

State jobless rate rises

Monday, February 20, 1984 O&E

(O17A)

Unemployment rates rose in seven of Michigan's 13 major labor market areas during December, according to estimates by S. Martin Taylor, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC).

In early January, MESC reported that Michigan's December jobless rate edged up to 11.9 percent from 11.7 percent in November. The number of unemployed workers in the state climbed to 501,000 during December, an increase of 12,000.

Taylor reported that job seekers entering the labor market in search of holiday jobs helped pushed up unemployment, both across the state and in

at least five area labor markets.

THREE AREAS — Ann Arbor, Battle Creek and Detroit — had no change in their jobless rates from November to December.

In the metropolitan Detroit area (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Lapeer and St. Clair counties), the rate remained level at 11.6 percent between November and December but was below the 15.9 percent rate of December 1982.

The civilian labor force in the Detroit area was 1.94 million in December 1983, a drop of 51,000 from a year earlier.

Among the 13 labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest jobless rate in December at 6.8 percent.

Among areas suffering jobless-rate increases:

- Lansing-area unemployment rose largely because of a loss of jobs in education at the state level.
- The Upper Peninsula, which had the highest unemployment rate among the 13 areas at 17.3 percent, suffered job losses in its construction industry as well as some declines in its lumber, wood and other durable goods industries.
- The Kalamazoo area had the largest unemployment rate increase, as its

rate climbed to 10.5 percent in December from 9.1 percent in November.

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPPED In the Flint, Jackson and Saginaw areas during December.

The Jackson area experienced the largest decline as its rate slipped to 12.7 percent from 13.5 percent in November.

Taylor explained that the Jackson and Saginaw areas had marginal job gains in their non-manufacturing and government sectors. Flint reported significant employment increases in wholesale and retail trade along with some rise in auto-related employment.

Emergency shelter calls for help, cash

The Emergency Shelter Program of Oakland is seeking both funding and volunteers.

Operating as a project of the Agency Council for County Emergency Services, ESP of Oakland provides temporary housing for both individuals and families. It has provided shelter to 450 needy people since it opened last September.

Donations of food, bedding and

staffing are sought for the facility, which is open from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. seven days a week.

Volunteers are needed to help guests register, participate in shelter programs, and to help people deal with the major life problems they face. Tax deductible donations can be sent to ESP of Oakland, P.O. Box 3357, Pontiac 48058. To volunteer, call Ken Smelewski at 569-4208.

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