



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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December Jobless Rates Increase Seasonally in Nearly All Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in December rose in 16 of the state’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment declined in all regions over the month while labor force levels fell in most areas.

“Michigan’s local labor market changes in December were almost exclusively seasonal and typical,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “Overall in 2017, the majority of the state’s major local labor markets displayed payroll job gains, while unemployment rates were little changed from 2016. Jobless rates in both 2016 and 2017 were relatively low by historical standards.”

During December, unemployment rates increased seasonally throughout most of the state, with rate advances ranging from 0.2 to 2.2 percentage points and a moderate median gain of 0.5 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate increases were registered in the state’s three northernmost regions, which included the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+2.2), the Upper Peninsula (+1.5), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.1). The remaining region’s rate advances were limited to 0.8 of a percentage point or less. A modest jobless rate reduction of 0.1 of a percentage point occurred in the Ann Arbor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) over the month. In December, regional unemployment rates in Michigan ranged from 3.0 to 9.0 percent. The December Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 4.4 percent, while the national unadjusted rate was 3.9 percent.

Annual Average Unemployment Rate Changes Mixed Over Year

Preliminary annual average data indicated that regional jobless rates were little changed in nearly all major areas of the state from 2016 to 2017 (see page 7). Seven local regions posted minor unemployment rate hikes over the year of 0.4 percentage points or less, with five areas showing a modest uptick of only 0.1 of a percentage point. The largest increases from 2016 to 2017 were recorded in the Monroe (+0.4) and Kalamazoo-Portage (+0.3) MSAs. Over-the-year jobless rate reductions occurred in five areas, with the only significant decline displayed in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-0.9). Rates were unchanged in the remaining five regions since 2016.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Year

From November to December, total employment fell seasonally in all 17 regions. Employment reductions ranged from 0.5 to 1.8 percent with a median decline of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-month decreases occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.8%), the Bay City MSA (-1.8%) and the Upper Peninsula (-1.6%). Since December 2016, total employment fell in 12 areas, rose in four regions and was essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA. Over-the-year employment reductions ranged from 0.2 to 2.6 percent with Bay City (-2.6%), Midland (-2.3%) and Flint (-1.6%) recording the most pronounced declines. Employment gains since December 2016 were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Ann Arbor and Muskegon MSAs.

Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Year

Between November and December, workforce levels fell seasonally in 14 regions with reductions ranging from 0.2 to 1.4 percent. The largest labor force declines over the month took place in the Ann Arbor (-1.4%), Lansing-East Lansing (-1.3%) and Monroe (-1.3%) MSAs. December labor force levels increased moderately in the Northwest (+0.7%) and Northeast (+0.6%) Lower Michigan regions, while the workforce level in the Upper Peninsula was essentially unchanged over the month.

Since December 2016, labor force levels declined in 11 areas and rose in six. Workforce reductions ranged from 0.1 to 2.2 percent with a moderate median decrease of 0.5 percent, while increases ranged from 0.3 to 1.1 percent.

December Payroll Jobs Down Seasonally

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan declined by 19,000 in December to 4,439,000. Seasonal job cuts were recorded in *Professional and business services* (-9,000), *Construction* (-8,000) and *Government* (-6,000). The only notable job gain in December was posted in *Trade, transportation and Utilities* (+3,000).

Over the holiday hiring season from September to December 2017, jobs in *Retail trade* rose by 13,000 in Michigan, which was somewhat above the 2016 gain of 11,000 over the same period. The majority of the *Government* job decline in December was centered in *State government education* with the beginning of the holiday break at area colleges and universities.

In December, payroll jobs declined in 12 metro areas and increased slightly in the Grand-Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+0.2%). Job levels were unchanged over the month in the Bay City metro region. Metro area job drops ranged from 0.2 to 1.1 percent with a minor median decrease of 0.4 percent.

Since December 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 60,000 or 1.4 percent. Twelve of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed job gains over this period with a significant median increase of 1.8 percent. Area job advances on a percentage basis were led by the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.9%), Ann Arbor (+2.3%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.3%) and Jackson (+2.3%) MSAs. Job levels declined over the year in the Bay City (-1.4%) and Midland (-0.8%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Year

Eighty-one of Michigan's 83 counties registered seasonal jobless rate hikes in December, with a median increase of 0.9 of a percentage point. The unemployment rate in St. Joseph County was unchanged over the month while the rate in Washtenaw County edged down by 0.1 of a percentage point.

Since December 2016, unemployment rates rose moderately in 72 counties, with a median advance of 0.4 of a percentage point. Rates declined in nine counties over the year and were unchanged in two.

*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 December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for December.

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

(more)

	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	193,600	196,900	194,200	-1.4%	0.3%
Total Employment	188,300	190,800	188,400	-1.3%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	5,300 2.7	6,100 3.1	5,800 3.0	-4.9%	9.4%

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

	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	64,400	64,100	-0.5%	-0.6%
Total Employment	61,800	61,600	61,000	-1.0%	-1.3%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,700 4.2	2,800 4.4	3,100 4.8	10.7%	14.8%

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,000	51,300	50,900	-0.8%	-2.1%
Total Employment	49,400	49,000	48,100	-1.8%	-2.6%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,600 4.9	2,300 4.5	2,700 5.3	17.4%	3.8%

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,068	2,095	2,091	-0.2%	1.1%
Total Employment	1,969	2,017	2,003	-0.7%	1.7%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	99 4.8	78 3.7	87 4.2	11.5%	-12.1%

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

	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,700	182,100	181,100	-0.5%	-0.9%
Total Employment	173,600	172,900	170,800	-1.2%	-1.6%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	9,100 5.0	9,200 5.1	10,300 5.7	12.0%	13.2%

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(more)

	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	568,600	576,500	574,800	-0.3%	1.1%
Total Employment	551,500	557,800	555,100	-0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment	17,100	18,600	19,700	5.9%	15.2%
Rate (percent)	3.0	3.2	3.4		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,700	74,600	73,900	-0.9%	0.3%
Total Employment	70,600	71,500	70,600	-1.3%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,100	3,100	3,200	3.2%	3.2%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.1	4.4		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	169,000	170,300	169,500	-0.5%	0.3%
Total Employment	162,400	163,600	162,100	-0.9%	-0.2%
Unemployment	6,600	6,700	7,400	10.4%	12.1%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.9	4.3		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	247,400	249,400	246,200	-1.3%	-0.5%
Total Employment	239,100	240,200	236,700	-1.5%	-1.0%
Unemployment	8,200	9,200	9,500	3.3%	15.9%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.7	3.9		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,900	40,500	40,000	-1.2%	-2.2%
Total Employment	39,100	38,800	38,200	-1.5%	-2.3%
Unemployment	1,700	1,700	1,800	5.9%	5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.1	4.6		

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(more)

	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,200	77,000	76,000	-1.3%	-0.3%
Total Employment	73,500	74,000	72,900	-1.5%	-0.8%
Unemployment	2,700	3,000	3,100	3.3%	14.8%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.9	4.1		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,900	76,800	76,400	-0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	72,300	73,000	72,400	-0.8%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,600	3,800	4,000	5.3%	11.1%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.9	5.3		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	73,200	72,700	-0.7%	-0.3%
Total Employment	69,600	69,900	69,000	-1.3%	-0.9%
Unemployment	3,400	3,300	3,700	12.1%	8.8%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.5	5.0		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,800	89,400	88,700	-0.8%	-0.1%
Total Employment	84,700	85,200	84,100	-1.3%	-0.7%
Unemployment	4,100	4,200	4,600	9.5%	12.2%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.7	5.2		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	138,100	136,500	136,500	0.0%	-1.2%
Total Employment	128,900	129,000	127,000	-1.6%	-1.5%
Unemployment	9,100	7,500	9,500	26.7%	4.4%
Rate (percent)	6.6	5.5	7.0		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,900	81,300	81,800	0.6%	-0.1%
Total Employment	75,100	75,800	74,400	-1.8%	-0.9%
Unemployment	6,700	5,500	7,400	34.5%	10.4%
Rate (percent)	8.2	6.8	9.0		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,800	146,700	147,700	0.7%	-0.1%
Total Employment	139,600	139,700	138,900	-0.6%	-0.5%
Unemployment	8,200	7,000	8,800	25.7%	7.3%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.8	5.9		

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	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,831	4,870	4,852	-0.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	4,615	4,677	4,636	-0.9%	0.5%
Unemployment	215	193	216	11.9%	0.5%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.0	4.4		

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**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA'S
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2016 – 2017**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	3.4	3.3
BATTLE CREEK MSA	4.6	4.7
BAY CITY MSA	5.2	5.3
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA	5.4	4.5
FLINT MSA	5.4	5.5
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	3.4	3.4
JACKSON MSA	4.7	4.5
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	3.9	4.2
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	4.0	4.0
MIDLAND MSA	4.5	4.5
MONROE MSA	4.3	4.7
MUSKEGON MSA	5.2	5.2
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	4.8	4.7
SAGINAW MSA	5.1	5.2
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	6.4	6.2
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	7.3	7.4
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	5.3	5.3
MICHIGAN	4.9	4.5

(more)

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

1	Washtenaw County	3.0	43	Marquette County	5.7
2	Livingston County	3.1	44	Genesee County	5.7
3	Oakland County	3.2	45	Houghton County	5.8
4	Ottawa County	3.2	46	Sanilac County	5.8
5	Kent County	3.4	47	Missaukee County	5.9
6	Clinton County	3.5	48	Alpena County	5.9
7	St. Joseph County	3.6	49	Tuscola County	6.1
8	Ionia County	3.7	50	Van Buren County	6.1
9	Eaton County	3.8	51	Gogebic County	6.2
10	Allegan County	3.8	52	Charlevoix County	6.4
11	Kalamazoo County	3.9	53	Otsego County	6.5
12	Barry County	4.0	54	Mason County	6.5
13	Ingham County	4.0	55	Delta County	6.6
14	Macomb County	4.1	56	Gladwin County	6.7
15	Isabella County	4.1	57	Benzie County	7.0
16	Monroe County	4.1	58	Manistee County	7.0
17	Lenawee County	4.2	59	Clare County	7.1
18	Branch County	4.2	60	Iron County	7.2
19	Grand Traverse County	4.3	61	Baraga County	7.4
20	Hillsdale County	4.3	62	Kalkaska County	7.4
21	Jackson County	4.4	63	Antrim County	7.9
22	Cass County	4.6	64	Crawford County	7.9
23	Midland County	4.6	65	Oceana County	8.0
24	St. Clair County	4.8	66	Iosco County	8.1
25	Calhoun County	4.8	67	Emmet County	8.2
26	Montcalm County	4.9	68	Luce County	8.2
27	Huron County	5.0	69	Alcona County	8.5
28	Leelanau County	5.0	70	Lake County	8.5
29	Newaygo County	5.0	71	Chippewa County	8.6
30	Gratiot County	5.0	72	Oscoda County	8.8
31	Shiawassee County	5.0	73	Ogemaw County	9.0
32	Berrien County	5.0	74	Arenac County	9.1
33	Wayne County	5.1	75	Ontonagon County	9.7
34	Dickinson County	5.1	76	Presque Isle County	9.8
35	Menominee County	5.1	77	Roscommon County	9.9
36	Saginaw County	5.2	78	Keweenaw County	10.0
37	Bay County	5.3	79	Schoolcraft County	10.3
38	Muskegon County	5.3	80	Alger County	11.0
39	Mecosta County	5.5	81	Montmorency County	12.4
40	Wexford County	5.6	82	Cheboygan County	15.6
41	Lapeer County	5.7	83	Mackinac County	19.0
42	Osceola County	5.7			

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