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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's April Unemployment Rate Stable

Payroll Jobs Up for Seven Consecutive Months

Lansing – Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April was unchanged at 4.8 percent, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB). Total employment rose by 17,000 while the number of unemployed edged slightly upward by 1,000. The state's workforce grew by 18,000 in April.

The Michigan jobless rate in April 2016 was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the state's April 2015 rate of 5.6 percent. The national jobless rate decreased by four-tenths of a percentage point over this period. The state's unemployment rate in April was two-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate. The U.S. jobless rate was also unchanged from March to April.

"Michigan's labor market in early 2016 has continued to strengthen," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Payroll jobs have recorded solid gains every month, while individuals continue to enter the workforce on a monthly basis."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- April 2016 marked the third consecutive month that Michigan's unemployment rate remained at 4.8 percent, and the fourth month in a row of rates below 5.0 percent.

- The number of Michigan unemployed so far in 2016 averaged 234,000, about 42,000 below the average of the first four months of 2015.

- Michigan's labor force has displayed a string of monthly advances, increasing every month since July 2015. Over the past year, the state's workforce grew by 2.9 percent, well outpacing the national gain of 1.2 percent since April 2015.

- From April 2015 to April 2016, the number of unemployed in Michigan declined by 33,000 or 12.4 percent, which compared favorably to the 7.1 percent reduction nationwide over the same period.

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MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	April 2015	March 2016	April 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,737	4,857	4,875	18	138
Employment	4,472	4,625	4,642	17	170
Unemployment	266	232	233	1	-33
Rate (Percent)	5.6	4.8	4.8	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 edged downward over the month by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. Total employment and labor force rose by 12,000 over the month, as the number of area unemployed was essentially unchanged. The Detroit metro area's jobless rate declined in April for the fourth consecutive month, decreasing by a half percentage point over that period. While the number of unemployed in the region has remained relatively flat since mid-year 2015, the area's workforce level has increased every month since September.

From April 2015 to April 2016, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate fell nine-tenths of a percentage point. Since April 2015, total employment rose by 75,000 or 4.0 percent in the region, while the number of unemployed declined by 13,000 or 10.1 percent. The Detroit area's workforce grew by 62,000 or 3.1 percent over this period. The Detroit area's total employment and labor force gains since April 2015 outpaced both the state and the nation on a percentage basis.

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

	April 2015	March 2016	April 2016	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,000	2,050	2,062	12	62
Employment	1,871	1,934	1,946	12	75
Unemployment	129	116	116	0	-13
Rate (Percent)	6.5	5.7	5.6	xxx	xxx

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Payroll Jobs Continue Upward Trend in April

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs increased in April by 6,000 to 4,331,000. Payroll job changes throughout the state's various major industry sectors were mixed in April, with four sectors recording moderate numeric declines and three sectors with solid numeric gains. Notable over-the-month job additions were posted in manufacturing (+7,000), professional and business services (+5,000), and education and health services (+4,000). Somewhat offsetting the gains were job reductions in construction (-3,000), leisure and hospitality services (-3,000), government (-3,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (-2,000). The remaining major sectors were little changed.

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- With the April gain, payroll jobs increased in Michigan for the seventh consecutive month dating back to October 2015. Over that period, statewide jobs advanced by 84,000 or 2.0 percent, or an average of 12,000 per month.

- The over-the-month increase in Michigan manufacturing jobs continued a post-recessionary upward trend that was slightly broken in both February and March due to minor short-term layoff activity in the auto industry. Manufacturing jobs rose by nearly 20,000 over the last year in Michigan, but have declined nationally.

- Jobs in construction declined in April for the second month in 2016. However this sector continues to show a solid over-the-year job expansion of 5,000 or 3.2 percent.

- Both professional and business services and education and health services recorded healthy job gains over the month. As of April 2016, these two sectors reported very similar job totals in Michigan. Education and health services registered 662,000 jobs in the state while professional and business services posted 661,000 jobs

- From April 2015 to April 2016, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 105,000 or 2.5 percent, which outpaced the national gain over this period of 1.9 percent. Nearly all major sectors in the state recorded job additions over the year, with the largest percentage gains displayed in financial activities (+4.3%), leisure and hospitality services (+4.0%), professional and business services (+3.8%), and manufacturing (+3.4%).

- Since April 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)

	April 2015	March* 2016	April** 2016	CHANGE*** MONTH	CHANGE*** YEAR
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,226	4,325	4,331	6	105
Natural Resources & Mining	8	7	7	0	-1
Construction	148	156	153	-3	5
Manufacturing	583	596	603	7	20
Transportation Equipment	173	175	181	6	9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	770	780	779	-2	9
Retail Trade	466	473	471	-1	5
Information	56	57	57	0	1
Financial Activities	205	214	214	1	9
Professional & Business Services	636	656	661	5	24
Education & Health Services	648	659	662	4	14
Leisure & Hospitality Services	409	428	426	-3	16
Other Services	167	171	170	-1	3
Government	594	603	600	-3	5

* Final data for March
** Preliminary data for April
*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers

Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	April 2015	March 2016	April 2016	CHANGE MONTH	CHANGE YEAR
Average Weekly Earnings	$929.68	$854.28	$879.79	$25.51	-$49.89
Average Weekly Hours	44.3	42.1	42.7	0.6	-1.6

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	$1,251.12	$992.13	$1,002.99	$10.86	-$248.13
Average Weekly Hours	49.6	43.1	44.5	1.4	-5.1

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