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Michigan's September Unemployment Rate Edges Downward

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September was little changed over the month, edging downward by one-tenth of a percentage point to 11.1 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The state's other labor force indicators also showed only small changes in September, with total employment increasing slightly by 4,000 and the number of unemployed declining by 6,000. Michigan's unemployment rate was two percentage points above the U.S. September rate of 9.1 percent.

The Michigan jobless rate in September 2011 was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the September 2010 rate of 11.9 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by half of a percentage point over this period.

"Michigan's labor market was relatively stable in September," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The state's payroll job count recorded a minor decline over the month; however jobs have been steady throughout most of 2011, and have increased in Michigan since 2010."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- September marked the first monthly jobless rate decline for Michigan since April.
- Through the first nine months of the year, Michigan's average 2011 jobless rate stood at 10.6 percent. This rate is well below the state's annual average 2010 rate of 12.5 percent and the 2009 annual rate of 13.3 percent.
- Michigan's work force again declined slightly over the month, which reflected the state's overall pattern since 2006. However, the 2,000 labor force reduction in September was below the average monthly decrease of 9,000 posted over the last six months.
- The state's third quarter unemployment rate of 11.1 percent was eight-tenths of a percentage point above the second quarter rate of 10.3 percent. This was Michigan's first quarterly jobless rate advance since the third quarter 2009.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	September 2010	August 2011	September 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,770	4,694	4,692	-2	-78
Employment	4,202	4,168	4,172	4	-30
Unemployment	568	526	520	-6	-48
Rate (Percent)	11.9	11.2	11.1	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's September Jobless Rate Declines Slightly

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September fell slightly over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 12.7 percent. This marked the first jobless rate decline in the area since March. Over the month, total employment increased by 11,000 while the number of unemployed edged downward by 2,000. The metro area's work force grew by 9,000 in September marking the second consecutive monthly gain. Prior to August, the area's labor force was trending downward throughout most of 2011.

From September 2010 to September 2011, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point. In that period, the area's labor force fell by 33,000 or 1.6 percent and total employment decreased by 25,000 or 1.4 percent. The metro area's unemployment level edged downward since September 2010 by 8,000 or 3.0 percent.

Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	September 2010	August 2011	September 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,058	2,016	2,025	9	-33
Employment	1,793	1,757	1,768	11	-25
Unemployment	265	259	257	-2	-8
Rate (Percent)	12.9	12.8	12.7	xxx	xxx

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Decline in Government Jobs Push September Payroll Jobs Downward

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs fell in September by 14,000 to 3,924,000. Government led the reduction, with jobs down by 12,000 in this sector over the month. Lesser declines were posted in leisure and hospitality services (-6,000), and construction (-3,000). Job gains in education and health services (+6,000), and professional and business services (+4,000) somewhat offset the declines. The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded only minor changes of 2,000 or less in September.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Although payroll jobs declined in Michigan over the month, the state's third quarter average job total of 3,934,000 was the highest quarterly average recorded in 2011. The third quarter average was 22,000 above the second quarter average and 18,000 above the first quarter average.
- The over-the-month decrease in government jobs continued an overall downward trend in this sector in 2011. Since January, government jobs were down by 7,000, with much of the decline at the local level.
- After slumping in mid-summer, jobs in professional and business services have rebounded somewhat by displaying a second consecutive monthly gain in September. Professional and business services has been one of Michigan's stronger sectors from 2010 to 2011 and has recorded a 3.5 percent growth rate since September 2010.
- The minor decrease in construction jobs in September halted a streak of four consecutive months of job gains in this sector. From September 2010 to September 2011, construction jobs in Michigan grew by 9,000 or 7.5 percent.
- Since September 2010, payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 65,000 or 1.7 percent. Over this period, the majority of the state's industry sectors were stable or showed gains. Only three out of Michigan's 11 major job categories reported declines: leisure and hospitality services, government and information.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month, however hours and earnings decreased over the year.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>September</u>	<u>August*</u>	<u>September**</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u>	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3859	3938	3924	-14	65
Natural Resources & Mining	7	8	8	0	1
Construction	121	132	130	-3	9
Manufacturing	479	499	497	-2	18
Transportation Equipment	132	137	133	-4	1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	708	714	714	1	6
Retail Trade	444	444	445	1	1
Information	57	54	54	0	-3
Financial Activities	186	187	188	1	3
Professional & Business Services	523	538	542	4	19
Education & Health Services	615	634	641	6	25
Leisure & Hospitality Services	373	371	365	-6	-9
Other Services	166	171	169	-2	3
Government	624	630	618	-12	-6

* Final data for August

** Preliminary data for September

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers
Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>September</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$962.51	\$892.96	\$903.89	\$10.93	-\$58.62
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	43.6	44.0	0.4	-0.2

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,293.17	\$1,209.48	\$1,276.55	\$67.07	-\$16.62
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	43.3	45.1	1.8	0.1

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