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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 24, 2018

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# **April Unemployment Rates Decline Seasonally in All Michigan Regional Labor Markets**

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in April fell seasonally in all of the state’s 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels rose in nearly all areas over the month, while workforce levels declined in most regions.

“The regional jobless rate reductions in April were typical, however payroll job growth in the state was less than typical,” said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. “The slower pace of job gains was most likely due to poor weather conditions in April throughout Michigan, which limited hiring in some seasonal industry sectors.”

During April, the seasonal jobless rate declines in the state’s 17 regions ranged from 0.3 to 2.1 percentage points with a median rate reduction of 0.7 of a percentage point. The most pronounced rate drops were posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.1) and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.0) along with the Bay City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (-0.9). In April, regional unemployment rates in Michigan ranged from 2.8 to 8.0 percent. The April Michigan non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 4.0 percent, while the national unadjusted rate was 3.7 percent. Five Michigan regions displayed April unemployment rates at or below the U.S. rate.

### ***Unemployment Rates Up Slightly Over Year***

Since April 2017, unemployment rates rose marginally in 15 regions. Over-the-year rate increases were minor, ranging from 0.1 to 0.4 of a percentage point. The largest rate advance was recorded in the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+0.4), while the rates in the Niles-Benton Harbor and Midland MSAs along with the Northeast Lower Michigan region edged up by 0.3 of a percentage point since April 2017. Over the year, the Monroe metro area displayed a 0.1 of a percentage point reduction, while the rate in the Jackson MSA was unchanged.

### ***Total Employment Up Over Month, Year***

From March to April, total employment levels rose seasonally in 14 regions with wide-ranging gains of 0.1 to 1.8 percent. The median advance over this period was 0.5 percent. The largest over-the-month employment increases were registered in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.8%), the Midland MSA (+1.0%) and the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+0.9%). Employment in April fell slightly in the Battle Creek metro region (-0.2%), while levels were essentially unchanged in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and Saginaw MSAs.

Since April 2017, total employment rose in 11 areas, inched down in five regions and was essentially unchanged in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA. The median over-the-year gain was 0.9 percent, with the most notable advances posted in Grand-Rapids-Wyoming (+2.2%), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.5%) and the Ann Arbor MSA (+1.4%). The employment reductions over the year were limited to 0.3 percent or less with the exception of the Battle Creek MSA (-0.7%).

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### **Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Up Over Year**

Between March and April, workforce levels declined seasonally in 12 areas. Decreases were mostly moderate (-1.0 percent or less). The largest over-the-month labor force cuts occurred in the Bay City (-1.0%), Battle Creek (-0.8%) and Saginaw (-0.8%) MSAs. Workforce levels increased slightly in April in four regions, with advances limited to 0.4 percent or less. The labor force in the Monroe metro area was unchanged over the month.

Since April 2017, labor force levels moved up in 14 areas with a solid median gain of 1.1 percent. The largest recorded increases occurred in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA (+2.4%), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.9%) and the Ann Arbor MSA (+1.6%). Workforce levels declined slightly over the year in the Battle Creek (-0.5%), Bay City (-0.2%) and Saginaw (-0.1%) MSAs.

### **Minor Seasonal Job Gains in April**

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 14,000 or 0.3 percent in April to 4,394,000. Over-the-month job additions were posted in *Construction* (+6,000), *Leisure and hospitality services* (+5,000) and *Trade, transportation and utilities* (+3,000). The state's remaining industry sectors recorded job changes of around 1,000 or less over the month. Seasonal job gains in April 2018 were somewhat muted relative to past years, most likely due to harsh weather conditions. The typical April job advance over the prior five years was 31,000.

In April, payroll jobs increased in 11 of the state's 14 metro regions with a median gain of 0.7 percent. The largest over-the-month percent job advances were recorded in the Flint (+1.1%), Midland (+1.1%) and Lansing-East Lansing (+0.9%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined slightly over the month in the Battle Creek (-0.2%) metro region, while jobs were little changed in the Bay City and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs.

Since April 2017, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 45,000 or 1.0 percent. Eight of Michigan's 14 major metro regions recorded jobs gains over the year ranging from 0.4 to 2.3 percent. The largest percentage metro region job additions over this period occurred in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.3%), Ann Arbor (+1.4%) and Jackson (+1.2%) MSAs. Six metro regions registered job reductions over the year ranging from 0.2 to 1.2 percent. The most prominent job cuts since April 2017 occurred in the Muskegon (-1.2%), Battle Creek (-0.9%) and Bay City (-0.6%) metro regions.

### **County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Up Over Year**

Seventy-eight of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate reductions in April, with a median drop of 0.9 of a percentage point. Jobless rates rose slightly in four counties over the month while the rate in Luce County was unchanged. In April, 17 Michigan counties displayed unemployment rates at or below the national non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.7 percent.

Since April 2017, unemployment rates increased in 58 counties. The median advance over this period was a minor 0.3 of a percentage point. Twelve counties reported small jobless rate declines over the year while the rates in the remaining 13 counties were unchanged.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for April.

	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	193,700	196,600	196,800	0.1%	1.6%
Total Employment	188,600	190,600	191,200	0.3%	1.4%
Unemployment	5,100	6,000	5,600	-6.7%	9.8%
Rate (percent)	2.6	3.1	2.8		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,600	63,800	63,300	-0.8%	-0.5%
Total Employment	60,900	60,600	60,500	-0.2%	-0.7%
Unemployment	2,700	3,200	2,800	-12.5%	3.7%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.9	4.4		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	50,800	51,200	50,700	-1.0%	-0.2%
Total Employment	48,200	48,000	48,100	0.2%	-0.2%
Unemployment	2,600	3,100	2,600	-16.1%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	5.1	6.1	5.2		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,076	2,107	2,093	-0.7%	0.8%
Total Employment	2,006	2,017	2,017	0.0%	0.5%
Unemployment	70	90	76	-15.6%	8.6%
Rate (percent)	3.4	4.3	3.6		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,000	183,100	182,900	-0.1%	0.5%
Total Employment	173,100	172,500	173,700	0.7%	0.3%
Unemployment	8,900	10,600	9,200	-13.2%	3.4%
Rate (percent)	4.9	5.8	5.0		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b> (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	567,900	580,500	581,700	0.2%	2.4%
Total Employment	552,200	560,400	564,200	0.7%	2.2%
Unemployment	15,700	20,100	17,500	-12.9%	11.5%
Rate (percent)	2.8	3.5	3.0		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b> (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	74,900	74,800	-0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	71,000	71,500	71,800	0.4%	1.1%
Unemployment	2,900	3,400	3,000	-11.8%	3.4%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.6	4.0		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b> (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,400	169,700	168,900	-0.5%	0.9%
Total Employment	161,300	162,200	162,500	0.2%	0.7%
Unemployment	6,100	7,500	6,300	-16.0%	3.3%
Rate (percent)	3.6	4.4	3.8		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b> (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	250,200	252,300	253,400	0.4%	1.3%
Total Employment	242,000	242,500	244,500	0.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	8,200	9,800	8,900	-9.2%	8.5%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.9	3.5		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MIDLAND MSA</b> (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	40,300	40,300	40,400	0.2%	0.2%
Total Employment	38,700	38,200	38,600	1.0%	-0.3%
Unemployment	1,700	2,100	1,800	-14.3%	5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.1	5.2	4.4		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b> (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,100	76,600	76,600	0.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	73,200	73,300	73,700	0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment	2,900	3,200	2,800	-12.5%	-3.4%
Rate (percent)	3.8	4.2	3.7		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON MSA</b> (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,400	77,800	77,500	-0.4%	0.1%
Total Employment	73,900	73,600	73,800	0.3%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,500	4,200	3,700	-11.9%	5.7%
Rate (percent)	4.5	5.4	4.7		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b> (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,900	73,600	73,100	-0.7%	0.3%
Total Employment	69,900	69,800	69,900	0.1%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,000	3,800	3,200	-15.8%	6.7%
Rate (percent)	4.1	5.2	4.4		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW MSA</b> (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,100	87,700	87,000	-0.8%	-0.1%
Total Employment	82,900	82,700	82,700	0.0%	-0.2%
Unemployment	4,200	5,100	4,300	-15.7%	2.4%
Rate (percent)	4.8	5.8	5.0		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b> (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	137,300	139,100	138,100	-0.7%	0.6%
Total Employment	128,300	128,600	128,900	0.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	9,000	10,500	9,200	-12.4%	2.2%
Rate (percent)	6.5	7.5	6.7		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,000	82,400	82,000	-0.5%	1.2%
Total Employment	74,700	74,100	75,400	1.8%	0.9%
Unemployment	6,200	8,300	6,600	-20.5%	6.5%
Rate (percent)	7.7	10.1	8.0		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b> (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,800	147,800	147,600	-0.1%	1.9%
Total Employment	137,100	137,900	139,200	0.9%	1.5%
Unemployment	7,700	10,000	8,400	-16.0%	9.1%
Rate (percent)	5.3	6.7	5.7		

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	<u>Apr-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Apr-18</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,829	4,897	4,878	-0.4%	1.0%
Total Employment	4,648	4,670	4,685	0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment	182	227	194	-14.5%	6.6%
Rate (percent)	3.8	4.6	4.0		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
APRIL 2018**

1	Ottawa County	2.7	43	Bay County	5.2
2	Washtenaw County	2.8	44	Gratiot County	5.3
3	Livingston County	2.9	45	Huron County	5.4
4	Oakland County	2.9	46	Alpena County	5.6
5	Kent County	3.0	47	Marquette County	5.7
6	Clinton County	3.2	48	Missaukee County	5.8
7	St. Joseph County	3.3	49	Houghton County	5.9
8	Kalamazoo County	3.4	50	Sanilac County	5.9
9	Allegan County	3.4	51	Charlevoix County	6.0
10	Ionia County	3.4	52	Tuscola County	6.1
11	Eaton County	3.5	53	Gladwin County	6.2
12	Macomb County	3.5	54	Otsego County	6.2
13	Barry County	3.6	55	Delta County	6.2
14	Ingham County	3.6	56	Benzie County	6.3
15	Branch County	3.6	57	Clare County	6.5
16	Lenawee County	3.7	58	Gogebic County	6.6
17	Monroe County	3.7	59	Manistee County	6.7
18	Cass County	3.9	60	Oscoda County	6.9
19	Hillsdale County	4.0	61	Antrim County	7.0
20	Isabella County	4.0	62	Oceana County	7.0
21	Jackson County	4.0	63	Crawford County	7.1
22	Grand Traverse County	4.1	64	Iron County	7.1
23	St. Clair County	4.2	65	Iosco County	7.2
24	Wayne County	4.3	66	Alcona County	7.3
25	Montcalm County	4.4	67	Kalkaska County	7.4
26	Newaygo County	4.4	68	Lake County	7.5
27	Calhoun County	4.4	69	Luce County	7.7
28	Midland County	4.4	70	Chippewa County	7.8
29	Berrien County	4.4	71	Ogemaw County	7.9
30	Dickinson County	4.5	72	Emmet County	8.4
31	Shiawassee County	4.5	73	Arenac County	8.8
32	Lapeer County	4.7	74	Keweenaw County	8.8
33	Menominee County	4.7	75	Schoolcraft County	8.8
34	Muskegon County	4.7	76	Baraga County	8.9
35	Mecosta County	4.8	77	Presque Isle County	9.0
36	Osceola County	4.9	78	Roscommon County	9.1
37	Van Buren County	5.0	79	Alger County	10.5
38	Genesee County	5.0	80	Ontonagon County	10.6
39	Saginaw County	5.0	81	Montmorency County	11.0
40	Leelanau County	5.1	82	Cheboygan County	13.0
41	Mason County	5.1	83	Mackinac County	15.2
42	Wexford County	5.2			

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