



southwest michigan first
The Kalamazoo Region's Economic Catalyst 

Regional Profile



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The Kalamazoo Region Defined

Allegan County, MI
 Branch County, MI
 Cass County, MI
 St. Joseph County, MI

Barry County, MI
 Calhoun County, MI
Kalamazoo County, MI
 Van Buren County, MI

Proximity to Other Major Cities

Grand Rapids, Michigan	50 miles	Lansing, Michigan	75 miles
South Bend, Indiana	75 miles	Ann Arbor, Michigan	98 miles
Fort Wayne, Indiana	117 miles	Chicago, Illinois	138 miles
Detroit, Michigan	142 miles	Toledo, Ohio	150 miles
Indianapolis, Indiana	245 miles	Cleveland, Ohio	273 miles
Toronto, Canada	380 miles		

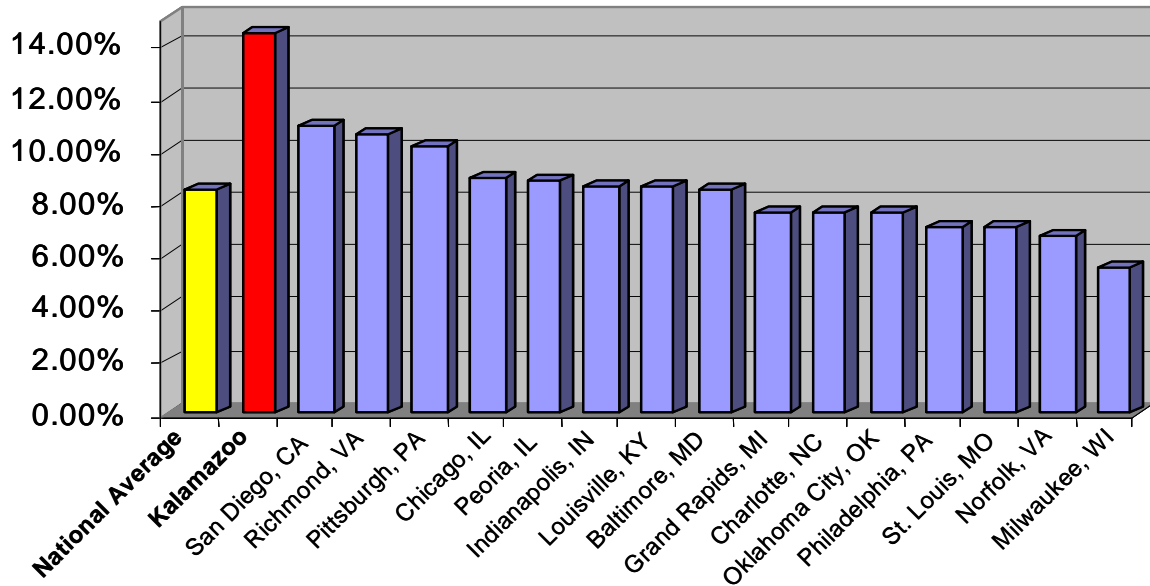
Population and Labor

- ◆ The Kalamazoo area has a household population of 630,200 and a civilian labor force of more than 354,000.
- ◆ The labor shed has an estimated pool of 21,100 unemployed persons who are actively seeking work.
- ◆ A new employer will be able to attract employees from an additional pool of about 34,600 underemployed workers. These individuals are currently employed and have indicated an interest in changing jobs.
- ◆ These potentially available workers are referred to in this report as the “underemployed” because they appear to possess the skills, experience, and education to qualify them for the pay rates at which they would take a new job.
- ◆ The desired pay rates of these underemployed workers are reasonable when compared to their existing pay rates. The median current pay rate of the underemployed workers is \$14.47 per hour, and the median desired pay rate of the underemployed workers is \$15.05 per hour.
- ◆ About 25% of the underemployed workers would take a new job for \$10.79 per hour or less. At the upper end, the 25% most qualified and experienced will command more than \$21.80 per hour.
- ◆ Roughly 2,700 people, neither employed nor seeking work, might re-enter the workforce for the proper job.
- ◆ In total, the Kalamazoo area has more than 58,000 available workers for new or expanding businesses.

Education of *Underemployed* Workers

Less than high school	5%	Associate Degree	17%
High School Graduate or equivalent	23%	Bachelor Degree	19%
Some College, but no degree	32%	Graduate Degree	4%

Doctoral Degrees Per Capita



Kalamazoo Region K-12 Programs

The Kalamazoo Promise

Each and every Kalamazoo Public School graduate residing in the district and attending Kalamazoo Public Schools for four years or more is given up to 100% funding for college tuition and mandatory fees, depending on his or her length of attendance. The funds can be used at any public university or community college in the State of Michigan. These funds, donated by a group of anonymous citizens interested in economic strength and quality of life in the City of Kalamazoo, are guaranteed indefinitely.



Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center

Accelerated education in mathematics, science and technology to selected students, grades 9 thru 12 in Kalamazoo County.

Education for Employment

This school-to-work program gives high school students a head start on the education and experience necessary to be successful in today's workplace.

Programs include:

- ◆ Arts & Communication
- ◆ Business, Management, Marketing & Technology
- ◆ Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology
- ◆ Health Sciences
- ◆ Human Services
- ◆ Natural Resources & Agriscience



International Baccalaureate Program

A comprehensive curriculum with an international focus, the program can lead to university credit upon successful completion. Portage is home to two of the four high schools in Michigan that offer the program and nearly 50% of all Portage Central High School juniors and seniors participate.

Kalamazoo Magnet Schools

Students are given opportunities to learn in an environmental science, writing, technology, world cultures, arts or inquiry-based setting. Challenging programs such as Advanced Placement, dual college enrollment, Education for Employment and Education for the Arts develop intelligent, students who qualify for the best universities in the United States.

Colleges and Universities

With over 220,000 college students studying at more than 30 colleges and universities within a 75 mile radius, Kalamazoo is surrounded by a wealth of well-educated, highly-skilled workers of tomorrow. Within its city limits, Kalamazoo houses a major research university – Western Michigan University, a prestigious private college – Kalamazoo College, and a community college – Kalamazoo Valley Community College, on the cutting edge of technology.

Western Michigan University

- ◆ Among 50 largest universities in the U.S.
- ◆ Among *U.S. News and World Report's* top-100 public universities in the nation
- ◆ One of the 1st major research universities in the nation, and the only one in Michigan, to offer campus-wide wireless technology
- ◆ More than 2,100 international students from 110 countries
- ◆ More than 250 degree programs, including:
 - Engineering Management
 - Ranked 2nd nationally by American Society of Engineering Management
 - Haworth College of Business
 - Among 12 largest undergraduate business programs in the nation
 - Integrated Supply Matrix Management
 - Interdisciplinary program combining the Haworth College of Business and College of Engineering and Applied Science
 - Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Imaging
 - The only programs in the world to have, on a single campus, pilot plants that can take a project from paper pulp to printed page.



Kalamazoo College



- ◆ Michigan's oldest private college, est. 1833
- ◆ Five Fulbright Scholars in 2004-05
- ◆ Study abroad program named 1st of all such programs in the nation by *US News and World Report*.
- ◆ Students from 41 states and 22 countries.
- ◆ 3-2 Engineering program
 - Students complete work at Kalamazoo College and an accredited Board for Engineering and Technology program

Kalamazoo Valley Community College



- ◆ Associates degrees and certificate programs in more than 45 areas study
- ◆ Customized workforce training, seminars and workshops for businesses in virtually any industry
- ◆ Center for New Media, opened Fall 2005, offers credit and non-credit classes in animation, digital photography, e-commerce, graphic design, illustration, multimedia, web design, web programming and writing

Michigan Technical Education Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Kalamazoo's M-TEC, opened in 2001, offers both standardized and fully customizable workforce training programs to help companies keep their employees at the forefront of the ever-changing global marketplace. The 70,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility offers programs in:

- ◆ Allied Health
- ◆ Automotive
- ◆ Computer Aided Design
- ◆ Construction Trades
- ◆ Information Systems Technology
- ◆ Manufacturing
- ◆ Medical Supplies and Equipment
- ◆ Metal Working
- ◆ Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Plastics



Healthcare

Specialties

Borgess Health Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac Care • Neurological Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthopedic Care
Bronson Healthcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level I Trauma Center • Burn Care • Perinatal Center • The Children's Hospital at Bronson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronson Heart Center • Bronson Center for Women • 2005 Malcom Baldrige Award Recipient
Michigan State University/ Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family & Internal Medicine • Orthopedics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatry • Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Transportation

Air	Distance to Downtown	Airlines	Service to:	Commercial Operations	Runway length
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport	4 miles	Delta Connection, United Express, Northwest Airlines, American Eagle	Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Minneapolis St. Paul, Atlanta	30 flights daily	6,500 ft.
Rail					
Norfolk Southern	Canadian Northern	CSX	Amtrak (Passenger)		

Average cost of industrial/office real estate per square foot¹

Type	High	Low
Industrial	\$2.75	\$3.25
Office		
(CBD)	\$17.99	\$14.96
Suburbs	\$17.87	\$13.85

¹Rates are based on NNN basis as tenants typically pay prorated expenses. Average prorated cost for industrial is \$.80/SF.

Import/Export

Foreign Trade Zone #43 BC/Kal/Cal Inland Port	An area considered to be outside the formal U.S. Customs territory while still under its supervision. Foreign Trade Zones can defer, delay or eliminate U.S. Customs duties. The BC/Kal/Cal inland port serves as the regional headquarters for multiple Foreign Trade Zone locations throughout the region.
U.S. Customs Port of Battle Creek	Inland port of entry where imports clear U.S. Customs in a timely manner.
Great Lakes	The extensive waterway system begins in Lake Michigan and links St. Joseph, Michigan to the Port of Chicago, the Mississippi River, and international destinations through the Gulf of Mexico.

KALAMAZOO QUALITY OF LIFE

- ◆ Cost of living below national average
- ◆ Healthcare costs 10% lower than national average



Arts & Entertainment

In excess of \$1.5 billion under management in local foundations and more than \$100 million in private donations for the local arts community

- ◆ Kalamazoo Ballet Company
- ◆ Kalamazoo State Theater
- ◆ Miller Auditorium
- ◆ Barn Theater
- ◆ Wings Stadium
- ◆ Gilmore International Keyboard Festival
- ◆ Arcadia Creek Festival Grounds
- ◆ Kalamazoo Civic Theater
- ◆ Fontana Chamber Arts
- ◆ Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
- ◆ Epic Theater
- ◆ Homer Stryker Field
- ◆ Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra



Outdoor Recreation

- ◆ Celery Flats Interpretive Center: tours, museums, playground, picnic area, biking and walking trails
- ◆ Bittersweet Ski Resort: skiing & snowboarding
- ◆ Kalamazoo Nature Center: trails, amphitheater, historical homestead, day camps and Nature's Way Preschool
- ◆ Kal-Haven Trail: 34-mile crushed limestone path connecting Kalamazoo to Lake Michigan
- ◆ Echo Valley Winter Park: tobogganing, tubing, ice skating

