



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DAVID B. BEHEN
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

Michigan's March Jobless Rate Declines

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March decreased over the month by three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The number of unemployed in the state fell by 14,000 over the month; however total employment edged upward by only 2,000. The net result was a labor force reduction of 12,000 in March.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2015 was two full percentage points below the state's March 2014 rate of 7.6 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one and one-tenths percentage points over this period. The state's March unemployment rate was one-tenth of a percentage point above the national rate of 5.5 percent. The U.S. jobless rate was unchanged from February to March.

"The drop in Michigan's unemployment rate in March was mainly due to fewer unemployed residents actively seeking jobs," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, Michigan's jobless rate in March was similar to the national rate, and payroll jobs in the first quarter were similar to late 2007 levels."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- The number of unemployed in the state was below 300,000 for the third consecutive month in March. The last time that occurred was August through October 2001. However, labor force and employment in Michigan is well below 2001 levels.
- Michigan's first quarter 2015 unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, which was a drop of six-tenths of a percentage point from the fourth quarter 2014 rate of 6.5 percent.
- March marked the second consecutive monthly labor force reduction in the state. From January to March, Michigan's workforce fell by 17,000 or 0.4 percent. However, Michigan's labor force total in March was similar to levels recorded throughout 2014. From March 2014 to March 2015, the state workforce posted a minor decline of 6,000 or 0.1 percent.
- Since March 2014, total employment in Michigan increased by 90,000 or 2.1 percent, which was above the 1.7 percent gain nationally over the same period.

- From March 2014 to March 2015, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 96,000 or 26.4 percent, which outpaced the national decline of 17.4 percent since March 2014.

Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 1976-2014 for Michigan and 1990-2014 for the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was revised for 2010-2014. For newly revised data, please contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

**MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,752	4,758	4,746	-12	-6
Employment	4,389	4,477	4,479	2	90
Unemployment	363	281	267	-14	-96
Rate (Percent)	7.6	5.9	5.6	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's March Unemployment Rate Falls

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March decreased over the month by four-tenths of a percentage point to 6.4 percent. Since January, the area's jobless rate fell by a full percentage point, however the unemployment rate reduction in the region over this period was primarily due to labor force withdrawal. Over the month, the metro region's workforce dropped by 16,000 as total employment declined by 6,000 and the number of unemployed decreased by 10,000. The MSA's March unemployment rate was the lowest monthly rate since November 2002 (6.3%).

From March 2014 to March 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and seven-tenths percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 24,000 or 1.3 percent in the region while the number of unemployed dropped by 57,000 or 31.0 percent. Since March 2014, the metro area registered a workforce reduction of 33,000 or 1.6 percent.

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

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,024	2,007	1,991	-16	-33
Employment	1,840	1,870	1,864	-6	24
Unemployment	184	137	127	-10	-57
Rate (Percent)	9.1	6.8	6.4	xxx	xxx

(more)

March Payroll Jobs Little Changed

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged down slightly in March by 2,000 to 4,246,000. Over-the-month job reductions were recorded in professional and business services (-7,000), and manufacturing (-2,000). These March declines were somewhat offset by job gains in leisure and hospitality services (+3,000), and education and health services (+2,000). The remaining industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Although minor, the March decrease in overall payroll jobs was the first monthly reduction since September. However, payroll job totals in 2015 remain well above levels posted in 2014.
- The manufacturing job decline in March reflected short-term layoffs in auto-related manufacturing due to inventory control. The layoffs were concentrated in the Detroit metropolitan area.
- Even with the March job cuts, 2015 job levels in professional and business services remain well above totals recorded in this sector throughout 2014.
- The 3,000 over-the-month job gain in leisure and hospitality services reflected the strong growth pattern in this sector in early 2015.
- Education and health services continued the upward job trend in March that has recently accelerated since October. The job gains in this sector since October have been primarily in the health care sub-sector.
- From March 2014 to March 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 88,000 or 2.1 percent. The largest job gains since March 2014 were displayed in professional and business services (+24,000), manufacturing (+18,000), construction (+14,000), education and health services (+11,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+10,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+9,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month as well as over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>March</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>February*</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>March**</u> <u>2015</u>	CHANGE*** <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,158	4,248	4,246	-2	88
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	9	0	0
Construction	138	151	153	1	14
Manufacturing	573	593	591	-2	18
Transportation Equipment	176	188	184	-4	8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	754	764	764	0	10
Retail Trade	459	465	464	-1	5
Information	57	57	58	1	1
Financial Activities	204	205	206	1	2
Professional & Business Services	611	641	634	-7	24
Education & Health Services	643	652	654	2	11
Leisure & Hospitality Services	404	411	413	3	9
Other Services	171	172	171	0	1
Government	596	594	595	1	-1

* Final data for February

** Preliminary data for March

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>March</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>February</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2015</u>	CHANGE <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$894.50	\$912.26	\$919.99	\$7.73	\$25.49
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	43.9	44.1	0.2	0.2

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,222.41	\$1,230.76	\$1,295.63	\$64.87	\$73.22
Average Weekly Hours	49.0	48.5	51.2	2.7	2.2

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