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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Michigan's August Unemployment Rate Advances**

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in August by three-tenths of a percentage point to 11.2 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment fell by 21,000 in August while the number of unemployed rose by 15,000. The state's labor force recorded a 7,000 reduction over the month. Michigan's unemployment rate was a little over two percentage points above the U.S. August rate of 9.1 percent.

The Michigan jobless rate in August 2011 was one percentage point below the August 2010 rate of 12.2 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by half of a percentage point over this period.

"With the recent slowdown in the national economy, Michigan's unemployment rate has edged upward since April, but still remains below 2010 levels," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "In August, small job reductions in manufacturing and retail were countered by a modest job gain in construction."

Since August 2010, payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 80,000 or 2.1 percent. Virtually all job growth over this period in the state occurred within four industry sectors; manufacturing, professional and business services, education and health services, and construction.

Construction jobs in Michigan continued to trend upward in August, posting the fourth consecutive monthly gain to reach the highest level in 2011. However, construction jobs in the state during 2011 remain around 40,000 below pre-recessionary levels recorded in 2007

#### ***Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights***

- Michigan's eight-month 2011 average unemployment rate was 10.6 percent, well below the state's 2010 annual average rate of 12.5 percent.
- Michigan's unemployment rate declined from a peak of 14.1 percent in the fall of 2009 to 10.2 percent in April 2011. Since April, the state's rate has risen by a percentage point.
- After remaining stable in the first quarter of 2011, Michigan's workforce has declined since March. From March to August, the state's labor force has dropped by 52,000 or 1.1 percent.

**MICHIGAN  
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2010	July 2011	August 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,778	4,700	4,693	-7	-85
Employment	4,197	4,189	4,168	-21	-29
Unemployment	581	511	526	15	-55
Rate (Percent)	12.2	10.9	11.2	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's August Jobless Rate Increases***

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August increased over the month by three-tenths of a percentage point to 12.8 percent. This was the highest rate for the area since the 12.9 percent rate posted in September 2010. Over the month, the number of unemployed advanced by 9,000 while total employment edged downward by 3,000. The metro area's labor force level increased by 6,000 over the month, which was the first monthly advance since the very minor gain posted in May. The region has recorded a one and seven-tenths percentage point rise in its jobless rate since the recent low of 11.1 percent displayed in March 2011.

From August 2010 to August 2011, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate declined by three-tenths of a percentage point. In that period, the area's labor force fell by 46,000 or 2.2 percent as total employment declined by 35,000 or 2.0 percent. The metro area's unemployment level edged downward since August 2010 by 11,000 or 4.1 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA  
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2010	July 2011	August 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,062	2,010	2,016	6	-46
Employment	1,792	1,760	1,757	-3	-35
Unemployment	270	250	259	9	-11
Rate (Percent)	13.1	12.5	12.8	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***August Payroll Jobs Move Downward***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged downward in August by 6,000 to 3,934,000. Most industry sectors showed little job change over the month. Modest declines were posted in manufacturing (-4,000) and trade, transportation and utilities (-3,000). Construction somewhat offset the decreases with a minor job gain (+3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded only minor changes of 2,000 or less in August.

### ***Industry Employment Trends and Highlights***

- The August decline in overall payroll jobs was the first monthly decrease in Michigan since May. Payroll jobs have shown moderate gains throughout 2011, moving upward by 20,000 from January through August.
- The count of seasonally adjusted manufacturing jobs declined in August mostly reflecting a change in the seasonal pattern within this sector. With fewer than normal supplier layoffs in July due to a restrained retooling period in the auto industry, there was a less-than-typical number of recalls in August. The August job total in manufacturing of 498,000 essentially matched the June total as well as the 2011 eight-month average for this sector.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours of production workers in manufacturing were little changed over the month, however average weekly earnings declined. Hours and earnings decreased over the year.

(more)

**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*  
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>August</u>	<u>July*</u>	<u>August**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3855	3940	3934	-6	80
Natural Resources & Mining	7	8	8	0	1
Construction	121	130	133	3	13
Manufacturing	470	502	498	-4	28
Transportation Equipment	129	146	138	-7	9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	710	716	713	-3	3
Retail Trade	445	446	443	-3	-2
Information	57	54	54	0	-3
Financial Activities	186	187	188	0	2
Professional & Business Services	517	537	537	0	20
Education & Health Services	616	632	633	1	17
Leisure & Hospitality Services	374	372	371	-2	-4
Other Services	167	170	171	1	4
Government	631	632	630	-2	-1

\* Final data for July

\*\* Preliminary data for August

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>August</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$960.84	\$924.11	\$898.99	-\$25.12	-\$61.85
Average Weekly Hours	44.3	43.7	43.9	0.2	-0.4

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,306.69	\$1,261.40	\$1,210.15	-\$51.25	-\$96.54
Average Weekly Hours	44.9	44.3	43.5	-0.8	-1.4

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