



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

July Jobless Rates Edge up Seasonally in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in July edged upward in 13 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels declined moderately in most major regions.

"In general, July unemployment rates in Michigan's local labor markets showed very little movement," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll jobs in the state's various metro regions followed fairly typical seasonal patterns in July, with cutbacks in local government education along with planned reductions in the state's auto industry due to the vacation shutdown/retooling period at some plants."

From June to July, unemployment rate changes were subdued with 13 regions posting minor increases ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 of a percentage point with a median advance of only 0.2 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate hikes were recorded in the Flint, Monroe, and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Jobless rates declined slightly in both the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions, while the rates in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Midland MSAs were unchanged over the month. In July, eight of the state's 17 major regions displayed an unemployment rate at or below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.6 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since July 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Reductions were significant and ranged from -1.8 to -2.9 percentage points with a median rate drop of -2.3 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decreases over that period were registered in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA, the Northeast Lower Michigan region, and the Muskegon MSA.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

From June to July, total employment fell seasonally in 13 regions, with declines ranging from -0.1 to -1.3 percent with a median reduction of -0.7 percent. The most pronounced total employment decreases in July were recorded in the Flint (-1.3%), Monroe (-1.1%), Kalamazoo-Portage (-1.0%), and Bay City (-1.0%) MSAs. In July, total employment rose in three areas; the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.4%), the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+0.3%) and the Muskegon MSA (+0.3%). Total employment was essentially unchanged over the month in the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

From July 2014 to July 2015, total employment rose in all of the 17 Michigan regions. The median total employment gain for the areas since July 2014 was a significant 2.1 percent. The largest advances were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Battle Creek, and Muskegon MSAs.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Year

From June to July, workforce levels declined moderately in 13 regions and rose in three areas, while the labor force in the Upper Peninsula was essentially unchanged. Over the year, labor force levels decreased in 13 areas and increased in four regions.

Seasonal Cuts Drive July Payroll Jobs Downward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan fell by 57,000 or 1.3 percent in July to 4,273,000. Public sector jobs in Michigan dropped by 37,000 or 6.4 percent in July primarily due to seasonal cutbacks in local government education with the beginning of summer break at area schools.

Private sector jobs in the state declined by 20,000 or 0.5 percent over the month. Seasonal job cuts were recorded in professional and business services (-13,000) and manufacturing (-8,000). The job reduction in professional and business services was typical for July, with the majority of cuts occurring within the temporary help sector. The decline in manufacturing jobs mainly took place in the auto industry due to the annual vacation shutdown/retooling period. The state's remaining private industries recorded relatively minor job changes over the month.

From June to July, payroll jobs fell seasonally in 13 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions. Area job declines ranged from -0.3 to -2.3 percent with a median reduction of -1.3 percent. The largest percentage drops were posted in the Monroe (-2.3%), Bay City (-2.1%), and Flint (-2.1%) MSAs. Payroll jobs were essentially unchanged over the month in the Muskegon MSA. In July, government jobs were down in all of the state's metro regions.

From July 2014 to July 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 113,000 or 2.7 percent. Job gains over this period were widespread throughout most industry sectors and were led by significant advances in professional and business services (+32,000), education and health services (+21,000), manufacturing (+18,000), leisure and hospitality services (+18,000), and construction (+15,000).

Since July 2014, payroll jobs rose in 13 metropolitan regions of the state with a median increase of 1.6 percent. The largest payroll job advances over this period were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.8%), Battle Creek (+3.7%), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (+2.5%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined moderately over the year in the Bay City MSA.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

Thirty-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor unemployment rate increases in July, while 31 counties reported mainly small declines. The rates in 13 counties were unchanged over the month.

From July 2014 to July 2015, jobless rates dropped in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a substantial -2.4 percentage points. Schoolcraft County posted an over-the-year rate increase due to a layoff event.

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

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

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,300	187,800	187,000	-0.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	174,400	179,600	178,600	-0.6%	2.4%
Unemployment	11,800	8,200	8,300	1.2%	-29.7%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.3	4.5		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	66,000	65,700	-0.5%	1.9%
Total Employment	59,500	62,400	61,900	-0.8%	4.0%
Unemployment	5,000	3,600	3,800	5.6%	-24.0%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.4	5.7		

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

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,800	53,500	53,000	-0.9%	-1.5%
Total Employment	49,400	50,300	49,800	-1.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	4,500	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-28.9%
Rate (percent)	8.3	5.9	6.0		

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

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,064	2,015	2,031	0.8%	-1.6%
Total Employment	1,860	1,883	1,888	0.3%	1.5%
Unemployment	204	132	142	7.6%	-30.4%
Rate (percent)	9.9	6.6	7.0		

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

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,400	185,900	184,500	-0.8%	-1.0%
Total Employment	169,000	174,200	172,000	-1.3%	1.8%
Unemployment	17,400	11,700	12,500	6.8%	-28.2%
Rate (percent)	9.3	6.3	6.8		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	548,400	565,500	563,600	-0.3%	2.8%
Total Employment	513,800	541,800	539,900	-0.4%	5.1%
Unemployment	34,700	23,700	23,700	0.0%	-31.7%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.2	4.2		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,900	73,400	73,200	-0.3%	-0.9%
Total Employment	68,000	69,200	68,800	-0.6%	1.2%
Unemployment	5,800	4,200	4,400	4.8%	-24.1%
Rate (percent)	7.9	5.7	6.0		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	164,300	165,900	164,500	-0.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	152,400	157,400	155,900	-1.0%	2.3%
Unemployment	11,900	8,500	8,600	1.2%	-27.7%
Rate (percent)	7.2	5.1	5.2		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	240,200	240,000	239,000	-0.4%	-0.5%
Total Employment	221,900	228,000	226,900	-0.5%	2.3%
Unemployment	18,300	12,000	12,100	0.8%	-33.9%
Rate (percent)	7.6	5.0	5.1		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	42,000	42,000	41,700	-0.7%	-0.7%
Total Employment	39,000	39,900	39,600	-0.8%	1.5%
Unemployment	3,000	2,200	2,200	0.0%	-26.7%
Rate (percent)	7.2	5.2	5.2		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,600	76,700	76,300	-0.5%	-0.4%
Total Employment	70,700	73,000	72,200	-1.1%	2.1%
Unemployment	5,900	3,700	4,000	8.1%	-32.2%
Rate (percent)	7.7	4.8	5.3		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	78,900	78,400	78,800	0.5%	-0.1%
Total Employment	71,900	73,600	73,800	0.3%	2.6%
Unemployment	7,100	4,800	4,900	2.1%	-31.0%
Rate (percent)	9.0	6.1	6.3		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,500	75,200	75,100	-0.1%	-0.5%
Total Employment	69,700	71,100	70,900	-0.3%	1.7%
Unemployment	5,800	4,100	4,200	2.4%	-27.6%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.5	5.6		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,000	89,700	89,300	-0.4%	-0.8%
Total Employment	82,000	84,400	83,800	-0.7%	2.2%
Unemployment	8,000	5,400	5,500	1.9%	-31.3%
Rate (percent)	8.8	6.0	6.2		

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	<u>Jul-14</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>Jul-15</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,800	143,900	143,900	0.0%	-1.3%
Total Employment	133,000	134,300	134,100	-0.1%	0.8%
Unemployment	12,800	9,600	9,800	2.1%	-23.4%
Rate (percent)	8.8	6.7	6.8		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	86,900	86,200	86,100	-0.1%	-0.9%
Total Employment	78,500	80,200	80,200	0.0%	2.2%
Unemployment	8,400	6,000	5,900	-1.7%	-29.8%
Rate (percent)	9.7	7.0	6.9		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	158,900	156,300	158,100	1.2%	-0.5%
Total Employment	146,500	147,500	149,500	1.4%	2.0%
Unemployment	12,400	8,800	8,600	-2.3%	-30.6%
Rate (percent)	7.8	5.6	5.4		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,835	4,802	4,806	0.1%	-0.6%
Total Employment	4,416	4,522	4,513	-0.2%	2.2%
Unemployment	418	280	293	4.6%	-29.9%
Rate (percent)	8.7	5.8	6.1		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
JULY 2015**

1	Mackinac County	3.3	43	Saginaw County	6.2
2	Ottawa County	4.0	44	Antrim County	6.3
3	Kent County	4.1	45	Muskegon County	6.3
4	Clinton County	4.3	46	Gratiot County	6.4
5	Allegan County	4.3	47	Luce County	6.5
6	Barry County	4.4	48	Missaukee County	6.5
7	Grand Traverse County	4.4	49	Iron County	6.6
8	Leelanau County	4.5	50	Houghton County	6.7
9	Washtenaw County	4.5	51	Kalkaska County	6.8
10	Cheboygan County	4.6	52	Macomb County	6.8
11	Eaton County	4.9	53	Oceana County	6.8
12	Kalamazoo County	5.0	54	Sanilac County	6.8
13	Ionia County	5.0	55	Delta County	6.8
14	Charlevoix County	5.2	56	Genesee County	6.8
15	Midland County	5.2	57	Wexford County	6.9
16	Ingham County	5.3	58	Iosco County	7.0
17	Livingston County	5.3	59	Tuscola County	7.0
18	Mason County	5.3	60	Marquette County	7.0
19	Monroe County	5.3	61	Crawford County	7.3
20	Huron County	5.4	62	Osceola County	7.3
21	Dickinson County	5.5	63	Mecosta County	7.3
22	Cass County	5.6	64	Gladwin County	7.4
23	Lenawee County	5.6	65	Alcona County	7.6
24	Isabella	5.6	66	Alger County	7.6
25	St. Joseph County	5.6	67	Ogemaw County	7.6
26	Berrien County	5.6	68	Gogebic County	7.6
27	Oakland County	5.7	69	Chippewa County	7.6
28	Menominee County	5.7	70	Keweenaw County	7.7
29	Branch County	5.7	71	St. Clair County	7.7
30	Calhoun County	5.7	72	Arenac County	7.9
31	Emmet County	5.8	73	Clare County	7.9
32	Newaygo County	5.9	74	Lapeer County	8.0
33	Benzie County	6.0	75	Wayne County	8.2
34	Montcalm County	6.0	76	Presque Isle County	8.4
35	Van Buren County	6.0	77	Roscommon County	8.4
36	Bay County	6.0	78	Lake County	8.6
37	Jackson County	6.0	79	Oscoda County	8.7
38	Manistee County	6.1	80	Montmorency County	8.8
39	Otsego County	6.1	81	Baraga County	8.9
40	Alpena County	6.1	82	Ontonagon County	9.2
41	Hillsdale County	6.2	83	Schoolcraft County	11.3
42	Shiawassee County	6.2			

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