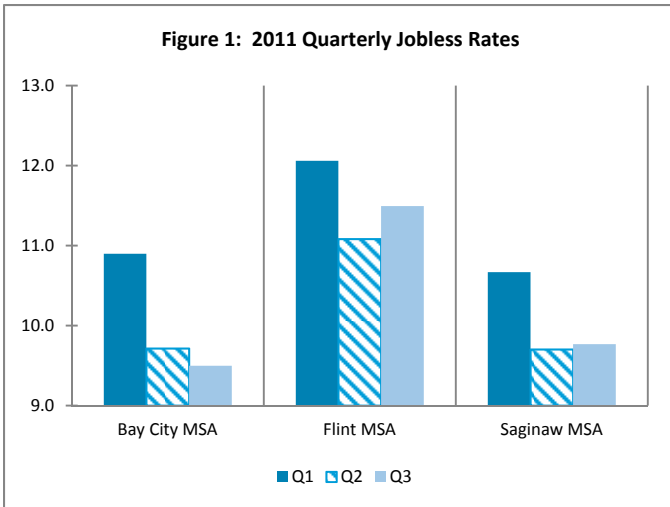


MID MICHIGAN – SEPTEMBER 2011

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SEPTEMBER JOBLESS RATES FALL AS JOB SEEKERS LEAVE THE LABOR FORCE

Jobless rates were lower throughout the region primarily due to seasonal declines in labor force levels. Job seekers typically exit the labor force in September for two reasons: (1) the end of temporary jobs focused on summer activities and (2) students returning to school as the fall semester begins. Michigan’s seasonally unadjusted jobless rate declined by 0.9 percentage points to 10.1 percent.



The three local metropolitan areas displayed similar jobless rate reductions during the month of September. The jobless rates in the Flint MSA and the Bay City MSA both decreased by 0.8 percentage points to 10.6 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively. The jobless rate in the Saginaw MSA fell by 0.7 percentage points to 9.1 percent. Between the second and third quarter of 2011, jobless rates were basically flat in the Saginaw MSA and Bay City MSA, while the Flint MSA recorded a moderate rate change of +0.4 percentage points. (Figure 1) Compared to September 2010, jobless rates have displayed substantial improvements. Over-the-year, jobless rates have fallen by 1.7 percentage points in the Bay City MSA and the Saginaw MSA, while the jobless rate in the Flint MSA dropped by 2.2 percentage points.

Labor force levels contracted in September for all the regional metropolitan statistical areas. Total labor force decreased by 0.9 percent for both the Saginaw MSA and the Bay City MSA. The Flint

MSA recorded a larger labor force reduction of 1.6 percent. Since September 2010, labor force levels were also down for the three metro areas. The Flint MSA exhibited the most prominent labor force decline of 3.9 percent. Both the Saginaw MSA and the Bay City MSA registered a minimal labor force reduction of 0.6 percent.

Changes in employment levels were minor for the month of September. Total employment edged down slightly in the Flint MSA, declining by 0.7 percent over the month. Employment in the Saginaw MSA and the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged. Over the year, employment levels in the Bay City MSA and the Saginaw MSA advanced by 1.3 percent. Employment in the Flint MSA decreased over the year by 1.6 percent.

LABOR FORCE REDUCTIONS TRANSLATE TO LOWER JOBLESS RATES

All twelve smaller labor market areas recorded jobless rate declines during the month of September. Jobless rate reductions ranged from 0.4 percentage points to 1.1 percentage points, with a median cut of 0.7 percentage points. The highest jobless rate was registered by the Gladwin LMA at 13.0 percent, followed by the Clare LMA (12.2 percent) and the Iosco LMA (12.1 percent). Two labor market areas, Huron (9.1 percent) and Midland (7.5 percent), registered jobless rates below ten percent. Compared to a year ago, jobless rates exhibited significant declines, ranging from -0.8 percentage points to -2.1 percentage points, with a median drop of -1.6 percentage points.

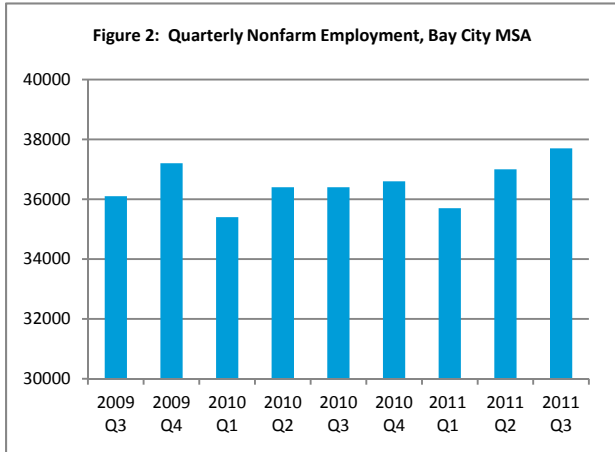
Total labor force fell over the month for all local labor market areas by a median of 1.5 percent. The largest reduction occurred in the Sanilac LMA, decreasing by 3.8 percent in September. Since September 2010, labor force levels experienced more pronounced declines, ranging from 1.6 percent to 5.8 percent.

The majority of the smaller labor markets posted modest employment decreases in September, with employment declining in eight local labor markets and edging up in four local labor markets. Employment increases were minimal, with the four labor market areas each posting growth of less than half a percentage point. Reductions in employment were wide ranging, from 0.1 percent to 3.3 percent, with a median decline of 1.9 percent. Over the year, total employment contracted for eleven local labor markets by a median of 2.2 percent. The employment level in the Lapeer LMA remained unchanged over the year.

## GOVERNMENT INCREASES BOOST REGIONAL NONFARM JOBS

Nonfarm payroll jobs for the three regional metropolitan areas rose moderately over the month as school staff returned for the new academic year. These gains were partly offset by seasonal job losses in summer recreational industries, most notably in *Leisure and Hospitality*. The *Government* industry posted the largest increase over the month, primarily reflecting seasonal recalls at local public schools and universities.

Between the second quarter and third quarter of 2011, summer seasonal jobs pushed nonfarm jobs up in the Saginaw MSA and the Bay City MSA. In contrast, the Flint MSA experienced a slight job decline during the quarter due to continued job decreases within the service providing sector. (Figures 2-4)

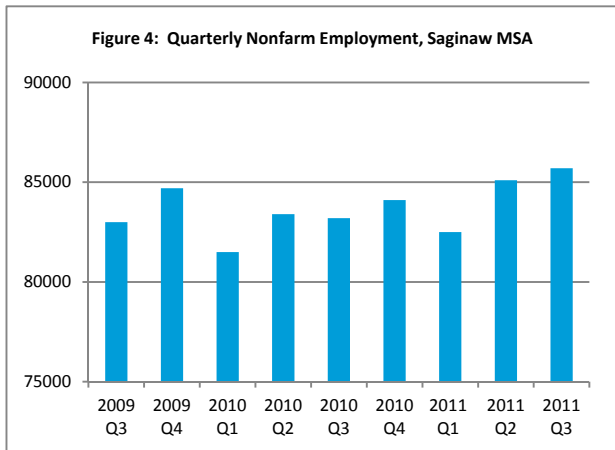
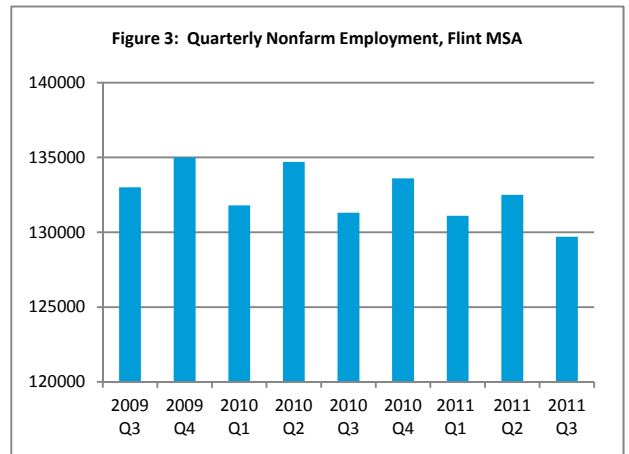


Nonfarm employment expanded in September by 800 or 2.1 percent in the **Bay City MSA**, with the majority of the job additions concentrated in the *Government* sector (+700) (Table 4). Minor job gains were also reported in *Manufacturing, Professional and Business Services*, and *Educational and Health Services*, each adding 100 over the month. *Leisure and Hospitality* was the only sector to cut jobs, declining by 200.

Between September 2010 and September 2011, nonfarm employment rose by 1,000 or 2.7 percent. Job increases were widespread with several industry sectors reporting small advances over the year. *Manufacturing* was the only primary industry sector to exhibit job losses over the year, edging down by 100.

Payroll jobs increased by 1,000 or 0.8 percent in the **Flint MSA** during the month of September (Table 4). Job gains were limited to the *Government* sector, expanding by 2,600 or 13.8 percent. Multiple industry sectors recorded job declines over the month, with the greatest reductions posted in *Leisure and Hospitality* (-600) and *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* (-500).

Compared to a year ago, payroll jobs contracted by 1,700 or 1.3 percent with the majority of the primary industry sectors experiencing job losses. *Leisure and Hospitality* and *Government* led the job cuts, each falling by 900 jobs over the year. Two sectors added jobs, *Professional and Business Services* (+800) and *Educational and Health Services* (+400).



In the **Saginaw MSA**, overall nonfarm jobs advanced by 1,300 or 1.5 percent (Table 4). The *Government* sector registered the most significant job gains, adding 1,800 (+17.1 percent) over the month. Minimal job increases were also posted in *Professional and Business Services* (+100) and *Educational and Health Services* (+100). As expected, summer seasonal industries cut jobs over the month, with declines in *Leisure and Hospitality* (-400), *Construction* (-100), and *Retail Trade* (-100).

Over the year, nonfarm jobs rose by 2,200 or 2.6 percent. All of the primary industry sectors added jobs since September 2010. *Manufacturing* and *Professional and Business Services* exhibited the largest job increases, each adding 500. The remaining primary industry sectors displayed minor gains of 100 or 200 jobs.

**Table 1: Metropolitan Statistical Areas**

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
<b>FLINT MSA (Genesee County)</b>								
Labor Force	181,000	183,900	188,400	-2,900	-1.6%	-7,400	-3.9%	
Employment	161,800	163,000	164,300	-1,200	-0.7%	-2,500	-1.6%	
Unemployment	19,300	21,000	24,100	-1,700	-8.2%	-4,800	-20.1%	
Jobless Rate	10.6	11.4	12.8	-0.8		-2.2		
<b>SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)</b>								
Labor Force	91,100	91,800	91,600	-800	-0.9%	-600	-0.6%	
Employment	82,800	82,800	81,700	-100	-0.1%	1,100	1.3%	
Unemployment	8,300	9,000	9,900	-700	-7.7%	-1,600	-16.3%	
Jobless Rate	9.1	9.8	10.8	-0.7		-1.7		
<b>BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)</b>								
Labor Force	53,200	53,700	53,500	-500	-0.9%	-300	-0.6%	
Employment	48,500	48,500	47,900	0	0.0%	600	1.3%	
Unemployment	4,700	5,200	5,600	-500	-9.3%	-900	-16.4%	
Jobless Rate	8.8	9.6	10.5	-0.8		-1.7		
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Labor Force	4,691,800	4,743,100	4,778,600	-51,300	-1.1%	-86,800	-1.8%	
Employment	4,218,400	4,222,300	4,233,400	-3,900	-0.1%	-15,000	-0.4%	
Unemployment	473,400	520,800	545,200	-47,400	-9.1%	-71,900	-13.2%	
Jobless Rate	10.1	11.0	11.4	-0.9		-1.3		

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

\* Preliminary

**Table 2: Labor Market Areas**

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
<b>HURON</b>								
Labor Force	15,000	15,475	15,750	-475	-3.1%	-775	-4.9%	
Employment	13,625	13,950	14,000	-300	-2.2%	-350	-2.5%	
Unemployment	1,350	1,525	1,775	-175	-11.2%	-400	-23.2%	
Jobless Rate	9.1	9.9	11.2	-0.8		-2.1		
<b>LAPEER</b>								
Labor Force	40,650	41,150	41,300	-500	-1.2%	-650	-1.6%	
Employment	36,100	36,075	36,100	25	0.1%	25	0.0%	
Unemployment	4,525	5,075	5,200	-550	-10.6%	-675	-12.8%	
Jobless Rate	11.2	12.3	12.6	-1.1		-1.4		
<b>MIDLAND</b>								
Labor Force	40,925	41,125	41,825	-225	-0.5%	-900	-2.2%	
Employment	37,850	37,775	38,200	75	0.2%	-350	-0.9%	
Unemployment	3,075	3,375	3,625	-300	-8.7%	-575	-15.6%	
Jobless Rate	7.5	8.2	8.7	-0.7		-1.2		
<b>SANILAC</b>								
Labor Force	18,575	19,325	19,725	-750	-3.8%	-1150	-5.8%	
Employment	16,550	17,100	17,175	-575	-3.3%	-625	-3.6%	
Unemployment	2,050	2,200	2,575	-175	-7.7%	-525	-20.6%	
Jobless Rate	11.0	11.4	13.0	-0.4		-2.0		
<b>SHIAWASSEE</b>								
Labor Force	32,350	32,725	33,625	-375	-1.1%	-1275	-3.8%	
Employment	29,100	29,225	29,700	-100	-0.4%	-600	-2.0%	
Unemployment	3,250	3,500	3,925	-250	-7.2%	-675	-17.4%	
Jobless Rate	10.0	10.7	11.7	-0.7		-1.7		
<b>TUSCOLA</b>								
Labor Force	25,350	25,625	26,650	-300	-1.2%	-1325	-5.0%	
Employment	22,675	22,675	23,300	-25	-0.1%	-625	-2.7%	
Unemployment	2,675	2,950	3,350	-275	-9.6%	-700	-20.6%	
Jobless Rate	10.5	11.5	12.6	-1.0		-2.1		
By Place of Residence								
Not Seasonally Adjusted								
Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data								
* Preliminary								

**Table 3: Labor Market Areas Continued**

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
<b>ARENAC</b>							
Labor Force	7,175	7,400	7,450	-250	-3.2%	-300	-3.9%
Employment	6,325	6,500	6,475	-175	-2.5%	-125	-2.0%
Unemployment	850	900	1,000	-75	-8.0%	-150	-15.9%
Jobless Rate	11.7	12.3	13.4	-0.6		-1.7	
<b>CLARE</b>							
Labor Force	11,925	12,000	12,425	-75	-0.6%	-500	-4.0%
Employment	10,475	10,450	10,700	25	0.2%	-225	-2.0%
Unemployment	1,450	1,550	1,725	-100	-5.8%	-275	-16.0%
Jobless Rate	12.2	12.9	13.9	-0.7		-1.7	
<b>GLADWIN</b>							
Labor Force	9,625	9,800	10,050	-175	-1.8%	-425	-4.2%
Employment	8,375	8,500	8,675	-125	-1.4%	-275	-3.3%
Unemployment	1,250	1,300	1,375	-50	-4.4%	-125	-9.7%
Jobless Rate	13.0	13.4	13.8	-0.4		-0.8	
<b>IOSCO</b>							
Labor Force	9,575	9,875	10,125	-300	-3.0%	-550	-5.4%
Employment	8,400	8,625	8,750	-225	-2.6%	-350	-3.9%
Unemployment	1,175	1,225	1,375	-75	-5.7%	-200	-14.9%
Jobless Rate	12.1	12.5	13.5	-0.4		-1.4	
<b>OGEMAW</b>							
Labor Force	9,350	9,550	9,625	-225	-2.3%	-275	-2.9%
Employment	8,400	8,550	8,575	-125	-1.6%	-150	-1.8%
Unemployment	925	1,025	1,050	-75	-8.6%	-125	-11.7%
Jobless Rate	10.0	10.6	10.9	-0.6		-0.9	
<b>ROSCOMMON</b>							
Labor Force	9,675	9,750	10,050	-75	-0.8%	-375	-3.8%
Employment	8,575	8,525	8,750	25	0.4%	-200	-2.2%
Unemployment	1,125	1,225	1,300	-100	-9.1%	-200	-14.6%
Jobless Rate	11.5	12.6	13.0	-1.1		-1.5	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

\* Preliminary

**Table 4: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b>								
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	38,200	37,400	37,200	800	2.1%	1,000	2.7%	
Goods Producing	5,500	5,400	5,500	100	1.9%	0	0.0%	
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	0.0%	100	8.3%	
Manufacturing	4,200	4,100	4,300	100	2.4%	-100	-2.3%	
Service Providing	32,700	32,000	31,700	700	2.2%	1,000	3.2%	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,800	7,800	7,600	0	0.0%	200	2.6%	
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Financial Activities	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100	6.2%	
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,300	3,200	100	3.0%	200	6.2%	
Educational and Health Services	6,400	6,300	6,200	100	1.6%	200	3.2%	
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	5,200	4,900	-200	-3.8%	100	2.0%	
Other Services	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Government	6,000	5,300	5,800	700	13.2%	200	3.4%	
<b>FLINT MSA</b>								
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	131,400	130,400	133,100	1,000	0.8%	-1,700	-1.3%	
Goods Producing	13,500	13,700	13,800	-200	-1.5%	-300	-2.2%	
Mining, Logging and Construction	3,600	3,700	3,900	-100	-2.7%	-300	-7.7%	
Manufacturing	9,900	10,000	9,900	-100	-1.0%	0	0.0%	
Service Providing	117,900	116,700	119,300	1,200	1.0%	-1,400	-1.2%	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	27,100	27,600	27,500	-500	-1.8%	-400	-1.5%	
Information	3,100	3,200	3,300	-100	-3.1%	-200	-6.1%	
Financial Activities	6,300	6,300	6,400	0	0.0%	-100	-1.6%	
Professional and Business Services	13,600	13,700	12,800	-100	-0.7%	800	6.2%	
Educational and Health Services	26,900	26,900	26,500	0	0.0%	400	1.5%	
Leisure and Hospitality	13,500	14,100	14,400	-600	-4.3%	-900	-6.3%	
Other Services	5,900	6,000	6,000	-100	-1.7%	-100	-1.7%	
Government	21,500	18,900	22,400	2,600	13.8%	-900	-4.0%	
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b>								
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	86,400	85,100	84,200	1,300	1.5%	2,200	2.6%	
Goods Producing	13,800	13,900	13,200	-100	-0.7%	600	4.5%	
Mining, Logging and Construction	3,200	3,300	3,100	-100	-3.0%	100	3.2%	
Manufacturing	10,600	10,600	10,100	0	0.0%	500	5.0%	
Service Providing	72,600	71,200	71,000	1,400	2.0%	1,600	2.3%	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	16,200	16,300	16,000	-100	-0.6%	200	1.3%	
Information	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	0.0%	100	7.7%	
Financial Activities	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	0.0%	200	5.3%	
Professional and Business Services	9,900	9,800	9,400	100	1.0%	500	5.3%	
Educational and Health Services	15,900	15,800	15,700	100	0.6%	200	1.3%	
Leisure and Hospitality	8,900	9,300	8,700	-400	-4.3%	200	2.3%	
Other Services	4,000	4,100	3,900	-100	-2.4%	100	2.6%	
Government	12,300	10,500	12,200	1,800	17.1%	100	0.8%	

## Appendix 1: Counties of Northeast Michigan

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
<b>ALCONA</b>								
Labor Force	3,675	3,850	4,000	-175	-4.4%	-300	-7.6%	
Employment	3,225	3,325	3,375	-75	-2.6%	-125	-3.9%	
Unemployment	450	525	625	-75	-15.7%	-175	-28.0%	
Jobless Rate	12.1	13.8	15.6	-1.7		-3.5		
<b>ALPENA</b>								
Labor Force	13,300	13,375	14,075	-75	-0.5%	-775	-5.5%	
Employment	12,050	11,975	12,475	75	0.6%	-400	-3.3%	
Unemployment	1,250	1,375	1,600	-150	-10.2%	-350	-22.5%	
Jobless Rate	9.3	10.3	11.4	-1.0		-2.1		
<b>CHEBOYGAN</b>								
Labor Force	11,300	11,850	11,725	-550	-4.7%	-425	-3.7%	
Employment	10,550	11,025	10,900	-475	-4.3%	-325	-3.0%	
Unemployment	725	825	825	-75	-10.4%	-100	-12.1%	
Jobless Rate	6.5	6.9	7.1	-0.4		-0.6		
<b>CRAWFORD</b>								
Labor Force	5,850	6,000	6,125	-150	-2.4%	-250	-4.3%	
Employment	5,225	5,325	5,425	-100	-2.0%	-200	-3.7%	
Unemployment	650	675	700	-25	-5.5%	-75	-9.0%	
Jobless Rate	10.9	11.3	11.5	-0.4		-0.6		
<b>MONTMORENCY</b>								
Labor Force	3,625	3,750	3,800	-125	-3.4%	-175	-4.9%	
Employment	3,075	3,175	3,175	-75	-2.6%	-100	-3.1%	
Unemployment	525	575	625	-50	-7.7%	-100	-14.1%	
Jobless Rate	14.8	15.5	16.4	-0.7		-1.6		
<b>OSCODA</b>								
Labor Force	3,550	3,700	3,700	-125	-3.7%	-150	-4.2%	
Employment	3,025	3,100	3,100	-75	-2.5%	-75	-2.4%	
Unemployment	525	600	600	-50	-9.7%	-75	-13.1%	
Jobless Rate	14.9	15.9	16.5	-1.0		-1.6		
<b>OTSEGO</b>								
Labor Force	10,950	11,325	11,550	-375	-3.3%	-600	-5.1%	
Employment	9,725	10,000	10,050	-275	-2.8%	-325	-3.1%	
Unemployment	1,225	1,325	1,500	-100	-7.3%	-275	-18.4%	
Jobless Rate	11.2	11.7	13.0	-0.5		-1.8		
<b>PRESQUE ISLE</b>								
Labor Force	5,675	6,000	5,875	-325	-5.2%	-200	-3.6%	
Employment	4,975	5,175	5,075	-200	-4.0%	-100	-2.2%	
Unemployment	700	825	800	-100	-13.2%	-100	-12.3%	
Jobless Rate	12.5	13.7	13.8	-1.2		-1.3		
By Place of Residence								
Not Seasonally Adjusted								
Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data								
* Preliminary								

## Appendix 2: Michigan Works Areas

	Sep-11*	Aug-11	Sep-10	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
<b>CAREER ALLIANCE, INC.</b>								
Labor Force	213,400	216,700	222,000	-825	-1.5%	-8,700	-3.9%	
Employment	190,900	192,200	194,000	-325	-0.7%	-3,100	-1.6%	
Unemployment	22,500	24,500	28,000	-500	-8.1%	-5,500	-19.7%	
Jobless Rate	10.5	11.3	12.6	-0.8		-2.1		
<b>GREAT LAKES BAY</b>								
Labor Force	185,100	186,600	186,900	-375	-0.8%	-1,800	-0.9%	
Employment	169,100	169,100	167,700	0	0.0%	1,300	0.8%	
Unemployment	16,100	17,500	19,200	-375	-8.4%	-3,100	-16.2%	
Jobless Rate	8.7	9.4	10.3	-0.7		-1.6		
<b>THUMB WORKS</b>								
Labor Force	99,600	101,600	103,400	-500	-2.0%	-3,900	-3.8%	
Employment	89,000	89,800	90,500	-225	-1.0%	-1,600	-1.8%	
Unemployment	10,600	11,800	12,900	-300	-9.9%	-2,300	-17.8%	
Jobless Rate	10.6	11.6	12.5	-0.9		-1.8		
<b>NORTHEAST MICHIGAN</b>								
Labor Force	57,900	59,800	60,800	-475	-3.2%	-2,900	-4.8%	
Employment	51,900	53,100	53,500	-300	-2.3%	-1,700	-3.1%	
Unemployment	6,100	6,700	7,300	-175	-9.7%	-1,200	-17.0%	
Jobless Rate	10.5	11.2	12.0	-0.8		-1.5		
<b>REGION 7B</b>								
Labor Force	57,300	58,400	59,700	-275	-1.8%	-2,400	-4.0%	
Employment	50,600	51,200	51,900	-150	-1.1%	-1,300	-2.5%	
Unemployment	6,800	7,200	7,800	-125	-6.8%	-1,100	-13.9%	
Jobless Rate	11.8	12.4	13.1	-0.6		-1.3		