

Upcoming Events

August 13

“The Best Ways to Get Started in Exporting” Seminar

Hosted by: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development & Food Export

Location: Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing
More Information [Here](#)

August 13

Advanced Manufacturing Expo

Hosted by: Industrial Control
Location: The Pinnacle Center, Hudsonville
More Information [Here](#)

August 20 & 27

Skilled Trades Training Fund Employer Workshops

Michigan Works! Muskegon-Oceana
Location: 316 Morris Ave, Muskegon

Time: 2:30 PM

RSVP: Sonya Barrett at 231-724-6817 or email: barretts@miworksmo.org

August 30-31

Michigan Supply Chain Innovation Summit

Location: Ford Conference Center, Dearborn
More Information [Here](#)

September 10

Breakfast with the Buyer

Procurement Assistance Technical Center (PTAC)

Location: Hines Building
380 Western Ave, Muskegon

Time: 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

To register click [Here](#)

October 14

Micro-loan Workshops

GROW

Location: GVSU/MAREC

200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon

Time: 12:00 PM or 5:30 PM

RSVP: Jamaal Ewing at 616-458-3404
e-mail: jewing@growbusiness.org

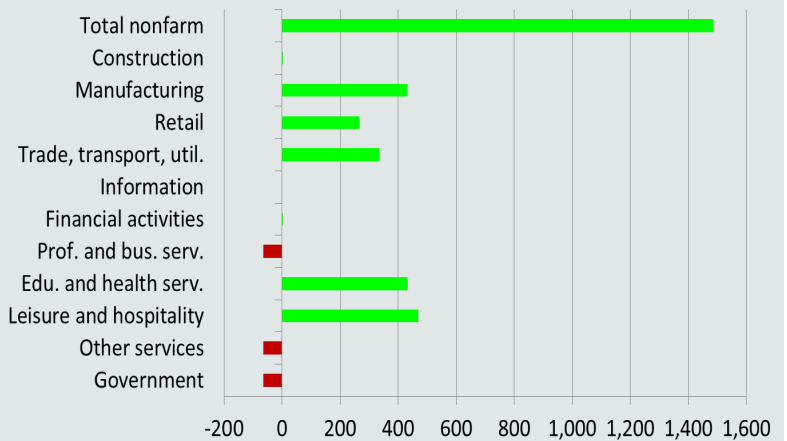
Mid-year Outlook for Muskegon County

Over 1,500 jobs added since 2nd quarter 2014

Brian Pittelko, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

According to the mid-year outlook for Muskegon County as presented by Brian Pittelko from the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Muskegon County employment is growing modestly across various industries through the first half of the year. Employers added over 1,500 jobs since the second quarter 2014 with a significant number of these jobs in the manufacturing, healthcare and hospitality sectors.

Muskegon County Employment Change, Q2 2014 to Q2 2015



The Upjohn Institute also revised its forecast regarding Muskegon County’s Employment Change from its original prediction of 1.4% to 1.5%. This change is based on the job growth experienced by the region over the first half of the year.

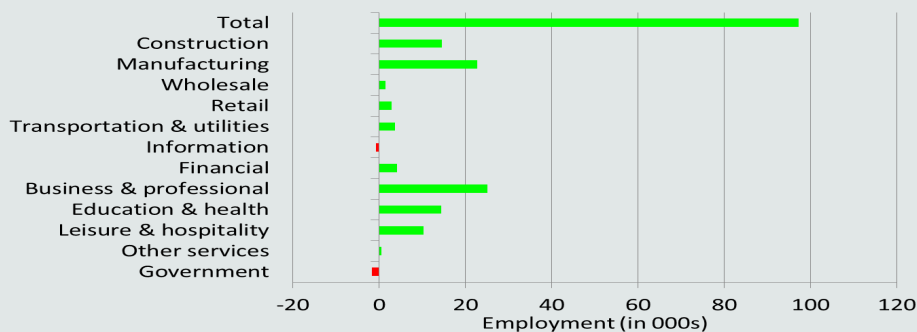
Muskegon County Employment Change and Forecast



On the state level, strong auto sales are pushing Michigan forward and most are forecasting that auto sales will remain high until at least 2017. The state's unemployment is down to pre-recession levels but still higher than the nations', however, employment growth is expected in

2015 and 2016. Michigan's employers have added nearly 100,000 jobs during the first six months over the same period last year. The latest University of Michigan employment forecast for the State is very bullish with employment growth of 50,250 for 2015 and 52,140 projected for 2016.

Michigan's Employment Change, Jan–June 2014 to Jan–June 2015



Nationally, gross domestic product growth is expected through the remainder of 2015. Employment is on the rise but wages remain flat. The federal government has ceased bond purchases but will likely keep interest rates low. Along with interest rates, the rate of inflation is expected to stay low as well. Also, gas prices may stay low for the year. To view the complete report click [HERE](#).

2nd Quarter 2015 Economic Indicators

Labor Market

Workforce

Muskegon County

JUN 2015	78,387
MAY 2015	78,702
APR 2015	77,112
JUN 2014	78,481

Unemployment Rate

Muskegon County

JUN 2015	6.1%
MAY 2015	6.1%
APR 2015	5.1%
JUN 2014	7.7%

New Businesses

Registered

Muskegon County

APR	58
MAY	51
JUN	42

Gov't Contracts

Awarded

West Michigan

\$56,715,478

Stock Market Indexes

DOW	17,743.88
NASDAQ	5,144.44
S&P	2,111.37

Prime Lending Rate

JUN 2015	3.25%
MAY 2015	3.25%
APR 2015	3.25%
JUN 2014	3.25%

Jobs! **JOBS!** **Jobs!** and more Jobs!

It is estimated that nearly 50% of the Muskegon County's workforce commutes to areas outside of Muskegon County for employment, while many jobs are typically available closer to home.

According to Burning Glass, a leader of job market analytics, in the second quarter of 2015, **329 companies** advertised **1,859 jobs** online in Muskegon County. The **top 10 companies** posting these jobs were **Trinity Health, Chassis, Muskegon County, MOKA, Plumb's Inc., HCR ManorCare, Alcoa Howmet, Redi Rental, Port City Group, L & L Bull Farm and Greenhouse**. In the first quarter of 2015, 209 companies posted 1,217 jobs online, which is further indicative of ongoing open positions in Muskegon County. For more details, please call your local MichiganWorks! office at 231-724-6381.

Huntington Bank provides \$5 Million for new Micro-Lending Program in West Michigan!

Small business micro-loans ranging from \$1,000—\$250,000 are now available through a new collaboration with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Huntington Bank under the **Pure Michigan Micro Lending Initiative**. The funds will be lent through the Opportunity Resource Fund, an established Michigan micro-lender.

Application support and coaching will be provided through Michigan's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Grand Rapids Opportunity for Women (GROW), and LINC Community Revitalization in Grand Rapids. To learn more, contact: Jamaal Ewing, GROW at 616-458-3404, e-mail: jewing@growbusiness.org or Jeanne Ferro, SBDC at 616-331-5000, e-mail: ferroj@gvsu.org

