



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 23, 2016

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

# **May Unemployment Rates Edge Upward in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in May increased in 12 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels advanced in the majority of areas over the month.

"In May, unemployment rates rose in some regions due to a large number of summer and seasonal workers entering the labor market," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Although many individuals found employment in May, some were continuing their job search."

From April to May, jobless rates increased in 12 regions and declined in four. The rate in the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was unchanged over the month. Rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.3 percentage points, but showed a median increase of only 0.2 of a percentage point. The largest unemployment rate increase was posted in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (+1.3), while the remaining advances were limited to 0.5 of a percentage point or less. Jobless rate reductions in the four regions were mostly significant, with seasonal drops recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.4), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-0.9), and the Upper Peninsula (-0.9). The Bay City MSA registered a minor over-the-month rate reduction (-0.2). All major regions in the state registered May unemployment rates of 6.0 percent or less.

### ***Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year***

Since May 2015, jobless rates declined in all of the state's major labor markets. Reductions over the year ranged from -0.3 to -1.8 percentage points with a solid median decrease of -1.3 percentage points. The largest drops over this period were recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-1.8) and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.6), while four other areas reported rate reductions of -1.5 percentage points.

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

From April to May, total employment advanced in 12 of Michigan's 17 major regions. Increases ranged from 0.3 to 4.8 percent, with a median gain of 0.6 percent. The largest over-the-month employment additions by far (on a percentage basis) were seasonal advances in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with both areas showing a 4.8 percent gain as hiring accelerated for the summer tourism season. The two regions recorded a combined employment gain of around 10,000 in May. The next largest May employment gains were posted in the Muskegon and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, with additions of 1.2 and 1.1 percent respectively. Four regions registered total employment reductions in May, which included a large drop of -2.1 percent in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA. Total employment was essentially unchanged in the Bay City MSA over the month.

Since May 2015, total employment advanced in 14 of the 17 regions with a significant median gain of 2.3 percent. Total employment declined over the year in the Jackson MSA, while employment was essentially unchanged in the Lansing-East Lansing and Midland MSAs over this period.

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

During May, workforce levels rose in 11 regions and declined in six. Notable labor force gains were posted in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions. Reductions were mostly small with the largest decline of -0.8 percent recorded in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA. Since May 2015, workforce levels were mixed with eight regions showing gains and eight areas recording reductions. The labor force level in the Battle Creek MSA was essentially unchanged over the year. The most pronounced labor force increases over this period were posted in the Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, while the largest declines were registered in the Jackson MSA and the Upper Peninsula.

### ***Seasonal and Tourism-Related Hiring Drive Payroll Jobs Upward***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 54,000 or 1.3 percent in May to 4,362,000. Job gains in May were mainly seasonal and led by additions in leisure and hospitality services (+22,000), construction (+13,000), professional and business services (+13,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+12,000). Other job additions in May were posted in education and health services (+3,000) and financial activities (+3,000). May job cuts included a seasonal drop in government (-9,000), reflecting a job decrease in state government education due to the end of the winter/spring semester at a number of the state's universities. Manufacturing jobs fell in May by 3,000 due to short-term layoffs in the auto industry that mainly occurred in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA.

From April to May, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions, with gains ranging from 0.3 to 2.2 percent, for a 1.4 percent median increase. The largest metro area job advances on a percentage basis occurred in the Muskegon (+2.2%) and Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.8%) MSAs. Three metro regions recorded over-the-month job reductions, and were led by a -1.5 percent drop in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA. The Kalamazoo-Portage (-0.2%) and Ann Arbor (-0.1%) MSAs also posted slight job declines in May.

From May 2015 to May 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 83,000 or 1.9 percent. Nearly all major sectors in the state posted job increases over this period, with the largest numerical gains revealed in professional and business services (+23,000), education and health services (+15,000), and manufacturing (+10,000). Since May 2015, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state, with a median job gain of 2.2 percent. Metro regions displaying the biggest percentage increases over this period were the Ann Arbor, Monroe, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. The three metro regions registering job losses over the year were the Jackson (-1.3%), Lansing-East Lansing (-0.9%), and Midland (-0.4%) MSAs.

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

Forty-six of Michigan's 83 counties recorded jobless rate declines over the month, with a median reduction of a full percentage point. Unemployment rates rose slightly in 32 counties in May, showing a minor median hike of 0.2 of a percentage point. The rates in five counties were unchanged in May. Since May 2015, jobless rates declined in 82 counties, with a median reduction of -1.5 percentage points. Eaton County posted a minor over-the-year increase of 0.4 of a percentage point.

*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 May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for May.*

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

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,200	199,400	199,100	-0.2%	3.6%
Total Employment	184,100	194,000	192,800	-0.6%	4.7%
Unemployment	8,100	5,500	6,300	14.5%	-22.2%
Rate (percent)	4.2	2.7	3.2		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,800	65,300	65,800	0.8%	0.0%
Total Employment	62,200	62,600	63,000	0.6%	1.3%
Unemployment	3,600	2,700	2,800	3.7%	-22.2%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.1	4.2		

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

	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,100	52,900	52,700	-0.4%	-0.8%
Total Employment	49,800	50,300	50,300	0.0%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,300	2,600	2,500	-3.8%	-24.2%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.9	4.7		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,010	2,024	2,055	1.5%	2.2%
Total Employment	1,876	1,933	1,955	1.1%	4.2%
Unemployment	134	91	100	9.9%	-25.4%
Rate (percent)	6.7	4.5	4.9		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,300	184,300	185,600	0.7%	-0.4%
Total Employment	174,300	175,300	176,300	0.6%	1.1%
Unemployment	12,000	9,000	9,300	3.3%	-22.5%
Rate (percent)	6.4	4.9	5.0		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	561,400	566,000	570,400	0.8%	1.6%
Total Employment	537,700	549,400	552,200	0.5%	2.7%
Unemployment	23,800	16,700	18,200	9.0%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	4.2	2.9	3.2		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,600	73,000	73,300	0.4%	-1.7%
Total Employment	70,400	69,800	70,000	0.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment	4,200	3,200	3,300	3.1%	-21.4%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.4	4.5		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,200	169,700	168,800	-0.5%	1.0%
Total Employment	158,600	163,500	162,200	-0.8%	2.3%
Unemployment	8,600	6,200	6,600	6.5%	-23.3%
Rate (percent)	5.2	3.7	3.9		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	247,900	249,000	247,000	-0.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	235,800	240,800	235,700	-2.1%	0.0%
Unemployment	12,100	8,200	11,300	37.8%	-6.6%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.3	4.6		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	42,600	41,900	42,100	0.5%	-1.2%
Total Employment	40,400	40,200	40,400	0.5%	0.0%
Unemployment	2,200	1,700	1,700	0.0%	-22.7%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.0	4.0		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,600	78,600	79,000	0.5%	1.8%
Total Employment	73,800	75,800	76,100	0.4%	3.1%
Unemployment	3,800	2,900	2,900	0.0%	-23.7%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.6	3.7		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	79,400	79,000	79,900	1.1%	0.6%
Total Employment	74,500	75,300	76,200	1.2%	2.3%
Unemployment	4,900	3,700	3,700	0.0%	-24.5%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.6	4.7		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,500	74,900	75,700	1.1%	0.3%
Total Employment	71,300	71,800	72,400	0.8%	1.5%
Unemployment	4,200	3,100	3,300	6.5%	-21.4%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.1	4.3		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,300	90,500	90,400	-0.1%	1.2%
Total Employment	83,800	86,300	86,100	-0.2%	2.7%
Unemployment	5,500	4,100	4,200	2.4%	-23.6%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.6	4.7		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,100	140,700	140,300	-0.3%	-1.3%
Total Employment	132,000	131,600	132,400	0.6%	0.3%
Unemployment	10,000	9,100	7,800	-14.3%	-22.0%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.5	5.6		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</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	84,900	81,800	84,400	3.2%	-0.6%
Total Employment	78,600	75,700	79,300	4.8%	0.9%
Unemployment	6,300	6,100	5,000	-18.0%	-20.6%
Rate (percent)	7.4	7.4	6.0		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	152,200	146,100	151,600	3.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	142,800	138,000	144,600	4.8%	1.3%
Unemployment	9,400	8,100	6,900	-14.8%	-26.6%
Rate (percent)	6.2	5.5	4.6		

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	<u>May-15</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,803	4,811	4,861	1.0%	1.2%
Total Employment	4,519	4,605	4,643	0.8%	2.7%
Unemployment	285	206	218	5.8%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.3	4.5		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
MAY 2016**

1	Ottawa County	3.0	43	Mecosta County	5.0
2	Kent County	3.1	44	Genesee County	5.0
3	Washtenaw County	3.2	45	Eaton County	5.1
4	Allegan County	3.4	46	Otsego County	5.1
5	Barry County	3.5	47	Shiawassee County	5.1
6	Grand Traverse County	3.6	48	Emmet County	5.2
7	Kalamazoo County	3.6	49	Manistee County	5.2
8	St. Joseph County	3.6	50	Osceola County	5.2
9	Monroe County	3.7	51	Marquette County	5.2
10	Livingston County	3.8	52	Benzie County	5.3
11	Leelanau County	3.9	53	Sanilac County	5.3
12	Oakland County	3.9	54	Tuscola County	5.3
13	Cass County	3.9	55	Delta County	5.3
14	Clinton County	4.0	56	Lapeer County	5.6
15	Midland County	4.0	57	Luce County	5.6
16	Mackinac County	4.1	58	St. Clair County	5.7
17	Lenawee County	4.1	59	Wayne County	5.7
18	Ionia County	4.1	60	Gladwin County	5.8
19	Isabella County	4.2	61	Oceana County	5.8
20	Calhoun County	4.2	62	Gogebic County	5.8
21	Huron County	4.3	63	Houghton County	5.9
22	Newaygo County	4.3	64	Kalkaska County	5.9
23	Menominee County	4.3	65	Antrim County	6.0
24	Berrien County	4.3	66	Iron County	6.0
25	Charlevoix County	4.4	67	Lake County	6.2
26	Branch county	4.4	68	Clare County	6.3
27	Montcalm County	4.5	69	Iosco County	6.4
28	Hillsdale County	4.5	70	Ogemaw County	6.4
29	Jackson County	4.5	71	Oscoda County	6.4
30	Ingham County	4.6	72	Chippewa County	6.5
31	Mason County	4.6	73	Arenac County	6.6
32	Cheboygan County	4.7	74	Crawford County	6.6
33	Dickinson County	4.7	75	Alcona County	6.7
34	Gratiot county	4.7	76	Presque Isle County	7.1
35	Bay County	4.7	77	Roscommon County	7.3
36	Muskegon County	4.7	78	Alger County	7.4
37	Saginaw County	4.7	79	Baraga County	7.6
38	Macomb County	4.8	80	Schoolcraft County	7.9
39	Missaukee County	4.8	81	Montmorency County	8.1
40	Van Buren County	4.9	82	Ontonagon County	8.3
41	Alpena County	4.9	83	Keweenaw County	8.5
42	Wexford County	5.0			

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