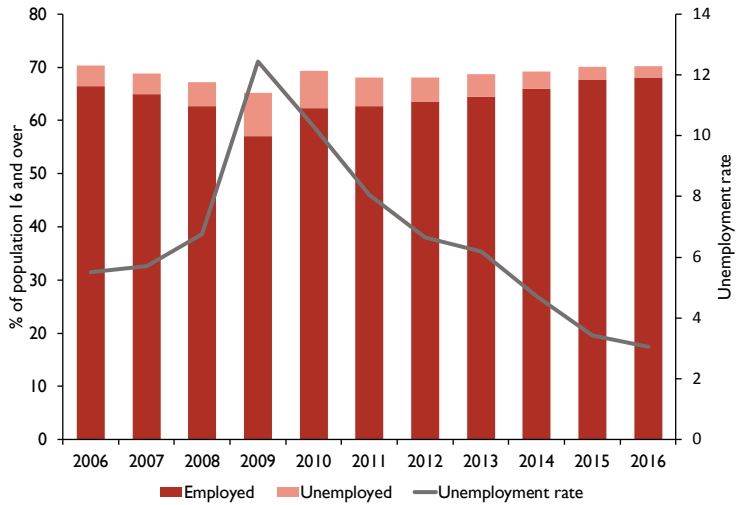


HOLLAND—OTTAWA COUNTY

The labor market in Ottawa County is extremely tight: as shown in the figure below, 68.0 percent of persons 16 and over are employed and 2.1 percent are unemployed, for a total labor force participation rate of 70.1 percent—more than seven points higher than the national rate of 62.7. The percentage of employed persons is higher than in 2006, when the rate was 66.4 percent.

Ottawa County Labor Force and Unemployment

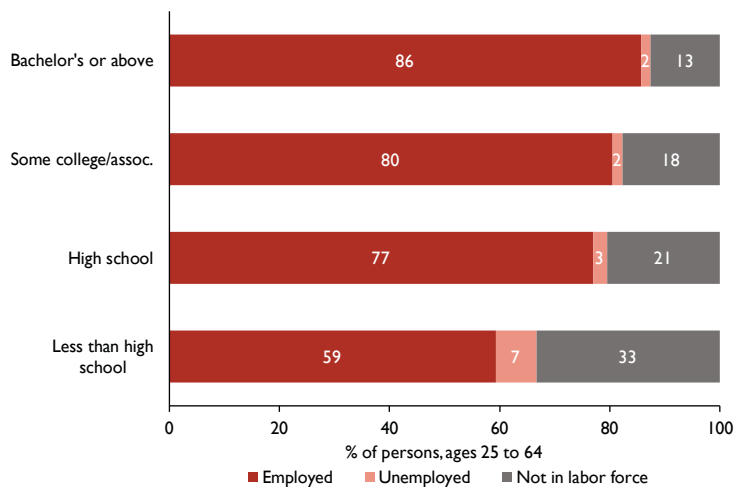


In Ottawa County, 70.1 percent of the population is either employed or unemployed, a labor force participation rate that is above the national rate of 62.7 percent. The high labor force participation rate suggests hiring is hindered by a lack of available workers.

The unemployment rate increased to 3.2 percent during the fourth quarter of 2016, up from 3.0 percent in the third quarter. During the same period, the rate of initial claims for unemployment insurance picked up by 9.4 percent, to 140 claims per week.

Total employment in Ottawa County was little changed in the second quarter of 2016, falling by 0.1 percent, or 90 jobs, over the quarter. Losses in construction and mining employment of 360 jobs erased a gain of 220

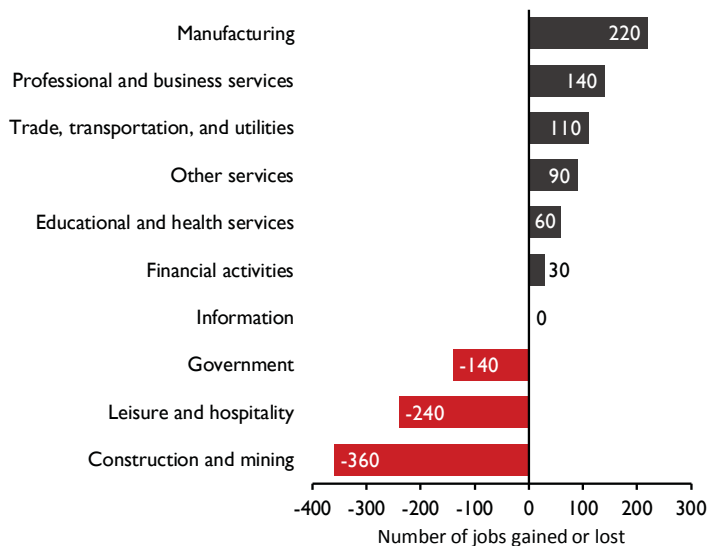
Ottawa County Education and Employment Status



Employment percentages were higher in Ottawa County than in most other MSAs for all educational levels.

US Census American Community Survey, 2015

Q1 to Q2 Employment Growth by Sector



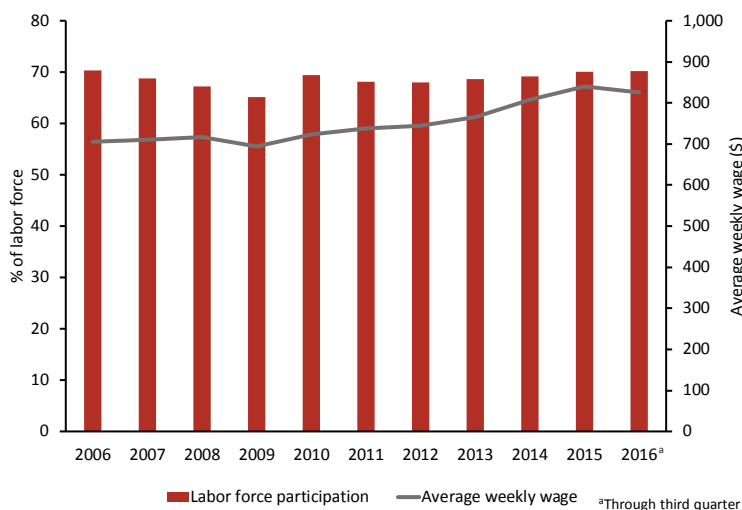
Employment fell by 0.1 percent in the second quarter of 2016 in Ottawa County. The figure shows a few industries with large declines, offsetting more modest growth in other industries.

jobs in manufacturing. The service-providing sector grew by 190 jobs, with modest gains across all industries save leisure and hospitality, which fell by 240 jobs. Government employment shrank by 140 jobs over the quarter.

Labor force participation in Ottawa County (figure below) rebounded quickly in 2010 following the Great Recession and then hit a plateau. Average weekly wages have grown steadily since 2010, though they fell slightly through the third quarter of 2016.

More detail on industry employment change can be found on our website at research.upjohn.org/bus_outlook/.

Labor Force Participation and Average Weekly Wage



After falling in 2009, average weekly wages have improved in Ottawa County through 2015. The labor force participation rate has remained high during that period.