

MICHIGAN'S MAY JOBLESS RATE REMAINS HIGH DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACT

Michigan's seasonally-adjusted jobless rate remained above 20 percent in May, although the rate declined slightly from 24.0 percent in April to 21.2 percent in May. Michigan's employment total rose by 256,000 in May while the number of unemployed fell by 97,000. **The result was a notable workforce gain of 159,000 over the month prior.**

The national jobless rate fell by 1.4 percentage points to 13.3 percent in May. Michigan's jobless rate was 7.9 percentage points above the U.S. rate. Year-to-date, the national jobless rate has increased by 9.7 percentage points, while Michigan's rate advanced substantially more (17.0 percentage points).

The state has experienced exceptionally high levels of unemployment for two consecutive months due to the impact of COVID-19-related job cuts. May was the second straight month with a statewide jobless rate above 20.0 percent. The state's total employment level rose by 7.3 percent over the previous month, more than double that of the nation (+2.9 percent). This reflected the initial recalls of workers who were laid off in March or April due to the pandemic. Total unemployment in the state contracted by 8.7 percent since April, similar to the national unemployment decline of 9.1 percent over the month.

THE LOCAL STORY: KALAMAZOO COUNTY CONTINUES TO BE BRIGHT SPOT IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

As expected, regional unemployment rose dramatically during the month of May 2020, as many businesses continued to experience the effects of shutdowns or severely curtailed operations to try to limit the spread of COVID-19. While April brought numbers roughly double what was experienced during the financial crisis from 2007 to 2009, May finds Kalamazoo County for the second straight month to be a bright spot among the state. Data reported by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB) shows Kalamazoo County to rank as the number two urban county with the lowest jobless rate and to have the fifth lowest rate overall at 15.3 percent. Visit the DTMB's site to see **rankings by county**, county **labor force** numbers, and an **overall snapshot** of Michigan's employment.

		U.S.	Michigan	Southwest Michigan	Berrien	Branch	Calhoun	Cass	Kalamazoo	St. Joseph	Van Buren
MAY	Labor Force	157,975,000	4,754,000	383,300	74,875	19,758	65,505	25,307	132,478	29,916	35,461
	Employment	137,461,000	3,769,000	314,933	60,948	15,973	51,099	21,047	112,273	24,092	29,501
	Unemployment	20,514,000	985,000	68,313	13,927	3,785	14,406	4,206	20,205	5,824	5,960
	Jobless Rate	13.0%	23.8%	17.8%	18.6%	19.2%	22.0%	16.8%	15.3%	19.5%	16.8%
APRIL	Jobless Rate	14.4%	23.8%	21.3%	20.0%	23.0%	24.6%	24.9%	17.2%	30.3%	20.8%
MARCH	Jobless Rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%	3.4%	3.7%	3.9%	2.9%	3.5%	4.4%

Source: Michigan DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), May 2020. Notes: All estimates are preliminary. Data is not seasonally adjusted.