

# REGIONAL MICHIGAN JOBLESS RATES MOVE UP IN MAY



## MAY 2021

Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates rose in 14 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas between April and May, according to data released from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

"Michigan regional jobless rate gains in May were often due to an increase in the number of persons active in the labor force," said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll employment advanced in May in most metro areas."

Overall, The state of Michigan posted a not seasonally adjusted May 2021 unemployment rate of 5.2 percent, 0.3 percentage points below the national average. This represents a 0.6 percentage point increase from April 2021's rate of 4.6 percent, and a 15.9 percentage point decrease from May 2020, when a rate of 21.1 percent was recorded. For Michigan MSAs, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn had the lowest unemployment rate in May 2021 at 4.6 percent. Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids-Wyoming was close behind with rates of 4.9 percent. Muskegon had the highest unemployment rate in May 2021 at 7.9 percent, followed by Flint, with a rate of 7.5. All 14 Michigan MSAs had an increased unemployment rate over the month.

### THE LOCAL STORY:

## CASS, BRANCH, AND KALAMAZOO ANCHOR REGIONAL PICTURE

When breaking the numbers down by county, the combined not seasonally adjusted May 2021 jobless rate of 5.7 percent for the seven-county Southwest Michigan region was up 0.7 percentage points from April 2021. Among regional counties, Cass posted the lowest seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate in May 2021 at 4.9 percent, followed by Branch County with a rate of 5.0 percent, and Kalamazoo County with a rate of 5.3 percent. All counties had increased jobless rates over the month. St. Joseph County had the highest increase, which expanded by 1.0 percentage point, followed by Calhoun County, which expanded by 0.8 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
MAY 2021	Labor Force	160,607,000	4,724,000	364,846	71,734	19,695	60,512	23,912	127,320	28,019	33,654
	Employment	151,778,000	4,478,000	344,048	67,620	18,702	56,422	22,732	120,539	26,438	31,595
	Unemployment	8,829,000	246,000	20,798	4,114	993	4,090	1,180	6,781	1,581	2,059
	Jobless Rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.7%	5.7%	5.0%	6.8%	4.9%	5.3%	5.6%	6.1%
APR 2021	Jobless Rate	5.7%	4.6%	5.0%	5.2%	4.5%	6.0%	4.3%	4.6%	4.6%	5.7%
MAR 2021	Jobless Rate	6.2%	5.2%	5.6%	5.8%	5.0%	6.4%	5.2%	5.1%	4.9%	6.6%

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