# 2021 Economic Outlook: Albion

A presentation to Albion Economic Development Alliance

Jim Robey, PhD W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

March 4, 2021



#### W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

The Institute is an activity of the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation, which was established in 1932 to administer a fund set aside by Dr. W.E. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Company.

#### MISSION:

The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research organization devoted to investigating the causes and effects of unemployment, to identifying feasible methods of insuring against unemployment, and to devising ways and means of alleviating the distress and hardship caused by unemployment.

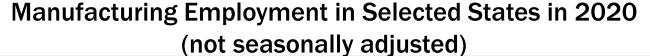


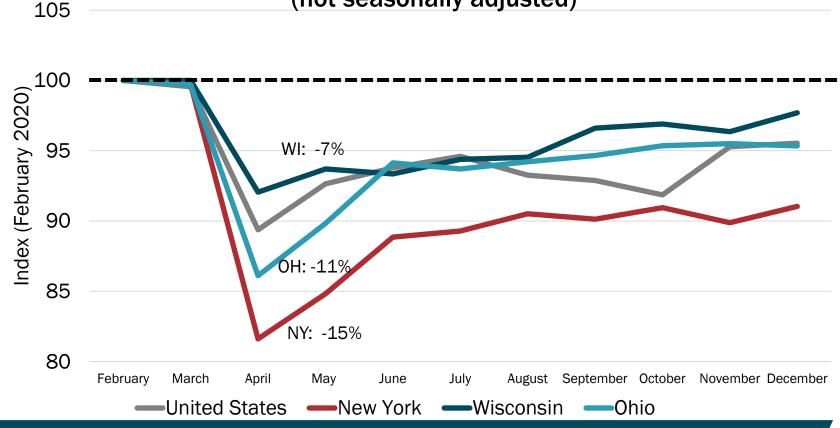
### The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the economy similarly to the Spanish Flu of 1918

Manufacturing
Employment during
Spanish Flu
Pandemic

Wisconsin: - 7%
Ohio: -11%
New York: -15%

Velde, F. R. (2020). What happened to the US economy during the 1918 influenza pandemic? A view through high-frequency data.

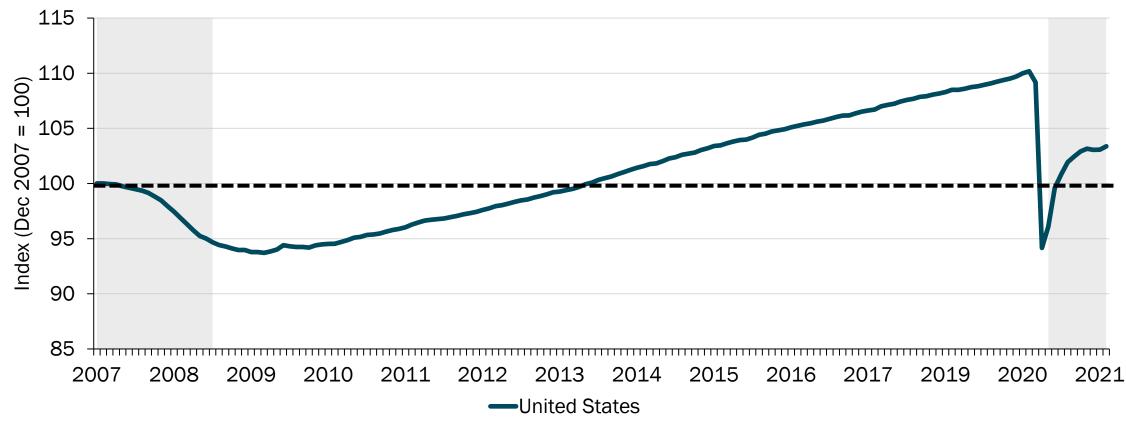






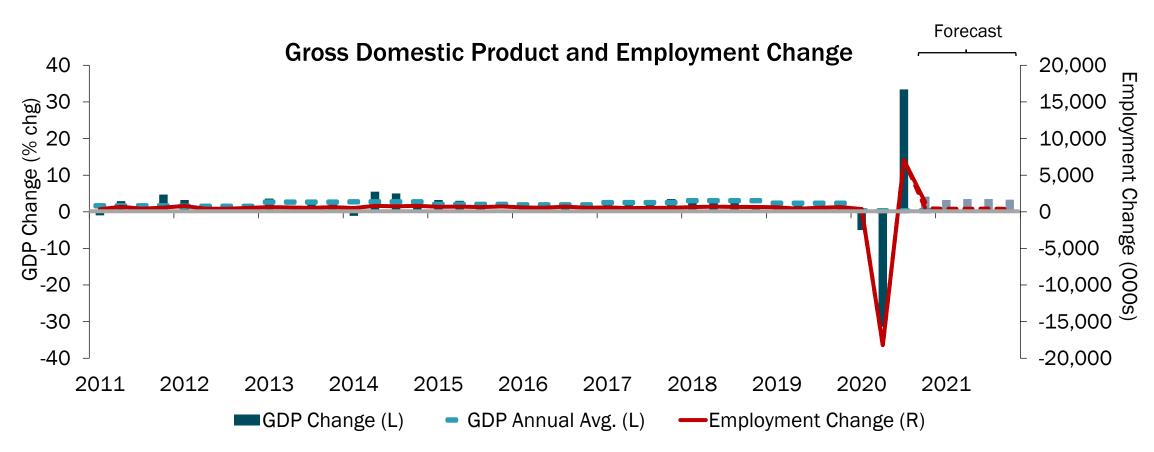
### **Employment is higher than December 2007, but not fully recovered**





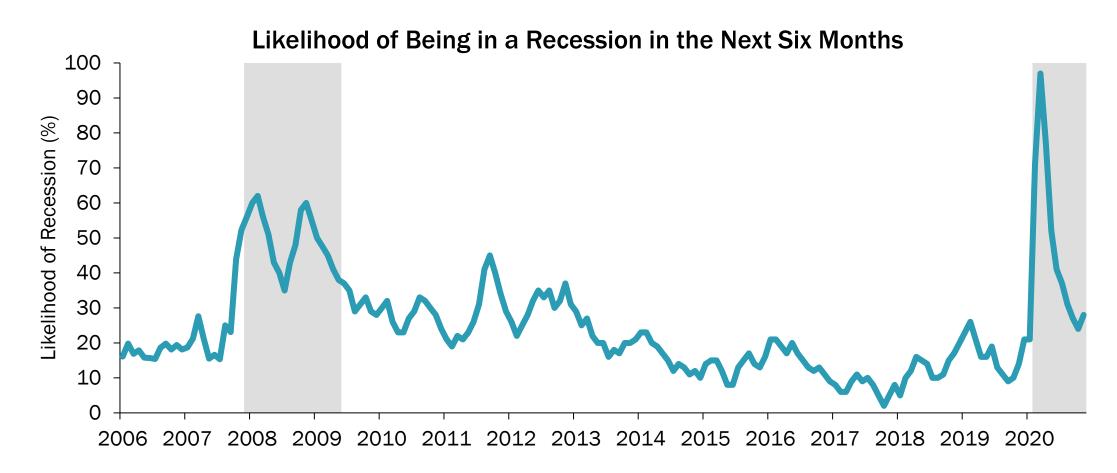


## GDP growth is projected to remain solid, although employment growth is forecast to be slowing



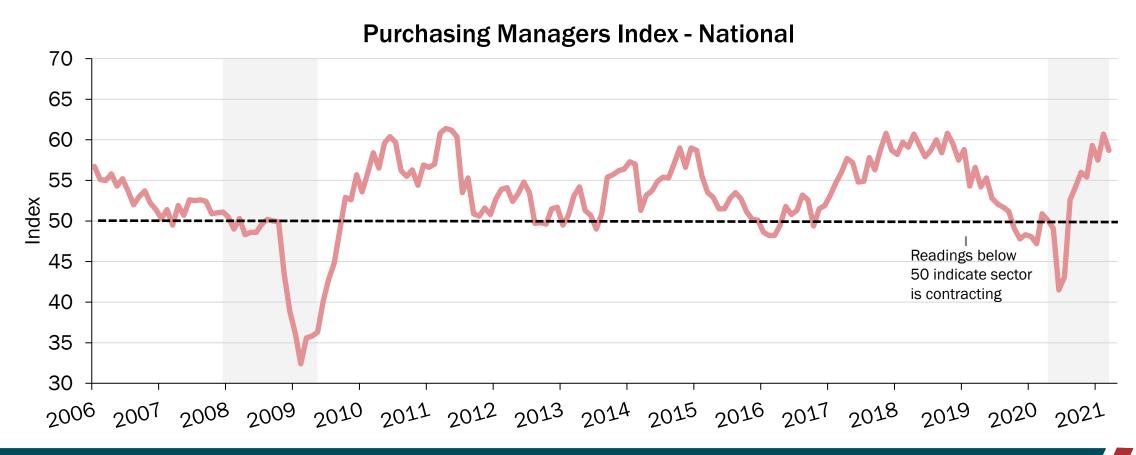


### Moody's predictions of a recession are trending downward: 28% in December



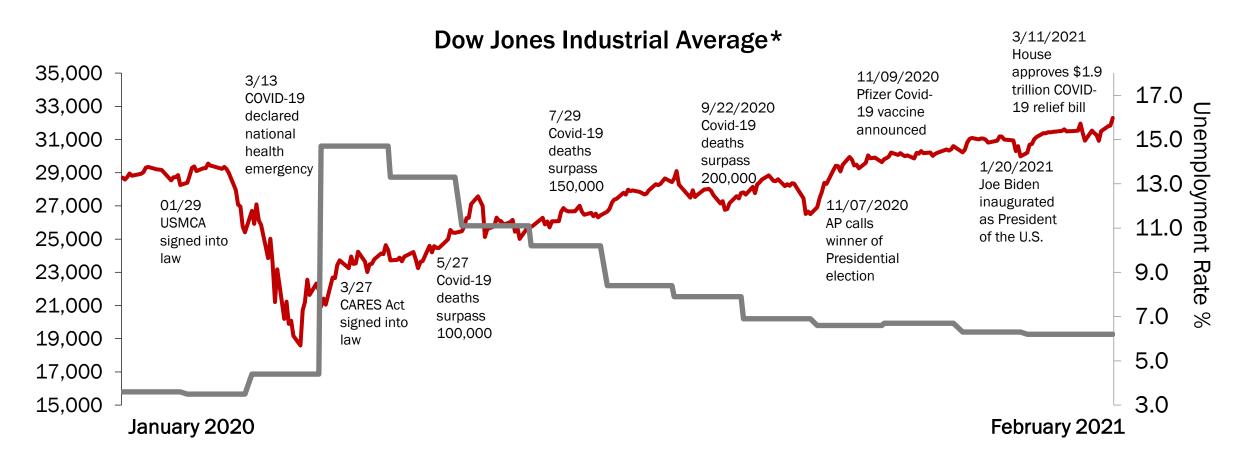


## National PMI stood at 58.7 in February, indicating that the manufacturing sector is expanding





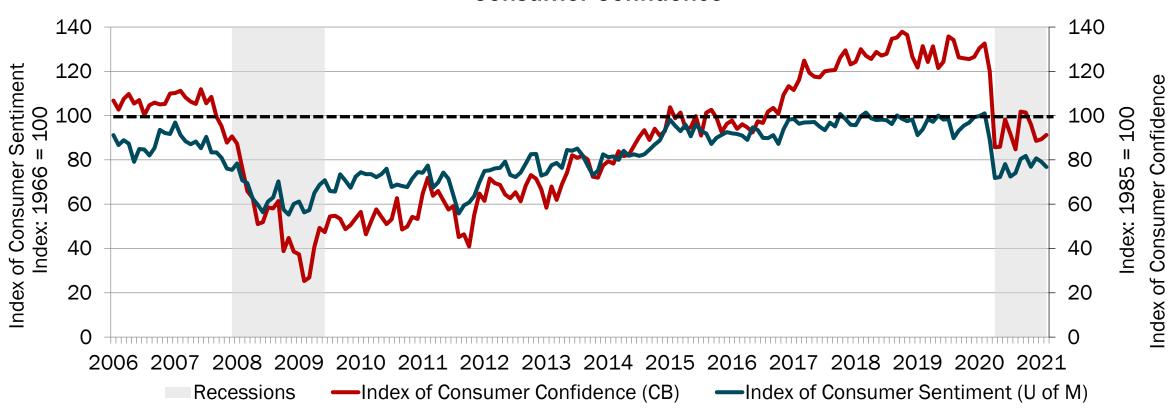
## The stock market has reacted to various events this year, and the recent ride has been surprisingly good





## Consumer confidence and sentiment are bouncing around after falling precipitously between February and April

#### **Consumer Confidence**





### University of Michigan/RSQE November national forecast: Note that these estimates are annualized

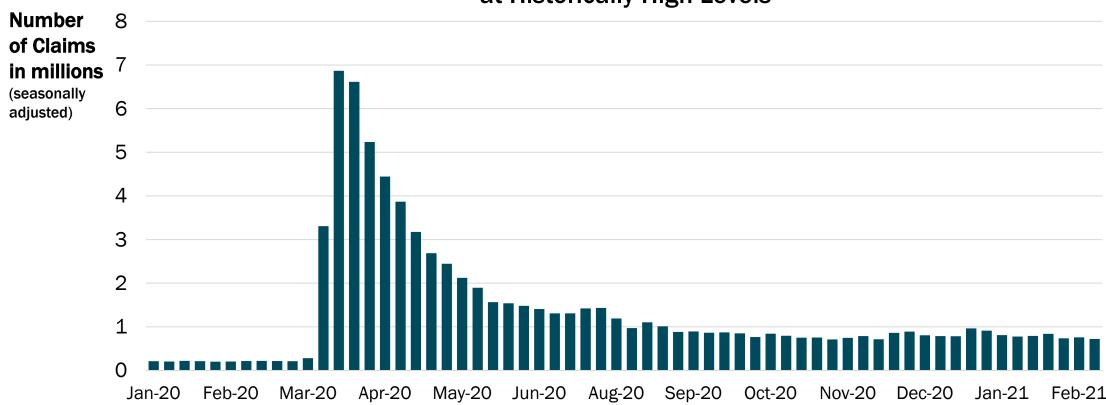
	2020	2021 (Forecast)	2022 (Forecast)
GDP	-3.5%	7.1%	6.1%
Employment	-5.9%	2.4%	3.6%
Light Vehicle Sales (Millions)	14.4	16.5	16.8
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	5.8%	4.8%
Housing Starts (Millions)	1.40	1.61	1.66
CPI/Inflation	1.2%	2.3%	2.1%





### The number of UI filings have stabilized while trending downward

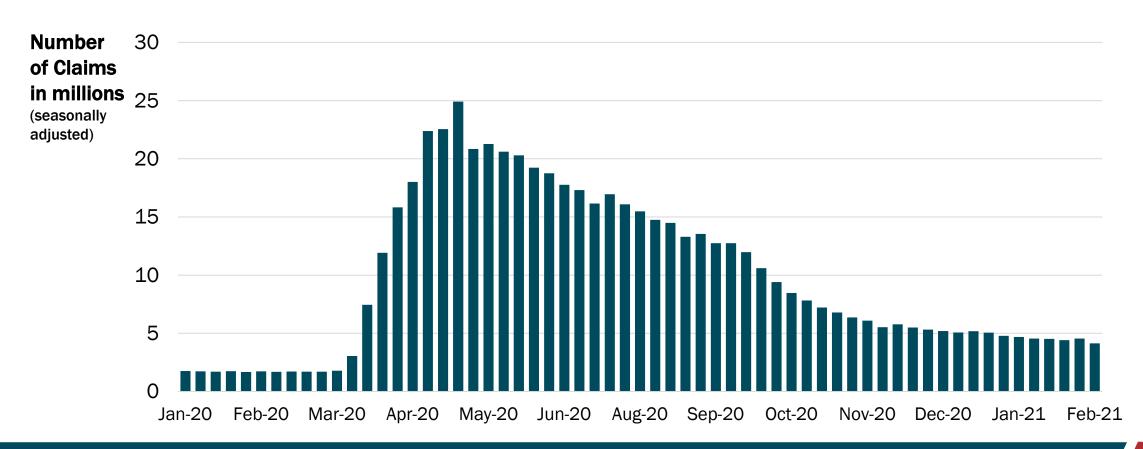
Weekly Initial Claim Filings for Unemployment Insurance are Slowing but Remain at Historically High Levels





### The number of traditional continuing claims are trending downward

**Weekly Continuing Claims for Unemployment Insurance** 





**REMI Forecasts** 

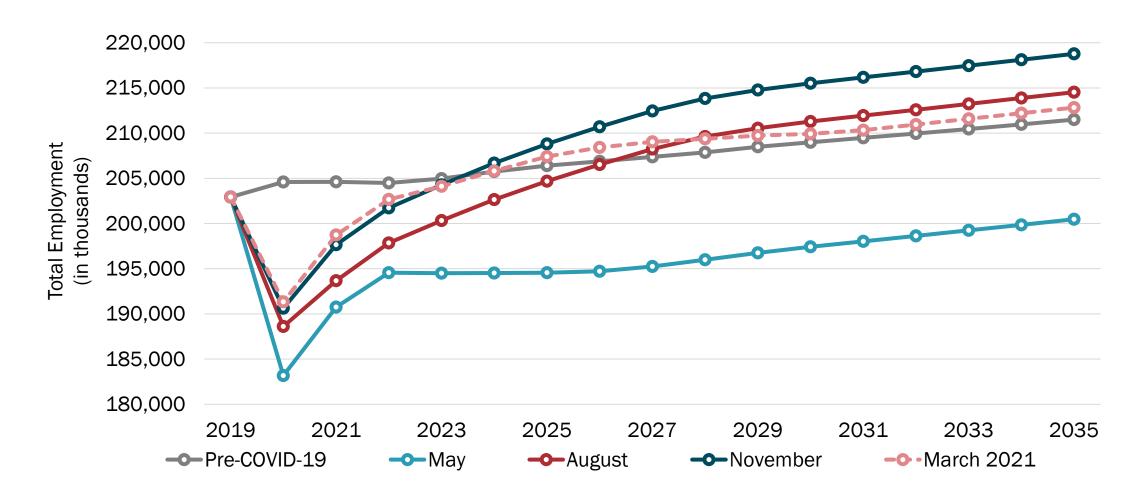
### **National Economy**

#### Methodology

- Upjohn uses a REMI model (www.REMI.com)
  - To estimate economic impacts from projects and events
  - Forecast national and regional changes in trends
- As new forecasts were produced the latest REMI model was updated
  - National forecast is updated
  - Regional forecasts are updated
  - Forecasts come from:
    - Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics at U of M
    - Congressional Budget Office (CBO)



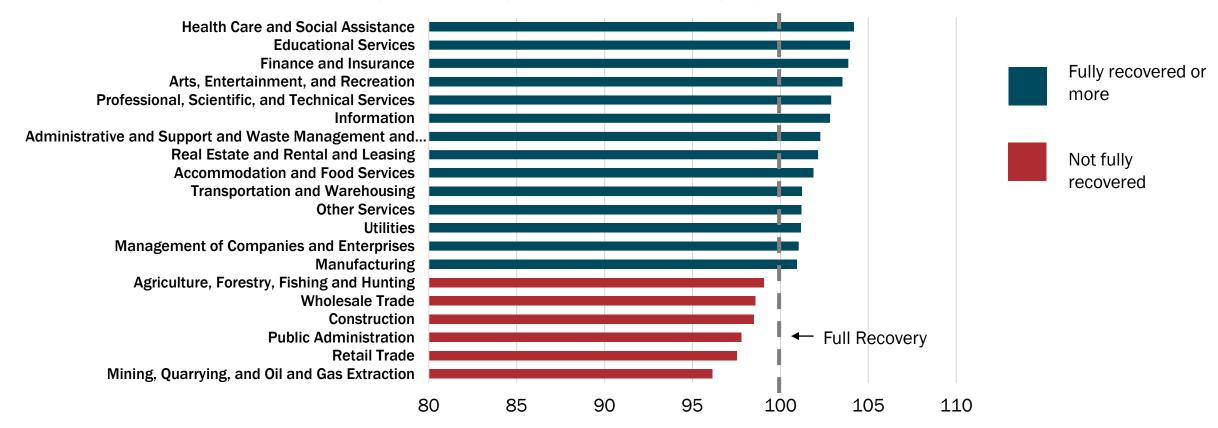
#### **National forecast for total employment**





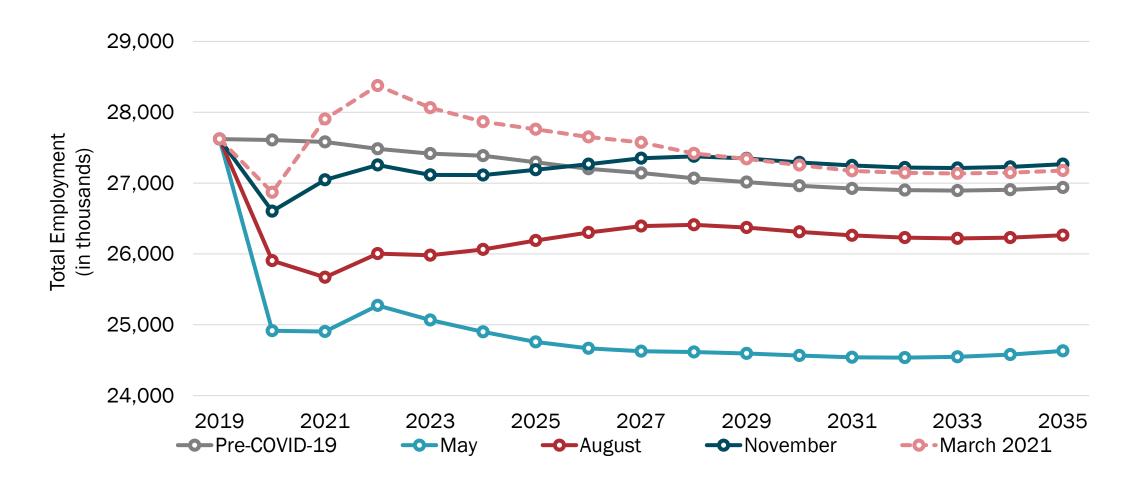
#### **Industry recovery forecast**

#### **Projected Recovery of Industry Sectors Nationally by 2025**



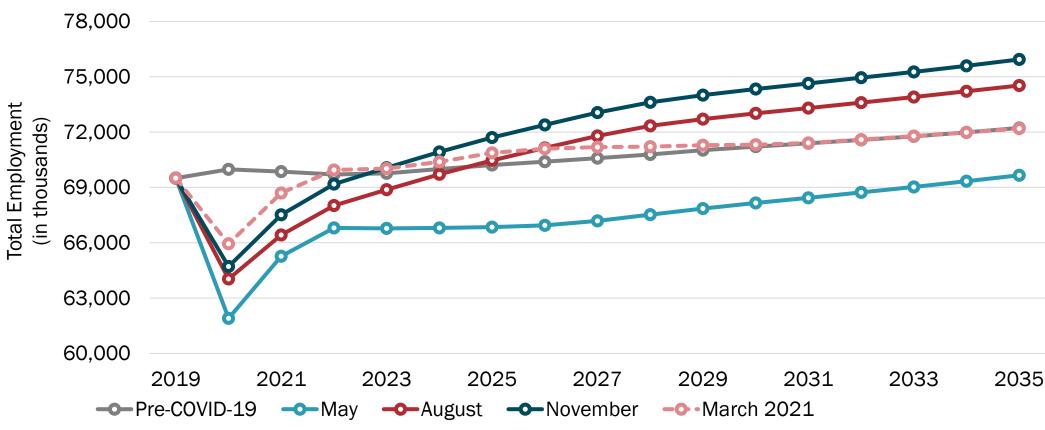


#### National forecast for goods producing employment





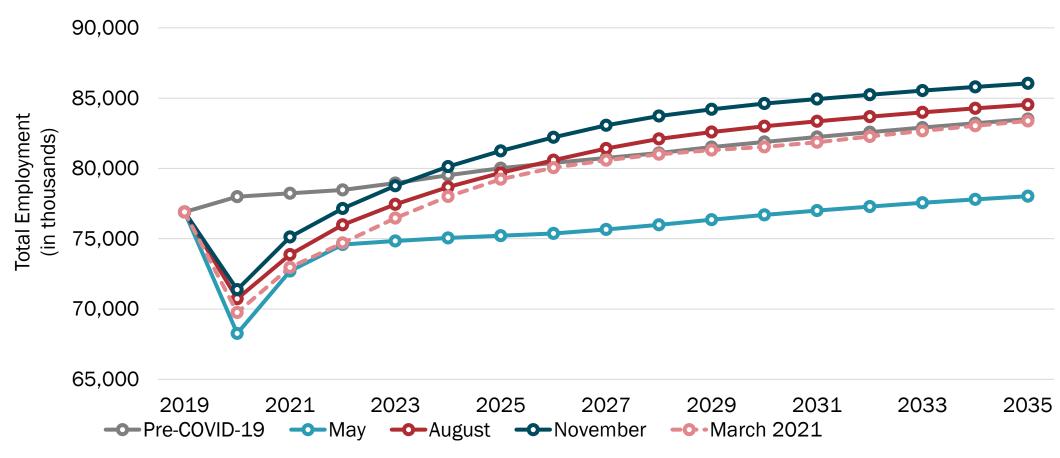
### National forecast for business service sector\* employment



\*Includes: Wholesale Trade; Transportation & Warehousing; Information, Finance, & Real Estate; Professional, Scientific, & Business Services; Management of Companies & Enterprises; Administrative, Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services



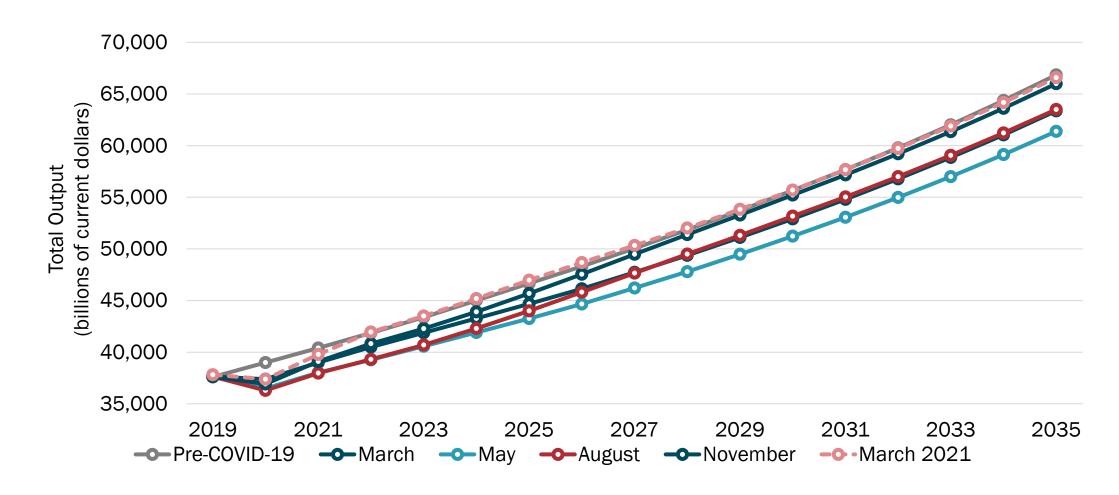
## National forecast for personal service sector\* employment



<sup>\*</sup>Includes: Retail Trade, Education & Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality, Other Services (excluding Public Administration).



#### **National forecast for total output**





### **Michigan Economy**

### **University of Michigan RSQE current\* state forecast**

	2020	2021 (Forecast)	2022 (Forecast)
Employment Change (thousands)	-350.75 (-7.4%)	172.6 (+3.9%)	88.3 (+1.94%)
Manufacturing Employment Change (thousands)	-67.0 (-10.7%)	23.74 (+4.2%)	19.49 (+3.34%)
Unemployment Rate	9.8%	6.8%	5.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	60.3%	61.2%	60.6%

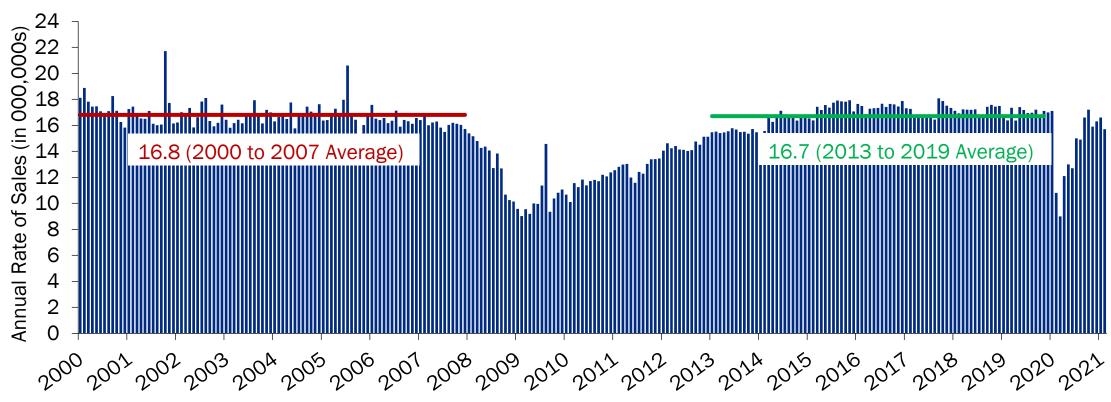






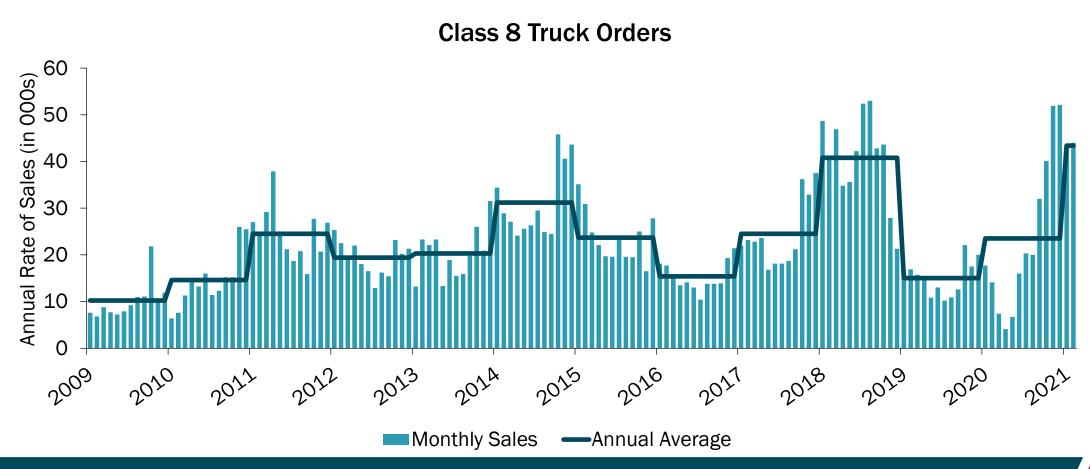
### Light vehicle sales are doing relatively well, but will supply chain issues and affordability affect supply and demand?

**Annualized Rate of U.S. Light Vehicle Sales (In Millions)** 





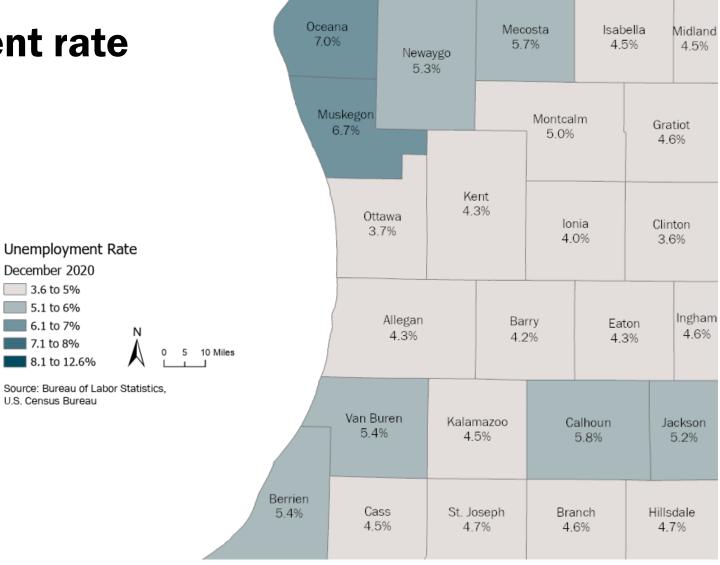
#### **Class 8 Truck Orders reach highest level since 2019**





#### Michigan unemployment rate

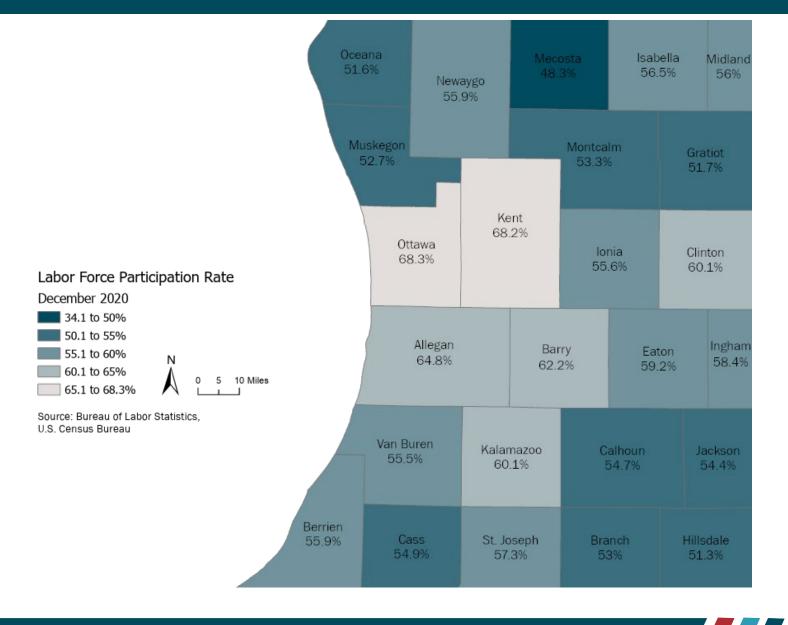
In December 2020,
 Michigan's
 unemployment rate was
 at 7.5% and the United
 States was at 6.7%.





### Michigan labor force participation rate

 In December 2020, Michigan's labor force participation rate was at 59.9% and the United States was at 61.5%.



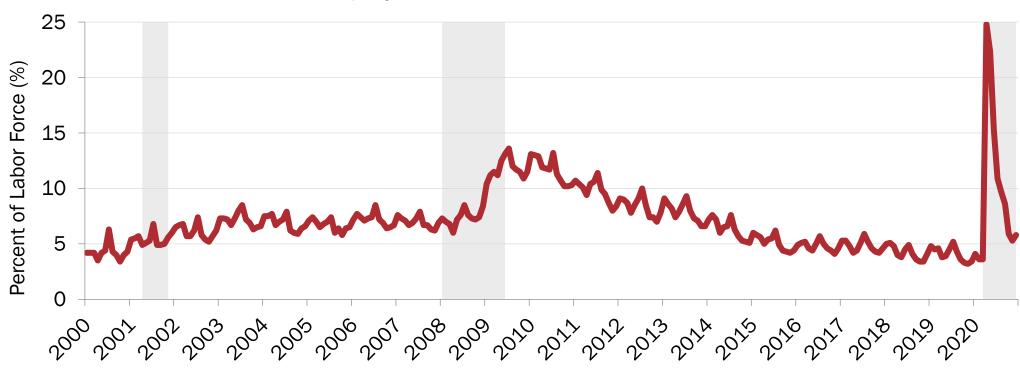


**Current Conditions** 

**Battle Creek MSA** 

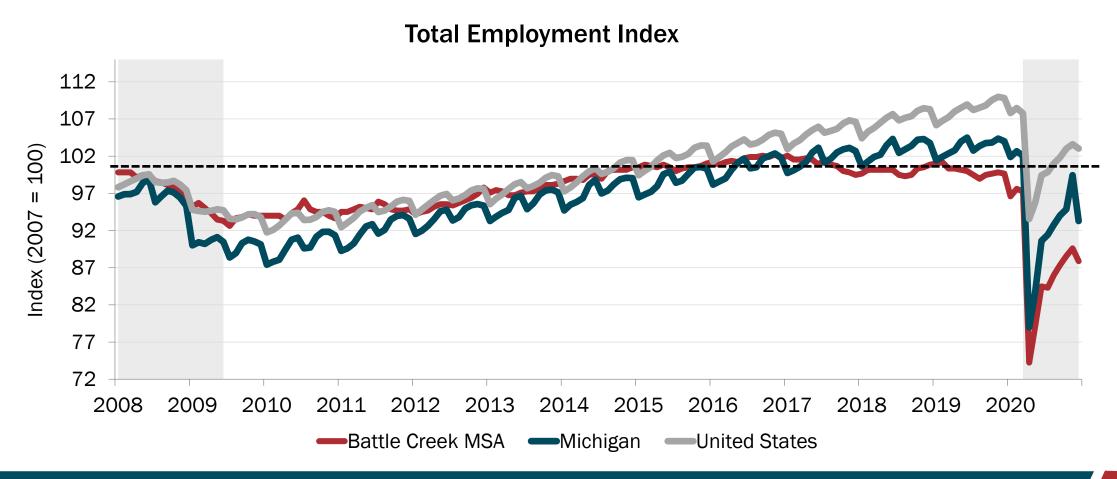
### Based on the latest data, the current unemployment rate for the Battle Creek MSA was 5.8% in December

#### **Unemployment Rate for Battle Creek MSA**



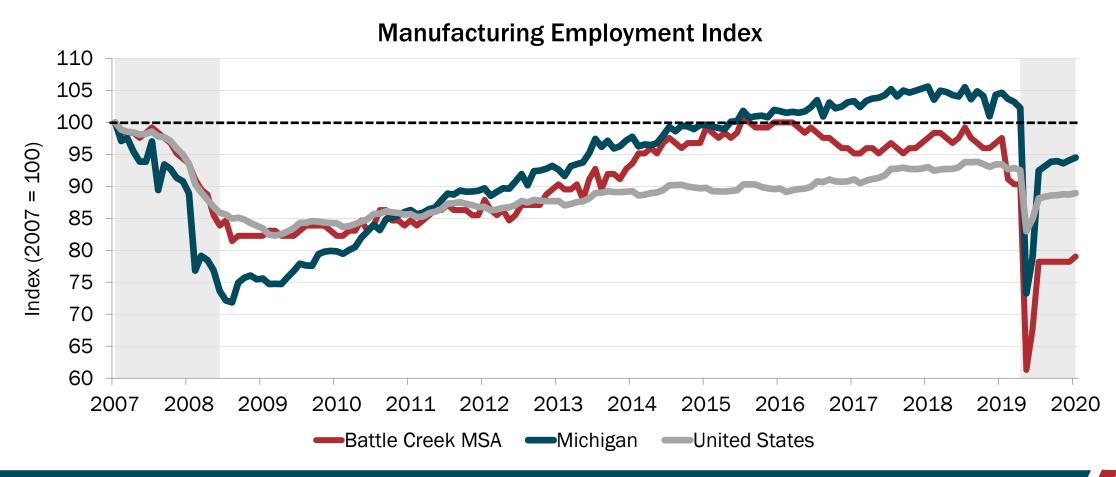


#### **Battle Creek has started to recover**



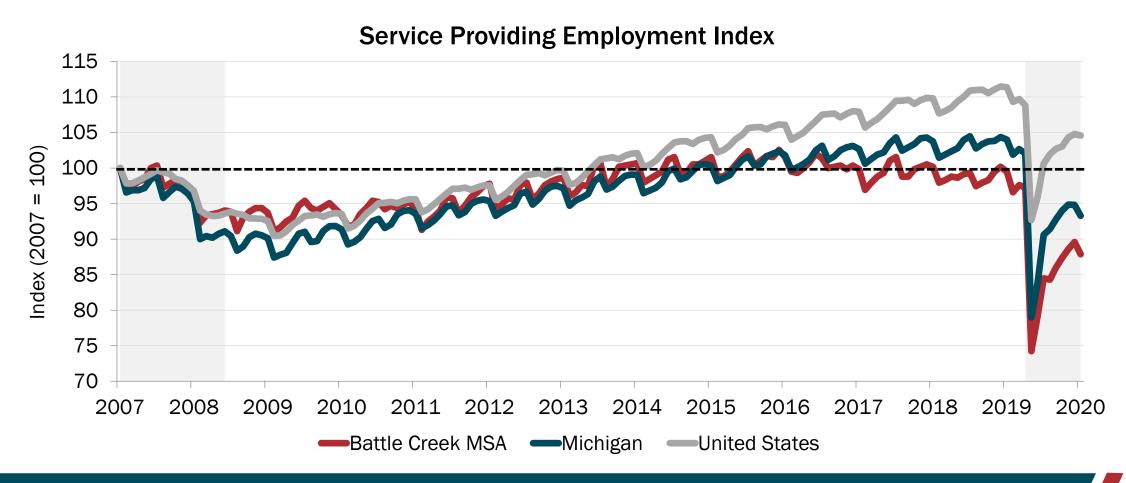


#### Battle Creek manufacturing growth is slower in rebounding





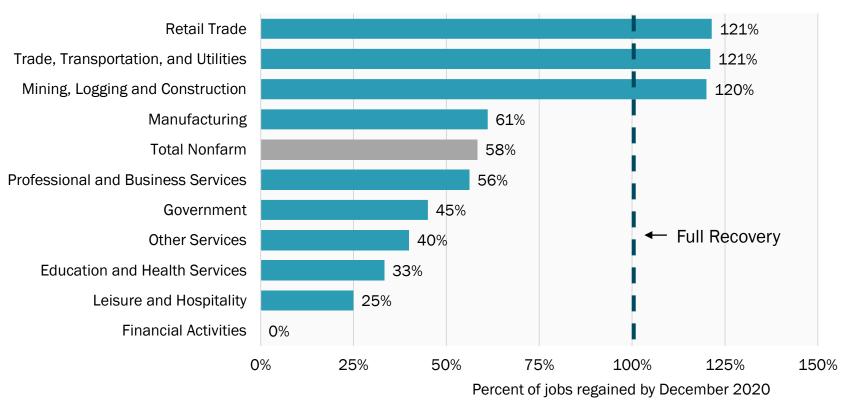
### Service sector employment continues to struggle in the recovery





#### **Employment recovery**

### Percent of Jobs Regained\* by December 2020 Following Employment Declines Beginning in March in the Battle Creek MSA by Major Sector



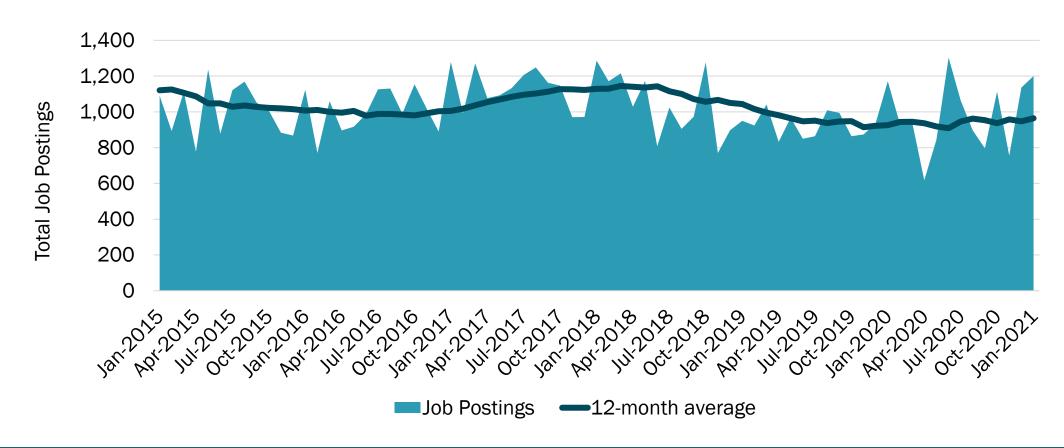
\*Data not seasonally adjusted



**Job Postings** 

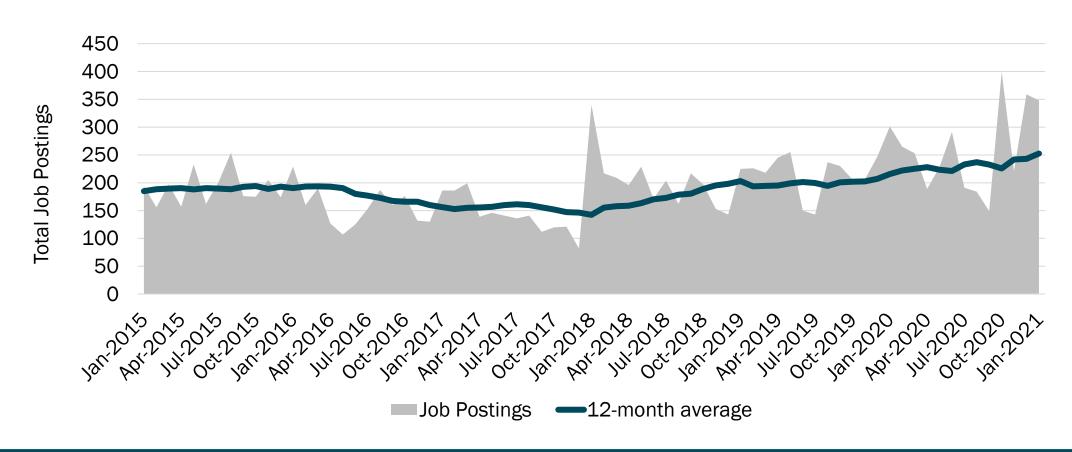
### **Calhoun County Economy**

#### **Total job postings in Calhoun County**



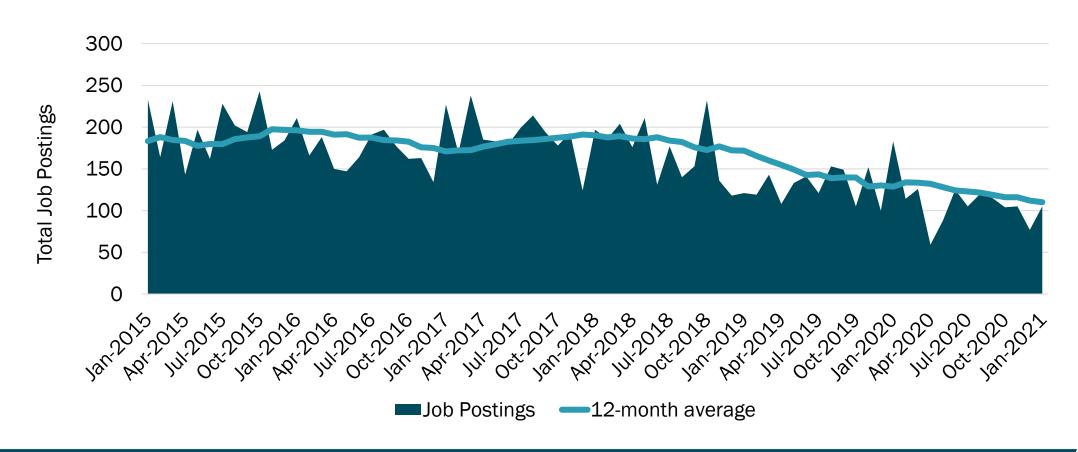


## Total job postings for health care and social assistance in Calhoun County



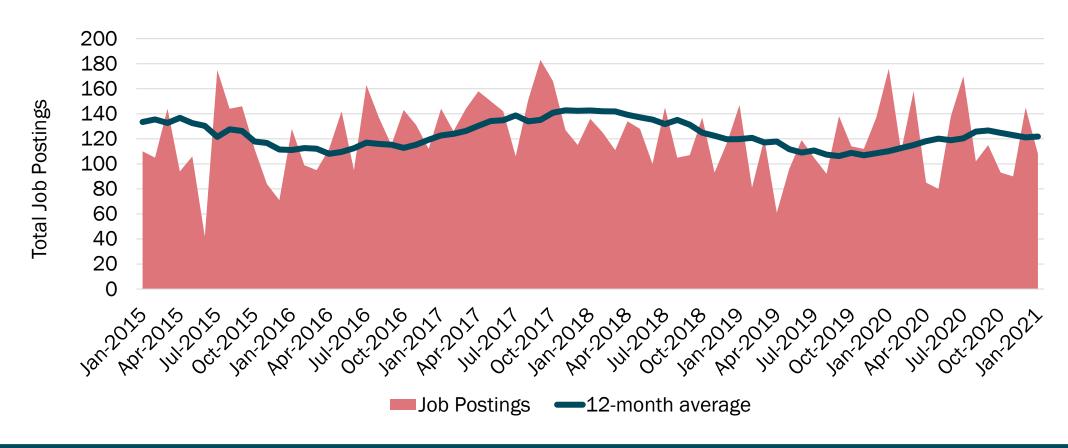


#### **Total job postings for manufacturing in Calhoun County**



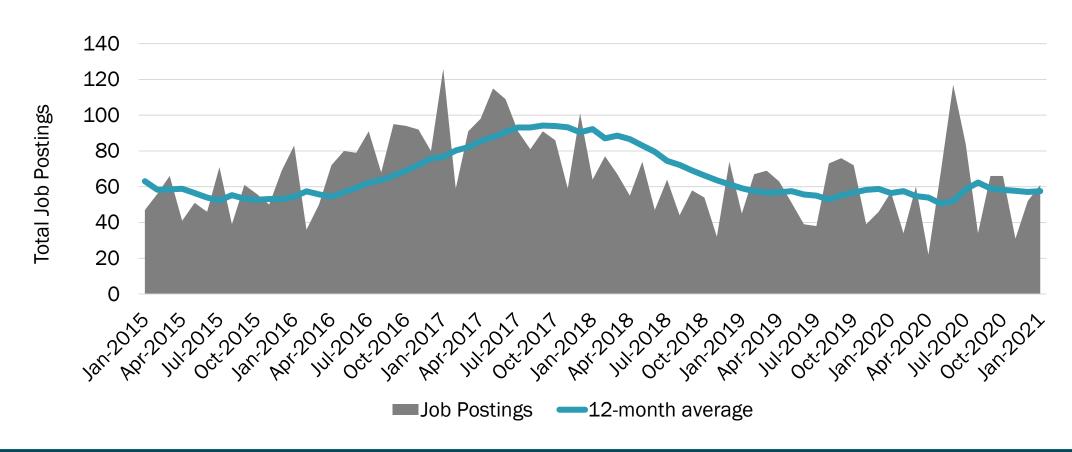


#### **Total job postings for retail trade in Calhoun County**



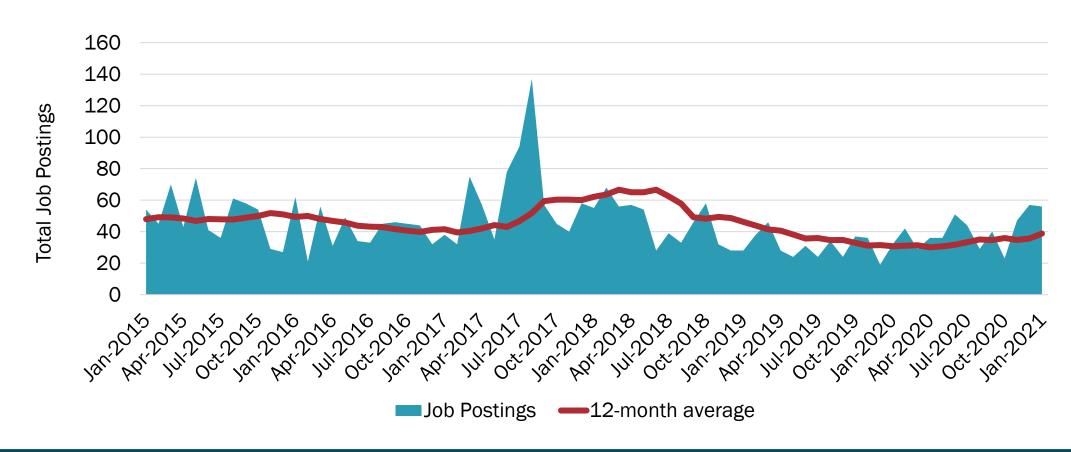


## Total job postings for accommodation and food services in Calhoun County





# Total job postings for transportation and warehousing in Calhoun County

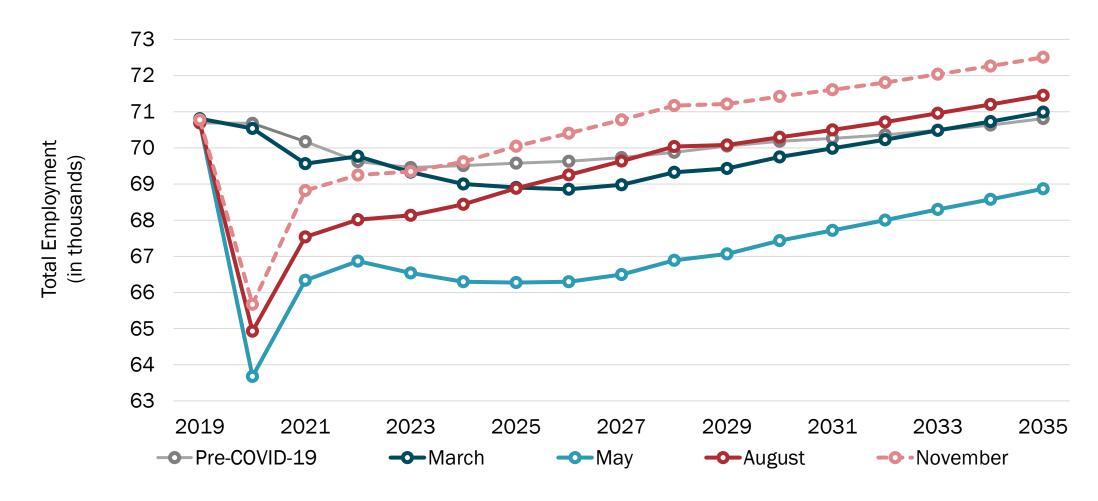




#### **REMI Forecasts**

### **Calhoun County Forecast**

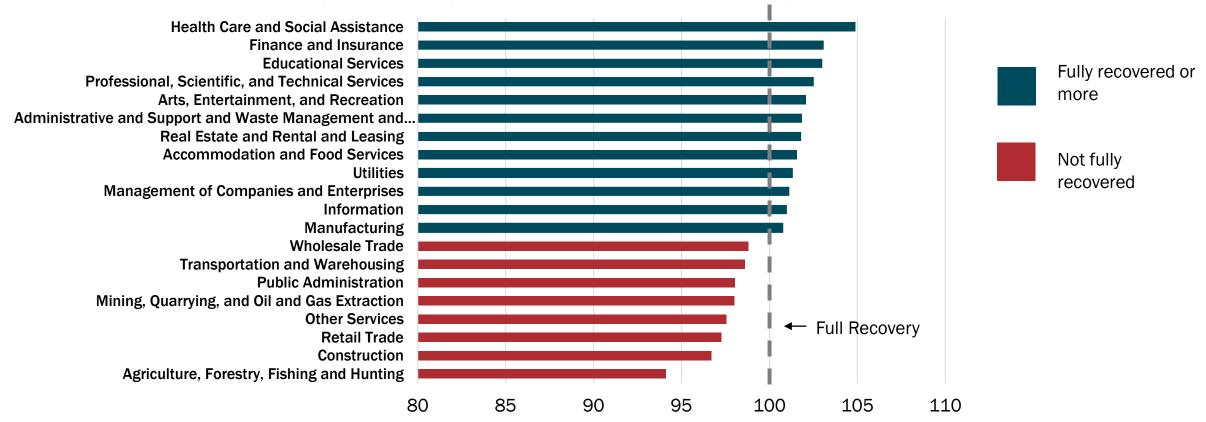
### Forecast for total employment in Calhoun County





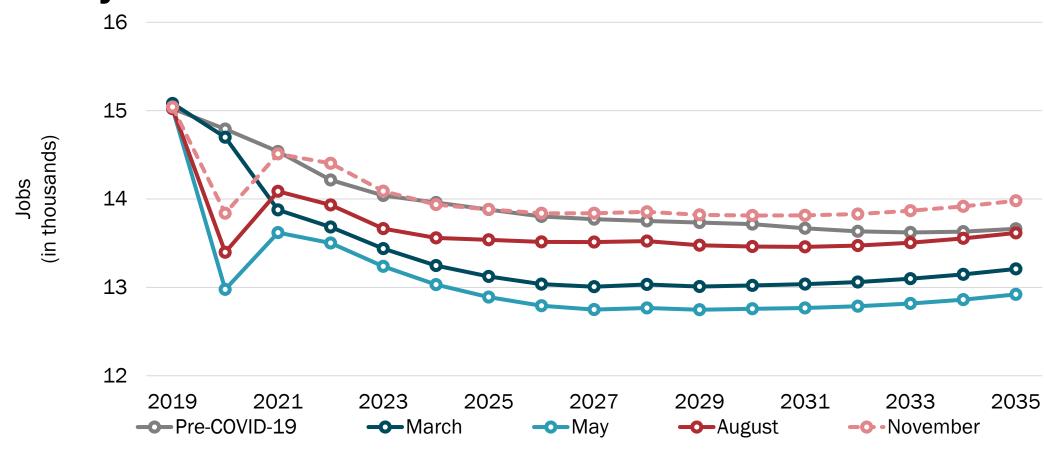
### **Industry recovery forecast**

#### **Projected Recovery of Industry Sectors in Calhoun County by 2025**



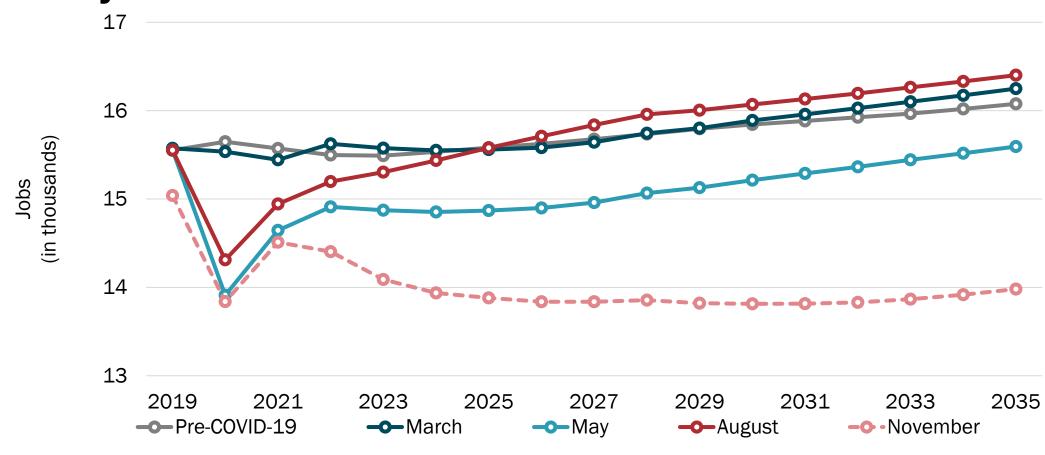


### Forecast for goods producing employment in Calhoun County



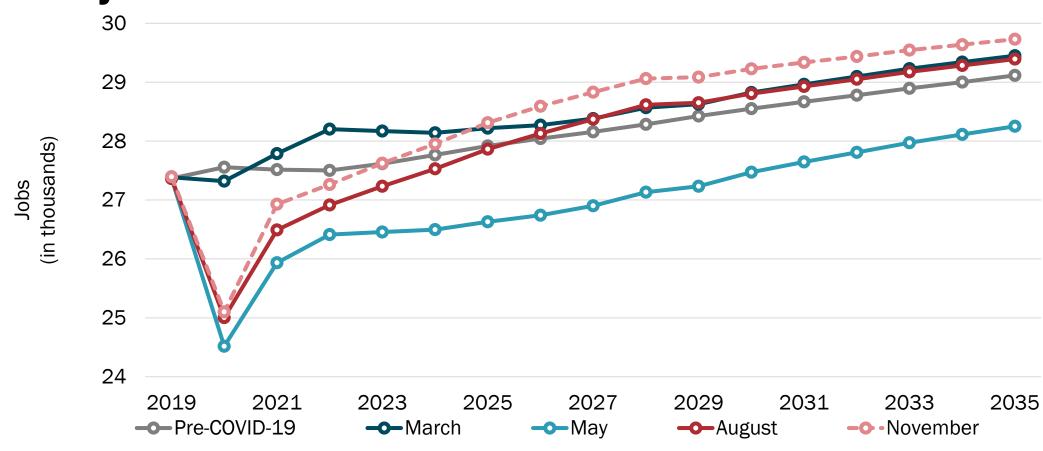


### Forecast for business services employment in Calhoun County



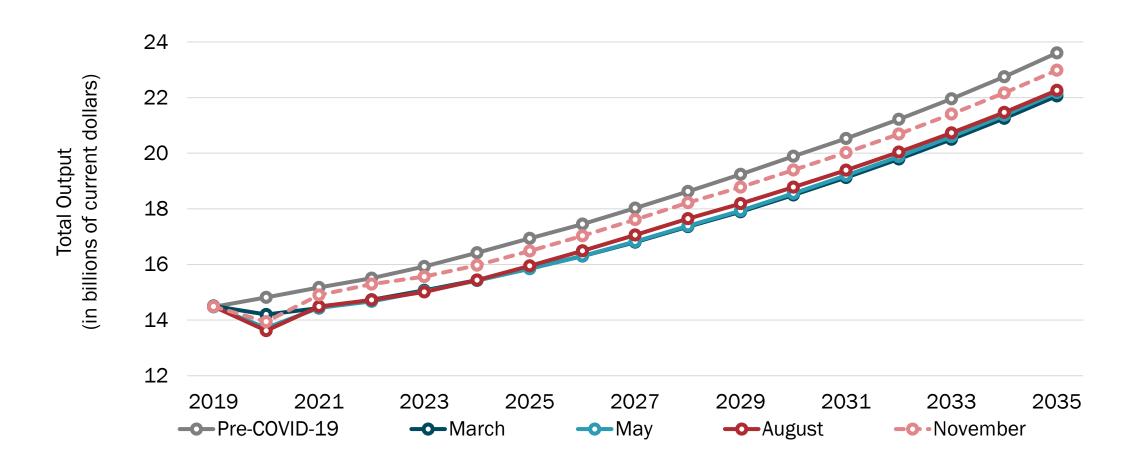


## Forecast for personal services employment in Calhoun County





### **Forecast for output in Calhoun County**





### **Moving Forward**

### Considerations for the future of the economy: Macro

- The shape of the recovery curve?
- Will temporary closures become permanent?
- Supply versus demand?
  - SME's
- What will be the impact of:
  - The new strain?
  - Vaccines?
- What will be the impact from the new administration?
  - Tax policy
  - Trade policy
  - Stimulus policy



### Considerations for the future of the economy: regional

- Is reshoring real?
  - Supply chain issues
  - Available buildings and sites
- How will technology impact employment?
- When and will people go back to work?
  - What will the new Administration do about UI benefits?
  - Fear of contracting COVID-19?
  - Barriers, notably childcare and school openings, in returning?
- Other state and regional administrative decisions
  - Openings/closings
  - Vaccine availability and distribution



#### **Questions?**

- Jim Robey, PhD
  - Director, Regional and Economic Planning Services
  - Email: jrobey@upjohn.org
  - Phone: 269-343-5541
  - Twitter: @JimRobey
  - Keep up to date with Regional by signing up for our Regional email list.
     Send an email to <a href="mailto:boyle@upjohn.org">boyle@upjohn.org</a> to register.

