



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 25, 2014

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

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

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in August declined in all of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels advanced in most regions over the month, while workforce levels fell in all of the state's local areas.

"Jobless rates dropped in August in all Michigan regions partially due to workforce reductions, as fewer unemployed individuals actively sought summer and seasonal jobs. However, employment levels did rise moderately in many areas of the state," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Regardless of the large seasonal workforce drop in August, Michigan's local labor market conditions improved in 2014."

From July to August, jobless rate reductions in the state's major regions ranged from -1.6 to -2.3 percentage points, with a median drop of -1.9 percentage points. The largest declines were posted in the Flint Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Northeast Lower Michigan region, with the rates falling in these two areas by -2.3 percentage points. The next largest decrease of -2.2 percentage points was registered in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA.

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

For all major Michigan regions, unemployment rate averages for the first eight months of 2014 were lower than the corresponding averages for the period of January-August 2013. Over these two periods, jobless rate reductions ranged from -0.9 percentage points in the Ann Arbor MSA to -1.9 percentage points in Muskegon.

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

In August, total employment levels rose in 15 areas, showing gains ranging from 0.6 to 1.9 percent, with a median hike of 1.3 percent. The most pronounced over-the-month advances were posted in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North and Battle Creek MSAs. The only monthly employment reduction was recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA, possibly due to the severe flooding which hit this region in August.

From August 2013 to August 2014, total employment rose in 16 of the 17 state regions. Since August 2013, the largest total employment gains were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Holland-Grand Haven, and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs. Over the same period, the total employment level in the Detroit-Warren Livonia MSA declined by -0.4 percent.

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

From July to August, workforce levels fell seasonally in all major regions of the state. Reductions ranged from -0.3 to -2.1 percent, with a median decline of -1.0 percent. Labor force levels dropped the most over the month in the Northwest Lower Michigan region and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA. The Detroit-Warren-Livonia labor force in August was impacted negatively by severe weather.

Through the first eight months of 2014, workforce levels advanced in 14 regions, reporting a median gain of 1.0 percent. Labor force reductions over this period were restricted to three areas, the Flint (-0.9%), Detroit-Warren Livonia (-0.6%), and Jackson (-0.3%) MSAs.

### **Small Advance in August Payroll Jobs**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased modestly by 7,000 or 0.2 percent in August to 4,137,000. August job gains were confined to manufacturing (+10,000), professional and business services (+6,000), and construction (+2,000). Jobs in retail trade and leisure and hospitality services fell in August in most metro areas, possibly reflecting poor weather conditions and cuts in seasonal employment.

The job advance in manufacturing primarily reflected recalls from the July vacation shutdown/retooling period within the auto industry.

From July to August, payroll jobs increased in eight metropolitan regions, recording a modest median advance of 0.3 percent. Payroll jobs declined in August in four metro areas, while job levels were essentially unchanged in the Flint and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs over the month. The August gains in manufacturing and professional and business services mainly occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

From August 2013 to August 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 34,000 or 0.8 percent. Since August 2013, notable statewide job gains were registered in leisure and hospitality services (+15,000), manufacturing (+13,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000), and construction (+7,000). Somewhat offsetting these increases were over-the-year job losses in financial activities (-6,000), other services (-4,000), professional and business services (-3,000), and education and health services (-3,000).

Since August 2013, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with a median gain of 1.3 percent in those areas. The largest over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+3.7%), Holland-Grand Haven (+3.2%), and the Lansing-East Lansing (+2.6%) MSAs. Payroll jobs edged down slightly over the year in the Jackson (-0.2%), and Flint (-0.1%) MSAs.

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

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in August, with a significant median decline of 2.1 percentage points. From August 2013 to August 2014, jobless rates fell in all 83 counties.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. Monthly employment and unemployment trends may be impacted by weather conditions or regular seasonal swings in hiring or layoffs. As a result, Michigan **not seasonally adjusted** estimates in this release 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-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,700	188,000	185,700	-1.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	171,000	176,200	177,200	0.6%	3.6%
Unemployment	11,700	11,800	8,500	-28.0%	-27.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	6.3	4.6		

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

	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,400	67,000	66,800	-0.3%	2.1%
Total Employment	60,400	62,000	63,100	1.8%	4.5%
Unemployment	5,100	5,000	3,700	-26.0%	-27.5%
Rate (percent)	7.7	7.4	5.5		

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

	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,300	53,400	52,900	-0.9%	1.1%
Total Employment	47,600	49,000	49,600	1.2%	4.2%
Unemployment	4,600	4,500	3,400	-24.4%	-26.1%
Rate (percent)	8.9	8.3	6.3		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</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	2,064	2,060	2,017	-2.1%	-2.3%
Total Employment	1,866	1,859	1,858	-0.1%	-0.4%
Unemployment	198	201	159	-20.9%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	9.6	9.8	7.9		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,100	188,200	185,800	-1.3%	-0.2%
Total Employment	167,800	170,700	172,900	1.3%	3.0%
Unemployment	18,400	17,400	12,900	-25.9%	-29.9%
Rate (percent)	9.9	9.3	7.0		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	399,900	421,100	417,800	-0.8%	4.5%
Total Employment	372,500	394,000	398,000	1.0%	6.8%
Unemployment	27,400	27,100	19,900	-26.6%	-27.4%
Rate (percent)	6.9	6.4	4.8		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	132,800	139,000	138,100	-0.6%	4.0%
Total Employment	123,800	130,000	131,700	1.3%	6.4%
Unemployment	9,000	8,900	6,400	-28.1%	-28.9%
Rate (percent)	6.8	6.4	4.6		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,100	71,900	71,100	-1.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	64,800	66,000	66,600	0.9%	2.8%
Unemployment	6,400	6,000	4,500	-25.0%	-29.7%
Rate (percent)	8.9	8.3	6.3		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,800	164,400	163,600	-0.5%	1.7%
Total Employment	148,600	152,600	154,700	1.4%	4.1%
Unemployment	12,200	11,700	8,900	-23.9%	-27.0%
Rate (percent)	7.6	7.1	5.5		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	231,400	240,200	238,500	-0.7%	3.1%
Total Employment	213,800	222,000	225,500	1.6%	5.5%
Unemployment	17,500	18,200	13,000	-28.6%	-25.7%
Rate (percent)	7.6	7.6	5.5		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,900	72,600	71,800	-1.1%	1.3%
Total Employment	65,300	66,700	67,300	0.9%	3.1%
Unemployment	5,600	5,900	4,500	-23.7%	-19.6%
Rate (percent)	7.9	8.1	6.3		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	84,400	86,600	85,600	-1.2%	1.4%
Total Employment	76,800	79,500	80,400	1.1%	4.7%
Unemployment	7,600	7,100	5,200	-26.8%	-31.6%
Rate (percent)	9.0	8.2	6.1		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,400	74,900	74,000	-1.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	67,000	69,000	69,600	0.9%	3.9%
Unemployment	6,500	5,900	4,500	-23.7%	-30.8%
Rate (percent)	8.8	7.9	6.1		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,400	93,100	92,600	-0.5%	2.4%
Total Employment	82,200	85,000	86,600	1.9%	5.4%
Unemployment	8,200	8,100	6,000	-25.9%	-26.8%
Rate (percent)	9.1	8.7	6.5		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	148,200	150,300	149,500	-0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	135,200	137,500	139,700	1.6%	3.3%
Unemployment	13,000	12,900	9,800	-24.0%	-24.6%
Rate (percent)	8.8	8.6	6.6		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</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	88,300	89,200	88,300	-1.0%	0.0%
Total Employment	79,200	80,800	81,900	1.4%	3.4%
Unemployment	9,000	8,400	6,400	-23.8%	-28.9%
Rate (percent)	10.2	9.5	7.2		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	153,300	158,000	154,700	-2.1%	0.9%
Total Employment	140,000	145,600	145,600	0.0%	4.0%
Unemployment	13,300	12,300	9,100	-26.0%	-31.6%
Rate (percent)	8.7	7.8	5.9		

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	<u>Aug-13</u>	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,755	4,828	4,760	-1.4%	0.1%
Total Employment	4,337	4,413	4,443	0.7%	2.4%
Unemployment	418	415	317	-23.6%	-24.2%
Rate (percent)	8.8	8.6	6.7		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2014 and 2013, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** August 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.4 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 2014**

1	Mackinac County	3.1	43	Hillsdale County	6.6
2	Cheboygan County	4.6	44	Shiawassee County	6.6
3	Kent County	4.6	45	Antrim County	6.7
4	Leelanau County	4.6	46	Iron County	6.7
5	Ottawa County	4.6	47	Otsego County	6.7
6	Washtenaw County	4.6	48	Houghton County	6.8
7	Barry County	4.8	49	Keweenaw County	6.8
8	Clinton County	4.8	50	Mecosta County	6.8
9	Allegan County	5.0	51	Oakland County	6.8
10	Cass County	5.1	52	Alger County	6.9
11	Grand Traverse County	5.1	53	Alpena County	6.9
12	Isabella County	5.1	54	Crawford County	6.9
13	St. Joseph County	5.1	55	Gratiot County	6.9
14	Dickinson County	5.3	56	Sanilac County	6.9
15	Kalamazoo County	5.3	57	Genesee County	7.0
16	Midland County	5.3	58	Luce County	7.0
17	Benzie County	5.4	59	Tuscola County	7.1
18	Calhoun County	5.5	60	Lapeer County	7.2
19	Ingham County	5.5	61	Alcona County	7.3
20	Ionia County	5.5	62	Gogebic County	7.3
21	Eaton County	5.6	63	Ogemaw County	7.4
22	Menominee County	5.7	64	Montcalm County	7.6
23	Branch County	5.8	65	Wexford County	7.6
24	Mason County	5.8	66	Arenac County	7.7
25	Newaygo County	5.8	67	Missaukee County	7.7
26	Livingston County	6.0	68	St. Clair County	7.7
27	Van Buren County	6.0	69	Macomb County	7.8
28	Berrien County	6.1	70	Roscommon County	7.9
29	Emmet County	6.1	71	Gladwin County	8.0
30	Huron County	6.1	72	Osceola County	8.1
31	Muskegon County	6.1	73	Chippewa County	8.3
32	Charlevoix County	6.2	74	Clare County	8.3
33	Marquette County	6.2	75	Iosco County	8.3
34	Bay County	6.3	76	Schoolcraft County	8.4
35	Jackson County	6.3	77	Lake County	8.8
36	Lenawee County	6.3	78	Oscoda County	8.9
37	Monroe County	6.3	79	Presque Isle County	9.0
38	Kalkaska County	6.5	80	Wayne County	9.0
39	Manistee County	6.5	81	Baraga County	9.3
40	Oceana County	6.5	82	Montmorency County	9.3
41	Saginaw County	6.5	83	Ontonagon County	9.9
42	Delta County	6.6			

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