



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October Unemployment Rates Decline Slightly in Nearly All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in October edged down in 16 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 seasonally in most regions over the month.

"October changes in the state's various local labor markets were typically small and seasonal," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Michigan's metropolitan area payroll job levels continued to trend upward in most regions both over the month and over the year."

During October, jobless rates moved down modestly in 16 areas while the rate in the Northeast Lower Michigan region was unchanged. Rate decreases ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 of a percentage point with a median reduction of only 0.2 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month unemployment rate cuts were recorded in the Ann Arbor (-0.5), Monroe (-0.5) and Lansing-East Lansing (-0.4) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In October, major labor market area unemployment rates in Michigan ranged from 3.4 to 5.8 percent. The October Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 4.2 percent, while the national unadjusted rate was 3.9 percent.

Unemployment Rates Edge Up Over Year

Since October 2016, jobless rates increased slightly in 11 areas, declined in four regions and were unchanged in the Midland and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs. Rate gains ranged from 0.1 to 0.3 of a percentage point with the largest hikes posted in the Battle Creek, Flint and Muskegon MSAs. Minor over-the-year rate reductions occurred in the Ann Arbor MSA (-0.3), the Upper Peninsula (-0.3) and the Jackson MSA (-0.1), while the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA displayed a significant drop of 1.5 percentage points.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Year

From September to October, total employment declined seasonally in 14 regions, with a median reduction of 0.8 percent. The largest employment decreases were recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.3%) and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.9%) as the summer tourism season came to a close. Total employment rose slightly over the month in the Lansing-East Lansing (+0.5%) and Ann Arbor (+0.2%) MSAs, while employment in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA was essentially unchanged.

Since October 2016, total employment decreased in 13 regions, with reductions ranging from 0.2 to 2.2 percent and a median drop of 1.1 percent. The most pronounced declines were recorded in the Bay City (-2.2%), Midland (-2.0%) and Flint (-1.7%) MSAs. Employment rose over the year in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids-Wyoming metro areas, while total employment was little changed over this period in the Kalamazoo-Portage region.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Year

Between September and October, workforce levels declined seasonally in 16 regions and increased slightly in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA. Over-the-month labor force reductions ranged from 0.2 to 2.4 percent with a median drop of 0.9 percent.

Since October 2016, labor force levels receded in 12 areas and grew slightly in four. The median workforce reduction over this period was 0.9 percent with the largest declines registered in the Midland (-2.2%) and Bay City (-1.9%) MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula (-1.6%). Minor over-the-year workforce advances were posted in the Ann Arbor, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs, while the labor force in the Saginaw MSA was little changed.

October Payroll Jobs Up Due to Professional Services and Education

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 25,000 in October to 4,453,000. Seasonal job advances took place over the month in *Local government education* (+10,000) and *State government education* (+9,000) with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester.

Seasonal job additions were also recorded in *Professional and business services* (+8,000) and *Education and health services* (+5,000). These private sector gains were somewhat offset by seasonal job cuts in *Leisure and hospitality services* (-11,000). The October job gains in *Education and health services* primarily occurred in *Private education*.

In October, payroll jobs increased in ten metro regions, with gains ranging from 0.3 to 1.3 percent. The most notable job advances were recorded in both the Ann Arbor (+1.3%) and Lansing-East Lansing (+1.3%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined over the month in the Midland (-0.8%), Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.6%) and Muskegon (-0.2%) metro areas, while jobs were little changed in the Bay City MSA.

Since October 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 45,000 or 1.0 percent. Twelve of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed job advances over the year led by the Ann Arbor (+3.1%), Saginaw (+2.5%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.1%) and Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.0%) MSAs. Job reductions were reported in the Bay City (-1.1%) and Midland (-0.8%) metro areas over the year.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

Sixty-two of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor unemployment rate decreases from September to October. Rate reductions ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 of a percentage point with a modest median decline of 0.2 of a percentage point. Eleven counties registered marginal rate hikes over the month, while the rates in ten counties were unchanged.

Since October 2016, unemployment rates were mixed and little changed. Thirty-five counties reported minor unemployment rate increases, 33 counties saw minor declines and the rates in the remaining 15 counties were unchanged. The median advance was 0.2 of a percentage point while the median reduction was 0.3 of a percentage point.

*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-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	195,100	196,500	195,900	-0.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	187,900	188,900	189,200	0.2%	0.7%
Unemployment	7,100	7,600	6,700	-11.8%	-5.6%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.9	3.4		

Contact: Marcus Reason, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-8341

	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,600	64,500	64,000	-0.8%	-0.9%
Total Employment	61,800	61,400	61,100	-0.5%	-1.1%
Unemployment	2,800	3,100	3,000	-3.2%	7.1%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.8	4.6		

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

	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,800	51,400	50,800	-1.2%	-1.9%
Total Employment	49,500	48,900	48,400	-1.0%	-2.2%
Unemployment	2,400	2,500	2,400	-4.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.9	4.7		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,089	2,116	2,097	-0.9%	0.4%
Total Employment	1,970	2,023	2,008	-0.7%	1.9%
Unemployment	119	94	89	-5.3%	-25.2%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.4	4.2		

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

	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,600	182,000	181,100	-0.5%	-1.4%
Total Employment	174,500	171,800	171,600	-0.1%	-1.7%
Unemployment	9,100	10,100	9,500	-5.9%	4.4%
Rate (percent)	5.0	5.6	5.3		

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(more)

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GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	570,800	573,200	571,800	-0.2%	0.2%
Total Employment	552,000	552,800	552,600	0.0%	0.1%
Unemployment	18,800	20,300	19,200	-5.4%	2.1%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.5	3.4		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,600	74,200	73,900	-0.4%	-0.9%
Total Employment	71,400	70,800	70,700	-0.1%	-1.0%
Unemployment	3,300	3,400	3,200	-5.9%	-3.0%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.6	4.3		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	169,400	169,900	169,500	-0.2%	0.1%
Total Employment	162,600	162,600	162,600	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployment	6,700	7,300	6,900	-5.5%	3.0%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.3	4.1		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	250,200	247,400	247,900	0.2%	-0.9%
Total Employment	240,900	236,900	238,200	0.5%	-1.1%
Unemployment	9,200	10,500	9,800	-6.7%	6.5%
Rate (percent)	3.7	4.3	3.9		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,000	40,700	40,100	-1.5%	-2.2%
Total Employment	39,200	38,900	38,400	-1.3%	-2.0%
Unemployment	1,700	1,800	1,700	-5.6%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.4	4.2		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,600	77,900	77,300	-0.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	73,900	73,600	73,500	-0.1%	-0.5%
Unemployment	3,700	4,300	3,900	-9.3%	5.4%
Rate (percent)	4.8	5.5	5.0		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,600	77,000	76,300	-0.9%	-0.4%
Total Employment	72,800	72,900	72,300	-0.8%	-0.7%
Unemployment	3,800	4,100	3,900	-4.9%	2.6%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.3	5.2		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	73,900	72,900	-1.4%	-1.5%
Total Employment	70,700	70,500	69,700	-1.1%	-1.4%
Unemployment	3,300	3,400	3,200	-5.9%	-3.0%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.6	4.4		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,500	89,000	88,500	-0.6%	0.0%
Total Employment	84,400	84,500	84,200	-0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment	4,100	4,500	4,300	-4.4%	4.9%
Rate (percent)	4.6	5.1	4.8		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,200	139,600	138,000	-1.1%	-1.6%
Total Employment	132,900	132,400	131,200	-0.9%	-1.3%
Unemployment	7,300	7,200	6,800	-5.6%	-6.8%
Rate (percent)	5.2	5.1	4.9		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,500	84,000	82,000	-2.4%	-0.6%
Total Employment	77,800	79,100	77,300	-2.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment	4,700	4,900	4,700	-4.1%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.8	5.8		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	148,300	151,000	148,000	-2.0%	-0.2%
Total Employment	141,800	144,200	141,500	-1.9%	-0.2%
Unemployment	6,400	6,800	6,500	-4.4%	1.6%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.5	4.4		

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	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Oct-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,869	4,900	4,864	-0.7%	-0.1%
Total Employment	4,634	4,682	4,657	-0.5%	0.5%
Unemployment	235	219	206	-5.9%	-12.3%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.5	4.2		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
OCTOBER 2017**

1	Livingston County	3.0	43	Benzie County	4.8
2	Ottawa County	3.2	44	Missaukee County	4.8
3	Clinton County	3.3	45	Sanilac County	4.8
4	Kent County	3.3	46	Saginaw County	4.8
5	Oakland County	3.3	47	Cheboygan County	4.9
6	Allegan County	3.3	48	Wexford County	4.9
7	Washtenaw County	3.4	49	Mecosta County	4.9
8	Barry County	3.5	50	Gratiot County	5.0
9	Grand Traverse County	3.6	51	Monroe County	5.0
10	Mackinac County	3.6	52	Iron County	5.1
11	Ionia County	3.6	53	Manistee County	5.1
12	Eaton County	3.8	54	Osceola County	5.1
13	Leelanau County	3.8	55	Delta County	5.1
14	Huron County	3.9	56	Otsego County	5.2
15	Kalamazoo County	3.9	57	Wayne County	5.2
16	Ingham County	4.2	58	Muskegon County	5.2
17	Macomb County	4.2	59	Antrim County	5.3
18	Cass County	4.2	60	Oceana County	5.3
19	Isabella County	4.2	61	Tuscola County	5.3
20	St. Joseph County	4.2	62	Gogebic County	5.3
21	Midland County	4.2	63	Genesee County	5.3
22	Lenawee County	4.3	64	Kalkaska County	5.5
23	Jackson County	4.3	65	Luce County	5.5
24	Montcalm County	4.4	66	Chippewa County	5.6
25	Newaygo County	4.4	67	Clare County	5.8
26	Dickinson County	4.4	68	Keweenaw County	5.9
27	Menominee County	4.4	69	Baraga County	6.0
28	Branch County	4.4	70	Crawford County	6.0
29	Berrien County	4.4	71	Gladwin County	6.0
30	Charlevoix County	4.5	72	Oscoda County	6.0
31	St. Clair County	4.5	73	Alcona County	6.1
32	Hillsdale County	4.5	74	Ogemaw County	6.1
33	Shiawassee County	4.5	75	Iosco County	6.2
34	Emmet County	4.6	76	Alger County	6.3
35	Lapeer County	4.6	77	Presque Isle County	6.3
36	Marquette County	4.6	78	Arenac County	6.7
37	Calhoun County	4.6	79	Ontonagon County	6.7
38	Houghton County	4.7	80	Schoolcraft County	6.8
39	Van Buren County	4.7	81	Roscommon County	7.0
40	Alpena County	4.7	82	Lake County	7.2
41	Mason County	4.7	83	Montmorency County	8.3
42	Bay County	4.7			

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