



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 30, 2017

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

February Jobless Rates Increase Moderately in Most Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in February increased in 12 of the state’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels rose in the majority of regions over the month.

“Jobless rates were slightly elevated in February as regional workforce levels continued to track upward,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “Area payroll jobs maintained solid gains in the majority of Michigan’s metropolitan labor markets both over the month and over the year.”

From January to February, unemployment rates rose moderately in 12 of Michigan’s 17 major labor market regions, with increases ranging from 0.1 to 0.9 of a percentage point. Rates in ten of the areas moved up by half a percentage point or less. The largest advances were recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+0.9), the Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (+0.6), the Upper Peninsula (+0.5), and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+0.5). Jobless rates were unchanged in four regions, while the rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA declined slightly by -0.3 of a percentage point in February.

Unemployment Rates Up Over Year

Since February 2016, jobless rates increased in all 17 regions. Local area rate hikes ranged from 0.2 to 1.4 percentage points with a moderate 0.6 of a percentage point advance. The most pronounced over-the-year unemployment rate gains were posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.4), the Upper Peninsula (+1.0), the Monroe MSA (+0.9), and the Bay City MSA (+0.9).

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From January to February, total employment rose modestly in 13 regions and fell slightly in four. February’s median employment gain within the various areas was 0.6 percent, with the largest advances displayed in the Ann Arbor (+1.2%), Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.0%), and Kalamazoo-Portage (+0.9%) MSAs. Total employment edged down slightly over the month in the Bay City and Saginaw MSAs along with both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions.

Since February 2016 total employment rose in ten areas and declined in seven. The median over-the-year gain was a solid 1.3 percent, with the largest advances recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.0%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+1.9), and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+1.7%) MSAs. The largest over-the-year reductions were registered in the Saginaw (-1.1%) and Midland (-1.0%) MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula (-0.6%).

Note: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all 12 months of 2016 have been recently revised. Payroll job data by industry was revised for 2015 and 2016. Estimates for January and February 2017 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

(more)

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

During February, workforce levels rose moderately in 16 state regions, while the labor force level in the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged. Notable February workforce gains were recorded in the Monroe (+1.4%) and Ann Arbor (+1.2%) MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula (+1.2%).

Between February 2016 and February 2017 labor force levels were up in 15 regions, posting a very solid 1.4 percent median advance. Workforce levels edged down slightly since February 2016 in the Saginaw (-0.3%) and Midland (-0.2%) MSAs.

Seasonal Advances in Government and Private Education

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan moved upward slightly by 11,000 or 0.3 percent in February to 4,309,000. Typical seasonal job gains in government (+15,000) and education and health services (+7,000) were somewhat offset by seasonal job cuts in trade, transportation and utilities (-10,000), along with a job reduction in manufacturing (-3,000). The state's remaining major job sectors were little changed in February.

Within the government sector, jobs in state government education (+8,000) and local government education (+6,000) grew seasonally due to the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools following the holiday break. Job gains in education and health services were due to a seasonal increase in private education (+8,000). The job cuts in manufacturing were caused by short term layoffs in the state's auto industry.

In February, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 major metropolitan areas. Area job gains ranged from +0.2 percent to +1.7 percent with a median advance of +0.8 percent. The Ann Arbor (+1.7%), Jackson (+1.1%), Monroe (+1.0%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.0%) MSAs displayed the largest over-the-month job increases. Jobs were essentially unchanged in February in the Muskegon and Saginaw MSAs, while the job count in the Bay City MSA declined slightly (-0.3%).

Since February 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 76,000 or 1.8 percent. Nearly all major industry sectors in the state recorded job gains since February 2016, and were led by increases in professional and business services (+18,000), leisure and hospitality services (+12,000), government (+12,000), education and health services (+11,000), and construction (+8,000).

Since February 2016, payroll jobs increased in ten of the 14 Michigan metro areas. The largest over-the-year percentage job gains were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.8%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.5%), and Lansing-East Lansing (+2.1%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined slightly over the year in the Monroe (-0.7%), Muskegon (-0.6%), Midland (-0.5%), and Saginaw (-0.3%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Year

Sixty-five of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor jobless rate hikes in February. Twelve Michigan counties reported rate reductions over the month, while the rates in six counties were unchanged. Since February 2016, unemployment rates rose in 82 counties, with a moderate median increase of 0.6 of a percentage point. The unemployment rate in Oscoda County declined slightly by 0.2 of a percentage point over the year.

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,200	192,500	194,900	1.2%	1.4%
Total Employment	186,300	185,900	188,100	1.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	5,900	6,600	6,800	3.0%	15.3%
Rate (percent)	3.1	3.4	3.5		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,100	64,600	65,000	0.6%	1.4%
Total Employment	61,000	61,300	61,500	0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment	3,100	3,300	3,500	6.1%	12.9%
Rate (percent)	4.8	5.1	5.3		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,100	52,400	52,400	0.0%	0.6%
Total Employment	49,100	49,100	48,900	-0.4%	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,000	3,300	3,500	6.1%	16.7%
Rate (percent)	5.8	6.3	6.7		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,039	2,083	2,089	0.3%	2.5%
Total Employment	1,933	1,954	1,966	0.6%	1.7%
Unemployment	106	129	122	-5.4%	15.1%
Rate (percent)	5.2	6.2	5.9		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,800	183,400	184,000	0.3%	0.7%
Total Employment	172,100	172,000	172,200	0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment	10,600	11,400	11,800	3.5%	11.3%
Rate (percent)	5.8	6.2	6.4		

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

(more)

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	563,200	574,400	576,200	0.3%	2.3%
Total Employment	543,600	552,900	554,700	0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment	19,700	21,500	21,500	0.0%	9.1%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.7	3.7		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,200	73,900	74,500	0.8%	0.4%
Total Employment	70,600	70,000	70,500	0.7%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,700	4,000	4,000	0.0%	8.1%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.4	5.4		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	166,800	169,200	170,800	0.9%	2.4%
Total Employment	159,500	161,100	162,500	0.9%	1.9%
Unemployment	7,400	8,100	8,300	2.5%	12.2%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.8	4.8		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	247,200	250,400	251,800	0.6%	1.9%
Total Employment	237,600	239,600	240,900	0.5%	1.4%
Unemployment	9,600	10,800	10,900	0.9%	13.5%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.3	4.3		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,300	40,900	41,200	0.7%	-0.2%
Total Employment	39,300	38,700	38,900	0.5%	-1.0%
Unemployment	2,100	2,200	2,300	4.5%	9.5%
Rate (percent)	5.0	5.4	5.6		

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

(more)

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,900	76,500	77,600	1.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	73,400	72,800	73,300	0.7%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,500	3,800	4,300	13.2%	22.9%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.9	5.5		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	77,200	77,300	0.1%	0.1%
Total Employment	73,100	72,700	72,800	0.1%	-0.4%
Unemployment	4,200	4,500	4,500	0.0%	7.1%
Rate (percent)	5.4	5.8	5.9		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,600	73,200	74,000	1.1%	1.9%
Total Employment	68,800	69,000	69,700	1.0%	1.3%
Unemployment	3,800	4,200	4,300	2.4%	13.2%
Rate (percent)	5.2	5.7	5.8		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,300	88,800	89,000	0.2%	-0.3%
Total Employment	84,300	83,500	83,400	-0.1%	-1.1%
Unemployment	5,000	5,300	5,700	7.5%	14.0%
Rate (percent)	5.6	6.0	6.4		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,300	139,400	141,100	1.2%	0.6%
Total Employment	129,800	128,200	129,000	0.6%	-0.6%
Unemployment	10,500	11,100	12,100	9.0%	15.2%
Rate (percent)	7.5	8.0	8.5		

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

(more)

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-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	81,500	82,800	83,600	1.0%	2.6%
Total Employment	73,600	74,400	74,300	-0.1%	1.0%
Unemployment	7,900	8,400	9,300	10.7%	17.7%
Rate (percent)	9.7	10.2	11.1		

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

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,500	147,900	148,500	0.4%	2.1%
Total Employment	135,400	137,500	137,300	-0.1%	1.4%
Unemployment	10,100	10,400	11,200	7.7%	10.9%
Rate (percent)	6.9	7.0	7.5		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Jan-17</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,794	4,861	4,887	0.5%	1.9%
Total Employment	4,551	4,585	4,610	0.5%	1.3%
Unemployment	243	277	277	0.0%	14.0%
Rate (percent)	5.1	5.7	5.7		

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

(more)

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

1	Ottawa County	3.4	43	St. Clair County	7.2
2	Washtenaw County	3.5	44	Marquette County	7.2
3	Kent County	3.6	45	Van Buren County	7.3
4	Clinton County	4.1	46	Osceola County	7.4
5	St. Joseph County	4.1	47	Alpena County	7.4
6	Kalamazoo County	4.2	48	Charlevoix County	7.7
7	Eaton County	4.4	49	Sanilac County	7.7
8	Ingham County	4.4	50	Tuscola County	7.9
9	Oakland County	4.4	51	Missaukee County	8.0
10	Ionia County	4.5	52	Lapeer County	8.1
11	Barry County	4.6	53	Gogebic County	8.2
12	Allegan County	4.6	54	Mason County	8.2
13	Livingston County	4.8	55	Luce County	8.3
14	Isabella County	4.9	56	Delta County	8.3
15	Branch County	5.2	57	Gladwin County	8.5
16	Calhoun County	5.3	58	Iron County	8.7
17	Hillsdale County	5.4	59	Oscoda County	8.8
18	Jackson County	5.4	60	Crawford County	8.9
19	Cass County	5.5	61	Manistee County	8.9
20	Monroe County	5.5	62	Antrim County	9.0
21	Grand Traverse County	5.6	63	Clare County	9.3
22	Midland County	5.6	64	Baraga County	9.5
23	Macomb County	5.7	65	Alcona County	9.6
24	Lenawee County	5.8	66	Emmet County	9.7
25	Berrien County	5.8	67	Lake County	9.8
26	Muskegon County	5.9	68	Benzie County	9.9
27	Montcalm County	6.0	69	Kalkaska County	9.9
28	Newaygo County	6.1	70	Keweenaw County	9.9
29	Dickinson County	6.2	71	Ontonagon County	9.9
30	Gratiot County	6.2	72	Iosco County	10.1
31	Shiawassee County	6.2	73	Chippewa County	10.5
32	Menominee County	6.4	74	Ogemaw County	10.7
33	Genesee County	6.4	75	Oceana County	10.9
34	Saginaw County	6.4	76	Alger County	11.0
35	Mecosta County	6.6	77	Arenac County	11.9
36	Huron County	6.7	78	Roscommon County	12.0
37	Wexford County	6.7	79	Schoolcraft County	12.6
38	Bay County	6.7	80	Montmorency County	14.1
39	Houghton County	6.9	81	Presque Isle County	15.6
40	Leelanau County	7.0	82	Cheboygan County	20.0
41	Wayne County	7.0	83	Mackinac County	23.5
42	Otsego County	7.1			

#