

# Region lost jobs in April

## Down 0.4% from April 2010

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**MANKATO** — After five months of posting job gains over the previous year, the Mankato region lost jobs in April. And those who were employed worked fewer hours for lower pay.

The Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area (all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties) saw the number of jobs fall 0.4 percent compared to April 2010.

Job losses also occurred in Duluth (0.7 percent) and St. Cloud (0.2 percent).

Rochester was up 0.3 percent while Minneapolis-St.

Paul was flat.

The Mankato region had 51,974 jobs in April, which was an increase of about 200 jobs over March.

The job losses came in the private sector — down 0.6 from a year earlier.

Government sector jobs increased 0.3 percent.

Workers average 32.9 hours per week, that's down from an average 34.5 hours a year earlier.

Average earnings per hour were \$23.13 in April, down from \$23.44 a year earlier.

The Minnesota unemployment rate fell 0.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted 6.5 percent in April, according to figures released Thursday by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Still, the agency said Minnesota's jobs declined by 5,200 during the month, largely related to the loss of 5,700 positions in the construction sector. Part of the monthly decline was offset by a revision in the March employment figures, which improved from 2,800 jobs gained to 5,500 jobs gained.

The loss of construction jobs followed two consecutive months of growth in that sector, said DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips. "Colder-than-normal temperatures in April

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might have been a factor, but next month's report will give us a better indication of whether that was the case."

Leisure and hospitality led all sectors in April, gaining 3,100 jobs. Other job gains occurred in professional and business services (up 2,600), education and health services (up 500), and logging and mining (up 200). Financial activities held steady.

Along with construction, job losses occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (down 2,800), other services (down 2,600), manufacturing (down 300), information (down 100) and government (down 100).

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