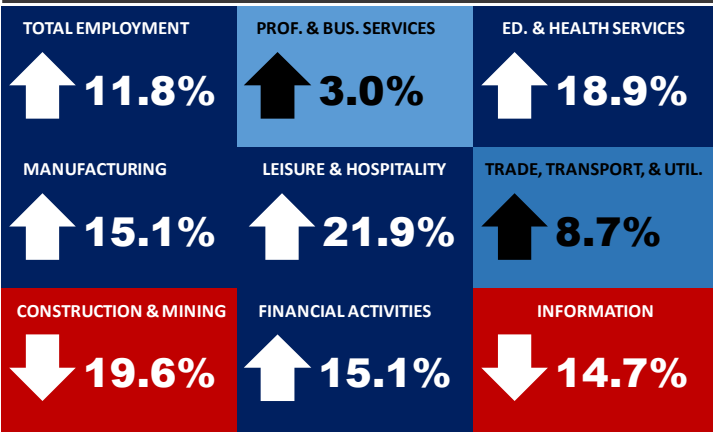


# HOLLAND—OTTAWA COUNTY

Ottawa County recovered nicely from the Great Recession. Overall, employment is up by 11.8 percent from 2007 to 2016. Leisure and hospitality employment rose by nearly 22 percent, and education and health services increased by nearly 19 percent. While manufacturing has struggled nationwide, in Ottawa County it is up by 15.1 percent. In spite of the comeback made by housing construction, discussed in detail below, the construction and mining sector is 19.6 percent below its 2007 employment mark.

## Holland Employment Change, 2007–2016

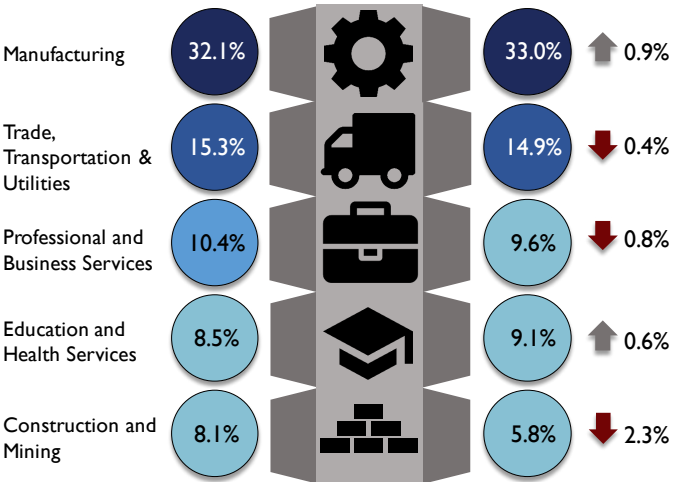


Ottawa County shows some very nice increases, and none more impressive than manufacturing, which rose by 15 percent despite falling in many areas of west Michigan and the nation.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Holland had an extremely high concentration of manufacturing in 2007, and the percentage has gone up since then. In 2016, manufacturing was nearly a third of total employment. Looking at the other industries in the top five, the employment distribution appears fairly similar to 2007, with the exception of the slide in construction and mining employment, which lost 2.3 percent.

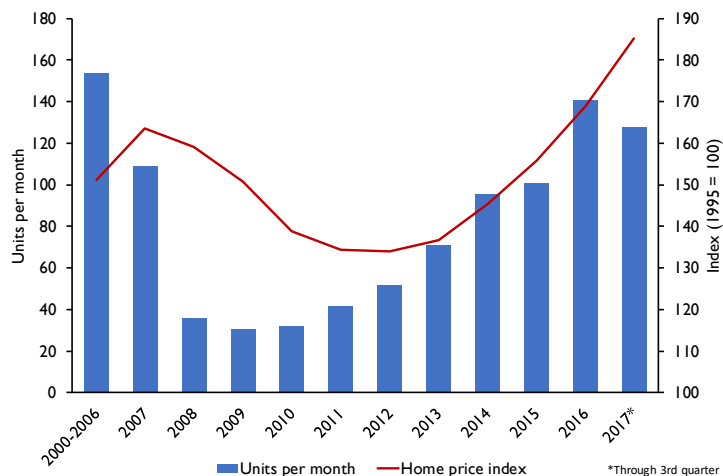
## Proportion of Employment in Top 5 Industries, 2007–2016



The top five industries in Ottawa County show a relatively stable makeup, with only construction losing much ground.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

## Holland–Ottawa County Housing Units and Prices



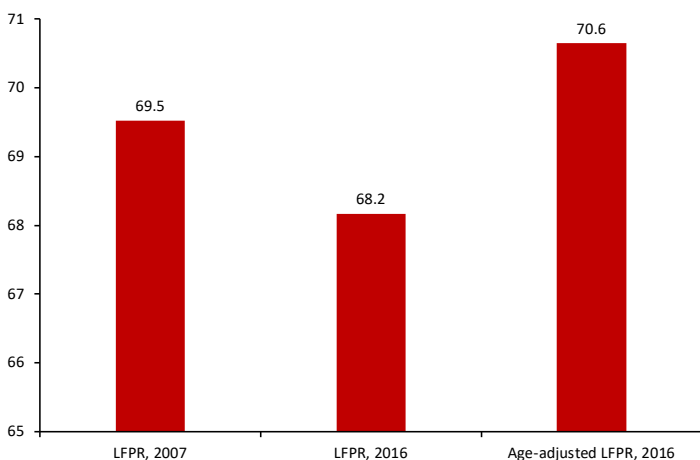
Since 2009, the number of new homes being built in Ottawa County has jumped from around 30 to more than 120.

The figure's blue bars chronicle new housing starts in Ottawa County, as compiled by Dodge Data and Analytics, and the figure's red line depicts the home purchase price index from the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). Note that the price data are for the metropolitan statistical area of Grand Rapids–Wyoming, whereas the new home starts are for Ottawa County. The pace of construction began picking up in 2011 but has not quite reached the 2000–2006 average. Prices in this figure include the whole of the metro area, including Kent County. They have risen dramatically, although lagged from when the pace of construction increased.

In previous issues of *Business Outlook*, we looked into labor-force participation, meaning the percentage of individuals employed or unemployed in the whole population 16 and over, and the effects of the aging workforce. Here we examine the *relationship* of these two elements—in other words, the effect that the aging of the workforce has had on the labor-force participation rate. We accomplish this by using an age-adjusted rate.

The age-adjusted labor-force participation rate shifts the age distribution in 2016 to that of 2007, while still using the labor-force rates for each age cohort in 2016. The labor-force participation rate shrank from 69.5 percent to 68.2 during 2007–2016, pushed down by an aging population. If the age distribution had remained the same, the labor-force participation rate would have risen by more than a point from 2007.

## Labor-Force Rates—2007, 2016, and Age-Adjusted 2016



Had the age distribution remained constant from 2007 to 2016 instead of shifting toward the older age cohorts, the labor-force participation rate would have come out nearly two-and-a-half points higher than in actuality.

SOURCE: U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS).