



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 22, 2017

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

May Unemployment Rates Increase in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in May rose moderately in 13 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and workforce levels went up in most regions over the month.

"May jobless rates increased slightly in the majority of southern lower Michigan regions due to a large number of potential workers entering the labor market seeking summer and seasonal positions," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Rates fell in northern lower Michigan as employers began hiring for tourism-related jobs."

Between April and May, jobless rate increases in the 13 areas were mostly minor and seasonal. May rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 0.6 of a percentage point with a median hike of 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest rate gain of 0.6 of a percentage point was posted in the Ann Arbor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), followed by a half percentage point advance in both the Muskegon and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs. Unemployment rates declined in four areas in May, with the largest drop of -1.2 percentage points displayed in the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Other area rate reductions were recorded in the Upper Peninsula (-0.6), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-0.4), and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-0.4). In May, ten of the state's major areas along with the state (3.7 %) registered unemployment rates below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 4.1 percent.

Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Since May 2016, jobless rates fell in all 17 regions, with a median rate decline of a half percentage point. The most pronounced rate reductions over this period were recorded in the Lansing-East Lansing (-1.4), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (-1.1), and Jackson (-0.7) MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula (-0.7).

Total Employment Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

From April to May, total employment rose in nine regions, declined in six areas, and was essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA and the Upper Peninsula. Area employment gains were widespread, with a moderate median increase of 0.5 percent. The largest advances by far were reported in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+4.4%) and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+3.7%) as employers began hiring for the summer tourism season. Combined, these two regions showed an employment gain of 8,400. Employment reductions in six areas ranged from -0.3 percent to -1.2 percent with the largest declines posted in the Kalamazoo-Portage and Saginaw MSAs.

Since May 2016 total employment advanced in eight areas, decreased in eight regions and was essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA. The largest over-the-year gains were displayed in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.9%), Ann Arbor (+2.5%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+1.5%), and

Lansing-East Lansing (+1.5%) MSAs. The most prominent reductions were registered in the Bay City (-1.6%) and Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.8%) MSAs, along with the Upper Peninsula (-0.7%).

Labor Force Trends Mixed Over Month, and Year

During May, workforce levels rose in ten regions and fell in seven. Labor force gains ranged from 0.1 percent to 3.4 percent with a minor median increase of 0.6 percent. The Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions recorded large seasonal workforce additions over the month. Labor force reductions in May were mostly moderate.

Since May 2016, labor force levels fell in ten regions, with reductions ranging from -0.6 percent to -1.7 percent and a fairly significant median decline of a full percentage point. The Bay City MSA and the Upper Peninsula posted the largest drops. Seven regions registered workforce gains over the year with the largest increases shown in the Ann Arbor (+1.9%), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+1.8%), and Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+1.0%) MSAs.

Seasonal and Tourism-Related Hiring Begin in May

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 53,000 or 1.2 percent in May to 4,419,000. Seasonal job gains were evident in *Leisure and hospitality services* (+23,000), *Construction* (+12,000), *Professional and business services* (+12,000), and *Retail trade* (+10,000). *State government education* recorded a seasonal job drop of 19,000 in May due to the end of the winter/spring semester at a number of the state's universities.

In May, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 major metropolitan areas. Regional job gains ranged from 0.1 percent to 1.9 percent with a median advance of 1.2 percent. The strongest over-the-month job increases were recorded in the Battle Creek (+1.9%), Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.9%), and Flint (+1.4%) MSAs. May payroll jobs fell in the Ann Arbor (-0.3%) and Kalamazoo-Portage (-0.3%) MSAs due to seasonal education related job cuts.

Since May 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 73,000 or 1.7 percent. All major industry sectors in Michigan reported over-the-year job gains with the exception of *Trade, transportation and utilities* (-4,000). *Professional and business services* (+20,000) and *Leisure and hospitality services* (+14,000) led the state's industry sectors in job growth over the year.

From May 2016 to May 2017, payroll jobs rose in nine of the 14 Michigan metro areas, with regional increases ranging from 0.3 percent to 3.4 percent. The largest over-the-year job gains were displayed in the Ann Arbor (+3.4%), Lansing-East Lansing (+2.4%), and Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.3%) MSAs. Five metro regions recorded job reductions since May 2016, led by the Bay City (-2.2%) and Monroe (-1.4%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

Forty-two of Michigan's 83 counties posted jobless rate reductions in May, 35 counties recorded increases, and six counties reported no change. The largest May drops were mainly posted in the state's northern counties. Since May 2016, unemployment rates fell in 80 counties, with a moderate median decrease of -0.6 of a percentage point. Jobless rates edged upward in St. Joseph and Alger counties over the year, while the rate in Keweenaw County was unchanged.

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

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	190,000	194,100	193,600	-0.3%	1.9%
Total Employment	183,500	189,700	188,100	-0.8%	2.5%
Unemployment	6,500	4,300	5,500	27.9%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	3.4	2.2	2.8		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,800	64,500	65,000	0.8%	0.3%
Total Employment	62,000	62,100	62,400	0.5%	0.6%
Unemployment	2,800	2,300	2,600	13.0%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.6	3.9		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,100	51,500	51,200	-0.6%	-1.7%
Total Employment	49,600	49,200	48,800	-0.8%	-1.6%
Unemployment	2,500	2,200	2,400	9.1%	-4.0%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.4	4.7		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,054	2,078	2,090	0.6%	1.8%
Total Employment	1,957	1,995	2,014	1.0%	2.9%
Unemployment	97	83	75	-9.6%	-22.7%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.0	3.6		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,700	181,500	182,400	0.5%	-0.7%
Total Employment	174,200	173,700	174,100	0.2%	-0.1%
Unemployment	9,500	7,700	8,300	7.8%	-12.6%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.3	4.6		

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

(more)

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	570,000	572,500	575,600	0.5%	1.0%
Total Employment	551,300	558,900	559,500	0.1%	1.5%
Unemployment	18,700	13,600	16,100	18.4%	-13.9%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.4	2.8		

Contact: Brandon Betz, Regional DTMB Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,000	74,200	74,500	0.4%	-0.7%
Total Employment	71,700	71,700	71,700	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,400	2,500	2,800	12.0%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.4	3.8		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,100	169,000	167,900	-0.7%	0.5%
Total Employment	160,400	163,800	161,900	-1.2%	0.9%
Unemployment	6,800	5,300	6,000	13.2%	-11.8%
Rate (percent)	4.0	3.1	3.6		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	249,000	249,500	249,400	0.0%	0.2%
Total Employment	237,400	242,300	241,000	-0.5%	1.5%
Unemployment	11,700	7,100	8,300	16.9%	-29.1%
Rate (percent)	4.7	2.9	3.3		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,500	40,900	41,000	0.2%	-1.2%
Total Employment	39,700	39,400	39,500	0.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	1,700	1,500	1,600	6.7%	-5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.6	3.8		

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

(more)

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,500	77,000	76,900	-0.1%	-0.8%
Total Employment	74,300	74,100	73,900	-0.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	3,100	2,900	3,000	3.4%	-3.2%
Rate (percent)	4.0	3.8	3.9		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,900	76,400	77,100	0.9%	-1.0%
Total Employment	74,000	73,400	73,700	0.4%	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,800	3,000	3,400	13.3%	-10.5%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.9	4.4		

Contact: Brandon Betz, Regional DTMB Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,700	73,000	73,700	1.0%	-1.3%
Total Employment	71,400	70,400	70,800	0.6%	-0.8%
Unemployment	3,300	2,600	2,900	11.5%	-12.1%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.5	3.9		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,400	88,400	87,800	-0.7%	-0.7%
Total Employment	84,100	84,700	83,900	-0.9%	-0.2%
Unemployment	4,300	3,600	3,900	8.3%	-9.3%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.1	4.4		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	138,400	137,300	136,400	-0.7%	-1.4%
Total Employment	130,300	129,400	129,400	0.0%	-0.7%
Unemployment	8,100	7,900	7,100	-10.1%	-12.3%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.8	5.2		

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

(more)

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-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	84,000	81,000	83,500	3.1%	-0.6%
Total Employment	78,800	75,600	78,900	4.4%	0.1%
Unemployment	5,200	5,400	4,600	-14.8%	-11.5%
Rate (percent)	6.1	6.7	5.5		

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

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	150,400	145,600	150,500	3.4%	0.1%
Total Employment	143,300	139,000	144,100	3.7%	0.6%
Unemployment	7,100	6,700	6,400	-4.5%	-9.9%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.6	4.2		

Contact: Brandon Betz, Regional DTMB Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>May-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,834	4,845	4,869	0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,616	4,665	4,690	0.5%	1.6%
Unemployment	219	180	180	0.0%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.7	3.7		

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

(more)

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

1	Livingston County	2.6	43	Muskegon County	4.4
2	Ottawa County	2.6	44	Saginaw County	4.4
3	Kent County	2.8	45	Missaukee County	4.5
4	Oakland County	2.8	46	Van Buren County	4.5
5	Washtenaw County	2.8	47	Alpena County	4.5
6	Clinton County	2.9	48	Osceola County	4.6
7	Allegan County	2.9	49	Otsego County	4.6
8	Barry County	3.1	50	Genesee County	4.6
9	Ionia County	3.2	51	Bay County	4.7
10	Eaton County	3.3	52	Sanilac County	4.8
11	Grand Traverse County	3.3	53	Marquette County	4.8
12	Kalamazoo County	3.3	54	Emmet County	4.9
13	Ingham County	3.5	55	Manistee County	4.9
14	Leelanau County	3.6	56	Delta County	5.1
15	Macomb County	3.6	57	Benzie County	5.2
16	Lenawee County	3.6	58	Tuscola County	5.2
17	Mackinac County	3.7	59	Antrim County	5.3
18	Isabella County	3.7	60	Gladwin County	5.3
19	Montcalm County	3.8	61	Iron County	5.4
20	Newaygo County	3.8	62	Oceana County	5.4
21	Menominee County	3.8	63	Houghton County	5.5
22	Cass County	3.8	64	Kalkaska County	5.5
23	Branch County	3.8	65	Gogebic County	5.5
24	Hillsdale County	3.8	66	Alcona County	5.6
25	Jackson County	3.8	67	Clare County	5.7
26	Midland County	3.8	68	Oscoda County	5.7
27	Dickinson County	3.9	69	Iosco County	5.8
28	St. Joseph County	3.9	70	Crawford County	5.9
29	Calhoun County	3.9	71	Luce County	5.9
30	Monroe County	3.9	72	Arenac County	6.0
31	Berrien County	3.9	73	Ogemaw County	6.0
32	St. Clair County	4.0	74	Lake County	6.3
33	Shiawassee County	4.0	75	Chippewa County	6.3
34	Charlevoix County	4.2	76	Presque Isle County	6.4
35	Huron County	4.2	77	Schoolcraft County	6.6
36	Lapeer County	4.2	78	Roscommon County	6.8
37	Gratiot County	4.2	79	Baraga County	7.2
38	Mason County	4.2	80	Alger County	7.6
39	Wayne County	4.3	81	Montmorency County	8.1
40	Mecosta County	4.3	82	Ontonagon County	8.1
41	Cheboygan County	4.4	83	Keweenaw County	8.9
42	Wexford County	4.4			

#