



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2016

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April Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in April moved downward in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased in most regions over the month, while labor force levels were mixed.

"Payroll jobs rose and jobless rates fell throughout the state in April 2016," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "These were typical seasonal trends for the month of April."

From March to April, the seasonal jobless rate reductions in the 17 areas ranged from -0.3 to -1.9 percentage points with a median decline of -0.7 of a percentage point. The largest rate drops were posted in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with decreases of -1.9 and -1.2 percentage points respectively. The next largest monthly rate decrease was recorded the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (-1.1 percentage points). In April, 12 of Michigan's 17 major regions displayed unemployment rates below the national non-seasonally adjusted rate of 4.7 percent. All major regions in the state registered rates in April of 7.5 percent or below.

Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year

Since April 2015, jobless rates declined in all of the state's major labor markets. Reductions over the year ranged from -0.4 to -1.0 percentage points with a median decrease of -0.6 of a percentage point. The largest drop over this period was recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-1.0). Five other areas posted declines of -0.8 of a percentage point since April 2015.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From March to April, total employment rose in 15 of the 17 regions in the state. Over-the-month gains ranged from 0.2 to 1.9 percent with a median hike of 0.8 percent. The most pronounced April total employment increases occurred in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.9%), and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (+1.4%). The Northwest Lower Michigan region along with the Muskegon and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs also showed significant gains of 0.9 percent each over the month. Total employment fell slightly in April by -0.2 percent in both the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA and the Upper Peninsula.

Since April 2015, total employment advanced in 16 of the 17 regions. Most gains were significant, with a median hike of 2.7 percent. The largest over-the-year total employment increases were recorded in the Ann Arbor and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSAs. Total employment edged down slightly by -0.1 percent in the Jackson MSA since April 2015.

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Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year

During April, workforce levels declined in nine regions and increased in eight. Most over-the-month labor force changes were minor, with a median decline of -0.4 percent and median advance of 0.4 percent. The largest reductions were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA (-1.3%), and the Upper Peninsula (-1.1%). The biggest over-the-month workforce gains were registered in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (0.8%), and the Ann Arbor MSA (0.6%).

Since April 2015, labor force levels advanced in 16 areas with a very solid median gain of 1.9 percent. The Jackson MSA posted the only over-the-year workforce reduction (-0.7%).

Seasonal Job Gains in Four Sectors Push Overall Jobs Upward in April

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 36,000 or 0.9 percent in April to 4,307,000. A number of industry sector job additions were seasonal, and were led by over-the-month increases in professional and business services (+9,000), leisure and hospitality services (+8,000), construction (+7,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000). Other notable gains in April were posted in education and health services and in manufacturing, both adding 4,000 jobs in April. The only April job reduction was recorded in government (-2,000).

From March to April, payroll jobs rose in all of the state's 14 metropolitan regions, with gains ranging from 0.5 to 1.8 percent, for a 0.9 percent median hike. The Niles-Benton Harbor (1.8%), Muskegon (1.7%), Lansing-East Lansing (+1.3%), and Midland (+1.3%) MSAs registered the largest percentage gains in April.

From April 2015 to April 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 98,000 or 2.3 percent. Nearly all major sectors in the state posted job increases over this period, with the largest numerical upward movement recorded in professional and business services (+23,000), manufacturing (+20,000), education and health services (+16,000) and leisure and hospitality services (+13,000).

Since April 2015, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state, with a median job gain of 2.4 percent. Metro regions displaying the biggest percentage increases over this period were the Ann Arbor, Monroe, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs. The Jackson MSA registered a job reduction over the year, while jobs in the Midland MSA were essentially unchanged.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Seventy-eight of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal jobless rate declines over the month, with a median reduction of a full percentage point. Four counties, all in the Upper Peninsula, posted rate hikes, while the rate in Menominee County was unchanged over the month.

Since April 2015, jobless rates declined in 80 counties, with a median reduction of -0.7 of a percentage point. Three counties recorded unemployment rate increases over the year.

*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 April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for April.*

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	190,700	198,300	199,400	0.6%	4.6%
Total Employment	184,400	192,400	193,900	0.8%	5.2%
Unemployment	6,300	5,900	5,500	-6.8%	-12.7%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.0	2.7		

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

	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	65,400	65,200	-0.3%	1.1%
Total Employment	61,500	62,400	62,600	0.3%	1.8%
Unemployment	3,000	3,000	2,700	-10.0%	-10.0%
Rate (percent)	4.7	4.6	4.1		

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

	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,400	53,100	52,800	-0.6%	0.8%
Total Employment	49,500	50,200	50,300	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	3,000	3,000	2,600	-13.3%	-13.3%
Rate (percent)	5.6	5.6	4.9		

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,964	2,050	2,024	-1.3%	3.1%
Total Employment	1,857	1,936	1,933	-0.2%	4.1%
Unemployment	107	114	91	-20.2%	-15.0%
Rate (percent)	5.5	5.6	4.5		

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

	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,800	184,900	184,100	-0.4%	0.7%
Total Employment	172,400	174,700	175,100	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	10,400	10,200	9,000	-11.8%	-13.5%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.5	4.9		

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GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	551,100	564,700	566,400	0.3%	2.8%
Total Employment	531,800	545,500	549,700	0.8%	3.4%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	19,300 3.5	19,200 3.4	16,700 2.9	-13.0%	-13.5%

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,500	72,900	73,000	0.1%	-0.7%
Total Employment	69,900	69,400	69,800	0.6%	-0.1%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	3,600 4.9	3,500 4.8	3,200 4.4	-8.6%	-11.1%

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	165,600	170,100	169,500	-0.4%	2.4%
Total Employment	158,400	163,000	163,300	0.2%	3.1%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	7,200 4.3	7,200 4.2	6,200 3.7	-13.9%	-13.9%

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LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	244,700	248,000	249,000	0.4%	1.8%
Total Employment	234,800	238,600	240,800	0.9%	2.6%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	9,900 4.1	9,400 3.8	8,200 3.3	-12.8%	-17.2%

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,700	41,800	41,900	0.2%	0.5%
Total Employment	39,800	39,800	40,200	1.0%	1.0%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	1,900 4.6	2,000 4.8	1,700 4.0	-15.0%	-10.5%

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,500	78,500	78,600	0.1%	2.7%
Total Employment	73,200	75,400	75,800	0.5%	3.6%
Unemployment	3,200	3,200	2,900	-9.4%	-9.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.0	3.6		

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MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,400	78,600	78,900	0.4%	1.9%
Total Employment	73,200	74,500	75,200	0.9%	2.7%
Unemployment	4,200	4,100	3,700	-9.8%	-11.9%
Rate (percent)	5.4	5.3	4.6		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,300	74,300	74,900	0.8%	2.2%
Total Employment	69,800	70,800	71,800	1.4%	2.9%
Unemployment	3,500	3,600	3,100	-13.9%	-11.4%
Rate (percent)	4.8	4.8	4.1		

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,200	90,900	90,500	-0.4%	2.6%
Total Employment	83,400	86,100	86,300	0.2%	3.5%
Unemployment	4,800	4,800	4,200	-12.5%	-12.5%
Rate (percent)	5.4	5.3	4.6		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,300	142,200	140,700	-1.1%	0.3%
Total Employment	130,400	131,900	131,600	-0.2%	0.9%
Unemployment	9,900	10,300	9,200	-10.7%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	7.1	7.2	6.5		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	80,800	82,000	81,800	-0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	74,400	74,300	75,700	1.9%	1.7%
Unemployment	6,400	7,700	6,100	-20.8%	-4.7%
Rate (percent)	7.9	9.4	7.5		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,300	146,600	146,100	-0.3%	1.2%
Total Employment	135,300	136,800	138,000	0.9%	2.0%
Unemployment	9,000	9,800	8,100	-17.3%	-10.0%
Rate (percent)	6.3	6.7	5.5		

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	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,700	4,837	4,811	-0.5%	2.4%
Total Employment	4,461	4,590	4,605	0.3%	3.2%
Unemployment	238	247	206	-16.6%	-13.4%
Rate (percent)	5.1	5.1	4.3		

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(more)

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

1	Ottawa County	2.7	43	Wayne County	5.3
2	Washtenaw County	2.7	44	St. Clair County	5.4
3	Clinton County	2.9	45	Wexford County	5.4
4	Kent County	2.9	46	Marquette County	5.4
5	Eaton County	3.3	47	Charlevoix County	5.6
6	Kalamazoo County	3.3	48	Lapeer County	5.6
7	Barry County	3.4	49	Tuscola County	5.6
8	Ingham County	3.4	50	Missaukee County	5.8
9	Allegan County	3.4	51	Delta County	5.9
10	St. Joseph County	3.4	52	Houghton County	6.0
11	Livingston County	3.5	53	Sanilac County	6.0
12	Oakland County	3.5	54	Otsego County	6.1
13	Ionia County	3.5	55	Gladwin County	6.2
14	Monroe County	3.6	56	Manistee County	6.2
15	Cass County	3.8	57	Lake County	6.3
16	Lenawee County	3.8	58	Benzie County	6.6
17	Grand Traverse County	4.0	59	Clare County	6.8
18	Isabella County	4.0	60	Iosco County	6.8
19	Midland County	4.0	61	Oscoda County	6.9
20	Calhoun County	4.1	62	Oceana County	7.0
21	Berrien County	4.1	63	Kalkaska County	7.1
22	Newaygo County	4.2	64	Iron County	7.2
23	Hillsdale County	4.2	65	Ogemaw County	7.2
24	Branch County	4.3	66	Emmet County	7.3
25	Montcalm County	4.4	67	Luce County	7.3
26	Jackson County	4.4	68	Chippewa County	7.3
27	Gratiot County	4.5	69	Alcona County	7.5
28	Shiawassee County	4.5	70	Crawford County	7.5
29	Macomb County	4.6	71	Gogebic County	7.5
30	Muskegon County	4.6	72	Antrim County	7.6
31	Saginaw County	4.6	73	Arenac County	8.1
32	Leelanau County	4.7	74	Roscommon County	8.6
33	Mecosta County	4.7	75	Baraga County	8.9
34	Huron County	4.8	76	Presque Isle County	9.2
35	Van Buren County	4.9	77	Alger County	9.5
36	Bay County	4.9	78	Ontonagon County	9.5
37	Genesee County	4.9	79	Keweenaw County	9.6
38	Mason County	5.0	80	Schoolcraft County	9.6
39	Osceola County	5.1	81	Montmorency County	10.0
40	Dickinson County	5.1	82	Cheboygan County	10.4
41	Menominee County	5.2	83	Mackinac County	12.7
42	Alpena County	5.2			

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