

Gratiot County Employment Profile of Significant Firms 2008



“Significant,” defined by GGDI, is a firm with significant employment numbers, one that there is a high demand for their product/service, or representing an important Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). This is not intended to be all inclusive.

1. Gratiot County's 10 Largest Employers in both the Private and Public Sector, and combined:

PRIVATE SECTOR (City)	FTE	PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT SECTOR (City)	FTE	TOP 10 IN GRATIOT COUNTY	FTE
IAC (Alma)	348.0	Gratiot Medical Center (Alma)	1,151.5	Gratiot Medical Center	1,151.5
Wal-Mart (Pine River Twp.)	176.0	Mich. Correctional Facilities (St. Louis)	878.0	Michigan Correctional Facilities	878.0
Merrill Fabricators	173.5	Masonic Pathways (Alma)	401.0	Masonic Pathways	401.0
Bear Truss & Components	167.0	Alma College (Alma)	293.0	IAC	348.0
Consumers Energy (Alma)	138.0	Alma Public Schools	293.0	Alma Public Schools	293.0
Contech (Alma)	134.5	Ithaca Public Schools	158.0	Alma College	293.0
Alma Products (Alma)	134.0	Gratiot County Courthouse (Ithaca)	127.0	Wal-Mart	176.0
Barry Controls (Ithaca)	126.0	Breckenridge Public Schools	116.0	Merrill Fabricators	173.5
Firstbank (Alma)	124.0	St. Louis Public Schools	109.0	Bear Truss & Components	167.0
Avalon & Tahoe Mfg. (Alma)	121.0	Fulton Public Schools	107.0	Ithaca Public Schools	158.0
TOTAL:	1,642.0	TOTAL:	3,633.5	TOTAL:	4,039.0

2. The above table demonstrates Gratiot County's labor force as a high concentration amongst top non-profit/public sector firms. Using the summary table above, it can be determined that the average number of employees per non-profit/public firm is greater than the average number of employees per private firm. Public sector employees account for **79%** of the employees at the top ten firms, leaving **21%** of private sector employees located at a top ten firm. The **4,039.0** employees in the top ten significant firms account for **54.0%** of the total labor force employed at significant firms (7,486.5). Thus, **3,447.5** employees are dispersed among the remaining significant firms.

Accordingly, the numbers in the above table can also be examined in light of Michigan Labor Market Information's figure of **18,915** employed people in Gratiot County. Using the MILMI figure, the top ten significant firms in the *private sector* represent **8.9%** of the total Gratiot County labor force; whereas, the top ten significant firms in the *public sector* represent **18.8%** of the total labor force in Gratiot County. Concluding, the top ten significant firms *overall* represent **21.2%** of the total labor force in Gratiot County.

3. Top Ten Employers, by City:

ALMA	FTE	ITHACA	FTE	ST. LOUIS	FTE	BRECKENRIDGE & TWP.	FTE
Gratiot Medical Center	1151.5	Ithaca Public Schools	158.0	MI Correctional Facilities	878.0	Wal-Mart	168.0
Masonic Pathways	401.0	Gratiot Co. Courthouse	127.0	Bear Truss	167.0	Garr Tool Company	124.0
IAC	348.0	Barry Controls	126.0	Schnepf's Health Care	124.5	Breckenridge Public Schools	116.0
Alma College	293.0	Anchor Danly	100.5	St. Louis Public Schools	111.0	Fulton Public Schools	107.0
Alma Public Schools	293.0	Cartridges Are Us	89.0	Plasti-Paint	64.0	Ashley Public Schools	58.0
Merrill Fabricators	173.5	Ithaca Coatings, LLC	85.0	Alpha Plastics	53.0	Powell Fabrication & Mfg.	38.5
Consumers Energy Co.	138.0	Mid Mich. Dist. Health Dept	74.5	Crippen Mfg. Co.	40.0	Bader & Sons Co.	34.5
Contech	134.5	Aircraft Precision Prod.	70.5	Apex Marine	31.0	Isabella Bank	28.5
Alma Products	134.0	Commercial Bank	62.0	JER-DEN Plastics	30.0	Michigan Agricultural Comm.	27.0
Great Lakes Petroleum	128.0	Dufrene Machinery	42.5	City of St. Louis	26.5	Pioneer Research Station	26.0
TOTAL:	3,194.5	TOTAL:	935.0	TOTAL:	1525.0	TOTAL:	727.5

4. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions at significant Gratiot county firms, categorized by city, as of June 2008.

ALMA	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE	ALMA CONTINUED	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE
Gratiot Medical Center		1151.5	JCPenney	37.0	
Masonic Pathways		401.0	Alma Tire	27.0	
IAC (formerly LEAR)	348.0		Alma Container	26.0	
Alma College		293.0	Alma Iron & Metal	25.5	
Alma Public Schools		293.0	ADW Industries	24.5	
Merrill Fabricators	173.5		Liquipak	24.5	
Consumers Energy	138.0		Production Machining of Alma	24.5	
Contech	134.5		Medler Electric	23.0	
Alma Products	134.0		Verizon	18.0	
Great Lakes Petroleum **	128.0		ABC Fastener	16.0	
Firstbank of Alma	124.0		Terry Materials of Michigan	15.0	
Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing	121.0		Mid-Michigan Industries	13.0	
City of Alma		98.5	Traffic Management Services	11.5	
Glens Markets	53.0		Armour Eckrich Meats	11.5	
K-Mart	39.0		Alma Concrete Products	10	
			TOTAL:	1,700.0	2,237.00

ITHACA	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE	ITHACA CONTINUED	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE
Ithaca Public Schools		158.0	Precision Plastics & Die, Co.	16.5	
Gratiot County Courthouse		127.0	Craig Frames***	16.0	
Barry Controls***	126.0		Davis Machine & Manufacturing	12.5	
Anchor Danly	100.5		Gratiot County Herald	12.0	
Cartridges Are Us	89.0		Schrader Environmental	10	
Ithaca Coatings, LLC	85.0		Mid-State Printing	7.0	
Mid-Michigan District Health Dept.		74.5	E & S Graphics	7.0	
Aircraft Precision Products	70.5		Ithaca Manufacturing	7.0	
Commercial Bank	62.0		C & S Steel	6.5	
Dufrene Machinery, Inc.	42.5		Misenhelder Welding	4.5	
Gratiot County Road Commission		41.0	Powder Coat of Central Michigan	2.0	
Family Independence Agency		29.0	TOTAL:	670.0	454.0
City of Ithaca		24.5			

ST. LOUIS	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE	ST. LOUIS	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE
Mich. Correctional Facilities		878.0	City of St. Louis		26.5
Bear Truss & Components	167.0		Michigan Chloride Sales, Inc.****	16.5	
Schnepf's Health Care Center	124.5		Chemical Bank & Trust	16.5	
St. Louis Public Schools		111.0	Momentum Industries	14.0	
Plasti-Paint	64.0		United Producers	16.0	
Alpha Plastics	53.0		Mid-State Asbestos Removal	13.0	
Crippen Manufacturing	40.0		Americast	3.0	
Apex Marine	31.0		TOTAL:	588.5	1015.5
JER-DEN Plastics, Inc.	30.0				

BRECKENRIDGE & TOWNSHIPS	PRIVATE FTE	PUBLIC/NON PROFIT FTE
Wal-Mart	168.0	
Garr Tool Company	124.0	
Breckenridge Public Schools		116.0
Fulton Public Schools		107.0
Ashley Public Schools		58.0
Powell Fabrication & Mfg.	38.5	
Bader & Sons	34.5	
Isabella Bank	28.5	
Mich. Agricultural Commodities	27.0	
Pioneer Research Station****	26.0	
Janson Equipment	25.5	
Petticoat Junction	16.0	
Brink's Machine Co, Inc.	15.0	
Crop Production Services****	13.0	
<i>Kalmbach Feed</i>	<i>11.0</i>	
Sparks Pickle Company***	7.0	
North West Energy	6.5	
TOTAL:	540.5	281.0

* Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is equated by adding full time employees and part time employees, where one part time is equal to one-half a full time employee (FTE = FT + ½ PT).
 ** Great Lakes Petroleum has employees in both Alma and St. Louis, but their main office is in Alma. All employees are counted together.
 *** These FTE figures include full time - temporary, workers as part time help.
 **** These FTE figures include seasonal help. The seasonal employees work only 2 months of the year. When adding these employees to the full-time employees for that business, the seasonal employment numbers are counted as 1/6 of a regular full-time employee since they are only there for 1/6 of the year. Totals for those businesses are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Italicized numbers are 2007 FTEs

2. Summary Table

CITY	PRIVATE FTE (% of Total Private)		PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT FTE (% of Total Public)		OVERALL (% of Total)	
	FTE	%	FTE	%	FTE	%
Alma	1,260.0	41.4%	2,237.0	56.1%	3,497.0	49.7%
Ithaca	670.0	22.0%	454.0	11.4%	1,124.0	16.0%
St. Louis	587.5	19.3%	1,013.5	25.4%	1,601.0	22.8%
Breckenridge & Townships	529.5	17.4%	281.0	7.1%	810.5	11.5%
TOTAL:	3,047.0	43.3%	3,985.5	56.7%	7,033	

3. Accordingly, Full Time Equivalent for significant firms in Gratiot County is **7,486.5** employees, as of June 2008. According to Michigan Labor Market Information (MILMI) Gratiot County's total employment is **18,272** for the 2007 calendar year. Therefore, an estimated **41%** of the total employees in Gratiot County work for significant firms. This supports GGDI's assertion that Gratiot County's market is a mixture of "big business" or corporations, and "personal business", or single/partner owned businesses.

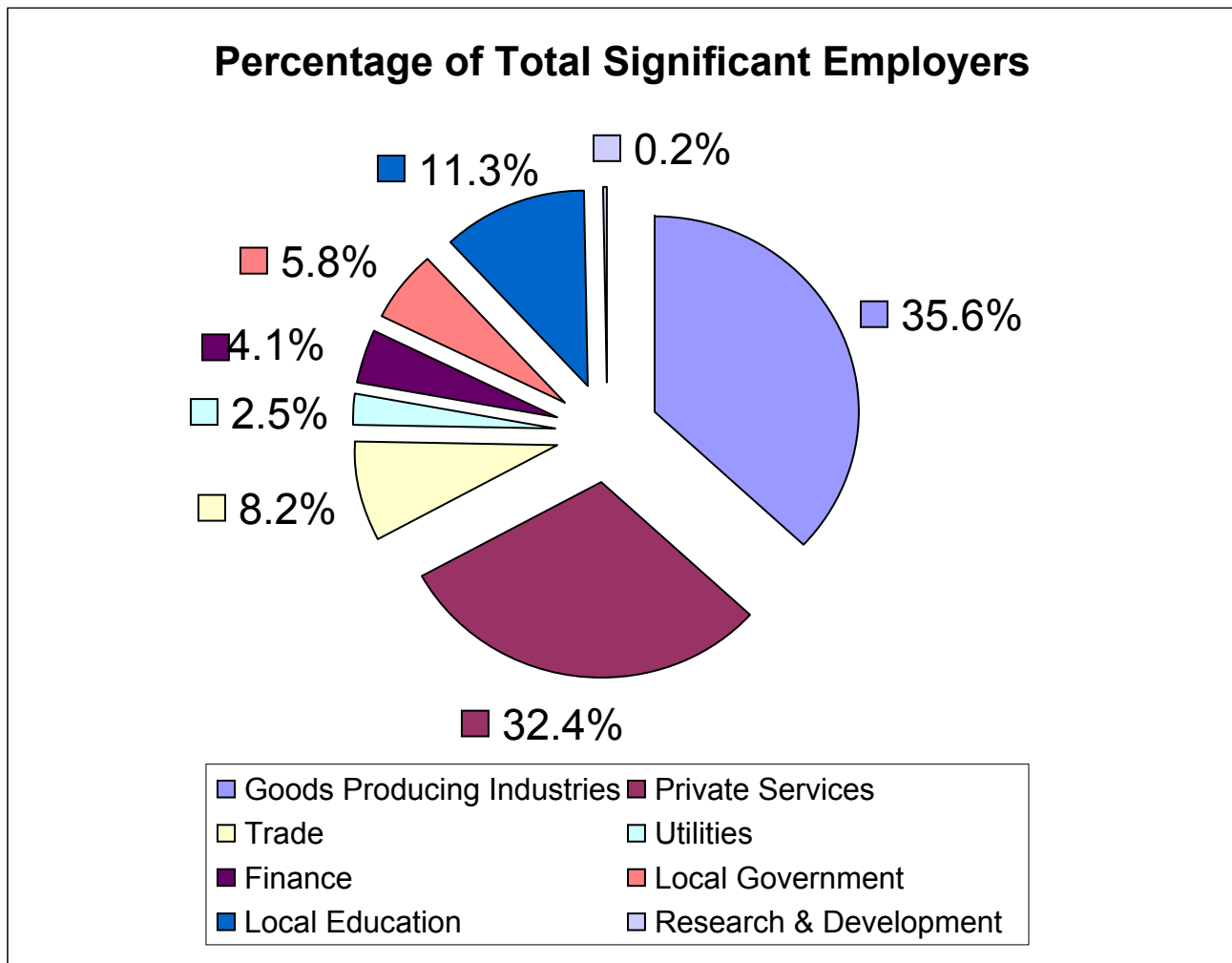
7. Total Employment by industry, as reported in the 2000 Census for Gratiot County.

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYEES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining	773	4.3%
Construction	1,015	5.7
Manufacturing	3,908	21.9
Wholesale trade	365	2.0
Retail trade	1,964	11.0
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	806	4.5
Information	281	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental/leasing	683	3.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	588	3.3
Educational, health and social services	4,159	23.4
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	1,352	7.6
Other services (except public administration)	815	4.6
Public administration	1,097	6.2
TOTAL:	17,806	

8. The table below shows the number of employees in the significant firms in Gratiot County, separated by their different fields of work.

TYPE OF WORK	SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYERS
Goods Producing Industries	2,200.2
Private Services	2,005.0
Trade	504.3
Utilities	152.5
Finance	255.0
Local Government	357.5
Local Education	695.5
Research & Development	10.0
TOTAL:	6,180

9. This chart is representative of the above table.



10. Union Employees in Gratiot County, as of June 2008:

FIRM (City)	PRIVATE UNIONS	PUBLIC/ NON-PROFIT UNIONS	UTILITY UNIONS	UNION(S)
Michigan Correctional Facilities (St. Louis)		742		Food Service Workers (FSW) Michigan Correctional Officers (MCO) United Auto Workers (UAW)
Alma Products	92			United Steel Workers (USW)
Gratiot County Public Schools		618		Michigan Education Association (MEA) Paper Allied Industrial Chemical & Energy (PACE) International Union (PACE) International Union of Operating Engineers
Gratiot Medical Center (Alma)		166		American Federation of State & County Municipality Employees (AFSCME) Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Registered Nurse Association (RNA)
IAC (Alma)	299			Paper Allied Industrial Chemical & Energy (PACE)
Masonic Pathways (Alma)		172		Teamsters
Consumers Energy Co. (Alma)			107	Utility Workers of America (UWOA)
Anchor Danly (Ithaca)	70			United Auto Workers (UAW)
Verizon (Alma)			15	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Gratiot County Courthouse (Ithaca)		55		American Federation of the State & County Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Fraternal Order of Police
Family Independence Agency (Ithaca)		29		United Auto Workers (UAW)
City of Alma		10		Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM)
City of Ithaca		2		Police Officers Labor Consul (POLC) American Federation of the State & County Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
City of St. Louis		20		International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM)
County Road Commission (Ithaca)		27		American Federation of the State & County Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
MMDHD (Ithaca)		66		Michigan Nurses Association Teamsters
Armour Eckrich Meats (Alma)	9			Teamsters
SUB TOTALS:	470	1,907	122	GRAND TOTAL: 2,600

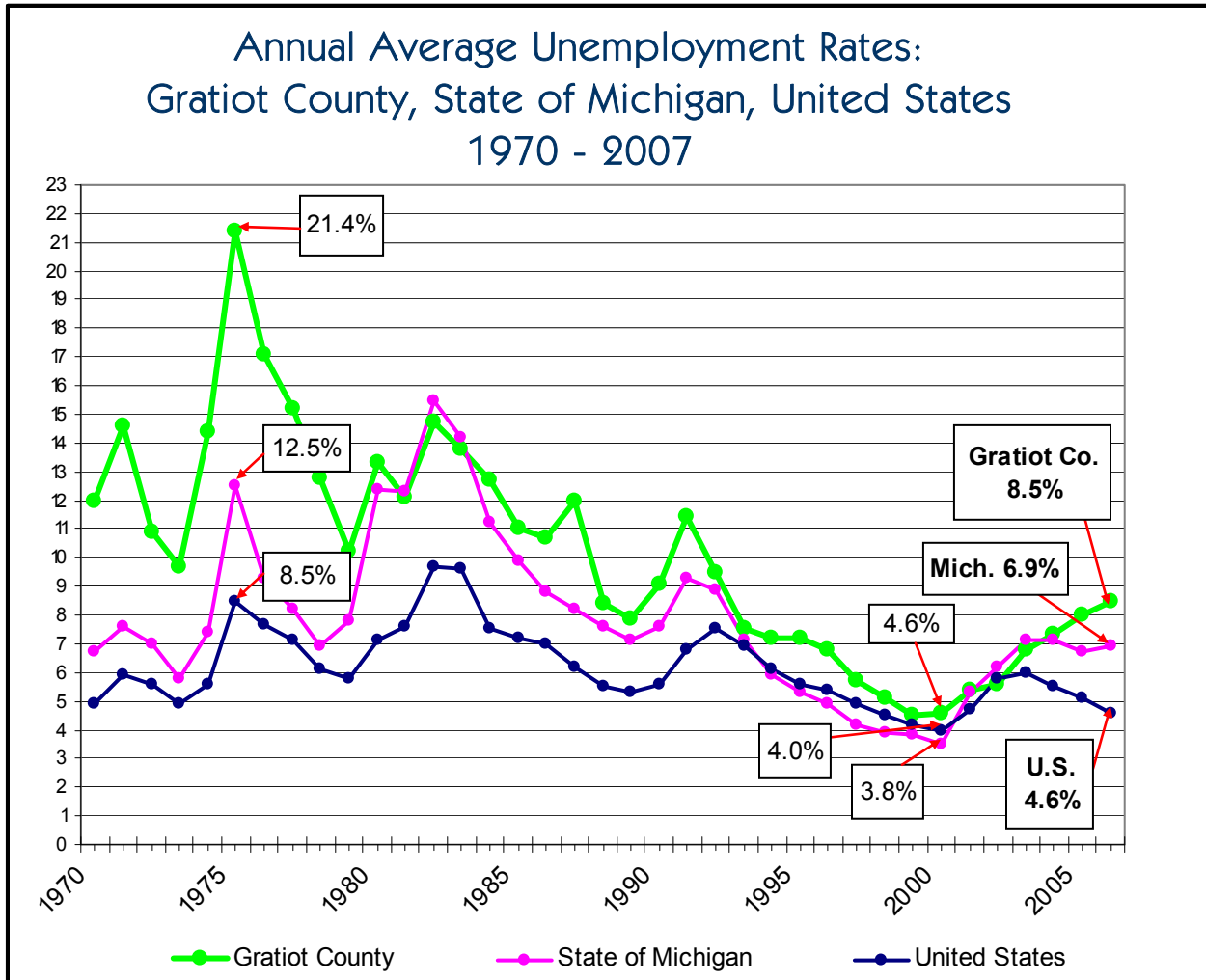
11. With reference to significant firms in Gratiot County, the **2,600** union employees are **34.7%** of the total significant firms' workforce of **7,486.5**. Subsequently, only **14.2%** of the **18,272** employed in Gratiot County are union employees.

The utilities industry sector, as of June 2008, has a total of **122** union workers, or **4.7%** of the significant firms total union workers and **1.6%** of the significant firm's total workers. *These figures include the businesses of Verizon and Consumers Energy's union workforce.

The non-profit/public sector, as of June 2008, has a total of **1,907** union workers, or **73.3%** of the significant firms total union workers and **25.5%** of the significant firm's total workers. *These figures include the businesses of Michigan Correctional Facilities, Gratiot Medical Center, Masonic Pathways, Family Independence Agency, Gratiot County Public Schools, Gratiot County Courthouse, City of Alma, Ithaca, & St. Louis, Mid Michigan District Health Department, and Gratiot County Road Commission's union workforce.

The private industry sector, as of June 2008, has a total of **470** union workers, or **18.1%** of the significant firms total union workers and **6.3%** of the significant firm's total workers. *These figures include the private businesses of Alma Products, Armour Eckrich Meats LLC, International Automotive Components (IAC), and Anchor Danly's total union workforce.

12. This chart compares historical County, State, and National unemployment rates:



This table shows the unemployment rate trends between Gratiot County, the State of Michigan, and the United States over the past 37 years. Although, in the 1970's Gratiot County's unemployment rate was significantly higher than the state and the nation it has always experienced similar fluctuations. Gratiot County experienced an unemployment rate of 21.4% in 1975 which is 2.5 times higher than in 2007. Since GGDI was established in 1978, unemployment rates have declined tremendously.

The labor force for the 2007 fiscal year was 20,666 people; 1,751 of those people were unemployed. This results in the unemployment rate of 9.3% as of July 2008 for 2007.

The relative small size of Gratiot's labor force has a large impact on the degree to which unemployment rates swing up or down. Approximately 200 people gaining or losing employment moves the average about one full percentage point for the county. A small change in Gratiot's labor force causes significant impacts to the Gratiot unemployment rate where the same change has a much less significant impact to the state and is statistically irrelevant to the national rate. Historically, the size of the labor force has remained fairly constant in Gratiot County.