

Jobs picture: Some prosper, some don't

By Tim Richard
Staff writer

No place is average. That bit of folk wisdom was underscored with computer graphics when University of Michigan economists reported on unemployment rates for the state's 83 counties.

"Diversified areas have the lowest unemployment," summed up Malcolm S. Cohen, director of UM's Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations.

"Too much or too little manufacturing can be a bad thing."

COHEN'S PICTURE (see map) showed that 60 counties, mostly with small populations, were staggering under 1130 percent unemployment rates in 1985, three years into the economic recovery.

Those counties, shown as black on the map, included the entire upper peninsula, all but two counties north of Saginaw and the southwest corner of the state.

Nationwide, only two states in 1985 were reporting unemployment of 11 percent or more — West Virginia and Louisiana.

In Michigan, the lowest unemployment rates, in the 57 percent range, were reported in Washtenaw and Clinton counties (horizontal lines on the map). Washtenaw is the home of the University of Michigan, which has attracted a host of high-technology companies in close proximity to

its engineering and medical schools.

AMONG THE largest counties, Oakland had one of the best job growth showings.

Not only did it gain industrial jobs during the recovery, but the pace has been set by such "service" jobs as high-tech, trade and finance.

Oakland lost 29,600 jobs in the recession years of 1979-82; gained back 130,000 jobs in 1983; and will add 36,000 more in the two years ahead, according to UM forecaster Donald Grimes.

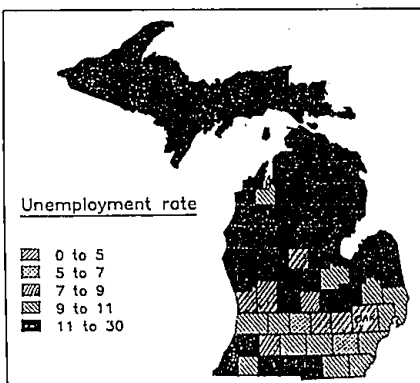
The map's lesson isn't that manufacturing is good or bad. Rather it shows that:

- Rural counties dependent on mining, farming and tourism reported high jobless rates in '85.
- So did high manufacturing counties like Genesee (Flint), Bay and Jackson.

NATIONWIDE, the UM economists noticed some flow of jobs during 1979-85 from the high-wage states of the NortheastMidwest to the low wage states of the Sun Belt.

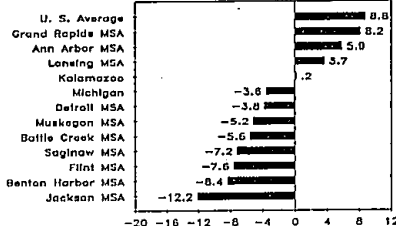
But high-wage areas such as New England and Maryland now have some of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, Cohen said.

"No one factor" explains high unemployment, he said. Among the causes of persistent high unemployment, he said, are an oversupply of labor, the drop in oil prices (in energy-producing states) and market conditions for particular products.



Sixty of Michigan's 83 counties still were suffering West Virginia-style unemployment levels in 1985, three years after the economic recovery. Both industrial and non-industrial areas were hard-hit, demonstrating that diversity is the key to prosperity, according to University of Michigan economists.

Figure 8
Total Employment Growth
1979 - 1985



Job growth has been spotty in Michigan during the 1979-85 recovery period, according to the University of Michigan's Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations. The loss of 17,000 jobs at General Motors plants by 1988 is likely to increase unemployment, economic forecasters said.

We Deliver.

We're looking for carriers to deliver The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Interested?

Call 591-0500 for route details

50th Anniversary Sale

Smiley Brothers

"A TRUSTED NAME IN MUSIC"

Kimball Grand \$2995 new, made in USA
Detroit 875-7100
8510 Woodward
Daily 9-5, Closed Sun.

Birmingham 647-1177
1010 N. Hunter
Open Sun. 1-5

Come in and browse at the array of merchandise being offered for holiday gift giving at our upcoming auction, December 5th, 6th and 7th ... coffee is served.

Frank H. Boos Gallery

AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

420 ENTERPRISE COURT • BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 332-1500

SPACE
AVAILABLE
CALL TODAY

FITNESS Exercise Company

presents

CANDICE COPELAND & CHET Vienne

from LA's Dynamic BODY EXPRESS Exercise Studio

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1986 at the Novi Hilton 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

• Master Classes • Instructor Seminars •

Single Class & Full Day Prices

CALL TODAY

FARMINGTON 32480 Northwestern 851-3488

BIRMINGHAM 555 S. Woodward 540-2535

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE

SCANDINAVIAN/U.S. TRADING COMPANY

Formerly Deane Imports

SAVE - 5% Price Increase Jan. 1, '87

SAVE - Sales Tax Deduction '86

SALE 40% to 70% OFF

FREE DELIVERY Over \$500 • Up to 25 Miles

720 W. Eight Mile, 1/4 Mile West of Woodward, Ferndale

Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5 • After 5 p.m. by Appt.

543-5410

Donate Blood.

West Hills
Volunteer

IMPORTED FROM ITALY
EXCLUSIVE AT HILLSIDE

This uniquely styled
chair is available in
3 finishes

- Black Matte
- Hi gloss Red
- Silver Fox Grey

In Stock for
Immediate Delivery

Side Chair
reg. \$349 Sale \$229

Arm Chair
reg. \$449 Sale \$299

OTHER CHAIRS AVAILABLE STARTING AT \$149

hillside
contemporary furniture

Bloomfield Hills
Square Lake & Woodward
334-4745 • 358-3399

MON., THURS., FRI. 10-9
TUES., WED., SAT. 10-6
SUN. 12-5

West Bloomfield
Orchard Lake Rd. & Maple
in the Orchard Mall
855-4065

The Baron was
aghast...

NOW AT
TWELVE OAKS

...to find himself sweating like a commoner in the maleficent heat of India. Tissue-weight Bombay cotton proved a lifesaver for the noble Clive of Plassey and his stalwart lads, sent to the subcontinent to banish the worrisome French and Dutch. Two eventful centuries later, our Bombay Shirt, with reinforced collar and punctilious tailoring, still keeps up immaculate appearances.

BOMBAY shirt \$20
2 for \$19 each
3 for \$17 each

#101 khaki, natural, black, teal, magenta, navy
Made in India



BANANA REPUBLIC
TRAVEL & SAFARI CLOTHING CO.

Twelve Oaks (Open Sundays) • Birmingham 803 Plaza Street
Call 1-800-257-8777 for a Free Catalogue & Information