



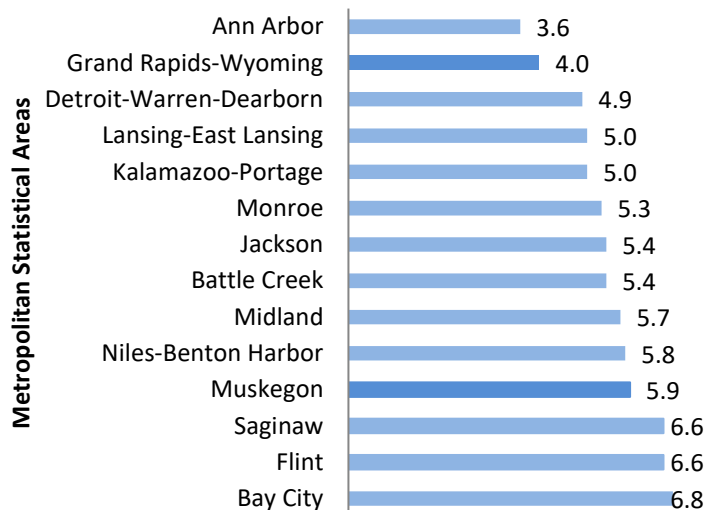
Department of Technology, Management, and Budget
Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives

West and Northwest Michigan January 2018

West Michigan Jobless Rates Increase in January

In January, the Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Muskegon metropolitan statistical areas both experienced seasonal unemployment rate increases of 0.5 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA jobless rate stood at 4.0 percent, consistent with January 2017. Meanwhile, the Muskegon area recorded an unemployment rate of 5.9 percent, down 0.3 percentage points over the year.

**Figure 1: Jobless Rate
(January 2018)**



This trend is in line with that of Michigan overall, where the jobless rate rose 0.9 percentage points to 5.3 percent in January. In Michigan, the number of employed individuals fell by 79,000, while unemployment increased by 38,000.

The size of the labor force in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA fell by 0.5 percent to 570,400 over the month. This occurred along with an increase in the number of unemployed individuals in the area (+2,600). Over the year, the size of the labor force was up by 5,400 workers, led by an increase of employed persons by the same number, yielding an unemployment rate in January 2018 that was equivalent to the previous year.

The Muskegon metropolitan area experienced similar trends during January. The size of the labor force declined by 400, while the number of employed diminished by 1.1 percent. Over the year, the size of the labor force, employment, and unemployment were relatively stable. The labor force added 200, split into an increase of 500

employed and a decline of 300 unemployed individuals. **(Table 1)**

In comparison to the other metropolitan statistical areas, Grand Rapids-Wyoming stands with the second lowest unemployment rate, behind only Ann Arbor by 0.4 percentage points. Muskegon moved from the third highest to the fourth highest metropolitan area in terms of the jobless rate in January. **(Figure 1)**

January Non-Metro Unemployment Rates Higher in January

West Michigan non-metro counties experienced seasonal jobless rate increases in January. These changes ranged from +0.6 percentage points in Lake County to +1.8 percentage points in Oceana County. Lake County, which typically records the highest jobless rate in the region every month, was surpassed by Oceana in January. Both of these counties recorded a jobless rate above 9 percent.

Note: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all 12 months of 2017 have been recently revised. Payroll job data by industry was revised for 2016 and 2017. Estimates for January 2018 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313.456.3090

The size of the labor force declined in half of the West Michigan non-metro counties, with the net change in the region equal to a decline of 825 participants. This decrease in labor force participation was led by Allegan County (-375) and Mecosta County (-325). **(Table 2)**

Jobless rates rose sharply in Northwest Michigan over the month; the average increase was 1.2 percentage points. The largest changes were in Missaukee (+1.7 percentage points), Kalkaska (+1.6 percentage points), and Leelanau (+1.6 percentage points). Each of these counties had monthly employment declines (-2,125 in total) and unemployment advances (+1,525 in total). **(Appendix 1)**

Prosperity Region Seasonal Jobless Rates Rise in January

The unemployment rate in the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance increased by 0.6 percentage points in January to 4.6 percent. The number of employed individuals shrunk by 8,700, while unemployment rose seasonally by 4,800. Over the year, the size of the labor force increased by 0.8 percent and the unemployment rate edged down by 0.1 percentage points. **(Appendix 3)**

Northwest Michigan's unemployment rate registered a higher January seasonal hike, adding 1.1 percentage points over the month. However, the unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points over the year. Seasonal declines in employment (-2,200) and the labor force (-600) were recorded in January, matched by an increase in the number of unemployed (+1,500).

West Michigan Payroll Jobs Decline in January

Grand Rapids-Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Area

January nonfarm jobs in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA were down by -10,500, bringing the total to 551,000. Since January 2017, total nonfarm employment rose 7,700 (+1.4 percent), outpacing growth in Michigan overall (+1.0 percent). Notable reductions in January occurred in the *Service providing* and *Goods producing* domains (-8,800 and -1,700 respectively). Jobs in these two sectors were above January 2017 levels. **(Table 3)**

- Large seasonal job cuts were recorded in each of the three largest industries by employment share. *Trade, transportation, and utilities* subtracted 2,400 jobs (-2.5 percent), *Educational and health services* recorded 1,600 fewer jobs (-1.7 percent), and *Professional and business services* declined by 3.1 percent (-2,500 jobs).
- The *Professional and business services* industry has not recorded a January decline this large since 2011.
- Over the year, jobs added outpaced jobs lost due to large additions in five industries. *Manufacturing* was the largest in the *Goods producing* domain, adding 1,800 jobs. *Health care and social assistance* added 2,900 jobs over the year, making it the largest in the *Service providing* domain.

Muskegon Metropolitan Statistical Area

The number of nonfarm jobs in the Muskegon area fell a seasonal 1.8 percent to 63,800 in January. This decline was the largest in January since 2015. The entire reduction occurred in the *Service providing* sector. Over the year, the Muskegon MSA added 800 jobs (+1.3 percent). **(Table 3)**

- *Trade, transportation, and utilities* subtracted 600 jobs, or 4.3 percent over the month. This industry is the second largest in the Muskegon metropolitan area, accounting for 20.1 percent of jobs in January.
- The only job advances between December and January were recorded in *Manufacturing* (+100) and *Professional and business services* (+100).

Table 1: Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa, Barry counties)							
Labor Force	570,400	573,100	565,000	-2,700	-0.5%	5,400	1.0%
Employment	547,600	553,000	542,200	-5,400	-1.0%	5,400	1.0%
Unemployment	22,700	20,100	22,800	2,600	12.9%	-100	-0.4%
Jobless Rate	4.0%	3.5%	4.0%	0.5		0.0	
Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)							
Labor Force	77,300	77,700	77,100	-400	-0.5%	200	0.3%
Employment	72,800	73,600	72,300	-800	-1.1%	500	0.7%
Unemployment	4,500	4,100	4,800	400	9.8%	-300	-6.3%
Jobless Rate	5.9%	5.3%	6.2%	0.6		-0.3	
Michigan							
Labor Force	4,835,000	4,876,000	4,835,000	-41,000	-0.8%	0	0.0%
Employment	4,580,000	4,659,000	4,560,000	-79,000	-1.7%	20,000	0.4%
Unemployment	255,000	217,000	275,000	38,000	17.5%	-20,000	-7.3%
Jobless Rate	5.3%	4.4%	5.7%	0.9		-0.4	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Table 2: West Michigan Counties Not Within Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Allegan							
Labor Force	60,775	61,150	60,300	-375	-0.6%	475	0.8%
Employment	57,925	58,750	57,375	-825	-1.4%	550	1.0%
Unemployment	2,850	2,400	2,925	450	18.8%	-75	-2.6%
Jobless Rate	4.7%	3.9%	4.9%	0.8		-0.2	
Ionia							
Labor Force	29,950	29,900	29,650	50	0.2%	300	1.0%
Employment	28,475	28,800	28,175	-325	-1.1%	300	1.1%
Unemployment	1,450	1,100	1,475	350	31.8%	-25	-1.7%
Jobless Rate	4.9%	3.7%	5.0%	1.2		-0.1	
Lake							
Labor Force	3,725	3,725	3,700	0	0.0%	25	0.7%
Employment	3,375	3,400	3,325	-25	-0.7%	50	1.5%
Unemployment	350	325	375	25	7.7%	-25	-6.7%
Jobless Rate	9.4%	8.8%	9.9%	0.6		-0.5	
Mason							
Labor Force	13,700	13,875	13,775	-175	-1.3%	-75	-0.5%
Employment	12,700	12,950	12,650	-250	-1.9%	50	0.4%
Unemployment	1,025	900	1,125	125	13.9%	-100	-8.9%
Jobless Rate	7.4%	6.5%	8.2%	0.9		-0.8	
Mecosta							
Labor Force	18,650	18,975	18,725	-325	-1.7%	-75	-0.4%
Employment	17,375	17,900	17,450	-525	-2.9%	-75	-0.4%
Unemployment	1,275	1,050	1,275	225	21.4%	0	0.0%
Jobless Rate	6.8%	5.6%	6.8%	1.2		0.0	
Newaygo							
Labor Force	23,450	23,400	23,225	50	0.2%	225	1.0%
Employment	22,025	22,200	21,825	-175	-0.8%	200	0.9%
Unemployment	1,425	1,200	1,400	225	18.8%	25	1.8%
Jobless Rate	6.0%	5.1%	6.0%	0.9		0.0	
Oceana							
Labor Force	12,000	12,100	11,900	-100	-0.8%	100	0.8%
Employment	10,850	11,150	10,625	-300	-2.7%	225	2.1%
Unemployment	1,150	950	1,250	200	21.1%	-100	-8.0%
Jobless Rate	9.6%	7.8%	10.6%	1.8		-1.0	
Osceola							
Labor Force	10,625	10,575	10,475	50	0.5%	150	1.4%
Employment	9,900	9,950	9,700	-50	-0.5%	200	2.1%
Unemployment	725	625	800	100	16.0%	-75	-9.4%
Jobless Rate	6.9%	5.8%	7.6%	1.1		-0.7	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Table 3: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA							
Total Nonfarm	551,000	561,500	543,300	-10,500	-1.9%	7,700	1.4%
Goods Producing	138,200	139,900	135,100	-1,700	-1.2%	3,100	2.3%
Mining, Logging and Construction	22,700	23,800	21,400	-1,100	-4.6%	1,300	6.1%
Manufacturing	115,500	116,100	113,700	-600	-0.5%	1,800	1.6%
Service Providing	412,800	421,600	408,200	-8,800	-2.1%	4,600	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	95,100	97,500	95,000	-2,400	-2.5%	100	0.1%
Information	5,400	5,500	5,600	-100	-1.8%	-200	-3.6%
Financial Activities	25,800	25,900	26,100	-100	-0.4%	-300	-1.1%
Professional and Business Services	78,400	80,900	77,800	-2,500	-3.1%	600	0.8%
Educational and Health Services	90,700	92,300	88,400	-1,600	-1.7%	2,300	2.6%
Educational Services	13,200	14,100	13,800	-900	-6.4%	-600	-4.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	77,500	78,200	74,600	-700	-0.9%	2,900	3.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	47,300	48,200	46,000	-900	-1.9%	1,300	2.8%
Other Services	22,300	22,400	22,000	-100	-0.4%	300	1.4%
Government	47,800	48,900	47,300	-1,100	-2.2%	500	1.1%
Muskegon MSA							
Total Nonfarm	63,800	65,000	63,000	-1,200	-1.8%	800	1.3%
Goods Producing	15,900	15,900	15,700	0	0.0%	200	1.3%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,000	2,100	1,900	-100	-4.8%	100	5.3%
Manufacturing	13,900	13,800	13,800	100	0.7%	100	0.7%
Service Providing	47,900	49,100	47,300	-1,200	-2.4%	600	1.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	13,200	13,800	13,400	-600	-4.3%	-200	-1.5%
Information	800	800	700	0	0.0%	100	14.3%
Financial Activities	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	2.7%	100	2.7%
Educational and Health Services	11,900	12,300	11,800	-400	-3.3%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	6,900	7,100	6,600	-200	-2.8%	300	4.5%
Other Services	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	0.0%	100	4.8%
Government	7,400	7,500	7,300	-100	-1.3%	100	1.4%

* Preliminary

Appendix 1: Counties of Northwest Michigan

				Change/Month		Change/Year	
	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	#	%	#	%
Antrim							
Labor Force	9,925	9,875	9,825	50	0.5%	100	1.0%
Employment	9,075	9,100	8,950	-25	-0.3%	125	1.4%
Unemployment	850	775	875	75	9.7%	-25	-2.9%
Jobless Rate	8.5%	7.9%	8.8%	0.6		-0.3	
Benzie							
Labor Force	8,775	8,825	8,725	-50	-0.6%	50	0.6%
Employment	8,050	8,225	7,900	-175	-2.1%	150	1.9%
Unemployment	725	625	825	100	16.0%	-100	-12.1%
Jobless Rate	8.3%	7.1%	9.6%	1.2		-1.3	
Charlevoix							
Labor Force	12,725	12,700	12,700	25	0.2%	25	0.2%
Employment	11,775	11,850	11,725	-75	-0.6%	50	0.4%
Unemployment	950	825	975	125	15.2%	-25	-2.6%
Jobless Rate	7.5%	6.6%	7.7%	0.9		-0.2	
Emmet							
Labor Force	17,250	17,350	17,225	-100	-0.6%	25	0.1%
Employment	15,675	15,900	15,575	-225	-1.4%	100	0.6%
Unemployment	1,575	1,450	1,650	125	8.6%	-75	-4.5%
Jobless Rate	9.2%	8.3%	9.6%	0.9		-0.4	
Grand Traverse							
Labor Force	48,600	49,175	47,900	-575	-1.2%	700	1.5%
Employment	46,025	47,025	45,225	-1,000	-2.1%	800	1.8%
Unemployment	2,575	2,125	2,675	450	21.2%	-100	-3.7%
Jobless Rate	5.3%	4.3%	5.6%	1.0		-0.3	
Kalkaska							
Labor Force	7,650	7,700	7,600	-50	-0.6%	50	0.7%
Employment	6,975	7,125	6,850	-150	-2.1%	125	1.8%
Unemployment	700	575	750	125	21.7%	-50	-6.7%
Jobless Rate	9.0%	7.4%	9.8%	1.6		-0.8	
Leelanau							
Labor Force	10,500	10,525	10,350	-25	-0.2%	150	1.4%
Employment	9,800	10,000	9,625	-200	-2.0%	175	1.8%
Unemployment	700	525	725	175	33.3%	-25	-3.4%
Jobless Rate	6.6%	5.0%	7.0%	1.6		-0.4	
Manistee							
Labor Force	10,250	10,200	10,275	50	0.5%	-25	-0.2%
Employment	9,375	9,450	9,350	-75	-0.8%	25	0.3%
Unemployment	850	750	900	100	13.3%	-50	-5.6%
Jobless Rate	8.4%	7.2%	8.8%	1.2		-0.4	
Missaukee							
Labor Force	7,100	7,025	6,975	75	1.1%	125	1.8%
Employment	6,550	6,600	6,425	-50	-0.8%	125	1.9%
Unemployment	550	425	550	125	29.4%	0	0.0%
Jobless Rate	7.8%	6.1%	7.9%	1.7		-0.1	
Wexford							
Labor Force	14,700	14,725	14,650	-25	-0.2%	50	0.3%
Employment	13,750	13,900	13,575	-150	-1.1%	175	1.3%
Unemployment	950	825	1,075	125	15.2%	-125	-11.6%
Jobless Rate	6.5%	5.6%	7.3%	0.9		-0.8	

By Place of Residence / Not Seasonally Adjusted / Rates Calculated with Rounded Data

* Preliminary

Appendix 2: Michigan Works! Areas

	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
West Michigan Works!							
Labor Force	738,400	741,800	732,000	-3,400	-0.5%	6,400	0.9%
Employment	706,800	714,100	700,000	-7,300	-1.0%	6,800	1.0%
Unemployment	31,600	27,700	32,000	3,900	14.1%	-400	-1.3%
Jobless Rate	4.3%	3.7%	4.4%	0.6		-0.1	
Michigan Works! West Central							
Labor Force	82,200	82,600	81,800	-400	-0.5%	400	0.5%
Employment	76,200	77,600	75,600	-1,400	-1.8%	600	0.8%
Unemployment	5,900	5,100	6,200	800	15.7%	-300	-4.8%
Jobless Rate	7.2%	6.1%	7.6%	1.1		-0.4	
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments							
Labor Force	147,500	148,100	146,200	-600	-0.4%	1,300	0.9%
Employment	137,000	139,200	135,200	-2,200	-1.6%	1,800	1.3%
Unemployment	10,400	8,900	11,000	1,500	16.9%	-600	-5.5%
Jobless Rate	7.1%	6.0%	7.5%	1.1		-0.4	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Appendix 3: West Michigan and Northwest Michigan Prosperity Regions

	Jan-18*	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
2 - Northwest Prosperity Region							
Labor Force	147,500	148,100	146,200	-600	-0.4%	1,300	0.9%
Employment	137,000	139,200	135,200	-2,200	-1.6%	1,800	1.3%
Unemployment	10,400	8,900	11,000	1,500	16.9%	-600	-5.5%
Jobless Rate	7.1%	6.0%	7.5%	1.1		-0.4	
4 - West Michigan Prosperity Alliance							
Labor Force	820,500	824,400	813,800	-3,900	-0.5%	6,700	0.8%
Employment	783,000	791,700	775,600	-8,700	-1.1%	7,400	1.0%
Unemployment	37,500	32,700	38,200	4,800	14.7%	-700	-1.8%
Jobless Rate	4.6%	4.0%	4.7%	0.6		-0.1	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

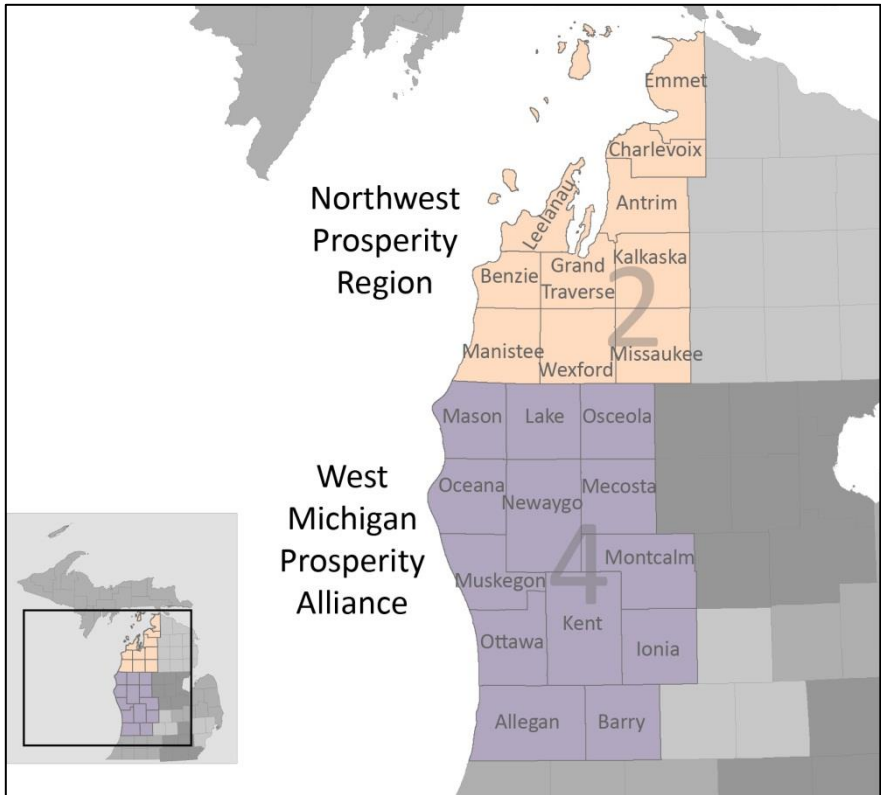
* Preliminary

MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - JANUARY 2018

1 Washtenaw County	3.6	43 Bay County	6.8
2 Ottawa County	3.7	44 Mecosta County	6.8
3 Oakland County	3.8	45 Osceola County	6.9
4 Kent County	3.9	46 Gratiot County	7.1
5 Livingston County	4.0	47 Lapeer County	7.1
6 St. Joseph County	4.3	48 Otsego County	7.3
7 Kalamazoo County	4.4	49 Mason County	7.4
8 Clinton County	4.6	50 Van Buren County	7.4
9 Macomb County	4.6	51 Charlevoix County	7.5
10 Allegan County	4.7	52 Delta County	7.5
11 Barry County	4.9	53 Sanilac County	7.7
12 Ionia County	4.9	54 Missaukee County	7.8
13 Branch County	5.0	55 Luce County	7.9
14 Ingham County	5.1	56 Tuscola County	8.0
15 Isabella County	5.1	57 Baraga County	8.1
16 Dickinson County	5.2	58 Gladwin County	8.2
17 Eaton County	5.3	59 Iron County	8.2
18 Grand Traverse County	5.3	60 Benzie County	8.3
19 Hillsdale County	5.3	61 Crawford County	8.3
20 Monroe County	5.3	62 Keweenaw County	8.4
21 Calhoun County	5.4	63 Manistee County	8.4
22 Cass County	5.4	64 Antrim County	8.5
23 Jackson County	5.4	65 Clare County	8.7
24 Lenawee County	5.6	66 Kalkaska County	9.0
25 Menominee County	5.7	67 Emmet County	9.2
26 Midland County	5.7	68 Ontonagon County	9.2
27 Berrien County	5.8	69 Alcona County	9.4
28 Wayne County	5.8	70 Lake County	9.4
29 Gogebic County	5.9	71 Oscoda County	9.4
30 Montcalm County	5.9	72 Iosco County	9.5
31 Muskegon County	5.9	73 Oceana County	9.6
32 Newaygo County	6.0	74 Chippewa County	9.7
33 St. Clair County	6.0	75 Alger County	10.4
34 Houghton County	6.3	76 Ogemaw County	10.7
35 Wexford County	6.5	77 Arenac County	11.2
36 Genesee County	6.6	78 Schoolcraft County	11.3
37 Huron County	6.6	79 Roscommon County	11.9
38 Leelanau County	6.6	80 Presque Isle County	13.0
39 Saginaw County	6.6	81 Montmorency County	13.2
40 Marquette County	6.7	82 Cheboygan County	18.8
41 Shiawassee County	6.7	83 Mackinac County	21.6
42 Alpena County	6.8		

Counties in a West Michigan MSA

Northwest Michigan counties in bold





Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

Michigan Regional Labor Market Report January 2018

For additional information or other labor market analysis, please contact Brandon Betz, Economic Analyst with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives at 517.335.3875 or betzb2@michigan.gov.

Please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/lmi.