STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

Michigan's October Unemployment Rate Increases Slightly

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October edged up over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.7 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The state's workforce grew by 22,000 over the month as total employment rose by 14,000 and the number of unemployed increased by 8,000.

The Michigan jobless rate in October 2016 was four-tenths of a percentage point below the state's October 2015 rate of 5.1 percent. The national jobless rate decreased slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in October was two-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate edged downward by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent from September to October.

"Michigan's modest jobless rate hikes over the last two months were primarily due to the entry of individuals into the state's workforce," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Michigan's labor force growth of 1.5 percent so far in 2016 has outpaced the national gain of 1.2 percent. The state recorded a minor workforce reduction in 2015."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- October marked the second consecutive minor monthly unemployment rate increase in Michigan. However, the state's October rate matched Michigan's 2016 year-to-date average of 4.7 percent, which was seven-tenths of a percentage point below the 2015 annual jobless rate of 5.4 percent.

- Throughout 2016, Michigan's monthly jobless rates have remained within the narrow band of 4.5 to 4.9 percent.

- After recording four consecutive months of total employment reductions from May through August, employment rose in both September and October to essentially match the state's June level. From August to October, total employment in Michigan advanced by 27,000 or 0.6 percent.

- From October 2015 to October 2016, total employment in Michigan was up by 101,000 or 2.2 percent, which outperformed the national employment gain of 1.8 percent over the same period.

- Since October 2015, the number of unemployed in the state declined by 14,000 or 5.8 percent, which compares favorably to the 1.4 percent reduction nationwide.

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	October 2015	September 2016	October 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,756	4,821	4,843	22	87
Employment	4,514	4,601	4,615	14	101
Unemployment	242	220	228	8	-14
Rate (Percent)	5.1	4.6	4.7	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's October Unemployment Rate Moves Upward

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October increased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent. Total employment inched up by 3,000 over the month while the number of unemployed also rose slightly by 3,000. The net result was the third consecutive monthly gain in the area's workforce. The Detroit MSA's rate increased for the second consecutive month in October, the only rate advances for the region in 2016. Ten months into 2016, the MSA's year-to-date unemployment rate stood at 5.4 percent, which was well below the area's 2015 annual rate of 6.2 percent.

From October 2015 to October 2016, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by six-tenths of a percentage point. Since October 2015, total employment recorded solid gains in the region reflecting strong growth in construction, manufacturing, financial activities, and professional and business services. Since October 2015, the number of unemployed in the Detroit MSA declined by 6.8 percent, which was a larger percentage reduction than both the state (-5.8%) and the nation as a whole (-1.4).

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA
Labor Force Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	October 2015	September 2016	October 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	1,996	2,066	2,071	5	75
Employment	1,879	1,960	1,963	3	84
Unemployment	117	106	109	3	-8
Rate (Percent)	5.9	5.1	5.3	xxx	xxx

October Jobs Rise Briskly

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose in October by 19,000 to 4,361,000. The bulk of the over-the-month job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality services (+8,000), construction (+6,000), and professional and business services (+4,000). Michigan's remaining major sectors were little changed in October.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Michigan's October job total of 4,361,000 was the highest level recorded in the state since January 2006.

- The October job gain was the second consecutive monthly statewide increase and the eighth monthly advance so far in 2016.

- The October gain in construction jobs drove this sector to its highest level in 2016.

- Trade, transportation and utilities declined over the month to this sector's lowest job total of the year. The sector displays a minor over-the-year gain of 2,000 jobs, while its largest sub sector, retail trade, reports a small 4,000 advance since October 2015.

- From October 2015 to October 2016, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 94,000 or 2.2 percent. Eighty-one percent of the state's over-the-year job growth took place in five major sectors; professional and business services (+23,000), leisure and hospitality services (+17,000), education and health services (+15,000), manufacturing (+11,000), and construction (+10,000).

- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month, but declined over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	October 2015	September* 2016	October** 2016	CHANGE*** MONTH	CHANGE*** YEAR
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,266	4,342	4,361	19	94
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	147	151	157	6	10
Manufacturing	590	598	601	2	11
Transportation Equipment	173	178	177	-1	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	771	774	772	-2	2
Retail Trade	465	471	469	-2	4
Information	57	58	59	1	2
Financial Activities	209	215	216	1	7
Professional & Business Services	646	665	669	4	23
Education & Health Services	655	670	670	0	15
Leisure & Hospitality Services	418	426	434	8	17
Other Services	170	173	173	0	3
Government	597	604	603	-1	6

* Final data for September
** Preliminary data for October
*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	October 2015	September 2016	October 2016	CHANGE MONTH	CHANGE YEAR
Average Weekly Earnings	$913.50	$860.98	$878.82	$17.84	-$34.68
Average Weekly Hours	44.3	42.8	43.0	0.2	-1.3

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	$1,243.74	$988.11	$1,027.88	$39.77	-$215.86
Average Weekly Hours	49.0	44.9	45.6	0.7	-3.4

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