



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

November Unemployment Rates Decrease in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in November declined in 14 of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels rose in the majority of areas over the month.

"November was a favorable month for many of the state's local labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Although Michigan's statewide jobless rate was somewhat above the national rate in November, a number of regions in the state displayed rates below the U.S. rate."

From October to November, unemployment rate reductions in the 14 regions ranged from -0.2 to -1.1 percentage points, with a moderate median decrease of a half percentage point. The most pronounced over-the-month jobless rate declines were recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with rates dropping by -1.1 and -1.0 percentage points respectively. November unemployment rates rose seasonally in the state's three northernmost labor markets. In November, 12 of Michigan's major regions posted unemployment rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.5 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since November 2013, all of Michigan's major regional labor markets recorded unemployment rate reductions. Area jobless rate declines over the year ranged from -1.2 to -3.6 percentage points, with a significant median drop of -2.4 percentage points. Regional unemployment rate decreases of -3.0 percentage points or more since November 2013 were displayed in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions along with the Flint MSA.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

In November, total employment rose in 12 regions and declined in five. Increases ranged from 0.7 to 1.6 percent with a median gain of 1.2 percent. The largest over-the-month total employment advances were posted in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Battle Creek, and Flint MSAs. The largest November total employment reductions were seasonal and occurred in the state's three northernmost labor market regions.

From November 2013 to November 2014, total employment rose in nearly all of the 17 major areas of the state. Gains were mostly substantial over the year, with a median increase of 4.4 percent. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Holland-Grand Haven, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs recorded the largest over-the-year total employment advances. Since November 2013, total employment in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA edged down slightly by -0.3 percent.

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Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From October to November, workforce levels increased moderately in 11 regions and declined in five areas. The labor force level in the Monroe MSA was essentially unchanged over the month.

Over the year, labor force growth was recorded in 15 areas with a solid median gain of 1.9 percent. The Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs registered workforce reductions since November 2013.

Payroll Jobs Flat in November

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged downward slightly by 2,000 in November to 4,206,000. Large seasonal job reductions in leisure and hospitality services (-16,000) and construction (-7,000) were mostly offset by gains in trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000), manufacturing (+3,000), professional and business services (+3,000), and education and health services (+3,000). The state's remaining major sectors were little changed in November.

Within the trade, transportation and utilities sector, retail trade jobs rose by 7,000 in November as merchants continued hiring for the holiday season. The over-the-month job gain in manufacturing reflected recalls from short-term layoffs in the auto industry in several metropolitan regions.

From October to November, payroll jobs increased in 11 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions. Area job gains in November were mainly minor, with a median increase over the month of 0.4 percent. Payroll jobs declined in November in the Niles-Benton Harbor and Monroe MSAs, while jobs in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA were essentially unchanged from October to November.

From November 2013 to November 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 40,000 or 1.0 percent. Since November 2013, sizable job increases were recorded in professional and business services (+13,000), manufacturing (+10,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+10,000), and construction (+7,000). Government (-5,000), and financial activities (-4,000) reported the only major-sector job reductions in the state over the year.

Since November 2013, payroll jobs advanced in 11 of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with a median gain of 0.8 percent. Payroll jobs declined over the year in the Niles-Benton Harbor and Jackson MSAs, while jobs were flat since November 2013 in the Battle Creek MSA.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Fifty-four of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly moderate jobless rate decreases in November while 27 counties reported rate increases. November unemployment rate advances were seasonal and occurred in northern counties. Two counties registered no rate change in November. In November, 35 Michigan counties displayed unemployment rates below the non-seasonally adjusted U.S. rate of 5.5 percent. From November 2013 to November 2014, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties, posting a median rate drop of -2.8 percentage points.

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

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

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,100	189,600	190,600	0.5%	2.4%
Total Employment	176,500	181,800	184,000	1.2%	4.2%
Unemployment	9,600	7,800	6,600	-15.4%	-31.3%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.1	3.5		

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

	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,100	65,600	66,100	0.8%	1.5%
Total Employment	60,900	62,200	63,100	1.4%	3.6%
Unemployment	4,200	3,300	3,100	-6.1%	-26.2%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.1	4.6		

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

	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,600	52,200	52,600	0.8%	1.9%
Total Employment	47,600	49,400	49,900	1.0%	4.8%
Unemployment	3,900	2,900	2,700	-6.9%	-30.8%
Rate (percent)	7.6	5.5	5.1		

Contact: Kevin Doyle, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-2161

	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,029	2,036	1,996	-2.0%	-1.6%
Total Employment	1,863	1,871	1,857	-0.7%	-0.3%
Unemployment	167	165	140	-15.2%	-16.2%
Rate (percent)	8.2	8.1	7.0		

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

	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,800	183,600	185,400	1.0%	0.3%
Total Employment	168,700	172,300	174,900	1.5%	3.7%
Unemployment	16,100	11,300	10,500	-7.1%	-34.8%
Rate (percent)	8.7	6.2	5.7		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	401,100	419,400	422,800	0.8%	5.4%
Total Employment	378,600	402,000	407,200	1.3%	7.6%
Unemployment	22,500	17,400	15,600	-10.3%	-30.7%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.2	3.7		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	131,600	137,900	138,600	0.5%	5.3%
Total Employment	124,200	132,200	133,400	0.9%	7.4%
Unemployment	7,400	5,700	5,200	-8.8%	-29.7%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.1	3.8		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,900	69,700	70,100	0.6%	0.3%
Total Employment	64,500	65,600	66,400	1.2%	2.9%
Unemployment	5,400	4,100	3,700	-9.8%	-31.5%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.8	5.3		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	159,200	163,000	164,200	0.7%	3.1%
Total Employment	148,800	155,100	156,900	1.2%	5.4%
Unemployment	10,400	7,900	7,300	-7.6%	-29.8%
Rate (percent)	6.5	4.9	4.4		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,600	241,500	241,800	0.1%	2.6%
Total Employment	221,600	229,300	231,900	1.1%	4.6%
Unemployment	14,000	12,300	9,900	-19.5%	-29.3%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.1	4.1		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,700	71,400	71,400	0.0%	1.0%
Total Employment	65,900	67,700	68,200	0.7%	3.5%
Unemployment	4,800	3,700	3,200	-13.5%	-33.3%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.2	4.5		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,500	83,700	84,100	0.5%	1.9%
Total Employment	76,100	79,100	79,900	1.0%	5.0%
Unemployment	6,400	4,600	4,200	-8.7%	-34.4%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.5	5.0		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,200	71,500	71,000	-0.7%	-0.3%
Total Employment	65,700	67,600	67,400	-0.3%	2.6%
Unemployment	5,600	3,800	3,700	-2.6%	-33.9%
Rate (percent)	7.8	5.4	5.2		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,800	92,200	93,300	1.2%	3.9%
Total Employment	82,800	87,000	88,400	1.6%	6.8%
Unemployment	7,000	5,200	4,800	-7.7%	-31.4%
Rate (percent)	7.8	5.7	5.2		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,400	147,400	145,500	-1.3%	1.5%
Total Employment	131,000	138,900	136,700	-1.6%	4.4%
Unemployment	12,400	8,500	8,800	3.5%	-29.0%
Rate (percent)	8.7	5.8	6.1		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,800	84,300	83,100	-1.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	73,700	78,700	76,900	-2.3%	4.3%
Unemployment	9,100	5,600	6,100	8.9%	-33.0%
Rate (percent)	11.0	6.6	7.4		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,700	144,600	142,000	-1.8%	0.9%
Total Employment	128,100	136,500	133,800	-2.0%	4.4%
Unemployment	12,600	8,100	8,200	1.2%	-34.9%
Rate (percent)	8.9	5.6	5.8		

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	<u>Nov-13</u>	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,686	4,755	4,719	-0.8%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,330	4,450	4,450	0.0%	2.8%
Unemployment	356	305	269	-11.8%	-24.4%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.4	5.7		

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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** November 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (6.7 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
NOVEMBER 2014**

1	Kent County	3.5	43	Livingston County	6.0
2	Washtenaw County	3.5	44	Oakland County	6.0
3	Barry County	3.8	45	Charlevoix County	6.1
4	Clinton County	3.8	46	Manistee County	6.1
5	Ottawa County	3.8	47	Missaukee County	6.1
6	Allegan County	4.0	48	Montcalm County	6.2
7	Isabella County	4.0	49	Iron County	6.3
8	Kalamazoo County	4.1	50	Gogebic County	6.5
9	St. Joseph County	4.1	51	Kalkaska County	6.5
10	Eaton County	4.2	52	Ogemaw County	6.5
11	Ingham County	4.2	53	Otsego County	6.5
12	Grand Traverse County	4.3	54	Oceana County	6.6
13	Ionia County	4.3	55	Macomb County	6.8
14	Midland County	4.3	56	Benzie County	6.9
15	Monroe County	4.5	57	Crawford County	6.9
16	Calhoun County	4.6	58	Emmet County	6.9
17	Leelanau County	4.7	59	Osceola County	6.9
18	Menominee County	4.7	60	Iosco County	7.0
19	Dickinson County	4.8	61	Gladwin County	7.2
20	Newaygo County	4.8	62	St. Clair County	7.2
21	Branch County	4.9	63	Wexford County	7.2
22	Cass County	4.9	64	Luce County	7.3
23	Marquette County	4.9	65	Roscommon County	7.3
24	Huron County	5.0	66	Arenac County	7.5
25	Lenawee County	5.0	67	Clare County	7.5
26	Muskegon County	5.0	68	Alger County	7.6
27	Bay County	5.1	69	Antrim County	7.6
28	Berrien County	5.2	70	Lapeer County	7.6
29	Saginaw County	5.2	71	Schoolcraft County	7.7
30	Gratiot County	5.3	72	Alcona County	7.8
31	Houghton County	5.3	73	Chippewa County	7.8
32	Jackson County	5.3	74	Baraga County	7.9
33	Mecosta County	5.3	75	Wayne County	7.9
34	Shiawassee County	5.3	76	Lake County	8.0
35	Hillsdale County	5.4	77	Presque Isle County	8.8
36	Mason County	5.6	78	Oscoda County	9.0
37	Genesee County	5.7	79	Montmorency County	9.1
38	Sanilac County	5.7	80	Ontonagon County	9.2
39	Van Buren County	5.7	81	Cheboygan County	9.6
40	Alpena County	5.8	82	Mackinac County	10.7
41	Tuscola County	5.8	83	Keweenaw County	10.8
42	Delta County	6.0			

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