

# Michigan State University Extension



**Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.**

Since its beginning, Extension in Michigan has focused on bringing knowledge-based educational programs to the people of the state to improve their lives and communities. Today, community based agents supported by on-campus faculty members are serving every county, providing base programs focusing on agriculture and natural resources; children, youth and families; and community and economic development.

**For more information contact:**

MSU Extension - Alger County  
County Extension Director  
101 Court Street  
Munising, MI 49862  
**Phone:** 906-387-2530  
E-mail: [alger@msue.msu.edu](mailto:alger@msue.msu.edu)

## A portrait of **Alger County**



**Bringing Knowledge to Life!**

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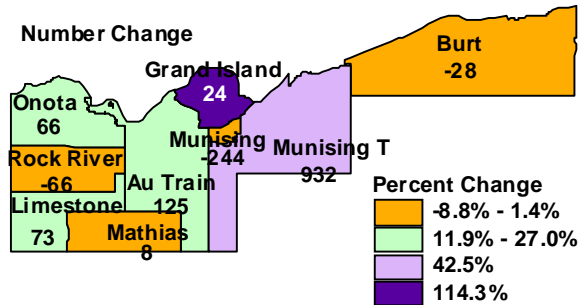
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# Population

## Alger County

Change from 1990 to 2000

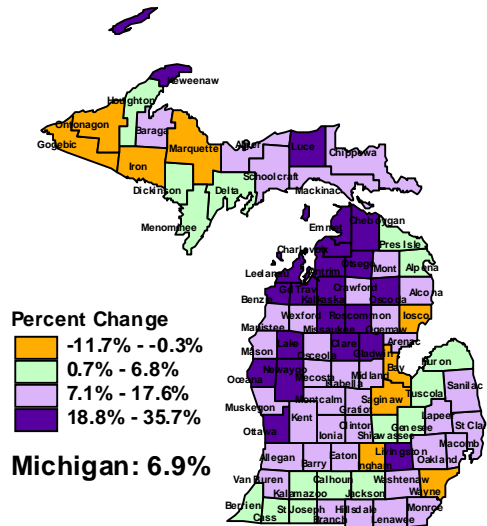


Alger County had 9,862 people in 2000, ranking as the 77th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 890 persons, or 9.9% since 1990.

Grand Island Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 114.3 percent. Munising Township showed the largest number gain of 932 people.

There were 84 live births in Alger in 1998, of which 7 were to mothers age 19 and under, 67 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 10 to mothers age 35 and over.

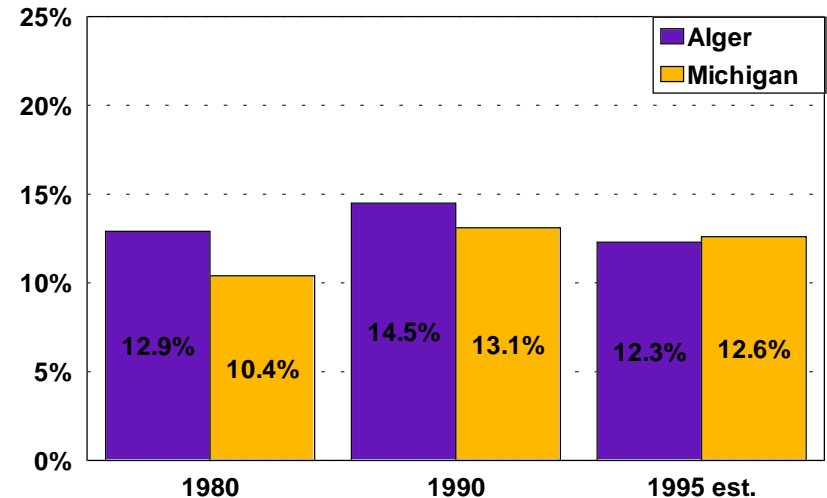
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



# Poverty

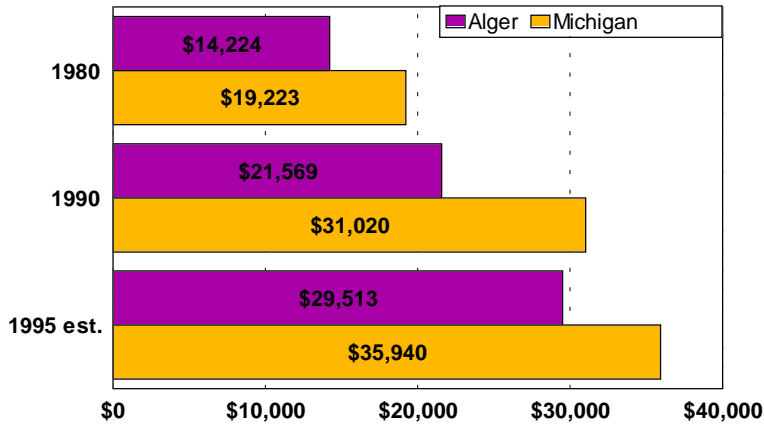
- In 1995, 1,136 persons in Alger County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 1,224 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Alger County ranked 80th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 50th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 403 kids (ages 0-17) in Alger County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in six. In 1990, 422 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 15.0 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 16.9 percent.

## Poverty Rates of All Persons



# Household Income

## Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Alger County experienced an increase in real median income of 17.3 percent, from \$25,150 to \$29,513. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Alger County ranked 54th in 1995 in median household income.
- Michigan leads most other Mid-West states in median household income at \$38,127 (1996 est.) ranking 4th among the 12 states in the region. Nationally, we rank in the top third. The U.S. median income was \$35,492.
- PerCapita income in Alger County in 1998 was \$16,996, compared to \$15,421 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 10.2 percent increase.

### Household Income Distribution\*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
<b>Alger County</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

\* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

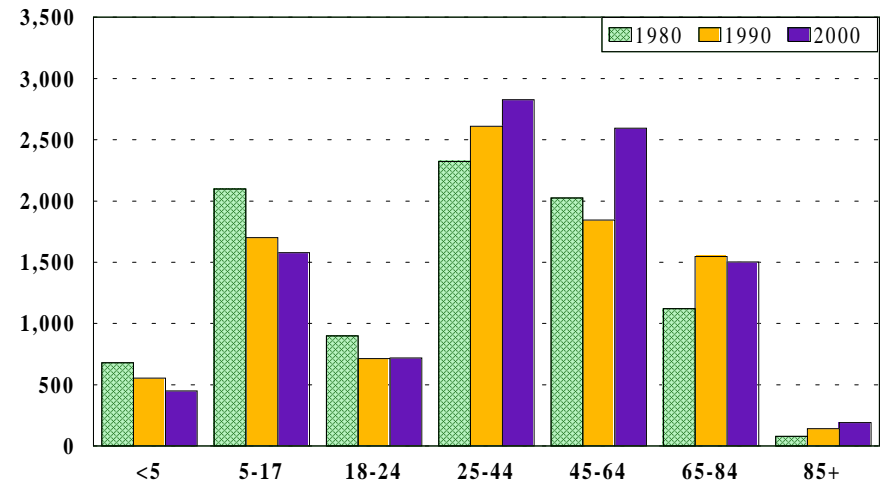
# Age

## The Median age of Alger residents continues to go up:

	1980	1990	2000
<b>Alger</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>35.5</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.3</b>

- Of the 9,862 people who lived in Alger in 2000, 62.3 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 37.7 percent included 4.6 percent children under the age of 5, 16.0 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 17.2 percent over the age of 65.
- The fastest growing age group is the 45 to 64 year -olds, which includes the oldest of the “baby boomers.” This group grew by 751 or 40.7 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 146 or 9.4 percent since 1990. One in six Alger residents is age 65 or older.

## Age Distribution in Alger County



# Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Alger County's population included 5,308 males and 4,554 females, or 53.8 percent and 46.2 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 3,785 households living in Alger County in 2000, 3,121 or 82.5 percent owned their own home and 664 or 17.5 percent rented. For Michigan, the rate of home ownership was 71.0 percent and those renting 29.0 percent.
- .. Six to ten percent of the U.S. population are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered persons according to the *Cultural Diversity Sourcebook*.
- .. One out of five Michigan citizens, approximately two million people, experience a disability according to the Michigan Centers for Independent Living.

## Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000

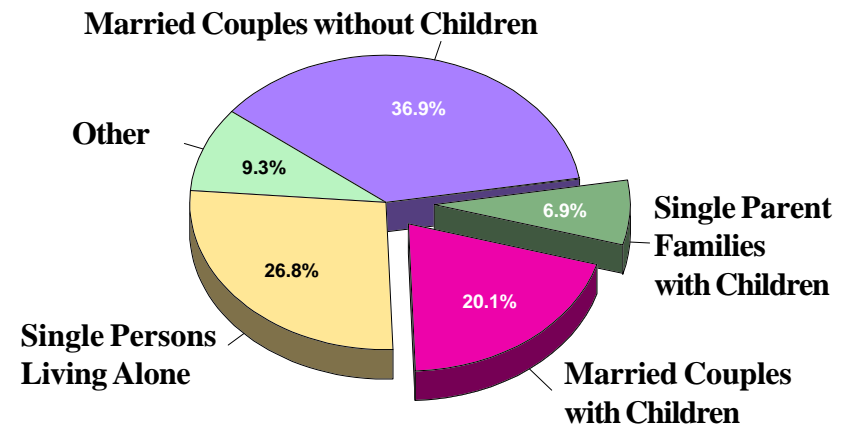
	Alger County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	8,625	87.5	78.6
Black*	595	6.0	14.1
American Indian*	303	3.1	0.5
Asian*	32	0.3	1.8
Other*	17	0.2	0.1
Two or more races*	191	1.9	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	99	1.0	3.3

\* Not Hispanic or Latino

# Households & Families

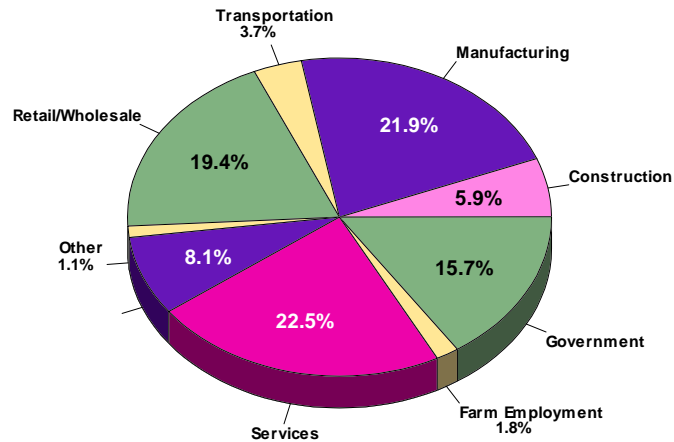
- .. There were 97 marriages in Alger County during 1998, up from 1990 when 65 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid '70s, to age 28 for males and 26 for females in 1998.
- .. 65.1 percent of all marriages in Michigan in 1998 were first marriages, down from 66.8 percent a decade earlier.
- .. The divorce rate in Alger County in 1990 was 8.5 when 38 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 8.8 when 44 marriages ended in divorce.
- .. In 1998, 37,210 Michigan children were impacted by divorce of their parents. These numbers have declined since 1976 when Michigan reached a peak of 49,555 children involved in divorce.
- .. In 1990, 387 children in Alger County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 17.3 percent of all children in Alger. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

## Types of Households in Alger County



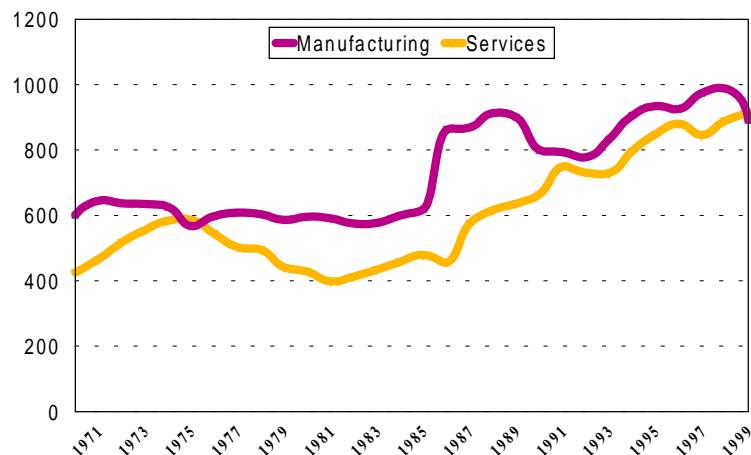
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 1999 Employment by Industry in Alger County



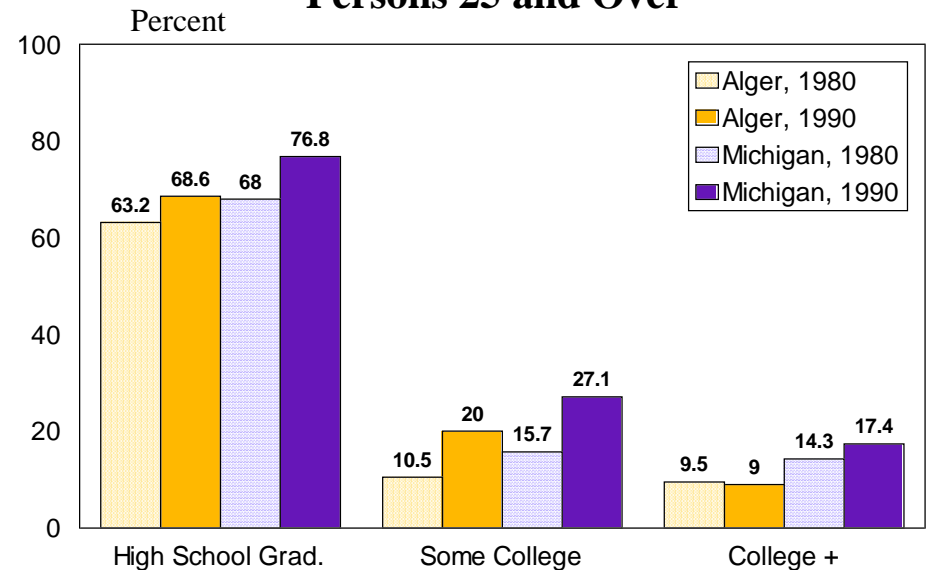
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Alger from 3,299 in 1990 to 4,069 in 1999, a 21.0 percent increase.
- Manufacturing accounted for 22.5% of all employment in 1999, leading the Services industry by 2.4 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 33.9 percent since 1990.

## Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

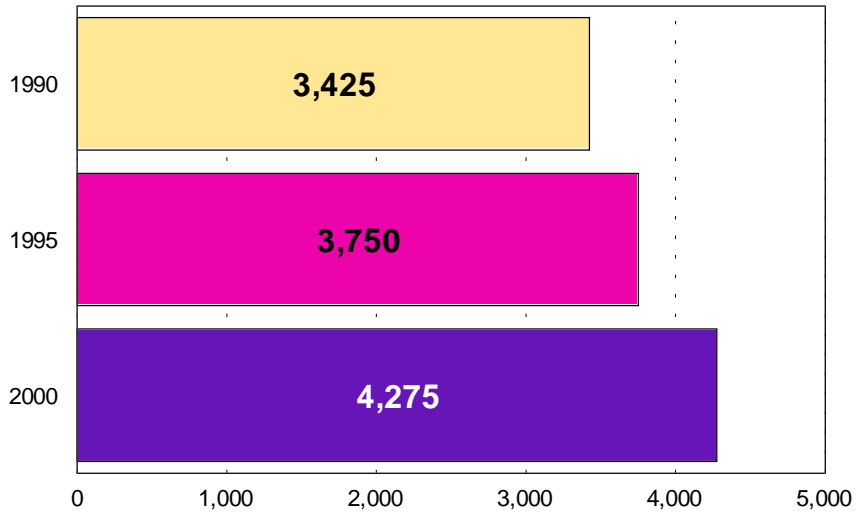


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.8 percentage points in Alger County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Alger County lags behind Michigan for those persons age 25 and over with a college degree. In 1990, 17.4 percent in Michigan had a college degree; in Alger County the rate was 11.5 percent. Alger ranks 36th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 10 students dropped out of high school in Alger County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 1.8 percent. This is down from 1990-91 when 16 students dropped out (3.2 percent).

## Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



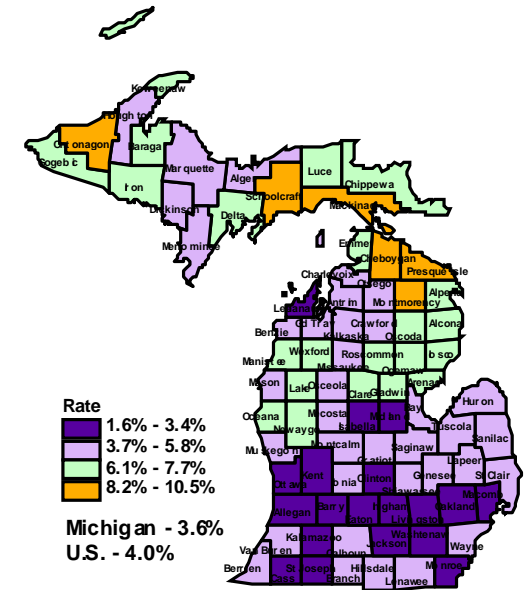
## Total Number of Persons Employed in Alger County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Alger labor force has grown from 3,800 in 1990 to 4,525 in 2000.
- In 1990, 90.1 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 94.5 percent employed.
- 55.7 percent of Alger's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 54.5 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-one percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 13 percentage points higher than in 1980. Over six out of ten women with children under age six were in the work force in 1990, compared to four out of ten in 1980.

## 2000 Unemployment Rate

- Even though Michigan's overall unemployment rate was low in 2000, many counties continue to experience high rates.
- Alger County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 5.6 percent, compared to 5.9 percent in 1999 and 9.5 percent in 1990. 250 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 350 in 1990.
- Michigan experienced high unemployment rates during the early '90s. In 1994 for the first time Michigan's rate was lower than the U.S. rate.



## Unemployment Rate: 1980 -2000

