



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

September Unemployment Rates Little Changed in Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

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

"Typical seasonal patterns dominated the September local area labor market data," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Although local area unemployment showed only small changes over the month, jobless rates have dropped substantially in all regions over the year."

From August to September, jobless rates edged downward in eight regions, increased slightly in five areas, and were unchanged in the remaining four regions. Unemployment rate decreases ranged from -0.1 to -0.4 of a percentage point with the largest reductions displayed in the Monroe and Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Rate advances over the month were limited to either 0.1 or 0.2 of a percentage point. In September, six of Michigan's major regions posted unemployment rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.7 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since September 2013, all of the state's regional unemployment rates decreased. Area jobless rate reductions from September 2013 to September 2014 ranged from -1.0 to -2.6 percentage points, with a median drop of -1.8 percentage points. The largest over-the-year unemployment rate decline took place in the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Four other areas recorded the next largest rate reduction of -2.4 percentage points.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

In September, total employment levels fell seasonally in 15 regions. Declines were wide ranging over the month, but the median reduction was a moderate -0.6 percent. The most pronounced over-the-month total employment decreases were registered in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-4.5%) and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.0%). Total employment rose in September in the Lansing-East Lansing (+0.9%) and Kalamazoo-Portage (+0.1%) MSAs.

From September 2013 to September 2014, total employment grew in 16 of the 17 state regions. The median advance over the year was a significant gain of 3.5 percent. Since September 2013, the largest total employment increases were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Muskegon-Norton Shores, and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs. Over the year, the total employment level in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA declined slightly by -0.4 percent.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Up Over Year

From August to September, workforce levels declined seasonally in 14 state regions. Decreases ranged from -0.2 to -4.3 percent with a median reduction of -1.0 percent. Labor force levels increased in the Lansing-East Lansing and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs over the month, while the workforce in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA was essentially unchanged in September. Over the year, workforce levels advanced in 16 major areas, showing a median growth of 1.9 percent. The labor force level in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA declined by -1.5 percent since September 2013.

Seasonal Gains in Education Push September Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 47,000 or 1.1 percent in September to 4,181,000. Government positions led the job advances with seasonal gains in local government education (+42,000), and state government education (+18,000) as students returned to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester. Increases in local government education were evident throughout the state, while job gains in state government education were most prominent in the Lansing-East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Private sector jobs in Michigan declined by -6,000 or -0.2 percent in September with seasonal reductions posted in leisure and hospitality services (-19,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-5,000). These decreases were partially offset by seasonal gains in professional and business services (+12,000), and education and health services (+7,000).

From August to September, payroll jobs increased in all 14 metropolitan regions. Area job gains ranged from 0.2 to 3.3 percent, with a median advance of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-month percentage increases in overall jobs occurred in the Lansing-East Lansing and Kalamazoo MSAs.

From September 2013 to September 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 32,000 or 0.8 percent. Since September 2013, job gains were seen primarily in trade, transportation and utilities (+12,000), manufacturing (+9,000), construction (+9,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+8,000). The remaining Michigan job sectors were relatively stable over the year with the exception of a reduction in financial activities (-4,000).

Since September 2013, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with an average gain of 1.6 percent. Payroll jobs edged down slightly over the year in the Jackson (-0.2%), and Flint (-0.1%) MSAs. Over the year, the majority of regions in the state reported job gains in construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation and utilities, and in leisure and hospitality services.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

Forty of Michigan's 83 counties recorded minor jobless rate reductions in September as 32 counties registered modest unemployment rate increases. The median change for both increases and decreases in county rates over the month was a small 0.2 of a percentage point. Eleven counties showed no rate change in September. From September 2013 to September 2014, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties, displaying a median rate drop of -2.1 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 September workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for September.

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

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,300	187,100	186,400	-0.4%	2.2%
Total Employment	171,900	178,600	177,700	-0.5%	3.4%
Unemployment	10,500	8,500	8,700	2.4%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	5.8	4.6	4.7		

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

	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,600	66,500	65,700	-1.2%	1.7%
Total Employment	60,000	62,800	62,000	-1.3%	3.3%
Unemployment	4,600	3,700	3,700	0.0%	-19.6%
Rate (percent)	7.2	5.5	5.6		

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

	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,500	52,900	52,500	-0.8%	1.9%
Total Employment	47,300	49,500	49,300	-0.4%	4.2%
Unemployment	4,300	3,400	3,200	-5.9%	-25.6%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.3	6.1		

Contact: Kevin Doyle, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-2161

	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,048	2,017	2,017	0.0%	-1.5%
Total Employment	1,862	1,858	1,854	-0.2%	-0.4%
Unemployment	186	159	162	1.9%	-12.9%
Rate (percent)	9.1	7.9	8.1		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,100	185,200	183,300	-1.0%	0.1%
Total Employment	166,000	172,300	170,500	-1.0%	2.7%
Unemployment	17,100	12,900	12,700	-1.6%	-25.7%
Rate (percent)	9.4	7.0	7.0		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	398,800	417,500	414,900	-0.6%	4.0%
Total Employment	373,800	397,700	395,400	-0.6%	5.8%
Unemployment	25,000	19,900	19,500	-2.0%	-22.0%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.8	4.7		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	131,800	137,800	137,400	-0.3%	4.2%
Total Employment	123,500	131,400	131,200	-0.2%	6.2%
Unemployment	8,200	6,400	6,200	-3.1%	-24.4%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.6	4.5		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,700	71,300	70,100	-1.7%	0.6%
Total Employment	64,000	66,800	65,600	-1.8%	2.5%
Unemployment	5,800	4,500	4,500	0.0%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.3	6.4		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,100	163,800	163,900	0.1%	2.4%
Total Employment	148,800	154,900	155,000	0.1%	4.2%
Unemployment	11,300	8,900	8,900	0.0%	-21.2%
Rate (percent)	7.0	5.4	5.4		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	233,200	238,300	239,900	0.7%	2.9%
Total Employment	217,400	225,300	227,400	0.9%	4.6%
Unemployment	15,800	13,000	12,500	-3.8%	-20.9%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.5	5.2		

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

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,400	71,800	71,300	-0.7%	1.3%
Total Employment	65,300	67,300	67,100	-0.3%	2.8%
Unemployment	5,100	4,500	4,200	-6.7%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	7.3	6.3	5.9		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,700	85,700	84,400	-1.5%	2.1%
Total Employment	75,700	80,500	79,300	-1.5%	4.8%
Unemployment	7,000	5,200	5,100	-1.9%	-27.1%
Rate (percent)	8.5	6.1	6.1		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	74,000	72,500	-2.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	65,900	69,500	68,200	-1.9%	3.5%
Unemployment	6,000	4,500	4,400	-2.2%	-26.7%
Rate (percent)	8.4	6.1	6.0		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,800	92,500	92,300	-0.2%	2.8%
Total Employment	82,200	86,500	86,400	-0.1%	5.1%
Unemployment	7,700	6,000	5,900	-1.7%	-23.4%
Rate (percent)	8.5	6.5	6.4		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,200	149,400	148,900	-0.3%	1.2%
Total Employment	135,100	139,600	139,400	-0.1%	3.2%
Unemployment	12,000	9,800	9,500	-3.1%	-20.8%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.6	6.4		

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(more)

	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-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	86,300	88,200	86,500	-1.9%	0.2%
Total Employment	77,800	81,900	80,300	-2.0%	3.2%
Unemployment	8,500	6,400	6,200	-3.1%	-27.1%
Rate (percent)	9.8	7.2	7.2		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,600	154,600	147,900	-4.3%	0.9%
Total Employment	134,100	145,400	138,800	-4.5%	3.5%
Unemployment	12,500	9,100	9,000	-1.1%	-28.0%
Rate (percent)	8.5	5.9	6.1		

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	<u>Sep-13</u>	<u>Aug-14</u>	<u>Sep-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,714	4,759	4,738	-0.4%	0.5%
Total Employment	4,326	4,442	4,420	-0.5%	2.2%
Unemployment	388	317	317	0.0%	-18.3%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.7	6.7		

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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** September 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.2 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
SEPTEMBER 2014**

1	Mackinac County	3.2	43	Benzie County	6.5
2	Kent County	4.5	44	Kalkaska County	6.5
3	Ottawa County	4.5	45	Oceana County	6.5
4	Clinton County	4.6	46	Shiawassee County	6.5
5	Leelanau County	4.6	47	Alpena County	6.6
6	Barry County	4.7	48	Gratiot County	6.6
7	Washtenaw County	4.7	49	Iron County	6.6
8	Allegan County	4.8	50	Manistee County	6.6
9	Cheboygan County	4.8	51	Otsego County	6.7
10	Isabella County	4.9	52	Sanilac County	6.8
11	Grand Traverse County	5.1	53	Tuscola County	6.8
12	Midland County	5.1	54	Crawford County	6.9
13	St. Joseph County	5.2	55	Luce County	6.9
14	Cass County	5.3	56	Oakland County	6.9
15	Eaton County	5.3	57	Alger County	7.0
16	Ingham County	5.3	58	Genesee County	7.0
17	Kalamazoo County	5.3	59	Antrim County	7.1
18	Dickinson County	5.5	60	Missaukee County	7.1
19	Calhoun County	5.6	61	Ogemaw County	7.3
20	Ionia County	5.6	62	Gogebic County	7.4
21	Huron County	5.7	63	Montcalm County	7.4
22	Marquette County	5.7	64	Alcona County	7.5
23	Menominee County	5.7	65	Arenac County	7.6
24	Branch County	5.9	66	Lapeer County	7.6
25	Mason County	5.9	67	Roscommon County	7.7
26	Monroe County	5.9	68	Osceola County	7.8
27	Van Buren County	5.9	69	St. Clair County	7.8
28	Berrien County	6.0	70	Chippewa County	8.0
29	Keweenaw County	6.0	71	Macomb County	8.0
30	Bay County	6.1	72	Clare County	8.2
31	Muskegon County	6.1	73	Gladwin County	8.2
32	Newaygo County	6.1	74	Iosco County	8.2
33	Emmet County	6.3	75	Wexford County	8.2
34	Lenawee County	6.3	76	Schoolcraft County	8.4
35	Livingston County	6.3	77	Baraga County	8.6
36	Charlevoix County	6.4	78	Presque Isle County	8.9
37	Delta County	6.4	79	Lake County	9.1
38	Hillsdale County	6.4	80	Oscoda County	9.1
39	Houghton County	6.4	81	Wayne County	9.2
40	Jackson County	6.4	82	Ontonagon County	9.4
41	Mecosta County	6.4	83	Montmorency County	9.5
42	Saginaw County	6.4			

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