



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

JOHN E. NIXON, CPA  
DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

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

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

"The underlying trend in 2011 among Michigan's local labor markets has been reduced work force levels," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, employment levels have been more varied, with some regions recording employment gains over the year while others reported reductions."

From September to October, unemployment rate decreases in the 17 regions ranged from 0.6 to 1.2 percentage points with a significant median decline of a full percentage point. In October, 15 of the state's 17 major regions displayed jobless rates under 10.0 percent, while 12 areas posted unemployment rates below the national non-seasonally adjusted October rate of 8.5 percent.

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

From October 2010 to October 2011, unemployment rates fell in all of the state's 17 regions. Over-the-year rate declines ranged from 1.4 to 2.6 percentage points with a significant median drop of two full percentage points. The largest rate cuts since October 2010 took place in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Flint, and Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with rate declines in these areas around two and a half percentage points.

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

Over the month, total employment rose moderately in 13 regions, with a median advance of 0.7 percent. The most pronounced employment gains occurred in the Ann Arbor and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs, with increases of 1.8 and 1.7 percent respectively. Four areas posted employment declines over the month with the only significant drops reported in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions due to the continued cutbacks from the summer tourism season.

Since October 2010, eight regions recorded employment gains while eight areas posted losses. Over-the-year increases averaged 0.8 percent and losses averaged a full percent. The employment level in the Ann Arbor MSA was essentially unchanged over this period.

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

In October, labor force levels declined seasonally in 14 regions, while the Ann Arbor, Lansing-East Lansing, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs registered seasonal gains.

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Between October 2010 and October 2011, labor force levels fell in all 17 regions with a substantial median work force reduction of 2.3 percent.

### **Seasonal Gains in October Payroll Jobs**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 29,000 or 0.7 percent in October to 3,987,000. The state's private sector recorded an advance of 16,000 with notable seasonal gains in professional and business services (+13,000), and education and health services (+8,000). These increases were partially offset by a seasonal job reduction in leisure and hospitality services (-11,000). Government jobs increased statewide by 13,000 in October. Local government education (+10,000) and state government education (+5,000) recorded seasonal advances with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools.

In October, payroll jobs increased in 12 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan areas, with an average gain of 0.9 percent. The largest percentage growth over the month was posted in the Ann Arbor and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs. Payroll jobs were down slightly in the Bay City MSA, while jobs were essentially unchanged over the month in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA. Nearly all regions showed increases in professional and business services in October, while all areas recorded seasonal job losses in leisure and hospitality services.

From October 2010 to October 2011, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 47,000 or 1.2 percent. The largest over-the-year job gains were registered in professional and business services (+20,000), manufacturing (+19,000), and education and health services (+15,000). The majority of the increase in professional and business services was within the temporary help services category, while nearly the entire advance in education and health services was in the health care component. The sector with the only major decline since October 2010 was government (-14,000), with most of this loss reported at the local level. Michigan's remaining industry sectors posted minor changes over the year.

Over the year, twelve metropolitan regions displayed overall payroll job gains while two areas posted minor declines. The strongest percentage job growth over this period occurred in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Holland-Grand Haven, and Bay City MSAs

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

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate reductions in October, with a median decline of nearly a full percentage point. In October, 58 counties in Michigan reported jobless rates below 10.0 percent, while 31 counties displayed rates below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted October rate of 8.5 percent.

From October 2010 to October 2011, unemployment rates declined in all Michigan counties. The median rate drop over the year was a significant 2.0 percentage points.

*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 October workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for October.*

*Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."*

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b>					
(Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,300	179,100	180,600	0.8%	-1.5%
Total Employment	170,300	167,300	170,300	1.8%	0.0%
Unemployment	13,000	11,800	10,300	-12.7%	-20.8%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.6	5.7		

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

	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b>					
(Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	66,600	64,300	64,100	-0.3%	-3.8%
Total Employment	60,200	58,800	59,300	0.9%	-1.5%
Unemployment	6,400	5,500	4,800	-12.7%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.6	7.5		

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

	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b>					
(Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,800	53,300	52,600	-1.3%	-0.4%
Total Employment	47,600	48,600	48,400	-0.4%	1.7%
Unemployment	5,200	4,700	4,100	-12.8%	-21.2%
Rate (percent)	9.9	8.8	7.9		

Contact: Rhea Acuna, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (989) 776-1508

	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</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	2,065	2,038	2,021	-0.8%	-2.1%
Total Employment	1,813	1,798	1,802	0.2%	-0.6%
Unemployment	252	239	219	-8.4%	-13.1%
Rate (percent)	12.2	11.7	10.8		

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

	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b>					
(Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	187,600	181,300	180,600	-0.4%	-3.7%
Total Employment	165,300	162,000	163,600	1.0%	-1.0%
Unemployment	22,300	19,300	17,000	-11.9%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	11.9	10.6	9.4		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	387,200	384,500	381,000	-0.9%	-1.6%
Total Employment	352,000	354,000	354,200	0.1%	0.6%
Unemployment	35,200	30,500	26,900	-11.8%	-23.6%
Rate (percent)	9.1	7.9	7.1		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b>					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,100	127,800	127,300	-0.4%	-1.4%
Total Employment	117,100	117,900	118,400	0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	12,100	9,900	8,800	-11.1%	-27.3%
Rate (percent)	9.3	7.8	7.0		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	71,100	71,000	-0.1%	-2.3%
Total Employment	64,700	64,300	65,000	1.1%	0.5%
Unemployment	7,900	6,800	6,000	-11.8%	-24.1%
Rate (percent)	10.9	9.5	8.4		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,100	165,500	165,800	0.2%	-1.4%
Total Employment	152,600	151,700	153,600	1.3%	0.7%
Unemployment	15,500	13,800	12,200	-11.6%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	9.2	8.3	7.3		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	242,700	238,600	239,900	0.5%	-1.2%
Total Employment	222,300	220,300	224,000	1.7%	0.8%
Unemployment	20,400	18,300	16,000	-12.6%	-21.6%
Rate (percent)	8.4	7.7	6.7		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,400	68,700	68,500	-0.3%	-2.7%
Total Employment	63,100	62,400	62,900	0.8%	-0.3%
Unemployment	7,300	6,300	5,500	-12.7%	-24.7%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.2	8.1		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,100	81,600	80,900	-0.9%	-2.6%
Total Employment	73,400	73,500	73,600	0.1%	0.3%
Unemployment	9,600	8,200	7,300	-11.0%	-24.0%
Rate (percent)	11.6	10.0	9.0		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	74,700	74,400	-0.4%	-3.1%
Total Employment	68,700	67,600	68,100	0.7%	-0.9%
Unemployment	8,100	7,100	6,200	-12.7%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	10.5	9.5	8.4		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,200	91,500	90,900	-0.7%	-0.3%
Total Employment	81,900	83,200	83,500	0.4%	2.0%
Unemployment	9,400	8,300	7,400	-10.8%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.1	8.1		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	152,400	150,800	148,500	-1.5%	-2.6%
Total Employment	137,700	137,600	136,700	-0.7%	-0.7%
Unemployment	14,700	13,300	11,700	-12.0%	-20.4%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.8	7.9		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</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	88,500	86,600	84,300	-2.7%	-4.7%
Total Employment	77,800	77,300	75,700	-2.1%	-2.7%
Unemployment	10,700	9,300	8,500	-8.6%	-20.6%
Rate (percent)	12.1	10.7	10.1		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,900	144,500	139,900	-3.2%	-4.1%
Total Employment	129,600	130,200	127,200	-2.3%	-1.9%
Unemployment	16,300	14,300	12,800	-10.5%	-21.5%
Rate (percent)	11.2	9.9	9.1		

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	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,768	4,691	4,657	-0.7%	-2.3%
Total Employment	4,248	4,218	4,230	0.3%	-0.4%
Unemployment	520	474	427	-9.9%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.1	9.2		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2011 and 2010, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** October 2011 unemployment rate for Michigan (10.6 percent), which is best used for:

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

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
OCTOBER 2011**

1	Mackinac County	5.0	43	Muskegon County	9.0
2	Washtenaw County	5.7	44	Chippewa County	9.0
3	Clinton County	5.7	45	Ogemaw County	9.2
4	Barry County	6.0	46	Hillsdale County	9.2
5	Eaton County	6.0	47	Lenawee County	9.2
6	Isabella County	6.1	48	Oakland County	9.4
7	Menominee County	6.6	49	Kalkaska County	9.4
8	Cheboygan County	6.7	50	Genesee County	9.4
9	Midland County	6.7	51	Tuscola County	9.5
10	Leelanau County	6.7	52	Manistee County	9.5
11	Marquette County	6.8	53	Emmet County	9.6
12	Kent County	6.9	54	Gogebic County	9.6
13	Kalamazoo County	7.0	55	Sanilac County	9.7
14	Ottawa County	7.0	56	Osceola County	9.8
15	Dickinson County	7.2	57	Benzie County	9.9
16	Ingham County	7.2	58	Charlevoix County	9.9
17	Houghton County	7.3	59	Schoolcraft County	10.1
18	Calhoun County	7.5	60	Crawford County	10.2
19	Allegan County	7.6	61	Missaukee County	10.2
20	Bay County	7.9	62	Oceana County	10.2
21	Grand Traverse County	7.9	63	Otsego County	10.4
22	Cass County	7.9	64	Montcalm County	10.5
23	Delta County	8.0	65	Antrim County	10.6
24	Saginaw County	8.1	66	Luce County	10.7
25	Monroe County	8.1	67	Lapeer County	10.7
26	Huron County	8.1	68	Macomb County	10.8
27	Iron County	8.3	69	Roscommon County	10.8
28	Ionia County	8.3	70	Clare County	11.0
29	Jackson County	8.4	71	Wexford County	11.0
30	Berrien County	8.4	72	Arenac County	11.1
31	Newaygo County	8.4	73	Iosco County	11.2
32	Livingston County	8.5	74	Lake County	11.5
33	Mason County	8.5	75	St. Clair County	11.5
34	Gratiot County	8.5	76	Gladwin County	11.8
35	Branch County	8.6	77	Wayne County	12.1
36	Van Buren County	8.6	78	Alcona County	12.3
37	Alpena County	8.6	79	Presque Isle County	12.3
38	Mecosta County	8.7	80	Ontonagon County	12.5
39	Alger County	8.9	81	Oscoda County	13.4
40	St. Joseph County	8.9	82	Montmorency County	13.8
41	Shiawassee County	8.9	83	Baraga County	15.1
42	Keweenaw County	9.0			

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