



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates showed little movement in October 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 over the month.

"2015 is shaping up to be another solid year for Michigan's local labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Through October, unemployment rates are down over the year in all major regions, while payroll jobs are up in every metropolitan area."

From September to October, jobless rates in nine areas were unchanged. Seven areas recorded mostly minor rate advances, while the Bay City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) posted a -0.1 of a percentage point reduction. The largest over-the-month unemployment rate increases were registered in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+0.6), and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+0.4). The remaining October rate gains were limited to 0.3 of a percentage point or less. In October, 12 of the state's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.8 percent. All major areas recorded jobless rates of 6.3 percent or lower in October.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since October 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Rate reductions over that period ranged from -0.7 to -1.6 percentage points with a median rate decline of -0.9 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-year jobless rate decreases were reported in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs, with drops of -1.6 and -1.4 percentage points respectively.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From September to October, total employment increased moderately in 11 areas with a median gain of 0.8 percent. The largest October employment advance occurred in the Ann Arbor MSA (+2.6%). Total employment was down over the month in six regions, with four of the areas recording only marginal reductions of -0.4 percent or less. However, the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions posted employment drops of -2.3 and -1.8 percent respectively with the close of the summer tourism season.

From October 2014 to October 2015, total employment rose in 16 of the 17 Michigan regions. Advances over this period ranged from 0.4 to 3.3 percent with a median gain of 1.2 percent. The largest total employment increases since October 2014 occurred in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Niles-Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Monroe MSAs. Total employment edged down over the year in the Upper Peninsula (-0.1%).

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

During October, workforce levels rose in 12 areas and declined in five. Labor force advances were wide ranging from 0.3 to 2.7 percent with a moderate median increase of 0.7 percent. The workforce reductions were mainly concentrated in the state's northern regions.

Since October 2014, labor force level changes were mixed, with seven areas recording gains while seven areas posted reductions. Labor force increases averaged 1.1 percent, while declines averaged -0.5 percent. The largest additions were registered in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs, while the most pronounced reductions were shown in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA and the Upper Peninsula. Workforce levels were essentially unchanged over the year in the Battle Creek and Saginaw MSAs along with the Northwest Lower Michigan region.

October Payroll Jobs Advance Due To Seasonal Patterns

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 34,000 or 0.8 percent in October to 4,331,000. Gains in government jobs led the advances with seasonal increases in local government education (+11,000), and state government education (+11,000) with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester.

Other seasonal job increases were recorded in education and health services (+14,000) and professional and business services (+9,000). These gains were partially offset by a seasonal reduction in leisure and hospitality services (-11,000). The job hike in education and health services was mainly due to a gain in private education (+11,000). Retail trade registered a 3,000 increase in jobs in October as merchants began hiring for the holiday season.

From September to October, 12 metro regions posted job gains with a median increase of 1.2 percent. The Jackson and Muskegon MSAs showed minor job reductions over the month.

From October 2014 to October 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 80,000 or 1.9 percent. Most major job sectors were up over the year and were led by gains in manufacturing (+22,000), professional and business services (+22,000), and education and health services (+19,000).

Since October 2014, payroll jobs advanced in all of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state. Gains ranged from 0.5 to 4.9 percent with a median increase of 1.6 percent.

County Jobless Rates Little Changed Over Month, Down Over Year

Fifty-one of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor jobless rate increases over the month, while the rates in 26 counties were unchanged. Six counties recorded marginal rate declines in October. The vast majority of rate changes over the month were within plus or minus 0.3 of a percentage point.

From October 2014 to October 2015, jobless rates fell in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a full percentage point. 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 October workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for October.*

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

	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,000	183,600	188,500	2.7%	-0.3%
Total Employment	181,300	177,600	182,200	2.6%	0.5%
Unemployment	7,700	6,100	6,400	4.9%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.3	3.4		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,400	64,200	64,400	0.3%	0.0%
Total Employment	61,100	61,500	61,600	0.2%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,300	2,700	2,800	3.7%	-15.2%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.3	4.3		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,000	52,200	52,800	1.1%	-0.4%
Total Employment	50,200	49,900	50,400	1.0%	0.4%
Unemployment	2,800	2,300	2,300	0.0%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.5	4.4		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,036	2,009	2,018	0.4%	-0.9%
Total Employment	1,874	1,895	1,890	-0.3%	0.9%
Unemployment	162	114	128	12.3%	-21.0%
Rate (percent)	7.9	5.7	6.3		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,300	180,400	182,200	1.0%	-0.6%
Total Employment	172,200	171,400	173,100	1.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	11,100	9,000	9,100	1.1%	-18.0%
Rate (percent)	6.1	5.0	5.0		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	544,600	553,500	557,300	0.7%	2.3%
Total Employment	522,800	536,100	539,800	0.7%	3.3%
Unemployment	21,900	17,400	17,500	0.6%	-20.1%
Rate (percent)	4.0	3.1	3.1		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,200	72,100	72,000	-0.1%	-0.3%
Total Employment	68,200	68,900	68,700	-0.3%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,900	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.4	4.5		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	162,900	163,700	164,800	0.7%	1.2%
Total Employment	155,000	157,400	158,300	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	7,900	6,300	6,400	1.6%	-19.0%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.9	3.9		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	243,700	240,500	242,700	0.9%	-0.4%
Total Employment	231,600	231,700	233,900	0.9%	1.0%
Unemployment	12,200	8,700	8,800	1.1%	-27.9%
Rate (percent)	5.0	3.6	3.6		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,200	41,100	41,500	1.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	39,300	39,500	39,800	0.8%	1.3%
Unemployment	1,900	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	4.7	3.9	4.0		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,500	75,500	76,500	1.3%	1.3%
Total Employment	71,900	72,600	73,400	1.1%	2.1%
Unemployment	3,600	2,800	3,100	10.7%	-13.9%
Rate (percent)	4.8	3.8	4.1		

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	<u>Oct-14</u>	<u>Sep-15</u>	<u>Oct-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,400	76,900	76,700	-0.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	71,900	73,300	73,000	-0.4%	1.5%
Unemployment	4,500	3,700	3,700	0.0%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.8	4.8		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	73,600	73,900	0.4%	1.7%
Total Employment	68,900	70,500	70,700	0.3%	2.6%
Unemployment	3,800	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.3	4.3		

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SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,000	88,500	89,000	0.6%	0.0%
Total Employment	83,900	84,400	84,900	0.6%	1.2%
Unemployment	5,100	4,100	4,100	0.0%	-19.6%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.6	4.6		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,500	142,600	142,300	-0.2%	-0.8%
Total Employment	135,200	135,400	135,100	-0.2%	-0.1%
Unemployment	8,300	7,200	7,200	0.0%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	5.8	5.0	5.0		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,800	83,400	81,900	-1.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	76,300	79,000	77,200	-2.3%	1.2%
Unemployment	5,500	4,400	4,700	6.8%	-14.5%
Rate (percent)	6.7	5.3	5.7		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,300	148,600	146,300	-1.5%	0.0%
Total Employment	138,300	142,200	139,700	-1.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	8,000	6,400	6,600	3.1%	-17.5%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.3	4.5		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,764	4,740	4,760	0.4%	-0.1%
Total Employment	4,465	4,516	4,521	0.1%	1.3%
Unemployment	299	224	240	7.1%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	6.3	4.7	5.0		

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

1	Ottawa County	3.0	43	Benzie County	4.9
2	Clinton County	3.1	44	Missaukee County	4.9
3	Kent County	3.1	45	Otsego County	4.9
4	Allegan County	3.3	46	Livingston County	5.0
5	Washtenaw County	3.4	47	Manistee County	5.0
6	Barry County	3.6	48	Tuscola County	5.0
7	Eaton County	3.6	49	Mecosta County	5.0
8	Grand Traverse County	3.6	50	Genesee County	5.0
9	Mackinac County	3.6	51	Oakland County	5.1
10	Kalamazoo County	3.7	52	Keweenaw County	5.2
11	Ionia County	3.7	53	Delta County	5.2
12	St. Joseph County	3.7	54	Iron County	5.3
13	Ingham County	3.8	55	Luce County	5.4
14	Leelanau County	3.8	56	Oceana County	5.4
15	Isabella County	3.9	57	Osceola County	5.4
16	Huron County	4.0	58	Wexford County	5.4
17	Midland County	4.0	59	Alpena County	5.4
18	Monroe County	4.1	60	Antrim County	5.6
19	Cheboygan County	4.2	61	Gladwin County	5.6
20	Cass County	4.2	62	Iosco County	5.6
21	Lenawee County	4.2	63	Chippewa County	5.6
22	Branch County	4.2	64	Kalkaska County	5.8
23	Montcalm County	4.3	65	Macomb County	6.0
24	Newaygo County	4.3	66	Ogemaw County	6.0
25	Dickinson County	4.3	67	Clare County	6.1
26	Calhoun County	4.3	68	Alger County	6.2
27	Berrien County	4.3	69	Crawford County	6.2
28	Charlevoix County	4.4	70	Gogebic County	6.2
29	Houghton County	4.4	71	Alcona County	6.4
30	Gratiot County	4.4	72	Ontonagon County	6.4
31	Mason County	4.4	73	Lake County	6.5
32	Shiawassee County	4.4	74	Arenac County	6.6
33	Bay County	4.4	75	Baraga County	6.6
34	Jackson County	4.5	76	Lapeer County	6.6
35	Hillsdale County	4.6	77	Roscommon County	6.6
36	Marquette County	4.6	78	St. Clair County	6.6
37	Saginaw County	4.6	79	Oscoda County	6.8
38	Emmet County	4.7	80	Montmorency County	7.1
39	Sanilac County	4.7	81	Presque Isle County	7.2
40	Van Buren County	4.7	82	Wayne County	7.7
41	Menominee County	4.7	83	Schoolcraft County	8.6
42	Muskegon County	4.8			

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