



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 22, 2011

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**August Unemployment Rates Fall 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 August, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels declined in the majority of regions over the month.

"Area jobless rates were down in August primarily due to seasonal reductions in the work force," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Fewer unemployed workers actively sought employment in August while summer and seasonal hiring receded from its peak in July."

From July to August, the jobless rate decreases in the 17 regions ranged from 0.3 to 1.3 percentage points with a moderate median decline of 0.6 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month unemployment rate drops of around a percentage point or more occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Flint, and Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In August, five regions in Michigan displayed jobless rates below the non-seasonally adjusted national rate of 9.1 percent.

***Jobless Rates Down Over Year***

From August 2010 to August 2011, unemployment rates fell in all of the state's 17 regions. Rate drops ranged from a half percentage point to 1.8 percentage points and were significant in a number of regions over the year. The median reduction since August 2010 was 1.2 percentage points. The largest declines over this period were posted in the Holland-Grand Haven, Muskegon-Norton Shores, and Monroe MSAs, all three falling by 1.8 percentage points.

***Total Employment Down Over Month, Year***

Over the month, total employment decreased in 14 areas with an average decline of 0.8 percent. The most pronounced August reductions were recorded in the Northwest Lower Michigan region along with the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North and Bay City MSAs. Total employment rose over the month in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and Flint MSAs, while the employment level in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA was essentially unchanged from July to August.

Since August 2010, employment totals were mixed, with ten regions reporting declines and seven areas displaying gains.

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

In August, labor force levels declined in 15 regions. Decreases ranged from 0.8 to 2.3 percent with a significant median decline of 1.4 percent.

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The work force level in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA increased slightly by 0.2 percent in August, while the labor force in the Flint MSA was essentially unchanged over the month. Between August 2010 and August 2011, labor force levels decreased in 15 regions and increased in two. Over-the-year declines were significant in a number of regions while gains were minor.

### **August Payroll Jobs Record Minor Rebound**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased slightly by 13,000 or 0.3 percent in August to 3,916,000. Manufacturing led all job gains with a 9,000 increase. Lesser gains were posted in professional and business services (+4,000) and in construction (+3,000). The only notable loss was registered in government (-3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors reported only minor changes over the month.

The rise 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. 2011 marks the second consecutive year for this production schedule change in the auto industry.

In August, payroll jobs increased in 11 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan areas, with gains ranging from 0.1 to 2.5 percent. Payroll jobs edged downward over the month in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North and Bay City MSAs, while jobs were essentially unchanged in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA. Nearly all metro areas posted seasonal gains in manufacturing over the month.

From August 2010 to August 2011, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 71,000 or 1.9 percent. Manufacturing (+25,000), professional and business services (+23,000) education and health services (+15,000) and construction (+13,000) recorded significant gains. Most of Michigan's remaining major sectors were relatively stable over the year. Government (-7,000), retail trade (-4,000), and leisure and hospitality services (-4,000) were the three major sectors reporting job losses since August 2010.

Over the year, ten metropolitan regions displayed overall payroll job gains while four areas posted declines.

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

Seventy-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded jobless rate reductions in August, with an average decrease of 0.6 of a percentage point. In August, 31 counties in Michigan displayed unemployment rates of less than 10.0 percent. Three counties reported minor rate increases over the month, while the rate in one county was unchanged.

From August 2010 to August 2011, unemployment rates declined in all 83 counties in the state. The median rate drop over the year was 1.2 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 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-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	180,600	180,200	178,300	-1.1%	-1.3%
Total Employment	165,800	166,100	165,400	-0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment	14,800	14,100	12,800	-9.2%	-13.5%
Rate (percent)	8.2	7.8	7.2		

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

	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	67,400	64,600	63,900	-1.1%	-5.2%
Total Employment	60,300	58,000	57,800	-0.3%	-4.1%
Unemployment	7,100	6,600	6,000	-9.1%	-15.5%
Rate (percent)	10.5	10.2	9.4		

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

	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,300	54,600	53,600	-1.8%	0.6%
Total Employment	47,600	49,100	48,400	-1.4%	1.7%
Unemployment	5,800	5,500	5,200	-5.5%	-10.3%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.0	9.7		

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

	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-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	2,092	2,054	2,058	0.2%	-1.6%
Total Employment	1,812	1,763	1,793	1.7%	-1.0%
Unemployment	280	291	265	-8.9%	-5.4%
Rate (percent)	13.4	14.2	12.9		

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

	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,000	183,700	183,700	0.0%	-2.8%
Total Employment	164,100	160,800	162,700	1.2%	-0.9%
Unemployment	24,800	22,800	21,000	-7.9%	-15.3%
Rate (percent)	13.1	12.4	11.4		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	388,900	392,800	388,400	-1.1%	-0.1%
Total Employment	350,100	356,900	355,200	-0.5%	1.5%
Unemployment	38,800	35,900	33,200	-7.5%	-14.4%
Rate (percent)	10.0	9.1	8.6		

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

	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,500	130,300	128,700	-1.2%	-0.6%
Total Employment	116,100	118,500	117,900	-0.5%	1.6%
Unemployment	13,400	11,800	10,900	-7.6%	-18.7%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.1	8.5		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,400	73,000	72,100	-1.2%	-1.8%
Total Employment	64,600	65,000	64,700	-0.5%	0.2%
Unemployment	8,800	8,000	7,400	-7.5%	-15.9%
Rate (percent)	12.0	11.0	10.3		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,900	171,100	169,000	-1.2%	0.1%
Total Employment	151,500	154,900	154,100	-0.5%	1.7%
Unemployment	17,500	16,200	15,000	-7.4%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.5	8.9		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	237,500	240,600	236,800	-1.6%	-0.3%
Total Employment	214,900	218,400	216,900	-0.7%	0.9%
Unemployment	22,600	22,200	19,900	-10.4%	-11.9%
Rate (percent)	9.5	9.2	8.4		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,600	70,200	68,700	-2.1%	-2.7%
Total Employment	62,100	62,400	61,600	-1.3%	-0.8%
Unemployment	8,500	7,800	7,000	-10.3%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	12.0	11.1	10.2		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	85,500	83,900	82,700	-1.4%	-3.3%
Total Employment	74,800	74,400	73,800	-0.8%	-1.3%
Unemployment	10,700	9,400	8,800	-6.4%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	12.5	11.2	10.7		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	78,600	77,200	76,600	-0.8%	-2.5%
Total Employment	69,600	68,800	68,800	0.0%	-1.1%
Unemployment	9,000	8,300	7,800	-6.0%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	11.4	10.8	10.2		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,900	93,800	91,700	-2.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	81,600	84,000	82,700	-1.5%	1.3%
Unemployment	10,200	9,700	9,000	-7.2%	-11.8%
Rate (percent)	11.1	10.4	9.8		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	156,000	155,200	153,000	-1.4%	-1.9%
Total Employment	139,700	139,700	138,400	-0.9%	-0.9%
Unemployment	16,300	15,400	14,500	-5.8%	-11.0%
Rate (percent)	10.4	9.9	9.5		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-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	92,300	90,900	89,000	-2.1%	-3.6%
Total Employment	80,900	79,800	78,800	-1.3%	-2.6%
Unemployment	11,500	11,100	10,200	-8.1%	-11.3%
Rate (percent)	12.4	12.2	11.5		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-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	155,800	154,400	150,900	-2.3%	-3.1%
Total Employment	138,100	138,200	135,400	-2.0%	-2.0%
Unemployment	17,700	16,200	15,500	-4.3%	-12.4%
Rate (percent)	11.3	10.5	10.2		

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	<u>Aug-10</u>	<u>Jul-11</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,821	4,776	4,742	-0.7%	-1.6%
Total Employment	4,244	4,207	4,221	0.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	577	568	521	-8.3%	-9.7%
Rate (percent)	12.0	11.9	11.0		

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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** August 2011 unemployment rate for Michigan (11.2 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 2011**

1	Mackinac County	4.3	43	St. Joseph County	10.6
2	Cheboygan County	6.9	44	Ogemaw County	10.6
3	Clinton County	7.1	45	Muskegon County	10.7
4	Washtenaw County	7.2	46	Shiawassee County	10.7
5	Eaton County	7.3	47	Chippewa County	10.7
6	Leelanau County	7.3	48	Benzie County	10.9
7	Isabella County	7.5	49	Oceana County	10.9
8	Barry County	7.6	50	Kalkaska County	10.9
9	Midland County	8.2	51	Luce County	11.0
10	Menominee County	8.2	52	Mecosta County	11.0
11	Kent County	8.4	53	Hillsdale County	11.1
12	Ottawa County	8.5	54	Lenawee County	11.2
13	Kalamazoo County	8.5	55	Crawford County	11.3
14	Dickinson County	8.5	56	Genesee County	11.4
15	Marquette County	8.5	57	Schoolcraft County	11.4
16	Allegan County	9.0	58	Oakland County	11.4
17	Iron County	9.1	59	Antrim County	11.4
18	Ingham County	9.1	60	Sanilac County	11.5
19	Grand Traverse County	9.2	61	Tuscola County	11.5
20	Keweenaw County	9.4	62	Otsego County	11.7
21	Calhoun County	9.4	63	Gogebic County	11.7
22	Cass County	9.4	64	Osceola County	11.9
23	Houghton County	9.5	65	Arenac County	12.3
24	Mason County	9.6	66	Lapeer County	12.3
25	Delta County	9.7	67	Missaukee County	12.4
26	Bay County	9.7	68	Lake County	12.5
27	Newaygo County	9.7	69	Montcalm County	12.5
28	Saginaw County	9.8	70	Iosco County	12.5
29	Huron County	9.9	71	Roscommon County	12.6
30	Alger County	9.9	72	Macomb County	12.7
31	Van Buren County	9.9	73	Clare County	12.9
32	Livingston County	10.0	74	Wexford County	12.9
33	Gratiot County	10.2	75	St. Clair County	13.3
34	Monroe County	10.2	76	Gladwin County	13.4
35	Berrien County	10.2	77	Alcona County	13.7
36	Jackson County	10.3	78	Presque Isle County	13.7
37	Ionia County	10.3	79	Wayne County	14.4
38	Alpena County	10.4	80	Ontonagon County	14.7
39	Branch County	10.4	81	Montmorency County	15.6
40	Charlevoix County	10.4	82	Oscoda County	16.0
41	Manistee County	10.5	83	Baraga County	17.6
42	Emmet County	10.6			

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