



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November Unemployment Rates Down Slightly in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in November declined slightly over the month in most of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels rose moderately in the majority of regions in November.

"Michigan's local labor markets followed typical seasonal patterns in November," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Jobless rates were little changed over the month, but continued to show reductions over the year."

From October to November, unemployment rates decreased in 14 areas, with reductions in nearly all areas of -0.5 of a percentage point or less. The median decline in all 14 regions was -0.2 of a percentage point. The jobless rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was the exception, with the rate falling in that region by -1.1 percentage points over the month. Michigan's three northernmost labor market regions posted seasonal jobless rate increases. Rates were up in November in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+0.9), the Upper Peninsula (+0.5), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+0.3). In November, 14 of the state's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates at or below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.8 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since November 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Rate reductions over that period ranged from -0.7 to -1.7 percentage points with a median rate decline of a full percentage point. The most pronounced over-the-year jobless rate decreases were registered in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-1.7) and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.2). Four other areas recorded rate reductions of -1.1 percentage points over the year.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From October to November, total employment increased in 14 areas with a median gain of 1.0 percent. The largest November employment hikes were posted in the Saginaw and Flint MSAs, with advances of 1.7 percent and 1.4 percent respectively. The next largest gains were shown in the Kalamazoo-Portage and Midland MSAs, with both areas up 1.3 percent over the month. Total employment fell seasonally in November in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.7%), the Upper Peninsula (-1.2%), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.1%).

Since November 2014, total employment rose in all 17 regions. Gains over this period ranged from 0.6 to 3.7 percent with a median increase of 1.5 percent. The largest total employment advances since November 2014 took place in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

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Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From October to November, workforce levels rose in 12 areas and declined in four. The labor force in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA was essentially unchanged over the month. The workforce reductions were concentrated in the state's three northern regions, however the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA also reported a decline in November.

Since November 2014, workforce levels were up in 13 regions, with a median advance of 0.7 percent. Labor force levels were down moderately over the year in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-0.5%), the Flint MSA (-0.4%), and the Upper Peninsula (-0.4%). The workforce level in the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged over the year.

November Payroll Jobs Down Slightly

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged down by 6,000 or 0.1 percent in November to 4,327,000. Seasonal job reductions were recorded in leisure and hospitality services (-15,000) and construction (-4,000), while a seasonal advance was posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+10,000). Other job changes over the month included gains in education and health services (+5,000) and manufacturing (+4,000), along with a job reduction in professional and business services (-4,000). The state's remaining industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Within trade, transportation and utilities, retail trade jobs rose by 8,000 as merchants continued hiring for the holiday season. The gain in education and health services was primarily due to hiring in health services.

From October to November, payroll job changes in the state's 14 metropolitan regions were mostly minor. Eight areas displayed job gains over the month ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 percent with a median increase of only 0.4 percent. Five regions registered mostly small job reductions over the month, while the Lansing-East Lansing job count was essentially unchanged.

From November 2014 to November 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 73,000 or 1.7 percent. Most major job sectors were up over the year and were led by gains in manufacturing (+20,000), education and health services (+19,000), and construction (+10,000). Only two major sectors in Michigan recorded job declines since November 2014, government (-8,000), and information (-2,000). Since November 2014, payroll jobs rose in all of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state. Gains ranged from 0.3 to 3.7 percent with a median increase of 1.3 percent.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

Forty-one of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor jobless rate declines over the month, while 35 counties showed mainly small rate increases, most of which occurred in the state's northern regions. Unemployment rates were unchanged in seven counties in November. From November 2014 to November 2015, jobless rates fell in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was 1.1 percentage points. Schoolcraft County continued to post a minor 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 November workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for November.*

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

	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,500	189,700	190,900	0.6%	0.7%
Total Employment	182,600	183,300	185,300	1.1%	1.5%
Unemployment	6,900	6,400	5,600	-12.5%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	3.6	3.4	2.9		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,600	64,500	64,900	0.6%	0.5%
Total Employment	61,400	61,700	62,300	1.0%	1.5%
Unemployment	3,200	2,800	2,700	-3.6%	-15.6%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.3	4.1		

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

	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,100	52,700	53,100	0.8%	0.0%
Total Employment	50,300	50,400	50,800	0.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	2,800	2,300	2,300	0.0%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.4	4.3		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,011	2,018	2,001	-0.8%	-0.5%
Total Employment	1,872	1,890	1,897	0.4%	1.3%
Unemployment	139	128	105	-18.0%	-24.5%
Rate (percent)	6.9	6.3	5.2		

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

	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,200	182,200	184,400	1.2%	-0.4%
Total Employment	174,200	173,100	175,600	1.4%	0.8%
Unemployment	10,900	9,100	8,800	-3.3%	-19.3%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.0	4.8		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	546,000	557,200	561,300	0.7%	2.8%
Total Employment	525,200	539,700	544,500	0.9%	3.7%
Unemployment	20,800	17,500	16,900	-3.4%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	3.8	3.1	3.0		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	72,200	72,800	0.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	69,000	68,900	69,700	1.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,700	3,200	3,000	-6.3%	-18.9%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.5	4.2		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	163,700	164,800	166,400	1.0%	1.6%
Total Employment	156,000	158,300	160,300	1.3%	2.8%
Unemployment	7,700	6,400	6,200	-3.1%	-19.5%
Rate (percent)	4.7	3.9	3.7		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	243,600	242,700	244,400	0.7%	0.3%
Total Employment	233,200	233,900	236,100	0.9%	1.2%
Unemployment	10,400	8,800	8,300	-5.7%	-20.2%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.6	3.4		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,400	41,200	41,700	1.2%	0.7%
Total Employment	39,500	39,600	40,100	1.3%	1.5%
Unemployment	1,900	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.0	3.9		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,600	76,400	76,600	0.3%	1.3%
Total Employment	72,300	73,300	73,900	0.8%	2.2%
Unemployment	3,300	3,100	2,800	-9.7%	-15.2%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.1	3.6		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,600	77,000	77,800	1.0%	1.6%
Total Employment	72,300	73,300	74,200	1.2%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,300	3,700	3,600	-2.7%	-16.3%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.8	4.6		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,500	73,800	73,800	0.0%	1.8%
Total Employment	68,700	70,600	70,700	0.1%	2.9%
Unemployment	3,800	3,200	3,100	-3.1%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.3	4.2		

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SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,000	88,900	90,300	1.6%	0.3%
Total Employment	85,000	84,800	86,200	1.7%	1.4%
Unemployment	5,000	4,100	4,000	-2.4%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.6	4.4		

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	<u>Nov-14</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,800	142,300	141,200	-0.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	132,700	135,100	133,500	-1.2%	0.6%
Unemployment	9,000	7,100	7,700	8.5%	-14.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.0	5.5		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	80,800	81,900	81,400	-0.6%	0.7%
Total Employment	74,500	77,300	76,000	-1.7%	2.0%
Unemployment	6,300	4,700	5,400	14.9%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	7.8	5.7	6.6		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,200	146,300	145,100	-0.8%	0.6%
Total Employment	135,600	139,700	138,200	-1.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	8,500	6,600	6,900	4.5%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.5	4.8		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,738	4,761	4,757	-0.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	4,465	4,521	4,543	0.5%	1.7%
Unemployment	273	240	214	-10.8%	-21.6%
Rate (percent)	5.8	5.0	4.5		

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

1	Kent County	2.9	43	Mason County	4.8
2	Ottawa County	2.9	44	Genesee County	4.8
3	Washtenaw County	2.9	45	Osceola County	4.9
4	Clinton County	3.0	46	Alpena County	4.9
5	Allegan County	3.2	47	Macomb County	5.1
6	Barry County	3.3	48	Wexford County	5.1
7	Eaton County	3.3	49	Tuscola County	5.2
8	Kalamazoo County	3.4	50	Delta County	5.3
9	Ionia County	3.4	51	Manistee County	5.4
10	Ingham County	3.5	52	Otsego County	5.4
11	St. Joseph County	3.5	53	Benzie County	5.5
12	Grand Traverse County	3.6	54	Gladwin County	5.7
13	Monroe County	3.6	55	Iosco County	5.8
14	Lenawee County	3.7	56	St. Clair County	5.8
15	Isabella County	3.7	57	Emmet County	5.9
16	Midland County	3.9	58	Iron County	5.9
17	Livingston County	4.0	59	Lapeer County	5.9
18	Cass County	4.0	60	Clare County	6.1
19	Branch County	4.0	61	Kalkaska County	6.1
20	Huron County	4.1	62	Gogebic County	6.1
21	Calhoun County	4.1	63	Oceana County	6.2
22	Leelanau County	4.2	64	Ogemaw County	6.2
23	Oakland County	4.2	65	Wayne County	6.2
24	Jackson County	4.2	66	Antrim County	6.3
25	Berrien County	4.2	67	Chippewa County	6.4
26	Montcalm County	4.3	68	Lake County	6.5
27	Newaygo County	4.3	69	Baraga County	6.6
28	Gratiot County	4.3	70	Crawford County	6.6
29	Shiawassee County	4.3	71	Luce County	6.6
30	Bay County	4.3	72	Roscommon County	7.0
31	Hillsdale County	4.4	73	Alcona County	7.1
32	Marquette County	4.4	74	Arenac County	7.1
33	Saginaw County	4.4	75	Ontonagon County	7.4
34	Missaukee County	4.5	76	Oscoda County	7.4
35	Houghton County	4.6	77	Alger County	7.7
36	Menominee County	4.6	78	Keweenaw County	8.4
37	Mecosta County	4.6	79	Montmorency County	8.4
38	Muskegon County	4.6	80	Presque Isle County	8.4
39	Charlevoix County	4.7	81	Schoolcraft County	8.6
40	Sanilac County	4.7	82	Cheboygan County	9.1
41	Dickinson County	4.7	83	Mackinac County	10.5
42	Van Buren County	4.8			

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