



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's March Jobless Rate Falls

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March declined over the month by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 17,000 in March and the number of unemployed fell by 11,000. The state's workforce edged up by 6,000 over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2017 was two-tenths of a percentage point above the state's March 2016 rate of 4.9 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by half of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in March was six-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.5 percent in March.

"Michigan's monthly unemployment rates have hovered around five percent since mid-year 2015," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Although unemployment levels have been steady over this period, workforce and employment totals have continued to track upward."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- March marked the first monthly unemployment rate reduction in Michigan since May 2016.
- From May 2016 to February 2017, the state's monthly jobless rates rose incrementally, up by a total of a half percentage point. However, over that period, both total employment and labor force levels in Michigan advanced.
- March's total employment count of 4,666,000 was the highest level posted in the state since April 2007, which was eight months prior to the beginning of the Great Recession. Michigan's employment total continues to lag behind the state's record high employment level of 5,004,000 displayed in March 2000.
- Michigan's first quarter 2017 unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, a minor increase of two-tenths of a percentage point above both the first and fourth quarter 2016 rates.

- From March 2016 to March 2017, total employment advanced in Michigan by 95,000 or 2.1 percent while the state's workforce rose by 107,000 or 2.2 percent, both of which well outpaced the national total employment and labor force growth rates of 1.1 and 0.6 percent respectively.

Note: The data in this release reflects recently revised historical estimates. Seasonally adjusted labor force estimates for 2012-2016 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 2012-2016. For newly revised data go to www.milmi.org or contact DTMB at 313-456-3090.

MICHIGAN Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2016	February 2017	March 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,807	4,908	4,914	6	107
Employment	4,571	4,649	4,666	17	95
Unemployment	236	259	248	-11	12
Rate (Percent)	4.9	5.3	5.1	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's March Jobless Rate Drops

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March fell by three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. This was the first monthly jobless rate decline in the region since May 2016. Total employment rose over the month by 8,000, while the number of unemployed declined by 5,000. The net result was a minor 3,000 advance in the area's workforce. So far in 2017, the Detroit MSA's labor force moved up by 14,000 and total employment increased by 13,000. Since December 2016, the number of unemployed in the region was essentially flat.

From March 2016 to March 2017, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate edged up by two-tenths of a percentage point. Since March 2016, total employment in the Detroit metro area advanced by 33,000 or 1.7 percent while the workforce grew by 41,000 or 2.0 percent. The employment and workforce percentage gains were similar, but slightly less than the statewide increases over this period. The number of unemployed rose moderately by 8,000 or 7.3 percent in the area over the year.

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA Labor Force Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2016	February 2017	March 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,057	2,095	2,098	3	41
Employment	1,947	1,972	1,980	8	33
Unemployment	110	123	118	-5	8
Rate (Percent)	5.4	5.9	5.6	xxx	xxx

March Statewide Payroll Jobs Little Changed

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs edged up in March by 3,000 to 4,379,000. Job gains were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+5,000), and manufacturing (+2,000), while offsetting job reductions were recorded in leisure and hospitality services (-5,000), and other services (-2,000). Michigan's remaining major sectors registered only minor job changes over the month.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Michigan's payroll job totals over the last three months have been essentially flat. However, the state's first quarter 2017 average job count of 4,378,000 was 11,000 above the fourth quarter 2016 job level.
- The over-the-month job gain in trade, transportation and utilities was the first monthly increase in this sector since September. This advance was primarily due to additional jobs in the retail sector.
- The job decline in leisure and hospitality services was the first monthly reduction in this sector since June 2016.
- Between March 2016 to March 2017, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 80,000 or 1.9 percent, which outpaced the national gain over this period of 1.5 percent. The leading job sectors over this period were professional and business services (+19,000), leisure and hospitality services (+13,000), education and health services (+11,000), government (+11,000), and construction (+10,000). These five major industries accounted for 80 percent of the state's overall job growth since March 2016.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing rose over the month, as well as over the year.

(more)

MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates

Seasonally Adjusted

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>March</u>	<u>February*</u>	<u>March**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,299	4,376	4,379	3	80
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	154	164	164	-1	10
Manufacturing	598	599	601	2	3
Transportation Equipment	178	182	181	0	3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	780	778	784	5	4
Retail Trade	473	470	474	4	1
Information	57	58	59	1	2
Financial Activities	211	217	217	0	6
Professional & Business Services	642	660	661	1	19
Education & Health Services	660	671	671	0	11
Leisure & Hospitality Services	423	441	436	-5	13
Other Services	168	172	170	-2	2
Government	598	609	609	0	11

* Final data for February 2017

** Preliminary data for March 2017

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>March</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$873.66	\$891.51	\$908.58	\$10.07	\$27.92
Average Weekly Hours	43.0	43.2	43.5	0.3	0.5

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,110.73	\$1,063.37	\$1,129.70	\$66.33	\$18.97
Average Weekly Hours	44.9	45.9	47.5	1.6	2.6

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