



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



**MAY 2021**

# CALHOUN COUNTY

**The Trend: Calhoun County continues to show strong growth, gaining 2,000 jobs from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020. Between January 2021 and February 2021, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points. The employment-to-population ratio increased slightly. This may be a positive sign that individuals are finding work. Job postings were lower in February 2021 than in January 2021, with slightly fewer postings in Health Care and Social Assistance and in Retail Trade.**

## COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 55.4% in February 2021. This is a 0.7 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 51.9% in February 2021. This is a 0.1 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 6.5% in February 2021. This is a 1.2 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force decreased by 786 people from January 2021 to February 2021. The number of employed people rose by 15, and the number of unemployed people fell by 801.



Total employment increased by 11.3% from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020.

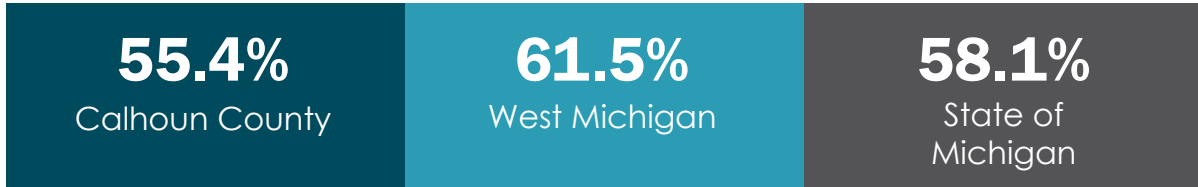


There were 1,030 job postings in February 2021. This means job postings decreased by 14.2% from the previous month.

# KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

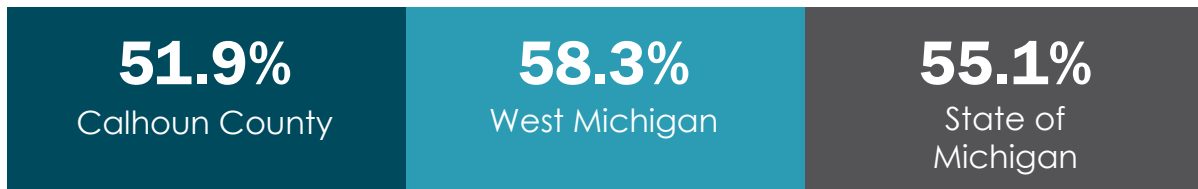
## February 2021

### Labor Force Participation Rate



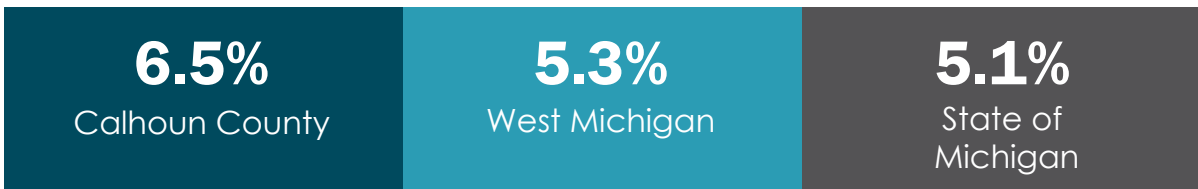
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 55.4% in Calhoun County in February 2021. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 6.1 percentage points and lower than that of the state of Michigan by 2.7 percentage points.

### Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 51.9% in Calhoun County in February 2021. This was 6.4 percentage points below the rate for west Michigan and 3.2 percentage points lower than that of the state of Michigan.

### Unemployment Rate

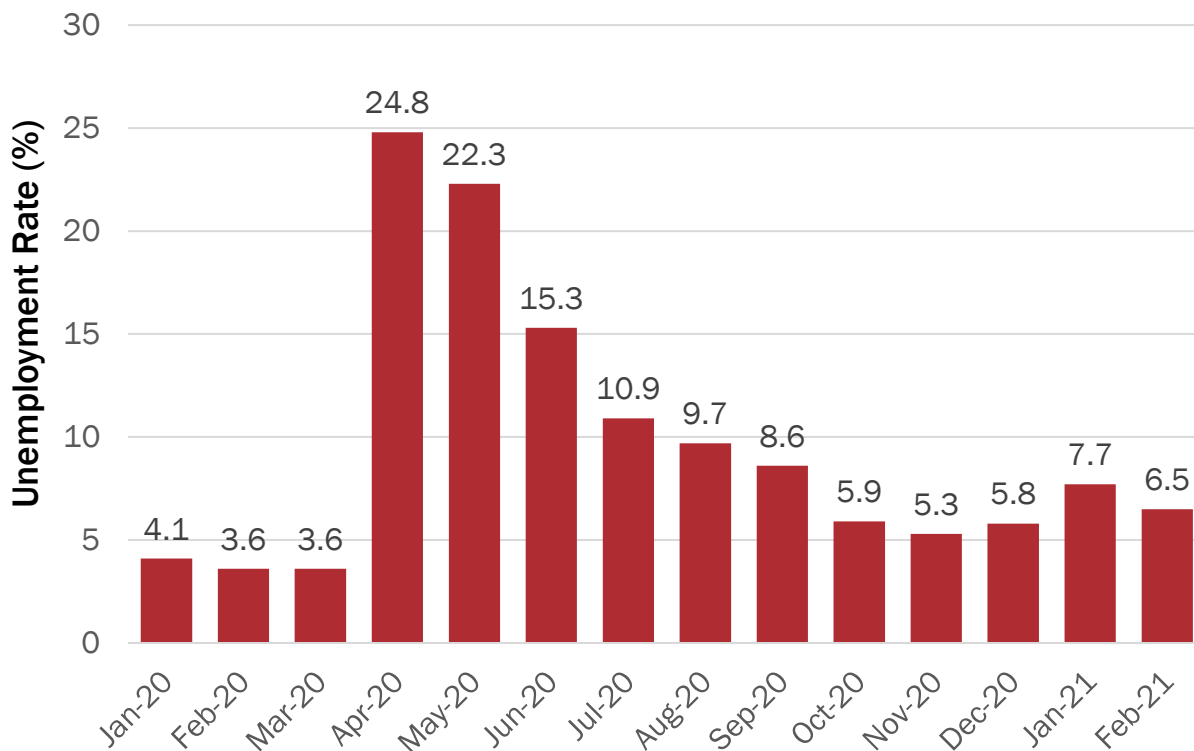


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, stood at 6.5% in Calhoun County in February 2021. This was 1.2 percentage points higher than for west Michigan and 1.4 percentage points higher than for the state of Michigan.

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 Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)



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

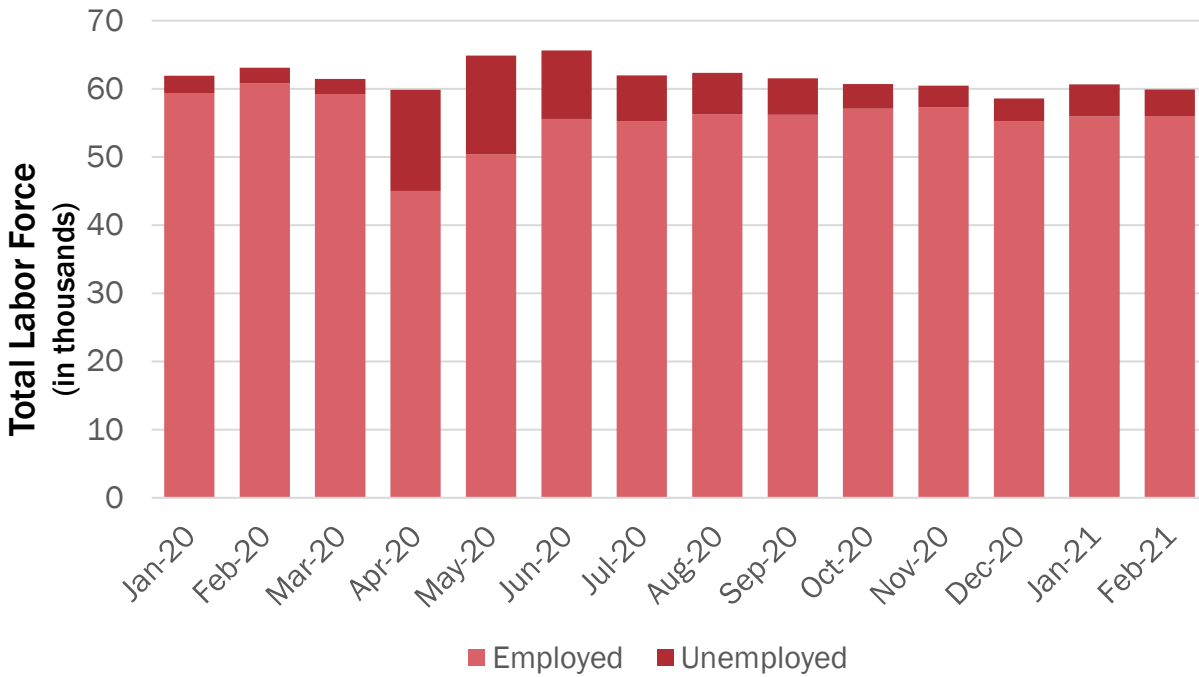
From January 2021, the unemployment rate in Calhoun County decreased by 1.2 percentage points to 6.5% in February 2021. The February unemployment rate is 2.9 percentage points higher than it was at the same time last year.

In October, there were **3.8 job seekers** for every **1 job posting\*** in Calhoun 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 Calhoun County (not seasonally adjusted)



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

The total labor force in Calhoun County in February 2021 stood at 59,916, a decrease of 786 people from January 2021. The total labor force in the county has shrunk by 5.0% since February 2020, when it stood at 63,089. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

## Labor Force by the Numbers, Q2 2020 Calhoun County

- 24.4%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 34.4%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with an associate degree or some college
- 30.5%** Percentage of workers aged 25 to 54 with a high school diploma or equivalent

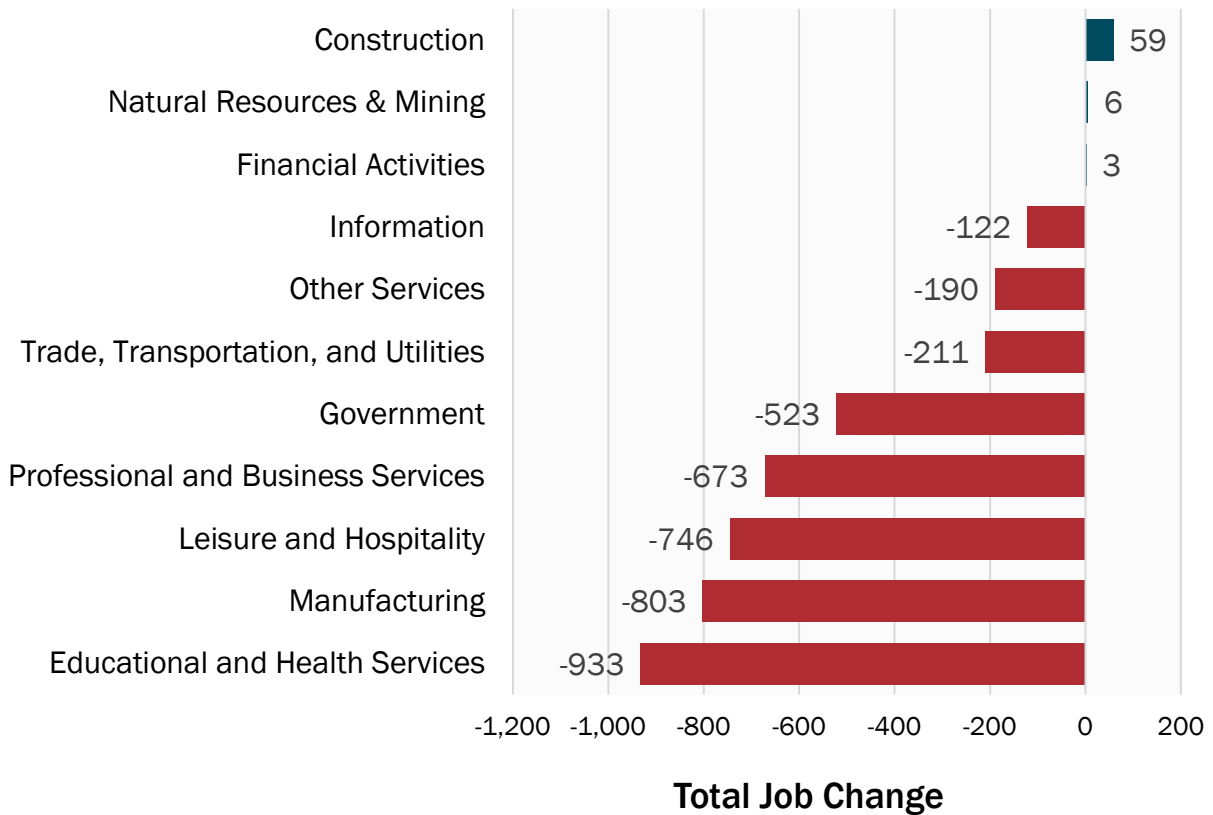
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

## 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)



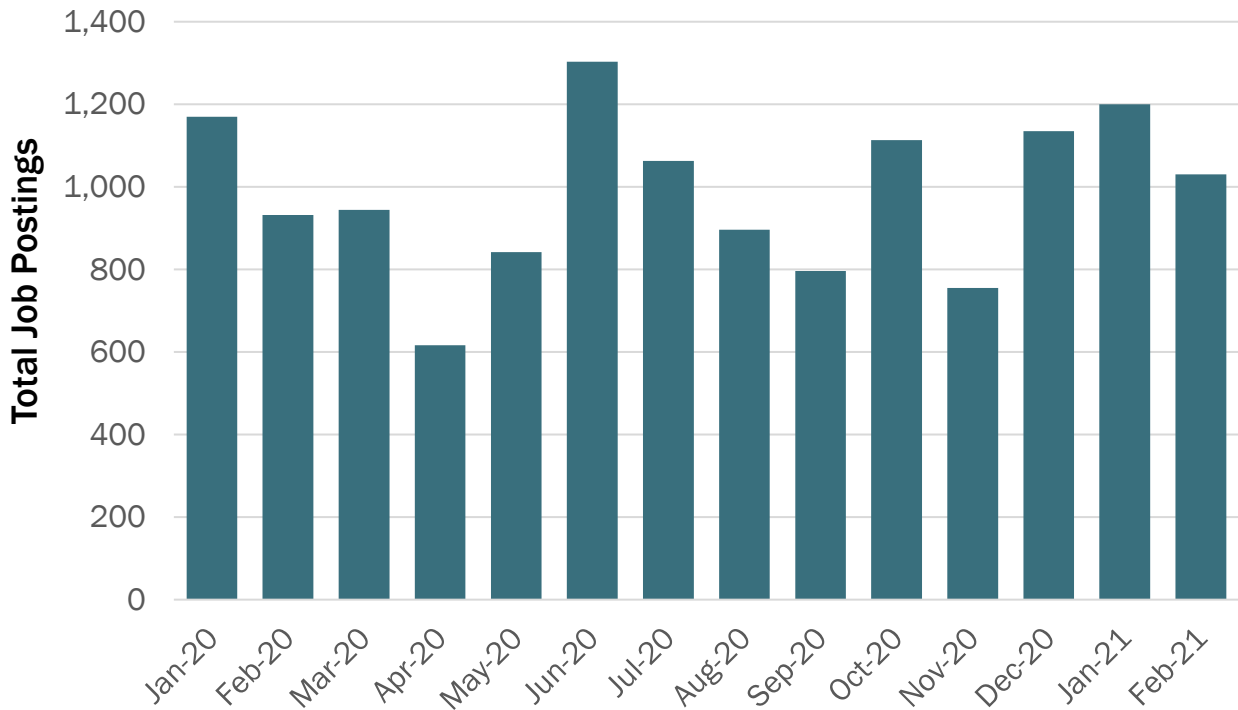
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data show that 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 Q3 2020 in Calhoun County was **\$1,059.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

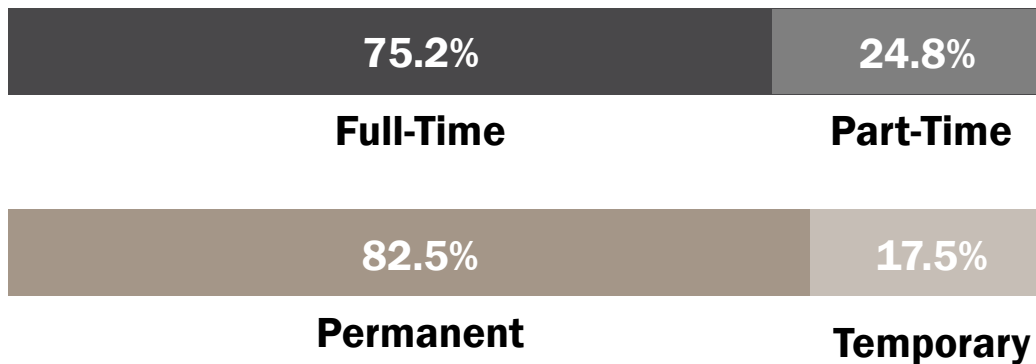
## Total Job Postings, February 2021 Calhoun County



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The number of job postings in Calhoun County, which demonstrates demand for labor, decreased by 14.2% between January 2021 and February 2021, from 1,200 postings to 1,030 postings. The majority of postings in Calhoun County, as reported by Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

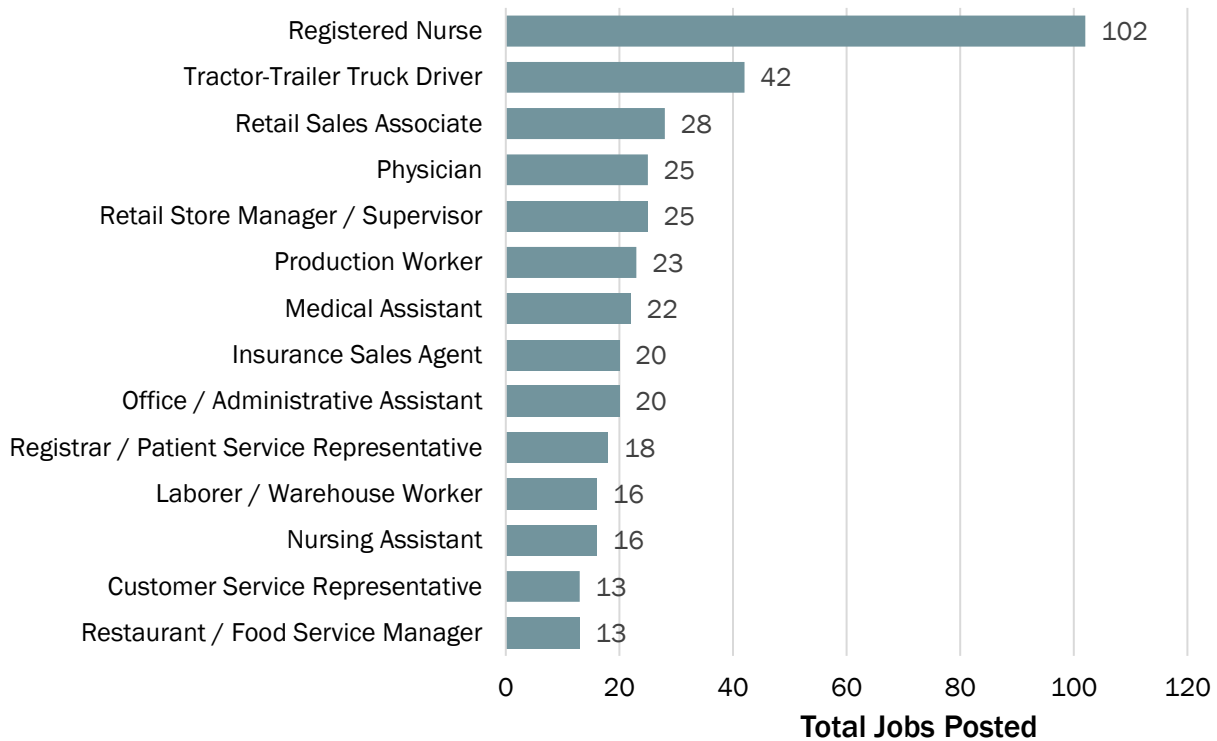
## Type of Job Postings, February 2021 Calhoun County



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021



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



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top job occupations with job postings were for registered nurses, tractor-trailer truck drivers, and retail sales associates. Of the total job postings, 39.6% required a high school diploma or vocational training. This is a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from January 2021 in the proportion of job postings requiring a high school diploma or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree decreased by 0.2 percentage points from January 2021, and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 1.4 percentage points.

**39.6%** of job postings required a high school diploma or vocational training in February 2021

**24.3%** of job postings required an associate degree in February 2021

**36.1%** of job postings required a bachelor's degree or higher in February 2021

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. As well, Upjohn 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

**Kathleen Bolter**

Regional Research Analyst

**Gerrit Anderson**

Mapping and Visualization Specialist

**Emily Boyle**

Editor

## For More Information

For questions or information about this report, contact Jim Robey, Director of Regional Economic Planning Services, 269-365-0450, or [jrobey@upjohn.org](mailto:jrobey@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/](http://www.upjohn.org/Business_Outlook/Data_Dictionary/).