

200,000 more jobs by '85 — U-M economists

Michigan's economy will experience substantial recovery during the next two years, with steadily declining unemployment, moderate inflation and an upswing in consumer purchasing power.

That was the finding of University of Michigan economists said at the recent 31st annual Conference on the Econo-

Double-digit unemployment near end

ic Outlook. The forecast for "The Michigan Economy in 1984," prepared by Joan P. Crary and Saul H. Hymans.

It suggests that increases in state employment will be paced by major

gains in the manufacturing sector of the economy — an increase of about 200,000 jobs between 1983 and 1985.

BUT "GAINS made in labor productivity by the auto companies will reduce the labor input needed for any level of output and the federal government's policy mix will dampen the improvement in car sales . . . by keeping interest rates high."

This, the U-M economists explained, will "keep manufacturing employment from recovering (all the way) to pre-recession levels."

Crary and Hymans suggested that the fiscal outlook will "continue to improve as a result of both the 1983 (state) tax increase and an expanding

tax base" as economic recovery gathers momentum in the state.

"The next two years," they said, "should provide us with the opportunity to assess our options and choose the course for the Michigan economy in an atmosphere which is a pleasant change from the 'crisis management' framework in which we have been forced to operate for the past several years."

THE FORECAST for the Michigan economy for 1984-85 calls for total employment, which grew by 3.3 percent in 1983, to grow by 3.7 percent for 1984 and to accelerate to a growth rate of 5.1 percent for 1985.

The increases in employment, along with projected labor force growth,

yield annual unemployment rates which decline from 14.3 percent for 1983 to 11.7 percent for 1984 and 9.6 percent for 1985.

The unemployment rate forecast for 1985 is 5.9 percentage points below the 15.5 percent rate posted for 1982. It represents the first time Michigan's unemployment rate will drop below double digits on an annual basis since 1979, the economists noted.

AS AUTO sales and business capital spending increase more rapidly in 1984, manufacturing employment in Michigan is projected to increase by 109,000 jobs.

An additional 90,000 manufacturing jobs will be added for 1985 as auto sales remain in the 10½-million unit

range and real business capital spending continues to increase.

Improvement in the state's manufacturing sector is expected to bring more rapid expansion in those sectors which produce goods and services for in-state consumption, they said.

The forecast calls for increases in private non-manufacturing employment of 54,000 jobs for 1984 and 83,000 jobs for 1985, with the recovery touching all sectors of the economy by 1984.

Government employment is forecast to increase by 12,000 jobs for 1984 and 18,000 jobs for 1985 as the fiscal situation improves.

PERSONAL INCOME growth is forecast to increase from 6.7 percent in 1983 to 11.3 percent for 1984 and 11 percent for 1985.

OCC course to aid 'women

A program to help women in transition and displaced homemakers will hold a preliminary session Thursday at the Auburn Hill Campus of Oakland Community College.

Eligibility guidelines, registration procedures and the program will be discussed in Building B, Room 112A.

The campus is located at 2900 Featherstone Road in Auburn Hills.

The program is geared to help individuals focus on personal needs, define career goals, and learn job search skills.

The preliminary meeting begins at 1 p.m. To make a reservation, call Joyce Sachs at 854-4269.

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