

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 Cass County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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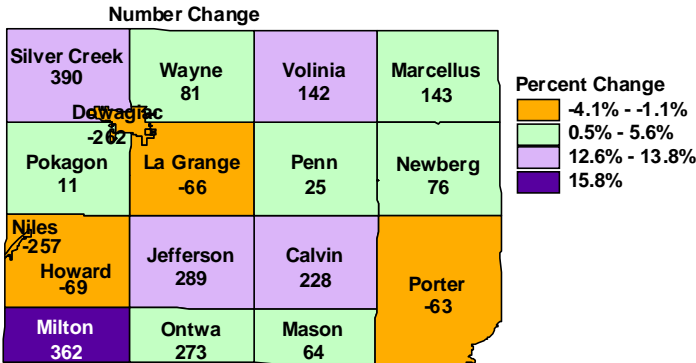
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Population

Cass County

Change from 1990 to 2000

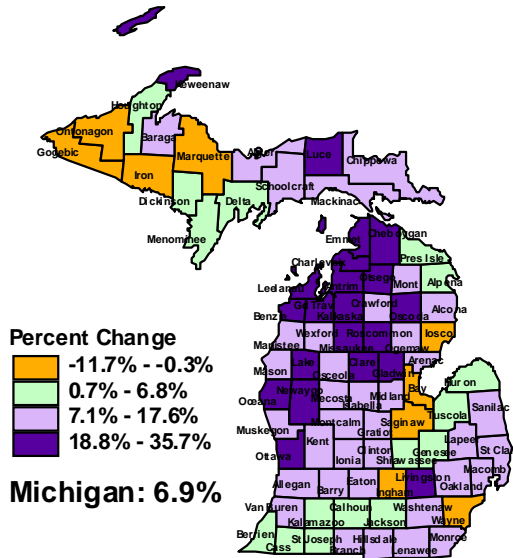


◆ Cass County had 51,104 people in 2000, ranking as the 35th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 1,627 persons, or 3.3% since 1990.

◆ Milton Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 15.8 percent. Silver Creek Township showed the largest number gain of 390 people.

◆ There were 577 live births in Cass in 1998, of which 74 were to mothers age 19 and under, 458 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 45 to mothers age 35 and over.

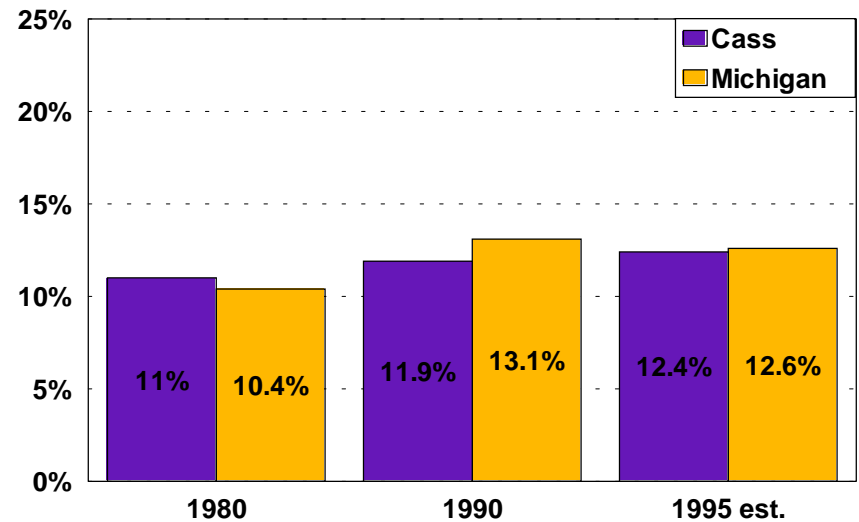
◆ Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



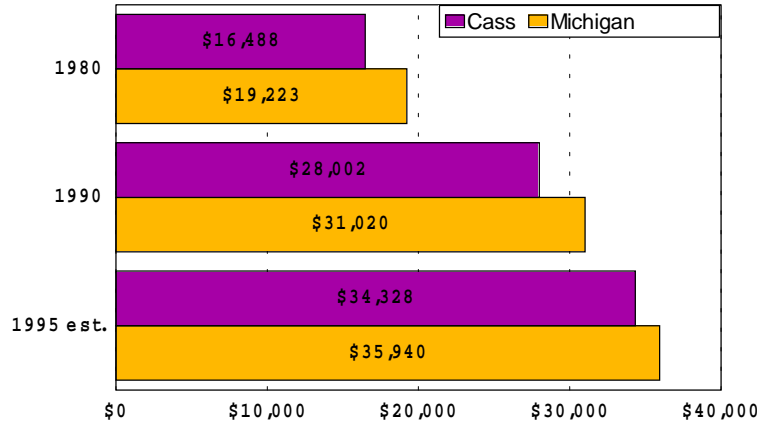
Poverty

- ◆ In 1995, 6,278 persons in Cass County were below the poverty line, increasing from 5,816 persons in 1990.
- ◆ The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- ◆ Cass County ranked 31st among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 49th on the poverty rate.
- ◆ Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 2,553 kids (ages 0-17) in Cass County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 2,305 kids were poor.
- ◆ The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 10.4 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 14.3 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Median Household Income



- ◆ Between 1990 and 1995, households in Cass County experienced an increase in real median income of 5.1 percent, from \$32,651 to \$34,328. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- ◆ Compared to other Michigan counties, Cass County ranked 31st 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.
- ◆ Per Capita income in Cass County in 1998 was \$20,982, compared to \$18,303 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 14.6 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

| | \$ 0 - \$24,999 | \$25,000 - 49,999 | \$50,000 + |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Cass County | 44.8% | 38.2% | 17.0% |
| Michigan | 40.6% | 34.1% | 25.5% |

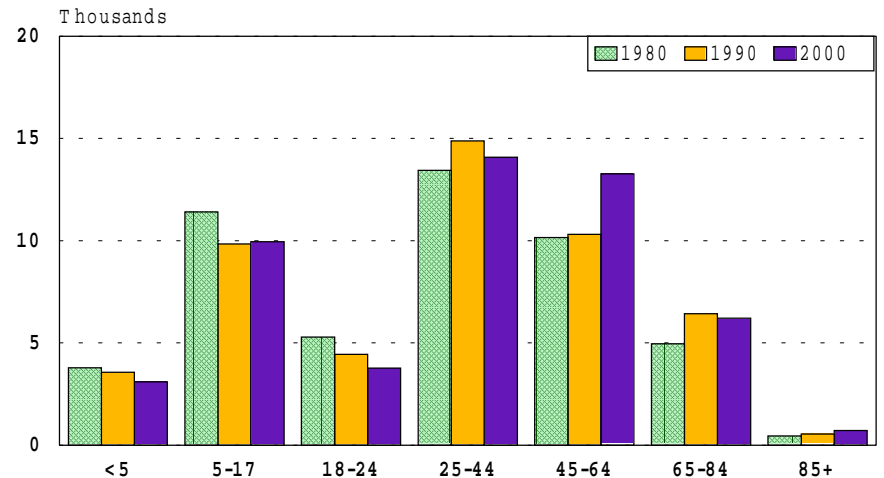
* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

The Median age of Cass residents continues to go up:

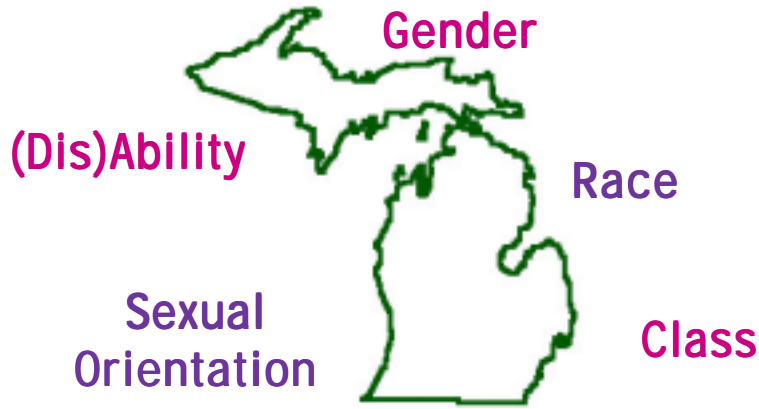
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cass | 30.5 | 34.4 | 38.5 |
| Michigan | 28.8 | 32.6 | 35.5 |
| U.S. | 30.0 | 33.0 | 35.3 |

- ◆ Of the 51,104 people who lived in Cass in 2000, 60.9 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 39.1 percent included 6.1 percent children under the age of 5, 19.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 13.6 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 2,971 or 28.8 percent since 1990.
- ◆ “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 501 or 7.8 percent since 1990. One in seven Cass residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Cass County



Multiculturalism



- ◆ In 2000, Cass County's population included 25,535 males and 25,569 females, or 50.0 percent and 50.0 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- ◆ Of the 19,676 households living in Cass County in 2000, 16,106 or 81.9 percent owned their own home and 3,570 or 18.1 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

| | Cass County | | Michigan |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| | Number | Percent | Percent |
| White* | 45,069 | 88.2 | 78.6 |
| Black* | 3,107 | 6.1 | 14.1 |
| American Indian* | 388 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| Asian* | 268 | 0.5 | 1.8 |
| Other* | 92 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Two or more races* | 947 | 1.9 | 1.6 |
| Hispanic | 1,233 | 2.4 | 3.3 |

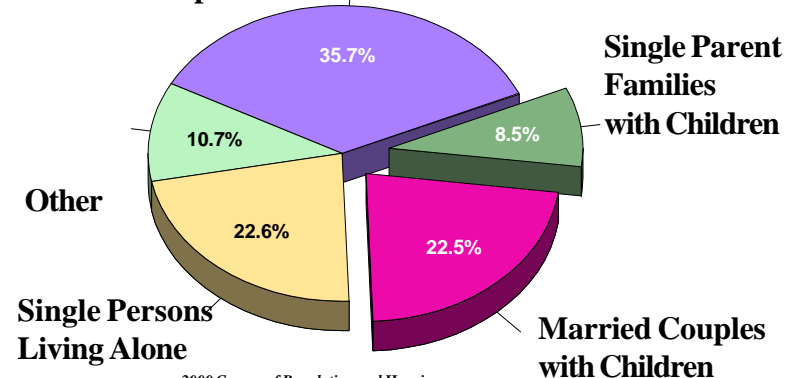
* Not Hispanic

Households & Families

- ◆ There were 279 marriages in Cass County during 1998, down from 1990 when 373 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 Cass County in 1990 was 10.1 when 251 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 9.0 when 225 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, 2,745 children in Cass County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 20.5 percent of all children in Cass. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Cass County

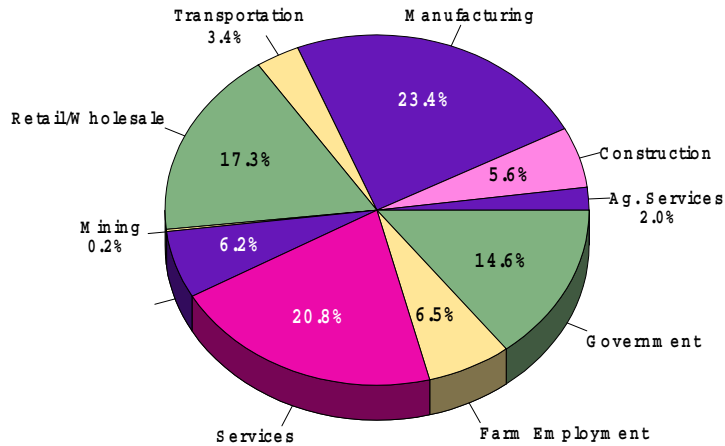
Married Couples without Children



2000 Census of Population and Housing

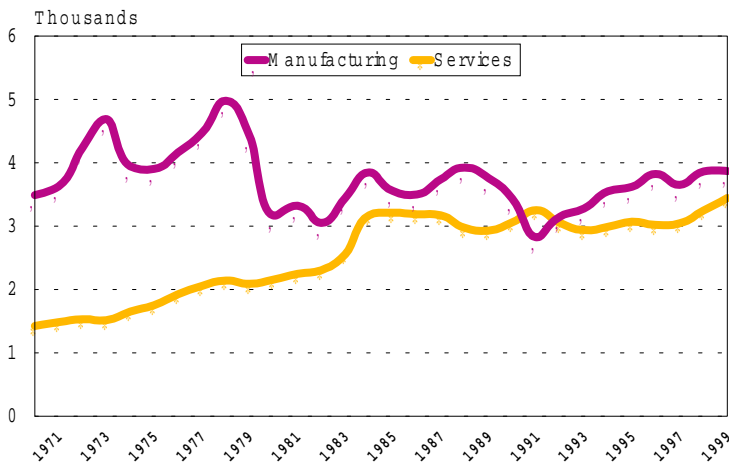
Employment

1999 Employment by Industry in Cass County



- ◆ The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Cass from 14,356 in 1990 to 16,540 in 1999, a 15.2 percent increase.
- ◆ Manufacturing accounted for 23.4% of all employment in 1999, leading the Services industry by 3.9 percentage points. Jobs in Retail and Wholesale Trade have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 19.2 percent since 1990.

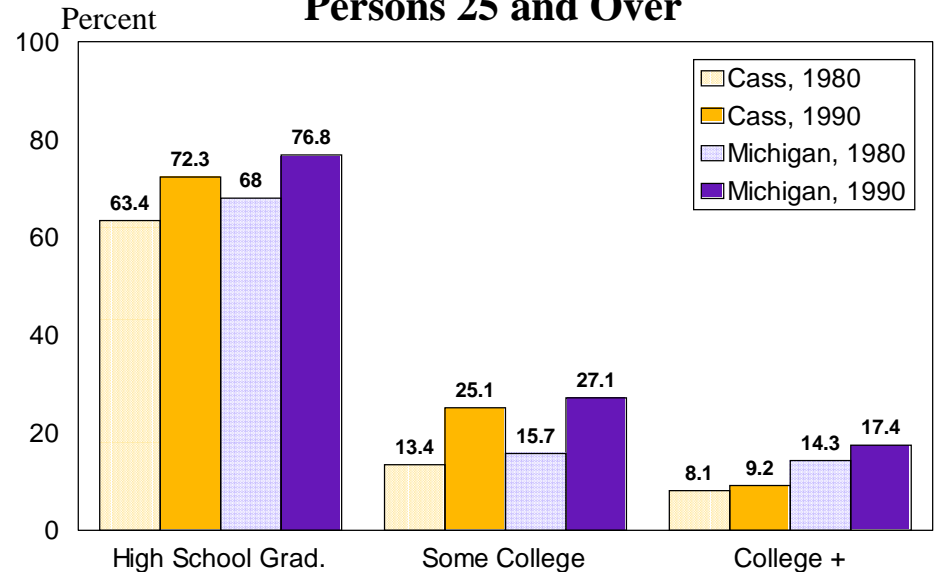
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



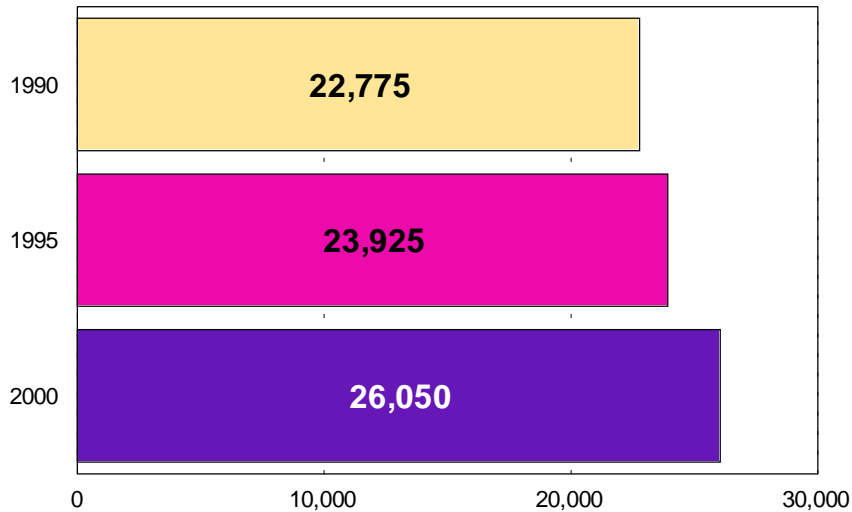
Education

- ◆ High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 8.9 percentage points in Cass 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.
- ◆ Cass 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 Cass County the rate was 9.2 percent. Cass ranks 62 among Michigan’s 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- ◆ 122 students dropped out of high school in Cass County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 6.4 percent. This is down from 1990-91 when 134 students dropped out (7.6 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



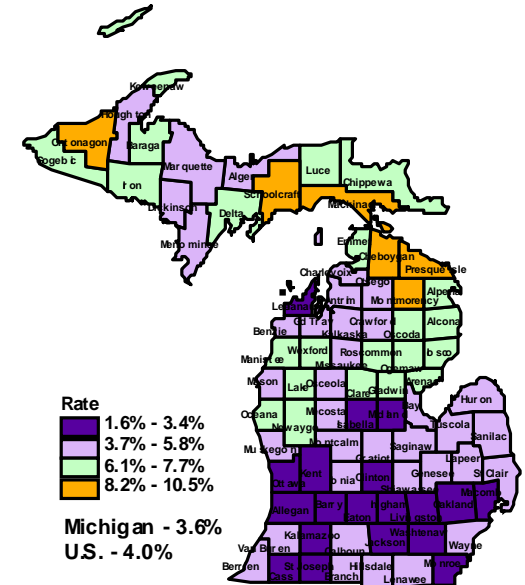
Total Number of Persons Employed in Cass County



- ◆ The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Cass's labor force has grown from 24,625 in 1990 to 26,975 in 2000.
- ◆ In 1990, 92.5 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 96.6 percent employed.
- ◆ 68.1 percent of Cass's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 65.6 percent in 1990.
- ◆ Seventy-seven percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 11 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.
- ◆ Cass County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 3.4 percent, same as in 1999 and compared to 7.5 percent in 1990. 900 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 1,850 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

