



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in September fell seasonally in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment was mixed over the month in the various areas while labor force levels decreased seasonally in the majority of regions.

"September was highlighted by the typical decline in summer and seasonal workers and job seekers, countered by the seasonal return of support staff and student workers to local schools and universities in numerous areas around the state," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "September jobless rates dropped moderately throughout the state's local labor markets."

From August to September, jobless rate decreases in the state's 17 major labor market regions were modest, and ranged from -0.2 to -0.6 of a percentage point with a median decline of -0.4 of a percentage point. The largest rate reductions were posted in the Upper Peninsula, along with the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In September, 13 of the state's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.9 percent. All major areas recorded jobless rates of 5.7 percent or lower in September.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since September 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Reductions were significant and ranged from -1.2 to -2.5 percentage points with a median rate drop of -1.5 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decrease over that period was recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA, while the next biggest reduction posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.8).

Total Employment Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year

From August to September, employment changes were mostly minor, with nine regions showing declines, seven areas recording gains, and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA essentially unchanged. The median over-the-month reduction was -0.6 percent, with by far the largest decreases registered in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-3.3%), and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.1%) as the summer tourism season continued to wind down. Total employment gains were mainly modest with the exception of the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (+2.0%).

From September 2014 to September 2015, total employment rose in all of the 17 Michigan regions. Increases over this period were solid and ranged from 0.7 to 3.8 percent, with a significant 1.9 percent median total employment gain for the 17 areas. The most pronounced over-the-year advances were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Monroe, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

From August to September, workforce levels declined seasonally in 12 areas, with a median reduction of -0.8 percent. In September, labor force levels increased in the Lansing-East Lansing and Bay City MSAs, and were essentially unchanged in the remaining three regions. Over the year, ten areas recorded moderate labor force growth, while seven regions reported minor workforce declines. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA recorded the leading gain (+2.5%), and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA registered the largest reduction (-0.9%).

Seasonal Advances in Education Drive September Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 24,000 or 0.6 percent in September to 4,305,000. Gains in government jobs led the advances with seasonal increases in local government education (+39,000), and state government education (+23,000) as students returned to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester. Increases in local government education were evident throughout the state's metro areas, while job gains in state government education were most prevalent in the Lansing-East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Private sector jobs in Michigan fell by 30,000 in September with seasonal job cuts in leisure and hospitality services (-23,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-6,000).

From August to September, all 14 of Michigan's major metropolitan areas posted job hikes, with an average gain of 1.3 percent.

From September 2014 to September 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 89,000 or 2.1 percent. Job gains over this period were widespread throughout most industry sectors and were led by significant advances in manufacturing (+26,000), professional and business services (+21,000), and education and health services (+15,000).

Since September 2014, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state with a median increase of 1.7 percent. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+3.3%), Monroe (+2.9%), and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.4%) regions displayed the top percentage job growth over this period.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in September. Rate declines were mostly small with a median decrease of -0.4 of a percentage point. In September, 51 Michigan counties posted jobless rates at or below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 4.9 percent. All counties in Michigan reported unemployment rates below 8.8 percent in September.

From September 2014 to September 2015, jobless rates fell in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a significant -1.6 percentage points. Schoolcraft County continued to post a minor over-the-year rate increase due to a layoff event.

*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."

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,600	185,000	183,900	-0.6%	-0.4%
Total Employment	176,200	178,500	177,800	-0.4%	0.9%
Unemployment	8,400	6,500	6,100	-6.2%	-27.4%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.5	3.3		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,800	64,900	64,400	-0.8%	0.9%
Total Employment	60,200	62,000	61,600	-0.6%	2.3%
Unemployment	3,600	3,000	2,700	-10.0%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.6	4.2		

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

	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,600	52,500	52,400	-0.2%	-0.4%
Total Employment	49,500	49,900	50,000	0.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,100	2,600	2,300	-11.5%	-25.8%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.9	4.5		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,027	2,021	2,008	-0.6%	-0.9%
Total Employment	1,862	1,895	1,895	0.0%	1.8%
Unemployment	165	126	114	-9.5%	-30.9%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.2	5.7		

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

	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,400	182,000	180,700	-0.7%	-0.4%
Total Employment	169,200	172,300	171,700	-0.3%	1.5%
Unemployment	12,200	9,800	9,000	-8.2%	-26.2%
Rate (percent)	6.7	5.4	5.0		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	540,000	559,400	553,400	-1.1%	2.5%
Total Employment	516,300	540,400	536,000	-0.8%	3.8%
Unemployment	23,700	19,000	17,400	-8.4%	-26.6%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.4	3.1		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,800	72,400	72,100	-0.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	67,600	69,000	68,900	-0.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	4,200	3,400	3,200	-5.9%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.7	4.4		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	162,400	164,100	164,200	0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	153,800	157,200	157,900	0.4%	2.7%
Unemployment	8,600	6,900	6,400	-7.2%	-25.6%
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.2	3.9		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	240,400	237,100	240,900	1.6%	0.2%
Total Employment	228,000	227,600	232,200	2.0%	1.8%
Unemployment	12,400	9,500	8,700	-8.4%	-29.8%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.0	3.6		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,300	41,200	41,200	0.0%	-0.2%
Total Employment	39,300	39,400	39,600	0.5%	0.8%
Unemployment	2,100	1,700	1,600	-5.9%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.2	3.9		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,800	75,600	75,600	0.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	70,700	72,500	72,800	0.4%	3.0%
Unemployment	4,000	3,100	2,900	-6.5%	-27.5%
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.1	3.8		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,400	77,900	77,000	-1.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	71,500	73,800	73,300	-0.7%	2.5%
Unemployment	4,900	4,000	3,700	-7.5%	-24.5%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.2	4.8		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	74,700	74,000	-0.9%	1.1%
Total Employment	69,000	71,100	70,800	-0.4%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,200	3,600	3,200	-11.1%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.8	4.3		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,300	88,700	88,400	-0.3%	0.1%
Total Employment	82,700	84,300	84,400	0.1%	2.1%
Unemployment	5,600	4,400	4,100	-6.8%	-26.8%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.9	4.6		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,600	142,800	142,800	0.0%	-0.6%
Total Employment	134,700	134,700	135,600	0.7%	0.7%
Unemployment	9,000	8,100	7,200	-11.1%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	6.2	5.6	5.0		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,600	84,900	83,500	-1.6%	-0.1%
Total Employment	77,600	80,000	79,100	-1.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	5,900	4,900	4,400	-10.2%	-25.4%
Rate (percent)	7.1	5.7	5.3		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	148,600	154,300	148,800	-3.6%	0.1%
Total Employment	139,900	147,300	142,400	-3.3%	1.8%
Unemployment	8,700	7,000	6,400	-8.6%	-26.4%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.5	4.3		

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	<u>Sep-14</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,745	4,771	4,743	-0.6%	0.0%
Total Employment	4,430	4,525	4,519	-0.1%	2.0%
Unemployment	314	246	224	-8.9%	-28.7%
Rate (percent)	6.6	5.2	4.7		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
SEPTEMBER 2015**

1	Mackinac County	2.7	43	Alpena County	4.7
2	Ottawa County	3.0	44	Benzie County	4.8
3	Clinton County	3.1	45	Manistee County	4.8
4	Kent County	3.1	46	Missaukee County	4.8
5	Allegan County	3.2	47	Menominee County	4.8
6	Washtenaw County	3.3	48	Marquette County	4.8
7	Barry County	3.4	49	Muskegon County	4.8
8	Cheboygan County	3.5	50	Luce County	4.9
9	Grand Traverse County	3.5	51	Mecosta County	4.9
10	Eaton County	3.6	52	Osceola County	5.0
11	Kalamazoo County	3.7	53	Tuscola County	5.0
12	Leelanau County	3.7	54	Genesee County	5.0
13	Ionia County	3.7	55	Oceana County	5.1
14	St. Joseph County	3.7	56	Keweenaw County	5.2
15	Ingham County	3.8	57	Wexford County	5.2
16	Monroe County	3.8	58	Delta County	5.2
17	Isabella County	3.9	59	Antrim County	5.3
18	Midland County	3.9	60	Iron County	5.3
19	Huron County	4.0	61	Iosco County	5.4
20	Charlevoix County	4.1	62	Macomb County	5.4
21	Cass County	4.1	63	Gladwin County	5.5
22	Lenawee County	4.1	64	Chippewa County	5.5
23	Branch County	4.1	65	Kalkaska County	5.7
24	Calhoun County	4.2	66	Crawford County	5.8
25	Newaygo County	4.3	67	Ogemaw County	5.8
26	Dickinson County	4.3	68	Alcona County	5.9
27	Mason County	4.3	69	Alger County	5.9
28	Shiawassee County	4.3	70	Clare County	6.0
29	Berrien County	4.3	71	Gogebic County	6.1
30	Livingston County	4.4	72	Arenac County	6.2
31	Montcalm County	4.4	73	Lapeer County	6.2
32	Gratiot County	4.4	74	St. Clair County	6.2
33	Hillsdale County	4.4	75	Baraga County	6.4
34	Jackson County	4.4	76	Roscommon County	6.4
35	Emmet County	4.5	77	Lake County	6.5
36	Houghton County	4.5	78	Oscoda County	6.5
37	Bay County	4.5	79	Ontonagon County	6.7
38	Oakland County	4.6	80	Presque Isle County	6.7
39	Otsego County	4.6	81	Wayne County	6.7
40	Van Buren County	4.6	82	Montmorency County	6.8
41	Saginaw County	4.6	83	Schoolcraft County	8.7
42	Sanilac County	4.7			

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