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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in April decreased seasonally in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased over the month in nearly all areas, while labor force levels declined moderately in the majority of regions.

"Nearly all of the labor market movement in April was seasonal," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, the bigger picture shows improvement throughout the vast majority of Michigan's regional labor markets since April 2014. In April 2015, eleven of the state's 17 major markets reported jobless rates at or below the national average."

From March to April, the unemployment rate reductions in the state's 17 regional labor markets ranged from -0.3 to -2.4 percentage points with a median decline of -0.8 of a percentage point. The largest rate drops occurred in the state's three northernmost regions. Rates fell in April in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions along with the Upper Peninsula by -2.4, -1.3 and -1.1 percentage points respectively.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since April 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Reductions ranged from -1.2 to -2.8 percentage points with a notable median rate decline of -1.7 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decreases over that period were registered in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.8), the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (-2.7), and the Monroe MSA (-2.4).

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

In April, total employment increased moderately in 16 Michigan regions with a median advance of +0.7 percent. The largest total employment percentage gains over the month were posted in the Midland (+1.8%), Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.2%), and Muskegon (+1.1%) MSAs. Total employment in the Upper Peninsula edged downward by -0.2 percent in April.

From April 2014 to April 2015, total employment rose in all 17 Michigan regions. Employment increases over this period ranged from +0.9 to +4.3 percent, with a significant median gain of +2.3 percent. The most pronounced over-the-year advances were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.3%), Muskegon (+4.1%), and Battle Creek (+3.0%) MSAs.

Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

From March to April, workforce levels declined in 11 areas and rose in six regions. In April, area labor force reductions ranged from -0.2 to -1.6 percent with a relatively minor median decrease of -0.5 percent. Regional workforce gains over the month were limited to +0.7 percent or less.

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Over the year, labor force levels rose in nine areas, declined in seven regions, and were essentially unchanged in the Monroe MSA. Workforce increases since April 2014 ranged from +0.3 to +2.9 percent with a median gain of +1.2 percent. Reductions ranged from -0.1 to -1.3 percent with a median decline of -0.8 percent. The largest over-the-year workforce growth was displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA, while the largest drop was reported in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA.

Seasonal Gains in Leisure and Construction Help Push April Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 35,000 or 0.8 percent in April to 4,233,000. Over-the-month job gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality services (+12,000), construction (+10,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000), and professional and business services (+7,000). The remaining major industry sectors in the state recorded mostly minor changes over the month.

From March to April, payroll jobs increased in 12 of the 14 metropolitan areas in the state. Regional job gains ranged from +0.2 to +1.9 percent, with a median advance of +1.1 percent. The largest area percentage increases were posted in the Midland (+1.9%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (+1.8%) MSAs. Payroll jobs fell slightly over the month in the Monroe MSA (-0.2%), while the job count in the Bay City MSA was essentially unchanged. Leisure and hospitality services and construction jobs were up in April in the majority of metro regions.

From April 2014 to April 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 100,000 or 2.4 percent. Job gains over this period were recorded in all of Michigan's major job sectors with the exception of government (-2,000). The most notable job gains since April 2014 were posted in professional and business services (+26,000), manufacturing (+26,000), construction (+15,000), education and health services (+12,000), leisure and hospitality services (+9,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000).

Since April 2014, payroll jobs rose in all 14 metropolitan regions of the state with gains ranging from +0.3 to +3.8 percent, with a median increase of +2.3 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage job additions were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+3.8%), Muskegon (+3.8%), and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.8%) MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Eighty of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate decreases in April with a median decline of -1.1 percentage points. Jobless rates were up slightly over the month in Schoolcraft and Gogebic counties, while the rate was unchanged in Luce County.

From April 2014 to April 2015, jobless rates dropped in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was a substantial -2.0 percentage points. Schoolcraft County posted a minor over-the-year rate increase due to a layoff event in April 2015.

*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-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	187,700	187,400	188,300	0.5%	0.3%
Total Employment	179,300	180,900	182,300	0.8%	1.7%
Unemployment	8,400	6,500	6,000	-7.7%	-28.6%
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.5	3.2		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,400	64,700	64,400	-0.5%	1.6%
Total Employment	59,700	61,400	61,500	0.2%	3.0%
Unemployment	3,600	3,400	2,900	-14.7%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.2	4.5		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,100	53,100	52,800	-0.6%	-0.6%
Total Employment	49,400	49,800	49,900	0.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,700	3,400	2,800	-17.6%	-24.3%
Rate (percent)	7.0	6.3	5.4		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,979	1,961	1,953	-0.4%	-1.3%
Total Employment	1,825	1,843	1,854	0.6%	1.6%
Unemployment	154	118	99	-16.1%	-35.7%
Rate (percent)	7.8	6.0	5.1		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	183,000	185,300	184,300	-0.5%	0.7%
Total Employment	169,600	173,600	174,400	0.5%	2.8%
Unemployment	13,400	11,800	10,000	-15.3%	-25.4%
Rate (percent)	7.3	6.3	5.4		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	536,500	550,400	552,100	0.3%	2.9%
Total Employment	511,800	528,800	533,600	0.9%	4.3%
Unemployment	24,700	21,600	18,500	-14.4%	-25.1%
Rate (percent)	4.6	3.9	3.3		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	72,800	72,300	-0.7%	-0.8%
Total Employment	68,300	68,800	68,900	0.1%	0.9%
Unemployment	4,600	4,000	3,500	-12.5%	-23.9%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.5	4.8		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	161,800	164,100	163,800	-0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	152,600	156,000	157,000	0.6%	2.9%
Unemployment	9,200	8,100	6,900	-14.8%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.9	4.2		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	240,700	242,000	242,700	0.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	227,000	231,000	233,200	1.0%	2.7%
Unemployment	13,600	10,900	9,500	-12.8%	-30.1%
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.5	3.9		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,400	41,300	41,600	0.7%	0.5%
Total Employment	39,000	39,100	39,800	1.8%	2.1%
Unemployment	2,400	2,200	1,800	-18.2%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.4	4.4		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,100	76,400	76,100	-0.4%	0.0%
Total Employment	71,200	72,700	73,000	0.4%	2.5%
Unemployment	4,900	3,600	3,100	-13.9%	-36.7%
Rate (percent)	6.5	4.7	4.1		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	75,400	76,700	77,000	0.4%	2.1%
Total Employment	70,100	72,200	73,000	1.1%	4.1%
Unemployment	5,300	4,500	3,900	-13.3%	-26.4%
Rate (percent)	7.1	5.9	5.1		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,700	72,800	73,000	0.3%	0.4%
Total Employment	68,100	68,900	69,700	1.2%	2.3%
Unemployment	4,600	3,900	3,400	-12.8%	-26.1%
Rate (percent)	6.3	5.4	4.6		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,700	88,600	88,400	-0.2%	-0.3%
Total Employment	82,500	83,200	83,800	0.7%	1.6%
Unemployment	6,200	5,400	4,600	-14.8%	-25.8%
Rate (percent)	7.0	6.1	5.2		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,500	142,600	140,700	-1.3%	-0.6%
Total Employment	129,600	131,500	131,300	-0.2%	1.3%
Unemployment	11,900	11,100	9,400	-15.3%	-21.0%
Rate (percent)	8.4	7.8	6.7		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	80,500	81,000	79,700	-1.6%	-1.0%
Total Employment	72,100	72,900	73,600	1.0%	2.1%
Unemployment	8,400	8,100	6,100	-24.7%	-27.4%
Rate (percent)	10.4	10.0	7.6		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,600	144,100	142,500	-1.1%	-0.1%
Total Employment	130,800	133,400	133,800	0.3%	2.3%
Unemployment	11,700	10,700	8,600	-19.6%	-26.5%
Rate (percent)	8.2	7.4	6.1		

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	<u>Apr-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,681	4,694	4,678	-0.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	4,357	4,427	4,454	0.6%	2.2%
Unemployment	324	267	224	-16.1%	-30.9%
Rate (percent)	6.9	5.7	4.8		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
APRIL 2015**

1	Ottawa County	3.1	43	Tuscola County	6.0
2	Washtenaw County	3.2	44	Wayne County	6.0
3	Kent County	3.3	45	St. Clair County	6.1
4	Clinton County	3.4	46	Sanilac County	6.1
5	Barry County	3.7	47	Wexford County	6.2
6	Kalamazoo County	3.8	48	Charlevoix County	6.3
7	Allegan County	3.8	49	Osceola County	6.3
8	Eaton County	3.9	50	Houghton County	6.4
9	St. Joseph County	3.9	51	Lapeer County	6.4
10	Livingston County	4.0	52	Manistee County	6.4
11	Ionia County	4.0	53	Otsego County	6.4
12	Ingham County	4.1	54	Delta County	6.4
13	Oakland County	4.1	55	Missaukee County	6.5
14	Monroe County	4.1	56	Benzie County	6.8
15	Cass County	4.3	57	Gladwin County	7.0
16	Isabella County	4.3	58	Iosco County	7.2
17	Grand Traverse County	4.4	59	Clare County	7.3
18	Midland County	4.4	60	Luce County	7.4
19	Lenawee County	4.5	61	Gogebic County	7.4
20	Branch County	4.5	62	Alcona County	7.5
21	Calhoun County	4.5	63	Crawford County	7.5
22	Berrien County	4.6	64	Iron County	7.5
23	Jackson County	4.8	65	Ogemaw County	7.7
24	Macomb County	4.9	66	Oceana County	7.8
25	Menominee County	4.9	67	Chippewa County	7.8
26	Hillsdale County	4.9	68	Emmet County	8.0
27	Huron County	5.1	69	Kalkaska County	8.1
28	Montcalm County	5.1	70	Antrim County	8.2
29	Shiawassee County	5.1	71	Lake County	8.3
30	Muskegon County	5.1	72	Oscoda County	8.4
31	Leelanau County	5.2	73	Arenac County	8.7
32	Newaygo County	5.2	74	Roscommon County	8.8
33	Saginaw County	5.2	75	Cheboygan County	9.1
34	Dickinson County	5.4	76	Baraga County	9.3
35	Bay County	5.4	77	Alger County	9.4
36	Genesee County	5.4	78	Montmorency County	9.6
37	Mecosta County	5.5	79	Ontonagon County	9.9
38	Mason County	5.5	80	Keweenaw County	10.0
39	Marquette County	5.6	81	Mackinac County	10.0
40	Van Buren County	5.7	82	Presque Isle County	10.4
41	Alpena County	5.7	83	Schoolcraft County	11.8
42	Gratiot County	5.8			

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