



# ***Regional Economic Trends for Calhoun County***



**APRIL 2021**



# CALHOUN COUNTY

**The Trend: Calhoun County continues to show strong growth, gaining over 2,000 jobs from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020. However, between December 2020 to January 2021, the unemployment rate increased by 1.9 percentage points. It is possible that this is because individuals are once again looking for employment. An increasing labor force participation rate suggests this may be the case, while an increasing employment-to-population ratio suggests that people are finding employment. Job postings were higher in January 2021 than December 2020, with slightly more postings in Public Administration and Accommodation and Food Service.**

## COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 56.1% in January 2021. This is a 1.9 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 51.8% in January 2021. This is a 0.7 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 7.7% in January 2021. This is a 1.9 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The total labor force increased by 2,063 people from December 2020 to January 2021. The total increase in employed people was 775 and the total number of unemployed people increased by 1,288.



Total employment increased by 11.3% from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020. The largest loss of employment was in the Educational and Health Services sector, while the Construction sector gained the most jobs.

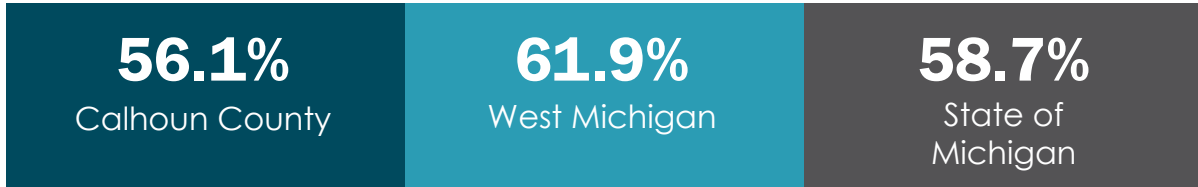


There were 1,200 job postings in January 2021. This is a 5.6% increase from last month.

# KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

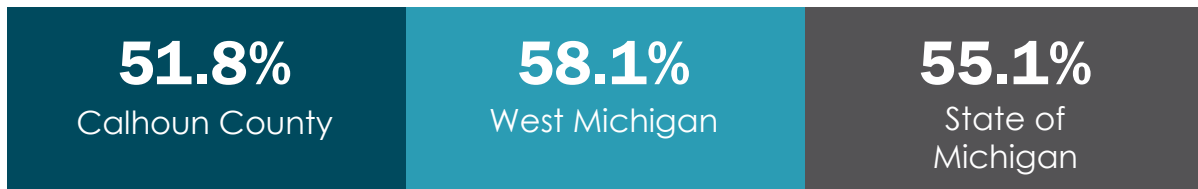
## January 2021

### Labor Force Participation Rate



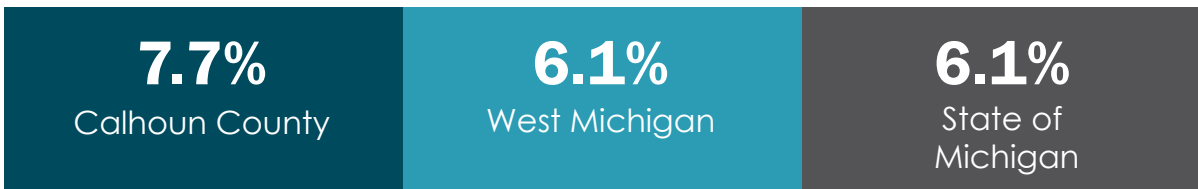
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 56.1% in Branch County in January 2021. This was lower than West Michigan by 5.8 percentage points and lower than that of the State of Michigan by 2.6 percentage points.

### Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment to population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 51.8% in Calhoun County in January 2021. This was 6.3 percentage points below west Michigan and also below that of the State of Michigan with a ratio 3.3 percentage points lower.

### Unemployment Rate

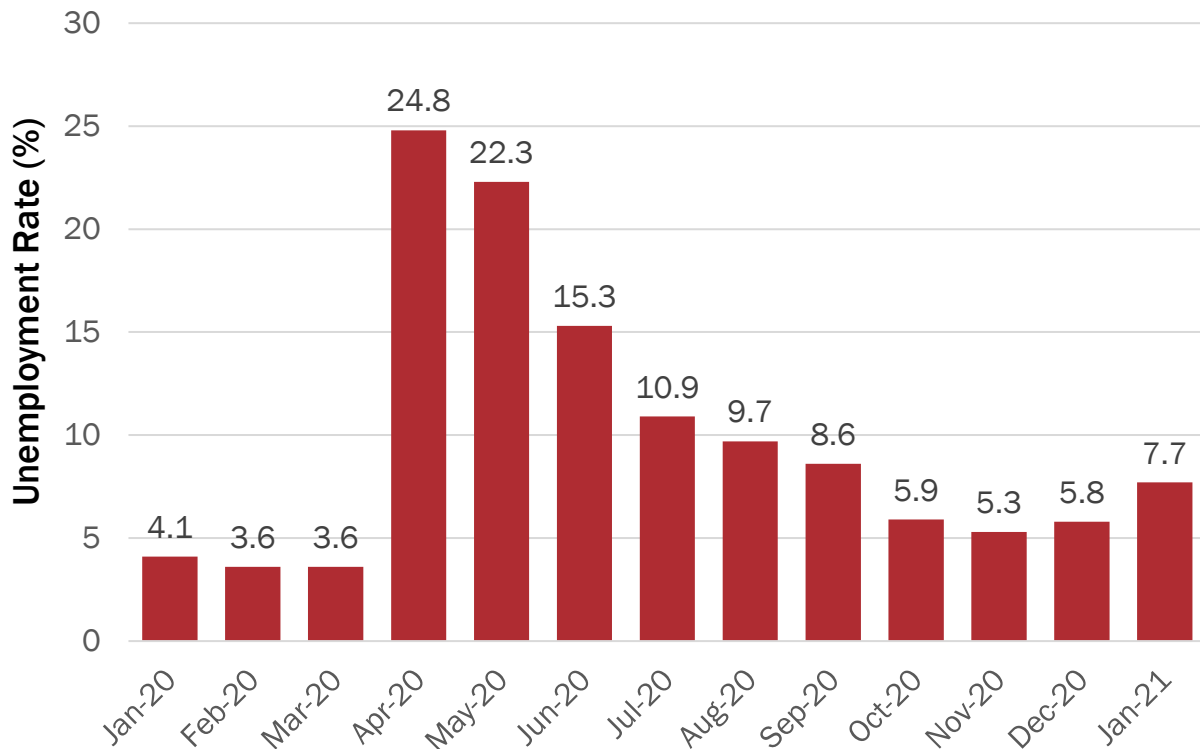


The unemployment rate which measures the percent of the workforce that is jobless was 7.7% in Calhoun County in January 2021. This was 1.6 percentage points higher than west Michigan and 1.6 percentage points higher than that of the State of Michigan.

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 Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)



BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics & Upjohn Institute, 2021

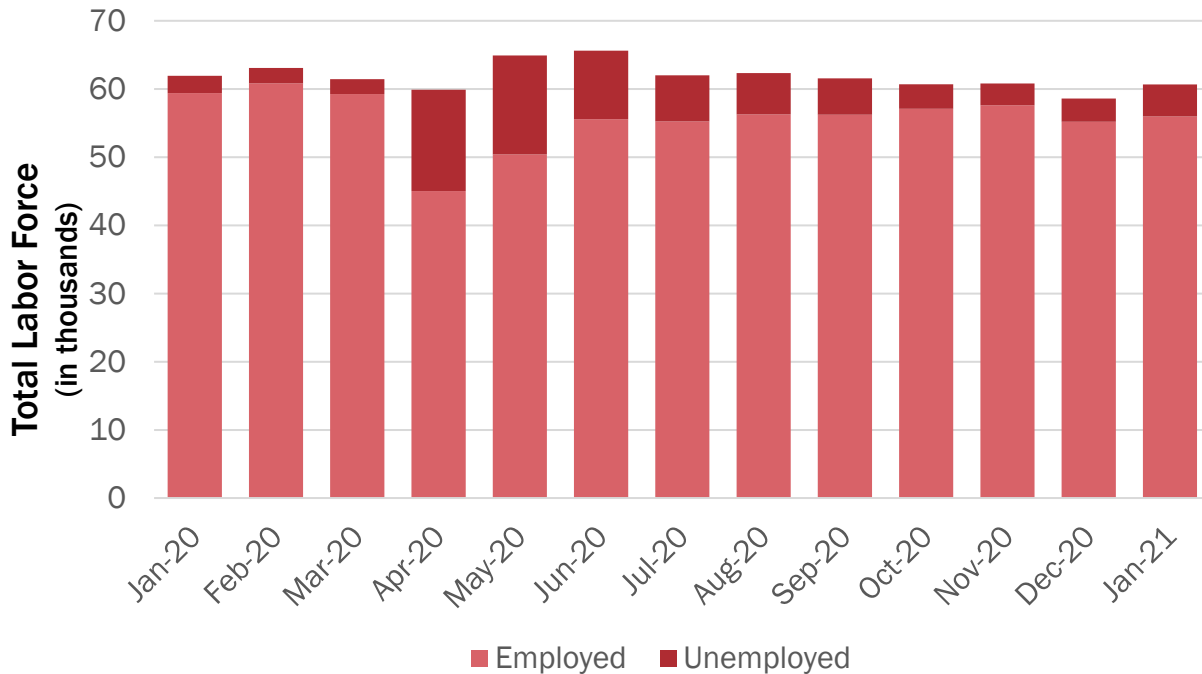
Since December 2020, the unemployment rate in Calhoun County increased by 1.9 percentage points to 7.7% percent in January 2021. The unemployment rate is 3.6 percentage points higher than it was at the same time last year.

In January, there were **3.9 job seekers** for every **1 job posting\*** in Calhoun County.

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

\*Burning Glass Technologies 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 Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)



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

The total labor force in Calhoun County in January 2021 stood at 60,659, an increase of 2,063 people from December 2020. The total labor force in Calhoun County has grown by 2.1% since January 2020 when it stood at 61,929. This indicates an increase in the available labor for firms in the area.

## Labor Force by the Numbers Q2 2020 Calhoun County

- 24.4%** Percent of workers 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 34.3%** Percent of workers 25 and older with an associate degree or some college
- 30.5%** Percent of workers Age 25 to 54 with a high school diploma or equivalent

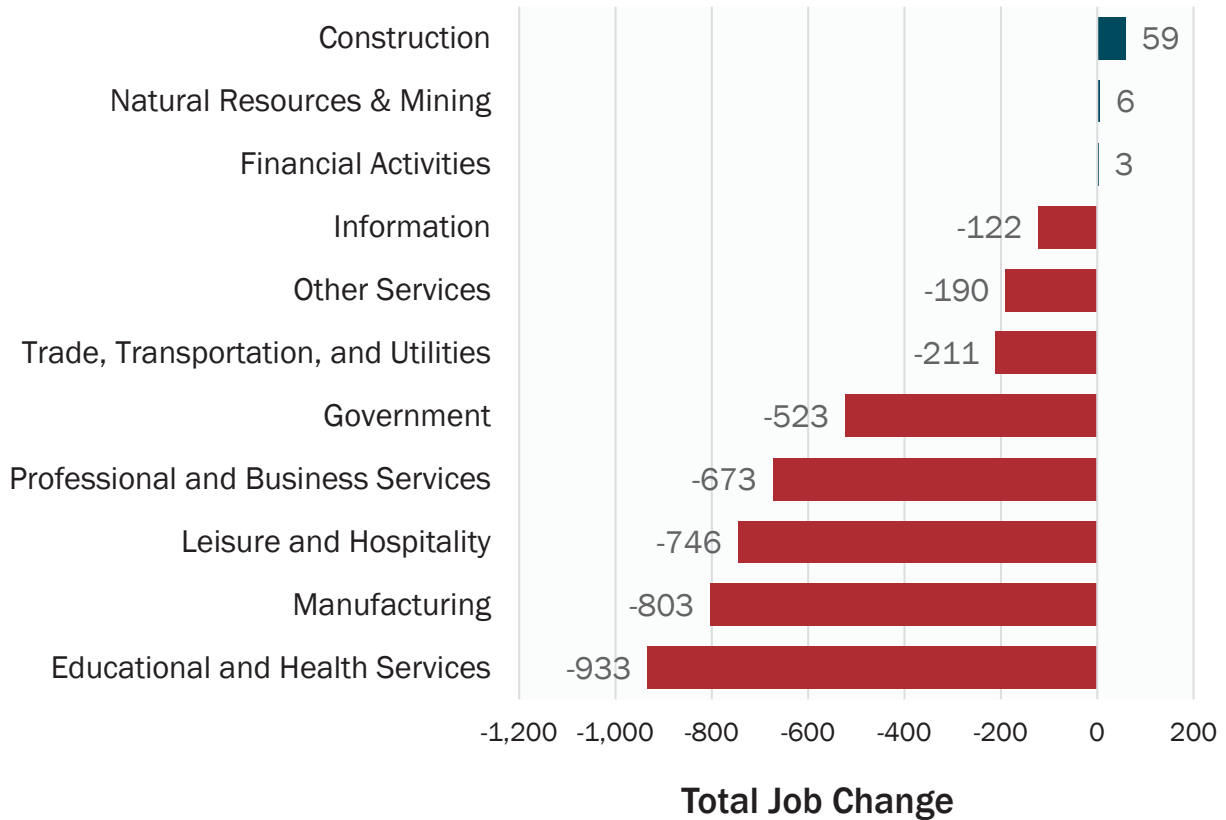
Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

## Employment by Industry Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q3 2020	Q2 2020	% Change Q2 to Q3	Q3 2019	% Change Q3 to Q3
<b>Employment (by place of work)</b>					
Total Private Sector Employment	40,374	36,263	11.3%	44,265	-8.8%
Goods-producing	12,325	10,456	17.9%	13,064	-5.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	283	277	2.2%	277	2.2%
Construction	1,818	1,384	31.3%	1,759	3.3%
Manufacturing	10,224	8,796	16.2%	11,027	-7.3%
Private Service-Providing	28,049	25,806	8.7%	31,201	-10.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,439	7,757	8.8%	8,650	-2.4%
Information	190	211	-9.8%	312	-38.9%
Financial Activities	1,066	1,039	2.6%	1,063	0.3%
Professional and Business Services	4,383	4,286	2.3%	5,056	-13.3%
Educational and Health Services	9,083	8,814	3.1%	10,016	-9.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,457	2,451	41.1%	4,203	-17.7%
Other Services	1,349	1,181	14.3%	1,539	-12.3%
Unclassified	81	68	19.0%	363	-77.6%
Government	9,586	9,602	-0.2%	10,109	-5.2%

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

## Employment Change Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)



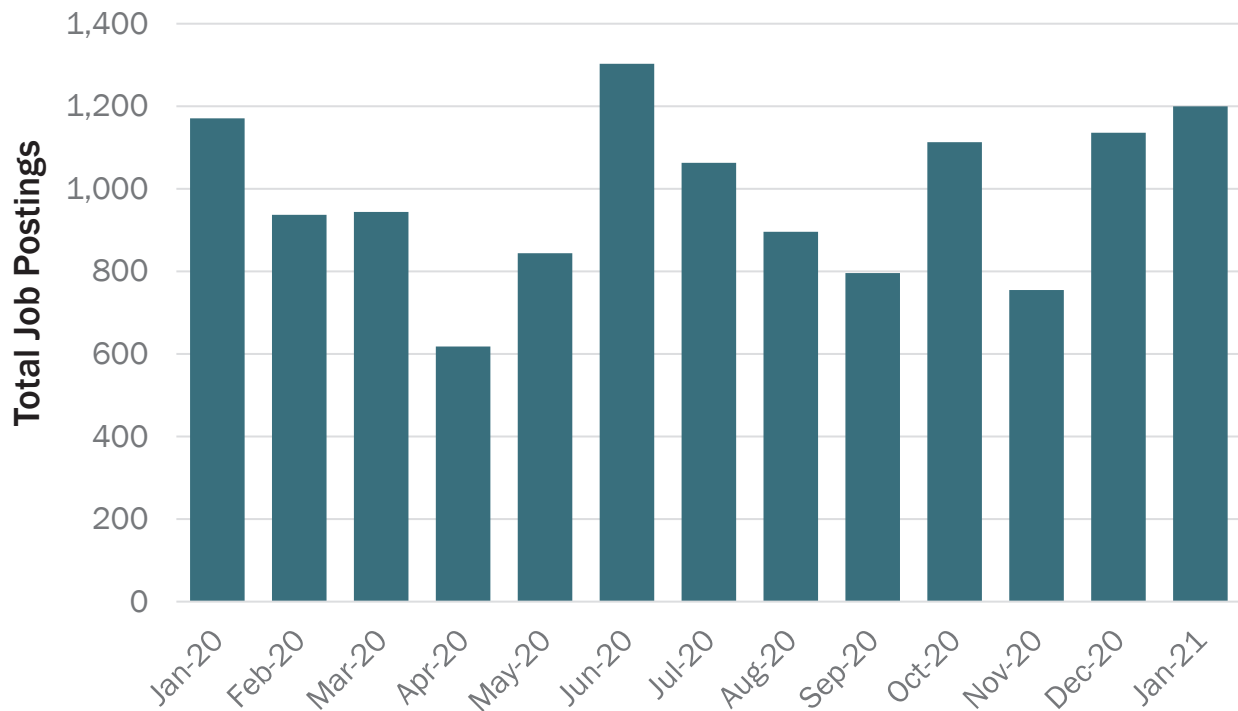
Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data shows the greatest decrease in employment in Calhoun County from Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 was in Educational and Health Services, which declined by 933 jobs or 9.3%. The greatest increase in employment from Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 was in Construction, which grew by 59 jobs or 3.3%.

The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs in Q2 2020 in Calhoun County was **\$1,059.**

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

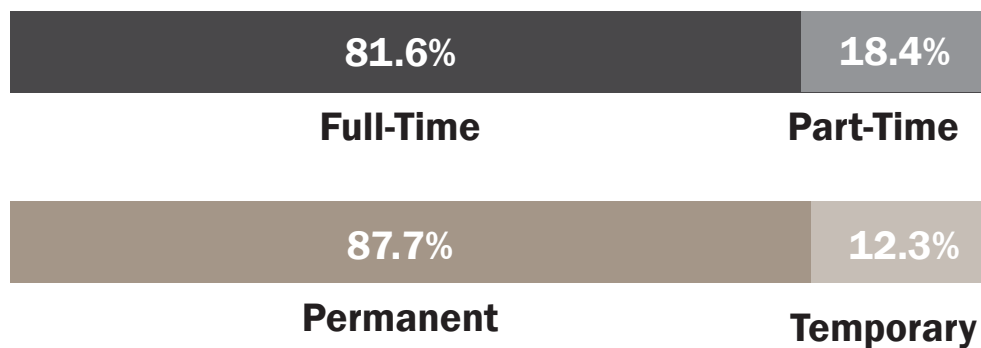
## Total Job Postings, Calhoun County



Source: Burning Glass, 2021

The number of job postings in Calhoun County, which demonstrates demand for labor, increased by 5.6% between December 2020 and January 2021 from 1,136 postings to 1,200 postings. The majority of postings in Calhoun County, as reported by Burning Glass, were full-time and permanent positions.

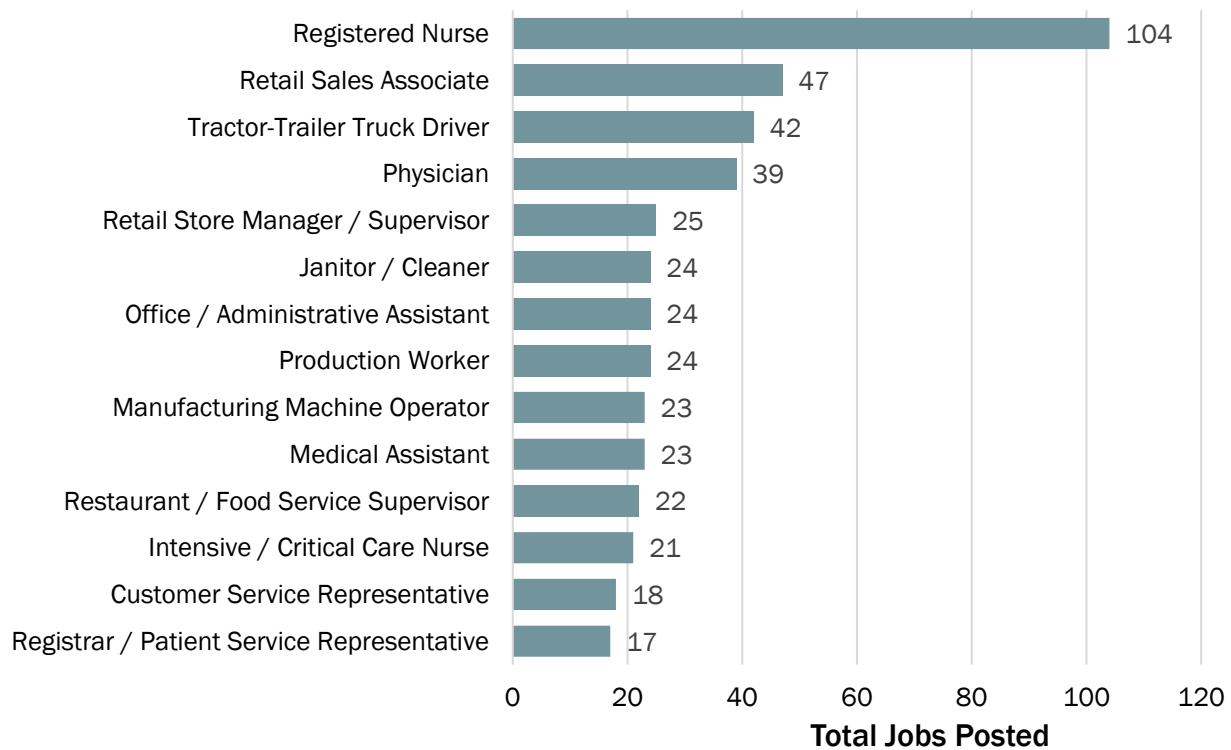
## Type of Job Posting January 2021 Calhoun County



Source: Burning Glass, 2021



## Job Postings for Top Occupations, January 2021 Calhoun County



Source: Burning Glass, 2021

The top job occupations with job postings were for registered nurses, retail sales associates, and tractor-trailer truck drivers. The majority of job postings, 40.8%, required at a minimum a high school diploma or vocational training. This is an increase of 2.0 percentage points in the proportion of job postings requiring a high school diploma or vocational training from December 2020. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree decreased by a sizable 1.1 percentage points and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 1.0 percentage point from December 2020.

**40.8%** of job postings required a high school diploma or vocational training

**24.5%** of job postings required an associate's degree

**34.7%** of job postings required a bachelor's degree or higher

Source: Burning Glass, 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

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## For More Information

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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/](http://www.upjohn.org/Business_Outlook/Data_Dictionary/).