



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 24, 2015

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August Jobless Rates Fall Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

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

"Jobless rates around the state typically fall in August, and this year was no exception," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Employment increased in August in a number of Michigan regions, however, workforce levels fell in all areas from the June and July summer peak."

From July to August, unemployment rate reductions throughout the various regions ranged from -0.7 to -1.4 percentage points with a significant median decrease of -1.1 percentage points. The largest jobless rate declines in August were posted in the Flint (-1.4) and Jackson (-1.3) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In August, 13 of the state's 17 major regions displayed an unemployment rate at or below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.2 percent. All major areas recorded unemployment rates of 6.2 percent or lower in August.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since August 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Reductions were significant and ranged from -1.5 to -2.7 percentage points with a median rate drop of -1.8 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decreases over that period were registered in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and Monroe MSAs along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From July to August, total employment rose moderately in 12 regions. Increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 percent with a median gain of 0.3 percent. The Kalamazoo-Portage and Saginaw MSAs led the over-the-month advances. Four areas recorded total employment reductions in August, with by far the largest decline recorded in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.3%), as tourism-related employment receded after the July peak. Total employment was essentially unchanged in the Midland MSA over the month.

From August 2014 to August 2015, total employment rose in all of the 17 Michigan regions. Increases over this period ranged from 0.6 to 4.8 percent, with a significant 2.1 percent median total employment gain for the 17 areas. The largest over-the-year advances were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo-Portage and Monroe MSAs.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

From July to August, workforce levels declined seasonally in all 17 regions. Over-the-month reductions ranged from -0.2 to -2.3 percent with a median drop of -1.1 percent. The largest labor force decreases in August were reported in the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions. Since August 2014, workforce levels declined in ten regions and rose in seven.

Payroll Jobs Advance Moderately in August

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose moderately by 9,000 or 0.2 percent in August to 4,280,000. Notable August job gains were recorded in professional and business services (+6,000) and manufacturing (+5,000). Over-the-month job reductions were posted in education and health services (-4,000) and construction (-3,000). The state's remaining industry sectors were little changed, with the majority of the sectors showing minor over-the-month gains.

The job advances in manufacturing and professional and business services primarily reflected recalls from the July vacation shutdown/retooling period within the auto industry. The job reduction in education and health services occurred in the private education sector.

From July to August, metropolitan area job changes were mostly minor, with job additions in ten metro regions and job reductions in two areas. Area job gains were limited to 0.6 percent or less, with the Saginaw MSA displaying the largest over-the-month increase. Jobs in the Ann Arbor and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs edged down slightly by -0.2 and -0.1 percent respectively. August job counts in the Battle Creek and Midland MSAs were essentially unchanged from the prior month.

From August 2014 to August 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 104,000 or 2.5 percent. Job gains over this period were widespread throughout most industry sectors and were led by significant advances in professional and business services (+27,000), manufacturing (+18,000), leisure and hospitality services (+17,000), and education and health services (+16,000).

Since August 2014, payroll jobs rose in 13 metropolitan regions of the state with a median increase of 1.6 percent. The largest payroll job gains over this period were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.4%), Battle Creek (+2.6%), Detroit-Warren-Livonia (+2.4%), and the Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.4%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined slightly over the year in the Jackson MSA (-0.2%).

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in August. Rate declines ranged from -0.5 to -1.8 percentage points with a significant median decrease of -1.1 percentage points. In August, 46 Michigan counties displayed jobless rates at or below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 5.2 percent. All counties in Michigan reported unemployment rates below 10.0 percent in August.

From August 2014 to August 2015, jobless rates dropped in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a substantial -1.9 percentage points. Schoolcraft County posted an 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 August workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for August. Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."*

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,000	186,800	184,700	-1.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	174,900	178,500	178,200	-0.2%	1.9%
Unemployment	9,100	8,300	6,500	-21.7%	-28.6%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.5	3.5		

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

	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,000	65,600	64,900	-1.1%	1.4%
Total Employment	60,100	61,800	61,900	0.2%	3.0%
Unemployment	3,900	3,800	3,000	-21.1%	-23.1%
Rate (percent)	6.1	5.7	4.6		

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

	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,100	52,900	52,500	-0.8%	-1.1%
Total Employment	49,500	49,800	49,900	0.2%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,600	3,200	2,600	-18.8%	-27.8%
Rate (percent)	6.7	6.0	4.9		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,045	2,031	2,022	-0.4%	-1.1%
Total Employment	1,863	1,889	1,896	0.4%	1.8%
Unemployment	183	142	126	-11.3%	-31.1%
Rate (percent)	8.9	7.0	6.2		

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

	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,300	184,100	182,000	-1.1%	-0.7%
Total Employment	169,600	171,600	172,200	0.3%	1.5%
Unemployment	13,700	12,500	9,800	-21.6%	-28.5%
Rate (percent)	7.5	6.8	5.4		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	542,900	563,700	560,000	-0.7%	3.1%
Total Employment	516,100	540,000	541,000	0.2%	4.8%
Unemployment	26,800	23,700	19,000	-19.8%	-29.1%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.2	3.4		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	73,200	72,400	-1.1%	-1.1%
Total Employment	68,600	68,800	69,000	0.3%	0.6%
Unemployment	4,700	4,400	3,400	-22.7%	-27.7%
Rate (percent)	6.4	6.0	4.7		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	162,600	164,600	164,200	-0.2%	1.0%
Total Employment	153,000	156,000	157,300	0.8%	2.8%
Unemployment	9,600	8,600	6,900	-19.8%	-28.1%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.2	4.2		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	236,800	239,000	236,200	-1.2%	-0.3%
Total Employment	222,800	226,900	226,700	-0.1%	1.8%
Unemployment	13,900	12,100	9,500	-21.5%	-31.7%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.1	4.0		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,500	41,700	41,200	-1.2%	-0.7%
Total Employment	39,100	39,500	39,500	0.0%	1.0%
Unemployment	2,400	2,200	1,700	-22.7%	-29.2%
Rate (percent)	5.8	5.2	4.2		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,300	76,200	75,500	-0.9%	0.3%
Total Employment	70,500	72,200	72,400	0.3%	2.7%
Unemployment	4,800	4,000	3,100	-22.5%	-35.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.3	4.1		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,800	78,700	77,900	-1.0%	0.1%
Total Employment	72,300	73,800	73,900	0.1%	2.2%
Unemployment	5,500	4,900	4,000	-18.4%	-27.3%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.3	5.2		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,500	75,100	74,800	-0.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	69,700	70,900	71,200	0.4%	2.2%
Unemployment	4,700	4,200	3,600	-14.3%	-23.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.5	4.8		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,800	89,200	88,600	-0.7%	-0.2%
Total Employment	82,500	83,700	84,200	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	6,300	5,500	4,400	-20.0%	-30.2%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.2	5.0		

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	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,900	143,800	142,800	-0.7%	-0.8%
Total Employment	133,600	134,000	134,700	0.5%	0.8%
Unemployment	10,300	9,800	8,100	-17.3%	-21.4%
Rate (percent)	7.2	6.8	5.6		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	85,100	86,000	84,900	-1.3%	-0.2%
Total Employment	78,400	80,100	80,000	-0.1%	2.0%
Unemployment	6,800	5,900	4,900	-16.9%	-27.9%
Rate (percent)	7.9	6.9	5.7		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	154,400	157,900	154,300	-2.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	144,700	149,300	147,300	-1.3%	1.8%
Unemployment	9,700	8,600	7,000	-18.6%	-27.8%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.4	4.5		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,778	4,805	4,771	-0.7%	-0.1%
Total Employment	4,427	4,512	4,525	0.3%	2.2%
Unemployment	350	293	246	-16.0%	-29.7%
Rate (percent)	7.3	6.1	5.2		

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

1	Mackinac County	2.8	43	Missaukee County	5.1
2	Ottawa County	3.2	44	Manistee County	5.2
3	Kent County	3.4	45	Alpena County	5.2
4	Clinton County	3.5	46	Muskegon County	5.2
5	Allegan County	3.5	47	Houghton County	5.3
6	Washtenaw County	3.5	48	Luce County	5.3
7	Barry County	3.6	49	Antrim County	5.4
8	Grand Traverse County	3.6	50	Sanilac County	5.4
9	Cheboygan County	3.8	51	Wexford County	5.4
10	Leelanau County	3.8	52	Genesee County	5.4
11	St. Joseph County	3.8	53	Osceola County	5.5
12	Eaton County	4.0	54	Tuscola County	5.5
13	Kalamazoo County	4.0	55	Oceana County	5.6
14	Ionia County	4.1	56	Mecosta County	5.6
15	Monroe County	4.1	57	Marquette County	5.6
16	Ingham County	4.2	58	Delta County	5.7
17	Midland County	4.2	59	Iosco County	5.8
18	Charlevoix County	4.3	60	Iron County	5.9
19	Isabella County	4.3	61	Kalkaska County	6.0
20	Lenawee County	4.4	62	Macomb County	6.0
21	Branch County	4.4	63	Crawford County	6.1
22	Mason County	4.4	64	Gladwin County	6.1
23	Huron County	4.5	65	Keweenaw County	6.1
24	Cass County	4.5	66	Chippewa County	6.3
25	Calhoun County	4.6	67	Alger County	6.4
26	Newaygo County	4.7	68	Ogemaw County	6.4
27	Dickinson County	4.7	69	Alcona County	6.5
28	Jackson County	4.7	70	Gogebic County	6.5
29	Emmet County	4.8	71	Arenac County	6.6
30	Livingston County	4.8	72	Clare County	6.6
31	Montcalm County	4.8	73	St. Clair County	6.6
32	Gratiot County	4.8	74	Lapeer County	6.7
33	Shiawassee County	4.8	75	Oscoda County	7.0
34	Berrien County	4.8	76	Roscommon County	7.0
35	Otsego County	4.9	77	Lake County	7.2
36	Menominee County	4.9	78	Montmorency County	7.3
37	Hillsdale County	4.9	79	Presque Isle County	7.3
38	Bay County	4.9	80	Baraga County	7.4
39	Oakland County	5.0	81	Wayne County	7.5
40	Van Buren County	5.0	82	Ontonagon County	7.7
41	Saginaw County	5.0	83	Schoolcraft County	9.6
42	Benzie County	5.1			

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