

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

Berrien County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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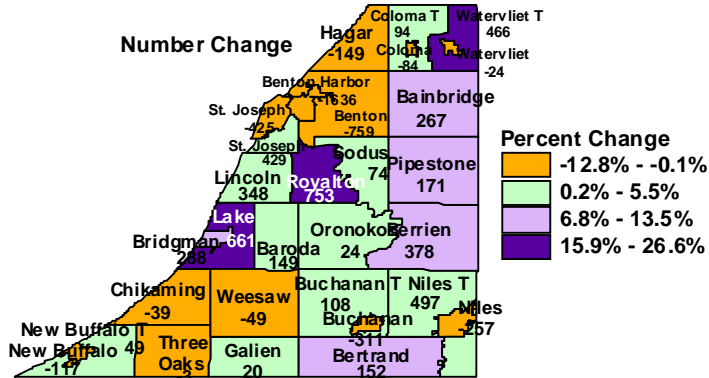
MICHIGAN STATE
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Population

Berrien County Change from 1990 to 2000

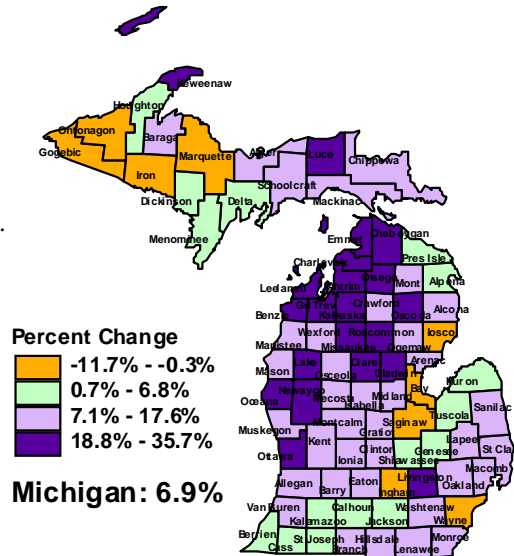


Berrien County had 162,453 people in 2000, ranking as the 13th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 1,075 persons, or 0.7% since 1990.

Lake Charter Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 26.6 percent. Royaltown Township showed the largest number gain of 753 people.

There were 2,215 live births in Berrien in 1998, of which 392 were to mothers age 19 and under, 1,612 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 211 to mothers age 35 and over.

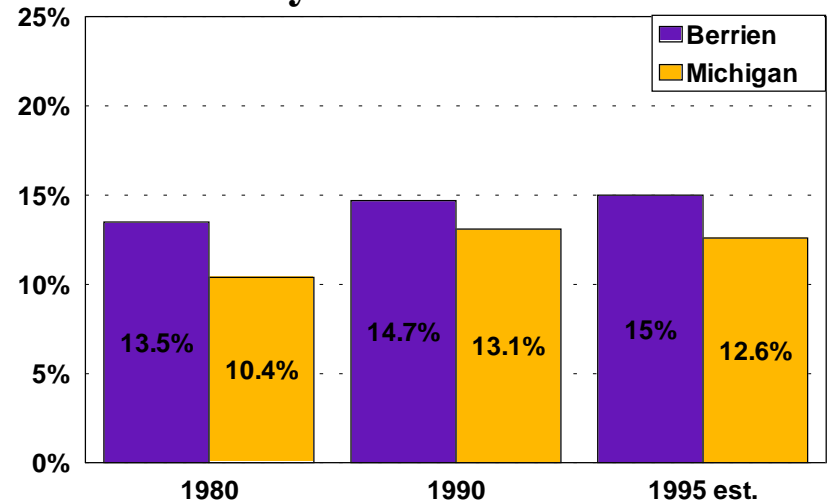
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

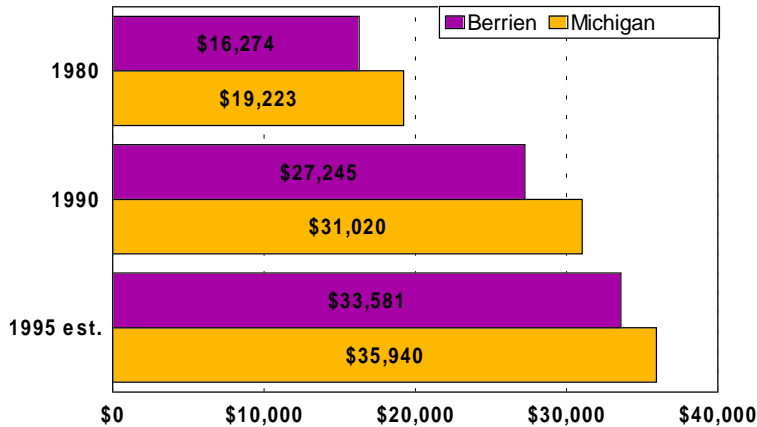
- In 1995, 24,257 persons in Berrien County were below the poverty line, increasing from 23,281 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Berrien County ranked 11th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 23rd on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 10,677 kids (ages 0-17) in Berrien County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in four. In 1990, 9,840 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 11.6 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 13.4 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Berrien County experienced an increase in real median income of 5.7 percent, from \$31,768 to \$33,581. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Berrien County ranked 32nd 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 Berrien County in 1998 was \$24,235, compared to \$20,515 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), an 18.1 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

| | \$ 0 - \$24,999 | \$25,000 - 49,999 | \$50,000 + |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Berrien County | 45.9% | 35.7% | 18.3% |
| Michigan | 40.6% | 34.1% | 25.5% |

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

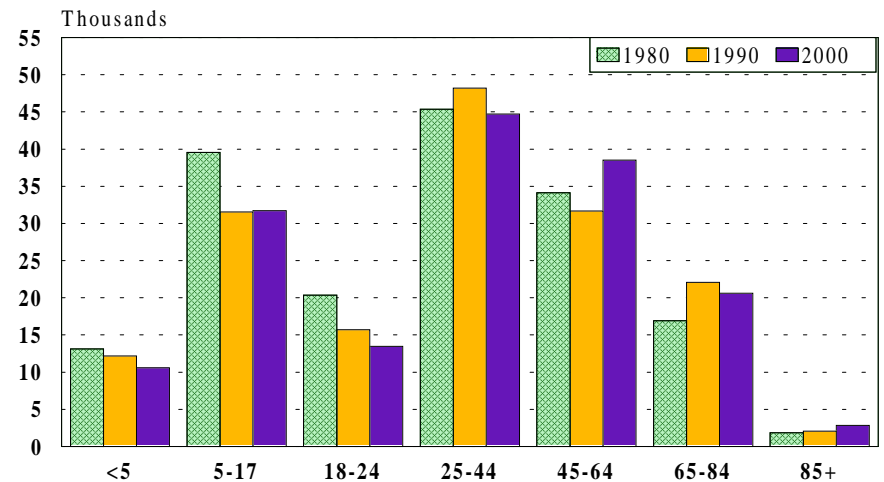
Age

The Median age of Berrien residents continues to go up:

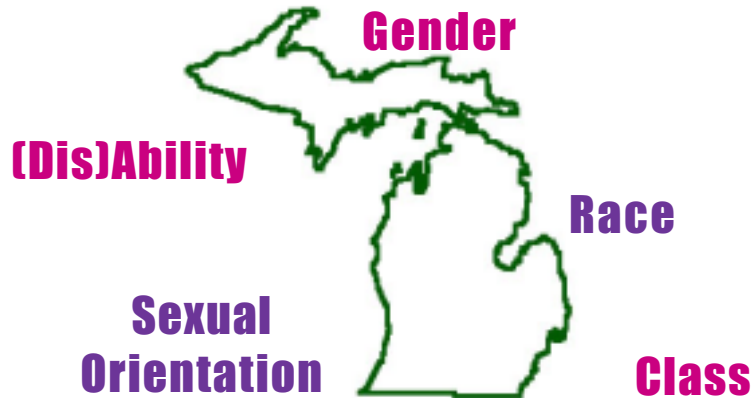
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Berrien | 29.5 | 33.6 | 37.4 |
| Michigan | 28.8 | 32.6 | 35.5 |
| U.S. | 30.0 | 33.0 | 35.3 |

- Of the 162,453 people who lived in Berrien in 2000, 59.5 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.5 percent included 6.5 percent children under the age of 5, 19.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 14.4 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 6,832 or 21.6 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 1,400 or 6.3 percent since 1990. One in seven Berrien residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Berrien County



Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Berrien County's population included 78,738 males and 83,715 females, or 48.5 percent and 51.5 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 63,569 households living in Berrien County in 2000, 45,938 or 72.3 percent owned their own home and 17,631 or 27.7 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.

Racial and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000

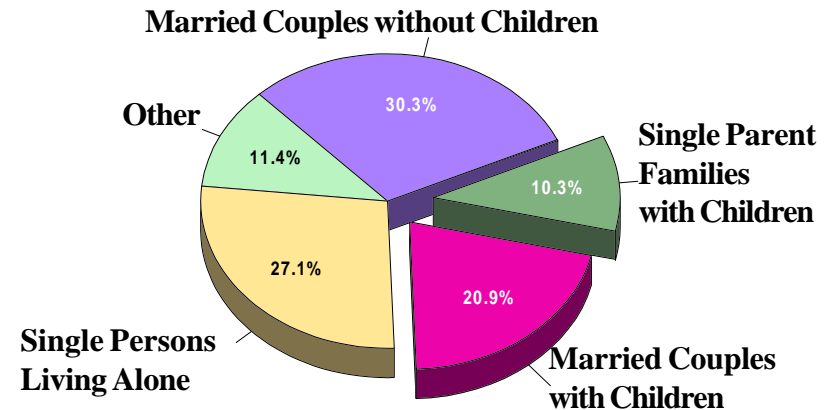
| | Berrien County | | Michigan |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| | Number | Percent | Percent |
| White* | 126,798 | 78.1 | 78.6 |
| Black* | 25,729 | 15.8 | 14.1 |
| American Indian* | 647 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Asian* | 1,839 | 1.1 | 1.8 |
| Other* | 295 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Two or more races* | 2,257 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 4,888 | 3.0 | 3.3 |

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

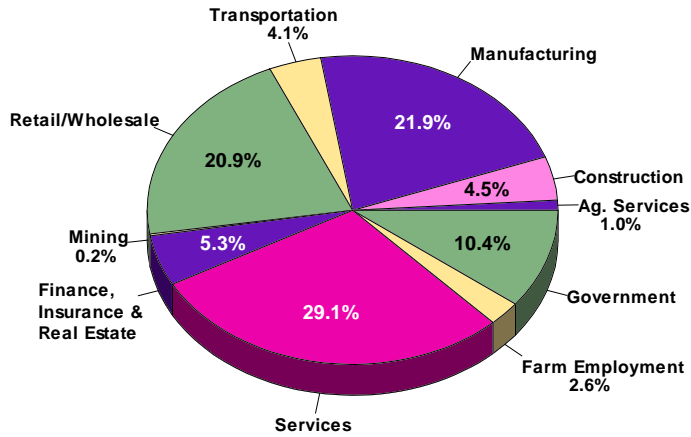
- .. There were 1,313 marriages in Berrien County during 1998, down from 1,506 marriages in 1990. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, to age 28 for 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 Berrien County in 1990 was 8.9 when 720 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 7.9 when 634 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, 11,580 children in Berrien County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 26.6 percent of all children in Berrien. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Berrien County



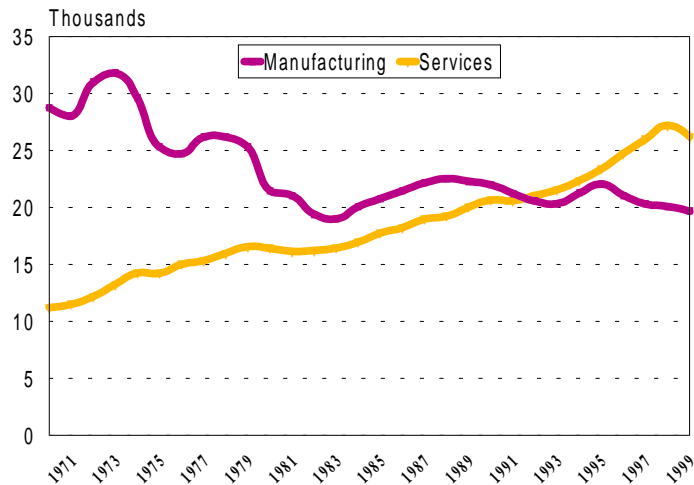
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Berrien County



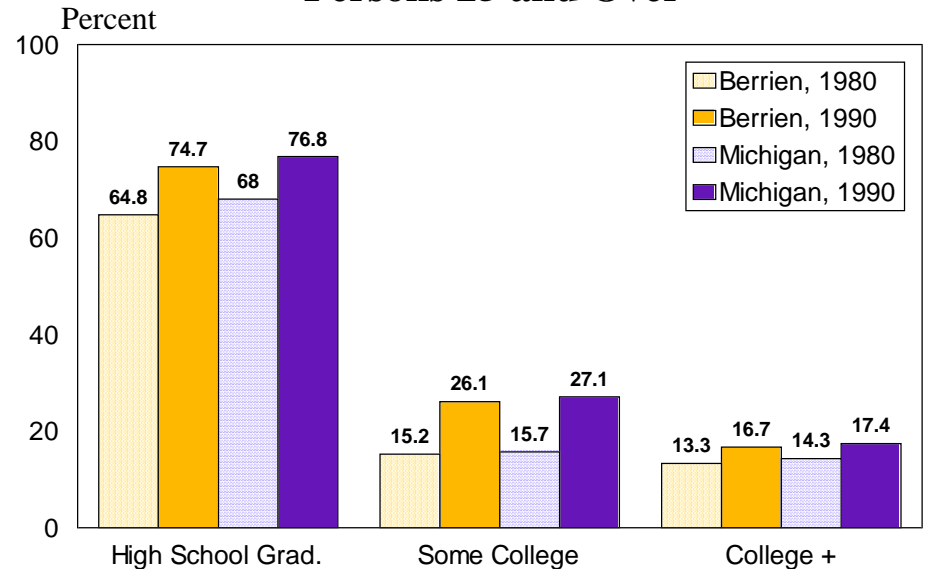
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Berrien from 83,168 in 1990 to 89,907 in 1999, a 8.1 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 29.1% of all employment in 1999, leading Manufacturing by 7.3 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 26.9 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

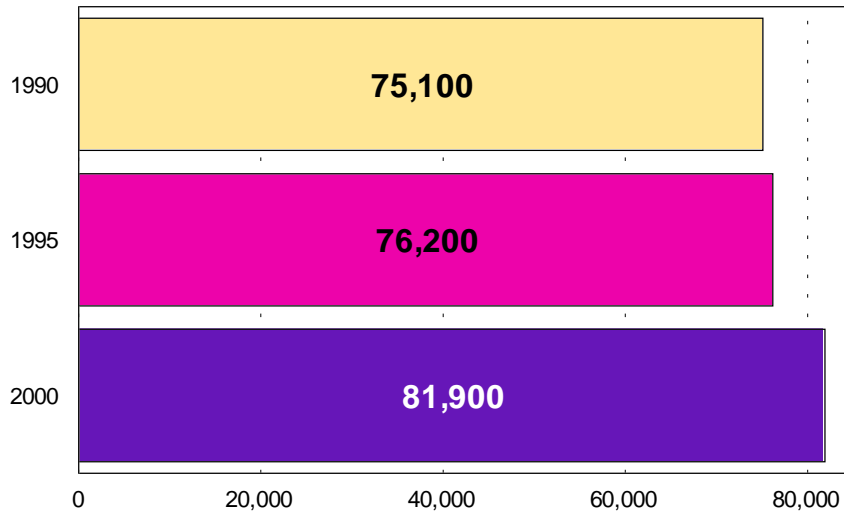


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.9 percentage points in Berrien County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Berrien 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 Berrien County the rate was 16.7 percent. Berrien ranks 17 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 565 students dropped out of high school in Berrien County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 7.3 percent. This is down from 1990-91 when 576 students dropped out (7.5 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



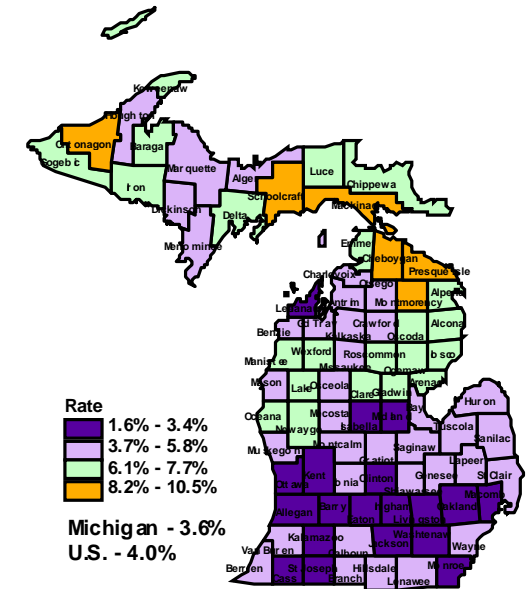
Total Number of Persons Employed in Berrien County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Berrien's labor force has grown from 81,000 in 1990 to 85,100 in 2000.
- In 1990, 92.7 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 96.2 percent employed.
- 68.0 percent of Berrien's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 66.1 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-eight percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 15 percentage points higher than in 1980. Nearly six out of ten women with children under age six were in the work force in 1990, compared to less than five 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.
- Berrien County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 3.8 percent, compared to 4.0 percent in 1999 and 7.2 percent in 1990. 3,200 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 5,800 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

