



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Michigan's March Unemployment Rate Unchanged

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was unchanged at 4.8 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 27,000 while the number of unemployed edged slightly downward by 1,000. The net result was a 26,000 gain in the state's labor force in March.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2016 was a full percentage point below the state's March 2015 rate of 5.8 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by five-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in March was two-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate increased slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point from February to March.

"Michigan payroll job growth occurred in March for the sixth consecutive month," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Nearly every major industry sector in the state has recorded job gains over this period."

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

- March 2016 marked the ninth consecutive monthly increase in the state's workforce. For a year and a half prior to July 2015, Michigan's labor force was either flat or slightly declining on a monthly basis.
- Michigan's first quarter 2016 unemployment rate declined to 4.8 percent from the fourth quarter 2015 rate of 5.1 percent. The first quarter rate was the lowest for the state since the 4.6 percent rate recorded in the first quarter 2001.
- In March 2016, Michigan's employment to population ratio was 58.6 percent. The employment to population ratio measures total employment as a percentage of the 16 years and older non-institutionalized population. The March 2016 ratio was well above the record low of 53.2 percent for Michigan set in December 1982, but below the record high of 66.8 percent set in February 2000.
- From March 2015 to March 2016, the number of unemployed in Michigan fell by 41,000 or 15.0 percent, which compared favorably to the 6.9 percent reduction nationwide over the same period.

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**Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2011-2015 for Michigan and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA were revised. Previously published data should be replaced with this new series. In addition, seasonally adjusted payroll job data was revised for 1990-2015. For newly revised data go to [www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org) or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.**

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

	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,739	4,830	4,856	26	117
Employment	4,467	4,597	4,624	27	157
Unemployment	273	233	232	-1	-41
Rate (Percent)	5.8	4.8	4.8	xxx	xxx

***Detroit Metropolitan Area's February Jobless Rate Edges Downward***

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March declined slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. Total employment rose by 19,000 over the month, while the number of unemployed inched down slightly by 1,000. The area's workforce advanced by 18,000 over the month. As with the state, the Detroit MSA labor force has recorded fairly strong growth since the second half of 2015. The Detroit metro area's jobless rate decreased in March for the third consecutive month, and was the lowest rate for the region since the 5.7 percent rate posted in October 2001.

From March 2015 to March 2016, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell nine-tenths of a percentage point. Since March 2015 total employment rose by 66,000 or 3.5 percent in the region, while the number of unemployed declined by 16,000 or 12.1 percent. The Detroit area's workforce grew by 50,000 or 2.5 percent over this period.

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

	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,000	2,032	2,050	18	50
Employment	1,868	1,915	1,934	19	66
Unemployment	132	117	116	-1	-16
Rate (Percent)	6.6	5.8	5.7	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***Moderate Rise in March Payroll Jobs***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in March by 6,000 to 4,321,000. Overall payroll job changes over the month within the state's major industry sectors were mostly minor, with the only notable increase posted in professional and business services (+4,000). Leisure and hospitality services recorded a moderate 2,000 job reduction in March.

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

- March marked the sixth consecutive monthly gain in statewide payroll jobs dating back to October 2015. Over that period, statewide payroll jobs advanced by 74,000 or 1.7 percent, or an average of a little over 12,000 per month.
- After remaining fairly flat from May to September 2015, jobs in professional and business services have since tracked upward. The 4,000 over-the-month job gain in this sector pushed the over-the-year increase to 20,000, which is the largest numerical advance of any major sector in the state from March 2015 to March 2016.
- The relatively minor job reduction in leisure and hospitality services over the month broke a string of six monthly gains in a row for this sector dating back to September.
- Construction jobs recorded a minor increase in March, continuing a consistent recent upward trend since November 2015. From March 2015 to March 2016, this sector displayed the largest percentage increase in jobs (+5.5 percent) among Michigan's major industry categories.
- From March 2015 to March 2016, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 97,000 or 2.3 percent, which slightly outpaced the national gain over this period of 2.0 percent. Nearly all major job sectors in the state registered sizable increases over the year. However five sectors, professional and business services (+20,000), leisure and hospitality services (+17,000), manufacturing (+13,000), education and health services (+11,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+10,000), accounted for 73 percent of the overall growth.
- Since March 2015, natural resources and mining posted the only job decline (-1,000) among Michigan's major job sectors.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing increased over the month, but declined over the year.

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

	<u>March</u>	<u>February*</u>	<u>March**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,224	4,315	4,321	6	97
Natural Resources & Mining	8	7	7	0	-1
Construction	148	155	156	1	8
Manufacturing	582	596	595	-1	13
Transportation Equipment	171	175	175	0	5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	769	778	779	1	10
Retail Trade	467	469	472	3	5
Information	57	57	57	0	0
Financial Activities	205	213	213	0	8
Professional & Business Services	634	650	654	4	20
Education & Health Services	648	658	659	1	11
Leisure & Hospitality Services	412	430	428	-2	17
Other Services	167	171	171	0	4
Government	594	600	601	1	6

\* Final data for February

\*\* Preliminary data for March

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>March</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$923.71	\$826.08	\$876.60	\$50.52	-\$47.11
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	42.2	42.8	0.6	-1.2

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,266.01	\$986.37	\$1,101.96	\$115.59	-\$164.05
Average Weekly Hours	49.9	41.8	46.3	4.5	-3.6

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