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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **October Jobless Rates Edge Upward in Nearly All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in October increased slightly in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels were mixed over the month.

"Michigan's local labor markets in October experienced minor unemployment rate increases both over the month and over the year," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, payroll job growth since October 2015 remains solid throughout Michigan, while workforce levels continue to expand in nearly all major regions in the state."

From September to October, unemployment rates increased modestly in 16 regions, with hikes ranging from 0.3 to 0.8 of a percentage point with a median uptick of 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest rate advances of 0.8 and 0.7 of a percentage point were recorded in the Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Northeast Lower Michigan region respectively. The jobless rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA was unchanged over the month. In October, all major areas in the state reported unemployment rates of 5.6 percent or lower, while 13 of the 17 Michigan regions displayed rates below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.7 percent.

### ***Unemployment Rates Rise Slightly Over Year***

Since October 2015, unemployment rates moved upward in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market regions. Rate advances over the year were minor, with a median increase of 0.4 of a percentage point. The most pronounced over-the-year jobless rate gain was registered in the Monroe MSA (+0.9). Four areas, the Upper Peninsula, the Northeast Lower Michigan region, and the Niles-Benton Harbor and Ann Arbor metro areas, recorded the next largest rate advance of 0.5 of a percentage point over this period. The unemployment rate in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA declined by -0.7 of a percentage point since October 2015.

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

From September to October, total employment declined in nine regions and advanced in eight. Employment reductions ranged from -0.4 to -2.3 percent with a median decline of -0.9 percent. The largest decreases were seasonal drops in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions with the ending of the summer tourism season. Areas with over-the-month employment additions reported gains ranging from 0.2 to 1.6 percent with the largest percentage increase posted in the Ann Arbor MSA.

Since October 2015, total employment advanced in 12 of the 17 regions with a median gain of 1.1 percent. The leading over-the-year employment additions on a percentage basis occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Ann Arbor, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs. Total employment fell slightly since October 2015 in the Upper Peninsula, along with the Bay City and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs, while employment was essentially unchanged over this period in the Jackson and Midland MSAs.

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

During October, workforce levels increased in eight regions, declined in seven, and were essentially unchanged in the Bay City and Midland MSAs. Area labor force advances ranged from 0.6 to 2.0 percent with the Ann Arbor MSA showing the largest gain. Declines ranged from -0.4 to -1.7 percent with the biggest reductions posted in the Northwest and Northeast Lower Michigan regions.

Between October 2015 and October 2016, labor force levels rose in 15 regions with a solid median gain of 1.2 percent. Since October 2015, the Upper Peninsula and the Bay City MSA recorded minor workforce reductions.

### **October Payroll Jobs Up Due to Education and Professional Services**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 34,000 in October to 4,402,000. Seasonal job gains occurred in state government education (+10,000), and local government education (+8,000) with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools for the fall semester.

Other seasonal job additions were recorded in professional and business services (+13,000), and education and health services (+7,000). These gains were partially offset by a seasonal reduction in leisure and hospitality services (-8,000). The job advance in education and health services was bolstered by a 4,000 job increase in private education. The only other notable job change in October was a 5,000 gain in construction jobs.

From September to October, payroll jobs rose in 10 of the state's 14 major metropolitan regions, with a 1.2 percent median advance. The largest job gains over the month were posted in the Ann Arbor (+2.5%), and Lansing-East Lansing (+1.4%) MSAs. Over-the-month job reductions were shown in the Muskegon (-1.2%), Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.9%), and Saginaw (-0.3%) metro areas. Jobs in the Midland MSA were essentially unchanged in October.

From October 2015 to October 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 88,000 or 2.0 percent. Since October 2015, payroll jobs increased in 12 of the 14 metro areas, with a 1.8 percent median advance. The leading job additions over this period were displayed in the Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo-Portage, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. Over-the-year job reductions were recorded in the Bay City and Jackson MSAs.

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

Seventy-six of Michigan's 83 counties reported mostly minor jobless rate hikes in October. Five counties posted slight declines over the month, while the rates in two counties were unchanged.

Since October 2015, jobless rates rose slightly in 70 counties, with a minor median hike of 0.4 of a percentage point. Unemployment rates fell moderately in 12 counties over the year, while the rate in Wexford County was unchanged over this period.

*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."*

(more)

	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	192,300	196,000	200,000	2.0%	4.0%
Total Employment	186,600	190,000	193,100	1.6%	3.5%
Unemployment	5,700	6,100	6,900	13.1%	21.1%
Rate (percent)	3.0	3.1	3.5		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	64,500	64,900	0.6%	1.1%
Total Employment	61,700	62,000	62,100	0.2%	0.6%
Unemployment	2,500	2,500	2,700	8.0%	8.0%
Rate (percent)	3.9	3.9	4.2		

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,200	52,100	52,100	0.0%	-0.2%
Total Employment	50,100	50,000	49,800	-0.4%	-0.6%
Unemployment	2,100	2,100	2,300	9.5%	9.5%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.1	4.4		

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</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	2,010	2,088	2,079	-0.4%	3.4%
Total Employment	1,887	1,976	1,967	-0.5%	4.2%
Unemployment	123	112	112	0.0%	-8.9%
Rate (percent)	6.1	5.4	5.4		

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	180,900	181,100	182,800	0.9%	1.1%
Total Employment	172,800	173,000	173,800	0.5%	0.6%
Unemployment	8,200	8,100	8,900	9.9%	8.5%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.5	4.9		

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	556,500	562,400	566,100	0.7%	1.7%
Total Employment	540,700	546,000	547,900	0.3%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	15,800 2.8	16,300 2.9	18,200 3.2	11.7%	15.2%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,800	71,100	72,100	1.4%	0.4%
Total Employment	68,900	68,200	68,900	1.0%	0.0%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,900 4.0	2,900 4.0	3,200 4.4	10.3%	10.3%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	165,300	168,700	169,900	0.7%	2.8%
Total Employment	159,600	162,800	163,400	0.4%	2.4%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	5,800 3.5	5,900 3.5	6,500 3.8	10.2%	12.1%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	244,400	245,500	248,100	1.1%	1.5%
Total Employment	236,500	237,400	239,100	0.7%	1.1%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	7,900 3.2	8,200 3.3	9,000 3.6	9.8%	13.9%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,200	41,500	41,500	0.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	39,800	40,000	39,800	-0.5%	0.0%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	1,500 3.6	1,500 3.6	1,700 4.0	13.3%	13.3%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,300	77,700	78,600	1.2%	1.7%
Total Employment	74,500	74,900	75,100	0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,800 3.6	2,900 3.7	3,500 4.5	20.7%	25.0%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,300	78,700	78,100	-0.8%	2.4%
Total Employment	72,900	75,400	74,500	-1.2%	2.2%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	3,400 4.4	3,300 4.2	3,700 4.7	12.1%	8.8%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	74,700	74,100	-0.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	71,200	71,700	70,900	-1.1%	-0.4%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,800 3.8	3,000 4.0	3,200 4.3	6.7%	14.3%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,600	90,100	89,700	-0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	85,000	86,500	85,700	-0.9%	0.8%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	3,600 4.1	3,600 4.0	4,000 4.5	11.1%	11.1%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,300	141,500	140,900	-0.4%	-0.3%
Total Employment	134,900	135,000	133,900	-0.8%	-0.7%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	6,400 4.5	6,600 4.7	7,000 5.0	6.1%	9.4%

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</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	81,500	83,300	82,000	-1.6%	0.6%
Total Employment	77,300	79,200	77,400	-2.3%	0.1%
Unemployment	4,200	4,100	4,600	12.2%	9.5%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.9	5.6		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,300	149,800	147,200	-1.7%	0.6%
Total Employment	140,400	144,100	141,000	-2.2%	0.4%
Unemployment	5,900	5,700	6,300	10.5%	6.8%
Rate (percent)	4.0	3.8	4.3		

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	<u>Oct-15</u>	<u>Sep-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,754	4,861	4,858	-0.1%	2.2%
Total Employment	4,531	4,646	4,633	-0.3%	2.3%
Unemployment	223	214	225	5.1%	0.9%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.4	4.6		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
OCTOBER 2016**

1	Ottawa County	3.1	43	Alpena County	4.7
2	Clinton County	3.2	44	Muskegon County	4.7
3	Kent County	3.2	45	Houghton County	4.8
4	Allegan County	3.2	46	Osceola County	4.8
5	Barry County	3.3	47	Branch County	4.8
6	Eaton County	3.4	48	Manistee County	4.9
7	Grand Traverse County	3.5	49	Sanilac County	4.9
8	Washtenaw County	3.5	50	Tuscola County	4.9
9	Leelanau County	3.6	51	Wexford County	4.9
10	Ionia County	3.6	52	Delta County	4.9
11	Kalamazoo County	3.7	53	Genesee County	4.9
12	Mackinac County	3.7	54	Keweenaw County	5.0
13	Huron County	3.8	55	Otsego County	5.0
14	Ingham County	3.8	56	Gogebic County	5.0
15	St. Joseph County	3.9	57	Hillsdale County	5.1
16	Midland County	4.0	58	Luce County	5.2
17	Livingston County	4.1	59	Macomb County	5.2
18	Newaygo County	4.1	60	Marquette County	5.2
19	Dickinson County	4.1	61	Oceana County	5.3
20	Charlevoix County	4.2	62	Antrim County	5.4
21	Oakland County	4.2	63	Kalkaska County	5.4
22	Menominee County	4.2	64	Chippewa County	5.4
23	Mason County	4.2	65	Gladwin County	5.5
24	Isabella County	4.2	66	St. Clair County	5.5
25	Calhoun County	4.2	67	Lapeer County	5.6
26	Montcalm County	4.3	68	Iosco County	5.7
27	Cass County	4.3	69	Oscoda County	5.7
28	Lenawee County	4.3	70	Alcona County	5.9
29	Gratiot County	4.3	71	Clare County	6.0
30	Berrien County	4.3	72	Lake County	6.0
31	Van Buren County	4.4	73	Ogemaw County	6.2
32	Shiawassee County	4.4	74	Crawford County	6.3
33	Bay County	4.4	75	Alger County	6.4
34	Jackson County	4.4	76	Presque Isle County	6.5
35	Benzie County	4.5	77	Arenac County	6.6
36	Emmet County	4.5	78	Wayne County	6.6
37	Mecosta County	4.5	79	Baraga County	6.7
38	Monroe County	4.5	80	Roscommon County	6.7
39	Saginaw County	4.5	81	Ontonagon County	6.8
40	Cheboygan County	4.6	82	Schoolcraft County	6.9
41	Missaukee County	4.6	83	Montmorency County	8.3
42	Iron County	4.7			

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