



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Michigan's April Jobless Rate Edges Down

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down in April by one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.4 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 19,000 over the month while the number of unemployed declined by 5,000. The net result was a 12,000 advance in the state's labor force in April.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2013 was seven-tenths of a percentage point below the state's April 2012 rate of 9.1 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by six-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in April was nine-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate of 7.5 percent. The U.S. jobless rate also inched downward over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point.

"Michigan labor market indicators were relatively unchanged in April," said Michael Williams, acting director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, the number of unemployed in Michigan has declined for three consecutive months."

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

- Michigan's unemployment rate recorded a reduction for the third consecutive month in April. The state's monthly rates have either declined or remained unchanged since September.
- Over the first four months of 2013, Michigan's jobless rate has fallen by half a percentage point as the number of unemployed in the state decreased by 23,000. In this period, total employment rose by 53,000 statewide.
- The state's monthly labor force levels have been tracking upward in 2013 after declining throughout much of 2012. Michigan's workforce in April recorded a net increase of 2,000 over the year. Although minor, this marks the first over-the-year labor force gain in Michigan since 2006.
- Since April 2012, total employment in Michigan rose by 36,000 or 0.8 percent, which is below the national employment growth rate over this period of 1.2 percent.

- From April 2012 to April 2013, the number of unemployed in Michigan declined by 33,000 or 7.8 percent, which outpaced the 6.9 percent decrease nationally.

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

	April 2012	March 2013	April 2013	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,668	4,658	4,670	12	2
Employment	4,244	4,261	4,280	19	36
Unemployment	424	396	391	-5	-33
Rate (Percent)	9.1	8.5	8.4	xxx	xxx

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

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April decreased over the month by four-tenths of a percentage point to 9.5 percent. In April, total employment rose in the region by 7,000 and the number of unemployed declined by 8,000. April marked the second consecutive month that the area's jobless rate was below 10.0 percent, while the region posted its lowest rate since September 2008.

From April 2012 to April 2013, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate declined by seven-tenths of a percentage point. Over that period, total employment was up in the region by 16,000 or 0.9 percent while the number of unemployed dropped by 14,000 or 6.8 percent. The MSA's over-the-year employment and unemployment rates of change were very similar to the state and national trends. The area's workforce edged upward by 2,000 since April 2012.

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

	April 2012	March 2013	April 2013	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,005	2,008	2,007	-1	2
Employment	1,800	1,809	1,816	7	16
Unemployment	205	199	191	-8	-14
Rate (Percent)	10.2	9.9	9.5	xxx	xxx

### ***Marginal Reduction in April Payroll Jobs***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs declined slightly in April by 4,000 to 4,057,000. Job reductions in April were recorded in professional and business services (-8,000), financial activities (-2,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-2,000). These decreases were partially offset by job gains in leisure and hospitality services (+3,000), manufacturing (+2,000), and education and health services (+2,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded only minor changes over the month.

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

- Overall job totals in Michigan fell slightly in April for the second consecutive month. However, April's job count was above the January total and well above levels posted throughout 2012.
- With a marginal decline over the month, construction jobs continued to show weakness in 2013. The job losses over the last two months brought this sector's level close to totals posted in late 2012.
- The minor over-the-month job gain in manufacturing continued a consistent upward trend in this sector recorded since 2010.
- Jobs in leisure and hospitality services displayed a solid advance so far in 2013, paced by notable gains in both January and April.
- Since April 2012, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 32,000 or 0.8 percent. Over this period, the most significant job gains occurred in manufacturing (+22,000), education and health services (+9,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+6,000). Noteworthy over-the-year job reductions took place in government (-7,000) and construction (-4,000).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined over the month as well as over the year.

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

	<u>April</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>April**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4025	4061	4057	-4	32
Natural Resources & Mining	8	8	8	0	0
Construction	129	126	125	-1	-4
Manufacturing	532	552	554	2	22
Transportation Equipment	153	161	164	3	11
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	730	736	734	-2	4
Retail Trade	450	451	451	-1	1
Information	53	51	51	0	-2
Financial Activities	196	199	197	-2	2
Professional & Business Services	578	585	578	-8	0
Education & Health Services	632	639	641	2	9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	387	391	394	3	6
Other Services	168	170	170	0	3
Government	612	605	605	1	-7

\* Final data for March

\*\* Preliminary data for April

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$919.66	\$895.19	\$869.38	-\$25.81	-\$50.28
Average Weekly Hours	44.4	44.6	43.7	-0.9	-0.7

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,370.13	\$1,216.35	\$1,159.49	-\$56.86	-\$210.64
Average Weekly Hours	49.2	46.2	45.5	-0.7	-3.7