



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 25, 2018

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### **September Jobless Rates Decline Seasonally in All Michigan Regions**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in September decreased in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Workforce levels moved down in the majority of regions, while total employment trends were mixed across the state.

"Labor market trends exhibited typical movement for September," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Unemployment declines were largely influenced by usual September reductions in the labor force coupled with seasonal recalls in area schools as the academic year commenced."

In the month of September, regional unemployment rates ranged from 2.6 to 4.4 percent. Jobless rate declines ranged from -0.1 percentage points to -0.9 percentage points with a median drop of -0.2. The most pronounced over-the-month rate reductions were recorded in the Monroe (-0.9), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (-0.5) and Upper Peninsula (-0.4) areas. The September Michigan non-seasonally adjusted rate was 3.5 percent, or one-tenth of a percentage point below that of the nation.

#### ***Jobless Rates Decline Over Year***

Since September 2017, jobless rates fell in all 17 Michigan labor market areas. Unemployment rate reductions over the year ranged from 0.9 to 1.9 percentage points with a substantial median drop of 1.2 percentage points. The largest over-the-year rate cut occurred in the Monroe metro region (-1.9). Flint, Lansing-East Lansing, Muskegon, as well as Northeast Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula all recorded rate declines of 1.3 percentage points over the year.

#### ***Total Employment Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year***

In September, total employment levels rose in seven labor market areas, with a median advancement of 1.0 percent. The largest over-the-month employment gain occurred in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA, up by 2.4 percent since August. Nine Michigan regions recorded employment declines over the month, with a median reduction of -0.6 percent. The most pronounced monthly decrease occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region, where employment fell seasonally by 4.0 percent. Jackson's total employment remained unchanged in September.

Since September 2017, total employment moved up in 12 areas by 0.1 to 2.0 percent with a median uptick of 0.5 percent. The largest over the year additions were seen in the Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+2.0), Lansing-East Lansing (+1.1) and Ann Arbor (+0.9) MSAs. Minor employment reductions were recorded in four regions, with Bay City and Jackson exhibiting the most notable decline of 0.4 percent each. Muskegon demonstrated no employment change since September 2017.

(more)

### ***Labor Force Levels Fell Over Month and Year***

During September, eleven metro regions exhibited over-the-month labor force drops, with a median decline of -0.8 percent. The most pronounced seasonal decrease occurred in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-4.0), while the smallest occurred in the Kalamazoo-Portage metro area (-0.2). Workforce levels moved up in six Michigan regions with a median increase of 0.6 percent. The largest over-the-month labor force growth occurred in the Lansing-East Lansing metro area, up by 2.2 percent.

Since September 2017, labor force reductions occurred in all regions with the exception of Grand Rapids-Wyoming, which advanced by 1.1 percent over the year. Workforce declines ranged from -0.2 to -1.6 percent, with a median drop of -1.0 percent. Labor force decreases were most pronounced in the Bay City and Jackson metro areas, which both dropped by 1.6 percent over the year.

### ***Education Pushes Payroll Jobs Upward in September***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan progressed by 29,100, or 0.7 percent in September to 4,462,200. Although private sector jobs fell by -29,000 over the month, a large seasonal increase of 58,100 *Government* jobs pushed employment up considerably since August.

Job additions in universities and local schools accounted for a large portion of over-the-month employment gains. *Local government educational services* (+39,200), *State government educational services* (+24,900) and private *Education and health services* (+8,300) all exhibited considerable job additions as students returned to school for the beginning of the academic semester. *Professional and business services* also recorded employment advances over the month, up by 8,200.

Industries demonstrating considerable seasonal job declines in employment included *Leisure and hospitality* (-21,900) *Construction* (-7,100) and *Trade, transportation, and utilities* (-10,300). The Niles-Benton Harbor and Muskegon MSAs recorded large percentage monthly job cuts in *Leisure and hospitality*, down by 10.1 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively.

Payroll jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 metro regions with advances ranging from 0.5 to 4.1 percent, and a median increase of 1.5 percent. Metro regions with the most prominent over-the-month percent job gains included Lansing (4.1%) and Ann Arbor (3.3%). September job reductions occurred in the Muskegon (-0.8%) and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (-0.1%) areas, while Niles-Benton Harbor remained unchanged.

Since September 2017, unadjusted nonfarm employment rose statewide by 60,300, or 1.4 percent. Twelve of Michigan's 14 metro regions reported job gains over this period, led by Grand Rapids-Wyoming (2.9%) and Lansing-East Lansing (1.9%). Over-the-year job reductions occurred in the Muskegon and Jackson regions, with a loss of -0.2 percent each.

### ***County Jobless Rates Down Over Month and Year***

79 of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate declines in September, with a median reduction of 0.3 percentage points. One county exhibited a minor rate hike over the month, while three remained unchanged. Since September 2017, unemployment rates fell in all counties with a significant median drop of 1.2 percentage points.

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

	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	195,600	192,900	195,100	1.1%	-0.3%
Total Employment	187,900	187,100	189,500	1.3%	0.9%
Unemployment	7,700	5,800	5,500	-5.2%	-28.6%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.0	2.8		

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

	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,000	62,900	62,500	-0.6%	-0.8%
Total Employment	60,000	60,500	60,300	-0.3%	0.5%
Unemployment	3,100	2,400	2,200	-8.3%	-29.0%
Rate (percent)	4.8	3.8	3.6		

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

	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,800	50,400	50,000	-0.8%	-1.6%
Total Employment	48,400	48,400	48,200	-0.4%	-0.4%
Unemployment	2,500	2,000	1,800	-10.0%	-28.0%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.0	3.7		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,140	2,114	2,126	0.6%	-0.7%
Total Employment	2,042	2,025	2,047	1.1%	0.2%
Unemployment	98	89	79	-11.2%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.2	3.7		

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

	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,300	181,000	179,500	-0.8%	-1.5%
Total Employment	172,400	173,200	172,200	-0.6%	-0.1%
Unemployment	9,900	7,900	7,300	-7.6%	-26.3%
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.3	4.1		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	570,100	576,000	576,300	0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	550,100	560,200	561,300	0.2%	2.0%
Unemployment	20,000	15,700	15,000	-4.5%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	3.5	2.7	2.6		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,100	73,100	72,900	-0.3%	-1.6%
Total Employment	70,800	70,500	70,500	0.0%	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,300	2,600	2,400	-7.7%	-27.3%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.6	3.4		

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<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,800	166,400	166,100	-0.2%	-1.0%
Total Employment	160,600	160,900	160,800	-0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment	7,200	5,500	5,300	-3.6%	-26.4%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.3	3.2		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	249,000	243,200	248,600	2.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	238,700	235,600	241,300	2.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	10,300	7,600	7,300	-3.9%	-29.1%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.1	2.9		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b>					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,200	40,200	39,800	-1.0%	-1.0%
Total Employment	38,500	38,800	38,600	-0.5%	0.3%
Unemployment	1,700	1,400	1,300	-7.1%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.4	3.2		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,100	76,300	76,000	-0.4%	-1.4%
Total Employment	72,900	72,900	73,300	0.5%	0.5%
Unemployment	4,200	3,500	2,700	-22.9%	-35.7%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.5	3.6		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,900	78,100	76,900	-1.5%	-1.3%
Total Employment	73,900	74,900	73,900	-1.3%	0.0%
Unemployment	4,000	3,200	3,000	-6.3%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.1	3.9		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,700	73,600	73,000	-0.8%	-0.9%
Total Employment	70,300	70,800	70,400	-0.6%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,300	2,800	2,600	-7.1%	-21.2%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.8	3.6		

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<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,400	86,500	87,000	0.6%	-0.5%
Total Employment	83,000	82,900	83,600	0.8%	0.7%
Unemployment	4,400	3,600	3,400	-5.6%	-22.7%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.2	3.9		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	139,900	137,300	138,000	0.5%	-1.4%
Total Employment	133,000	131,600	132,900	1.0%	-0.1%
Unemployment	6,900	5,700	5,100	-10.5%	-26.1%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.1	3.7		

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<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,500	83,600	82,400	-1.4%	-1.3%
Total Employment	78,700	79,700	78,900	-1.0%	0.3%
Unemployment	4,800	3,900	3,600	-7.7%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.7	4.4		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	151,200	156,800	150,500	-4.0%	-0.5%
Total Employment	144,600	151,500	145,500	-4.0%	0.6%
Unemployment	6,600	5,300	5,000	-5.7%	-24.2%
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.4	3.3		

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	<u>Sep-17</u>	<u>Aug-18</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,914	4,875	4,885	0.2%	-0.6%
Total Employment	4,693	4,690	4,716	0.6%	0.5%
Unemployment	221	186	169	-9.1%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.8	3.5		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
SEPTEMBER 2018**

1	Mackinac County	2.4	43	Houghton County	3.7
2	Ottawa County	2.5	44	Missaukee County	3.7
3	Clinton County	2.6	45	Sanilac County	3.7
4	Kent County	2.6	46	Van Buren County	3.7
5	Grand Traverse County	2.7	47	Bay County	3.7
6	Allegan County	2.7	48	Iron County	3.8
7	Barry County	2.8	49	Mecosta County	3.8
8	Eaton County	2.8	50	Delta County	3.8
9	Washtenaw County	2.8	51	Antrim County	3.9
10	Leelanau County	2.9	52	Kalkaska County	3.9
11	Livingston County	2.9	53	Lapeer County	3.9
12	Ionia County	2.9	54	Oceana County	3.9
13	Kalamazoo County	3.0	55	Otsego County	3.9
14	Oakland County	3.0	56	St. Clair County	3.9
15	Dickinson County	3.0	57	Muskegon County	3.9
16	Ingham County	3.1	58	Saginaw County	3.9
17	Charlevoix County	3.2	59	Luce County	4.0
18	Huron County	3.2	60	Gogebic County	4.0
19	St. Joseph County	3.2	61	Manistee County	4.1
20	Midland County	3.2	62	Tuscola County	4.1
21	Cheboygan County	3.3	63	Alpena County	4.1
22	Montcalm County	3.3	64	Chippewa County	4.1
23	Osceola County	3.3	65	Genesee County	4.1
24	Branch County	3.3	66	Baraga County	4.3
25	Hillsdale County	3.3	67	Gladwin County	4.3
26	Isabella County	3.3	68	Clare County	4.4
27	Newaygo County	3.4	69	Crawford County	4.4
28	Menominee County	3.4	70	Iosco County	4.4
29	Cass County	3.4	71	Alcona County	4.5
30	Lenawee county	3.4	72	Keweenaw County	4.5
31	Mason County	3.4	73	Oscoda County	4.5
32	Shiawassee County	3.4	74	Wayne County	4.5
33	Jackson County	3.4	75	Arenac County	4.6
34	Emmet County	3.5	76	Lake County	4.6
35	Macomb County	3.5	77	Alger County	4.7
36	Wexford County	3.6	78	Ogemaw County	4.8
37	Gratiot County	3.6	79	Schoolcraft County	4.9
38	Marquette County	3.6	80	Presque Isle County	5.1
39	Calhoun County	3.6	81	Roscommon County	5.4
40	Monroe County	3.6	82	Ontonagon County	5.5
41	Berrien county	3.6	83	Montmorency County	5.7
42	Benzie County	3.7			