



Regional Economic Trends for St. Joseph County



JUNE 2021

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The Trend: St. Joseph County continues to rebound, gaining more than 2,000 jobs from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020. Between February and March 2021, the unemployment rate decreased, while the employment-to-population ratio and the labor force participation rate increased. This is likely a positive sign that individuals are finding employment. Job postings were higher in March than in February, as there were slightly more postings in Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance.

COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 58.4% in March. This is a 0.1 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 55.5% in March 2021. This is a 0.2 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The unemployment rate stood at 4.9% in March 2021. This is a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw an increase of 55 people from February to March. The number of employed people increased by 118, and the number of unemployed people decreased by 63.



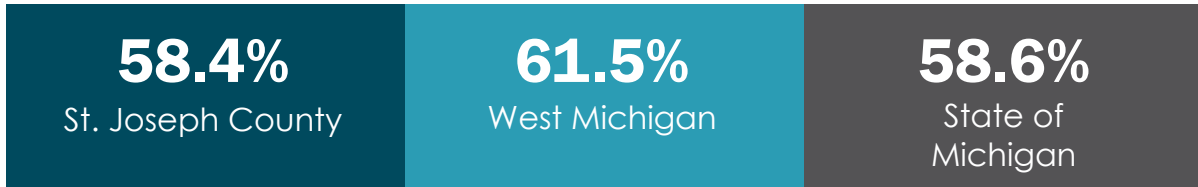
Total employment increased by 12.9% from Q2 to Q3 2020.



There were 349 job postings in March, for an increase of 23.3% from the previous month.

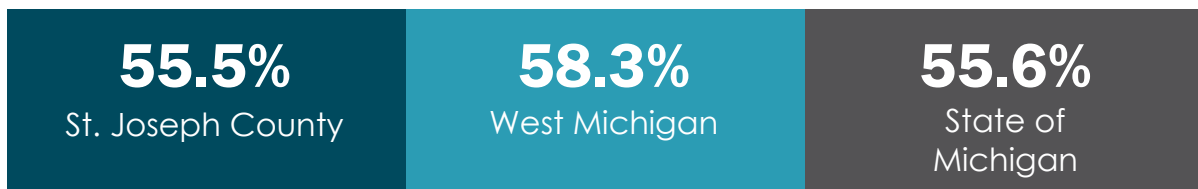
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Labor Force Participation Rate



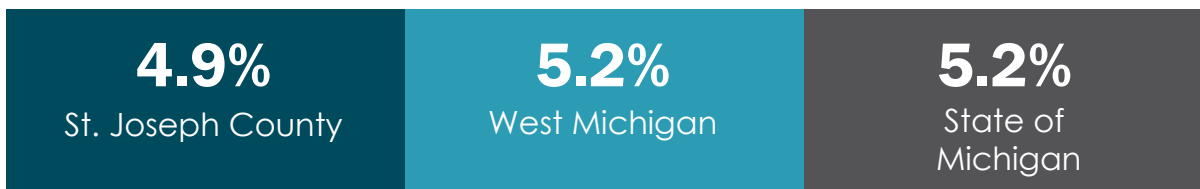
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 58.4% in St. Joseph County in March. This was lower than the rate in west Michigan by 3.1 percentage points and lower than the rate for the state of Michigan by 0.2 percentage points.

Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 55.5% in St. Joseph County in March. This was 2.8 percentage points below the rate for west Michigan and 0.1 percentage points lower than for the state of Michigan.

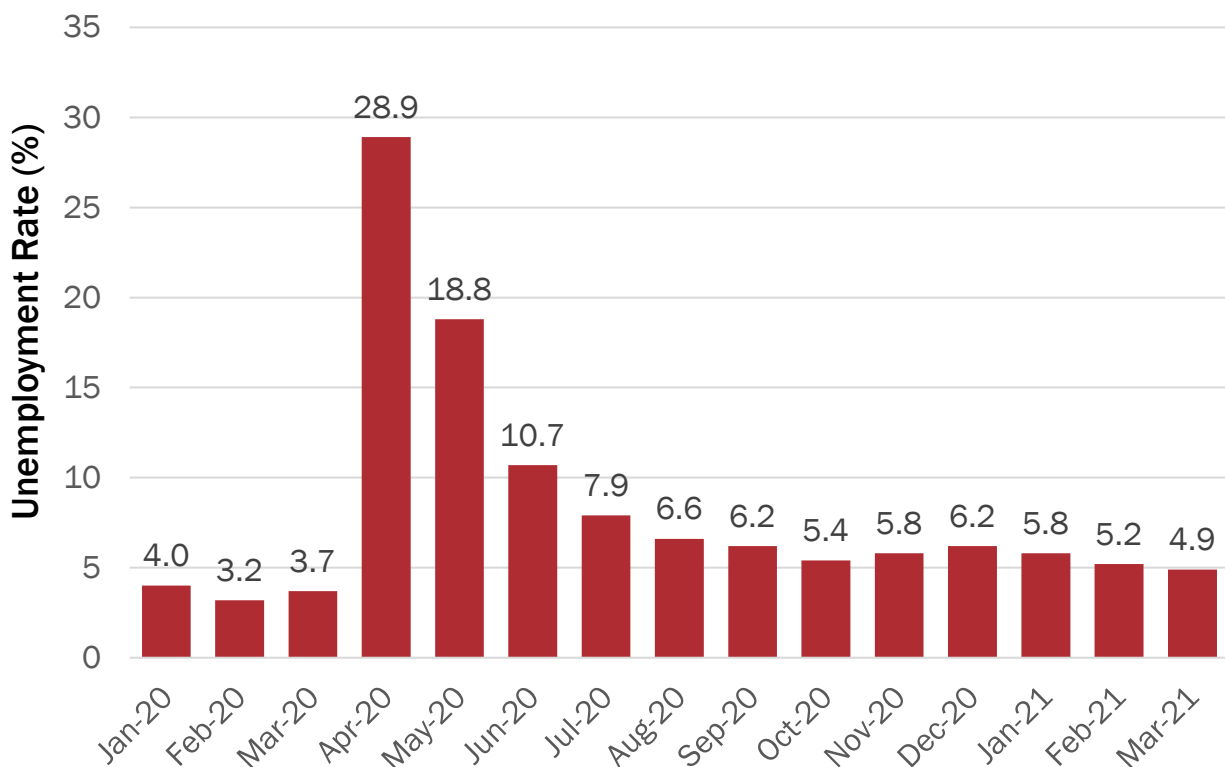
Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 4.9% in St. Joseph County in March. This was 0.3 percentage points lower than for west Michigan and also 0.3 percentage points lower than for the state of Michigan.

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

Unemployment Rate St. Joseph County (not seasonally adjusted)



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

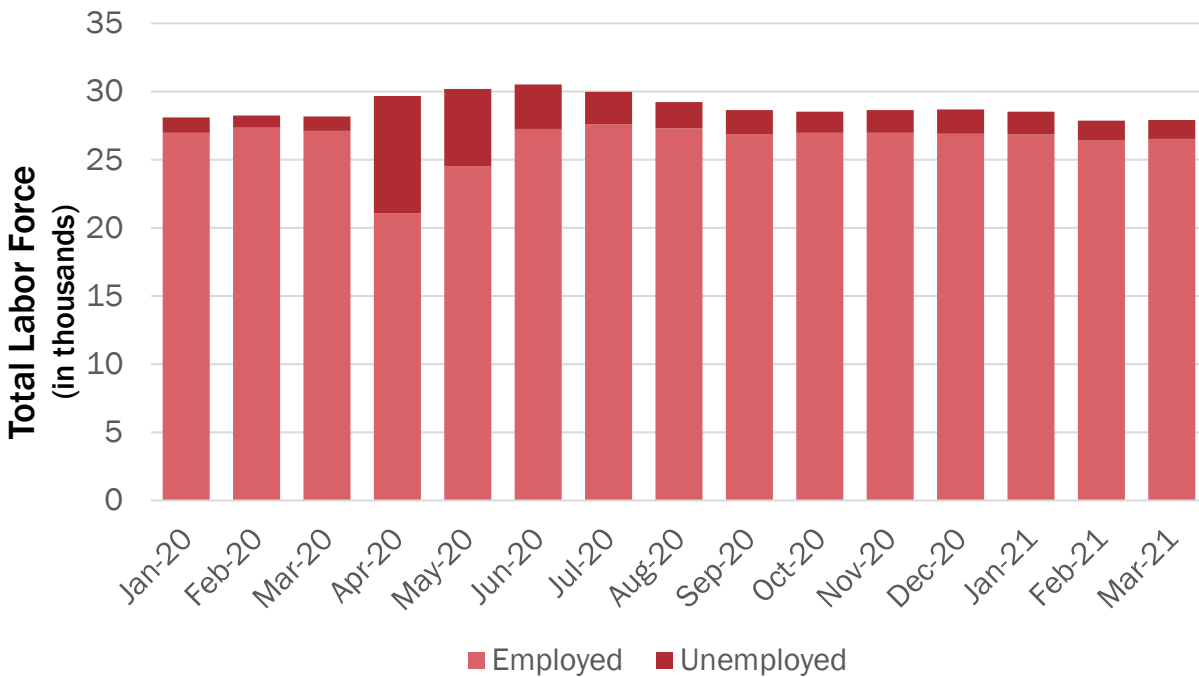
From February, the unemployment rate in St. Joseph County decreased by 0.3 percentage points, to 4.9 percent in March. The March unemployment rate is 1.2 percentage points higher than it was at the same time last year.

In March, there were **4.0 job seekers** for every **1 job posting*** in St. Joseph 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 St. Joseph County (not seasonally adjusted)



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

The total labor force in St. Joseph County in March stood at 27,915, an increase of 55 people from February. The total labor force in St. Joseph County has shrunk by 0.9% since March 2020, when it stood at 28,164. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

Labor Force by the Numbers, Q3 2020 St. Joseph County

- 20.3%** Percentage of workers 25 years or older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 34.5%** Percentage of workers 25 years or older with an associate degree or some college
- 61.8%** Percentage of workers aged 25–54 years

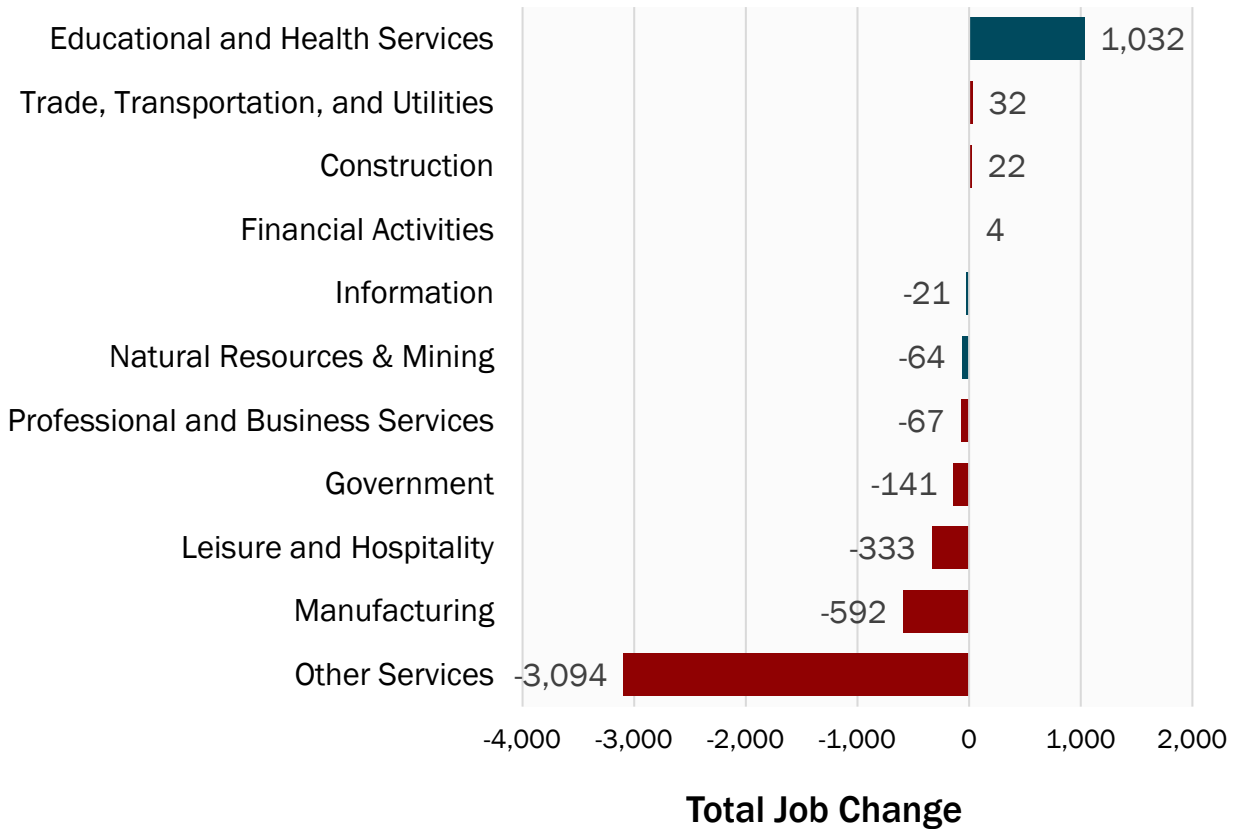
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Employment by Industry St. Joseph County (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q3 2020	Q2 2020	% Change Q2 to Q3	Q3 2019	% Change Q3 to Q3
Employment (by place of work)					
Total Private Sector Employment	18,026	15,960	12.9%	21,105	-14.6%
Goods-Producing	8,737	7,557	15.6%	9,371	-6.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	684	492	39.2%	748	-8.5%
Construction	532	462	15.2%	510	4.2%
Manufacturing	7,521	6,604	13.9%	8,113	-7.3%
Private Service-Providing	9,289	8,403	10.5%	11,734	-20.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,907	2,804	3.7%	2,875	1.1%
Information	54	50	7.3%	75	-27.7%
Financial Activities	540	522	3.5%	536	0.6%
Professional and Business Services	836	783	6.8%	903	-7.4%
Educational and Health Services	2,849	2,497	14.1%	1,817	56.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,402	1,146	22.4%	1,735	-19.2%
Other Services	664	570	16.5%	3,758	-82.3%
Unclassified	36	32	13.7%	35	3.8%
Government	2,257	2,406	-6.2%	2,398	-5.9%

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

Employment Change, Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 St. Joseph County (not seasonally adjusted)



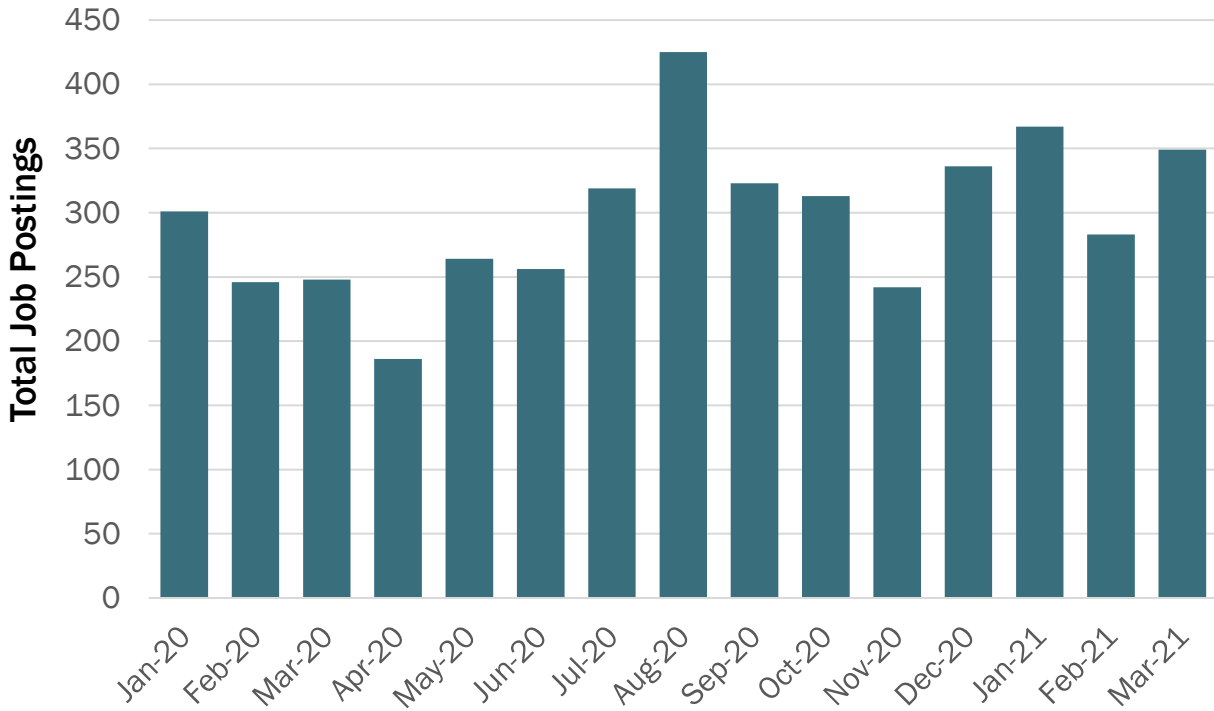
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment in St. Joseph County from Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 occurred in Other Services, which declined by 3,094 jobs, or 82.3%. This decline may have been partially the result of a reclassification of industries by the data source. The greatest increase in employment from Q3 2019 to Q3 2020 was in Educational and Health Services, which grew by 1,032 jobs, or 56.8%.

The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs in Q2 2020 in St. Joseph County was **\$796**.

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

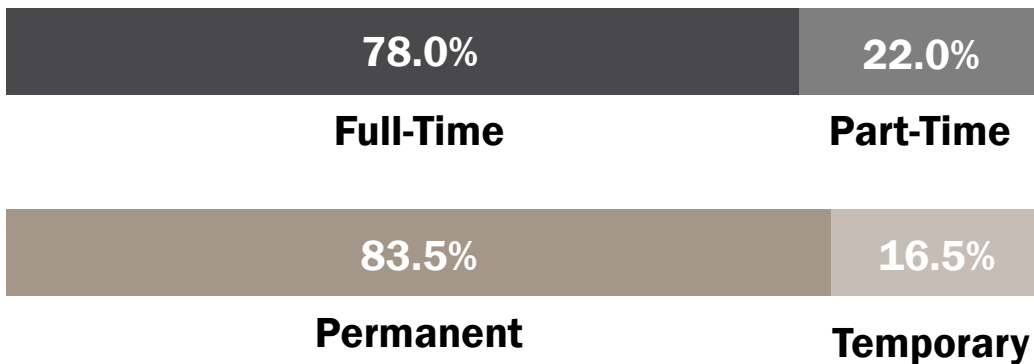
Total Job Postings, March 2021 St. Joseph County



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

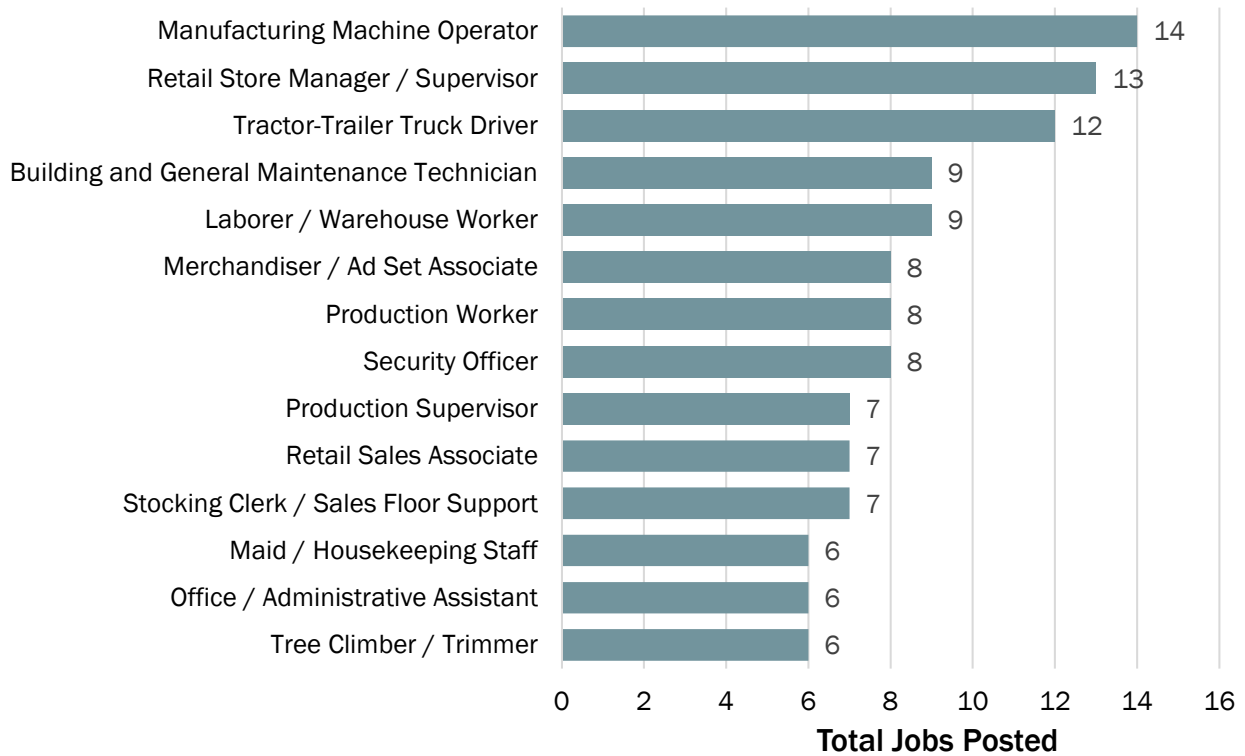
The number of job postings in St. Joseph County, which demonstrates demand for labor, increased by 23.3% between February and March, from 283 postings to 349. The majority of postings in St. Joseph County, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

Type of Job Posting, March 2021 St. Joseph County



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

Top Occupations for Job Postings March 2021 St. Joseph County



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top occupations with job postings were for manufacturing machine operators, retail store managers/supervisors, and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Most job postings, 62.4%, required at a minimum a high school diploma or vocational training. This is a decrease of 2.8 percentage points from February in the proportion of job postings requiring at least a high school diploma or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree decreased by 2.8 percentage points from February, and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 5.6 percentage points from February 2021.

62.4% of job postings in March required a high school diploma or vocational training.

7.3% of job postings in March required an associate degree.

30.3% of job postings in March 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/.