



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

JOHN E. NIXON, CPA
DIRECTOR

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

Michigan's March Unemployment Rate Declines

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March decreased over the month by three-tenths of a percentage point to 8.5 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment increased by 21,000 in March, while the number of unemployed declined by 12,000. The state's workforce recorded a gain of 9,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2012 was two full percentage points below the state's March 2011 rate of 10.5 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by seven-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in March was similar, but slightly higher than the national rate of 8.2 percent.

"With the March data, Michigan continues to record incremental monthly unemployment rate reductions," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "During the first quarter of 2012, the number of unemployed in Michigan fell by 37,000."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's March 2012 jobless rate was the lowest for the state since the 8.5 percent rate recorded in August 2008.
- Michigan's workforce rose for the third month in a row in March, moderating the continued over the year decline. From March 2011 to March 2012, the state's labor force was down by 17,000 or 0.4 percent.
- From the fourth quarter 2011 to the first quarter 2012, Michigan's quarterly jobless rate fell by eight-tenths of a percentage point from 9.6 to 8.8 percent.
- From March 2011 to March 2012, the number of unemployed in Michigan dropped by 96,000 or nearly 20 percent. Nationally, unemployment declined by 7 percent since March 2011.
- The state's total employment level rose by 78,000 or 1.9 percent since March 2011, which outpaced the national gain of 1.6 percent over that period.

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Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2007-2011 for Michigan and for the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was revised for 2010 and 2011. For newly revised data, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

**MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,673	4,647	4,656	9	-17
Employment	4,181	4,238	4,259	21	78
Unemployment	493	409	397	-12	-96
Rate (Percent)	10.5	8.8	8.5	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's March Jobless Rate Continues Downward Trend

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March continued to fall, declining over the month by four-tenths of a percentage point to 9.4 percent. March marked the ninth consecutive monthly jobless rate reduction for the area, and was the lowest rate for the region since the September 2008 rate of 9.3 percent. Over the month, total employment increased by 4,000, while the number of unemployed declined by 8,000. The net result was about a 3,000 reduction in the metro area's workforce. The MSA's labor force has been little changed since December, while total employment has risen for eight consecutive months.

From March 2011 to March 2012, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and three-tenths percentage points. In that period, the region's total employment level rose by 29,000 or 1.6 percent, while the number of unemployed declined by 47,000 or 20 percent. The area's workforce decreased by 17,000 or 0.8 percent since March 2011. Over-the-year labor force reductions have moderated recently in the metro area.

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

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,022	2,008	2,005	-3	-17
Employment	1,786	1,811	1,815	4	29
Unemployment	236	197	189	-8	-47
Rate (Percent)	11.7	9.8	9.4	xxx	xxx

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March Payroll Jobs Flat

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs were essentially flat in March, edging slightly upward over the month by 1,000 to 3,982,000. March job gains were recorded in manufacturing (+5,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+4,000). Offsetting job declines were posted in professional and business services (-5,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-4,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Overall payroll jobs in Michigan have shown very little movement since January; however jobs in 2012 have increased above 2011 levels.
- The moderate March gain in statewide manufacturing jobs reversed the decline in February, putting this sector's job count on par with January's level.
- After remaining relatively steady throughout 2011, retail trade recorded its fourth consecutive monthly job loss. The retail sector reported a decline of 8,000 jobs since March 2011. Retail trade and government were the only two sectors in Michigan to record significant job cuts over the year.
- Jobs in leisure and hospitality services rose in March for the fifth month in a row. This sector is now displaying a very minor job gain over the year after shedding jobs through much of 2011.
- Since March 2011, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 57,000 or 1.4 percent. Job growth in three major sectors; manufacturing, professional and business services, and education and health services, accounted for nearly all of the state's over-the-year gains.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined over the month as well as over the year.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>March</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>February*</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>March**</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3926	3982	3982	1	57
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	125	123	125	1	0
Manufacturing	498	522	528	5	30
Transportation Equipment	138	146	149	3	10
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	718	722	719	-4	1
Retail Trade	448	442	440	-2	-8
Information	54	53	53	0	0
Financial Activities	193	196	195	-1	1
Professional & Business Services	548	571	566	-5	18
Education & Health Services	616	629	629	0	13
Leisure & Hospitality Services	379	377	380	4	1
Other Services	167	168	169	0	2
Government	621	613	612	-1	-9

* 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>2011</u>	<u>February</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$961.46	\$900.10	\$864.78	-\$35.32	-\$96.68
Average Weekly Hours	44.9	43.2	42.7	-0.5	-2.2

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,348.85	\$1,288.36	\$1,178.66	-\$109.70	-\$170.19
Average Weekly Hours	47.2	45.5	43.5	-2.0	-3.7

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