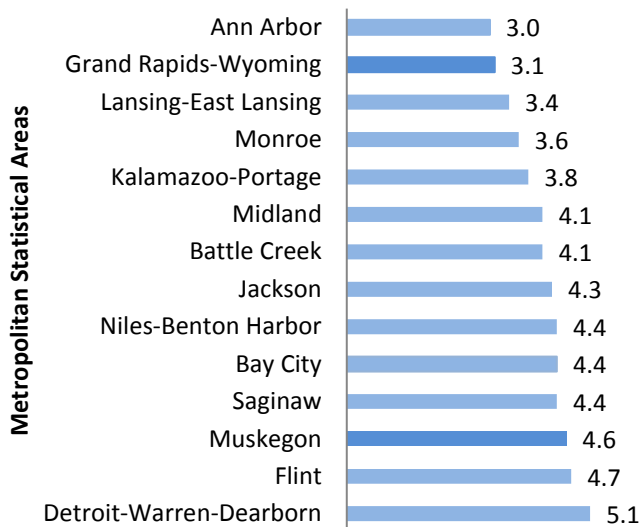




West Michigan Jobless Rates Stable in November

In November, seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates were relatively unchanged in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Muskegon metropolitan areas. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA jobless rate dropped incrementally to 3.1 percent, while the Muskegon MSA rate inched down to 4.6 percent; seasonal decreases of -0.1 percentage points in both MSAs.

Figure 1: Jobless Rate (November 2016)



In the Muskegon MSA, the size of the labor force and the number of employed were also relatively stable, increasing by only +0.4 percent in both cases. The number of unemployed was also relatively unchanged (-100). The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA had the second lowest November unemployment rate among Michigan metro areas. This was the first time in sixth months it was not ranked first. As was the case in the Muskegon MSA, the Grand Rapids labor force and employment levels remained relatively stable over the month, increasing by only +0.8 percent and +0.9 percent, respectively. The number of unemployed was down marginally by -1.6 percent in November.

Both the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA and the Muskegon MSA followed the statewide unemployment trend in November. In Michigan, the number of unemployed decreased by -3.1 percent to 218,000, while the jobless rate

edged down by only -0.1 percentage points. **(Table 1 and Figure 1)**

Over the year, the West Michigan MSAs recorded slightly increasing jobless rates. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA had a rate change of +0.3 percentage points since November 2015, while the Muskegon MSA was also up +0.3 percentage points. These rate changes matched the state overall, as Michigan’s jobless rate also edged up +0.3 percentage points over the past year. However, the state saw larger increases in the labor force over the year (+2.5 percent), compared to +2.0 percent in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA and +1.8 percent in the Muskegon MSA. **(Table 1)**

November Non-Metro Jobless Rates Relatively Flat in West Michigan; Up Seasonally in Northwest Michigan

In November, most West Michigan non-metro counties recorded relatively unchanged seasonal jobless rates. Most counties had rate changes of between -0.1 percentage points and +0.3 percentage points. The two exceptions were Mason and Oceana counties, which saw increases of +0.8 percentage points and +0.7 percentage points, respectively. Other labor market measures – such as the changes in the number of unemployed – were more diverse; Mason had a +16.0 percent seasonal increase, while the number of unemployed in Osceola County was down -5.0 percent. Over the year, most counties saw reasonably flat jobless rates, with changes between +0.2 and +0.5 percentage points. **(Table 2)**

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In November, jobless rates in Northwest Michigan mostly rose seasonally, as summer and fall tourism jobs ended. Rate changes ranged from -0.1 percentage points to +1.5 percentage points. The smallest rate change was in Missaukee County, while the largest rate advance was in Emmet County. Moreover, in comparison to West Michigan, nearly every Northwest Michigan county experienced seasonal unemployment increases (exceptions were Missaukee and Wexford), ranging from +5.9 percent (Kalkaska) to +32.3 percent (Emmet). Over the year, jobless rates were relatively unchanged, increasing by a minimum of +0.2 percentage points up to +0.7 percentage points. **(Appendix 1)**

Prosperity Region Jobless Rates Stay Stable in November

In November, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance jobless rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent, while the Northwest Michigan Prosperity Region experienced a +0.5 percentage point seasonal increase to 4.7 percent. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance saw a decrease in the unemployment level of -0.7 percent, while the Northwest Michigan Prosperity Region had a significant hike of 11.3 percent. **(Appendix 3)**

Since November 2015, jobless rates in both Prosperity regions remain relatively unchanged; +0.4 percentage points in the Northwest Prosperity Region and +0.3 percentage points in the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. **(Appendix 3)**

West Michigan Payroll Jobs Variable in November

Grand Rapids – Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Area

November nonfarm jobs in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA were up by +900 jobs, bringing the total to 551,900. Since November 2015, total nonfarm employment rose by 13,000 (+2.4 percent), outpacing job expansion in both Michigan (+1.9 percent) and the United States (+1.6 percent). The Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA ranked 3rd among Michigan metro areas in the rate of job growth since November 2015, behind Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo. **(Table 3)**

- *Trade, transportation and utilities* displayed the most gains in November, with +1,100 additional jobs. Since 2010, this has been typical for the month of November, due to job additions in the retail sector with the holiday shopping season.
- Other broad sectors with November job additions were *Manufacturing* and *Educational and health services*, which both added +600 jobs.
- *Leisure and hospitality* saw the biggest decrease in November, down seasonally by -900 jobs. Many other sectors were flat, including *Information, Financial activities, and Other services*.
- Over the past year, job gains were very widespread across industries. The sectors with the largest over the year job additions were *Professional and business services* (+3,600), *Educational and health services* (+2,600), and *Mining, logging and construction* (-2,100).

Muskegon Metropolitan Statistical Area

In the Muskegon MSA, total nonfarm jobs recorded a decrease of -400 in November, to 65,400. This is somewhat atypical for the month of November; since 2013, a small job increase has usually occurred. Since November 2015, job levels advanced by 1,500 (+2.3 percent), as Muskegon ranked fourth in job growth among Michigan metro areas. Most of these over the year job additions occurred in *Government* and *Manufacturing*. **(Table 3)**

- There were no November net job advances. All sectors were either stable or decreasing. The largest job reduction was seen in *Leisure and hospitality* (-200). *Mining, logging and construction* (-100) and *Manufacturing* (-100) also were down over the month.
- Since November 2015, numeric job gains were larger in the *Service providing* (+1,000) than the *Goods producing* (+500) sector.

Table 1: Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa, Barry counties)								
Labor Force	571,000	566,500	559,900	4,500	0.8%	11,100	2.0%	
Employment	553,200	548,300	544,400	4,900	0.9%	8,800	1.6%	
Unemployment	17,900	18,200	15,500	-300	-1.6%	2,400	15.5%	
Jobless Rate	3.1%	3.2%	2.8%	-0.1		0.3		
Muskegon MSA (Muskegon County)								
Labor Force	78,600	78,300	77,200	300	0.4%	1,400	1.8%	
Employment	75,000	74,700	73,800	300	0.4%	1,200	1.6%	
Unemployment	3,600	3,700	3,300	-100	-2.7%	300	9.1%	
Jobless Rate	4.6%	4.7%	4.3%	-0.1		0.3		
Michigan								
Labor Force	4,864,000	4,860,000	4,747,000	4,000	0.1%	117,000	2.5%	
Employment	4,646,000	4,635,000	4,546,000	11,000	0.2%	100,000	2.2%	
Unemployment	218,000	225,000	201,000	-7,000	-3.1%	17,000	8.5%	
Jobless Rate	4.5%	4.6%	4.2%	-0.1		0.3		

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Table 2: West Michigan Counties Not Within Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Allegan							
Labor Force	61,500	61,275	60,725	225	0.4%	775	1.3%
Employment	59,500	59,300	58,925	200	0.3%	575	1.0%
Unemployment	2,025	1,975	1,775	50	2.5%	250	14.1%
Jobless Rate	3.3%	3.2%	2.9%	0.1		0.4	
Ionia							
Labor Force	29,700	29,550	29,450	150	0.5%	250	0.8%
Employment	28,675	28,500	28,525	175	0.6%	150	0.5%
Unemployment	1,025	1,050	925	-25	-2.4%	100	10.8%
Jobless Rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.1%	-0.1		0.4	
Lake							
Labor Force	3,800	3,825	3,675	-25	-0.7%	125	3.4%
Employment	3,550	3,600	3,450	-50	-1.4%	100	2.9%
Unemployment	250	225	225	25	11.1%	25	11.1%
Jobless Rate	6.3%	6.0%	5.9%	0.3		0.4	
Mason							
Labor Force	14,500	14,525	14,425	-25	-0.2%	75	0.5%
Employment	13,775	13,900	13,775	-125	-0.9%	0	0.0%
Unemployment	725	625	650	100	16.0%	75	11.5%
Jobless Rate	5.0%	4.2%	4.5%	0.8		0.5	
Mecosta							
Labor Force	19,875	19,825	19,650	50	0.3%	225	1.1%
Employment	19,000	18,925	18,825	75	0.4%	175	0.9%
Unemployment	875	900	825	-25	-2.8%	50	6.1%
Jobless Rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	-0.1		0.2	
Newaygo							
Labor Force	23,100	23,075	22,850	25	0.1%	250	1.1%
Employment	22,175	22,150	22,000	25	0.1%	175	0.8%
Unemployment	925	925	875	0	0.0%	50	5.7%
Jobless Rate	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	-0.1		0.2	
Oceana							
Labor Force	11,950	12,200	12,100	-250	-2.0%	-150	-1.2%
Employment	11,225	11,550	11,400	-325	-2.8%	-175	-1.5%
Unemployment	725	650	700	75	11.5%	25	3.6%
Jobless Rate	6.0%	5.3%	5.8%	0.7		0.2	
Osceola							
Labor Force	10,075	10,100	10,075	-25	-0.2%	0	0.0%
Employment	9,600	9,625	9,625	-25	-0.3%	-25	-0.3%
Unemployment	475	500	450	-25	-5.0%	25	5.6%
Jobless Rate	4.8%	4.8%	4.5%	0.0		0.3	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Table 3: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA							
Total Nonfarm	551,900	551,000	538,900	900	0.2%	13,000	2.4%
Goods Producing	135,200	134,600	131,200	600	0.4%	4,000	3.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	22,800	22,800	20,700	0	0.0%	2,100	10.1%
Manufacturing	112,400	111,800	110,500	600	0.5%	1,900	1.7%
Service Providing	416,700	416,400	407,700	300	0.1%	9,000	2.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	97,300	96,200	96,100	1,100	1.1%	1,200	1.2%
Information	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	25,800	25,800	25,200	0	0.0%	600	2.4%
Professional and Business Services	80,300	80,900	76,700	-600	-0.7%	3,600	4.7%
Educational and Health Services	90,900	90,300	88,300	600	0.7%	2,600	2.9%
Educational Services	15,600	15,300	16,700	300	2.0%	-1,100	-6.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	75,300	75,000	71,600	300	0.4%	3,700	5.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	47,700	48,600	46,800	-900	-1.9%	900	1.9%
Other Services	22,000	22,000	21,600	0	0.0%	400	1.9%
Government	47,600	47,500	47,900	100	0.2%	-300	-0.6%
Muskegon MSA							
Total Nonfarm	65,400	65,800	63,900	-400	-0.6%	1,500	2.3%
Goods Producing	16,500	16,700	16,000	-200	-1.2%	500	3.1%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,200	2,300	2,100	-100	-4.3%	100	4.8%
Manufacturing	14,300	14,400	13,900	-100	-0.7%	400	2.9%
Service Providing	48,900	49,100	47,900	-200	-0.4%	1,000	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	14,100	14,100	14,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	800	800	800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	0.0%	100	5.6%
Professional and Business Services	4,100	4,100	3,800	0	0.0%	300	7.9%
Educational and Health Services	11,100	11,100	11,300	0	0.0%	-200	-1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	6,800	7,000	6,500	-200	-2.9%	300	4.6%
Other Services	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	0.0%	-100	-4.2%
Government	7,800	7,800	7,200	0	0.0%	600	8.3%

* Preliminary

Appendix 1: Counties of Northwest Michigan

	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
Antrim							
Labor Force	9,500	9,750	9,450	-250	-2.6%	50	0.5%
Employment	8,900	9,225	8,900	-325	-3.5%	0	0.0%
Unemployment	600	525	550	75	14.3%	50	9.1%
Jobless Rate	6.3%	5.4%	5.8%	0.9		0.5	
Benzie							
Labor Force	8,700	8,675	8,625	25	0.3%	75	0.9%
Employment	8,250	8,300	8,175	-50	-0.6%	75	0.9%
Unemployment	475	400	450	75	18.8%	25	5.6%
Jobless Rate	5.3%	4.5%	5.1%	0.8		0.2	
Charlevoix							
Labor Force	12,725	13,050	12,575	-325	-2.5%	150	1.2%
Employment	12,100	12,500	12,025	-400	-3.2%	75	0.6%
Unemployment	625	550	525	75	13.6%	100	19.0%
Jobless Rate	4.8%	4.2%	4.3%	0.6		0.5	
Emmet							
Labor Force	17,000	17,275	16,925	-275	-1.6%	75	0.4%
Employment	15,975	16,500	15,975	-525	-3.2%	0	0.0%
Unemployment	1,025	775	925	250	32.3%	100	10.8%
Jobless Rate	6.0%	4.5%	5.5%	1.5		0.5	
Grand Traverse							
Labor Force	48,500	48,700	47,875	-200	-0.4%	625	1.3%
Employment	46,750	47,000	46,300	-250	-0.5%	450	1.0%
Unemployment	1,775	1,675	1,575	100	6.0%	200	12.7%
Jobless Rate	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%	0.1		0.3	
Kalkaska							
Labor Force	7,675	7,700	7,600	-25	-0.3%	75	1.0%
Employment	7,225	7,275	7,175	-50	-0.7%	50	0.7%
Unemployment	450	425	425	25	5.9%	25	5.9%
Jobless Rate	5.8%	5.4%	5.5%	0.4		0.3	
Leelanau							
Labor Force	10,550	10,550	10,475	0	0.0%	75	0.7%
Employment	10,100	10,175	10,075	-75	-0.7%	25	0.2%
Unemployment	425	375	400	50	13.3%	25	6.3%
Jobless Rate	4.1%	3.6%	3.8%	0.5		0.3	
Manistee							
Labor Force	10,550	10,650	10,400	-100	-0.9%	150	1.4%
Employment	9,950	10,125	9,875	-175	-1.7%	75	0.8%
Unemployment	600	525	500	75	14.3%	100	20.0%
Jobless Rate	5.6%	4.9%	4.9%	0.7		0.7	
Missaukee							
Labor Force	6,725	6,725	6,825	0	0.0%	-100	-1.5%
Employment	6,425	6,425	6,525	0	0.0%	-100	-1.5%
Unemployment	300	300	275	0	0.0%	25	9.1%
Jobless Rate	4.5%	4.6%	4.2%	-0.1		0.3	
Wexford							
Labor Force	14,350	14,175	14,350	175	1.2%	0	0.0%
Employment	13,650	13,475	13,675	175	1.3%	-25	-0.2%
Unemployment	700	700	675	0	0.0%	25	3.7%
Jobless Rate	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%	0.0		0.2	

By Place of Residence / Not Seasonally Adjusted / Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Appendix 2: Michigan Works! Areas

	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year		
				#	%	#	%	
West Michigan Works!								
Labor Force	740,900	735,700	727,200	5,200	0.7%	13,700	1.9%	
Employment	716,300	710,800	705,700	5,500	0.8%	10,600	1.5%	
Unemployment	24,600	24,900	21,500	-300	-1.2%	3,100	14.4%	
Jobless Rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.0%	-0.1		0.4		
Michigan Works! West Central								
Labor Force	83,300	83,500	82,800	-200	-0.2%	500	0.6%	
Employment	79,300	79,700	79,000	-400	-0.5%	300	0.4%	
Unemployment	4,000	3,800	3,700	200	5.3%	300	8.1%	
Jobless Rate	4.8%	4.5%	4.5%	0.2		0.3		
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments								
Labor Force	146,300	147,300	145,000	-1,000	-0.7%	1,300	0.9%	
Employment	139,300	141,000	138,700	-1,700	-1.2%	600	0.4%	
Unemployment	6,900	6,200	6,300	700	11.3%	600	9.5%	
Jobless Rate	4.7%	4.2%	4.3%	0.5		0.4		

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary

Appendix 3: West Michigan and Northwest Michigan Prosperity Regions

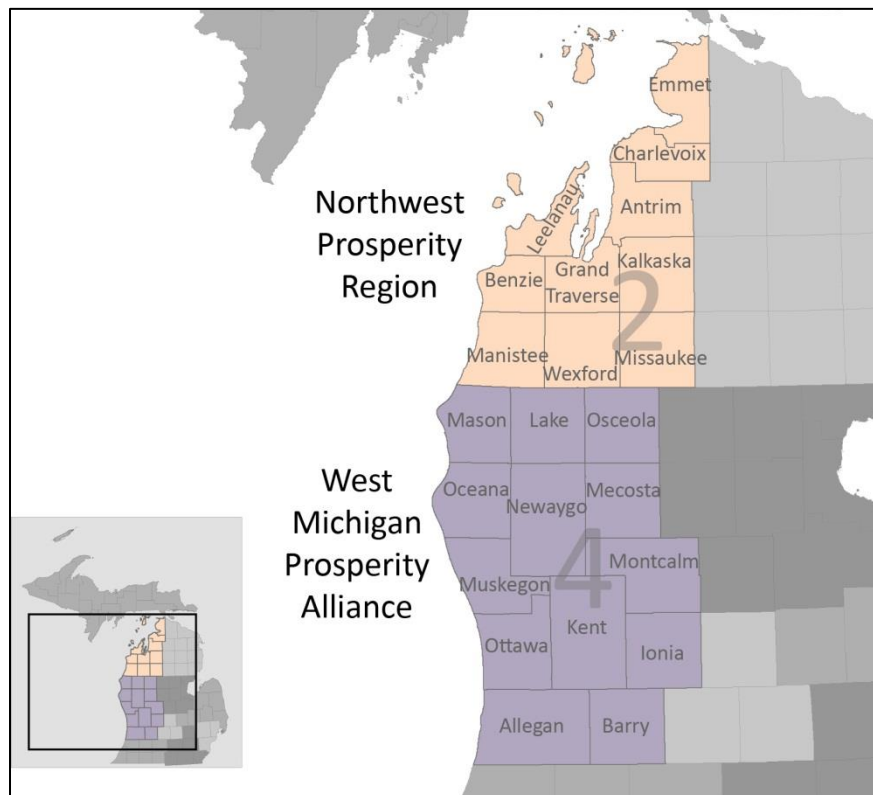
	Nov-16*	Oct-16	Nov-15	Change/Month		Change/Year	
				#	%	#	%
2 - Northwest Prosperity Region							
Labor Force	146,300	147,300	145,000	-1,000	-0.7%	1,300	0.9%
Employment	139,300	141,000	138,700	-1,700	-1.2%	600	0.4%
Unemployment	6,900	6,200	6,300	700	11.3%	600	9.5%
Jobless Rate	4.7%	4.2%	4.3%	0.5		0.4	
4 - West Michigan Prosperity Alliance							
Labor Force	824,200	819,200	810,000	5,000	0.6%	14,200	1.8%
Employment	795,600	790,500	784,800	5,100	0.6%	10,800	1.4%
Unemployment	28,500	28,700	25,300	-200	-0.7%	3,200	12.6%
Jobless Rate	3.5%	3.5%	3.1%	0.0		0.3	

By Place of Residence

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rates Calculated with Unrounded Data

* Preliminary



Appendix 4: Michigan Counties Ranked by Jobless Rate, November 2016

1	Ottawa County	3.0	43	Houghton County	4.9
2	Washtenaw County	3.0	44	Wexford County	4.9
3	Clinton County	3.1	45	Macomb County	5.0
4	Kent County	3.1	46	Alpena County	5.0
5	Eaton County	3.2	47	Mason County	5.0
6	Barry County	3.3	48	Tuscola County	5.1
7	Allegan County	3.3	49	Marquette County	5.1
8	Ionia County	3.5	50	Benzie County	5.3
9	Grand Traverse County	3.6	51	Gogebic County	5.4
10	Ingham County	3.6	52	Iron County	5.5
11	Kalamazoo County	3.6	53	St. Clair County	5.5
12	Monroe County	3.6	54	Delta County	5.5
13	Lenawee County	3.7	55	Manistee County	5.6
14	Livingston County	3.9	56	Otsego County	5.6
15	Isabella County	3.9	57	Gladwin County	5.7
16	St. Joseph County	3.9	58	Lapeer County	5.7
17	Huron County	4.0	59	Kalkaska County	5.8
18	Newaygo County	4.0	60	Emmet County	6.0
19	Leelanau County	4.1	61	Iosco County	6.0
20	Oakland County	4.1	62	Oceana County	6.0
21	Calhoun County	4.1	63	Wayne County	6.1
22	Midland County	4.1	64	Clare County	6.2
23	Dickinson County	4.2	65	Chippewa County	6.2
24	Montcalm County	4.3	66	Antrim County	6.3
25	Cass County	4.3	67	Lake County	6.3
26	Branch County	4.3	68	Luce County	6.3
27	Shiawassee County	4.3	69	Ogemaw County	6.5
28	Jackson County	4.3	70	Oscoda County	6.5
29	Mecosta County	4.4	71	Alcona County	6.9
30	Bay County	4.4	72	Baraga County	6.9
31	Berrien County	4.4	73	Crawford County	6.9
32	Saginaw County	4.4	74	Arenac County	7.1
33	Missaukee County	4.5	75	Roscommon County	7.2
34	Menominee County	4.5	76	Schoolcraft County	7.6
35	Hillsdale County	4.6	77	Keweenaw County	8.0
36	Muskegon County	4.6	78	Ontonagon County	8.0
37	Van Buren County	4.7	79	Presque Isle County	8.0
38	Gratiot County	4.7	80	Alger County	8.4
39	Genesee County	4.7	81	Cheboygan County	9.7
40	Charlevoix County	4.8	82	Montmorency County	9.7
41	Osceola County	4.8	83	Mackinac County	11.1
42	Sanilac County	4.8			

Counties in a West Michigan MSA

Northwest Michigan counties in bold



Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

Michigan Regional Labor Market Report November 2016

For additional information or other labor market analysis, please contact Michelle Wein, Economic Analyst with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives at 517-241-8272 or weinm@michigan.gov.

Please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/lmi.