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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 7, 2012  
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### **Michigan's January Unemployment Rate Continues Downward Trend**

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January declined over the month by three-tenths of a percentage point to 9.0 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment advanced by 16,000 in January as the number of unemployed decreased by 14,000. The state's workforce was little changed over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in January 2012 was nearly two full percentage points below the state's January 2011 rate of 10.9 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point over this period.

"Michigan's labor market situation continued to improve into early 2012," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "With the rate decline in January, Michigan's unemployment rate has fallen by around five full percentage points since the end of the national recession in mid-2009."

#### ***Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights***

- Michigan's January jobless rate was the lowest for the state since the September 2008 rate of 8.9 percent.
- January marked the fourth consecutive month that the state's unemployment rate was below 10.0 percent.
- With the annual revision process, Michigan's 2011 annual jobless rate was revised slightly downward by one-tenth of a percentage point from 10.4 to 10.3 percent. The state's 2010 rate was revised slightly upward by two-tenths of a percentage point from 12.5 to 12.7 percent.
- Total employment in Michigan rose by 47,000 or 1.1 percent from January 2011 to January 2012. The state's employment levels increased in the first quarter 2011, however early gains were erased by July. From September 2011 onward, Michigan's monthly employment levels trended upward.
- From January 2011 to January 2012, the number of unemployed in Michigan dropped by 94,000 or 18 percent, which outpaced the national unemployment decline of 8 percent over the same period.

(more)

**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, this release reflects revised seasonally adjusted payroll job data for 2011. For newly revised data, go to [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi) or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

**MICHIGAN  
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	January 2011	December 2011	January 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,678	4,630	4,632	2	-46
Employment	4,168	4,199	4,215	16	47
Unemployment	511	431	417	-14	-94
Rate (Percent)	10.9	9.3	9.0	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's January Jobless Rate Declines***

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January decreased over the month by four-tenths of a percentage point to 10.1 percent. This was the lowest jobless rate for the area since the October 2008 rate of 9.9 percent, and marked the seventh consecutive monthly rate decline for the area. Over the month, total employment rose by 19,000 while the number of unemployed edged down by 7,000. The metro area's work force advanced in January by 13,000.

From January 2011 to January 2012, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two full percentage points. In that period, the region's total employment level grew by 35,000 or 2 percent, while the number of unemployed declined by 41,000 or nearly 17 percent. The area's workforce recorded a relatively minor reduction of 7,000 since January 2011. With newly revised data, the Detroit metropolitan area's 2011 annual jobless rate of 11.5 percent was down by 2.4 percentage points from the 2010 annual rate, and has dropped by 3.5 percentage points since the 2009 annual average rate of 15.0 percent.

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

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	January 2011	December 2011	January 2012	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,025	2,005	2,018	13	-7
Employment	1,780	1,796	1,815	19	35
Unemployment	244	210	203	-7	-41
Rate (Percent)	12.1	10.5	10.1	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***Manufacturing Pushes January Payroll Jobs Upward***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose in January by 19,000 to 3,979,000. Fewer seasonal layoffs produced an adjusted job gain in manufacturing (+16,000). A modest job advance was also posted in professional and business services (+3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded relatively minor offsetting additions or losses of 2,000 or less over the month.

### ***Industry Employment Trends and Highlights***

- January marked the fourth consecutive monthly increase in the state's payroll job count. Since September 2011, payroll jobs in Michigan advanced by 35,000 or 0.9 percent.
- Payroll jobs in Michigan trended slightly upward early in 2011, flattened out in mid-year, and then rose again in the last quarter of 2011.
- The January gain in manufacturing mostly reflected the lack of typical seasonal layoffs within the sector. However, manufacturing jobs in Michigan have recorded fairly significant gains since 2009.
- The minor over-the-month increase in professional and business services extended a run of six consecutive months of job gains in this sector.
- Government jobs registered a slight increase in January after posting losses throughout much of 2011. Since January 2011, government is the only major sector in Michigan to report significant job reductions (-11,000).
- Since January 2011, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 62,000 or 1.6 percent. Over the year, job growth was mainly confined to four of Michigan's 11 major sectors: manufacturing (+32,000), professional and business services (+22,000), education and health services (+9,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000). With the exception of government, Michigan's remaining industry sectors were fairly stable over the year.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing were little changed over the month, however hours and earnings declined over the year.

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**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*  
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>January</u>	<u>December*</u>	<u>January**</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u>	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3918	3960	3979	19	62
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	126	123	123	-1	-3
Manufacturing	495	511	527	16	32
Transportation Equipment	137	141	148	8	11
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	717	726	725	0	9
Retail Trade	447	446	446	-1	-1
Information	54	55	52	-2	-2
Financial Activities	192	195	197	2	4
Professional & Business Services	541	560	563	3	22
Education & Health Services	616	626	625	-1	9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	378	375	377	2	-1
Other Services	167	170	169	-2	1
Government	625	613	615	2	-11

\* Final data for December

\*\* Preliminary data for January

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>January</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$963.96	\$901.01	\$904.41	\$3.40	-\$59.55
Average Weekly Hours	44.4	43.9	43.5	-0.4	-0.9

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,305.46	\$1,262.70	\$1,256.79	-\$5.91	-\$48.67
Average Weekly Hours	45.7	45.6	44.1	-1.5	-1.6

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