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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 21, 2016

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### **March Unemployment Rates Little Changed in Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in March were relatively flat in the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels were down slightly in the majority of regions over the month.

"Michigan's various local labor markets were very stable from February to March," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Over the year, ten of the state's 14 metropolitan regions reported solid job growth of 1.0 percent or greater, while seven of those metro areas displayed significant job gains of 2.0 percent or above."

During March, unemployment rate changes were minimal, with increases and decreases limited to 0.2 of a percentage point or less in the 17 regions. Jobless rates increased in eight areas, declined in three regions, and were unchanged in the remaining six areas. The minor jobless rate reductions were posted in the Niles-Benton Harbor, Flint, and Monroe Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In March, nine of Michigan's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates below the national non-seasonally adjusted rate of 5.1 percent.

#### ***Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year***

Since March 2015, jobless rates declined in all of the state's major labor markets. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from -0.6 to -1.2 percentage points with a median drop of -0.9 of a percentage point. The largest unemployment rate decrease over this period was recorded in the Flint MSA (-1.2), while five other regions registered rate drops of a full percentage point.

#### ***Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year***

From February to March, total employment declined in 11 regions. Reductions were mostly minor, ranging from -0.1 to -0.7 percent with a median decrease of only -0.2 percent. The largest employment declines in March were recorded in the Upper Peninsula along with the Lansing-East Lansing and Midland MSAs. Four regions showed essentially no change in total employment over the month, while the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and Muskegon MSAs registered gains.

Since March 2015, total employment rose significantly in all 17 regions, recording a solid 2.3 percent median advance. The largest percentage gains over this period were recorded in the Ann Arbor and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSAs.

**Note:** Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all 12 months of 2015 have been recently revised. Payroll job data by industry was revised for 2014 and 2015; and in some cases back to 1990. Estimates for January, February, and March 2016 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi) or call 313-456-3090.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Up Over Year***

From February to March, workforce levels declined slightly in ten areas, increased in four, and were essentially unchanged in the remaining three regions. Decreases were limited to -0.5 percent or less, while the largest labor force gain over the month was posted in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA.

Since March 2015, labor force levels advanced in 15 areas with a median gain of 1.5 percent, and declined in the Jackson MSA and the Upper Peninsula.

### ***March Payroll Jobs Up As a Number of Sectors Report Moderate Gains***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 17,000 or 0.4 percent in March to 4,267,000. March payroll job gains were recorded in about half the state's major industry sectors, while the remaining sectors were little changed. Moderate over-the-month increases were posted in construction (+4,000), professional and business services (+4,000), leisure and hospitality services (+4,000), and government (+4,000). Education and health services added 2,000 jobs in March.

From February to March, payroll jobs rose in 13 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions, with a median increase of 0.7 percent. The largest over-the-month percentage gains were recorded in the Ann Arbor (+1.0%), Saginaw (+1.0%), and Monroe (+0.9%) MSAs. Overall payroll jobs declined slightly in the Bay City MSA in March. Nearly all metro regions in the state registered over-the-month job advances in construction and leisure and hospitality services.

From March 2015 to March 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 93,000 or 2.2 percent. Nearly all major sectors in the state posted job additions over this period, with the largest percentage gains recorded in construction (+4.3%), financial activities (+3.9%), professional and business services (+3.3%), other services (+3.1%), manufacturing (+3.0%), and leisure and hospitality services (+3.0%).

Since March 2015, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state, with a median job gain of 2.2 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage increases were displayed in the Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Saginaw MSAs. Payroll jobs were down over the year in the Jackson MSA, while job levels were essentially unchanged in the Midland MSA over this period.

### ***County Jobless Rates Little Changed Over Month, Down Over Year***

Just over half of Michigan's 83 counties recorded slight jobless rate increases over the month, while 20 counties posted very minor declines. The rates in the remaining 20 counties were unchanged in March. The vast majority of Michigan's counties recorded rate changes of only plus or minus 0.2 of a percentage point or less over the month.

Since March 2015, jobless rates fell in all 83 counties, with a median reduction of -0.9 of a percentage point.

*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."*

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,700	197,500	197,600	0.1%	4.2%
Total Employment	183,000	191,800	191,700	-0.1%	4.8%
Unemployment	6,800	5,700	5,900	3.5%	-13.2%
Rate (percent)	3.6	2.9	3.0		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,600	65,500	65,400	-0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	61,100	62,400	62,300	-0.2%	2.0%
Unemployment	3,500	3,000	3,000	0.0%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.6	4.6		

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

	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,600	53,300	53,100	-0.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	49,100	50,300	50,200	-0.2%	2.2%
Unemployment	3,500	3,000	3,000	0.0%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	6.6	5.6	5.6		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,977	2,027	2,050	1.1%	3.7%
Total Employment	1,853	1,917	1,936	1.0%	4.5%
Unemployment	124	109	114	4.6%	-8.1%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.4	5.6		

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

	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,900	185,300	184,700	-0.3%	1.0%
Total Employment	170,700	175,000	174,500	-0.3%	2.2%
Unemployment	12,200	10,300	10,200	-1.0%	-16.4%
Rate (percent)	6.7	5.6	5.5		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	551,400	565,400	564,900	-0.1%	2.4%
Total Employment	528,900	546,500	545,800	-0.1%	3.2%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	22,500 4.1	19,000 3.4	19,200 3.4	1.1%	-14.7%

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,400	72,900	72,900	0.0%	-0.7%
Total Employment	69,200	69,300	69,300	0.0%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	4,200 5.7	3,500 4.9	3,500 4.9	0.0%	-16.7%

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	165,700	169,600	169,500	-0.1%	2.3%
Total Employment	157,300	162,500	162,300	-0.1%	3.2%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	8,400 5.1	7,100 4.2	7,200 4.2	1.4%	-14.3%

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	243,600	249,400	248,200	-0.5%	1.9%
Total Employment	232,100	240,100	238,800	-0.5%	2.9%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	11,400 4.7	9,200 3.7	9,400 3.8	2.2%	-17.5%

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,500	42,000	41,800	-0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	39,200	40,000	39,800	-0.5%	1.5%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	2,300 5.6	2,000 4.7	2,000 4.8	0.0%	-13.0%

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,500	78,500	78,500	0.0%	2.6%
Total Employment	72,700	75,300	75,300	0.0%	3.6%
Unemployment	3,700	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-13.5%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.1	4.0		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,700	78,700	78,900	0.3%	1.5%
Total Employment	72,900	74,700	74,800	0.1%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,800	4,000	4,100	2.5%	-14.6%
Rate (percent)	6.2	5.1	5.2		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,100	74,400	74,200	-0.3%	1.5%
Total Employment	69,000	70,700	70,600	-0.1%	2.3%
Unemployment	4,100	3,700	3,600	-2.7%	-12.2%
Rate (percent)	5.6	5.0	4.8		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,600	90,900	90,900	0.0%	2.6%
Total Employment	83,000	86,100	86,100	0.0%	3.7%
Unemployment	5,600	4,800	4,800	0.0%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.3	5.3		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,300	142,700	142,100	-0.4%	-0.1%
Total Employment	130,800	132,700	131,800	-0.7%	0.8%
Unemployment	11,500	10,000	10,300	3.0%	-10.4%
Rate (percent)	8.1	7.0	7.2		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,400	81,800	81,900	0.1%	0.6%
Total Employment	73,000	74,200	74,200	0.0%	1.6%
Unemployment	8,400	7,600	7,700	1.3%	-8.3%
Rate (percent)	10.4	9.3	9.4		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,800	147,100	146,500	-0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	133,700	137,300	136,700	-0.4%	2.2%
Unemployment	11,100	9,700	9,800	1.0%	-11.7%
Rate (percent)	7.7	6.6	6.7		

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	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,718	4,816	4,836	0.4%	2.5%
Total Employment	4,439	4,575	4,588	0.3%	3.4%
Unemployment	279	241	247	2.5%	-11.5%
Rate (percent)	5.9	5.0	5.1		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
MARCH 2016**

1	Washtenaw County	3.0	43	Osceola County	6.2
2	Ottawa County	3.2	44	Charlevoix County	6.4
3	Kent County	3.3	45	Wexford County	6.4
4	Clinton County	3.5	46	Wayne County	6.4
5	Kalamazoo County	3.7	47	Otsego County	6.5
6	St. Joseph County	3.8	48	Alpena County	6.5
7	Eaton County	3.9	49	Tuscola County	6.7
8	Ingham County	3.9	50	Mason County	6.7
9	Barry County	4.0	51	Sanilac County	7.0
10	Allegan County	4.0	52	St. Clair County	7.1
11	Monroe County	4.0	53	Delta County	7.1
12	Ionia County	4.2	54	Luce County	7.2
13	Oakland County	4.3	55	Missaukee County	7.2
14	Lenawee County	4.4	56	Gladwin County	7.3
15	Livingston County	4.5	57	Manistee County	7.6
16	Branch County	4.6	58	Lapeer County	7.8
17	Hillsdale County	4.6	59	Iron County	7.9
18	Calhoun County	4.6	60	Iosco County	8.0
19	Cass County	4.7	61	Oscoda County	8.1
20	Isabella County	4.7	62	Emmet County	8.3
21	Midland County	4.8	63	Lake County	8.3
22	Berrien County	4.8	64	Alcona County	8.4
23	Jackson County	4.9	65	Benzie County	8.4
24	Grand Traverse County	5.1	66	Clare County	8.5
25	Newaygo County	5.1	67	Crawford County	8.5
26	Menominee County	5.2	68	Kalkaska County	8.6
27	Muskegon County	5.2	69	Ogemaw County	8.6
28	Gratiot County	5.3	70	Chippewa County	8.6
29	Saginaw County	5.3	71	Antrim County	8.7
30	Dickinson County	5.4	72	Oceana County	9.1
31	Shiawassee County	5.4	73	Baraga County	9.2
32	Montcalm County	5.5	74	Ontonagon County	9.2
33	Genesee County	5.5	75	Keweenaw County	9.4
34	Bay County	5.6	76	Alger County	9.9
35	Macomb County	5.7	77	Arenac County	9.9
36	Mecosta County	5.7	78	Roscommon County	10.0
37	Huron County	5.8	79	Schoolcraft County	11.2
38	Marquette County	5.9	80	Montmorency County	11.4
39	Houghton County	6.1	81	Presque Isle County	13.1
40	Leelanau County	6.1	82	Cheboygan County	16.2
41	Van Buren County	6.1	83	Mackinac County	20.1
42	Gogebic County	6.1			

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