



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December Jobless Rates Little Changed in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

2014 Annual Unemployment Rates Drop Over Year

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in December were mixed and little changed in the 17 major labor market regions in Michigan, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment declined seasonally in most regions over the month while labor force levels were mixed.

“Regional labor markets were stable in December,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “Preliminary annual average data indicates that local area jobless rates fell substantially from 2013 to 2014. 2014 annual unemployment rates in most Michigan local labor markets were similar to pre-recession levels.”

From November to December, jobless rate changes were mainly minor, with movement in most regions limited to a half percentage point or less. Unemployment rates increased in six areas over the month with the largest advances posted in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with rates up by 0.8 and 0.5 of a percentage point respectively. December jobless rates edged down in five regions, with rates in those areas moving downward by -0.3 of a percentage point or less. The remaining six areas recorded no rate change over the month. In December, 11 of Michigan's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates below the non-seasonally adjusted national rate of 5.4 percent.

Annual Average Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year

Preliminary annual average data indicated that jobless rates from 2013 to 2014 fell significantly in all major regions of the state (see page 8). Annual unemployment rate declines ranged from -1.1 to -2.2 percentage points with a median drop of -1.7 percentage points. The smallest rate reductions occurred in the Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), while the most pronounced unemployment rate decreases occurred in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA along with the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions. The U.S. annual rate fell by -1.2 percentage points from 7.4 percent in 2013 to 6.2 percent in 2014.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

From November to December, total employment declined slightly in 11 regions, and rose marginally in six areas. Employment reductions in December were limited to -0.6 percent or less, with the largest declines posted in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA and the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Over-the-month advances were confined to 0.7 percent or less with the largest gains registered in the Flint and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs. From December 2013 to December 2014, total employment rose in 16 regions while remaining essentially unchanged in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year

From November to December, workforce levels declined slightly in eight regions, advanced minimally in six areas, and were essentially unchanged in three regions.

Over the year, labor force levels rose in 16 regions with a median gain of 2.3 percent. The workforce level in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA was essentially unchanged since December 2013.

Seasonal Drop in Construction Pushes December Payroll Jobs Downward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan declined by 20,000 or 0.5 percent in December to 4,188,000. Seasonal job cuts dominated the December changes, with declines posted in construction (-10,000), government (-6,000), and professional and business services (-5,000). The remaining major sectors showed little change in December.

Within the trade, transportation and utilities sector, retail jobs rose by 2,000 in December as merchants continued to hire for the holiday season. Over the holiday hiring period from September to December, jobs in retail trade rose by 16,000 in Michigan, which was somewhat less than the average increase of 19,000 recorded for the prior four years over this period.

From November to December, payroll jobs fell seasonally in twelve of the 14 metropolitan areas in the state, with an average decline of 0.8 percent. Payroll jobs increased slightly in the Flint MSA over the month, while jobs in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA were essentially unchanged.

From December 2013 to December 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 44,000 or 1.1 percent. Over-the-year gains were highlighted by job advances in professional and business services (+18,000), manufacturing (+10,000), education and health services (+8,000), construction (+7,000) and trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000). The only notable over the year job loss in a major sector was in government (-5,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded only minor changes since December 2013.

Since December 2013, payroll jobs rose in 12 metropolitan regions. Job gains in the 12 regions ranged from 0.2 to 4.2 percent with an average over-the-year increase of 1.5 percent. The largest percentage job gains in the state were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven (+4.2%) and Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+3.9%) MSAs. Payroll jobs were down over the year in the Niles-Benton Harbor and Jackson MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Fifty-six of Michigan's 83 counties recorded moderate seasonal unemployment rate increases in December with a median advance of 0.4 of a percentage point. In December, rates declined in 19 counties and were unchanged in eight. In December, 31 Michigan counties reported jobless rates at or below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 5.4 percent.

From December 2013 to December 2014, jobless rates fell in all 83 counties with a significant median drop of -3.2 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 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-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,400	190,300	189,400	-0.5%	3.3%
Total Employment	174,000	183,800	183,300	-0.3%	5.3%
Unemployment	9,500	6,600	6,100	-7.6%	-35.8%
Rate (percent)	5.2	3.5	3.2		

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

	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,400	65,900	65,800	-0.2%	2.2%
Total Employment	60,100	62,900	62,800	-0.2%	4.5%
Unemployment	4,400	3,100	3,000	-3.2%	-31.8%
Rate (percent)	6.8	4.6	4.6		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,300	52,600	52,600	0.0%	2.5%
Total Employment	47,100	49,900	49,700	-0.4%	5.5%
Unemployment	4,200	2,700	2,900	7.4%	-31.0%
Rate (percent)	8.2	5.1	5.5		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,026	1,997	1,997	0.0%	-1.4%
Total Employment	1,864	1,857	1,864	0.4%	0.0%
Unemployment	163	140	133	-5.0%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	8.0	7.0	6.7		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,000	185,900	187,200	0.7%	1.7%
Total Employment	167,800	175,500	176,700	0.7%	5.3%
Unemployment	16,200	10,500	10,400	-1.0%	-35.8%
Rate (percent)	8.8	5.6	5.6		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	401,600	422,900	423,300	0.1%	5.4%
Total Employment	378,200	407,400	407,900	0.1%	7.9%
Unemployment	23,400	15,600	15,400	-1.3%	-34.2%
Rate (percent)	5.8	3.7	3.6		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	131,200	138,700	138,500	-0.1%	5.6%
Total Employment	123,400	133,500	133,400	-0.1%	8.1%
Unemployment	7,900	5,200	5,100	-1.9%	-35.4%
Rate (percent)	6.0	3.7	3.6		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,700	70,200	70,100	-0.1%	0.6%
Total Employment	64,100	66,500	66,400	-0.2%	3.6%
Unemployment	5,600	3,700	3,700	0.0%	-33.9%
Rate (percent)	8.0	5.2	5.3		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	157,900	164,000	163,800	-0.1%	3.7%
Total Employment	147,000	156,700	156,500	-0.1%	6.5%
Unemployment	10,900	7,300	7,300	0.0%	-33.0%
Rate (percent)	6.9	4.5	4.5		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	234,200	241,500	239,900	-0.7%	2.4%
Total Employment	219,700	231,600	230,100	-0.6%	4.7%
Unemployment	14,500	9,900	9,800	-1.0%	-32.4%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.1	4.1		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,900	71,400	71,500	0.1%	2.3%
Total Employment	65,100	68,200	68,400	0.3%	5.1%
Unemployment	4,800	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-33.3%
Rate (percent)	6.9	4.5	4.4		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,700	84,100	84,300	0.2%	1.9%
Total Employment	75,900	79,900	80,100	0.3%	5.5%
Unemployment	6,800	4,200	4,200	0.0%	-38.2%
Rate (percent)	8.2	5.0	5.0		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,700	71,100	71,000	-0.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	64,900	67,500	67,300	-0.3%	3.7%
Unemployment	5,800	3,700	3,700	0.0%	-36.2%
Rate (percent)	8.2	5.1	5.2		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,400	93,400	93,300	-0.1%	3.2%
Total Employment	83,200	88,600	88,400	-0.2%	6.3%
Unemployment	7,200	4,800	4,900	2.1%	-31.9%
Rate (percent)	8.0	5.2	5.2		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,700	145,600	145,600	0.0%	2.0%
Total Employment	129,200	136,800	136,100	-0.5%	5.3%
Unemployment	13,500	8,800	9,400	6.8%	-30.4%
Rate (percent)	9.5	6.1	6.5		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-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	82,700	83,100	83,300	0.2%	0.7%
Total Employment	72,500	77,000	76,500	-0.6%	5.5%
Unemployment	10,200	6,100	6,800	11.5%	-33.3%
Rate (percent)	12.3	7.3	8.1		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,300	142,100	143,300	0.8%	1.4%
Total Employment	127,500	133,800	134,200	0.3%	5.3%
Unemployment	13,800	8,200	9,000	9.8%	-34.8%
Rate (percent)	9.8	5.8	6.3		

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	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,672	4,720	4,721	0.0%	1.0%
Total Employment	4,311	4,451	4,457	0.1%	3.4%
Unemployment	362	269	264	-1.9%	-27.1%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.7	5.6		

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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** December 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (6.3 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 COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
DECEMBER 2014**

1	Washtenaw County	3.2	43	Alpena County	6.4
2	Kent County	3.4	44	Delta County	6.4
3	Ottawa County	3.6	45	Gogebic County	6.4
4	Clinton County	3.8	46	Otsego County	6.4
5	Isabella County	3.8	47	Van Buren County	6.4
6	Kalamazoo County	3.9	48	Macomb County	6.5
7	St. Joseph County	4.0	49	Charlevoix County	6.6
8	Barry County	4.1	50	Iron County	6.9
9	Ingham County	4.1	51	Manistee County	6.9
10	Eaton County	4.2	52	Osceola County	6.9
11	Ionia County	4.2	53	Crawford County	7.1
12	Allegan County	4.3	54	Kalkaska County	7.1
13	Midland County	4.4	55	Ogemaw County	7.2
14	Monroe County	4.4	56	Emmet County	7.3
15	Calhoun County	4.6	57	Missaukee County	7.4
16	Menominee County	4.6	58	Wayne County	7.4
17	Grand Traverse County	4.8	59	Wexford County	7.4
18	Cass County	4.9	60	Gladwin County	7.5
19	Branch County	5.0	61	Benzie County	7.6
20	Dickinson County	5.0	62	St. Clair County	7.6
21	Muskegon County	5.0	63	Luce County	7.7
22	Berrien County	5.2	64	Oceana County	7.7
23	Lenawee County	5.2	65	Antrim County	7.8
24	Marquette County	5.2	66	Baraga County	7.8
25	Saginaw County	5.2	67	Iosco County	7.8
26	Jackson County	5.3	68	Clare County	8.0
27	Leelanau County	5.3	69	Roscommon County	8.0
28	Gratiot County	5.4	70	Alcona County	8.1
29	Hillsdale County	5.4	71	Alger County	8.1
30	Huron County	5.4	72	Arenac County	8.2
31	Newaygo County	5.4	73	Chippewa County	8.3
32	Bay County	5.5	74	Lake County	8.7
33	Mecosta County	5.5	75	Oscoda County	8.9
34	Oakland County	5.5	76	Schoolcraft County	9.2
35	Shiawassee County	5.5	77	Lapeer County	9.3
36	Genesee County	5.6	78	Ontonagon County	9.5
37	Houghton County	5.6	79	Montmorency County	9.8
38	Livingston County	5.9	80	Keweenaw County	10.7
39	Mason County	6.1	81	Presque Isle County	10.7
40	Tuscola County	6.1	82	Cheboygan County	12.0
41	Montcalm County	6.3	83	Mackinac County	14.4
42	Sanilac County	6.3			

(more)

**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2013 – 2014**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	5.9	4.8
BATTLE CREEK MSA	7.6	6.1
BAY CITY MSA	9.1	7.3
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA	9.4	8.2
FLINT MSA	9.7	7.7
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	6.7	5.1
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA	6.7	5.1
JACKSON MSA	8.8	7.0
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	7.6	6.0
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	7.4	5.8
MONROE MSA	8.1	6.5
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA	9.0	6.8
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	9.0	6.9
SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA	9.1	7.2
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN LMA	11.9	9.7
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN LMA	9.9	7.7
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	9.7	8.0
MICHIGAN	8.8	7.2

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