



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

DAVID DEVRIES  
DIRECTOR

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 13, 2017

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

### **Michigan's August Jobless Rate Increases**

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August rose over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment declined in August by 17,000 while the number of unemployed in Michigan advanced by 10,000. The state's workforce decreased slightly by 7,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in August 2017 was a full percentage point below the state's August 2016 rate of 4.9 percent. The national jobless rate declined by a half percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in August was half of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate edged up by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.4 percent in August.

"The Michigan jobless rate, although up slightly in August, remains very low compared with prior years," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "So far through the first eight months of 2017, the state jobless rate has edged down and payroll job growth remains steady."

#### ***Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights***

- August marked the first monthly increase in the state's unemployment rate since February.
- Total employment declined in Michigan in August for the third consecutive month. However, the August total employment level of 4,643,000 was well above levels posted throughout 2016.
- Eight months into 2017, Michigan's year-to-date average jobless rate was 4.5 percent. This was four-tenths of a percentage point below the state's 2016 annual average rate of 4.9 percent.
- The state's eight-month 2017 average labor force was 45,000 or 0.9 percent above the 2016 annual average labor force. The average total employment count so far in 2017 was 63,000 or 1.4 percent above the 2016 average.
- From August 2016 to August 2017, total employment rose in Michigan by 47,000 or 1.0 percent, while the number of unemployed in the state fell by 48,000 or 20.2 percent. Michigan's total employment growth over this period was slightly below the national advance of 1.2 percent. Since August 2016, the number of unemployed fell nationally by 9.2 percent, which lagged behind Michigan's drop.

(more)

**MICHIGAN**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2016	July 2017	August 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,833	4,840	4,833	-7	0
Employment	4,596	4,660	4,643	-17	47
Unemployment	238	180	190	10	-48
Rate (Percent)	4.9	3.7	3.9	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's August Jobless Rate Inches Down***

Labor market conditions in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) were essentially unchanged in August, as the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down by one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.2 percent. This was the lowest rate in the region since April 2000, and was below the statewide rate for the second consecutive month. The number of unemployed in the region inched downward by 1,000 over the month, while total employment was flat. August was the first month in 2017 that total employment did not advance in the area. August marked the fourth consecutive month that the number of unemployed in the region was below 100,000. That had not occurred since the November 2000 to February 2001 period. However, the region's labor force in 2017 was nearly 200,000 below the 2000-2001 level.

From August 2016 to August 2017, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate declined by two and one-tenth percentage points. Since August 2016, total employment in the Detroit metro area increased by 49,000 or 2.5 percent while the number of unemployed fell by 43,000 or 39 percent. Since August 2016, the Detroit MSA's workforce crept upward by 6,000. The region's eight-month average jobless rate in 2017 was 4.7 percent, which was seven-tenths of a percentage point below the 2016 annual rate of 5.4 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	August 2016	July 2017	August 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,071	2,078	2,077	-1	6
Employment	1,961	2,010	2,010	0	49
Unemployment	110	68	67	-1	-43
Rate (Percent)	5.3	3.3	3.2	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***August Payroll Jobs Little Changed***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged up in August by 2,000 to 4,393,000. Recalls of workers in *Manufacturing* (+4,000) were mostly offset by job reductions in *Education and health services* (-3,000). Michigan's remaining major sectors registered only minor job changes over the month.

### ***Industry Employment Trends and Highlights***

- Although minor, the overall job gain in August was the third consecutive monthly increase and sixth monthly advance in Michigan payroll jobs so far in 2017.
- The over-the-month job gain in *Manufacturing* was primarily due to recalls from July layoffs in the state's auto industry.
- Job levels in *Education and health services* have been relatively flat so far in 2017.
- *Professional and business services* recorded a second consecutive month of minor job reductions after adding jobs from February through June.
- From August 2016 to August 2017, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 60,000 or 1.4 percent, which matched the national growth rate over this period. Since August 2016, sixty percent of the overall payroll job growth in the state occurred in three major industry sectors; *Government, Professional and business services, and Manufacturing*.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month, while hours were flat. Both hours and earnings were up over the year.

(more)

**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*  
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>August</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>July*</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>August**</u> <u>2017</u>	CHANGE***	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,332	4,391	4,393	2	60
Natural Resources & Mining	7	8	7	0	0
Construction	155	161	161	1	6
Manufacturing	599	604	609	4	10
Transportation Equipment	181	177	182	5	1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	786	784	785	1	-1
Retail Trade	475	470	471	0	-4
Information	58	58	58	0	0
Financial Activities	213	219	219	0	5
Professional & Business Services	651	664	663	-1	12
Education & Health Services	667	672	669	-3	2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	426	433	432	-1	6
Other Services	169	175	175	1	6
Government	602	616	616	0	14

\* Final data for July 2017

\*\* Preliminary data for August 2017

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>August</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>July</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>August</u> <u>2017</u>	CHANGE	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$880.00	\$882.43	\$907.20	\$24.77	\$27.20
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	42.9	42.9	0.0	0.3

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,078.58	\$1,090.49	\$1,099.04	\$8.55	\$20.46
Average Weekly Hours	45.8	46.3	47.1	0.8	1.3

###