



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 24, 2019

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December Jobless Rates Rise Seasonally in All Michigan Regional Labor Market Areas

Lansing –Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in December rose in all 17 of the state’s major labor market areas, according to data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Michigan’s labor market regions exhibited typical seasonal movement in December,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives, “For 2018 overall, most areas showed payroll job increases, and all areas recorded lower jobless rates over the year.”

During December, unemployment rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 1.9 percentage points with a median advance of 0.6 percentage points. The largest over-the-month rate hikes occurred in Michigan’s northernmost regions, including the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.9), the Upper Peninsula (+1.4), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.2). The December Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 4.0 percent was three-tenths of a percentage point above the national unadjusted rate of 3.7 percent.

2018 Annual Average Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Preliminary annual average data indicates that regional jobless rates fell in all major labor market areas from 2017 to 2018 (see page 7). Rate declines ranged from 0.2 to 0.8 percentage points with a median decrease of six-tenths of a percentage point. The largest annual jobless rate cuts occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan and Upper Peninsula regions, which were both down by 0.8 percentage points in 2018.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

From November to December, total employment fell seasonally in 16 of Michigan’s 17 regions. Reductions ranged from 0.8 to 2.2 percent with a median decline of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-month employment decreases were in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.2%) and the Upper Peninsula (-1.9%). Detroit was the only metro area with a small monthly employment gain (+0.2%). Since December 2017, employment rose in 13 regions, fell in three, and remained unchanged in the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Over-the-year gains ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 percent with a median increase of 0.5 percent.

Labor Force Levels Down Over Month and Mixed Over the Year

December workforce levels fell seasonally in 14 regions with reductions ranging from 0.3 to 1.8 percent. The largest labor force declines occurred in the Lansing (-1.8%),

Monroe (-1.3%) and Ann Arbor (-1.3%) MSAs. Labor force levels increased in the Detroit (0.5%) and Northwest Lower Michigan (0.3%) regions, and remained unchanged since November in the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

Since December 2017, labor force levels fell in 10 areas, rose in six, and remained unchanged in the Battle Creek MSA. Workforce reductions ranged from 0.4 to 1.8 percent with a median decrease of 0.9 percent.

December Payroll Jobs Down Seasonally

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan declined by 21,000 in December to 4,463,000. Seasonal job cuts were seen in *Professional and business services* (-8,100), *Government* (-7,300), and *Mining, logging, and construction* (-6,400). The only over-the-month job gains of note occurred in *Transportation and warehousing* (+3,600) and *Health care and social assistance* (+2,000). During the holiday hiring season from October through December, *Retail trade* jobs in Michigan rose by 12,100, a gain slightly smaller than the 12,900 jobs added last year over the same period.

Nonfarm jobs moved down in eleven of Michigan's 14 metro regions in December. Payroll employment edged up slightly in Muskegon and Battle Creek and remained unchanged in Midland. Regional job declines ranged from 0.1 to 1.1 percent.

Since December 2017, unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 53,000, or 1.2 percent. Twelve of Michigan's metro regions advanced in employment over this period, led on a percentage basis by Grand Rapids (2.2%), Lansing (1.8%), and Ann Arbor (1.8%). Over-the-year job declines occurred in the Jackson (-0.8%) and Muskegon (-0.2%) metro areas.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties exhibited seasonal jobless rate advances in December, with a median increase of 1.0 percentage point. Eaton County's rate declined slightly, while Ingham and St. Joseph counties had no rate changes over the month. Since December 2017, unemployment rates moved down in 77 counties with a median decrease of 1.0 percentage point. Rates edged up slightly in five counties and remained unchanged in Oakland County 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 seasonally unadjusted December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing 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."

	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	194,300	197,600	195,100	-1.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	188,300	192,300	189,800	-1.3%	0.8%
Unemployment	6,000	5,200	5,300	1.9%	-11.7%
Rate (percent)	3.1	2.6	2.7		

Contact: Marcus Reason, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-8341

	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,200	63,400	63,200	-0.3%	0.0%
Total Employment	60,100	61,200	60,600	-1.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,100	2,200	2,600	18.2%	-16.1%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.5	4.1		

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

	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,700	50,600	50,300	-0.6%	-0.8%
Total Employment	47,900	48,700	48,000	-1.4%	0.2%
Unemployment	2,800	1,900	2,300	21.1%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	5.5	3.7	4.5		

Contact: Evan Linskey, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,112	2,114	2,125	0.5%	0.6%
Total Employment	2,026	2,033	2,037	0.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	86	81	89	9.9%	3.5%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.8	4.2		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3145

	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,400	181,800	180,800	-0.6%	-0.9%
Total Employment	172,000	174,500	172,400	-1.2%	0.2%
Unemployment	10,400	7,400	8,400	13.5%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.1	4.6		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	573,100	581,200	577,900	-0.6%	0.8%
Total Employment	553,000	566,700	561,500	-0.9%	1.5%
Unemployment	20,100	14,600	16,400	12.3%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	3.5	2.5	2.8		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,200	73,800	73,300	-0.7%	-1.2%
Total Employment	70,900	71,300	70,500	-1.1%	-0.6%
Unemployment	3,300	2,500	2,800	12.0%	-15.2%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.3	3.8		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,400	168,200	167,200	-0.6%	-0.7%
Total Employment	160,900	163,000	161,100	-1.2%	0.1%
Unemployment	7,500	5,200	6,100	17.3%	-18.7%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.1	3.7		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	249,000	254,200	249,700	-1.8%	0.3%
Total Employment	239,300	246,200	241,800	-1.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	9,700	8,000	7,900	-1.3%	-18.6%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.1	3.2		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	39,900	39,900	39,700	-0.5%	-0.5%
Total Employment	38,100	38,600	38,200	-1.0%	0.3%
Unemployment	1,900	1,300	1,500	15.4%	-21.1%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.2	3.8		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,900	77,100	76,100	-1.3%	0.3%
Total Employment	72,700	74,100	73,000	-1.5%	0.4%
Unemployment	3,100	3,000	3,000	0.0%	-3.2%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.9	4.0		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,700	77,000	76,800	-0.3%	-1.2%
Total Employment	73,600	74,100	73,500	-0.8%	-0.1%
Unemployment	4,100	2,900	3,300	13.8%	-19.5%
Rate (percent)	5.3	3.8	4.3		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,800	73,000	72,400	-0.8%	-0.5%
Total Employment	69,100	70,400	69,200	-1.7%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,700	2,600	3,100	19.2%	-16.2%
Rate (percent)	5.1	3.6	4.3		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,300	88,300	87,600	-0.8%	0.3%
Total Employment	82,600	84,800	83,700	-1.3%	1.3%
Unemployment	4,600	3,400	3,900	14.7%	-15.2%
Rate (percent)	5.3	3.9	4.5		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	137,300	136,100	135,500	-0.4%	-1.3%
Total Employment	127,700	130,100	127,600	-1.9%	-0.1%
Unemployment	9,600	5,900	7,900	33.9%	-17.7%
Rate (percent)	7.0	4.4	5.8		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,000	80,500	80,500	0.0%	-1.8%
Total Employment	74,400	76,100	74,400	-2.2%	0.0%
Unemployment	7,500	4,500	6,100	35.6%	-18.7%
Rate (percent)	9.2	5.6	7.5		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	148,100	147,100	147,500	0.3%	-0.4%
Total Employment	139,200	141,600	140,100	-1.1%	0.6%
Unemployment	8,900	5,500	7,400	34.5%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	6.0	3.8	5.0		

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	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,876	4,891	4,884	-0.1%	0.2%
Total Employment	4,659	4,717	4,687	-0.6%	0.6%
Unemployment	217	174	197	13.2%	-9.2%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.6	4.0		

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**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA'S
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2017 – 2018**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	3.6	3.2
BATTLE CREEK MSA	5.0	4.4
BAY CITY MSA	5.6	5.0
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA	4.4	4.2
FLINT MSA	5.8	5.1
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	3.6	3.1
JACKSON MSA	4.7	4.2
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	4.5	3.9
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	4.2	3.7
MIDLAND MSA	4.8	4.2
MONROE MSA	4.9	4.3
MUSKEGON MSA	5.4	4.8
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	5.0	4.5
SAGINAW MSA	5.5	5.0
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	6.5	5.7
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	7.8	7.0
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	5.5	4.9
MICHIGAN	4.6	4.2

MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - DECEMBER 2018

1	Ottawa County	2.7	43	Houghton County	4.8
2	Washtenaw County	2.7	44	St. Clair County	4.9
3	Kent County	2.8	45	Alpena County	5.0
4	Clinton County	2.9	46	Wayne County	5.0
5	Eaton County	3.1	47	Missaukee County	5.1
6	Ingham County	3.2	48	Tuscola County	5.1
7	Oakland County	3.2	49	Van Buren County	5.1
8	Allegan County	3.3	50	Lapeer County	5.2
9	Ionia County	3.3	51	Gogebic County	5.3
10	Kalamazoo County	3.3	52	Charlevoix County	5.4
11	Livingston County	3.3	53	Mason County	5.4
12	Barry County	3.4	54	Otsego County	5.4
13	Isabella County	3.5	55	Delta County	5.5
14	Lenawee County	3.7	56	Iron County	5.9
15	Grand Traverse County	3.8	57	Benzie County	6.0
16	Hillsdale County	3.8	58	Antrim County	6.2
17	Jackson County	3.8	59	Crawford County	6.2
18	Midland County	3.8	60	Gladwin County	6.2
19	Branch County	3.9	61	Baraga County	6.3
20	Dickinson County	3.9	62	Clare County	6.3
21	St. Joseph County	3.9	63	Kalkaska County	6.3
22	Monroe County	4.0	64	Manistee County	6.3
23	Calhoun County	4.1	65	Emmet County	6.6
24	Macomb County	4.1	66	Iosco County	6.6
25	Menominee County	4.1	67	Oceana County	6.7
26	Montcalm County	4.1	68	Lake County	6.8
27	Leelanau County	4.2	69	Chippewa County	7.1
28	Shiawassee County	4.2	70	Arenac County	7.2
29	Berrien County	4.3	71	Alcona County	7.4
30	Cass County	4.3	72	Oscoda County	7.4
31	Gratiot County	4.3	73	Ogemaw County	7.5
32	Muskegon County	4.3	74	Luce County	7.8
33	Newaygo County	4.3	75	Schoolcraft County	8.0
34	Huron County	4.4	76	Presque Isle County	8.3
35	Bay County	4.5	77	Roscommon County	8.4
36	Saginaw County	4.5	78	Ontonagon County	8.5
37	Sanilac County	4.5	79	Keweenaw County	8.8
38	Genesee County	4.6	80	Alger County	9.0
39	Mecosta County	4.6	81	Montmorency County	10.1
40	Wexford County	4.6	82	Cheboygan County	13.2
41	Marquette County	4.7	83	Mackinac County	17.2
42	Osceola County	4.7			