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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Michigan's February Unemployment Rate Declines

*Lansing* – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February edged down over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose over the month by 36,000 while the number of unemployed declined by 4,000. The net result was a 32,000 gain in the state's labor force.

The Michigan jobless rate in February 2016 was one and one-tenth percentage points below the state's February 2015 rate of 5.9 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by six-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in February was one-tenth of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate was unchanged from January to February at 4.9 percent.

"Michigan's current labor market situation early in 2016 remains very sound," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Individuals have been entering or reentering the state's workforce at a good clip recently as payroll jobs continue to grow."

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

- Michigan's unemployment rate fell below the national rate in February for the first time since July 2015. In July 2015, Michigan's rate was 5.2 percent while the U.S. rate was 5.3 percent. Prior to that, the last time the state's rate was below the national rate was August 2000.
- The state's jobless rate in February declined slightly for the second month in row after remaining flat at 5.1 percent since August.
- Michigan's workforce level advanced again in February, marking the eighth consecutive month of gains. These monthly increases have broken a spell of either flat or slightly declining monthly workforce levels in the state dating back to early 2014 through mid-year 2015. Over the year, Michigan's labor force increased by 88,000 or 1.9 percent, which outpaced the national growth rate of 1.3 percent since February 2015.

- From February 2015 to February 2016, the number of unemployed in Michigan fell by 46,000 or 16.5 percent, which compared favorably to the 9.6 percent reduction nationwide.

**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)

	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,742	4,798	4,830	32	88
Employment	4,463	4,561	4,597	36	134
Unemployment	279	237	233	-4	-46
Rate (Percent)	5.9	4.9	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 February declined slightly by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. Total employment rose by 18,000 over the month, while the number of unemployed edged down slightly by 3,000. The area's workforce advanced by 15,000 over the month. As with the state, the Detroit MSA labor force has recorded fairly strong monthly growth since the second half of 2015. For the Detroit area, this comes after declining monthly levels since mid-year 2013 (the area's workforce prior to 2013 trended downward in most years since the region's peak labor force total in 1999).

From February 2015 to February 2016, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell nine-tenths of a percentage point. Since February 2015 total employment rose by 49,000 or 2.6 percent in the region, while the number of unemployed declined by 18,000 or 13.3 percent. The Detroit area's workforce grew by 31,000 or 1.5 percent over this period.

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

Seasonally Adjusted  
(Data in Thousands)

	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,001	2,017	2,032	15	31
Employment	1,866	1,897	1,915	18	49
Unemployment	135	120	117	-3	-18
Rate (Percent)	6.7	5.9	5.8	xxx	xxx

### ***February Payroll Jobs Up***

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in February by 6,000 to 4,313,000. Moderate over-the-month job gains were posted in construction (+4,000), leisure and hospitality services (+4,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+3,000). These gains were countered somewhat by job reductions in manufacturing (-3,000), professional and business services (-2,000), and education and health services (-2,000). The state's remaining major industry sectors recorded only minor job changes over the month.

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

- February marked the fifth consecutive monthly gain in statewide payroll jobs dating back to October 2015. Over that period, increases averaged a little over 13,000 per month.
- The gain in construction jobs over the month continued a recent upward trend that began in November 2015. Prior to November, construction jobs were fairly flat throughout 2015.
- Although manufacturing jobs fell slightly in February, Michigan's 2016 job totals in this sector are at the highest level since 2007.
- Leisure and hospitality services displayed the sixth monthly job gain in a row dating back to September. Over that period, jobs in this sector rose by an average of 3,000 per month.
- From February 2015 to February 2016, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 91,000 or 2.2 percent, which was similar to the national gain over this period of 2.3 percent. The largest number of job additions in the state since February 2015 were posted in leisure and hospitality services (+18,000), professional and business services (+15,000), manufacturing (+13,000), and education and health services (+11,000).
- Since February 2015, the largest percentage gains in payroll jobs were recorded in construction (+5.5%), leisure and hospitality services (+4.4%), and financial activities (+3.9%).
- 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>February</u>	<u>January*</u>	<u>February**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,222	4,307	4,313	6	91
Natural Resources & Mining	8	7	7	0	-1
Construction	148	152	156	4	8
Manufacturing	583	600	596	-3	13
Transportation Equipment	171	176	175	-1	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	768	775	778	3	10
Retail Trade	466	466	469	3	3
Information	57	56	57	1	0
Financial Activities	205	214	213	-1	8
Professional & Business Services	634	650	648	-2	15
Education & Health Services	647	661	658	-2	11
Leisure & Hospitality Services	412	426	430	4	18
Other Services	167	171	171	0	4
Government	594	598	599	1	5

\* Final data for January

\*\* Preliminary data for February

\*\*\* Change calculated using unrounded data

**Hours & Earnings for Production Workers**

*Seasonally Adjusted*

**Manufacturing**

	<u>February</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$923.02	\$879.17	\$824.91	-\$54.26	-\$98.11
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	43.1	42.1	-1.0	-1.8

**Transportation Equipment**

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,241.97	\$1,052.85	\$989.39	-\$63.46	-\$252.58
Average Weekly Hours	49.1	45.7	41.8	-3.9	-7.3

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