

Gratiot County 2017 Employment Profile of Significant Firms*

*The term "significant," as defined by GGDI, is a firm that employs substantial numbers, experiences a high demand for their product or service, represents an important Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), or exemplifies a specific sector. This profile is not intended to be all-inclusive.

*As of May/June 2017

Gratiot County's Ten Largest Employers in the private and public sectors and combined					
Private Sector (City)	FTE	Public/Non-Profit Sector (City)	FTE	Top 10 in Gratiot County	FTE
International Auto Components (IAC) (Alma)	496.0	Masonic Pathways (Alma)	496.0	Masonic Pathways (Alma)	496.0
Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing (Alma)	282.0	MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot (Alma)	493.5	International Auto Components (IAC) (Alma)	496.0
Alma Products	191.0	Central MI Correctional Facility (St. Louis)	411.0	MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot (Alma)	493.5
Wal-Mart (Pine River Twp.)	175.5	Alma College	333.0	Central MI Correctional Facility (St. Louis)	411.0
Cartridges Are Us (a division of Clover Tech. Group)	168.0	St. Louis Correctional Facility (Bethany Township)	328.0	Alma College	333.0
Meijer (Alma)	160.5	Alma Public Schools	272.5	St. Louis Correctional Facility (Bethany)	328.0
<i>Hutchinson Aerospace & Industry (Ithaca)</i>	147.5	Gratiot County Courthouse (Ithaca)	162.5	Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing (Alma)	282.0
Consumers Energy (Alma)	145.0	Ithaca Public Schools	134.5	Alma Public Schools	272.5
Garr Tool Company (Pine River)	142.0	Gratiot-Isabella RESD (Ithaca)	124.0	Alma Products	191.0
Apex Marine (St. Louis)	129.5	St. Louis Public Schools	104.0	Wal-Mart (Pine River Twp.)	175.5
TOTAL:	2037.0	TOTAL:	2859.0	TOTAL:	3478.5

a) The above table demonstrates Gratiot County's labor force concentration amongst top non-profit/public sector firms. Using the table above, the average number of employees per non-profit/public firm is greater than the average number of employees per private firms. Public sector employers within the county's top ten firms account for 67.1% (2,334) of employees, and the remaining 32.9% (1,144.5) of the top ten are private sector employees. The 3,478.5 employees in the top ten significant firms account for 45.46% of the total significant labor force (7,652). This means that 4,173.5 employees are dispersed amongst the remaining significant firms.

b) The numbers in the above table can also be examined considering information from the Michigan Labor Market Information website. As of May 2017, there are 17,407 employed people in Gratiot County. The FTEs that are examined cannot exactly be compared as a percentage to the number of employed people in the county because Full-Time Equivalent is a measure of jobs more than of employed people. However, the top ten firms in Gratiot County represent approximately 19.98% of the employed workforce. Further, the fact that the sectors are widely diversified demonstrates growing and significant economic resiliency in the Gratiot-area economy.

Top Ten Employers (by municipality)							
ALMA	FTE	ITHACA	FTE	ST. LOUIS	FTE	VILLAGES & TOWNSHIPS	FTE
Masonic Pathways	496.0	Cartridges Are Us (a division of Clover Tech. Group)	168.0	Central MI Correctional Facility	411.0	St. Louis Correctional Facility (Bethany)	328.0
International Auto Components (IAC)	496.0	Gratiot Co. Courthouse	162.5	Apex Marine	129.5	Walmart (Pine River)	175.5
MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot	493.5	<i>Hutchinson Aerospace & Industry</i>	147.5	<i>Bear Truss & Components</i>	106.5	Garr Tool Company (Pine River)	142.0
Alma College	333.0	Ithaca Public Schools	134.5	Schnepf Senior Care	105.5	Legend Manufacturing (Pine River)	100.5
Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing	282.0	Gratiot-Isabella RESD	124.0	St. Louis Public Schools	104.0	Fulton Public Schools	86.5
		Anchor Danly	79.0	Plasti-Paint	88.5	Integrity Fab. & Machine (Breckenridge)	76.0
Alma Public Schools	272.5	Aircraft Precision Products	66.0	Jer-Den Plastics, Inc.	51.0	Breckenridge Public Schools	74.5
Alma Products	191.0	Commercial Bank	65.0	City of St. Louis	38.0	Ashley Care Center	67.0
Meijer	160.5	Craig Frames	49.0	Alpha Custom Extrusions	24.5	Bader & Sons (Bethany)	49.0
Consumers Energy	145.0	Family Independence Agency	35.0	Michigan Chloride Sales	20.5	<i>Laurels of Fulton</i>	48.5
Shiloh Industries	129.0						
TOTAL:	2998.5	TOTAL:	1030.5	TOTAL:	1079.0	TOTAL:	1147.5

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions at select significant Gratiot County Firms, categorized by city

Alma	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*	Alma	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*
Masonic Pathways		496.0	Alma Bolt Company	26.5	
International Auto Components	496.0		Medler Electric	25.0	
Mid MI Medical Center Gratiot		493.5	Production Machining of Alma	23.0	
Alma College		333.0	J.C. Penney	22.5	
Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing	282.0		Alma Tire	20.0	
Alma Public Schools		272.5	Alma Container	19.0	
Alma Products	191.0		Armour Eckrich	15.5	
Meijer	160.5		ADW Industries	13.5	
Consumers Energy	145.0		Greenside Up	12.0	
Shiloh Industries	129.0		Michigan Paving & Materials Co.	12.0	
Merrill Fabricators	122.0		Mid-Michigan Upholstery	10.0	
City of Alma		99.0	Alma Concrete Products	8.0	
Great Lakes Petroleum***	98.0		Padnos of Central Michigan	8.0	
Mercantile Bank	85.0		Merrill Institute	3.0	
<i>Frontier</i>	71.0		MSU Extension		2.5
Tri-Lakes Petroleum	61.0		TOTAL:	2093.5	1696.5
Liquipak	35.0				

Ithaca	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*	Ithaca	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*
Cartridges Are Us (a division of Clover Tech. Group)	168.0		Mid-MI District Health Dept.		16.5
			City of Ithaca		16.0
Gratiot County Courthouse		162.5	Clean Harbors	16.0	
<i>Hutchinson Aerospace & Industry</i>	147.5		DuPont Pioneer****	13.5	
Ithaca Public Schools		134.5	Ithaca Manufacturing Corporation	10.0	
Gratiot-Isabella RESD		124.0	Gratiot County Herald	8.0	
Anchor Danly	79.0		<i>Tractor Supply Co.</i>	7.5	
Aircraft Precision Products	66.0		E & S Graphics	7.0	
Commercial Bank	65.0		Universal Bearings	5.5	
Craig Frames	49.0		Mid-MI Specialty Crops	5.0	
Family Independence Agency		35.0	<i>Exelon Wind</i>	4.0	
Gratiot County Road Commission		34.0	Powder Coat of Central Michigan	4.0	
Dufrene Machinery, Inc.	23.0		ZFS Ithaca, LLC	4.0	
C & S Steel	23.0		Misenhelder Welding	3.0	
Precision Machine & Manufacturing	18.5		TOTAL:	726.5	522.5

Employment Profile 2017

St. Louis	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*	St. Louis	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*
Central MI Correctional Facility		411.0	Mid-State Asbestos	16.0	
Apex Marine	129.5		Chemical Bank (St. Louis & Pine River Township)	15.5	
<i>Bear Truss and Components</i>	106.5		A & E Ag.	15.0	
Schnepf Senior Care & Rehab Center	105.5		Crippen Manufacturing Company	15.0	
St. Louis Public Schools		104.0	<i>United Producers</i>	12.5	
Plasti-Paint, Inc.	88.5		Momentum Industries, Inc.	11.0	
Jer-Den Plastics	51.0		Great Lakes Cattle	5.0	
City of St. Louis		38.0	<i>DuBar Drilling Fluids</i>	4.0	
Alpha Custom Extrusions	24.5		Americast	4.0	
Michigan Chloride Sales	20.5		TOTAL:	624.0	553.0

Villages & Townships	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*	Villages & Townships	Private FTE*	Public/Non-Profit FTE*
St. Louis Correctional Facility (Bethany)		328.0	Kenny Inc. (Wheeler)	25.0	
			Janson Equipment (Wheeler)	24.5	
Wal-Mart (Pine River)	175.5		Isabella Bank (Breckenridge & Ithaca)	23.0	
Garr Tool Company (Pine River)	142.0		Brink's Machine Co., Inc. (Pine River)	14.5	
Legend Manufacturing (Pine River)	100.5		Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers (Ashley)	12.0	
Fulton Public Schools		86.5	Crop Production Services (Wheeler)	12.0	
Integrity Fab & Machine (Breckenridge)	76.0		Kalmbach Feed (Wheeler)	10.5	
Breckenridge Public Schools		74.5	Suburban Propane (Breckenridge)	10.0	
Ashley Care Center	67.0		Invenergy (Operations & Maintenance facility for Gratiot Co. Wind)-(Breckenridge)	8.0	
Bader & Sons (Bethany)	49.0				
<i>Laurels of Fulton</i>	48.5		DTE (Operations & Maintenance Facility for Gratiot Co. Wind)-(Breckenridge)	7.0	
Ashley Public Schools (Elba)		39.0			
Powell Fabrication & Mfg. (Bethany)	36.5		Huron Pork (Breckenridge)	5.0	
Sparks Pickle Company (Newark)	30.5		Seiler Machine, LLC (Middleton)	2.0	
Michigan Agricultural Commodities (Breckenridge, Wheeler & Middleton)	28.0		Log Cabin Lumber (Sumner)	1.0	
			TOTAL:	908.0	528.0

Italicized figures represent previous year's employment numbers.

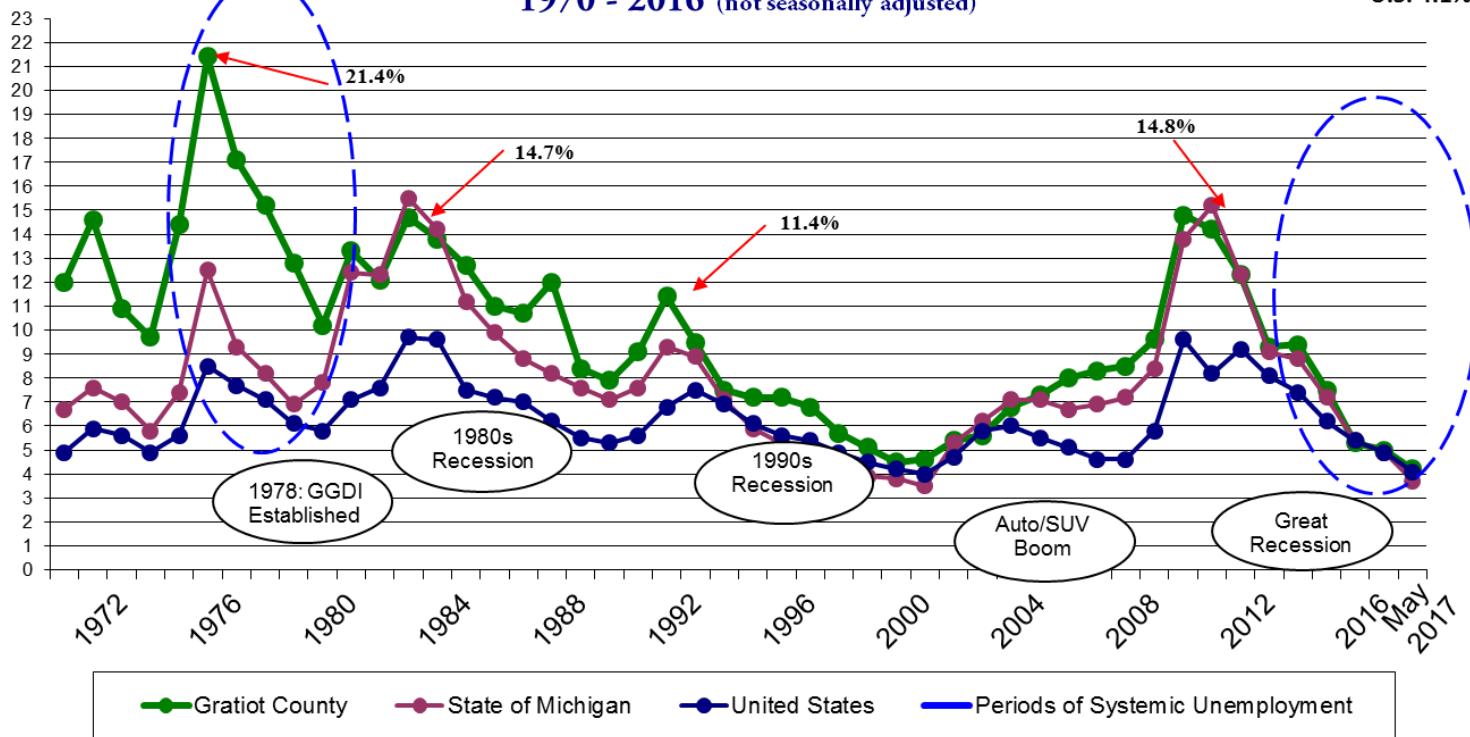
*Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is equated by adding full-time employees, part-time employees, and seasonal/temporary employees, where one part-time is equal to one-half of a full-time employee. The seasonal/temporary employees are counted as a fraction of a regular full-time employee.

[FTE = FT + 1/2 PT + ((# months worked/12)(seasonals/temps))]

**Great Lakes Petroleum has employees in both Alma and St. Louis, but the main office is in Alma. All employees are counted together.

***DuPont Pioneer is in Emerson with its main operation in Ithaca.

Historical Annual Average Unemployment Rates: Gratiot County, State of Michigan, United States 1970 - 2016 (not seasonally adjusted)



This table shows the unemployment rate trends between Gratiot County, the State of Michigan, and the United States over the past 46 years. In the 1970s, Gratiot County's unemployment rate was significantly higher than the state and national rates and experienced similar fluctuations for a long period. Gratiot County experienced an unemployment rate of 21.4% in 1975. For a short time in 2002, Gratiot County had a lower unemployment than both the state and nation. The county was heavily dependent on the automotive parts and petroleum sectors. Today, the petroleum refining sector is gone, and the automotive parts sector is diminished and stable. Smaller and more diversified manufacturing and agri-industry firms are now typical in the Gratiot region.

The *annual average labor force* for 2016 was **18,254** people; **908** of those people were unemployed - this results in an *annual unemployment rate* of **5.0%** for 2016. The most recent rate from May 2017 was **4.2%**, implying a slow but steady improvement in the economic climate since the 2008 Recession. An increasingly diversified economic base has lessened the gap between Gratiot County's unemployment situation compared to that of the state and nation over the long term.

The relatively small total labor force of Gratiot County has a large impact on the degree to which unemployment rates swing up or down. Approximately 200 people gaining or losing employment changes the county average by one full percentage point. A slight change in Gratiot's labor force results in a substantial impact on the county's unemployment rate, minimal effects to the state rate, and is statistically irrelevant to the national rate. Historically, the size of the Gratiot labor force has remained fairly consistent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/>)

*Updated May/June 2017

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