

# MICHIGAN REGIONAL JOBLESS RATES EDGE DOWN IN SEPTEMBER



## SEPTEMBER 2021

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates declined in 14 of Michigan's 17 labor market areas and remained unchanged in one in September, according to data released from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

"Michigan's labor market was stable in September," said Wayne Rourke, associate director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The unemployment rate and payroll job counts both showed minimal change over the month." The statewide employment total advanced by 16,000, while the number of unemployed inched down by 4,000. Michigan's labor force increased by 12,000 over the month.

The state of Michigan posted a not seasonally adjusted September 2021 unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, 0.8 percentage points below national average. For Michigan MSAs, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn had the lowest unemployment rate in September at 2.9%, followed by Ann Arbor at 3.6%. Flint had the highest unemployment rate at 6.5%, followed by Muskegon at 6.2%.

## THE LOCAL STORY: REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES ACROSS ALL COUNTIES

When breaking the numbers down by county, the combined, not seasonally adjusted, September 2021 jobless rate of 4.4 percent for the seven-county Southwest Michigan region declined 0.4 percentage points from August 2021. A year ago, in September 2020, the rate was 7.3 percent. Among regional counties, the lowest jobless rates were found in Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties at 4.0 percent. The region's largest employing county of Kalamazoo posted a rate of 4.1 percent. All counties in the region saw a reduction in unemployment rates from August to September.

Visit the DTMB's site to see [rankings by county](#), county [labor force](#) numbers, and an [overall snapshot](#) of Michigan's employment.

		U.S.	Michigan	Southwest Michigan	Berrien	Branch	Calhoun	Cass	Kalamazoo	St. Joseph	Van Buren
SEPT 2021	Labor Force	161,392,000	4,737,000	362,609	70,414	19,199	58,860	23,390	128,835	27,823	34,088
	Employment	154,026,000	4,557,000	346,736	67,217	18,430	55,737	22,460	123,581	26,721	32,590
	Unemployment	7,366,000	180,000	15,873	3,197	769	3,123	930	5,254	1,102	1,498
	Jobless Rate	4.6%	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%	4.0%	5.3%	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	4.4%
AUG 2021	Jobless Rate	5.3%	4.4%	4.8%	4.8%	4.2%	5.8%	4.3%	4.5%	4.9%	4.8%
JUL 2021	Jobless Rate	5.7%	5.0%	5.5%	5.6%	4.8%	6.6%	4.8%	5.1%	5.1%	5.7%

Source: Michigan DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), September 2021.  
Notes: All estimates are preliminary. Data is not seasonally adjusted.