



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Michigan's April Jobless Rate Drops

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April fell over the month by three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.7 percent (the state's March rate was revised downward from 5.1 to 5.0 percent), according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 18,000 in April while the number of unemployed dropped by 17,000. The state's workforce was little changed over the month.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2017 was two-tenths of a percentage point below the state's April 2016 rate of 4.9 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by six-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in April was three-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate declined by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.4 percent in April.

"Over the last two months the number of unemployed in Michigan fell by 28,000, pushing the state's jobless rate downward," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll jobs in Michigan have advanced in three of the first four months of 2017."

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

- Total employment in Michigan has risen every month so far in 2017, with an average gain of 17,000 per month. The average monthly total employment increase in 2016 was a little over 8,000 per month.
- From April 2016 to April 2017, total employment increased in Michigan by 109,000 or 2.4 percent while the state's workforce rose by 107,000 or 2.2 percent. These compared favorably to the national total employment and labor force growth rates of 1.4 and 0.8 percent respectively over the same period.
- Since April 2016, the number of unemployed in Michigan edged downward by 2,000 or 0.9 percent, while the number of unemployed fell nationwide by 10.8 percent. This difference reflects a much higher rate of entry into Michigan's workforce as compared to the nation as a whole.

**MICHIGAN**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2016	March 2017	April 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,808	4,914	4,915	1	107
Employment	4,575	4,666	4,684	18	109
Unemployment	233	248	231	-17	-2
Rate (Percent)	4.9	5.0	4.7	xxx	xxx

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

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April fell by three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent. This was the lowest rate in the region since August 2016. Total employment rose over the month by 13,000, while the number of unemployed declined by 7,000. The net result was a 7,000 advance in the area's workforce. So far in 2017, the Detroit MSA's total employment level increased every month, with an average gain of 6,500 per month. In 2016, the area's total employment growth averaged a little over 4,000 per month.

From April 2016 to April 2017, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent. Over that period, total employment in the Detroit metro area advanced by 43,000 or 2.2 percent while the workforce grew by 45,000. These trends were very similar to the state as a whole. Since April 2016, the number of unemployed inched upward by 2,000 or 1.8 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA**  
**Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2016	March 2017	April 2017	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,059	2,097	2,104	7	45
Employment	1,950	1,980	1,993	13	43
Unemployment	109	118	111	-7	2
Rate (Percent)	5.3	5.6	5.3	xxx	xxx

(more)

### ***April Payroll Jobs Rise***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in April by 11,000 to 4,389,000. Manufacturing (+8,000) led the April job gains, with additional increases posted in leisure and hospitality services (+4,000), professional and business services (+3,000), and other services (+3,000). Job cuts in April were recorded in trade, transportation and utilities (-3,000), and education and health services (-2,000). Michigan's remaining major sectors registered only minor job changes over the month.

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

- Michigan's April payroll job advance barely exceeded January's 10,000 gain as the largest monthly job increase so far in 2017.
- The April gain in manufacturing jobs pushed this sector's job total to the highest level registered in 2017. Manufacturing jobs increased in the state by 7,000 since April 2016.
- The over-the-month job reduction in trade, transportation and utilities was due to job cuts in retail trade. Retail employment has been trending mostly downward in the state since September 2016.
- The 3,000 over-the-month job advance in professional and business services was the first solid gain in this sector so far in 2017. Professional and business service's employment rose consistently throughout 2016.
- From April 2016 to April 2017, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 74,000 or 1.7 percent, similar to the national gain over this period of 1.6 percent. Since April 2016, all major job sectors in the state reported job additions or stability with the exception of a minor reduction in trade, transportation and utilities. Over this period, the industry sectors in Michigan with the largest percentage gains were construction (+5.3%), leisure and hospitality services (+3.5%), and professional and business services (+2.8%).
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly hours and earnings of production workers in manufacturing declined over the month, as well as over the year.

(more)

**MICHIGAN**  
**Payroll Employment Estimates**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

(Data in Thousands)

	<u>April</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>April**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,316	4,379	4,389	11	74
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	8	0	0
Construction	156	164	164	0	8
Manufacturing	602	601	609	8	7
Transportation Equipment	180	181	182	0	1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	782	784	781	-3	-1
Retail Trade	474	474	471	-3	-3
Information	57	59	58	-1	1
Financial Activities	212	217	217	-1	5
Professional & Business Services	646	661	664	3	18
Education & Health Services	664	671	670	-2	6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	425	436	440	4	15
Other Services	169	171	173	3	4
Government	596	608	607	-1	11

\* Final data for March 2017

\*\* Preliminary data for April 2017

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$883.36	\$902.01	\$875.22	-\$26.79	-\$8.14
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	43.5	42.4	-1.1	-0.8

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,109.67	\$1,123.51	\$1,094.49	-\$29.02	-\$15.18
Average Weekly Hours	45.6	47.3	46.4	-0.9	0.8

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