



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN  
DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 22, 2017

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

### Michigan's February Jobless Rate Increases

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February inched up over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.3 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment increased by 17,000 in February while the number of unemployed also rose slightly by 7,000. The net impact was a 23,000 advance in the state's workforce.

The Michigan jobless rate in February 2017 was three-tenths of a percentage point above the state's February 2016 rate of 5.0 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in February was six-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate declined slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.7 percent in February.

"Michigan's jobless rate continued to tick upward in February with the additional entry of individuals into the state's workforce seeking employment opportunities," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Throughout 2016 into February 2017, the state's labor force grew steadily by an average of 11,000 per month."

#### **Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights**

- February marked the second consecutive monthly jobless rate hike for Michigan, and continued an upward trend recorded since the 2016 low rate of 4.8 percent posted in May and June of last year. The 5.3 percent February rate was the highest unemployment rate registered in Michigan since the June 2015 rate of 5.4 percent, however the February 2017 rate was only marginally above monthly rates recorded over the last year and a half.
- Although the Michigan jobless rate increased steadily since mid-2016, most of this rate gain occurred due to more workers entering the Michigan job market. Since June 2016, both the number of employed (+66,000) and the number of unemployed (+26,000) rose statewide.
- From February 2016 to February 2017, total employment increased in Michigan by 84,000 or 1.8 percent while the state's workforce rose by 104,000 or 2.2 percent, both of which well outpaced the national total employment and labor force growth rates of 1.0 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

- Since February 2016, the number of unemployed in Michigan advanced by 21,000 or 8.8 percent, while the number of unemployed declined nationwide by 4.0 percent.

**Note:** The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2012-2016 for Michigan and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was revised for 2012-2016. For newly revised data go to [www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org) or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

**MICHIGAN**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2016	January 2017	February 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,804	4,885	4,908	23	104
Employment	4,565	4,632	4,649	17	84
Unemployment	238	252	259	7	21
Rate (Percent)	5.0	5.2	5.3	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's February Unemployment Rate Edges Upward***

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February rose slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.9 percent. February marked the seventh consecutive monthly jobless rate hike in the region since the July 2016 rate of 5.2 percent. Total employment rose over the month by 4,000, while the number of unemployed edged upward by 2,000. The net result was a 6,000 advance in the area's workforce. The Detroit metro area's February 2017 unemployment rate was a half percentage point above the region's 2016 annual rate of 5.4 percent. As with the state, the unemployment rate hikes in the region over the last half year were due primarily to unemployed individuals entering the area's workforce.

From February 2016 to February 2017, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate increased by a half percentage point. Since February 2016, total employment in the Detroit metro area advanced by 30,000 or 1.5 percent while the number of unemployed increased by 11,000 or 9.8 percent. Over that period, the region's labor force advanced by 41,000 or 2.0 percent, which was similar to the statewide growth rate of 2.2 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2016	January 2017	February 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,054	2,089	2,095	6	41
Employment	1,942	1,968	1,972	4	30
Unemployment	112	121	123	2	11
Rate (Percent)	5.4	5.8	5.9	xxx	xxx

## ***February Payroll Jobs Decline Slightly***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs were largely unchanged in February, edging down by 2,000 to 4,377,000. Over-the-month job cuts in manufacturing (-5,000) and trade, transportation and utilities (-3,000), were mostly offset by job gains in leisure and hospitality services (+3,000), construction (+2,000), and education and health services (+2,000). Michigan's remaining major sectors registered only minor job changes over the month.

## ***Industry Employment Trends and Highlights***

- Although very minor, February's overall job reduction was the first monthly decline in Michigan since May 2016. From May 2016 to February 2017, statewide payroll job growth averaged nearly 8,000 per month.
- The February job decline in manufacturing was mainly due to short-term layoffs in the state's auto industry.
- Unusually warm weather conditions in February produced additional business activity in the construction sector (+2,000 jobs).
- The majority of the job reduction in trade, transportation and utilities was in the retail trade sub-sector. Retail trade jobs have reported moderate decreases in four of the last five months. Since October 2016, jobs in the retail sector declined by nearly -6,000 or -1.2 percent
- From February 2016 to February 2017, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 83,000 or 1.9 percent, which outpaced the national gain over this period of 1.6 percent. Jobs increased in most of Michigan's major sectors since February 2016, with only minor reductions posted in two major sectors; mining and logging, and trade, transportation and utilities. The most pronounced job growth rates since February 2016 were displayed in construction (+7.6%), leisure and hospitality services (+4.2%), professional and business services (+2.8%), and financial activities (+2.7%).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined over the month, but rose over the year.

**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>February</u>	<u>January*</u>	<u>February**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,294	4,379	4,377	-2	83
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	153	162	165	2	12
Manufacturing	597	604	600	-5	2
Transportation Equipment	174	184	182	-2	8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	779	782	778	-3	-1
Retail Trade	472	472	470	-2	-2
Information	57	58	58	0	1
Financial Activities	211	218	217	-1	6
Professional & Business Services	642	659	660	1	18
Education & Health Services	661	669	671	2	10
Leisure & Hospitality Services	423	437	441	3	18
Other Services	168	173	172	-1	3
Government	596	610	609	0	14

\* Final data for January 2017

\*\* Preliminary data for February 2017

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>February</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$875.84	\$890.95	\$884.80	-\$6.15	\$8.96
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	43.4	43.0	-0.4	0.2

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,110.60	\$1,064.29	\$1,046.55	-\$17.74	-\$64.05
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	45.2	45.8	0.6	1.6

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