

The Michigan and West Michigan Works! Labor Markets

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MICHIGAN
**Center for Data
and Analytics**

Who We Are



The Michigan Center for Data and Analytics provides the state with the expertise to analyze data, understand challenges, and evaluate solutions.

Through data, reporting, and analysis, the MCDA provides partners with the information and insights they need to make evidence-based decisions.

Key Findings

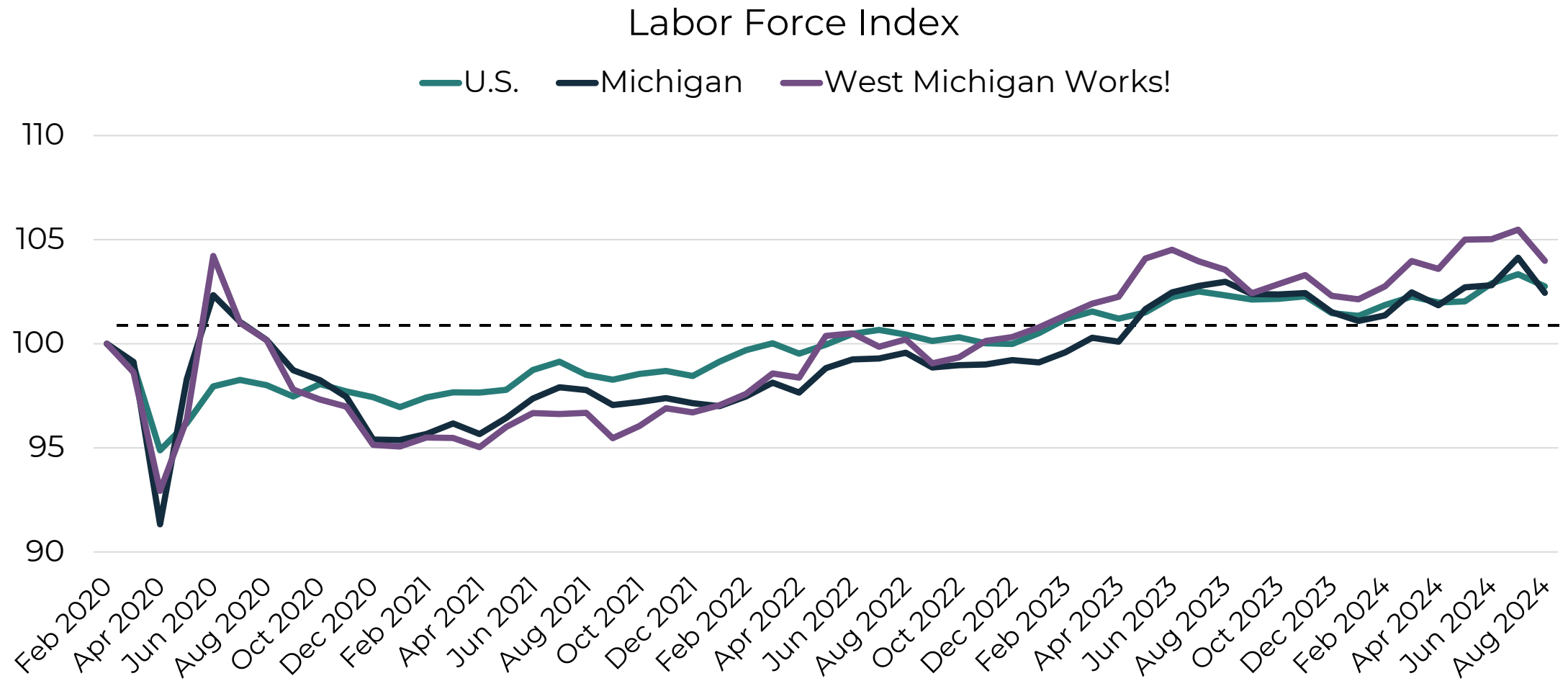
Slight Labor Force Increases– The West Michigan Works! labor force increased over the year and is 4.0 percent greater than pre-pandemic levels.

Increasing Population – The population in the West Michigan Works! area has grown 6.8 percent since 2013, the largest increase in the state.

Employment Projections – Employment statewide is expected to increase 0.6 percent through 2032 with nearly 494,000 openings projected each year.

Labor Market Trends

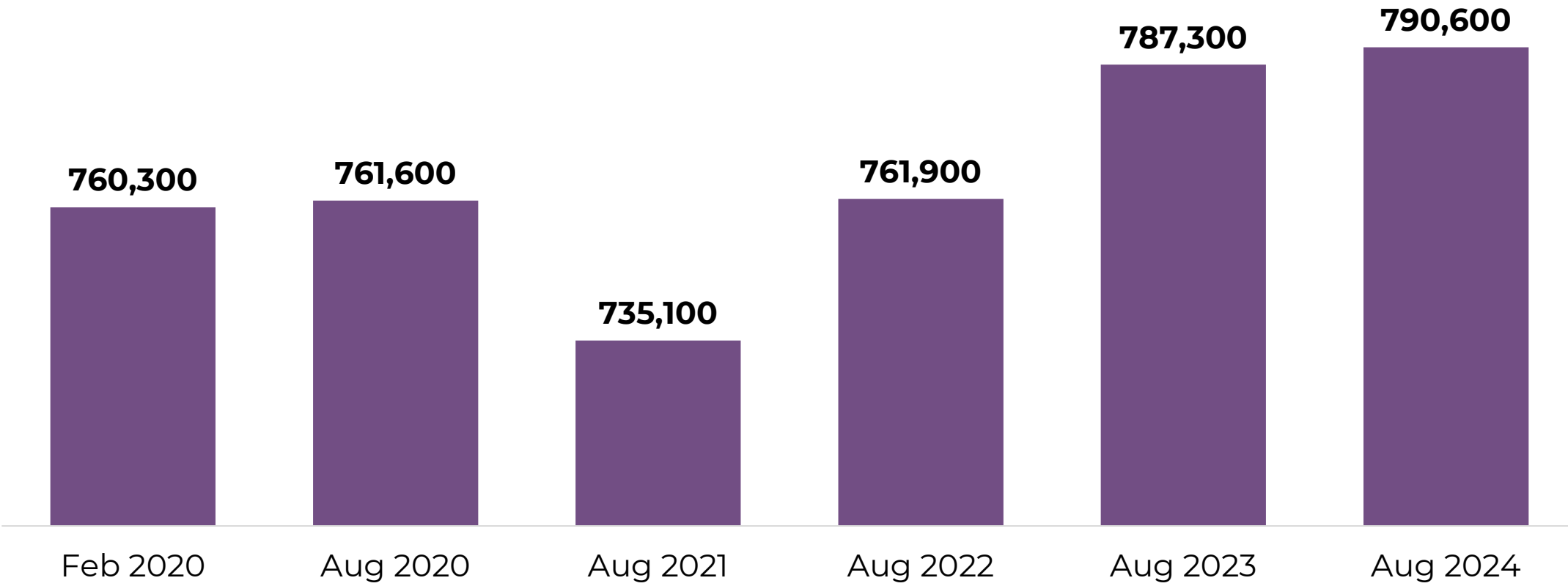
Compared to pre-pandemic levels, the labor force in the West Michigan Works! area has **increased 4.0 percent**. This has outpaced growth seen nationally and statewide.



Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The West Michigan Works! labor force measured 790,600 in August 2024, up 0.4 percent from August 2023. July 2024 saw the labor force measure over 800,000 regionally.

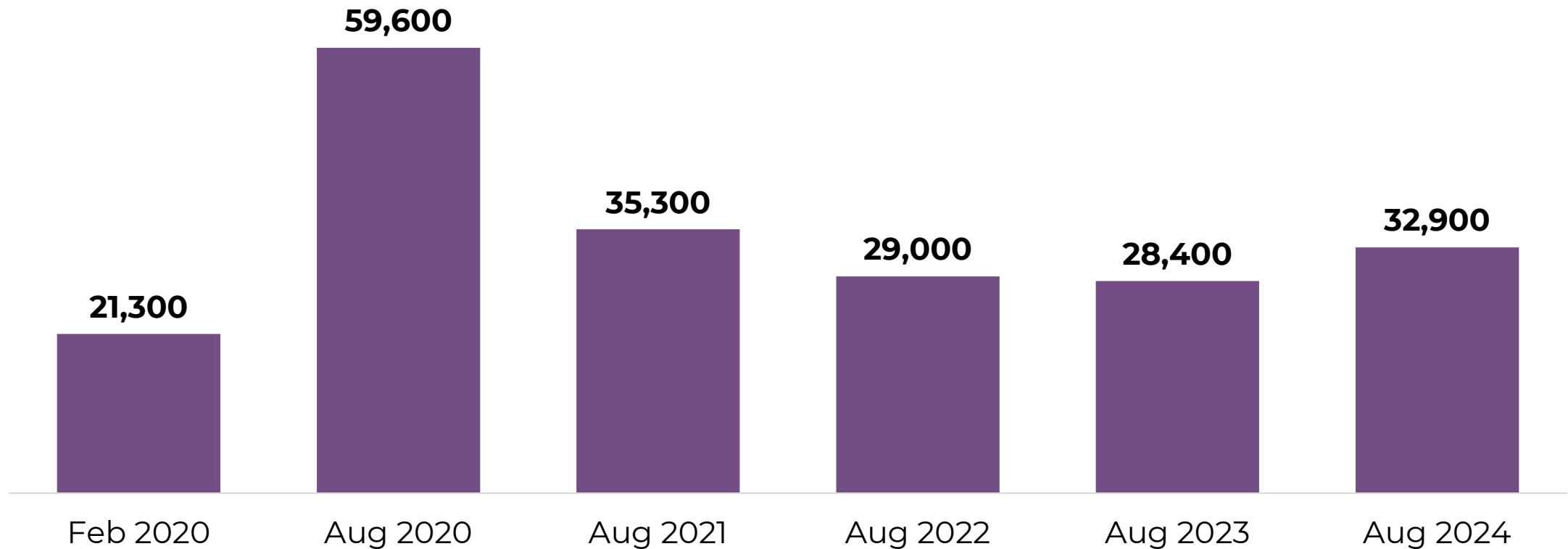
West Michigan Works! Labor Force



Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

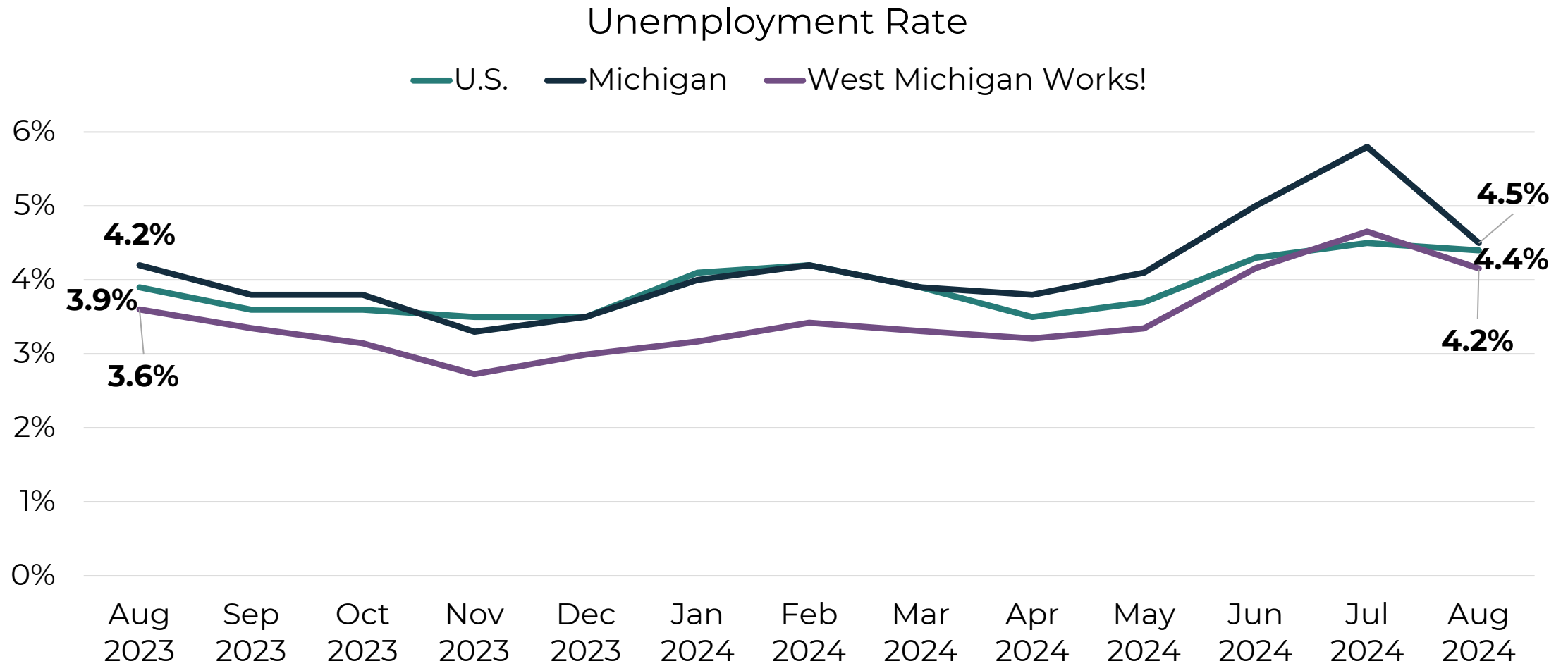
Unemployment in the West Michigan Works! area measured 32,900 in August 2024, up 15.9 percent from August 2023. This has coincided with labor force increases.

West Michigan Works! Unemployment



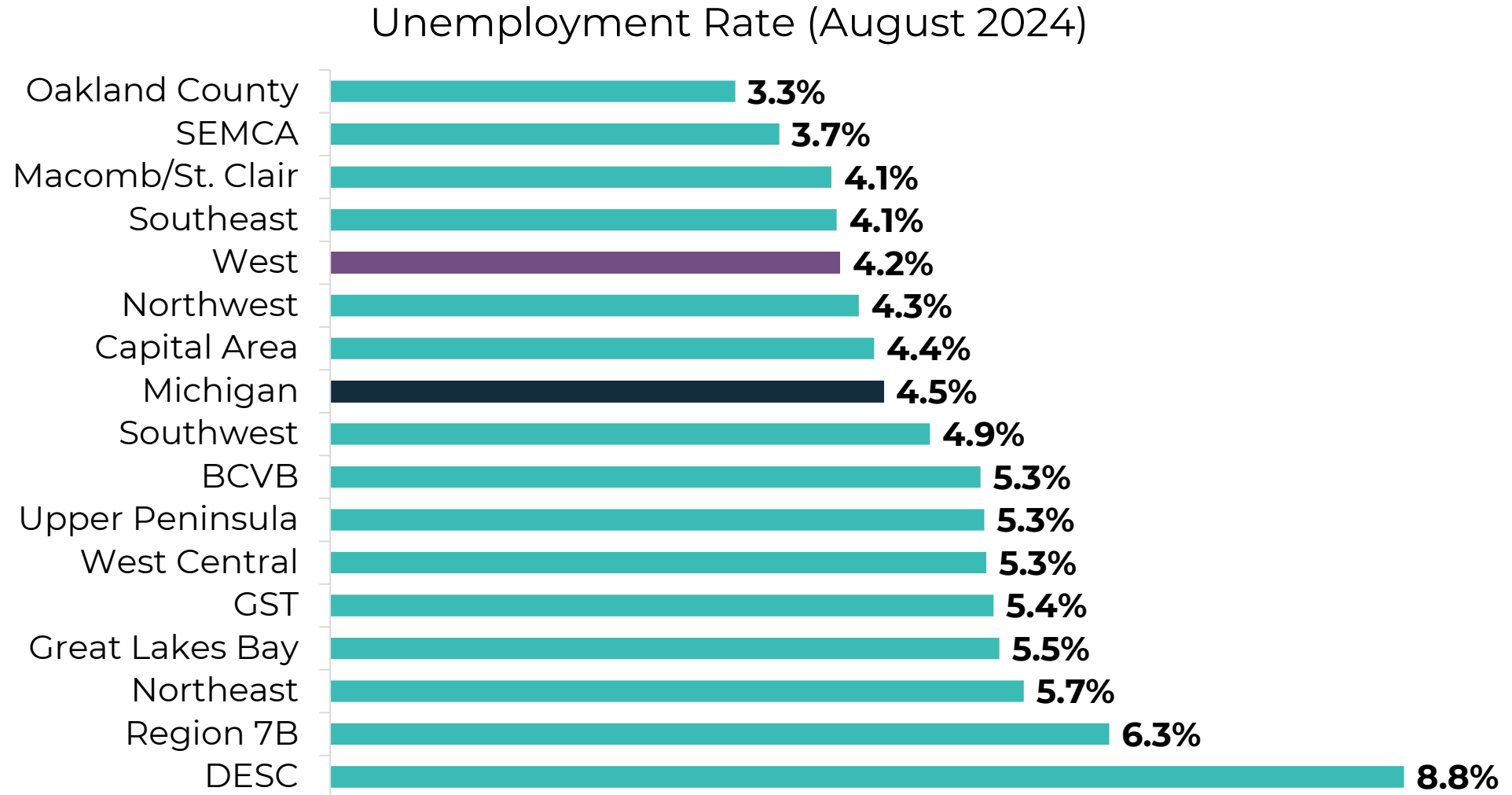
Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The jobless rate in the West Michigan Works! area **has increased 0.6 percentage points** since last August. The rate remains below both that of the U.S. and Michigan.



Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

West Michigan Works! had the 5th lowest jobless rate among the Michigan Works! areas in August 2024.



West Michigan Works! jobless rate **increased 0.6 percentage points over the year**. Oakland County was the only MWA where the jobless rate decreased since August 2023.

Percentage Point Change in Jobless Rate (Aug 2023 to Aug 2024)



The labor force in the West Michigan Works! area **increased 0.4 percent over the year**, the 5th greatest change among the Michigan Works! areas. Michigan's dipped 0.5 percent.

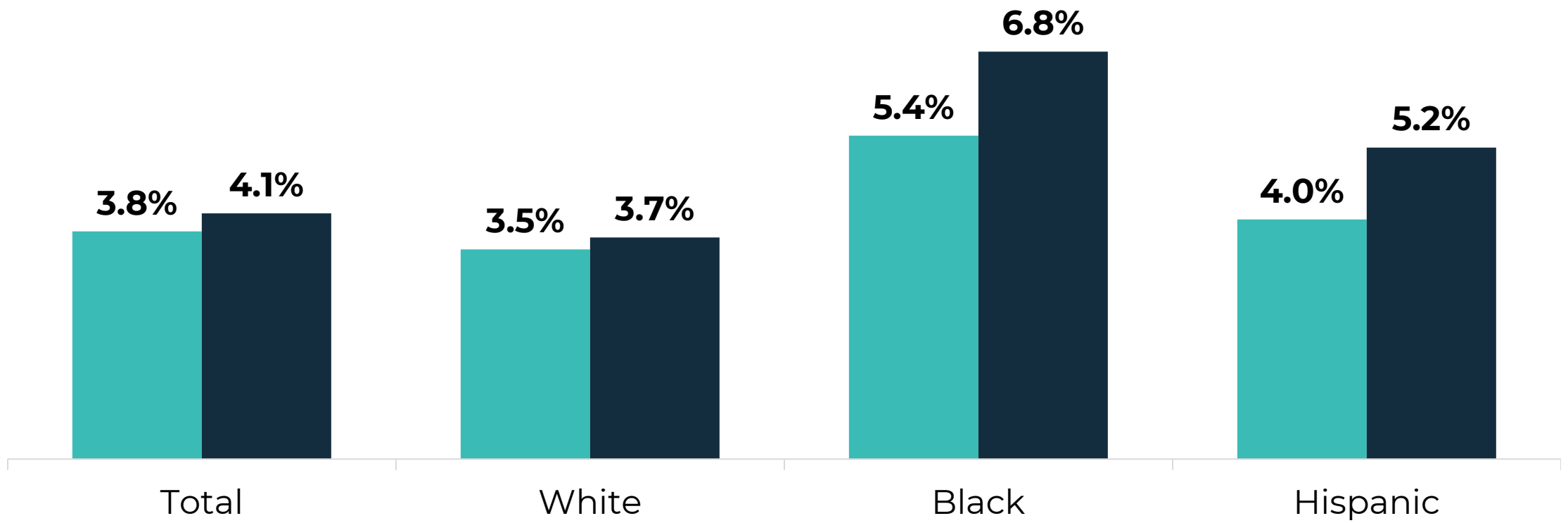
Percent Change in Labor Force (Aug 2023 to Aug 2024)



Jobless rates for Black and Hispanic individuals increased more than White individuals for the 12-month period ending August 2024 compared to the previous year.

■ September 2022-August 2023 ■ September 2023-August 2024

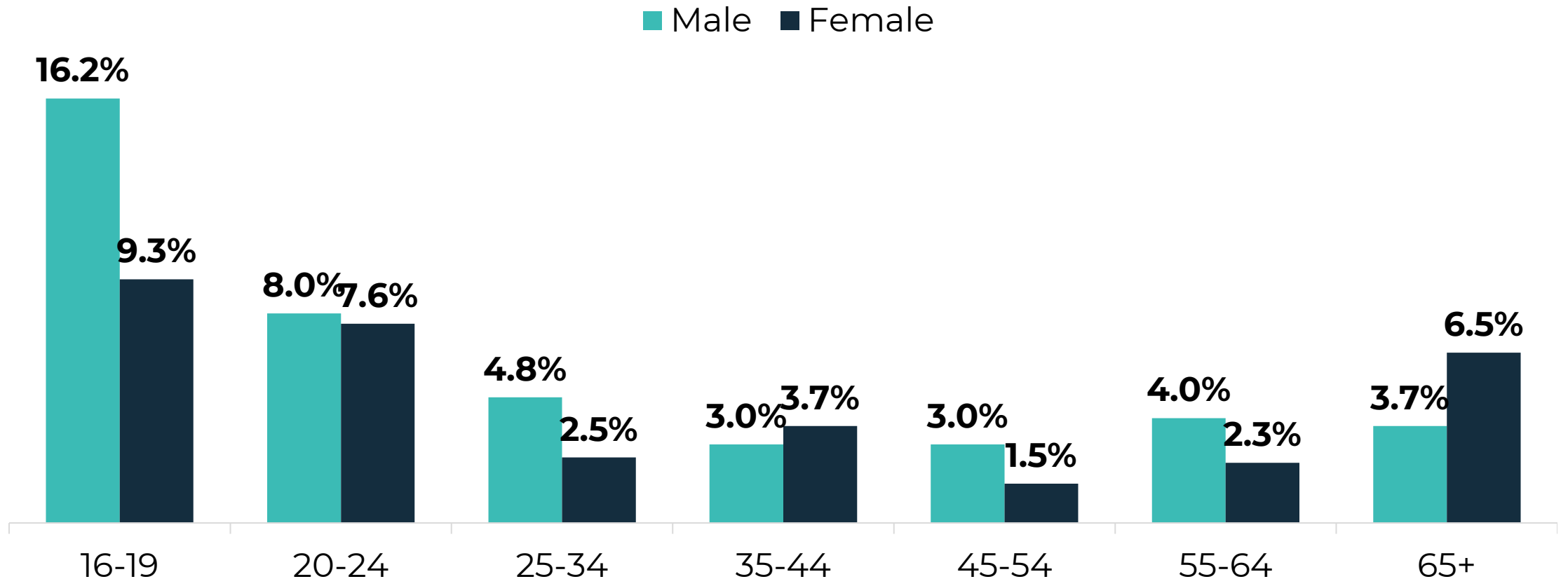
Jobless Rate by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Current Population Survey, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The jobless rate for males was significantly greater among those age 16 to 19. Females observed a jobless rate greater than men among those age 35 to 44 and among those age 65 or greater.

Jobless Rate by Gender (September 2023–August 2024)

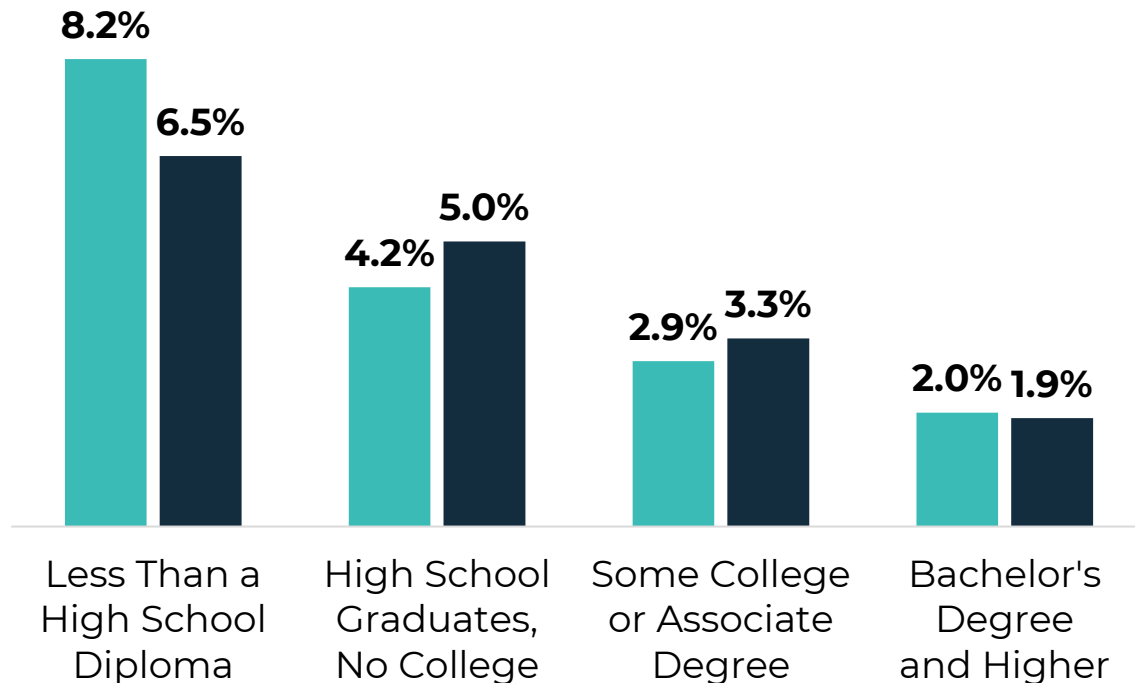


The jobless rate for those with less than a high school diploma has decreased 1.7 percentage points over the year while the participation rate has increased by more than five.

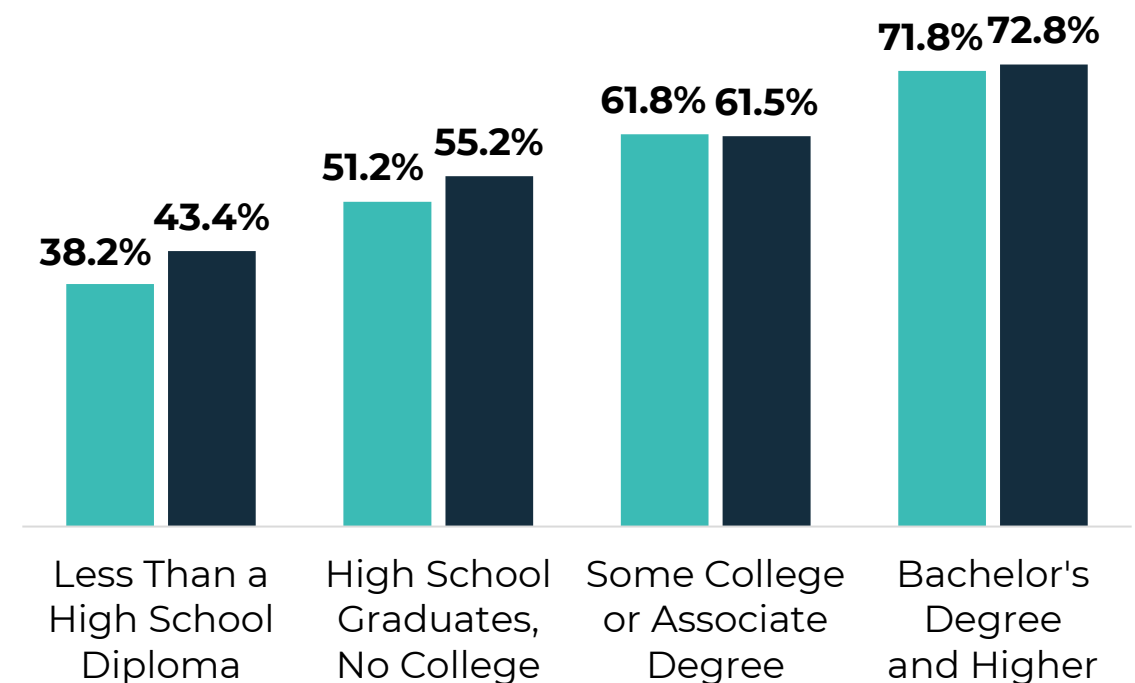
■ September 2022-August 2023

■ September 2023-August 2024

Jobless Rate by Educational Attainment

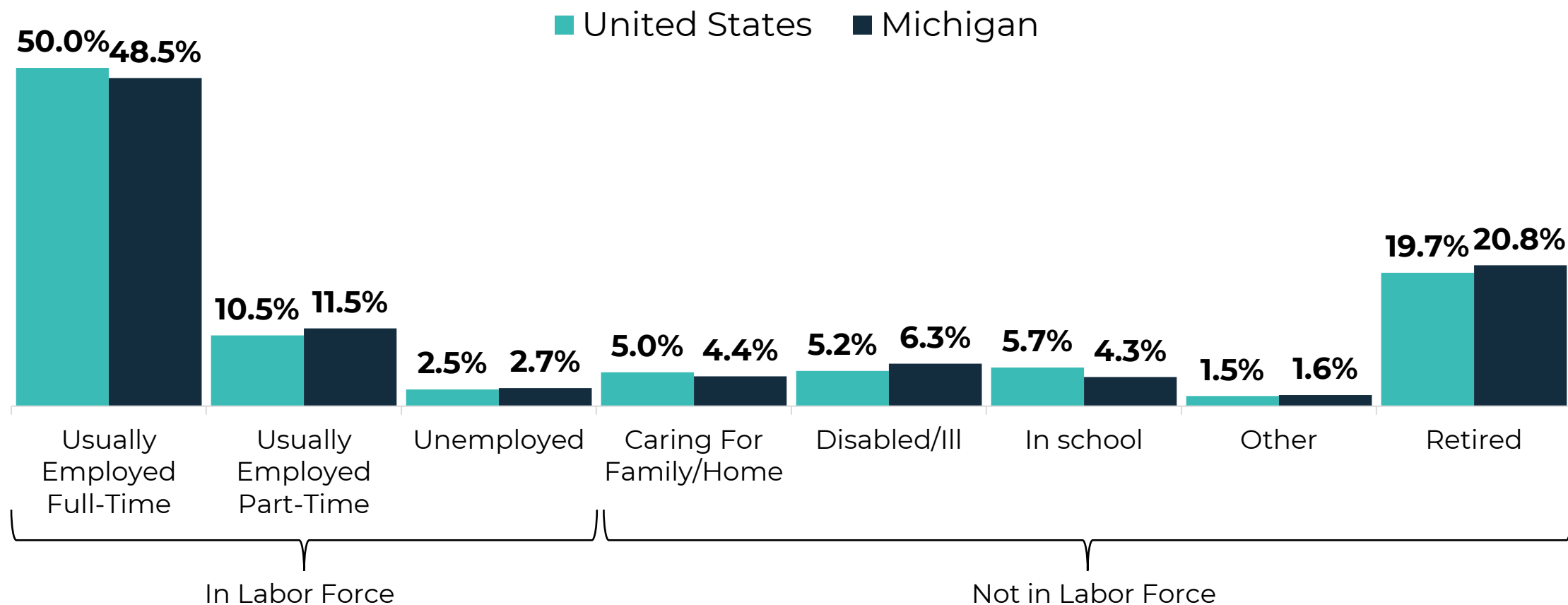


Participation Rate by Educational Attainment



Michigan had a higher share of retirees than that of the United States. Michigan's participation rate measured 62.6 percent, 0.3 percentage points less than the nation.

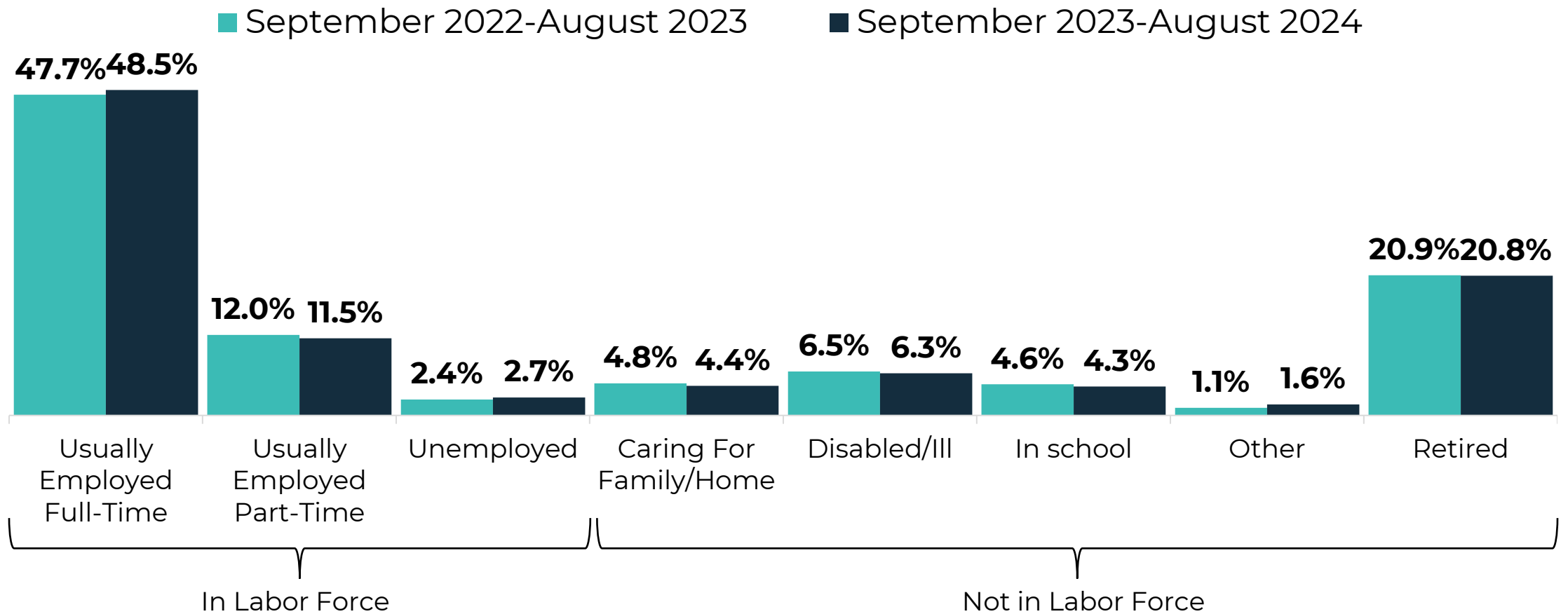
Labor Force Status (September 2023–August 2024)



Source: Current Population Survey, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

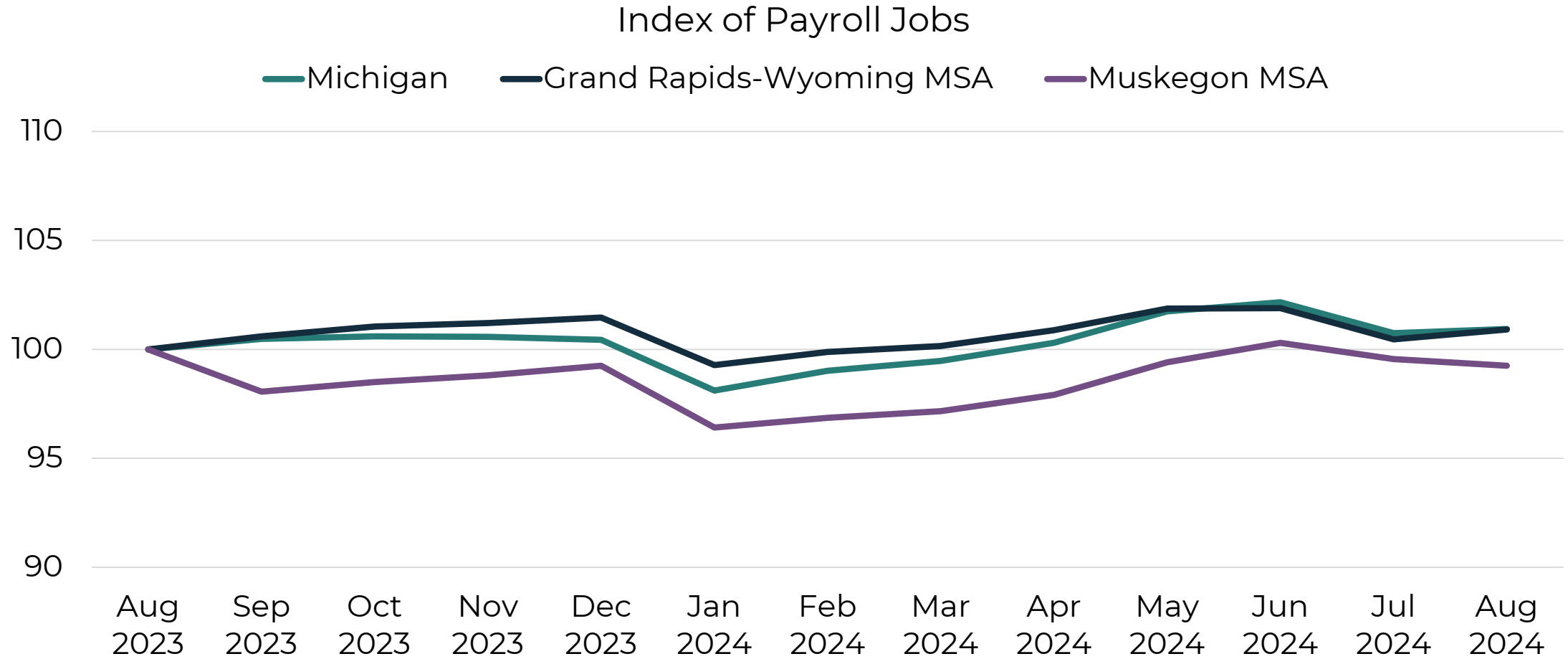
Michigan's participation rate has increased 0.5 percentage points over the last year. There was a slight decrease in those caring for family/home.

Change in Labor Force Status, Michigan



Source: Current Population Survey, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

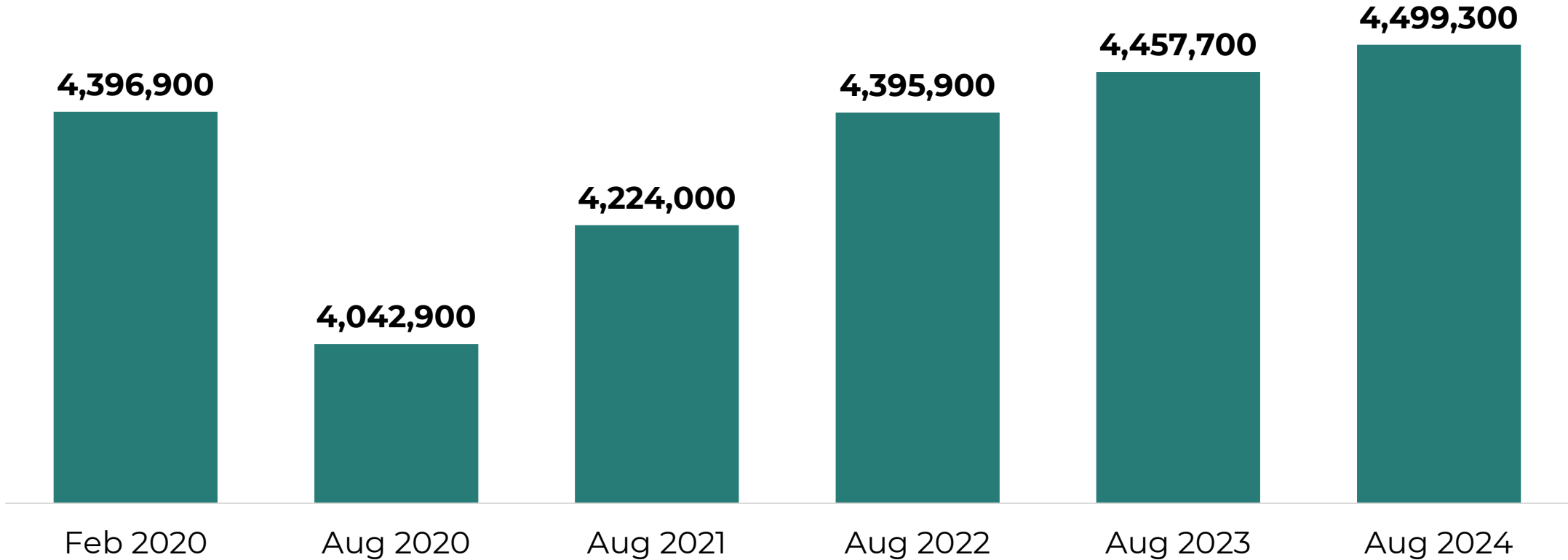
Payroll jobs in both Michigan and the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA have increased 0.9 percent since August 2023. The Muskegon MSA has observed a decrease of 0.7 percent.



Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES), Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The number of payroll jobs in Michigan measured just under 4,500,000 in August 2024. Jobs have **increased 2.3 percent compared to pre-pandemic levels.**

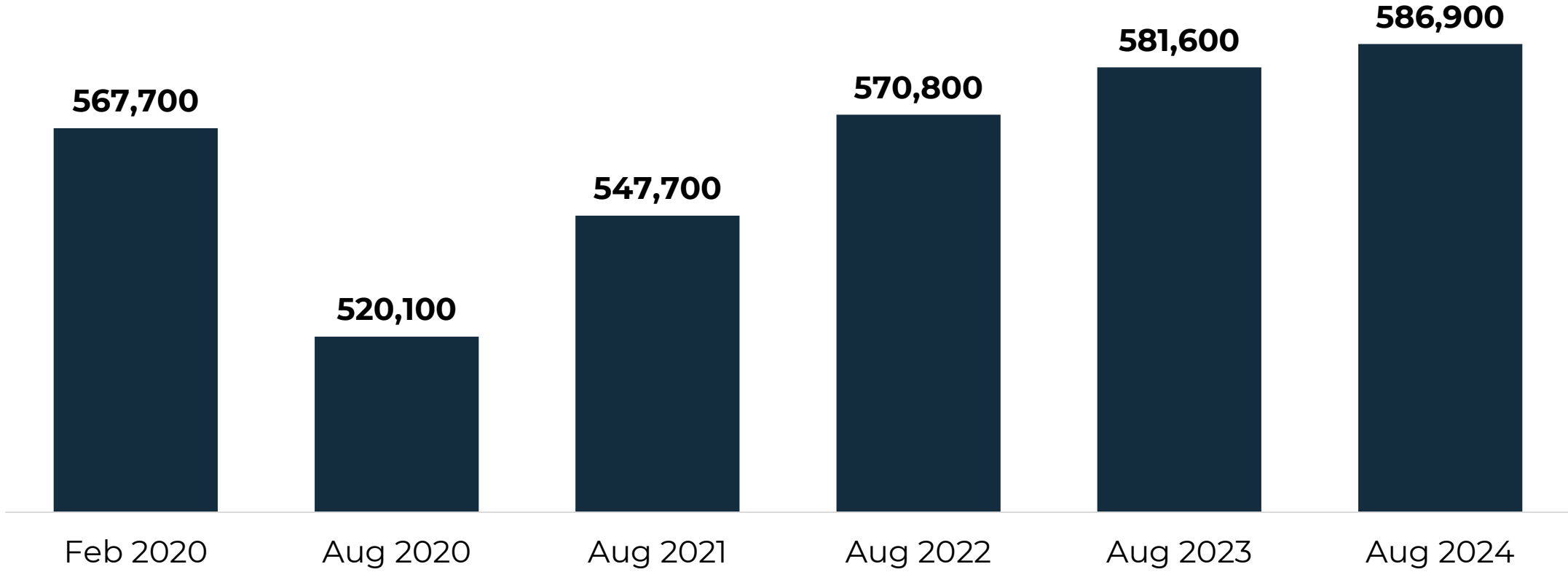
Michigan Payroll Jobs



Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The number of payroll jobs the Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA measured just under 587,000 in August 2024. Jobs have increased 3.4 percent compared to pre-pandemic levels.

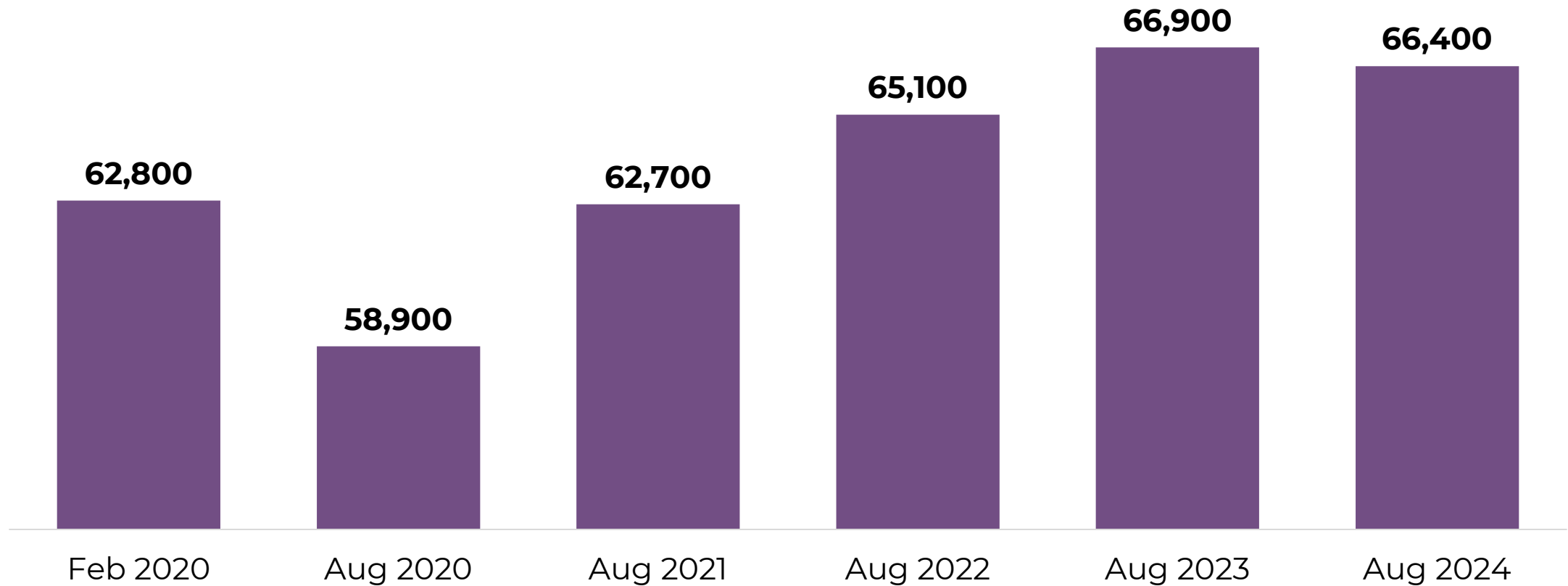
Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSA Payroll Jobs



Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The number of payroll jobs in the Muskegon MSA measured 66,400 in August 2024. Jobs have **increased 5.7 percent compared to pre-pandemic levels.**

Muskegon MSA Payroll Jobs

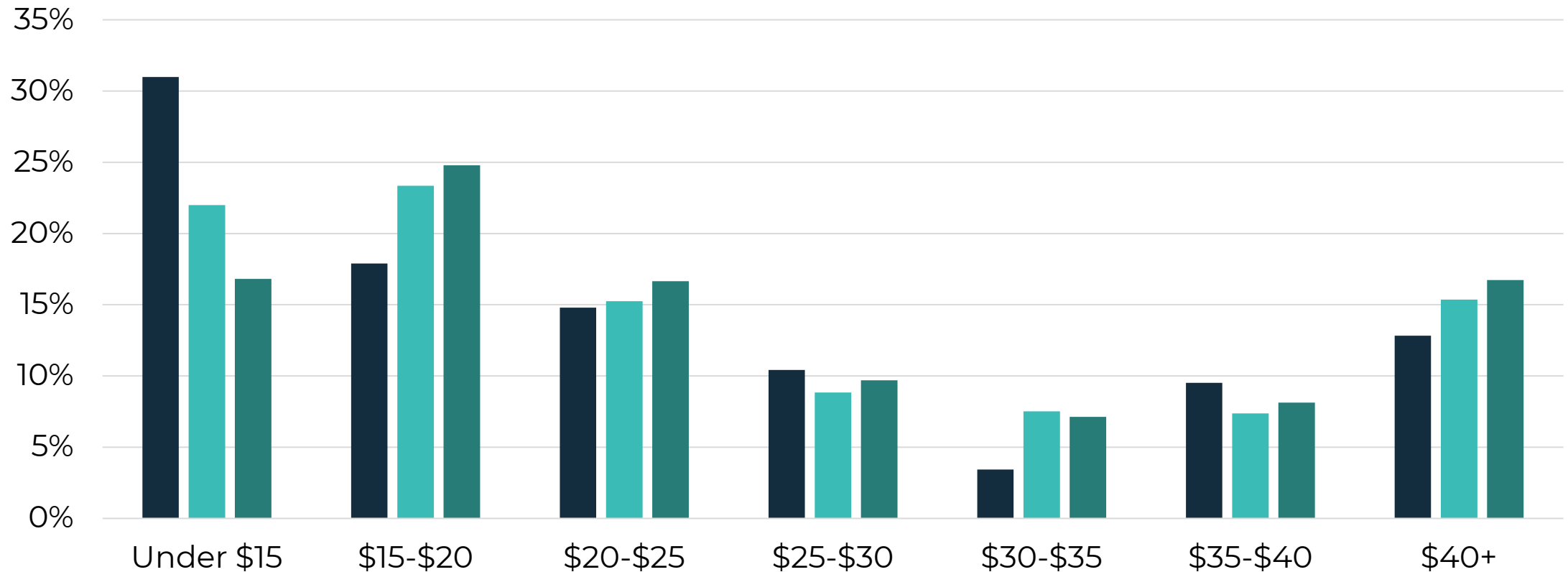


Source: Local Area and Unemployment Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

The number of jobs with a median hourly wage under \$15 has decreased by 14.2 percentage points since 2021 while those earning \$15–\$20 per hour has increased 6.9 percentage points.

Distribution of Jobs by Hourly Wage, 2021-2023

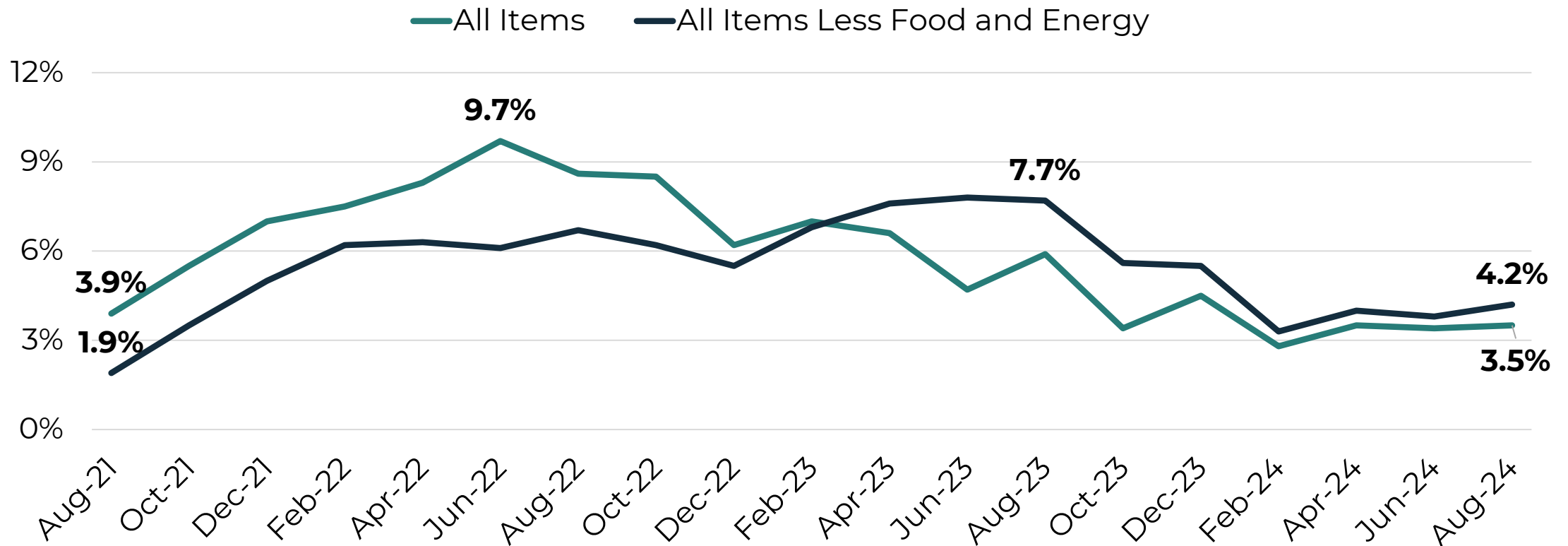
■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023



Source: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

Over the last 12 months, **the CPI-U rose 3.5 percent**. The index for all items less food and energy rose **4.2 percent** over the year. Energy prices declined **0.1 percent**, and food prices increased **0.4 percent**.

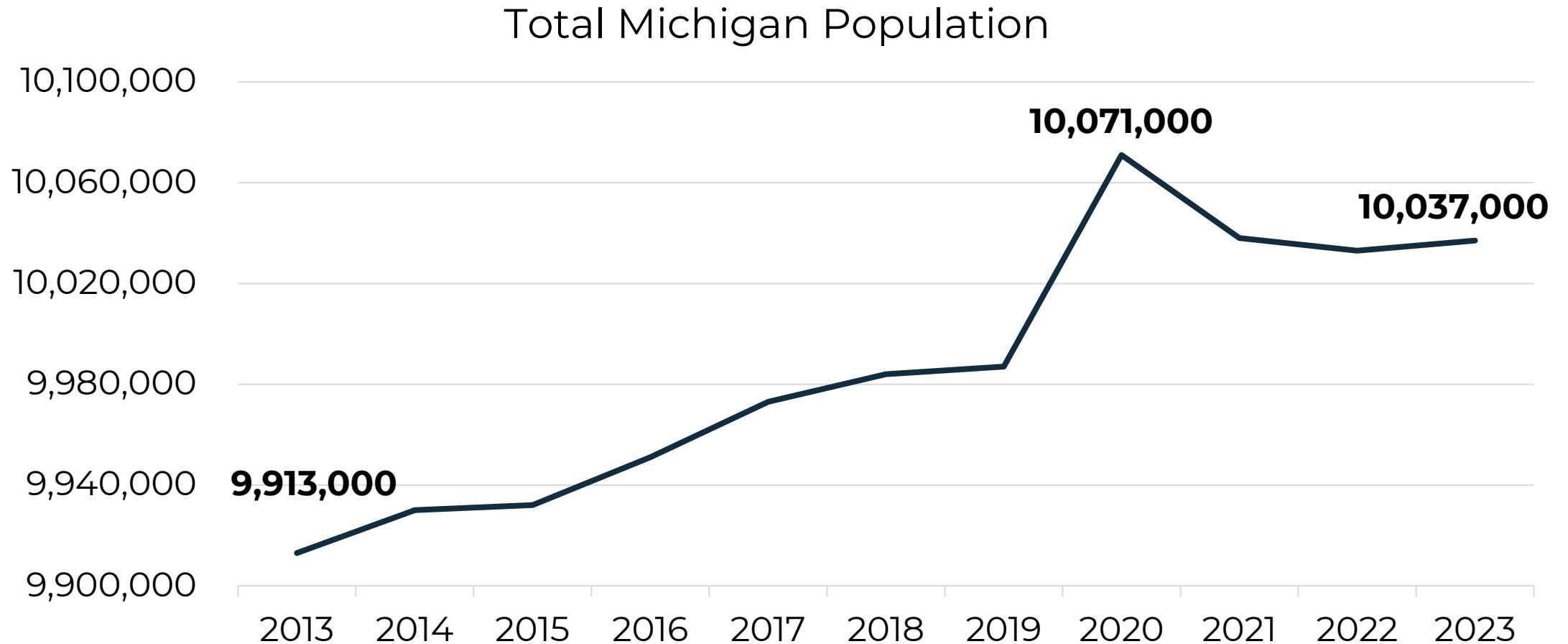
Over-the-Year Percent Change in CPI-U, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI,
August 2021–August 2024



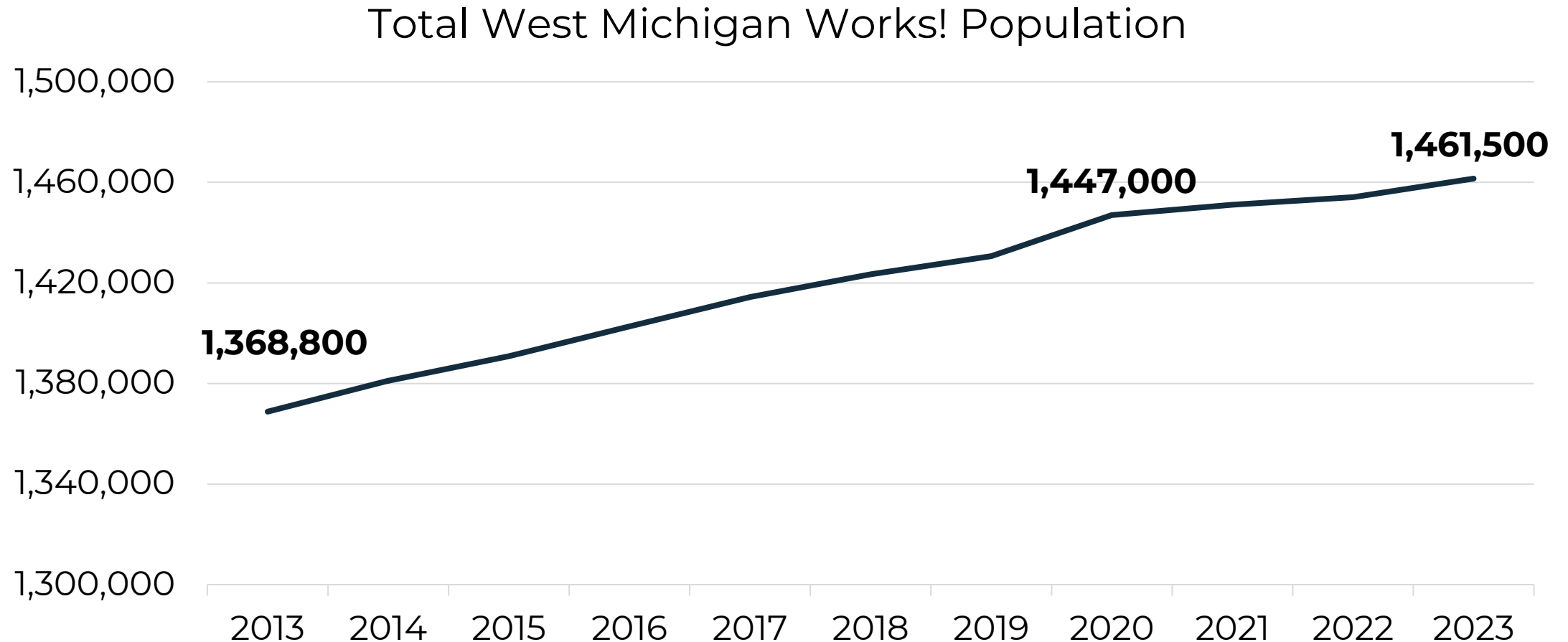
Source: Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Population Trends

Michigan's population increased by 1.3 percent (+124,200 residents) between 2013 and 2023. Comparatively, the national population has increased 6.0 percent.

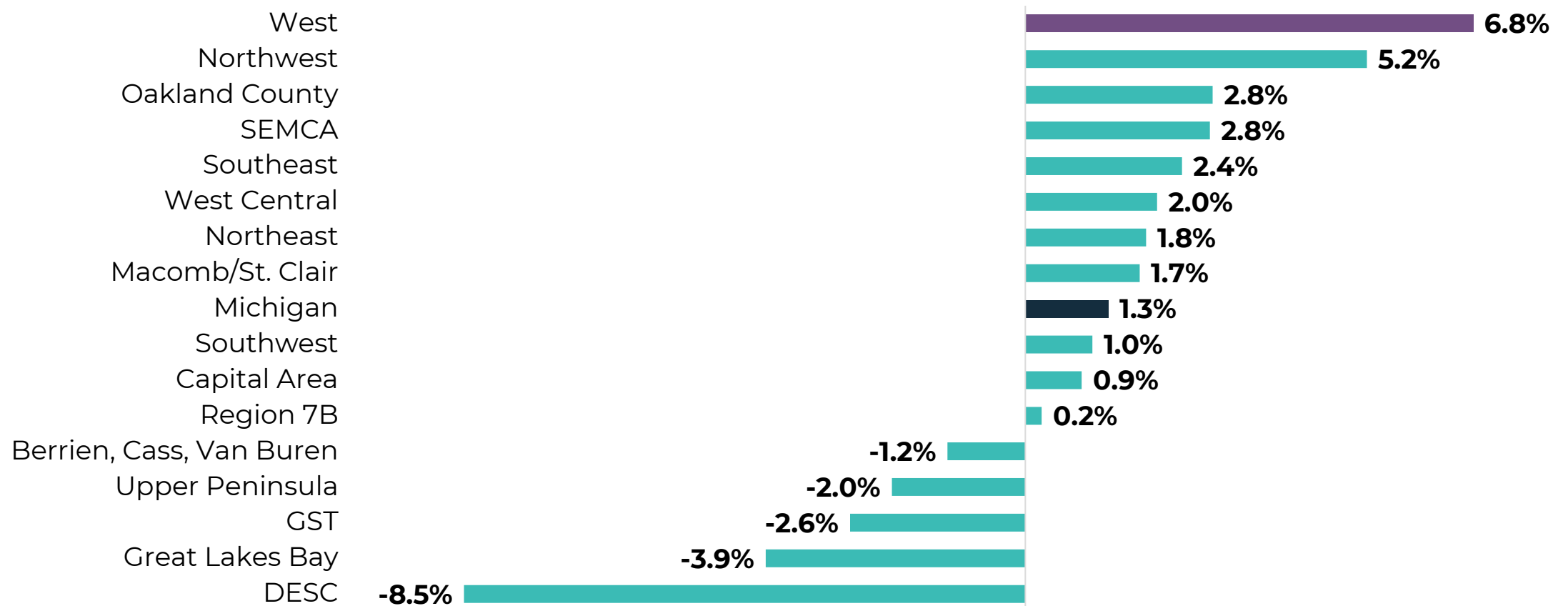


The West Michigan Works! area has grown more than 92,600 people since 2013. Population growth slowed in 2021 and 2022 but increased to pre-pandemic rates in 2023.



West Michigan Works! had the largest change in population since 2013 at 6.8 percent. DESC had the largest loss in population at 8.5 percent followed by Great Lakes Bay.

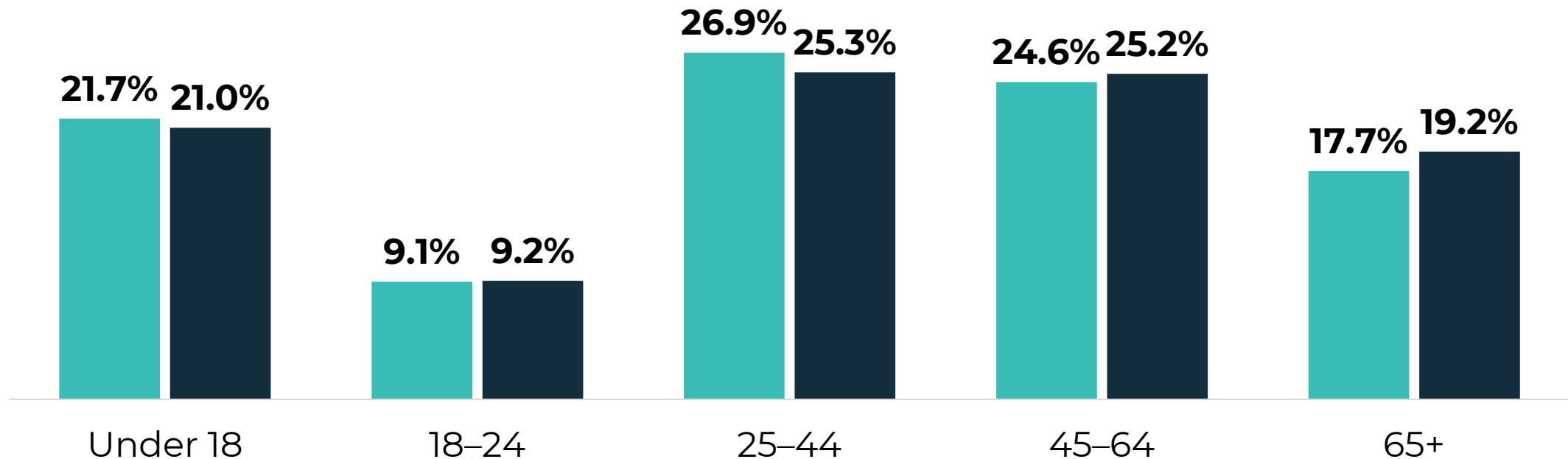
Percent Change in Population by Michigan Works! Area (2013 to 2023)



Michigan has a slightly larger share of those age 65 and older compared to that of the nation. The statewide median age of 40.4 years is 1.3 years older than the national median age.

Share of Population by Age Group (2023)

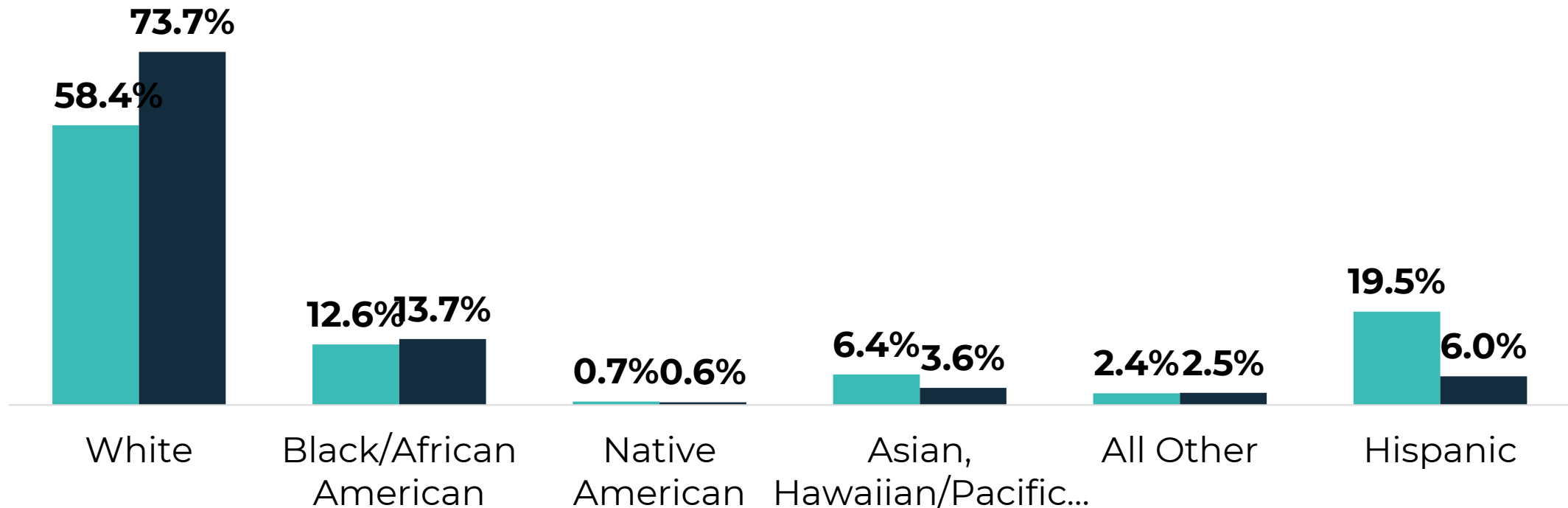
■ United States ■ Michigan



Michigan has a much larger share of those who are white and a significantly lower share of Hispanic individuals compared to the United States.

Share of Population by Race and Ethnicity (2023)

■ United States ■ Michigan



Statewide Population Projections

10-Year Projections – Michigan’s population is projected to increase by 231,000 people (2.3 percent) from 2022 through 2032.

By 2050 – the state’s population is expected to measure 9,906,000, a decrease of 1.3 percent from 2022.

- The U.S. Census Bureau is projecting national population to increase by about 8 percent through 2050 and to begin declining in the 2080s.

Growth – Most of Michigan’s growth since the 1970s has been a result of natural increase (more births than deaths).

Future population growth will be heavily reliant on positive net migration. Since the 1970s, Michigan has typically had negative net migration.

County population projections will be released soon.

Projections

Total Michigan Employment

- Michigan is expected to gain **25,010 total jobs** over the 2022–2032 period, about **0.6 percent**.
 - After historic job losses in 2020, 2022 saw two years of job gains and a full employment economy with an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent.
- Nearly **494,000 job openings** are expected each year through 2032.

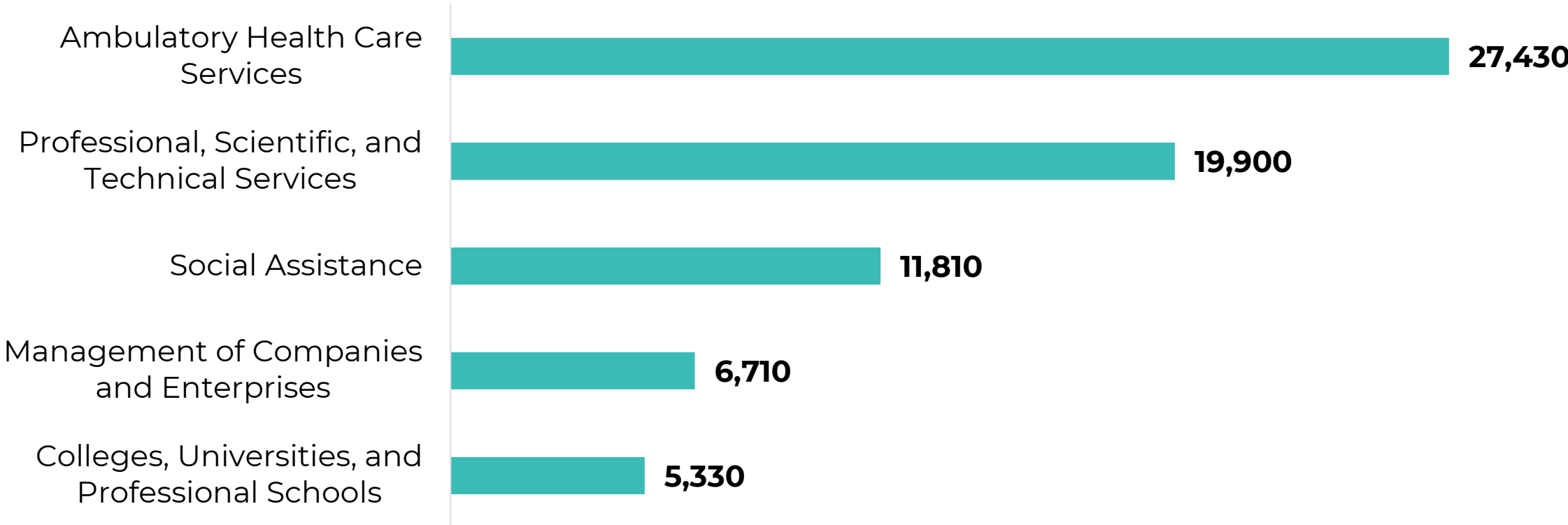
2022	2032	Change	
4,524,550	4,549,560	+25,010	+0.6%

Growth and Demographics

- Large Michigan population cohort (**baby boomers**) aging out of the workforce
- **Low population growth** projected in younger cohorts
- Together, these lead to projected **labor force growth of roughly 0.9 percent** between 2022 and 2032
- Further **employment growth may be difficult** to achieve without an increase in the labor force

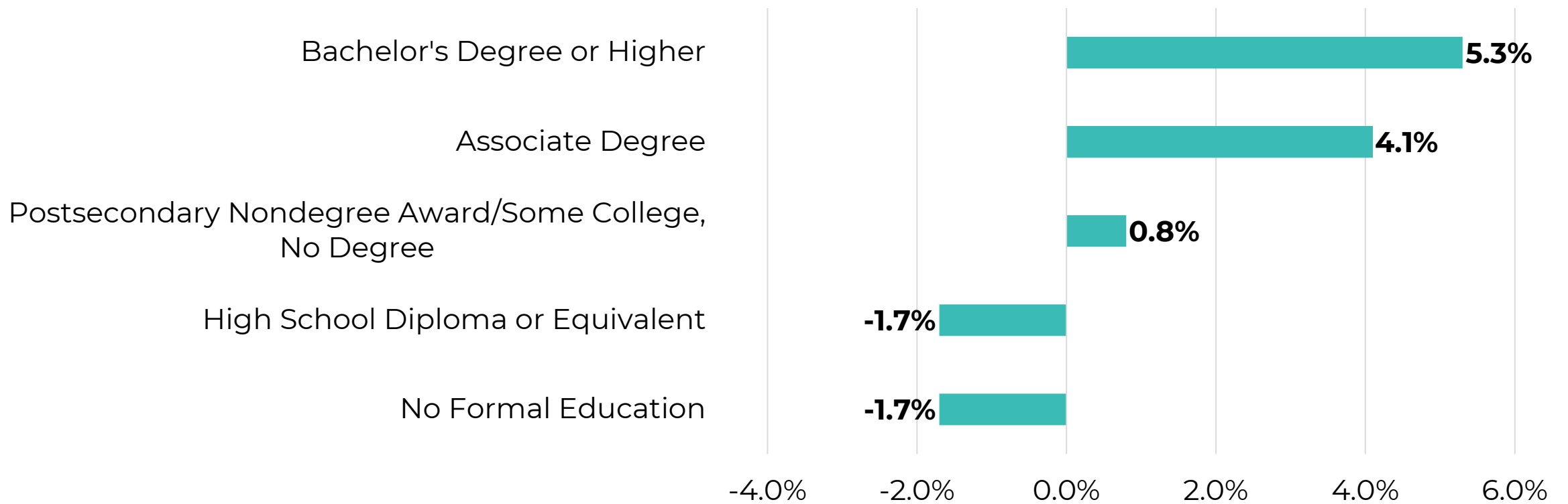
Top Industries for Jobs Added

Top Industries by Numeric Growth, 2022–2032

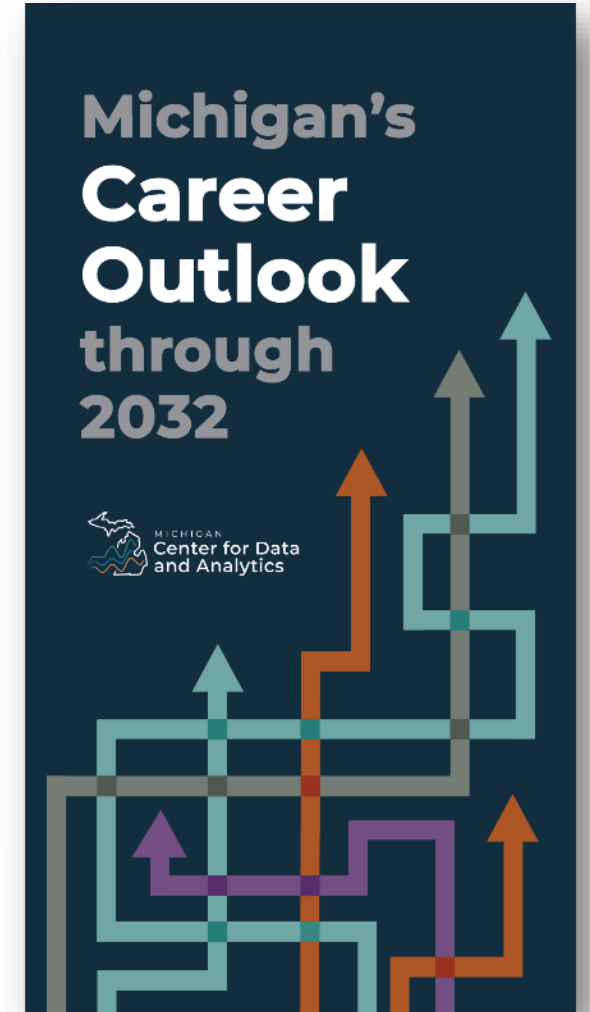


Projected Job Growth by Education Group

Projected Growth by Education and Training Group



Turning Data into Information



Hot 50 Highlights

- **42** occupations that require a bachelor's degree or higher
- **8** occupations requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor's degree
- **5** occupations are skilled trades
- **10** STEM occupations
- **39** occupations on the previous Hot 50
- **42** occupations overlap with the nation when applying the same methodology
- **19** percent of all employment in the state (in the base year)

Key Findings

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Thank you!

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