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Michigan's November Unemployment Rate Drops

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November fell by eight-tenths of a percentage point to 9.8 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 21,000 over the month as the number of unemployed dropped by 39,000. The net result was a 19,000 reduction in the state's workforce.

The Michigan jobless rate in November 2011 was one and six-tenths percentage points below the November 2010 rate of 11.4 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one and two-tenths percentage points over this period.

"Since August, Michigan's unemployment rate has shown signs of improvement, decreasing by over a full percentage point," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Job growth over the past year has occurred in business services, manufacturing, and health care."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's November jobless rate was the lowest for the state since the 9.4 percent rate posted in October 2008, and was the first time the rate was below 10.0 percent since November 2008.
- The national unemployment rate declined from 9.0 to 8.6 percent in November.
- November marked the third consecutive monthly increase in statewide total employment, and the third monthly decline in the number of unemployed.
- Michigan's labor force continued its downward trend in November, marking the eighth monthly consecutive drop dating back to April. Since April, the state's workforce has fallen by 88,000 or 1.9 percent.
- The primary reason that Michigan's unemployment rate has dropped since 2010 has been due to fewer unemployed individuals in the state actively seeking employment in 2011.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	November 2010	October 2011	November 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,753	4,676	4,657	-19	-96
Employment	4,213	4,180	4,201	21	-12
Unemployment	541	496	457	-39	-84
Rate (Percent)	11.4	10.6	9.8	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's November Jobless Rate Falls

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November fell over the month by nine-tenths of a percentage point to 11.2 percent. This was the lowest jobless rate for the area since March. Over the month, total employment advanced by 9,000 while the number of unemployed fell by 20,000. The metro area's workforce declined in November by 11,000.

From November 2010 to November 2011, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate decreased by one and two-tenths percentage points. In that period, the area's employment level edged downward by 8,000 or 0.4 percent while the number of unemployed fell by 29,000 or 11.4 percent. Similar to the state, the main reason unemployment declined over the year in the metro area was labor force withdrawal. The area's workforce recorded a 37,000 or 1.8 percent drop since November 2010.

Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	November 2010	October 2011	November 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,050	2,024	2,013	-11	-37
Employment	1,796	1,779	1,788	9	-8
Unemployment	254	245	225	-20	-29
Rate (Percent)	12.4	12.1	11.2	xxx	xxx

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November Payroll Jobs Flat

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs were little changed in November, edging upward by 1,000 to 3,930,000. The only notable sector job gain over the month occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000). Within this sector, retail trade jobs rose by 4,000 in November. Government jobs declined slightly over the month by 2,000. The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded very minor changes in November.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Payroll jobs in Michigan have been steady and little changed throughout most of 2011. Since January 2011, the state's overall job count increased moderately by 16,000 or 0.4 percent. Monthly job growth in Michigan has averaged only about 1,500 from January onward.
- The over-the-month advance in trade, transportation and utilities brought the November job count in Michigan's largest major sector up to levels posted in the beginning of the year.
- Retail trade jobs trended slightly downward throughout most of 2011. November's job gain in this sector went against this trend.
- The minor November decline in government jobs continued the only clear cut downward trend in 2011 among the state's major industry categories. Over the year, government jobs have fallen by 11,000 or 1.7 percent. The vast majority of the over-the-year job reductions in government were recorded at the local level.
- With the very minor job growth in professional and business services in November, this sector has displayed four consecutive monthly advances. Since July, jobs in professional and business services have increased statewide by 11,000 or 2.0 percent. Over this period, gains in this sector have been concentrated in temporary help services.
- Since November 2010, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 59,000 or 1.5 percent. Over the year, job gains have been concentrated in four of Michigan's 11 major sectors. Professional and business services (+24,000), manufacturing (+21,000), education and health services (+13,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing declined over the year, while weekly hours were essentially unchanged since November 2010.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>November</u>	<u>October*</u>	<u>November**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3871	3929	3930	1	59
Natural Resources & Mining	7	8	8	0	1
Construction	123	127	127	0	4
Manufacturing	479	500	500	0	21
Transportation Equipment	134	140	138	-1	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	709	713	718	5	9
Retail Trade	444	443	447	4	3
Information	55	54	55	0	0
Financial Activities	187	189	187	-1	1
Professional & Business Services	523	546	547	1	24
Education & Health Services	624	638	637	-1	13
Leisure & Hospitality Services	370	367	365	-1	-5
Other Services	169	170	171	1	2
Government	626	617	615	-2	-11

* 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>October</u>	<u>November</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$960.30	\$894.66	\$915.71	\$21.05	-\$44.59
Average Weekly Hours	44.3	43.2	44.3	1.1	0.0

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,320.17	\$1,215.37	\$1,267.12	\$51.75	-\$53.05
Average Weekly Hours	45.7	43.3	45.6	2.3	-0.1

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