



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March Unemployment Rates Edge Downward in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in 15 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in March, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels rose in most regions in March.

"Winter 2012 ended on a positive note for Michigan's various local labor markets," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "March was marked by seasonal job gains in leisure and hospitality services and construction."

From February to March, unemployment rate reductions were mostly minor in the 15 regions, with a median decline of only 0.2 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month decreases were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with both regions reporting a 0.6 of a percentage point rate decline. The jobless rate in the Ann Arbor MSA rose slightly by 0.1 of a percentage point, while the rate in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA was unchanged over the month. In March, all metropolitan regions in Michigan displayed unemployment rates below ten percent, while the state's three northernmost regions recorded seasonal rates above ten percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From March 2011 to March 2012, unemployment rates dropped in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from 1.5 to 2.5 percentage points with a median decline of 2.0 percentage points. The most pronounced rate decreases since March 2011 occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Monroe, Flint, Holland-Grand Haven, and Jackson MSAs, all with drops of at least 2.3 percentage points.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment increased in 15 regions, with a moderate median gain of 0.6 percent. Employment edged slightly downward in March in the Bay City and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs.

Since March 2011, total employment rose in 16 regions, with an average gain of nearly 2.0 percent. A number of Michigan regions displayed advances of more than 3.0 percent over the year. Employment fell slightly by a half percent in the Monroe MSA over the year.

Note: Employment, unemployment and industry job data for all 12 months of 2010 and 2011 have been recently revised. Estimates for 2012 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised historical estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

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Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

In March, workforce levels increased in 12 regions, declined in four areas, and were essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA. Labor force changes over the month were moderate, averaging around a half percent.

Between March 2011 and March 2012, labor force levels rose in eight regions and declined in eight. The workforce level in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA was little changed over the year.

Gains in Leisure and Hospitality Services Boost March Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 23,000 or 0.6 percent in March to 3,931,000. Most of the state's industry sectors recorded job gains over the month led by an 8,000 advance in leisure and hospitality services. Manufacturing (+5,000) and construction (+4,000) also registered job gains in March. Several other major sectors recorded minor job additions of 2,000 or less, while the remaining sectors were steady.

Payroll jobs rose moderately over the month in 12 of the state's 14 metropolitan areas, with the largest percentage gains posted in the Battle Creek, Niles-Benton Harbor, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs. Payroll jobs were down slightly over the month in the Bay City and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs. Over the month, most metro areas reported job advances in construction and leisure and hospitality services, while the gain in manufacturing was mainly in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA.

From March 2011 to March 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 57,000 or 1.5 percent. Manufacturing (+26,000), professional and business services (+20,000), and education and health services (+13,000) posted substantial gains, while most of the remaining sectors were stable over the year. Government (-10,000), reported the only significant drop in jobs over this period.

Since March 2011, 13 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed payroll job gains. The largest percentage job additions over the year were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven, Bay City, and Jackson MSAs. Payroll jobs in the Monroe MSA edged down over the year by a half percent.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

Seventy of Michigan's 83 counties recorded modest unemployment rate declines in March, with a median reduction of 0.4 of a percentage point. Nine counties showed minor rate increases in March, while rates were unchanged in four. In March, nearly half the counties in Michigan reported jobless rates below 10.0 percent.

From March 2011 to March 2012, unemployment rates fell in 82 Michigan counties. The median rate drop over the year was 2.0 percentage points. The rate in Keweenaw County was unchanged since March 2011.

*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-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,300	182,700	184,000	0.7%	1.5%
Total Employment	168,700	172,800	173,800	0.6%	3.0%
Unemployment	12,600	9,900	10,200	3.0%	-19.0%
Rate (percent)	7.0	5.4	5.5		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,100	63,800	64,600	1.3%	-0.8%
Total Employment	58,800	58,900	59,800	1.5%	1.7%
Unemployment	6,300	4,900	4,800	-2.0%	-23.8%
Rate (percent)	9.6	7.7	7.5		

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

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,500	52,300	52,100	-0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	45,800	47,500	47,300	-0.4%	3.3%
Unemployment	5,700	4,900	4,800	-2.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	11.1	9.3	9.2		

Contact: Rhea Acuna, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (989) 776-1508

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,015	1,997	1,988	-0.5%	-1.3%
Total Employment	1,771	1,794	1,798	0.2%	1.5%
Unemployment	244	203	190	-6.4%	-22.1%
Rate (percent)	12.1	10.2	9.6		

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

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,200	185,900	186,800	0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	163,100	167,700	169,000	0.8%	3.6%
Unemployment	22,100	18,200	17,800	-2.2%	-19.5%
Rate (percent)	12.0	9.8	9.6		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	379,900	381,800	382,500	0.2%	0.7%
Total Employment	345,100	353,700	354,900	0.3%	2.8%
Unemployment	34,800	28,100	27,600	-1.8%	-20.7%
Rate (percent)	9.2	7.4	7.2		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	126,800	131,300	131,700	0.3%	3.9%
Total Employment	114,800	121,800	122,400	0.5%	6.6%
Unemployment	12,000	9,500	9,300	-2.1%	-22.5%
Rate (percent)	9.4	7.2	7.1		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,300	71,900	71,900	0.0%	0.8%
Total Employment	63,500	65,500	65,700	0.3%	3.5%
Unemployment	7,800	6,300	6,200	-1.6%	-20.5%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.8	8.6		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	162,400	160,700	161,600	0.6%	-0.5%
Total Employment	146,700	147,900	149,000	0.7%	1.6%
Unemployment	15,700	12,900	12,600	-2.3%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.0	7.8		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	236,900	237,300	237,000	-0.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	215,800	220,200	219,900	-0.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	21,100	17,100	17,100	0.0%	-19.0%
Rate (percent)	8.9	7.2	7.2		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,800	67,200	67,600	0.6%	-3.2%
Total Employment	62,200	61,400	61,900	0.8%	-0.5%
Unemployment	7,600	5,800	5,700	-1.7%	-25.0%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.7	8.4		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,500	82,400	82,600	0.2%	1.3%
Total Employment	72,400	74,700	75,100	0.5%	3.7%
Unemployment	9,100	7,700	7,500	-2.6%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	11.2	9.4	9.1		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,500	71,500	72,500	1.4%	0.0%
Total Employment	64,300	64,400	65,700	2.0%	2.2%
Unemployment	8,200	7,100	6,700	-5.6%	-18.3%
Rate (percent)	11.3	9.9	9.3		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,300	89,300	90,200	1.0%	-0.1%
Total Employment	80,700	81,000	82,000	1.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	9,600	8,300	8,100	-2.4%	-15.6%
Rate (percent)	10.7	9.3	9.0		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,000	145,600	146,000	0.3%	-0.7%
Total Employment	129,500	130,200	131,000	0.6%	1.2%
Unemployment	17,600	15,300	15,100	-1.3%	-14.2%
Rate (percent)	11.9	10.5	10.3		

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(more)

	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	84,300	82,400	82,800	0.5%	-1.8%
Total Employment	71,400	70,900	71,800	1.3%	0.6%
Unemployment	12,900	11,500	11,100	-3.5%	-14.0%
Rate (percent)	15.3	13.9	13.4		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,600	138,600	138,500	-0.1%	-1.5%
Total Employment	121,700	122,200	122,800	0.5%	0.9%
Unemployment	18,900	16,300	15,700	-3.7%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	13.4	11.8	11.4		

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	<u>Mar-11</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,654	4,629	4,632	0.1%	-0.5%
Total Employment	4,131	4,194	4,214	0.5%	2.0%
Unemployment	523	435	418	-3.9%	-20.1%
Rate (percent)	11.2	9.4	9.0		

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Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2012 and 2011, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** March 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.5 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
MARCH 2012**

1	Washtenaw County	5.5	43	Wayne County	10.5
2	Clinton County	6.4	44	Alpena County	10.6
3	Barry County	6.7	45	Tuscola County	10.6
4	Eaton County	6.7	46	Kalkaska County	10.8
5	Kent County	6.9	47	Gogebic County	10.9
6	Isabella County	7.0	48	Mason County	10.9
7	Kalamazoo County	7.0	49	Osceola County	10.9
8	Ottawa County	7.1	50	Sanilac County	11.2
9	Calhoun County	7.5	51	Crawford County	11.4
10	Cass County	7.6	52	Manistee County	11.5
11	Ingham County	7.6	53	Montcalm County	11.5
12	Midland County	7.6	54	Ogemaw County	11.6
13	Menominee County	7.7	55	Lapeer County	11.8
14	Allegan County	7.9	56	Luce County	11.8
15	Livingston County	7.9	57	St. Clair County	11.8
16	Oakland County	8.1	58	Chippewa County	11.9
17	Dickinson County	8.2	59	Wexford County	12.0
18	Marquette County	8.2	60	Otsego County	12.2
19	Monroe County	8.4	61	Alger County	12.4
20	Branch County	8.6	62	Antrim County	12.4
21	Jackson County	8.6	63	Benzie County	12.4
22	St. Joseph County	8.8	64	Charlevoix County	12.7
23	Saginaw County	9.0	65	Clare County	12.7
24	Muskegon County	9.1	66	Roscommon County	12.7
25	Bay County	9.2	67	Lake County	12.8
26	Berrien County	9.3	68	Iosco County	13.2
27	Ionia County	9.3	69	Missaukee County	13.2
28	Leelanau County	9.4	70	Alcona County	13.6
29	Lenawee County	9.4	71	Oceana County	13.6
30	Grand Traverse County	9.5	72	Arenac County	13.7
31	Houghton County	9.5	73	Gladwin County	13.8
32	Macomb County	9.5	74	Emmet County	14.3
33	Genesee County	9.6	75	Schoolcraft County	14.6
34	Gratiot County	9.6	76	Ontonagon County	15.0
35	Hillsdale County	9.6	77	Keweenaw County	15.9
36	Newaygo County	9.6	78	Cheboygan County	16.2
37	Iron County	9.7	79	Oscoda County	16.2
38	Delta County	9.8	80	Montmorency County	18.2
39	Huron County	9.8	81	Baraga County	18.3
40	Mecosta County	10.0	82	Presque Isle County	19.4
41	Shiawassee County	10.0	83	Mackinac County	21.6
42	Van Buren County	10.5			

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