



310 W. Bacon Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242
517-437-0990 www.scmw.org



MICHIGAN DEPT. OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECON. GROWTH/LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS - SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
By Place of Residence/Seasonally Unadjusted. May, 2010 **

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	May 2010	Apr. 2010	May 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	May 2010	Apr. 2010	May 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	May 10	Apr. 10	May 09
Jackson MSA	75,400	74,900	77,200	500	-1,800	65,600	64,800	67,000	800	-1,400	13.0	13.6	13.2
Hillsdale Co.	19,800	19,750	20,950	50	-1,150	16,750	16,575	17,175	175	-425	15.5	16.1	18.1
Lenawee Co.	46,550	46,650	48,175	-100	-1,625	39,575	39,525	40,450	50	-875	15.0	15.3	16.0
Michigan	4,864,000	4,845,000	4,911,000	19,000	-47,000	4,241,000	4,183,000	4,248,000	58,000	-7,000	12.8	13.7	13.5
U.S.A.*	153,866	153,911	154,336	-45	-470	139,497	139,302	140,363	195	-866	9.3	9.5	9.1

* Expressed in thousands; ** All labor force and employment numbers are rounded to the nearest 25 for counties, 100 for MSAs, and 1,000 for the State and the U.S.

Seasonal Job Gains Continue in Local Labor Markets in May

In May, seasonal hiring continued in construction and leisure and hospitality, while employment in other sectors remained stable. Unemployment rates inched down for a second consecutive month in May by an average of six tenths of a percentage point.

Labor Force Mostly Up Over the Month but Down Over the Year

Labor force (employed individuals plus those looking for jobs) rose in May for most regional labor markets, with the exception of Lenawee (-100), Cass (-175), and Van Buren (-375) counties. Labor force gains over the month ranged from +50 in Hillsdale to +775 in Berrien County. Labor force in May was generally below May 2009 levels, ranging from -100 in Calhoun to -1,950 in St. Joseph County. As noted in previous months, St. Joseph and Hillsdale counties, with employment heavily dependent on the manufacturing sector, continue to record the highest rates of labor force decline (-6.7% and -5.5%, respectively).

Employment Rose Over the Month but Remains Below Year-ago Levels in Almost All Counties

Construction and the lodging and restaurant sectors continued to register seasonal job gains in May in all regional labor markets. Manufacturing employment was stable over the month in all local metropolitan statistical areas, inching up by 100 in Jackson, Kalamazoo, and Benton Harbor. Employment by place of residence rose in all regional counties by an average of 1.1 percentage points. Job gains in May ranged from +50 in Lenawee to +1,100 in Berrien County. Substantial employment additions over the month were also registered in Allegan (+1,075), Jackson (+800), and Calhoun (+700) counties.

Over the year, employment edged up slightly in Calhoun County, however, deep employment cuts continued to be recorded in other counties, ranging from -300 in Cass to -2,175 in Kalamazoo County. Total employment declined over the year in May by an average rate of -1.8 percent.

Jobless Rates Continued to Fall in May and were Comparable with High May 2009 Levels

May unemployment rates dropped in eleven of the twelve area counties, ranging from -0.3 percentage points in Calhoun and Lenawee to -1.1 percentage points in Van Buren counties. The Kalamazoo jobless rate remained stable over the month, inching up by one tenth of a percentage point. Seven regional counties (Barry, Cass, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Allegan, Van Buren, and Branch) recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 12.8 percent in May (not seasonally adjusted). Berrien County's unemployment rate matched the state's rate. The remaining four counties (Jackson, St. Joseph, Lenawee, and Hillsdale) showed higher rates than the state. The state's rate (second highest after Nevada) was 3.5 percentage points above the nation's unemployment rate. Regional jobless rates were generally comparable with May 2009 levels, a period when unemployment was elevated due to recession-related job cuts. Compared to May 2009, jobless rates edged down in nine of the twelve regional counties, from -0.1 in Barry to -2.6 percentage points in Hillsdale County. Unemployment rates inched up in Berrien (+0.5 percentage points), Van Buren (+0.8), and Kalamazoo (+1.0).

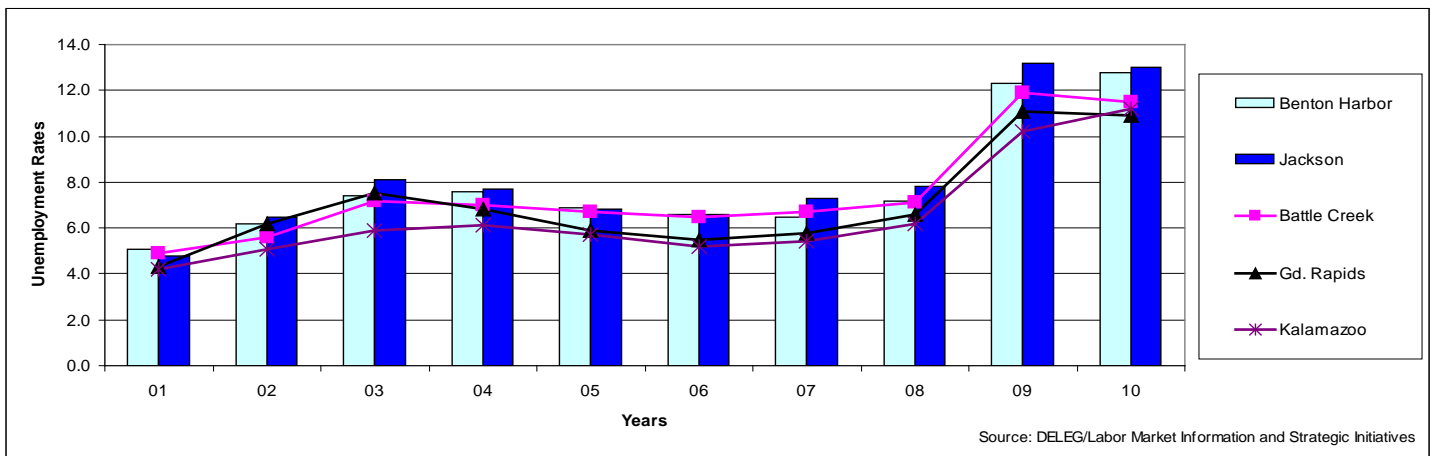
Local Metro Area May Unemployment Rates Since 2001

Since 2000, the nation has been hit by two economic recessions characterized by massive manufacturing job losses. States whose employment heavily depended on the manufacturing sector (e.g., Michigan) were hardest hit. In Southwest Michigan, jobless rates soared in the Jackson (+8.2 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+7.7), Kalamazoo (+7.0), Grand Rapids (+6.6), and Battle Creek (+6.6) metro areas.

Year \ Areas	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Jackson	4.8	6.5	8.1	7.7	6.8	6.6	7.3	7.8	13.2	13.0

Unemployment rates for local metro areas increased through 2003. May unemployment rates remained stable but still high from 2005-2008. Jobless rates soared in 2009 as layoffs rose due to the national recession and severe financial issues in the auto sector.

Comparing the Trend of Local MSAs' May Unemployment Rates Since 2001



The **Jackson MSA** (Jackson County) added 1,100 jobs over the month, with modest job gains across most sectors. The lodging and restaurant sector led the way with a job addition of 300. Employment in construction, retail trade, manufacturing, private education and health services, and professional and business services each inched up by 100.

Over the year, job cuts were concentrated in manufacturing (-900). Employment in all other sectors was either flat or down modestly by between 100-200 jobs. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 1,200 (or 2.2 percent) below the May 2009 level.

