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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Jobless Rates Drop in All Major Areas over Year

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in March declined in all of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels were up in nearly all regions over the month.

"The labor market situation in March for Michigan's various local areas was favorable," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "In early 2014, the majority of the state's local labor markets continue to show solid over-the-year improvement."

From February to March, unemployment rate reductions were mostly minor, with a median decrease of 0.3 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month decline of 0.7 of a percentage point was posted in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Northeast Lower Michigan region followed closely with a drop of 0.6 of a percentage point, while the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA and the Northwest Lower Michigan region recorded a half of a percentage point rate cut in March. In March, four of Michigan's major regions displayed jobless rates below the non-seasonally adjusted national rate of 6.8 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since March 2013, jobless rates fell in all 17 major regions. Declines ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 percentage points with a median rate reduction of 0.9 of a percentage point. The most prominent unemployment rate reductions over that period were registered in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Northwest Lower Michigan regions.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

In March, total employment levels rose in 16 areas, posting a median gain of 0.7 percent. The largest over-the-month increase of 1.0 percent was recorded in both the Flint and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs. Total employment declined slightly in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA over the month.

From March 2013 to March 2014, total employment advanced in all 17 regions. Most over-the-year employment advances were significant, with a notable median increase of 2.5 percent. The largest percentage gains since March 2013 were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven (+4.0%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+3.8%), and Monroe (+3.4%) MSAs.

Note: Employment and unemployment data for 2009 through 2013 have been recently revised. Estimates for March 2014 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmj or call 313-456-3090.

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Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From February to March, workforce levels increased in 16 regions. The labor force growth was relatively minor over the month in most regions, showing a median gain of only 0.4 percent. The labor force in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA declined in March by 1.0 percent.

Since March 2013, labor force levels grew in 14 of Michigan's major areas, with a notable median advance of 1.4 percent. Over the year, workforce levels decreased modestly in the Flint, Bay City, and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs.

Seasonal Gain in Leisure and Hospitality Services Boosts March Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 16,000 or 0.4 percent in March to 4,070,000. By far the largest job gain of any Michigan sector in March was an 8,000 hike in leisure and hospitality services. Lesser over-the-month gains were posted in professional and business services (+3,000), construction (+2,000), and education and health services (+2,000). The state's remaining job sectors were little changed in March.

From February to March, payroll jobs rose in all of Michigan's 14 metropolitan regions. The job gains were mostly moderate over the month, with a median advance of a half percent. Jobs in leisure and hospitality services rose in nearly all metropolitan areas, while professional and business services and education and health services were up slightly in most regions.

From March 2013 to March 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 19,000 or 0.5 percent. Manufacturing (+15,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000) recorded the bulk of the over-the-year job additions. The remaining job sectors posted minor offsetting gains or losses of 3,000 or less since March 2013.

Since March 2013, payroll jobs rose in 10 of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state. The largest over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Monroe (+4.3%), Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+3.1%), and Holland-Grand Haven (+2.9%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined over the year in the Flint (-1.3%), Bay City (-0.5%), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-0.2%) MSAs. Payroll jobs were essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA since March 2013.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Seventy-six of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate declines in March with a median reduction of 0.5 of a percentage point. Rates were up slightly in three counties over the month, and unchanged in the remaining four. In March, nine counties displayed jobless rates below the non-seasonally adjusted national rate of 6.8 percent.

From March 2013 to March 2014, jobless rates fell in 79 of the state's counties, with a median decline of 1.0 percentage point. Rates were up slightly over the year in the four remaining counties.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. Monthly employment and unemployment trends may be impacted by weather conditions or regular seasonal swings in hiring or layoffs. As a result, Michigan **not seasonally adjusted** estimates in this release 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."

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,100	185,100	185,800	0.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	173,700	175,200	176,100	0.5%	1.4%
Unemployment	10,400	9,900	9,700	-2.0%	-6.7%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.3	5.2		

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

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	65,100	65,200	0.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	59,100	60,300	60,700	0.7%	2.7%
Unemployment	5,100	4,800	4,500	-6.3%	-11.8%
Rate (percent)	7.9	7.4	7.0		

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

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,800	51,500	51,600	0.2%	-0.4%
Total Employment	46,700	46,600	46,900	0.6%	0.4%
Unemployment	5,100	4,800	4,700	-2.1%	-7.8%
Rate (percent)	9.9	9.4	9.1		

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

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,017	2,030	2,009	-1.0%	-0.4%
Total Employment	1,821	1,848	1,843	-0.3%	1.2%
Unemployment	196	182	167	-8.2%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.0	8.3		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,800	184,400	185,400	0.5%	-0.7%
Total Employment	168,500	167,100	168,800	1.0%	0.2%
Unemployment	18,300	17,300	16,700	-3.5%	-8.7%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.4	9.0		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	400,400	408,400	411,300	0.7%	2.7%
Total Employment	372,800	383,200	386,800	0.9%	3.8%
Unemployment	27,600	25,200	24,600	-2.4%	-10.9%
Rate (percent)	6.9	6.2	6.0		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	130,300	133,400	134,100	0.5%	2.9%
Total Employment	121,300	125,200	126,100	0.7%	4.0%
Unemployment	9,000	8,200	8,000	-2.4%	-11.1%
Rate (percent)	6.9	6.2	6.0		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,300	70,400	70,600	0.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	63,900	64,400	64,900	0.8%	1.6%
Unemployment	6,400	6,000	5,800	-3.3%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	9.1	8.5	8.2		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	159,100	160,000	161,200	0.8%	1.3%
Total Employment	146,600	148,400	149,900	1.0%	2.3%
Unemployment	12,500	11,700	11,300	-3.4%	-9.6%
Rate (percent)	7.8	7.3	7.0		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	234,200	236,600	237,500	0.4%	1.4%
Total Employment	217,000	221,000	222,400	0.6%	2.5%
Unemployment	17,200	15,600	15,100	-3.2%	-12.2%
Rate (percent)	7.3	6.6	6.4		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,800	71,000	71,300	0.4%	2.1%
Total Employment	64,000	65,600	66,200	0.9%	3.4%
Unemployment	5,800	5,400	5,100	-5.6%	-12.1%
Rate (percent)	8.3	7.6	7.2		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,100	83,000	83,200	0.2%	1.3%
Total Employment	74,400	76,200	76,600	0.5%	3.0%
Unemployment	7,700	6,900	6,600	-4.3%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	9.4	8.3	7.9		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,900	70,700	71,000	0.4%	1.6%
Total Employment	63,300	64,500	65,100	0.9%	2.8%
Unemployment	6,600	6,200	5,900	-4.8%	-10.6%
Rate (percent)	9.5	8.8	8.3		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,500	90,500	91,000	0.6%	0.6%
Total Employment	81,900	82,400	83,000	0.7%	1.3%
Unemployment	8,500	8,000	7,900	-1.3%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	9.4	8.9	8.7		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,600	146,300	146,600	0.2%	1.4%
Total Employment	128,900	130,800	131,400	0.5%	1.9%
Unemployment	15,700	15,500	15,200	-1.9%	-3.2%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.6	10.4		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,700	83,900	84,000	0.1%	1.6%
Total Employment	70,900	72,100	72,700	0.8%	2.5%
Unemployment	11,800	11,800	11,300	-4.2%	-4.2%
Rate (percent)	14.3	14.1	13.5		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,700	142,500	142,700	0.1%	1.4%
Total Employment	124,600	127,100	127,900	0.6%	2.6%
Unemployment	16,100	15,400	14,800	-3.9%	-8.1%
Rate (percent)	11.5	10.8	10.3		

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	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Feb-14</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,668	4,708	4,699	-0.2%	0.7%
Total Employment	4,240	4,308	4,322	0.3%	1.9%
Unemployment	428	400	377	-5.8%	-11.9%
Rate (percent)	9.2	8.5	8.0		

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Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2014 and 2013, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** March 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.5 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 2014**

1	Washtenaw County	5.2	43	Mason County	10.1
2	Kent County	5.6	44	Leelanau County	10.2
3	Ottawa County	6.0	45	Montcalm County	10.2
4	Clinton County	6.2	46	Tuscola County	10.2
5	Ingham County	6.3	47	St. Clair County	10.3
6	Kalamazoo County	6.3	48	Alpena County	10.4
7	Eaton County	6.5	49	Wexford County	10.7
8	Isabella County	6.5	50	Iron County	10.8
9	St. Joseph County	6.5	51	Luce County	10.8
10	Allegan County	6.9	52	Otsego County	10.8
11	Ionia County	6.9	53	Osceola County	10.9
12	Oakland County	6.9	54	Manistee County	11.0
13	Barry County	7.0	55	Charlevoix County	11.1
14	Calhoun County	7.0	56	Crawford County	11.1
15	Monroe County	7.2	57	Sanilac County	11.1
16	Midland County	7.3	58	Lapeer County	11.2
17	Livingston County	7.5	59	Kalkaska County	11.4
18	Branch County	7.7	60	Alger County	11.7
19	Cass County	7.9	61	Benzie County	11.7
20	Grand Traverse County	7.9	62	Ogemaw County	11.9
21	Muskegon County	7.9	63	Antrim County	12.2
22	Lenawee County	8.0	64	Clare County	12.3
23	Dickinson County	8.1	65	Keweenaw County	12.3
24	Jackson County	8.2	66	Gladwin County	12.4
25	Marquette County	8.2	67	Emmet County	12.5
26	Berrien County	8.3	68	Oceana County	12.5
27	Macomb County	8.3	69	Missaukee County	12.8
28	Menominee County	8.4	70	Chippewa County	13.0
29	Newaygo County	8.6	71	Roscommon County	13.0
30	Saginaw County	8.7	72	Lake County	13.1
31	Gratiot County	8.9	73	Iosco County	13.4
32	Mecosta County	8.9	74	Ontonagon County	13.4
33	Genesee County	9.0	75	Arenac County	13.5
34	Hillsdale County	9.0	76	Alcona County	13.7
35	Bay County	9.1	77	Oscoda County	13.7
36	Houghton County	9.1	78	Baraga County	13.9
37	Wayne County	9.1	79	Schoolcraft County	14.4
38	Shiawassee County	9.2	80	Montmorency County	15.7
39	Huron County	9.4	81	Presque Isle County	18.1
40	Van Buren County	9.4	82	Cheboygan County	20.0
41	Gogebic County	10.0	83	Mackinac County	23.8
42	Delta County	10.1			

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