



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

DAVID DEVRIES  
DIRECTOR

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 26, 2017

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

# **September Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in September fell seasonally in 14 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment was up over the month in the majority of regions, while workforce levels were mixed.

"Labor market indicators displayed seasonal and typical trends in September across the state's regional labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "The majority of Michigan's metropolitan regions continue to show solid job gains over the year."

During September, jobless rates moved down modestly in 14 regions. Reductions ranged from 0.2 to 0.6 of a percentage point with a median decline of 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest decrease of 0.6 of a percentage point was recorded in both the Bay City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Upper Peninsula. The unemployment rate in the Monroe MSA edged up by 0.2 of a percentage point over the month, while the rates in the Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSAs were unchanged. In September, major labor market area unemployment rates in Michigan ranged from 3.6 to 5.8 percent. The September Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 4.5 percent, while the national non-adjusted rate came in at 4.1 percent.

### ***Unemployment Rates Edge Up Over Year***

Since September 2016, jobless rates increased modestly in 15 regions. Over-the-year rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 1.3 percentage points, with a small median gain of 0.3 of a percentage point. The most pronounced increase over the year occurred in the Monroe MSA (+1.3), followed by lesser advances in the Lansing-East Lansing (+0.6) and Flint (+0.6) MSAs. Unemployment rates declined in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-1.2) and in the Upper Peninsula (-0.2) over the year.

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

From August to September, total employment rose in ten regions and fell in seven. Employment increases were wide-ranging from 0.2 percent to 2.8 percent with a median gain of 1.0 percent. The largest September advances by far took place in the Lansing-East Lansing (+2.8%) and Ann Arbor (+2.0%) MSAs. Total employment declines over the month were mostly minor with the exception of a 3.3 percent seasonal reduction in the Northwest Lower Michigan region as the summer tourism season began to wind down.

Since September 2016, total employment rose in seven regions, fell in seven areas and was essentially unchanged in the Battle Creek and Jackson MSAs along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region. The largest gains over the year were displayed in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.3%), Ann Arbor (+1.4%) and Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+1.3%) metro areas. The most notable employment declines were recorded in the Bay City (-1.4%) and Midland (-0.8%) MSAs.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year***

Between August and September, workforce levels moved down in nine regions and increased in eight. The median reduction over this period was 0.6 percent while the median increase was 0.7 percent.

Since September 2016, labor force levels rose in 13 regions. Advances ranged from 0.2 to 1.7 percent with a median growth rate of 0.7 percent. The largest over-the-year workforce gains occurred in the Ann Arbor (+1.7%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+1.6%) and Monroe (+1.6%) MSAs. Workforce levels declined over the year in the Bay City (-1.0%), Midland (-0.7%) and Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.7%) regions along with the Upper Peninsula (-0.7%).

### ***Seasonal Gains in Education Push September Payroll Jobs Upward***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 33,000 in September to 4,424,000. Seasonal advances in *Government education*, *Private education* and *Professional and business services* were responsible for the overall job gains. Job additions were reported in *Local government education* (+39,000) and *State government education* (+28,000) as students returned to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester. Increases in *Local government education* were evident statewide, while the job gains in *State government education* were most pronounced in the Ann Arbor and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs.

Private sector jobs fell in Michigan by 17,000 in September with seasonal job cuts in *Leisure and hospitality services* (-18,000), *Trade, transportation and utilities* (-9,000) and *Construction* (-3,000) partially offset by seasonal gains in *Professional and business services* (+15,000) and *Private education* (+6,000). *Manufacturing* jobs were down by 6,000 over the month reflecting production adjustment layoffs in the state's auto sector. The majority of these factory job cuts occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA.

In September, payroll jobs rose in 12 metro regions and declined slightly in two. The median over-the-month job advance was 1.2 percent with the largest percentage gains posted in the Lansing-East Lansing (+3.9%) and Ann Arbor (+3.5%) MSAs. During September, minor job reductions were registered in the Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.6%) and Jackson (-0.2%) metro areas.

Since September 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 59,000 or 1.4 percent. Twelve of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded job gains over the year led by the Ann Arbor (+2.5%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.5%) and Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.3%) MSAs. Over-the-year job reductions were recorded in the Bay City (-1.1%) and Midland (-0.8%) regions.

### ***County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Up Over Year***

Seventy-three of Michigan's 83 counties reported jobless rate cuts in September, with a moderate median reduction of 0.4 of a percentage point. Unemployment rates increased slightly in four counties over the month, while six counties showed no change. Since September 2016, unemployment rates rose in 61 Michigan counties, with a modest median increase of 0.3 of a percentage point. Rates were down over the year in 16 counties while six counties reported no change.

*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.

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

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,500	192,100	195,800	1.9%	1.7%
Total Employment	185,600	184,600	188,200	2.0%	1.4%
Unemployment	6,900	7,500	7,600	1.3%	10.1%
Rate (percent)	3.6	3.9	3.9		

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

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,100	64,800	64,400	-0.6%	0.5%
Total Employment	61,300	61,500	61,300	-0.3%	0.0%
Unemployment	2,800	3,300	3,100	-6.1%	10.7%
Rate (percent)	4.4	5.1	4.8		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,800	51,500	51,300	-0.4%	-1.0%
Total Employment	49,400	48,600	48,700	0.2%	-1.4%
Unemployment	2,400	2,900	2,500	-13.8%	4.2%
Rate (percent)	4.6	5.6	5.0		

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

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</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	2,095	2,107	2,116	0.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	1,977	2,014	2,023	0.4%	2.3%
Unemployment	118	93	94	1.1%	-20.3%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.4	4.4		

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

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,500	182,900	181,900	-0.5%	0.2%
Total Employment	172,400	172,300	171,700	-0.3%	-0.4%
Unemployment	9,100	10,600	10,100	-4.7%	11.0%
Rate (percent)	5.0	5.8	5.6		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	564,200	572,300	573,400	0.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	545,700	550,600	553,000	0.4%	1.3%
Unemployment	18,500	21,800	20,400	-6.4%	10.3%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.8	3.6		

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

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,800	74,400	73,900	-0.7%	0.1%
Total Employment	70,500	70,700	70,500	-0.3%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,200	3,600	3,400	-5.6%	6.3%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.9	4.6		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,700	168,600	169,700	0.7%	1.2%
Total Employment	161,000	160,800	162,300	0.9%	0.8%
Unemployment	6,700	7,800	7,300	-6.4%	9.0%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.6	4.3		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	246,600	242,100	247,800	2.4%	0.5%
Total Employment	237,400	230,800	237,300	2.8%	0.0%
Unemployment	9,200	11,300	10,500	-7.1%	14.1%
Rate (percent)	3.7	4.7	4.3		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,800	40,600	40,500	-0.2%	-0.7%
Total Employment	39,100	38,700	38,800	0.3%	-0.8%
Unemployment	1,700	1,900	1,800	-5.3%	5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.1	4.7	4.4		

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

(more)

	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,700	76,900	77,900	1.3%	1.6%
Total Employment	73,400	72,800	73,600	1.1%	0.3%
Unemployment	3,200	4,100	4,300	4.9%	34.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	5.3	5.5		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,700	77,700	77,200	-0.6%	0.7%
Total Employment	73,000	73,200	73,100	-0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,800	4,500	4,100	-8.9%	7.9%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.8	5.3		

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<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,300	74,900	73,800	-1.5%	-0.7%
Total Employment	70,900	71,200	70,400	-1.1%	-0.7%
Unemployment	3,300	3,700	3,400	-8.1%	3.0%
Rate (percent)	4.5	5.0	4.6		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,500	88,500	88,800	0.3%	0.3%
Total Employment	84,400	83,600	84,200	0.7%	-0.2%
Unemployment	4,100	4,900	4,500	-8.2%	9.8%
Rate (percent)	4.6	5.5	5.1		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,500	138,900	139,500	0.4%	-0.7%
Total Employment	133,100	131,000	132,300	1.0%	-0.6%
Unemployment	7,400	7,900	7,200	-8.9%	-2.7%
Rate (percent)	5.3	5.7	5.1		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,700	84,700	83,900	-0.9%	0.2%
Total Employment	79,000	79,400	79,000	-0.5%	0.0%
Unemployment	4,600	5,400	4,900	-9.3%	6.5%
Rate (percent)	5.5	6.3	5.8		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	149,900	156,400	150,900	-3.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	143,500	149,000	144,100	-3.3%	0.4%
Unemployment	6,500	7,400	6,800	-8.1%	4.6%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.7	4.5		

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	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	<u>Sep-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,861	4,884	4,898	0.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	4,628	4,657	4,679	0.5%	1.1%
Unemployment	233	226	219	-3.1%	-6.0%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.6	4.5		

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

1	Mackinac County	3.2	43	Gratiot County	5.0
2	Livingston County	3.3	44	Bay County	5.0
3	Ottawa County	3.4	45	Missaukee County	5.1
4	Kent County	3.5	46	Wexford County	5.1
5	Oakland County	3.5	47	Lenawee County	5.1
6	Allegan County	3.6	48	Delta County	5.1
7	Clinton County	3.7	49	Saginaw County	5.1
8	Grand Traverse County	3.7	50	Iron County	5.2
9	Barry County	3.8	51	Otsego County	5.2
10	Ionia County	3.9	52	Houghton County	5.3
11	Washtenaw County	3.9	53	Luce County	5.3
12	Eaton County	4.1	54	Mecosta County	5.3
13	Leelanau County	4.1	55	Muskegon County	5.3
14	Macomb County	4.1	56	Antrim County	5.4
15	Kalamazoo County	4.2	57	Manistee County	5.4
16	St. Joseph County	4.2	58	Oceana County	5.4
17	Huron County	4.3	59	Osceola County	5.5
18	St. Clair County	4.4	60	Tuscola County	5.5
19	Isabella County	4.4	61	Monroe County	5.5
20	Midland County	4.4	62	Wayne County	5.6
21	Charlevoix County	4.5	63	Gogebic County	5.6
22	Ingham County	4.5	64	Genesee County	5.6
23	Lapeer County	4.5	65	Kalkaska County	5.7
24	Montcalm County	4.5	66	Chippewa County	5.8
25	Newaygo County	4.5	67	Alger County	6.0
26	Dickinson County	4.5	68	Clare County	6.0
27	Cass County	4.5	69	Crawford County	6.0
28	Cheboygan County	4.6	70	Alcona County	6.1
29	Emmet County	4.6	71	Baraga County	6.2
30	Branch County	4.6	72	Gladwin County	6.2
31	Jackson County	4.6	73	Iosco County	6.2
32	Berrien County	4.6	74	Keweenaw County	6.3
33	Menominee County	4.8	75	Ogemaw County	6.3
34	Hillsdale County	4.8	76	Oscoda County	6.5
35	Mason County	4.8	77	Arenac County	6.7
36	Marquette County	4.8	78	Presque Isle County	6.7
37	Calhoun County	4.8	79	Schoolcraft County	6.7
38	Van Buren County	4.9	80	Roscommon County	7.0
39	Alpena County	4.9	81	Lake County	7.2
40	Shiawassee County	4.9	82	Ontonagon County	7.3
41	Benzie County	5.0	83	Montmorency County	8.2
42	Sanilac County	5.0			

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