

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

GOAL: All individuals and families in Calhoun County will be economically self-sufficient

RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING INDICATOR:

Employment change is a timely economic performance measure for local areas. It is highly dependent upon the competitiveness of the area's base companies (firms that sell goods or services to customers located outside the area). In the past, the area's manufacturers made up the area's base activities. Today, professional services are becoming a significant component of the area's base. As these companies grow, they generate jobs and income that support the area's non-base jobs such as outpatient health care, restaurants and retail outlets. Employment growth increases the probability for people to move up in their career paths and potentially increase earnings, and the ability of those struggling in poverty to find employment or move up to a better-paying position. ⁱⁱ

NUMBER EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING AND PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES IN CALHOUN COUNTY ^{i, ‡}		
	Manufacturing	Professional and Business Services
2012	11,200	5,253
2013	11,429	5,505
2014	10,668	5,775
2015	11,808	5,579
2016	12,120	5,293

HOW ARE WE DOING? While total employment in Calhoun County hit bottom in 2009, it has turned around, with total employment at 53,395 in 2015. ⁱⁱⁱ Manufacturing job growth remains strong, while jobs in professional and business services have fluctuated in recent years. ⁱ Across Michigan, manufacturing jobs are predicted to grow by 6.2%, and professional and business services by 12.7%, in the decade between 2014-2024; the largest growth (15.2%) is expected in computer and mathematical occupations. ^{iv} Locally, high growth occupations through 2020 are predicted to be in health care (home health aides, nursing aides, nurses), truck driving, and mechanical and industrial engineering. ^v Overall employment growth of about 1% is projected in Calhoun County for 2017-2018. ^{vi} Finally, it is important to note that the county has strong, professionally-managed economic development organizations in Battle Creek, Marshall and Albion which are working hard to stabilize and grow the county's economic base industries. While their efforts have been thwarted by powerful market forces, they are still crucial in turning around the county's negative employment trends. ⁱⁱ

TOP HIGH GROWTH OCCUPATIONS THROUGH 2020: BATTLE CREEK AREA ^v											
High School Diploma/GED & Training				Associate's Degree/Vocational Training				Bachelor's Degree of Higher			
Job Title	No. Jobs	% Growth	Wage Range	Job Title	No. Jobs	% Growth	Wage Range	Job Title	No. Jobs	% Growth	Wage Range
Home Health Aides	415	53.3	\$8-\$13	Registered Nurses	285	14.9	\$22-\$37	Mechanical Engineers	70	10.1	\$22-\$50
Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants	185	15.5	\$9-\$17	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	210	16.5	\$12-\$29	Industrial Engineers	60	14.1	\$22-\$45

ⁱ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://data.bls.gov>, accessed August 16, 2017.

ⁱⁱ W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ American Community Survey. Quick Facts, U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov, accessed August 16, 2017.

^{iv} Employment Projections. Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. <http://milmi.org/datasearch/projections>, accessed August 16, 2017.

^v Career Outlook 2020: Battle Creek Area/Barry, Branch and Calhoun Counties. Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

^{vi} U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in "Economic Conditions: Battle Creek." W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, May 2017.

[‡] All data as of quarter 4; 2016 data is preliminary.