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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 16, 2012
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Michigan's Unemployment Rate Declines Again in April

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April edged downward over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.3 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 11,000 in April, as the number of unemployed decreased by 8,000. The state's workforce was little changed over the month (+3,000).

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2012 was over two percentage points below the state's April 2011 rate of 10.5 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by nine-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in April was slightly above the national rate of 8.1 percent.

"The first four months of 2012 have been positive for Michigan's labor market," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Early 2012 has been marked by monthly employment gains and stable labor force levels."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's April 2012 jobless rate was the lowest for the state since the 8.2 percent rate recorded in July 2008.
- Michigan's workforce rose for the fourth consecutive month in April. Since December 2011, the state's labor force increased by 28,000 or 0.6 percent. However, over the year, Michigan's workforce continued to show a moderate decline of 11,000 or 0.2 percent.
- Michigan's total employment level has advanced by 91,000 or 2.2 percent since April 2011. Employment gains in the first four months of 2012 have accounted for the majority of this increase.
- From April 2011 to April 2012, the number of unemployed in Michigan dropped by 102,000 or nearly 21 percent. Nationally, unemployment declined by 9 percent since April 2011.

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**MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,670	4,656	4,659	3	-11
Employment	4,179	4,259	4,270	11	91
Unemployment	491	397	389	-8	-102
Rate (Percent)	10.5	8.5	8.3	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's April Jobless Rate Declines

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April fell slightly over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 9.2 percent. Both employment and unemployment edged downward over the month, resulting in a 10,000 reduction in the area's labor force. The minor 4,000 decrease in employment in April broke a string of eight consecutive monthly gains dating back to August. The number of unemployed in the Detroit metropolitan area in April was below 200,000 for the third month in a row. The last time that occurred was from July to September 2008.

From April 2011 to April 2012, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and a half percentage points. In that period, the region's total employment level rose by 26,000 or 1.5 percent, while the number of unemployed declined by 53,000 or 22 percent. The area's workforce decreased by 27,000 or 1.3 percent since April 2011.

**Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,022	2,005	1,995	-10	-27
Employment	1,785	1,815	1,811	-4	26
Unemployment	237	189	184	-5	-53
Rate (Percent)	11.7	9.4	9.2	xxx	xxx

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Gains in Professional Services Push April Payroll Jobs Upward

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose slightly in April by 5,000 to 3,989,000. April job additions were led by a 6,000 increase in professional and business services. Lesser job advances of around 2,000 were posted in financial activities and in education and health services. Somewhat offsetting these gains were minor job cuts in construction (-4,000), and manufacturing (-2,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- The moderate overall job gain in April marked the seventh consecutive monthly increase in the state's total payroll job count. However, with the exception of January, the monthly advances so far in 2012 have been relatively minor.
- The decline in manufacturing jobs in April reflected short-term auto industry layoffs in the Detroit metropolitan area, and was mainly due to inventory control.
- After recording job cuts in March, professional and business services rebounded in April, continuing a mostly upward trend in this sector since mid-summer 2011.
- Jobs in financial activities rose slightly in April, continuing a mostly positive upward track over the past year. However, job levels in this sector are still around 15,000 below pre-financial crisis levels.
- Since April 2011, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 59,000 or 1.5 percent. Job growth in three major sectors; manufacturing, professional and business services, and education and health services, accounted for the majority of the state's over-the-year gains. Government and retail trade were responsible for the only substantial job cuts since April 2011.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month. Earnings were down over the year, while weekly hours increased slightly since April 2011.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>April</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>April**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3929	3984	3989	5	59
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	8	0	0
Construction	124	126	121	-4	-3
Manufacturing	500	528	526	-2	26
Transportation Equipment	141	149	145	-4	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	720	719	720	1	-1
Retail Trade	449	440	442	2	-7
Information	53	53	53	0	1
Financial Activities	192	194	197	2	5
Professional & Business Services	552	566	572	6	20
Education & Health Services	617	629	631	2	14
Leisure & Hospitality Services	376	381	380	-1	3
Other Services	166	169	170	1	4
Government	621	612	611	-1	-10

* Final data for March

** Preliminary data for April

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers
Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$937.85	\$863.50	\$922.52	\$59.02	-\$15.33
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	42.7	44.5	1.8	0.4

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,291.65	\$1,178.66	\$1,374.04	\$195.38	\$82.39
Average Weekly Hours	45.1	43.5	49.6	6.1	4.5

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