

March Unemployment Rates Increase in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

April 23, 2009 – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates rose over the month in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. In March, total employment levels declined in all regions, while labor force levels were mixed.

"Typically in March, minor seasonal employment gains are expected throughout Michigan's various local labor markets" said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However this March, these gains were essentially absent."

From February to March, the jobless rate increases in the various regions ranged from 0.4 to 1.5 percentage points with a median advance of 0.7 of a percentage point. In March, 16 of the 17 regions reported unemployment rates over 10.0 percent.

Unemployment Rates Up Significantly in All Regions Over Year

From March 2008 to March 2009, jobless rates increased in all 17 regions, with substantial jumps ranging from 2.9 to 7.1 percentage points. The average increase for the various areas was nearly five full percentage points. The largest over-the-year jobless rate increases of 6.0 percentage points or above were posted in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Holland-Grand Haven, Monroe, and Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

Total Employment Down Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment declined in all 17 regions. Decreases ranged from 0.3 percent to 1.3 percent with an average drop of nearly 1.0 percent.

Since March 2008, total employment dropped substantially in all 17 regions. Total employment reductions varied in the regions from 6.0 percent to nearly 10.0 percent. Over-the-year declines of 9.0 percent or more were registered in the Battle Creek, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Holland-Grand Haven, and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs.

Labor Force Levels Mixed Over Month, Down Over Year

In March, labor force levels were little changed, with eight regions showing slight declines, six areas posting minor advances, and the remaining three essentially unchanged.

From March 2008 to March 2009, labor force levels fell in all 17 regions by an average of 2.7 percent. The state's three northernmost labor market regions recorded the smallest reductions of 1.0 percent or less in this period.

Note: Data for all 12 months of 2008 have been recently revised. Estimates for 2009 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised 2008 estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or contact DELEG at 313-456-3090.

March Payroll Jobs Mostly Flat

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan declined slightly by 3,000 in March to total 3,890,000. The only significant over-the-month movement in payroll jobs was a 6,000 drop in professional and business services. This was somewhat offset by a minor gain in leisure and hospitality services (+3,000). The remaining industry sectors posted very small counterbalancing gains or losses.

Typical seasonal increases were muted in a number of industry sectors including leisure and hospitality services, construction and retail trade.

The March job reduction in professional and business services mainly occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA. Over-the-month payroll job counts were mixed but little changed throughout most of the state's metropolitan areas.

From March 2008 to March 2009, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs fell statewide by 270,000 or 6.5 percent. All of the 12 major metropolitan areas in the state recorded significant payroll job declines since March 2008 ranging from 3.1 to 7.0 percent. The most pronounced over-the-year metropolitan job losses were recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-135,000), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (-20,000), Ann Arbor (-8,000), Holland-Grand Haven and Lansing-East Lansing (-7,000) MSAs. The remaining metropolitan areas registered job reductions of 3,000 to 6,000 over the year.

Manufacturing, professional and business services, retail trade, and construction jobs were down in all metropolitan areas, while jobs in health services were steady or up in nearly all metro areas since March 2008.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded unemployment rate increases over the month, with an average increase of 0.7 of a percentage point. In March, 78 counties in Michigan reported jobless rates above 10.0 percent.

From March 2008 to March 2009, unemployment rates were up in all 83 counties, with a substantial median jump of 5.4 percentage points.

*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 March workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for March.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth."

The Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) is investing in Michigan's future by helping to create the jobs of today and tomorrow, ensuring that our children and adults have the skills these jobs demand, making Michigan a better place to do business, and training and placing those who need jobs.

	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,900	177,800	176,700	-0.6%	-5.5%
Total Employment	177,500	164,700	162,700	-1.2%	-8.3%
Unemployment	9,400	13,100	14,000	6.9%	48.9%
Rate (percent)	5.0	7.4	7.9		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DELEG Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,100	66,300	66,300	0.0%	-4.1%
Total Employment	64,300	58,900	58,500	-0.7%	-9.0%
Unemployment	4,800	7,400	7,800	5.4%	62.5%
Rate (percent)	6.9	11.2	11.8		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DELEG Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	54,400	53,300	53,300	0.0%	-2.0%
Total Employment	50,200	47,300	46,800	-1.1%	-6.8%
Unemployment	4,300	6,000	6,500	8.3%	51.2%
Rate (percent)	7.9	11.3	12.2		

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	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,107	2,073	2,069	-0.2%	-1.8%
Total Employment	1,938	1,791	1,779	-0.7%	-8.2%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	168 8.0	282 13.6	290 14.0	2.8%	72.6%

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	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	204,800	195,800	197,300	0.8%	-3.7%
Total Employment	182,900	168,900	167,000	-1.1%	-8.7%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	21,900 10.7	26,900 13.8	30,300 15.3	12.6%	38.4%

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GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Ionia, Kent , Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	406,500	390,000	389,200	-0.2%	-4.3%
Total Employment	380,500	348,900	345,400	-1.0%	-9.2%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	26,000 6.4	41,100 10.5	43,800 11.3	6.6%	68.5%

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HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA (Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	134,700	130,400	130,200	-0.2%	-3.3%
Total Employment	126,200	114,600	113,700	-0.8%	-9.9%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	8,400 6.2	15,800 12.1	16,500 12.6	4.4%	96.4%

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	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,600	74,500	74,500	0.0%	-2.7%
Total Employment	70,500	65,100	64,500	-0.9%	-8.5%
Unemployment Rate (percent)	6,100 7.9	9,400 12.7	10,000 13.4	6.4%	63.9%

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	174,000	168,600	168,500	-0.1%	-3.2%
Total Employment	163,500	151,900	150,900	-0.7%	-7.7%
Unemployment	10,600	16,700	17,600	5.4%	66.0%
Rate (percent)	6.1	9.9	10.5		

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LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	251,800	247,400	245,700	-0.7%	-2.4%
Total Employment	236,300	222,500	219,500	-1.3%	-7.1%
Unemployment	15,500	24,900	26,200	5.2%	69.0%
Rate (percent)	6.1	10.1	10.6		

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MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	74,600	75,300	0.9%	-2.0%
Total Employment	71,000	65,000	64,800	-0.3%	-8.7%
Unemployment	5,800	9,600	10,500	9.4%	81.0%
Rate (percent)	7.5	12.9	13.9		

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MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	87,800	86,800	86,700	-0.1%	-1.3%
Total Employment	81,000	74,400	73,700	-0.9%	-9.0%
Unemployment	6,800	12,400	12,900	4.0%	89.7%
Rate (percent)	7.8	14.2	14.9		

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	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	79,200	76,700	77,000	0.4%	-2.8%
Total Employment	73,300	67,600	67,400	-0.3%	-8.0%
Unemployment	5,900	9,100	9,600	5.5%	62.7%
Rate (percent)	7.5	11.9	12.4		

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	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-09</u>	<u>Mar-09</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					

Civilian Labor Force	95,100	92,000	91,900	-0.1%	-3.4%
Total Employment	87,000	81,200	80,300	-1.1%	-7.7%
Unemployment	8,200	10,800	11,600	7.4%	41.5%
Rate (percent)	8.6	11.8	12.7		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	156,800	155,200	155,300	0.1%	-1.0%
Total Employment	142,700	135,400	134,200	-0.9%	-6.0%
Unemployment	14,100	19,800	21,100	6.6%	49.6%
Rate (percent)	9.0	12.8	13.6		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	92,400	91,200	91,800	0.7%	-0.6%
Total Employment	80,900	75,300	75,100	-0.3%	-7.2%
Unemployment	11,500	15,800	16,700	5.7%	45.2%
Rate (percent)	12.5	17.4	18.2		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	151,500	149,900	150,900	0.7%	-0.4%
Total Employment	137,200	128,800	128,100	-0.5%	-6.6%
Unemployment	14,300	21,100	22,700	7.6%	58.7%
Rate (percent)	9.4	14.1	15.1		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,933	4,822	4,820	-0.0%	-2.3%
Total Employment	4,544	4,208	4,175	-0.8%	-8.1%
Unemployment	388	614	644	4.9%	66.0%
Rate (percent)	7.9	12.7	13.4		

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MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MARCH 2009

1Washtenaw County	7.9	43Wayne County	14.9
2Isabella County	8.6	44Branch County	14.9
3Clinton County	9.4	45Macomb County	15.0
4Kalamazoo County	9.6	46Ogemaw County	15.1
5Midland County	9.7	47Genesee County	15.3
6Barry County	10.3	48Lenawee County	15.4
7Leelanau County	10.3	49Mason County	15.4
8Eaton County	10.6	50Shiawassee County	15.7
9Kent County	10.8	51Osceola County	16.0
10Ingham County	11.0	52Otsego County	16.2
11Marquette County	11.3	53Keweenaw County	16.3
12Livingston County	11.4	54Benzie County	16.3
13Cass County	11.5	55Roscommon County	16.5
14Houghton County	11.5	56Huron County	16.8
15Dickinson County	11.7	57Antrim County	16.8
16Oakland County	11.7	58Montcalm County	16.9
17Calhoun County	11.8	59Ontonagon County	16.9
18Bay County	12.2	60Charlevoix County	17.0
19Berrien County	12.4	61Emmet County	17.0
20Gogebic County	12.5	62Tuscola County	17.1
21Iron County	12.5	63Clare County	17.6
22Ottawa County	12.6	64Gladwin County	17.7
23Saginaw County	12.7	65Alger County	17.7
24Grand Traverse County	12.8	66Missaukee County	17.8
25Menominee County	12.8	67Lapeer County	17.8
26Delta County	13.1	68Hillsdale County	18.1
27Van Buren County	13.4	69St. Clair County	18.4
28Jackson County	13.4	70Schoolcraft County	18.6
29Allegan County	13.5	71Wexford County	18.9
30Mecosta County	13.7	72Sanilac County	19.2
31Chippewa County	13.8	73Arenac County	19.3
32Luce County	13.9	74Iosco County	19.3
33Monroe County	13.9	75Lake County	19.3
34Gratiot County	14.0	76Alcona County	19.5
35St. Joseph County	14.3	77Oceana County	19.7
36Manistee County	14.3	78Cheboygan County	22.7
37Ionia County	14.4	79Oscoda County	22.9
38Crawford County	14.5	80Montmorency County	23.5
39Alpena County	14.6	81Presque Isle County	24.5
40Newaygo County	14.7	82Baraga County	25.3
41Muskegon County	14.9	83Mackinac County	28.0
42Kalkaska County	14.9		