

1.2 Employment

1.2.1 Unemployment Rates

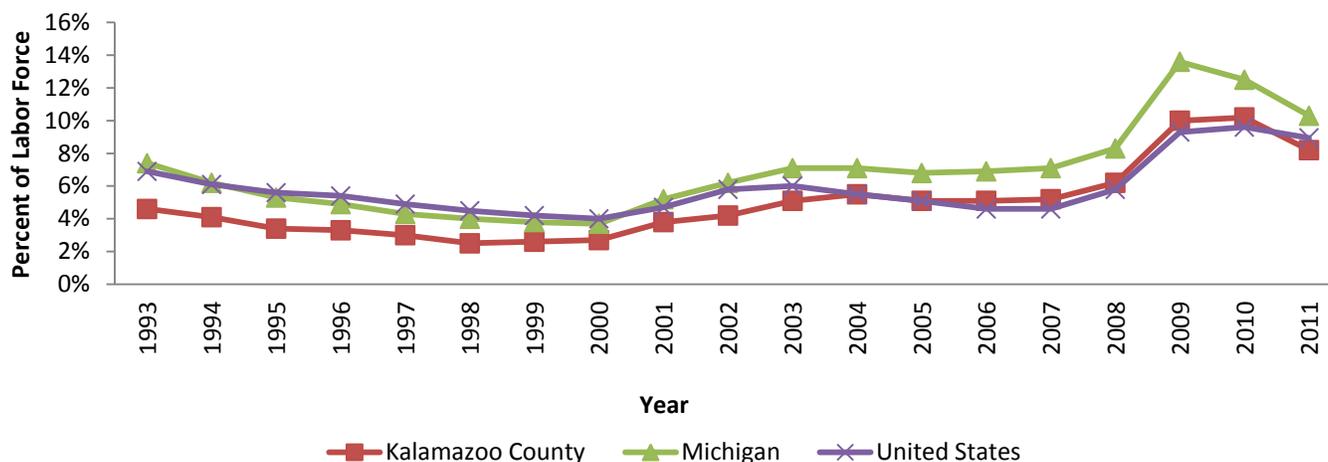
The federal government conducts a monthly household sample survey called the Current Population Survey (CPS) to measure the extent of unemployment in the country. State and county unemployment estimates are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The concepts and definitions underlying LAUS data come from the CPS.

The basic concepts involved in identifying the employed and unemployed are simple: people with jobs are employed, while people who are jobless, looking for jobs, and available for work are unemployed. People who are neither employed nor unemployed are not in the labor force. The CPS survey is designed so that each person age 16 and over who is not in an institution such as a prison or mental hospital or on active duty in the Armed Forces is counted and classified in only one group. The unemployment rate is the percentage of the population who are unemployed out of the entire labor force population.

Importantly, the unemployment rate does not capture those individuals who would like to be employed but who have given up the job search out of frustration. Nor does it count underemployed individuals – people who are working part-time jobs but would prefer full-time work.

The annual unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County was the 9th lowest (at 8.2%) in the state in 2011. During the last 10 years, the unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County has consistently remained lower than the rate in Michigan. The unemployment rate has increased each year between 1998 and 2004 and between 2006 and 2010. However, from 2010 to 2011, Kalamazoo County saw a 2.0% decrease in the unemployment rate.

Annual Unemployment Rate, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, and the United States, 1993-2011

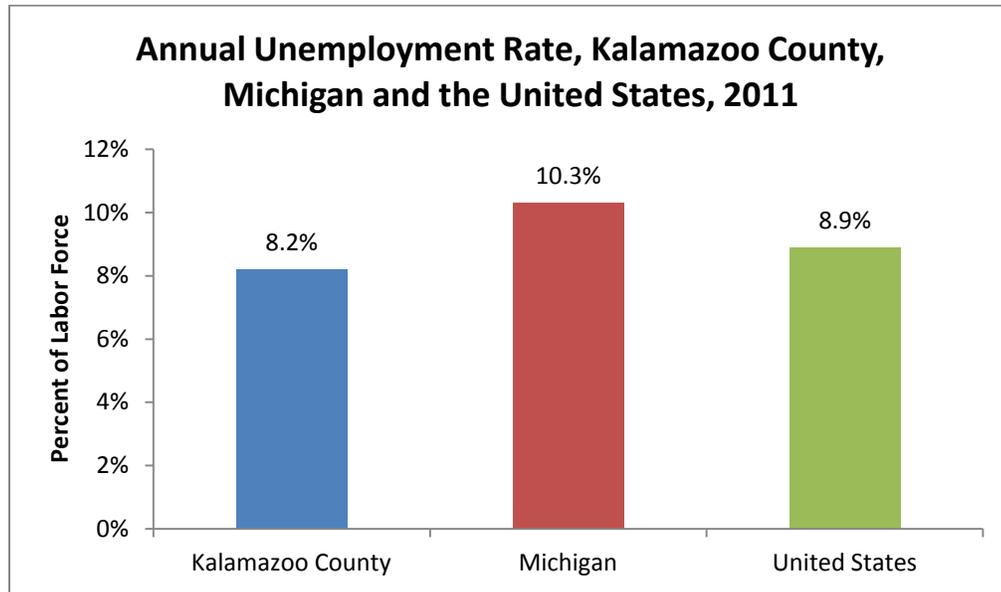


Sources: Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; Local Area Unemployment Statistics, The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Annual Unemployment Rate, Kalamazoo County, Michigan and the United States, 1993 – 2011

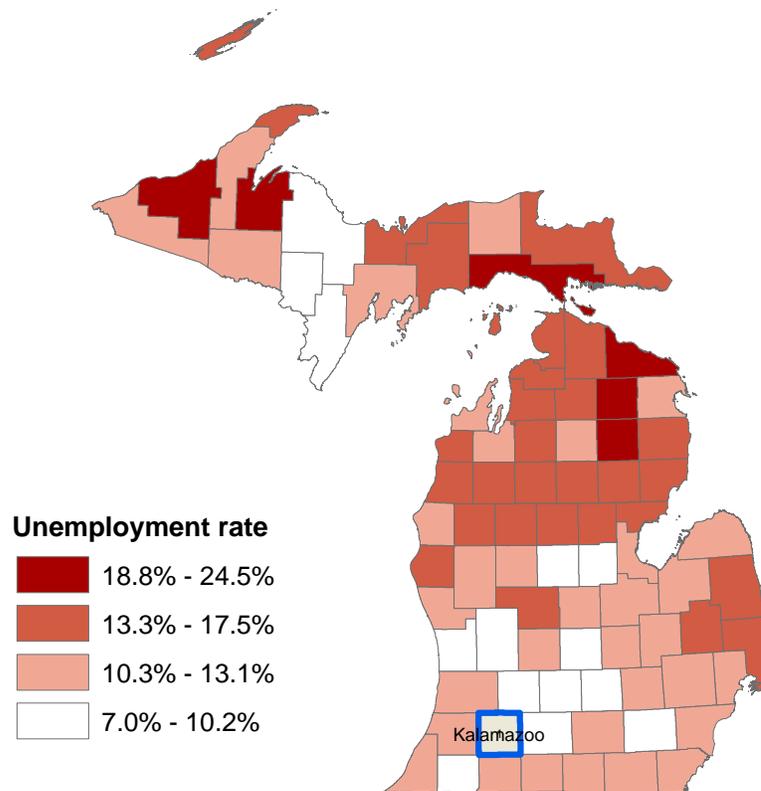
Year	Kalamazoo County	Michigan	United States
1993	4.6%	7.4%	6.9%
1994	4.1%	6.2%	6.1%
1995	3.4%	5.3%	5.6%
1996	3.3%	4.9%	5.4%
1997	3.0%	4.3%	4.9%
1998	2.5%	4.0%	4.5%
1999	2.6%	3.8%	4.2%
2000	2.7%	3.7%	4.0%
2001	3.8%	5.2%	4.7%
2002	4.2%	6.2%	5.8%
2003	5.1%	7.1%	6.0%
2004	5.5%	7.1%	5.5%
2005	5.1%	6.8%	5.1%
2006	5.1%	6.9%	4.6%
2007	5.2%	7.1%	4.6%
2008	6.2%	8.3%	5.8%
2009	10.0%	13.6%	9.3%
2010	10.2%	12.5%	9.6%
2011	8.2%	10.3%	8.9%

Sources: Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; Local Area Unemployment Statistics, The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor



Sources: Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; Local Area Unemployment Statistics, The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Annual Unemployment Rate in Michigan by County, 2011



Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; Local Area Unemployment Statistics, The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Classes grouped according to natural breaks in the data (break points group similar values and maximize the differences between classes).