



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Michigan's April Unemployment Rate Continues Downward Trend**

*State Matches National Rate*

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April moved downward over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.4 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). The number of unemployed in the state declined by 10,000 over the month and total employment rose slightly by 3,000. The net result was a labor force reduction of 6,000 in April.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2015 was two and one-tenth percentage points below the state's April 2014 rate of 7.5 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's April unemployment rate matched the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate edged down by one-tenth of a percentage point from March to April.

"Michigan has displayed an impressive run of monthly jobless rate reductions over the past year," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Statewide payroll job levels have increased by nearly 100,000 since April 2014."

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

- The last time Michigan's jobless rate matched the U.S. rate was in September 2000, with an unemployment rate for both of 3.9 percent. Prior to this period, Michigan's jobless rate was at or below the national rate for over six years with the exception of July 1998.
- With the April decrease, Michigan's monthly unemployment rates have declined for 20 consecutive months since September 2013. The jobless rate reductions accelerated in 2015, with a drop of a full percentage point since December 2014.
- Although total employment has risen every month so far in 2015 by an average of over 10,000 per month, the state's workforce has recorded moderate reductions for three consecutive months. Michigan's labor force has shown no growth since April 2014, declining marginally by 10,000 or 0.2 percent.
- Since April 2014, total employment in Michigan increased by 88,000 or 2.0 percent, similar to the 1.9 percent gain nationally over the same period.

- From April 2014 to April 2015, the number of unemployed in the state fell by 98,000 or 27.6 percent, which well outpaced the national decline of 11.8 percent since April 2014.

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

	April 2014	March 2015	April 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,751	4,747	4,741	-6	-10
Employment	4,395	4,480	4,483	3	88
Unemployment	355	267	257	-10	-98
Rate (Percent)	7.5	5.6	5.4	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's April Jobless Rate Declines***

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April edged down over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.2 percent. This was the lowest rate for the region since September 2002. Since December 2014, the area's jobless rate has fallen by one and a half percentage points; however the unemployment rate reduction in the region over this period was primarily due to a drop in the size of the metro area labor force. The Detroit MSA total employment level has been flat so far in 2015. Over the month, the number of unemployed in the metro region declined by 5,000, however total employment was essentially unchanged.

From April 2014 to April 2015, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by two and seven-tenths percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 22,000 or 1.2 percent in the region while the number of unemployed dropped by 58,000 or 32.2 percent. Since April 2014, the metro area recorded a workforce reduction of 36,000 or 1.8 percent.

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

	April 2014	March 2015	April 2015	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,023	1,991	1,987	-4	-36
Employment	1,843	1,865	1,865	0	22
Unemployment	180	127	122	-5	-58
Rate (Percent)	8.9	6.4	6.2	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***April Payroll Jobs Increase Slightly***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged upward in April by 3,000 to 4,255,000. Most of the state's major industry sectors were little changed over the month. April job gains were recorded in professional and business services (+3,000), and construction (+2,000), while job declines were posted in education and health services (-3,000).

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

- With a minor upward revision in March, the April increase in payroll jobs marked the seventh consecutive monthly advance in statewide job totals dating back to October 2014. Since September 2014, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 68,000 or 1.6 percent.
- The 2,000 over-the-month job gain in construction continued a consistent upward trend for this sector that began in November 2014. Since April 2014, Michigan's construction sector displayed the largest percentage gain of any of the state's major job sectors. Construction jobs were up by 10.6 percent over that period.
- April's minor reduction in the education and health services sector brought job totals back to January and February 2015 levels. The 2015 job count in this sector remains well above levels posted throughout most of 2014.
- Jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, which is Michigan's largest major industry sector, have been essentially flat since October 2014. However, this sector has recorded job growth of 8,000 or 1.0 percent since April 2014.
- From April 2014 to April 2015, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 99,000 or 2.4 percent. All major sectors in Michigan, with the exception of government, recorded job gains since April 2014. Nearly 70 percent of the over-the-year job growth was confined to three of the state's major sectors: professional and business services (+28,000), manufacturing (+25,000), and construction (+15,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined slightly over the month, while hours were essentially flat. Hours and earnings rose moderately over the year.

(more)

**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*  
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>April</u> 2014	<u>March*</u> 2015	<u>April**</u> 2015	CHANGE***	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,157	4,252	4,255	3	99
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	8	0	0
Construction	139	153	154	2	15
Manufacturing	567	592	592	0	25
Transportation Equipment	168	186	187	1	19
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	756	763	763	0	8
Retail Trade	460	464	462	-1	2
Information	57	58	57	-1	0
Financial Activities	204	206	207	1	3
Professional & Business Services	612	637	640	3	28
Education & Health Services	643	655	652	-3	9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	405	413	414	1	10
Other Services	171	171	173	1	2
Government	596	595	595	0	-1

\* Final data for March

\*\* Preliminary data for April

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>April</u> 2014	<u>March</u> 2015	<u>April</u> 2015	CHANGE	
				<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$892.86	\$919.99	\$915.11	-\$4.88	\$22.25
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	44.1	44.2	0.1	0.3

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,220.51	\$1,262.35	\$1,220.06	-\$42.29	-\$0.45
Average Weekly Hours	49.3	50.3	49.2	-1.1	-0.1

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