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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. April, 2010 **

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Apr. 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Apr. 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09
Jackson MSA	74,800	74,900	76,000	-100	-1,200	64,700	63,600	66,900	1,100	-2,200	13.6	15.2	12.1
Hillsdale Co.	19,750	19,825	20,875	-75	-1,125	16,575	16,200	17,500	375	-925	16.2	18.3	16.1
Lenawee Co.	46,625	47,125	48,000	-500	-1,375	39,475	38,950	41,000	525	-1,525	15.3	17.4	14.6
Michigan	4,841,000	4,835,000	4,843,000	6,000	-2,000	4,179,000	4,114,000	4,239,000	65,000	-60,000	13.7	14.9	12.5
U.S.A.*	153,911	153,910	153,834	1	77	139,302	138,905	140,586	397	-1,284	9.5	9.7	8.6

* 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.

April Jobless Rates Down Seasonally in All Regional Counties

In April, the number of jobseekers somewhat stabilized, while summer job openings in construction and leisure and hospitality picked up. The result was a reduction in jobless rates for all Southwest Michigan area counties. Unemployment rates fell in April by an average of 1.8 percentage points.

Labor Force Stable Over the Month but Down Over the Year

Labor force inched down over the month in eight regional counties, ranging from -50 in Allegan to -500 in Lenawee County. Labor force edged up in the remaining four regional counties (from +25 in Branch to +650 in Kalamazoo County). Over the year, labor force fell, stretching from -100 in Cass to -1,875 in St. Joseph County. Counties with employment heavily dependent on the manufacturing sector, such as St. Joseph and Hillsdale, recorded the highest rates of labor force decline (-6.5% and -5.4%, respectively).

Employment Rose Over the Month but Was Still Significantly Down Over the Year in All Counties

April employment by place of residence rose in all regional counties by an average of 1.9 percentage points. The highest job gain was recorded in Kalamazoo County at +1,900, while the lowest gain was in Branch County (+325). Other counties that registered substantial employment additions over the month included Berrien (+1,350), Allegan (+1,200), and Calhoun and Jackson (+1,100 each). The region gained jobs seasonally in construction and leisure and hospitality. Manufacturing employment was stable over the month.

Over the year, Southwest Michigan counties continued to record deep employment cuts, ranging from -325 in Cass to -3,625 in Kalamazoo County. Total employment declined over the year in April by an average rate of 3.0 percent.

Jobless Rates Fell in April but Were Substantially Up Over the Year

April unemployment rates dropped in all area counties. The jobless rate reductions ranged from a full percentage point below zero in Kalamazoo to -2.3 percentage points in Allegan and Van Buren counties. Almost all regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 13.7 percent in April. Only Lenawee and Hillsdale counties registered higher jobless rates than the state.

Compared to April 2009, jobless rates remained elevated by an average of 1.2 percentage points. Jobless rate increases over the year ranged from just one tenth of a percentage point in Hillsdale to +2.2 percentage points in Van Buren County. One county (Branch) recorded a jobless rate reduction in April of four tenths of a percentage point.

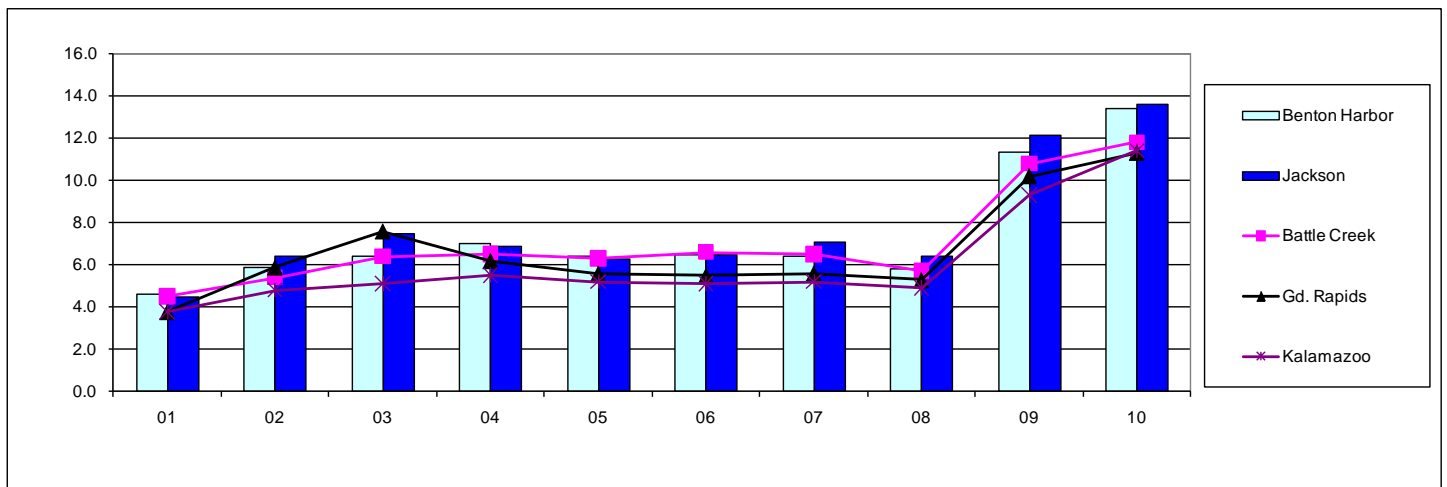
Local Metro Area April Unemployment Rates Since 2001

Since the first wave of manufacturing job losses in 2000-01, unemployment rates in the Southwest Michigan area have continuously risen. Jobless rates soared in the Jackson (+9.1 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+8.8), Kalamazoo (+7.6), Grand Rapids (+7.5), and Battle Creek (+7.3) metro areas.

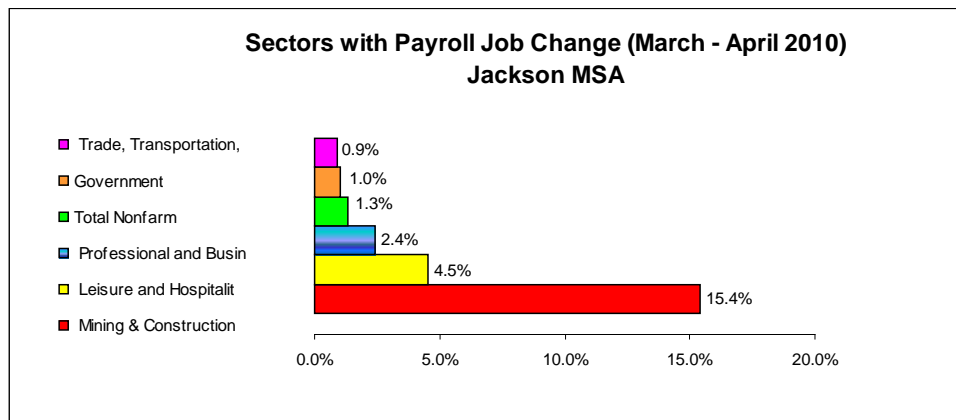
Year \ Areas	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Jackson	4.5	6.4	7.5	6.9	6.3	6.5	7.1	6.4	12.1	13.6

The 2001 national recession triggered regional manufacturing job losses and unemployment rate increases through 2003. April unemployment rates remained stable but still high from 2005-2008. In early 2009, the housing bubble burst and the auto industry experienced financial difficulties, leading to a substantial jump in the area's unemployment rates. Jobless rates in April 2010 continued to be as high as record rates set in the early 1980s.

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



The **Jackson MSA** (Jackson County) gained 700 jobs over the month, bringing total payroll employment to 53,300 in April. Construction and leisure and hospitality each recorded 200 additional seasonal positions. Employment in retail trade and professional and business services each inched up by 100.



Over the year, job cuts were most noticeable in manufacturing, with employment dropping by 1,200 over the year. Professional and business services, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality each lost 200 jobs over the year. Employment in construction remained stable edging down by 100. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 1,900 (or -3.4 percent) below the April 2009 level.

