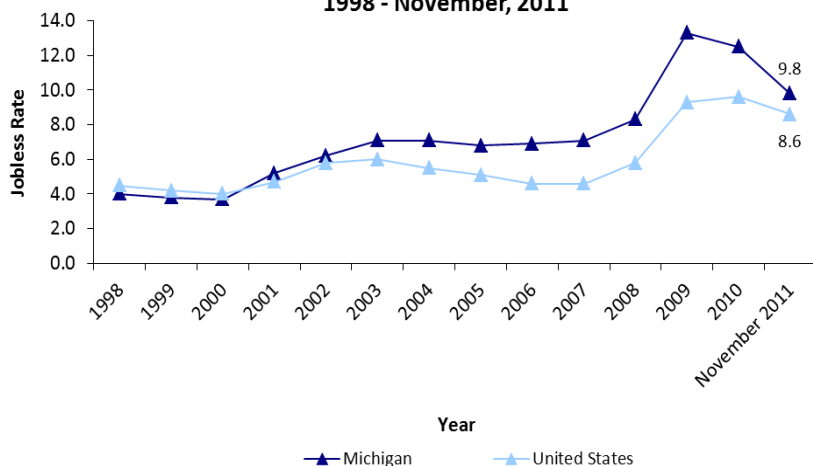


Indicator Definition: The percent of people in the labor force who are unemployed.

Indicator Overview:

- Jobless rate, or unemployment 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 people out of work, fewer may be able to afford access to preventive 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 Technology, Management and Budget, and housed at the Labor Market Information (LMI) site. Nationally, the United States Department of Labor oversees the data.

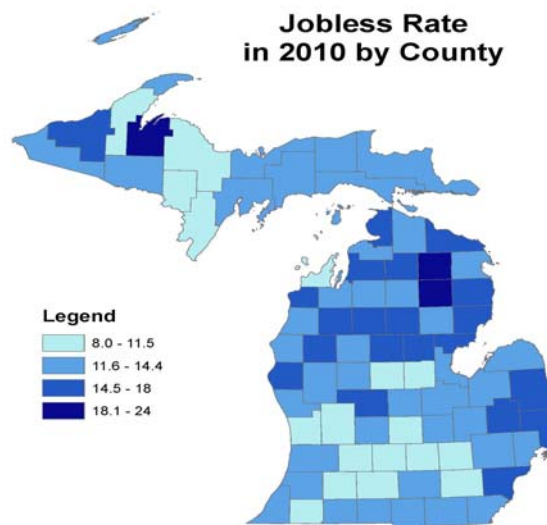
The Jobless Rate in Michigan and the United States, 1998 - November, 2011



← **Trends:** Beginning in the mid- to late-1990s, Michigan’s jobless rate was at or below the national jobless rate, approximately 4 percent. Beginning in 2000, the jobless rate at both 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, Michigan’s jobless rate was nearly double the 2007 rate. As of November 2011, the rate has dropped below 10 percent.

→ **County Average:** Between 2007 and 2009, Michigan’s unemployment rate almost doubled from 7.1 to 13.3. In 2010, the state unemployment rate was at 12.5, while county rates ranged from 8.1 to 23.3. 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 with the highest jobless rates included Baraga, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Alcona. These counties are all rural areas of northern Michigan. Many of the counties with lower jobless rates were located near Michigan’s major universities, including Washtenaw, Ingham, Houghton, Marquette, and Kalamazoo.

Jobless Rate in 2010 by County



Links to Other Sources of Information:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/unemployment.htm>
DTMB: 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>