



Regional Economic Trends for St. Joseph County



OCTOBER 2021



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The Trend: St. Joseph County lost nearly 400 jobs from Q4 2020 to Q1 2021. Between June and July, the unemployment rate and labor force participation rate fell while the employment-to-population ratio increased. This is likely a sign that unemployed individuals are finding work. Job postings were higher in July than in June, with retail sales associate as the most in-demand job.

COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 59.8% in July. This is a 1.0 percentage-point increase from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 56.7% in July. This is an increase of 1.1 percentage points from June.



The unemployment rate was 5.1% in July. This is a 0.4 percentage-point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw an increase of 441 people from June to July. The increase in employed people was 541, and the decrease in unemployed people was 100.



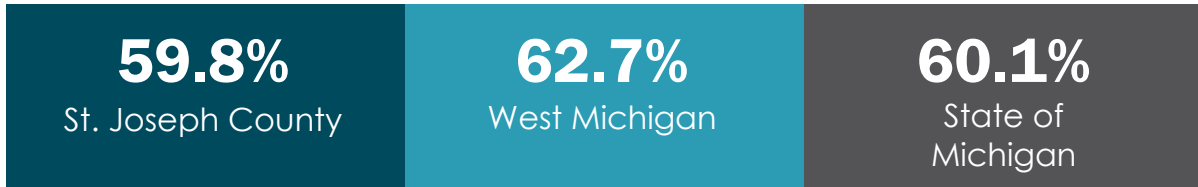
Total employment fell by 2.2% from Q4 2020 to Q1 2021.



There were 383 job postings in July, an increase of 0.5% from June.

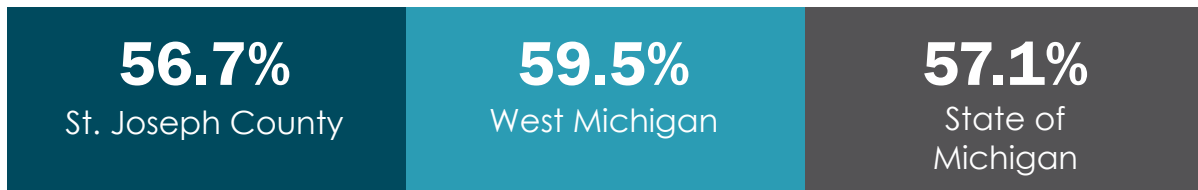
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Labor Force Participation Rate



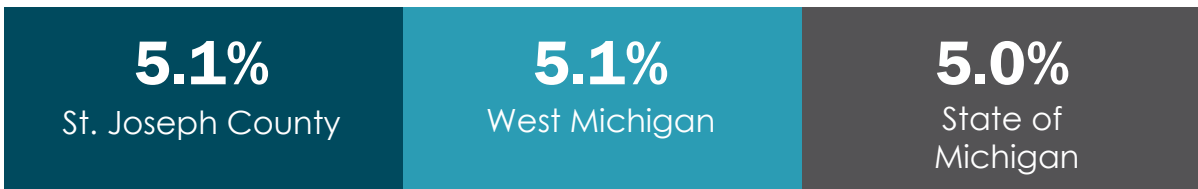
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 59.8% in St. Joseph County in July. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 2.9 percentage points, and lower than that of the state of Michigan by 0.3 percentage points.

Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 56.7% for St. Joseph County in July. This was 2.8 percentage points below the ratio for west Michigan and 0.4 percentage points lower than that of the state of Michigan.

Unemployment Rate

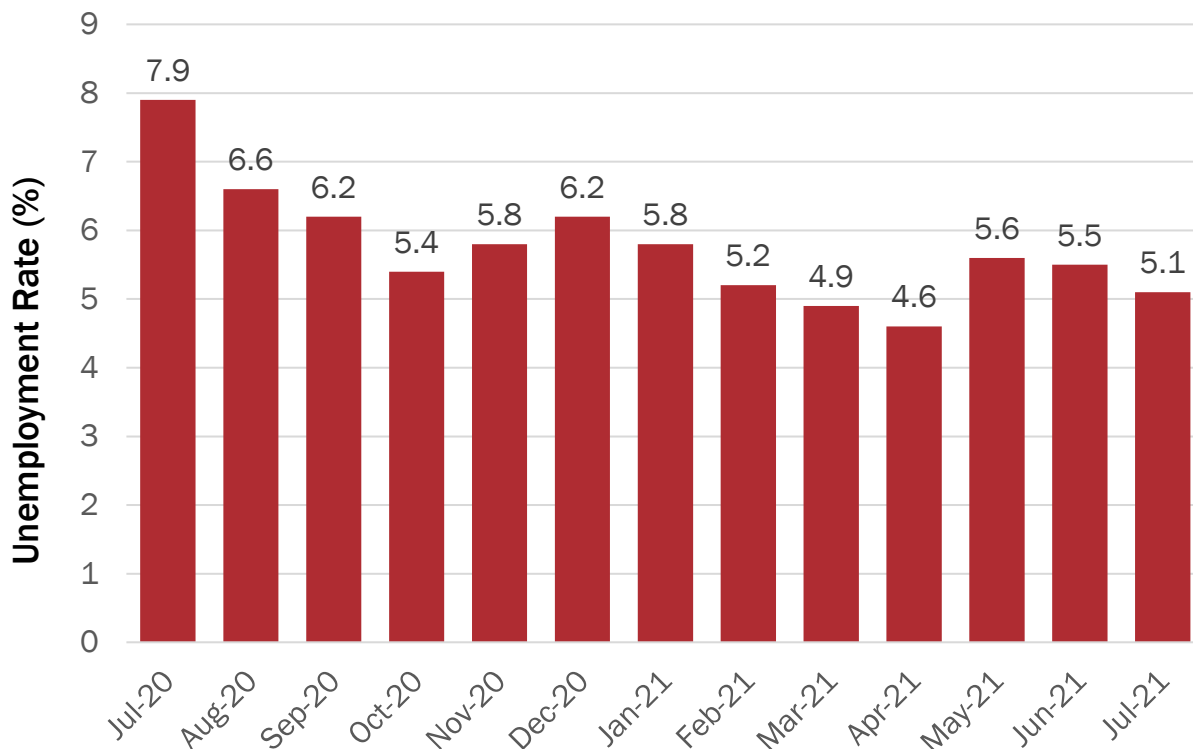


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 5.1% in St. Joseph County in July. This was the same as the rate for west Michigan and 0.1 percentage points higher than the rate for the state of Michigan.

SOURCE: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) & Upjohn Institute, 2021

“West Michigan” includes Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties.

Unemployment Rate (not seasonally adjusted)



SOURCE: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics & Upjohn Institute, 2021

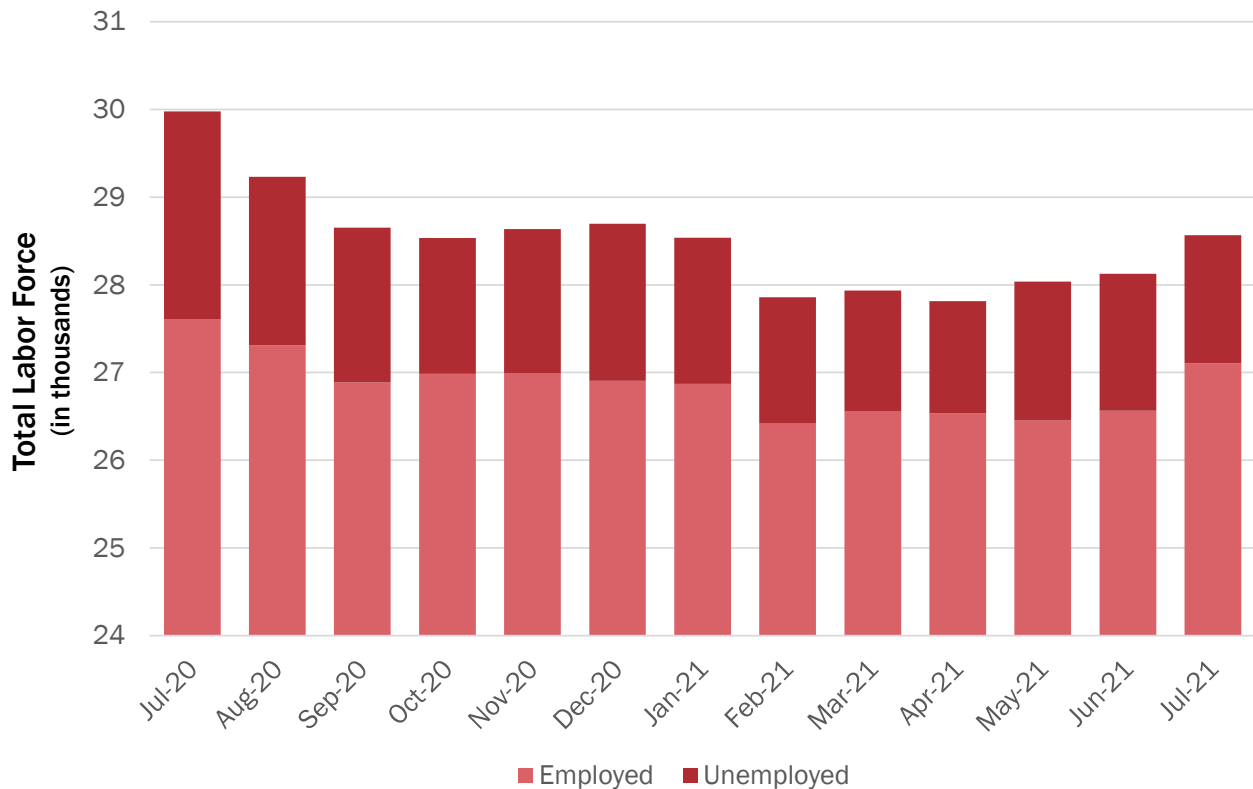
From June to July, the unemployment rate in St. Joseph County decreased by 0.4 percentage points, to 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate for July was 2.8 percentage points lower than it was at the same time last year.

In July, there were **3.9 job seekers** for every **job posting** in St. Joseph County.*

—Burning Glass Technologies, BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), & Upjohn Institute, 2021

*Burning Glass data capture only jobs that are posted online and in more traditional employment relationships. Singular job postings for multiple positions may not be fully counted.

Total Labor Force (not seasonally adjusted)



SOURCE: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) & Upjohn Institute, 2021

The total labor force in St. Joseph County in July stood at 28,566, an increase of 441 people from the June labor force of 28,125. The total labor force in the county has shrunk by 3.0% since July 2020, when it stood at 29,976. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

Labor Force by the Numbers, Q3 2020

- 19.8%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 35.1%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with an associate degree or some college
- 33.4%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a high school degree or equivalent

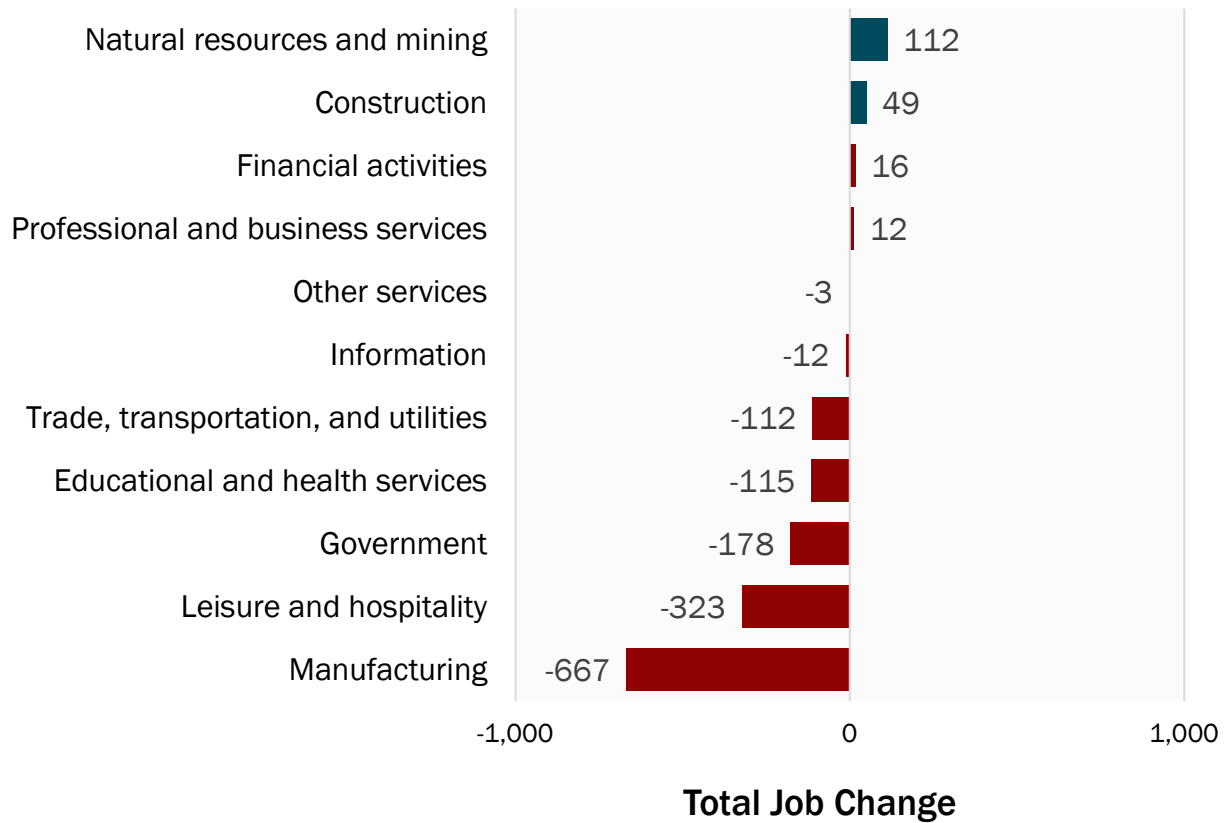
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Employment by Industry St. Joseph County (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q1 2021	Q4 2020	% Change Q4 to Q1	Q1 2020	% Change Q1 to Q1
Employment (by place of work)					
Total private-sector employment	17,485	17,881	-2.2	18,521	-5.6
Goods-producing	8,444	8,732	-3.3	8,950	-5.7
Natural resources and mining	525	530	-0.9	413	27.1
Construction	495	536	-7.6	446	11.0
Manufacturing	7,424	7,666	-3.2	8,091	-8.2
Private service-providing	9,041	9,149	-1.2	9,571	-5.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,836	2,891	-1.9	2,948	-3.8
Information	52	53	-1.9	64	-18.8
Financial activities	941	880	6.9	925	1.7
Professional and business services	528	533	-0.9	516	2.3
Educational and health services	2,751	2,805	-1.9	2,866	-4.0
Leisure and hospitality	1,197	1,266	-5.5	1,520	-21.3
Other services	697	681	2.3	700	-0.4
Unclassified	39	40	-2.5	32	21.9
Government	2,349	2,363	-0.6	2,527	-7.0

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2021

Employment Change, Q1 2020 to Q1 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



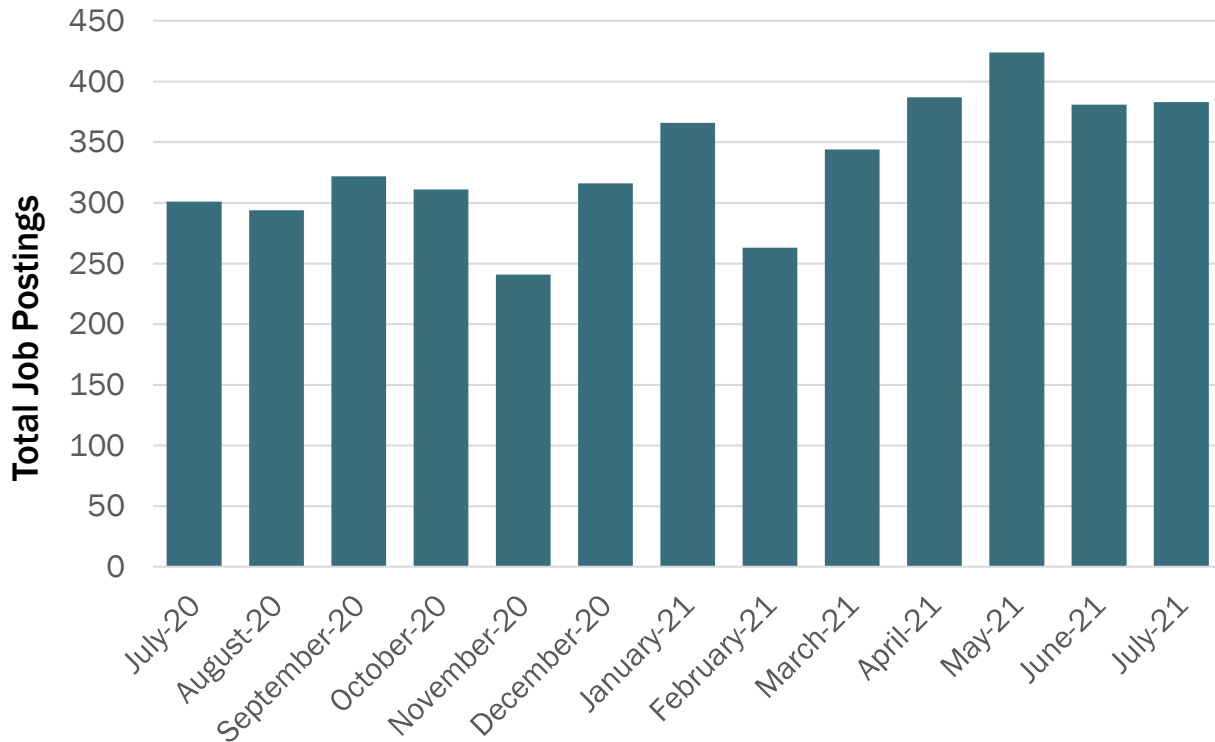
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data shows that the greatest decrease in employment in St. Joseph County from Q1 2020 to Q1 2021 was in manufacturing, which declined by 667 jobs, or 8.2%. The greatest increase in employment from Q1 2020 to Q1 2021 in the county was in natural resources and mining, which grew by 112 jobs, or 27.1%.

**The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs
in St. Joseph County in Q1 2021 was \$853.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

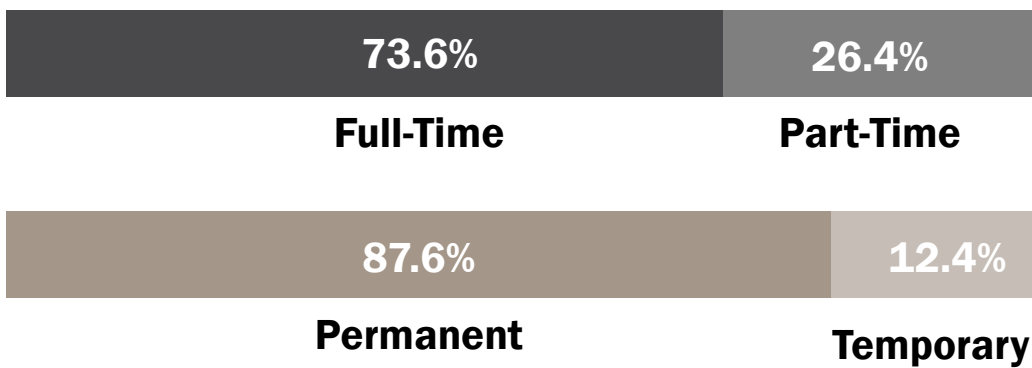
Total Job Postings for July 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

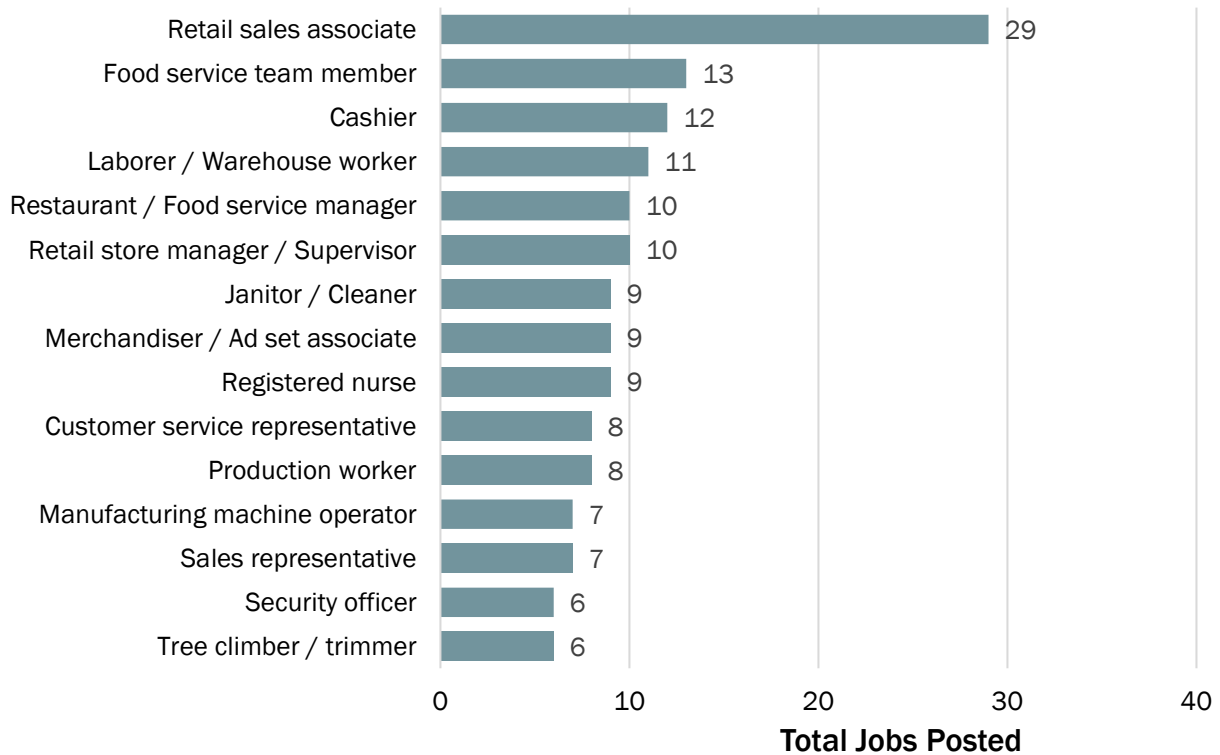
The number of job postings in St. Joseph County, which demonstrates demand for labor, increased by 0.5% between June and July, from 381 postings to 383. The majority of postings in the county, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

Types of Job Postings for July 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

Top Occupations with Job Postings for July 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top occupations with job postings were for retail sales, food service associates, and cashiers. A plurality of job postings, 65.9%, required at a minimum a high school diploma or vocational training. This represents a decrease of 19.2 percentage points from June in the proportion of job postings requiring a high school diploma or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree decreased by 6.0 percentage points from June, and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher decreased by 13.2 percentage points.

65.9% of job postings in July required a high school diploma or vocational training.

8.2% of job postings in July required an associate degree.

26.0% of job postings in July required a bachelor's degree or higher.

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

About the Upjohn Institute

The W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation was incorporated on October 24, 1932, as a Michigan 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and is doing business as the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research has been conducting economic research and consultation for 75 years, since its founding in 1945.

The Upjohn Institute is governed by a Board of Trustees, which employs a President who is responsible for the overall operation of the Institute. The President of the Upjohn Institute is Dr. Michael Horrigan.

The Upjohn Institute currently employs 104 individuals. Upjohn's research and consultation program is conducted by a resident staff of professional social scientists, 12 of whom are PhD-level economists (senior staff). Senior staff is supported by a staff of research analysts and additional support staff. Upjohn also administers the federal and state employment programs for its four-county area through the local Workforce Investment Board. Upjohn also publishes books on economic development, workforce development, and other employment-related topics.

The PhD-level economists have more than 175 years of collective experience, conducting research on a broad variety of economic and employment topics. Their experience includes, but is not limited to, employment program evaluation, labor market dynamics, labor-management relations, employment and training programs, economic and workforce development, income replacement policy, worker adjustment, the role of education in labor markets, employment and compensation, disability, international comparison of labor adjustment policies, site selection experience, and state, regional, and local economic analysis.

About the Regional Team

The Upjohn Institute also has a Regional Economic Planning Services team of specialists who provide economic insights and analysis regionally and statewide in Michigan, in other individual states, and nationally. The team has experience in:

- Economic impact analysis
- Fiscal/cost-benefit impact analysis
- Labor market analysis
- Facilitating and conducting effective one-on-one interviews, focus groups, workshops, and charrette sessions in a diverse array of environments
- Economic and workforce development and education strategies
- GIS mapping abilities
- Rural and urban land use and economic development planning services
- Regional data analysis

Report Contributors

Jim Robey

Director, Regional Economic Planning Services

Brian Pittelko

Research Coordinator

Kathleen Bolter

Regional Research Analyst

Gerrit Anderson

Mapping and Visualization Specialist

Ben Jones

Editor

Erika Jones

Production Coordinator

For More Information

For questions or information about this report, contact Brian Pittelko, Research Coordinator, 269-385-0424 or pittelko@upjohn.org.

For definitions and descriptions of methodology and variables used in the report, please access our data dictionary at: http://www.upjohn.org/Business_Outlook/Data_Dictionary/.