“Michigan regional labor market trends in January were primarily driven by workforce reductions,” said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. “Regional labor force levels fell in all Michigan regions both over the month and over the year.”

January jobless rates among Michigan regions ranged from 4.8 to 10.2 percent. Rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 0.9 percentage points, with a median increase of a third of a percentage point. The largest monthly rate gain was observed in the Northeast Lower Michigan Region. The Detroit, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Lansing metro areas all exhibited unemployment rate declines over the month. The Battle Creek, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and Niles-Benton Harbor regions recorded no rate change in January.

Recent data shows that seasonally unadjusted jobless rates moved up in eight of Michigan’s 17 labor market areas between December 2020 and January 2021, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB).

When breaking the numbers down by county, the combined seasonally unadjusted January 2021 jobless rate of 6.7 percent for the seven-county Southwest Michigan region is up 1.7 percentage points from December 2020. January 2021 jobless rates range from 5.9 percent in the counties of Kalamazoo and St. Joseph to 8.0 percent in Van Buren County. Visit the DTMB’s site to see rankings by county, county labor force numbers, and an overall snapshot of Michigan’s employment.

Notes: All estimates are preliminary. Data is not seasonally adjusted.