

# SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN JOBLESS RATES MOVE DOWN IN SEPTEMBER

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## SEPTEMBER 2020

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in all 17 Michigan major labor market areas during September 2020, according to data released from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Michigan regional jobless rates decreased in September, but the reductions primarily were due to fewer persons in the state labor market," said Wayne Rourke, acting director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Total nonfarm jobs advanced over the month in most metro regions." Despite the monthly jobless rate cuts, total employment fell in 16 of the major labor market areas in September, with the Detroit metropolitan statistical area (MSA) as the only region to register a minor employment gain (+0.2) over the month.

September jobless rates ranged from 6.0 to 10.2 percent by MSA. **The Ann Arbor MSA held the top spot with the lowest jobless rate at 6.0 percent, with Kalamazoo-Portage tied with Lansing-East Lansing for fourth at 6.7 percent.** Flint (9.4), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (9.8), and Muskegon (10.2) struggled at the bottom of the state's MSA groupings.

## THE LOCAL STORY: KALAMAZOO AND ST. JOSEPH COUNTIES POST 6.7 PERCENT JOBLESS RATES

Seasonally unadjusted September 2020 unemployment for the seven-county southwest Michigan region sits at 7.3 percent, compared to 8.3 percent as of August 2020 and 9.4 percent in July 2020. Jobless rates range from 6.7 percent in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties to 8.6 percent in Calhoun County. 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
SEP	Labor Force	160,073,000	4,878,000	379,834	74,417	19,548	61,230	24,141	135,815	28,955	35,729
	Employment	147,796,000	4,479,000	352,168	68,772	18,182	55,957	22,355	126,741	26,837	33,324
	Unemployment	12,277,000	399,000	27,666	5,645	1,366	5,273	1,786	9,073	2,118	2,405
	Jobless Rate	7.7%	8.2%	7.3%	7.6%	7.0%	8.6%	7.4%	6.7%	7.3%	6.7%
AUG	Jobless Rate	8.5%	8.9%	8.3%	8.7%	7.6%	9.8%	8.2%	7.7%	8.2%	7.8%
JUL	Jobless Rate	10.5%	9.5%	9.4%	9.9%	8.8%	10.9%	10.0%	8.7%	9.3%	8.8%

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