



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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October Jobless Rates Remain Stable in Michigan Regional Labor Market Areas

Lansing – Non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in October edged up slightly in 10 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Regional unemployment rates ranged from 2.6 to 4.6 percent, with 10 regions recording rates below that of the state’s at 3.8 percent. Although jobless rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.7 percentage points, the median advancement for all regions was a mere tenth of a percentage point.

“Regional labor market trends were steady in October,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “Jobless rates showed little change, while payroll employment rose in the majority of labor market areas.”

Both workforce levels and total employment advanced over the month in most Michigan regions.

Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Since October 2017, jobless rates declined in 16 of Michigan’s 17 regions. Rate cuts over the year ranged from 0.4 to 0.9 percentage points with a median reduction of 0.8 percentage points. The Battle Creek, Bay City, Flint, Monroe, Muskegon, Northeast Lower, and Upper Peninsula regions all recorded over-the-year rate decreases of 0.9 percentage points. The Detroit MSA was the only area to exhibit a slight over the year uptick in the jobless rate, inching up by a tenth of a percentage point since October 2017.

Total Employment Up Over Month and Year

During the month of October, total employment advanced in 10 regions with a median increase of 0.8 percent. Regions exhibiting the most pronounced over-the-month employment gains included Lansing-East Lansing, with an advancement of 1.2 percent, and Jackson, which rose by 1.0 percent since September. Five Michigan regions demonstrated employment declines over the month, with a median decrease of 0.4 percent. The most notable reductions occurred in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, where employment fell seasonally by 1.5 and 1.2 percent, respectively. Midland and Niles-Benton Harbor MSA total employment remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, total employment advanced in 16 out of Michigan’s 17 labor market regions, with a median gain of 0.8 percent. The largest over-the-year increases occurred in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.1%), Lansing-East Lansing (+1.7%) and Ann Arbor (+1.6%) metro areas. Muskegon was the only Michigan region to recede in total employment over the year, edging down by 0.1 percent since October 2017.

(more)

Workforce Levels Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

In October, labor force levels rose in 11 Michigan regions with a median increase of 0.8 percent. Regions exhibiting the largest over-the-month gains included Lansing-East Lansing (+1.2%), Monroe (+1.1%), and Jackson (+1.1%). Four labor market areas had workforce declines in October, including Northeast Lower Michigan (-1.3%), Northwest Lower Michigan (-1.1%), Upper Peninsula (-0.2%), and Muskegon (-0.1%).

Since October 2017, labor force gains occurred in eight regions with a median increase of 0.5 percent. Grand Rapids-Wyoming exhibited the most pronounced over-the-year growth, rising by 1.4 percent. Labor force declines occurred in eight regions as well, with a median reduction of 0.5 percent. The largest decrease over-the-year occurred in Muskegon, which fell by 1 percent. Monroe's workforce level remained unchanged over the year.

Professional and Business Services and Education Push Payroll Jobs Up Seasonally in October

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 24,000, or 0.5 percent in October to 4,484,000. Employment advances in both the private and public sector were nearly identical, with both total private jobs and government employment up by approximately 12,000 over the month.

Essentially all of Michigan's private sector job additions occurred in *Professional and business services* (+12,000). The *Education and health services* sector also recorded job gains, edging up by 5,000 over the month. Seasonal employment increases in the public sector included *State government educational services* (+8,000) and *Local government educational services* (+7,000), as hiring for the academic year continued. Payroll job increases statewide were slightly offset by a seasonal reduction of 9,000 jobs within *Leisure and hospitality*.

Total nonfarm employment was up in 10 of the state's 14 metro regions with advances ranging from 0.3 to 1.3 percent and a median increase of 0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month job gains on a percentage basis occurred in Lansing-East Lansing (1.3%), Jackson (1.2%) and Ann Arbor (1.1%). October job reductions occurred in the Muskegon (-0.5%) Midland (-0.3%) and Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.2%) regions, while Bay City remained unchanged.

Over the year, unadjusted nonfarm employment advanced statewide by 60,000, or 1.4 percent. 11 metro regions demonstrated job gains over this period, with Grand Rapids-Wyoming exhibiting the largest addition of 2.4 percent since October 2017. Over-the-year job reductions occurred in the Bay City (-0.6%) Muskegon (-0.6%) and Jackson (-0.3%) regions.

Majority of County Jobless Rates Up Over Month and Down Over Year

55 of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate increases in October, with a median advancement of 0.2 percentage points. Two counties exhibited rate declines over the month, while 26 remained unchanged. Since October 2017, 80 counties had lower jobless rates with a median rate cut of 0.9 percentage points. Two counties had rate increases over the year, while one remained 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 October workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for October.

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

	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	195,000	195,100	197,000	1.0%	1.0%
Total Employment	188,300	189,600	191,300	0.9%	1.6%
Unemployment	6,600	5,500	5,800	5.5%	-12.1%
Rate (percent)	3.4	2.8	2.9		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	62,900	62,500	63,000	0.8%	0.2%
Total Employment	60,100	60,200	60,700	0.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	2,900	2,200	2,300	4.5%	-20.7%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.6	3.6		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,500	50,000	50,300	0.6%	-0.4%
Total Employment	48,200	48,200	48,400	0.4%	0.4%
Unemployment	2,300	1,800	1,900	5.6%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.7	3.7		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,122	2,126	2,137	0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	2,030	2,047	2,044	-0.1%	0.7%
Unemployment	92	79	93	17.7%	1.1%
Rate (percent)	4.3	3.7	4.4		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,700	179,600	181,000	0.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	172,600	172,400	173,500	0.6%	0.5%
Unemployment	9,100	7,300	7,500	2.7%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.0	4.1		

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GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	569,500	575,600	577,600	0.3%	1.4%
Total Employment	551,000	560,600	562,400	0.3%	2.1%
Unemployment	18,500	15,000	15,300	2.0%	-17.3%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.6	2.6		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,100	72,800	73,600	1.1%	-0.7%
Total Employment	71,000	70,400	71,100	1.0%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,000	2,400	2,500	4.2%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.4	3.4		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,000	166,300	167,700	0.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	161,300	161,100	162,400	0.8%	0.7%
Unemployment	6,600	5,300	5,300	0.0%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.2	3.2		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	249,700	248,700	251,700	1.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	240,200	241,400	244,200	1.2%	1.7%
Unemployment	9,400	7,300	7,500	2.7%	-20.2%
Rate (percent)	3.8	2.9	3.0		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	39,800	39,900	39,900	0.0%	0.3%
Total Employment	38,200	38,600	38,600	0.0%	1.0%
Unemployment	1,600	1,300	1,300	0.0%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.2	3.3		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	76,000	76,800	1.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	73,100	73,300	73,700	0.5%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,700	2,700	3,100	14.8%	-16.2%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.6	4.0		

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	<u>Oct-17</u>	<u>Sep-18</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,400	76,700	76,600	-0.1%	-1.0%
Total Employment	73,600	73,800	73,500	-0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,800	3,000	3,100	3.3%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.9	4.0		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	72,800	72,800	0.0%	-0.1%
Total Employment	69,800	70,200	70,200	0.0%	0.6%
Unemployment	3,100	2,600	2,600	0.0%	-16.1%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.6	3.6		

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SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,000	86,700	87,300	0.7%	0.3%
Total Employment	82,800	83,300	83,900	0.7%	1.3%
Unemployment	4,100	3,400	3,400	0.0%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	4.7	3.9	3.9		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	138,500	138,100	137,800	-0.2%	-0.5%
Total Employment	132,000	133,000	132,500	-0.4%	0.4%
Unemployment	6,500	5,100	5,300	3.9%	-18.5%
Rate (percent)	4.7	3.7	3.8		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,900	82,500	81,400	-1.3%	-0.6%
Total Employment	77,400	78,900	77,700	-1.5%	0.4%
Unemployment	4,500	3,600	3,700	2.8%	-17.8%
Rate (percent)	5.5	4.4	4.6		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	148,700	150,600	148,900	-1.1%	0.1%
Total Employment	142,500	145,600	143,800	-1.2%	0.9%
Unemployment	6,200	5,000	5,000	0.0%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.3	3.4		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,885	4,885	4,907	0.5%	0.5%
Total Employment	4,680	4,715	4,722	0.1%	0.9%
Unemployment	205	169	185	9.5%	-9.8%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.5	3.8		

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MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - OCTOBER 2018

1	Ottawa County	2.5	43	Benzie County	3.8
2	Clinton County	2.6	44	Cheboygan County	3.8
3	Kent County	2.6	45	Houghton County	3.8
4	Mackinac County	2.7	46	Iron County	3.8
5	Allegan County	2.7	47	Sanilac County	3.8
6	Barry County	2.8	48	Mecosta County	3.8
7	Eaton County	2.8	49	Keweenaw County	3.9
8	Grand Traverse County	2.8	50	Saginaw County	3.9
9	Ionia County	2.9	51	Antrim County	4.0
10	Washtenaw County	2.9	52	Oceana County	4.0
11	Kalamazoo County	3.0	53	Monroe County	4.0
12	Leelanau County	3.0	54	Muskegon County	4.0
13	Ingham County	3.1	55	Kalkaska County	4.1
14	Dickinson County	3.1	56	Macomb County	4.1
15	Huron County	3.2	57	Manistee County	4.1
16	Livingston County	3.3	58	Tuscola County	4.1
17	Isabella County	3.3	59	Genesee County	4.1
18	St. Joseph County	3.3	60	Otsego County	4.2
19	Midland County	3.3	61	Gogebic County	4.2
20	Charlevoix County	3.4	62	Alpena County	4.2
21	Montcalm County	3.4	63	Luce County	4.3
22	Newaygo County	3.4	64	Chippewa County	4.3
23	Oakland County	3.4	65	Lapeer County	4.4
24	Menominee County	3.4	66	St. Clair County	4.5
25	Cass County	3.4	67	Clare County	4.6
26	Hillsdale County	3.4	68	Crawford County	4.6
27	Shiawassee County	3.4	69	Gladwin County	4.6
28	Jackson County	3.4	70	Iosco County	4.6
29	Osceola County	3.5	71	Alcona County	4.7
30	Branch County	3.5	72	Baraga County	4.7
31	Lenawee County	3.6	73	Oscoda County	4.7
32	Mason County	3.6	74	Arenac County	4.8
33	Calhoun County	3.6	75	Lake County	4.8
34	Berrien County	3.6	76	Ogemaw County	5.0
35	Emmet County	3.7	77	Alger County	5.1
36	Missaukee County	3.7	78	Presque Isle County	5.1
37	Van Buren County	3.7	79	Schoolcraft County	5.1
38	Wexford County	3.7	80	Wayne County	5.4
39	Gratiot County	3.7	81	Roscommon County	5.5
40	Delta County	3.7	82	Ontonagon County	5.8
41	Marquette County	3.7	83	Montmorency County	6.2
42	Bay County	3.7			