



Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Michigan's Labor Market News

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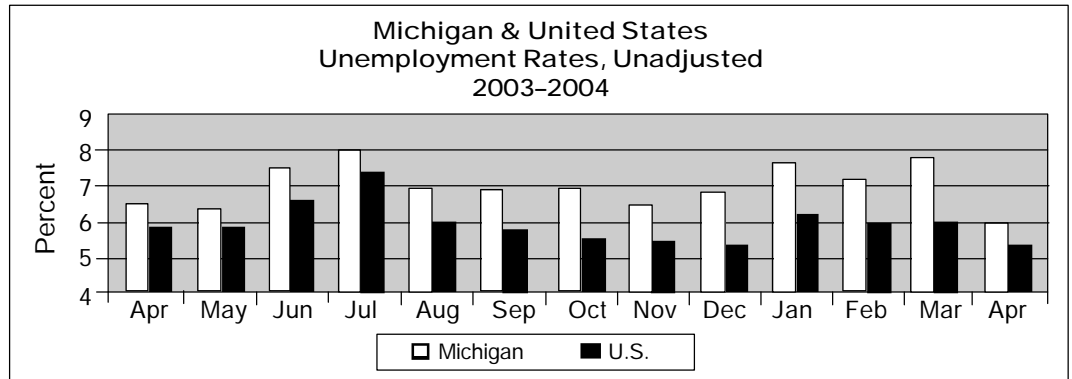
June 2004

Michigan's April Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.0 Percent

Michigan's unemployment rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points during the month of April, bringing the state's unadjusted rate to 6.0 percent, down from 7.7 percent in March. This was the lowest monthly unemployment rate for Michigan since December 2002. The drop in the jobless rate represents 88,000 fewer individuals out of work, as unemployment declined to 298,000. The state's civilian labor force contracted by 72,000 during the month to 4,971,000, while employment increased by 15,000 to 4,672,000. The decline in the jobless rate was primarily due to seasonal labor force withdrawal. Although many individuals without a job left the

workforce, others joined the ranks of the employed somewhat earlier than expected, as construction and retail trade and administrative and support services began hiring workers in earnest. The nation's unemployment rate (unadjusted) also decreased during April, moving down by 0.6 percentage points to 5.4 percent.

Compared to a year ago, April's labor force increased by 7,000, employment jumped by 64,000 and unemployment fell by 58,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year decrease of 1.2 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



Nonfarm Employment Increases Seasonally During April

Michigan's nonfarm employment advanced during the month of April, with industry jobs moving up to 4,373,000. Employment opportunities expanded by 47,000 jobs, with gains recorded in both the goods-producing and service-providing sectors of the economy. Service-providing employment increased by 29,000 during the month, as gains in the professional and business services, as well as the retail trade sectors, made up for seasonal losses in government. Seasonal gains were also recorded in accommodation, food services and drinking places, and arts and entertainment. Goods-producing employment expanded by 18,000 jobs in April, mostly due to seasonal growth in the construction industry, up by 17,000 jobs (mainly in special trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering construction). Manufacturing employment showed little change, edging up by 1,000.

In April, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries decreased to 42.5 hours from 42.9 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved down by 20 cents to \$21.51. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing contracted to \$914.18, a loss of \$17.18 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2004 Apr.	2004 Mar.	2004 Apr.	2004 Mar.
Manufacturing	\$21.51	\$21.71	42.5	42.9
Durables	22.86	23.14	43.3	43.9
Transport Equipment	28.09	28.19	44.7	46.4
Nondurables	15.07	14.92	39.0	38.9

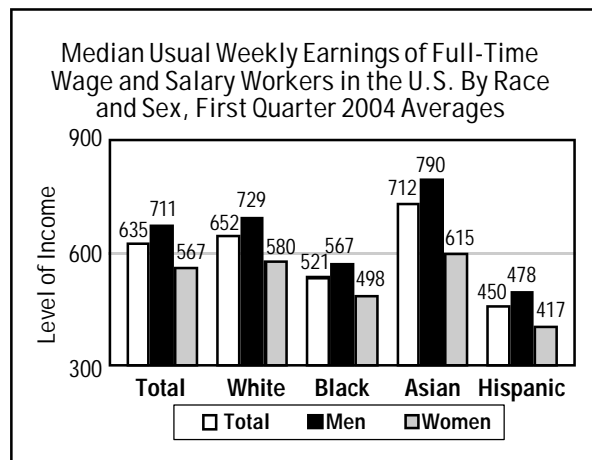
Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers in the U.S., First Quarter 2004

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports that in the first quarter of 2004, the median weekly earnings of the nation's 99.7 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$634. This was 2.3 percent higher than a year earlier, compared to a gain of 1.8 percent in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

Some highlights from the first quarter data are as follows:

- Women who usually worked full time had median earnings of \$567 per week, or 79.7 percent of the \$711 median of men. The female-to-male ratios were higher among blacks (87.8 percent) and Hispanics (87.2 percent) than among whites (79.6 percent) or Asians (77.8 percent).
- Median earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$567 per week, 77.8 percent of the median for white men (\$729). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$498) were 85.9 percent of their white counterparts' (\$580).
- Among men, those age 45 to 54 and age 55 to 64 had the highest median weekly earnings, \$849 and \$844, respectively. Among women, earnings also were highest for these two age groups: \$620 for 45- to 54-year-olds and \$606 for 55- to 64-year-olds.
- Among the major occupational groups, full-time workers in managerial, professional and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings – \$1,099 for men and \$767 for women. Men and women in service occupations earned the least.
- Workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$396, compared with \$562 for high school graduates (no college) and \$966 for college graduates holding at least a bachelor's degree.

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



Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Apr 2004 Mar 2004 Apr 2003

Place of Residence

Labor Force	4,971	5,043	4,964
Employment	4,672	4,657	4,608
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	298	386	356
	6.0	7.7	7.2

Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,373	4,326	4,395
Goods - Producing	899	881	913
Nat Resources & Mining	8	8	8
Construction	182	165	179
Manufacturing	710	709	726
Durable Goods	564	564	574
Fabricated Metals	82	81	83
Machinery Manufact.	76	76	77
Transportation Equip.	274	276	281
Nondurable Goods	145	145	152
Service-Providing	3,474	3,445	3,483
Trade, Transport & Util.	798	793	804
Wholesale Trade	173	173	173
Retail Trade	504	496	506
Motor Vehicle Dealers	64	62	63
Food & Beverage Stores	87	87	88
General Merchandise	114	112	115
Transp, Warehousing & Util	121	123	125
Information	68	69	71
Financial Activities	216	215	218
Finance & Insurance	159	160	163
Real Estate & Rental	57	55	55
Prof & Business Services	586	567	587
Prof, Scientific & Technical	250	248	254
Management Scientific Services	20	20	20
Administrative Support	257	240	254
Education & Health Services	554	550	541
Education Services	82	82	70
Health Care & Social Asst	473	468	471
Leisure & Hospitality	387	380	387
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	56	53	59
Accommodation & Food	331	327	328
Other Services	170	170	171
Government	694	701	704
Federal	55	55	56
State	171	171	176
Local	468	475	472

Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

Ann Arbor

Benton Harbor

Detroit

(Data in Thousands)

	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	318,200	320,300	308,400	81,900	82,500	79,300	2,200	2,229	2,211
Employment	307,600	306,000	296,000	77,100	76,200	74,200	2,066	2,059	2,056
Unemployment	10,600	14,300	12,400	4,900	6,200	5,100	134	171	155
Rate (Percent)	3.3	4.5	4.0	6.0	7.6	6.4	6.1	7.7	7.0

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	292,400	288,100	288,100	69,600	68,400	69,000	2,032	2,005	2,060
Nat Resources & Construction	11,000	10,200	10,800	2,200	2,000	2,400	80	74	79
Manufacturing	40,500	40,500	41,600	16,400	16,300	16,800	310	312	322
Trade, Transport & Utilities	42,200	41,900	41,900	13,300	13,000	12,900	379	380	386
Wholesale Trade	7,700	7,700	7,500	2,600	2,600	2,600	95	96	97
Retail Trade	30,000	29,600	29,700	8,500	8,200	8,000	219	216	221
Information	5,100	5,100	5,300	900	900	1,000	35	36	37
Financial Activities	11,100	10,800	11,100	2,200	2,200	2,200	117	116	118
Professional & Business Services	39,000	37,900	37,100	5,500	5,400	5,700	368	350	366
Educational & Health Services	31,400	30,500	29,700	10,400	10,200	9,500	251	248	250
Leisure & Hospitality	22,400	21,300	20,900	6,700	6,100	6,500	179	175	181
Other Services	8,500	8,500	8,600	3,400	3,400	3,500	76	75	77
Government	81,200	81,400	81,100	8,600	8,900	8,500	239	240	245

Kalamazoo-Battle Creek

Lansing

Saginaw-Bay-Midland

	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
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Place of Residence

Labor Force	231,600	235,700	229,200	248,800	252,000	246,400	190,700	193,200	193,500
Employment	219,100	220,100	216,000	238,600	238,500	235,600	176,800	176,000	178,000
Unemployment	12,500	15,600	13,200	10,200	13,500	10,800	13,900	17,200	15,500
Rate (Percent)	5.4	6.6	5.8	4.1	5.3	4.4	7.3	8.9	8.0

Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	208,600	207,700	210,900	237,700	235,800	240,400	166,700	164,400	171,800
Nat Resources & Construction	9,100	8,300	9,400	9,300	8,300	8,400	6,700	5,800	8,200
Manufacturing	39,000	39,000	40,100	21,900	22,000	23,800	22,400	22,500	23,800
Trade, Transport & Utilities	36,200	35,200	36,200	37,600	37,700	37,400	29,900	29,500	32,100
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,000	5,700	5,900	6,100	5,800	4,400	4,400	4,400
Retail Trade	25,200	24,400	25,600	25,700	25,400	25,300	21,200	20,900	23,500
Information	2,000	2,100	2,200	3,400	3,400	3,500	2,800	2,800	3,000
Financial Activities	9,800	10,400	9,300	16,600	16,400	15,600	7,300	7,300	7,600
Professional & Business Services	19,600	19,300	20,100	20,500	20,200	22,100	22,600	22,300	23,100
Educational & Health Services	27,900	27,400	28,400	24,300	24,200	24,600	26,500	26,300	25,700
Leisure & Hospitality	18,900	18,300	19,100	18,900	18,200	19,200	15,900	15,200	16,200
Other Services	9,300	9,200	9,300	10,800	10,800	10,900	7,900	7,800	8,000
Government	36,800	38,500	36,800	74,400	74,600	74,900	24,700	24,900	24,100

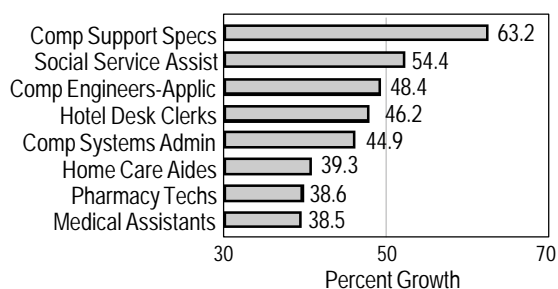
Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Flint			Grand Rapids-Holland Muskegon			Jackson		
	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	182,100	186,400	182,500	599,800	610,800	598,300	78,100	79,700	78,000
Employment	168,000	168,200	165,800	565,300	566,400	549,100	73,400	73,600	71,900
Unemployment	14,100	18,300	16,700	34,500	44,400	49,100	4,700	6,100	6,100
Rate (Percent)	7.8	9.8	9.2	5.7	7.3	8.2	6.1	7.7	7.8

Place of Work									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	158,700	157,500	160,200	559,000	555,300	553,500	61,700	61,500	62,000
Nat Resources & Construction	6,800	6,300	6,400	26,800	24,600	26,500	2,400	2,200	2,400
Manufacturing	22,800	23,200	23,800	125,800	125,300	127,800	10,200	10,100	10,200
Trade, Transport & Utilities	30,500	30,300	31,200	108,100	106,700	107,200	12,800	13,000	12,800
Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,500	6,400	29,800	29,300	29,300	1,700	1,700	1,700
Retail Trade	20,700	20,500	21,300	64,400	63,100	63,800	8,400	8,300	8,100
Information	2,100	2,200	2,200	8,100	8,100	8,200	500	500	500
Financial Activities	6,900	6,900	6,400	22,500	22,400	24,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Professional & Business Services	18,100	17,400	19,000	62,200	62,100	61,700	4,400	4,300	4,400
Educational & Health Services	24,400	24,000	24,000	77,100	77,400	69,400	9,600	9,600	9,500
Leisure & Hospitality	15,500	15,200	15,100	46,200	45,400	45,300	5,400	5,300	5,400
Other Services	6,200	6,300	6,400	22,600	22,500	23,400	2,600	2,600	2,800
Government	25,400	25,700	25,700	59,600	60,800	59,500	11,300	11,400	11,500

	Upper Peninsula			Northeast Lower Michigan			Northwest Lower Michigan		
	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
Place of Residence									
Labor Force	150,700	152,900	150,300	90,300	92,300	91,400	147,100	149,400	146,400
Employment	139,700	139,000	137,000	82,100	80,400	80,800	136,600	135,200	133,600
Unemployment	11,000	13,800	13,300	8,200	12,000	10,600	10,500	14,200	12,800
Rate (Percent)	7.3	9.1	8.8	9.1	12.9	11.6	7.1	9.5	8.7

**Selected Occupations With the Highest Projected Growth
Jackson MSA, 2000–2010**



Regional Focus Fastest-Growing Occupations Jackson MSA, 2000–2010

The fastest-growing occupation projected in the Jackson MSA between 2000 and 2010 is computer support specialists (up by 63.2 percent), followed by social and human services assistants (up by 54.4 percent). Three out of the five occupations projected to grow fastest are in the computer industry. Only three of the eight occupations listed require at least some college education (associate degree or higher). The other five occupations require only on-the-job-training (OJT).

April Jobless Rates Decline in All of Michigan's Major Areas

April unemployment rates (unadjusted) fell in all of Michigan's 12 major labor market areas. The rate of decline was somewhat more than what was expected or has been historically typical for April. Jobless rate declines during April in the major areas were significant, ranging from a little over a full percentage point (Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo-Battle Creek and Lansing MSAs) to almost four percent (Northeast Lower Michigan Region). The median unemployment decrease for the areas was 1.6 percentage points, essentially matching the state's decline of 1.7 percent for the month. Solid payroll employment growth in several industry sectors, such as construction and health services, helped bolster employment levels in the majority of the areas. Labor force levels decreased

seasonally in all areas throughout the month. Relatively strong seasonal employment growth occurred in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, as well as the Benton Harbor MSA. From April 2003 to April 2004, jobless rates were down in all major areas, with the Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland MSA leading the way with a drop of 2.5 percent.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, followed by Lansing with 4.1 percent and Kalamazoo with 5.4 percent. The highest jobless rate in the month of April was recorded by the Northeast Lower Michigan Region at 9.1 percent, followed by the Flint MSA with 7.8 percent.

All Michigan's Major Areas Show Seasonal Gains in Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment increased in all of Michigan's nine Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) during the month of April. Employment gains in most areas were seasonal and were recorded in both the service-providing and goods-producing industries. Among the MSAs, Benton Harbor had the largest-percentage job growth at 1.8 percent, followed by the Ann Arbor MSA with 1.5 percentage points, and the Detroit and Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSAs, both with 1.4 percent. Employment gains in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and several other metropolitan areas were most evident in retail trade (food and beverages, and building materials) and leisure and hospitality (food, drink and accommodation services). The Detroit area also experienced noticeable gains in its professional and business sector (mostly administrative and support services), moving up by 17,900 positions, or 5.1

percent. Goods-producing employment remained stable in most areas, as small downward adjustments in the manufacturing industries were offset by seasonal gains in construction.

During April, average weekly hours in manufacturing decreased in seven major areas. The losses were due to reductions in overtime hours worked in the durable goods sector. Average hourly earnings moved down in five areas during the month, with declines recorded in the durable goods industries. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings contracted in six of the major areas. The largest losses in weekly earnings were reported in the Detroit MSA, down by \$64.22, followed by the Ann Arbor and Lansing MSAs with decreases of \$61.94 and \$53.12, respectively.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings Major Labor Market Areas* April and March 2004						
Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.
Ann Arbor	43.3	44.5	\$25.29	\$26.00	\$1,095.06	\$1,157.00
Benton Harbor	42.2	44.1	15.19	15.43	641.02	680.46
Detroit	42.8	44.4	24.60	25.15	1,052.88	1,117.10
Flint	46.0	44.2	30.50	30.46	1,403.00	1,346.33
Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland Jackson*	39.7	40.0	16.86	16.52	669.34	660.80
Kalamazoo-Battle Creek	38.4	39.4	15.34	15.85	589.06	624.49
Lansing	43.2	44.5	25.11	25.57	1,084.75	1,137.87
Saginaw-Bay-Midland	43.7	44.2	25.25	24.85	1,103.43	1,098.37

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

Wage and Salary Employment in Michigan, Annual Report – 2003

During 2003, Michigan's economy continued to struggle in an effort to move out of the economic slowdown that has been affecting the state since the beginning of 2001, as employment levels in many industries continued a downward trend. The impact of the continuous economic downturn was felt statewide, reducing employment in all the state's major labor market areas, particularly in Grand Rapids (down by 13,000 or 2.3 percent), Detroit (down by 33,000 or 1.6 percent) and Flint (down by 4,000 or 2.4 percent). This was the third consecutive year since the recession of 1991 that the state's nonfarm employment showed no gains over the previous year.

During 2003, Michigan employers provided over 4.4 million jobs, a drop of 66,000 or 1.5 percent from 2002 totals. Both goods-producing and service-providing sectors reduced employment, with the manufacturing industries showing the strongest adverse impact for the year. Durable goods industries, the sector that supplies the majority of Michigan's manufacturing employment, lost 27,000 jobs during 2003, largely due to the transportation equipment industry. Employment in transportation equipment stood at 281,000, a loss of 12,000 jobs or 4.1 percent. Nondurable goods lost 6,000 positions during 2003, many in auto-related industries such as rubber and plastics. The construction industry, which has exhibited steady and solid growth during the 1990s, declined by 10,000 positions or 5.0 percent.

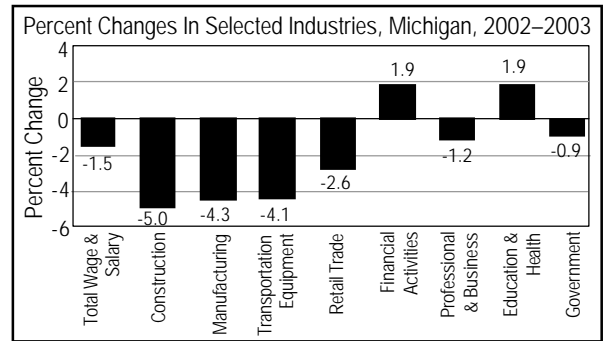
In comparison, retail trade, one of the larger industries in Michigan, moved down during 2003 by 14,000 jobs,

or a drop of 2.6 percent. Within retail trade, general merchandise stores contracted by 5,000 jobs or 4.0 percent. Similarly, professional and business services decreased from 594,000 in 2002 to 587,000 in 2003, a drop of 1.2 percent.

However, not all industries experienced losses during 2003. The financial activities sector reported an increase of 4,000 jobs or 1.9 percent, all in the finance and insurance industries. Education and health services also increased employment during the year, up by 10,000 or 1.9 percent.

The number of jobs in the government sector stood at 681,000, a loss of 6,000 jobs from 2002. All the losses were in state government. Local government was up by 2,000 while federal government remained unchanged.

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives, June 2004.



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