MICHIGAN'S
LABOR MARKET NEWS

Michigan payroll jobs rose modestly in July, and advanced in four of the last five months.

JULY 2017 JOBLESS RATES

MICHIGAN

3.7%

NATIONAL

4.3%

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IT'S BIGGER THAN DATA.

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.

The state's unemployment rate continued its downward trend in July, reaching 3.7 percent. While labor force and employment levels were lower over the month, both showed improvement over the year, with the labor force up 18,000 over 2016 levels and employment higher by 71,000. Over the same period, the number of unemployed residents fell by 55,000.

July payrolls were up modestly by 7,800 to 4,393,900 with small over-the-month gains in *Service-Providing* sectors like *Retail trade*, *Health care and social assistance*, and *Government*. Since 2016, payrolls were up by 62,400, led by gains in both the *Good-Producing* and *Service-Providing* sectors.

What about looking ahead? This month's feature article highlights our Bureau's long-term employment projections for Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions. As we note in the article, these ten-year employment projections are available for industries and occupations and are important to state and local agencies, businesses, jobseekers, and education, workforce, and economic development professionals.

So, what do these projections tell us? Overall statewide growth is expected to be 7.4 percent, with three regions expected to outpace that average and seven regions coming in lower. And, as you might have guessed from this month's cover, showing the beautiful Grand Rapids skyline, West Michigan is expected to have the highest job growth rate, with anticipated employment expansion of 9.8 percent.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Michigan's Labor Market News. Let us know if there is something you would like to know more about.

JASON PALMER
DIRECTOR
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and Strategic Initiatives

JULY 2017 MICHIGAN JOBLESS RATE INCHES DOWN

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Michigan edged downward in July by one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.7 percent. This was the lowest monthly jobless rate of 2017 in Michigan as the rate has fallen steadily since February (5.3 percent). From June to July, total employment declined by 18,000 while the number of unemployed decreased by 7,000. Michigan's workforce level fell for the third month in a row.

Michigan Labor Market Trends Through July 2017

Although Michigan's jobless rates in mid-2017 are at very low levels, employment in recent months has been flat or declining, and the state workforce level has moved downward. Michigan experienced a large jobless rate reduction from April to July 2017, but this was essentially due to fewer persons active in the state workforce. A more accurate picture of the current year trends in the Michigan labor market can be seen by evaluating the first

seven months of 2017 overall. The table below provides a comparison of employment and unemployment data for 2016 versus the average of the first seven months of 2017.
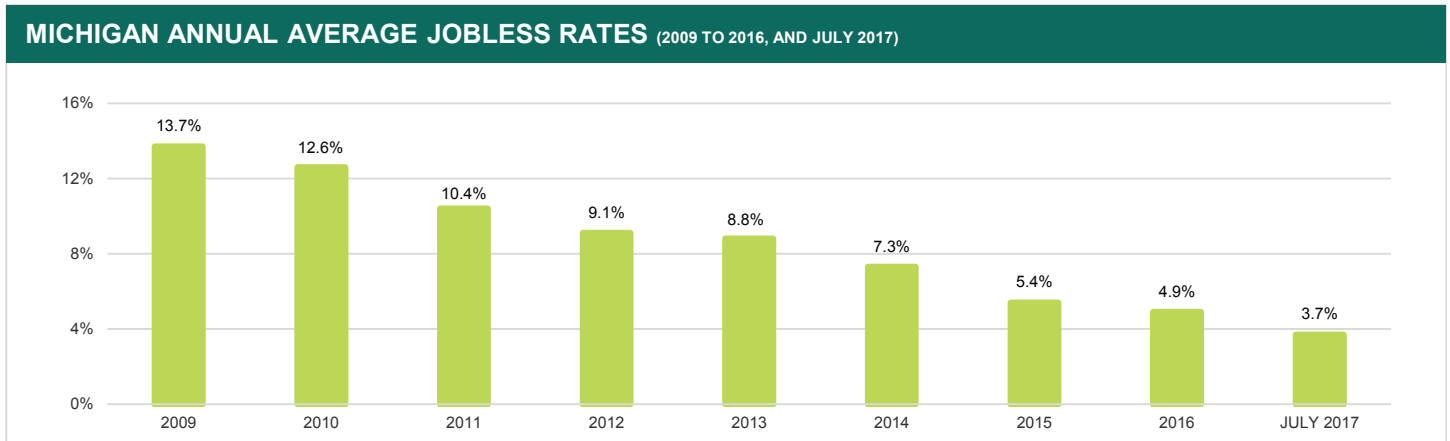
RECENT LABOR MARKET TRENDS

	A.A. 2016	Y.T.D. 2017	NUM CHG	PCT CHG
Labor Force	4,837,000	4,889,000	+52,000	+1.1%
Employed	4,599,000	4,665,000	+66,000	+1.4%
Unemployed	238,000	224,000	-14,000	-5.9%
Jobless Rate	4.9	4.6	-0.3	XXX

This alternate perspective shows that 2017 workforce growth in Michigan remains fairly solid, with the seven-month average increasing by 52,000 or 1.1 percent above the 2016 level. Total employment rose by 66,000 or 1.4 percent from 2016 to the year-to-date average 2017, while the number of unemployed so far in 2017 declined by 14,000 or 5.9 percent. The year-to-date 2017 jobless rate of 4.6 percent was just

three-tenths of a percentage point below the 2016 annual rate of 4.9 percent.

Michigan's labor force trends so far in 2017 have been similar to the annual changes from 2015 to 2016. From 2015 to 2016, Michigan's labor force grew by 1.7 percent, employment increased by 2.2 percent, the number of unemployed dropped by 7.4 percent, and the state's unemployment rate declined by five-tenths of a percentage point.

MICHIGAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

	JUL 2016	JUN 2017	JUL 2017	CHANGE OVER THE MONTH	CHANGE OVER THE YEAR
Labor Force	4,823,000	4,865,000	4,841,000	-24,000	+18,000
Employed	4,589,000	4,678,000	4,660,000	-18,000	+71,000
Unemployed	235,000	187,000	180,000	-7,000	-55,000
Jobless Rate	4.9	3.8	3.7	-0.1	-1.2

MICHIGAN ANNUAL AVERAGE JOBLESS RATES (2009 TO 2016, AND JULY 2017)

Year	Rate
2009	13.7%
2010	12.6%
2011	10.4%
2012	9.1%
2013	8.8%
2014	7.3%
2015	5.4%
2016	4.9%
JULY 2017	3.7%

MICHIGAN ANNUAL AVERAGE PAYROLL JOBS (2009 TO 2016, AND JULY 2017)

Year	Value
2009	3,870,800
2010	3,863,600
2011	3,952,100
2012	4,033,700
2013	4,109,700
2014	4,182,000
2015	4,243,500
2016	4,325,600
JULY 2017	4,393,900
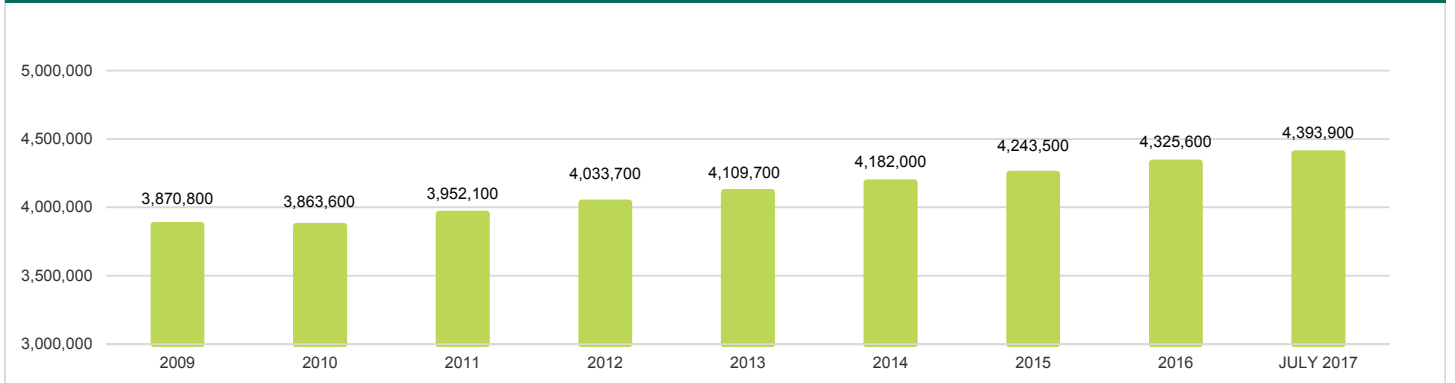
MICHIGAN JOB TRENDS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

Monthly Overview

Total nonfarm payrolls in Michigan moved modestly higher by 7,800 jobs in July to 4,393,900. Job levels have now advanced in four of the last five months. July job gains were reported in seven of the 11 broad industry groups. The largest increases occurred in *Government* (+4,200), *Education and health services* (+2,700), and *Trade, transportation, and utilities* (+2,600). Job reductions among major sectors were concentrated in *Professional and business services* (-1,500) and *Financial activities* (-1,200). Monthly job cuts among detailed industries included *Transportation equipment manufacturing* (-2,300), as temporary layoffs occurred at auto assembly plants.

Over the Year Analysis

Since July 2016, Michigan jobs rose by 62,400, or 1.4 percent. This was similar to the 1.5 percent growth rate nationally during this period. In Michigan, every broad sector contributed to this gain. Job advances over the year occurred in *Government* (+15,000) and *Professional and business services* (+14,300). Other broad sectors with payroll job increases since July 2016 included *Leisure and hospitality* (+7,500), *Construction* (+5,800), *Financial activities* (+5,400), *Other services* (+5,000), *Education and health services* (+4,300), and *Manufacturing* (+3,700). On a percentage basis, the *Construction* sector led the state with an annual job expansion of 3.7 percent. Payrolls in the state's *Transportation equipment manufacturing* industry declined by 3,200 over the year.

2017 Payroll Job Trends

Michigan payroll jobs have increased in five of the first seven months of 2017, advancing by 25,000 or 0.6 percent. This was somewhat below the 0.9 percent rate of growth nationally over this period, and below the 1.3 percent expansion statewide during the same period in 2016.

There were only a few broad industry sectors in Michigan in which 2017 job gains so far outpaced the comparable period in 2016, including *Mining and logging,* and *Other services.*

The broad sectors with percentage employment growth through July 2017 that was particularly below comparable trends during 2016 were *Information* (+1.0 percent vs. +2.1 percent), *Professional and business services* (+0.6 percent vs. +1.8 percent), *Trade, transportation, and utilities* (+0.2 percent vs. +1.0 percent), and *Leisure and hospitality* (-0.3 percent vs. +1.9 percent).

Significant Industry Employment Developments

TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

Payrolls in this broad sector rose by 2,600 in July, with gains primarily in *Retail trade* (+1,700) and *Wholesale trade* (+600). Each of these industry groups had one or more component sectors that recorded larger-than-typical job gains in July. In *Retail trade*, industries with above average job advances included *General merchandise stores*, *Miscellaneous store retailers*, and *Clothing and clothing accessories stores*.

Since July 2016, payrolls in the broad sector have remained relatively flat (+700 jobs or 0.1 percent) as job additions in *Wholesale trade* (+2,400) and *Transportation, warehousing, and utilities* (+1,500) were nearly matched in magnitude by a decline in *Retail trade* (-3,200). Nationally, job levels increased by 7,000 over the month and by 0.5 percent over the year.

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

Jobs in this broad sector notched higher by 200 in July as employment gains in *Accommodation and food services* (+1,000) outpaced a decline in *Arts, entertainment, and recreation* (-800). The monthly increase in *Accommodation and food services* jobs was primarily located in *Full-service restaurants*, which recorded a larger-than-typical July employment gain. In addition, the *Limited-service eating places* component industry did not record its typical nominal employment decline in July. The job reduction in *Arts, entertainment, and recreation* was partially a seasonal timing issue, as the bulk of seasonal hiring among firms in recreational services took place in April, May, and June. Since July 2016, payrolls in *Leisure and hospitality* grew by 7,500

or 1.8 percent. This gain was entirely located in *Accommodation and food services*. Nationally, employment was up by 62,000 over the month and by 2.2 percent since July 2016.

TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING

The month of July in the auto sector is often characterized by model changeover activities in assembly plants and associated temporary layoffs among auto suppliers. These temporary layoffs typically last one to two weeks, and are the result of the need to retool auto production facilities for product line changes or the addition of new models. Consistent with this event, job levels in the *Transportation equipment manufacturing* industry declined by 2,300 in July 2017.

This industry sector has a large influence on Michigan's economy. Employment levels reached a recessionary low of 105,700 jobs in June 2009. Since that time, payrolls have advanced by 70,900 or 67 percent. This growth rate was more than four times the 14.5 percent advance in total nonfarm employment. So far in 2017, however, jobs in the auto sector have stabilized, and have essentially matched 2016 levels.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs)

In July, on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis, all of Michigan's metropolitan areas recorded seasonal job declines. These decreases ranged from -0.5 percent in the *Muskegon* and *Jackson* MSAs to -2.5 percent in the *Bay City* metro area.

All metropolitan areas experienced seasonal job cuts in *Local government*, as local schools laid off support staff for the summer. Many metropolitan areas saw modest employment increases in the *Retail trade* sector.

July temporary layoffs in the auto sector were particularly prominent in the *Ann Arbor*, *Detroit*, *Flint*, *Grand Rapids*, and *Lansing* metro areas.
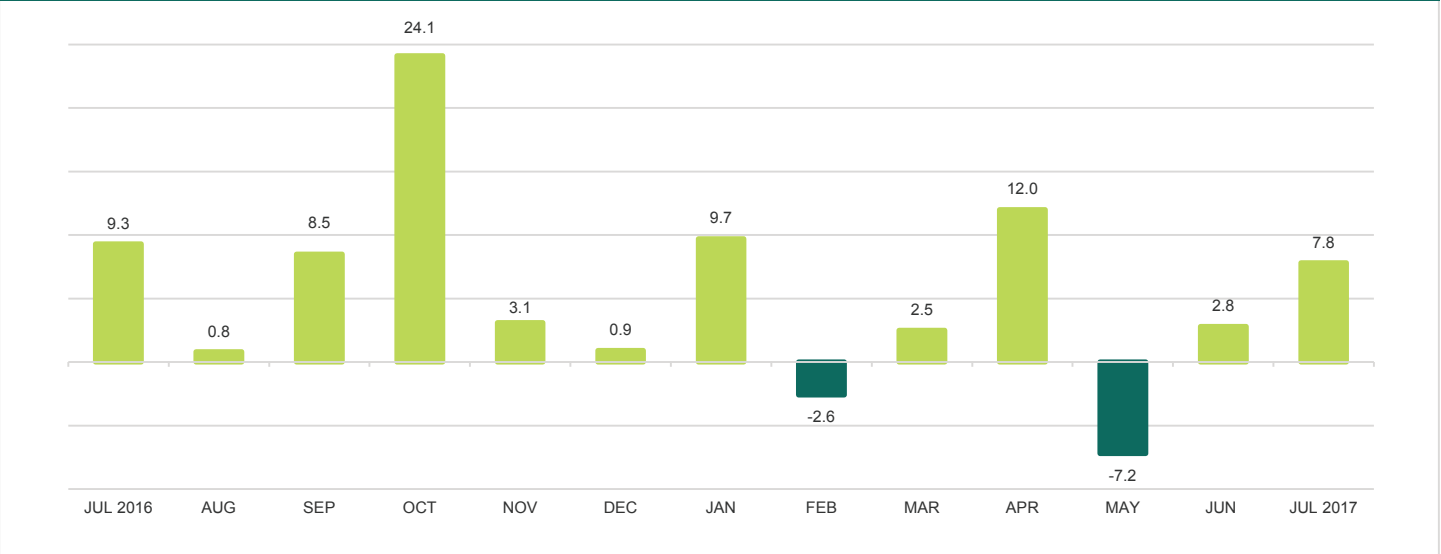
MICHIGAN PAYROLL JOBS (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

INDUSTRY	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	OVER THE MONTH		OVER THE YEAR	
				LEVEL	PERCENT	LEVEL	PERCENT
TOTAL NONFARM	**4,393,900**	**4,386,100**	**4,331,500**	**7,800**	**0.2%**	**62,400**	**1.4%**
Total Private	3,777,600	3,774,000	3,730,200	3,600	0.1%	47,400	1.3%
Private Service-Providing	3,005,200	3,002,000	2,967,700	3,200	0.1%	37,500	1.3%
GOODS-PRODUCING	**772,400**	**772,000**	**762,500**	**400**	**0.1%**	**9,900**	**1.3%**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	168,000	168,000	161,800	0	0.0%	6,200	3.8%
Mining and Logging	7,500	7,600	7,100	-100	-1.3%	400	5.6%
Construction	160,500	160,400	154,700	100	0.1%	5,800	3.7%
Manufacturing	604,400	604,000	600,700	400	0.1%	3,700	0.6%
Durable Goods	456,700	455,400	451,100	1,300	0.3%	5,600	1.2%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	176,600	178,900	179,800	-2,300	-1.3%	-3,200	-1.8%
Nondurable Goods	147,700	148,600	149,600	-900	-0.6%	-1,900	-1.3%
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**3,621,500**	**3,614,100**	**3,569,000**	**7,400**	**0.2%**	**52,500**	**1.5%**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	784,100	781,500	783,400	2,600	0.3%	700	0.1%
Wholesale Trade	174,700	174,100	172,300	600	0.3%	2,400	1.4%
Retail Trade	470,500	468,800	473,700	1,700	0.4%	-3,200	-0.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	138,900	138,600	137,400	300	0.2%	1,500	1.1%
Information	58,100	58,100	57,800	0	0.0%	300	0.5%
Financial Activities	218,200	219,400	212,800	-1,200	-0.5%	5,400	2.5%
Finance and Insurance	162,000	162,300	160,100	-300	-0.2%	1,900	1.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	56,200	57,100	52,700	-900	-1.6%	3,500	6.6%
Professional and Business Services	665,800	667,300	651,500	-1,500	-0.2%	14,300	2.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	303,400	302,800	297,400	600	0.2%	6,000	2.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	62,800	62,800	61,900	0	0.0%	900	1.5%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	299,600	301,700	292,200	-2,100	-0.7%	7,400	2.5%
Education and Health Services	671,600	668,900	667,300	2,700	0.4%	4,300	0.6%
Educational Services	73,400	73,300	74,500	100	0.1%	-1,100	-1.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	598,200	595,600	592,800	2,600	0.4%	5,400	0.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	433,100	432,900	425,600	200	0.0%	7,500	1.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	50,000	50,800	51,700	-800	-1.6%	-1,700	-3.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	383,100	382,100	373,900	1,000	0.3%	9,200	2.5%
Other Services	174,300	173,900	169,300	400	0.2%	5,000	3.0%
Government	616,300	612,100	601,300	4,200	0.7%	15,000	2.5%
Federal Government	52,700	52,600	52,200	100	0.2%	500	1.0%
State Government	196,200	192,900	186,900	3,300	1.7%	9,300	5.0%
Local Government	367,400	366,600	362,200	800	0.2%	5,200	1.4%

JOB CHANGE BY MAJOR INDUSTRY SECTOR

INDUSTRY	JAN-JUL 2016	JAN-JUL 2017
TOTAL NONFARM	**1.3%**	**0.6%**
Mining and Logging	-5.3%	8.7%
Construction	2.5%	1.9%
Manufacturing	1.0%	0.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1.0%	0.2%
Information	2.1%	1.0%
Financial Activities	1.3%	0.7%
Professional and Business Services	1.8%	0.6%
Educational and Health Services	1.2%	0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	1.9%	-0.3%
Other Services	0.8%	1.2%
Government	1.0%	1.0%

MICHIGAN OVER THE MONTH PAYROLL JOB CHANGE (IN THOUSANDS)

Month	Value
JUL 2016	9.3
AUG	0.8
SEP	8.5
OCT	24.1
NOV	3.1
DEC	0.9
JAN	9.7
FEB	-2.6
MAR	2.5
APR	12.0
MAY	-7.2
JUN	2.8
JUL 2017	7.8

MICHIGAN'S OVER THE MONTH JOB CHANGE BY SELECT INDUSTRY (JUNE 2017 TO JULY 2017)

Industry	Job Change
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,600
Accommodation & Food Services	1,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	-800
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	-2,300
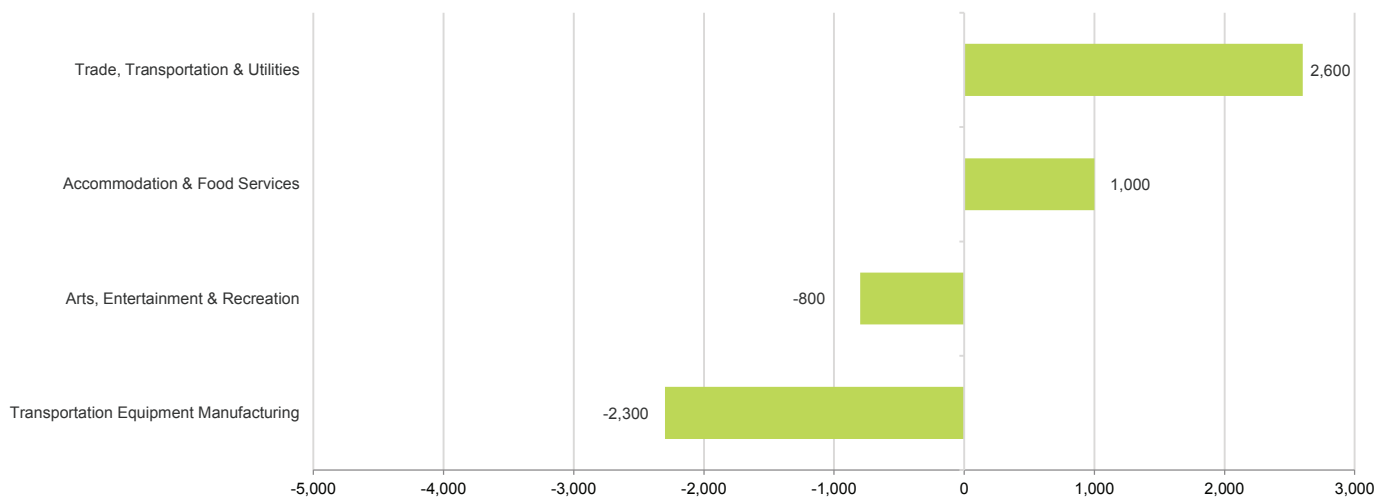
METROPOLITAN AREA JOB CHANGE JUNE 2017 - JULY 2017 (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Area	Change
Muskegon	-0.5%
Jackson	-0.5%
Benton Harbor	-0.6%
Ann Arbor	-0.9%
Midland	-1.0%
Lansing	-1.0%
Saginaw	-1.2%
Grand Rapids	-1.3%
Detroit	-1.5%
Michigan	-1.5%
Flint	-1.6%
Kalamazoo	-1.7%
Battle Creek	-1.8%
Monroe	-2.3%
Bay City	-2.5%
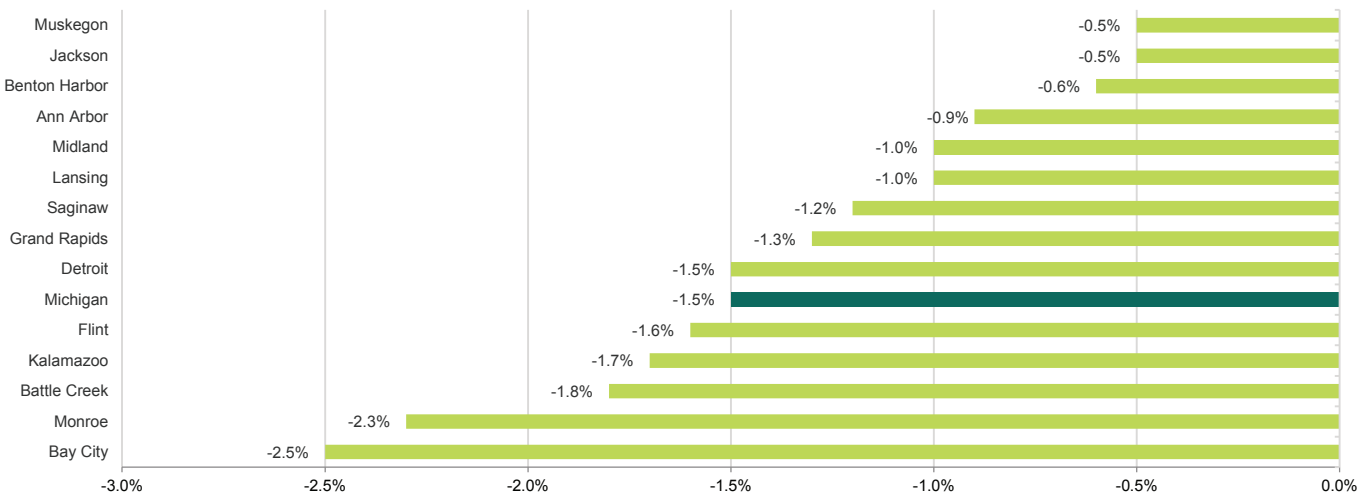
REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

ANN ARBOR METROPOLITAN AREA

- Joblessness in the Ann Arbor metro area rose 1.2 percentage points in July 2017 to 4.5 percent, the highest unemployment rate recorded in 2017 in the region.

- The area civilian labor force increased by 1.5 percent over the year, well above the growth rate statewide.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs in the Ann Arbor region declined by -1,900, or -0.9 percent, between June 2017 and July 2017.

- Notable job reductions in July occurred in several sectors including *Local government* (-1,100) and *Transportation equipment manufacturing* (-200).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- On a percentage basis, Ann Arbor exhibited the largest over-the-year employment growth of all Michigan metro areas, with an increase of 2.9 percent.

BATTLE CREEK METROPOLITAN AREA

- In July, the Battle Creek metro area unemployment rate increased seasonally by 1.2 percentage points to 5.6 percent, matching the rate recorded in July 2016.

- Employment and unemployment levels were essentially unchanged over the year.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- In July, total nonfarm jobs in the Battle Creek region contracted by -1,100, or -1.8 percent, primarily due to a large seasonal decline in *Government*, and smaller job reductions in *Education and health services* and *Manufacturing*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Jobs in the region's *Nondurable goods manufacturing* sector fell steadily in the region through 2013. Since 2013, annual job levels have stagnated at 2,500.

BAY CITY METROPOLITAN AREA

- The jobless rate in the Bay City region rose 1.1 percentage points to 6.0 percent in July 2017.

- Over the year, the regional jobless rate edged down, largely due to fewer residents active in the area labor force.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- July 2017 payroll jobs in the Bay City region fell by -900, or -2.5 percent, due to job cuts in *Government*, *Financial activities*, *Manufacturing*, and other sectors.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Bay City was the only Michigan metro area to record a payroll job decline since July 2016, as jobs were down 600 over the year.

DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN METRO AREA

- The Detroit region's July 2017 jobless rate increased seven-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 4.4 percent.

- Out of all Michigan metro areas, Detroit exhibited the second lowest unemployment rate in July.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Total nonfarm jobs in the Detroit region declined by -29,700 over the month, or -1.5 percent.

- Temporary, seasonal job cuts in local schools and the auto industry pushed down July jobs in *Government* (-16,000) and *Manufacturing* (-8,100).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The region's *Specialty trade contractors* sector has been trending upward since the recession, culminating with a total of 53,700 jobs in July, an amount that has not been seen since September 2007.

FLINT METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Flint metro area unemployment rate rose in August for the third consecutive month, up 1.5 percentage points to 6.5 percent.

- The region recorded the highest jobless rate among Michigan metro areas in July.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nonfarm employment in Flint dropped by -2,300, or -1.6 percent, over the month, primarily due to a seasonal, education-related 1,900 job cut in *Local government*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- For the second consecutive month, *Wholesale trade* jobs in Flint were at a recent high of 5,900. This job level was last reached in December 2007.

GRAND RAPIDS-WYOMING METROPOLITAN AREA

- Unemployment in the Grand Rapids region increased one full percentage point over the month to 4.2 percent in July.

- For the second consecutive month, Grand Rapids had the lowest unemployment rate out of all Michigan metro areas.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nonfarm employment in the Grand Rapids region declined by -7.500, or -1.3 percent over the month, primarily due to large seasonal job cuts in *Government* and *Professional and business services.*

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Of all Michigan metro areas, Grand Rapids exhibited the second largest numerical increase in nonfarm jobs since July 2016, with a gain of 14,500 jobs, or 2.7 percent.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	ANN ARBOR			BATTLE CREEK			BAY CITY		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	192,500	192,900	189,600	65,100	65,500	64,900	51,600	52,000	52,400
Employment	183,900	186,500	180,900	61,400	62,600	61,300	48,500	49,400	49,200
Unemployment	8,600	6,400	8,700	3,600	2,900	3,600	3,100	2,600	3,200
Rate (percent)	4.5	3.3	4.6	5.6	4.4	5.6	6.0	4.9	6.2
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	216,400	218,300	210,200	59,500	60,600	58,700	35,600	36,500	36,200
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,400	4,400	4,300	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,100	1,100
Manufacturing	15,100	15,100	14,200	12,600	12,800	12,500	4,200	4,300	4,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,800	25,700	25,800	9,200	9,300	9,300	7,400	7,500	7,800
Wholesale Trade	5,700	5,700	5,600	*	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	16,500	16,400	16,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,300	5,300	5,200
Information	5,100	5,100	5,200	*	*	*	600	600	600
Financial Activities	7,200	7,300	7,100	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,300
Professional and Business Services	32,000	32,000	30,000	6,200	6,300	5,800	3,200	3,200	3,200
Educational and Health Services	26,800	27,300	26,300	10,900	11,100	10,600	6,500	6,600	6,700
Leisure and Hospitality	18,200	18,300	17,700	5,100	5,100	5,000	4,900	5,000	4,800
Other Services	6,400	6,400	6,600	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,400	1,400	1,500
Government	75,400	76,700	73,000	10,200	10,900	10,100	5,100	5,500	5,100

	DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN			FLINT			GRAND RAPIDS-WYOMING		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	2,104,000	2,086,000	2,098,000	184,600	185,100	184,000	576,400	579,500	570,000
Employment	2,011,000	2,009,000	1,966,000	172,600	175,800	171,900	552,100	560,900	545,600
Unemployment	93,000	77,000	133,000	12,000	9,300	12,100	24,200	18,600	24,400
Rate (percent)	4.4	3.7	6.3	6.5	5.0	6.6	4.2	3.2	4.3
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	2,013,900	2,043,600	1,970,600	140,300	142,600	138,800	554,500	562,000	540,000
Mining, Logging, and Construction	79,500	79,700	73,100	5,600	5,600	5,000	25,800	25,300	23,600
Manufacturing	239,900	248,000	240,600	12,300	12,200	12,500	116,800	116,200	112,700
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	368,500	369,200	364,600	30,400	30,300	30,100	96,800	97,200	97,000
Wholesale Trade	87,900	88,100	86,500	5,900	5,900	5,800	31,500	31,400	31,500
Retail Trade	211,700	211,200	211,100	20,700	20,600	20,400	49,600	50,100	50,300
Information	28,400	28,300	29,100	3,900	3,900	4,100	5,200	5,200	5,300
Financial Activities	117,400	116,400	114,100	6,000	6,000	6,200	27,100	26,800	25,800
Professional and Business Services	409,300	410,800	392,200	15,200	15,700	14,700	77,000	79,200	75,900
Educational and Health Services	311,900	312,800	308,700	28,000	28,200	28,100	89,100	90,500	86,100
Leisure and Hospitality	207,900	211,000	201,100	16,500	16,400	15,700	52,000	52,400	50,000
Other Services	76,700	77,000	77,100	5,700	5,600	5,600	22,700	22,800	22,700
Government	174,400	190,400	170,000	16,700	18,700	16,800	42,000	46,400	40,900

* Data Not Available

JACKSON METROPOLITAN AREA

- During the month of July, Jackson's unemployment rate rose a full percentage point up to 5.3 percent.

- Over the year, total employment in the region increased one percent, an increase above the median advance of 0.7 percent for all Michigan regions.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs in Jackson declined by -300 jobs over the month, or -0.5 percent, primarily due to a seasonal decline of 300 jobs in *Education and health services*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Retail trade* jobs in the Jackson MSA have been in a long-term decline, dropping steadily from 2000 through 2012, and stabilizing at about 6,700 jobs since then.

KALAMAZOO-PORTAGE METROPOLITAN AREA

- Unemployment in the Kalamazoo region rose one full percentage point over the month, up to 5.0 percent in July.

- Over the year, the number of unemployed moved down just 2.3 percent, well below the statewide drop. The area jobless rate edged down just 0.1 percentage points since July 2016.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Payroll jobs in Kalamazoo fell seasonally across several sectors, down by -2,500 or -1.7 percent in July.

- Most of the monthly job reductions occurred in the *Government* sector (-1,700) with seasonal cuts at local school districts, but private sector jobs also declined.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- For the second consecutive month, Kalamazoo's *Goods-producing* sector demonstrated a ten-year high of 28,700 jobs, a level which has not been seen since November 2007.

LANSING-EAST LANSING METROPOLITAN AREA

- Unemployment in the Lansing region was up by nine-tenths of a percentage point to 5.2 percent during July 2017.

- Over the year, the number of unemployed in Lansing advanced by 6.7 percent, and the jobless rate edged up by 0.3 percentage points.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Lansing payroll jobs declined by -2,400 over the month, or -1.0 percent. Jobs rose 2.1 percent over the past year.

- In July, job cuts were seen in most major industries, led by *Local government* (-1,600), as jobs fell seasonally with the onset of summer vacation in local schools.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The *Mining, logging, and construction* industry in the Lansing region has added 1,700 jobs since January, a slightly higher gain than the normal seasonal advance.

MIDLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

- The Midland region registered a significant jobless rate advance in July, jumping a full percentage point to 5.0 percent. This rate increase exceeded the typical July seasonal rate gain.

- Since July 2016, employment and unemployment levels in the Midland MSA were little changed.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Midland job levels edged down by -400, or -1.0 percent in July, due to a seasonal job reduction at local schools with the onset of summer break.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Total private* industry jobs in Midland have been relatively flat since 2015. Most monthly job totals so far in 2017 have been comparable with 2015 and 2016 levels

MONROE METROPOLITAN AREA

- Monroe's jobless rate rose sharply by 1.6 percentage points in July 2017, up to 5.9 percent.

- With the July increase, the number of unemployed in the region advanced 15 percent above year-ago levels.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Monroe nonfarm jobs fell by -1,000, or -2.3 percent, between June 2017 and July 2017, primarily due to a typical seasonal 900-job decline in *Government*.

- Other industries in July displayed stable or slight decreases in payroll jobs.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Monroe's *Leisure and hospitality* industry has been increasing in employment over the past several years, culminating in a five-year high of 5,200 jobs in both June and July of 2017.

MUSKEGON METROPOLITAN AREA

- The jobless rate in the Muskegon region jumped by 1.4 percentage points in July 2017 to 6.2 percent.

- The region exhibited the second highest unemployment rate of all Michigan metro areas in July.

- Total employment in Muskegon remained unchanged over the year at 73,700.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- July payroll employment in Muskegon edged down slightly by -300, or -0.5 percent, primarily due to a seasonal 500-job decline in *Government*.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- *Manufacturing* jobs in the Muskegon region have been trending upwards over the past several years, and in July 2017 were at a 16-year high of 14,100.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	JACKSON			KALAMAZOO-PORTAGE			LANSING-EAST LANSING		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	74,900	75,100	74,400	168,700	169,700	168,000	244,800	245,700	242,400
Employment	70,900	71,800	70,200	160,300	162,900	159,400	232,100	235,100	230,400
Unemployment	4,000	3,200	4,200	8,400	6,700	8,600	12,700	10,700	11,900
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.3	5.7	5.0	4.0	5.1	5.2	4.3	4.9
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	58,600	58,900	57,200	147,500	150,000	144,100	228,500	230,900	223,900
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,100	2,000	2,000	6,700	6,700	6,200	8,200	8,000	7,700
Manufacturing	10,300	10,400	10,000	22,000	22,000	21,800	20,100	20,400	20,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	12,800	12,700	12,900	26,900	27,000	26,500	37,600	37,700	35,700
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	7,100	7,100	7,000	6,000	6,100	6,100
Retail Trade	6,600	6,500	6,800	16,300	16,400	16,000	22,500	22,200	21,500
Information	300	300	300	900	900	900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Financial Activities	1,800	1,800	1,800	8,600	8,600	8,400	16,300	16,300	16,000
Professional and Business Services	4,700	4,800	4,200	18,500	18,900	17,000	21,800	22,100	21,500
Educational and Health Services	10,300	10,600	10,400	23,200	23,400	22,900	31,900	32,200	31,200
Leisure and Hospitality	6,100	6,200	5,800	17,000	17,100	16,600	20,700	21,100	19,500
Other Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,500	5,500	5,600	10,600	10,700	10,500
Government	7,700	7,600	7,300	18,200	19,900	18,200	58,400	59,500	58,100

	MIDLAND			MONROE			MUSKEGON		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	41,200	41,500	41,400	77,400	77,500	76,800	78,500	78,300	78,800
Employment	39,100	39,900	39,200	72,800	74,100	72,700	73,700	74,500	73,700
Unemployment	2,100	1,700	2,200	4,600	3,400	4,000	4,900	3,700	5,100
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.0	5.3	5.9	4.3	5.2	6.2	4.8	6.5
PLACE OF WORK									
Total Nonfarm Jobs	38,000	38,400	37,700	42,100	43,100	41,800	64,600	64,900	64,000
Mining, Logging, and Construction	*	*	*	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,200
Manufacturing	*	*	*	5,900	5,900	5,700	14,100	14,000	13,700
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	*	*	*	10,900	11,000	10,900	13,500	13,500	13,500
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	1,800	1,800	1,800	*	*	*
Retail Trade	*	*	*	5,200	5,200	5,200	10,600	10,600	10,900
Information	*	*	*	*	*	*	800	800	800
Financial Activities	*	*	*	900	900	1,000	1,700	1,700	1,800
Professional and Business Services	*	*	*	5,300	5,400	5,100	3,500	3,600	3,400
Educational and Health Services	*	*	*	5,200	5,300	5,500	10,900	10,800	11,100
Leisure and Hospitality	*	*	*	5,200	5,200	4,900	8,700	8,700	8,600
Other Services	*	*	*	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,500	2,400	2,400
Government	2,700	3,200	2,600	4,400	5,300	4,400	6,700	7,200	6,500

* Data Not Available

NILES-BENTON HARBOR METROPOLITAN AREA

- During the month of July, the jobless rate in the Niles-Benton Harbor region rose for the third consecutive month, up nine-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent.

- Over the year, the total employment level remained nearly unchanged, and the number of unemployed inched down by 200.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nonfarm employment in the region declined by -400, or -0.6 percent, mainly due to a 600-job seasonal drop in the *Government* sector.

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- The Niles-Benton Harbor region's *Leisure and hospitality* sector has been adding jobs since a low point in 2011, reaching 7,400 jobs during 2016.

SAGINAW METROPOLITAN AREA

- The number of unemployed in the Saginaw region spiked seasonally by 1,000 in July, pushing the area jobless rate up 1.1 percentage points to 5.9 percent.

- The Saginaw metro area jobless rate in July was a full percentage point above the Michigan average.

MONTHLY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

- Seasonal payroll cuts led to a reduction of -1,100 jobs in July (-1.2 percent), primarily reflecting monthly job change in *Government* (-900), and *Professional and business services* (-200).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Jobs in *Professional and business services* so far in 2017 have been comparable with 2016 levels. However, since the recession, jobs rose steadily in this sector, up 2,200 from 2009 to 2016.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

	NILES-BENTON HARBOR			SAGINAW		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Labor Force	75,300	75,000	75,500	89,300	89,500	89,200
Employment	71,200	71,700	71,300	84,000	85,300	83,800
Unemployment	4,000	3,300	4,200	5,300	4,300	5,400
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.4	5.5	5.9	4.8	6.1
PLACE OF WORK						
Total Nonfarm Jobs	63,700	64,100	63,000	89,200	90,300	88,000
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,100	2,100	2,000	3,200	3,200	3,100
Manufacturing	13,700	13,700	13,400	13,000	13,000	12,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	11,100	11,000	11,000	17,600	17,400	17,200
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	2,300	2,300	2,300
Retail Trade	6,600	6,600	6,700	12,800	12,600	12,400
Information	500	500	500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Financial Activities	2,300	2,400	2,300	3,600	3,600	3,800
Professional and Business Services	5,500	5,600	5,700	11,200	11,400	11,100
Educational and Health Services	8,700	8,700	9,000	16,500	16,600	16,200
Leisure and Hospitality	9,100	8,800	8,400	9,400	9,500	9,300
Other Services	2,400	2,400	2,500	3,300	3,300	3,200
Government	8,300	8,900	8,200	9,900	10,800	9,800

	UPPER PENINSULA			NORTHEAST MICHIGAN			NORTHWEST MICHIGAN		
	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016
PLACE OF RESIDENCE									
Labor Force	139,200	139,900	141,600	85,700	85,300	86,500	159,500	157,000	159,800
Employment	130,600	132,400	131,900	79,900	80,500	80,400	151,300	150,300	151,700
Unemployment	8,600	7,500	9,700	5,800	4,800	6,100	8,100	6,700	8,200
Rate (percent)	6.2	5.4	6.9	6.8	5.6	7.1	5.1	4.3	5.1

PERCENT OF POPULATION 25-34 WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Percent of Population 25-34 with Bachelor's Degree or Higher

- 5.1 - 11.4
- 11.4 - 18.6
- 18.6 - 28.9
- 28.9 - 44.4
- 44.4 - 59
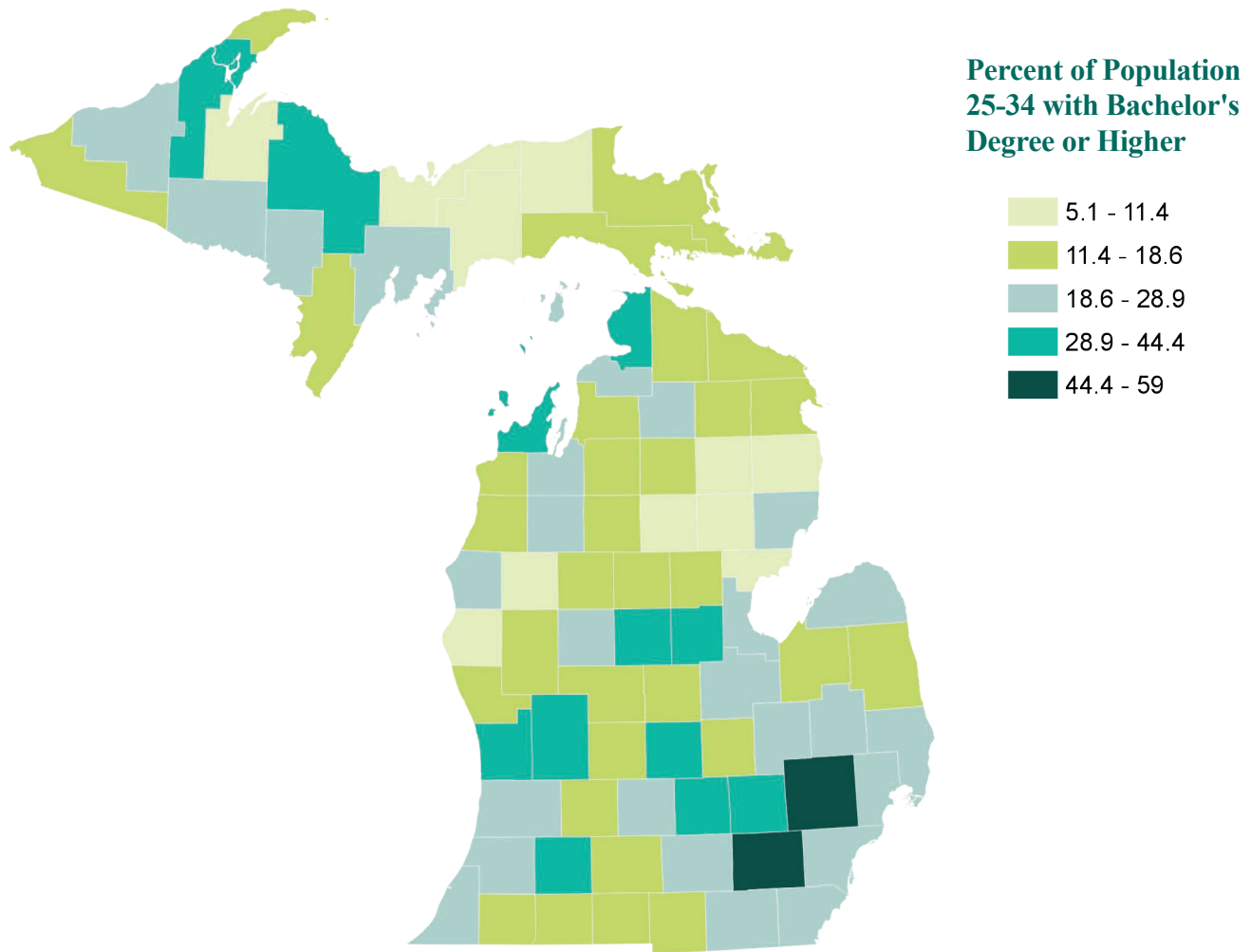
This map displays the percent of population 25-34 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 5-year estimates

Michigan's Share of Population 25-34 Years with a BA or Higher Slightly Below U.S. Average

For the period 2011-2105, Michigan's total population aged 25-34 years was estimated at 1.19 million. Roughly 31 percent of these had a bachelor's degree or higher, representing over 364,000 individuals. This was comparable, but slightly below, the 33 percent share for the U.S. overall. Females made up a somewhat higher concentration of this age group in Michigan, accounting for a level of about 201,600 while only roughly 163,100 of Michigan males aged 25-34 held a bachelor's degree or higher during this period.

Metro Area Counties Show Highest Concentration

Naturally, the highest concentrations of population aged 25-34 years with a bachelor's degree appear in counties with major universities or those with more job opportunities requiring higher levels of education. Washtenaw County ranked 1st with 59.0 percent of this age group holding a bachelor's or higher, while Oakland County in the Detroit metro area was a close 2nd at 49.7 percent. Oakland also accounted for the largest number of 25-34 population with a bachelor's or higher (about 150,200) accounting for two out of every five individuals in this group statewide.

Most Rural Counties Fall Short of Statewide Average

In contrast, rural counties, particularly those in Northern Michigan, generally tended to have lower concentrations of population 25-34 years with a bachelor's degree or higher, in absence of the presence of a major university. For example, nearly the entire Upper Peninsula had shares below the Michigan average of 31 percent, yet Marquette County actually ranked the 4th highest statewide at 42.3 percent.

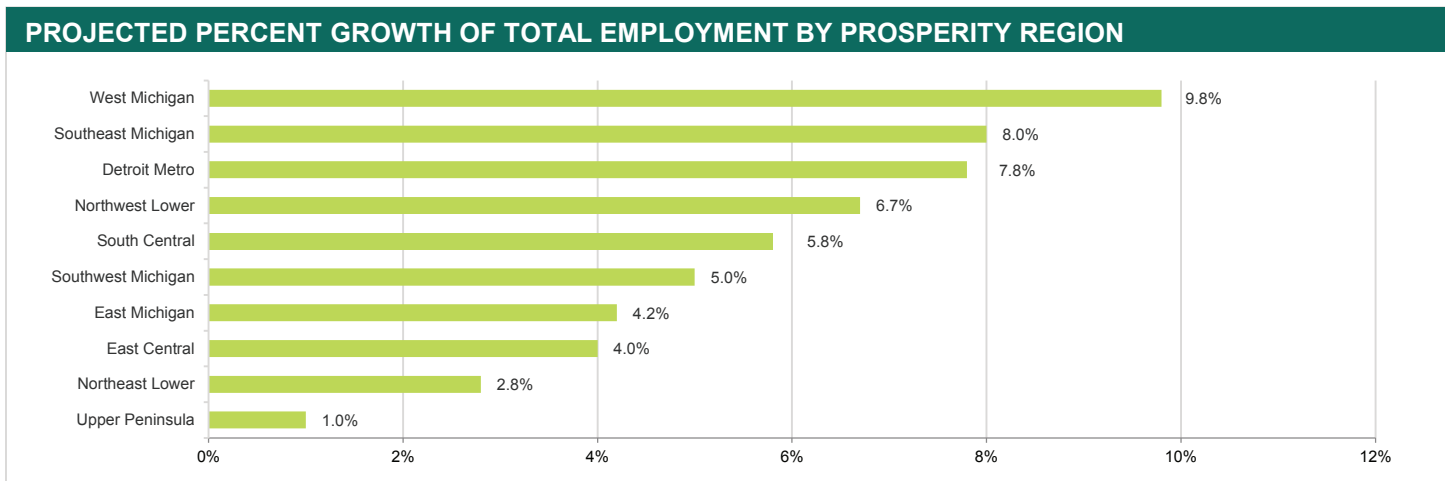# MICHIGAN REGIONS—EXPECTATIONS FOR JOB GROWTH THROUGH THE YEAR 2024

The Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives recently published employment projections through 2024 for Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions. These projections, which provide expected job growth for industries and occupations over a ten-year period, are important to state and local agencies, businesses, jobseekers, and education, workforce, and economic development professionals alike. These projections are used for many purposes ranging from long-term business strategies to career planning.

According to the new set of long-term employment projections for Michigan's Prosperity Regions, total employment is expected to expand below the statewide average in all but the three largest regions: West Michigan, Southeast Michigan, and the Detroit Metro area. Among these, the West Michigan Prosperity Region is projected to have the largest job growth rate at 9.8 percent. The lowest projected rate of employment gain is in the Upper Peninsula, where employment is expected to grow by just 1.0 percent between 2014 and 2024. The projected percent growth rates for all ten Prosperity Regions can be seen below.

Industry Projections

While some similar trends can be observed between the state overall and the Prosperity Regions, some regional differences exist. For example, the industry sub-sector expected to add the highest number of jobs in Michigan through 2024 is *Professional, scientific, and technical services*. However, healthcare-related industries such as *Ambulatory health care services* and *Nursing and residential care facilities* are expected to add the greatest number of jobs in seven of the ten Prosperity Regions, with the Upper Peninsula, West Michigan, and Southeast Michigan being the

PROJECTED PERCENT GROWTH OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY PROSPERITY REGION

Region	Percent Growth
West Michigan	9.8%
Southeast Michigan	8.0%
Detroit Metro	7.8%
Northwest Lower	6.7%
South Central	5.8%
Southwest Michigan	5.0%
East Michigan	4.2%
East Central	4.0%
Northeast Lower	2.8%
Upper Peninsula	1.0%

only exceptions. This example shows that there are certain strong statewide patterns that influence projected job growth throughout the state's regions, but in certain areas, distinct characteristics of the local labor market may produce unique future trends.
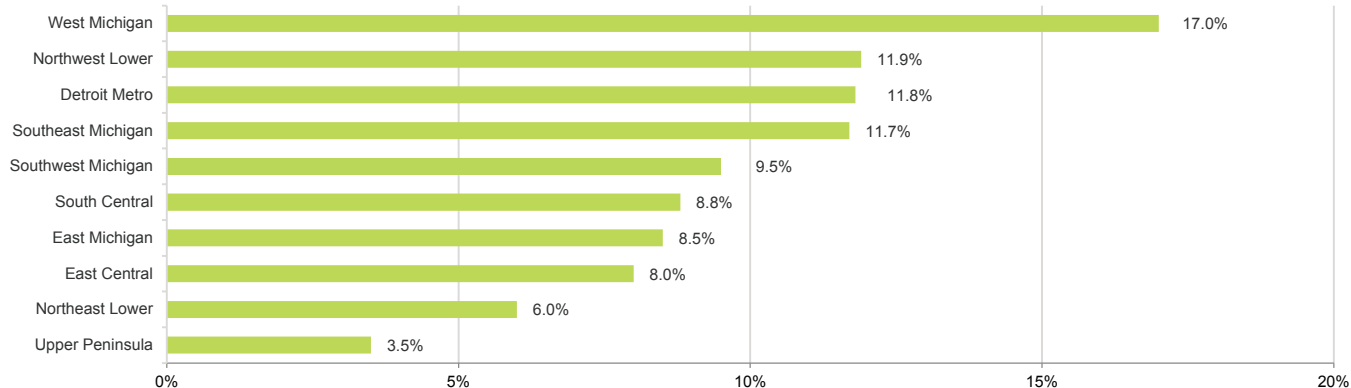
One of the most noticeable regional distinctions is found in the three northernmost Prosperity Regions. In the Upper Peninsula, *Food services and drinking places* are expected to add the greatest number of new jobs through 2024, and in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Peninsula regions, this industry is expected to add the second-highest number of new jobs. Tourism

activity has been an especially strong source of jobs in these regional economies in recent years, a trend that is expected to continue through the projection period.

A good understanding of regional sectors with a positive job outlook should be combined with an examination of industries with expected future declines in jobs. Since these employment reductions may displace workers, such projections may be useful for workforce development professionals in planning for future retraining strategies. Industries with expected future job cuts vary across Michigan's regions. For example, certain *Manufacturing* industries, such as *Plastics*

and rubber manufacturing in East Michigan, are expected to decline in employment even though other areas of *Manufacturing*, such as *Transportation equipment manufacturing*, are expected to add jobs. In these cases, workers may be able to move from one *Manufacturing* industry to another depending on their skill set. However, other sectors, such as some detailed industries in *Retail trade*, are expected to lose jobs over time due to online retailers' competition with brick-and-mortar stores. This may require workers to seek more training or education to find a more favorable employment outcome.

PROJECTED PERCENT GROWTH FOR PROFESSIONALTRADES OCCUPATIONS BY PROSPERITY REGION

Region	Growth
West Michigan	17.0%
Northwest Lower	11.9%
Detroit Metro	11.8%
Southeast Michigan	11.7%
Southwest Michigan	9.5%
South Central	8.8%
East Michigan	8.5%
East Central	8.0%
Northeast Lower	6.0%
Upper Peninsula	3.5%

Occupational Projections

One common thread in the regional occupational projections is that *Healthcare* will be one of the fastest-growing groups of occupations, echoing the changes expected at the industry level. These occupations are projected to be in high demand through 2024, due largely to aging populations in Michigan's regions. While an aging population is nothing unique to Michigan and its regions, certain areas stand out for their combination of a high median age and high projected growth in *Healthcare* jobs. One such region is the Northwest Prosperity Region, where *Healthcare practitioners and technical* occupations are expected to expand by 12.5 percent - the second highest growth rate for this group in the state.

Healthcare occupations are also among the highest performing in each region based on another metric - average annual openings. Among detailed occupations requiring at least some training beyond high school, *Registered nurses* leads all occupations in the number of average annual openings through 2024 in seven of the ten Prosperity Regions, followed by *Nursing assistants* in five of those seven regions. There are several very large low-skill occupations that generate many annual job openings as well, such as *Retails salespersons*, *Cashiers*, and *Combined food preparation and serving workers*. Although these three occupations often do not provide substantial wages, they provide many job opportunities for persons needing immediate employment that may not have pursued postsecondary education or training.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations are another strong group for job growth according to the Prosperity Region projections data. On average, STEM jobs are expected to grow 3.3 percentage points faster than non-STEM occupations among the ten Prosperity Regions. STEM jobs are expected to have the fastest growth rate in the Detroit Metro Prosperity Region, followed by the West Michigan and Southeast Michigan regions. These areas, by no coincidence, have some of the highest projected growth rates in the *Professional, scientific, and technical services* industry, a large employer of STEM workers.

For those who would rather not pursue a four-year degree, an occupation in the *Professional trades*, such as *Electricians* or *Web developers*, can still provide a bright outlook for job demand through 2024. On average, *Professional trades* occupations are projected to grow 9.7 percent through 2024, and will outpace overall regional job gains by an average of 4.1 percentage points. One of the highest-growth *Professional trades* occupations throughout a majority of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions is *Machinists*, expected to see the highest expansion in West Michigan and the Metro Detroit area, and *Industrial machinery mechanics*, expected to add jobs at the fastest rate in West and South Central Michigan.

KEVIN DOYLE
ECONOMIC ANALYST

SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH OF JOB AD LOSSES

Seasonally-adjusted online job postings in Michigan fell 5.2 percent to 136,805 for the month of July according to the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online data series. This was the second consecutive month of job ad reductions, exceeding the 2.3 percent drop in June.

Nationally, seasonally-adjusted job ads dropped 3.3 percent, a lower rate of decrease than in Michigan. Michigan's neighboring states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin also showed negative monthly trends. The neighboring states averaged a 2.6 percent drop in ads, and July was the second consecutive month of declining rates.

Michigan Supply/Demand Rate Edges Up

The supply/demand rate, or the number of unemployed persons per job advertisement, increased slightly in Michigan to 1.32 from 1.30 in June, ending a positive streak of four straight months of rate decline. Each of Michigan's neighboring states also saw a monthly upturn in supply/demand rates.

The number of job ads per 100 labor force participants, referred to as the ad rate, fell by 0.14 to 2.83 in Michigan for the month of July. The drop followed the national trend and was the third consecutive month with a declining rate. The July reduction, in fact, was typical for the month, as the Michigan ad rate decreased in July in four of the last five years.

Metro Area Job Ads

Twelve of Michigan's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) experienced a loss in job ads in July, down by an average of 5.7 percent. Only the Monroe MSA recorded a gain in job ads (up 3.8 percent), while the count of ads in Niles-Benton Harbor was relatively unchanged. The Grand Rapids-Wyoming decline of 11.7 percent and Midland's drop of 13.7 percent were the most significant reductions in job ads.

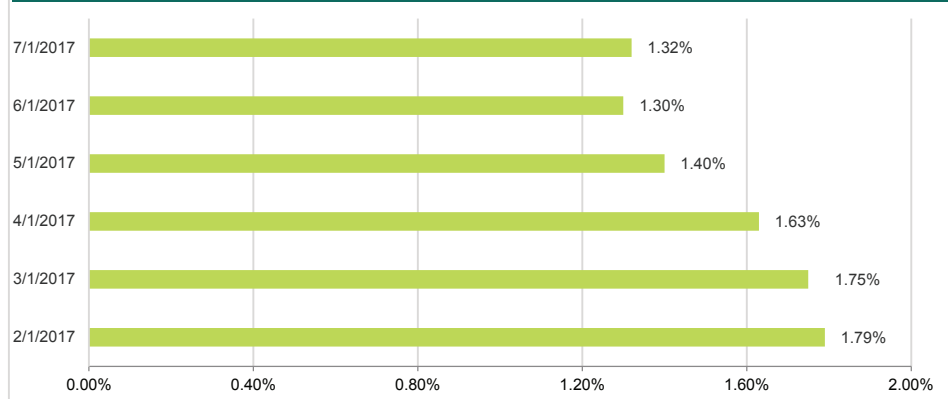## Ads by Occupation (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Information is available on advertised job vacancies by broad occupational group, but the data is not seasonally adjusted.

All of the major occupational groups displayed a cutback in total available ads from June to July with the exception of Farming, fishing, and forestry, whose count remained unchanged. Professional occupations recorded the highest number of job ads in July (42,050).
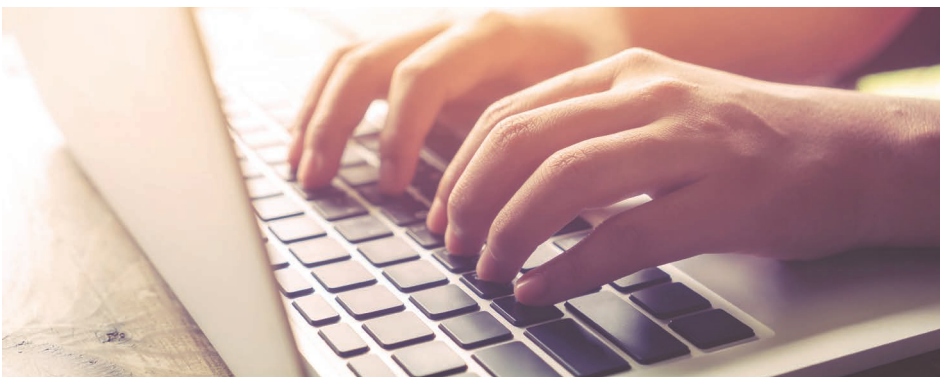
The total number of newly-posted ads decreased to 53,900 from 60,950 the month before, an 11.6 percent reduction. Service occupations experienced the largest loss at 19.7 percent, while newly posted ads for Healthcare, Management, Production, and Transportation each moved down by fewer than 1,000.
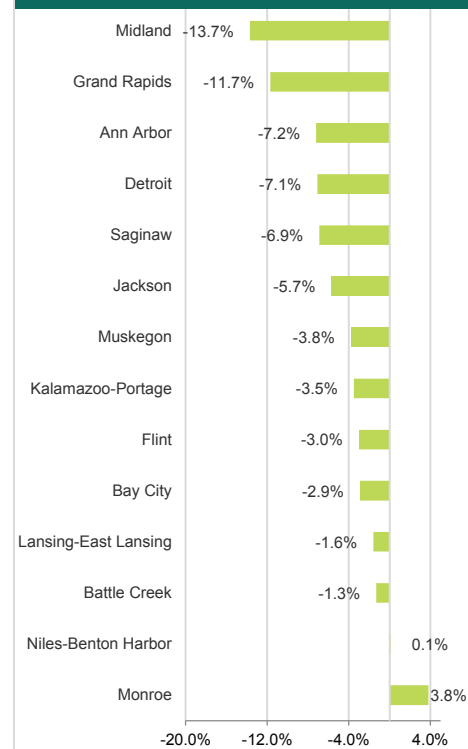
MICHIGAN SUPPLY/DEMAND RATE

Date	Rate
7/1/2017	1.32%
6/1/2017	1.30%
5/1/2017	1.40%
4/1/2017	1.63%
3/1/2017	1.75%
2/1/2017	1.79%

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

PERCENT CHANGE IN JOB ADS BY METRO AREA (JUNE 2017 - JULY 2017)

Metro Area	Percent Change
Midland	-13.7%
Grand Rapids	-11.7%
Ann Arbor	-7.2%
Detroit	-7.1%
Saginaw	-6.9%
Jackson	-5.7%
Muskegon	-3.8%
Kalamazoo-Portage	-3.5%
Flint	-3.0%
Bay City	-2.9%
Lansing-East Lansing	-1.6%
Battle Creek	-1.3%
Niles-Benton Harbor	0.1%
Monroe	3.8%

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

TOTAL AVAILABLE ADS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

OCCUPATION CATEGORIES	JUL 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2016	OVER THE MONTH	
				LEVEL	PERCENT
TOTAL	**139,450**	**149,550**	**160,000**	**-10,100**	**-6.8%**
Professional	42,050	44,850	47,800	-2,800	-6.2%
Healthcare	22,000	22,800	25,200	-800	-3.5%
Sales	13,800	15,100	15,450	-1,300	-8.6%
Administrative Support	12,800	13,800	15,150	-1,000	-7.2%
Service	12,600	14,250	15,250	-1,650	-11.6%
Management	10,150	10,550	11,100	-400	-3.8%
Construction and Repair	10,000	11,200	10,800	-1,200	-10.7%
Transportation	8,900	9,400	11,650	-500	-5.3%
Production	6,750	7,200	7,300	-450	-6.3%
Farming, Fishing, And Forestry	400	400	300	0	0.0%

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

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

As highlighted in our regional occupational projection feature article, *Healthcare* will be one of the fastest growing Michigan occupational categories between 2014 and 2024. *Medical assistants,* which comprise 15.5 percent of all jobs in *Healthcare support*, will add jobs at a rate of 10.8 percent over the decade. *Medical assistants* perform administrative and clerical tasks under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, and billing and coding, while clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs, preparing patients for exams, and administering medications.

JOB TITLES

- Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

- Clinical Assistant

- Doctor's Assistant

- Medical Office Assistant

- Optometric Technician

- Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)

EDUCATION

- The majority of *Medical assistants* have a postsecondary certificate / award. Others enter the occupation with a high school diploma and learn through on-the-job training.

SKILLS

- *Active Listening:* Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

- *Service Orientation*: Actively looking for ways to help people.

- *Social Perceptiveness*: Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

- *Speaking:* Talking to others to convey information effectively.

TASKS

- Record patients' medical history, vital statistics, or information such as test results in medical records.

- Explain treatment procedures, medications, diets, or physicians' instructions to patients.

- Collect blood, tissue, or other laboratory specimens, log the specimens, and prepare them for testing.

- Operate x-ray, electrocardiogram (EKG), or other equipment to administer routine diagnostic tests.

- Perform general office duties, such as answering telephones, taking dictation, or completing insurance forms.

Short-Term Projections - 2016 - 2018

- Michigan jobs for *Medical assistants* are projected to rise by 740 or 3.1 percent by the second quarter 2018. This short term growth rate is slightly higher than the rate expected for all Michigan occupations of 2.2 percent.

- The average number of annual job openings for *Medical assistants* will be over 800. The need to replace existing workers (+466) and job expansion (+370) will each account for significant numbers of annual job openings.

Long-Term Projections - 2014 - 2024

- The total number of jobs for *Medical assistants* is expected to advance at a faster rate through 2024 than total statewide jobs. *Medical assistants* employment will increase by 10.8 percent or 2,470 by the year 2024, while Michigan jobs overall are expected to rise by 7.4 percent over the decade.

- Between 2014 and 2024 the number of annual job openings for *Medical assistants* will total 725. About two-thirds (66 percent) of all annual openings are expected to come from the need to replace workers, while the remaining 34 percent will result from employment expansion.

MICHIGAN QUICK FACTS: MEDICAL ASSISTANTS	
Number of Jobs - 2016	22,300
Projected Job Change - 2016 - 2018	+740 (+3.1%)
Annual Openings	836
Projected Job Change - 2014 - 2024	+2,470 (+10.8%)
Annual Openings	725
Median Wage - 2016	$29,850 per year $14.35 per hour
Wage Range - 2016	$22,770 - $38,800 per year $10.95 - $18.65 per hour
Education Required	Postsecondary Certificate / Award
Primary Industries	Health Care and Social Assistance
Real-Time Job Ads - July 2017	1,451

TOP TAKEAWAYS BY METRO AREA

Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Area

- The Lansing-East Lansing metropolitan area jobless rate reached double-digits in 2009 during the national recession. The 10.9 percent rate was the highest level documented since at least 1990. The jobless rate has steadily declined since 2009, reaching 4.0 percent in 2016, nearly a full percentage point below the statewide and national jobless rates.

- Unemployed residents in the metro area decreased by 63 percent since 2009 and averaged 9,800 in 2016, the lowest level recorded since 2001.

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Lansing-East Lansing metropolitan area have advanced since the recessionary low, as about 17,300 jobs (+8.1 percent) were added since 2009. This job gain lagged behind the 11.7 percent job expansion in Michigan over this period.

- Industry sectors in the Lansing-East Lansing area that have added the most jobs from 2010-2016, include: *Trade, transportation and utilities* (+4,200 jobs), *Manufacturing* (+3,300 jobs), *Financial activities* (+2,300 jobs), and *Professional and Business services* (+2,100 jobs).

- In addition, the *Mining, logging, and construction* sector added 1,700 payroll jobs between 2010 and 2016, with the 7,200 jobs in 2016 similar to 2008 levels.

- The *Manufacturing* and *Government* sectors are major sources of jobs to the Lansing economy, combining to provide nearly 37 percent of area employment, compared with 28 percent of jobs statewide.
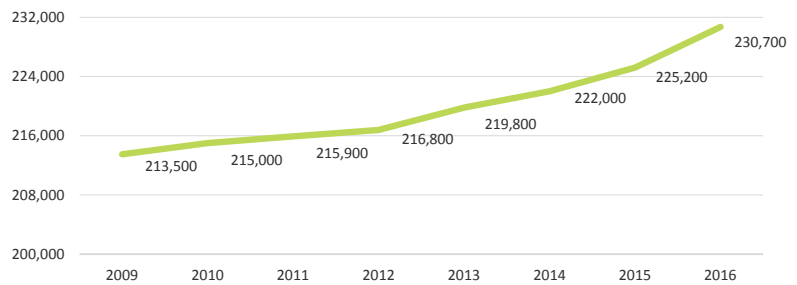
Muskegon Metropolitan Area

- The jobless rate in the Muskegon metro area fell by nearly ten full percentage points since the last recession, declining from 14.9 percent to 5.2 percent in 2016. For the first seven months of 2017, the jobless rate has averaged 5.1 percent.

- The number of Muskegon employed residents has risen since 2010 by 6,900 or 10.3 percent.

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Muskegon area rose for five consecutive years from 2011 through 2015, but job levels remain below pre-recessionary lev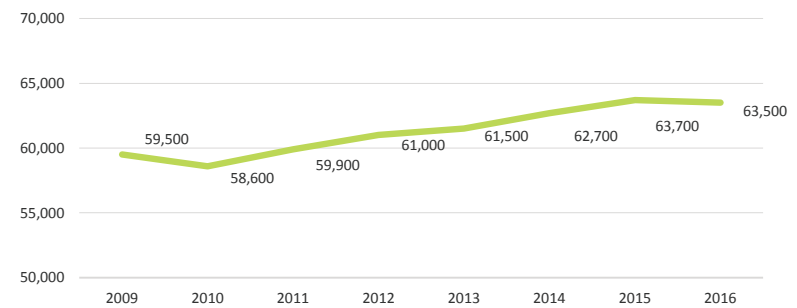els. From 2010 to 2016, the Muskegon metro area added 4,900 jobs, which represents about 64 percent of the jobs lost during the last recession.

- A strong job gain of nearly 35 percent (+3,500 jobs) in *Manufacturing* has driven employment growth in the metro area. Between July 2016 and July 2017, jobs in the *Manufacturing* sector continued to rise by 2.9 percent.

- Additional payroll job advances since 2010 have occurred in *Mining, logging and construction*, *Professional and business services*, and *Leisure and hospitality*. These three industry sectors recovered 2,500 jobs since the recession, or one-half of all jobs added in the metro area.
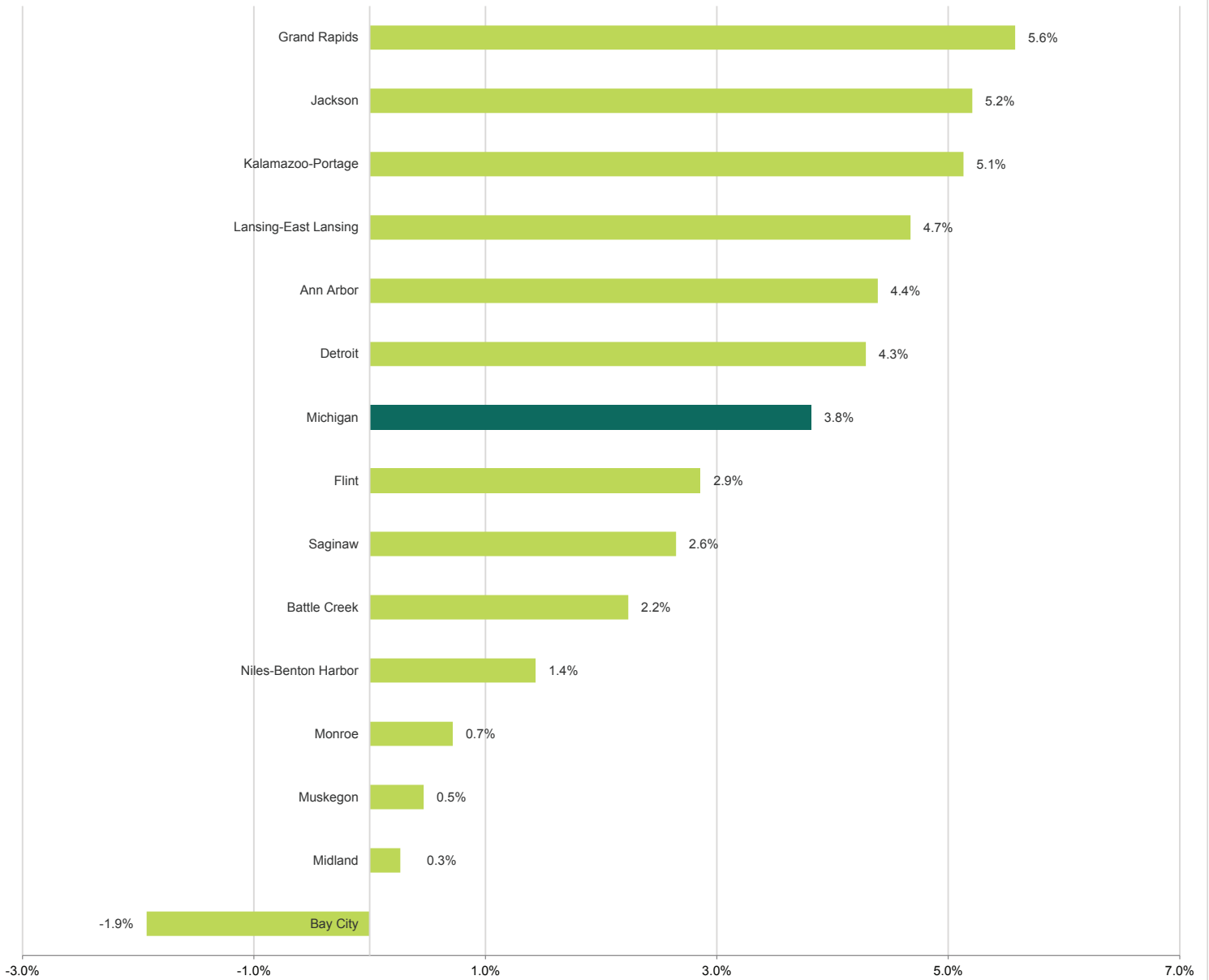
LANSING - EAST LANSING PAYROLL JOBS

Year	Jobs
2009	213,500
2010	215,000
2011	215,900
2012	216,800
2013	219,800
2014	222,000
2015	225,200
2016	230,700

MUSKEGON PAYROLL JOBS

Year	Jobs
2009	59,500
2010	58,600
2011	59,900
2012	61,000
2013	61,500
2014	62,700
2015	63,700
2016	63,500

PAYROLL JOB GROWTH RATES (JULY 2015 TO JULY 2017)

Region	Growth Rate
Grand Rapids	5.6%
Jackson	5.2%
Kalamazoo-Portage	5.1%
Lansing-East Lansing	4.7%
Ann Arbor	4.4%
Detroit	4.3%
Michigan	3.8%
Flint	2.9%
Saginaw	2.6%
Battle Creek	2.2%
Niles-Benton Harbor	1.4%
Monroe	0.7%
Muskegon	0.5%
Midland	0.3%
Bay City	-1.9%

ASK THE ECONOMIST

Q: Your Bureau produces short-term and long-term employment projections for industries and occupations.

What is this information and how can it be used?

A: Employment projections are one of our most popular products…

What data is available?

The Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives produces two sets of employment projections for industries and occupations every year. Short-term employment projections are produced for the state of Michigan as a whole each year and cover a two-year period. A set of long-term employment projections covering a ten-year period are also produced each year, but the geographic coverage varies annually.

In even-numbered years, we release a set of industry and occupational employment projections for the state as a whole, while in odd-numbered years, we produce and publish long-term projections for Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions. For example, we released a set of statewide projections in July 2016 for the time period 2014-2024. This was followed in July 2017 with a set of Prosperity Region projections for the same period. In July 2018, a new set of Michigan statewide employment projections to 2026 will be published, starting this two-year cycle over again.

To ensure consistency across all states and the U.S., every set of employment projections is published with common data elements. These include:

*   Base year employment

*   Estimated projection year employment

*   Numeric and percent job change between the base and projection year

*   For occupational projections, a simple linear estimate of the number of annual openings expected in each occupation

What do I need to know to interpret these employment projections?

*   Employment projections reflect recent job trends and other variables and apply a variety of statistical models to estimate employment over a two-or-ten year period. The output from these models is reviewed and adjusted, if necessary, based on specific knowledge of future developments impacting jobs in these industries or occupations.

*   It is best to focus on the expected job trends displayed by the data and not on the exact numeric job changes.

*   Ten year projections will reflect long-term job trends, but not necessarily current job demand.

*   Over the long-term, a skilled labor pool in Michigan will be needed for some of these projected job growth rates to be realized.

Is technological change accounted for in these projections?

One of the most common questions about projections data is if it takes into account long-term, structural changes such as advances in technology. The answer to that question is yes, employment projections do take such factors into account. One useful illustration of this practice is in the *Publishing industries* sector. This sector includes both the *Newspaper publishers* and *Software publishers* industries. Since we know that periodicals such as newspapers and magazines are losing market share to digital publishing, we estimate that in the future the *Publishing industries* sector will require fewer *Printing press operators* and more

Software developers. These types of structural technical changes are factored into employment projections for many occupations.

How can this information best be used?

Important questions to ask yourself when utilizing this data include:

*   Are jobs in this industry or occupation expected to expand or decline?

*   How does the rate of expected job change in this industry or occupation compare to the future rate of change for all jobs?

*   Can I use this data to identify high-demand industries or occupations in my region?

Employment projections data are very useful for a wide variety of data users. For example, students can use the information to compare future job trends among their top career choices. Workforce development professionals also use this data to plan for future occupational job changes in regional economies, and for informing unemployed adult job-seekers of certain training programs that lead to occupations expected to see employment gains in coming years.

In fact, the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives already uses this projections data in the *Michigan's Hot 50 for 2024* and *Michigan's Going Pro Hot 25* publications to display high-demand occupations with positive wages.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS DATA COVERAGE AND AVAILABILITY

AREA COVERED	CURRENT PROJECTIONS DATASET		NEXT PROJECTIONS DATASET	
	PERIOD	RELEASE DATE	PERIOD	RELEASE DATE
Statewide - Long-term	2014 - 2024	July 2016	2016 - 2026	July 2018
Statewide - Short-term	2016 - 2018	March 2017	2017 - 2019	March 2018
Prosperity Region	2014 - 2024	July 2017	2016 - 2026	July 2019