

Michigan employment rose in 1993

Michigan's work force saw its 14th improvement in 1993, according to the agency that tracks workers' ups and downs.

F. Robert Edwards, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, said employment reached record highs during the year.

Michigan's monthly jobless rate fell to levels at or below the national rate six times in 1993, he said.

Meanwhile, the federal unemployment penalty tax ended for Michigan employers, and most employers qualified for a state unemployment tax credit.

"It has been nearly 30 years since Michigan's unemployment rate has come close to matching what it did this year in comparison to the national rate," Edwards said.

wards said. "In fact, it has been 14 years since Michigan's jobless rate has been below the national rate for even a single month.

"Through November, both Michigan and the nation have the same 6.9 percent year-to-date unemployment rate average, which is down nearly two percentage points from the state's 1992 average of 8.8 percent."

Employment across the state has averaged 4,332,000 through November, an increase of 3 percent over the average for all of 1992, and 65,000 higher than the annual high set just four years ago.

Employment in Michigan is growing at a faster pace than in the nation as a whole. Nationally, 1993 employment is up by 1.3 per-

cent through November, less than half the state growth rate.

"Employment growth has occurred in many industries," Edwards said, "although several sectors such as construction, retail trade and the service industries are leading the way with good increases over their year-ago levels."

For the first time since 1979, the state's unemployment insurance (UI) trust fund was debt free. The fund, which is used to pay state unemployment benefits, is fueled by employer taxes.

"By paying off the fund's debt

to the federal government, Michigan employers will no longer have to pay a 'penalty tax' with their federal unemployment taxes," Edwards said.

"Without the penalty tax, businesses will have no extra federal unemployment taxes to pay on workers employed in 1993. In January, Michigan employers had to pay an additional \$77 for each employee on their 1992 payroll. Michigan's debt to the federal government arose during the early 1980s, when high unemployment drained the UI trust fund and reached a peak of \$2.6 billion.

Exam workshops offered at Oakland University

Oakland University offers preparation workshops for the February Graduate Record Exam and Law School Admission Test exams starting Jan. 8 and 15 on the Rochester campus.

The personalized workshop sessions will be offered by OU's Division of Continuing Education on the following schedule:

GRE workshop preparation will be Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15,

22 and 29, with the first session from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuition is \$175. The next GRE exam is Feb. 5.

LSAT workshop preparation is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 15, 22 and 29. Tuition is \$225. The next exam is Feb. 12.

With the exam preparation, optional sessions are offered: math refresher (\$60), Jan. 8; power reading (\$40), Jan. 10; writing workshop (\$40), Jan. 24.

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