

Michigan Economic Update

September 20, 2016

<u>Summary</u>

Nonfarm payroll employment in Michigan declined by 16,400 jobs, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.5 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Michigan Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Michigan was unchanged at 4.5 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 2,354 in August to 216,398, while the labor force fell by 5,330 to 4,804,096. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 21 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Michigan. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Michigan stood at 5.1 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Michigan was 14.9 percent in June 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Michigan occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 16.5 percent.



The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Michigan was 4.5 percent in August 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate was 3.2 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.

Michigan Payroll Employment

Michigan nonfarm payrolls declined by 16,400 jobs, or 0.38 percent, on a seasonally

adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 10,800. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Michigan increased by 75,800, or 1.78 percent. Michigan nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Michigan ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Michigan private-sector payrolls declined by 12,400, or 0.33 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 3,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Michigan increased by 74,200, or 2.03 percent. Michigan privatesector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent. Michigan ranks 21st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in





private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Michigan declined by 4,000, or 0.67 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.19 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 700, or 0.38 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 3,200, or 0.87 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.27 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,500, or 0.82 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 2,300, or 0.64 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Construction (+2,600) and Educational & Health Services (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-7,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (-6,200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+23,500) and Educational & Health Services (+16,200). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (unchanged).

Other Michigan Labor Force Statistics

Change in Michigan Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



The labor force participation rate in Michigan declined to 60.7 percent in August from 60.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37 have a higher labor force participation rate than Michigan. The labor force participation rate in

Michigan is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Michigan was 65.2 percent in October 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.9 percent in July 2012. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Michigan.



The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Michigan civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 58.0 percent in August from 58.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Michigan. The

employment-to-population ratio in Michigan is 0.9 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-topopulation ratio in Michigan was 60.5 percent in November 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.8 percent. The 10-year low for the employmentto-population ratio was 53.7 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 1983 when the employment-topopulation ratio was 53.2 percent.



The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.