



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 26, 2014

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

# **May Unemployment Rates Increase Seasonally in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Employment and Workforce Levels Up in All Areas*

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in May rose slightly in 12 of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels increased in all areas over the month.

"The jobless rate increases in a number of regions reflected a large influx of workers entering the labor market to obtain seasonal employment," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Although many individuals found employment in May, not all found jobs."

From April to May, the unemployment rate advances in the 12 regions were minor, and ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 of a percentage point with a median hike of 0.3 of a percentage point. Jobless rates fell in five regions over the month, with the largest declines posted in the state's three northernmost labor market areas. In May, all of Michigan's 17 regional labor markets registered jobless rates below 10.0 percent. Three areas; the Ann Arbor, Holland-Grand Haven, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), displayed unemployment rates below the U.S. seasonally unadjusted May rate of 6.1 percent.

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

Since May 2013, jobless rates fell in all of the state's 17 major regions. Reductions ranged from 0.8 to 2.1 percentage points with a significant median rate decline of 1.5 percentage points. The largest over-the-year unemployment rate decreases occurred in the Muskegon-Norton Shores and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs, with drops of 2.1 and 1.8 percentage points respectively.

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

In May, total employment levels rose in all 17 areas. Regional increases were wide ranging from 0.2 to 6.1 percent, while registering a notable 1.3 percent median gain. By far, the most pronounced over-the-month total employment percentage advances were posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+6.1%), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+5.5%), as hiring geared up for the summer tourism season. These two regions along with the Upper Peninsula combined for a total employment increase in May of 14,000.

From May 2013 to May 2014, total employment advanced in 16 of 17 regions. The majority of the over-the-year employment gains were significant, with a median increase of 2.8 percent. Thirteen areas recorded total employment advances above 2.0 percent over this period. The largest percentage additions since May 2013 were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven (+5.1%) and Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.9%) MSAs. Since May 2013, the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA recorded a minor total employment reduction of 0.2 percent.

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

From April to May, workforce levels increased seasonally in all 17 regions with a median advance of 1.3 percent. Since May 2013, labor force levels grew in 14 areas, with increases ranging from 0.2 to 3.4 percent, while posting a median gain of 1.5 percent. Over the year, workforce levels declined in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-1.3%), Flint (-1.1%), and Jackson (-0.1%) MSAs.

### **Widespread Seasonal Gain in May Payroll Jobs**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan jumped by 82,000 or 2.0 percent in May to 4,172,000. The large gain in May payroll jobs was mostly seasonal, and led by an increase in leisure and hospitality services (+28,000). Other substantial job additions were recorded in trade, transportation and utilities (+17,000), professional and business services (+15,000), and construction (+15,000). Manufacturing jobs rose by 9,000 over the month. The only significant job decline in May was a seasonal reduction in government (-6,000).

The gain in manufacturing jobs was due to partial recalls from April short-term layoffs in the auto-industry. This increase occurred primarily in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA. The decline in government jobs was mainly due to seasonal reductions in state government education with the end of the winter/spring semester at some of the state's colleges and universities.

From April to May, payroll jobs rose in 13 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan regions, with a median gain of 1.5 percent. Leisure and hospitality services and trade, transportation and utilities were up over the month in all metro areas, while construction increased in nearly all. In May, payroll jobs fell slightly in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA.

From May 2013 to May 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 30,000 or 0.7 percent. The majority of job growth over the year occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (+13,000), manufacturing (+8,000), construction (+6,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+6,000). The only notable job reduction over this period was in financial activities (-5,000).

Since May 2013, payroll jobs rose in ten of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with a median gain of 1.4 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+3.7%) and the Holland-Grand Haven (+3.6%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined over the year in the Flint (-1.2%), Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-0.2%), and Jackson (-0.2%) MSAs. Jobs were essentially unchanged in the Bay City MSA since May 2013.

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

Fifty-three of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate reductions in May with a median decrease of 0.8 of a percentage point. Nearly all of the larger rate declines were reported in the state's non-metro northern counties. Jobless rates rose slightly in 27 counties over the month, while rates in three counties were unchanged.

From May 2013 to May 2014, jobless rates fell in all 83 counties, with a significant median decrease of 1.5 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 May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for May.

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

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,600	187,400	189,000	0.9%	1.8%
Total Employment	174,200	178,300	179,000	0.4%	2.8%
Unemployment	11,400	9,000	10,000	11.1%	-12.3%
Rate (percent)	6.1	4.8	5.3		

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

	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,500	65,300	66,600	2.0%	1.7%
Total Employment	60,500	61,400	62,400	1.6%	3.1%
Unemployment	5,000	3,900	4,200	7.7%	-16.0%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.0	6.3		

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

	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,300	51,900	52,400	1.0%	0.2%
Total Employment	47,600	47,900	48,400	1.0%	1.7%
Unemployment	4,800	4,000	4,000	0.0%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	9.1	7.7	7.6		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</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	2,027	1,987	2,000	0.7%	-1.3%
Total Employment	1,844	1,831	1,840	0.5%	-0.2%
Unemployment	183	156	160	2.6%	-12.6%
Rate (percent)	9.0	7.9	8.0		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,500	185,100	187,400	1.2%	-1.1%
Total Employment	171,500	170,700	172,400	1.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	18,000	14,500	15,000	3.4%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	9.5	7.8	8.0		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	408,400	411,200	422,200	2.7%	3.4%
Total Employment	380,700	390,100	399,500	2.4%	4.9%
Unemployment	27,600	21,100	22,700	7.6%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.1	5.4		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b>					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	132,900	134,100	137,400	2.5%	3.4%
Total Employment	123,800	127,500	130,100	2.0%	5.1%
Unemployment	9,100	6,700	7,300	9.0%	-19.8%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.0	5.3		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	70,600	71,500	1.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	65,300	65,600	66,300	1.1%	1.5%
Unemployment	6,300	5,100	5,200	2.0%	-17.5%
Rate (percent)	8.9	7.2	7.3		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,100	161,700	162,600	0.6%	1.6%
Total Employment	147,900	152,000	152,300	0.2%	3.0%
Unemployment	12,200	9,700	10,300	6.2%	-15.6%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.0	6.3		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	238,200	238,700	242,400	1.6%	1.8%
Total Employment	220,100	224,000	226,800	1.3%	3.0%
Unemployment	18,000	14,700	15,600	6.1%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.1	6.4		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,800	72,200	72,500	0.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	65,900	66,800	67,600	1.2%	2.6%
Unemployment	5,900	5,400	4,900	-9.3%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	8.2	7.4	6.8		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,800	83,500	85,000	1.8%	1.4%
Total Employment	76,200	77,700	79,100	1.8%	3.8%
Unemployment	7,600	5,700	5,900	3.5%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	9.1	6.9	7.0		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,100	71,700	73,200	2.1%	1.5%
Total Employment	65,600	66,800	67,900	1.6%	3.5%
Unemployment	6,500	4,900	5,300	8.2%	-18.5%
Rate (percent)	9.0	6.9	7.2		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,900	91,000	91,800	0.9%	1.0%
Total Employment	82,600	84,200	84,800	0.7%	2.7%
Unemployment	8,300	6,800	7,000	2.9%	-15.7%
Rate (percent)	9.1	7.4	7.6		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,100	144,100	145,900	1.2%	0.6%
Total Employment	130,800	130,900	133,600	2.1%	2.1%
Unemployment	14,200	13,200	12,300	-6.8%	-13.4%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.2	8.4		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</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	86,100	83,400	86,600	3.8%	0.6%
Total Employment	76,700	74,100	78,600	6.1%	2.5%
Unemployment	9,400	9,300	8,000	-14.0%	-14.9%
Rate (percent)	10.9	11.2	9.2		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,400	141,300	147,400	4.3%	0.7%
Total Employment	132,400	128,700	135,800	5.5%	2.6%
Unemployment	14,000	12,700	11,600	-8.7%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	9.6	9.0	7.9		

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	<u>May-13</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>May-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,726	4,677	4,738	1.3%	0.3%
Total Employment	4,320	4,336	4,392	1.3%	1.7%
Unemployment	406	340	346	1.8%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	8.6	7.3	7.3		

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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** May 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.5 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  
MAY 2014**

1	Kent County	5.2	43	Alpena County	8.1
2	Barry County	5.3	44	Mecosta County	8.2
3	Ottawa County	5.3	45	Benzie County	8.3
4	Washtenaw County	5.3	46	Delta County	8.3
5	Mackinac County	5.4	47	Manistee County	8.4
6	St. Joseph County	5.7	48	St. Clair County	8.4
7	Allegan County	5.8	49	Charlevoix County	8.5
8	Clinton County	5.9	50	Otsego County	8.5
9	Isabella County	5.9	51	Tuscola County	8.5
10	Cass County	5.9	52	Montcalm County	8.6
11	Kalamazoo County	6.1	53	Sanilac County	8.6
12	Midland County	6.1	54	Crawford County	8.7
13	Grand Traverse County	6.2	55	Emmet County	8.9
14	Ionia County	6.2	56	Houghton County	8.9
15	Leelanau County	6.2	57	Luce County	8.9
16	Calhoun County	6.3	58	Iron County	9.0
17	Ingham County	6.4	59	Wayne County	9.0
18	Menominee County	6.5	60	Oceana County	9.1
19	Branch County	6.7	61	Ogemaw County	9.2
20	Newaygo County	6.7	62	Wexford County	9.2
21	Dickinson County	6.8	63	Missaukee County	9.3
22	Monroe County	6.8	64	Antrim County	9.4
23	Eaton County	6.9	65	Kalkaska County	9.6
24	Oakland County	6.9	66	Arenac County	9.7
25	Muskegon County	7.0	67	Gogebic County	9.7
26	Livingston County	7.1	68	Gladwin County	9.8
27	Van Buren County	7.1	69	Iosco County	9.9
28	Berrien County	7.2	70	Osceola County	10.0
29	Cheboygan County	7.3	71	Alcona County	10.2
30	Jackson County	7.3	72	Clare County	10.2
31	Mason County	7.3	73	Roscommon County	10.2
32	Huron County	7.5	74	Alger County	10.3
33	Marquette County	7.5	75	Lake County	10.5
34	Bay County	7.6	76	Oscoda County	10.7
35	Lenawee County	7.6	77	Schoolcraft County	10.7
36	Saginaw County	7.6	78	Chippewa County	10.8
37	Hillsdale County	7.7	79	Presque Isle County	11.6
38	Macomb County	7.7	80	Keweenaw County	11.7
39	Gratiot County	7.8	81	Montmorency County	11.8
40	Lapeer County	7.8	82	Baraga County	12.6
41	Shiawassee County	7.9	83	Ontonagon County	13.8
42	Genesee County	8.0			

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