



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's February Unemployment Rate Declines

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February fell over the month by four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.9 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment increased by 13,000 in February, while the number of unemployed declined by 18,000. As a result, the state's labor force edged down by 5,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in February 2015 was one and nine-tenths percentage points below the state's February 2014 rate of 7.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one and two-tenths percentage points over this period. The state's February unemployment rate was four-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate of 5.5 percent. The U.S. jobless rate declined in February by two-tenths of a percentage point.

"Payroll job growth in Michigan has been consistent and has intensified since October 2014," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Michigan's monthly unemployment rates over the past year have been edging closer to the national rate."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's February unemployment rate was the lowest for the state since October 2001. However, both the state's current labor force and total employment levels remain 300,000 below the levels posted in October 2001.
- Michigan's minor labor force reduction in February was the first monthly decline since July 2014. The state's February workforce level showed little change since February 2014, up by 7,000 or 0.1 percent.
- Since February 2014, total employment in Michigan increased by 96,000 or 2.2 percent, which was similar to the 2.1 percent national increase over the same period.
- From February 2014 to February 2015, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 88,000 or 23.8 percent, which outpaced the national decline of 16.2 percent since February 2014.

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Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 1976-2014 for Michigan and 1990-2014 for the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was revised for 2010-2014. For newly revised data, please contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

**MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2014	January 2015	February 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,751	4,763	4,758	-5	7
Employment	4,381	4,464	4,477	13	96
Unemployment	369	299	281	-18	-88
Rate (Percent)	7.8	6.3	5.9	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's February Unemployment Rate Drops

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February fell over the month by six-tenths of a percentage point to 6.8 percent. In February, the jobless rate reduction in the region was primarily due to labor force withdrawal as total employment was unchanged over the month, and the number of unemployed fell by 12,000. February's 6.8 percent unemployment rate was the lowest for the region since December 2005. However, the area's labor force and total employment levels in 2015 are well below the levels in 2005.

From February 2014 to February 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and a half percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 33,000 or 1.8 percent in the region while the number of unemployed dropped by 51,000 or 27.1 percent. Since February 2014, the metro area registered a workforce reduction of 17,000 or 0.8 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2014	January 2015	February 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,024	2,019	2,007	-12	-17
Employment	1,837	1,870	1,870	0	33
Unemployment	188	149	137	-12	-51
Rate (Percent)	9.3	7.4	6.8	xxx	xxx

(more)

Moderate Advance in February Payroll Jobs

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in February by 7,000 to 4,248,000. Job changes over the month were mostly minor throughout the state's various major industry sectors. February job gains were recorded in manufacturing (+3,000), professional and business services (+3,000), government (+2,000), and other services (+2,000). The remaining industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- With the moderate gain in February, Michigan recorded its fifth consecutive monthly advance in total payroll jobs. Since September 2014, monthly job increases have averaged around 12,000.
- The February increase in overall manufacturing jobs reflected recalls from short-term layoffs in auto-related manufacturing.
- Government jobs posted a minor rebound in February after a weak January showing. However, government jobs in February remain below levels recorded throughout 2014.
- The February gain in professional and business services continued an upward trend reported since summer 2014. This sector's job totals were relatively flat over the 2014 summer months; however since then, monthly job gains averaged around 4,000.
- From February 2014 to February 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 90,000 or 2.2 percent. Since February 2014, ten of the state's 11 major industry sectors either recorded job gains or were stable. Significant over-the-year job advances were displayed in professional and business services (+33,000), manufacturing (+20,000), construction (+12,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000), education and health services (+8,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+8,000).
- Government (-3,000) registered the only over-the-year job reduction among major Michigan industry sectors.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined over the month. Average weekly earnings rose slightly over the year, but average weekly hours edged downward.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>February</u>	<u>January*</u>	<u>February**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,158	4,241	4,248	7	90
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	9	0	0
Construction	139	151	151	0	12
Manufacturing	573	590	593	3	20
Transportation Equipment	176	186	188	3	12
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	754	763	763	1	9
Retail Trade	459	464	465	1	6
Information	57	57	57	0	0
Financial Activities	204	207	205	-1	1
Professional & Business Services	609	639	642	3	33
Education & Health Services	643	652	651	-1	8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	404	412	412	0	8
Other Services	171	170	172	2	1
Government	596	591	593	2	-3

* Final data for January

** Preliminary data for February

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>February</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$893.17	\$932.46	\$905.39	-\$27.07	\$12.22
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	44.7	43.8	-0.9	-0.4

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,211.68	\$1,270.10	\$1,217.21	-\$52.89	\$5.53
Average Weekly Hours	48.8	48.9	48.0	-0.9	-0.8

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