



# *Regional Economic Trends* for Kalamazoo County



JULY 2022

# KALAMAZOO COUNTY

**The Trend:** Kalamazoo County added 1,480 jobs from Q3 2021 to Q4 2021. Between March and April, the unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and employment-to-population ratio all fell. This is likely a sign that unemployed individuals are leaving the labor force. Job postings were higher in April than in March, with retail sales associate as the job most in demand.

## COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 62.6% in April. This is a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 60.5% in April. This is a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 3.5% in April. This is a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month.



The total labor force saw a decrease of 540 people from March to April. The number of employed people decreased by 391, and the number of unemployed people decreased by 149.



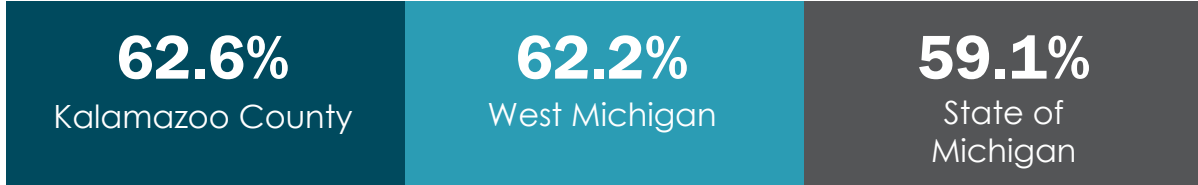
Total employment increased by 1.4% from Q3 2021 to Q4 2021.



There were 3,214 job postings in April, a decrease of 6.3% from March.

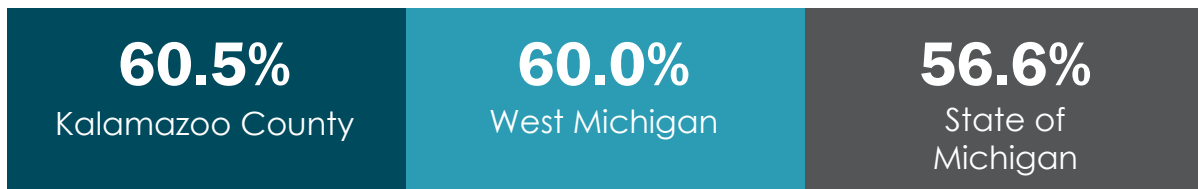
# KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Labor Force Participation Rate



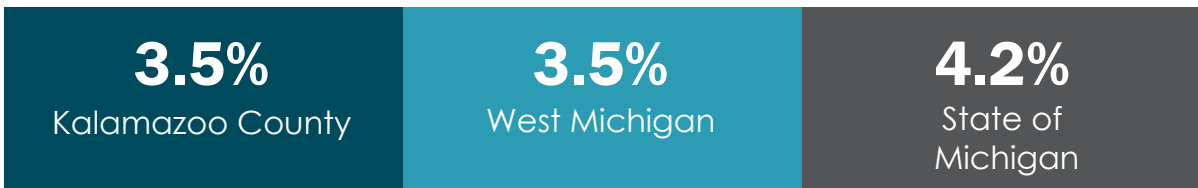
The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 62.6% in Kalamazoo County in April. This was higher than the rate for west Michigan by 0.4 percentage points and higher than that of the state of Michigan by 3.5 percentage points.

## Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 60.5% for Kalamazoo County in April. This was 0.5 percentage points above the ratio for west Michigan and 3.9 percentage points above the ratio for the state of Michigan.

## Unemployment Rate

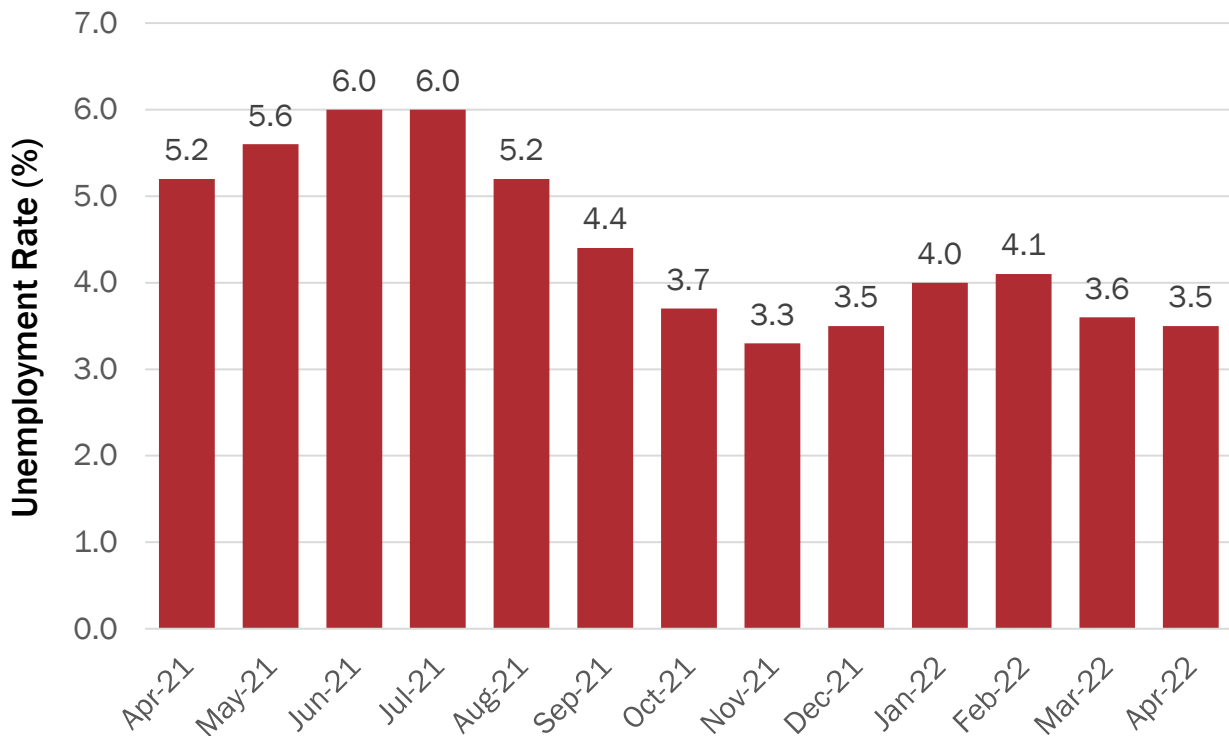


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 3.5% in Kalamazoo County in April. This was the same as the rate for west Michigan and 0.7 percentage points below that of the state of Michigan.

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

From March to April, the unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County decreased by 0.1 percentage points, to 3.5%. The unemployment rate for April is 1.7 percentage points lower than it was at the same time a year earlier.

In April, there were **1.4 job seekers** for every **job posting** in Kalamazoo County.\*

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

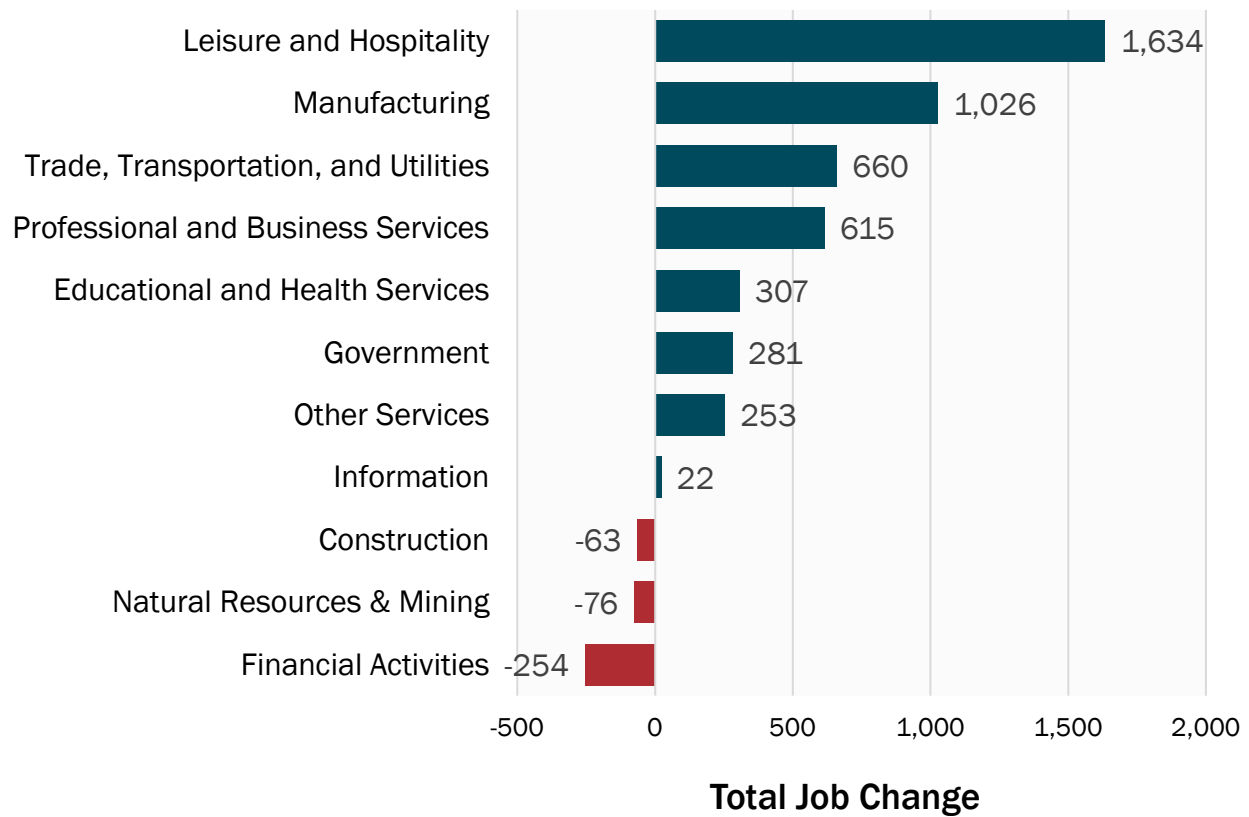
\*Burning Glass data capture only jobs that are posted online and in more traditional employment relationships. Singular job postings for multiple positions may not be fully counted.

## Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)

Measure	Q4 2021	Q3 2021	% Change Q3 to Q4	Q4 2020	% Change Q4 to Q4
<b>Employment (by place of work)</b>					
Total private-sector employment	106,420	104,940	1.4%	102,319	4.0%
Goods-producing	26,819	27,051	-0.9%	25,932	3.4%
Natural resources and mining	1,170	1,327	-11.8%	1,246	-6.1%
Construction	5,999	6,222	-3.6%	6,062	-1.0%
Manufacturing	19,650	19,502	0.8%	18,624	5.5%
Private service-providing	79,601	77,889	2.2%	76,387	4.2%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	22,113	21,316	3.7%	21,453	3.1%
Information	568	558	1.8%	546	4.0%
Financial activities	7,066	7,070	-0.1%	7,320	-3.5%
Professional and business services	11,704	11,310	3.5%	11,089	5.5%
Educational and health services	22,447	22,242	0.9%	22,140	1.4%
Leisure and hospitality	11,879	11,651	2.0%	10,245	15.9%
Other services	3,627	3,549	2.2%	3,374	7.5%
Unclassified	197	193	2.1%	220	-10.5%
Government	12,085	11,246	7.5%	11,804	2.4%

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

## Employment Change, Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



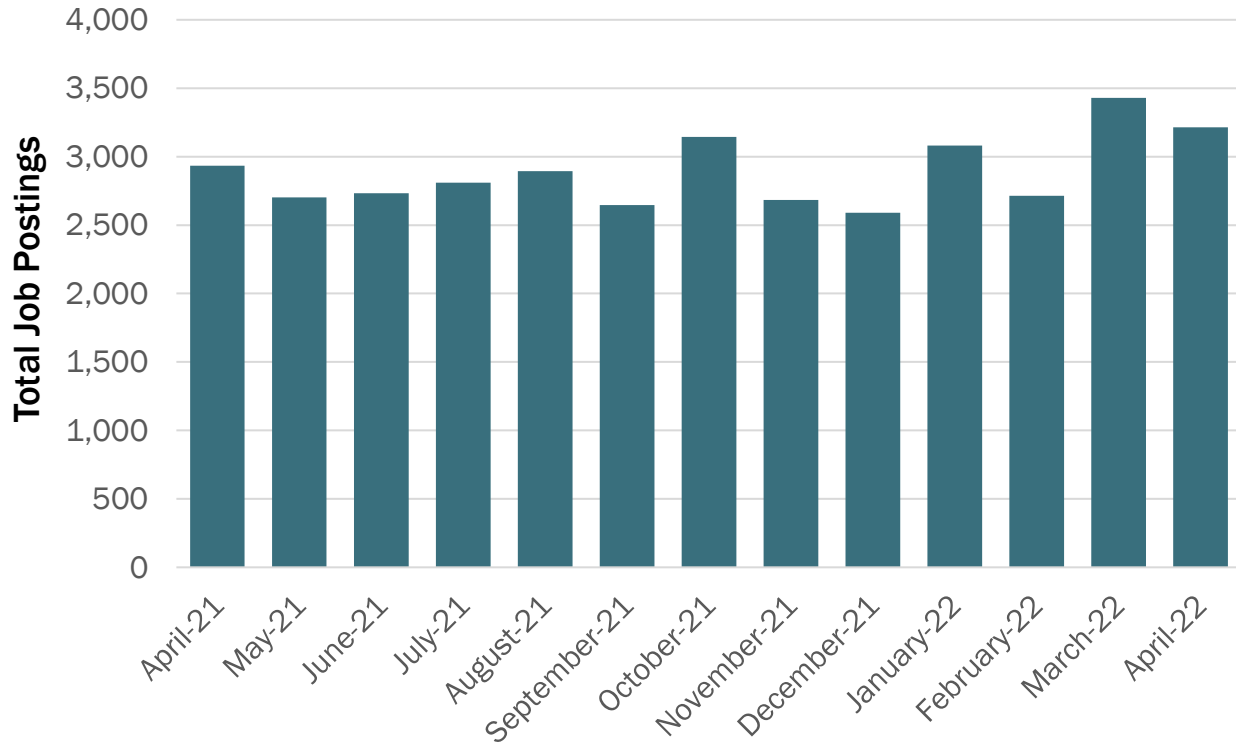
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2021

The most recent data show that the greatest decrease in employment in Kalamazoo County from Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 was in financial activities, which declined by 254 jobs, or 3.5%. The greatest increase in employment from Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 in the county occurred in manufacturing, which grew by 1,634 jobs, or 5.5%.

The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs in Kalamazoo County in Q3 2021 was **\$1,272.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

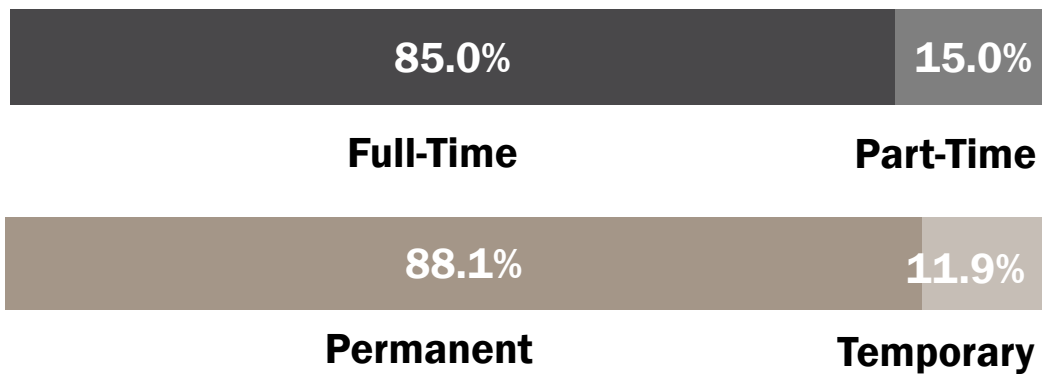
## Total Job Postings for April 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

The number of job postings in Kalamazoo County, which demonstrates demand for labor, decreased by 6.3% between March and April, from 3,430 postings to 3,214. 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 April 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

## Top Occupations with Job Postings for April 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

The top occupations with job postings in April were retail sales associate, retail manager, and registered nurse. A plurality of job postings, 48.0%, required a high school degree or vocational training. This is an increase of 9.4 percentage points from March in the proportion of job postings requiring only a high school degree or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree decreased by 0.6 percentage points from March, and the proportion of jobs requiring at minimum a bachelor's degree decreased by 10.1 percentage points.

**48.0%** of job postings in April required no more than a high school diploma or vocational training.

**10.4%** of job postings in April required an associate degree.

**41.6%** of job postings in April 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/).