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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **Michigan regional unemployment rate changes mixed in December**

**LANSING, Mich.** – Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates declined in 10 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas during December and increased seasonally in northern regions of the state, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (see technical note at the end of this release).

“Regional labor market conditions continued to show evidence of recovery in 2021,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “However, despite employment advances over the past year, jobless rates still remained above pre-pandemic levels.”

Unemployment rate declines were minor, with a median decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point. Jobless rate increases occurred in five labor market areas over the month, led by the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions with rates advancing by 0.9 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively. Unemployment rates were unchanged in December in the Kalamazoo and Midland metro regions.

### **Regional jobless rates decrease since December 2020**

All 17 major Michigan labor markets recorded unemployment rate declines since December 2020, with a large median reduction of 2.2 percentage points.

Michigan regional jobless rates in December remained higher than pre-pandemic December 2019 rates, with a median increase of 1.3 percentage points.

### **Employment levels display mixed trends over month and year**

Regional employment levels were little changed in most metro areas in December. Employment moved up in eight labor market areas in December and declined in five regions. The most pronounced change occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region, with a seasonal employment cut of 2.3 percent in December. The Battle Creek, Detroit, Jackson, and Midland metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) all had no change in employment over the month.

Total employment rose in nine regions and fell in eight labor market areas over the year.

All 17 Michigan regional employment levels were below pre-pandemic December 2019 totals, with a median reduction of 5.5 percent over this period.

### **Workforce levels mixed over month, down over year**

Seven Michigan regions exhibited labor force decreases over the month, led by the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.5 percent). Workforce levels edged up in six labor market areas and remained unchanged since November in the Bay City, Jackson, Kalamazoo, and Monroe MSAs.

Workforce levels fell in all 17 labor market areas over the year, with the largest reduction occurring in the Battle Creek metro region (-4.7 percent).

### **Regional payroll employment recedes during December**

Not seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs fell seasonally by 16,000, or 0.4 percent, during December, according to the monthly survey of employers. This resulted in a payroll job total of 4,256,000. Industries with the largest job declines included construction (-10,000), government (-7,000), and leisure and hospitality (-6,000).

Eleven Michigan metro areas recorded monthly nonfarm job cuts, with a median reduction of 0.7 percent. Payroll employment edged up in the Muskegon, Flint, and Detroit MSAs.

Michigan total payroll jobs rose by 223,000, or 5.5 percent, over the year. All fourteen metro areas added jobs over the year, with a median gain of 4.8 percent.

### **County jobless rates increase over month, decrease over year**

Fifty-nine Michigan counties registered hikes in unemployment rates over the month. Fifteen areas recorded rate decreases, while nine areas had no jobless rate change in December. All 83 counties displayed unemployment rate declines over the year.

**Note:** Data in this release is not seasonally adjusted. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.

A breakdown of not seasonally adjusted December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a ranking of county jobless rates for December.

**Note to editors:** Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads “Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.”

**Ann Arbor MSA (Washtenaw County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	190,400	190,600	192,600	-200	-0.1%	-2,200	-1.1%
Employed	184,300	184,200	183,000	100	0.1%	1,300	0.7%
Unemployed	6,100	6,400	9,700	-300	-4.7%	-3,600	-37.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.4	5.0	-0.2	XXX	-1.8	XXX

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**Battle Creek MSA (Calhoun County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	58,800	58,900	61,700	-100	-0.2%	-2,900	-4.7%
Employed	55,700	55,700	56,900	0	0.0%	-1,200	-2.1%
Unemployed	3,100	3,200	4,700	-100	-3.1%	-1,600	-34.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.5	7.7	-0.2	XXX	-2.4	XXX

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**Bay City MSA (Bay County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	47,200	47,200	49,000	0	0.0%	-1,800	-3.7%
Employed	44,700	44,800	45,400	-100	-0.2%	-700	-1.5%
Unemployed	2,500	2,400	3,600	100	4.2%	-1,100	-30.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.0	7.4	0.3	XXX	-2.1	XXX

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**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**

(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, and St. Clair counties)

(Data in Thousands)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	2,107	2,096	2,136	11	0.5%	-29	-1.4%
Employed	2,017	2,017	1,916	0	0.0%	101	5.3%
Unemployed	91	79	220	12	15.2%	-129	-58.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	3.8	10.3	0.5	XXX	-6.0	XXX

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	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	173,900	173,300	179,100	600	0.3%	-5,200	-2.9%
Employed	163,300	162,200	164,200	1,100	0.7%	-900	-0.5%
Unemployed	10,600	11,100	14,900	-500	-4.5%	-4,300	-28.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.4	8.3	-0.3	XXX	-2.2	XXX

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	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	562,600	562,900	573,500	-300	-0.1%	-10,900	-1.9%
Employed	542,900	542,800	540,900	100	0.0%	2,000	0.4%
Unemployed	19,600	20,100	32,600	-500	-2.5%	-13,000	-39.9%
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	5.7	-0.1	XXX	-2.2	XXX

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**Jackson MSA** (Jackson County)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	72,000	73,000	0	0.0%	-1,000	-1.4%
Employed	68,700	68,700	67,900	0	0.0%	800	1.2%
Unemployed	3,300	3,400	5,100	-100	-2.9%	-1,800	-35.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	7.0	-0.1	XXX	-2.4	XXX

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**Kalamazoo - Portage MSA** (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	163,800	163,800	164,800	0	0.0%	-1,000	-0.6%
Employed	157,200	157,100	154,300	100	0.1%	2,900	1.9%
Unemployed	6,700	6,700	10,500	0	0.0%	-3,800	-36.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	6.3	0.0	XXX	-2.2	XXX

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**Lansing - East Lansing MSA** (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	238,000	239,500	240,200	-1,500	-0.6%	-2,200	-0.9%
Employed	228,900	230,200	226,200	-1,300	-0.6%	2,700	1.2%
Unemployed	9,100	9,400	14,100	-300	-3.2%	-5,000	-35.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	5.9	-0.1	XXX	-2.1	XXX

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**Midland MSA (Midland County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	38,800	38,700	39,800	100	0.3%	-1,000	-2.5%
Employed	37,200	37,200	37,400	0	0.0%	-200	-0.5%
Unemployed	1,500	1,500	2,400	0	0.0%	-900	-37.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	5.9	0.0	XXX	-2.0	XXX

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**Monroe MSA (Monroe County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	72,000	73,000	0	0.0%	-1,000	-1.4%
Employed	68,900	68,700	68,500	200	0.3%	400	0.6%
Unemployed	3,100	3,300	4,500	-200	-6.1%	-1,400	-31.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.6	6.2	-0.3	XXX	-1.9	XXX

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**Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	73,700	73,400	76,900	300	0.4%	-3,200	-4.2%
Employed	69,200	68,700	70,000	500	0.7%	-800	-1.1%
Unemployed	4,500	4,700	6,800	-200	-4.3%	-2,300	-33.8%
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.5	8.9	-0.4	XXX	-2.8	XXX

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**Niles - Benton Harbor MSA** (Berrien County)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	70,500	70,200	72,000	300	0.4%	-1,500	-2.1%
Employed	67,300	66,900	66,800	400	0.6%	500	0.7%
Unemployed	3,300	3,300	5,200	0	0.0%	-1,900	-36.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	7.2	-0.1	XXX	-2.6	XXX

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**Saginaw MSA** (Saginaw County)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	82,000	85,300	200	0.2%	-3,100	-3.6%
Employed	77,500	77,100	78,500	400	0.5%	-1,000	-1.3%
Unemployed	4,700	4,800	6,800	-100	-2.1%	-2,100	-30.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.9	7.9	-0.2	XXX	-2.2	XXX

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**Upper Peninsula Labor Market Area (LMA)** (15 counties)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	131,200	131,800	134,000	-600	-0.5%	-2,800	-2.1%
Employed	124,100	125,300	124,300	-1,200	-1.0%	-200	-0.2%
Unemployed	7,100	6,500	9,700	600	9.2%	-2,600	-26.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	4.9	7.3	0.5	XXX	-1.9	XXX

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**Northeast Lower Michigan LMA**

(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon counties)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	77,500	78,700	80,400	-1,200	-1.5%	-2,900	-3.6%
Employed	72,000	73,700	72,900	-1,700	-2.3%	-900	-1.2%
Unemployed	5,600	5,000	7,500	600	12.0%	-1,900	-25.3%
Unemployment Rate	7.2	6.3	9.3	0.9	XXX	-2.1	XXX

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**Northwest Lower Michigan LMA**

(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties)

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	143,000	143,700	144,700	-700	-0.5%	-1,700	-1.2%
Employed	135,600	137,100	133,100	-1,500	-1.1%	2,500	1.9%
Unemployed	7,400	6,600	11,500	800	12.1%	-4,100	-35.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.6	8.0	0.6	XXX	-2.8	XXX

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**Michigan (Data in Thousands)**

	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Over the Month		Over the Year	
				Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Civilian Labor Force	4,773	4,767	4,856	6	0.1%	-83	-1.7%
Employed	4,563	4,569	4,455	-6	-0.1%	108	2.4%
Unemployed	210	198	401	12	6.1%	-191	-47.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.2	8.3	0.2	XXX	-3.9	XXX

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**Michigan counties ranked by unemployment rate - December 2021**

1	Livingston County	3.0	43	Charlevoix County	5.1
2	Ottawa County	3.2	44	Van Buren County	5.1
3	Washtenaw County	3.2	45	Mecosta County	5.2
4	Clinton County	3.3	46	Wexford County	5.2
5	Oakland County	3.3	47	Bay County	5.3
6	Kent County	3.5	48	Calhoun County	5.3
7	Ionia County	3.6	49	Delta County	5.4
8	Allegan County	3.7	50	Wayne County	5.4
9	Eaton County	3.7	51	Otsego County	5.6
10	St. Joseph County	3.7	52	Iron County	5.7
11	Barry County	3.8	53	Saginaw County	5.7
12	Kalamazoo County	3.8	54	Benzie County	5.8
13	Menominee County	3.8	55	Mason County	5.9
14	Branch County	3.9	56	Emmet County	6.0
15	Cass County	3.9	57	Genesee County	6.1
16	Midland County	3.9	58	Gladwin County	6.1
17	Ingham County	4.0	59	Muskegon County	6.1
18	Isabella County	4.0	60	Antrim County	6.2
19	Macomb County	4.1	61	Manistee County	6.3
20	Dickinson County	4.2	62	Crawford County	6.4
21	Grand Traverse County	4.2	63	Chippewa County	6.5
22	Houghton County	4.3	64	Luce County	6.7
23	Lenawee County	4.3	65	Clare County	6.9
24	Monroe County	4.3	66	Keweenaw County	6.9
25	Gratiot County	4.4	67	Oceana County	6.9
26	Leelanau County	4.4	68	Ontonagon County	6.9
27	Montcalm County	4.4	69	Kalkaska County	7.0
28	St. Clair County	4.4	70	Alcona County	7.2
29	Shiawassee County	4.4	71	Iosco County	7.2
30	Huron County	4.5	72	Oscoda County	7.3
31	Berrien County	4.6	73	Baraga County	7.5
32	Hillsdale County	4.6	74	Presque Isle County	7.5
33	Jackson County	4.6	75	Schoolcraft County	7.5
34	Gogebic County	4.7	76	Lake County	7.7
35	Lapeer County	4.7	77	Ogemaw County	7.8
36	Marquette County	4.7	78	Arenac County	8.1
37	Newaygo County	4.7	79	Alger County	8.2
38	Osceola County	4.7	80	Roscommon County	9.3
39	Missaukee County	4.8	81	Cheboygan County	9.4
40	Alpena County	4.9	82	Montmorency County	9.4
41	Sanilac County	4.9	83	Mackinac County	13.0
42	Tuscola County	5.0			

**Note: Data revision causing temporary series break in September 2021**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is responsible for examining the inputs to the statistical model that produces the Michigan monthly employment and unemployment estimates. Due to the impact of the pandemic on employment, BLS implemented a revised method of examining models for outliers on a monthly basis, as opposed to their usual practice of designating outliers annually. This involved implementing level shifts monthly in response to outliers in the Current Population Survey data, where appropriate. These level shifts are designed to preserve movements in the published estimates that the models otherwise would have discounted.

BLS implemented a level shift due to an outlier identified in the Current Population Survey input to the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn metro area unemployment model in January 2021. This adjustment produced some distortions in the benchmarking factors used for Michigan, the Detroit metro area, and the Balance of Michigan. To reduce these distortions, BLS has modified this outlier intervention with the publication of September through December 2021 estimates. This modification resulted in estimates that better reflect the model inputs for the most recent two months and produced a revised September not seasonally adjusted Michigan unemployment rate of 5.5 percent. This also resulted in an upward revision in September unemployment rates for all Michigan metro areas, regions, and counties. Data corrections for January - August 2021 will be addressed during the usual annual revision process at the end of 2021. The revised estimates will be published in March 2022.

**The revised county estimates for September 2021, October 2021, November 2021, and the newly published December 2021 data can be fully compared with data for all months of 2020 and prior years. However, the data for September through December 2021 should not be compared with previously released estimates for January - August 2021 until all months of 2021 are revised in March 2022.**