



Regional Economic Trends for St. Joseph County



JULY 2021

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The Trend: St. Joseph County lost more than 150 jobs from Q3 2020 to Q4 2020. Between March and 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 slightly more postings in Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Transportation and Warehousing.

COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 58.2% in April, a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 55.5% 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 0.3 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw a decrease of 135 people from March to April. The number of employed people decreased by 33, and the number of unemployed people decreased by 102.



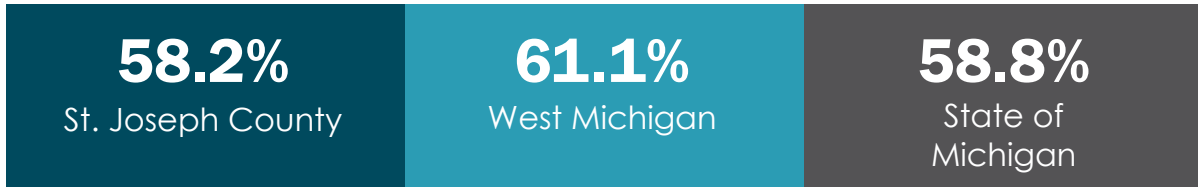
Total employment decreased by 0.9% from Q3 2020 to Q4 2020.



There were 394 job postings in April, an increase of 12.9% from the previous month.

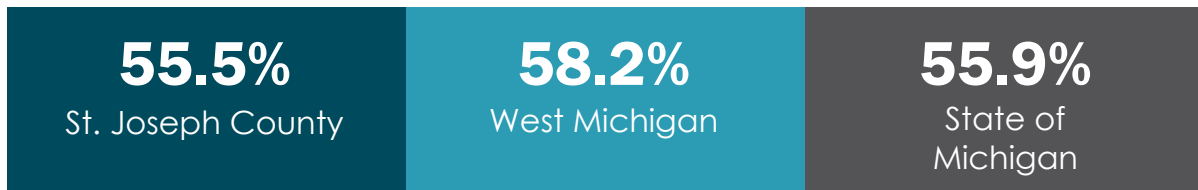
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Labor Force Participation Rate



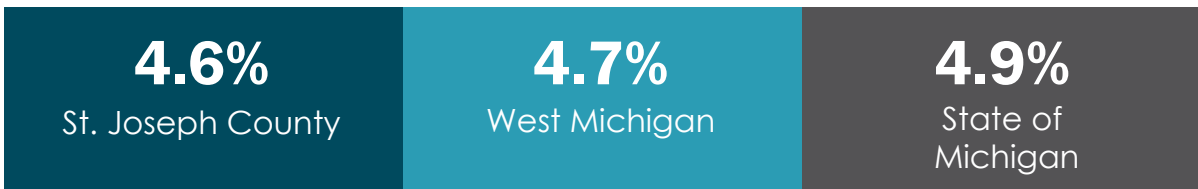
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 58.2% in St. Joseph County in April. This was lower than the rate in west Michigan by 2.9 percentage points and lower than that of the state of Michigan by 0.6 percentage points.

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 for April. This was 2.7 percentage points below that of west Michigan and 0.4 percentage points lower than that of the state of Michigan.

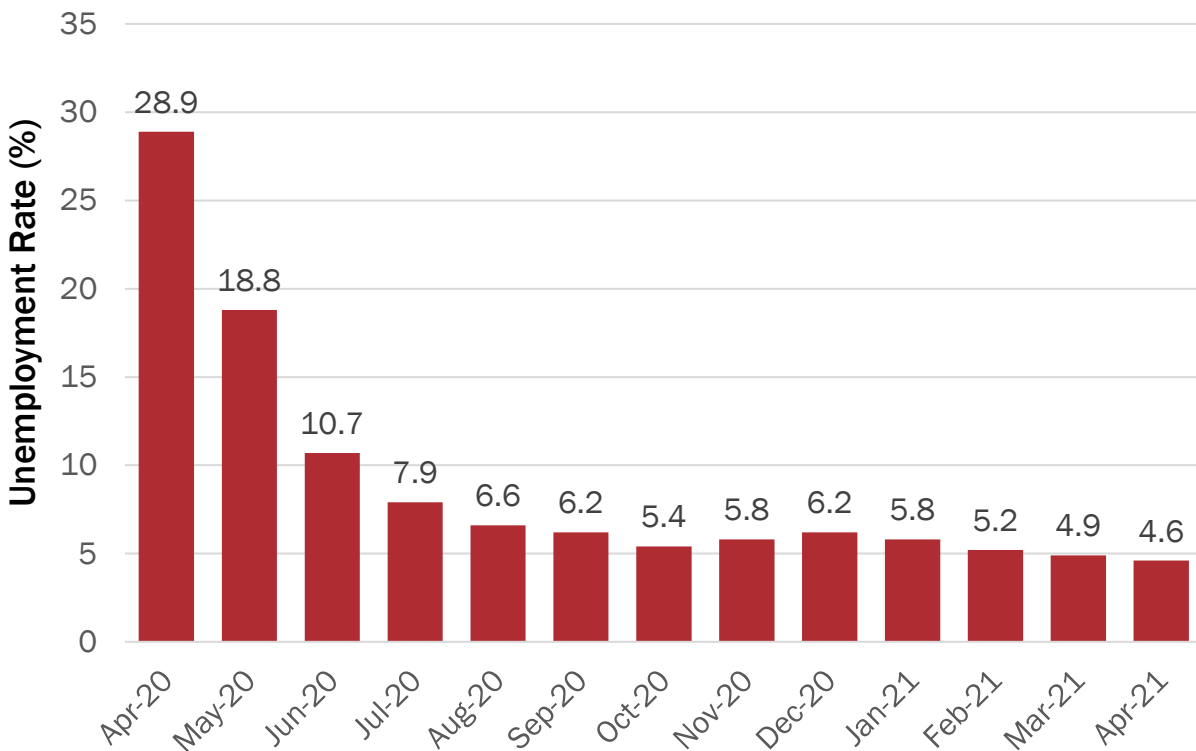
Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was at 4.6% in St. Joseph 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 (LAUS) & Upjohn Institute, 2021

Unemployment Rate (not seasonally adjusted)



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

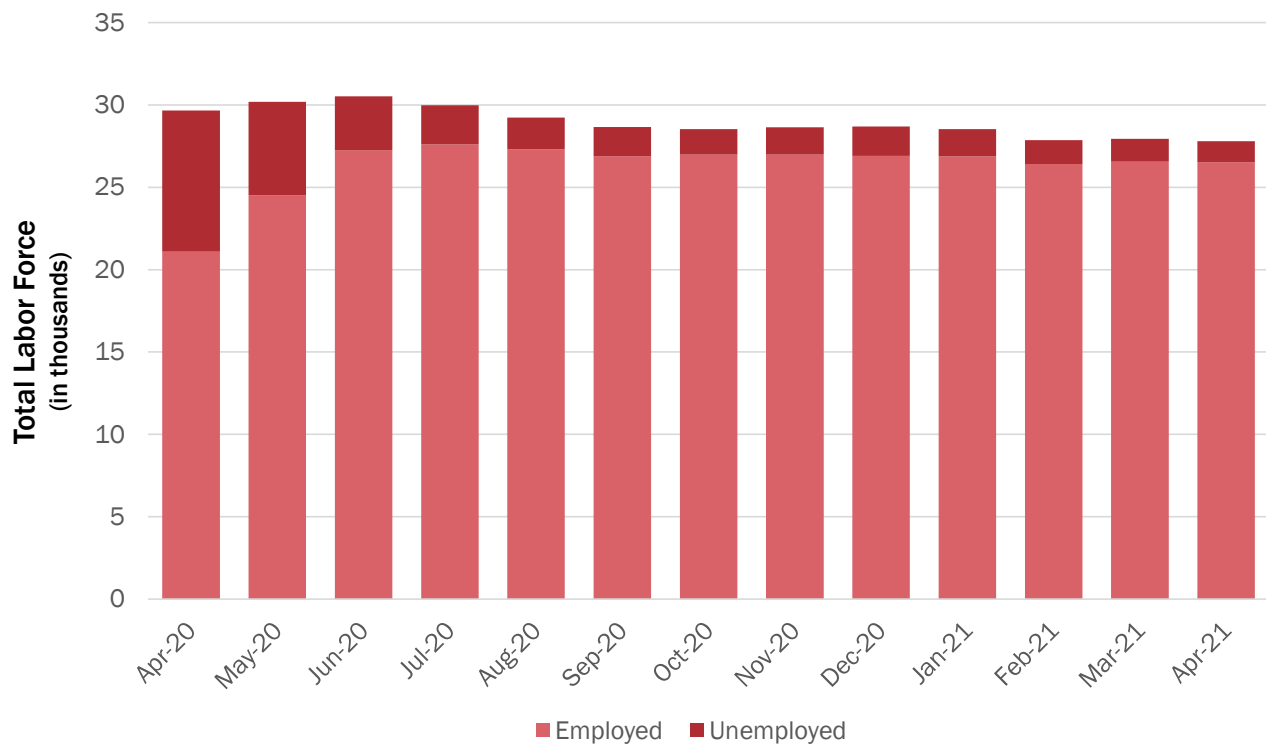
From March to April, the unemployment rate in St. Joseph County decreased by 0.3 percentage points, to 4.6 percent. The rate is 24.3 percentage points lower than it was at the same time last year.

In April, there were **3.2 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 (not seasonally adjusted)



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

The total labor force in St. Joseph County in April stood at 27,801, a decrease of 135 people from the March labor force of 27,936. The total labor force in the county has shrunk by 6.3% since April 2020, when it stood at 29,669. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

Labor Force by the Numbers, Q3 2020

- 20.3%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 34.5%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with an associate degree or some college
- 33.1%** Percentage of workers aged 25 or older with a high school degree or equivalent

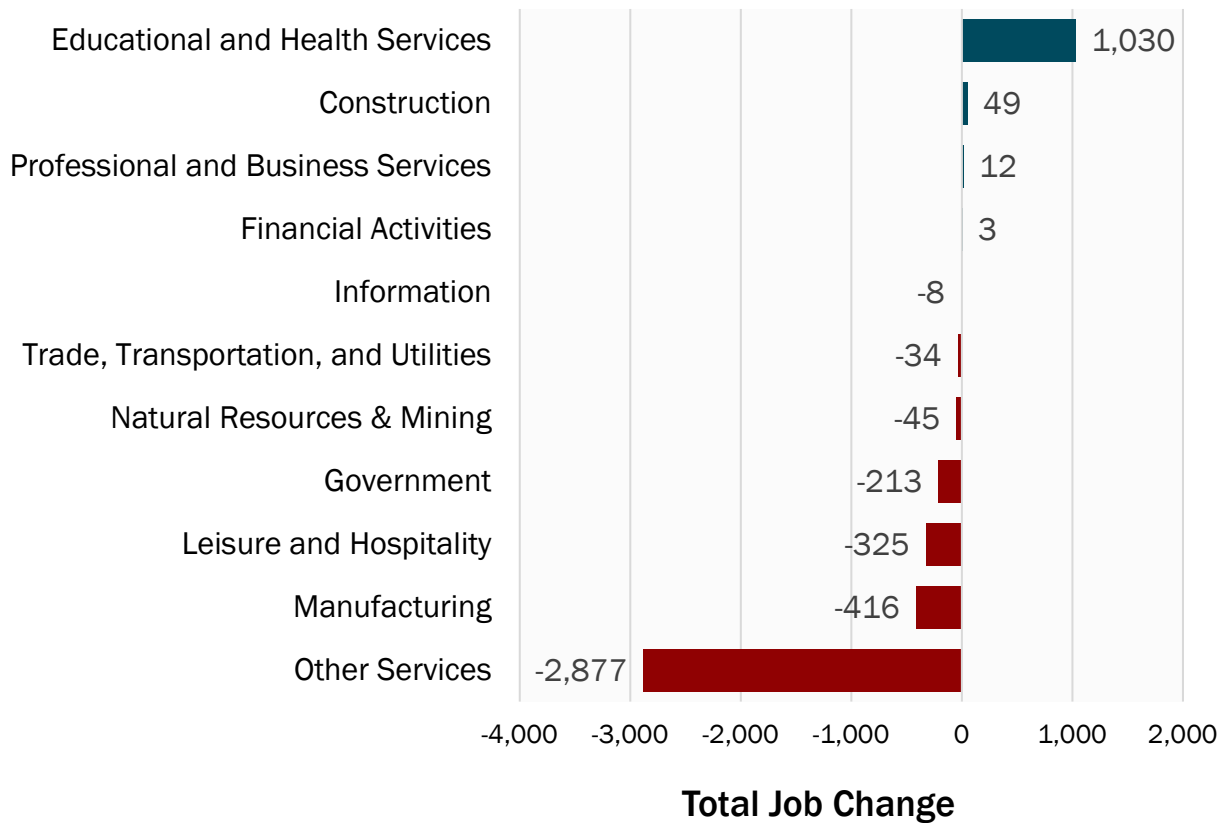
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2020

Employment by Industry St. Joseph County (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)



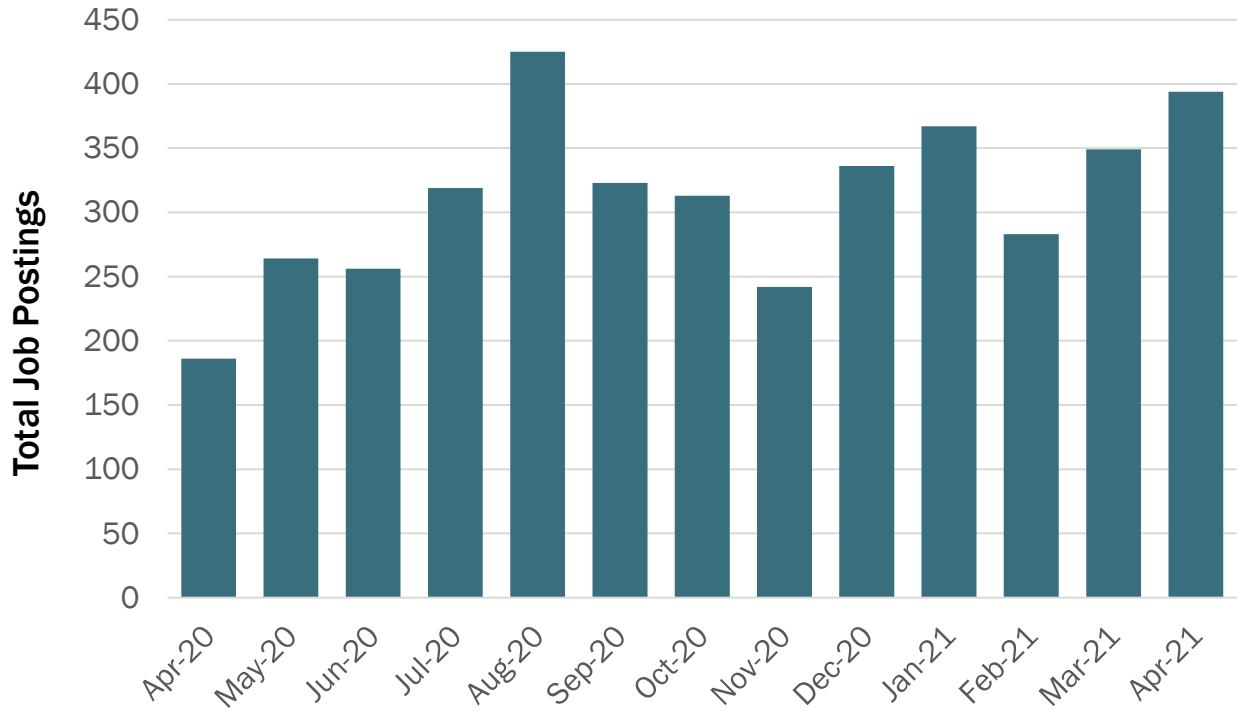
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2020

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment for St. Joseph County from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020 occurred in other services, which declined by 2,877 jobs, or 80.9%. The greatest increase in employment from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020 for the county was found in educational and health services, which grew by 1,030 jobs, or 58.0%. This is likely due to a change in the classification of the industry for certain establishments by the data source rather than to massive job losses or gains in the county.

The average weekly wage in the county
for nonfarm jobs in Q4 2020 was **\$796.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

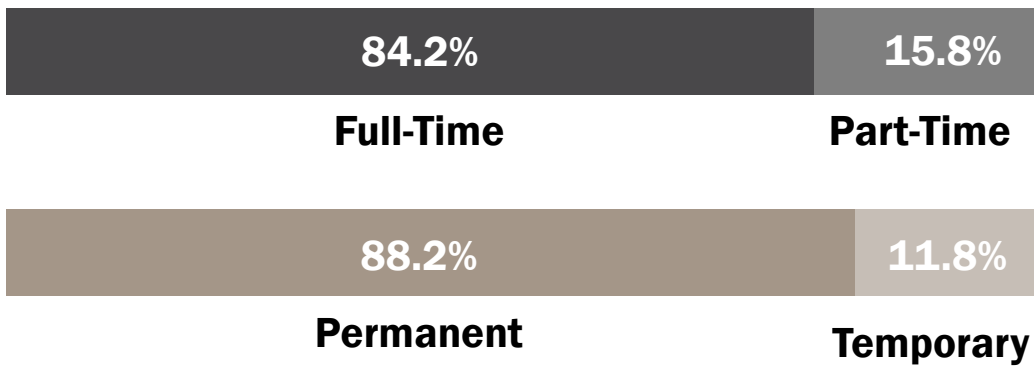
Total Job Postings, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

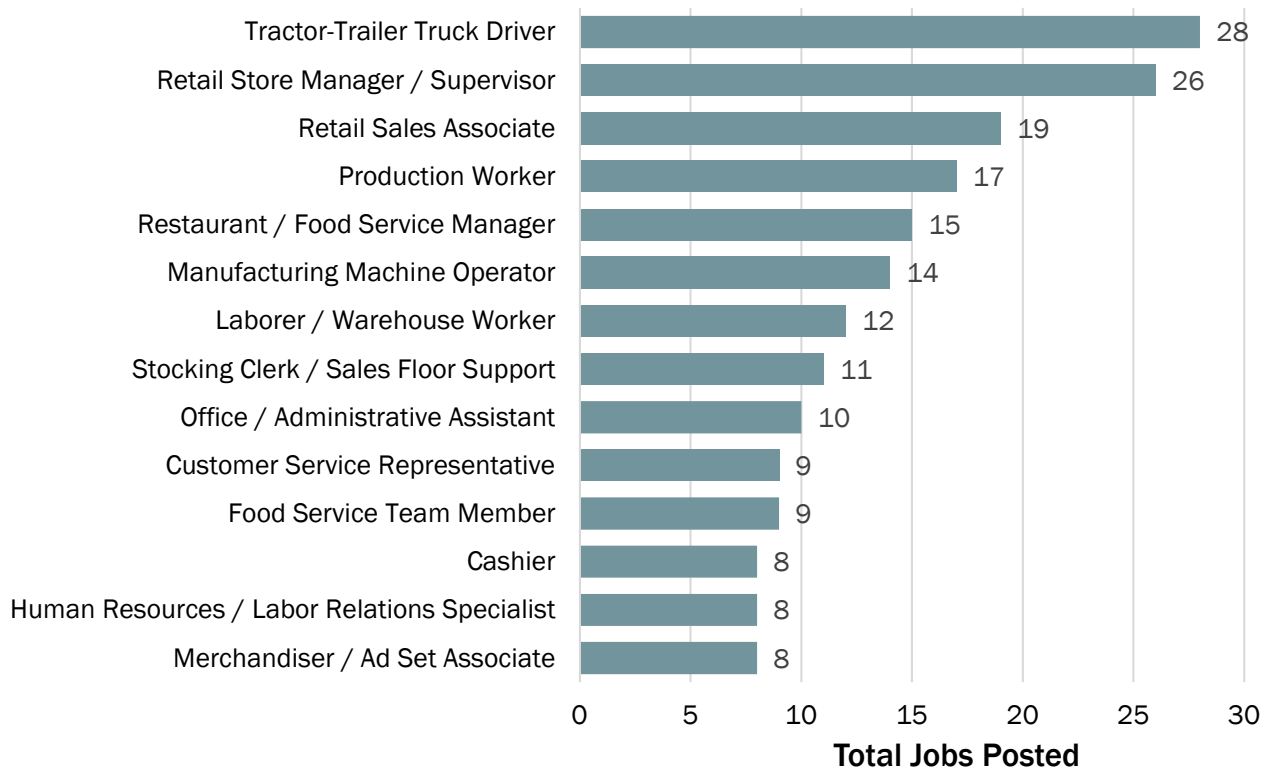
The number of job postings in St. Joseph County, which demonstrates demand for labor, increased by 12.9% between March and April, from 349 postings to 394. The majority of postings in the county, as reported by Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

Type of Job Posting, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

Top Occupations for Job Postings, April 2021



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2021

The top job occupations with job postings were for tractor-trailer truck drivers, retail store managers or supervisors, and retail sales associates. More than two-thirds of job postings, 68.8%, required at minimum a high school diploma or vocational training. This is an increase of 6.5 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 1.3 percentage points, and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher decreased by 7.8 percentage points.

68.8% of job postings in April required a high school diploma or vocational training.

8.6% of job postings in April required an associate degree.

22.6% 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/.