



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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Michigan's October Unemployment Rate Unchanged

State Rate Matches National Rate

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October was unchanged over the month at 5.0 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose in October by 9,000 while the number of unemployed edged up by 3,000. The net impact was a 13,000 gain in the state's workforce over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in October 2015 was one and six-tenths percentage points below the state's October 2014 rate of 6.6 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by seven-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's October unemployment rate matched the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate declined slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent from September to October.

"With ten months in the books, 2015 is turning out to be a positive year for the Michigan labor market," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll job growth has been solid and the unemployment rate has fallen significantly."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- The state and the nation have had very similar jobless rates since March. Rates remained within two-tenths of a percentage point for the last eight months, and were the same for five of the months.
- Through October, Michigan's average unemployment rate in 2015 stood at 5.5 percent, well below the 7.3 percent annual average rate posted in 2014.
- From February through July (with the exception of May), Michigan's labor force had been recording moderate monthly reductions. With the October gain, the state's workforce has risen for three consecutive months, increasing over that period by 15,000. From October 2014 to October 2015, Michigan's labor force was down slightly by 5,000 or 0.1 percent.
- With another monthly increase in October, total employment in Michigan has risen in eight of the first ten months of the year. In 2015 through October, total employment rose in the state by an average of about 6,000 per month.

- The number of unemployed in the state rose slightly in October, marking only the second monthly increase of the year.

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	October 2014	September 2015	October 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,748	4,730	4,743	13	-5
Employment	4,434	4,496	4,505	9	71
Unemployment	314	235	238	3	-76
Rate (Percent)	6.6	5.0	5.0	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's October Jobless Rate Increases

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October rose slightly by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. This was the second minor monthly jobless rate hike for the metro area in 2015. Through October, the metro region's 2015 average jobless rate was 6.2 percent, which compares very favorably to the 8.5 percent annual rate for 2014. In October, total employment in the region edged down by 3,000 as the number of unemployed increased by 4,000. The area's workforce was little changed over the month. The metro region recorded labor force reductions early in 2015, however since April, the Detroit area's monthly workforce levels have stabilized and shown minor increases during most months.

From October 2014 to October 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and two-tenths percentage points. Since October 2014, total employment rose by 24,000 or 1.3 percent in the region, which matched the 1.3 percent gain nationally. Over that period, the number of unemployed in the area fell by 47,000 or 29.4 percent. Even with a number of monthly increases since mid-year 2015, the region's labor force continued to record an over-the-year reduction since October 2014 of 23,000 or 1.1 percent.

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	October 2014	September 2015	October 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,019	1,995	1,996	1	-23
Employment	1,859	1,886	1,883	-3	24
Unemployment	160	109	113	4	-47
Rate (Percent)	7.9	5.5	5.7	xxx	xxx

(more)

October Payroll Jobs Rebound

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose in October by 14,000 to 4,277,000. Job gains over the month were recorded in government (+6,000), education and health services (+5,000), and professional and business services (+2,000). The only notable job decline in October was registered in manufacturing (-2,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors showed mostly minor job changes over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- October payroll jobs in Michigan rebounded in October from a September decline to a level similar to totals recorded from May to August. The October job count was 13,000 above the 2015 ten-month average job level of 4,264,000 for the state.
- The over-the-month job reduction in manufacturing was primarily due to short-term layoffs in auto-related manufacturing that occurred in the Detroit metropolitan region. Jobs in auto-related manufacturing have been trending upward throughout most of 2015.
- The October gain in education and health services pushed the job count in this sector (665,000) to an all-time high.
- From October 2014 to October 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 80,000 or 1.9 percent, which was similar to the 2.0 percent gain nationally over the same period.
- Since October 2014, manufacturing (+22,000 or +3.9 percent), professional and business services (+22,000 or +3.5 percent), and education and health services (+18,000 or +2.8 percent) were the largest job growth sectors in Michigan.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing rose over the month, as well as over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>October</u>	<u>September*</u>	<u>October**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,197	4,263	4,277	14	80
Natural Resources & Mining	8	8	8	0	0
Construction	141	149	150	1	8
Manufacturing	580	604	602	-2	22
Transportation Equipment	177	194	190	-4	13
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	762	766	765	-1	3
Retail Trade	464	465	463	-2	-1
Information	57	55	55	0	-2
Financial Activities	205	210	212	1	7
Professional & Business Services	623	642	644	2	22
Education & Health Services	647	660	665	5	18
Leisure & Hospitality Services	407	413	414	0	7
Other Services	171	173	174	1	4
Government	597	583	588	6	-9

* Final data for September

** Preliminary data for October

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>October</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$901.76	\$917.78	\$941.60	\$23.82	\$39.84
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.1	44.5	1.4	0.8

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,205.25	\$1,227.32	\$1,252.02	\$24.70	\$46.77
Average Weekly Hours	47.9	47.6	49.4	1.8	1.5

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