



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February Unemployment Rates Rise in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in February increased in 15 of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment advanced moderately over the month in most areas, while labor force levels were up in all regions.

"Unemployment rates in Michigan's local areas were elevated in February, which is normal for the winter months," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Throughout the state, payroll job totals in the winter are typically at their lowest levels of the year in a number of industry sectors including construction, trade, transportation and utilities, and leisure and hospitality services."

From January to February, the jobless rate increases in the 15 regions ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 of a percentage point with a median hike of a half percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate advances occurred in the Upper Peninsula and the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Unemployment rates declined slightly in the Monroe and Flint Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the rates in both areas decreasing by 0.3 of a percentage point in February. In February, four Michigan regions displayed jobless rates below the non-seasonally adjusted national rate of 7.0 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since February 2013, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Declines ranged from 0.3 to 1.5 percentage points with a median rate reduction of 0.9 of a percentage point. The most pronounced jobless rate decreases over that period were recorded in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Lansing-East Lansing, and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

In February, total employment levels rose in 15 areas, showing a median gain of 0.8 percent. The largest over-the-month increases were posted in the Monroe, Flint, and Ann Arbor MSAs, with jumps of 2.5, 1.8, and 1.7 percent respectively. Total employment was essentially unchanged in February in both the Bay City and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs.

From February 2013 to February 2014, total employment advanced in 16 regions. The median over-the-year gain was 1.8 percent, with the largest increases of over 3.0 percent displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven, Monroe, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. Since February 2013, total employment edged downward by 0.4 percent in the Flint MSA.

Note: Employment, unemployment and industry job data for all 12 months of 2013 have been recently revised. Estimates for February 2014 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised 2013 estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From January to February, workforce levels rose in all 17 Michigan regions, with a substantial median expansion of 1.6 percent. The leading over-the-month labor force advances of around 2.0 percent were registered in the Ann Arbor, Monroe, Holland-Grand Haven, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Over the year, labor force levels increased in 15 areas, reporting a median growth of 0.7 percent. Workforce levels declined since February 2013 in the Flint and Bay City MSAs.

Seasonal Increase in Government and Private Education Push February Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 20,000 or 0.5 percent in February to 4,056,000. Significant over-the-month job gains were posted in government (+12,000), education and health services (+8,000), and manufacturing (+5,000). Countering these gains was a 7,000 decline in trade, transportation and utilities.

Within the government sector, jobs in local government education (+7,000), and state government education (+6,000) increased seasonally due to the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools following the holiday break. The advance in education and health services was primarily due to a seasonal gain in private education. The increase in manufacturing jobs was the result of recalls from short-term January layoffs in the auto industry.

From January to February, payroll jobs rose in 11 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan regions. The average over-the-month increase was 1.0 percent, with the largest percentage gains displayed in the Flint, Ann Arbor, and Holland-Grand Haven MSAs. Payroll jobs declined slightly in February in the Bay City and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs, while jobs were essentially unchanged in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA.

From February 2013 to February 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 27,000 or 0.7 percent. Manufacturing (+17,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+10,000), and professional and business services (+5,000) recorded essentially the entire advance, while government (-5,000) posted the only significant decline.

Since February 2013, payroll jobs rose in 11 metropolitan regions with an average advance of 1.8 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven (+3.5%), Monroe (+3.1%), and Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+3.0%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Seventy-eight of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate hikes in February with a median increase of 0.6 of a percentage point. In February, 44 Michigan counties reported jobless rates at or above 10.0 percent, while nine counties recorded rates below the national unadjusted rate.

From February 2013 to February 2014, jobless rates fell in 79 of the state's counties, with a median decline of 0.9 of a percentage point.

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

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

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,000	181,400	185,200	2.1%	0.7%
Total Employment	173,600	172,400	175,300	1.7%	1.0%
Unemployment	10,400	9,000	9,900	10.0%	-4.8%
Rate (percent)	5.6	5.0	5.3		

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

	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	64,100	65,100	1.6%	1.4%
Total Employment	59,000	59,800	60,300	0.8%	2.2%
Unemployment	5,200	4,300	4,800	11.6%	-7.7%
Rate (percent)	8.1	6.8	7.3		

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

	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,800	51,200	51,500	0.6%	-0.6%
Total Employment	46,500	46,600	46,600	0.0%	0.2%
Unemployment	5,300	4,600	4,800	4.3%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	10.2	9.0	9.4		

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

	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,015	2,021	2,030	0.4%	0.7%
Total Employment	1,814	1,848	1,848	0.0%	1.9%
Unemployment	202	173	182	5.2%	-9.9%
Rate (percent)	10.0	8.5	9.0		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,800	181,700	184,400	1.5%	-1.3%
Total Employment	167,800	164,200	167,100	1.8%	-0.4%
Unemployment	19,000	17,600	17,300	-1.7%	-8.9%
Rate (percent)	10.2	9.7	9.4		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	400,300	404,600	408,500	1.0%	2.0%
Total Employment	371,900	381,200	383,300	0.6%	3.1%
Unemployment	28,500	23,400	25,200	7.7%	-11.6%
Rate (percent)	7.1	5.8	6.2		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	130,400	131,100	133,600	1.9%	2.5%
Total Employment	121,100	123,600	125,300	1.4%	3.5%
Unemployment	9,300	7,500	8,300	10.7%	-10.8%
Rate (percent)	7.2	5.7	6.2		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,100	69,500	70,400	1.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	63,600	64,000	64,400	0.6%	1.3%
Unemployment	6,500	5,500	6,000	9.1%	-7.7%
Rate (percent)	9.3	8.0	8.5		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	159,500	157,100	160,100	1.9%	0.4%
Total Employment	146,600	146,500	148,500	1.4%	1.3%
Unemployment	12,900	10,700	11,700	9.3%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	8.1	6.8	7.3		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	234,800	233,500	236,700	1.4%	0.8%
Total Employment	216,600	219,300	221,000	0.8%	2.0%
Unemployment	18,300	14,200	15,600	9.9%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	7.8	6.1	6.6		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,600	69,600	71,000	2.0%	2.0%
Total Employment	63,500	64,100	65,700	2.5%	3.5%
Unemployment	6,100	5,500	5,400	-1.8%	-11.5%
Rate (percent)	8.7	7.9	7.6		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	82,200	83,000	1.0%	1.0%
Total Employment	74,100	75,700	76,100	0.5%	2.7%
Unemployment	8,100	6,500	6,900	6.2%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	9.8	7.9	8.3		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,900	69,700	70,800	1.6%	1.3%
Total Employment	62,900	64,000	64,600	0.9%	2.7%
Unemployment	7,000	5,700	6,200	8.8%	-11.4%
Rate (percent)	10.0	8.2	8.8		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,300	89,900	90,400	0.6%	0.1%
Total Employment	81,500	82,200	82,300	0.1%	1.0%
Unemployment	8,800	7,700	8,000	3.9%	-9.1%
Rate (percent)	9.8	8.5	8.9		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,600	144,000	146,300	1.6%	0.5%
Total Employment	129,600	130,000	130,800	0.6%	0.9%
Unemployment	16,000	14,000	15,500	10.7%	-3.1%
Rate (percent)	11.0	9.7	10.6		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-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	83,300	82,600	83,900	1.6%	0.7%
Total Employment	70,900	71,700	72,000	0.4%	1.6%
Unemployment	12,300	10,900	11,800	8.3%	-4.1%
Rate (percent)	14.8	13.2	14.1		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,500	141,100	142,400	0.9%	0.6%
Total Employment	124,800	126,900	127,100	0.2%	1.8%
Unemployment	16,600	14,200	15,400	8.5%	-7.2%
Rate (percent)	11.7	10.1	10.8		

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	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,671	4,662	4,709	1.0%	0.8%
Total Employment	4,230	4,286	4,309	0.5%	1.9%
Unemployment	441	376	400	6.4%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	9.4	8.1	8.5		

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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** February 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.7 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
FEBRUARY 2014**

1	Washtenaw County	5.3	43	Mason County	10.6
2	Kent County	5.8	44	Montcalm County	10.7
3	Ottawa County	6.2	45	Alpena County	10.8
4	Ingham County	6.5	46	Leelanau County	10.8
5	Isabella County	6.5	47	Tuscola County	10.8
6	Kalamazoo County	6.5	48	Keweenaw County	10.9
7	Clinton County	6.6	49	Luce County	10.9
8	Eaton County	6.7	50	Iron County	11.0
9	St. Joseph County	6.8	51	Otsego County	11.0
10	Barry County	7.1	52	Wexford County	11.2
11	Allegan County	7.3	53	St. Clair County	11.4
12	Calhoun County	7.3	54	Manistee County	11.5
13	Ionia County	7.3	55	Crawford County	11.6
14	Oakland County	7.4	56	Sanilac County	11.6
15	Midland County	7.5	57	Charlevoix County	11.8
16	Monroe County	7.6	58	Kalkaska County	11.9
17	Menominee County	8.1	59	Alger County	12.0
18	Grand Traverse County	8.2	60	Osceola County	12.0
19	Cass County	8.3	61	Lapeer County	12.2
20	Livingston County	8.3	62	Antrim County	12.3
21	Muskegon County	8.3	63	Benzie County	12.3
22	Branch County	8.4	64	Clare County	12.7
23	Lenawee County	8.4	65	Ogemaw County	12.7
24	Marquette County	8.4	66	Emmet County	13.0
25	Jackson County	8.5	67	Gladwin County	13.0
26	Dickinson County	8.6	68	Ontonagon County	13.0
27	Berrien County	8.8	69	Missaukee County	13.2
28	Macomb County	8.8	70	Oceana County	13.3
29	Saginaw County	8.9	71	Chippewa County	13.6
30	Houghton County	9.1	72	Alcona County	13.7
31	Newaygo County	9.2	73	Roscommon County	13.7
32	Gratiot County	9.3	74	Lake County	14.1
33	Mecosta County	9.3	75	Arenac County	14.2
34	Bay County	9.4	76	Baraga County	14.3
35	Genesee County	9.4	77	Iosco County	14.4
36	Hillsdale County	9.4	78	Schoolcraft County	14.8
37	Huron County	9.7	79	Oscoda County	14.9
38	Shiawassee County	9.7	80	Montmorency County	16.5
39	Wayne County	9.8	81	Presque Isle County	19.3
40	Van Buren County	10.0	82	Cheboygan County	20.8
41	Gogebic County	10.2	83	Mackinac County	24.9
42	Delta County	10.6			

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