



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

JOHN E. NIXON, CPA
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 25, 2013

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

March Unemployment Rates Decline in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in March, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels rose in all regions over the month, while labor force levels were little changed throughout most areas.

"Local area unemployment rates have trended downward from January to March, while area employment levels have risen," said Michael Williams, acting director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Over-the-year jobless rate declines in nearly all of Michigan's local areas were comparable to the national jobless rate reduction."

From February to March, regional jobless rate decreases ranged from 0.2 of a percentage point to a full percentage point with a median drop of 0.6 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month rate decline was posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region while four other regions recorded jobless rate reductions of 0.8 of a percentage point. The smallest March jobless rate decreases were registered in the Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the rates in these areas edging down by 0.2 and 0.3 of a percentage point respectively. In March, six Michigan regions displayed unemployment rates below the U.S. seasonally unadjusted rate of 7.6 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From March 2012 to March 2013, unemployment rates fell in all 17 regional labor market areas in the state. Over-the-year rate declines ranged from -0.5 (Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA) to -1.4 percentage points (Holland-Grand Haven MSA) with a median reduction of a full percentage point. Fifteen of the 17 Michigan regions recorded notable rate drops of 0.8 of a percentage point or more since March 2012. The national seasonally unadjusted rate fell by 0.8 of a percentage point over the same period.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment rose in all 17 regions with a median increase of 0.8 percent. The largest percentage gains over the month were reported in the Monroe, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Battle Creek MSAs, with employment rising in these areas by at least 1.2 percent.

Since March 2012, total employment increased in 11 areas, with a significant average gain of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage advances were shown in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, and Holland-Grand Haven MSAs. Five regions recorded employment declines since March 2012, and employment in the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged.

Labor Force Levels Little Changed Over Month, Down Over Year

In March, labor force levels grew modestly in ten regions, registering a minor median increase of 0.3 percent. Workforce levels declined slightly in five areas and were essentially unchanged in the Bay City and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs.

From March 2012 to March 2013, labor force reductions were posted in 12 major regions, with an average decline of nearly 1.0 percent. Workforce levels advanced in five areas since March 2012.

March Payroll Jobs Increase Moderately

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 16,000 or 0.4 percent in March to 4,013,000. Professional and business services (+7,000) and leisure and hospitality services (+5,000) were the only sectors to record notable job growth over the month. The state's remaining industry sectors were either flat or posted minor gains of 2,000 or less. Of the major sectors in Michigan, only trade, transportation and utilities reported a decline in March.

Payroll jobs rose in 12 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions in March. Gains throughout the 12 areas were moderate over the month, averaging 0.5 percent. Payroll jobs fell slightly by 0.3 percent in the Bay City MSA in March, while jobs were essentially unchanged in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA. In March, jobs in professional and business services and leisure and hospitality services were up in the majority of metro areas.

Since March 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 36,000 or 0.9 percent. Over-the-year job gains were widespread throughout most industry sectors and were led by a 19,000 advance in manufacturing. Sizable job additions were also posted in professional and business services (+11,000), education and health services (+8,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000). Over-the-year job declines were recorded in construction (-7,000), government (-6,000), and information (-2,000).

Since March 2012, ten of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed payroll job gains. Area job increases averaged 1.3 percent, with the largest percentage additions registered in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Battle Creek, Holland-Grand Haven, and Ann Arbor MSAs. Payroll jobs fell over the year in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Monroe, Jackson, and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Eighty-one of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate declines in March, displaying a 0.7 of a percentage point median decrease. Jobless rates were unchanged over the month in Isabella and Houghton counties.

From March 2012 to March 2013, jobless rates fell in 82 Michigan counties. The median over-the-year rate drop was a full percentage point. The unemployment rate in Alcona County rose since March 2012.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted March workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for March.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

(more)

Page 3, March Rates

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,000	183,700	184,600	0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	172,100	174,000	175,200	0.7%	1.8%
Unemployment	11,000	9,700	9,400	-3.1%	-14.5%
Rate (percent)	6.0	5.3	5.1		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,500	63,400	63,800	0.6%	0.5%
Total Employment	58,400	58,800	59,500	1.2%	1.9%
Unemployment	5,100	4,600	4,400	-4.3%	-13.7%
Rate (percent)	8.0	7.3	6.8		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,700	51,300	51,300	0.0%	-0.8%
Total Employment	46,700	46,400	46,700	0.6%	0.0%
Unemployment	5,000	4,900	4,600	-6.1%	-8.0%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.5	8.9		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,995	1,995	1,992	-0.2%	-0.2%
Total Employment	1,787	1,792	1,796	0.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	208	203	196	-3.4%	-5.8%
Rate (percent)	10.4	10.2	9.9		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,600	184,900	185,000	0.1%	-0.3%
Total Employment	166,900	166,900	168,200	0.8%	0.8%
Unemployment	18,700	18,000	16,800	-6.7%	-10.2%
Rate (percent)	10.1	9.8	9.1		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

(more)

Page 4, March Rates

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	390,200	392,200	393,600	0.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	361,000	366,300	369,200	0.8%	2.3%
Unemployment	29,200	25,900	24,400	-5.8%	-16.4%
Rate (percent)	7.5	6.6	6.2		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,600	130,200	130,600	0.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	119,700	121,500	122,500	0.8%	2.3%
Unemployment	9,900	8,700	8,100	-6.9%	-18.2%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.7	6.2		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,900	69,900	70,100	0.3%	-1.1%
Total Employment	64,400	63,700	64,200	0.8%	-0.3%
Unemployment	6,500	6,200	5,800	-6.5%	-10.8%
Rate (percent)	9.2	8.8	8.3		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	162,100	160,100	160,600	0.3%	-0.9%
Total Employment	148,700	148,000	149,200	0.8%	0.3%
Unemployment	13,400	12,100	11,400	-5.8%	-14.9%
Rate (percent)	8.3	7.6	7.1		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,500	234,700	234,100	-0.3%	-0.6%
Total Employment	217,400	217,500	218,500	0.5%	0.5%
Unemployment	18,100	17,200	15,700	-8.7%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	7.7	7.3	6.7		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

(more)

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,000	68,400	68,900	0.7%	-1.6%
Total Employment	64,000	62,700	63,600	1.4%	-0.6%
Unemployment	6,000	5,700	5,300	-7.0%	-11.7%
Rate (percent)	8.6	8.3	7.7		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,500	83,400	83,500	0.1%	1.2%
Total Employment	74,600	75,700	76,500	1.1%	2.5%
Unemployment	7,900	7,600	7,000	-7.9%	-11.4%
Rate (percent)	9.6	9.2	8.4		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,800	70,300	70,600	0.4%	-1.7%
Total Employment	64,700	63,600	64,400	1.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	7,100	6,700	6,200	-7.5%	-12.7%
Rate (percent)	9.9	9.6	8.8		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,400	89,100	89,100	0.0%	-2.5%
Total Employment	82,900	81,000	81,500	0.6%	-1.7%
Unemployment	8,500	8,100	7,600	-6.2%	-10.6%
Rate (percent)	9.3	9.1	8.6		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,600	144,400	144,300	-0.1%	-0.9%
Total Employment	129,700	129,300	129,900	0.5%	0.2%
Unemployment	15,900	15,100	14,400	-4.6%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.5	9.9		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

(more)

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,500	82,000	81,800	-0.2%	-2.0%
Total Employment	71,800	70,400	71,100	1.0%	-1.0%
Unemployment	11,700	11,500	10,700	-7.0%	-8.5%
Rate (percent)	14.0	14.1	13.1		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,300	139,600	139,400	-0.1%	-0.6%
Total Employment	123,700	123,900	124,700	0.6%	0.8%
Unemployment	16,600	15,700	14,700	-6.4%	-11.4%
Rate (percent)	11.8	11.3	10.5		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,645	4,628	4,630	0.0%	-0.3%
Total Employment	4,197	4,202	4,224	0.5%	0.6%
Unemployment	448	427	406	-4.9%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	9.6	9.2	8.8		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2013 and 2012, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** March 2013 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.5 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MARCH 2013**

1	Washtenaw County	5.1	43	Alpena County	10.1
2	Barry County	5.9	44	Iron County	10.1
3	Kent County	5.9	45	Delta County	10.2
4	Clinton County	6.1	46	Kalkaska County	10.3
5	Ottawa County	6.2	47	Osceola County	10.3
6	Eaton County	6.3	48	Tuscola County	10.3
7	Kalamazoo County	6.3	49	Crawford County	10.5
8	Menominee County	6.4	50	Luce County	10.6
9	Isabella County	6.5	51	Sanilac County	10.7
10	Calhoun County	6.8	52	Montcalm County	10.8
11	Ingham County	7.0	53	Wayne County	10.9
12	Allegan County	7.0	54	Manistee County	11.2
13	Midland County	7.2	55	Otsego County	11.2
14	Cass County	7.3	56	Benzie County	11.3
15	St. Joseph County	7.3	57	Chippewa County	11.5
16	Monroe County	7.7	58	Alger County	11.5
17	Marquette County	7.8	59	Antrim County	11.5
18	Ionia County	7.8	60	Ogemaw County	11.6
19	Dickinson County	7.9	61	Wexford County	11.9
20	Leelanau County	8.2	62	Charlevoix County	12.2
21	Branch County	8.2	63	Clare County	12.3
22	Livingston County	8.3	64	St. Clair County	12.3
23	Oakland County	8.3	65	Missaukee County	12.3
24	Jackson County	8.3	66	Lake County	12.7
25	Grand Traverse County	8.4	67	Oceana County	12.8
26	Muskegon County	8.4	68	Iosco County	12.8
27	Newaygo County	8.5	69	Lapeer County	12.8
28	Lenawee County	8.6	70	Roscommon County	12.9
29	Saginaw County	8.6	71	Gladwin County	13.3
30	Berrien County	8.8	72	Emmet County	13.5
31	Bay County	8.9	73	Arenac County	13.8
32	Houghton County	9.1	74	Ontonagon County	14.3
33	Mecosta County	9.1	75	Keweenaw County	14.9
34	Genesee County	9.1	76	Schoolcraft County	15.0
35	Shiawassee County	9.2	77	Oscoda County	16.0
36	Hillsdale County	9.2	78	Alcona County	16.0
37	Huron County	9.3	79	Cheboygan County	16.6
38	Gratiot County	9.3	80	Montmorency County	17.1
39	Macomb County	9.5	81	Baraga County	17.9
40	Van Buren County	9.6	82	Presque Isle County	18.1
41	Mason County	9.7	83	Mackinac County	22.5
42	Gogebic County	9.7			

#