

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.

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A portrait of

Benzie County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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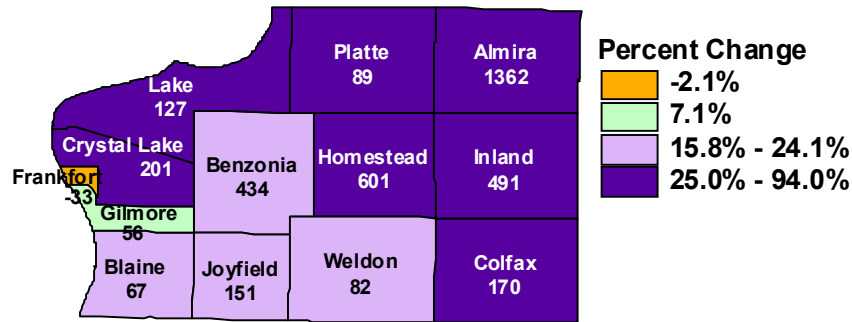
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Population

Benzie County

Population Change from 1990 to 2000

Number Change

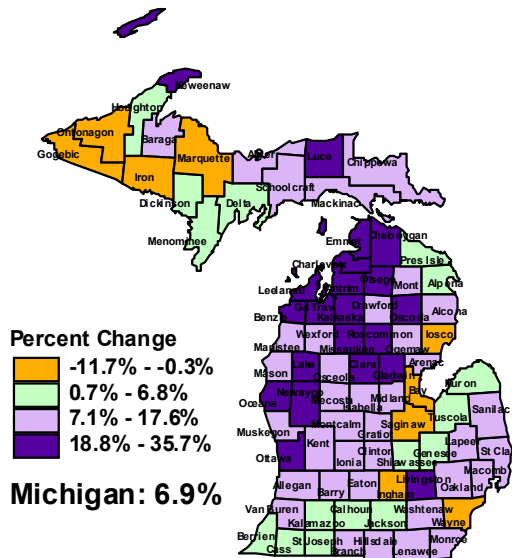


- ◆ Benzie County had 15,998 people in 2000, ranking as the 68th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 3,798 persons, or 31.1% since 1990.

- ◆ Almira Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 94.0 percent. Almira Township also showed the largest number gain of 1,362 people.

- ◆ There were 201 live births in Benzie in 2000, of which 21 were to mothers age 19 and under, 159 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 21 to mothers age 35 and over.

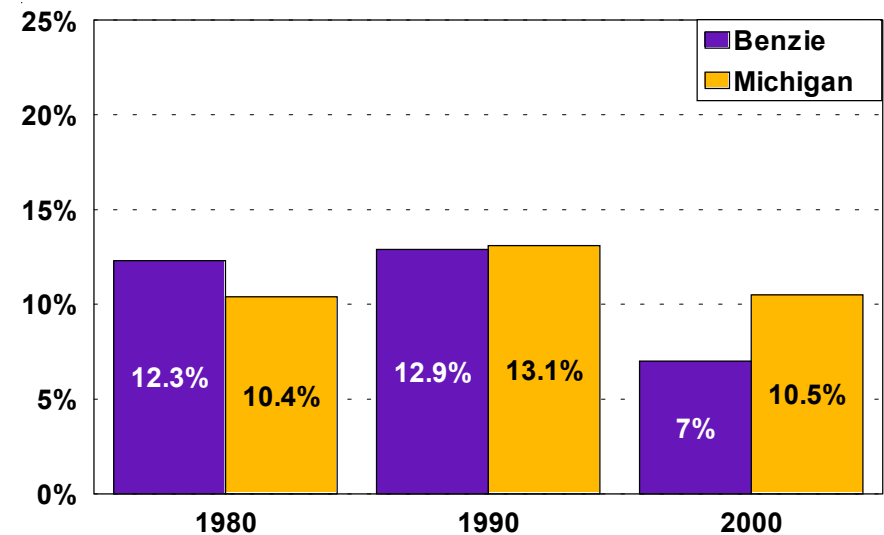
- ◆ Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

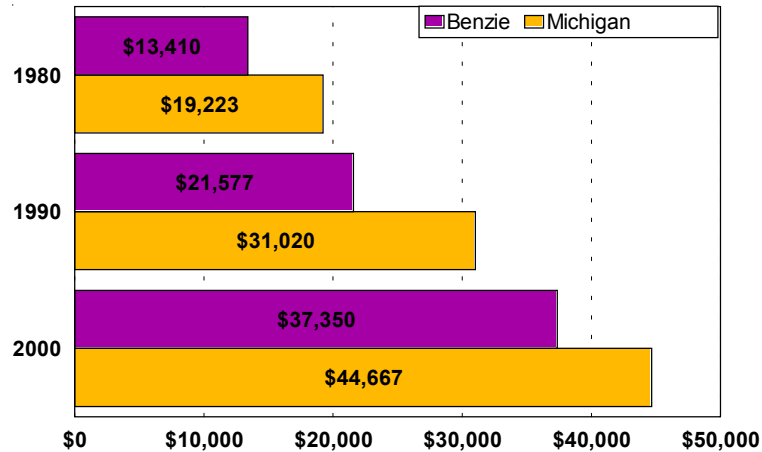
- ◆ In 2000, 1,103 persons in Benzie County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 1,553 persons in 1990.
- ◆ The poverty threshold for a family of four in 2000 was \$17,603. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- ◆ Though poverty rates for most groups were down in 2000 compared to 1990, female-headed families with related children still experienced very high rates. In Benzie County, 11 female-headed families with children under age 5 were below poverty, a rate of 32.4 percent.
- ◆ Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 330 kids (ages 0-17) in Benzie County were below the poverty level in 2000. This represents one child in eleven. In 1990, 546 kids were poor.
- ◆ The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 2000 was 5.2 percent. This was down from the previous two decades when the rate was 10.0 percent (1990) and 13.7 percent (1980).

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- ◆ Between 1990 and 2000, households in Benzie County experienced an increase in real median income of 33.6 percent, from \$28,004 to \$37,350. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- ◆ Compared to other Michigan counties, Benzie County ranked 40th in 2000 in median household income.
- ◆ Michigan leads most other Mid-West states in median household income at \$44,467 ranking 3rd among the 12 states in the region. Nationally, we rank in the top third. The U.S. median income was \$41,994.
- ◆ Per Capita income in Benzie County in 1998 was \$20,812, compared to \$18,297 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 13.7 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution in 2000

	\$0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000+
Benzie	29.8%	38.0%	19.8%	12.4%
Michigan	26.5%	28.9%	20.6%	24.1%

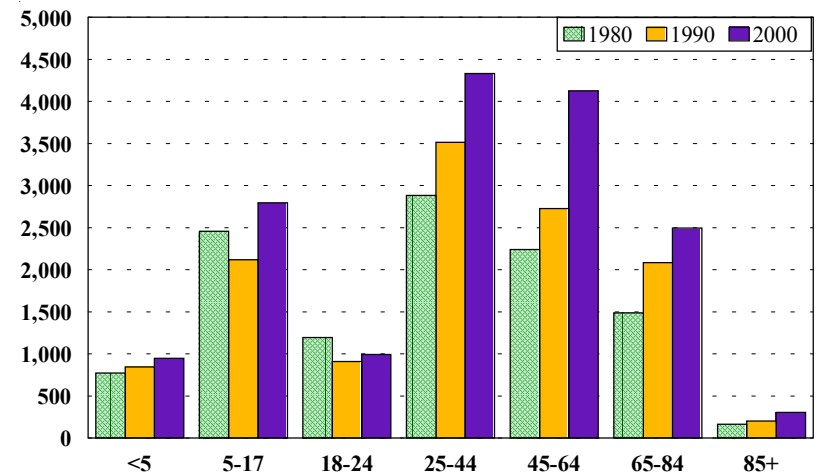
Age

The median age of Benzie residents continues to go up:

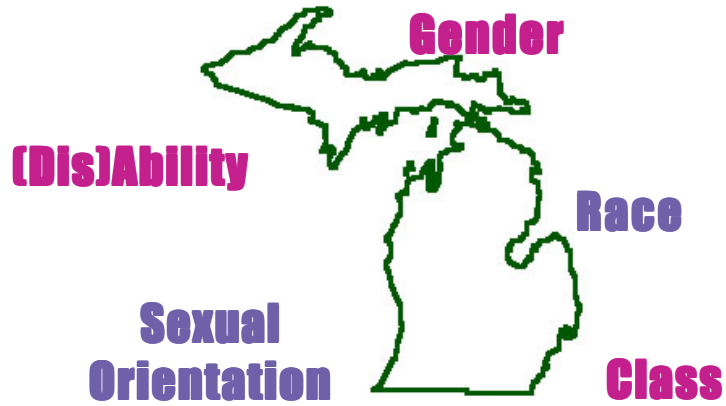
	1980	1990	2000
Benzie	32.3	37.5	40.8
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- ◆ Of the 15,998 people who lived in Benzie in 2000, 59.1 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.9 percent included 5.9 percent children under the age of 5, 17.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 17.5 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 1,400 or 51.3 percent since 1990.
- ◆ “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 718 or 34.4 percent since 1990. One in six Benzie residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Benzie County



Multiculturalism



- ◆ In 2000, Benzie County's population included 7,923 males and 8,075 females, or 49.5 percent and 50.5 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- ◆ Of the 6,500 households living in Benzie County in 2000, 5,572 or 85.7 percent owned their own home and 928 or 14.3 percent rented. For Michigan, the rate of home ownership was 73.8 percent and 26.2 percent rented.
- ◆ 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

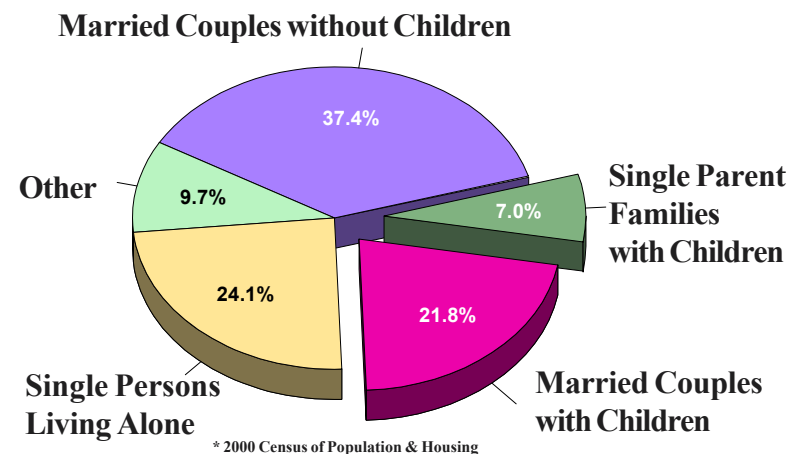
	Benzie County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	15,270	95.4	78.6
Black*	43	0.3	14.1
American Indian*	248	1.6	0.5
Asian*	25	0.2	1.8
Other*	11	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	168	1.1	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	233	1.5	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

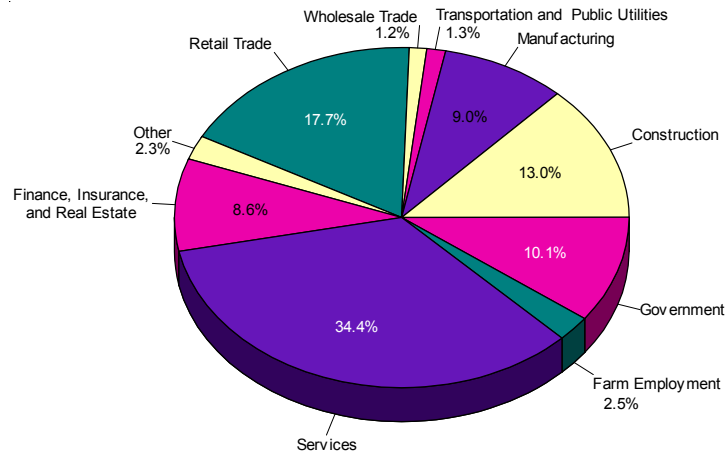
Households & Families

- ◆ There were 6,500 households in Benzie County in 2000 with an average size of 2.4 persons and 4,593 families with an average family size of 2.9 persons.
- ◆ There were 146 marriages in Benzie County during 2000, up from 1990 when 102 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- ◆ The divorce rate in Benzie County in 1990 was 10.3 when 63 divorces occurred. In 2000, the rate was 8.0 when 61 marriages ended in divorce.
- ◆ In 2000, 36,922 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.
- ◆ 90 grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren in Benzie County in 2000, representing 52.3 percent of all grandparents living with their own grandchildren.
- ◆ In 2000, 745 children in Benzie County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 20.5 percent of all children in Benzie. In Michigan, 25.1 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Benzie County

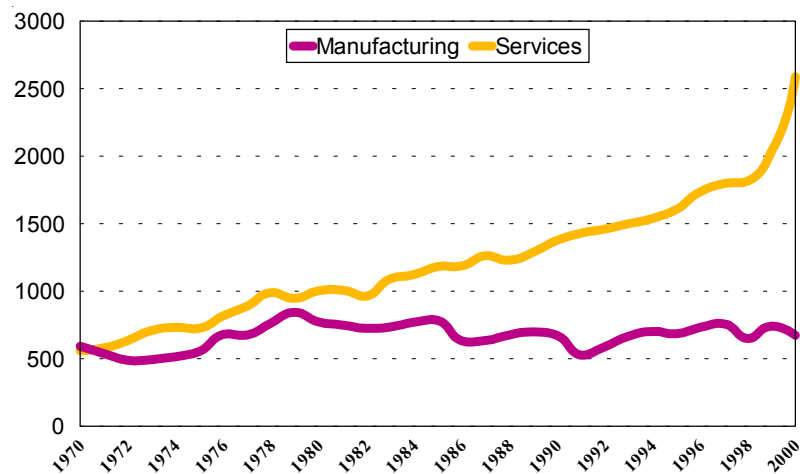


2000 Employment by Industry in Benzie County



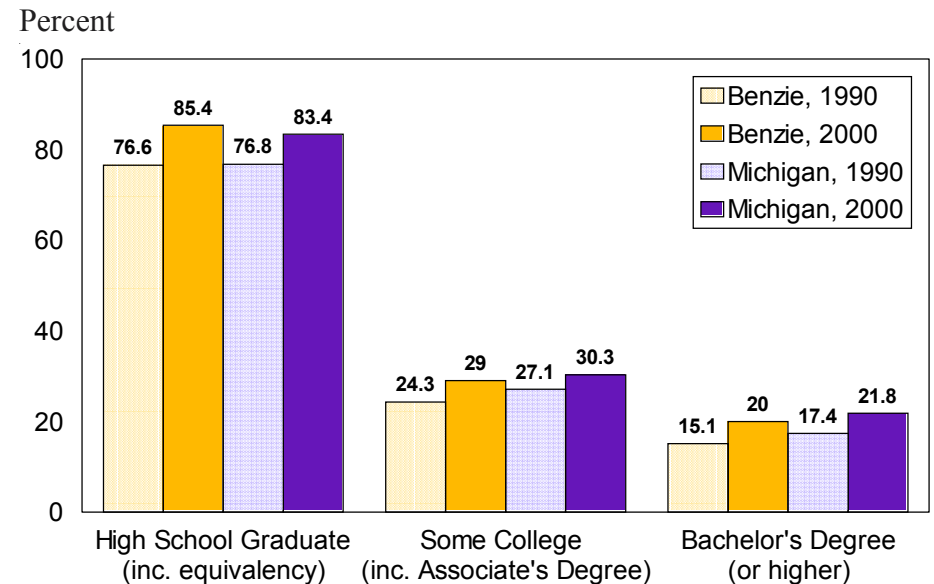
- ◆ The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Benzie from 4,752 in 1990 to 7,519 in 2000, a 58.2 percent increase.
- ◆ The services industry saw the largest number gain since 1990, adding 1,212 jobs. The construction industry had the largest percentage increase at 141.0 percent, adding 571 jobs.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



- ◆ High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1990 to 2000 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 8.7 percentage points in Benzie County and 6.6 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.
- ◆ Benzie County lags behind Michigan for those persons age 25 and over with a college degree. In 2000, 21.8 percent in Michigan had a college degree; in Benzie County the rate was 20.0 percent. Benzie ranks 17th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- ◆ 51 teenagers age 16 to 19 in Benzie County were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates for a rate of 6.6 percent. This compares with a Michigan rate of 8.7 percent and a national rate of 9.8 percent.

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



Where Benzie County Residents Work

Benzie County residents who worked in their own county:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	3,691	3,114	2,603
Percent	51.8	63.5	72.9

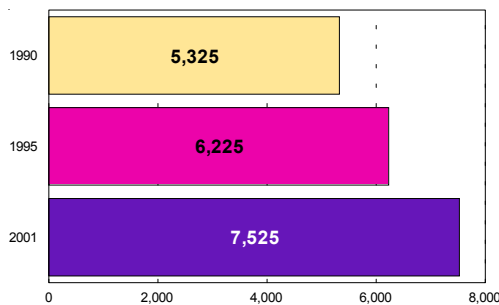
Benzie County residents who worked outside their own county, but in Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	3,385	1,737	940
Percent	47.5	35.4	26.3

Benzie County residents who worked outside Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	44	54	30
Percent	0.6	1.1	0.8

- ◆ 79.8 percent of all Benzie County women with school age children were in the labor force in 2000, nearly 5 percentage points higher than in 1990. 72.6 percent of women with children under the age of six were working in 2000 compared to 64.9 percent in 1990.
- ◆ The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Benzie's labor force has grown from 6,050 in 1990 to 8,050 in 2000.
- ◆ 63.5 percent of Benzie's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, no change from 63.4 percent in 1990.

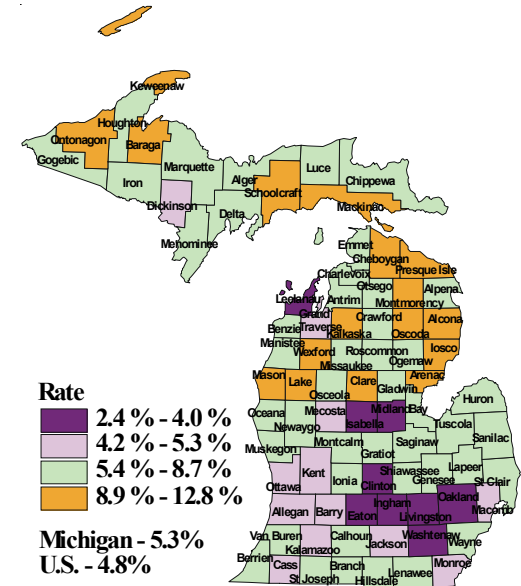


Total Number of Benzie County Persons Employed

- ◆ In 1990, 88.0 percent of the labor force was employed; in 1999 that increased to 94.7 percent employed.

2001 Unemployment Rate

- ◆ Even though Michigan's overall unemployment rate was low in 2001, many counties continue to experience high rates.
- ◆ Benzie County's annual average unemployment rate in 2001 was 6.7 percent, compared to 5.3 percent in 2000 and 12.0 percent in 1990. 550 people were unemployed in 2001, compared to 725 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 - 2001

