



310 W. Bacon Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242
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MICHIGAN DEPT. OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECON. GROWTH/LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS - SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
By Place of Residence/Seasonally Unadjusted. December, 2008 **

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
Jackson MSA	75,600	75,800	76,700	-200	-1,100	67,300	68,500	70,900	-1,200	-3,600	11.1	9.6	7.6
Hillsdale Co.	21,850	21,950	22,025	-100	-175	19,050	19,450	20,125	-400	-1,075	12.8	11.5	8.5
Lenawee Co.	49,225	49,450	50,250	-225	-1,025	43,225	44,375	46,275	-1,150	-3,050	12.2	10.3	7.9
Michigan	4,890,000	4,921,000	4,989,000	-31,000	-99,000	4,380,000	4,472,000	4,619,000	-92,000	-239,000	10.4	9.1	7.4
U.S.A.*	154,349	154,624	153,705	-275	644	143,350	144,609	146,334	-1,259	-2,984	7.1	6.5	4.8

* 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.

December Jobless Rates Rose Sharply in Regional Counties

A weak retail sector, layoffs in the manufacturing sector due to slumping auto sales, and continued seasonal job losses in construction, professional & business services, and education were all factors that contributed to a sharp jump in December jobless rates for the area. Regional unemployment rates rose by an average of 1.5 percentage points in December. Jobless rates were up substantially over the year by an average of 3.6 percentage points.

Labor Force Down Over the Month and Over the Year

Labor force was down over the month in all regional counties, with the exception of Van Buren County (+125). Labor force declines ranged from -50 in Allegan to -1,100 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, labor force fell in almost all regional counties, ranging from - 50 in St. Joseph to - 2,450 in Kalamazoo County. Labor force was up over the year in Branch County (+225).

Employment by Place of Residence Substantially Down Over the Month and Over the Year

Over the month, employment by place of residence fell in all regional counties by an average of two percentage points. Employment declines in December ranged from -400 in Hillsdale to -2,625 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, employment dropped in all regional counties, ranging from -725 in Branch to -6,000 in Kalamazoo County. The average rate of employment decline was estimated at 4.8 percentage points. Auto-related job losses deepened in manufacturing, while a steep reduction in construction employment continued, due to troubles in the credit and housing sectors. Low consumer spending led to lower than normal retail hiring during December.

Jobless Rates Escalate Over the Month and Over the Year

All regional counties recorded unemployment rate increases over the month, averaging one and half percentage points. Half of the twelve regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 10.4 percent in December (Kalamazoo, Barry, Cass, Calhoun, Berrien, and Allegan). The remaining counties registered higher jobless rates than the state.

Over the year, unemployment rates were up substantially in all regional counties by an average of 3.6 percentage points. St. Joseph County recorded the highest jobless rate increase over the year (+5.0 percentage points).

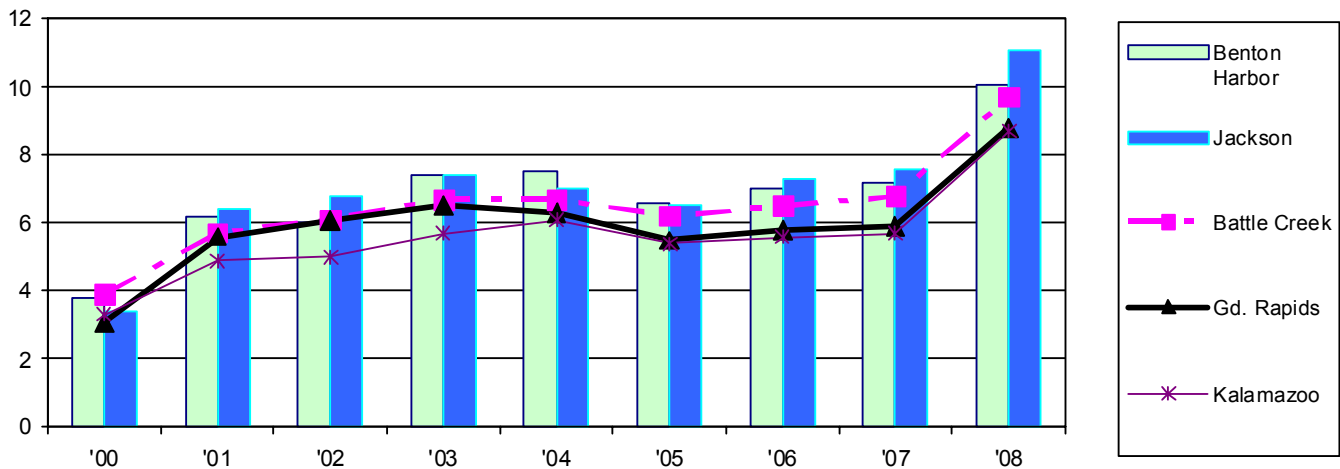
Local MSAs December Unemployment Rates Since 2000

Year \ Areas	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Jackson	3.4	6.4	6.8	7.4	7.0	6.5	7.3	7.6	11.1

From December 2000 to December 2008, jobless rates rose in the Jackson (+7.7 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+6.3), Battle Creek (+5.8), Grand Rapids (+5.7), and Kalamazoo (+5.4) metro areas.

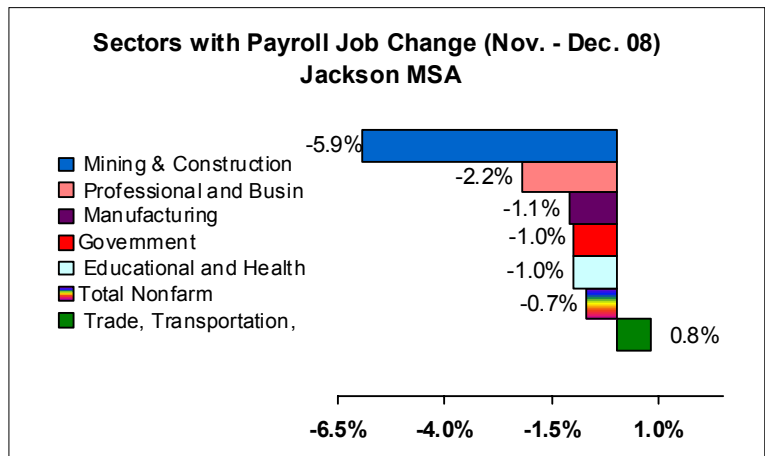
December unemployment rates rose from 2000-2003, fell in 2005, and began to increase again in 2006 in all regional metropolitan areas. Metro area jobless rates sharply jumped in December 2008 to reach levels last seen in the early to mid-1980s. For example, the Jackson MSA rate of 11.1 percent was last exceeded in July 1985 (12.5 percent).

Comparing the Trend of Local MSAs' December Unemployment Rates Since 2000



Payroll jobs in the Jackson MSA (Jackson County) were estimated at 57,000 in December (down 400 from November). Jobs edged down by 100 in each of the following sectors: construction, manufacturing, professional and business services, private education, and local public education. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities inched up by 100.

Compared to December 2007, payroll job levels in most industries either declined or remained unchanged. Only educational and health services edged up by 100 jobs. Manufacturing lost 400 jobs. Employment in the construction sector was down by 200 over the year. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 1,100 below last year's level in December.





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South Central Michigan MSA Payroll Employment - December 2008

Jackson MSA	December 2008	November 2008	December 2007	Monthly Change	Monthly % Change	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Total Nonfarm	57,000	57,400	58,100	-400	-0.7%	-1,100	-1.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,600	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.9%	-200	-11.1%
Manufacturing	8,800	8,900	9,200	-100	-1.1%	-400	-4.3%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	12,500	12,400	12,700	100	0.8%	-200	-1.6%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business	4,500	4,600	4,600	-100	-2.2%	-100	-2.2%
Educational and Health	9,700	9,800	9,600	-100	-1.0%	100	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	5,000	5,200	0	0.0%	-200	-3.8%
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	9,700	9,800	9,800	-100	-1.0%	-100	-1.0%

South Central Michigan Works! Agency Local Area Employment Data - 2008

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Ann Avg
South Central Michigan													
Labor force	148,375	148,650	149,025	147,800	149,525	149,925	149,325	146,425	145,075	146,400	147,200	146,700	147,875
Employment	135,525	135,675	136,225	137,075	136,125	136,275	133,425	132,075	130,875	131,925	132,350	129,550	133,925
Unemployed	12,850	12,975	12,800	10,725	13,400	13,650	15,925	14,350	14,200	14,475	14,850	17,150	13,950
Rate	8.7	8.7	8.6	7.3	9.0	9.1	10.7	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.1	11.7	9.4
Hillsdale													
Laborforce	22,000	21,850	21,950	21,775	22,175	22,150	22,175	21,650	21,400	21,700	21,950	21,850	21,875
Employment	19,875	19,800	19,950	20,050	20,025	19,975	19,350	19,325	19,125	19,350	19,450	19,050	19,625
Unemployed	2,125	2,050	2,000	1,700	2,150	2,175	2,825	2,300	2,275	2,350	2,525	2,800	2,275
Rate	9.6	9.4	9.1	7.9	9.7	9.8	12.7	10.6	10.6	10.8	11.5	12.8	10.4
Jackson													
Laborforce	76,100	76,500	76,600	75,800	76,900	77,000	76,800	75,300	74,500	75,200	75,800	75,600	76,000
Employment	70,000	70,200	70,600	70,900	70,500	70,300	69,400	68,400	67,600	68,100	68,500	67,300	69,300
Unemployed	6,100	6,300	6,100	5,000	6,400	6,700	7,400	6,900	6,900	7,100	7,300	8,400	6,700
Rate	8.0	8.3	7.9	6.5	8.3	8.6	9.7	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.6	11.1	8.8
Lenawee													
Laborforce	50,250	50,325	50,450	50,200	50,475	50,800	50,350	49,475	49,200	49,500	49,450	49,225	49,975
Employment	45,600	45,725	45,700	46,150	45,575	45,975	44,675	44,350	44,175	44,450	44,375	43,225	45,000
Unemployed	4,650	4,600	4,750	4,050	4,900	4,825	5,675	5,125	5,000	5,050	5,075	5,975	4,975
Rate	9.2	9.2	9.4	8.1	9.7	9.5	11.3	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.3	12.2	10.0