August unemployment rates down

Unemployment rates tumbled in Michigan's major labor markets in August as industries across the state increased their employment levels during the month.

"Jobless rates were down in all 10 major labor markets last month," F. Robert Edwards, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC), announced Monday. "And the rate declines were significant in nearly every case, averaging almost a percentage point."

According to the seasonally unadjusted estimates released today by the MESC, the jobless rate declines ranged from four-tenths of a point in the Upper Peninsula to nearly two percentage points in the Flint area.

The Flint area rate fell to 5.8 percent in August, down from 7.7 percent in July. The Ann Arbor area registered the lowest August rate at 2.8 percent.

Employment levels were up in eight of the major markets as most industries reported employment gains in August.

"The greatest hiring increases were in the manufacturing, retail trade and service industries," Edwards said. "The return of workers to their jobs following model changeovers in the auto industry accounted for most the manufacturing increase and had the greatest impact on labor force totals in the Flint, Detroit and Saginaw areas."

The only sector where job levels declined in August was government, as employment continued to slip among state and local schools because of the summer vacation period.

Another factor contributing to the unemployment declines across the state was work force losses.

"Labor force levels fell in all but one area in August as some jobseekers began leaving the job market after giving up their search for summer employment," Edwards noted.

Over the year, only one area – Benton Harbor – had a higher unemployment rate this year than in August 1995. The other nine areas had rate declines over the year, which on average were more than half a percentage point.

Among Michigan's 83 counties, the U.P. counties of Ontonagon (12.5 percent) and Mackinac (1.8 percent) had the highest and lowest August jobless rates. The two counties held the same positions in July.

See breakdown of seasonally unadjusted labor force estimates for Michigan and its major labor markets follows along with unemployment rates for the state's 83 counties.

Detroit Area Unemployment

(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Lapeer and St. Clair Counties)

	Aug. 1996	July 1996	Aug. 1995
Civilian Labor Force	2,222,000	2,226,000	2,147,000
Employment	2,132,000	2,103,000	2,041,000
Unemployment	90,000	123,000	106,000
Rate	4.0	5.5	4.9

Michigan Counties August 1996 Unemployment Rates

1. Ontonagon	12.5	44. Crawford	4.9
2. Gogebic	8.4	45. Dickinson	4.9
3. Newaygo	8.2	46. Houghton	4.8
4. Alpena	8.0	47. Missaukee	4.7
5. Lake	8.0	48. Jackson	4.7
6. Presqueisle	7.9	49. Charlevoix	4.6
7. Montm'cy	7.8	50. Cass	4.6
8. Wexford	7.7	51. Huron	4.5
9. Schoolcraft	7.7	52. St. Clair	4.5
10. Keweenaw	7.6	53. Antrim	4.5
11. Manistee	7.4	54. Saginaw	4.4
12. Oceana	7.3	55. Benzie	4.2
13. Arenac	7.1	56. Bay	4.1
14. Ogemaw	7.0	57. Branch	4.0
15. Baraga	6.9	58. Mecosta	3.9
16. Roscom'n	6.8	59. Calhoun	3.9
17. Delta	6.8	60. Hillsdale	3.9
18. Oscoda	6.5	61. Kent	3.9
19. Kalkaska	6.4	62. Lapeer	3.8
20. Clare	6.3	63. Macomb	3.7
21. Gladwin	6.3	64. Ingham	3.6
22. Montcalm	6.2	65. Lenawee	3.6
23. Alcona	6.2	66. St Joseph	3.5
24. Iosco	5.9	67. Otsego	3.5
25. Iron	5.8	68. Monroe	3.5
26. Genesee	5.8	69. Livingston	3.4
27. Chippewa	5.8	70. Kalamazoo	3.4
28. Emmet	5.8	71. Grand Trav	3.3
29. Gratiot	5.8	72. Barry	3.2
30. Sanilac	5.8	73. Isabella	3.2
31. Mason	5.6	74. Midland	3.1
32. Berrien	5.6	75. Oakland	3.0
33. Van Buren	5.6	76. Allegan	2.8
34. Muskegon	5.5	77. Ottawa	2.8
35. Luce	5.5	78. Clinton	2.8
36. Shiawas.	5.5	79. Eaton	2.6
37. Menom.	5.3	80. Cheboygan	2.4
38. Alger	5.3	81. Washtenaw	2.3
39. Tuscola	5.1	82. Leelanau	2.3
40. Marquette	5.0	83. Mackinac	1.8
41. Osceola	5.0		
42. Wayne	4.9		
43. Ionia	4.9		

SOURCE: MESC

OAKLAND KALEIDOSCOPE

Oakland Kaleidoscope is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Write: Oakland Kaleidoscope, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

■ CANDIDATE FORUM

The Greater Detroit, Oakland and Macomb Life Underwriters Associations will present the 1996 Candidate Forum from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road, **Southfield.** All Oakland County residents are invited to attend and hear from the candidates or campaign representatives for the state House as well as the federal offices of president, U.S. senator and U.S. representative. Admittance is $3 in advance or $5 at the door for ALU members, and $6 in advance or $10 at the door for non-members. A continental breakfast will be served. For reservations, call (810) 643-9313.

■ ACT WORKSHOP

Oakland University in **Rochester Hills** is offering its first workshop of the school year for the American College Testing exams. The next ACT exam is on Oct. 26.

The workshop will be conducted on campus on three consecutive Saturdays. The first session meets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 5. Tuition is $145. Total tuition for both ACT and SAT workshops taken in the same year is $265. Free retake within the year is offered. SAT test preparation workshops are scheduled for March, 1997.

For information, call OU's Continuing Education office at (810) 370-3120, or e-mail to oucc@oakland.edu.

■ OPEN HOUSE

The **Birmingham**-based Oakland County Genealogical Society will host an open house to allow both members and guests the opportunity to get better acquainted. Experienced members will offer individual family research assistance. Be sure to bring along research problems that are stunting the growth of your family tree. Beginners are especially welcome.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Rotary Room of the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, **Birmingham.** The public is invited and there is no charge. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact John Beedle-Gee at (810) 335-4061.

■ NEED MEMBERS

The AmeriCorps service program, "CircleNet," sponsored by **Southfield**-based Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit, is in need of 10 full-time members for 1997. CircleNet is beginning its third year of operation as a service program for young people with developmental disabilities who are enrolled as Little Brothers and Little Sisters.

AmeriCorps members work full time, earn a living allowance and are reimbursed for child care and up to $4,800 in college loans. CircleNet is one of 10 AmeriCorps programs in Michigan and hundreds throughout the country. In Metropolitan Detroit, 4,000 children, parents and volunteers are served, and 600 active matches involving either children from single-parent families or children with special needs are in place. To become an AmeriCorps member in the CircleNet program, call (810) 569-0600.

■ RETIREMENT ADVENTURE

The Troy-based Society for Lifetime Planning and WJR Radio have announced the development of "The Retirement Adventure," to be heard on Sundays from 11 p.m. to midnight, beginning Sept. 29. The weekly, hour-long program is designed to inform, educate and entertain, and will be hosted by Larry Slabotsky and Marvin Lee, professionals in retirement planning. Topics will cover all aspects of post-employment life for the 50-plus target audience. Celebrity guests will offer opinions on specific topics and a call-in segment will allow the listening audience to ask questions and give opinions. For information, contact Donna Dumas at (810) 647-1660 or Kathy De Lorenzo at (810) 645-6673.

■ DOPT-A-STRAY

The second "Adopt-a-Stray-Day and Open House" will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Oakland County Animal Care Center in **Auburn Hills.** If you are looking for a new pet or would like to tour the Animal Care Center, please join us. For information, call (810) 391-4100.

■ ALUMNI HONORED

Oakland University will celebrate the leadership, achievements and service of its alumni at the 1996 Alumni Awards Banquet on Sept. 27, at Meadow Brook Hall on the **Rochester Hills** campus. Guest speaker will be John McElroy, editorial director of Automotive Industries and weekly commentator on WWJ Radio.

The Distinguished Achievement Award recognizing outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the Julie Granthen, department chairwoman, Social Science, Oakland Community College. Spirit Awards recognizing exemplary volunteer service to the university will be presented to Bonnie Karas, instructor, Power House Gym; Paul Karas, test development engineer, Ford Motor Co.; and Colleen Ochoa Peters, assistant director, Alumni Relations, Oakland University.

■ SEMINARS OFFERED

The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus is sponsoring, "Exploring Career Options," a four-week seminar for women. Mary Schaieb, MA, LPC, NCC, will lead the informative and interactive series that will help women assess their career development continuum and learn to achieve their goals with new resources and motivation. Sessions will meet from 10 a.m. to noon beginning Wednesday, Oct. 2, in Room 308 of the campus' J building. The fee is $50.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, the Womencenter presents a menopause workshop entitled, "Be a Menopause Goddess!" Mary Lou Johnstone, MA, LLP, will lead the interactive workshop.

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