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Economic Conditions: Updates on the National, State, and Regional Economies with a Look at 2018

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Economic Conditions: Updates on the National, State, and Regional Economies with a Look at 2018

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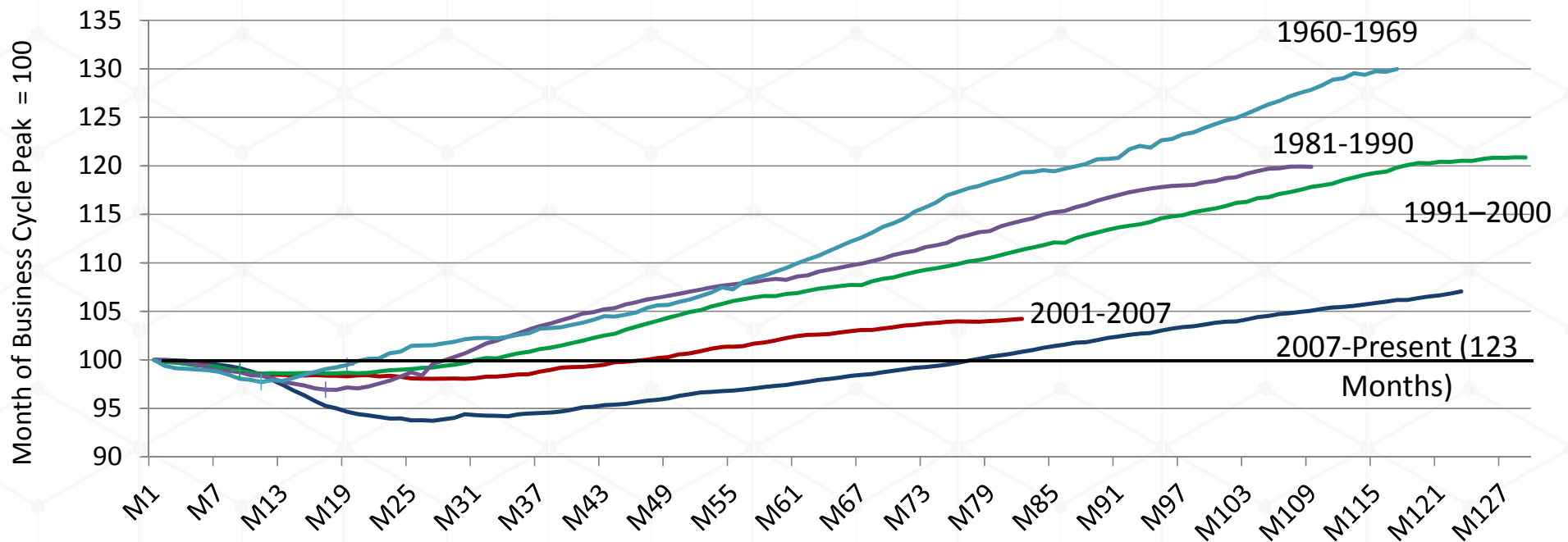
March 14, 2018

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

- The Institute is an activity of the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation, which was established in 1932 for the purpose of finding ways to alleviate the hardship of unemployment.
- MISSION:
 - The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research organization devoted to investigating the causes and effects of unemployment, to identifying feasible methods of insuring against unemployment, and to devising ways and means of alleviating the distress and hardship caused by unemployment.
- Today, the Institute has a three-pronged mission
 - Research the causes and consequences of unemployment and evaluate public employment programs and social safety nets
 - Administer all federal and state reemployment and training programs in our four-county area (Michigan Works!)
 - Disseminate our research findings and information on best practices

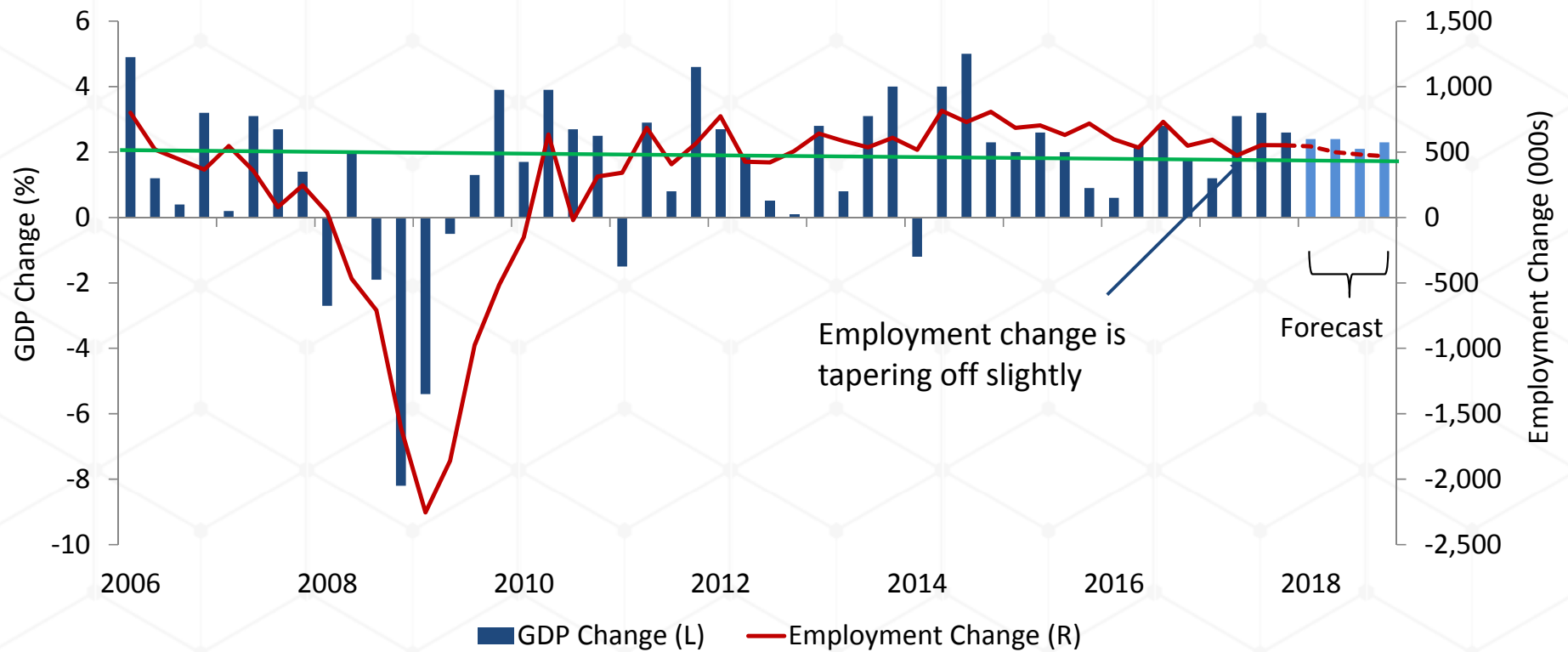
The next recession, is time on our side?

Employment Index From Business Cycle Peak



Is there a new norm?

Gross Domestic Product and Employment Change



Employment change is tapering off slightly

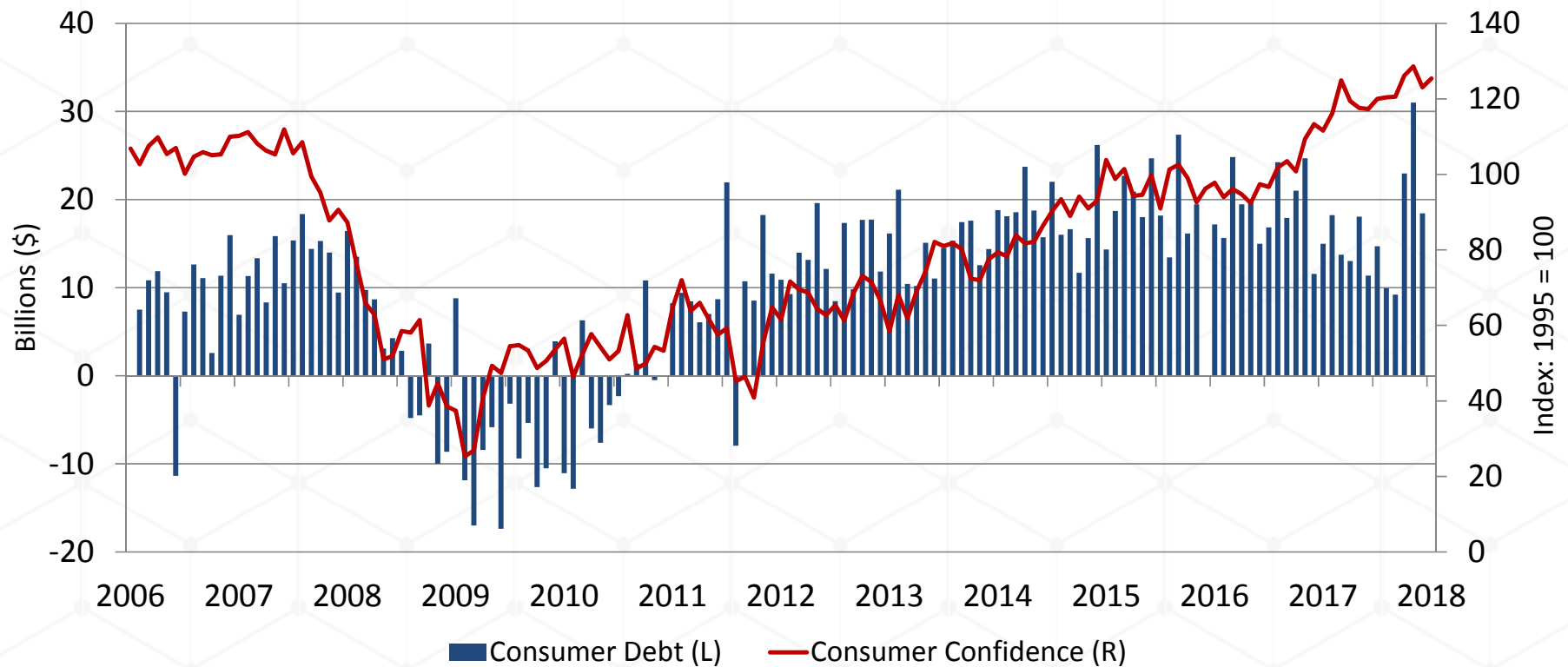
Forecast

National University of Michigan RSQE Forecast

	2017	2018 (Forecast)	2019 (Forecast)
GDP (Percent)	2.2	2.5	2.1
Employment (Percent)	4.4	4.2	4.1
Light Vehicle Sales (\$Millions)	\$17.1	\$17.1	\$17.0
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	4.4	4.2	4.1
Housing Starts (Millions)	1.2	1.3	1.3
CPI/Inflation (Percent)	2.1	1.6	1.8

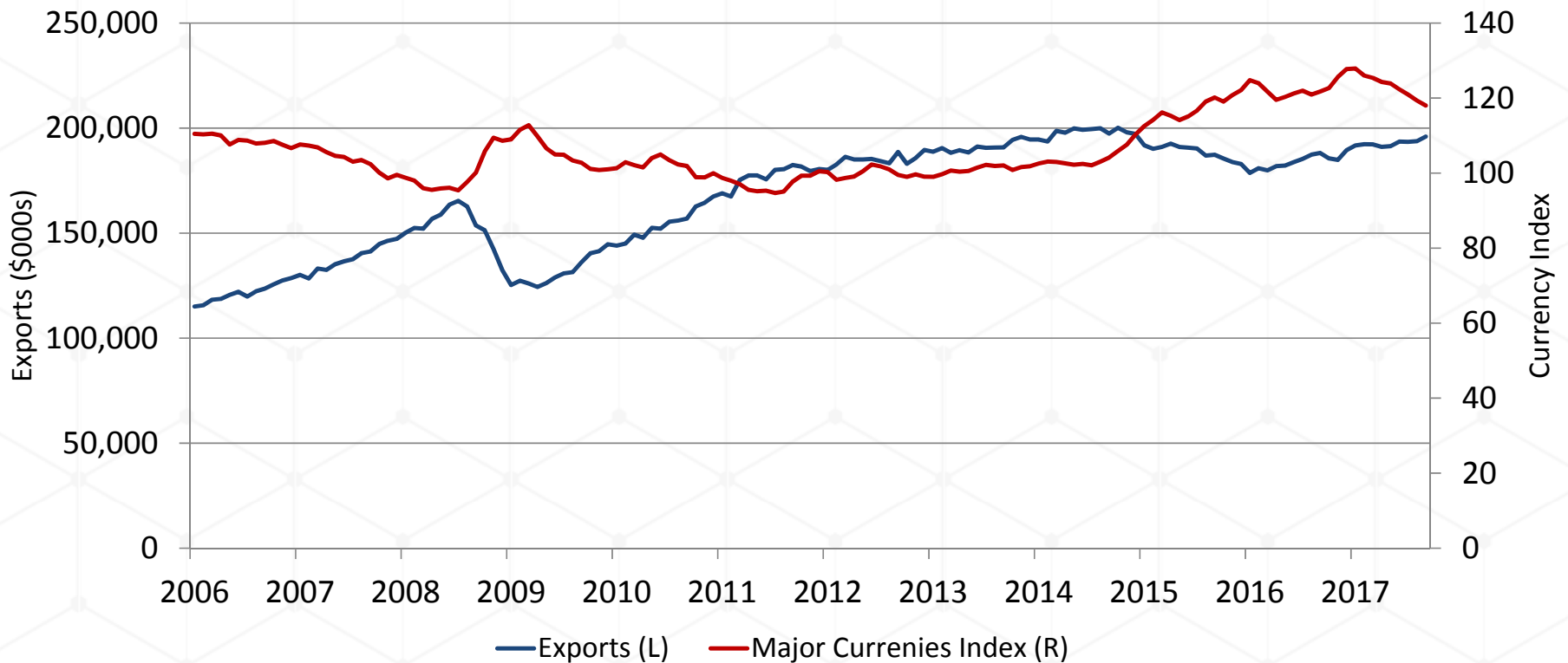
Consumer debt and confidence surge at the end of '17

Consumer Confidence and Change in Consumer Debt



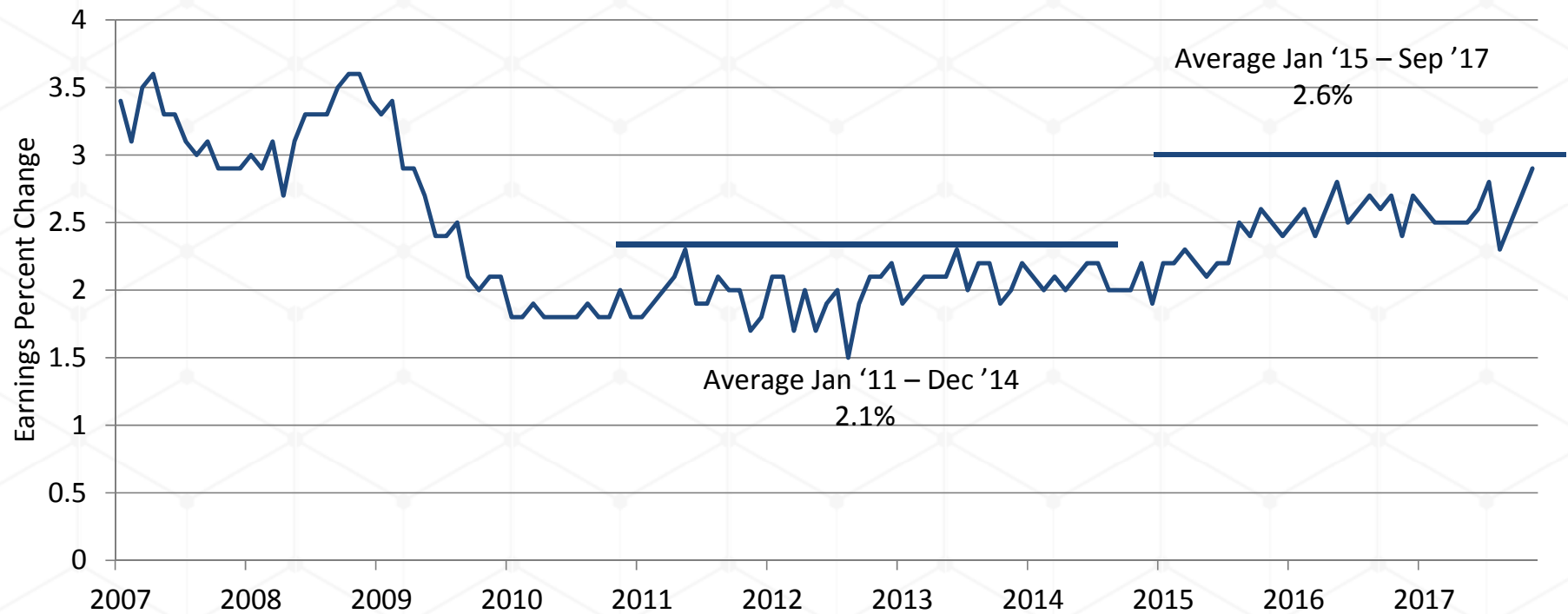
A weaker dollar should be good for the economy

U.S. Exports and Major Currencies Index

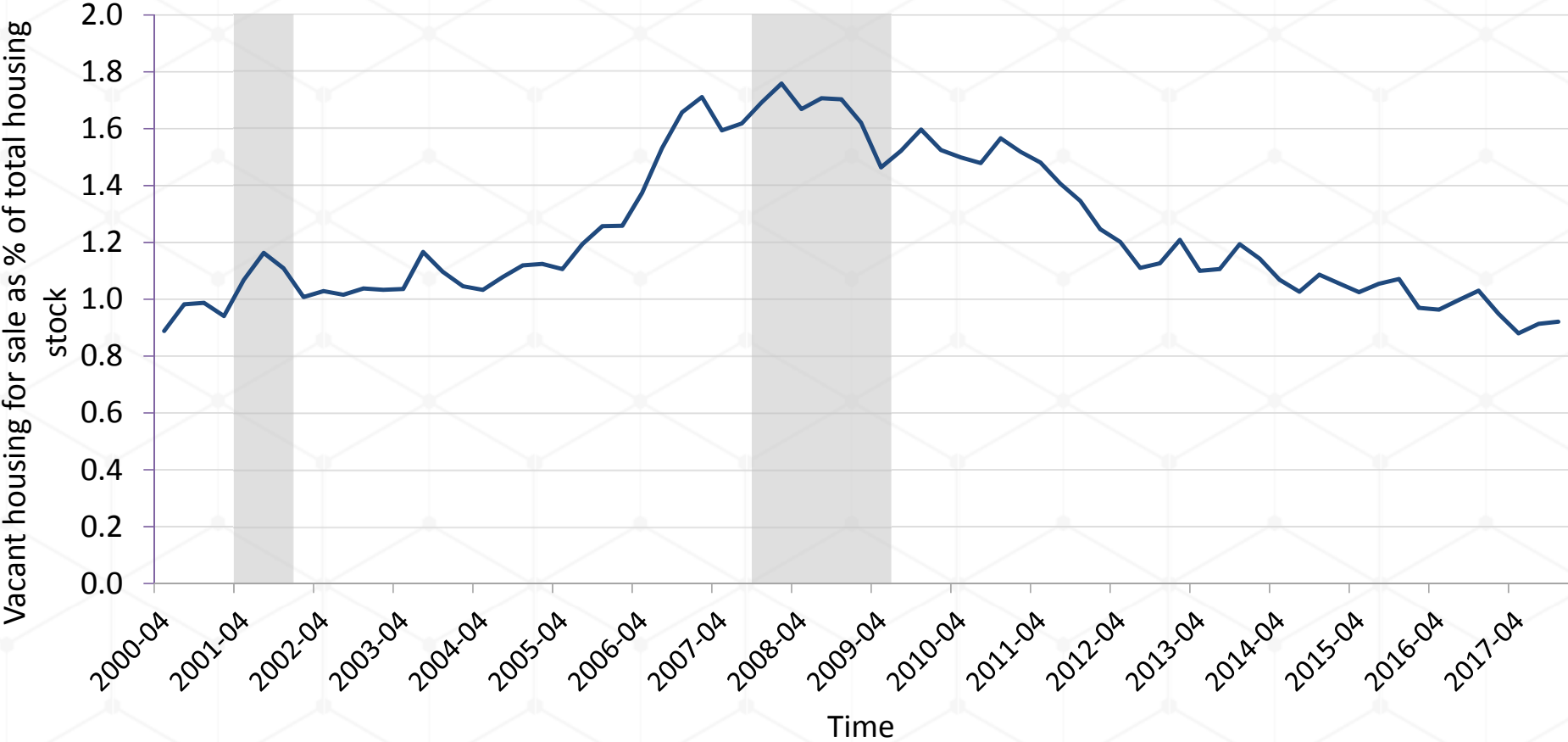


Since 2015, wage increases have started to rise

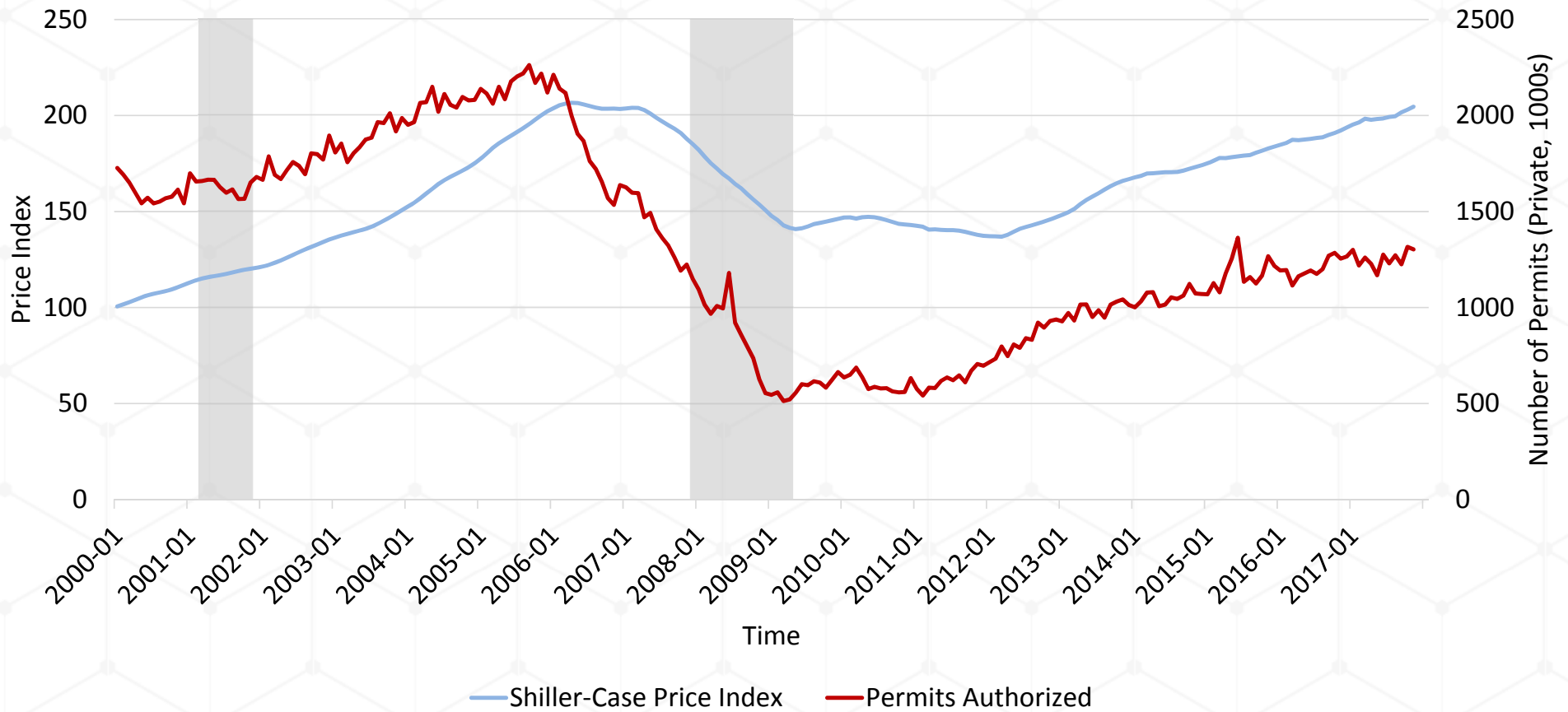
Year-Over-Year Percentage Change in Hourly Earnings



Housing inventory as a % of housing stock is back to pre-bubble levels



Prices have returned to peak-bubble levels permits for single-family homes are still below pre-bubble levels



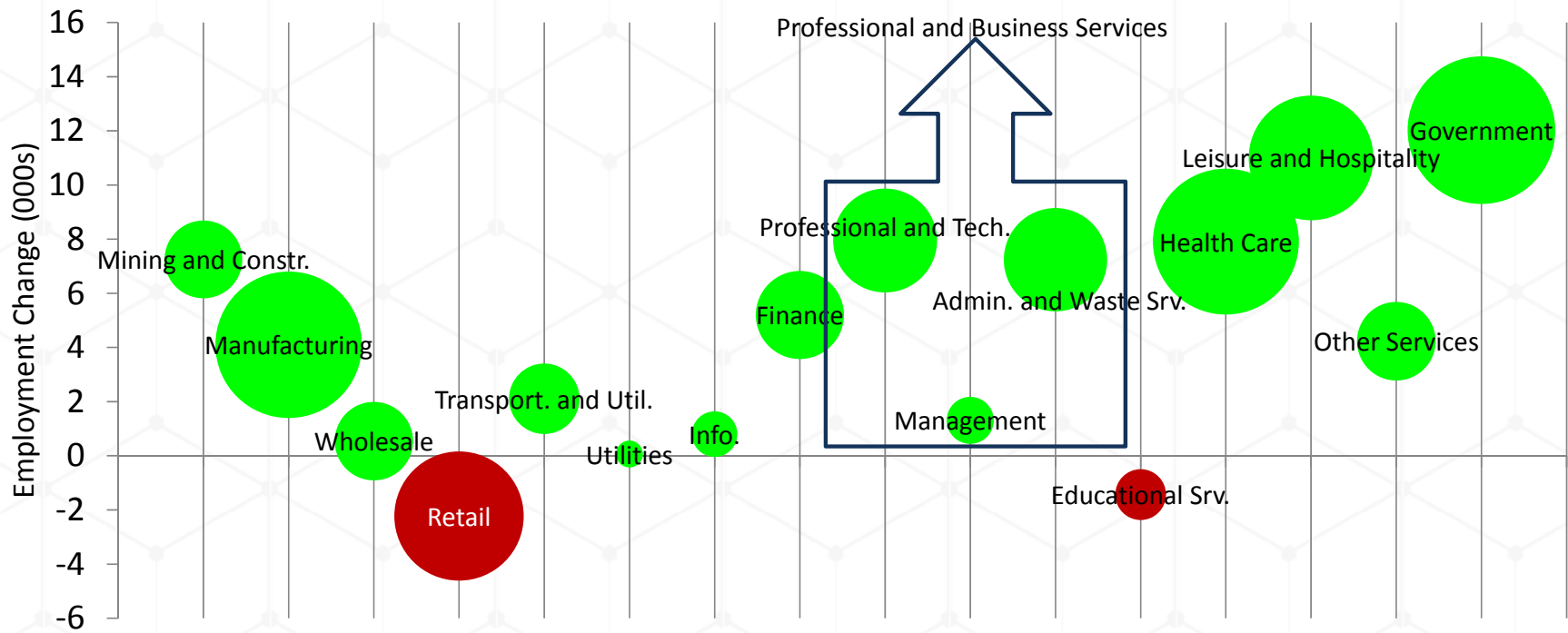
Moving on to Michigan

Statewide University of Michigan RSQE Forecast

	2017	2018 (Forecast)	2019 (Forecast)
GDP (Percent)	2.24	2.48	2.12
Employment (Percent)	1.43	-0.05	0.70
Manufacturing Employment (Percent)	0.76	-0.81	-0.62
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	4.4	4.2	4.1
CPI-Detroit/Inflation (Percent)	1.88	1.49	3.07

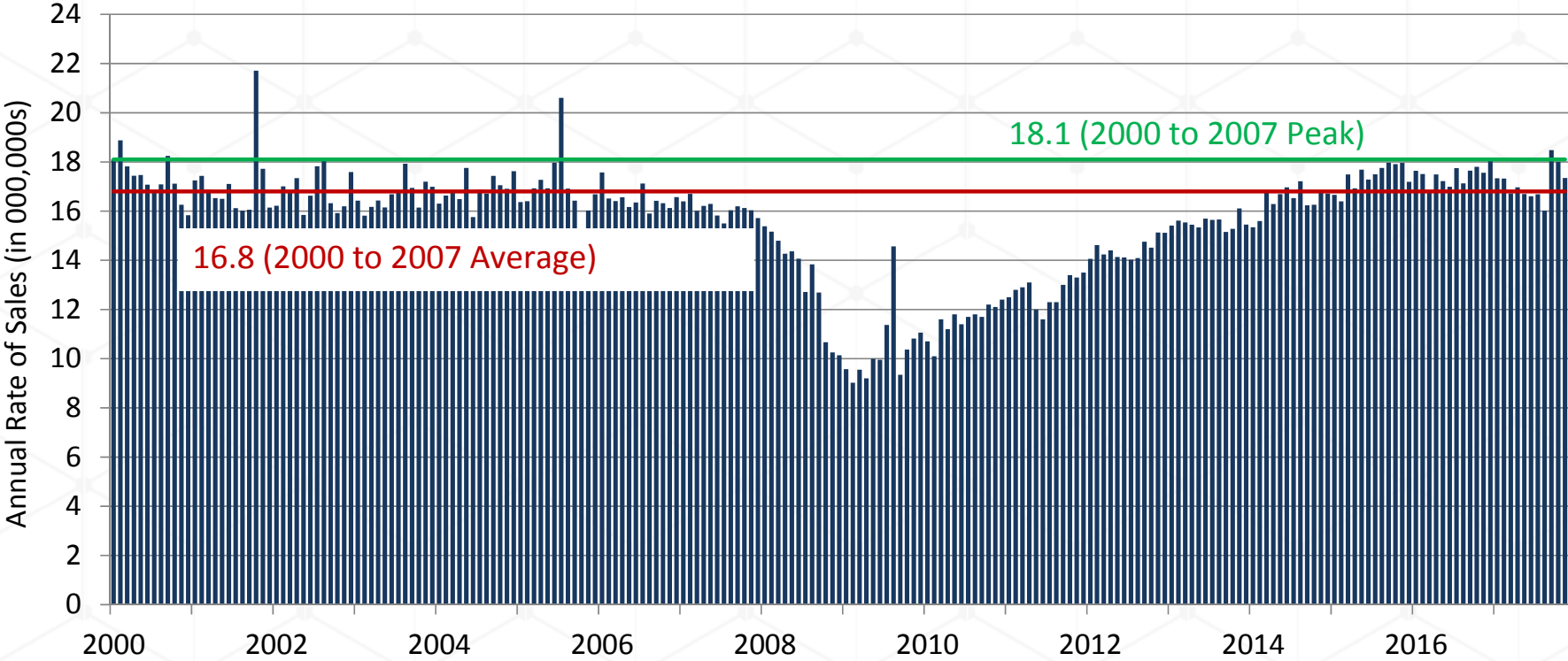
Strong growth in most industry sectors

Employment Change, 2016 to 2017



After a slight bump from hurricanes, returning to normal

Annualized Rate of U.S. Light Vehicle Sales (in millions)

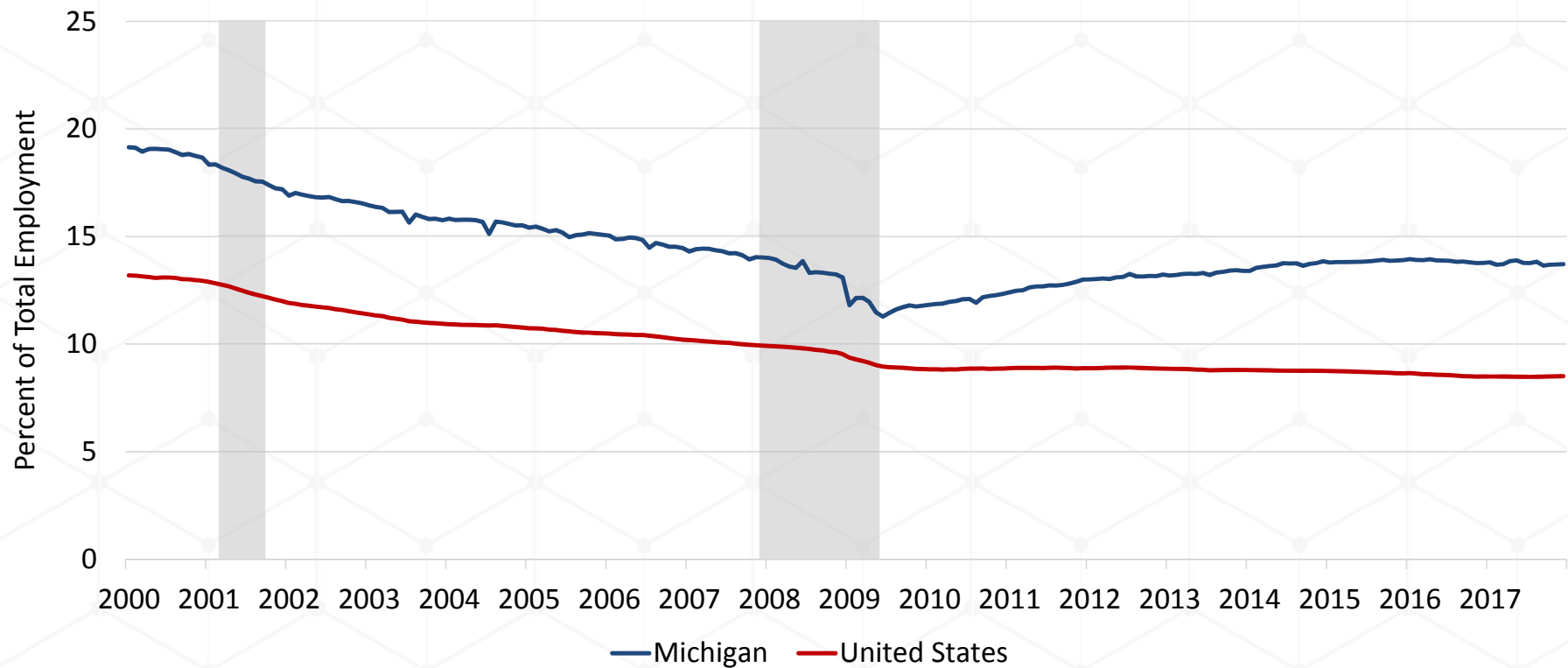


16.8 (2000 to 2007 Average)

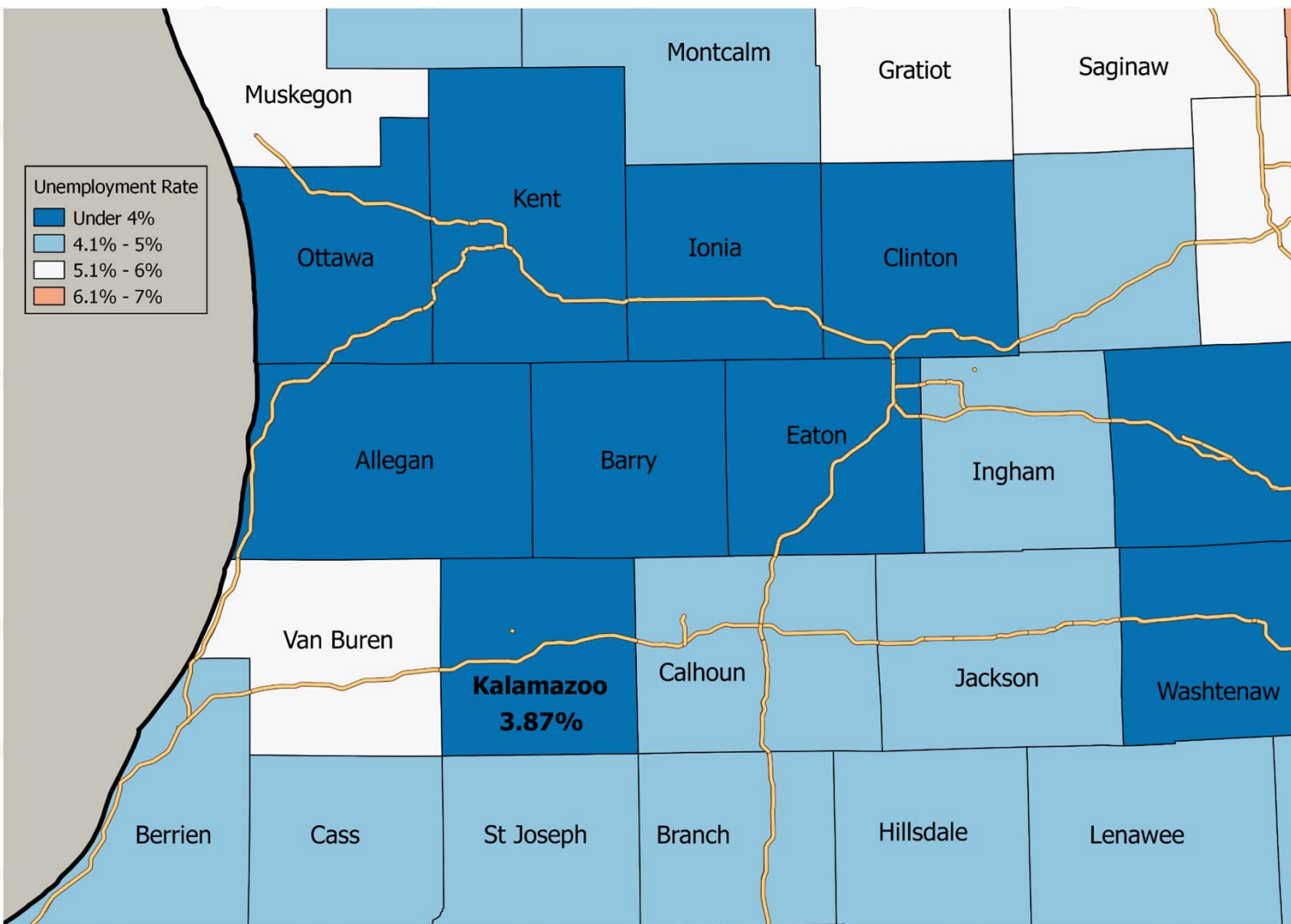
18.1 (2000 to 2007 Peak)

Michigan is still a place that “makes things”

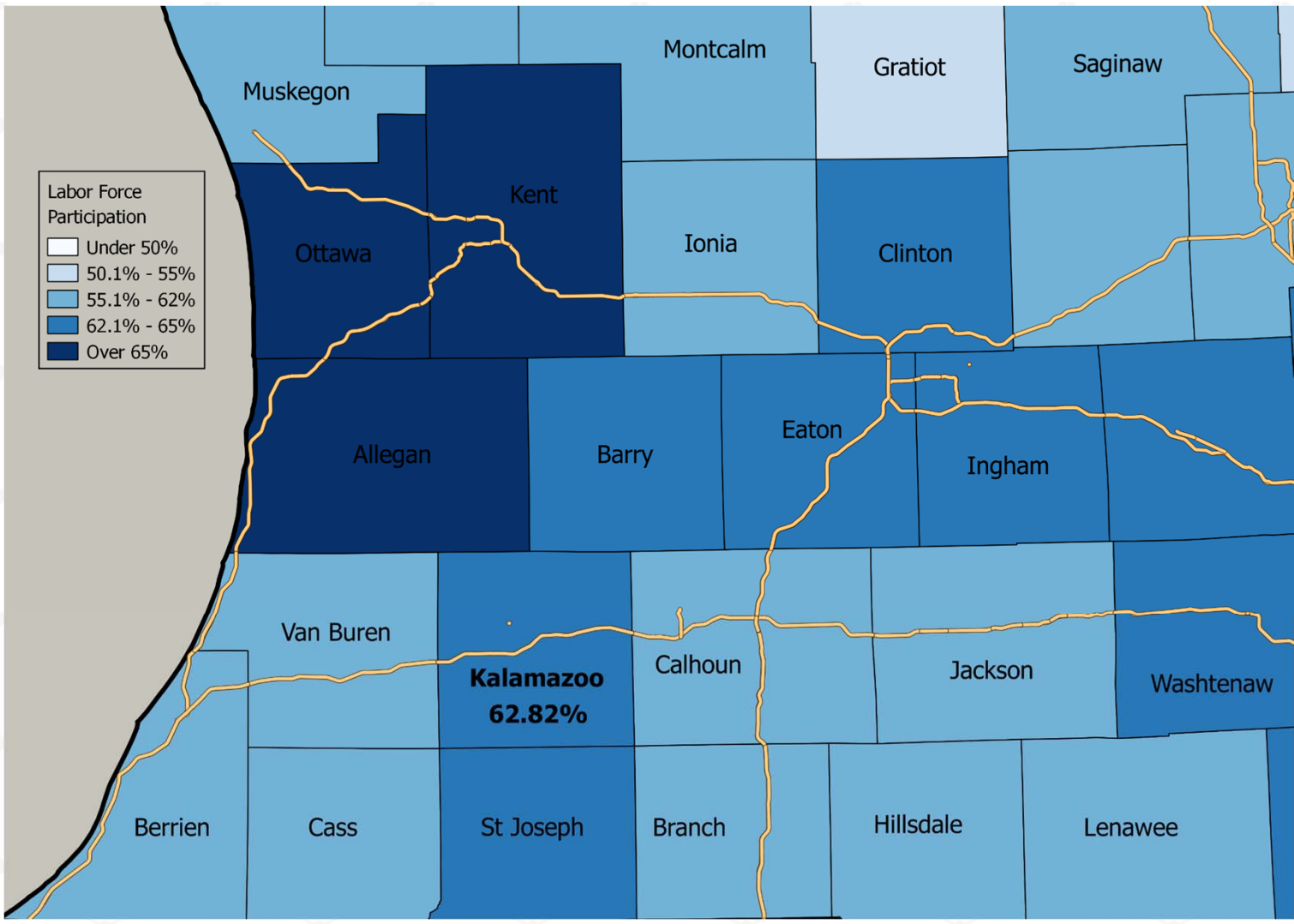
Manufacturing Employment



Moving on to west Michigan



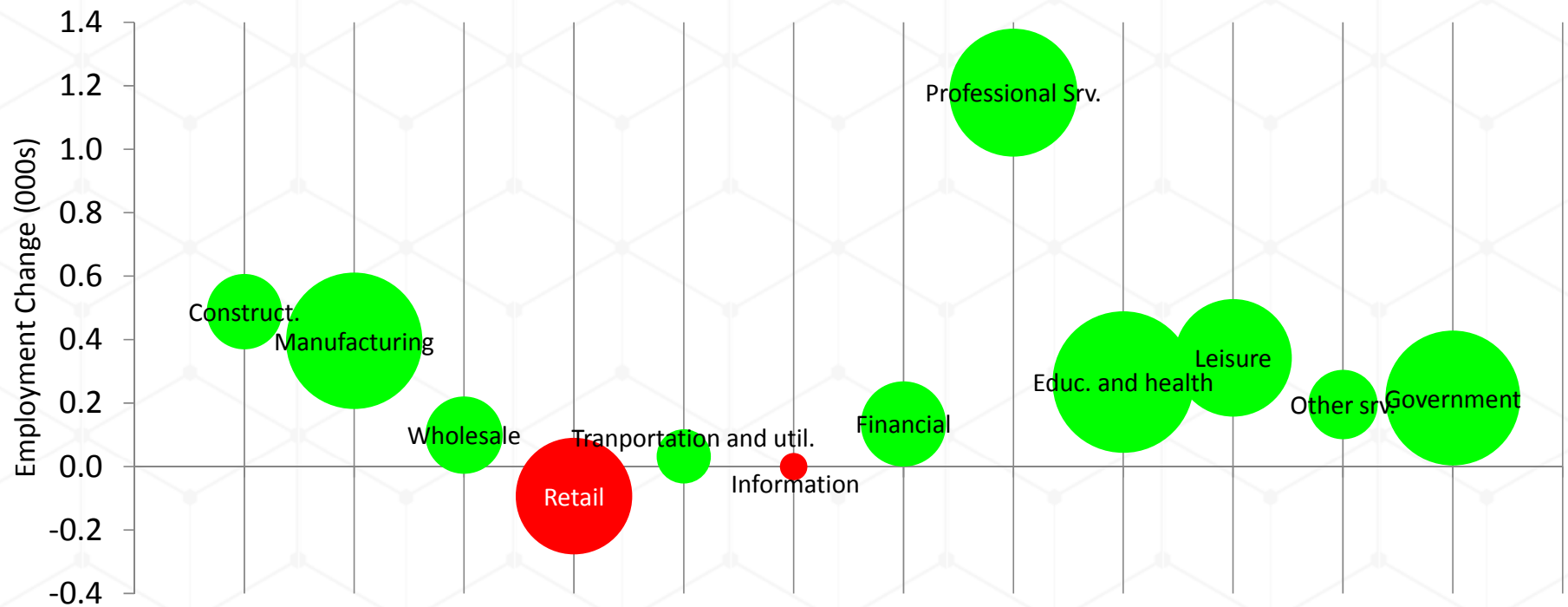
The national unemployment rate was 4.6% in 2017



The national labor force participation rate was 62.8% in 2017

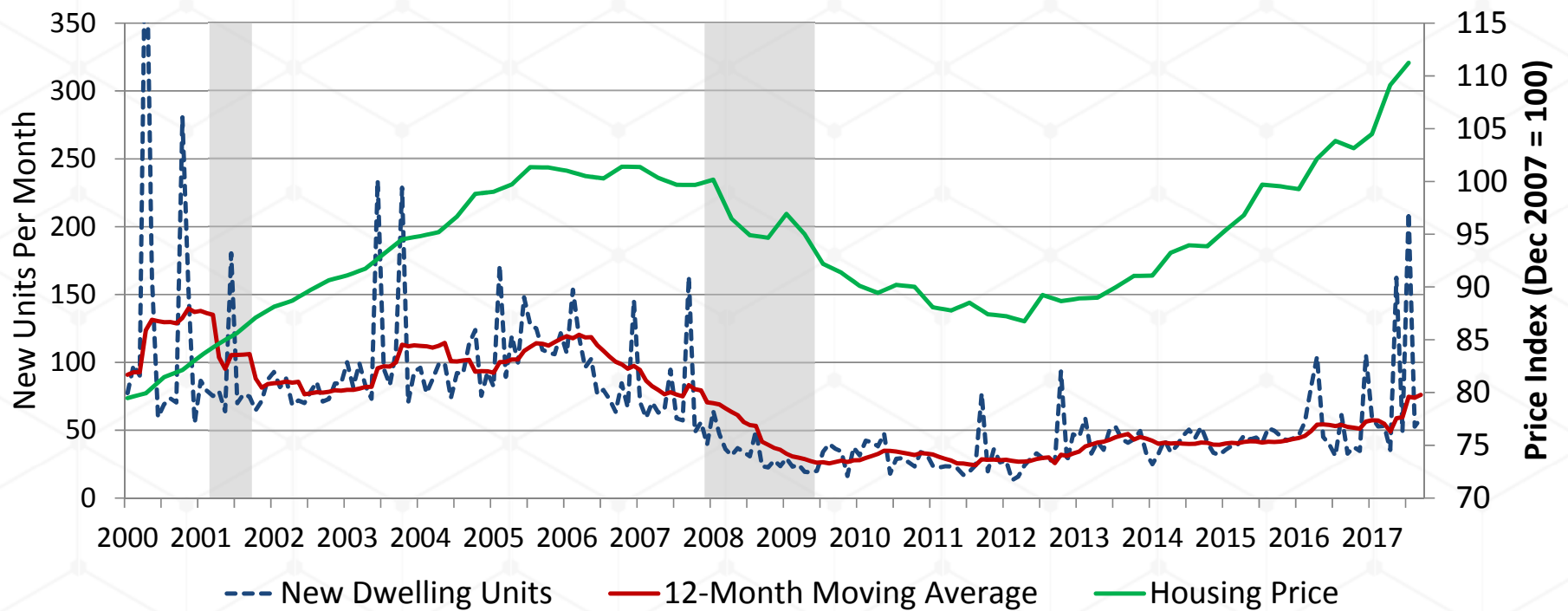
The Kalamazoo area is doing well

Employment Change, Q4 2016 to Q4 2017



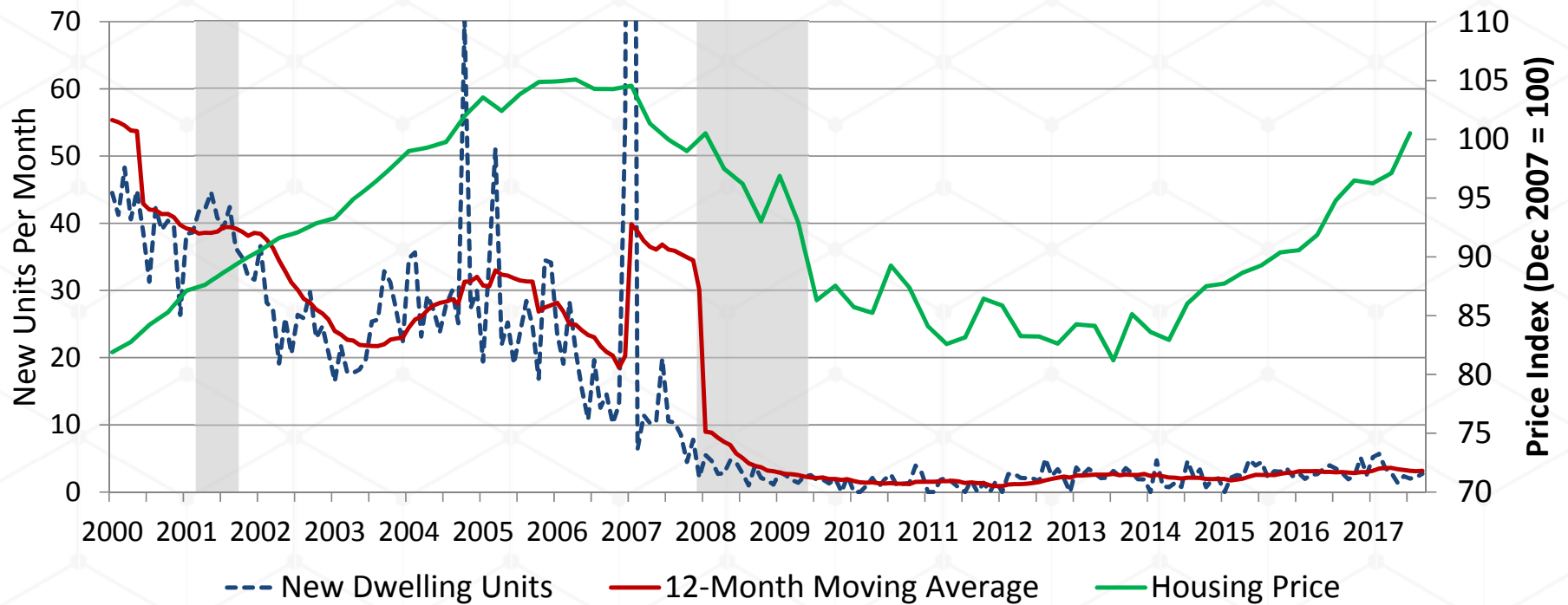
Kalamazoo MSA

New Dwelling Units and All-Transaction Sale Price



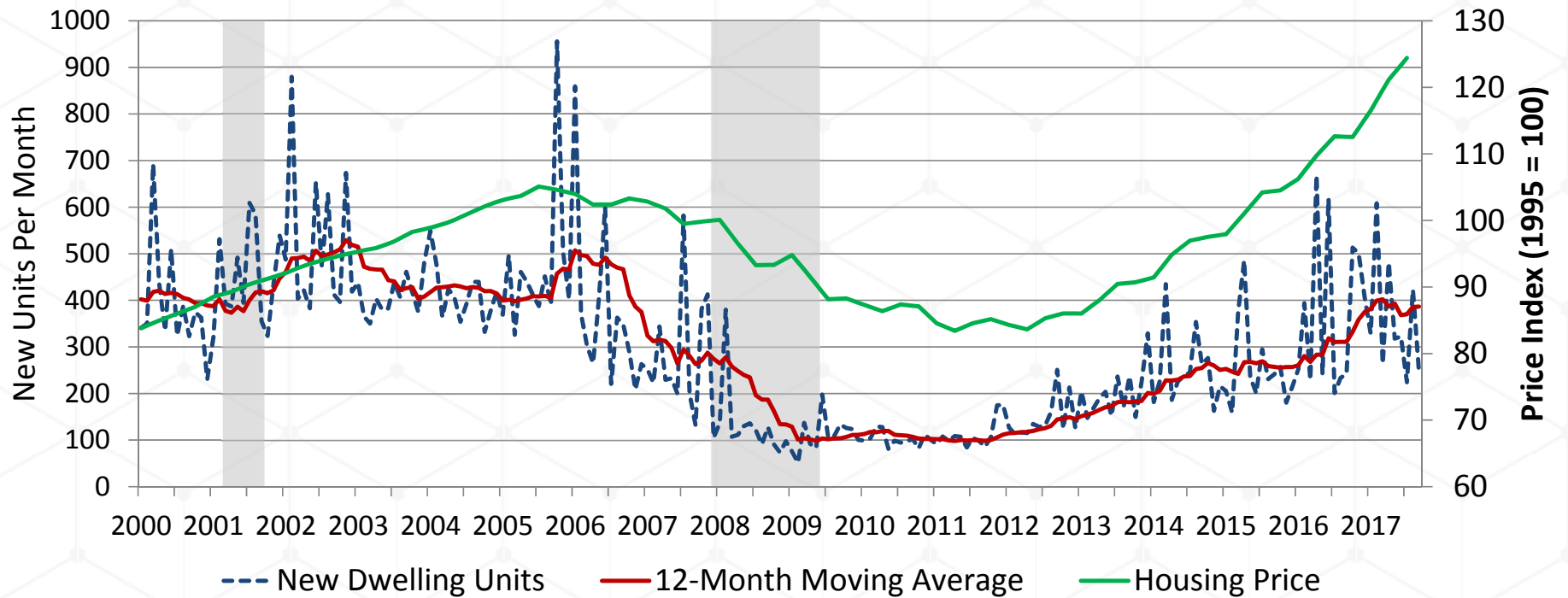
Battle Creek

New Dwelling Units and All-Transaction Sale Price



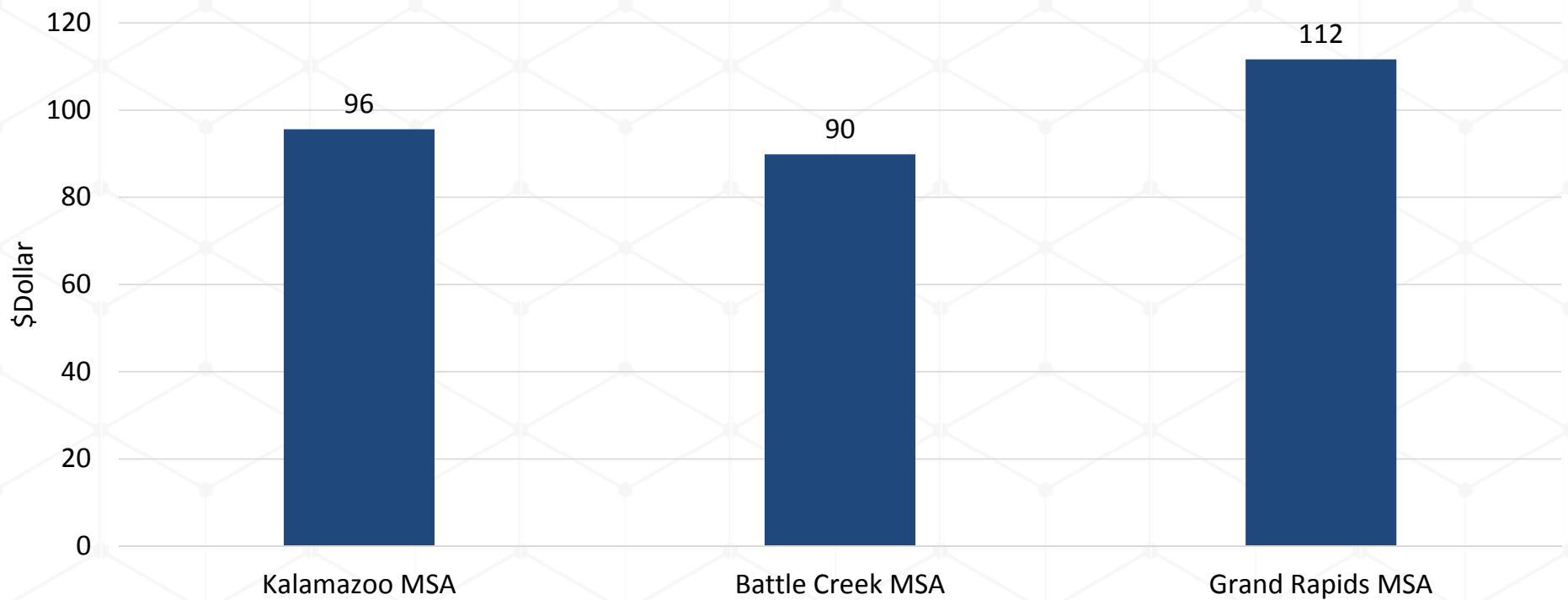
Grand Rapids MSA

New Dwelling Units and All-Transaction Sale Price



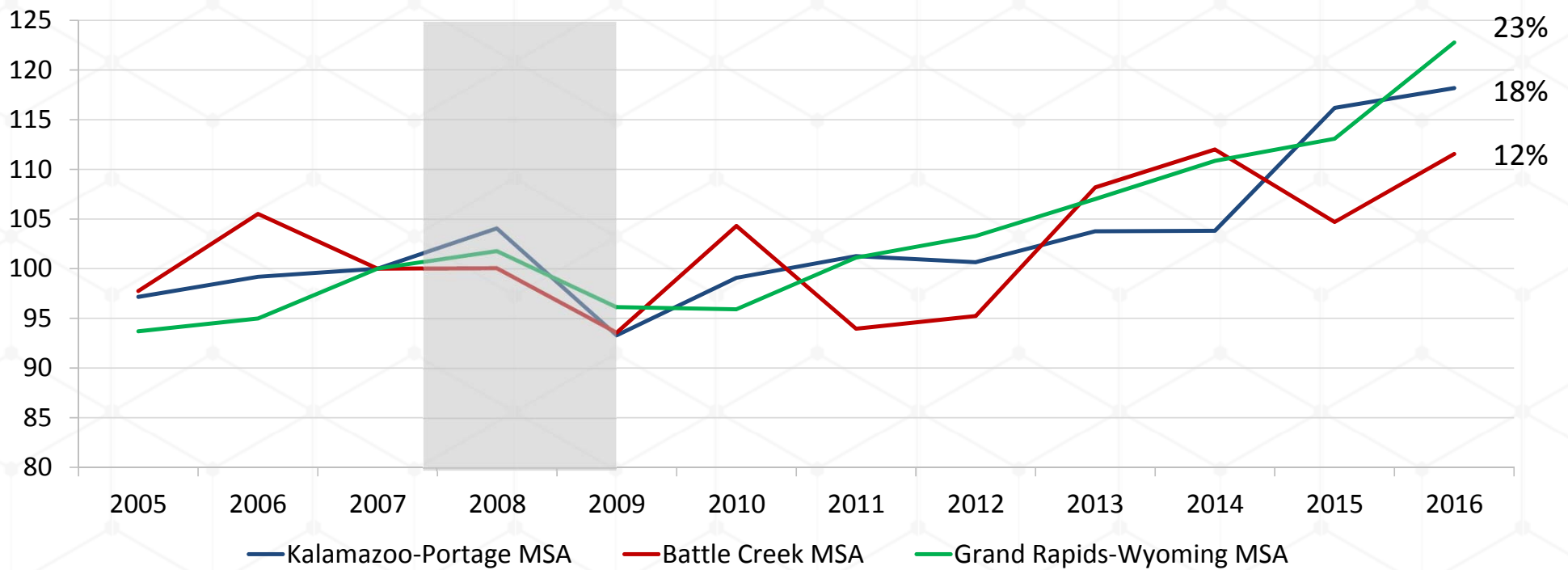
Can firms make money at these points?

2017 Residential Construction, Value Per Sq. Foot



Household income has rebounded since the recession

Household Income Index (2007 = 100)



Some of the factors affecting 2018

Headwinds

- Volatile dollar
- Unclear regulatory changes
- Tight labor market
- Limited buildings
- Potential rising cost of capital
- Longer-run slowing light vehicles

Tailwinds

- Volatile dollar
- Unclear regulatory changes
- Continued expansion
- Recent estimates of GRP at +3%
- Strong consumer confidence

So, what keeps me up at night?

- The changing face of economic development, trading jobs for capital investment
- The Production Function equation
- Middle-skilled jobs
- Artificial intelligence
- Universal Basic Income (UBI) & paying for public goods

The shift from jobs to CapEx?

- Grand Rapids
- Kalamazoo
- Alpha
- Cleveland Cliffs

Why the production function?

- Production is a function of how firms use ($K*L*T$)
- Where:
 - K= capital
 - L= labor
 - T=technology
 - And they can be substituted as driven by economics

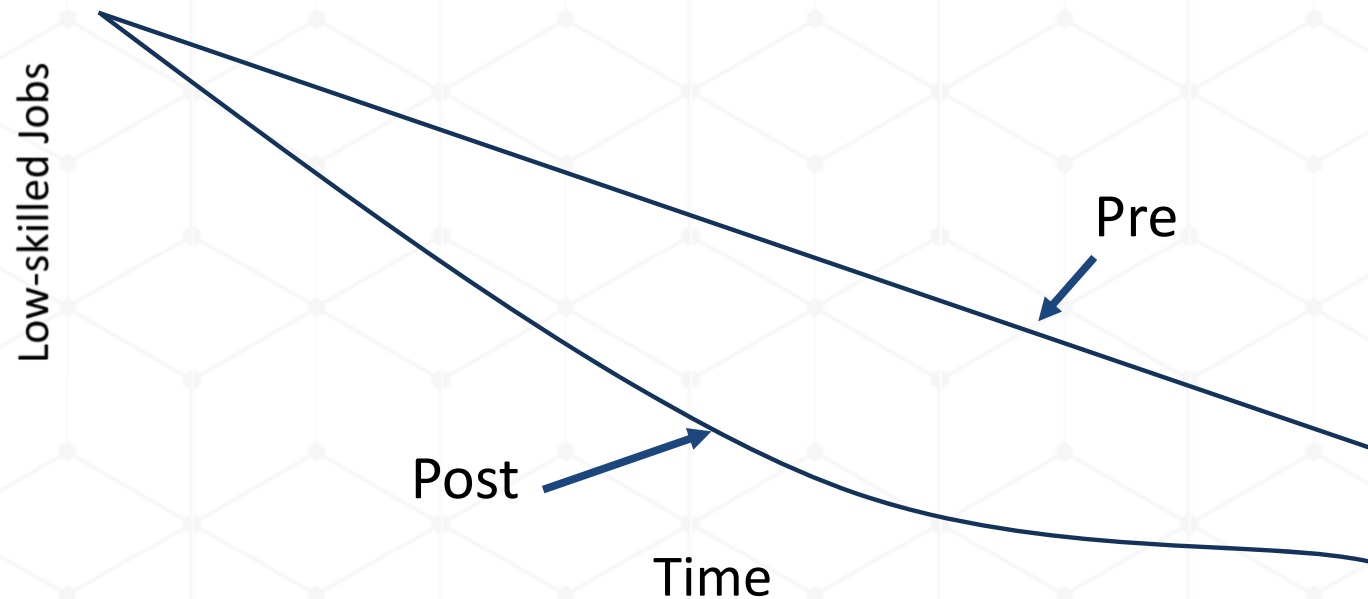
A sign of the times?



People are dead wrong to think America doesn't manufacture things anymore. Our West Michigan factory produces thousands of units per hour. It really keeps our 7 employees busy.

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Based on continued information and speculation...my thoughts continue to evolve..... The coming of Industry 4.0



What are middle-skilled jobs?

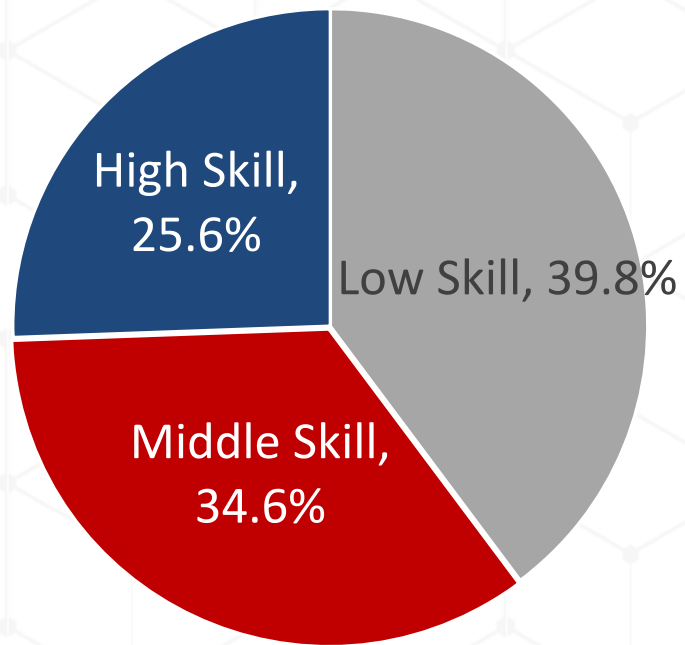
- Jobs that require more than a high school diploma and at least 6 months of formal on-the-job training, but less than a Bachelor's degree.

The majority of individuals employed in these professions are considered middle skilled:

94.6%	Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations
84.4%	Production Occupations
77.5%	Construction and Extraction Occupations
69.7%	Health Care Support Occupations
55.4%	Protective Services Occupations

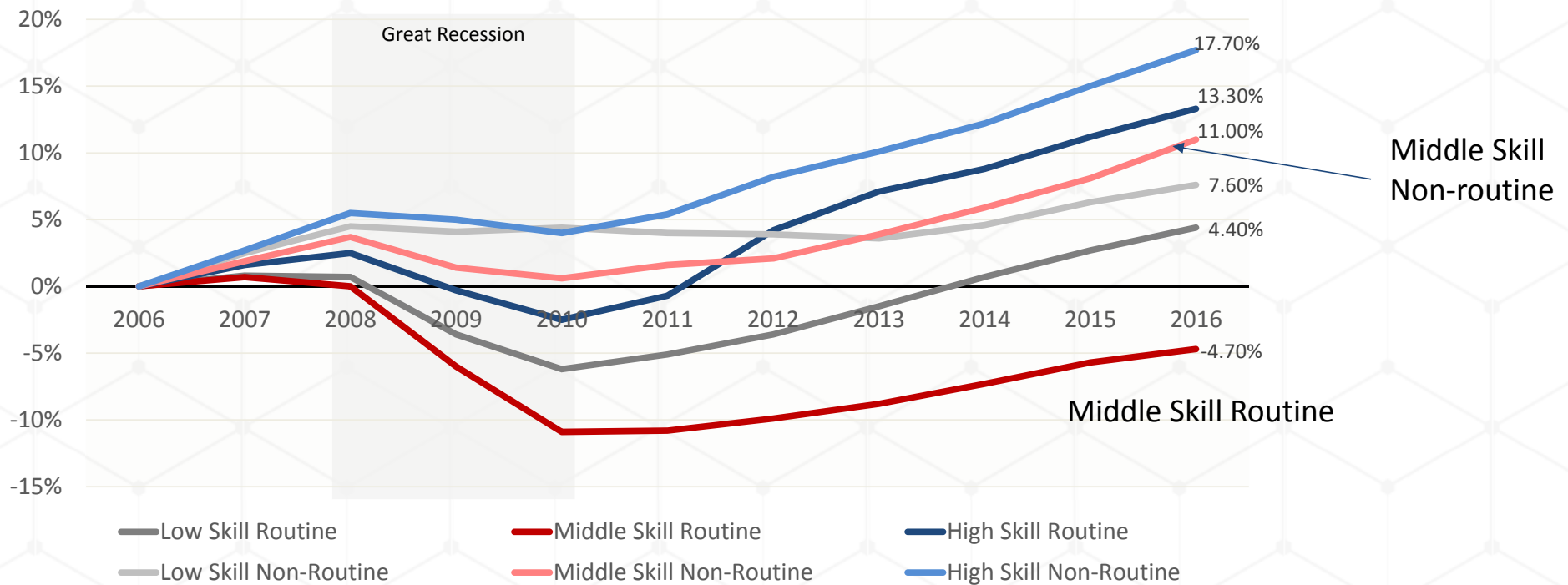
Middle skill employment shares

Employment by Skill Level
(2016)



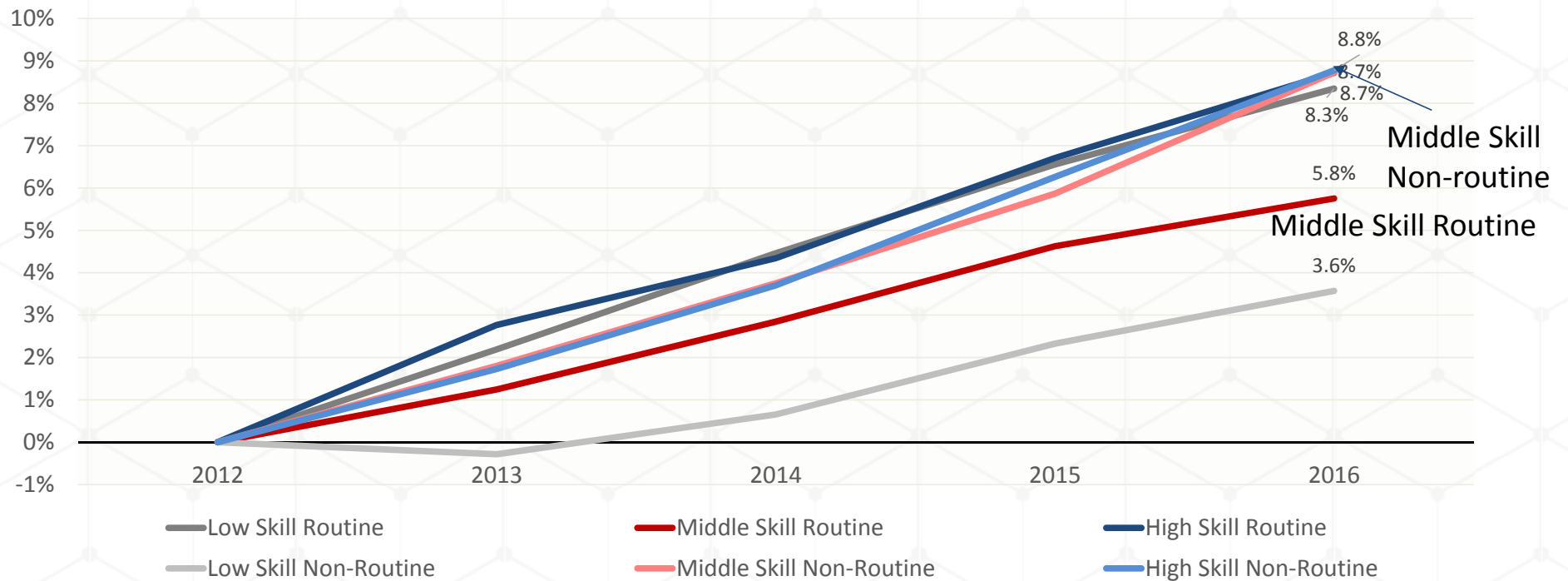
Middle skill employment trend

Employment Change 2006 to 2016
(By Skill Level, % Change since 2006)



Middle skill employment trend

Employment Change 2012 to 2016
(By Skill Level, % Change since 2012)



Warren Buffett queried on AI

- Buffett said that AI could be "enormously disruptive," yet beneficial in making the economy more efficient.
- "I would certainly think [AI] would result in significantly less employment in certain areas," he said. "It would be a good thing that would require enormous transformation in how people relate to each other, what they expect of government, all kinds of things."
- Buffett laid out a theoretical scenario at one of Berkshire's best-known companies, Geico. The insurer employs about 36,000 people, yet the financial services industry is seen as vulnerable to automation. Buffett asked: What if all of Geico's current functions, aided by AI, could be done by 10,000 people or a third of the staff?

How do we pay for public services & UBI?

- If you assume worker displacement due to AI
- State and local governments across the U.S. are funded by:
 - Income taxes
 - Sales taxes
 - Property taxes
 - Real
 - Personal
 - User fees, excise taxes, permit fees, and others
- How do we support population and services?

Questions and comments?

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