



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 3, 2012

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February Unemployment Rates Decline Slightly in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

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

"February 2012 was mostly favorable throughout Michigan's local labor markets," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Jobless rates were stable or declining, while the majority of regions reported payroll job gains."

From January to February, unemployment rate reductions were minor in the 15 regions, with a median decline of 0.2 of a percentage point. The largest rate decreases occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-0.5), and Monroe (-0.4) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The February jobless rate in the Northeast Lower Michigan region edged upward over the month by 0.1 of a percentage point, while the rate was unchanged in the Bay City MSA. In February, only four major areas in Michigan posted unemployment rates over 10.0 percent: the state's three northernmost labor market regions along with the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA. In contrast, five regions boasted rates under 8.0 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From February 2011 to February 2012, unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate drops ranged from 1.1 to 2.2 percentage points with a median reduction of 1.7 percentage points. The largest over-the-year jobless rate reductions were registered in the Flint, Holland-Grand Haven, and Jackson MSAs.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment increased in all 17 regions, with an average advance of 1.3 percent. The largest over-the-month employment gains were displayed in the Ann Arbor, Monroe, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs, all with advances of 2.0 percent or greater.

Since February 2011, total employment rose in 15 regions, with an average gain of nearly 2.0 percent. The most pronounced advances over the year were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven, Muskegon-Norton Shores, and Bay City MSAs. Employment was essentially unchanged over the year in the Monroe MSA, while employment edged downward in the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

Note: Employment, unemployment and industry job data for all 12 months of 2010 and 2011 have been recently revised. Estimates for January & February 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 February, workforce levels expanded in all 17 regions, with an average increase of 1.1 percent. The largest over-the-month gains occurred in the Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Holland-Grand Haven MSAs.

Between February 2011 and February 2012, labor force levels declined in nine areas and increased in eight.

Professional and Business Services and Government Push February Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 27,000 or 0.7 percent in February to 3,907,000. Private sector jobs advanced over the month by 12,000 or 0.4 percent. Within the private sector, job gains in professional and business services (+14,000), and education and health services (+9,000) were partially offset by job declines in trade, transportation and utilities (-8,000). Michigan's remaining private industry sectors recorded only minor gains or losses over the month.

Within the public sector, government jobs rose by 15,000 in February as jobs in local government education (+10,000) and state government education (+4,000) increased seasonally with the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools following the holiday break.

Payroll jobs advanced over the month in ten of the state's 14 metropolitan areas, with an average gain of 1.0 percent. Four metro areas recorded minor overall job declines of a half percent or less.

From February 2011 to February 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs advanced statewide by 61,000 or 1.6 percent. The bulk of the over-the-year job gains were posted in three sectors: manufacturing (+24,000), professional and business services (+24,000), and education and health services (+13,000). Other than government (-8,000), the state's remaining industry sectors reported relatively minor gains or losses over the year.

Since February 2011, 13 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions displayed payroll job gains, with a median increase of 1.7 percent. The largest percentage job additions over the year were recorded in the Holland-Grand Haven and Bay City MSAs. Payroll jobs in the Monroe MSA edged down over the year.

County Jobless Rates Little Changed Over Month, Down Over Year

Fifty-four of Michigan's 83 counties recorded marginal unemployment rate declines in February, with a median reduction of 0.3 of a percentage point. Nineteen counties recorded minor jobless rate increases over the month, while the rates in ten counties were unchanged. In February, nineteen counties in Michigan displayed unemployment rates below the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted rate of 8.7 percent.

From February 2011 to February 2012, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties. The median rate drop over the year was 1.7 percentage points.

*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 February workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for February.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	179,100	178,600	182,600	2.2%	2.0%
Total Employment	167,400	168,600	172,800	2.5%	3.2%
Unemployment	11,700	10,000	9,900	-1.0%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	6.5	5.6	5.4		

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

	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	63,100	63,900	1.3%	-0.9%
Total Employment	58,300	58,100	59,000	1.5%	1.2%
Unemployment	6,200	5,000	4,900	-2.0%	-21.0%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.0	7.7		

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

	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,500	52,000	52,400	0.8%	1.7%
Total Employment	45,800	47,100	47,500	0.8%	3.7%
Unemployment	5,600	4,900	4,900	0.0%	-12.5%
Rate (percent)	11.0	9.3	9.3		

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

	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,007	1,991	1,997	0.3%	-0.5%
Total Employment	1,762	1,777	1,794	1.0%	1.8%
Unemployment	245	214	203	-5.1%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	12.2	10.7	10.2		

Contact: Bruce Weaver, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3091

	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	184,600	183,700	186,100	1.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	162,400	165,300	167,800	1.5%	3.3%
Unemployment	22,200	18,400	18,200	-1.1%	-18.0%

Rate (percent) 12.0 10.0 9.8

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	378,900	378,800	381,000	0.6%	0.6%
Total Employment	344,600	350,500	352,900	0.7%	2.4%
Unemployment	34,300	28,200	28,100	-0.4%	-18.1%
Rate (percent)	9.1	7.5	7.4		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	126,300	129,100	131,400	1.8%	4.0%
Total Employment	114,500	119,600	121,900	1.9%	6.5%
Unemployment	11,900	9,600	9,500	-1.0%	-20.2%
Rate (percent)	9.4	7.4	7.2		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,900	70,700	71,900	1.7%	1.4%
Total Employment	63,200	64,300	65,500	1.9%	3.6%
Unemployment	7,800	6,400	6,300	-1.6%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	11.0	9.1	8.8		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	161,300	158,100	160,900	1.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	145,800	145,100	148,000	2.0%	1.5%
Unemployment	15,500	13,100	12,800	-2.3%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	9.6	8.3	8.0		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					

Civilian Labor Force	236,500	233,800	237,400	1.5%	0.4%
Total Employment	216,200	216,400	220,300	1.8%	1.9%
Unemployment	20,300	17,400	17,100	-1.7%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	8.6	7.4	7.2		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	68,900	66,300	67,400	1.7%	-2.2%
Total Employment	61,500	60,200	61,500	2.2%	0.0%
Unemployment	7,300	6,000	5,900	-1.7%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	10.7	9.1	8.7		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,100	81,600	82,500	1.1%	1.7%
Total Employment	71,900	73,800	74,800	1.4%	4.0%
Unemployment	9,200	7,800	7,700	-1.3%	-16.3%
Rate (percent)	11.3	9.6	9.4		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,000	70,800	71,500	1.0%	-0.7%
Total Employment	63,600	63,700	64,400	1.1%	1.3%
Unemployment	8,300	7,100	7,100	0.0%	-14.5%
Rate (percent)	11.6	10.1	9.9		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,800	89,200	89,600	0.4%	-0.2%
Total Employment	80,200	80,800	81,300	0.6%	1.4%
Unemployment	9,500	8,300	8,300	0.0%	-12.6%
Rate (percent)	10.6	9.4	9.3		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	147,300	144,900	145,600	0.5%	-1.2%
Total Employment	129,700	129,600	130,200	0.5%	0.4%
Unemployment	17,700	15,300	15,300	0.0%	-13.6%
Rate (percent)	12.0	10.6	10.5		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-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	84,400	82,000	82,400	0.5%	-2.4%
Total Employment	71,200	70,600	70,900	0.4%	-0.4%
Unemployment	13,200	11,400	11,500	0.9%	-12.9%
Rate (percent)	15.6	13.9	14.0		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	141,100	138,400	138,600	0.1%	-1.8%
Total Employment	122,000	121,900	122,200	0.2%	0.2%
Unemployment	19,200	16,400	16,400	0.0%	-14.6%
Rate (percent)	13.6	11.9	11.8		

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	<u>Feb-11</u>	<u>Jan-12</u>	<u>Feb-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,637	4,595	4,628	0.7%	-0.2%
Total Employment	4,114	4,148	4,194	1.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	522	448	435	-2.9%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	11.3	9.7	9.4		

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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** February 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.8 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 FEBRUARY 2012

1	Washtenaw County	5.4	43	Alpena County	11.1
2	Clinton County	6.3	44	Kalkaska County	11.1
3	Isabella County	6.7	45	Tuscola County	11.1
4	Eaton County	6.8	46	Wayne County	11.1
5	Barry County	6.9	47	Osceola County	11.3
6	Kalamazoo County	7.0	48	Van Buren County	11.3
7	Kent County	7.0	49	Crawford County	11.7
8	Ottawa County	7.2	50	Sanilac County	11.7
9	Ingham County	7.6	51	Luce County	11.8
10	Menominee County	7.6	52	Mason County	11.8
11	Calhoun County	7.7	53	Montcalm County	11.9
12	Midland County	7.7	54	Ogemaw County	11.9
13	Cass County	8.0	55	Wexford County	12.0
14	Allegan County	8.2	56	Manistee County	12.2
15	Dickinson County	8.4	57	Chippewa County	12.4
16	Marquette County	8.4	58	Antrim County	12.6
17	Oakland County	8.5	59	Otsego County	12.6
18	Livingston County	8.7	60	St. Clair County	12.8
19	Monroe County	8.7	61	Alger County	12.9
20	Jackson County	8.8	62	Clare County	13.0
21	Branch County	9.0	63	Keweenaw County	13.0
22	St. Joseph County	9.2	64	Lapeer County	13.0
23	Bay County	9.3	65	Roscommon County	13.0
24	Houghton County	9.3	66	Missaukee County	13.4
25	Saginaw County	9.3	67	Benzie County	13.5
26	Muskegon County	9.4	68	Lake County	13.5

27	Ionia County	9.5	69	Charlevoix County	13.6
28	Lenawee County	9.7	70	Iosco County	13.8
29	Genesee County	9.8	71	Alcona County	14.3
30	Grand Traverse County	9.8	72	Ontonagon County	14.4
31	Leelanau County	9.8	73	Arenac County	14.5
32	Berrien County	9.9	74	Schoolcraft County	14.5
33	Hillsdale County	9.9	75	Gladwin County	14.6
34	Gratiot County	10.0	76	Oceana County	14.7
35	Huron County	10.0	77	Emmet County	14.9
36	Macomb County	10.1	78	Cheboygan County	16.9
37	Mecosta County	10.2	79	Oscoda County	17.3
38	Newaygo County	10.2	80	Baraga County	18.3
39	Iron County	10.3	81	Montmorency County	18.9
40	Shiawassee County	10.3	82	Presque Isle County	20.8
41	Gogebic County	10.5	83	Mackinac County	23.5
42	Delta County	10.6			

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