



Regional Economic Trends for Kalamazoo County



JULY 2021

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

The Trend: Kalamazoo County continues to rebound, having gained more than 2,000 jobs from Q3 2020 to Q4 2020. From March to April, the unemployment rate, employment-to-population ratio, and labor force participation rate all decreased. This is likely a sign that individuals are discouraged from finding work and are leaving the labor force. Even so, there are positive indications that there may now be more job opportunities available: job postings were higher in April than in March, with more postings in Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, Manufacturing, and Accommodation and Food Services.

COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 59.2% in April. This is a 0.4 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 56.4% in April. This is a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 4.6% in April. This is a 0.5 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw a decrease of 834 people from March to April. The total number of employed people decreased by 226, and the total number of unemployed people decreased by 608.



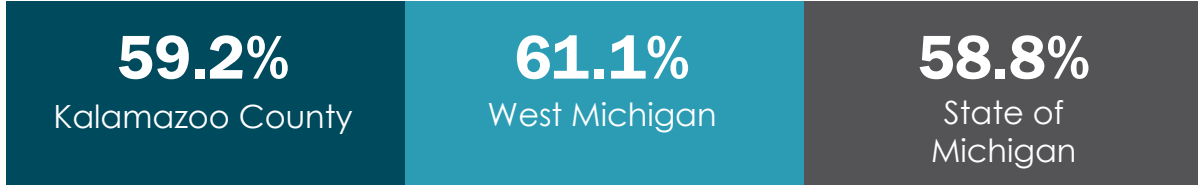
Total employment increased by 2.0% from Q3 2020 to Q4 2020.



There were 2,950 job postings in April, an increase of 11.5% from the previous month.

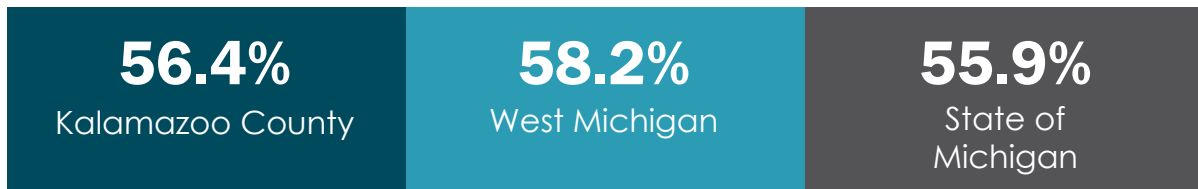
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Labor Force Participation Rate



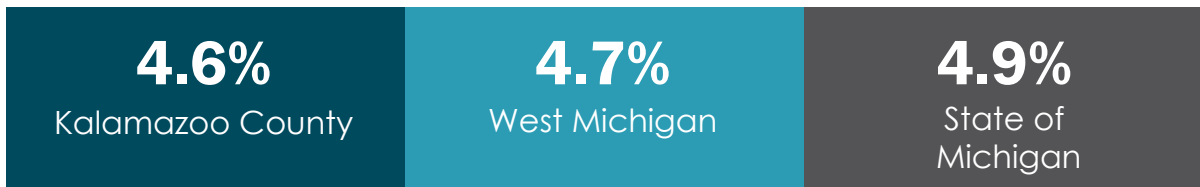
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 59.2% in Kalamazoo County in April. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 1.9 percentage points and higher than that of the state of Michigan by 0.4 percentage points.

Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 56.4% in Kalamazoo County in April. This was 1.8 percentage points below that of west Michigan and 0.5 percentage points higher than that of the state of Michigan.

Unemployment Rate

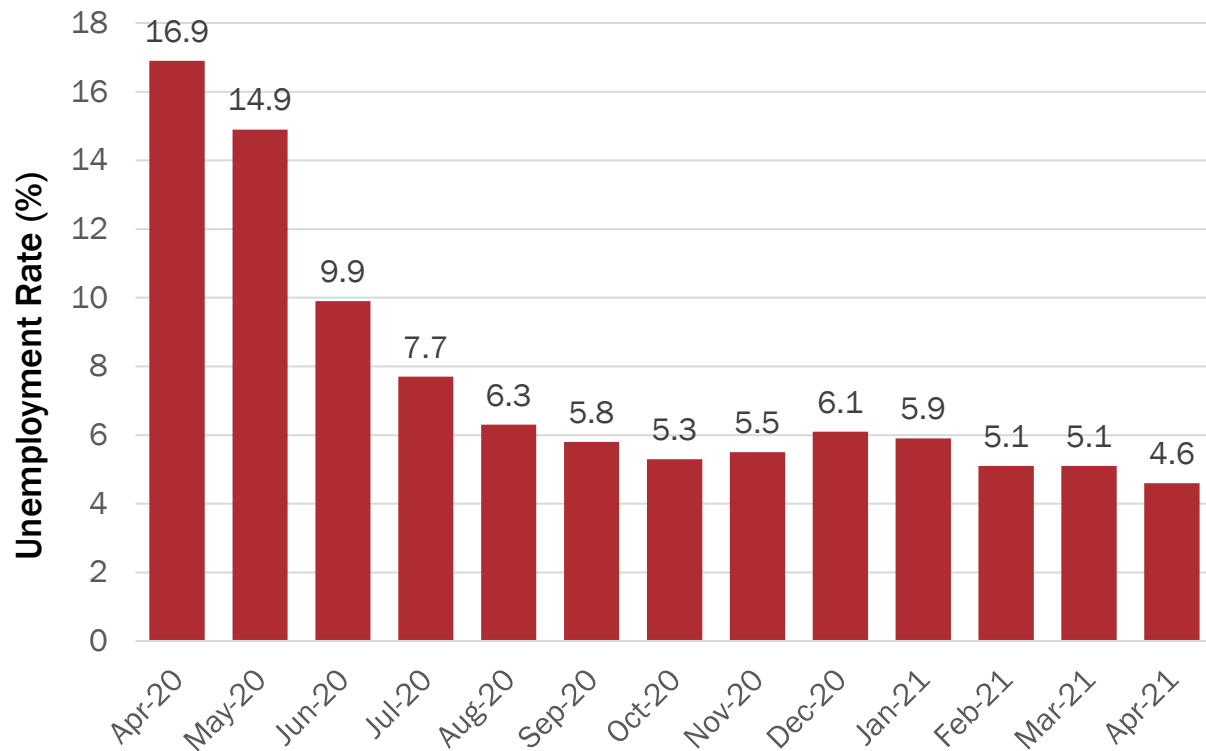


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 4.6% in Kalamazoo County in April. This was 0.1 percentage points lower than the rate for west Michigan and 0.3 percentage points lower than the rate for the state of Michigan.

SOURCE: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics & 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 (not seasonally adjusted)



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

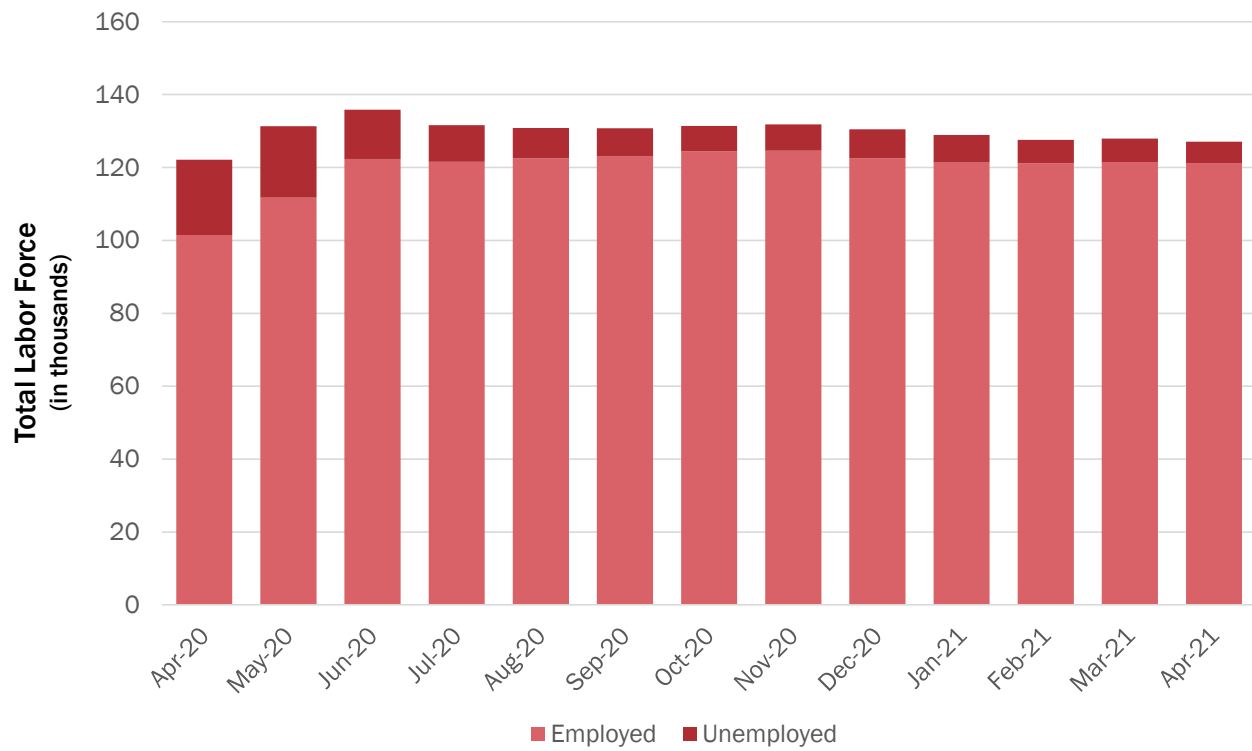
From March to April, the unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County decreased by 0.5 percentage points, to 4.6 percent. The rate is 12.3 percentage points lower than it was at the same time last year.

In March, there were **2.0 job seekers** for every **1 job posting*** in Kalamazoo County.

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, BLS LAUS, & Upjohn Institute, 2021

*Burning Glass data only capture 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 (not seasonally adjusted)



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

The total labor force in Kalamazoo County in April stood at 127,118, a decrease of 834 people from the March labor force of 127,952. The total labor force in the county has grown by 4.1% since April 2020, when it stood at 122,138. This indicates an increase in the available labor for firms in the area.

Labor Force by the Numbers, Q3 2020

- 27.9%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 33.5%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with an associate degree or some college
- 27.9%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with a high school degree or equivalent

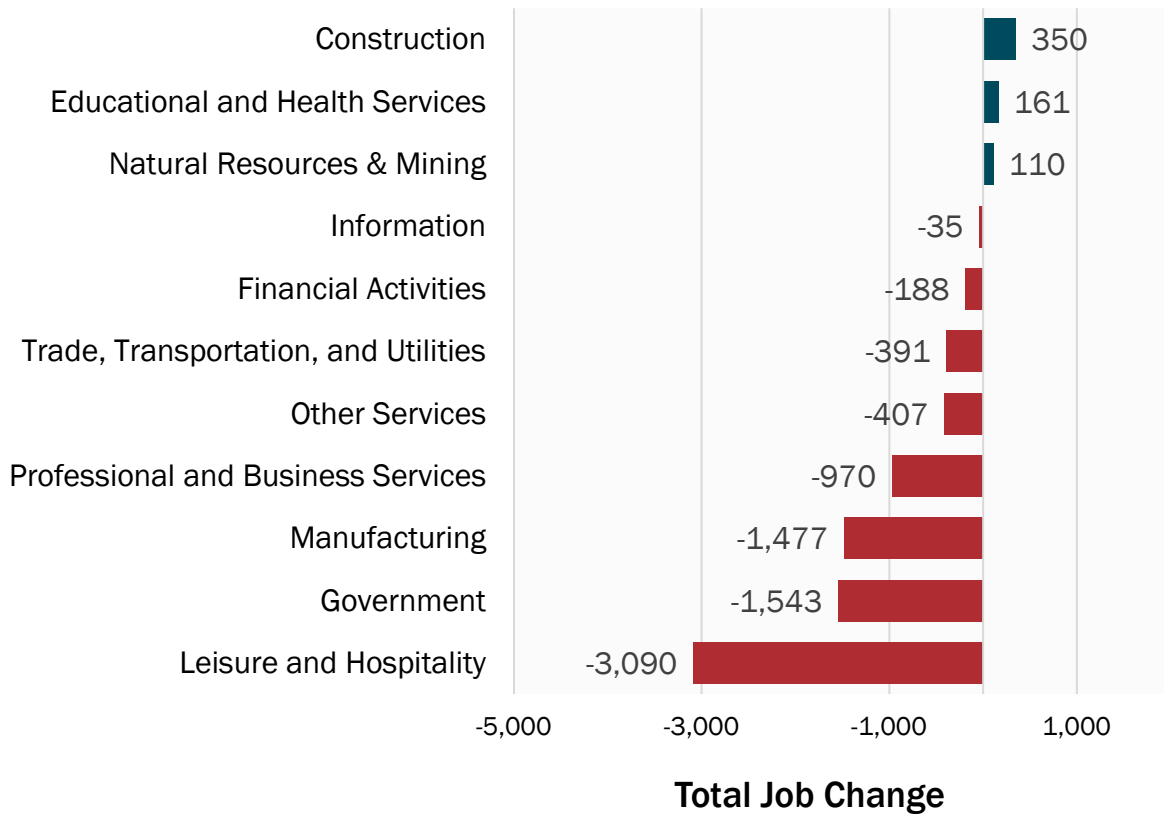
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q4 2020	Q3 2020	% Change Q3 to Q4	Q4 2019	% Change Q4 to Q4
Employment (by place of work)					
Total Private Sector Employment	102,352	100,344	2.0%	108,220	-5.4%
Goods-Producing	25,934	25,688	1.0%	26,951	-3.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	1,246	1,293	-3.7%	1,136	9.7%
Construction	6,062	5,953	1.8%	5,712	6.1%
Manufacturing	18,626	18,441	1.0%	20,103	-7.3%
Private Service-Providing	76,418	74,656	2.4%	81,269	-6.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	21,473	20,431	5.1%	21,864	-1.8%
Information	546	571	-4.4%	581	-6.1%
Financial Activities	7,289	7,356	-0.9%	7,477	-2.5%
Professional and Business Services	11,089	10,534	5.3%	12,059	-8.0%
Educational and Health Services	22,150	21,558	2.7%	21,989	0.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,276	10,769	-4.6%	13,366	-23.1%
Other Services	3,374	3,231	4.4%	3,781	-10.7%
Unclassified	220	206	6.8%	151	45.2%
Government	11,804	11,161	5.8%	13,347	-11.6%

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

Employment Change, Q4 2019 to Q4 2020 (not seasonally adjusted)



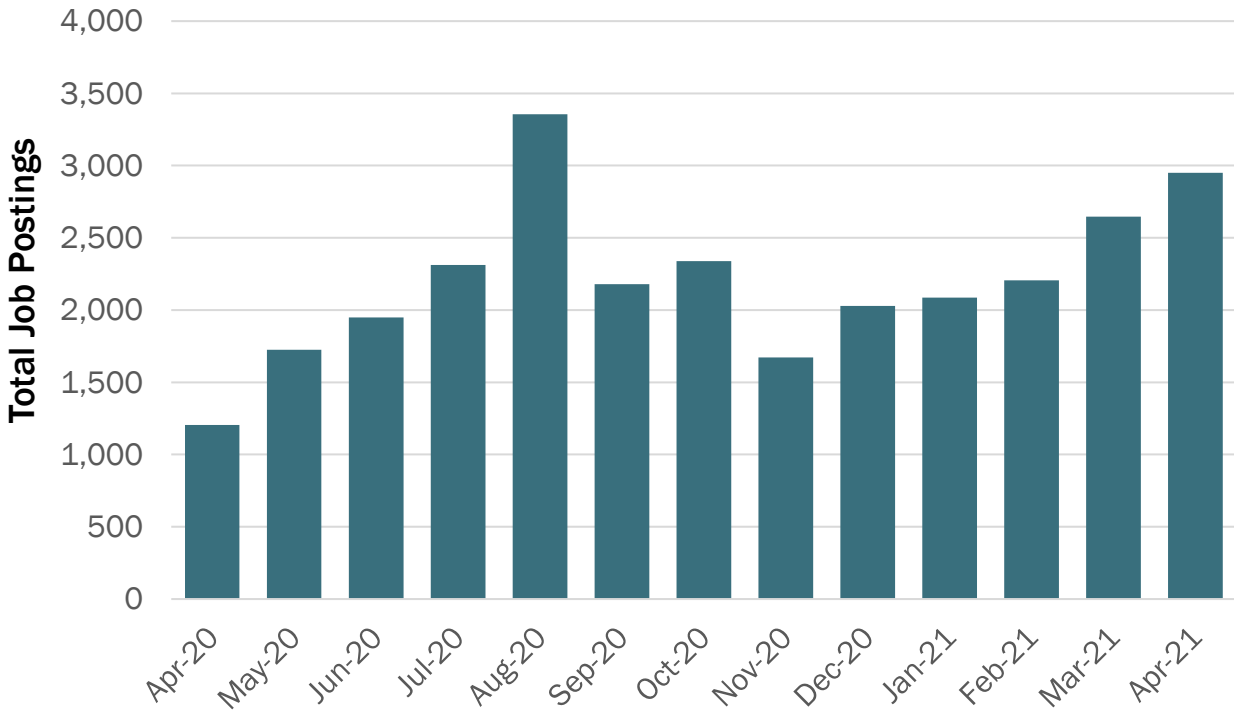
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment for Kalamazoo County from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020 took place in leisure and hospitality, which declined by 3,090 jobs, or 23.1%. The greatest increase in employment from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020 for the county occurred in construction, which grew by 350 jobs, or 6.1%.

The average weekly wage in Kalamazoo County for nonfarm jobs in Q4 2020 was **\$1,092**.

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

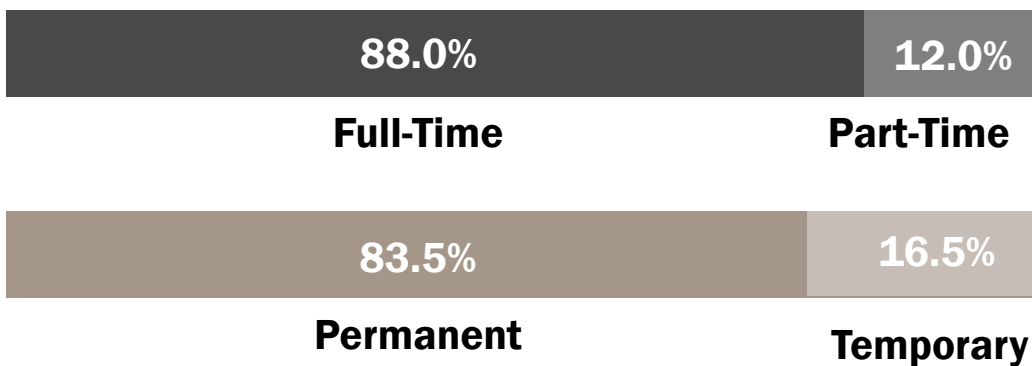
Total Job Postings, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

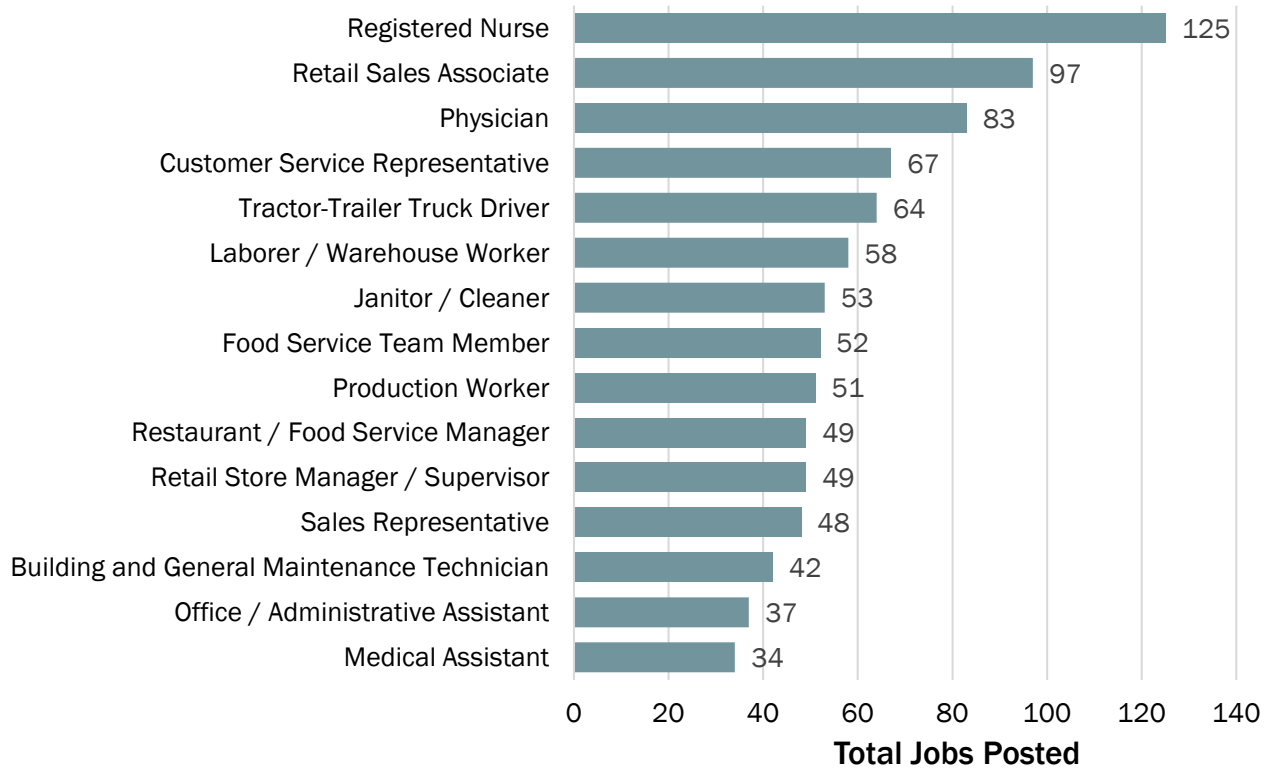
The number of job postings in Kalamazoo County, which demonstrates demand for labor, increased by 11.5% between March and April, from 2,646 postings to 2,950. The majority of postings in Kalamazoo County, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

Type of Job Postings, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

Top Occupations for Job Postings, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top occupations with job postings were for registered nurses, retail sales associates, and physicians. Nearly half of job postings, 42.1%, required at minimum a high school diploma or vocational training. This is a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from March in the proportion of job postings requiring a high school diploma or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree increased by 0.3 percentage points from March, and the proportion requiring a bachelor's degree or higher decreased by 0.2 percentage points.

42.1% of job postings in April required a high school diploma or vocational training.

12.9% of job postings in April required an associate degree.

44.9% of job postings in April required a bachelor's degree or higher.

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 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

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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/.