

MICHIGAN DEPT. OF LABOR & ECON. GROWTH/LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS - SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

By Place of Residence/Seasonally Unadjusted. August, 2008 **

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007	Monthly Change	Annual Change	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Aug. 08	July 08	Aug. 07
Jackson MSA	75,400	76,800	76,900	-1,400	-1,500	68,500	69,400	71,100	-900	-2,600	9.2	9.7	7.5
Hillsdale Co.	21,650	22,175	21,900	-525	-250	19,325	19,350	20,100	-25	-775	10.7	12.7	8.3
Lenawee Co.	49,450	50,350	50,225	-900	-775	44,350	44,675	46,550	-325	-2,200	10.3	11.3	7.3
Michigan	4,983,000	5,045,000	5,033,000	-62,000	-50,000	4,562,000	4,585,000	4,683,000	-23,000	-121,000	8.5	9.1	6.9
U.S.A.*	155,387	156,300	153,493	-913	1,894	145,909	146,867	146,406	-958	-497	6.1	6.0	4.6

* 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.

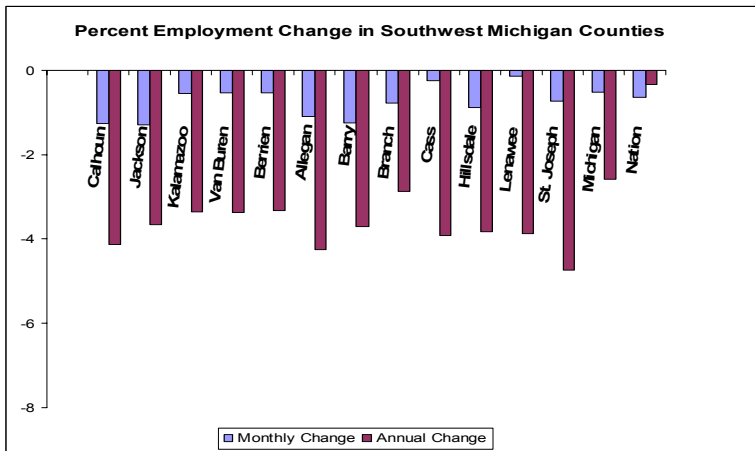
August Jobless Rates Record Substantial Seasonal Declines in All Regional Counties Due Mainly to Seasonal Auto Industry Recalls

Jobless rates fell in regional counties in August, which can be attributed to two typical events: 1) recalls of auto industry workers who were temporarily laid off during July for model changeover plant retooling; 2) the initial withdrawal of youth from the summer workforce. Unemployment fell at an average rate of nine tenths of a percentage point in the region.

Labor Force Mostly Down Over the Month and Over the Year

Labor force was down over the month in almost all regional counties, with the exception of St. Joseph (+150). Labor force declines ranged from -250 in Branch County to -1,850 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, labor force fell in all regional counties, ranging from -25 in St. Joseph to -2,125 in Kalamazoo County.



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

Over the month, employment by place of residence declined in almost all regional counties, with the exception of St. Joseph County (+1,100). Recalls of auto industry workers who were temporarily laid off during July for model changeover plant retooling were not enough to offset the continued reductions in temporary workers in local public education in August. Additionally, employment in sectors that traditionally offer summer jobs (construction and leisure & hospitality) remained flat over the month. Employment reductions in August ranged from -25 in

Hillsdale to -900 in Jackson County.

Over the year, employment was down in all regional counties. Employment declines ranged from -775 in Hillsdale to -4,325 in Kalamazoo County.

Jobless Rates Down Over the Month but Up Over the Year

Over the month, unemployment rates were down in all twelve regional counties. Jobless rate declines were as high as -2.9, -2.0 and -1.0 percentage points in St. Joseph, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties, with a median fall of nine tenths of a percentage point. Seven regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 8.5 percent in August (Barry, Cass, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Van Buren, Calhoun, and Berrien). The remaining five counties registered higher jobless rates than the state.

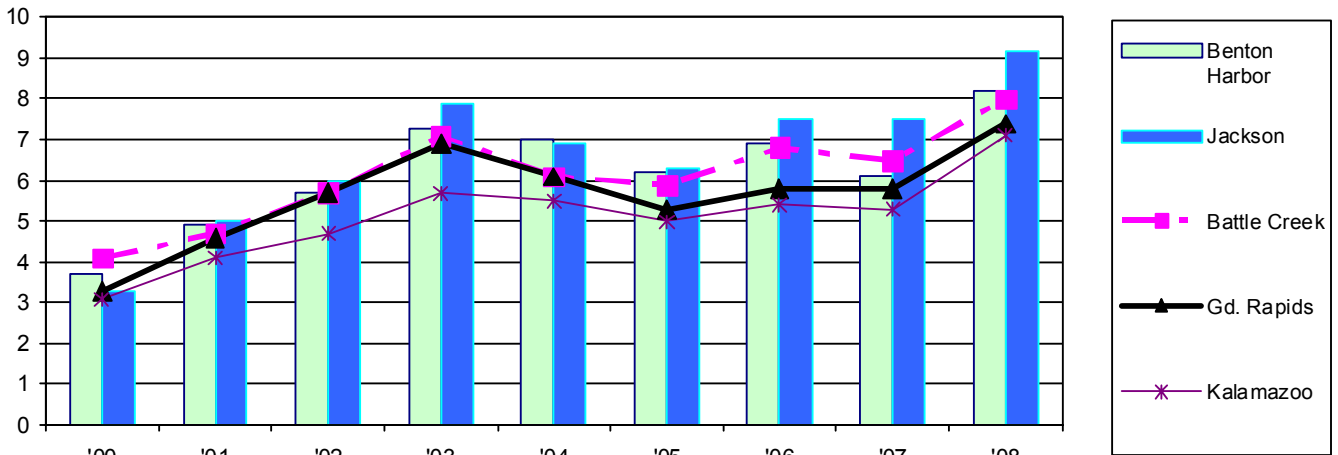
Over the year, unemployment rates were up in all regional counties. St. Joseph County recorded the highest jobless rate increase over the year (+3.1 percentage points). From August 2000 to August 2008, jobless rates rose in the Jackson (+5.9), Niles-Benton Harbor (+4.5), Grand Rapids (+4.1), Kalamazoo (+4.0), and Battle Creek (+3.9 percentage points) metro areas.

August unemployment rates reached a peak in 2003, fell in 2004 and 2005, and began to rise again in 2006 in all metropolitan areas. August 2008 jobless rates were the highest August rates recorded during this decade.

Local MSAs August Unemployment Rates Since 2000

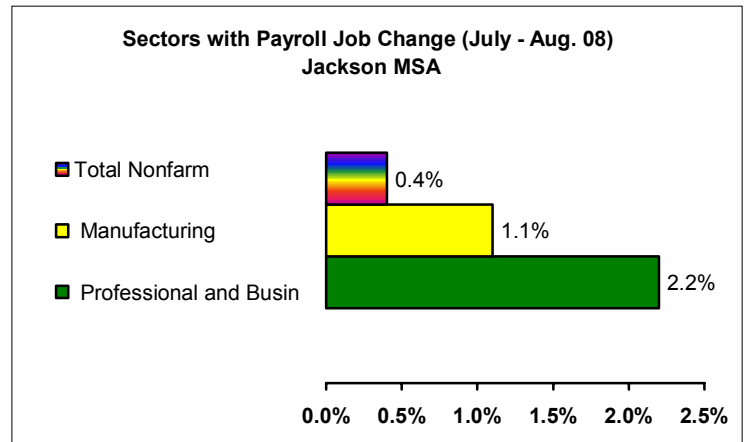
Year	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Jackson	3.3	5.0	6.0	7.9	6.9	6.3	7.5	7.5	9.2

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



Payroll jobs in the Jackson MSA (Jackson County) were estimated at 56,500 in August (up 200 from July). Jackson gained 100 jobs in manufacturing and in professional & business services.

Compared to August 2007, payroll job levels in all industries either declined or remained unchanged. Manufacturing lost 300 jobs. Employment in the construction sector was down by 200 over the year. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 1,000 below last year's level in August.





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Jackson MSA							
	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007	Monthly Change	Monthly % Change	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Total Nonfarm	56,500	56,300	57,500	200	0.4%	-1,000	-1.7%
Nat. Res. & Construction	1,900	1,900	2,100	0	0.0%	-200	-9.5%
Manufacturing	9,000	8,900	9,300	100	1.1%	-300	-3.2%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	12,200	12,200	12,400	0	0.0%	-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	4,700	4,600	4,700	100	2.2%	0	0.0%
Educational and Health	9,300	9,300	9,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	0.0%	-100	-1.8%
Other Services	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	8,700	8,700	8,900	0	0.0%	-200	-2.2%

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

	January	February	March	April	May	July	August	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	146,500					148,650
Employment	135,525	135,675	136,225	137,075	136,125	136,275	133,425	132,175					135,300
Unemployed	12,850	12,975	12,800	10,725	13,400	13,650	15,925	14,325					13,325
Rate	8.7	8.7	8.6	7.3	9.0	9.1	10.7	9.8					9.0
Hillsdale													
Labor force	22,000	21,850	21,950	21,775	22,175	22,150	22,175	21,650					21,975
Employment	19,875	19,800	19,950	20,050	20,025	19,975	19,350	19,325					19,800
Unemployed	2,125	2,050	2,000	1,700	2,150	2,175	2,825	2,300					2,175
Rate	9.6	9.4	9.1	7.9	9.7	9.8	12.7	10.7					9.9
Jackson													
Labor force	76,100	76,500	76,600	75,800	76,900	77,000	76,800	75,400					76,400
Employment	70,000	70,200	70,600	70,900	70,500	70,300	69,400	68,500					70,000
Unemployed	6,100	6,300	6,100	5,000	6,400	6,700	7,400	6,900					6,300
Rate	8.0	8.3	7.9	6.5	8.3	8.6	9.7	9.2					8.3
Lenawee													
Labor force	50,250	50,325	50,450	50,200	50,475	50,800	50,350	49,450					50,300
Employment	45,600	45,725	45,700	46,150	45,575	45,975	44,675	44,350					45,475
Unemployed	4,650	4,600	4,750	4,050	4,900	4,825	5,675	5,125					4,825
Rate	9.2	9.2	9.4	8.1	9.7	9.5	11.3	10.3					9.6