



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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

Date: September 27, 2012

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

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in August, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels were mixed throughout the various areas over the month, while labor force levels declined in all 17 regions.

"Regional jobless rates fell in August mostly due to seasonal labor force reductions. Fewer unemployed workers actively sought employment in August while summer and seasonal hiring waned from the July peak," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "All regions in the state have shown unemployment reductions since August 2011."

From July to August, regional jobless rate cuts ranged from 0.8 to 1.4 percentage points with a median decline of 1.1 percentage points. The largest rate decreases (1.4 percentage points) were posted in both the Monroe and Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the next largest rate drop displayed in the Flint MSA. In August, seven major regions in Michigan registered jobless rates below the U.S. seasonally unadjusted rate of 8.2 percent. Sixteen of the 17 areas recorded August rates below 10.0 percent.

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

From August 2011 to August 2012, unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate declines ranged from 0.8 to 1.7 percentage points with a median drop of 1.2 percentage points. The largest decreases over this period occurred in the Monroe, Jackson, and Battle Creek MSAs. Since August 2011, 14 areas registered rate cuts of a full percentage point or more.

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

Over the month, total employment rose in eight regions, declined in eight regions, and was essentially unchanged in the Battle Creek MSA. Employment advances ranged from 0.1 to 0.9 percent with an average gain of only 0.3 percent. Decreases ranged from 0.1 to 1.4 percent with a moderate average decline of a half percent. The Niles-Benton Harbor MSA posted the largest employment increase while the Northwest Lower Michigan region recorded the most pronounced over-the-month reduction.

Since August 2011, total employment rose in 15 regions with a significant median gain of 2.5 percent. Two regions reported over-the-year declines in total employment as the Muskegon-Norton Shores and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs showed minor decreases.

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

In August, labor force levels fell seasonally in all 17 regions with a median decline of 1.3 percent.

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From August 2011 to August 2012, workforce levels advanced in 13 regions with a median gain of 1.2 percent. Labor force levels contracted over the year in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

### ***Minor Rebound in August Payroll Jobs***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged upward by 8,000 in August to 3,977,000. Over-the-month gains in professional and business services (+11,000) and manufacturing (+7,000) were the only notable job advances. Somewhat offsetting these increases were moderate job reductions in education and health services (-5,000) and leisure and hospitality services (-3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors were little changed in August.

The minor increase in manufacturing jobs primarily reflected recalls from the July retooling period in the auto industry. Adjusted production schedules resulted in fewer July layoffs due to auto plant retooling, and this also led to a lower than usual number of recalls in the auto sector in August. 2012 marks the third consecutive year for this streamlined retooling period in the auto industry. The majority of the over-the-month advance in professional and business services occurred in the temporary help sub-sector.

Payroll jobs in August were mixed throughout Michigan's various metropolitan areas. Payroll jobs were up over the month in eight metro regions and jobs declined in six areas. Area increases ranged from 0.2 to 1.5 percent with an average gain of a half percent. Area job declines ranged from 0.2 to 0.8 percent with an average decrease of 0.4 percent. The majority of the statewide manufacturing gain took place in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA, while all metro areas displayed August job advances in professional and business services.

From August 2011 to August 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 46,000 or 1.2 percent. Significant over-the-year job gains occurred in professional and business services (+27,000), manufacturing (+18,000), and financial activities (+8,000) with lesser advances posted in leisure and hospitality services (+5,000), and health services (+5,000). Moderate job reductions over the year were registered in construction (-8,000), retail trade (-6,000), and government (-5,000).

Since August 2011, ten of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job gains, with an average increase of 1.5 percent. The declines in the four remaining metro regions averaged 1.0 percent.

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

Eighty-two of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in August, with a median drop of 1.1 percentage points. In August, 27 counties in the state displayed unemployment rates below the national unadjusted rate of 8.2 percent, while 63 Michigan counties posted rates below 10.0 percent.

From August 2011 to August 2012, unemployment rates decreased in 82 Michigan counties, with a 1.2 percentage point average 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 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-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	178,100	183,300	181,400	-1.0%	1.9%
Total Employment	166,000	170,700	170,800	0.1%	2.9%
Unemployment	12,100	12,500	10,600	-15.2%	-12.4%
Rate (percent)	6.8	6.8	5.9		

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

	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,900	65,300	64,500	-1.2%	0.9%
Total Employment	58,100	59,600	59,600	0.0%	2.6%
Unemployment	5,700	5,600	4,800	-14.3%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	9.0	8.6	7.5		

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

	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,900	53,400	52,600	-1.5%	1.3%
Total Employment	47,000	48,500	48,200	-0.6%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,900	5,000	4,400	-12.0%	-10.2%
Rate (percent)	9.5	9.3	8.3		

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

	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-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	2,046	2,036	2,027	-0.4%	-0.9%
Total Employment	1,803	1,793	1,805	0.7%	0.1%
Unemployment	243	243	222	-8.6%	-8.6%
Rate (percent)	11.9	11.9	10.9		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,800	189,600	186,600	-1.6%	1.0%
Total Employment	164,800	169,200	168,900	-0.2%	2.5%
Unemployment	20,000	20,400	17,700	-13.2%	-11.5%
Rate (percent)	10.8	10.8	9.5		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	383,100	390,800	387,200	-0.9%	1.1%
Total Employment	351,700	360,000	360,500	0.1%	2.5%
Unemployment	31,500	30,800	26,600	-13.6%	-15.6%
Rate (percent)	8.2	7.9	6.9		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,200	133,000	131,500	-1.1%	1.8%
Total Employment	118,800	122,600	122,700	0.1%	3.3%
Unemployment	10,400	10,500	8,800	-16.2%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	8.1	7.9	6.7		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,300	74,100	73,300	-1.1%	2.8%
Total Employment	64,300	67,100	67,200	0.1%	4.5%
Unemployment	7,100	7,000	6,100	-12.9%	-14.1%
Rate (percent)	9.9	9.5	8.3		

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<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,700	164,600	162,300	-1.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	146,600	150,700	150,300	-0.3%	2.5%
Unemployment	14,000	13,900	12,100	-12.9%	-13.6%
Rate (percent)	8.7	8.4	7.4		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	231,700	236,900	232,500	-1.9%	0.3%
Total Employment	212,600	216,900	215,700	-0.6%	1.5%
Unemployment	19,100	20,000	16,800	-16.0%	-12.0%
Rate (percent)	8.3	8.4	7.2		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	68,100	69,800	68,900	-1.3%	1.2%
Total Employment	61,400	63,100	63,300	0.3%	3.1%
Unemployment	6,700	6,600	5,600	-15.2%	-16.4%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.5	8.1		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,200	83,200	81,900	-1.6%	-1.6%
Total Employment	74,900	74,800	74,400	-0.5%	-0.7%
Unemployment	8,400	8,400	7,500	-10.7%	-10.7%
Rate (percent)	10.0	10.1	9.1		

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<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,800	74,100	73,800	-0.4%	-1.3%
Total Employment	67,400	66,600	67,200	0.9%	-0.3%
Unemployment	7,300	7,500	6,500	-13.3%	-11.0%
Rate (percent)	9.8	10.2	8.8		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,900	91,900	90,400	-1.6%	0.6%
Total Employment	81,300	82,900	82,600	-0.4%	1.6%
Unemployment	8,600	8,900	7,800	-12.4%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	9.6	9.7	8.6		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	149,000	151,200	149,300	-1.3%	0.2%
Total Employment	135,200	136,800	136,900	0.1%	1.3%
Unemployment	13,800	14,400	12,500	-13.2%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	9.2	9.5	8.4		

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(more)

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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	88,300	89,100	87,900	-1.3%	-0.5%
Total Employment	78,700	79,500	79,400	-0.1%	0.9%
Unemployment	9,600	9,700	8,600	-11.3%	-10.4%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.9	9.7		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	150,900	154,300	151,000	-2.1%	0.1%
Total Employment	136,300	140,000	138,100	-1.4%	1.3%
Unemployment	14,600	14,300	12,900	-9.8%	-11.6%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.3	8.5		

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	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Jul-12</u>	<u>Aug-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,700	4,747	4,701	-1.0%	0.0%
Total Employment	4,215	4,258	4,268	0.2%	1.3%
Unemployment	485	489	433	-11.5%	-10.7%
Rate (percent)	10.3	10.3	9.2		

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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** August 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (9.4 percent), which is best used for:

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

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

1	Mackinac County	3.8	43	Emmet County	9.0
2	Washtenaw County	5.9	44	Keweenaw County	9.0
3	Clinton County	6.0	45	Shiawassee County	9.0
4	Eaton County	6.2	46	Antrim County	9.1
5	Cheboygan County	6.3	47	Manistee County	9.1
6	Leelanau County	6.3	48	Muskegon County	9.1
7	Barry County	6.5	49	Ogemaw County	9.1
8	Isabella County	6.7	50	Crawford County	9.2
9	Ottawa County	6.7	51	Charlevoix County	9.3
10	Kent County	6.8	52	Mecosta County	9.3
11	Allegan County	6.9	53	Hillsdale County	9.4
12	Cass County	7.1	54	Oceana County	9.4
13	Kalamazoo County	7.1	55	Genesee County	9.5
14	Midland County	7.1	56	Oakland County	9.5
15	Menominee County	7.2	57	Sanilac County	9.6
16	Grand Traverse County	7.3	58	Chippewa County	9.7
17	Dickinson County	7.4	59	Gogebic County	9.7
18	Calhoun County	7.5	60	Tuscola County	9.7
19	Benzie County	7.6	61	Otsego County	9.8
20	Huron County	7.7	62	Schoolcraft County	9.8
21	Newaygo County	7.7	63	Missaukee County	9.9
22	Iron County	7.8	64	Iosco County	10.1
23	Ingham County	7.9	65	Luce County	10.3
24	Marquette County	7.9	66	Osceola County	10.3
25	Ionia County	8.0	67	Arenac County	10.5
26	St. Joseph County	8.0	68	Roscommon County	10.5
27	Monroe County	8.1	69	Macomb County	10.6
28	Branch County	8.2	70	Lapeer County	10.8
29	Bay County	8.3	71	Montcalm County	10.8
30	Delta County	8.3	72	Clare County	11.2
31	Jackson County	8.3	73	Lake County	11.3
32	Mason County	8.4	74	Alcona County	11.6
33	Houghton County	8.5	75	St. Clair County	11.6
34	Livingston County	8.5	76	Presque Isle County	11.9
35	Saginaw County	8.6	77	Gladwin County	12.0
36	Van Buren County	8.7	78	Ontonagon County	12.1
37	Berrien County	8.8	79	Wexford County	12.1
38	Kalkaska County	8.8	80	Wayne County	12.4
39	Lenawee County	8.8	81	Oscoda County	13.2
40	Gratiot County	8.9	82	Montmorency County	13.8
41	Alger County	9.0	83	Baraga County	14.3
42	Alpena County	9.0			

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