



# ***Regional Economic Trends for St. Joseph County***



**MAY 2022**

# ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

**The Trend:** St. Joseph County gained 275 jobs from Q2 2021 to Q3 2021. From January to February, the labor force participation rate and the employment-to-population ratio increased, while the unemployment rate held steady. This is likely a sign that unemployed individuals are reentering the labor force. Job postings were lower in February than in January, with retail sales associate as the most in-demand job.

## COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 57.3% in February. This is a 0.1 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 55.1% in February. This is a 0.1 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 3.9% in February. This is unchanged from the previous month.



The total labor force saw an increase of 56 people from January to February. The number of unemployed people increased by 14, and the number of employed people increased by 42.



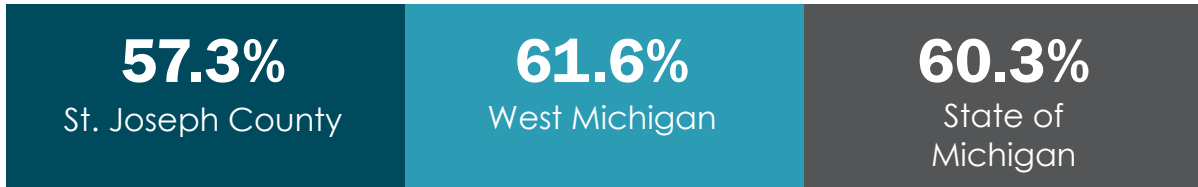
Total employment increased by 1.5% from Q2 2021 to Q3 2021.



There were 408 job postings in February, a decrease of 18.7% from January.

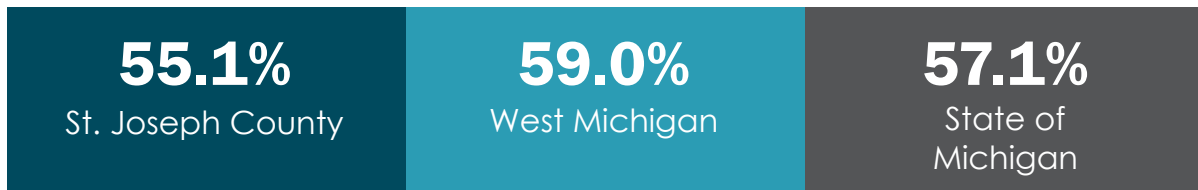
# KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Labor Force Participation Rate



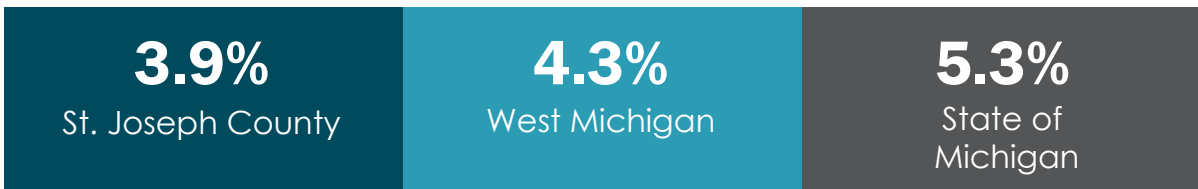
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 57.3% in St. Joseph County in February. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 4.3 percentage points and lower than that of the state of Michigan by 3.0 percentage points.

## Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 55.1% for St. Joseph County in February. This was 3.9 percentage points below the ratio for west Michigan and 2.0 percentage points lower than that of the state of Michigan.

## Unemployment Rate

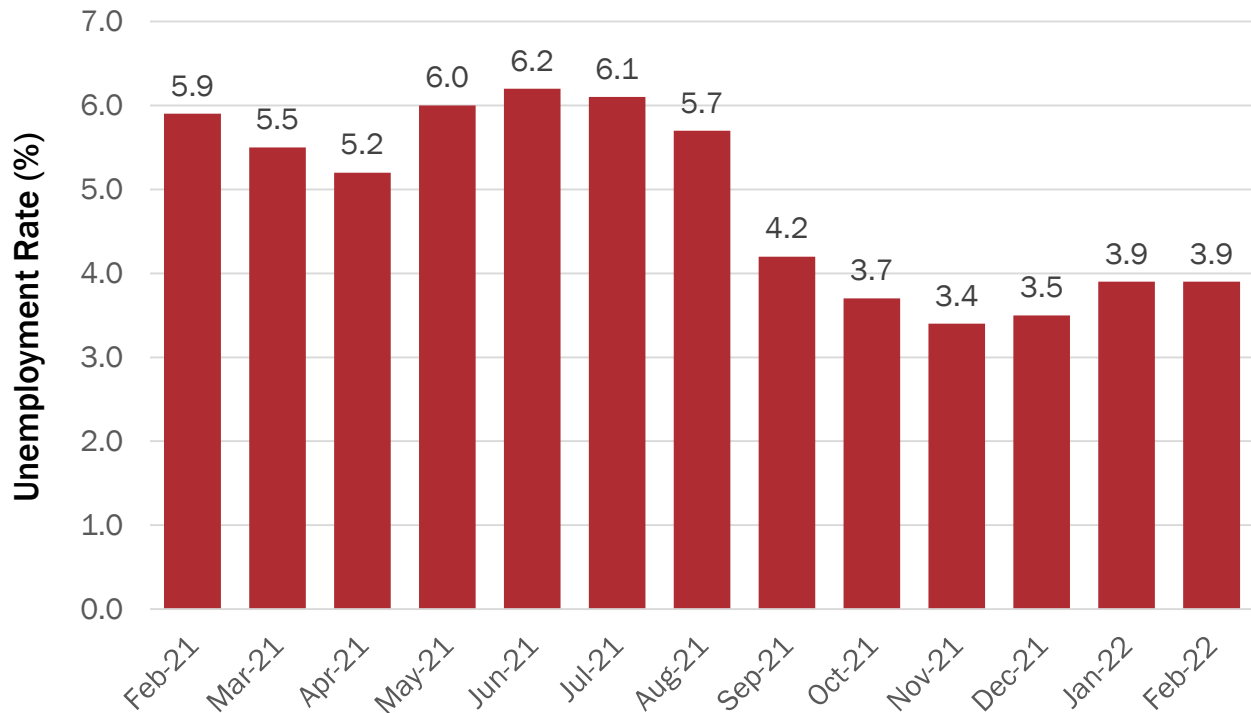


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 3.9% in St. Joseph County in February. This was 0.4 percentage points lower than rate for west Michigan and 1.4 percentage points lower than for the state of Michigan.

SOURCE: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) & Upjohn Institute, 2022

**“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, 2022

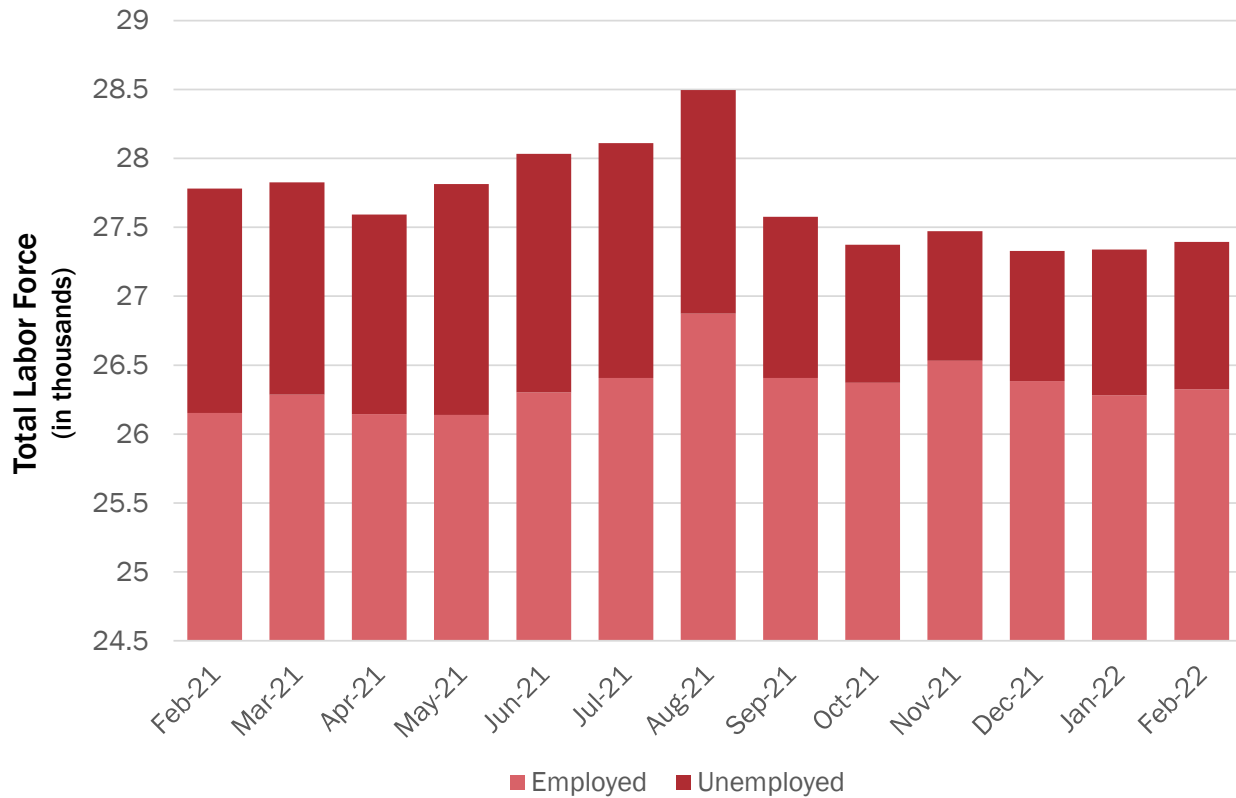
From January to February, the unemployment rate in St. Joseph County was unchanged at 3.9 percent. The unemployment rate for February is 2.0 percentage points lower than it was at the same time a year earlier.

In February, there were **2.6 job seekers** for every **job posting** in St. Joseph County.\*

—Burning Glass Technologies, BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) & Upjohn Institute, 2022

\*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, 2022

The total labor force in St. Joseph County in February stood at 27,395, an increase of 56 people from the January labor force of 27,339. The total labor force in St. Joseph County has shrunk by 1.4% since February 2021, when it stood at 27,782. This indicates a decrease in the available labor for firms in the area.

## Labor Force by the Numbers, Q2 2021

- 21.0%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree
- 34.6%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with an associate degree or some college
- 32.3%** Percentage of workers 25 and older with only a high school degree or equivalent

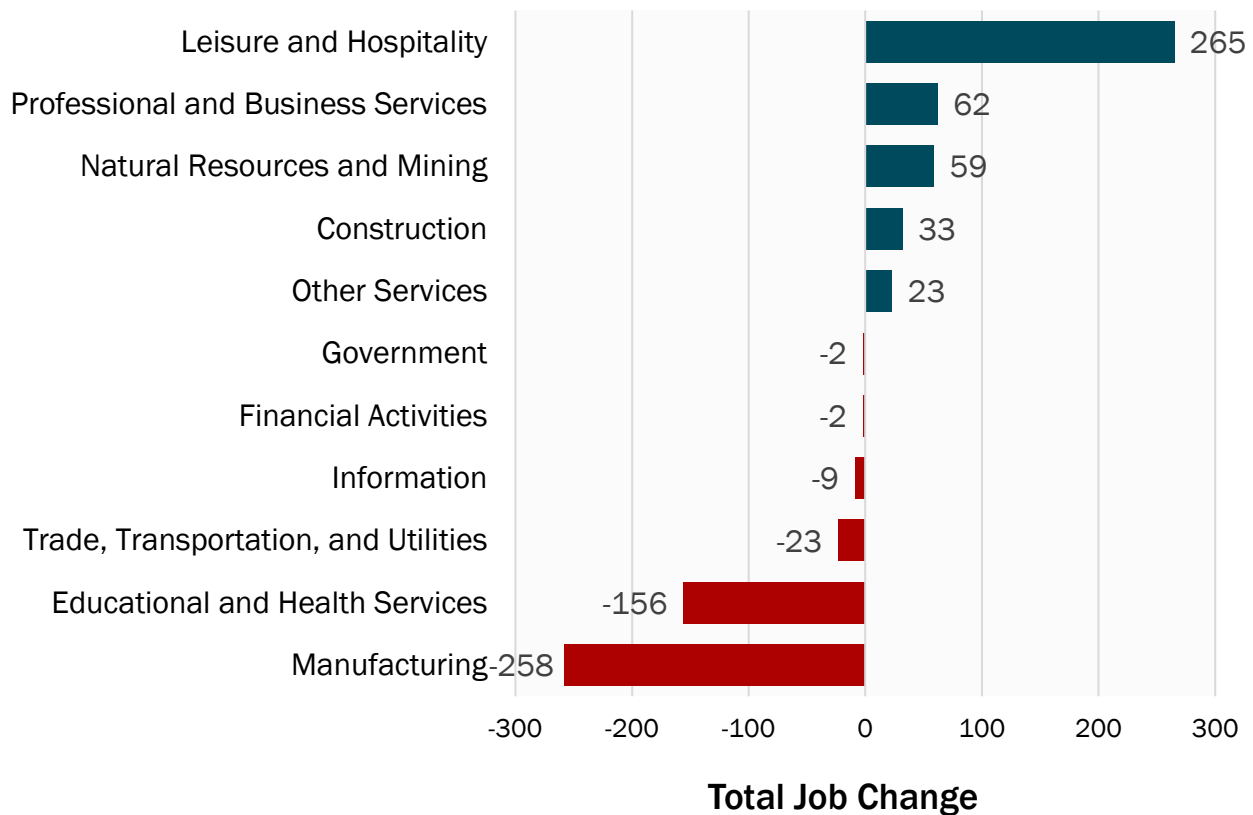
SOURCE: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2021

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

Measure	Q3 2021	% Change Q2 to Q3	Q2 2021	% Change Q3 to Q3	Q3 2020
<b>Employment (by place of work)</b>					
Total private-sector employment	18,031	1.5%	17,758	0.0%	18,034
Goods-producing	8,572	2.2%	8,391	-1.9%	8,738
Natural resources and mining	744	23.2%	604	8.6%	685
Construction	564	2.2%	552	6.1%	532
Manufacturing	7,263	0.4%	7,234	-3.4%	7,521
Private service-providing	9,459	1.0%	9,367	1.8%	9,296
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,892	0.0%	2,892	-0.8%	2,915
Information	45	3.0%	58	-17.3%	54
Financial activities	537	0.4%	535	-0.4%	539
Professional and business services	898	2.5%	876	7.4%	836
Educational and health services	2,695	-2.2%	2,755	-5.5%	2,851
Leisure and hospitality	1,667	11.1%	1,500	18.9%	1,402
Other services	686	-3.6%	711	3.5%	663
Unclassified	41	1.7%	40	13.9%	36
Government	2,255	-5.5%	2,385	-0.1%	2,257

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

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



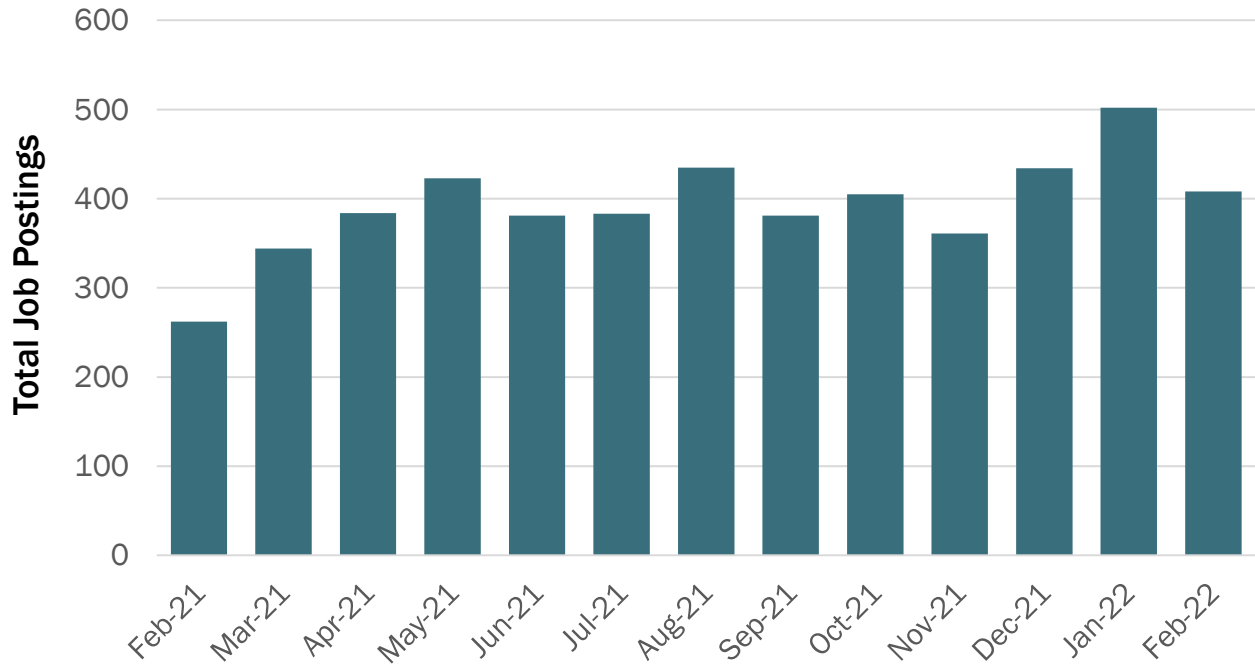
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2021

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment in St. Joseph County from Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 was in manufacturing, which declined by 258 jobs, or 3.4%. The greatest increase in employment from Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 in the county occurred in leisure and hospitality, which grew by 265 jobs, or 18.9%.

**The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs  
in St. Joseph County in Q3 2021 was \$868.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

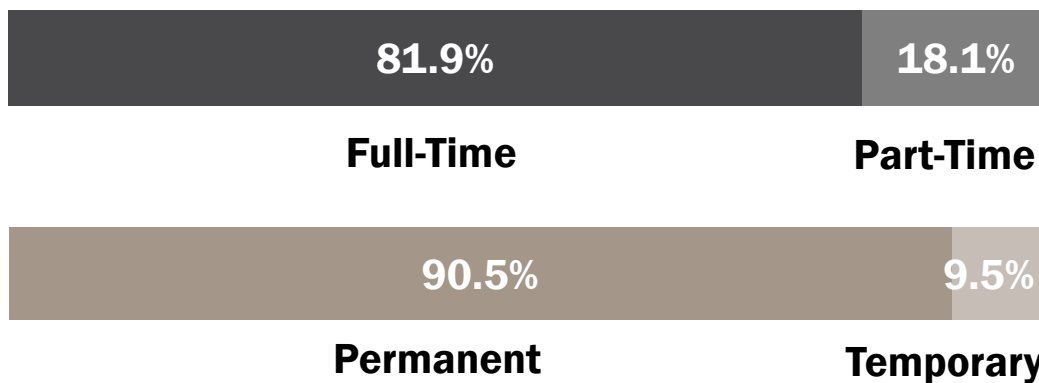
## Total Job Postings for February 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

The number of job postings in St. Joseph County, which demonstrates demand for labor, decreased by 18.7% between January and February, from 502 postings to 408. The majority of postings in the county, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

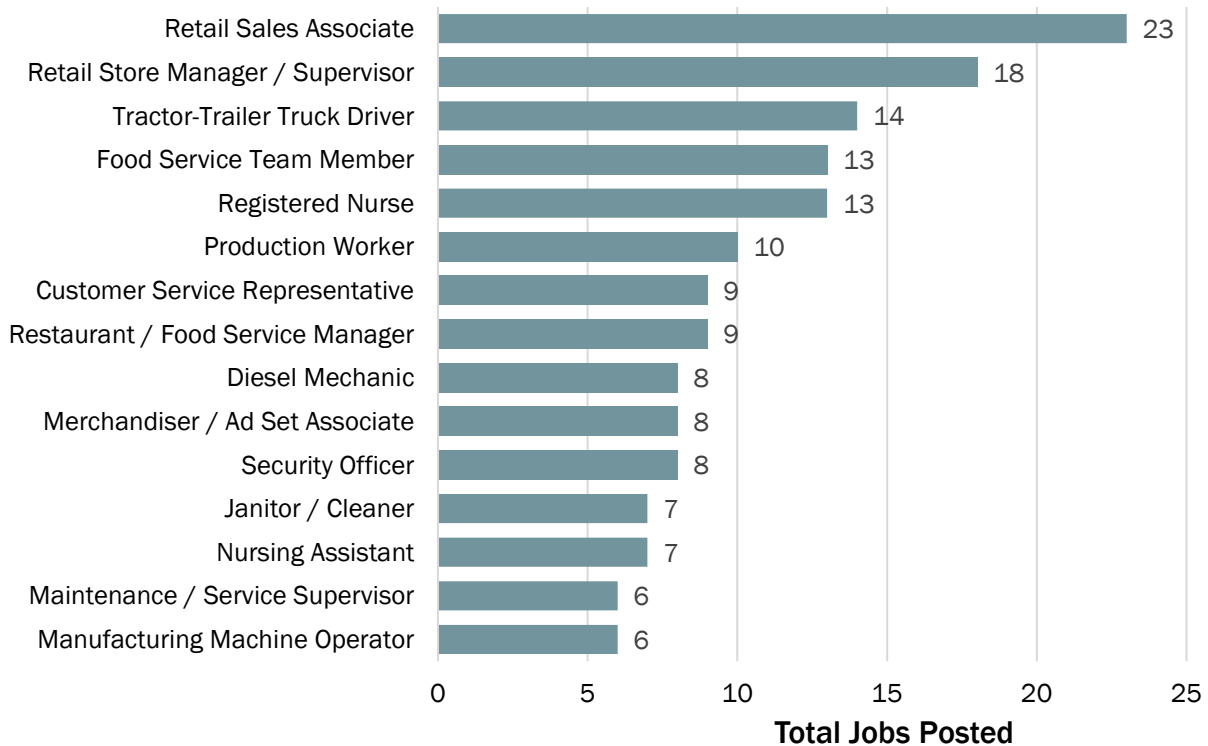
## Types of Job Postings for February 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022



## Top Occupations with Job Postings for February 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

The top occupations with job postings in February were retail sales associate, retail store manager, and truck driver. The majority of job postings, 58.7%, required no more than a high school diploma or vocational training. This is a decrease of 9.6 percentage points from January in the proportion of job postings requiring only a high school diploma or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree increased by 3.8 percentage points from January, and the proportion of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 5.8 percentage points.

**58.7%** of job postings in February required only a high school diploma or vocational training.

**13.8%** of job postings in February required an associate degree.

**27.6%** of job postings in February required a bachelor's degree or higher.

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

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

## 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.

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## 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/](http://www.upjohn.org/Business_Outlook/Data_Dictionary/).