



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 21, 2017

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### **August Jobless Rates Decline Seasonally in Nearly All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in August fell seasonally in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment change was mixed throughout the various areas, while workforce levels declined in the majority of regions over the month.

"The monthly jobless rate reductions throughout the state's local regions were typical for August," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives.

"Unemployment rates rose in the majority of areas over the year, but the increases were marginal. Jobless rates in both 2016 and 2017 throughout Michigan local regions have been very low relative to historical standards."

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 16 regions, while the rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was unchanged. The jobless rate decreases ranged from 0.3 to 0.7 of a percentage point with a moderate median reduction of 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate cuts were posted in the Flint (-0.7), Ann Arbor (-0.6) and Monroe (-0.6) MSAs. In August, major labor market area unemployment rates in Michigan ranged from 3.8 to 6.3 percent. The August Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 4.6 percent, which was similar to the national 4.5 percent rate.

#### ***Unemployment Rates Increase Slightly Over Year***

Since August 2016, jobless rates edged upward in 13 regions. Rate advances ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 of a percentage point, with a modest median uptick of 0.3 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-year increases of a half percentage point were recorded in the Monroe and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs. Rates were unchanged over the year in the Ann Arbor and Jackson MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula. The unemployment rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA declined over this period.

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

From July to August, total employment went down in nine regions, rose moderately in seven areas, and was essentially unchanged in the Bay City MSA. Decreases were mostly minor with a median reduction of 0.4 percent. The largest employment cuts were registered in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.5%), the Midland MSA (-1.5%), and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-0.8%). Employment gains since July in the seven areas were small, ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 percent.

Since August 2016, total employment fell in 11 regions with reductions ranging from 0.1 to 2.0 percent and a median drop of 0.8 percent. The most pronounced over-the-year declines were reported in the Midland (-2.0%) and Bay City (-1.8%) MSAs along with the Upper Peninsula (-1.4%). Employment rose over this period in five regions, with the largest gains displayed in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. Total employment was essentially unchanged over the year in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA.

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### **Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Year**

During August, workforce levels fell seasonally in 16 regions from the typical July peak, with a median reduction of 0.8 percent. The Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.9%), the Midland MSA (-1.7%), and the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-1.2%) were on the high end of the monthly declines. The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA posted a minor over-the-month workforce gain.

Since August 2016, workforce levels fell in ten areas and rose in seven. The median over-the-year change for all areas was 0.6 percent. The leading labor force reductions over this period occurred in the Midland MSA (-1.7%), the Upper Peninsula (-1.4%), and the Bay City MSA (-1.3%), while the biggest gains were posted in the Ann Arbor (+1.3%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+0.8%), and Monroe (+0.7%) MSAs.

### **August Payroll Jobs Up Slightly**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged up by 7,000 in August to 4,391,000. The only notable August job changes occurred in *Manufacturing* (+9,000), *Education and health services* (-4,000), and *Leisure and hospitality services* (-3,000).

The gain in *Manufacturing* jobs reflected recall activity from the July vacation shutdown/retooling period in the state's auto industry, while the job reduction in *Leisure and hospitality services* was also seasonal as the state's summer tourism season began to wind down.

In August, payroll job changes within the state's 14 major metropolitan areas were mixed and little changed. Eight regions recorded payroll job gains over the month ranging from 0.1 to 0.7 percent with a median advance of only 0.4 percent. The largest August job gains on a percentage basis were posted in the Battle Creek (+0.7%), Bay City (+0.6%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (+0.5%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined in six metro regions, with the largest reduction shown in the Midland MSA (-1.6%). The remaining decreases were 0.4 percent or less.

Since August 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 74,000 or 1.7 percent. Twelve of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded job gains over the year led by the Ann Arbor (+3.2%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.5%), and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.3%) MSAs. Job reductions over the year were registered in the Bay City (-1.4%) and Midland (-0.5%) MSAs.

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

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties displayed unemployment rate reductions in August, showing a median rate decline of a half percentage point. Jobless rates inched up over the month by 0.1 of a percentage point in both Livingston and Oakland counties, while the rate in Macomb County was unchanged.

Since August 2016, unemployment rates rose slightly in 61 Michigan counties. Increases were very small in the vast majority of counties, with a median advance of only 0.3 of a percentage point. Jobless rates declined in 18 counties over the year, while the rates in four counties were 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 August workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for August.*

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

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,700	192,800	192,200	-0.3%	1.3%
Total Employment	182,200	184,300	184,700	0.2%	1.4%
Unemployment	7,500	8,600	7,500	-12.8%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.5	3.9		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,000	65,000	64,900	-0.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	61,900	61,400	61,600	0.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	3,100	3,600	3,300	-8.3%	6.5%
Rate (percent)	4.8	5.6	5.1		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,100	51,600	51,400	-0.4%	-1.3%
Total Employment	49,400	48,500	48,500	0.0%	-1.8%
Unemployment	2,700	3,100	2,900	-6.5%	7.4%
Rate (percent)	5.2	6.0	5.6		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-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	2,103	2,108	0.2%	0.6%
Total Employment	1,968	2,010	2,015	0.2%	2.4%
Unemployment	127	93	93	0.0%	-26.8%
Rate (percent)	6.1	4.4	4.4		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,000	184,500	182,600	-1.0%	-0.2%
Total Employment	173,000	172,500	172,000	-0.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment	10,000	12,000	10,600	-11.7%	6.0%
Rate (percent)	5.4	6.5	5.8		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	568,400	575,900	572,900	-0.5%	0.8%
Total Employment	547,900	551,600	551,100	-0.1%	0.6%
Unemployment	20,500	24,200	21,800	-9.9%	6.3%
Rate (percent)	3.6	4.2	3.8		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,200	74,900	74,300	-0.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	70,500	70,900	70,700	-0.3%	0.3%
Unemployment	3,600	4,000	3,700	-7.5%	2.8%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.3	4.9		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,900	168,700	168,400	-0.2%	0.3%
Total Employment	160,600	160,300	160,600	0.2%	0.0%
Unemployment	7,300	8,400	7,800	-7.1%	6.8%
Rate (percent)	4.3	5.0	4.6		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	241,200	244,500	242,000	-1.0%	0.3%
Total Employment	231,100	231,800	230,800	-0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	10,100	12,700	11,300	-11.0%	11.9%
Rate (percent)	4.2	5.2	4.7		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,200	41,200	40,500	-1.7%	-1.7%
Total Employment	39,300	39,100	38,500	-1.5%	-2.0%
Unemployment	1,900	2,000	1,900	-5.0%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.6	5.0	4.7		

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(more)

	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,500	77,400	77,000	-0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	72,800	72,800	72,900	0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment	3,700	4,600	4,100	-10.9%	10.8%
Rate (percent)	4.8	5.9	5.3		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	78,200	78,400	77,700	-0.9%	-0.6%
Total Employment	74,000	73,600	73,200	-0.5%	-1.1%
Unemployment	4,200	4,900	4,500	-8.2%	7.1%
Rate (percent)	5.4	6.2	5.8		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,100	75,100	74,900	-0.3%	-0.3%
Total Employment	71,400	71,100	71,200	0.1%	-0.3%
Unemployment	3,700	4,000	3,700	-7.5%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.4	5.0		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,800	89,200	88,500	-0.8%	-0.3%
Total Employment	84,300	83,900	83,600	-0.4%	-0.8%
Unemployment	4,500	5,300	4,900	-7.5%	8.9%
Rate (percent)	5.1	5.9	5.5		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,800	139,100	138,800	-0.2%	-1.4%
Total Employment	132,700	130,600	130,900	0.2%	-1.4%
Unemployment	8,100	8,600	7,900	-8.1%	-2.5%
Rate (percent)	5.7	6.2	5.7		

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(more)

Page 6, August Rates

	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-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	85,300	85,700	84,700	-1.2%	-0.7%
Total Employment	80,100	79,900	79,300	-0.8%	-1.0%
Unemployment	5,200	5,800	5,400	-6.9%	3.8%
Rate (percent)	6.1	6.8	6.3		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-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	156,900	159,400	156,300	-1.9%	-0.4%
Total Employment	149,800	151,300	149,000	-1.5%	-0.5%
Unemployment	7,100	8,100	7,400	-8.6%	4.2%
Rate (percent)	4.5	5.1	4.7		

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	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-17</u>	<u>Aug-17</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,874	4,899	4,884	-0.3%	0.2%
Total Employment	4,620	4,658	4,657	0.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	254	241	226	-6.2%	-11.0%
Rate (percent)	5.2	4.9	4.6		

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

1	Livingston County	3.2	43	Wayne County	5.5
2	Mackinac County	3.2	44	Gratiot County	5.5
3	Oakland County	3.5	45	Marquette County	5.5
4	Ottawa County	3.6	46	Saginaw County	5.5
5	Grand Traverse County	3.8	47	Antrim County	5.6
6	Kent County	3.8	48	Iron County	5.6
7	Allegan County	3.8	49	Osceola County	5.6
8	Washtenaw County	3.9	50	Otsego County	5.6
9	Clinton County	4.0	51	Wexford County	5.6
10	Leelanau County	4.1	52	Bay County	5.6
11	Barry County	4.2	53	Manistee County	5.7
12	Macomb County	4.2	54	Sanilac County	5.7
13	Ionia County	4.3	55	Alpena County	5.7
14	Kalamazoo County	4.4	56	Delta County	5.7
15	St. Joseph County	4.4	57	Luce County	5.8
16	Cheboygan County	4.5	58	Oceana County	5.8
17	St. Clair County	4.5	59	Genesee County	5.8
18	Charlevoix County	4.6	60	Muskegon County	5.8
19	Eaton County	4.6	61	Kalkaska County	5.9
20	Lapeer County	4.6	62	Gogebic County	5.9
21	Dickinson County	4.7	63	Mecosta County	5.9
22	Cass County	4.7	64	Houghton County	6.0
23	Midland County	4.7	65	Clare County	6.4
24	Emmet County	4.8	66	Tuscola County	6.4
25	Newaygo County	4.8	67	Alcona County	6.5
26	Ingham County	4.9	68	Crawford County	6.5
27	Isabella County	4.9	69	Gladwin County	6.5
28	Jackson County	4.9	70	Alger County	6.6
29	Montcalm County	5.0	71	Chippewa County	6.7
30	Menominee County	5.0	72	Ogemaw County	6.8
31	Branch county	5.0	73	Iosco County	6.9
32	Mason County	5.0	74	Arenac County	7.1
33	Berrien County	5.0	75	Baraga County	7.1
34	Huron County	5.1	76	Oscoda County	7.1
35	Lenawee County	5.1	77	Presque Isle County	7.3
36	Shiawassee County	5.1	78	Schoolcraft County	7.3
37	Calhoun County	5.1	79	Keweenaw County	7.6
38	Benzie County	5.3	80	Ontonagon County	7.6
39	Monroe County	5.3	81	Lake County	7.7
40	Van Buren County	5.4	82	Roscommon County	7.8
41	Hillsdale County	5.4	83	Montmorency County	8.9
42	Missaukee County	5.5			

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