

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

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2009	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09
Jackson MSA	75,000	75,100	77,400	-100	-2,400	63,600	64,000	67,600	-400	-4,000	15.2	14.8	12.7
Hillsdale Co.	19,825	19,775	21,150	50	-1,325	16,200	16,250	17,350	-50	-1,150	18.4	17.9	17.9
Lenawee Co.	47,150	47,075	48,700	75	-1,550	38,975	39,125	41,375	-150	-2,400	17.4	16.9	15.0
Michigan	4,833,000	4,813,000	4,886,000	20,000	-53,000	4,112,000	4,112,000	4,234,000	0	-122,000	14.9	14.6	13.3
U.S.A.*	153,660	153,194	153,728	466	-68	137,983	137,203	139,833	780	-1,850	10.2	10.4	9.0

* 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.

March Jobless Rates Rose Slightly in Most Regional Counties

In March, the number of jobseekers exceeded available seasonal job openings in construction and leisure and hospitality, resulting in slight jobless rate increases for most Southwest Michigan counties. Unemployment rates rose in March by an average of five-tenths of a percentage point.

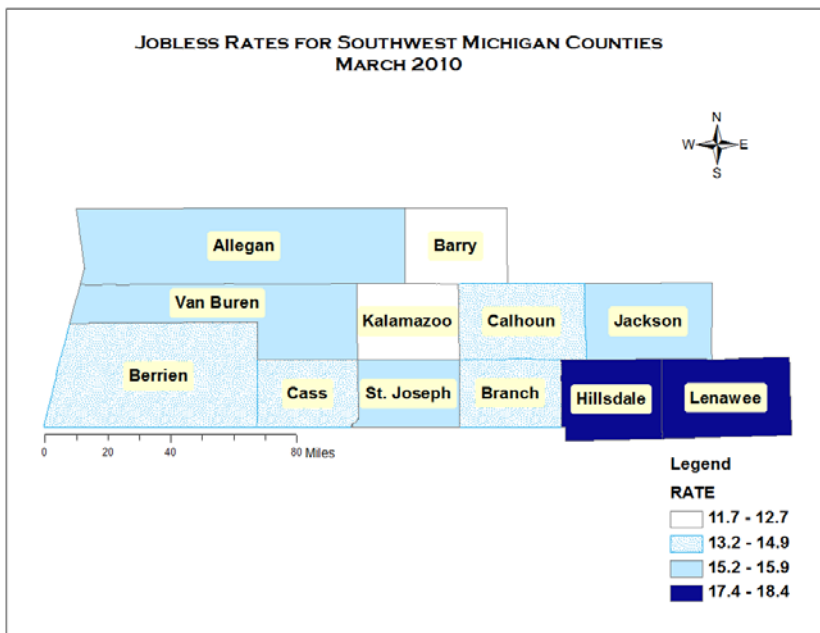
Labor Force Changes Mixed Over the Month but Down Over the Year

Labor force increased over the month in seven regional counties, ranging from +25 in Branch to +500 in Kalamazoo County. Labor force was unchanged over the month in Allegan County while declining in Cass, Jackson, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Over the year, the fall in labor force ranged from -175 in Barry to -2,950 in Kalamazoo County. St. Joseph County recorded the highest rate of labor force loss (-7.4%) followed by Hillsdale (-6.3%). In both of these counties, employment heavily depends on the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing was hardest hit by the recent economic downturn.

Employment Mostly Down Over the Month and Substantially Down Over the Year in All Counties

March employment by place of residence decreased in almost all regional counties by an average of five tenths of a percentage point. Job losses ranged from -25 in Barry and Branch counties to -475 in Kalamazoo. Employment in Berrien County remained flat over the month.

Over the year, employment plummeted in all area counties, ranging from -875 in Barry and Branch counties to -5,800 in Kalamazoo County. The average rate of employment decline over the year in March was approximately 4.3 percent.



Jobless Rates Edged Up in March and Were Substantially Up Over the Year

March unemployment rates rose in almost all area counties, with the exception of Van Buren County, where the jobless rate inched down by one tenth of a percentage point to 15.9 percent. The jobless rate increases ranged from +0.1 percentage points in Branch to +0.9 percentage points in St. Joseph County. Five regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 14.9 percent in March (Kalamazoo, Barry, Calhoun, Cass, and Branch). The jobless rate in Berrien County matched the statewide rate. The remaining six regional counties (Jackson, St. Joseph, Allegan, Van Buren, Lenawee, and Hillsdale) registered higher jobless rates than the state.

Compared to March 2009, jobless rates

expanded by an average of 1.9 percentage points. Van Buren County recorded the highest jobless rate increase over the year (+3.0 percentage points), followed by Barry, Berrien, and Jackson counties (+2.5).

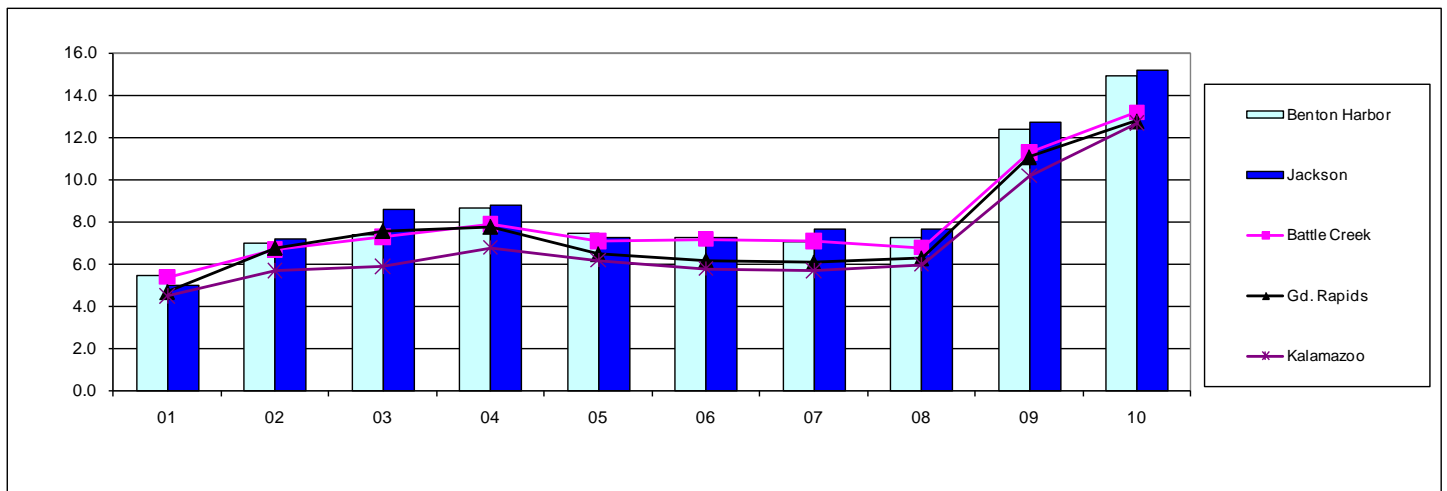
Local Metro Area March Unemployment Rates Since 2001

Since 2001, jobless rates have escalated in the Jackson (+10.2 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+9.4), Kalamazoo (+8.2), Grand Rapids (+8.1), and Battle Creek (+7.8) metro areas.

Years \ Areas	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Jackson	5.0	7.2	8.6	8.8	7.3	7.3	7.7	7.7	12.7	15.2

March unemployment rates increased from 2001 to 2004, during the first wave of manufacturing job losses triggered by the 2001 national recession. Jobless rates stabilized from 2005-08, and then jumped sharply in 2009, due primarily to significant layoffs in the auto industry. Unemployment rates in March 2010 continued to be as high as record rates set in the early 1980s.

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



Payroll jobs in the **Jackson MSA** (Jackson County) were estimated at 52,600 in March (up 300 from February). The area gained 100 jobs each in retail trade, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality. Employment in manufacturing, professional and business services, financial activities, and government remained unchanged over the month.

Compared to March 2009, payroll job levels in most industries fell, with the exception of information where employment remained unchanged. Job cuts were greatest in manufacturing, with employment plummeting by 1,300 over the year. Professional and business services lost 400 jobs, while educational and health services cut 300 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and construction each recorded a reduction of 200 jobs over the year.

Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 2,600 (or -4.7 percent) below the March 2009 level.

