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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, 2009**

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Monthly Change	Annual Change	Apr 09	Mar 09	Apr 08
Jackson MSA	73,600	74,400	75,700	-800	-2,100	64,200	64,500	70,700	-300	-6,500	12.8	13.4	6.5
Hillsdale Co.	21,100	21,425	20,950	-325	150	17,625	17,575	19,250	50	-1,625	16.4	18.0	8.1
Lenawee Co.	48,025	48,175	48,900	-150	-875	40,850	40,775	44,475	75	-3,625	14.9	15.4	9.0
Michigan	4,780,000	4,819,000	4,878,000	-39,000	-98,000	4,175,000	4,175,000	4,546,000	0	-371,000	12.7	13.4	6.8
U.S.A.*	153,834	153,728	153,208	106	626	140,586	139,833	145,921	753	-5,335	8.6	9.0	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.

April Jobless Rates Down Seasonally in All Regional Counties

April is a “swing” month between winter and spring seasons. Businesses involved in winter activities close in April (e.g. ski resorts), while those involved in summer activities (golf courses, construction, etc.) start reopening. Some individuals withdraw temporarily from the labor force. The combined seasonal events of labor force decline and employment increase normally lead to a decline in the unemployment rate in April. The twelve counties of Southwest Michigan recorded an average unemployment rate decline of almost a full percentage point. The jobless rate drop was highest in St. Joseph and Hillsdale counties at -1.6 percentage points.

Labor Force Down Over the Month and Over the Year

Labor force was down over the month in all twelve regional counties, ranging from -150 in Lenawee to -1,450 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, labor force fell in almost all regional counties, with the exception of Hillsdale (+150) and Branch (+100). Labor force declines over the year ranged from -100 in St. Joseph to -5,025 in Kalamazoo County.

Employment Changes Mixed Over the Month but Substantially Down Over the Year

From March to April, employment by place of residence inched up in four of the twelve regional counties: Allegan (+400), Branch (+125), Lenawee (+75), and Hillsdale (+50). Employment decreased in all remaining regional counties at an average rate of four tenths of a percentage point. Job cuts continued to occur in the manufacturing sector, although at a much lower rate than in January and February. Troubles in the auto industry continued to affect other related sectors, particularly the auto-supplier industry. Employment declines in April ranged from -75 in St. Joseph to -525 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, employment plunged in all regional counties, ranging from -1,525 in Branch to -10,350 in Kalamazoo County. The average rate of employment decline over the year in April was estimated at eight percentage points.

Jobless Rates Down Over the Month but Substantially Up Over the Year

Unemployment rates were down seasonally over the month in all regional counties at an average of almost a full percentage point (0.97). Seven regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 12.7 percent in April (Kalamazoo, Barry, Cass, Calhoun, Berrien, Van Buren, and Allegan). St. Joseph County’s unemployment rate matched the statewide rate. The remaining four regional counties (Jackson, Branch, Lenawee, and Hillsdale) registered higher jobless rates than the state.

Like in the previous months of the current year, April unemployment rates jumped to new highs over the past two decades in all regional counties. Jobless rates escalated over the year at an average of 5.7 percentage points. Hillsdale County recorded the highest jobless rate increase over the year (+8.3 percentage points), followed by Branch (+7.4) and Jackson (+6.3) counties.

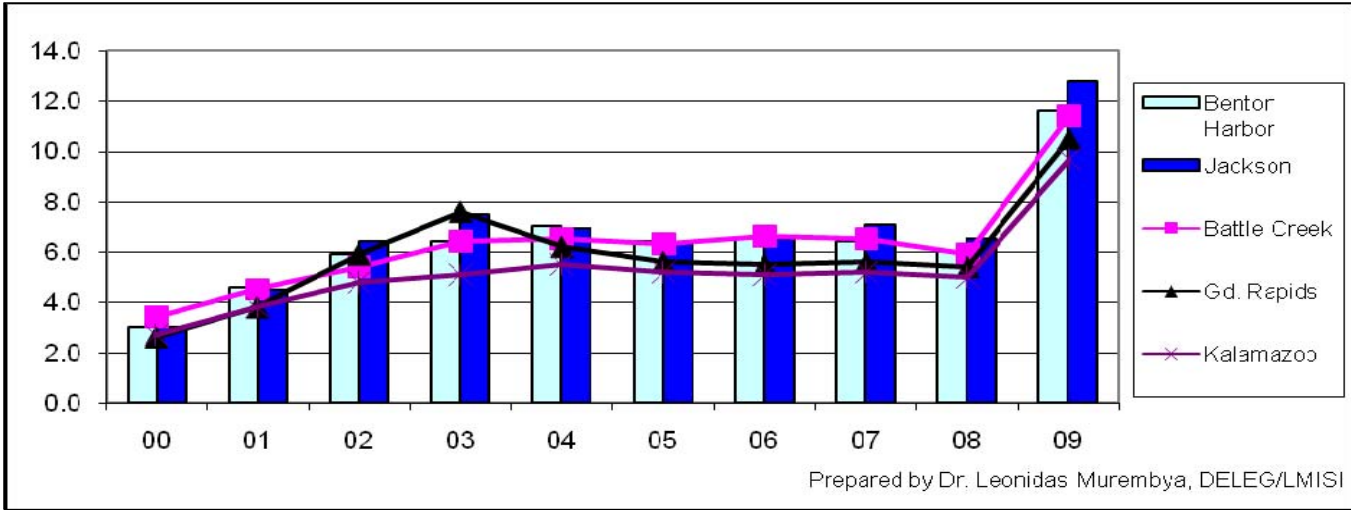
Local MSAs April Unemployment Rates Since 2000

From April 2000 to April 2009, jobless rates rose significantly in the Jackson (+9.8 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+8.6), Battle Creek (+8.0), Grand Rapids (+7.9), and Kalamazoo (+7.0) metro areas.

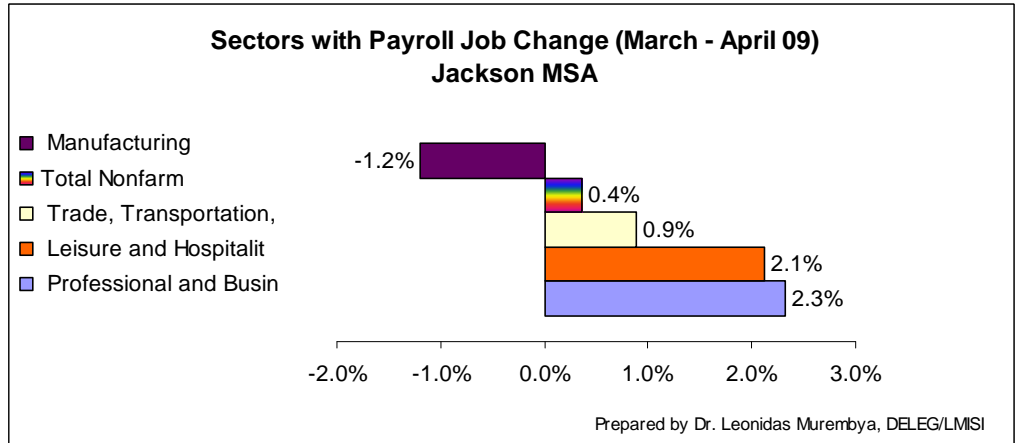
Year \ Areas	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Jackson	3.0	4.5	6.4	7.5	6.9	6.3	6.5	7.1	6.5	12.8

April unemployment rates rose from 2000 to 2003, fell in 2004; and then remained virtually stable until 2008. Metro area jobless rates jumped sharply in January 2009 and have remained high since then.

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



Payroll jobs in the **Jackson MSA** (Jackson County) were estimated at 54,600 in April (up 200 from March). A seasonal job gain of 100 each was recorded in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and in trade, transportation, and utilities. However, Jackson lost 100 jobs in manufacturing.



Compared to April 2008, payroll job levels in most industries either declined or remained unchanged. Manufacturing employment

plummeted by 1,000 over the year. Employment in retail trade was down by 600. Jobs in leisure and hospitality fell by 500, while professional and business services, and construction lost 300 and 200 jobs respectively, over the year. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 3,100 below last year's April level.

