



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

DAVID B. BEHEN  
DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

**April Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in Most of Michigan's  
Regional Labor Markets**

*Payroll Jobs Up in All Metro Areas Over the Month*

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in April decreased in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market regions, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels rose seasonally in most regions over the month, while labor force levels were mixed and little changed throughout the state.

"Much of what occurred in Michigan's various local labor markets in April was seasonal, as employment typically expands after the winter months," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, employment gains have been very solid in the majority of the state's regions since April 2013."

From March to April, unemployment rate reductions were significant in a number of regions, with the 16 areas posting a median drop of a full percentage point. The largest over-the-month declines were displayed in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.3 percentage points), along with the Bay City and Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), both down 1.4 percentage points. The Monroe MSA recorded a minor 0.2 of a percentage point rate hike over the month. In April, 16 of Michigan's 17 regional labor markets registered jobless rates below 10.0 percent.

***Jobless Rates Down Over Year***

Since April 2013, jobless rates fell in 16 of the 17 major regions. Reductions ranged from 0.5 to 1.8 percentage points with a notable median rate decline of 1.2 percentage points. The most pronounced over-the-year rate decreases were recorded in the Muskegon-Norton Shores and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs, along with the Northwest Lower Michigan region, with rate drops of 1.8, 1.7, and 1.4 percentage points respectively. The Monroe MSA unemployment rate of 7.4 percent was unchanged over the year.

***Total Employment Up Over Month, Year***

In April, total employment levels rose in 15 areas, recording a strong seasonal median gain of 1.2 percent. The largest over-the-month increases of around 2.0 percent or above were posted in the Niles-Benton Harbor and Bay City MSAs along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Total employment declined slightly in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA and the Upper Peninsula over the month.

From April 2013 to April 2014, total employment advanced in all 17 regions. Most over-the-year employment advances were significant, with a notable median increase of 2.5 percent. Thirteen areas recorded total employment gains of 2.0 percent or above over this period. The largest percentage gains since April 2013 were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.9%), Niles-Benton Harbor (+4.5%) and Holland-Grand Haven (+4.4%) MSAs.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Up Over Year***

From March to April, workforce levels increased in ten regions, declined in six, and were essentially unchanged in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA. Labor force changes were mostly small, with an average movement of 0.6 percent for all areas over the month.

Since April 2013, labor force levels advanced in 15 of Michigan's major areas, with a median growth of 1.5 percent. The Flint and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs reported minor labor force reductions over the year.

### ***April Payroll Jobs Up Seasonally***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 28,000 or 0.7 percent in April to 4,098,000. Over-the-month job gains were posted in construction (+9,000), leisure and hospitality services (+9,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000), and professional and business services (+5,000). The only notable job decline was recorded in manufacturing (-6,000). The state's remaining job sectors were little changed in April.

The decline in manufacturing jobs was due to short-term layoffs in the auto industry.

From March to April, payroll jobs rose in all of Michigan's 14 metropolitan regions, with a median gain of 0.9 percent. Construction and leisure and hospitality services increased in all metro areas over the month. The short-term cuts in manufacturing jobs occurred primarily in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Lansing-East Lansing MSAs.

From April 2013 to April 2014, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 26,000 or 0.6 percent. Over-the-year job gains were registered in manufacturing (+11,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+9,000), professional and business services (+5,000), construction (+5,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+4,000). Government (-4,000) recorded the largest job decline since April 2013.

Since April 2013, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the 14 metropolitan regions in the state, with a median gain of 1.8 percent. The largest over-the-year percentage job increases were recorded in the Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+4.1%), Holland-Grand Haven (+3.2%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (+2.7%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined modestly over the year in the Flint (-0.7%), Jackson (-0.4%), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-0.3%) MSAs.

### ***County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year***

Seventy-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate decreases in April with a median reduction of 1.3 percentage points. Most of the larger drops in April were reported in the state's northern counties. Rates were up slightly in four counties over the month.

From April 2013 to April 2014, jobless rates fell in 81 of the state's counties. The unemployment rate in Osceola County was up slightly since April 2013, while the rate in Monroe County was unchanged.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. Monthly employment and unemployment trends may be impacted by weather conditions or regular seasonal swings in hiring or layoffs. As a result, Michigan **not seasonally adjusted** estimates in this release differ from previously released Michigan **seasonally adjusted** data. A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for April. Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."*

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,100	185,800	186,800	0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	175,300	176,100	177,700	0.9%	1.4%
Unemployment	9,800	9,700	9,100	-6.2%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	5.3	5.2	4.8		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	65,200	65,300	0.2%	1.7%
Total Employment	59,600	60,700	61,400	1.2%	3.0%
Unemployment	4,600	4,500	3,900	-13.3%	-15.2%
Rate (percent)	7.2	7.0	6.0		

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

	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,600	51,700	51,900	0.4%	0.6%
Total Employment	46,900	46,900	47,900	2.1%	2.1%
Unemployment	4,600	4,700	4,000	-14.9%	-13.0%
Rate (percent)	9.0	9.1	7.7		

Contact: Kevin Doyle, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-2161

	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,995	2,009	1,988	-1.0%	-0.4%
Total Employment	1,822	1,843	1,832	-0.6%	0.5%
Unemployment	173	166	156	-6.0%	-9.8%
Rate (percent)	8.7	8.3	7.9		

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

	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,300	185,300	185,000	-0.2%	-0.7%
Total Employment	169,300	168,600	170,500	1.1%	0.7%
Unemployment	17,000	16,700	14,500	-13.2%	-14.7%
Rate (percent)	9.1	9.0	7.8		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	397,800	411,200	412,100	0.2%	3.6%
Total Employment	372,600	386,700	391,000	1.1%	4.9%
Unemployment	25,200	24,500	21,100	-13.9%	-16.3%
Rate (percent)	6.3	6.0	5.1		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b> (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	130,400	134,100	134,400	0.2%	3.1%
Total Employment	122,300	126,100	127,700	1.3%	4.4%
Unemployment	8,200	8,000	6,700	-16.3%	-18.3%
Rate (percent)	6.3	6.0	5.0		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,500	70,700	70,600	-0.1%	0.1%
Total Employment	64,700	64,900	65,500	0.9%	1.2%
Unemployment	5,800	5,800	5,100	-12.1%	-12.1%
Rate (percent)	8.3	8.2	7.2		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	159,200	161,200	161,900	0.4%	1.7%
Total Employment	148,000	149,900	152,200	1.5%	2.8%
Unemployment	11,200	11,300	9,700	-14.2%	-13.4%
Rate (percent)	7.1	7.0	6.0		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,200	237,400	238,900	0.6%	1.6%
Total Employment	218,100	222,400	224,300	0.9%	2.8%
Unemployment	17,100	15,100	14,700	-2.6%	-14.0%
Rate (percent)	7.3	6.4	6.1		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,500	71,300	72,200	1.3%	2.4%
Total Employment	65,200	66,200	66,800	0.9%	2.5%
Unemployment	5,200	5,100	5,300	3.9%	1.9%
Rate (percent)	7.4	7.2	7.4		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,100	83,300	83,600	0.4%	1.8%
Total Employment	75,000	76,700	77,900	1.6%	3.9%
Unemployment	7,100	6,600	5,700	-13.6%	-19.7%
Rate (percent)	8.7	7.9	6.9		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,200	71,100	72,200	1.5%	2.8%
Total Employment	64,300	65,200	67,200	3.1%	4.5%
Unemployment	6,000	5,900	4,900	-16.9%	-18.3%
Rate (percent)	8.5	8.2	6.8		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,000	91,000	91,000	0.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	82,200	83,000	84,200	1.4%	2.4%
Unemployment	7,800	7,900	6,800	-13.9%	-12.8%
Rate (percent)	8.7	8.7	7.5		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,800	146,500	144,100	-1.6%	0.9%
Total Employment	128,000	131,400	130,900	-0.4%	2.3%
Unemployment	14,800	15,100	13,200	-12.6%	-10.8%
Rate (percent)	10.3	10.3	9.1		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	84,000	83,400	-0.7%	1.5%
Total Employment	72,000	72,700	74,100	1.9%	2.9%
Unemployment	10,200	11,300	9,300	-17.7%	-8.8%
Rate (percent)	12.4	13.5	11.2		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	139,800	142,700	141,400	-0.9%	1.1%
Total Employment	125,200	127,900	128,700	0.6%	2.8%
Unemployment	14,600	14,800	12,700	-14.2%	-13.0%
Rate (percent)	10.4	10.3	9.0		

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	<u>Apr-13</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Apr-14</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,643	4,699	4,679	-0.4%	0.8%
Total Employment	4,258	4,322	4,339	0.4%	1.9%
Unemployment	385	377	340	-9.8%	-11.7%
Rate (percent)	8.3	8.0	7.3		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2014 and 2013, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** April 2014 unemployment rate for Michigan (7.4 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
APRIL 2014**

1	Kent County	4.8	43	Montcalm County	8.7
2	Washtenaw County	4.8	44	Alpena County	8.8
3	Ottawa County	5.0	45	Lapeer County	8.9
4	St. Joseph County	5.5	46	Wayne County	8.9
5	Clinton County	5.6	47	Tuscola County	9.0
6	Kalamazoo County	5.6	48	St. Clair County	9.1
7	Barry County	5.7	49	Iron County	9.3
8	Isabella County	5.7	50	Manistee County	9.3
9	Cass County	5.9	51	Wexford County	9.4
10	Calhoun County	6.0	52	Sanilac County	9.5
11	Allegan County	6.1	53	Benzie County	9.6
12	Ingham County	6.1	54	Gogebic County	9.6
13	Midland County	6.1	55	Charlevoix County	9.7
14	Ionia County	6.2	56	Crawford County	9.7
15	Branch County	6.5	57	Otsego County	9.8
16	Oakland County	6.5	58	Ogemaw County	10.1
17	Grand Traverse County	6.6	59	Oceana County	10.2
18	Eaton County	6.7	60	Gladwin County	10.4
19	Berrien County	6.8	61	Luce County	10.4
20	Muskegon County	6.9	62	Clare County	10.6
21	Dickinson County	7.0	63	Osceola County	10.7
22	Livingston County	7.0	64	Kalkaska County	10.8
23	Menominee County	7.1	65	Alcona County	10.9
24	Jackson County	7.2	66	Iosco County	10.9
25	Newaygo County	7.2	67	Missaukee County	10.9
26	Marquette County	7.4	68	Antrim County	11.0
27	Monroe County	7.4	69	Arenac County	11.0
28	Hillsdale County	7.5	70	Alger County	11.2
29	Lenawee County	7.5	71	Lake County	11.3
30	Saginaw County	7.5	72	Roscommon County	11.3
31	Van Buren County	7.5	73	Emmet County	11.4
32	Macomb County	7.6	74	Chippewa County	11.5
33	Bay County	7.7	75	Oscoda County	11.6
34	Genesee County	7.8	76	Schoolcraft County	12.5
35	Gratiot County	7.8	77	Baraga County	12.7
36	Mecosta County	7.8	78	Keweenaw County	13.2
37	Mason County	7.9	79	Montmorency County	13.6
38	Shiawassee County	8.0	80	Ontonagon County	14.1
39	Huron County	8.1	81	Cheboygan County	14.9
40	Leelanau County	8.1	82	Presque Isle County	14.9
41	Houghton County	8.5	83	Mackinac County	17.8
42	Delta County	8.7			

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