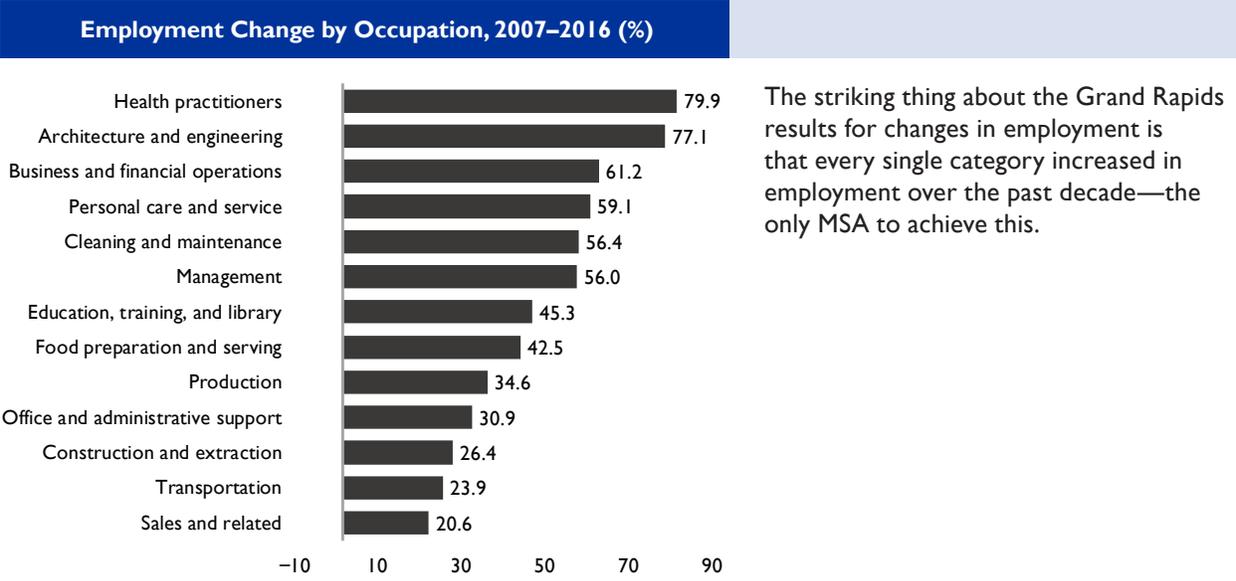


GRAND RAPIDS–WYOMING MSA

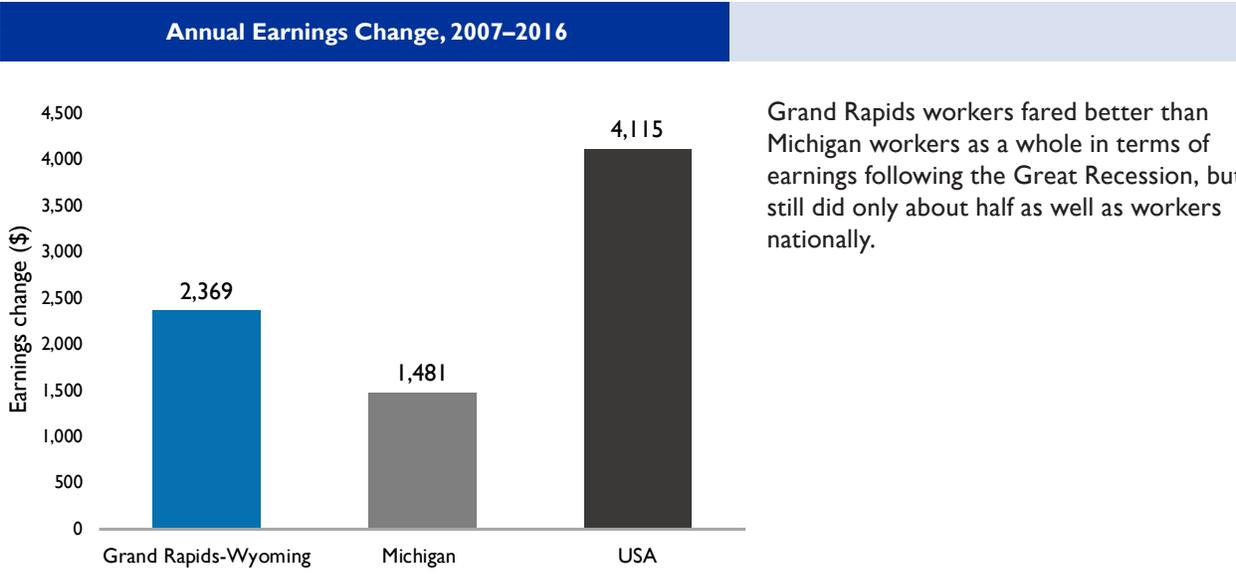
The Grand Rapids–Wyoming MSA has fared perhaps the best of any metropolitan statistical area in west Michigan since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007, in terms of occupational and wage changes. Indeed, all occupations shown in the figure just below are “in the black”—reflecting employment growth—whereas other MSAs were mixed to some degree between employment gains and losses.



The striking thing about the Grand Rapids results for changes in employment is that every single category increased in employment over the past decade—the only MSA to achieve this.

Employment improved across all occupations in the Grand Rapids–Wyoming MSA from 2007 to 2016 (figure above). Healthcare practitioner occupations grew by nearly 80 percent. Architecture and engineering occupations came in a close second. While our data do not show more detail within the occupational group, if the area follows the national pattern, relatively few of this occupational group are architects—most are likely engineers.

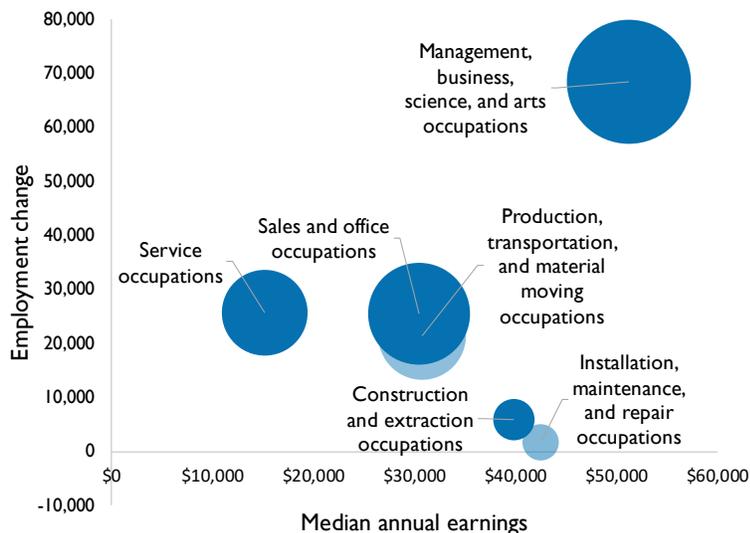
Wage growth has been strong in the area relative to the state of Michigan. Annual wages (not adjusted for inflation) improved by \$2,369 from 2007 to 2016 (figure below). Strong wage growth may have been aided by



Grand Rapids workers fared better than Michigan workers as a whole in terms of earnings following the Great Recession, but still did only about half as well as workers nationally.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey.

Employment Change and Median Annual Earnings, 2007–2016

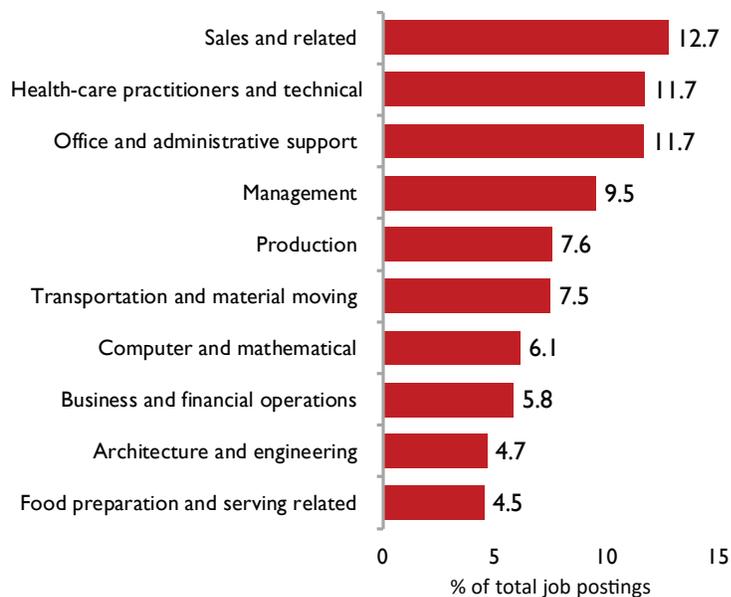


This figure illustrates, like the bar graph at the top of the previous page, that all industries in Grand Rapids gained employment from their levels going into the Great Recession.

strong growth in management and business occupations, which improved by more than 70,000 jobs and currently show median wages of over \$50,000.

Top available occupations in 2017, as reported by Labor Insight, a job-market data program from Burning Glass Technologies, were closely split between sales, health care, and office occupations. Production, transportation, and material-moving occupation postings were relatively low in number, though these occupations may not be accurately reflected, as some manufacturing organizations chose not to post job openings online, but rather hired through temporary staffing agencies.

Job Postings for 2017 (%)



Sales finished at the top in terms of share of job postings last year, which is somewhat odd, since it finished at the bottom in terms of percentage of employment gains (see top figure, previous page).

SOURCE: Burning Glass Technologies.