

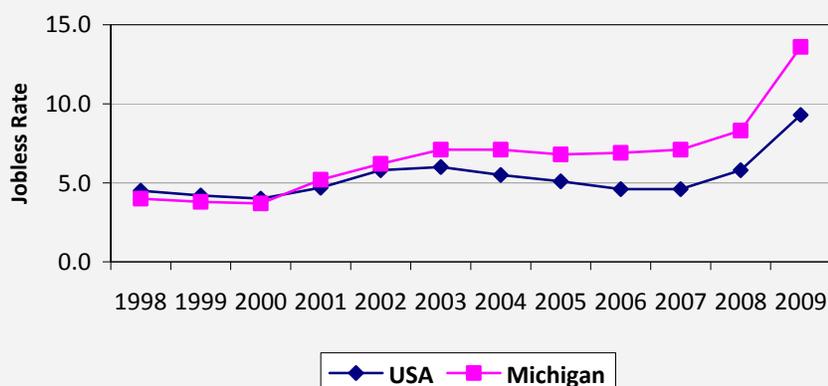
Unemployment Rate

Indicator Definition: The Unemployment (or Jobless) Rate is the percent of people in the Labor Force who are unemployed (= unemployed/labor force * 100).

Indicator Overview:

- Unemployment Rate, or Jobless Rate, is an indicator of the health of the economy, and can be used as a proxy in health status. With a larger percentage of the people out of work, fewer may be able to afford access to preventative and maintenance health services and/or prescriptions.
- Higher unemployment rates also mean a larger portion of the labor force may be seeking assistance through Medicaid.
- Unemployment data is collected through Michigan’s Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth, and housed at the Labor Market Information (LMI) site. Nationally, the US Department of Labor oversees the data.

The Jobless Rate in Michigan & the US



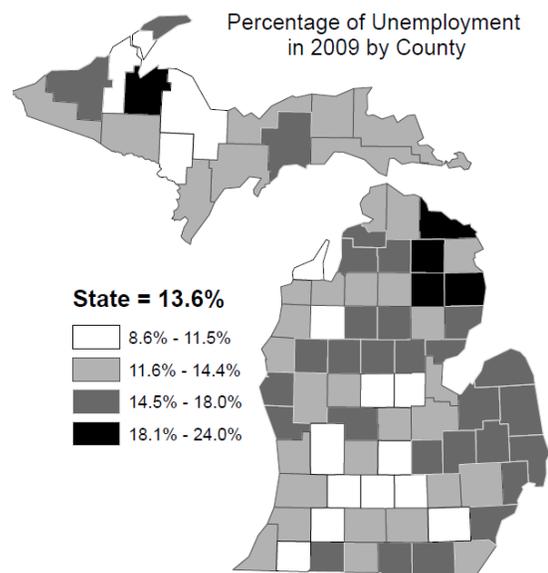
← Trends:

Beginning in the mid- to late-1990s, Michigan’s Jobless Rate was at or below the national Jobless rate, and it was down to 4 percent. Beginning in 2000, the Jobless rate at the state and national levels began to increase. With emerging economic issues, Michigan’s Jobless Rate increased more quickly than the national rate. From 2003 until 2007, the national Jobless Rate decreased by almost 2 points and leveled off, while Michigan only saw a marginal decrease. By 2009, the Jobless Rate nearly doubled from the 2007 levels. Michigan’s Jobless Rates was ranked one of the highest of all states.

→ County Average:

Between 2007 and 2009, the state-wide unemployment rate almost doubled from 7.1 to 13.6. In 2009, the county rates rose to a range of 8.6% to 24.0%. In other words, in some counties as few as 1 in 12 people were unemployed and in other counties as many as 1 in 4 were unemployed. The counties that were the hardest hit included Baraga, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Alcona. These counties are all rural areas of northern Michigan.

The counties with the lower unemployment rates still had as few as 1 in 10 people unemployed, or more. Many of these counties had larger urban areas in combination with one of the state universities.



Links to Other Sources of Information:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/unemployment.htm>
 DELEG: Labor Market Information: <http://www.milmi.org/>

Links to Related Programs:

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Grow (DELEG) – Labor Market Information site: <http://www.milmi.org/>
 Michigan’s Jobs, Education, and Training (JET) program: <http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-41500--,00.html>