



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 27, 2011

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## **September Unemployment Rates Drop Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in September, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels decreased in the majority of regions over the month.

"Typical seasonal patterns dominated Michigan's local labor market situation in September," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "A reduction in the summer and seasonal work force was offset by increases in education related employment."

From August to September, the jobless rate reductions in the 17 regions ranged from 0.3 to 1.2 percentage points with a moderate median decline of 0.7 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month decreases were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with rate declines of 1.2 and 1.0 percentage points respectively. In September, 14 of the 17 regions in the state displayed unemployment rates below 10.0 percent.

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

From September 2010 to September 2011, unemployment rates fell in all of the state's 17 regions. Over-the-year rate declines ranged from 0.9 to 2.3 percentage points with a significant median drop of 1.7 percentage points. The most pronounced rate decreases since September 2010 occurred in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Holland-Grand Haven and Flint MSAs, while the smallest decline was registered in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

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

Over the month, total employment decreased in nine areas with an average decline of 0.8 percent. The largest decline was a seasonal reduction recorded in the Northwest Lower Michigan region as the summer tourism season began to wind down. Employment rose in six regions in September, with two of the larger gains posted in the Lansing-East Lansing and Ann Arbor MSAs as classes resumed in the major university centers. Employment levels were essentially unchanged over the month in the Bay City and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs.

Since September 2010, overall employment levels declined in ten areas and rose in six regions, while employment was essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA.

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

In September, labor force levels declined seasonally in 13 regions. Decreases were wide ranging from 0.3 to 4.3 percent with the largest drop recorded in the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

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Work force levels rose moderately in three areas over the month, while the Monroe MSA reported no change. Between September 2010 and September 2011, labor force levels fell in all 17 regions with a substantial median reduction of 2.0 percent.

### **Seasonal Advance in Government Boosts September Payroll Jobs**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 38,000 or 1.0 percent in September to 3,958,000. Government led the job gains with seasonal increases in local government education (+41,000), and state government education (+19,000) as students returned to colleges, universities and local schools. Increases in local government education jobs were evident throughout the state, while gains in state government education were most prominent in the Ann Arbor, Lansing-East Lansing and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Private sector jobs in the state fell by 15,000 or 0.5 percent in September due to seasonal drops in leisure and hospitality services (-17,000), trade, transportation and utilities (-5,000), and construction (-5,000). These declines were partially offset by job gains in education and health services (+12,000), with nearly all of this seasonal increase posted in private education.

In September, payroll jobs increased in 12 of Michigan's 14 metropolitan areas, with gains ranging from 0.2 to 5.1 percent. Payroll jobs declined slightly over the month in the Muskegon-Norton Shores and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs. Leisure and hospitality services and construction jobs were down over the month in nearly all metropolitan areas in the state.

From September 2010 to September 2011, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 49,000 or 1.3 percent. Education and health services (+23,000), manufacturing (+17,000), professional and business services (+16,000), and construction (+8,000) all showed healthy job gains over the year while significant reductions were recorded in government (-10,000) and leisure and hospitality services (-10,000).

Over the year, ten metropolitan regions displayed overall payroll job gains while four areas posted mostly minor declines.

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

Seventy-seven of Michigan's 83 counties displayed unemployment rate reductions in September, with a moderate median decline of 0.7 of a percentage point. In September, 41 counties in Michigan reported unemployment rates of less than 10.0 percent, while 22 counties recorded rates below the 8.8 percent non-seasonally adjusted national rate. The remaining counties showed little or no change in September with the exception of Schoolcraft County, which recorded short-term layoffs in manufacturing.

From September 2010 to September 2011, unemployment rates declined in 82 counties in the state. The median rate drop over the year was a significant 1.6 percentage points.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may 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-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,100	177,800	179,300	0.8%	-1.5%
Total Employment	168,100	165,000	167,500	1.5%	-0.4%
Unemployment	14,100	12,800	11,800	-7.8%	-16.3%
Rate (percent)	7.7	7.2	6.6		

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

	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	66,300	64,000	63,800	-0.3%	-3.8%
Total Employment	59,500	58,000	58,300	0.5%	-2.0%
Unemployment	6,800	6,000	5,500	-8.3%	-19.1%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.4	8.6		

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

	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,500	53,700	53,200	-0.9%	-0.6%
Total Employment	47,900	48,500	48,500	0.0%	1.3%
Unemployment	5,600	5,200	4,700	-9.6%	-16.1%
Rate (percent)	10.5	9.6	8.8		

Contact: Rhea Acuna, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (989) 776-1508

	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</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	2,066	2,059	2,038	-1.0%	-1.4%
Total Employment	1,807	1,793	1,799	0.3%	-0.4%
Unemployment	259	265	239	-9.8%	-7.7%
Rate (percent)	12.6	12.9	11.7		

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

	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	188,400	183,900	181,000	-1.6%	-3.9%
Total Employment	164,300	163,000	161,800	-0.7%	-1.5%
Unemployment	24,100	21,000	19,300	-8.1%	-19.9%
Rate (percent)	12.8	11.4	10.6		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	387,300	388,600	384,500	-1.1%	-0.7%
Total Employment	349,900	355,300	354,100	-0.3%	1.2%
Unemployment	37,400	33,200	30,500	-8.1%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	9.7	8.6	7.9		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	130,000	128,700	129,600	0.7%	-0.3%
Total Employment	117,100	117,900	119,700	1.5%	2.2%
Unemployment	12,900	10,900	9,900	-9.2%	-23.3%
Rate (percent)	9.9	8.4	7.7		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	72,100	71,000	-1.5%	-2.3%
Total Employment	64,200	64,700	64,200	-0.8%	0.0%
Unemployment	8,500	7,400	6,800	-8.1%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	11.6	10.3	9.5		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	166,700	168,900	165,600	-2.0%	-0.7%
Total Employment	150,000	153,900	151,900	-1.3%	1.3%
Unemployment	16,600	15,000	13,800	-8.0%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	10.0	8.9	8.3		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	240,200	236,800	238,500	0.7%	-0.7%
Total Employment	218,200	216,900	220,200	1.5%	0.9%
Unemployment	22,000	19,900	18,300	-8.0%	-16.8%
Rate (percent)	9.2	8.4	7.7		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,700	68,800	68,800	0.0%	-2.7%
Total Employment	62,700	61,700	62,400	1.1%	-0.5%
Unemployment	8,000	7,000	6,300	-10.0%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	11.3	10.2	9.2		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	84,300	83,100	81,900	-1.4%	-2.8%
Total Employment	74,000	74,300	73,800	-0.7%	-0.3%
Unemployment	10,300	8,800	8,100	-8.0%	-21.4%
Rate (percent)	12.2	10.6	9.9		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,000	76,600	74,200	-3.1%	-3.6%
Total Employment	68,400	68,800	67,100	-2.5%	-1.9%
Unemployment	8,700	7,800	7,100	-9.0%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	11.2	10.2	9.6		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,600	91,800	91,100	-0.8%	-0.5%
Total Employment	81,700	82,800	82,800	0.0%	1.3%
Unemployment	9,900	9,000	8,300	-7.8%	-16.2%
Rate (percent)	10.8	9.8	9.1		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	154,300	153,000	150,800	-1.4%	-2.3%
Total Employment	138,700	138,500	137,500	-0.7%	-0.9%
Unemployment	15,600	14,500	13,300	-8.3%	-14.7%
Rate (percent)	10.1	9.5	8.8		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</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	90,600	89,000	86,500	-2.8%	-4.5%
Total Employment	79,600	78,800	77,200	-2.0%	-3.0%
Unemployment	11,000	10,200	9,300	-8.8%	-15.5%
Rate (percent)	12.2	11.4	10.7		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	150,100	150,900	144,400	-4.3%	-3.8%
Total Employment	132,900	135,400	130,100	-3.9%	-2.1%
Unemployment	17,200	15,400	14,300	-7.1%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	11.4	10.2	9.9		

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	<u>Sep-10</u>	<u>Aug-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,779	4,743	4,692	-1.1%	-1.8%
Total Employment	4,233	4,222	4,218	-0.1%	-0.4%
Unemployment	545	521	473	-9.2%	-13.2%
Rate (percent)	11.4	11.0	10.1		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2011 and 2010, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** September 2011 unemployment rate for Michigan (11.1 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

1	Mackinac County	4.4	43	Ogemaw County	10.0
2	Clinton County	6.4	44	Chippewa County	10.1
3	Cheboygan County	6.5	45	St. Joseph County	10.2
4	Washtenaw County	6.6	46	Emmet County	10.2
5	Barry County	6.7	47	Oakland County	10.2
6	Eaton County	6.8	48	Lenawee County	10.3
7	Isabella County	6.9	49	Hillsdale County	10.4
8	Leelanau County	7.1	50	Manistee County	10.4
9	Marquette County	7.5	51	Charlevoix County	10.4
10	Midland County	7.5	52	Tuscola County	10.5
11	Ottawa County	7.7	53	Genesee County	10.6
12	Kent County	7.8	54	Oceana County	10.6
13	Kalamazoo County	8.0	55	Kalkaska County	10.8
14	Dickinson County	8.2	56	Benzie County	10.8
15	Houghton County	8.2	57	Osceola County	10.9
16	Menominee County	8.2	58	Crawford County	10.9
17	Ingham County	8.3	59	Sanilac County	11.0
18	Allegan County	8.4	60	Luce County	11.1
19	Delta County	8.6	61	Otsego County	11.2
20	Calhoun County	8.6	62	Lapeer County	11.2
21	Grand Traverse County	8.7	63	Antrim County	11.2
22	Cass County	8.7	64	Gogebic County	11.3
23	Bay County	8.8	65	Montcalm County	11.4
24	Iron County	8.9	66	Roscommon County	11.5
25	Newaygo County	9.0	67	Missaukee County	11.7
26	Saginaw County	9.1	68	Arenac County	11.7
27	Ionia County	9.1	69	Macomb County	11.7
28	Huron County	9.1	70	Lake County	11.9
29	Monroe County	9.2	71	Alcona County	12.1
30	Mason County	9.2	72	Iosco County	12.1
31	Alpena County	9.3	73	Wexford County	12.1
32	Livingston County	9.3	74	Clare County	12.2
33	Keweenaw County	9.5	75	St. Clair County	12.2
34	Jackson County	9.5	76	Schoolcraft County	12.3
35	Van Buren County	9.5	77	Presque Isle County	12.5
36	Berrien County	9.6	78	Gladwin County	13.0
37	Gratiot County	9.6	79	Wayne County	13.1
38	Alger County	9.7	80	Ontonagon County	13.9
39	Mecosta County	9.7	81	Montmorency County	14.8
40	Branch County	9.8	82	Oscoda County	14.9
41	Muskegon County	9.9	83	Baraga County	16.4
42	Shiawassee County	10.0			

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