



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **September Jobless Rates Fall Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Rates Down in All Areas over the Year*

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates fell in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in September, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased in the majority of regions over the month, while labor force levels declined in most areas.

"Typical labor market patterns were evident in September throughout Michigan's local areas," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However since September 2011, labor market trends have been favorable, as jobless rates fell markedly in all areas and employment gains were positive."

From August to September, regional jobless rate reductions were primarily seasonal and ranged in the narrow band of 0.7 to 1.2 percentage points with a median drop of a full percentage point. In September, eleven major regions in Michigan displayed jobless rates at or below the U.S. seasonally unadjusted rate of 7.6 percent. Sixteen of the 17 areas recorded September rates below 10.0 percent, while six regions posted rates under 7.0 percent.

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

From September 2011 to September 2012, unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate reductions were significant, and ranged from 1.2 to 2.0 percentage points with a median decline of 1.8 percentage points. The largest rate drops over this period were recorded in the Flint and Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the rates in both regions falling by 2.0 percentage points. Three other areas registered similar drops of 1.9 percentage points.

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

Over the month, total employment rose in ten regions, with an average gain of nearly 1.0 percent. The largest over-the-month employment increases were recorded in the Lansing-East Lansing (+2.2%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+1.5%), Ann Arbor (+1.3%), and Monroe (+1.3%) MSAs. Total employment was down in September in six areas. Declines were minor with the exception of both the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions, with the winding down of the summer tourism season. Employment was essentially unchanged over the month in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA.

Since September 2011, total employment rose in all 17 regions. Over-the-year gains were significant, with a median jump of 2.2 percent. The largest advances since September 2011 were displayed in the Kalamazoo-Portage, Jackson, Flint, and Monroe MSAs.

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

In September, labor force levels declined seasonally in 13 areas. The most pronounced reductions were posted in the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions. Four areas recorded labor force advances in September; these were the regions with the largest over-the-month employment gains.

From September 2011 to September 2012, workforce levels increased in 11 regions with a median gain of 1.4 percent. Labor force levels contracted over the year in five areas, and were essentially unchanged in the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

### ***Seasonal Job Gain in Universities and Local Schools Pushes September Payrolls Upward***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 33,000 in September to 4,016,000. Government led the job gains with seasonal advances in local government education (+40,000), and state government education (+19,000) as students returned to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester. Gains in local government education were evident throughout the state, while job increases in state government education were most prominent in the Lansing-East Lansing, Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Private sector jobs in Michigan declined by 18,000 or 0.5 percent in September due to seasonal reductions in leisure and hospitality services (-17,000) and trade, transportation and utilities (-6,000). These job decreases were partially offset by a seasonal gain in private education (+6,000). The remaining private sector job categories reported mostly minor offsetting changes in September.

Payroll jobs in September rose in 13 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions, with a substantial average gain of 1.8 percent. Payroll jobs fell very slightly over the month in the Jackson MSA. Jobs in leisure and hospitality services were down over the month in nearly all metro areas, while government employment rebounded seasonally in all areas.

From September 2011 to September 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 47,000 or 1.2 percent. Significant over-the-year job gains occurred in professional and business services (+27,000), manufacturing (+17,000), financial activities (+6,000) and leisure and hospitality services (+6,000). Job reductions over the year were recorded in retail trade (-7,000), government (-6,000) and construction (-5,000).

Since September 2011, nine of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job gains, with an average increase of nearly 2.0 percent. The declines in the five remaining metro regions averaged 1.0 percent.

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

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in September, with a median drop of a full percentage point. In September, 37 counties in the state displayed unemployment rates at or below the national unadjusted rate of 7.6 percent, while 72 Michigan counties posted rates below 10.0 percent.

From September 2011 to September 2012, unemployment rates decreased in all Michigan counties, with a significant 1.7 percentage point median decline.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data. A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted September workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for September.*

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

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	178,800	181,600	182,200	0.3%	1.9%
Total Employment	167,400	170,900	173,200	1.3%	3.5%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	11,400 6.4	10,600 5.8	9,000 5.0	-15.1%	-21.1%

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	64,400	63,400	-1.6%	-1.2%
Total Employment	58,800	59,600	59,300	-0.5%	0.9%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	5,400 8.4	4,800 7.5	4,100 6.5	-14.6%	-24.1%

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

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,600	52,600	52,000	-1.1%	0.8%
Total Employment	47,000	48,300	48,200	-0.2%	2.6%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	4,600 8.9	4,400 8.3	3,800 7.3	-13.6%	-17.4%

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

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</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	2,023	2,027	2,011	-0.8%	-0.6%
Total Employment	1,797	1,806	1,810	0.2%	0.7%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	226 11.2	222 10.9	201 10.0	-9.5%	-11.1%

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,600	187,200	185,300	-1.0%	2.0%
Total Employment	162,600	169,500	169,700	0.1%	4.4%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	18,900 10.4	17,700 9.5	15,600 8.4	-11.9%	-17.5%

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	380,000	387,700	384,000	-1.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	350,300	361,000	361,000	0.0%	3.1%
Unemployment	29,800	26,700	23,000	-13.9%	-22.8%
Rate (percent)	7.8	6.9	6.0		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,000	131,500	131,300	-0.2%	1.8%
Total Employment	119,200	122,700	123,700	0.8%	3.8%
Unemployment	9,800	8,800	7,600	-13.6%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.7	5.8		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,500	73,200	72,200	-1.4%	2.4%
Total Employment	63,800	67,100	66,800	-0.4%	4.7%
Unemployment	6,600	6,100	5,300	-13.1%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	9.4	8.3	7.4		

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<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	158,000	162,400	163,200	0.5%	3.3%
Total Employment	144,700	150,400	152,600	1.5%	5.5%
Unemployment	13,300	12,100	10,500	-13.2%	-21.1%
Rate (percent)	8.4	7.4	6.5		

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<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	233,700	232,200	234,700	1.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	215,600	215,400	220,100	2.2%	2.1%
Unemployment	18,100	16,800	14,600	-13.1%	-19.3%
Rate (percent)	7.7	7.2	6.2		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	68,200	69,100	69,300	0.3%	1.6%
Total Employment	62,000	63,600	64,400	1.3%	3.9%
Unemployment	6,200	5,600	4,900	-12.5%	-21.0%
Rate (percent)	9.0	8.1	7.1		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,800	81,800	81,500	-0.4%	-0.4%
Total Employment	73,900	74,300	75,000	0.9%	1.5%
Unemployment	7,900	7,500	6,500	-13.3%	-17.7%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.1	8.0		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	73,600	73,300	-0.4%	0.1%
Total Employment	66,400	67,100	67,600	0.7%	1.8%
Unemployment	6,900	6,500	5,700	-12.3%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	9.4	8.9	7.8		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,600	90,600	89,500	-1.2%	-0.1%
Total Employment	81,500	82,800	82,600	-0.2%	1.3%
Unemployment	8,200	7,800	6,800	-12.8%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	9.1	8.6	7.6		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,600	149,300	148,200	-0.7%	0.4%
Total Employment	134,700	136,800	137,500	0.5%	2.1%
Unemployment	13,000	12,500	10,700	-14.4%	-17.7%
Rate (percent)	8.8	8.4	7.2		

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<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	86,400	87,900	85,800	-2.4%	-0.7%
Total Employment	77,300	79,300	78,400	-1.1%	1.4%
Unemployment	9,000	8,600	7,500	-12.8%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	10.5	9.7	8.7		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,100	151,000	145,100	-3.9%	0.0%
Total Employment	131,200	138,100	133,800	-3.1%	2.0%
Unemployment	13,900	12,900	11,300	-12.4%	-18.7%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.5	7.8		

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	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	<u>Sep-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,655	4,703	4,667	-0.8%	0.3%
Total Employment	4,200	4,269	4,282	0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment	455	434	385	-11.3%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.2	8.2		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2012 and 2011, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** September 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (9.3 percent), which is best used for:

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

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
SEPTEMBER 2012**

1	Mackinac County	3.6	43	Muskegon County	8.0
2	Washtenaw County	5.0	44	Shiawassee County	8.1
3	Clinton County	5.1	45	Manistee County	8.2
4	Cheboygan County	5.3	46	Ogemaw County	8.2
5	Eaton County	5.3	47	Missaukee County	8.3
6	Barry County	5.5	48	Tuscola County	8.3
7	Isabella County	5.6	49	Alger County	8.4
8	Leelanau County	5.7	50	Crawford County	8.4
9	Ottawa County	5.8	51	Emmet County	8.4
10	Allegan County	5.9	52	Genesee County	8.4
11	Kent County	5.9	53	Hillsdale County	8.4
12	Kalamazoo County	6.1	54	Kalkaska County	8.4
13	Midland County	6.1	55	Antrim County	8.5
14	Marquette County	6.2	56	Chippewa County	8.5
15	Menominee County	6.3	57	Oceana County	8.5
16	Cass County	6.4	58	Oakland County	8.6
17	Huron County	6.4	59	Sanilac County	8.6
18	Calhoun County	6.5	60	Osceola County	8.7
19	Dickinson County	6.5	61	Charlevoix County	8.8
20	Grand Traverse County	6.6	62	Gogebic County	8.9
21	Newaygo County	6.7	63	Schoolcraft County	9.0
22	Ionia County	6.8	64	Otsego County	9.1
23	Houghton County	6.9	65	Roscommon County	9.1
24	Ingham County	6.9	66	Iosco County	9.4
25	Iron County	7.1	67	Montcalm County	9.5
26	Monroe County	7.1	68	Arenac County	9.7
27	Bay County	7.3	69	Macomb County	9.7
28	Benzie County	7.3	70	Alcona County	9.8
29	Delta County	7.3	71	Clare County	9.8
30	St. Joseph County	7.3	72	Lapeer County	9.8
31	Branch County	7.4	73	Lake County	10.0
32	Jackson County	7.4	74	Luce County	10.0
33	Mason County	7.5	75	Wexford County	10.4
34	Mecosta County	7.5	76	St. Clair County	10.6
35	Livingston County	7.6	77	Ontonagon County	10.7
36	Saginaw County	7.6	78	Presque Isle County	10.8
37	Van Buren County	7.6	79	Gladwin County	10.9
38	Alpena County	7.7	80	Wayne County	11.3
39	Lenawee County	7.7	81	Oscoda County	12.4
40	Berrien County	7.8	82	Montmorency County	12.6
41	Keweenaw County	7.8	83	Baraga County	13.6
42	Gratiot County	7.9			

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