148,400	148,700	144,300	88,000	88,700	86,900	143,500	144,500	139,500
Unemployment	9,100	9,100	7,300	7,400	7,100	5,800	10,100	9,700	7,400
Rate (Percent)	5.8	5.8	4.8	7.8	7.4	6.2	6.5	6.3	5.0

**Occupations with the Highest Projected Growth
Flint MSA, 2000-2003**



Regional Focus

Fastest-Growing Occupations Flint MSA, 2000-2010

The four fastest-growing occupations in the Flint MSA require at least some college education (associate degree or higher). Three out of the four occupations projected to grow fastest are in the computer industry. The other four occupations listed require moderate or short-term on-the-job training.

October Unemployment Rates Down in Most of Michigan's Major Areas

October unemployment rates (unadjusted) dropped in eight of Michigan's 12 major labor market areas. The jobless rate decreases over the month in those areas were minor, with an average decline reaching 0.2 percentage points. Unemployment rates increased in three areas from September to October, with the Northeast Lower Michigan Region and the Northwest Lower Michigan Region recording minor seasonal gains of 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively. The jobless rate in the Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) jumped by almost two full percentage points due to short-term layoffs in the automotive industry. The unemployment rate in the Upper Peninsula remained unchanged for the month. Labor force and employment totals followed seasonal trends

during October, moving up in nine areas over the month. Employment gains were fairly substantial, with most areas gaining around one percent or more. Michigan's three northernmost labor market areas registered seasonal employment losses, following the winding down of the summer tourism season.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor MSA had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.8 percent, followed by the Upper Peninsula with 5.8 percent and the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek MSA with 6.0 percent. The highest jobless rate in the month of October was recorded by the Flint area at 9.1 percent, followed by the Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA with 7.8 percent.

Payroll Employment Increases in All Major Areas but One

Total nonfarm employment moved up in eight of Michigan's nine Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) during October, with gains ranging between 0.4 percent (Grand Rapids MSA) to 2.4 percent (Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA). Employment gains in most areas were concentrated in the service-providing industries, particularly in state and local government, as local colleges and universities continued recalling their support personnel for the fall semester. Moderate seasonal gains in retail trade were also recorded in most areas, as department stores and general merchandise stores began hiring additional workers with the arrival of fall. The only area to report employment losses for the month was the Lansing MSA, down by a total of 1,000 jobs, or 0.4 percent. The employment losses in the Lansing MSA were attributed to temporary production adjustments in the transportation

equipment sector. Most of the major areas also experienced small employment declines in their goods-producing sectors, mainly due to seasonal reductions in the construction industry.

During October, average hourly earnings in manufacturing decreased in six major areas. The losses were due mainly to salary reductions in the durable goods industries. Average weekly hours moved down in five areas during the month, with losses showing mainly in the durable goods sector. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings contracted in seven major areas. The largest losses in weekly earnings were recorded in the Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA, down by \$185.06, followed by the Detroit and Flint areas with decreases of \$39.30 and \$35.46, respectively.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings Major Labor Market Areas* October and September 2003						
Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Oct.	Sep.	Oct.	Sep.	Oct.	Sep.
Ann Arbor	43.6	44.0	\$23.50	\$24.06	\$ 1,024.60	\$ 1,058.64
Benton Harbor	45.1	44.0	14.57	14.80	657.11	651.20
Detroit	42.9	43.5	24.17	24.74	1,036.89	1,076.19
Flint	46.8	46.4	29.66	30.68	1,388.09	1,423.55
Grand Rapids	40.2	40.3	16.52	16.70	664.10	673.01
Jackson*						
Kalamazoo	40.9	40.0	15.80	15.34	646.22	613.60
Lansing	42.9	44.2	25.66	25.48	1,100.81	1,126.22
Saginaw-Bay-Midland	42.2	45.8	24.18	26.32	1,020.40	1,205.46

* Data are not available for the Jackson, Upper Peninsula, Northeast Lower Michigan, and Northwest Lower Michigan areas.

Employment and Wages in Elementary and Secondary Schools, U.S. and Michigan 2001

The number of people working directly in the educational industries demonstrates the importance of investment in education in the United States. With 11.5 million workers, or about 9 percent of total employment in 2001, educational services is one of the largest employing industries in the nation. The educational services industry is divided into five major categories: elementary and secondary schools; colleges, universities, professional schools and junior colleges; libraries; vocational schools; and other educational services. This article focuses on the staffing and wages of teachers, teacher support workers, and administrative workers in elementary and secondary schools, and it highlights the variations among the states.

During 2001, there were close to 8 million individuals employed in the elementary and secondary schools in the nation. Teachers accounted for 46 percent of the total, while teacher support occupations and administrative workers accounted for 14 and 4 percent, respectively. "Other Occupations," a category not discussed here, accounted for the rest. However, the teachers' proportion of school employment and their salary levels were not consistent across all states. Teachers' share of industry employment varied from the lower end at 33 percent in Kentucky and 36 percent in **Michigan**, to Missouri with 56 percent. While some states have higher shares of teachers overall, they may have

different concentrations of specific types of teachers. For example, elementary school teachers (over 1.4 million nationwide, one of the largest detailed occupations in the nation), accounted for the highest share of school employment in Nevada (27 percent), while Maine and Rhode Island had the smallest share at 13 percent each.

Wages for teachers also varied among the states. On average, teachers earned \$44,122 per year in 2001, compared to administrative workers and support occupations, who earned \$66,690 and \$22,180, respectively. New York was the state with the highest average wages for teachers (\$59,615), followed by Delaware and Colorado, both with \$52,600. Teachers in the state of Montana had the lowest average pay at \$31,847. **Michigan's** average wage for teachers was the eighth highest among the states at \$47,976.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2003.

State	Mean Wage	State	Mean Wage
New York	\$59,615	United States	\$44,122
Delaware	52,672	Ohio	43,237
California	49,881	Wisconsin	42,247
Michigan	47,976	Montana	31,847

Visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdcd (Labor Market Information Quick Link)



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