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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Michigan's April Jobless Rate Edges Downward**

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April edged downward over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 10.2 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment, unemployment and the state's labor force recorded only small changes over the month. Michigan's unemployment rate was a little over a percentage point above the U.S. April rate of 9.0 percent.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2011 was nearly three full percentage points below the April 2010 rate of 13.1 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point over this period.

"Michigan's labor market indicators were stable from March to April," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, the state's labor market situation recorded marked improvement from the second half of 2010 through the beginning of 2011."

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

- Michigan's unemployment rate has declined slowly during early 2011. From January to April, the state's rate decreased by half of a percentage point, while the number of unemployed fell by 24,000. Employment edged upward over this period.
- In April, total statewide employment was essentially unchanged. Total employment advanced steadily from December 2009 through March 2011, rising by 108,000 over that period.
- From April 2010 to April 2011, unemployment in Michigan fell by 145,000 or 23 percent, which compares favorably to the nationwide decline of 9 percent.
- Although essentially flat in the first four months of 2011, the state's labor force recorded a drop of 73,000 or 1.5 percent since April 2010. This decline in the number of individuals actively seeking employment was partially responsible for the reduction in Michigan's unemployment rate over this period.

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**MICHIGAN  
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2010	March 2011	April 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,814	4,745	4,741	-4	-73
Employment	4,185	4,258	4,257	-1	72
Unemployment	629	487	484	-3	-145
Rate (Percent)	13.1	10.3	10.2	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's April Jobless Rate Up Slightly***

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April increased slightly over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 11.3 percent. The total employment level in the area decreased by 7,000 in April, while unemployment rose by 4,000 over the month. The minor jobless rate advance in the Detroit MSA was the first monthly increase since September 2009.

From April 2010 to April 2011, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by nearly three percentage points. In that period, the MSA's unemployment level fell by 68,000; however, total employment grew by only 9,000. The net result was a labor force reduction of nearly 60,000 since April 2010.

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

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2010	March 2011	April 2011	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,083	2,028	2,026	-2	-57
Employment	1,788	1,804	1,797	-7	9
Unemployment	296	224	228	4	-68
Rate (Percent)	14.2	11.1	11.3	xxx	xxx

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## ***Payroll Jobs Down in April***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs declined in April by 10,000 to 3,912,000. Construction led the overall reduction with a drop of 5,000 jobs over the month. Lesser declines were posted in professional and business services (-3,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-3,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded only small changes over the month.

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

- Although there was a minor decline in the state's total payroll job count in April, job levels have remained relatively stable in 2011. Michigan's four-month average in 2011 of 3,915,000 jobs was just slightly above the April level.
- The drop in construction jobs in April marked the third consecutive monthly decline in this sector. Construction jobs had steadily increased throughout the second half of 2010.
- Manufacturing jobs have been very steady in Michigan so far in 2011, with monthly job levels hovering close to the four-month average of 494,000. The 2010 annual average job count in this sector was 474,000.
- Even with a minor decline in April, job levels in professional and business services in 2011 have been well above 2010 levels. Jobs in this sector had shown incremental advances throughout 2010, but stronger gains occurred early in 2011.
- The education and health services sector in 2011 continues to register monthly job increases. This job category was the only major sector in Michigan to record advances throughout the recent national recession.
- Since April 2010, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 57,000 or 1.5 percent. The sectors displaying the largest gains were professional and business services (+33,000 or +6.5%), manufacturing (+23,000 or +4.8%), and education and health services (+14,000 or +2.3%).
- From April 2010 to April 2011, the only major Michigan industry sector to show notable job loss was government (-19,000 or -2.9%).
- 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>April</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>April**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3855	3922	3912	-10	57
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	122	127	122	-5	0
Manufacturing	471	493	494	0	23
Transportation Equipment	126	133	135	2	9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	711	717	715	-3	4
Retail Trade	448	447	446	-1	-2
Information	55	54	54	0	0
Financial Activities	186	188	188	0	2
Professional & Business Services	509	545	542	-3	33
Education & Health Services	614	628	629	1	14
Leisure & Hospitality Services	376	372	372	0	-3
Other Services	166	170	169	-1	3
Government	640	621	621	0	-19

\* Final data for March

\*\* Preliminary data for April

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$960.48	\$983.48	\$933.01	-\$50.47	-\$27.47
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	45.0	43.8	-1.2	-0.2

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 1,285.22	\$ 1,397.42	\$1,269.08	-\$128.34	-\$16.14
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	47.2	45.3	-1.9	0.3

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