

The Job Market in the Battleground of Battlegrounds: The Michigan Suburbs

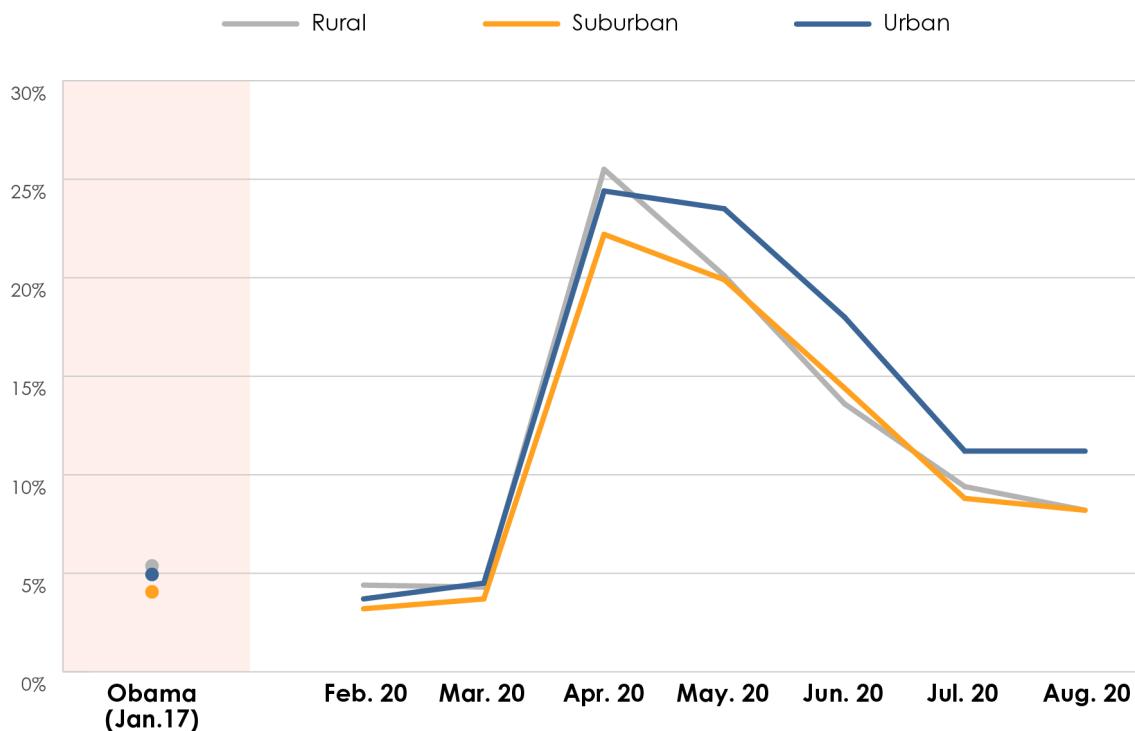
**Jillian McGrath**

Economic Policy Advisor

 [@jillianmmcgrath](https://twitter.com/jillianmmcgrath)

Urban counties tend to vote for Democrats. Rural counties tend to vote for Republicans. Suburban counties are usually the battleground. What is the jobs picture in these three sets of counties in **Michigan**, particularly the suburbs, which are the battleground of this battleground state? How well has Trump done compared to Obama, even before the pandemic? As it stands, it is no contest.

Michigan: Unemployment by Area



Source: Third Way calculations based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics monthly county-level data. President Obama's second term spans from January 2013 through January 2017. President Trump's first term excluding the Coronavirus pandemic spans January 2017 through February 2020, including the pandemic spans through August 2020. Data for July and August 2020 is preliminary and subject to change. County area types are based on the National Center for Health Statistics area classification system.

Job gains/loss per month (MI total)

- Obama 2nd term: 7,306/month
- Trump 1st term pre-pandemic: 3,105/month
- Trump 1st term including pandemic: -3,653/month
- Michiganders unemployed at end of Obama Administration: 225,391
- Michiganders unemployed in August: 439,662

Job gains/loss per month (MI urban counties)

- Obama 2nd term: 2,024/month
- Trump 1st term pre-pandemic: 919/month
- Trump 1st term including pandemic: -1,429/month

- Michiganders unemployed at end of Obama Administration: 56,310
- Michiganders unemployed in August: 129,775

Job gains/loss per month (MI suburban counties)

- Obama 2nd term: 4,109/month
- Trump 1st term pre-pandemic: 1,901/month
- Trump 1st term including pandemic: -2,197/month
- Michiganders unemployed at end of Obama Administration: 96,067
- Michiganders unemployed in August: 194,162

Job gains/loss per month (MI rural counties)

- Obama 2nd term: 1,173/month
- Trump 1st term pre-pandemic: 284/month
- Trump 1st term including pandemic: -26/month
- Michiganders unemployed at end of Obama Administration: 73,014
- Michiganders unemployed in August: 115,725

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