



Michigan's August Unemployment Rate Continues Downward Trend *State Rate Matches U.S. For Second Consecutive Month*

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August moved downward over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose in August by 8,000 as the number of unemployed declined by 7,000. The state's workforce edged slightly upward by 1,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in August 2015 was one and seven-tenths percentage points below the state's August 2014 rate of 6.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one percentage point over this period. The state's August unemployment rate matched the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate also decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point from July to August.

"The first eight months of 2015 have been marked by steady labor market improvement in the state," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Although Michigan's job growth was modest in August, it continued an upward trend displayed nearly every month this year."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's August unemployment rate was not only the lowest recorded so far in 2015, it was the lowest rate the state has posted since July 2001. However, the state's labor market has changed dramatically since July 2001. Michigan's current workforce and employment levels are over 350,000 below totals recorded in 2001.
- With the over-the-month gain in total employment, Michigan's August total employment level matched May as the highest level recorded so far in 2015.
- Since August 2014, Michigan's workforce declined moderately by 18,000 or 0.4 percent.
- From August 2014 to August 2015, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 82,000 or 25.3 percent, well outpacing the 16.1 percent drop nationally.
- Since August 2014, total employment in Michigan increased by 64,000 or 1.4 percent, which was somewhat less than the 1.8 percent gain nationally over the same period.

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MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2014	July 2015	August 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,747	4,728	4,729	1	-18
Employment	4,423	4,479	4,487	8	64
Unemployment	324	249	242	-7	-82
Rate (Percent)	6.8	5.3	5.1	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's August Jobless Rate Declines

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August declined by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. This was the lowest monthly rate for the area since the September 2001 rate of 5.4 percent. However, like the state as a whole, the MSA's labor force and total employment levels in 2015 are well below totals recorded in 2001. In August, the area's total employment level increased by 6,000 while the number of unemployed declined by 4,000. August marked the fourth consecutive monthly total employment gain for the metro area. August's total employment level was the highest in the area since November 2008. The Detroit MSA's workforce grew modestly by 2,000 in August after remaining essentially flat for three consecutive months. However, the August labor force level remained below levels posted in the first two months of the year.

From August 2014 to August 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and six-tenths percentage points, well outpacing the statewide and national declines over this period. Since August 2014, total employment rose by 30,000 or 1.6 percent in the region while the number of unemployed dropped by 54,000 or 32.7 percent. The metro area recorded a large workforce reduction of 24,000 or 1.2 percent over the year.

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA
Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2014	July 2015	August 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,018	1,992	1,994	2	-24
Employment	1,853	1,877	1,883	6	30
Unemployment	165	115	111	-4	-54
Rate (Percent)	8.2	5.8	5.6	xxx	xxx

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Modest Gain in August Payroll Jobs

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged up in August by 3,000 to 4,280,000. Payroll job gains were led by a 5,000 increase in the trade, transportation and utilities sector. Lesser job gains of around 2,000 each were recorded in financial activities, other services, and government. Somewhat offsetting the August increases were job reductions in construction (-5,000), and education and health services (-2,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Michigan payroll jobs have increased every month so far in 2015 with the exception of June. Since December, statewide payroll jobs grew by 62,000 or 1.5 percent.
- Michigan's total payroll job count for August was the highest level recorded in the state since April 2007. However, the August 2015 job total remains well below the record high for the state of 4,691,000 registered in April 2000.
- Although construction jobs in Michigan have declined over the past two months, this sector continues to show the highest percentage over-the-year job growth (+4.7%) of the state's major industry sectors.
- The over-the-month job gain in trade, transportation and utilities was the largest monthly increase for this sector in 2015. Prior to August, the monthly job counts in trade, transportation and utilities had remained relatively flat throughout the year.
- From August 2014 to August 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 91,000 or 2.2 percent, similar to the national over-the-year percentage gain in payroll jobs of 2.1 percent.
- Since August 2014, professional and business services (+26,000), manufacturing (+21,000), and education and health services (+17,000) accounted for 70 percent of Michigan's total payroll job growth.
- Over the year, government (-8,000) and information (-3,000) were the only major industry sectors in the state to show job reductions.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing decreased over the month, but increased over the year.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	<u>August</u> 2014	<u>July</u> 2015	<u>August</u> 2015	CHANGE***	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,189	4,278	4,280	3	91
Natural Resources & Mining	8	8	8	0	0
Construction	144	155	150	-5	7
Manufacturing	578	599	598	-1	21
Transportation Equipment	176	192	189	-3	13
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	758	764	768	5	10
Retail Trade	461	464	468	4	7
Information	57	55	55	-1	-3
Financial Activities	205	212	214	2	9
Professional & Business Services	620	647	647	0	26
Education & Health Services	643	663	660	-2	17
Leisure & Hospitality Services	408	416	417	1	9
Other Services	170	172	173	2	3
Government	598	588	590	2	-8

* Final data for July

** Preliminary data for August

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>August</u> 2014	<u>July</u> 2015	<u>August</u> 2015	CHANGE	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$900.40	\$923.78	\$908.37	-\$15.41	\$7.97
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	44.2	44.0	-0.2	0.3

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,214.94	\$1,255.23	\$1,182.32	-\$72.91	-\$32.62
Average Weekly Hours	47.3	49.8	48.7	-1.1	1.4

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