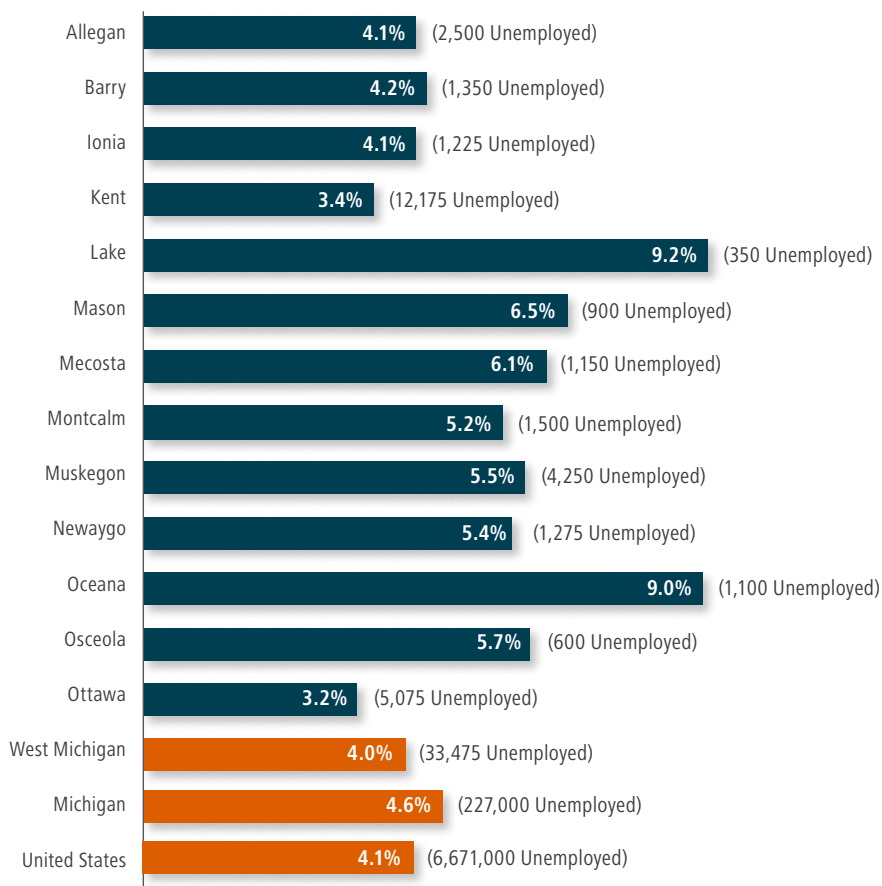


# West Michigan's Economic Rebound: A Complex Story

Since the peak of the Great Recession, unemployment in West Michigan as well as nationally has fallen to levels not seen for over 15 years. However, these high levels of employment have not been shared by all members of our communities. Individuals with disabilities, veterans, racial and ethnic minorities, rural residents – there are many within our region who are still actively seeking sustainable employment. How might we remove barriers to employment throughout our economy?

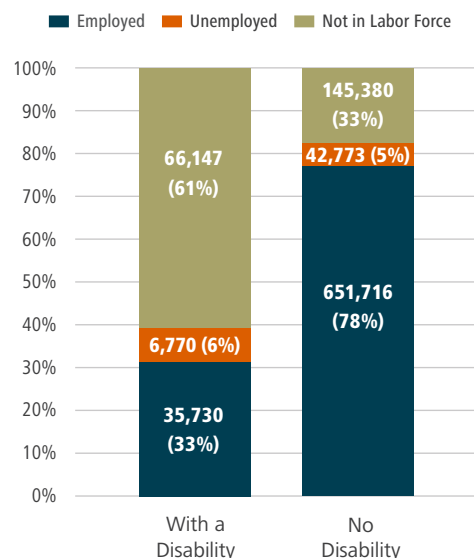
## Unemployment by County – March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Preliminary Data.

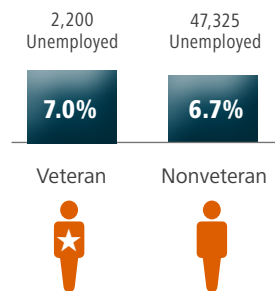
Technical note: Unemployment rates may differ from graph to graph for a variety of factors, including different data sources, timeframes, and geography of analysis.

## Unemployment by Disability Status



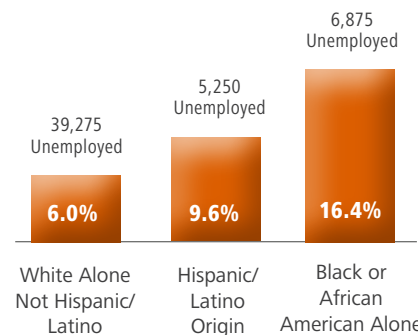
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates, Ages 18-64 in West Michigan.

## Veteran Unemployment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates, Ages 18-64 in West Michigan.

## Unemployment by Race



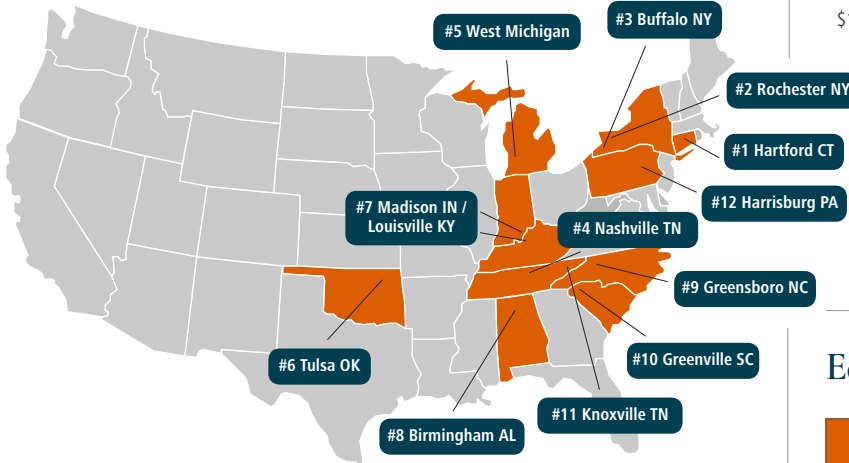
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates, Ages 16+ in West Michigan.



# Education and Skills Lead to Economic Success

## Educational Attainment in Comparative Regions

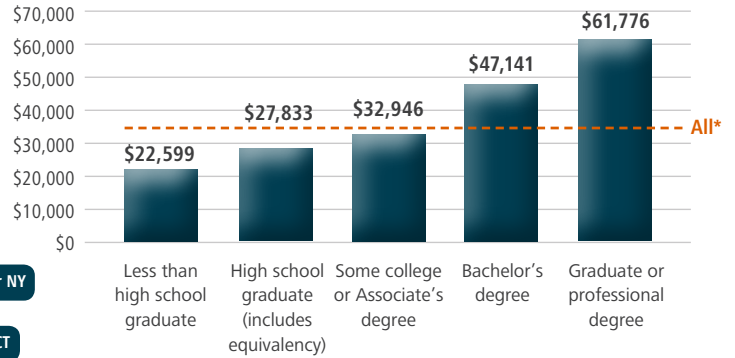
We are comparing ourselves, in the data below, to 11 peer Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs) with populations within 30 percent of the Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Muskegon CSA and over 10 percent of employment in Manufacturing.



Percent of Adults with Education Beyond High School			
Rank	Region	Value	Nat'l Rank
1	Hartford-West Hartford, CT	62.8%	42
2	Rochester-Batavia-Seneca Falls, NY	62.2%	48
3	Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY	60.5%	59
4	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro, TN	59.2%	73
<b>5</b>	<b>West Michigan</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>78</b>
6	Tulsa-Muskogee-Bartlesville, OK	58.0%	89
7	Louisville/Jefferson County Elizabethtown--Madison, KY-IN	57.4%	94
8	Birmingham-Hoover-Talladega, AL	57.1%	99
9	Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point, NC	56.4%	105
10	Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC	54.7%	115
11	Knoxville-Morristown-Sevierville, TN	52.9%	123
12	Harrisburg-York-Lebanon, PA	50.4%	139

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates.

## Income by Education



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016 1-Year Estimates, Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Muskegon CSA.

\* "All" refers to Per Capita Income for all education levels.

## Education by County

County	Percents of Adults With...		
	Less than a High School Diploma	Education Beyond High School*	Bachelor's Degree and Above
Allegan	9.9%	52.2%	21.4%
Barry	8.3%	54.3%	18.9%
Ionia	10.7%	50.3%	15.6%
Kent	10.5%	64.6%	33.7%
Lake	17.9%	39.5%	9.0%
Mason	8.5%	57.5%	20.8%
Mecosta	10.7%	54.1%	21.2%
Montcalm	12.4%	48.8%	12.6%
Muskegon	10.8%	54.4%	18.0%
Newaygo	14.2%	45.1%	14.3%
Oceana	14.3%	50.0%	17.1%
Osceola	12.5%	42.6%	13.0%
Ottawa	8.3%	62.6%	31.6%

\* Aligns with Talent 2025's Goal 2025.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates.