

**Monroe County unemployment drops in November**

By Danielle Portteus

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Monroe County’s unemployment dropped slightly for November. During the month, Monroe County had 73,850 employed from its 76,625-member workforce. The number of unemployed residents was 2,775, or 3.6 percent, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. The November rate declined from a 4.1 percent unemployment rate for October. Regionally, Monroe County had the second lowest rate of unemployment for the month. Washtenaw County recorded a 2.9 percent unemployment rate for November. Lenawee County finished the month with a 3.7 percent rate followed by 4.4 percent unemployment in Hillsdale and 6.2 percent in Wayne counties. This year’s statistics also are a decline from the 4.4 percent unemployment rate from November, 2014. Comparatively, Monroe County’s unemployment rate has been dropping steadily in the past few years. advertisement The highest month of unemployment in 2015 was 5.4 percent in January. In 2014, the highest month of unemployment was in July when the rate reached 7.7 percent. Last week, the Associated Press reported Michigan’s seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates dropped slightly in most of the state’s 17 major labor markets. The median decline in 14 regions was .2 percentage points from October to November. Those regions report unemployment rates at or below the nationally seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.8 percent. Officials say the drops correspond with moderate increases in total employment and labor force levels in a majority of regions in November. Unemployment rates increased in the state’s three northernmost labor markets.  
  
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