



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November Jobless Rates Little Changed in Michigan Regional Labor Market Areas

Lansing – November non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates receded in nine of Michigan’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Jobless rates ranged from 2.5 to 5.6 percent, with eight areas exhibiting rates at or below the state rate of 3.6 percent. Four areas recorded a rate increase over the month, while the remaining four remained unchanged in November.

“Michigan’s regional labor markets remained stable in November,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “Jobless rates recorded minimal changes of 0.3 percentage points or less in 13 of the state’s major labor market areas, while payroll jobs registered small percentage movements.”

Labor force levels and total employment rose over the month in the majority of Michigan regions. Jobless rate declines ranged from 0.1 to 0.6 percentage points with a median drop of two-tenths of a percentage point.

Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Since November 2017, jobless rates fell in all regions, with declines ranging from 0.1 to 1.3 percentage points and a median drop of 1.0 percentage point. The most pronounced over-the-year rate reduction occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region, with a drop of 1.3 percentage points. The Detroit Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) exhibited the smallest over-the-year rate change, edging down by a tenth of a percentage point since November 2017.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Since October, total employment rose in 12 regions with a median advance of 0.5 percent. The largest over-the-month percent increases occurred in the Saginaw (+1.0%), Battle Creek (+0.8%), and Muskegon (+0.8%) MSAs. Four labor market areas exhibited employment declines over the month.

(more)

The most pronounced reduction occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region, with a seasonal employment drop of 2.1 percent in November. Midland's employment level remained unchanged over the month.

Total employment advanced in 14 Michigan labor market areas over the year with a median increase of 0.8 percent. The most notable over-the-year employment gains were seen in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.1%), Lansing (+1.5%) and Saginaw (+1.4%) metro regions. Jackson was the only region with a decline in total employment over the year, receding by 0.6 percent.

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Between October and November, workforce levels advanced in 12 Michigan labor market areas with a median increase of 0.5 percent. The largest over-the-month labor force gains were seen in the Saginaw (+0.9%), Battle Creek (+0.8%) and Lansing (+0.8%) MSAs. Four regions showed seasonal declines over the month, including the Upper Peninsula (-1.4%), Northwest Lower (-1.3%), Northeast Lower (-1.2%) labor market areas, and the Detroit MSA (-1.1%).

Ten labor market areas demonstrated workforce reductions over the year. The most pronounced decrease occurred in the Jackson metro area, with a workforce reduction of 1.6 percent. Six Michigan regions exhibited labor force advances over the year. The largest increase occurred in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA, up by 1.2 percent since November 2017.

November Nonfarm Jobs Little Changed

Seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan edged down slightly by 2,000 over the month. The statewide job total for November was 4,484,000. Seasonal job gains in *Trade, transportation and utilities* (+13,000) were offset by seasonal job losses in *Leisure and hospitality* (-16,000). *Retail trade* jobs advanced by 11,000 as hiring for the holiday shopping season continued.

In November, payroll jobs were little changed in Michigan's 14 metro regions, with nonfarm employment increasing slightly in ten areas and declining minimally in four. All monthly job gains or losses were less than one percent. The largest percentage job additions occurred in the Saginaw (+0.7%) and Bay City (+0.6%) MSAs. Job reductions occurred in the Midland (-0.5%) Jackson (-0.2%) Monroe (-0.2%) and Kalamazoo (-0.1%) regions.

Since November 2017, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 50,000, or 1.1 percent. 11 metro regions reported job gains over the year, led by Grand Rapids-Wyoming with a total advance of 2.5 percent. Nonfarm employment receded in the Jackson (-1.0%) Muskegon (-0.6%) and Bay City (-0.1%) regions.

County Jobless Rates Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

40 of Michigan's 83 counties registered unemployment rate increases over the month, with a median advancement of 0.5 percentage points. Twenty-five counties showed rate reductions in November, while 18 counties remained unchanged. Since November 2017, 81 counties recorded rate reductions, averaging a drop of 1.0 percentage point. The rate in St. Joseph County edged up by two-tenths of a percentage point, while Livingston County remained unchanged 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 November workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for November.

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

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	196,800	197,200	197,400	0.1%	0.3%
Total Employment	190,400	191,400	192,200	0.4%	0.9%
Unemployment	6,400	5,800	5,200	-10.3%	-18.8%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.9	2.6		

Contact: Marcus Reason, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-8341

	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,500	62,900	63,400	0.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	60,600	60,700	61,200	0.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	2,900	2,300	2,200	-4.3%	-24.1%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.6	3.5		

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

	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,900	50,300	50,500	0.4%	-0.8%
Total Employment	48,600	48,400	48,600	0.4%	0.0%
Unemployment	2,400	1,900	1,900	0.0%	-20.8%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.7	3.7		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,113	2,137	2,114	-1.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	2,031	2,044	2,033	-0.5%	0.1%
Unemployment	82	93	81	-12.9%	-1.2%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.4	3.8		

Contact: Shibani Putatunda, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3145

	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,900	181,100	181,900	0.4%	-0.5%
Total Employment	173,500	173,600	174,500	0.5%	0.6%
Unemployment	9,400	7,500	7,400	-1.3%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.1	4.1		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	574,200	578,300	581,300	0.5%	1.2%
Total Employment	555,100	563,100	566,700	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	19,100	15,300	14,600	-4.6%	-23.6%
Rate (percent)	3.3	2.6	2.5		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,800	73,400	73,600	0.3%	-1.6%
Total Employment	71,600	70,900	71,200	0.4%	-0.6%
Unemployment	3,100	2,500	2,500	0.0%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.4	3.3		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	168,700	167,800	168,200	0.2%	-0.3%
Total Employment	161,900	162,500	162,900	0.2%	0.6%
Unemployment	6,800	5,300	5,200	-1.9%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.2	3.1		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	252,000	252,100	254,100	0.8%	0.8%
Total Employment	242,500	244,600	246,100	0.6%	1.5%
Unemployment	9,400	7,500	8,000	6.7%	-14.9%
Rate (percent)	3.7	3.0	3.1		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,200	39,900	39,900	0.0%	-0.7%
Total Employment	38,500	38,600	38,600	0.0%	0.3%
Unemployment	1,700	1,300	1,300	0.0%	-23.5%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.3	3.2		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,700	76,900	77,000	0.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	73,600	73,800	74,100	0.4%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,100	3,100	2,900	-6.5%	-6.5%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.1	3.8		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	78,000	76,700	77,100	0.5%	-1.2%
Total Employment	74,200	73,600	74,200	0.8%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,900	3,000	2,900	-3.3%	-25.6%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.0	3.8		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,000	72,700	73,100	0.6%	0.1%
Total Employment	69,600	70,100	70,400	0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	3,300	2,600	2,600	0.0%	-21.2%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.6	3.6		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,800	87,300	88,100	0.9%	0.3%
Total Employment	83,500	83,900	84,700	1.0%	1.4%
Unemployment	4,300	3,400	3,400	0.0%	-20.9%
Rate (percent)	4.9	3.9	3.9		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	137,100	137,900	136,000	-1.4%	-0.8%
Total Employment	129,500	132,600	130,100	-1.9%	0.5%
Unemployment	7,600	5,300	5,900	11.3%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	5.5	3.8	4.4		

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	<u>Nov-17</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>Nov-18</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,400	81,500	80,500	-1.2%	-1.1%
Total Employment	75,800	77,700	76,100	-2.1%	0.4%
Unemployment	5,600	3,700	4,500	21.6%	-19.6%
Rate (percent)	6.9	4.6	5.6		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,300	149,000	147,100	-1.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	140,200	143,900	141,500	-1.7%	0.9%
Unemployment	7,100	5,000	5,500	10.0%	-22.5%
Rate (percent)	4.8	3.4	3.8		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,887	4,909	4,890	-0.4%	0.1%
Total Employment	4,687	4,724	4,716	-0.2%	0.6%
Unemployment	200	186	174	-6.5%	-13.0%
Rate (percent)	4.1	3.8	3.6		

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MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - NOVEMBER 2018

1	Ottawa County	2.4	43	Gratiot County	3.9
2	Kent County	2.5	44	Saginaw County	3.9
3	Washtenaw County	2.6	45	St. Joseph County	3.9
4	Allegan County	2.7	46	Alpena County	4.0
5	Barry County	2.7	47	Genesee County	4.1
6	Clinton County	2.8	48	Iron County	4.1
7	Grand Traverse County	2.9	49	St. Clair County	4.1
8	Ionia County	2.9	50	Tuscola County	4.1
9	Kalamazoo County	2.9	51	Delta County	4.2
10	Livingston County	2.9	52	Lapeer County	4.2
11	Oakland County	3.0	53	Mason County	4.2
12	Dickinson County	3.1	54	Benzie County	4.3
13	Isabella County	3.1	55	Gogebic County	4.3
14	Eaton County	3.2	56	Otsego County	4.4
15	Ingham County	3.2	57	Antrim County	4.6
16	Leelanau County	3.2	58	Baraga County	4.6
17	Lenawee County	3.2	59	Manistee County	4.6
18	Midland County	3.2	60	Wayne County	4.6
19	Branch County	3.3	61	Gladwin County	4.7
20	Hillsdale County	3.3	62	Kalkaska County	4.7
21	Jackson County	3.3	63	Oceana County	4.7
22	Newaygo County	3.3	64	Clare County	4.8
23	Huron County	3.4	65	Emmet County	4.9
24	Menominee County	3.4	66	Iosco County	4.9
25	Montcalm County	3.4	67	Lake County	4.9
26	Calhoun County	3.5	68	Chippewa County	5.1
27	Cass County	3.5	69	Crawford County	5.1
28	Osceola County	3.5	70	Arenac County	5.2
29	Shiawassee County	3.5	71	Schoolcraft County	5.3
30	Berrien County	3.6	72	Ogemaw County	5.4
31	Bay County	3.7	73	Luce County	5.9
32	Charlevoix County	3.7	74	Presque Isle County	5.9
33	Macomb County	3.7	75	Alcona County	6.0
34	Marquette County	3.7	76	Oscoda County	6.1
35	Mecosta County	3.7	77	Roscommon County	6.1
36	Missaukee County	3.7	78	Ontonagon County	6.7
37	Sanilac County	3.7	79	Alger County	6.8
38	Van Buren County	3.7	80	Keweenaw County	6.9
39	Wexford County	3.7	81	Montmorency County	7.7
40	Houghton County	3.8	82	Cheboygan County	8.4
41	Monroe County	3.8	83	Mackinac County	9.8
42	Muskegon County	3.8			