



Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

# Michigan's Labor Market News

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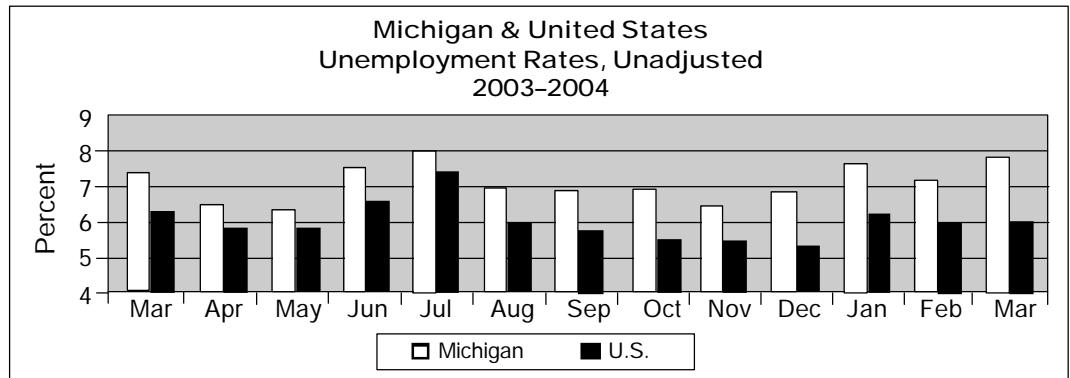
May 2004

## Michigan's March Unemployment Rate Up to 7.6 Percent

Michigan's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.3 of a percentage point during the month of March, bringing the state's unemployment rate to 7.6 percent. The jobless rate increase represents 17,000 additional individuals out of work, as unemployment moved up to 348,000. The state's civilian labor force expanded by 26,000 during the month to 5,040,000, while employment advanced by 10,000 to 4,657,000. Although Michigan's labor market situation was relatively stable during 2004, seasonal factors began influencing the state's economy, bringing workers into the labor market seeking jobs. Michigan's March

2004 unemployment rate was little changed from the March 2003 rate of 7.7 percent. However, both labor force and employment totals showed substantial increases for the year. The nation's unemployment rate (unadjusted) remained unchanged during March, holding steady at 6.0 percentage points.

Compared to a year ago, March's labor force increased by 55,000, employment advanced by 55,000, and unemployment remained virtually unchanged. This has resulted in an over-the-year drop of 0.1 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



## Small Seasonal Gains in Nonfarm Employment

Michigan's nonfarm employment increased slightly during the month of March, as industry jobs moved up to 4,326,000. Employment opportunities advanced by 18,000 jobs, with gains recorded in the service-providing sector of the economy. Service-providing employment increased by 18,000 jobs during the month, mostly due to seasonal gains in retail trade (motor vehicle and parts dealers) and transportation, warehousing and utilities. Small seasonal gains were also recorded in the leisure and hospitality industry (mainly in accommodation and food services) and local government. Goods-producing employment remained unchanged in March, as small gains in the construction industry (specialty trade contractors) were erased by temporary layoffs in the durable goods sector, and as some automotive plants adjusted production. The nondurable goods sector remained virtually unchanged for the month.

In March, the average workweek in Michigan's manufacturing industries increased to 43.1 hours from 42.6 in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved up by 3 cents to \$21.90. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing increased to \$943.89, a gain of \$12.23 over the previous month's total.

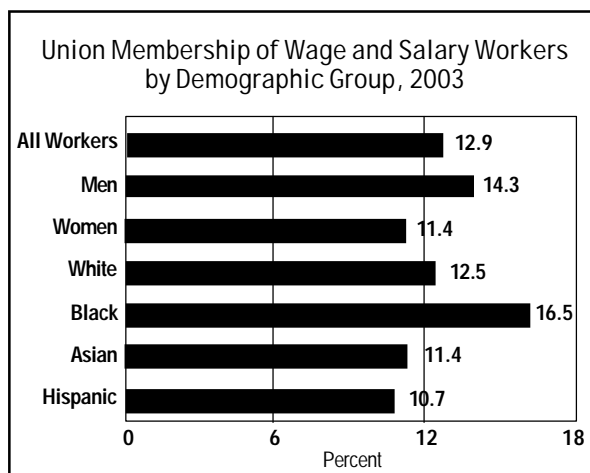
	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2004 Mar.	2004 Feb.	2004 Mar.	2004 Feb.
Manufacturing	\$21.90	\$21.87	43.1	42.6
Durables	23.34	23.34	44.1	43.4
Transport Equipment	28.36	28.44	46.5	45.5
Nondurables	14.91	14.90	38.9	39.2

## Union Membership Declines Again in 2003

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2003, 12.9 percent of wage and salary workers were union members, down from 13.3 percent in 2002. The number of persons belonging to a union fell by 369,000 over the year to 15.8 million in 2003. The union membership rate has steadily declined from a high of 20.1 million in 1983, the first year for which comparable union data are available. Some highlights from the 2003 data are:

- Men were more likely to be union members than women.
- Blacks were more likely to be union members than were whites, Asians and Hispanics.
- Nearly four in 10 government workers were union members in 2003, compared with less than one in 10 workers in the private-sector industries.
- Nearly two-fifths of workers in education, training and library occupations and protective services occupations were union members in 2003. Protective services occupations include firefighters and police officers.
- Within government, local government workers had the highest union membership rate, 42.6 percent. This group includes the heavily unionized occupations of teachers, police officers, and firefighters.
- Four states had union membership rates above 20 percent in 2003: New York (24.6 percent), Hawaii (23.8 percent), Alaska (22.3 percent), and **Michigan** (21.9 percent).
- **Michigan's** union membership totals increased from 911,000 in 2002 to a total of 919,000 in 2003. The number of individuals *represented* by unions in Michigan increased from 947,000 (21.8 percent of total employed) in 2002 to 968,000 (23.1 percent) in 2003.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2004.



## Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Mar 2004 Feb 2004 Mar 2003

### Place of Residence

Labor Force	5,040	5,014	4,985
Employment	4,657	4,647	4,602
Unemployment	384	367	383
Rate (Percent)	7.6	7.3	7.7

### Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,326	4,308	4,368
Goods-Producing	881	881	910
Nat Resources & Mining	7	7	8
Construction	165	163	165
Manufacturing	709	711	738
Durable Goods	564	566	585
Fabricated Metals	81	82	84
Machinery Manufact.	76	76	78
Transportation Equip.	275	278	287
Nondurable Goods	145	145	153
Service-Providing	3,445	3,427	3,458
Trade, Transport & Util.	795	788	800
Wholesale Trade	174	172	172
Retail Trade	497	495	504
Motor Vehicle Dealers	63	61	62
Food & Beverage Stores	86	87	88
General Merchandise	112	113	115
Transp, Warehousing & Util	124	121	124
Information	69	68	71
Financial Activities	216	217	215
Finance & Insurance	160	161	161
Real Estate & Rental	56	56	54
Prof & Business Services	566	565	577
Prof, Scientific & Technical	247	248	254
Management Scientific Services	19	20	20
Administrative Support	239	238	243
Education & Health Services	550	548	541
Education Services	82	81	69
Health Care & Social Asst	468	466	472
Leisure & Hospitality	380	376	374
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	53	53	51
Accommodation & Food	327	323	322
Other Services	170	169	172
Government	701	696	708
Federal	55	55	56
State	171	171	176
Local	475	470	477

## Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

### Ann Arbor

### Benton Harbor

### Detroit

(Data in Thousands)

	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003
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#### Place of Residence

Labor Force	320,400	319,800	310,300	82,400	82,000	77,000	2,227	2,216	2,222
Employment	306,200	306,600	296,700	76,200	75,900	71,200	2,058	2,056	2,057
Unemployment	14,200	13,200	13,700	6,200	6,100	5,700	170	160	164
Rate (Percent)	4.4	4.1	4.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.4

#### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	288,600	288,500	286,700	68,400	68,100	65,600	2,004	2,002	2,052
Nat Resources & Construction	10,500	10,300	10,000	2,100	2,000	2,100	74	73	74
Manufacturing	40,800	41,400	42,500	16,300	16,300	16,300	313	312	327
Trade, Transport & Utilities	41,900	41,700	41,600	12,900	12,900	12,100	379	378	388
Wholesale Trade	7,700	7,600	7,500	2,600	2,600	2,300	96	96	97
Retail Trade	29,600	29,500	29,600	8,100	8,100	7,500	215	216	222
Information	5,100	5,100	5,400	900	900	1,000	36	36	38
Financial Activities	10,800	11,100	11,200	2,200	2,200	2,100	116	117	116
Professional & Business Services	37,700	37,500	36,900	5,300	5,300	5,200	349	350	361
Educational & Health Services	30,500	30,500	28,900	10,500	10,300	8,900	248	249	252
Leisure & Hospitality	21,300	21,300	20,200	5,900	6,000	5,800	175	172	175
Other Services	8,500	8,500	8,600	3,400	3,400	3,300	75	75	78
Government	81,500	81,100	81,400	8,900	8,800	8,800	240	240	244

### Kalamazoo-Battle Creek

### Lansing

### Saginaw-Bay-Midland

	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003
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#### Place of Residence

Labor Force	234,900	233,700	230,100	252,400	251,100	247,800	194,400	193,200	193,800
Employment	219,500	218,600	215,600	239,000	238,100	235,600	177,200	176,700	176,300
Unemployment	15,400	15,100	14,500	13,400	13,100	12,300	17,200	16,500	17,600
Rate (Percent)	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.3	5.2	4.9	8.8	8.5	9.1

#### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	207,300	206,100	208,800	236,200	234,800	238,700	165,500	165,100	168,800
Nat Resources & Construction	8,300	8,100	8,700	8,500	8,300	7,800	6,100	6,300	7,200
Manufacturing	38,400	39,000	40,200	22,000	22,100	24,100	23,300	23,000	23,800
Trade, Transport & Utilities	35,400	35,300	35,900	37,500	37,400	37,300	29,600	29,200	31,700
Wholesale Trade	6,000	6,000	5,600	6,100	6,000	5,600	4,400	4,400	4,500
Retail Trade	24,500	24,600	25,400	25,300	25,300	25,400	21,000	20,600	23,000
Information	2,100	2,000	2,300	3,400	3,400	3,900	2,800	2,800	2,900
Financial Activities	10,400	10,400	9,100	16,300	16,700	15,300	7,300	7,400	7,300
Professional & Business Serv	19,400	18,400	19,600	20,100	20,000	21,900	22,200	22,400	22,800
Educational & Health Serv	27,200	27,600	28,000	24,500	24,300	24,100	26,300	26,300	25,500
Leisure & Hospitality	18,400	18,000	18,300	18,500	17,700	18,400	15,200	15,000	15,700
Other Services	9,200	9,200	9,300	10,800	10,700	11,000	7,800	7,800	7,900
Government	38,500	38,100	37,400	74,600	74,200	74,900	24,900	24,900	24,000

## Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Flint			Grand Rapids-Holland Muskegon			Jackson		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Labor Force	186,000	185,200	185,600	610,400	605,500	601,400	79,700	79,300	78,200
Employment	167,800	167,300	167,200	566,300	562,500	553,700	73,700	73,400	71,500
Unemployment	18,200	17,900	18,500	44,100	43,000	47,600	6,100	5,900	6,700
Rate (Percent)	9.8	9.7	9.9	7.2	7.1	7.9	7.6	7.5	8.5

### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	157,100	156,500	160,700	555,200	551,000	556,100	61,400	61,100	61,300
Nat Resources & Construction	6,300	6,300	5,700	24,600	24,200	24,600	2,200	2,100	2,100
Manufacturing	22,500	23,300	25,200	125,200	126,000	131,600	10,100	10,200	10,200
Trade, Transport & Utilities	30,400	30,000	31,100	106,900	104,900	106,500	13,000	12,900	12,700
Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,500	6,500	29,200	29,000	29,100	1,700	1,700	1,700
Retail Trade	20,600	20,300	21,100	63,400	61,700	63,700	8,300	8,200	8,000
Information	2,200	2,100	2,200	8,200	7,900	7,800	500	500	500
Financial Activities	7,000	6,900	6,200	22,400	22,500	24,200	2,500	2,400	2,500
Professional & Business Services	17,400	17,100	19,200	62,200	62,500	60,300	4,300	4,300	4,200
Educational & Health Services	24,200	24,300	24,200	77,000	75,200	71,800	9,600	9,600	9,500
Leisure & Hospitality	15,100	14,900	14,500	45,400	45,500	43,900	5,300	5,200	5,300
Other Services	6,300	6,300	6,500	22,400	22,600	23,400	2,600	2,600	2,800
Government	25,700	25,300	25,900	60,900	59,700	62,000	11,300	11,300	11,500

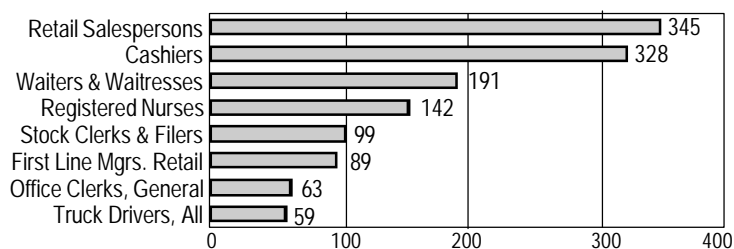
### Upper Peninsula

### Northeast Lower Michigan

### Northwest Lower Michigan

	Upper Peninsula			Northeast Lower Michigan			Northwest Lower Michigan		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Labor Force	152,800	151,900	150,600	92,300	91,600	91,500	149,300	148,600	146,700
Employment	139,000	138,800	136,300	80,400	80,300	78,800	135,200	135,000	132,300
Unemployment	13,800	13,100	14,300	11,900	11,300	12,700	14,100	13,600	14,400
Rate (Percent)	9.0	8.6	9.5	12.9	12.4	13.9	9.4	9.1	9.8

**Selected Occupations With the Largest Number of Projected Annual Openings, Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA, 2000–2010**



### Regional Focus

#### Projected Number of Annual Openings of Selected Occupations in the Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA, 2000–2010

The total number of annual openings by occupation in the Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA between 2000 and 2010 is projected to reach 6,223. Almost 25 percent of the projected openings will come from employment growth, while the rest will come from replacements. The occupation with the largest number of annual openings is retail salespeople (345) followed by cashiers (328) and waiters (191). Noteworthy are registered nurses, with 142 annual openings.

## March Jobless Rates Increase in Most of Michigan's Major Areas

March unemployment rates (unadjusted) moved up in 11 of Michigan's 12 major labor market areas. Although there were no large changes reported over the month in the labor markets, most areas experienced some seasonal labor force and employment expansion. Among the individuals entering the work force in March, some found employment while others did not, thus causing unemployment levels to rise. The jobless rate increases for most areas were marginal and registered a median gain of 0.3 percentage points. Five areas recorded unemployment advances of only 0.1 percentage point. The largest rate increase of 0.5 percent was recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan Region, while the Upper Peninsula and the Detroit MSA had an increase of 0.4 percent. The jobless rate

in the Benton Harbor MSA was unchanged over the month. From March 2003 to March 2004, jobless rates fell in seven areas and increased in four, while the rate in the Ann Arbor MSA remained unchanged. In the areas that displayed declining rates, the decreases over the year ranged widely from 0.1 percent to one full percentage point.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.4 percent, followed by the Lansing and the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek MSAs with 5.3 percent 6.6 percent, respectively. The highest jobless rate in the month of March was recorded by the Northeast Lower Michigan Region at 12.9 percent, followed by the Flint MSA with 9.8 percent.

## Nonfarm Jobs Up in All Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Total March nonfarm employment advanced in all of Michigan's nine Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's). Employment changes were widespread but marginal throughout most industry sectors. Job gains were concentrated mainly in the service-providing industries, with most areas showing increases in their trade, transportation and utilities sectors. (The Grand Rapids-Muskegon MSA had the largest percentage gain at 1.9 percent.) Some areas began showing seasonal gains in the leisure and hospitality services, with the Detroit MSA leading the way with an increase of 2,200 jobs, mainly in accommodation and food preparation services. The Detroit MSA also recorded the largest increase in construction (special trade contractors), up by 1,400 jobs or 1.9 percent. Among the MSAs, the Grand Rapids-Muskegon area reported the largest percentage employment growth for the month with 0.8 percent, followed by the Kalamazoo-

Battle Creek and Lansing areas, both with gains of 0.6 percentage point.

During March, average hourly earnings in manufacturing advanced in six major areas. The gains were due to increases in hourly wages in both the durable and nondurable goods industries. Average weekly hours moved up in five areas during the month, with advances recorded mainly in the durable goods sector. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings increased in four major areas. The largest gains in weekly earnings were recorded in the Detroit area, up by \$56.85, followed by the Saginaw-Bay-Midland and Grand Rapids-Muskegon areas with increases of \$26.22 and \$12.34, respectively. Among the areas reporting a drop in their average weekly wages, Ann Arbor had the largest decline at \$59.42.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings Major Labor Market Areas* March and February 2004						
Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.
Ann Arbor	44.9	43.9	\$24.43	\$26.34	\$1,096.91	\$1,156.33
Benton Harbor	44.0	44.5	15.43	15.33	678.92	682.19
Detroit	44.4	43.5	25.47	24.69	1,130.87	1,074.02
Flint	44.2	44.7	30.40	30.59	1,343.68	1,367.37
Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland Jackson*	40.2	39.5	16.51	16.49	663.70	651.36
Kalamazoo-Battle Creek	38.3	40.8	16.18	15.80	619.69	644.64
Lansing	44.5	44.2	25.57	25.52	1,137.87	1,127.98
Saginaw-Bay-Midland	44.3	43.6	24.99	24.79	1,107.06	1,080.84

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

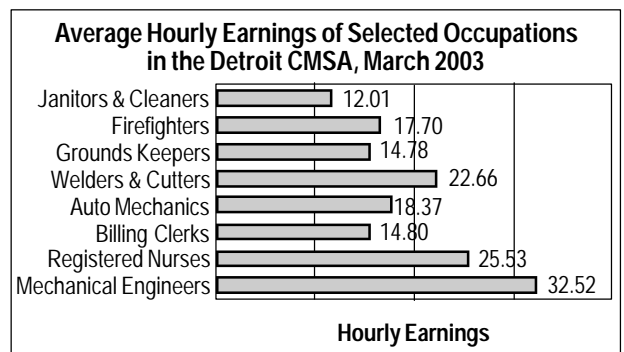
## Highlights of the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint CMSA National Compensation Survey (NCS), March 2003

The Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released results from the March 2003 Occupational Compensation survey of the Detroit Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). The NCS presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and state and local government. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. The NCS covered 611 establishments representing 1,143,000 workers in the Detroit CMSA, which is comprised of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Seventy-nine percent of those represented worked in private industry. Average hourly wages were published for 101 detailed occupations. Following are some highlights of the findings:

- In general, workers in the Detroit CMSA earned an average of \$22.41 per hour during March of 2003. White-collar workers averaged \$26.90 per hour and accounted for 52 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$19.52 per hour and represented 32 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 16 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$12.37 per hour.
- Mean hourly earnings in the **white-collar** occupations reached \$26.90, with professional, specialty and technical occupations averaging \$33.06; executive,

- administrative and managerial \$36.03; sales \$18.35; and administrative support, including clerical, \$15.27.
- Among the **blue-collar** occupations, mean hourly earnings stood at \$19.52, with precision production, craft and repair workers averaging \$24.00 per hour; machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors \$19.23; transportation and material moving \$18.23; and handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers \$11.72.
- Mean hourly earnings in the **services** occupations was \$12.37, with protective services averaging \$18.56 per hour; food services \$9.04; health services \$10.82; cleaning and building services \$11.83; and personal services averaging \$10.90.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2004.



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