



# ***Regional Economic Trends for Calhoun County***



**AUGUST 2022**



# CALHOUN COUNTY

**The Trend:** Calhoun County employment increased from Q3 2021 to Q4 2021 by 636 jobs. Between April and May, the unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and employment-to-population ratio all increased. This is likely a sign that some individuals are reentering the labor force and finding work, while others are still looking. Job postings were lower in May than in April because of a methodology change in posting data collection by Labor Insight, from Burning Glass Technologies, a database of job-posting information. Retail sales associate was the most in-demand position.

## COUNTY UPDATE



The labor force participation rate was 57.3% in May. This is a 1.0 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The employment-to-population ratio was 54.5% in May. This is a 0.8 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The unemployment rate was 4.9% in May. This is a 0.3 percentage point increase from the previous month.



The total labor force saw an increase of 1,120 people from April to May. The number of employed people increased by 915, and the number of unemployed people increased by 205.



Total employment increased by 1.5% from Q3 2021 to Q4 2021.



There were 1,523 job postings in May, a decrease of 11.4% from April.

# KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Labor Force Participation Rate



The labor force participation rate, which measures the economy's active workforce, was 57.3% in Calhoun County in May. This was lower than the rate for west Michigan by 6.2 percentage points and lower than that of the state of Michigan by 2.4 percentage points.

## Employment-to-Population Ratio



The employment-to-population ratio, which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, was 54.5% for Calhoun County in May. This was 6.6 percentage points below the ratio for west Michigan and 2.4 percentage points lower than that of the state of Michigan.

## Unemployment Rate

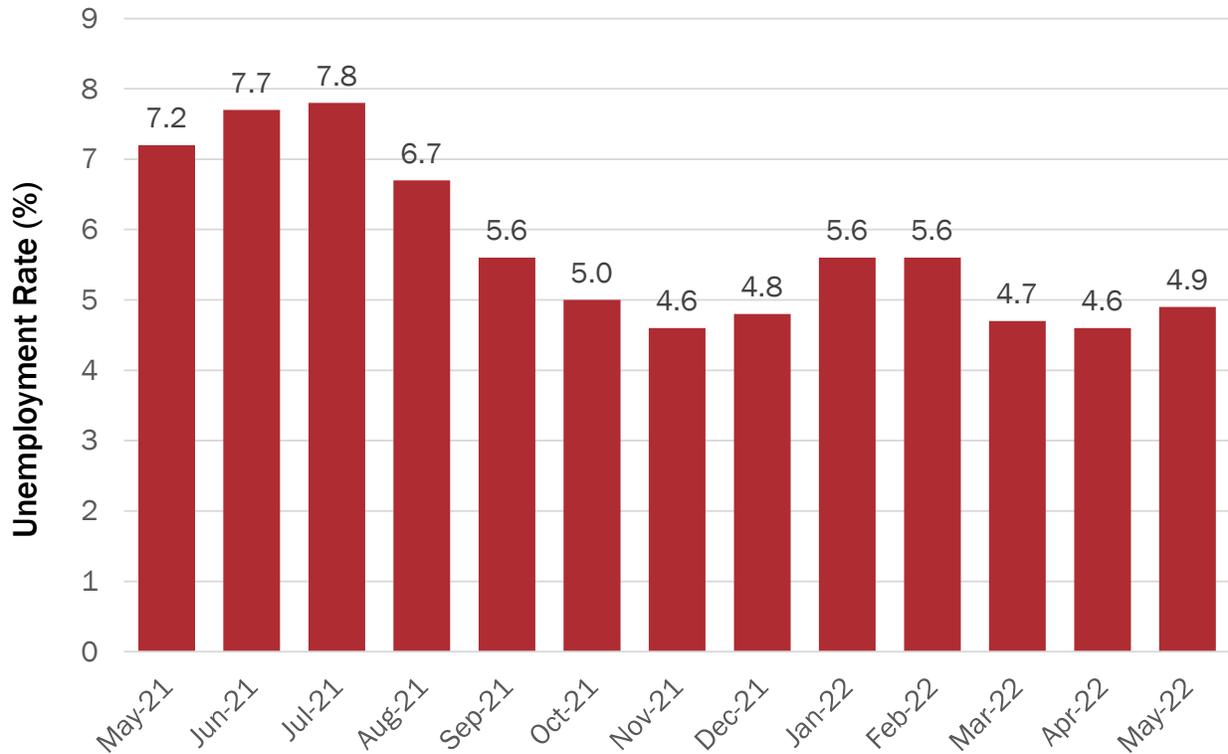


The unemployment rate, which measures the percentage of the workforce that is looking for work, was 4.9% in Calhoun County in May. This was 1.0 percentage points higher than the rate for west Michigan and 0.3 percentage points higher than the rate for the state of Michigan.

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 (LAUS), & Upjohn Institute, 2022

From April to May, the unemployment rate in Calhoun County increased by 0.3 percentage points, to 4.9 percent. The unemployment rate for May is 2.3 percentage points lower than it was at the same time a year earlier.

In May, there were **1.9 job seekers** for every **job posting** in Calhoun County.\*

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

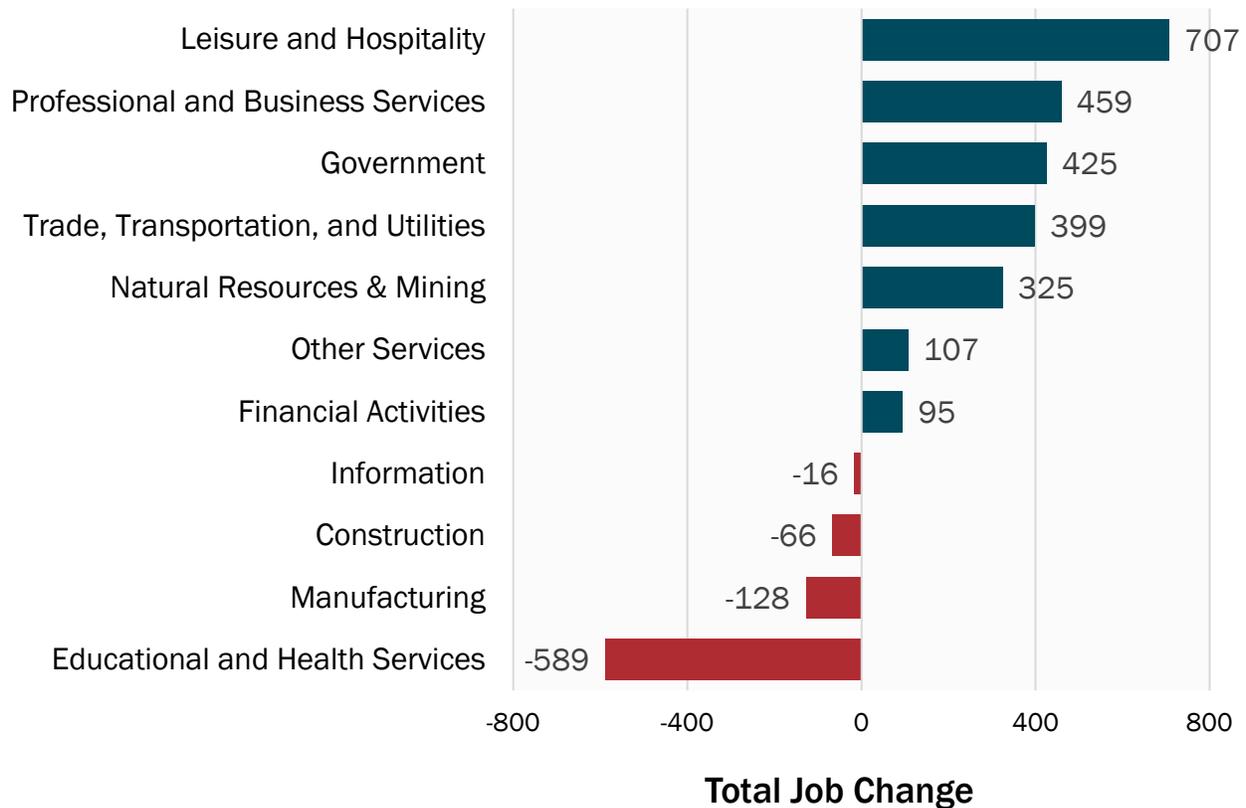
\*Burning Glass data capture only jobs that are posted online and in more traditional employment relationships. Singular job postings for multiple positions may not be fully counted.

## Employment by Industry Calhoun County (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      | 41,866  | 41,230  | 1.5%              | 40,569  | 3.2%              |
| Goods-producing                      | 12,460  | 12,395  | 0.5%              | 12,329  | 1.1%              |
| Natural resources and mining         | 605     | 465     | 30.1%             | 280     | 116.1%            |
| Construction                         | 1,687   | 1,862   | -9.4%             | 1,753   | -3.8%             |
| Manufacturing                        | 10,168  | 10,068  | 1.0%              | 10,296  | -1.2%             |
| Private service-providing            | 29,406  | 28,835  | 2.0%              | 28,240  | 4.1%              |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 9,092   | 8,801   | 3.3%              | 8,693   | 4.6%              |
| Information                          | 175     | 193     | -9.3%             | 191     | -8.4%             |
| Financial activities                 | 1,152   | 1,150   | 0.2%              | 1,057   | 9.0%              |
| Professional and business services   | 4,990   | 4,706   | 6.0%              | 4,531   | 10.1%             |
| Educational and health services      | 8,507   | 8,395   | 1.3%              | 9,096   | -6.5%             |
| Leisure and hospitality              | 3,972   | 4,096   | -3.0%             | 3,265   | 21.7%             |
| Other services                       | 1,436   | 1,410   | 1.8%              | 1,329   | 8.1%              |
| Unclassified                         | 82      | 84      | -2.4%             | 78      | 5.1%              |
| Government                           | 10,417  | 9,844   | 5.8%              | 9,992   | 4.3%              |

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

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



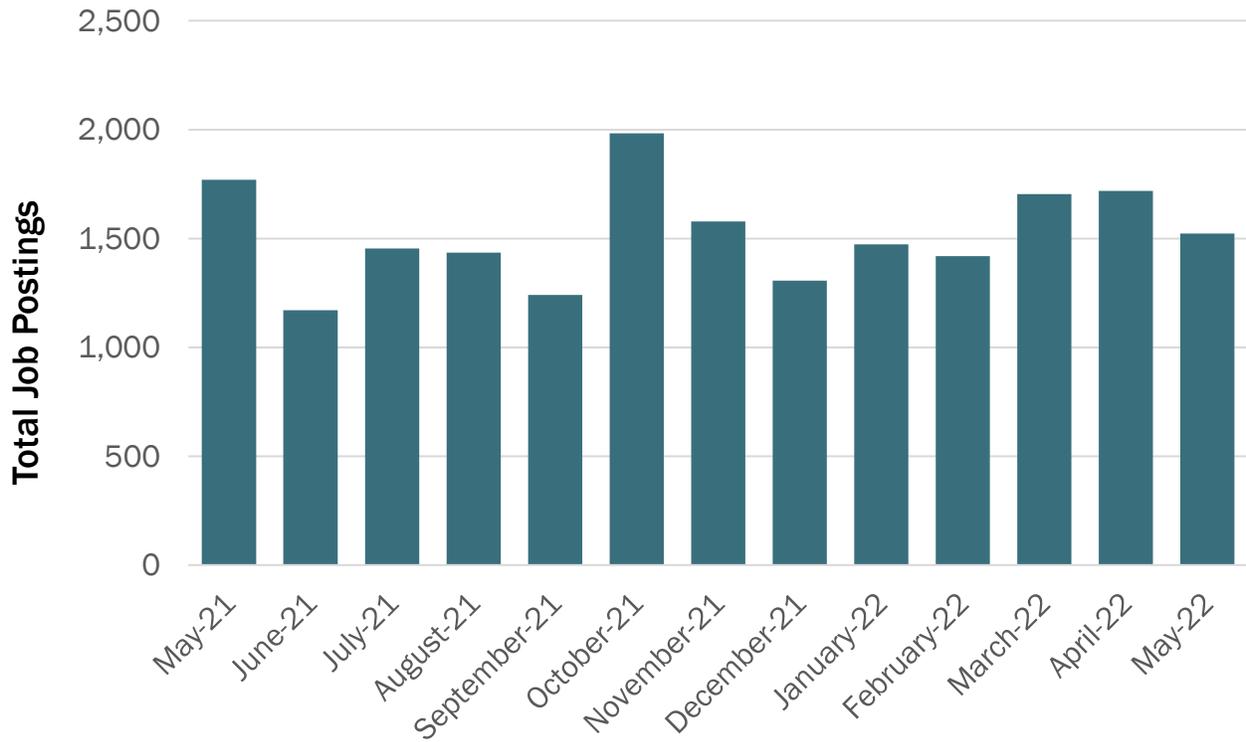
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages & Upjohn Institute, 2021

The most recent data show the greatest decrease in employment in Calhoun County from Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 was in educational and health services, which declined by 589 jobs, or 6.5%. The greatest increase in employment from Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 in the county occurred in leisure and hospitality, which grew by 707 jobs, or 21.7%.

The average weekly wage for nonfarm jobs in Calhoun County in Q4 2021 was **\$1,187.**

SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2021

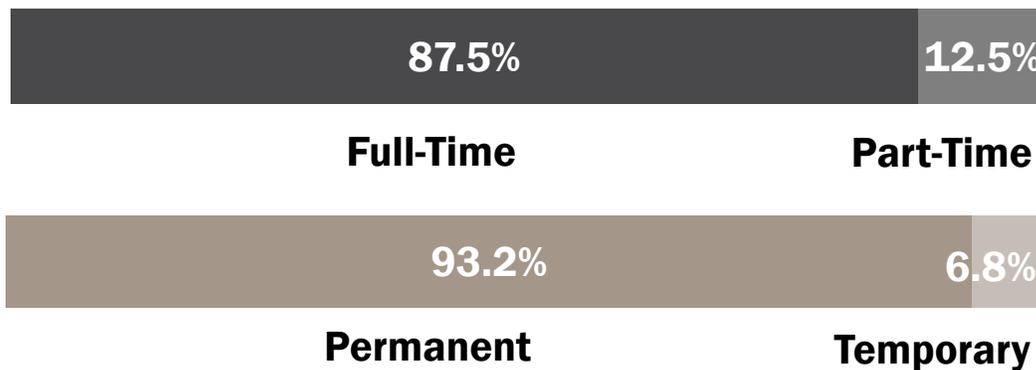
## Total Job Postings for May 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

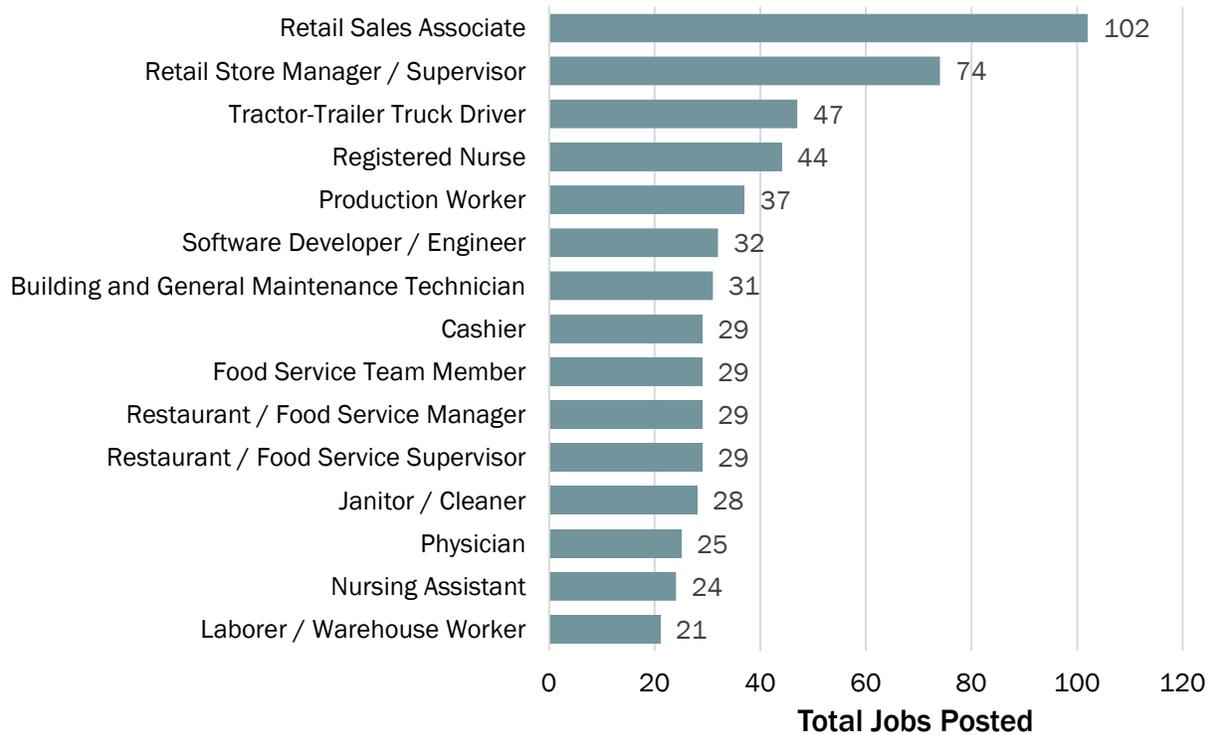
The number of job postings in Calhoun County, which demonstrates demand for labor, fell in May because of a change by a major job-posting website: the decrease in postings is a result of that, rather than from lower demand. The majority of postings in the county, as reported through Burning Glass Technologies, were for full-time and permanent positions.

## Types of Job Postings for May 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

## Top Occupations with Job Postings for May 2022



SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies, 2022

The top occupations with job postings in May were retail sales associate, retail store manager, and tractor-trailer truck driver. A plurality of job postings, 47.8%, required no more than a high school degree or vocational training. This is 11.7 percentage points lower than for April in the proportion of job postings requiring only high school or vocational training. The proportion of jobs requiring an associate degree increased by 1.0 percentage points from April, and the proportion of jobs requiring at least a bachelor's degree increased by 10.9 percentage points.

**47.8%** of job postings in May required only a high school diploma or vocational training.

**10.6%** of job postings in May required an associate degree.

**41.7%** of job postings in May 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/).