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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: December 2, 2014

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# **October Unemployment Rates Decline in Nearly All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in October decreased in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment rose in the majority of areas over the month, while labor force levels were mixed.

"Although the October unemployment rate declines were fairly typical, over-the-year rate drops throughout the state were significant," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "A good number of the state's major metropolitan areas have recorded solid payroll job growth since October 2013."

From September to October, unemployment rate reductions in the 16 regions ranged from -0.4 to -0.8 of a percentage point, with a median decrease of -0.6 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate decline was posted in the Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), while three other MSAs recorded a -0.7 of a percentage point drop. The jobless rate in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA was unchanged over the month. In October, ten of Michigan's major regions posted unemployment rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.5 percent.

### ***Jobless Rates Down Over Year***

Since October 2013, all of the state's regional unemployment rates fell. Area jobless rate reductions from October 2013 to October 2014 ranged from -0.8 to -3.6 percentage points, with a significant median drop of -2.5 percentage points. The largest over-the-year unemployment rate declines of over -3.0 percentage points occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region, the Flint and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs and the Northwest Lower Michigan region. For the first ten months of 2014, regional jobless rates are down by about two full percentage points from the same period in 2013.

### ***Total Employment Up Over Month, Year***

In October, total employment levels increased in 12 regions and declined in five. Increases ranged from 0.2 to 2.1 percent with a median gain of a full percent. The largest over-the-month total employment advances were displayed in the Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. The most pronounced reductions were seasonal drops posted in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with declines of -1.9 and -1.6 percent respectively. Those reductions were typical with the winding down of the summer tourism season.

From October 2013 to October 2014, total employment rose in all 17 major areas of the state. Most gains were substantial over the year, with a median increase of 4.4 percent. The leading total employment advances since October 2013 were reported in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Holland-Grand Haven, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs. The smallest over-the-year gain of 0.8 percent was recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year***

From September to October, workforce levels increased moderately in nine regions and declined in seven areas. The labor force in the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged over the month. The larger workforce reductions in October took place in the state's northern regions. Over the year, labor force growth was recorded in 13 areas, while three regions posted minor declines. The workforce in the Flint MSA was little changed over this period.

### ***Payroll Jobs Up in October Due to Seasonal Gains in Several Industry Sectors***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 28,000 or 0.7 percent in October to 4,206,000. October job gains were registered in government (+13,000), education and health services (+11,000), professional and business services (+11,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000). Partially offsetting these increases was a seasonal reduction in leisure and hospitality services (-12,000).

The advance in government jobs was due to seasonal gains in both local and state government education with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and area schools for the fall semester. The majority (+8,000) of the job increase in education and health services was due to seasonal advances in private education. Retail trade jobs rose by 7,000 in October as merchants began hiring for the holiday season.

From September to October, payroll jobs increased in 12 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions, with a median percentage gain of 0.8 percent. The largest percentage hikes were recorded in the Ann Arbor MSA (+2.3%) and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+1.5%). Payroll jobs fell slightly over the month in the Muskegon-Norton Shores and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs.

From October 2013 to October 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 36,000 or 0.9 percent. Since October 2013, notable job advances were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+13,000), manufacturing (+8,000), professional and business services (+8,000), construction (+7,000), leisure and hospitality services (+4,000), and education and health services (+3,000). Over-the-year job reductions occurred in financial activities (-4,000) and government (-3,000).

Since October 2013, payroll jobs rose in nine of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with a median gain of 1.3 percent. Payroll jobs edged down slightly over the year in the Jackson, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Flint MSAs. Jobs were essentially unchanged over the year in the Battle Creek and Monroe MSAs.

### ***County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year***

Seventy-three of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mainly moderate jobless rate declines in October as seven counties reported mostly minor increases. Three counties showed no rate change in October. In October, 31 Michigan counties displayed unemployment rates at or below the non-seasonally adjusted U.S. rate of 5.5 percent. From October 2013 to October 2014, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties, posting a median rate drop of -2.7 percentage points.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. Monthly employment and unemployment trends may be impacted by weather conditions or regular seasonal swings in hiring or layoffs. As a result, Michigan **not seasonally adjusted** estimates in this release differ from previously released Michigan **seasonally adjusted** data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted October workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for October.

*Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."*

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,900	186,900	189,600	1.4%	3.1%
Total Employment	173,200	178,200	181,900	2.1%	5.0%
Unemployment	10,700	8,700	7,800	-10.3%	-27.1%
Rate (percent)	5.8	4.7	4.1		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,700	65,400	65,600	0.3%	1.4%
Total Employment	60,100	61,700	62,300	1.0%	3.7%
Unemployment	4,600	3,700	3,300	-10.8%	-28.3%
Rate (percent)	7.1	5.7	5.1		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,400	52,200	52,200	0.0%	1.6%
Total Employment	47,200	49,000	49,300	0.6%	4.4%
Unemployment	4,200	3,200	2,900	-9.4%	-31.0%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.2	5.5		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,038	2,016	2,036	1.0%	-0.1%
Total Employment	1,857	1,854	1,871	0.9%	0.8%
Unemployment	182	163	165	1.2%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	8.9	8.1	8.1		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,900	183,400	183,900	0.3%	0.0%
Total Employment	166,600	170,700	172,500	1.1%	3.5%
Unemployment	17,300	12,700	11,300	-11.0%	-34.7%
Rate (percent)	9.4	6.9	6.2		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	400,000	416,100	419,100	0.7%	4.8%
Total Employment	375,100	396,600	401,700	1.3%	7.1%
Unemployment	25,000	19,500	17,400	-10.8%	-30.4%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.7	4.2		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	131,800	137,300	137,800	0.4%	4.6%
Total Employment	123,500	131,100	132,100	0.8%	7.0%
Unemployment	8,300	6,200	5,700	-8.1%	-31.3%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.5	4.1		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,700	70,000	69,600	-0.6%	-0.1%
Total Employment	63,900	65,500	65,600	0.2%	2.7%
Unemployment	5,900	4,500	4,100	-8.9%	-30.5%
Rate (percent)	8.4	6.4	5.8		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	159,300	163,200	163,100	-0.1%	2.4%
Total Employment	148,000	154,300	155,200	0.6%	4.9%
Unemployment	11,300	8,900	7,900	-11.2%	-30.1%
Rate (percent)	7.1	5.5	4.9		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	234,600	239,800	241,500	0.7%	2.9%
Total Employment	218,700	227,000	229,200	1.0%	4.8%
Unemployment	15,900	12,800	12,300	-3.9%	-22.6%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.3	5.1		

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(more)

	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,600	71,300	71,400	0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	65,400	67,000	67,700	1.0%	3.5%
Unemployment	5,100	4,200	3,700	-11.9%	-27.5%
Rate (percent)	7.3	5.9	5.1		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,300	84,500	83,700	-0.9%	1.7%
Total Employment	75,300	79,400	79,100	-0.4%	5.0%
Unemployment	7,000	5,100	4,600	-9.8%	-34.3%
Rate (percent)	8.6	6.1	5.5		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	72,400	71,500	-1.2%	-0.1%
Total Employment	65,700	68,000	67,700	-0.4%	3.0%
Unemployment	6,000	4,400	3,800	-13.6%	-36.7%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.0	5.4		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,600	92,100	92,200	0.1%	2.9%
Total Employment	81,900	86,200	87,000	0.9%	6.2%
Unemployment	7,700	5,900	5,200	-11.9%	-32.5%
Rate (percent)	8.5	6.4	5.7		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,300	148,800	147,400	-0.9%	1.4%
Total Employment	133,200	139,300	138,900	-0.3%	4.3%
Unemployment	12,100	9,500	8,500	-10.5%	-29.8%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.4	5.8		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	84,000	86,400	84,300	-2.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	75,400	80,200	78,700	-1.9%	4.4%
Unemployment	8,600	6,200	5,600	-9.7%	-34.9%
Rate (percent)	10.3	7.2	6.7		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,400	147,800	144,600	-2.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	130,900	138,700	136,500	-1.6%	4.3%
Unemployment	12,500	9,000	8,100	-10.0%	-35.2%
Rate (percent)	8.7	6.1	5.6		

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	<u>Oct-13</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,697	4,736	4,755	0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	4,312	4,419	4,450	0.7%	3.2%
Unemployment	385	317	305	-3.8%	-20.8%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.7	6.4		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2014 and 2013, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** October 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.1 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
OCTOBER 2014**

1	Kent County	4.0	43	Gratiot County	6.0
2	Mackinac County	4.1	44	Hillsdale County	6.0
3	Ottawa County	4.1	45	Iron County	6.0
4	Washtenaw County	4.1	46	Sanilac County	6.0
5	Barry County	4.2	47	Shiawassee County	6.0
6	Allegan County	4.3	48	Genesee County	6.2
7	Leelanau County	4.4	49	Keweenaw County	6.2
8	Isabella County	4.5	50	Oceana County	6.2
9	Grand Traverse County	4.6	51	Tuscola County	6.2
10	St. Joseph County	4.6	52	Otsego County	6.3
11	Clinton County	4.7	53	Alcona County	6.4
12	Kalamazoo County	4.7	54	Missaukee County	6.4
13	Midland County	4.7	55	Crawford County	6.5
14	Cass County	4.8	56	Luce County	6.5
15	Menominee County	4.9	57	Alger County	6.6
16	Dickinson County	5.0	58	Antrim County	6.6
17	Ionia County	5.0	59	Montcalm County	6.6
18	Newaygo County	5.0	60	Gogebic County	6.7
19	Calhoun County	5.1	61	Kalkaska County	6.7
20	Cheboygan County	5.1	62	Ogemaw County	6.7
21	Huron County	5.1	63	Livingston County	6.9
22	Ingham County	5.1	64	Oakland County	6.9
23	Marquette County	5.1	65	Arenac County	7.2
24	Monroe County	5.1	66	Chippewa County	7.2
25	Mason County	5.3	67	Roscommon County	7.2
26	Van Buren County	5.3	68	Iosco County	7.4
27	Berrien County	5.4	69	Clare County	7.5
28	Branch County	5.4	70	Gladwin County	7.5
29	Eaton County	5.4	71	Schoolcraft County	7.5
30	Bay County	5.5	72	Wexford County	7.5
31	Muskegon County	5.5	73	Osceola County	7.6
32	Houghton County	5.6	74	Lapeer County	7.7
33	Lenawee County	5.6	75	Macomb County	7.8
34	Benzie County	5.7	76	St. Clair County	7.8
35	Mecosta County	5.7	77	Presque Isle County	7.9
36	Saginaw County	5.7	78	Baraga County	8.1
37	Emmet County	5.8	79	Lake County	8.2
38	Jackson County	5.8	80	Montmorency County	8.5
39	Charlevoix County	5.9	81	Oscoda County	8.5
40	Delta County	5.9	82	Ontonagon County	8.7
41	Manistee County	5.9	83	Wayne County	9.3
42	Alpena County	6.0			

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