



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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Michigan's April Unemployment Rate Edges Downward

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April edged down over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.4 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 14,000 in April and the number of unemployed declined slightly by 3,000. The state's labor force expanded by 11,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2014 was one and four-tenths percentage points below the state's April 2013 rate of 8.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by one and two-tenths percentage points over this period. The state's unemployment rate in April was one and one-tenth percentage points above the national rate of 6.3 percent. The U.S. jobless rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point from March to April.

"Michigan's labor market conditions were stable in April," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "However, with steady reductions over the last five years, the state's jobless rate has been cut nearly in half since the end of the last national recession."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's unemployment rate reduction in April marked the eighth consecutive monthly decline.
- From August 2013 to April 2014, Michigan's jobless rate has fallen by one and six-tenths percentage points. Over the same period, the national jobless rate fell by nine-tenths of a percentage point.
- The highest unemployment rate recorded in Michigan in the aftermath of the most recent recession was 14.2 percent in August 2009, and 10.0 percent nationally in October 2009 (the recession officially ended in June 2009). Since those recent highs, Michigan's rate has dropped by six and eight-tenths percentage points, while the U.S. rate fell by three and seven-tenths percentage points.
- The state's labor force moved upwards in April and has increased every month in 2014. Since April 2013, Michigan's workforce has shown moderate growth, increasing by 27,000 or 0.6 percent. The national labor force was essentially flat over the same period.

- From April 2013 to April 2014, the number of unemployed in Michigan declined by 63,000 or 15.2 percent.

MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates
 Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	April 2013	March 2014	April 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,714	4,730	4,741	11	27
Employment	4,299	4,375	4,389	14	90
Unemployment	415	355	352	-3	-63
Rate (Percent)	8.8	7.5	7.4	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's April Unemployment Rate Unchanged

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April was unchanged at 8.1 percent. In April, total employment in the region declined by 5,000 while the number of unemployed was essentially unchanged. The net result was a 5,000 reduction in the metro area's workforce. After displaying consistent monthly total employment growth for the last several years, the Detroit MSA posted declines for the last two months. However, the total employment reduction in the area since February was relatively minor, totaling 7,000 or 0.4 percent. Even with these monthly declines, April's employment total of 1,864,000 remained well above levels registered in 2013.

From April 2013 to April 2014, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell by one and four-tenths percentage points. Over that period, total employment rose by 24,000 or 1.3 percent and the number of unemployed dropped by 27,000 or 14.1 percent. Over the year, the region's workforce declined slightly by 0.2 percent.

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

	April 2013	March 2014	April 2014	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,033	2,034	2,029	-5	-4
Employment	1,840	1,869	1,864	-5	24
Unemployment	192	165	165	0	-27
Rate (Percent)	9.5	8.1	8.1	xxx	xxx

(more)

Payroll Jobs Little Changed in April

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged slightly upward in April by 1,000 to total 4,116,000. Payroll jobs increased moderately over the month in professional and business services (+3,000), financial activities (+2,000), and government (+2,000). Essentially offsetting these gains were declines in manufacturing (-3,000), education and health services (-2,000), and leisure and hospitality services (-2,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded little change in April.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Statewide payroll job totals have been relatively flat through the first four months of 2014.
- The manufacturing job cuts in April were due to short-term layoffs in the auto industry. Transportation equipment manufacturing was down by 4,000 jobs over the month.
- Michigan's financial activities sector recorded a rebound in April after posting two consecutive months of minor job loss. This sector's April job level matches the January level.
- Jobs in professional and business services also registered a minor rebound in April; however this sector remains 2,000 jobs below its recent high of 607,000 displayed in January.
- From April 2013 to April 2014, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 24,000 or 0.6 percent. Over that period, notable job gains were posted in manufacturing (+10,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+8,000), professional and business services (+7,000), and construction (+6,000)
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased slightly over the month, however hours were little changed. Both hours and earnings increased modestly over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>April</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>April**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,092	4,115	4,116	1	24
Natural Resources & Mining	8	9	8	0	1
Construction	131	136	137	1	6
Manufacturing	551	563	561	-3	10
Transportation Equipment	164	171	167	-4	3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	741	748	749	1	8
Retail Trade	453	454	455	1	2
Information	55	56	55	0	0
Financial Activities	202	198	200	2	-2
Professional & Business Services	598	601	605	3	7
Education & Health Services	639	636	635	-2	-5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	396	402	400	-2	4
Other Services	171	169	168	0	-2
Government	600	597	598	2	-2

* 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>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$882.13	\$893.09	\$896.89	\$3.80	\$14.76
Average Weekly Hours	43.8	44.1	44.0	-0.1	0.2

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,181.48	\$1,225.05	\$1,194.03	-\$31.02	\$12.55
Average Weekly Hours	46.6	48.8	49.2	0.4	2.6

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