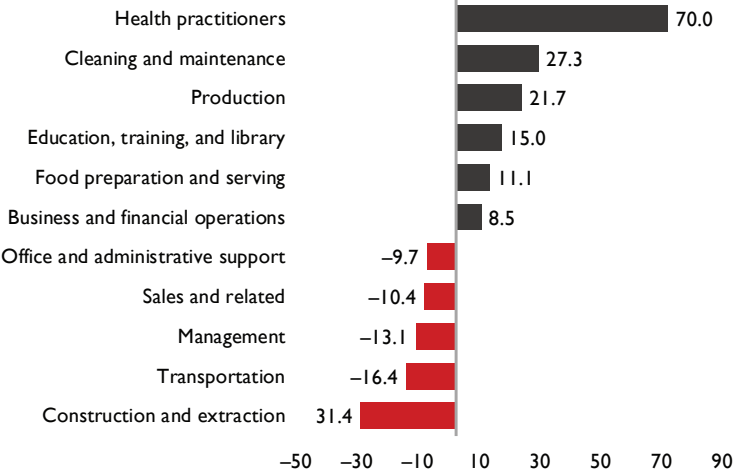


BATTLE CREEK MSA

In this section of *Business Outlook*, in which we look at conditions in the various MSAs, we are continuing to examine changes since the Great Recession, just as we did with the previous issue. This time around, we focus on occupations and wages. Although the Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in May 2009, its effects lasted for several years. In this and the following MSAs, we look at occupational and wage changes from 2007 to 2016, as well as the top current job postings.

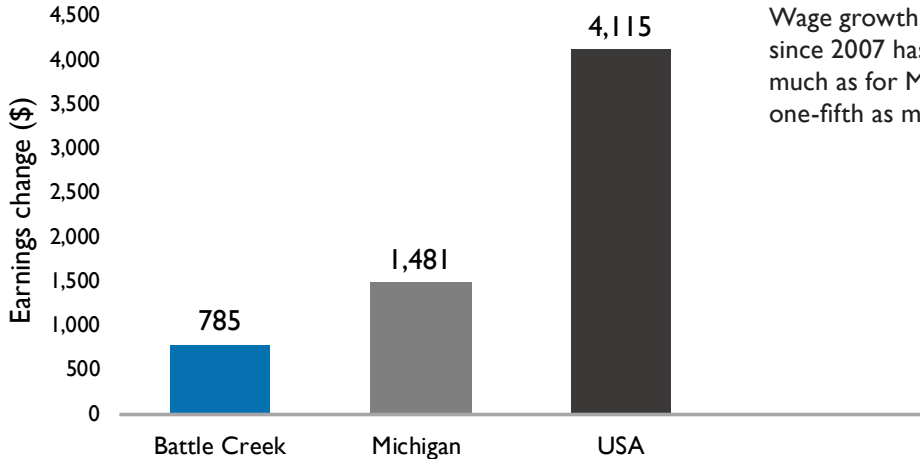
Employment Change by Occupation, 2007–2016 (%)



Health practitioners by far and away showed the largest growth of any Battle Creek industry over the past decade. Construction jobs were the worst hit, as new building for single family homes sputtered after the Great Recession.

From 2007 to 2016, the largest growth in occupations occurred in health care: employment in health practitioner occupations grew by 70 percent over the period (figure above). This growth may reflect aging demographics in the Battle Creek area, as discussed in previous issues of *Business Outlook*. Production occupations improved by over 21 percent, stronger than might have been expected. Construction occupations are down by over 31 percent, which may be due to a lack of new home construction in the past decade. New building for single family homes has not recovered from the Great Recession.

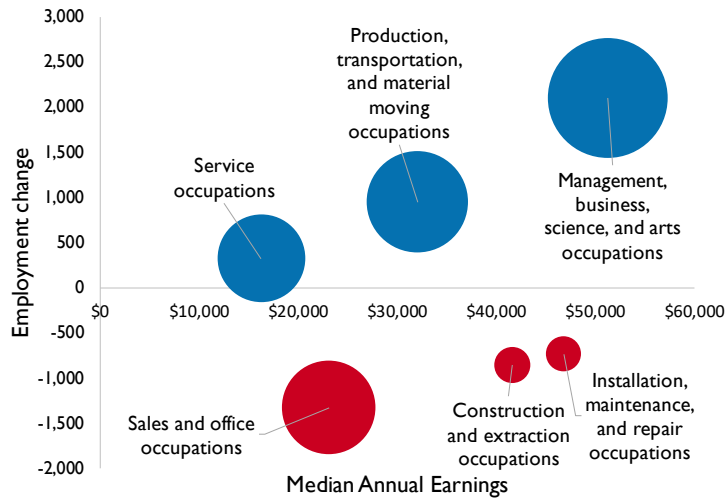
Annual Earnings Change, 2007–2016



Wage growth for Battle Creek workers since 2007 has been only about half as much as for Michiganders, and only about one-fifth as much as for workers nationally.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey.

Employment Change and Median Annual Earnings, 2007–2016

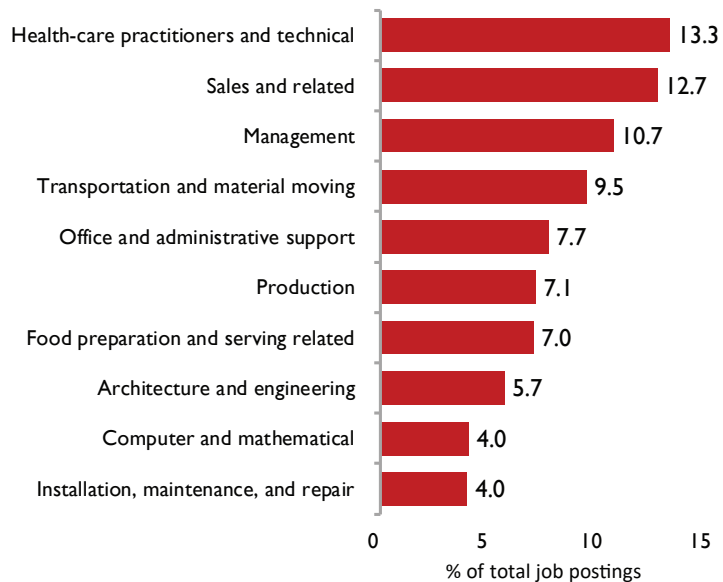


White-collar jobs experienced the most recovery after the Great Recession.

Wage growth in Battle Creek has been slow compared to that of the nation and the state (bottom figure, p. 8). Median wages have improved by only \$785 from 2007 to 2016. The bubble figure (above) shows employment growth by median wage for major occupation groups. Bubble size corresponds to the relative size of the occupation group. Overall wage growth may have been hampered by the decline in employment of several occupations, including construction and installation occupations.

The final figure (below) shows the top job postings for 2017, according to Labor Insight, a job-market data program from Burning Glass Technologies. As with 10-year wage growth, the greatest number of job postings in 2017 occurred in the field of health care practitioners. These occupations include medical doctors, nurses, technicians, and others. Sales and management occupations formed the next-highest group of occupations.

Job Postings for 2017 (%)



Health-care occupations edged sales for the most job postings in Battle Creek during 2017.

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies.