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LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January Jobless Rates Up Seasonally in All Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in January rose in all of the state’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels fell seasonally over the month in nearly all areas, while labor force levels were up moderately in the majority of regions.

“Michigan’s major labor markets in January recorded typical seasonal payroll job reductions and jobless rate increases,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “However, unemployment rates since January 2014 declined in every metropolitan area and county in Michigan, while payroll jobs rose in every metro region.”

From December to January, the unemployment rate increases ranged from 0.6 to 2.5 percentage points with a median advance of 1.1 percentage points. The most pronounced January jobless rate hikes were recorded in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions. In January, seven Michigan regions displayed unemployment rates below the national non-seasonally adjusted rate of 6.1 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since January 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Declines ranged from -0.7 to -2.8 percentage points with a significant median rate reduction of -1.9 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decreases over that period were registered in the Flint Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Northeast Lower Michigan region, and the Muskegon MSA, with drops of -2.8, -2.6, and -2.4 percentage points respectively.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year

In January, total employment fell seasonally in 16 of 17 regions. Over-the-month reductions ranged from -0.1 percent in the Muskegon MSA to -1.8 percent in the Saginaw MSA. The median over-the-month decline was -1.0 percent. Total employment rose slightly over the month by 0.3 percent in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA.

From January 2014 to January 2015, total employment rose in all 17 Michigan regions. All advances were substantial, with a median gain of 3.3 percent. Total employment growth ranged from 2.2 percent to 4.9 percent with the largest recorded increases over the year reported in the Flint, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs.

Note: Employment, unemployment and unemployment rate data for all 12 months of 2014 have been recently revised. Additionally, payroll job estimates have been revised for all metro areas for 2013 and 2014, and for prior years in some cases. Estimates for January 2015 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, please call 313-456-3090. **Please see the note at the bottom of page 6 for more detailed information.**

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From December to January, workforce levels rose moderately in ten regions, declined slightly in four areas, and were essentially unchanged in the remaining three. Over-the-month labor force growth was limited to 1.0 percent or less, while declines were minor at -0.2 to -0.3 percent.

Over the year, labor force levels rose in 16 areas. Gains were widespread from 0.1 percent in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA to 3.0 percent in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA. The median over-the-year hike was 1.5 percent. The labor force level fell slightly in the Northeast Lower Michigan region by -0.4 percent since January 2014.

Seasonal Drops in Nearly All Industry Sectors Reduce January Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan fell by 82,000 or 1.9 percent in January to 4,156,000. Seasonal job cuts were posted in nearly all statewide industry sectors and were led by reductions in trade, transportation and utilities (-23,000), government (-18,000), education and health services (-10,000), construction (-8,000), leisure and hospitality services (-8,000), and professional and business services (-6,000).

From December to January, payroll jobs declined seasonally in all 14 metropolitan areas in the state. Reductions ranged from -1.2 percent in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA to -3.3 percent in the Monroe MSA. The median job decrease over this period was 2.1 percent.

From January 2014 to January 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 91,000 or 2.2 percent. Over-the-year job gains were displayed in most of the state's job sectors. The largest job increases were recorded in professional and business services (+30,000), manufacturing (+26,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+15,000), construction (+9,000), education and health services (+8,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+6,000). The only notable job reduction over the year was posted in government (-6,000).

Since January 2014, payroll jobs rose in all 14 metropolitan regions of the state with a median advance of 2.2 percent. The most pronounced over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Flint (+3.7%), Battle Creek (+3.0%), and Muskegon (+3.0%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate increases in January with a median advance of 1.4 percentage points. In January, 22 Michigan counties reported jobless rates at or below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 6.1 percent.

From January 2014 to January 2015, jobless rates dropped in all 83 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a significant 2.0 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 January workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for January.

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

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	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,600	186,900	186,300	-0.3%	2.0%
Total Employment	173,400	180,700	178,900	-1.0%	3.2%
Unemployment	9,200	6,300	7,300	15.9%	-20.7%
Rate (percent)	5.0	3.3	3.9		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	62,500	64,000	63,800	-0.3%	2.1%
Total Employment	58,000	60,900	60,000	-1.5%	3.4%
Unemployment	4,500	3,100	3,700	19.4%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	7.2	4.8	5.9		

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

	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,900	53,000	53,300	0.6%	0.8%
Total Employment	48,200	50,000	49,600	-0.8%	2.9%
Unemployment	4,700	3,000	3,700	23.3%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	8.9	5.6	7.0		

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

	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,998	2,003	1,999	-0.2%	0.1%
Total Employment	1,813	1,874	1,852	-1.2%	2.2%
Unemployment	186	129	147	14.0%	-21.0%
Rate (percent)	9.3	6.5	7.4		

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	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,200	184,700	185,400	0.4%	1.8%
Total Employment	164,200	174,000	172,200	-1.0%	4.9%
Unemployment	18,000	10,700	13,100	22.4%	-27.2%
Rate (percent)	9.9	5.8	7.1		

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(more)

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GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	532,000	541,900	547,800	1.1%	3.0%
Total Employment	501,800	521,800	523,300	0.3%	4.3%
Unemployment	30,200	20,100	24,400	21.4%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	5.7	3.7	4.5		

Contact: Bruce Weaver, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3091

	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,500	72,300	72,800	0.7%	1.8%
Total Employment	66,000	68,600	68,300	-0.4%	3.5%
Unemployment	5,500	3,700	4,500	21.6%	-18.2%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.1	6.2		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,100	162,100	162,700	0.4%	1.6%
Total Employment	148,900	154,500	153,600	-0.6%	3.2%
Unemployment	11,200	7,600	9,100	19.7%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	7.0	4.7	5.6		

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	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	237,800	239,800	241,300	0.6%	1.5%
Total Employment	223,300	229,800	228,200	-0.7%	2.2%
Unemployment	14,500	10,000	13,100	31.0%	-9.7%
Rate (percent)	6.1	4.2	5.4		

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MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,600	41,200	41,200	0.0%	1.5%
Total Employment	37,600	39,300	38,900	-1.0%	3.5%
Unemployment	3,000	1,900	2,400	26.3%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	7.3	4.6	5.7		

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(more)

	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,400	75,200	75,200	0.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	68,800	72,000	71,200	-1.1%	3.5%
Unemployment	5,600	3,200	4,000	25.0%	-28.6%
Rate (percent)	7.5	4.3	5.3		

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	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,300	76,100	76,700	0.8%	1.9%
Total Employment	68,600	71,700	71,600	-0.1%	4.4%
Unemployment	6,700	4,300	5,000	16.3%	-25.4%
Rate (percent)	8.9	5.7	6.5		

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	<u>Jan-14</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,300	72,000	72,000	0.0%	1.0%
Total Employment	65,500	68,300	67,500	-1.2%	3.1%
Unemployment	5,800	3,800	4,500	18.4%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	8.2	5.2	6.3		

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SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,400	89,500	89,200	-0.3%	0.9%
Total Employment	80,600	84,600	83,100	-1.8%	3.1%
Unemployment	7,800	4,900	6,100	24.5%	-21.8%
Rate (percent)	8.8	5.5	6.8		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,100	140,900	142,700	1.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	128,000	131,300	131,000	-0.2%	2.3%
Unemployment	14,200	9,500	11,600	22.1%	-18.3%
Rate (percent)	10.0	6.8	8.2		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,700	80,400	81,400	1.2%	-0.4%
Total Employment	70,600	73,600	72,500	-1.5%	2.7%
Unemployment	11,100	6,900	8,900	29.0%	-19.8%
Rate (percent)	13.6	8.5	11.0		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,800	144,500	145,000	0.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	129,200	135,300	133,500	-1.3%	3.3%
Unemployment	14,500	9,200	11,600	26.1%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	10.1	6.4	8.0		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,679	4,712	4,722	0.2%	0.9%
Total Employment	4,286	4,448	4,409	-0.9%	2.9%
Unemployment	394	264	313	18.6%	-20.6%
Rate (percent)	8.4	5.6	6.6		

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Note:

During this year's revision process, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics implemented a number of methodological changes in the production of state and county employment and unemployment estimates. As such, users may notice some counties with larger than normal revisions.

Also, the Current Employment Statistics program, which generates job data by industry for Michigan metro areas, will incorporate new metro area designations in 2015 as defined by the U.S. Office of Management & Budget. The metro areas impacted by these geographic changes include:

- Grand Rapids MSA - New definition: Barry, Kent, Montcalm, and Ottawa counties
- Midland MSA - This is a newly defined metro area; reflecting Midland County
- Former Holland MSA (Ottawa County) – Job estimates now part of Grand Rapids MSA

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

1	Washtenaw County	3.9	43	Gogebic County	7.8
2	Ottawa County	4.2	44	Mason County	7.9
3	Kent County	4.3	45	Charlevoix County	8.0
4	Kalamazoo County	4.9	46	Osceola County	8.0
5	Clinton County	5.0	47	Van Buren County	8.1
6	Isabella County	5.1	48	Tuscola County	8.2
7	Barry County	5.2	49	Luce County	8.3
8	Allegan County	5.2	50	Sanilac County	8.3
9	St. Joseph County	5.2	51	Delta County	8.3
10	Monroe County	5.3	52	Missaukee County	8.4
11	Ingham County	5.4	53	Wexford County	8.4
12	Eaton County	5.7	54	Wayne County	8.5
13	Midland County	5.7	55	Manistee County	8.5
14	Oakland County	5.8	56	Gladwin County	8.9
15	Ionia County	5.9	57	Iron County	9.0
16	Calhoun County	5.9	58	St. Clair County	9.1
17	Livingston County	6.0	59	Benzie County	9.3
18	Branch County	6.0	60	Clare County	9.6
19	Grand Traverse County	6.1	61	Antrim County	9.7
20	Menominee County	6.1	62	Baraga County	9.7
21	Cass County	6.1	63	Chippewa County	9.8
22	Lenawee County	6.1	64	Kalkaska County	9.9
23	Jackson County	6.2	65	Emmet County	10.0
24	Berrien County	6.3	66	Crawford County	10.1
25	Dickinson County	6.4	67	Iosco County	10.1
26	Hillsdale County	6.5	68	Lapeer County	10.1
27	Muskegon County	6.5	69	Alcona County	10.4
28	Gratiot County	6.6	70	Ogemaw County	10.4
29	Marquette County	6.7	71	Ontonagon County	10.4
30	Houghton County	6.8	72	Alger County	10.6
31	Saginaw County	6.8	73	Keweenaw County	10.6
32	Huron County	6.9	74	Lake County	11.0
33	Montcalm County	6.9	75	Oceana County	11.1
34	Newaygo County	7.0	76	Schoolcraft County	11.5
35	Bay County	7.0	77	Arenac County	11.7
36	Mecosta County	7.1	78	Oscoda County	11.7
37	Genesee County	7.1	79	Montmorency County	12.6
38	Shiawassee County	7.2	80	Roscommon County	12.7
39	Leelanau County	7.3	81	Presque Isle County	14.3
40	Macomb County	7.3	82	Cheboygan County	16.9
41	Alpena County	7.7	83	Mackinac County	20.6
42	Otsego County	7.8			

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