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Michigan's November Unemployment Rate Declines

State's Rate Dips for Third Consecutive Month

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November edged down over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.9 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The state's labor force level recorded a reduction of 24,000 over the month as total employment declined by 9,000 and the number of unemployed decreased by 15,000.

The Michigan jobless rate in November 2012 was seven-tenths of a percentage point below the state's November 2011 rate of 9.6 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in November was one and two-tenths percentage points above the national rate of 7.7 percent. The U.S. jobless rate also declined over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point.

"Although there has been improvement this year over 2011 in the state's labor market, Michigan's progress in 2012 has been modest," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "In November, the only significant job gain was in retail trade; however seasonal holiday hiring by retailers this fall was somewhat later than usual."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- November's jobless rate was the lowest for the state since the June rate of 8.6 percent, and the November rate matched Michigan's eleven-month 2012 average (8.9%).
- Michigan's unemployment rate decline in November was the third consecutive monthly rate decrease. The state's rate has moved downward by a half percentage point since the 2012 high of 9.4 percent posted in August.
- Michigan's workforce drop in November was the first monthly decline since August. The November labor force level was the lowest in the state since February, however it remained above the November 2011 level by 14,000.
- From November 2011 to November 2012, total employment in Michigan increased by 46,000 or 1.1 percent. The national rate of increase over the same period was 1.9 percent.
- Since November 2011, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 32,000 or 7.2 percent.

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MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	November 2011	October 2012	November 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,636	4,674	4,650	-24	14
Employment	4,192	4,247	4,238	-9	46
Unemployment	444	427	412	-15	-32
Rate (Percent)	9.6	9.1	8.9	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's November Jobless Rate Edges Downward

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November declined slightly over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 10.7 percent. In November, the region's labor force decreased by 6,000 as both total employment and the number of unemployed fell modestly. The Detroit MSAs' eleven-month 2012 average unemployment rate was 10.1 percent, down nearly one and a half percentage points from the 2011 annual rate of 11.5 percent.

From November 2011 to November 2012, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate was unchanged. Over that period, total employment, the number of unemployed, and the workforce were little changed in the region.

Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	November 2011	October 2012	November 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,008	2,013	2,007	-6	-1
Employment	1,792	1,795	1,793	-2	1
Unemployment	216	218	214	-4	-2
Rate (Percent)	10.7	10.8	10.7	xxx	xxx

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Retail Trade Jobs Push November Payrolls Upward

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in November by 10,000 to 3,983,000. Job gains were led by an advance in trade, transportation and utilities (+8,000), bolstered by a boost in retail trade jobs (+5,000). Minor gains over the month of around 2,000 were posted in manufacturing, government, and other services. These increases were countered by a November job decline in education and health services (-4,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- November payroll jobs in Michigan grew for the first month since July.
- For the first eleven months of 2012, the average payroll job level was 3,985,000. This total is up 48,000 or 1.2 percent over the comparable period in 2011.
- The over-the-month decline in education and health services was the largest monthly job reduction for this sector in 2012. However, jobs in education and health services remain on an overall upward track, and have increased over the year by 4,000.
- Manufacturing jobs essentially flattened out in 2012 after recording steady gains since early 2010. The November job total in this sector matched its eleven-month 2012 average level.
- Jobs in professional and business services were consistently trending upward until mid-year. Since June, jobs in this sector have leveled off.
- Since November 2011, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 32,000 or 0.8 percent. Over this period, the bulk of the state's job growth occurred in manufacturing (+18,000), and professional and business services (+14,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased moderately over the month, as well as over the year.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>November</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>October*</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>November**</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u> <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3951	3973	3983	10	32
Natural Resources & Mining	8	7	7	0	0
Construction	124	118	118	0	-6
Manufacturing	508	524	526	2	18
Transportation Equipment	139	146	147	0	8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	724	715	724	8	0
Retail Trade	448	438	443	5	-4
Information	54	52	53	0	-2
Financial Activities	194	199	199	0	5
Professional & Business Services	557	570	572	1	14
Education & Health Services	625	633	629	-4	4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	374	379	378	-1	4
Other Services	170	168	170	2	0
Government	613	607	609	2	-4

* Final data for October

** Preliminary data for November

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>November</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>October</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>November</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>CHANGE</u> <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$911.67	\$914.03	\$919.77	\$5.74	\$8.10
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	44.0	44.2	0.2	0.2

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,259.20	\$1,272.68	\$1,290.95	\$18.27	\$31.75
Average Weekly Hours	45.1	47.3	47.6	0.3	2.5

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