



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 14, 2015

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### **Michigan's September Unemployment Rate Declines**

*State Jobless Rate Below National Rate*

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September edged downward over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment increased in September by 10,000 as the number of unemployed decreased by 7,000. The state's workforce rose slightly by 3,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in September 2015 was one and seven-tenths percentage points below the state's September 2014 rate of 6.7 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's September unemployment rate was one-tenth of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless was unchanged from August to September at 5.1 percent.

"Since early 2015, several key labor market indicators have shown improvement in Michigan and in the nation," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Monthly unemployment rates in the state and nation have been comparable, as have over-the-year payroll job growth rates."

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

- September 2015 marked the first month since August 2000 that Michigan's jobless rate was below the national rate. In August 2000, the state's rate was 3.8 percent while the U.S. rate was 4.1 percent.
- The state's third quarter 2015 unemployment rate of 5.1 percent was down by four-tenths of a percentage point from the second quarter rate of 5.5 percent.
- In 2015 through September, the number of unemployed in Michigan declined every month, with the exception of May's minor hike. The number of unemployed in the state has remained below 300,000 every month so far in 2015, marking the first time this has occurred since the first nine months of 2001.
- Since September 2014, total employment in Michigan increased by 68,000 or 1.5 percent, which matched the 1.5 percent gain nationally over the same period.

**MICHIGAN**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	September 2014	August 2015	September 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,747	4,729	4,732	3	-15
Employment	4,429	4,487	4,497	10	68
Unemployment	319	242	235	-7	-84
Rate (Percent)	6.7	5.1	5.0	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's September Jobless Rate Edges Down***

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September declined slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.5 percent. In September, labor force indicators for the area were little changed, with total employment edging up by 2,000 while the number of unemployed moved down by 2,000. In 2015, total employment in the Detroit MSA rose in seven of the first nine months, with a 2,000 average monthly gain over this period.

From September 2014 to September 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and six-tenths percentage points, well outpacing the statewide and national reductions over this period. Since September 2014, total employment rose by 29,000 or 1.6 percent in the region (very similar to the percentage gains in both Michigan and the nation), while the number of unemployed dropped by 54,000 or 33.1 percent. The metro area recorded a workforce reduction of 25,000 or 1.2 percent over the year.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	September 2014	August 2015	September 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,019	1,994	1,994	0	-25
Employment	1,856	1,883	1,885	2	29
Unemployment	163	111	109	-2	-54
Rate (Percent)	8.1	5.6	5.5	xxx	xxx

(more)

## ***September Payroll Jobs Fall***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs declined in September by 10,000 to 4,272,000. Over-the-month job reductions were recorded in professional and business services (-6,000), leisure and hospitality services (-4,000), and financial activities (-4,000). Countering these job cuts were gains in government (+4,000), and manufacturing (+3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors registered relatively minor job changes over the month.

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

- Even with the over-the-month statewide job reduction, the September job level was 9,000 above the 2015 year-to-date average job count of 4,263,000.
- With the exception of two months (June and September), payroll jobs in Michigan have trended upward in 2015. From December 2014 to September 2015, payroll jobs in the state rose by 54,000 or 1.3 percent, for an average gain of 6,000 per month.
- The addition of 3,000 manufacturing jobs in September continued an upward trend recorded throughout the majority of months in 2015. The average monthly job increase in this sector this year has been +2,000. Since September 2014, manufacturing has shown the largest job increase among the 11 major industry sectors in Michigan, both numerically and on a percentage basis.
- From September 2014 to September 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 84,000 or 2.0 percent, which matched the U.S. growth rate over this period.
- Since September 2014, manufacturing (+27,000 or +4.7 percent), professional and business services (+19,000 or +3.1 percent), and education and health services (+15,000 or +2.4 percent) were the largest job growth sectors in Michigan.
- Over the year, information (-3,000) and government (-1,000) were the only major sectors to record job reductions.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing rose over the month, as well as over the year. Seasonally adjusted hours were slightly down over the month, but unchanged over the year.

(more)

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

	<u>September</u> 2014	<u>August*</u> 2015	<u>September**</u> 2015	CHANGE*** MONTH	YEAR
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,187	4,281	4,272	-10	84
Natural Resources & Mining	8	8	8	0	0
Construction	144	151	149	-2	5
Manufacturing	576	600	603	3	27
Transportation Equipment	173	190	192	3	20
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	760	767	766	0	7
Retail Trade	461	466	466	-1	5
Information	58	54	55	1	-3
Financial Activities	205	214	210	-4	5
Professional & Business Services	620	645	640	-6	19
Education & Health Services	644	662	659	-2	15
Leisure & Hospitality Services	407	418	414	-4	7
Other Services	171	173	173	0	3
Government	595	590	594	4	-1

\* Final data for August

\*\* Preliminary data for September

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>September</u> 2014	<u>August</u> 2015	<u>September</u> 2015	CHANGE MONTH	YEAR
Average Weekly Earnings	\$898.67	\$931.05	\$938.26	\$7.21	\$39.59
Average Weekly Hours	43.8	44.3	43.8	-0.5	0.0

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,199.20	\$1,252.61	\$1,253.70	\$1.09	\$54.50
Average Weekly Hours	47.9	49.7	50.6	0.9	2.7

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