

MICHIGAN'S REGIONAL JOBLESS RATES WERE A MIXED BAG IN MARCH



MARCH 2021

Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates edged down slightly in 10 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas during March, with monthly rate decreases ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 percentage points, according to data released from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Michigan regional jobless rates displayed little change in March," confirmed Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Nonfarm job levels advanced modestly in nearly all Michigan metro areas over the month."

The state of Michigan posted a March 2021 unemployment rate of 5.2 percent, 1.0 percentage points below national average. This represents a 0.1 percentage point decrease from February 2021's rate of 5.1 percent, and a 0.7 percentage point increase from March 2020, when a rate of 4.5 percent was recorded. For Michigan MSAs, Ann Arbor had the lowest unemployment rate in March 2021 at 4.3 percent. Detroit-Warren-Dearborn was close behind with a rate of 4.5 percent in February 2021. Those areas were followed by Grand Rapids-Wyoming at 4.7 percent, Lansing-East Lansing at 5.0 percent, and Midland at 5.2 percent to round out the top five performing MSAs. Kalamazoo-Portage fell short of that mix coming in at 5.4 percent. The Muskegon MSA put up the highest rate at 7.5 percent.

THE LOCAL STORY:

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BREAKS THE 5.0 PERCENT JOBLESS RATE BARRIER

When breaking the numbers down by county, the combined seasonally unadjusted March 2021 jobless rate of 5.6 percent for the seven-county Southwest Michigan region was down 0.1 percentage points from February 2021. Among regional counties, St. Joseph posted the lowest seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate in March 2021 at 4.9 percent, followed by Branch County with a rate of 5.0 percent, and Kalamazoo County with a rate of 5.1 percent. Cass County had the highest reduction in unemployment rate month-over-month of 0.3 percentage points. 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
MAR 2021	Labor Force	160,397,000	4,687,000	362,688	70,612	19,217	59,998	23,623	127,663	27,915	33,670
	Employment	159,493,000	4,444,000	342,484	66,483	18,265	56,165	22,386	121,183	26,538	31,464
	Unemployment	9,905,000	243,000	20,204	4,129	952	3,823	1,237	6,480	1,377	2,206
	Jobless Rate	6.2%	5.2%	5.6%	5.8%	5.0%	6.4%	5.2%	5.1%	4.9%	6.6%
FEB 2021	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%

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