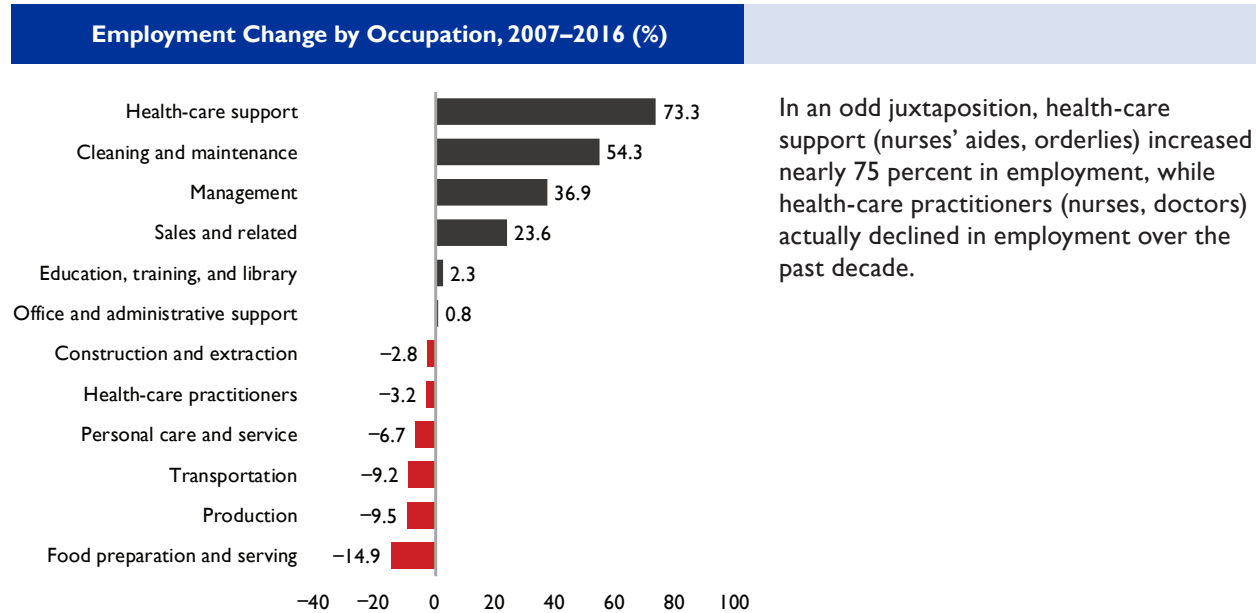


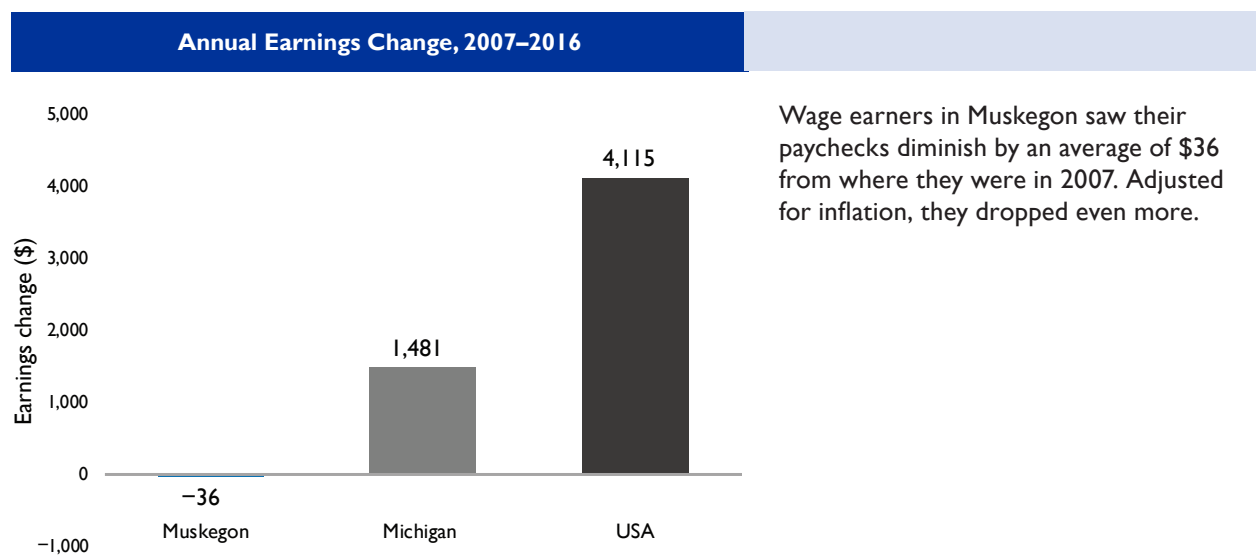
MUSKEGON MSA

Although several occupations in the Muskegon MSA did well over the past decade in terms of adding employment, Muskegon workers, on average, took home \$36 less in annual salary in 2016 than they did in 2007, at the beginning of the Great Recession—essentially trading water. Production and transportation were a drag on both wages and employment.



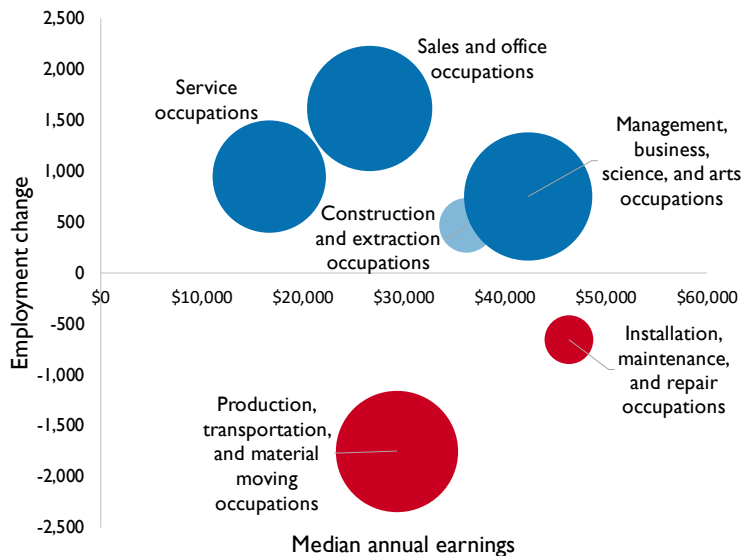
From 2007 to 2016, the largest growth in occupations occurred in health-care support (figure above). These occupations include nurses' aides, orderlies, and other occupations in health care that provide support to the practitioners. However, health-care practitioner occupations fell by 3.2 percent in the decade. The next-largest occupational growth was in cleaning and maintenance. Strong gains in the leading four occupations were tempered by losses in several others.

Annual wages were essentially flat from 2007 to 2016, falling by \$36 (figure below). These data are not adjusted for inflation, which suggests that real wages actually declined even more in the area.



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

Employment Change and Median Annual Earnings, 2007–2016

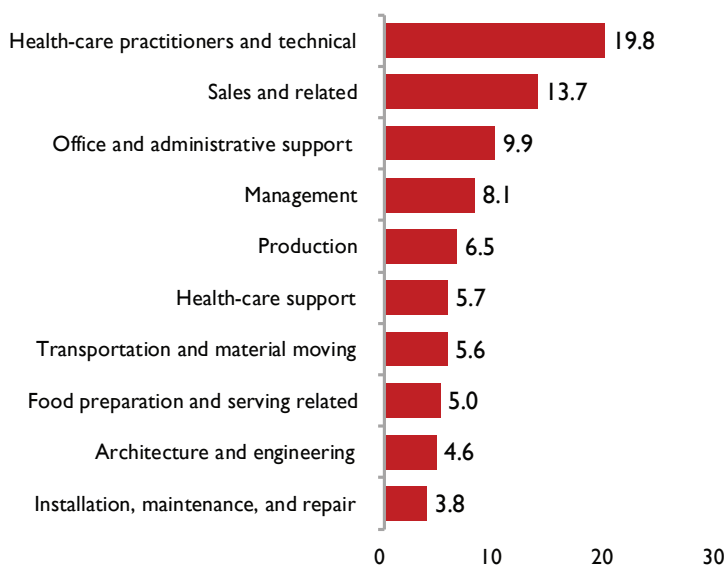


In contrast to the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA, where sales and office jobs suffered, sales and office occupations in Muskegon did quite well, leading the way for the area.

The bubble figure (above) shows the employment growth compared to the growth of median wages by major occupation. The size of the bubble represents the relative size of the occupation in the area. Job growth was spread across high- and low-wage jobs. Production and transportation occupations declined along with installation occupations. These occupations have middle to higher wages in the area, which may explain the stagnant wage growth.

In 2017, the largest job postings according to Labor Insight, a job-market data program from Burning Glass Technologies, were for health-care practitioners, at nearly 19.8 percent of total job postings (figure below). Health-care support occupations, while also posting large growth through the past decade, made up only 5.7 percent of job postings in 2017.

Job Postings for 2017 (%)



Although health-care support workers had by far the biggest gains in employment (top figure, previous page), they accounted for less than 6 percent of Internet job postings.

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies.