



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 26, 2012

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

# **December Unemployment Rates Increase Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*2011 Annual Jobless Rates down from 2010 in All Areas*

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates rose seasonally in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in December, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels declined in nearly all regions in December.

"Despite the seasonal uptick in jobless rates in December, Michigan's labor market situation improved in 2011," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Unemployment rates dropped significantly in 2011, while payroll jobs increased in many areas. Nearly all regions recorded job gains in professional and business services, manufacturing and education and health services."

From November to December, seasonal unemployment rate hikes ranged from 0.2 of a percentage point to two full percentage points, with a median advance of 0.8 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month increases were posted in the state's three northernmost labor markets (the Upper Peninsula, the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions), with advances in the 1.4 to 2.0 percentage point range. The smallest December rate increases occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Ann Arbor, and Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the rates in these areas moving upwards by 0.5 of a percentage point or less. Even with the jobless rate advances in December, 15 of the state's 17 regions continued to register rates below 10.0 percent.

### ***Annual Average Jobless Rates Down Over Year***

Preliminary annual average data indicate that unemployment rates from 2010 to 2011 fell in all 17 major Michigan regions. Over-the-year rate drops ranged from -1.5 (Ann Arbor MSA) to -3.1 (Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA) percentage points with an average reduction of -2.2 percentage points. The lowest 2011 annual jobless rate of 6.6 percent was recorded in the Ann Arbor MSA, while the highest annual rate of 12.6 percent was registered in the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

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

Over the month, total employment declined seasonally in 16 regions, with a median reduction of nearly 2.0 percent. Employment increased slightly by 0.3 percent in December in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

Since December 2010, total employment declined in nine areas, rose in seven, and was essentially unchanged in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA.

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

In December, labor force levels fell seasonally in 15 regions, and edged upward in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

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Between December 2010 and December 2011, labor force levels dropped in 16 regions with a relatively significant median workforce reduction of nearly 2.0 percent. The labor force level in the Bay City MSA was up slightly over the year.

### ***Seasonal Declines in Construction and Government Reduce December Payroll Jobs***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan decreased by 19,000 or 0.5 percent in December to 3,968,000. Job reductions were posted in construction (-12,000), government (-7,000), professional and business services (-4,000), and education and health services (-3,000). Job gains in December were recorded in manufacturing (+4,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+3,000). Other major sectors in Michigan and throughout the various regions were little changed over the month.

Payroll jobs showed seasonal drops in 12 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan areas in December, while minor overall job gains were displayed in the Ann Arbor and Jackson MSAs. All metropolitan regions in Michigan posted seasonal job cuts in construction, while many areas registered declines in both government and professional and business services. From November to December, retail trade jobs increased by 2,000 statewide as merchants hired additional workers for the holiday season. Over the holiday hiring season from September to December, retail trade jobs in Michigan rose by 14,000 or 3.2 percent, which outpaced last year's increase of 11,000 or 2.5 percent over the same period.

From December 2010 to December 2011, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs advanced statewide by 68,000 or 1.7 percent. The most pronounced payroll job growth over the year in Michigan was recorded in professional and business services (+31,000), manufacturing (+28,000), and education and health services (+12,000). Only two of the state's major industry sectors reported declines over the year, government (-13,000), and leisure and hospitality services (-5,000).

Since December 2010, 12 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed payroll job gains, with an average increase of 1.8 percent. The largest percentage job additions over the year were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven and Bay City MSAs. Payroll jobs in the Battle Creek and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs were down over the year.

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

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate increases in December, with a median advance of 1.3 percentage points. Most of the larger over-the-month jobless rate gains were in Michigan's northern counties. In December, 17 counties in the state had jobless rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 8.3 percent.

From December 2010 to December 2011, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties. The median rate drop over the year was nearly 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 December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for December.*

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

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,100	181,600	180,300	-0.7%	-1.5%
Total Employment	171,000	172,300	170,400	-1.1%	-0.4%
Unemployment	12,100	9,300	9,900	6.5%	-18.2%
Rate (percent)	6.6	5.1	5.5		

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

	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	66,500	64,300	63,000	-2.0%	-5.3%
Total Employment	60,300	59,900	58,200	-2.8%	-3.5%
Unemployment	6,300	4,500	4,900	8.9%	-22.2%
Rate (percent)	9.4	6.9	7.7		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,800	53,300	52,900	-0.8%	0.2%
Total Employment	47,300	49,400	48,500	-1.8%	2.5%
Unemployment	5,500	3,900	4,400	12.8%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	10.4	7.4	8.4		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA</b> (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,028	1,995	2,005	0.5%	-1.1%
Total Employment	1,803	1,805	1,811	0.3%	0.4%
Unemployment	225	190	195	2.6%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	11.1	9.5	9.7		

Contact: Bruce Weaver, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3091

	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	187,900	183,600	182,400	-0.7%	-2.9%
Total Employment	165,500	167,700	164,800	-1.7%	-0.4%
Unemployment	22,400	15,900	17,500	10.1%	-21.9%
Rate (percent)	11.9	8.7	9.6		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	387,300	385,700	382,300	-0.9%	-1.3%
Total Employment	352,800	360,700	355,000	-1.6%	0.6%
Unemployment	34,600	25,000	27,300	9.2%	-21.1%
Rate (percent)	8.9	6.5	7.1		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b>					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	127,700	128,300	127,600	-0.5%	-0.1%
Total Employment	115,900	120,000	118,600	-1.2%	2.3%
Unemployment	11,800	8,300	9,000	8.4%	-23.7%
Rate (percent)	9.2	6.5	7.1		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,300	71,400	71,300	-0.1%	-1.4%
Total Employment	64,500	65,900	65,100	-1.2%	0.9%
Unemployment	7,900	5,600	6,200	10.7%	-21.5%
Rate (percent)	10.9	7.8	8.6		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,400	166,100	164,100	-1.2%	-2.6%
Total Employment	152,600	154,700	151,500	-2.1%	-0.7%
Unemployment	15,800	11,400	12,700	11.4%	-19.6%
Rate (percent)	9.4	6.9	7.7		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	242,300	243,500	238,700	-2.0%	-1.5%
Total Employment	222,200	227,900	222,200	-2.5%	0.0%

Unemployment	20,100	15,600	16,500	5.8%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.4	6.9		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,300	68,800	68,300	-0.7%	-2.8%
Total Employment	62,800	63,600	62,600	-1.6%	-0.3%
Unemployment	7,400	5,200	5,700	9.6%	-23.0%
Rate (percent)	10.6	7.5	8.4		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	81,600	80,700	-1.1%	-1.8%
Total Employment	72,900	74,800	73,400	-1.9%	0.7%
Unemployment	9,300	6,800	7,300	7.4%	-21.5%
Rate (percent)	11.4	8.4	9.0		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,500	74,800	73,600	-1.6%	-3.8%
Total Employment	68,200	68,700	66,800	-2.8%	-2.1%
Unemployment	8,400	6,100	6,800	11.5%	-19.0%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.2	9.2		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,100	91,400	90,200	-1.3%	-1.0%
Total Employment	81,700	84,400	82,500	-2.3%	1.0%
Unemployment	9,400	7,000	7,700	10.0%	-18.1%
Rate (percent)	10.3	7.6	8.6		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	151,300	147,800	147,300	-0.3%	-2.6%
Total Employment	134,300	135,700	133,100	-1.9%	-0.9%
Unemployment	17,000	12,100	14,100	16.5%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	11.2	8.2	9.6		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-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	87,100	83,400	83,000	-0.5%	-4.7%
Total Employment	74,400	74,500	72,600	-2.6%	-2.4%
Unemployment	12,700	8,900	10,500	18.0%	-17.3%
Rate (percent)	14.6	10.6	12.6		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-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	144,800	138,700	139,400	0.5%	-3.7%
Total Employment	126,100	125,500	123,900	-1.3%	-1.7%
Unemployment	18,800	13,200	15,500	17.4%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	13.0	9.5	11.1		

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	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Nov-11</u>	<u>Dec-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,723	4,646	4,636	-0.2%	-1.8%
Total Employment	4,222	4,257	4,220	-0.9%	0.0%
Unemployment	501	389	417	7.2%	-16.8%
Rate (percent)	10.6	8.4	9.0		

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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** December 2011 unemployment rate for Michigan (9.3 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'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA'S  
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2010 – 2011**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	8.1	6.6
BATTLE CREEK MSA	10.9	8.9
BAY CITY MSA	11.7	9.5
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA	13.5	11.6
FLINT MSA	13.7	11.0
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	10.5	8.3
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA	11.0	8.3
JACKSON MSA	12.6	9.9
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	10.7	8.7
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	9.8	8.0
MONROE MSA	12.4	9.8
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA	13.4	10.3
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	12.3	10.0

SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA	11.8	9.6
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	11.8	10.0
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	14.8	12.6
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	13.3	11.2
MICHIGAN	12.5	10.4

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

1	Washtenaw County	5.5	43	Kalkaska County	10.3
2	Clinton County	6.2	44	Van Buren County	10.3
3	Eaton County	6.3	45	Tuscola County	10.3
4	Isabella County	6.4	46	Gogebic County	10.4
5	Menominee County	6.6	47	Mason County	10.5
6	Barry County	6.7	48	Osceola County	10.7
7	Kent County	6.8	49	Wayne County	10.8
8	Kalamazoo County	7.0	50	Ogemaw County	10.8
9	Midland County	7.0	51	Sanilac County	10.9
10	Ottawa County	7.1	52	Chippewa County	11.0
11	Ingham County	7.4	53	Crawford County	11.3
12	Marquette County	7.6	54	Alger County	11.4
13	Calhoun County	7.7	55	St. Clair County	11.4
14	Livingston County	7.9	56	Montcalm County	11.4
15	Dickinson County	7.9	57	Manistee County	11.5
16	Oakland County	8.2	58	Missaukee County	11.8
17	Allegan County	8.2	59	Luce County	11.9
18	Bay County	8.4	60	Lapeer County	12.1
19	Houghton County	8.4	61	Clare County	12.2
20	Monroe County	8.4	62	Otsego County	12.2
21	Jackson County	8.6	63	Charlevoix County	12.3
22	Saginaw County	8.6	64	Wexford County	12.5
23	Leelanau County	8.7	65	Roscommon County	12.5
24	Branch County	8.8	66	Alcona County	12.8
25	Grand Traverse County	8.9	67	Schoolcraft County	13.0
26	Gratiot County	9.0	68	Oceana County	13.0
27	Muskegon County	9.0	69	Antrim County	13.1
28	Cass County	9.1	70	Lake County	13.1

29	Ionia County	9.1	71	Cheboygan County	13.2
30	St. Joseph County	9.2	72	Gladwin County	13.2
31	Berrien County	9.2	73	Benzie County	13.3
32	Huron County	9.2	74	Arenac County	13.5
33	Mecosta County	9.4	75	Iosco County	13.6
34	Lenawee County	9.4	76	Ontonagon County	13.7
35	Hillsdale County	9.5	77	Emmet County	13.8
36	Genesee County	9.6	78	Keweenaw County	14.7
37	Iron County	9.6	79	Oscoda County	16.0
38	Delta County	9.6	80	Presque Isle County	16.2
39	Newaygo County	9.6	81	Montmorency County	17.9
40	Macomb County	9.6	82	Baraga County	18.1
41	Alpena County	9.8	83	Mackinac County	18.3
42	Shiawassee County	10.0			

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