



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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Michigan's September Unemployment Rate Declines

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September dipped over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.2 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment in the state rose by 9,000 over the month as the number of unemployed declined by 6,000. The state's labor force grew slightly by 3,000 in September.

The Michigan jobless rate in September 2014 was one and six-tenths percentage points below the state's September 2013 rate of 8.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one and three-tenths percentage points over this period. The state's unemployment rate in September was one and three-tenths percentage points above the national rate of 5.9 percent. The U.S. jobless rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point in September.

"With three quarters of the year in the books, trends in Michigan's 2014 labor market have become clearer," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The state's jobless rate has trended down since the start of 2014, declining by six-tenths of a percentage point since January, while payroll jobs have been on a mostly upward swing since May."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's September unemployment rate was the lowest for the state so far in 2014.
- September's 7.2 percent jobless rate was the lowest in Michigan since the March 2008 rate of 7.1 percent, and was near the state's pre-recessionary annual unemployment rates from 2003 through 2007.
- Through September, the state's year-to-date 2014 average unemployment rate stands at 7.5 percent, well below Michigan's 2013 annual rate of 8.8 percent.
- From the second quarter to the third quarter 2014, the state's quarterly jobless rate edged downward by one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.5 to 7.4 percent.
- Since September 2013, the state's labor force grew moderately by 27,000 or 0.6 percent, which outpaced the national increase of 0.3 percent over the same period.

- Michigan's total employment level was relatively flat in mid-year 2014. However with gains over the past two months, the state's total employment count in September was the highest recorded so far in 2014.
- From September 2013 to September 2014, the number of unemployed in Michigan dropped by 73,000 or 17.6 percent, which was very similar to the national decline of 17.3 percent over the same time frame.

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates
 Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	September 2013	August 2014	September 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,706	4,730	4,733	3	27
Employment	4,291	4,382	4,391	9	100
Unemployment	415	348	342	-6	-73
Rate (Percent)	8.8	7.4	7.2	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's September Jobless Rate Edges Downward

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September edged downward by one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.3 percent. In September, the area's total employment level advanced by 3,000 while the number of unemployed declined slightly by 1,000. The metro region's workforce increased by 2,000 over the month. The metro area's jobless rates in 2014 have ranged from 8.1 to 8.4 percent for eight of the first nine months of the year. Although total employment and the labor force recorded a modest uptick in the area in September, these have been trending downward throughout most of 2014. The number of unemployed in the area in 2014 has remained relatively flat.

From September 2013 to September 2014, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate declined by a full percentage point. Over that period, the region's labor force recorded a reduction of 29,000 or 1.4 percent. Since August 2013, the number of unemployed fell by 23,000 or 12.1 percent, however the area's total employment level also decreased, registering a relatively minor decline of 7,000 or 0.4 percent.

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

	September 2013	August 2014	September 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,035	2,004	2,006	2	-29
Employment	1,846	1,836	1,839	3	-7
Unemployment	190	168	167	-1	-23
Rate (Percent)	9.3	8.4	8.3	xxx	xxx

September Payroll Jobs Advance

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in September by 5,000 to total 4,146,000. September job gains were recorded in professional and business services (+4,000), construction (+3,000), manufacturing (+2,000), and other services (+2,000). Somewhat offsetting these advances were job reductions in leisure and hospitality services (-4,000), and education and health services (-2,000). The state's remaining major sectors showed only minor changes over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- The moderate overall job gain over the month pushed Michigan's payroll job level in September to the second highest monthly total in 2014.
- Jobs in leisure and hospitality services declined for the second consecutive month in September. The 403,000 statewide job total for this sector in September was the same as the year-to-date 2014 average.
- With the gain of 3,000 over the month, statewide construction jobs in September displayed the highest monthly level so far in 2014.
- Manufacturing jobs in Michigan have been stable over the past four months. Third quarter 2014 manufacturing jobs were at the highest level since the second quarter of 2008.
- From September 2013 to September 2014, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 33,000 or 0.8 percent. Since September 2013, the bulk of the state's job growth was recorded in trade, transportation and utilities (+13,000), manufacturing (+12,000), leisure and hospitality services (+7,000), and construction (+6,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined slightly over the month, but increased over the year. Weekly hours were little changed both over the month and over the year.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>September</u> 2013	<u>August*</u> 2014	<u>September**</u> 2014	CHANGE*** <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,113	4,141	4,146	5	33
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	9	0	1
Construction	133	136	139	3	6
Manufacturing	558	568	569	2	12
Transportation Equipment	169	170	173	3	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	745	757	758	1	13
Retail Trade	457	456	457	2	1
Information	56	57	58	0	2
Financial Activities	203	198	198	-1	-5
Professional & Business Services	607	601	605	4	-2
Education & Health Services	638	638	636	-2	-2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	396	408	403	-4	7
Other Services	172	168	170	2	-1
Government	599	602	601	-1	2

* Final data for August

** Preliminary data for September

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>September</u> 2013	<u>August</u> 2014	<u>September</u> 2014	CHANGE <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$875.64	\$896.30	\$893.45	-\$2.85	\$17.81
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.6	43.7	0.1	0.0

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,152.42	\$1,216.24	\$1,237.71	\$21.47	\$85.29
Average Weekly Hours	46.2	47.0	49.1	2.1	2.9

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