

FEBRUARY MICHIGAN JOBLESS RATES DECLINE IN ALL LABOR MARKETS



FEBRUARY 2021

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's regional labor market areas during February 2021, according to data released from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Labor force levels declined for the second consecutive month in most Michigan regions," said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll jobs rose in all Michigan metro areas in February, as significant recalls of workers occurred in the leisure and hospitality sector."

Michigan regional jobless rates in February ranged from 4.2 to 8.6 percent. Rate decreases were from 0.6 to 1.6 percentage points with a median decline of one full percentage point. The Northeast Lower Michigan region demonstrated the most pronounced over-the-month rate cut. Locally, the Battle Creek and Niles-Benton Harbor metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) realized drops of 1.2 percentage points, while the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA fell 0.9 points. Jobless rates still remain higher since the start of the pandemic's effects hit the economy in February 2020 in all 17 Michigan labor markets with a median gain of 2.2 percentage points.

THE LOCAL STORY:

BRANCH, KALAMAZOO, AND ST. JOSEPH COUNTIES LEAD THE REGIONAL PACK FOR LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT

When breaking the numbers down by county, the combined seasonally unadjusted February 2021 jobless rate of 5.7 percent for the seven-county Southwest Michigan region is down 1.0 percentage points from January 2021. February 2021 jobless rates were led by 4.9 percent in Branch County, 5.0 percent in Kalamazoo County, and 5.2 percent in St. Joseph 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
FEB 2021	Labor Force	160,008,000	4,643,000	362,132	70,407	19,129	59,916	23,465	127,700	27,846	33,669
	Employment	149,522,000	4,405,000	341,626	66,181	18,195	56,041	22,160	121,260	26,407	31,382
	Unemployment	10,486,000	239,000	20,506	4,226	934	3,875	1,305	6,440	1,439	2,287
	Jobless Rate	6.6%	5.1%	5.7%	6.0%	4.9%	6.5%	5.6%	5.0%	5.2%	6.8%
JAN 2021	Jobless Rate	6.8%	6.1%	6.7%	7.2%	6.0%	7.7%	6.1%	5.9%	5.9%	8.0%
DEC 2020	Jobless Rate	6.5%	7.3%	5.0%	5.4%	4.5%	5.8%	4.5%	4.5%	4.7%	5.4%

Source: Michigan DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), February 2021.
Notes: All estimates are preliminary. Data is not seasonally adjusted.