MICHIGAN'S
LABOR MARKET NEWS

VOL. 73, ISSUE NO. 1
MARCH 2017

Michigan Prime Working Age Reductions Among an Aging Population
Feature Story | pg. 16

Michigan Jobless Rate, Payroll Jobs Both Up
pg. 4

Industry Focus: Health Care Sector
pg. 22

Michigan jobless rate fell by 0.5 percentage points in 2016.

JANUARY 2017 JOBLESS RATES

MICHIGAN

5.2%

NATIONAL

4.8%

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Michigan Employment and Unemployment Trends

6 Michigan Job Trends by Industry Sector

10 Regional Labor Market Analysis

15 Map of the Month: Retail Job Change for Michigan Counties

16 Feature Story: Population Change Among Prime Working Age Groups

20 Michigan Online Advertisements

22 Industry Focus: Health Care and Social Assistance

24 Relevant Rankings

26 Ask the Demographer

BRUCE WEAVER
EDITOR
Economic Manager
WeaverB1@michigan.gov

KEVIN DOYLE
REGIONAL CONTRIBUTOR
Economic Analyst
DoyleK4@michigan.gov

SHIBANI PUTATUNDA
CONTRIBUTOR
Economic Analyst
PutatundaS@michigan.gov

JAMES ASTALOS
PROJECT MANAGER
Economic Analyst
AstalosJ@michigan.gov

ERIC GUTHRIE
CONTRIBUTOR
State Demographer
GuthrieE@michigan.gov

JIM RHEIN
CONTRIBUTOR
Economic Specialist
RheinJ@michigan.gov

JEFFREY AULA
CONTRIBUTOR
Economic Analyst
AulaJ@michigan.gov

LEONIDAS MUREMBYA
REGIONAL CONTRIBUTOR
Economic Specialist
MurembyaL@michigan.gov

The Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives is the official source for high quality demographic and labor market information for the state of Michigan and its regions.

We administer the state's federal-state cooperative programs with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau and produce high-quality information and analysis through grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and from partner agencies in the state of Michigan.

We provide our national, state, and local partners and customers with *accurate, objective, reliable, timely, accessible,* and *transparent* information and insights.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

Detroit Office
Cadillac Place
3032 West Grand Blvd. Suite 9-150
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 456-3100

Lansing Office
Victor Office Center
201 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: (517) 241-9857

Michigan's unemployment rate edged up slightly in January, reaching 5.2 percent. The rise in the rate was the result of more jobseekers entering the labor market, with the state's labor force continuing a recent upward trend. At the same time, the state's economy continued to create jobs, with payroll employment expanding by 14,700 to 4,383,600. One industry that continues to add jobs is health care, and this sector is highlighted in this month's *Industry Focus* section on page 22.

Overall, much of the uptick in the state jobless rate signals optimism on the part of jobseekers, with many deciding to enter the labor market and begin (or resume) looking for work. This is good news. However, as our state demographer explains in this month's feature article, Michigan's population is getting older. And, over the long run, our aging population will have major implications for our state's economy. A top priority is, and will continue to be, ensuring we have a supply of workers ready and able to participate fully in the labor market.

This is just one of the many topics we will be covering in this and future issues of *Michigan's Labor Market News*. Is there something you would like to know more about? Let us know.

JASON PALMER

DIRECTOR
Bureau of Labor Market Information
and Strategic Initiatives

MICHIGAN'S JANUARY JOBLESS RATE INCREASES SLIGHTLY: PAYROLL JOBS CONTINUE TO RISE

Michigan's seasonally adjusted jobless rate edged up in January by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.2 percent. Total employment rose by 18,000 in January while the number of unemployed increased moderately by 6,000. The net impact was a 24,000 advance in the state's workforce over the month.

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs recorded strong January growth, increasing by 15,000.

Employment Expansion Since Mid-2015

Although the state's monthly jobless rates have been relatively stable since mid-year 2015, Michigan's workforce, total employment, and payroll job levels have recorded consistent monthly gains. From July 2015 to January 2017, Michigan's total employment level jumped by 136,000 or 3.0 percent while payroll jobs advanced by a similar 135,000 or 3.2 percent. Over that period, the number of unemployed in Michigan was essentially flat as state residents entered the workforce and successfully found jobs.

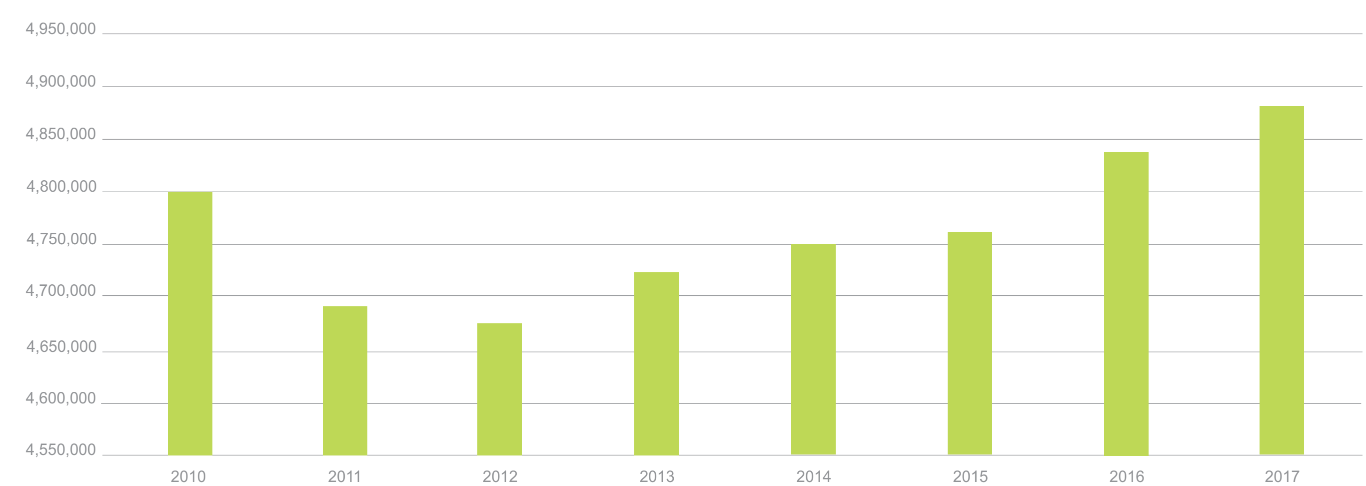
Workforce Levels Up Since 2010; Still Down Since Peak

From 2010 to 2012, Michigan's workforce fell by 126,000 or 2.6 percent in the aftermath of the Great Recession. After that period, from 2012 to 2015, Michigan's labor force levels grew at only a tepid pace, with annual labor force expansion averaging 25,000 per year. From mid-year 2015 to January 2017, re-entry into the state's workforce was robust, with an advance of 139,000 or 2.9 percent. However, Michigan's January 2017 labor force total of 4,886,000 remained nearly 300,000 below the state's record high total of 5,174,000 recorded in January 2001.

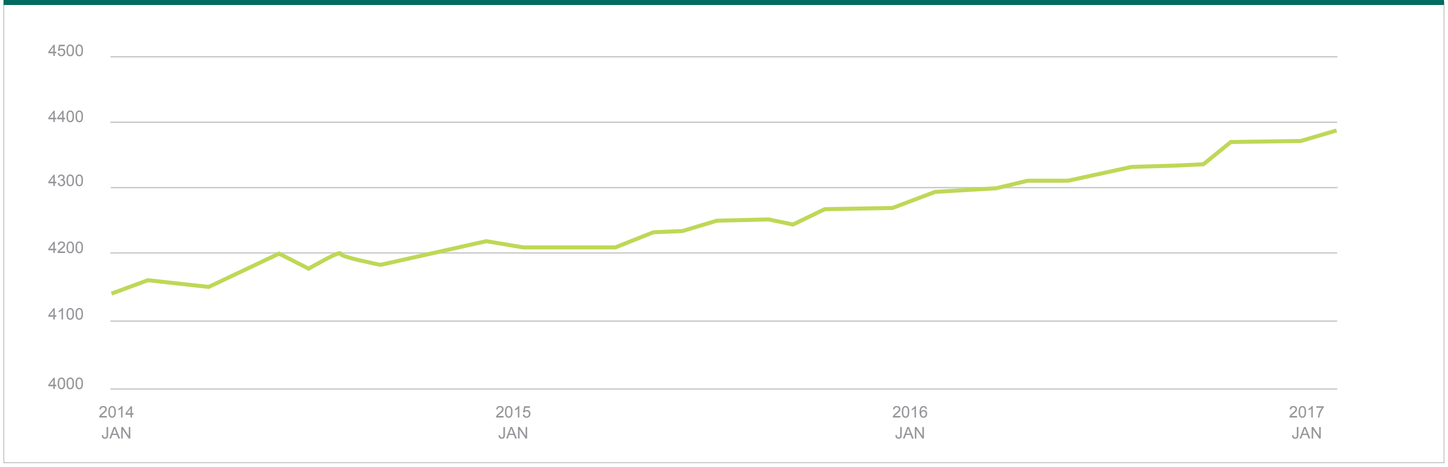
MICHIGAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

	NOV 2016	DEC 2016	JAN 2017	CHANGE SINCE JAN 2016
Labor Force	4,858,000	4,862,000	4,886,000	+89,000
Employed	4,613,000	4,616,000	4,634,000	+77,000
Unemployed	245,000	246,000	252,000	+6,000
Jobless Rate	5.1	5.1	5.2	+0.1

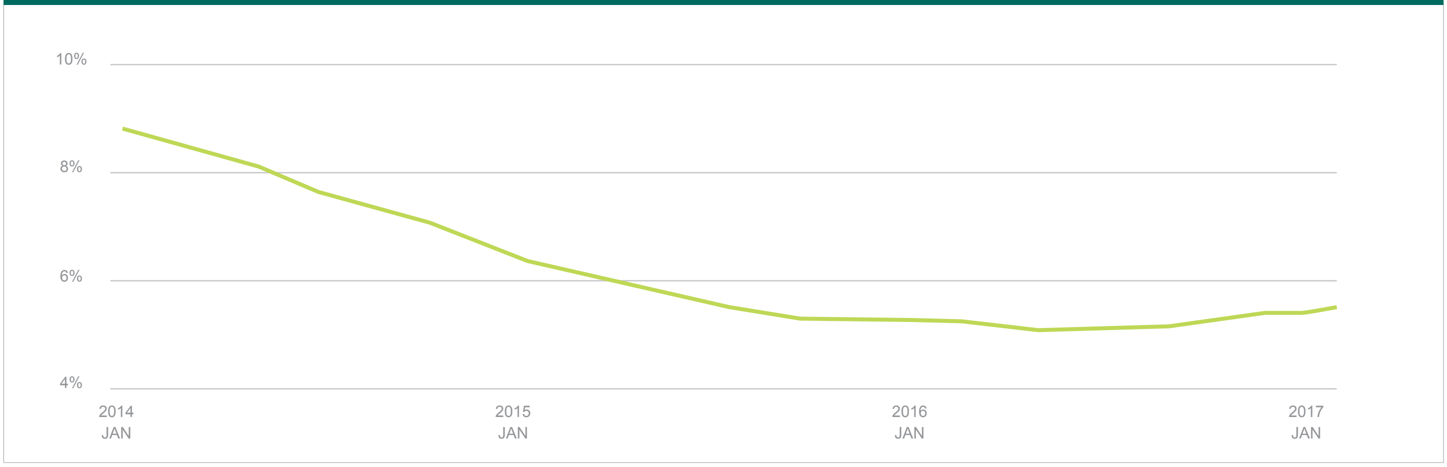
MICHIGAN WORKFORCE LEVELS



MICHIGAN'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PAYROLL JOBS (IN THOUSANDS)



MICHIGAN'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



MICHIGAN JOB TRENDS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

Monthly Overview

Michigan nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 14,700 during January to total 4,383,600. Job gains occurred in all the major industry sectors with the exception of *Trade*, *transportation*, *and utilities* (-800).The broad sectors with the largest increases were *Leisure and hospitality* (+4,100), *Construction* (+3,800), *Manufacturing* (+1,800), *Professional and business services* (+1,400), *and Financial activities* (+1,300).

Over the Year Analysis

Since January 2016, total Michigan nonfarm jobs grew by 93,700, or 2.2 percent.This was well above the 1.6 percent growth rate nationally over this period. In Michigan, job advances since January 2016 occurred in every major industry sector except *Mining and logging* (-400). The industry sectors of *Professional and business services* (+21,500), *Leisure and hospitality* (+17,300), and *Government* (+15,800) provided nearly 60 percent of total over the year job additions. Job expansion also took place in *Construction* (+9,100), *Education and health services* (+8,100), *Financial activities* (+7,500), *and Manufacturing* (+5,200).

Michigan 2016 Annual Average Performance

Total nonfarm employment in Michigan grew by 82,100 during 2016 or by 1.9 percent. This was similar to the 1.7 percent job advance nationally for this period.

In Michigan, 2016 marked the sixth consecutive year of payroll job expansion. The 2016 performance reversed the diminishing rate of annual job growth that characterized the period of 2012 through 2015. In fact, Michigan job levels in 2016 were similar to pre-recessionary levels from a decade earlier (2006).

The industry sectors with larger than average percent job gains during 2016 included *Construction* (+4.9 percent), *Leisure and hospitality* (+2.9 percent), *and Financial activities* (+2.7 percent). Employment in the state's key *Transportation equipment manufacturing* sector grew by 3.6 percent during 2016.

The *Mining and logging* sector recorded a significant 6.5 percent decline in payroll jobs in 2016.

Significant Industry Employment Developments

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

Payrolls within this broad sector rose by 4,100 in January, or by +0.9 percent. This increase brought employment in this major sector to an all-time high of 438,500. Job gains were evenly split between the component sectors of *Arts, entertainment, and recreation* (+2,100) *and Accommodation and food services* (+2,000). Part of the increase in the broad sector was due to smaller than typical job reductions in *Performing arts, spectator sports, and related industries* and *Fitness and recreational sports centers.*Additionally, larger than typical employment gains in *Accommodation* also contributed to the January increase.Since January 2016, job levels in the broad sector have grown by 17,300 with the majority of this increase reported in *Accommodation and food services* (+12,100).Nationally, job levels rose by 34,000 over the month and by 347,000 over the year.

CONSTRUCTION

Job levels in the *Construction* sector increased by 3,800 over the month.This rise was partially due to smaller than typical seasonal declines in the *Construction of buildings* and *Specialty trade contractors* subsectors. Since reaching a recessionary low of 119,100 jobs in February 2010, employment levels in the broad sector have expanded by 42,200 or 35.4 percent. This is well above the 14.4 percent growth in total nonfarm jobs during this period.Between January 2016 and January 2017, *Construction* payrolls advanced by 6.0 percent.Nationally, job levels rose by 36,000 over the month and by 2.6 percent over the year.

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The number of jobs in the *Health care and social assistance* sector increased by 2,600 in January 2017 and by 1.8 percent since January 2016.On an annual average basis, job levels rose by 13,700 or by 2.4 percent, which was 0.5 percent above the annual growth for all industries during 2016. Nationally, employment rose by 32,100 over the month and by 2.5 percent since January 2016.

INFORMATION

Employment levels in the *Information* sector moved up by 800 in January or 1.4 percent. Since reaching a series low of 52,400 jobs in June 2011 payrolls in this sector have expanded by 5,900 or 11.3 percent. This was similar to the 11.1 percent growth in total nonfarm jobs during this period. Despite this recent performance, however, job levels remain over 20 percent below the series high of 74,100 set in September 2000. Since January 2016, Michigan employment levels in this sector rose by 1,500 or 2.6 percent. Nationally, employment increased by 3,000 over the month and was essentially unchanged (+0.1 percent) over the year.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs)

On an *annual average* basis, 11 of the state's 14 MSAs reported job increases during 2016.

The metro areas with higher than average 2016 job growth included *Grand Rapids* (+3.1 percent), *Kalamazoo* (+2.7 percent), and *Jackson* and *Lansing* (+2.5 percent each).

Payrolls in the *Detroit* and *Ann Arbor* metro areas expanded at the statewide average pace of 1.9 percent.

Five metro areas experienced employment increases somewhat below the statewide average, including *Saginaw* (+1.0 percent), *Flint* (+0.9 percent), *Battle Creek* (+0.8 percent), *Benton Harbor* (+0.7 percent), and *Monroe* (+0.1 percent).

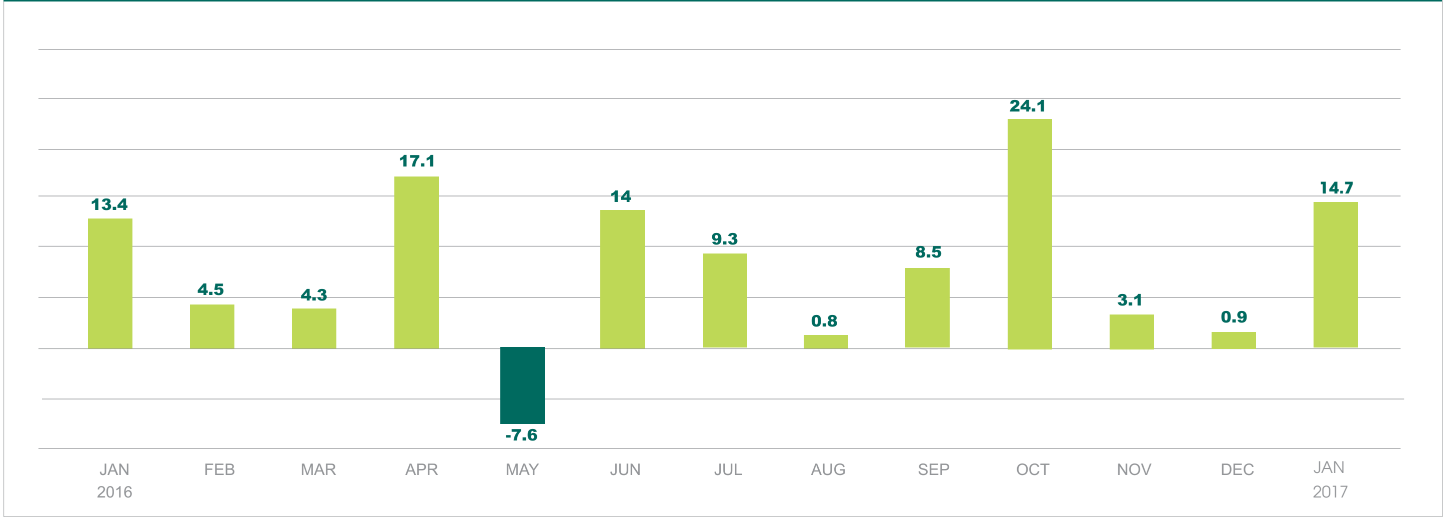
Payroll jobs declined modestly in the *Bay City* (-0.1 percent), *Muskegon* (-0.3 percent), and *Midland* (-0.9 percent) metro areas during 2016.

MICHIGAN PAYROLL JOBS (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

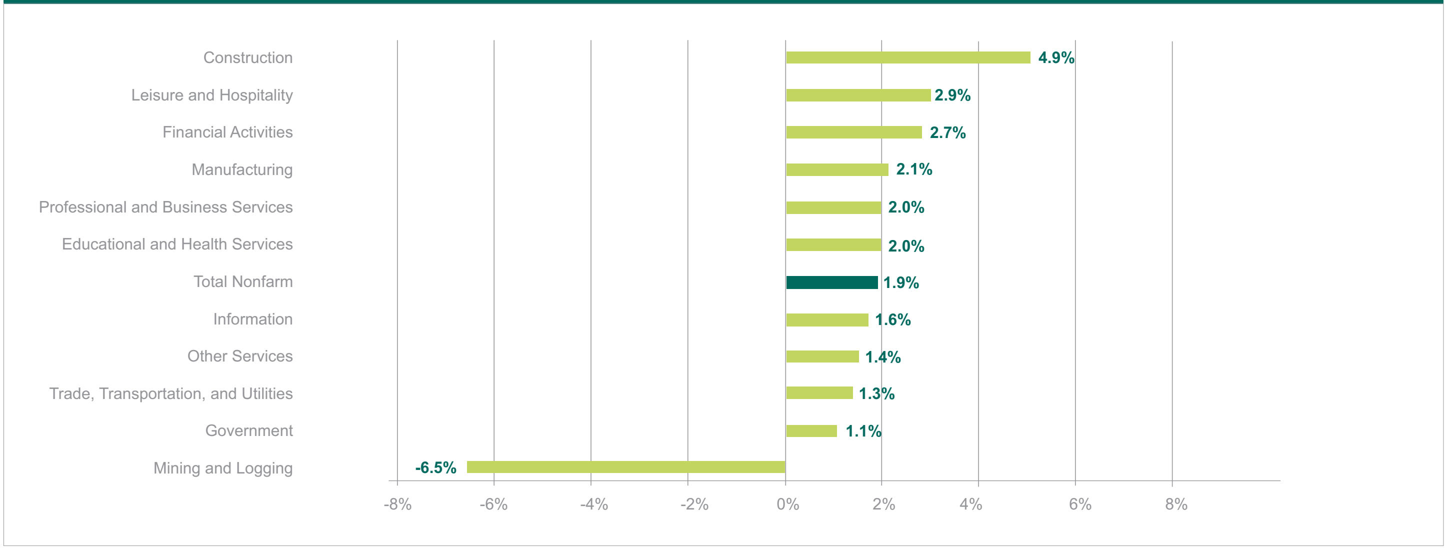
INDUSTRY	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	OVER THE MONTH LEVEL	OVER THE MONTH PERCENT	OVER THE YEAR LEVEL	OVER THE YEAR PERCENT
TOTAL NONFARM	**4,383,600**	**4,368,900**	**4,289,900**	**14,700**	**0.3%**	**93,700**	**2.2%**
Total Private	3,772,900	3,759,000	3,695,000	13,900	0.4%	77,900	2.1%
Private Service-Providing	3,000,900	2,992,800	2,936,900	8,100	0.3%	64,400	2.2%
GOODS-PRODUCING	**772,000**	**766,200**	**758,100**	**5,800**	**0.8%**	**13,900**	**1.8%**
Mining, Logging and Construction	168,400	164,400	159,700	4,000	2.4%	8,700	5.4%
Mining and Logging	7,100	6,900	7,500	200	2.9%	-400	-5.3%
Construction	161,300	157,500	152,200	3,800	2.4%	9,100	6.0%
Manufacturing	603,600	601,800	598,400	1,800	0.3%	5,200	0.9%
Durable Goods	454,500	453,500	451,600	1,000	0.2%	2,900	0.6%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	183,900	180,400	178,000	3,500	1.9%	5,900	3.3%
Nondurable Goods	149,100	148,300	146,800	800	0.5%	2,300	1.6%
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**3,611,600**	**3,602,700**	**3,531,800**	**8,900**	**0.2%**	**79,800**	**2.3%**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	781,600	782,400	778,000	-800	-0.1%	3,600	0.5%
Wholesale Trade	170,700	170,500	170,900	200	0.1%	-200	-0.1%
Retail Trade	472,900	471,700	471,200	1,200	0.3%	1,700	0.4%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	138,000	140,200	135,900	-2,200	-1.6%	2,100	1.5%
Information	58,300	57,500	56,800	800	1.4%	1,500	2.6%
Financial Activities	217,900	216,600	210,400	1,300	0.6%	7,500	3.6%
Finance and Insurance	162,300	162,200	158,200	100	0.1%	4,100	2.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	55,600	54,400	52,200	1,200	2.2%	3,400	6.5%
Professional and Business Services	663,500	662,100	642,000	1,400	0.2%	21,500	3.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	299,000	299,100	292,200	-100	0.0%	6,800	2.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	63,400	61,800	59,900	1,600	2.6%	3,500	5.8%
Administration and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	301,100	301,200	289,900	-100	0.0%	11,200	3.9%
Education and Health Services	668,200	667,600	660,100	600	0.1%	8,100	1.2%
Educational Services	71,400	73,400	74,100	-2,000	-2.7%	-2,700	-3.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	596,800	594,200	586,000	2,600	0.4%	10,800	1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	438,500	434,400	421,200	4,100	0.9%	17,300	4.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	55,800	53,700	50,600	2,100	3.9%	5,200	10.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	382,700	380,700	370,600	2,000	0.5%	12,100	3.3%
Other Services	172,900	172,200	168,400	700	0.4%	4,500	2.7%
Government	610,700	609,900	594,900	800	0.1%	15,800	2.7%
Federal Government	52,300	52,400	51,700	-100	-0.2%	600	1.2%
State Government	193,800	195,100	184,900	-1,300	-0.7%	8,900	4.8%
Local Government	364,600	362,400	358,300	2,200	0.6%	6,300	1.8%

Michigan nonfarm jobs grew by 1.9 percent in 2016, the sixth consecutive year of job expansion.

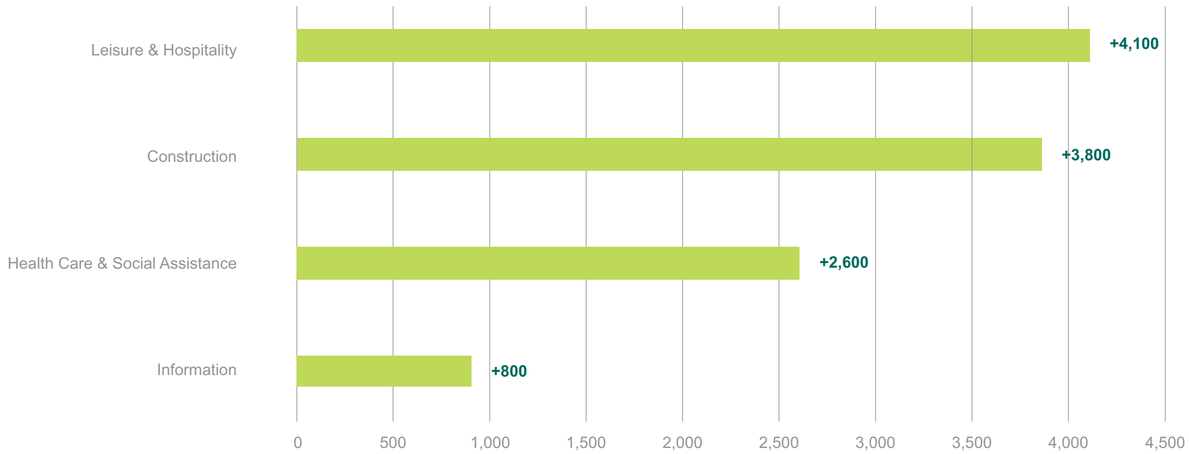
MICHIGAN OVER THE MONTH PAYROLL JOB CHANGE (IN THOUSANDS)



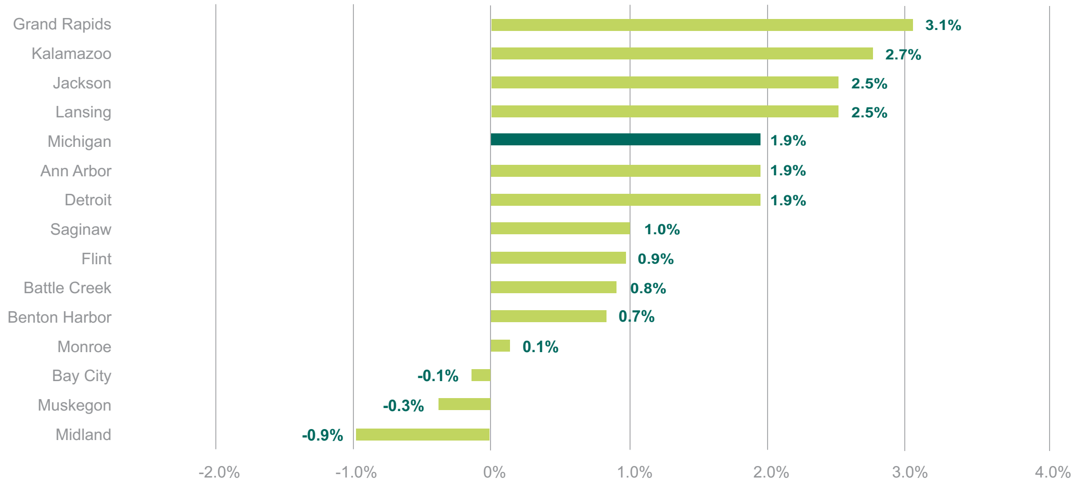
PERCENTAGE ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB CHANGE 2015-2016



MICHIGAN'S OVER THE MONTH JOB CHANGE BY SELECT INDUSTRY (DECEMBER 2016—JANUARY 2017)



METRO AREA JOB CHANGE ANNUAL AVERAGE 2015—2016



REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

ANN ARBOR METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Ann Arbor metro area unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points in January 2017 to 3.4 percent.
- Both labor force and the number of employed increased over the year, up 2.4 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs in the Ann Arbor metro area fell seasonally by -7,200 (-3.2 percent) in January 2017.
- The *Government* sector saw the biggest over-the-month decline with a loss of 4,800 jobs (-5.7 percent).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Jobs in the Ann Arbor *Financial activities* sector have been trending downward in recent years. The current job level of 6,900 is the lowest January total recorded in five years.

BAY CITY METROPOLITAN AREA

- Joblessness in the Bay City metro area rose by 1.4 percentage points to 6.3 percent in January.
- The region's unemployment rate in January was the highest among Michigan's metropolitan areas.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs declined seasonally between December 2016 and January 2017 by 800 (-2.2 percent).
- Over the past year, jobs edged up by 0.8 percent, led by a 300 job advance in *Trade*, *transportation*, *and utilities*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The Bay City metro area's *Manufacturing* sector reached its highest January sector total (4,200) since 2009.

FLINT METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Flint metro area jobless rate jumped seasonally in January by 1.2 percentage points to 6.2 percent, an increase similar to the rate gain in January 2016.
- Flint's total employment level in January fell by 1,500 with seasonal job cuts across several industries.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs dropped seasonally in January 2017 by 3,700 or -2.6 percent, a reduction in line with prior years.
- Jobs fell across most industries, including *Educational services* (-600), *Government* (-600), and *Retail trade* (-500).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Government* sector jobs in Flint have declined consistently through the past decade, and are nearly 6,000 below January 2008 levels.

BATTLE CREEK METROPOLITAN AREA

- Employment was down seasonally in January in the Battle Creek MSA, and the number of jobseekers rose, pushing the jobless rate up nearly a full percentage point to 5.1 percent.
- Since January 2016, the jobless rate rose slightly, although both employment and unemployment levels advanced.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Seasonal layoffs occurred in *Education* due to winter break and in *Retail trade* after the end of the holiday shopping season.
- Since January 2016, service-providing industries added 400 new positions. Employment in the *Manufacturing* sector also advanced by 300.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Battle Creek lost 3,300 jobs (or -5.8 percent) between 2008 and 2010. Since then, the area has more than recovered all the lost jobs.

DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN METRO AREA

- The unemployment rate in the Detroit metro area increased by 1.4 percentage points during January 2017 to 6.2 percent.
- The number of unemployed rose over the year by 17.4 percent, somewhat above the percent increase statewide.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs fell seasonally in January by -34,200 (-1.7 percent), similar to the monthly drop in January 2016.
- Industries exhibiting the largest over-the-month job declines included *Retail Trade*, *Government*, and *Education and health services*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The regional *Professional, scientific, and technical services* sector has been adding jobs consistently since its recessionary low in 2009. Over the year, jobs in this sector have advanced to a new high of 211,100.

GRAND RAPIDS-WYOMING METROPOLITAN AREA

- The jobless rate in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming metro area was up in January by +0.7 percentage points to 3.7 percent.
- The region's rate in January remained the second lowest among Michigan metro areas, as almost all regions had seasonal unemployment gains.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll job levels in January decreased by 5,800, led by seasonal job cuts in *Trade*, *transportation and utilities*. Only one industry added jobs, as *Health care and social assistance* advanced (+400).
- The metro area was tied for the highest rate of job growth since January 2016 at 2.9 percent.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The Grand Rapids-Wyoming metro area added 16,100 jobs in 2016 to a new annual high of 544,100

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	ANN ARBOR			BATTLE CREEK			BAY CITY		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	192,500	193,600	188,000	64,700	64,500	63,600	52,500	52,000	51,700
Employment	185,900	188,300	182,200	61,400	61,800	60,600	49,100	49,400	48,700
Unemployment	6,600	5,300	5,800	3,300	2,700	3,000	3,300	2,600	2,900
Rate (percent)	3.4	2.7	3.1	5.1	4.2	4.7	6.3	4.9	5.7
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	215,200	222,400	210,900	58,400	59,700	57,800	35,900	36,700	35,600
Mining, Logging & Construction	3800	3,900	3,600	1,200	1,300	1,300	800	1,000	900
Manufacturing	14500	14,700	14,500	12,500	12,500	12,200	4,200	4,300	4,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	25300	26,100	25,600	9,100	9,600	9,100	7,800	7,800	7,500
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,600	5,400	*	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	16,200	16,900	16,600	5,600	5,900	5,500	5,100	5,300	5,100
Information	5,100	5,100	5,200	*	*	*	600	600	600
Financial Activities	6,900	7,000	7,000	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,300
Professional & Business Services	30,800	31,100	28,500	6,100	6,200	6,000	3,300	3,400	3,200
Educational & Health Services	26,800	27,200	26,800	11,000	11,200	10,800	6,500	6,600	6,700
Leisure & Hospitality	16,500	16,900	16,500	4,500	4,600	4,400	4,400	4,600	4,300
Other Services	6,300	6,400	6,400	2,000	2,000	2,100	1,400	1,400	1,400
Government	79,200	84,000	76,800	10,500	10,800	10,400	5,700	5,700	5,600

	DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN			FLINT			GRAND RAPIDS-WYOMING		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	2,082,700	2,068,200	2,031,300	183,400	182,700	181,300	575,500	568,600	557,500
Employment	1,954,200	1,969,000	1,922,200	172,100	173,600	170,700	554,000	551,500	538,400
Unemployment	128,500	99,200	109,100	11,300	9,100	10,600	21,600	17,100	19,000
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.8	5.4	6.2	5.0	5.9	3.7	3.0	3.4
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	1,965,700	1,999,900	1,931,700	137,600	141,300	137,100	546,700	552,500	531,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	64,900	67,900	61,100	4,500	4,600	4,200	21,700	22,300	19,800
Manufacturing	244,300	244,900	241,800	11,800	12,100	12,200	113,000	113,300	110,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	361,700	373,600	360,400	29,800	30,800	29,000	95,400	97,000	94,200
Wholesale Trade	86,200	86,900	84,700	5,600	5,700	5,200	30,600	31,000	30,800
Retail Trade	207,500	217,000	208,000	20,500	21,000	20,000	49,700	50,600	48,700
Information	28,000	28,000	27,500	3,900	3,900	4,000	5,200	5,200	5,100
Financial Activities	113,400	114,000	109,300	6,000	6,000	6,100	26,200	26,400	25,400
Professional & Business Services	393,000	395,400	383,100	15,000	15,300	15,300	77,700	78,800	77,000
Educational & Health Services	309,000	314,200	306,000	27,700	28,700	27,500	90,500	91,100	85,900
Leisure & Hospitality	190,200	194,200	185,000	27,700	15,200	14,700	47,500	48,300	44,800
Other Services	75,100	76,400	75,300	5,400	5,400	5,300	22,100	22,200	21,700
Government	186,100	191,300	182,200	18,700	19,300	18,800	47,400	47,900	46,900

* Data Not Available

JACKSON METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Jackson metro area jobless rate rose 1.1 percentage points in January to 5.3 percent, just under the state average.The number of unemployed rose seasonally by 800 over the month.
- Over the past year, modest labor force expansion resulted in a small 0.4 percentage point increase in the jobless rate.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- January nonfarm payroll jobs dropped by 1,400, with seasonal job cuts in private *Education and health services, Retail trade, Construction,* and local public *Education*.
- Over the year in January, the area lost 500 positions, all in service-providing industries.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Manufacturing*, which contributes 18 percent of employment, has expanded since 2010 by about 39 percent.

KALAMAZOO-PORTAGE METROPOLITAN AREA

- As in most metro areas in Michigan, the number of unemployed rose seasonally in January in the Kalamazoo area, pushing up the unemployment rate to 4.8 percent.
- Over the year, both the numbers of employed and unemployed increased resulting in a substantial labor force gain of 3.6 percent.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- The area's nonfarm payroll job count dipped by 2,600 in January, due to seasonal layoffs in *Education* during winter break and in *Retail trade* after the holiday shopping season.
- Since January 2016, the service-providing (+3.3%) and goods-producing (+1.5%) sectors added jobs.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Health care* and *social assistance* was up by 2,000 jobs since 2008, with job gains even during the recession.

LANSING-EAST LANSING METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Lansing region followed state trends in January, recording a jobless rate gain of a full percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- The unemployment rate was flat since January 2016, as the number of employed and unemployed rose nearly 3 percent.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs dropped seasonally in January 2017 by -3,400 or -1.4 percent, with over-the-month job cuts in all industries, led by *Mining, logging, and construction* (-4.4 percent) and *Retail trade* (-4.0 percent).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The Lansing metro area *Manufacturing* sector has trended upward steadily since 2012. Jobs totaled 20,700 in January 2017, up by 4,000 or nearly 24 percent since January 2012.

MIDLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

- Unemployment in the Midland metro area increased seasonally by 500 and employment edged down, as the jobless rate rose 1.2 percentage points in January to 5.4 percent.
- Over the past year, labor force conditions were relatively stable, as a small 200 increase in the number of unemployed pushed the jobless rate up by 0.5 percentage points.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Job levels in Midland fell seasonally between December 2016 and January 2017 by 1,000 (-2.7 percent). This was a typical reduction for the month of January.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Jobs in Midland's *Goods-producing* sector edged down in 2016 by 200 and remain well below 2012 levels.

MONROE METROPOLITAN AREA

- The unemployment rate for the Monroe metro area increased by 1.1 percentage points in January to 4.6 percent, but remained over a full percentage point below the state average.
- Labor force conditions were flat over the past year, with only minor upticks in the number of employed and unemployed.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs fell seasonally in January by 1,000 or -2.4 percent, with small job cuts across most industries.
- Job declines over the past year (-600) occurred in several sectors, including *Mining, logging, and construction, Retail trade* and *Educational and health services.*

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The 1.4 percent job cut in the Monroe area since January 2016 was the largest percentage reduction among Michigan metro areas.

MUSKEGON METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Muskegon unemployment rate rose seasonally in January by 1.1 percentage points to 5.8 percent, and was up over the year (+0.6 percentage points).
- January produced a sharp seasonal jump in the number of unemployed (+25 percent), similar to the statewide trend

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs were down by 800 in January or -1.3 percent, as seasonal job cuts are typical in January. Most sectors were decreasing or flat over the month.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Revised industry job data shows payroll jobs were relatively flat in 2016, with a small -200 drop in jobs in Muskegon to 63,500.
- *Manufacturing* jobs were also relatively flat in 2016, although jobs have increased substantially since the recessionary low in 2009.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	JACKSON			KALAMAZOO-PORTAGE			LANSING-EAST LANSING		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	74,100	73,700	73,500	170,000	169,000	164,100	249,900	247,400	242,900
Employment	70,100	70,600	69,900	161,800	162,400	157,000	239,100	239,100	232,400
Unemployment	3,900	3,100	3,600	8,200	6,600	7,100	10,800	8,200	10,500
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.2	4.9	4.8	3.9	4.3	4.3	3.3	4.3
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	56,200	57,600	56,700	146,600	149,200	142,400	231,800	235,200	225,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,600	1,800	1,700	5,700	6,100	5,400	6,500	6,800	6,300
Manufacturing	10,000	10,000	9,900	21,500	21,500	21,400	20,700	20,900	19,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12,600	12,900	12,500	26,600	27,000	25,500	36,800	38,100	36,000
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	6,900	6,900	6,500	5,900	6,000	5,900
Retail Trade	6,600	6,900	6,500	16,300	16,600	15,600	21,700	22,600	21,300
Information	300	300	300	900	900	1,000	2,900	2,900	2,900
Financial Activities	1,800	1,800	1,800	8,300	8,400	8,300	15,900	16,100	15,600
Professional & Business Services	4,700	4,800	4,600	18,400	18,400	16,000	22,200	22,000	22,000
Educational & Health Services	9,800	10,400	10,300	23,200	23,400	22,800	32,200	32,600	31,400
Leisure & Hospitality	5,300	5,300	5,100	15,300	15,500	15,000	19,400	19,700	18,100
Other Services	2,500	2,500	2,600	5,500	5,500	5,500	10,300	10,400	9,900
Government	7,600	7,800	7,900	21,200	22,500	21,500	64,900	65,700	64,000

	MIDLAND			MONROE			MUSKEGON		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	41,000	40,900	40,800	76,400	76,200	76,100	77,000	75,900	76,400
Employment	38,800	39,100	38,900	72,900	73,500	72,700	72,500	72,300	72,400
Unemployment	2,200	1,700	2,000	3,500	2,700	3,300	4,500	3,600	3,900
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.2	4.9	4.6	3.5	4.4	5.8	4.7	5.2
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	36,700	37,700	36,900	41,300	42,300	41,900	62,000	62,800	62,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	*	*	1,700	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000
Manufacturing	*	*	*	5,600	5,600	5,600	13,200	13,500	13,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	*	*	10,700	11,000	11,000	13,200	13,700	13,400
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	1,800	1,800	1,800	*	*	*
Retail Trade	*	*	*	5,100	5,300	5,300	10,600	11,000	10,800
Information	*	*	*	*	*	*	800	800	800
Financial Activities	*	*	*	900	900	1,000	1,700	1,700	1,800
Professional & Business Services	*	*	*	5,200	5,300	5,200	3,700	3,600	3,500
Educational & Health Services	*	*	*	5,300	5,400	5,500	10,900	11,100	11,200
Leisure & Hospitality	*	*	*	4,600	4,700	4,300	7,000	7,100	6,400
Other Services	*	*	*	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,200	2,200	2,200
Government	3,000	3,100	3,000	5,200	5,400	5,300	7,400	7,100	7,300

* Data Not Available

NILES-BENTON HARBOR METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Niles-Benton Harbor metro area jobless rate rose seasonally by 1.1 percentage points in January to 5.7 percent, matching the Michigan unemployment rate.
- Since January 2016, employment and unemployment levels advanced in the region, and the jobless rate edged up over the year by 0.6 percentage points.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- In January, the area's total nonfarm payroll jobs fell by 1,100. Seasonal job cuts were recorded in *Leisure and hospitality, Professional and business services, Retail trade,* and *Local government education.*

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Although January 2017 jobs were above 2016 levels, Benton Harbor has not yet recovered the 7,100 jobs lost during the recession. Since January 2010, the area has added 4,100 jobs.

SAGINAW METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Saginaw MSA jobless rate rose seasonally in January 2017 by a significant 1.4 percentage points to 6.0 percent.
- The regional jobless rate was up 0.5 percentage points since January 2016, as the number of unemployed increased by 400.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs in Saginaw dropped by 2,800, or -3.1 percent in January 2017, and jobs were little changed over the year.
- Most industries had seasonal job cuts in January, led by reductions in *Retail trade* (-900) and *Mining, logging, and construction* (-400).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Saginaw's *Leisure and hospitality* sector has been adding jobs. At 8,900 jobs in January 2017, this sector has added 800 positions since January 2010.

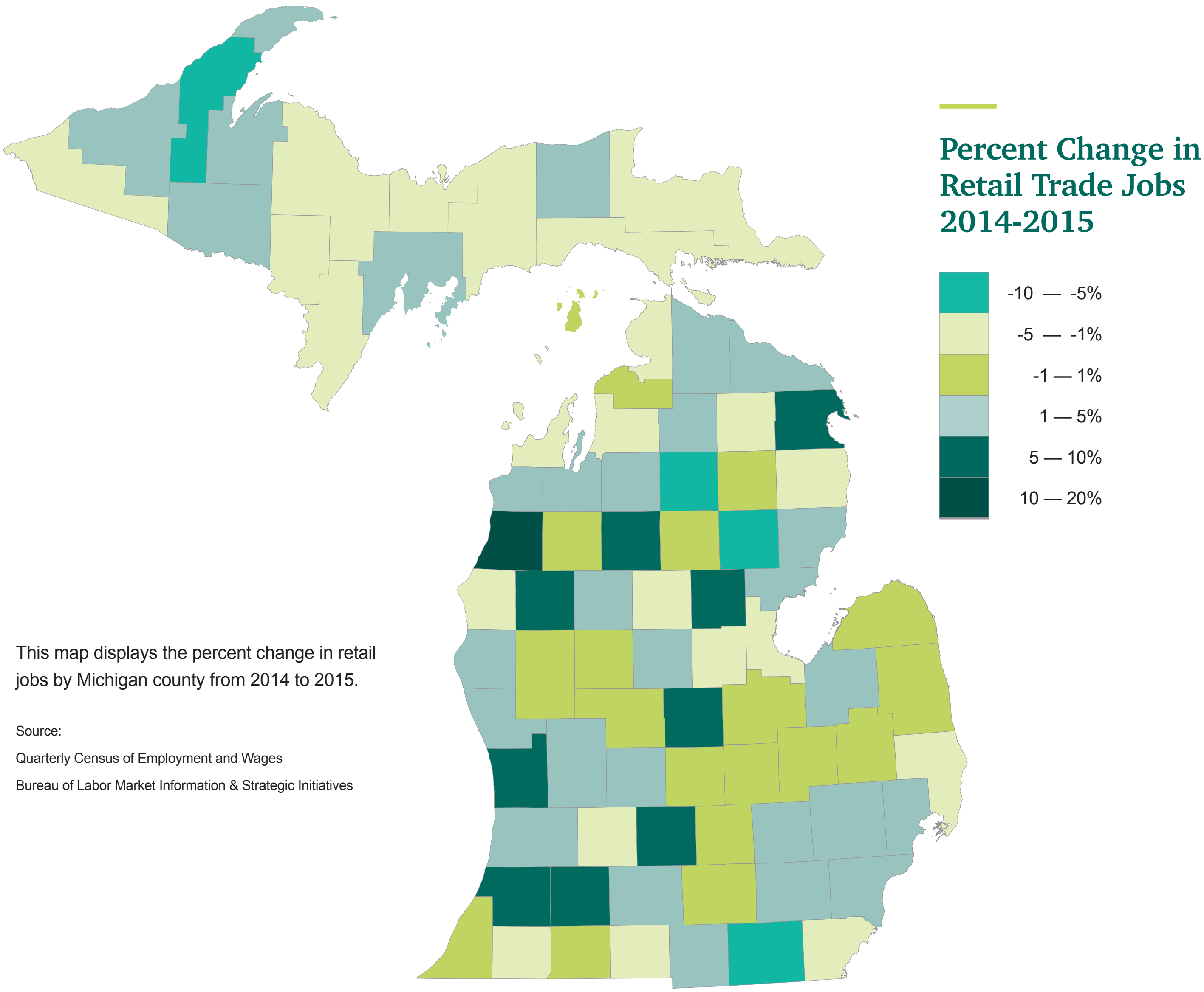
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	NILES-BENTON HARBOR			SAGINAW		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Labor Force	73,400	72,900	71,800	88,900	88,800	88,400
Employment	69,200	69,600	68,200	83,600	84,700	83,500
Unemployment	4,200	3,400	3,600	5,300	4,100	4,900
Rate (percent)	5.7	4.6	5.1	6.0	4.6	5.5
PLACE OF WORK						
Total Nonfarm Jobs	60,200	61,300	59,500	87,100	89,900	87,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,800	1,800	1,700	2,500	2,900	2,500
Manufacturing	13,200	13,400	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,600	10,800	10,300	16,300	17,600	16,700
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	2,200	2,200	2,200
Retail Trade	6,400	6,700	6,300	11,900	12,800	12,000
Information	500	500	500	1,400	1,500	1,500
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300	3,500	3,600	3,600
Professional & Business Services	5,200	5,600	5,600	11,100	11,200	11,200
Educational & Health Services	9,200	8,900	9,000	16,200	16,400	16,100
Leisure & Hospitality	6,400	6,800	6,400	8,900	9,100	8,800
Other Services	2,300	2,400	2,300	3,200	3,300	3,500
Government	8,700	8,800	8,500	11,100	11,400	11,000

	UPPER PENINSULA			NORTHEAST MICHIGAN			NORTHWEST MICHIGAN		
	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	139,500	138,100	138,100	83,000	81,900	80,700	148,200	147,800	144,300
Employment	128,500	128,900	128,300	74,500	75,100	73,500	137,700	139,600	135,000
Unemployment	11,000	9,100	9,800	8,400	6,700	7,300	10,400	8,200	9,200
Rate (percent)	7.9	6.6	7.1	10.1	8.2	9.0	7.0	5.5	6.4

MAP OF THE MONTH:

RETAIL JOB CHANGE FOR MICHIGAN COUNTIES



This map displays the percent change in retail jobs by Michigan county from 2014 to 2015.

Source:
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives

Jobs Concentrated in Retail Centers

Counties with significant retail presence create retail jobs by attracting shoppers from the surrounding region. Just one-third of Michigan counties account for about 87 percent of the state's retail jobs and generated over 95 percent of retail job growth in 2015.

Michigan Counties with Most Retail Job Gain

Kent, Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, and Kalamazoo counties led the state in 2015 in the number of retail job additions.

Regional Differences

Michigan retail jobs rose 1.3 percent in 2015. Of the ten counties with retail job growth higher than 5.0 percent, most were in west or central Michigan. Most counties in the Upper Peninsula recorded retail job reductions in 2015.

POPULATION CHANGE AMONG THE PRIME WORKING AGE GROUP IN MICHIGAN

Population change is a topic that is of prime concern to many in business and government. Population increase reinforces the impression that continued growth is possible in a region, especially when it coincides with an improving economy. Population change among those aged 25-54 is especially important because these are the persons of prime working age. This group represents much of our talent pool. They are most often finished with their education and will be in the workforce, even on the upper end of the age range, for at least another decade.

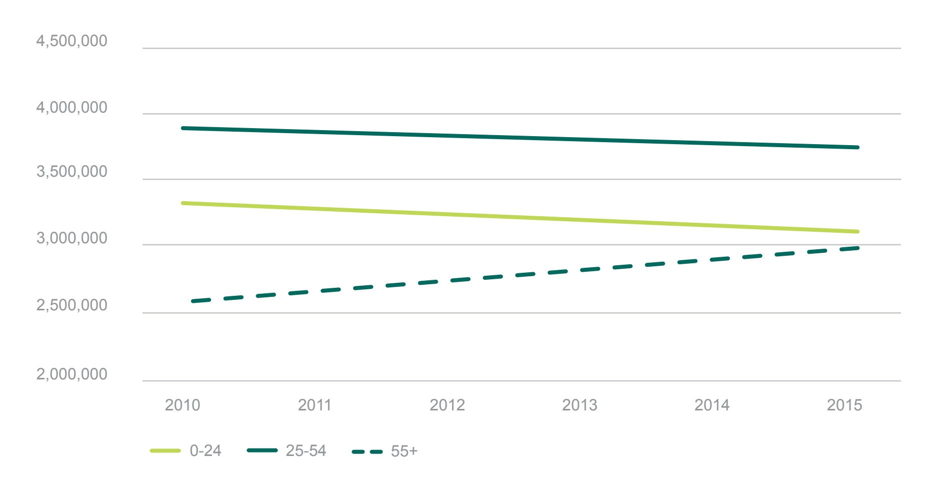
The share of the Michigan total population in prime working age has declined steadily since the late 1990's. Reductions in this population can place stress on our system in terms of decreased revenues for state and local governments, and can limit the available labor pool to fill job openings and produce income in Michigan.

Over the period 2010 to 2015, Michigan has experienced modest positive population growth of over 45,000 residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program. This statistic has been welcome news as it followed many years of population decline in the state, however when examined further it becomes apparent the population increases have come from the age group that is 55 years of age and over.

Understanding the nature of population change is vital to understanding how the state's workforce composition may change, and in planning for the future of the state overall. A variety of factors can impact the trends in population change by age group, including migration and the natural aging of the population. The differences in age group population change can be seen in *Figure 1*.

Figure 2 looks at the change in the prime working age group at the county level for the period 2010-2015.This map clearly shows that nearly all of Michigan counties, 78 of 83, lost population in this prime working age group. The largest percentage declines in this population have been seen in the Western Upper Peninsula and the Northeastern Lower Peninsula. These areas have seen reductions in excess of 15 percent in some counties.On the other side of the spectrum, areas in Central and Western Michigan have seen upticks in this population. Over half of all Michigan counties lost between 5 and 10 percent of the prime working age population over this period. In general, smaller proportional declines were

FIGURE 1: MICHIGAN POPULATION BY AGE 2010-2015

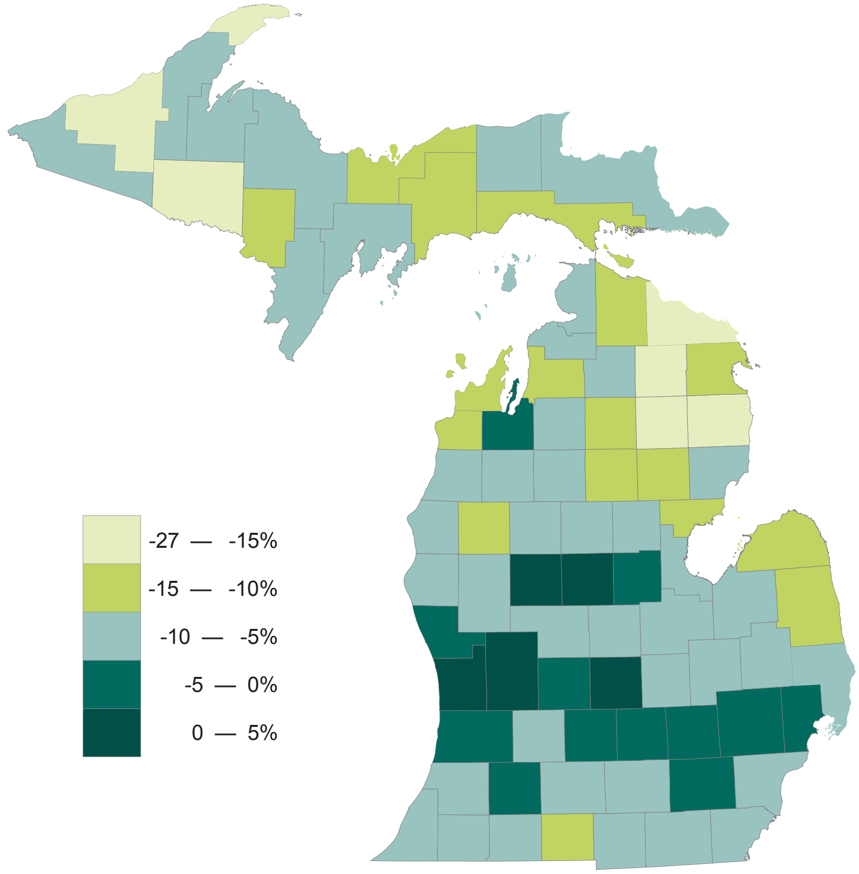


seen in the state's urban counties versus those that are more rural.The opposite is true when looking at absolute change in population, due to larger urban area populations.

There was not a county in Southeastern Michigan that gained population in the prime working age group, and the raw numbers indicate which counties are having the largest declines. When looking at the state's most populous counties, Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb, *Figure 3* shows that all three have lost prime working age population. Interestingly, while Oakland and Macomb lost in this group, both advanced in total population. Over this period, increases in the population 55 years and over have occurred in Macomb (+14.3 percent), Oakland (+15.8 percent), and Wayne (+7.2 percent) counties. This reflects a natural aging of the population in these counties without sufficient in-migration of younger workers.This is supported by the fact that all three counties have seen recent reductions in the number of persons under 55 years of age.

In the case of Michigan counties that have seen positive recent growth in their prime working age population, all have also had positive expansion in total population. As seen in *Figure 4*, all of these counties are located in Central or Western Michigan. The population changes in some of

FIGURE 2: CHANGE IN PRIME WORKING AGE POPULATION 2010-2015



these counties, over the period, are small in relative and absolute terms.

Mecosta County, for example reported increases in both prime working age and total population of less than 1 percent over the period. Isabella's advance was proportionally larger with a gain of 2.4 percent in the prime working age population, but the uptick in total population was less than one percent. Clinton County saw an addition of nearly 2,000 total residents and a gain of almost 400 or 1.3 percent in the prime working age population. Ottawa County had a much larger increase in total population, nearly 16,000, with a much more modest advance in the prime working age population of just over 600 (+0.5 percent). The standout in this group was Kent County, which recorded an addition of 4.2 and 5.5 percent in its prime working age and total population, respectively. These counties all had population advances among persons 55 years and over.

In the case of Michigan counties that have seen positive recent growth in their prime working age population, all have also had positive expansion in total population.

The counties that saw the largest proportional losses in the prime working age group were all located in the Western Upper Peninsula or in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula. In this group, seen in *Figure 5*, the largest absolute cut in prime working age population was in Presque Isle County, where a decline of nearly 700 residents translated into a 15.7 percent drop over the period. The largest percentage reduction in the prime working age population in Michigan occurred in Ontonagon County, with a sharp reduction of 27 percent or over 600 residents. All counties in this group, with the exception of Keweenaw, also saw declines in total population. As *Figure 5* shows, in most of these counties, overall population loss was closely associated with fewer persons in the prime working age category.

The seven counties in *Figure 5* also have very high median ages. Half of the counties in this group have a median age that is over 55 years of age. By definition, this means that over half of their population is already beyond the age group that is considered here to be of prime working age. Two of these counties, Alcona and Ontonagon, have median ages that are over 57 years of age. Alcona, with its median age of 57.9, is the oldest county in the state.In this group, Oscoda County is the youngest county with a median age of 52.4. These trends will likely continue into the future without a significant change in recent population dynamics.

Michigan, as a state, and in its counties, is getting older. That process will accelerate in the coming years, and it will have implications for the state's workforce, tax collections, service provision, and a host of other issues. As population in the prime working age decreases, the state's needs will change, and these data will be important to track over time.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates.

ERIC GUTHRIE
MICHIGAN'S STATE DEMOGRAPHER

FIGURE 3: DETROIT AREA POPULATION CHANGE 2010-2015

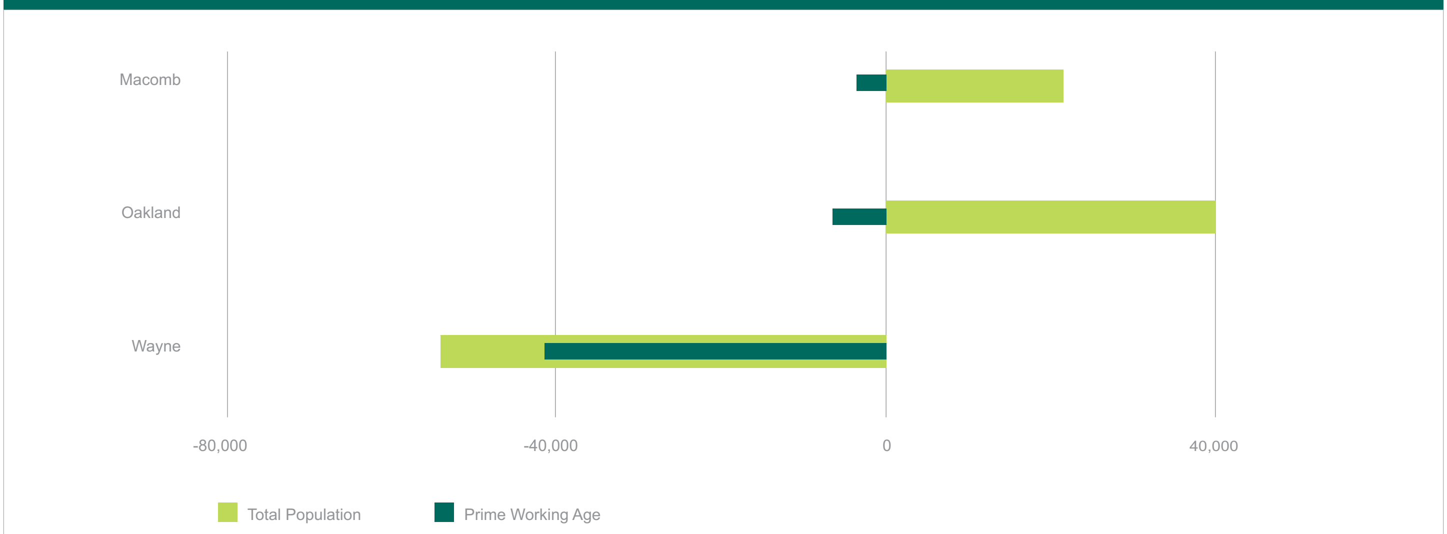


FIGURE 4: WEST AND CENTRAL MICHIGAN COUNTIES WITH INCREASES IN PRIME WORKING AGE GROUP 2010-2015

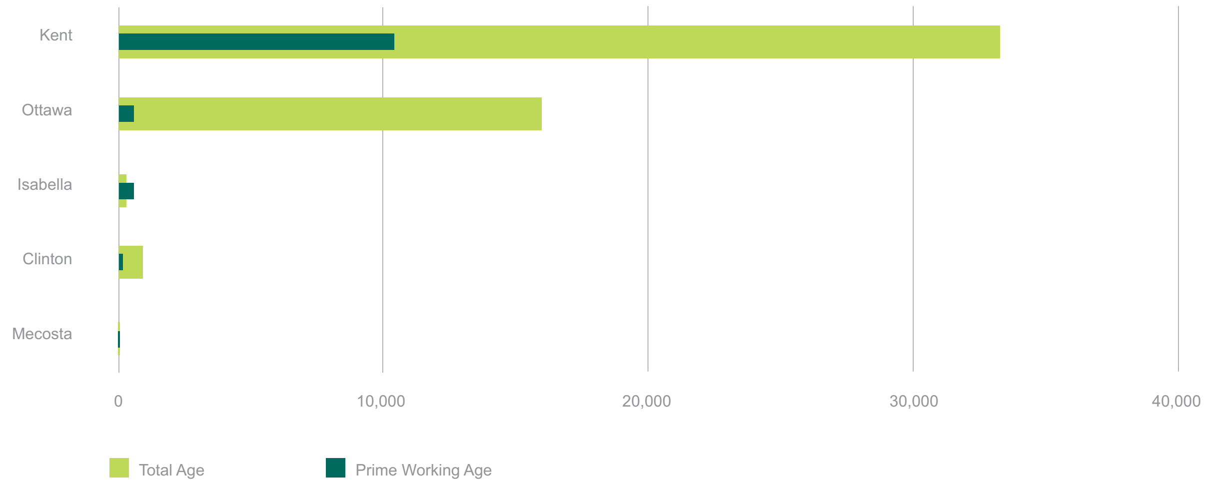
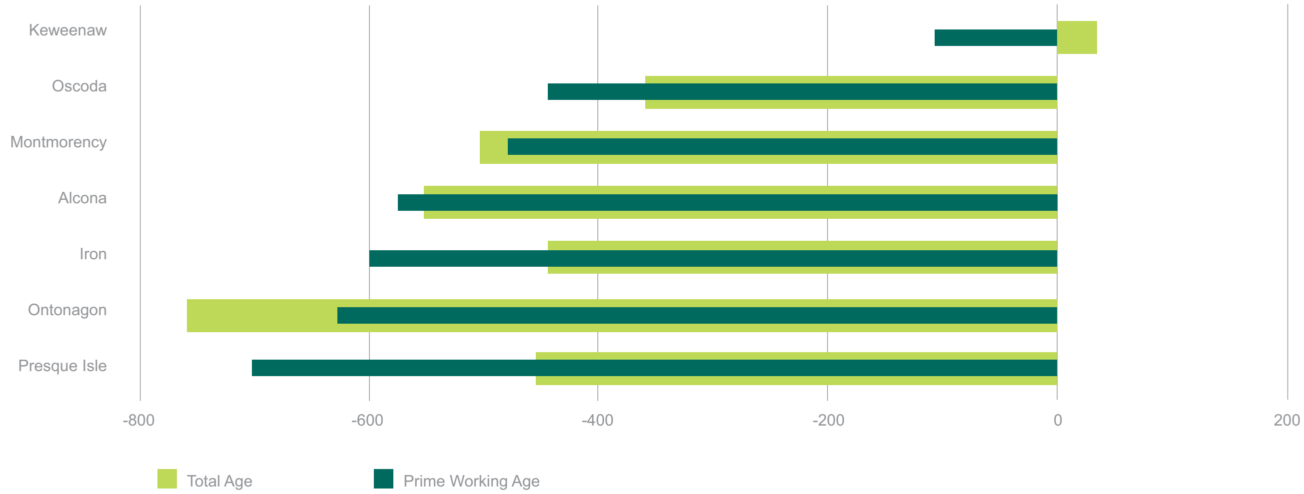


FIGURE 5: WESTERN U.P. AND NORTHEASTERN L.P. COUNTIES WITH LARGEST DECREASES IN PRIME WORKING AGE GROUP 2010-2015



MICHIGAN ONLINE ADVERTISEMENTS INCREASE IN JANUARY

According to The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Data Series, Michigan's seasonally adjusted January 2017 online advertised job postings advanced by 6,400 ads, for a gain of 4.3 percent. Michigan online ads totaled 156,600 in January.

Seasonally adjusted online job advertisements nationally remained stable in January (-0.4 percent).

Across the Midwest, states had mixed trends in January, with ad gains registered in Indiana and Wisconsin, and no change in Ohio and Illinois. Indiana led the way with a 5.2 percent monthly advance in online ads, while Ohio had a small -0.1 percent decline. Wisconsin had a smaller increase (+2.8 percent) than Michigan, while Illinois registered no change.

Across the United States, there was variation among states in January online ad trends. 11 states saw ad decreases: Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

Michigan Supply/Demand Rate Drops in January

This month, Michigan's Supply/Demand (SD) rate, or the number of unemployed persons per job posting, declined to 1.56 from 1.63 in December 2016. In both November and December of 2016, the Supply/Demand rate was higher than the national rate (1.57 in November, 1.54 in December), while in January the national rate was on par with the Michigan rate at 1.56. For 2015 and most of 2016, Michigan's Supply/Demand rate tended to be below the national average.

In addition, Michigan's ad rate, or the number of job ads per 100 labor force participants, rose to 3.20 (+0.13), continuing the rebound from November's decrease. Michigan's ad rate continues to exceed that of the United States (3.07).

Educational Requirements of Michigan Online Ads

Figure 7 illustrates the educational requirements for online job ads in Michigan. Roughly 30 percent of job ads call for a high school diploma or some college, and another one third require a bachelor's degree. Over half of job ads in January required an associate's degree or above.

Occupational Ads Down in January (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Information is available on advertised Michigan job vacancies by broad occupation, but this data is not seasonally adjusted. This information showed a January reduction in online job ads, down by -10,050, or -7.3 percent, bringing the total to 128,250. All major occupation groups experienced declines, except for *Farming, Fishing and Forestry.*

- *Professional* and *Healthcare* occupations led the way with the most Michigan online ads in January.
- The largest monthly percent reductions were recorded in *Construction* and *repair* (-10.4 percent) and *Sales* (-9.2 percent).
- Of Michigan's total job ads, 48,350 were newly-posted in January, -3.3 percent lower than in December.

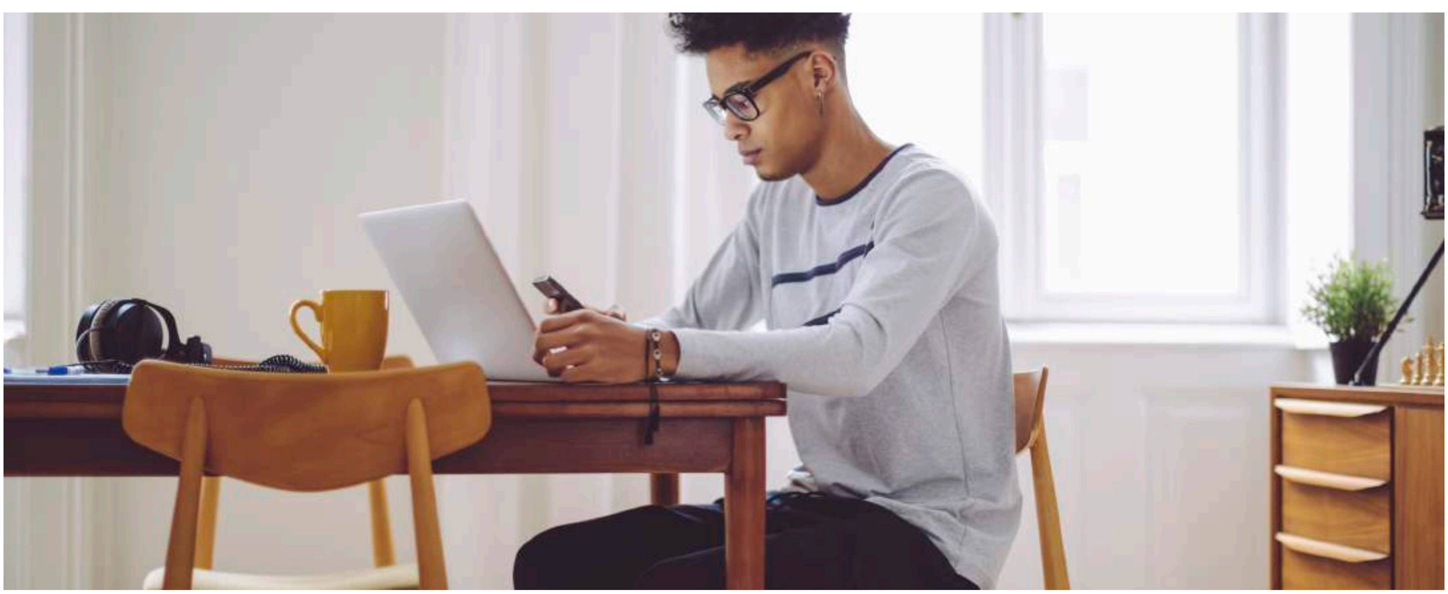
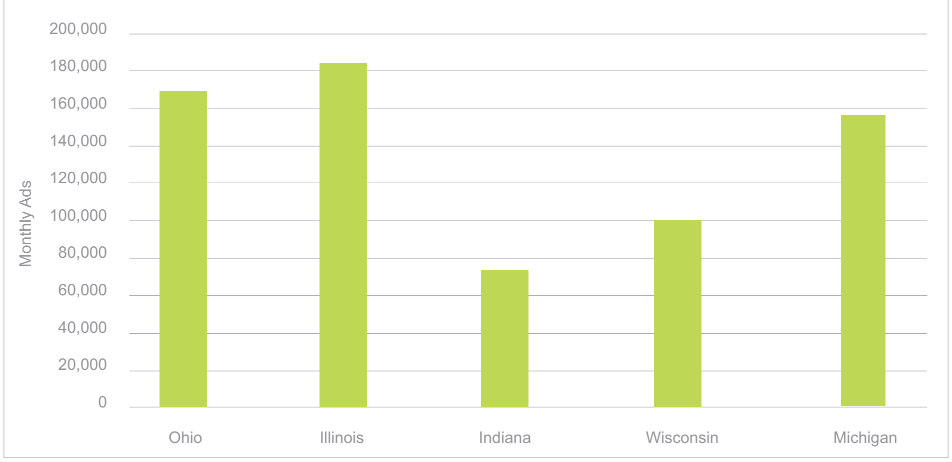
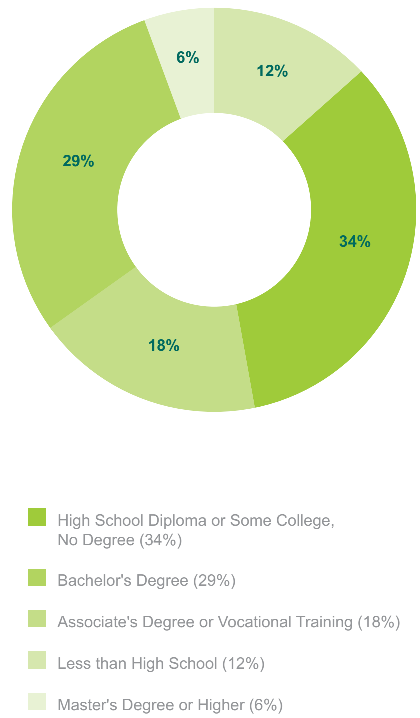


FIGURE 6: JANUARY ADS, MIDWEST



Source: The Conference Board, Help Wanted Online® (HWOL)

FIGURE 7: EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS



Source: The Conference Board, Help Wanted Online® (HWOL) and Bureau of Labor Statistics

TOTAL AVAILABLE ADS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

OCCUPATION CATEGORIES	JAN 2017	DEC 2016	JAN 2016	# CHANGE MONTH	% CHANGE MONTH
TOTAL	**128,250**	**138,300**	**170,550**	**-10,050**	**-7.3%**
Professional	40,500	44,450	51,750	-3,950	-8.9%
Healthcare	20,750	21,400	26,650	-650	-3.0%
Sales	12,300	13,550	19,850	-1,250	-9.2%
Administrative Support	12,050	13,000	16,200	-950	-7.3%
Management	9,050	9,600	12,450	-550	-5.7%
Service	11,100	12,000	13,200	-900	-7,5%
Construction And Repair	8,200	9,150	10,300	-950	-10.4%
Production	5,650	6,000	7,450	-350	-5.8%
Transportation	8,500	9,000	12,550	-500	-5.6%
Farming, Fishing, And Forestry	150	150	150	0	0.0%

Source: The Conference Board, Help Wanted Online® (HWOL)

INDUSTRY FOCUS:

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The *Health care and social assistance* industry sector comprises establishments that provide services related to treating illnesses, maintaining wellness and managing disease. Health Care jobs are grouped into four subsectors including; *Ambulatory health care services*; *Hospitals*; *Nursing and residential care facilities*; and *Social assistance.*

- In 2016, total employment in the state's *Health care and social assistance* industry reached 591,000, an increase of 13,700 jobs or 2.4 percent over 2015 levels. Nationally, health care jobs rose by 498,900 or 2.7 percent
- The *Health care and social assistance sector* accounts for 13.7 percent of total employment in Michigan, making it the largest industry sub-sector in terms of jobs in the state.
- Similar to national trends, employment in the health care industry has grown steadily over the decade. Even when total employment in Michigan plummeted during the "Great Recession", health care employment continued to expand.
- *Hospitals* and *Ambulatory health care services* each provided about 204,000 jobs in Michigan in 2016, combined accounting for about 70 percent of total health care employment. *Nursing and residential care facilities* and *Social assistance* provided 18 and 13 percent, respectively.
- In 2016, the median occupational wage of Michigan's *Health care and social assistance* industry was estimated at $18.13 per hour, nearly identical to the national median wage of $18.11.
- Between the second quarters of 2016 and 2018, employment forecasts for the state of Michigan project that the *Health care and social assistance* industry will expand by 17,000 positions or 2.7 percent.
- Long term industry employment projections indicate that between 2014 and 2024, Michigan's *Health care and social assistance* industry will add 75,400 jobs for a healthy growth rate of 12.4 percent. Nearly, one-half of these jobs (46 percent) will be added in *Ambulatory health care services* which includes doctor's offices, home health care, dental offices, outpatient care centers, and more.

MICHIGAN QUICK FACTS: HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Total Industry Employment – 2016	4,325,600
Health Care & Social Assistance Employment – 2016	591,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services Employment – 2016	203,700
Hospitals Employment – 2016	203,800
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities Employment – 2016	106,800
Social Assistance Employment – 2016	76,700
Health Care & Social Assistance Projected Job Change – 2016 – 2018	+17,000 (+2.7%)
Health Care & Social Assistance Projected Job Change– 2014–2024	+75,400 (+12.4%)
Health Care & Social Assistance Median Wage – 2016	$37,710 per year $18.13 per hour
Health Care & Social Assistance Wage Range – 2016	$20,420 - $90,050 per year $9.82 - $43.29 per hour

Michigan Health Care & Social Assitance Private Payroll Jobs — 2016

203,800
HOSPITALS

106,800
NURSING & RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

76,700
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

72,000
OFFICES OF PHYSICIANS

39,600
HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

20,500
OUTPATIENT CARE CENTERS

RELEVANT RANKINGS

POST RECESSIONARY EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY BY STATE				
	PAYROLL JOBS			
	2009	2016	# GROWTH	% GROWTH
1. Utah	1,188,800	1,427,400	238,600	20.1%
2. North Dakota	366,700	434,800	68,100	18.6%
3. Texas	10,341,100	12,028,400	1,687,300	16.3%
4. Florida	7,232,300	8,383,400	1,515,100	15.9%
5. Colorado	2,245,600	2,598,300	352,700	15.7%
14. Michigan	3,870,800	4,325,600	454,800	11.7%
23. Kentucky	1,759,600	1,914,200	154,600	8.8%
24. Delaware	416,700	452,800	36,100	8.7%
25. Ohio	5,072,500	5,480,900	408,400	8.1%
26. Virginia	3,650,400	3,917,600	267,200	7.3%
27. South Dakota	403,700	432,700	29,000	7.2%
46. Maine	596,300	617,300	21,000	3.5%
47. Connecticut	1,626,600	1,679,000	52,500	3.2%
48. New Mexico	812,400	830,600	18,200	2.2%
49. West Virginia	746,000	747,800	1,800	0.2%
50. Wyoming	285,800	280,800	-5,000	-1.7%

POST RECESSIONARY EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY BY METRO AREA

	PAYROLL JOBS			
	2009	2016	# GROWTH	% GROWTH
Grand Rapids–Wyoming MSA	449,100	544,100	95,000	21.2%
Detroit–Warren–Dearborn MSA	1,741,600	1,974,200	232,600	13.4%
Ann Arbor MSA	193,500	216,400	22,900	11.8%
Michigan	3,870,800	4,325,600	454,800	11.7%
Monroe MSA	38,100	42,500	4,400	11.5%
Lansing–East Lansing MSA	213,500	230,700	17,200	8.1%
Battle Creek MSA	54,800	59,100	4,300	7.8%
Midland MSA	35,100	37,700	2,600	7.4%
Muskegon MSA	59,500	63,500	4,000	6.7%
Saginaw MSA	83,200	88,600	5,400	6.5%
Jackson MSA	54,200	57,700	3,500	6.5%
Kalamazoo–Portage MSA	138,100	146,100	8,000	5.8%
Niles–Benton Harbor MSA	59,400	61,900	2,500	4.2%
Flint MSA	134,500	140,000	5,500	4.1%
Bay City MSA	36,500	36,300	-200	-0.5%

ASK THE DEMOGRAPHER

Q: What does the poverty rate measure and what does it actually mean?

A: It's complicated...

The rate of poverty in states and regions is often discussed, but the exact definitions and methods of measurement are not widely understood.

On an annual basis there are at least two sets of poverty specifications released.These are the *poverty thresholds* and the *poverty guidelines*. There are others as well, but these are the primary ones used for statistical and programmatic purposes. The poverty *thresholds* are published annually by the U.S. Census Bureau and set levels used for calculating poverty statistics such as the official poverty rate. The thresholds are determined using the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement, and vary by household size, presence of children, and by age of the householder.

The poverty *guidelines* are measures published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for use in programs that have poverty as a factor for eligibility determinations. These guidelines represent a simplified version of the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. The media often refers to the "Federal Poverty Level," which is based on the HHS poverty guidelines.For example the poverty level for a family of four, based on the poverty guidelines, was $24,600 in 2017.

The statistical measurement of poverty became something of concern for federal agencies as a result of legislation passed in the 1960s centered on reducing poverty levels. Prior to this time there had not been an official measure of poverty or even agreement on what a poverty measure should incorporate. Through the work of individuals at the Social Security Administration (most notably Mollie Orshansky) and the Department of Agriculture the statistic that survives as the basis for our poverty measures was determined to be three times the basic food budget for a family. The price of that basic food budget is updated annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

It is important to understand that the "family" is the basic unit for discussing poverty. The Census Bureau considers all members of a household that are related by birth, marriage, or adoption to be part of a family. The pre-tax, cash income of the family is compared to the poverty threshold, and if the family's income is less than the threshold, all members of the family are considered to be in poverty. This definition has led to much criticism, especially of late with the greater awareness of alternate family arrangements that are simply not being included by this definition. Among those criticisms are the treatment of same-sex households, cohabitating households, and how to count the children of those cohabitating partners. There are also criticisms of the use of the pre-tax, cash income of a family because it does not take into consideration the non-cash assistance meant to reduce poverty, and other programs that may be a resource for families.

The basic food budget was based on data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Household Food Consumption Survey. This budget was based on the amount that a family could spend during times of economic distress and still provide a nutritionally adequate diet. Research at the time determined, in general, families across the economic spectrum spent about a third of their incomes on food. This undercuts the criticism of the measure for not including non-cash assistance in the methodology. If non-cash assistance was included, it would be necessary to adjust the multiplier of "three times the basic food budget" as the food portion would be smaller relative to the overall budget. That basic food budget is not updated annually to reflect differing nutritional understandings or standards, but rather the cost of that original budget is updated annually using the CPI.

The poverty level for a family of four, based on the poverty guidelines, was $24,600 in 2017

The poverty measure as described here, has both pros and cons that are valid and worthy of discussion. One positive aspect of the measure is its consistency over time. The poverty measure can be traced over the last half century to reveal changes in the economic circumstances of the population. The flexibility to measure the conditions of families of varying size and composition is also a benefit.Some of the issues with the measure include that it does not vary by geography, even though the cost of living in various parts of the nation is clearly different. It also does not account for the varying expenses that are required of families. Some also criticize the poverty measure as measuring relative poverty instead of absolute poverty. This comes down to making judgements about what is considered to be a basic living standard and where economic deprivation begins.

Attempting to answer some of the criticisms of the poverty measure, the Census Bureau has developed the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The SPM incorporates a broader definition of family, a more complete budget that is relevant to the current economy, varies geographically, and includes broader measures of incomes and expenses. This statistic has greatly expanded what it means to measure poverty, but even with this additional data and currency, it has still tracked closely with, but is slightly higher than the official poverty measure. For example the official poverty measure for all people in 2015 was 13.7 percent while the SPM was 14.3 percent.

Poverty and how it is measured is a complicated yet very important topic. A fair treatment of all of the pros, cons, caveats, and considerations is beyond the scope of this piece, but hopefully this explanation helps you to understand the definitions and methods underlying poverty statistics.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

Detroit Office

Cadillac Place

3032 West Grand Blvd.
Suite 9-150

Detroit, MI 48202

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 1200

Cadillac Place, 3032 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 9-150;
Detroit,Michigan 48202.
For more information please contact:
Labor Market Analysis Section,
(313) 456-3090.