



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May Jobless Rates Increase Slightly in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates increased in 14 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in May, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels rose in most regions in May, while labor force levels advanced in all areas.

"The minor unemployment rate hikes throughout the southern half of the state primarily reflected the seasonal entry of workers into the labor market seeking summer and seasonal employment," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "As of mid-May, only a share of the residents entering the job market had secured employment."

From April to May, area jobless rate increases ranged from 0.2 to 1.2 percentage points with a minor median advance of 0.3 of a percentage point. The largest rate hike was recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), while the next largest increase of a half percentage point was posted in the Ann Arbor MSA. Unemployment rates fell seasonally in Michigan's three northernmost labor market areas. The rates in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions declined by 1.1 and 0.8 percentage points respectively. The jobless rate in the Upper Peninsula decreased by half a percentage point over the month. In May, seven regions in Michigan displayed unemployment rates lower than the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 7.9 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From May 2011 to May 2012, unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from 1.2 to 2.2 percentage points with a median decline of 1.6 percentage points. The largest over-the-year jobless rate cuts occurred in the Battle Creek, Jackson, and Flint MSAs, with all three registering rate declines of at least 2.0 percentage points.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment increased seasonally in 14 regions, with a median gain of 1.4 percent. The largest May advances took place in the state's three northernmost labor market regions, with a combined employment gain of over 14,000 as hiring ramped up for the summer tourism season. Employment edged downward in May in the Kalamazoo-Portage, Ann Arbor, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs.

Since May 2011, total employment grew in all 17 regions of the state. Most gains were significant, with a median upward jump of 2.7 percent. The most pronounced additions were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven, Ann Arbor, and Jackson MSAs.

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Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

In May, workforce levels rose seasonally in all 17 areas by an average of 1.5 percent. From May 2011 to May 2012, labor force levels increased in ten regions, declined in four, and were essentially unchanged in the remaining three. Noteworthy workforce decreases were registered in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

Tourism-Related and Trade Jobs Push May Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 44,000 or 1.1 percent in May to 4,020,000. Job gains were mainly seasonal, and were led by an increase in leisure and hospitality services (+20,000). Other job advances included trade, transportation and utilities (+13,000), and construction (+11,000). The state's remaining sectors were mostly positive over the month with the exception of government (-10,000) and private education services (-4,000).

The decline in government jobs was primarily recorded in state government education due to the end of the winter/spring semester at some of the state's colleges and universities. The majority of the trade, transportation and utilities job increase occurred in retail trade.

Payroll jobs increased in 11 of the state's 14 metropolitan areas in May, with the largest percentage gains posted in the Monroe (+2.7%), Muskegon-Norton Shores (+2.2%), and Battle Creek (+2.1%) MSAs. Payroll jobs fell over the month in the Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs. Leisure and hospitality services and construction jobs were up in every metropolitan area in May.

From May 2011 to May 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 50,000 or 1.3 percent. Over-the-year job advances were recorded throughout the majority of the state's industry sectors and were led by gains in professional and business services (+19,000), manufacturing (+18,000), education and health services (+12,000), and financial activities (+7,000). Over-the-year job losses were confined to government (-8,000), retail trade (-5,000), and construction (-4,000).

Since May 2011, 11 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job gains. The largest percentage increases were posted in the Holland-Grand Haven, Ann Arbor, and Jackson MSAs. Payroll jobs declined over the year in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Monroe, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

A little over half of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate declines in May, with a moderate median reduction of 0.6 of a percentage point. Michigan's northern counties recorded most of the largest May rate decreases. Jobless rates increased slightly in 40 counties over the month, with a minor median hike of only 0.3 of a percentage point. Counties in the Detroit metro area recorded the largest rate advances in May.

From May 2011 to May 2012, unemployment rates fell in 82 Michigan counties. The jobless rate in Cheboygan County rose slightly since May 2011, primarily due to layoffs in health care.

*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 seasonally unadjusted May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for May.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	178,900	183,800	184,300	0.3%	3.0%
Total Employment	167,000	174,600	174,200	-0.2%	4.3%
Unemployment	11,900	9,200	10,200	10.9%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	6.7	5.0	5.5		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,600	64,300	65,700	2.2%	0.2%
Total Employment	59,500	59,900	61,100	2.0%	2.7%
Unemployment	6,000	4,300	4,600	7.0%	-23.3%
Rate (percent)	9.2	6.8	7.0		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,900	52,000	52,400	0.8%	1.0%
Total Employment	46,800	47,800	48,100	0.6%	2.8%
Unemployment	5,000	4,100	4,300	4.9%	-14.0%
Rate (percent)	9.7	8.0	8.2		

Contact: Rhea Acuna, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (989) 776-1508

	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,014	1,948	1,982	1.7%	-1.6%
Total Employment	1,785	1,778	1,786	0.4%	0.1%
Unemployment	229	170	197	15.9%	-14.0%
Rate (percent)	11.4	8.7	9.9		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,200	186,100	187,600	0.8%	1.3%
Total Employment	165,000	170,100	170,900	0.5%	3.6%
Unemployment	20,200	15,900	16,700	5.0%	-17.3%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.6	8.9		

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(more)

	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	384,100	382,400	388,900	1.7%	1.2%
Total Employment	352,400	358,400	363,300	1.4%	3.1%
Unemployment	31,700	24,000	25,600	6.7%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.3	6.6		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	127,900	131,700	133,300	1.2%	4.2%
Total Employment	117,300	123,700	124,700	0.8%	6.3%
Unemployment	10,600	8,000	8,600	7.5%	-18.9%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.1	6.4		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	71,700	72,900	1.7%	1.8%
Total Employment	64,400	66,200	67,100	1.4%	4.2%
Unemployment	7,200	5,500	5,800	5.5%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	10.1	7.7	8.0		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,700	162,400	162,700	0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	146,500	151,400	151,000	-0.3%	3.1%
Unemployment	14,200	11,000	11,700	6.4%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	8.8	6.8	7.2		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	237,300	236,700	240,300	1.5%	1.3%
Total Employment	218,200	221,500	224,000	1.1%	2.7%
Unemployment	19,100	15,100	16,300	7.9%	-14.7%
Rate (percent)	8.1	6.4	6.8		

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(more)

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MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,600	67,900	69,300	2.1%	-0.4%
Total Employment	62,900	62,700	63,900	1.9%	1.6%
Unemployment	6,600	5,200	5,400	3.8%	-18.2%
Rate (percent)	9.5	7.6	7.8		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,800	81,100	82,800	2.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	74,400	74,400	75,700	1.7%	1.7%
Unemployment	8,400	6,700	7,000	4.5%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	10.2	8.3	8.5		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,000	72,100	73,000	1.2%	0.0%
Total Employment	65,600	66,200	66,700	0.8%	1.7%
Unemployment	7,400	5,900	6,300	6.8%	-14.9%
Rate (percent)	10.1	8.2	8.6		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,400	90,300	90,400	0.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	81,600	83,100	82,900	-0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	8,800	7,200	7,500	4.2%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	9.7	8.0	8.3		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,300	144,800	146,900	1.5%	0.4%
Total Employment	131,500	131,800	134,400	2.0%	2.2%
Unemployment	14,800	13,000	12,500	-3.8%	-15.5%
Rate (percent)	10.1	9.0	8.5		

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	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>May-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,500	82,500	86,400	4.7%	-1.3%
Total Employment	77,200	73,200	77,600	6.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	10,300	9,300	8,800	-5.4%	-14.6%
Rate (percent)	11.7	11.3	10.2		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,400	137,700	144,700	5.1%	-0.5%
Total Employment	129,800	124,400	131,800	5.9%	1.5%
Unemployment	15,600	13,300	12,900	-3.0%	-17.3%
Rate (percent)	10.7	9.7	8.9		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,668	4,585	4,662	1.7%	-0.1%
Total Employment	4,192	4,217	4,260	1.0%	1.6%
Unemployment	477	368	402	9.2%	-15.7%
Rate (percent)	10.2	8.0	8.6		

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Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2012 and 2011, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** May 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.5 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MAY 2012**

1	Washtenaw County	5.5	43	Houghton County	8.8
2	Clinton County	5.8	44	Genesee County	8.9
3	Barry County	5.9	45	Benzie County	9.1
4	Eaton County	6.1	46	Hillsdale County	9.1
5	Mackinac County	6.1	47	Mecosta County	9.2
6	Kent County	6.4	48	Crawford County	9.3
7	Ottawa County	6.4	49	Manistee County	9.3
8	Isabella County	6.6	50	Ogemaw County	9.4
9	Allegan County	6.7	51	Missaukee County	9.5
10	Cass County	6.7	52	Sanilac County	9.5
11	Menominee County	6.7	53	Tuscola County	9.5
12	Kalamazoo County	6.8	54	Luce County	9.6
13	Midland County	6.8	55	Osceola County	9.7
14	Leelanau County	6.9	56	Macomb County	9.8
15	Calhoun County	7.0	57	Antrim County	9.9
16	Ingham County	7.3	58	Chippewa County	9.9
17	Marquette County	7.3	59	Charlevoix County	10.0
18	Dickinson County	7.4	60	Alger County	10.1
19	Grand Traverse County	7.6	61	Lapeer County	10.2
20	Huron County	7.8	62	Oceana County	10.3
21	Ionia County	7.8	63	Montcalm County	10.4
22	Monroe County	7.8	64	Otsego County	10.4
23	Branch County	8.0	65	Schoolcraft County	10.4
24	Jackson County	8.0	66	Emmet County	10.5
25	Livingston County	8.1	67	Arenac County	10.6
26	St. Joseph County	8.1	68	Gogebic County	10.6
27	Bay County	8.2	69	Iosco County	10.7
28	Cheboygan County	8.2	70	Roscommon County	10.7
29	Delta County	8.2	71	Wexford County	10.7
30	Newaygo County	8.2	72	Clare County	10.9
31	Saginaw County	8.3	73	Lake County	11.0
32	Mason County	8.4	74	Wayne County	11.0
33	Muskegon County	8.5	75	Alcona County	11.1
34	Berrien County	8.6	76	St. Clair County	11.2
35	Gratiot County	8.6	77	Keweenaw County	11.5
36	Iron County	8.6	78	Gladwin County	11.8
37	Kalkaska County	8.6	79	Presque Isle County	12.6
38	Lenawee County	8.6	80	Oscoda County	12.8
39	Oakland County	8.6	81	Ontonagon County	13.2
40	Alpena County	8.7	82	Montmorency County	13.9
41	Shiawassee County	8.7	83	Baraga County	15.7
42	Van Buren County	8.7			

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