



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 23, 2013

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# **April Unemployment Rates Decrease in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in 15 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in April, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased in 13 regions over the month, while labor force levels were up in ten areas.

"Regional jobless rates decreased slightly throughout Michigan in April, although these seasonal reductions were somewhat below the typical April rate declines," said Michael Williams, acting director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, the majority of local areas continued to record over-the-year jobless rate reductions."

From March to April, regional jobless rate decreases ranged from 0.1 to 1.3 percentage points with a moderate median decline of 0.4 of a percentage point. The median March to April seasonal rate reduction for the state's regions over the prior ten years was around a full percentage point. The largest April 2013 rate cuts were recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with drops of 1.3 and 1.0 percentage points respectively. The next largest jobless rate reduction was 0.6 of a percentage point posted in both the Northwest Lower Michigan region and the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA. The jobless rate rose slightly by 0.3 of a percentage point in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA in April, while the rate in the Ann Arbor MSA was unchanged.

### ***Jobless Rates Down Moderately Over Year***

From April 2012 to April 2013, unemployment rates declined in 12 Michigan regional labor market areas. Over-the-year decreases ranged from 0.2 to 0.6 of a percentage point with a minor median reduction of 0.4 of a percentage point. Jobless rates rose slightly in four areas since April 2012, and were unchanged in two regions. The national seasonally unadjusted rate fell by 0.6 of a percentage point over the same period.

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

Over the month, total employment rose in 13 of 17 regions with a median advance of 0.6 percent. The largest percentage gains over the month occurred in Northeast Lower Michigan (+2.3%) and Northwest Lower Michigan (+1.7%). Most other employment additions in April were below 1.0 percent. Total employment fell slightly in April in the Lansing-East Lansing and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs, while employment was essentially unchanged in the Battle Creek and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs over the month.

Since April 2012, total employment increased in 13 areas, with a relatively strong average gain of 1.2 percent. Total employment declined over the year in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region, and was essentially unchanged in the Bay City MSA and the Upper Peninsula.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Little Changed Over Month, Up Over Year***

In April, labor force levels within Michigan's local areas recorded mostly marginal changes, with ten regions posting gains, five areas showing reductions, and two regions essentially unchanged.

From April 2012 to April 2013, labor force levels rose in 11 regions with a 1.2 percent average gain. Five areas recorded workforce declines over the year, while the labor force in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA was essentially unchanged.

### ***Seasonal Hiring Pushes April Payroll Jobs Upward***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 29,000 or 0.7 percent in April to 4,045,000. Job gains in April were mostly seasonal and confined to four industry sectors, led by a 13,000 increase in leisure and hospitality services. Other over-the-month job advances were posted in construction (+8,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000), and education and health services (+3,000). The state's remaining industry sectors exhibited little change in April.

Payroll jobs rose in all of the state's 14 metropolitan regions in April with an average increase of 0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month percentage gains were displayed in the Niles-Benton Harbor (+2.2%), and Holland-Grand Haven (+1.5%) MSAs. Nearly all metro areas reported seasonal April hiring in leisure and hospitality services, construction and retail trade.

Since April 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 34,000 or 0.9 percent. Notable over-the-year job gains were posted in manufacturing (+22,000), education and health services (+11,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+5,000). From April 2012 to April 2013, significant job losses were registered in construction (-7,000), and government (-7,000).

Since April 2012, payroll job changes were mixed throughout the state's metropolitan regions with eight areas recording gains, four regions showing declines, and two areas reporting essentially no change. The largest over-the-year percentage increases were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven (+2.6%), Muskegon-Norton Shores (+2.3%), and Battle Creek (+1.6%) MSAs. Job cuts over this period were registered in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Lansing-East Lansing, Jackson, and Monroe MSAs.

### ***County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year***

Seventy-two of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in April, with a median decrease of 0.6 of a percentage point. Jobless rates increased in eight counties over the month, while rates were unchanged in three.

From April 2012 to April 2013, jobless rates declined in 40 counties, increased in 37 and were unchanged in six. Most county unemployment rate changes were moderate 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-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,900	184,800	185,000	0.1%	1.7%
Total Employment	172,100	175,400	175,700	0.2%	2.1%
Unemployment	9,700	9,400	9,400	0.0%	-3.1%
Rate (percent)	5.4	5.1	5.1		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	62,800	63,900	63,700	-0.3%	1.4%
Total Employment	58,300	59,500	59,500	0.0%	2.1%
Unemployment	4,500	4,400	4,200	-4.5%	-6.7%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.8	6.6		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,300	51,300	51,400	0.2%	0.2%
Total Employment	47,100	46,700	47,100	0.9%	0.0%
Unemployment	4,300	4,600	4,400	-4.3%	2.3%
Rate (percent)	8.3	8.9	8.5		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,967	1,993	1,974	-1.0%	0.4%
Total Employment	1,781	1,796	1,799	0.2%	1.0%
Unemployment	185	196	175	-10.7%	-5.4%
Rate (percent)	9.4	9.9	8.9		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,700	185,200	185,600	0.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	166,300	168,300	169,200	0.5%	1.7%
Unemployment	16,400	16,800	16,400	-2.4%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	9.0	9.1	8.8		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	388,500	393,600	394,700	0.3%	1.6%
Total Employment	363,600	369,200	371,300	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	25,000	24,400	23,300	-4.5%	-6.8%
Rate (percent)	6.4	6.2	5.9		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b>					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	128,500	130,700	131,200	0.4%	2.1%
Total Employment	120,200	122,600	123,500	0.7%	2.7%
Unemployment	8,300	8,100	7,700	-4.9%	-7.2%
Rate (percent)	6.5	6.2	5.9		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,200	70,100	70,100	0.0%	-0.1%
Total Employment	64,500	64,300	64,600	0.5%	0.2%
Unemployment	5,700	5,800	5,600	-3.4%	-1.8%
Rate (percent)	8.1	8.3	7.9		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,200	160,600	159,800	-0.5%	-0.2%
Total Employment	148,700	149,200	149,100	-0.1%	0.3%
Unemployment	11,500	11,400	10,700	-6.1%	-7.0%
Rate (percent)	7.2	7.1	6.7		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	233,300	234,100	234,200	0.0%	0.4%
Total Employment	217,500	218,500	217,900	-0.3%	0.2%
Unemployment	15,800	15,700	16,300	3.8%	3.2%
Rate (percent)	6.8	6.7	7.0		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,100	68,900	69,000	0.1%	-0.1%
Total Employment	63,700	63,700	64,000	0.5%	0.5%
Unemployment	5,300	5,300	5,000	-5.7%	-5.7%
Rate (percent)	7.7	7.7	7.3		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,700	83,500	83,900	0.5%	2.7%
Total Employment	74,800	76,500	77,100	0.8%	3.1%
Unemployment	7,000	7,000	6,800	-2.9%	-2.9%
Rate (percent)	8.5	8.4	8.1		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,200	70,700	71,200	0.7%	0.0%
Total Employment	65,100	64,500	65,400	1.4%	0.5%
Unemployment	6,100	6,200	5,800	-6.5%	-4.9%
Rate (percent)	8.6	8.8	8.2		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,800	89,200	89,000	-0.2%	-0.9%
Total Employment	82,400	81,600	81,600	0.0%	-1.0%
Unemployment	7,400	7,600	7,400	-2.6%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	8.3	8.5	8.3		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	143,600	144,300	144,200	-0.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	130,100	130,000	130,100	0.1%	0.0%
Unemployment	13,500	14,400	14,100	-2.1%	4.4%
Rate (percent)	9.4	9.9	9.8		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</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	82,800	81,800	82,500	0.9%	-0.4%
Total Employment	73,100	71,100	72,700	2.3%	-0.5%
Unemployment	9,700	10,700	9,800	-8.4%	1.0%
Rate (percent)	11.7	13.1	11.8		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	139,200	139,400	140,800	1.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	125,400	124,800	126,900	1.7%	1.2%
Unemployment	13,900	14,700	14,000	-4.8%	0.7%
Rate (percent)	9.9	10.5	9.9		

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	<u>Apr-12</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	<u>Apr-13</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,593	4,631	4,619	-0.3%	0.6%
Total Employment	4,202	4,226	4,242	0.4%	1.0%
Unemployment	391	406	377	-7.1%	-3.6%
Rate (percent)	8.5	8.8	8.2		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2013 and 2012, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** April 2013 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.4 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
APRIL 2013**

1	Washtenaw County	5.1	43	Delta County	9.6
2	Barry County	5.4	44	Crawford County	9.8
3	Kent County	5.6	45	Osceola County	9.8
4	Cass County	5.8	46	Iron County	9.9
5	Ottawa County	5.9	47	Tuscola County	9.9
6	Clinton County	6.0	48	Wayne County	9.9
7	Kalamazoo County	6.2	49	Kalkaska County	10.0
8	Eaton County	6.3	50	Montcalm County	10.2
9	Isabella County	6.4	51	Sanilac County	10.2
10	Allegan County	6.6	52	Benzie County	10.3
11	Calhoun County	6.6	53	Manistee County	10.3
12	Midland County	6.8	54	Lapeer County	10.4
13	Menominee County	6.9	55	St. Clair County	10.6
14	St. Joseph County	6.9	56	Ogemaw County	10.7
15	Leelanau County	7.3	57	Gogebic County	10.8
16	Livingston County	7.3	58	Luce County	10.8
17	Monroe County	7.3	59	Chippewa County	10.9
18	Ingham County	7.5	60	Otsego County	11.1
19	Oakland County	7.5	61	Wexford County	11.2
20	Ionia County	7.6	62	Antrim County	11.3
21	Branch County	7.7	63	Iosco County	11.3
22	Grand Traverse County	7.7	64	Missaukee County	11.3
23	Dickinson County	7.9	65	Charlevoix County	11.4
24	Jackson County	7.9	66	Oceana County	11.5
25	Lenawee County	8.1	67	Alger County	11.8
26	Muskegon County	8.1	68	Clare County	11.8
27	Berrien County	8.2	69	Lake County	12.2
28	Newaygo County	8.2	70	Roscommon County	12.2
29	Marquette County	8.3	71	Arenac County	12.4
30	Saginaw County	8.3	72	Gladwin County	12.5
31	Bay County	8.5	73	Cheboygan County	13.2
32	Huron County	8.5	74	Emmet County	13.4
33	Mason County	8.6	75	Schoolcraft County	13.5
34	Van Buren County	8.6	76	Keweenaw County	13.6
35	Macomb County	8.7	77	Presque Isle County	14.4
36	Mecosta County	8.7	78	Oscoda County	15.1
37	Genesee County	8.8	79	Ontonagon County	15.2
38	Hillsdale County	8.8	80	Alcona County	15.3
39	Shiawassee County	8.9	81	Montmorency County	15.6
40	Gratiot County	9.0	82	Mackinac County	16.8
41	Houghton County	9.2	83	Baraga County	17.7
42	Alpena County	9.4			

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