

MICHIGAN DEPT. OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECON. GROWTH/LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS - SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
By Place of Residence/Seasonally Unadjusted. June, 2009 **

Areas	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT					UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	June 2009	May 2009	June 2008	Monthly Change	Annual Change	June 2009	May 2009	June 2008	Monthly Change	Annual Change	June 09	May 09	June 08
Jackson MSA	76,400	74,700	77,700	1,700	-1,300	64,500	64,100	71,000	400	-6,500	15.5	14.1	8.6
Hillsdale Co.	22,150	21,475	21,550	675	600	17,750	17,500	19,375	250	-1,625	19.9	18.5	10.1
Lenawee Co.	49,775	48,300	49,625	1,475	150	40,825	40,250	44,800	575	-3,975	18.0	16.7	9.7
Michigan	4,944,000	4,848,000	5,018,000	96,000	-74,000	4,183,000	4,176,000	4,596,000	7,000	-413,000	15.4	13.9	8.4
U.S.A.*	155,921	154,336	155,582	1,585	339	140,826	140,363	146,649	463	-5,823	9.7	9.1	5.7

* 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.

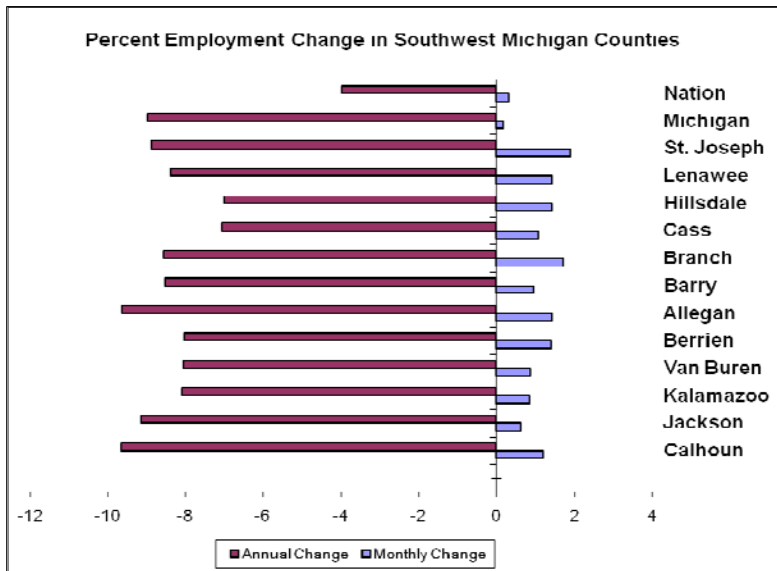
June Jobless Rates Up in Most Regional Counties

June's job market in Southwest Michigan was not strong enough to absorb all summer jobseekers. In June, high school students join college students looking for summer jobs. Labor force increased faster than the jobs available, leading to a rise in the local unemployment rates (the only exception was in Cass County). The eleven counties of Southwest Michigan whose jobless rates increased averaged a 1.2 percentage point advance in June. The jobless rate gains were highest in St. Joseph (+1.6 percentage points) and Kalamazoo (+1.5) counties.

Labor Force Up Over the Month but Mixed Over the Year

Labor force was up over the month in all twelve regional counties, ranging from +200 in Cass to +3,275 in Kalamazoo County.

Over the year, labor force declined in eight of the twelve regional counties, ranging from -600 in Cass to -3,900 in Kalamazoo County. Labor force levels rose over the year in Hillsdale (+600), St. Joseph (+475), Branch (+200), and Lenawee (+150) counties.



Employment Up Over the Month but Substantially Down Over the Year

Employment by place of residence rose seasonally in June in all regional counties, ranging from +250 in Barry, Cass, and Hillsdale counties to +1,000 in Kalamazoo. Manufacturing jobs were stable in June, while construction and leisure and hospitality recorded seasonal job gains. In some areas, seasonal job advances were offset by seasonal job losses in local public and private education.

Over the year, employment plunged in all regional counties, ranging from -1,475 in Branch to -10,175 in Kalamazoo County. The average rate of employment decline over the year in June was estimated at a little over eight percentage points.

Jobless Rates Mostly Up over the Month and Substantially Up over the Year

A weak labor market could not absorb all summer jobseekers. Unemployment rates increased in eleven of the twelve regional counties, with the exception of Cass County whose jobless rate edged down by two tenths of a percentage point. Seven regional counties recorded lower rates than the statewide rate of 15.4 percent in June (Cass, Barry, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Van Buren, Allegan, and Berrien). The remaining five regional counties (Jackson, Branch, St. Joseph, Lenawee, and Hillsdale) registered higher jobless rates than the state.

June unemployment rates jumped to new highs over the past two decades in all regional counties. Jobless rates jumped over the year at an average of 6.5 percentage points. Hillsdale County recorded the highest jobless rate increase over the year (+9.8 percentage points), followed by St. Joseph (+8.3).

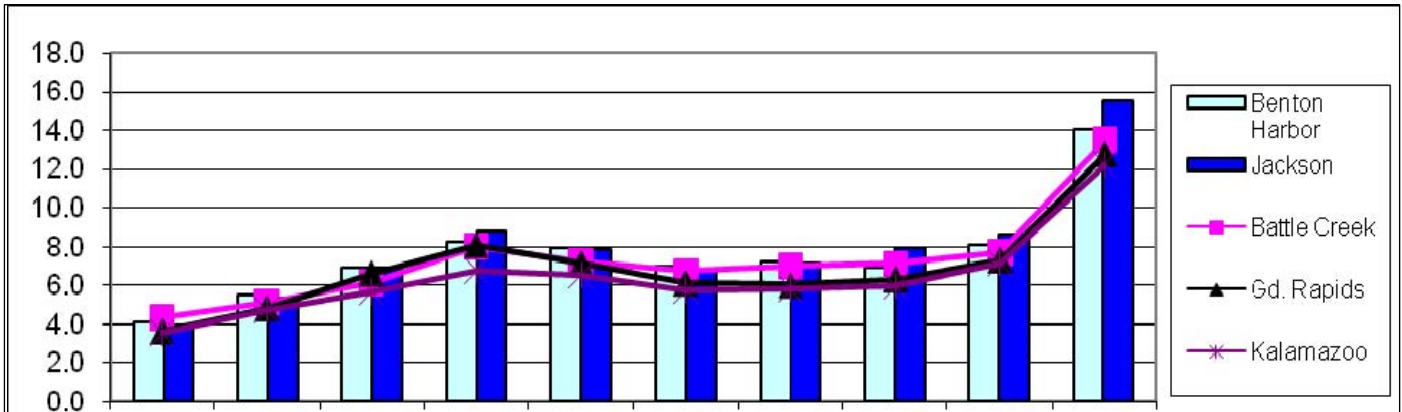
Local MSAs June Unemployment Rates Since 2000

From June 2000 to June 2009, jobless rates rose significantly in the Jackson (+11.7 percentage points), Niles-Benton Harbor (+9.9), Battle Creek (+9.2), Grand Rapids (+9.2), and Kalamazoo (+8.7) metro areas.

Year \ Areas	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Jackson	3.8	5.3	6.9	8.8	7.8	6.8	7.1	7.9	8.6	15.5

June unemployment rates rose from 2000 to 2003, fell in 2004-05; and registered little change in 2006-07. Metro area jobless rates rose again in 2008, and then jumped sharply in 2009 due primarily to troubles in the auto industry during the early months of the year (mainly January and February). Current regional jobless rates are the highest recorded since the 1980s.

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



Payroll jobs in the Jackson MSA (Jackson County) were estimated at 54,800 in June (down 200 from May). A total combined seasonal job gain of 400 was recorded in construction, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality but was more than offset by seasonal job losses in k-12 private and public education (-500). The area also lost 100 jobs in manufacturing.

Compared to June 2008, payroll job levels in most industries either declined or remained unchanged. Manufacturing employment tumbled by 1,200 over the year. Jobs in leisure and hospitality fell by 700. Employment in retail trade and in professional and business services was each down by 500, while construction lost 200 jobs over the year. Overall payroll employment in Jackson was 3,600 (or -6.2%) below last year's June level.

