



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 16, 2014

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### **Michigan's March Unemployment Rate Declines**

*Rate Drops for Seventh Consecutive Month*

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March declined over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.5 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 19,000 in March while the number of unemployed decreased by 8,000. The state's labor force grew by 11,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2014 was one and three-tenths percentage points below the state's March 2013 rate of 8.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in March was eight-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate of 6.7 percent. The U.S. jobless rate was unchanged in March.

"In recent months, Michigan's jobless rate has been declining at a steady pace," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "The state's jobless rate is beginning to approach the 2007 pre-recession level of 7.1 percent."

#### ***Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights***

- With the March reduction, Michigan's unemployment rate has fallen for seven consecutive months. The state's jobless rate in March was the lowest in Michigan since the April 2008 rate of 7.3 percent.
- Since August 2013, the number of unemployed in the state has dropped by 67,000 or nearly 16.0 percent.
- Michigan's first quarter 2014 jobless rate was 7.7 percent, which was down by eight-tenths of a percentage point from the state's 8.5 percent fourth quarter 2013 rate.
- Michigan has recorded particularly strong labor force growth since December 2013. From December to March, the state's workforce increased by 43,000 or 0.9 percent.
- Early in 2014, total employment gains in Michigan have been strong, averaging around 25,000 per month. In 2013, monthly total employment advances averaged 4,000.

(more)

**Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2009-2013 for Michigan and for the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was also revised for 2009-2013. For newly revised data, go to [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi) or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.**

**MICHIGAN**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	March 2013	February 2014	March 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,709	4,719	4,730	11	21
Employment	4,295	4,356	4,375	19	80
Unemployment	415	363	355	-8	-60
Rate (Percent)	8.8	7.7	7.5	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's March Unemployment Rate Moves Downward***

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March edged down by two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.1 percent. In March, the region's workforce declined by 7,000, as the number of unemployed fell by 5,000 while total employment edged downward by 2,000. March marked the first monthly reduction in total employment in the area since July 2012. The over-the-month labor force decrease brought the region's workforce total close to levels recorded throughout most of 2013. The Detroit MSA's March jobless rate was the lowest for the area since May 2008.

From March 2013 to March 2014, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by one and a half percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 32,000 or 1.7 percent and the number of unemployed dropped by 29,000 or 14.9 percent. These percentage changes were similar to the statewide changes. However since March 2013, the Detroit area's marginal workforce growth of 0.1 percent lagged behind the modest Michigan and national gains of 0.4 and 0.7 percent respectively.

**Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**  
 Seasonally Adjusted  
 (Data in Thousands)

	March 2013	February 2014	March 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,031	2,041	2,034	-7	3
Employment	1,837	1,871	1,869	-2	32
Unemployment	194	170	165	-5	-29
Rate (Percent)	9.6	8.3	8.1	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***Payroll Jobs Steady in March***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs were unchanged in March at 4,115,000. The only notable job movements from February to March occurred in two sectors; leisure and hospitality services (+3,000), and manufacturing (-3,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded little change in March.

### ***Industry Employment Trends and Highlights***

- During the first three months of 2014, overall payroll jobs in Michigan have been essentially flat.
- Although construction jobs were steady from February to March, they have been trending upward in early 2014. From March 2013 to March 2014, construction recorded the third largest numerical job gain of any of Michigan's major industry sectors, while posting the second highest percentage increase.
- The state's financial activities sector recorded a minor job loss over the month, which continued a downward trend seen since mid-year 2013. Over the year, this sector registered a 3,000 job decline.
- In March, leisure and hospitality services posted its largest over-the-month job gain since October 2013. From March 2013 to March 2014, this sector displayed a modest 1.1 percent growth rate.
- Since March 2013, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 20,000 or 0.5 percent. Over that period, job gains have been concentrated in manufacturing (+12,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,000), construction (+5,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+4,000).
- Since March 2013, job reductions of around 3,000 each were recorded in financial activities, government, and other services.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined slightly over the month, however hours were unchanged. Hours and earnings were little changed over the year.

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**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>March</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>February*</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>March**</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>CHANGE***</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,095	4,115	4,115	0	20
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	9	0	0
Construction	131	137	137	0	5
Manufacturing	552	566	563	-3	12
Transportation Equipment	165	172	172	0	7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	741	747	748	1	6
Retail Trade	454	454	454	0	1
Information	55	55	56	0	1
Financial Activities	201	199	199	-1	-3
Professional & Business Services	600	602	602	0	2
Education & Health Services	637	636	636	0	-1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	398	399	402	3	4
Other Services	172	170	168	-1	-3
Government	600	596	597	0	-3

\* Final data for February

\*\* Preliminary data for March

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>March</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>February</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$888.59	\$894.03	\$888.50	-\$5.53	-\$0.09
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	44.2	44.2	0.0	0.0

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,197.43	\$1,200.99	\$1,219.84	\$18.85	\$22.41
Average Weekly Hours	46.5	48.7	49.1	0.4	2.6

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