



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's February Unemployment Rate Edges Downward

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February edged down over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.7 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 26,000 in February and the number of unemployed declined slightly by 4,000. The state's labor force advanced by 21,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in February 2014 was one and one-tenth percentage points below the state's February 2013 rate of 8.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in February was one percentage point above the national rate of 6.7 percent. The U.S. jobless rate increased slightly over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point.

"Michigan labor market conditions displayed modest improvement in February," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The state jobless rate edged down slightly and payroll jobs rebounded in manufacturing."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- February 2014 marked the sixth consecutive month that the state's monthly unemployment rate recorded a reduction. Since August, Michigan's jobless rate fell by one and three-tenths percentage points.
- Over the six-month period since August, total employment gains averaged 11,000 per month.
- Michigan's workforce has shown notable gains early in 2014 after recording minor monthly reductions in the second half of 2013.
- Since February 2013, total employment in Michigan rose by 69,000 or 1.6 percent, which slightly outpaced the national rate of increase of 1.3 percent over the same period.
- From February 2013 to February 2014, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 52,000 or 12.5 percent. Nationally, the number of unemployed declined by 13.2 percent since February 2013.

(more)

Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2009-2013 for Michigan and for the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was also revised for 2009-2013. For newly revised data, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2013	January 2014	February 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,703	4,698	4,719	21	16
Employment	4,287	4,330	4,356	26	69
Unemployment	415	367	363	-4	-52
Rate (Percent)	8.8	7.8	7.7	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's February Unemployment Rate Unchanged

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February was unchanged at 8.3 percent. In February, both total employment and the area's labor force advanced moderately by 7,000. The number of unemployed was flat in the MSA. The area's unchanged jobless rate in February broke a string of consecutive monthly unemployment declines dating back to August 2013. With the February advance, total employment in the metropolitan region has increased every month since August 2012.

From February 2013 to February 2014, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by one and four-tenths percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 39,000 or 2.1 percent and the number of unemployed dropped by 27,000 or 13.7 percent. Since February 2013, the Detroit area's workforce grew modestly by 12,000 or 0.6 percent.

Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA
Labor Force Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2013	January 2014	February 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,030	2,035	2,042	7	12
Employment	1,833	1,865	1,872	7	39
Unemployment	197	170	170	0	-27
Rate (Percent)	9.7	8.3	8.3	xxx	xxx

(more)

Payroll Jobs Increase Slightly in February

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged upward in February by 4,000 to 4,117,000. Moderate job gains in manufacturing (+6,000) and construction (+3,000) were somewhat offset by a job reduction in professional and business services (-5,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded little change in February.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Following a job reduction in January, payroll jobs in Michigan rebounded slightly in February back to levels posted in the second half of 2013. The six-month average job total for the state for the second half of 2013 was 4,117,000.
- The advance in February construction jobs pushed this sector to its highest statewide job level since February 2009.
- After short-term layoff activity in January, manufacturing jobs rebounded in February, continuing the long-term upward trend displayed since early 2010.
- Jobs in professional and business services in February registered this sector's largest monthly decline since July 2013. Levels had been very steady in this job category for the prior six months (August though January).
- Government jobs were stable over the month; however this sector continues to show over-the-year job loss. Since February 2013, government jobs in the state declined by 4,000. Government jobs in Michigan have been steadily declining since 2002.
- From February 2013 to February 2014, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 24,000 or 0.6 percent. Since February 2013, job gains have been concentrated in manufacturing (+17,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,000), professional and business services (+5,000), and construction (+3,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours of production workers in manufacturing increased slightly over the month, however earnings edged downward. Hours and earnings declined over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	<u>February</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>January*</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>February**</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,093	4,113	4,117	4	24
Natural Resources & Mining	8	8	8	0	0
Construction	134	134	137	3	3
Manufacturing	549	561	566	6	17
Transportation Equipment	163	168	172	3	8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	741	747	747	1	6
Retail Trade	454	454	455	0	0
Information	54	55	55	0	1
Financial Activities	201	200	200	0	-2
Professional & Business Services	597	607	602	-5	5
Education & Health Services	637	635	635	0	-2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	399	400	399	-1	1
Other Services	171	169	170	1	-1
Government	601	597	597	0	-4

* Final data for January

** Preliminary data for February

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>February</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>January</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>February</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$895.57	\$847.81	\$845.00	-\$2.81	-\$50.57
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	42.5	43.1	0.6	-1.0

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,210.88	\$1,101.35	\$1,062.38	-\$38.97	-\$148.50
Average Weekly Hours	46.7	44.9	45.3	0.4	-1.4

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