



Regional Economic Trends for Kalamazoo County



MARCH 2022

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

The Trend: Kalamazoo County added 1,495 jobs from Q2 2021 to Q3 2021. Between November and December, the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate fell, while the employment-to-population ratio held steady. This is likely a sign that unemployed individuals are either finding work or leaving the labor market entirely. Job postings were lower in December than in November, with registered nurse as the most in-demand job.

COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 60.4% in December. This is a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 58.1% in December. This is unchanged from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 3.8% in December. This is a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw a decrease of 88 people from November to December. The number of employed people increased by 103, and the number of unemployed people decreased by 191.



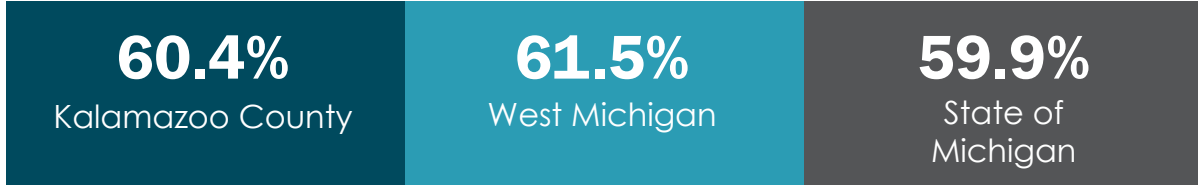
Total employment increased by 1.4% from Q2 2021 to Q3 2021.



There were 2,591 job postings in December, a decrease of 3.4% from November.

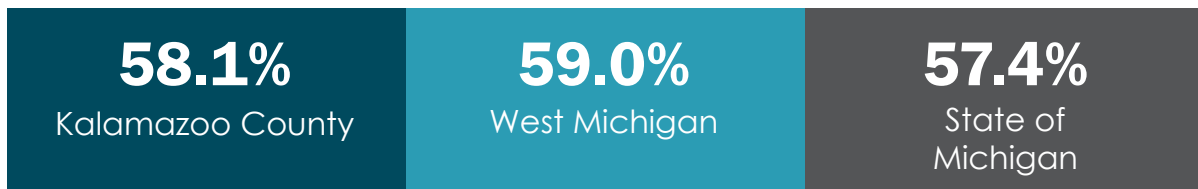
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Labor Force Participation Rate



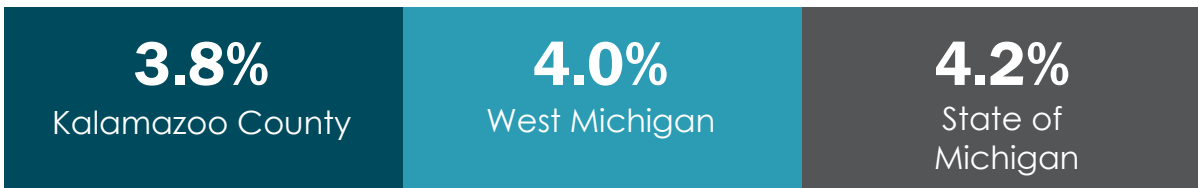
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 60.4% in Kalamazoo County in December. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 1.1 percentage points, and higher than that of the state of Michigan by 0.5 percentage points.

Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 58.1% for Kalamazoo County in December. This was 0.9 percentage points below the ratio for west Michigan, and 0.7 percentage points above the ratio for the state of Michigan.

Unemployment Rate

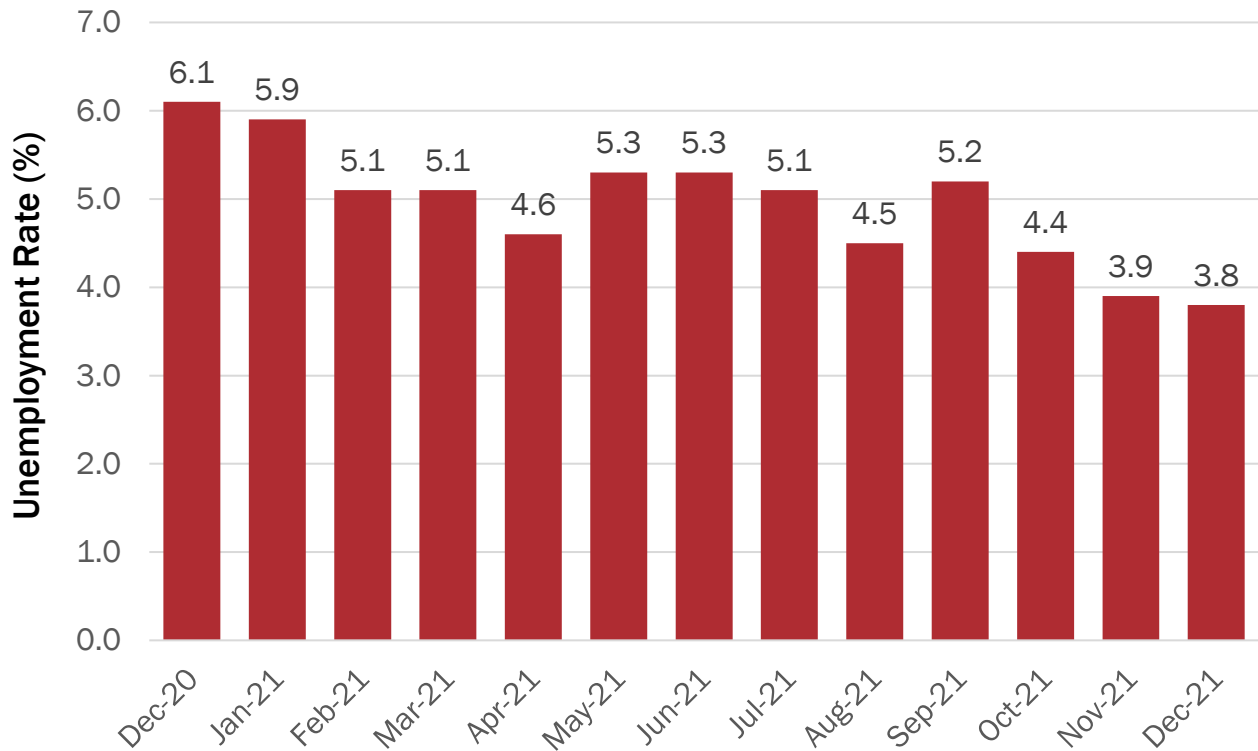


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 3.8% in Kalamazoo County in December. This was 0.2 percentage points below the rate for west Michigan, and 0.4 percentage points below that of the state of Michigan.

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

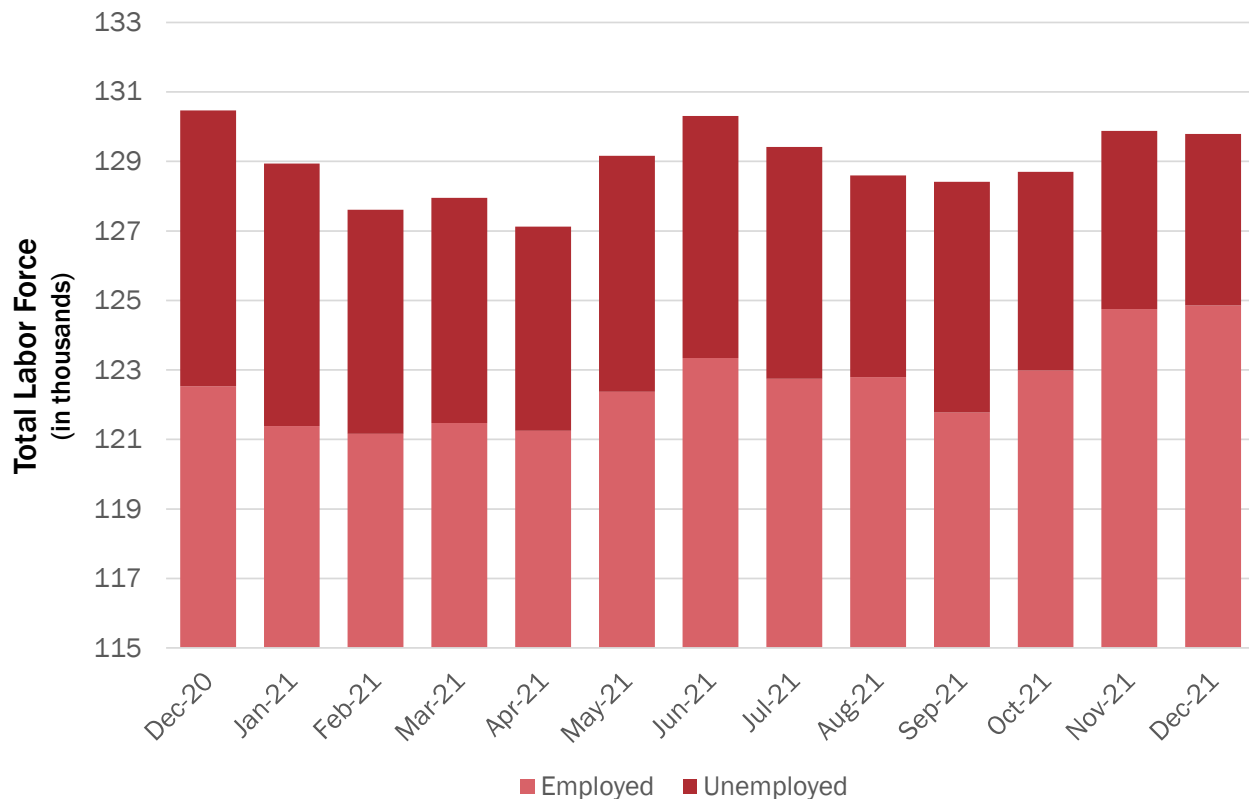
From November to December, the unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County decreased by 0.1 percentage points, to 3.8 percent. The unemployment rate for December is 2.3 percentage points lower than it was at the same time a year earlier.

In December, there were **1.9 job seekers** for every **job posting** in Kalamazoo County.*

—Burning Glass Technologies, BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (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 December stood at 129,790, a decrease of 88 people from the November labor force of 129,878. The labor force in Kalamazoo County has shrunk by 0.5% since December 2020, when it stood at 130,470. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

Labor Force by the Numbers, Q2 2021

- 26.5%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 33.8%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with an associate degree or some college
- 28.6%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a high school degree or equivalent

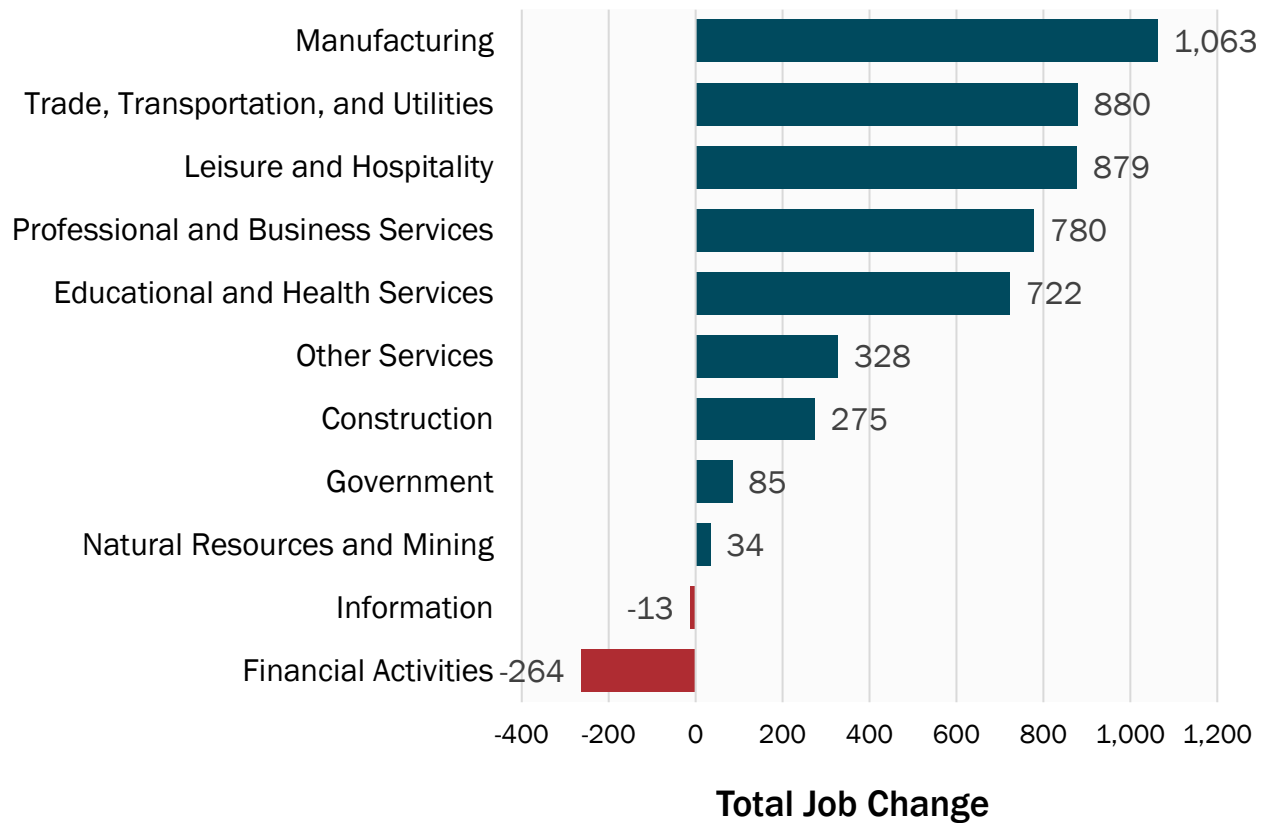
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2021

Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q3 2021	% Change Q2 to Q3	Q2 2021	% Change Q3 to Q3	Q3 2020
Employment (by place of work)					
Total private sector employment	104,938	1.4%	103,441	4.7%	100,267
Goods-producing	27,053	1.4%	26,672	5.3%	25,681
Natural resources and mining	1,327	-20.9%	1,677	2.6%	1,293
Construction	6,222	4.4%	5,958	4.6%	5,947
Manufacturing	19,504	2.5%	19,037	5.8%	18,441
Private service-providing	77,885	1.5%	76,769	4.4%	74,585
Trade, transportation, and utilities	21,313	1.5%	21,006	4.3%	20,433
Information	558	-2.4%	572	-2.3%	571
Financial activities	7,069	-1.9%	7,203	-3.6%	7,333
Professional and business services	11,309	1.5%	11,143	7.4%	10,530
Educational and health services	22,242	-0.5%	22,361	3.4%	21,519
Leisure and hospitality	11,651	7.5%	10,843	8.2%	10,773
Other services	3,549	2.7%	3,456	10.2%	3,221
Unclassified	193	4.1%	186	-6.9%	206
Government	11,246	-2.5%	11,530	0.8%	11,161

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

Employment Change, Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



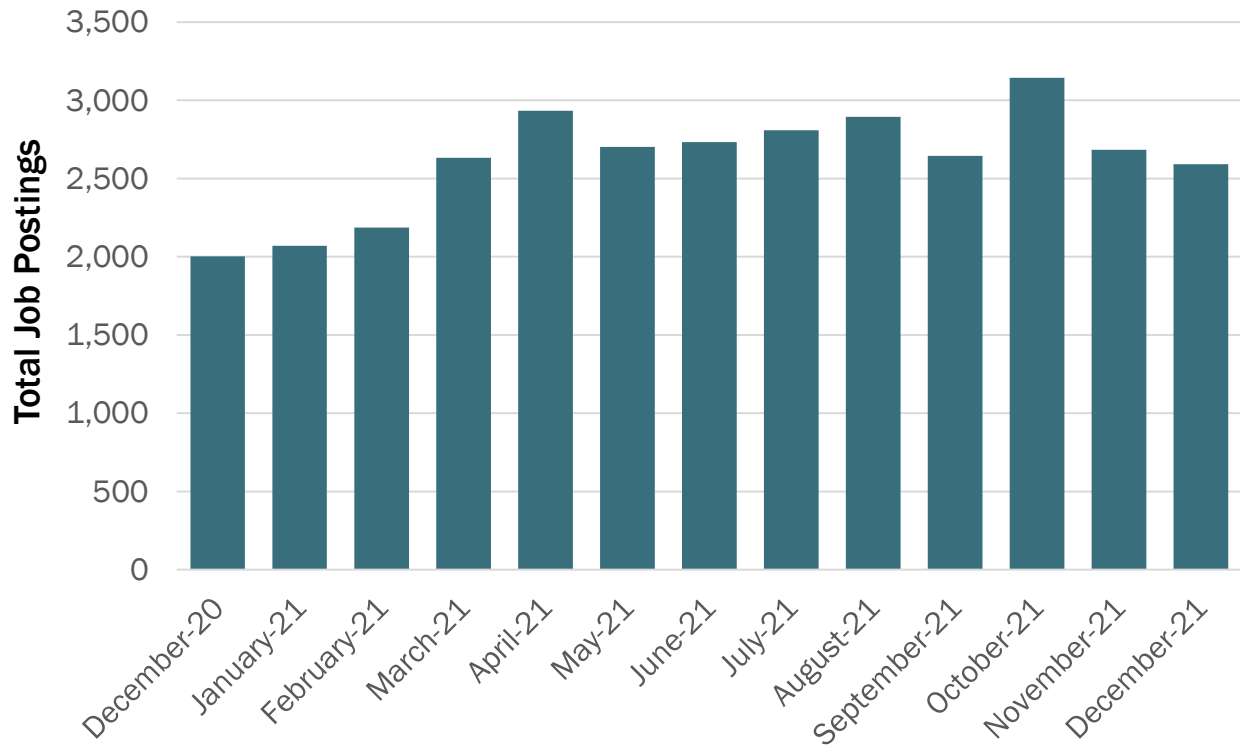
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2021

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment in Kalamazoo County from Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 was in financial activities, which declined by 264 jobs, or 3.6%. The greatest increase in employment from Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 in the county occurred in manufacturing, which grew by 1,063 jobs, or 4.7%.

The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs in Kalamazoo County in Q3 2021 was **\$1,102.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

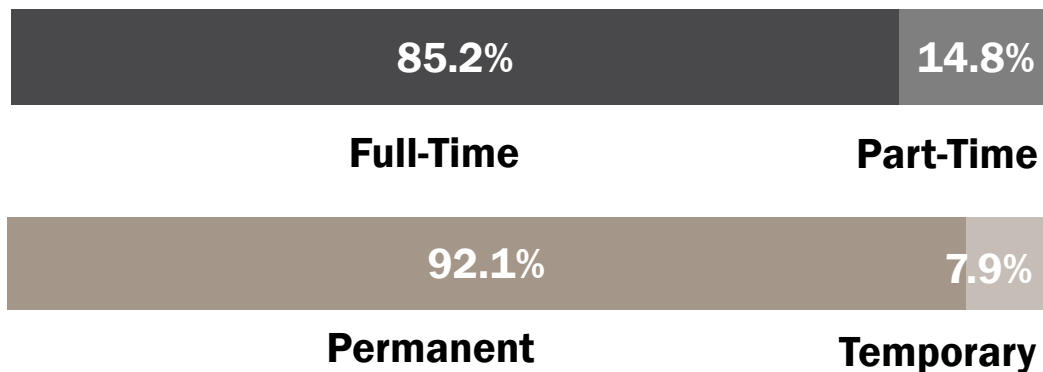
Total Job Postings for December 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

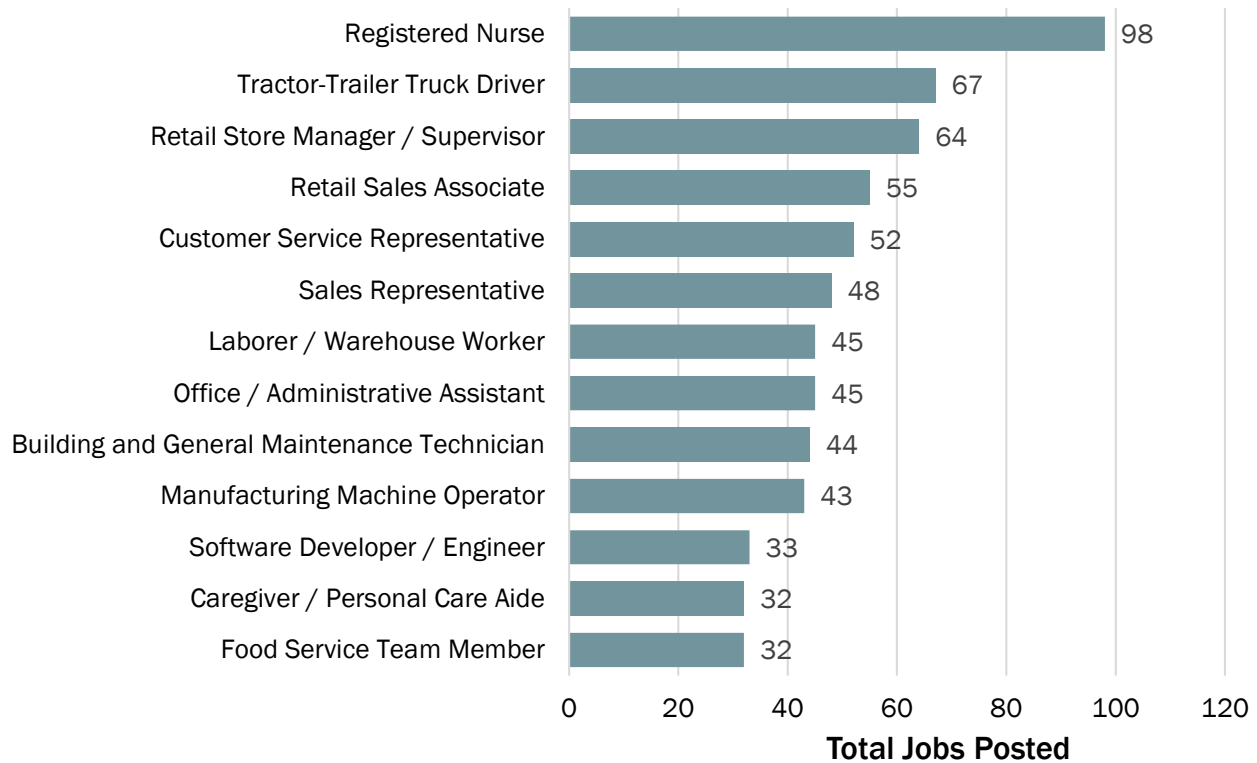
The number of job postings in Kalamazoo County, which demonstrates demand for labor, fell by 3.4% between November and December, from 2,683 postings to 2,591. The majority of postings in the county, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

Types of Job Postings for December 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

Top Occupations with Job Postings for December 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top occupations with job postings in December were registered nurse, truck driver, and retail store manager. A plurality of job postings, 49.1%, required at minimum a bachelor's degree or higher. This is a decrease of 2.2 percentage points from November in the proportion of job postings requiring a bachelor's degree or higher. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree increased by 1.3 percentage points from November, and the proportion of jobs requiring only a high school degree or vocational training increased by 0.9 percentage points.

36.2% of job postings in December required no more than a high school diploma or vocational training.

14.7% of job postings in December required an associate degree.

49.1% of job postings in December required a bachelor's degree or higher.

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100.0 because of rounding.

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

Report Contributors

Michael Horrigan
President

Brian Pittelko
Research Coordinator

Laura Pyle
Regional Assistant

Dakota McCracken
Regional Analyst

Gerrit Anderson
Mapping and Visualization Specialist

Ben Jones
Editor

Erika Jones
Production Coordinator

For More Information

For questions or information about this report, contact Brian Pittelko, Research Coordinator, 269-385-0424 or pittelko@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/.