

SPECIAL REPORT: A deep dive on Michigan jobs

By [John Bebow](#) - July 16, 2009

Michigan's unemployment rate [now tops 15 percent](#). And it's no secret that our state has lost 750,000 jobs this decade, most of them in the manufacturing-based industries that made Michigan's economy the envy of the world for much of the 20th Century.

But did you know that more than 250 occupations actually gained numbers in Michigan from 2000-2008. That's right. Parts of the Michigan economy have grown during this dark decade. In fact, these growing occupations account for more than 300,000 new jobs in the state in the past eight years, according to the latest figures from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

The full list of these growth occupations appears below. Warning: past performance is not a clear indication of future performance. The Wall Street Journal explained just this week that [Michigan's recent gains in health care employment are now eroding due to the depth of the statewide recession](#).

But we present the list below to stir creative thinking, to inspire young professionals to continue to seek opportunities, and to illustrate that a state economy is a very dynamic thing.

Our favorite findings as we recently dug through the jobs data...

KNOWLEDGE WINS: Michigan gained more than 57,000 highly educated workers in fields such as health care, computer & math science occupations, education occupations, and business and financial operations.

SPIN WINS: The number of public relations specialists in Michigan has grown by more than 50 percent this decade. The spin doctors outnumber working journalists five to one!

HELLO, OFFICER: Local government leaders have been quick to complain in recent years about threats to public safety through budget cuts and law enforcement reductions. A recent proposal to lay off 100 state troopers drew wide public scrutiny, for example. But, according to the federal data, Michigan actually gained 100 police and sheriff's patrol officers from 2000-2008. That's only a one percent increase, but it is an increase.

HEY, BARTENDER: No doubt many are drowning their sorrows these days. Michigan has 3,500 more bartenders than eight years ago.

FEWER WORKERS, MORE BIG BOSSES: Somehow, Michigan gained 870 chief executives in the past eight years. That's an increase of 7 percent in our roster of CEOs.

GROWING FAITH: Numbers would suggest not all of those Saturday night drinkers are repenting come Sunday morning, but some are. The number of clergy in Michigan is up by 330, or 28 percent.

HARD TO BELIEVE: Michigan had 500 more real estate brokers at the end of 2008 than it had in 2000. Of course, the federal jobs data doesn't list their shrinking commissions.

PAMPER YOURSELF: The number of manicurists and pedicurists is up 80 percent this decade.

Here are the raw numbers on Michigan job growth...

MICHIGAN'S TOP JOBS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES (2000-2008)

JOB TITLE	NEW JOBS	% CHANGE
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	19,970	9%
Healthcare support occupations	14,130	12%
Computer and mathematical science occupations	10,500	13%

Community and social services occupations	9,770	20%
Personal care and service occupations	8,050	8%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	5,770	12%
Education, training, and library occupations	3,700	2%
Business and financial operations occupations	3,250	2%

TOTAL KNOWLEDGE JOBS ADDED IN GROWING INDUSTRIES 57,320

MICHIGAN'S GROWING OCCUPATIONS -- THE FULL LIST (2000-2008)

Office clerks, general	31,330	43%
Elementary school teachers, except special education	10,810	35%
Customer service representatives	10,240	20%
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10,140	25%
Food preparation workers	8,850	40%
Registered nurses	8,330	11%
Mechanical engineers	7,990	49%
Home health aides	7,340	30%
Industrial engineers	7,150	52%
Waiters and waitresses	6,880	10%
Medical and public health social workers	6,400	188%
Helpers--production workers	6,000	45%
Coaches and scouts	5,620	212%
Telecommunications equipment installers and repairers, except line installers	5,160	190%
Social and human service assistants	5,090	74%
Medical assistants	5,050	35%
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	4,960	40%
Cooks, restaurant	4,760	21%
Network systems and data communications analysts	3,960	146%
Market research analysts	3,950	153%
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	3,760	95%
Bartenders	3,520	27%
Loan officers	3,360	56%
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	3,280	91%
Tellers	3,130	20%
Recreation workers	2,990	37%
Industrial engineering technicians	2,840	113%
Child care workers	2,830	17%
Pharmacy technicians	2,710	33%
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	2,660	94%
Counter and rental clerks	2,510	24%
Public relations specialists	2,440	53%
Computer support specialists	2,330	17%
Dental hygienists	2,170	33%
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	2,140	69%
Management analysts	2,080	22%
Food batchmakers	2,000	114%
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,980	85%
Network and computer systems administrators	1,980	29%
Administrative services managers	1,970	41%
Medical and health services managers	1,930	28%
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	1,910	45%
Personal financial advisors	1,900	99%
Instructional coordinators	1,860	89%
Sales managers	1,770	20%
Property, real estate, and community association managers	1,730	73%
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	1,680	51%
Amusement and recreation attendants	1,680	25%
Cooks, short order	1,660	29%

Court, municipal, and license clerks	1,640	38%
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	1,630	65%
Physical therapists	1,540	32%
Nonfarm animal caretakers	1,520	70%
Accountants and auditors	1,520	5%
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	1,520	2%
Real estate sales agents	1,510	51%
Pharmacists	1,510	22%
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	1,450	35%
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	1,440	45%
Paralegals and legal assistants	1,400	40%
Computer software engineers, systems software	1,360	22%
Gaming dealers	1,350	92%
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	1,340	26%
Electronics engineers, except computer	1,270	62%
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	1,230	85%
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	1,210	27%
Physician assistants	1,190	65%
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	1,190	65%
Financial analysts	1,130	26%
Self-enrichment education teachers	1,110	38%
Loan interviewers and clerks	1,110	32%
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	1,100	216%
Anesthesiologists	1,100	200%
Dental laboratory technicians	1,070	129%
Food servers, nonrestaurant	1,070	17%
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	1,040	165%
New accounts clerks	1,030	94%
Civil engineering technicians	1,030	63%
Graphic designers	990	24%
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	990	3%
Vocational education teachers, middle school	950	475%
Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary	930	69%
Tax preparers	910	49%
Dietitians and nutritionists	880	74%
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	880	9%
Chief executives	870	7%
Social and community service managers	860	39%
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	850	17%
Respiratory therapists	840	28%
Physical therapist assistants	820	45%
Database administrators	790	40%
Electrical and electronics repairers, powerhouse, substation, and relay	770	208%
Food service managers	760	15%
Education teachers, postsecondary	710	67%
Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators	710	33%
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	650	6%
Power plant operators	630	57%
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians	620	73%
Computer hardware engineers	610	88%
Security and fire alarm systems installers	570	130%
First-line supervisors/managers of personal service workers	570	16%
Real estate brokers	560	104%
Pest control workers	540	257%
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	540	77%
Actuaries	530	230%
Medical equipment repairers	530	133%

Interior designers	530	62%
Loan counselors	520	113%
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	520	4%
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	500	100%
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	490	25%
Title examiners, abstractors, and searchers	480	50%
Demonstrators and product promoters	470	17%
Bill and account collectors	470	5%
Desktop publishers	460	56%
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	450	8%
Industrial machinery mechanics	450	5%
Statisticians	440	220%
Manicurists and pedicurists	440	79%
Directors, religious activities and education	440	67%
Tile and marble setters	430	57%
Model makers, metal and plastic	430	26%
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary	420	9%
Dietetic technicians	410	59%
Surgical technologists	410	19%
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	410	16%
Shampooers	400	333%
Residential advisors	400	87%
Gas plant operators	390	355%
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	390	17%
Mechanical engineering technicians	390	12%
Operations research analysts	380	21%
Electric motor, power tool, and related repairers	370	45%
Computer programmers	370	3%
Skin care specialists	360	78%
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	360	30%
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	350	85%
Photographic processing machine operators	350	44%
Bicycle repairers	340	189%
Meeting and convention planners	340	43%
Clergy	330	28%
Aircraft mechanics and service technicians	330	20%
Chemists	330	14%
Pharmacy aides	320	23%
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	320	1%
Arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators	310	310%
Gaming supervisors	300	70%
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	300	20%
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	300	16%
Internists, general	290	22%
Hazardous materials removal workers	280	48%
Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors	280	34%
Health educators	280	18%
Electrical and electronics repairers, commercial and industrial equipment	270	9%
Cooling and freezing equipment operators and tenders	260	520%
Slot key persons	260	260%
Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators	260	87%
Locksmiths and safe repairers	250	357%
Area, ethnic, and cultural studies teachers, postsecondary	250	313%
Animal control workers	250	179%
Art directors	250	32%

Audio and video equipment technicians	250	28%
Biomedical engineers	240	400%
Sailors and marine oilers	240	200%
Rail car repairers	240	185%
Conservation scientists	240	114%
Funeral attendants	240	15%
Painters, transportation equipment	240	15%
Radiologic technologists and technicians	240	4%
Law teachers, postsecondary	230	128%
Nuclear medicine technologists	230	35%
Psychiatric technicians	230	32%
Optometrists	230	28%
Carpet installers	230	21%
Camera operators, television, video, and motion picture	220	52%
Mathematical science teachers, postsecondary	220	15%
Bus drivers, school	220	1%
Gaming surveillance officers and gaming investigators	210	191%
Broadcast technicians	200	23%
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators	200	12%
Construction and building inspectors	200	9%
Occupational therapist assistants	190	33%
Animal trainers	180	257%
Agricultural inspectors	180	120%
Education administrators, preschool and child care center/program	180	16%
Credit analysts	180	11%
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	180	1%
Avionics technicians	170	243%
Bookbinders	170	213%
Radiation therapists	170	46%
Foreign language and literature teachers, postsecondary	170	41%
Producers and directors	170	15%
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	170	1%
Agricultural and food science technicians	160	145%

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