

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 - Gogebic County
County Extension Director
104 South Lowell
Ironwood, MI 49938-2044
Phone: 906-932-1420
E-mail: gogebic@msue.msu.edu

A portrait of **Gogebic County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

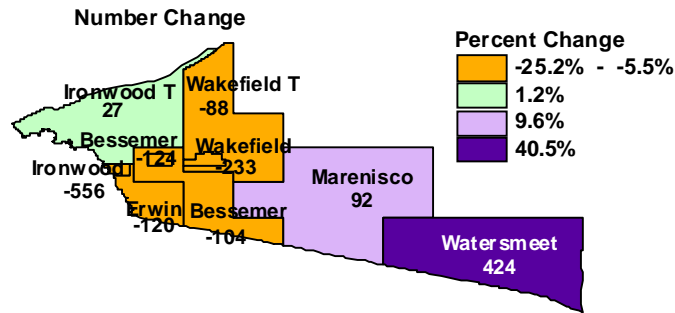
Michigan State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties cooperating.
Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Population

Gogebic County

Population Change from 1990 to 2000

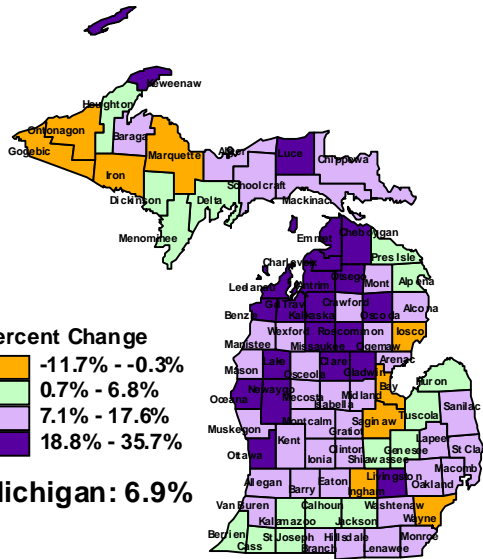


Gogebic County had 17,370 people in 2000, ranking as the 65th most populous county in Michigan. The population decreased by 682 persons, or 3.8% since 1990.

Watersmeet Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 40.5 percent. Watersmeet Township also showed the largest number gain of 424 people.

There were 137 live births in Gogebic in 2000, of which 14 were to mothers age 19 and under, 101 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 21 to mothers age 35 and over.

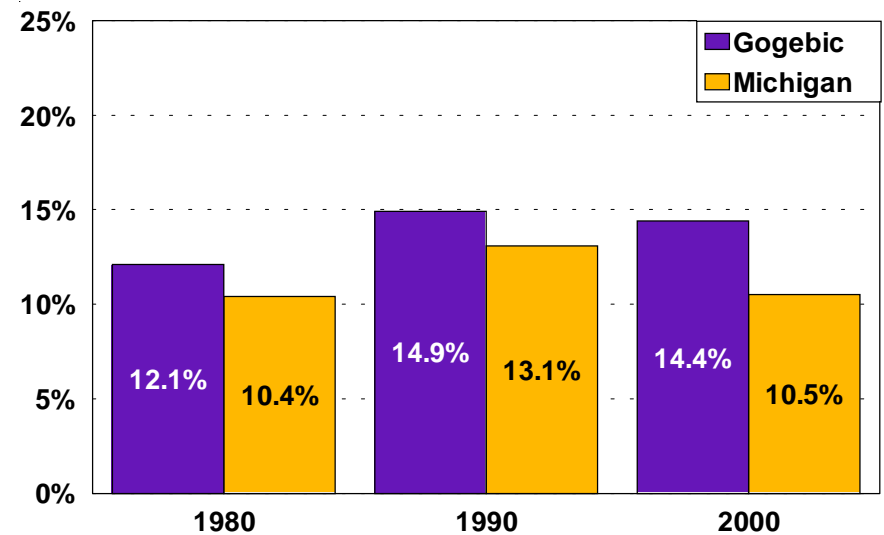
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

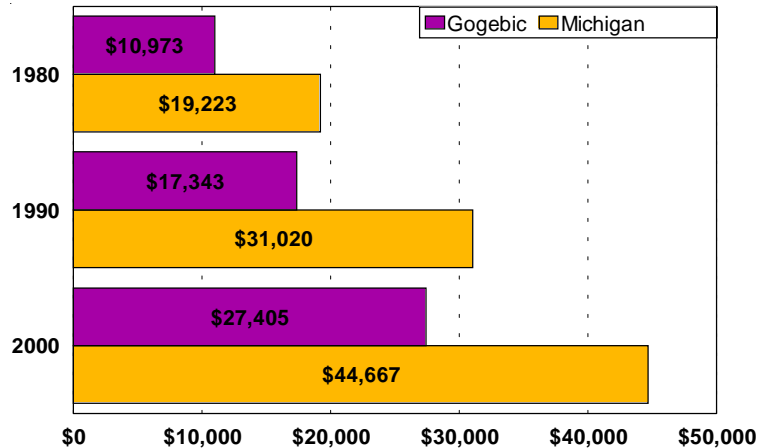
- In 2000, 2,389 persons in Gogebic County were below the poverty line, increasing from 2,587 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 2000 was \$17,603. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Though poverty rates for most groups were down in 2000 compared to 1990, female-headed families with related children still experienced very high rates. In Gogebic County, 70 female-headed families with children under age 5 were below poverty, a rate of 63.8 percent.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 690 kids (ages 0-17) in Gogebic County were below the poverty level in 2000. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 790 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 2000 was 10.3 percent. This was down from the previous two decades when the rate was 13.7 percent (1990) and 16.2 percent (1980).

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- ◆ Between 1990 and 2000, households in Gogebic County experienced an increase in real median income of 21.8 percent, from \$22,509 to \$27,405. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- ◆ Compared to other Michigan counties, Gogebic County ranked 82nd 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.
- ◆ PerCapita income in Gogebic County in 1998 was \$19,381, compared to \$16,597 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 16.8 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution in 2000

	\$0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000+
Gogebic	45.7%	32.8%	13.0%	8.4%
Michigan	26.5%	28.9%	20.6%	24.1%

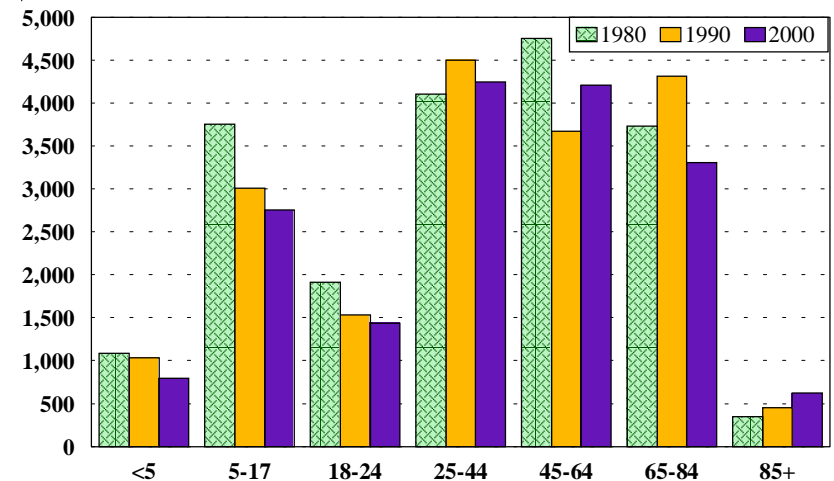
Age

The median age of Gogebic residents continues to go up:

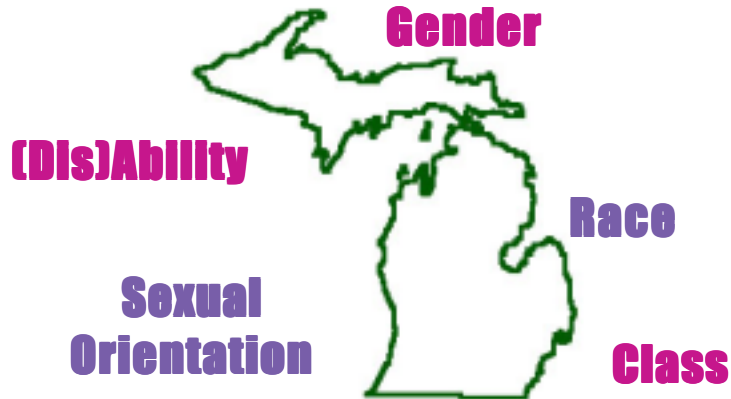
	1980	1990	2000
Gogebic	39.2	40.0	42.9
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- ◆ Of the 17,370 people who lived in Gogebic in 2000, 56.9 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 43.1 percent included 4.6 percent children under the age of 5, 15.9 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 22.6 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 540 or 14.7 percent since 1990.
- ◆ “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, decreased by 378 or 8.8 percent since 1990. One in four Gogebic residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Gogebic County



Multiculturalism



- ◆ In 2000, Gogebic County's population included 8,730 males and 8,640 females, or 50.3 percent and 49.7 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- ◆ Of the 7,425 households living in Gogebic County in 2000, 5,854 or 78.8 percent owned their own home and 1,571 or 21.2 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

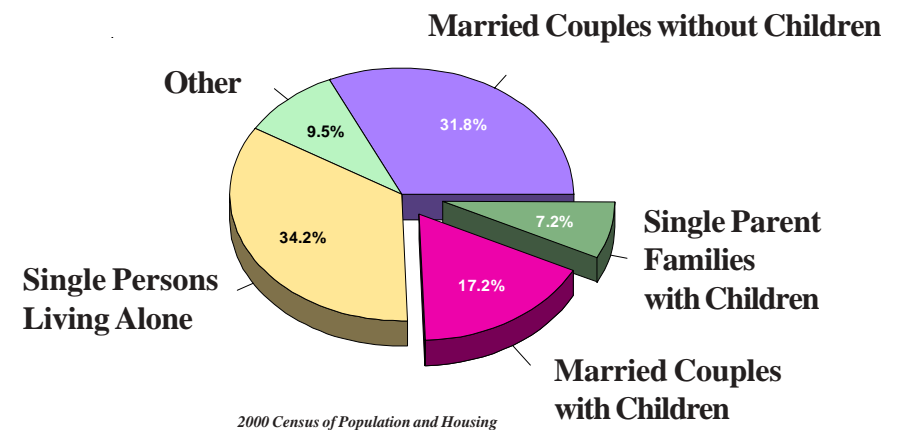
	Gogebic County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	16,297	93.8	78.6
Black*	299	1.7	14.1
American Indian*	374	2.2	0.5
Asian*	40	0.2	1.8
Other*	6	0.0	0.1
Two or more races*	201	1.2	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	153	0.9	3.3

Not Hispanic or Latino

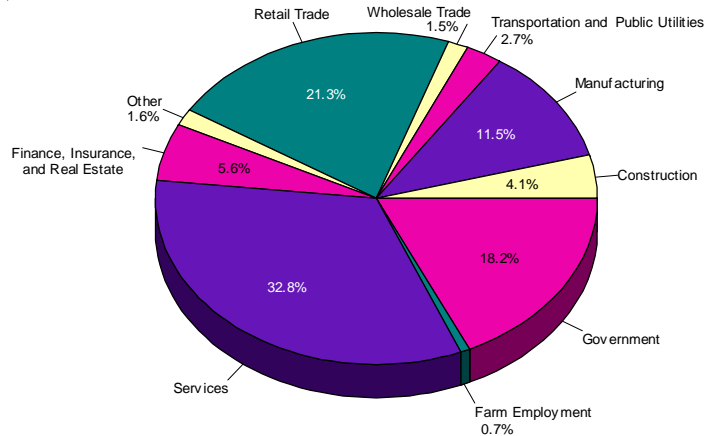
Households & Families

- ◆ There were 7,425 households in Gogebic County in 2000 with an average size of 2.2 persons and 4,581 families with an average family size of 2.8 persons.
- ◆ There were 108 marriages in Gogebic County during 2000, down from 123 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- ◆ The divorce rate in Gogebic County in 1990 was 6.9 when 62 divorces occurred. In 2000, the rate was 6.8 when 58 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.
- ◆ 68 grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren in Gogebic County in 2000, representing 49.6 percent of all grandparents living with their own grandchildren.
- ◆ In 2000, 880 children in Gogebic County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 25.9 percent of all children in Gogebic. In Michigan, 25.1 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Gogebic County

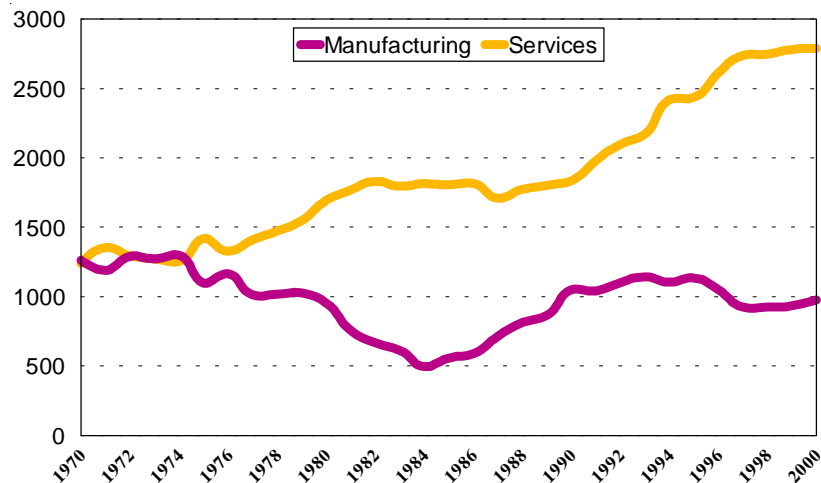


2000 Employment by Industry in Gogebic County



- ◆ The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Gogebic from 7,119 in 1990 to 8,499, in 2000, a 19.4 percent increase.
- ◆ The services industry saw the largest number gain since 1990, adding 953 jobs. The finance, insurance, and real estate industry had the largest percentage increase at 36.5 percent, adding 127 jobs.

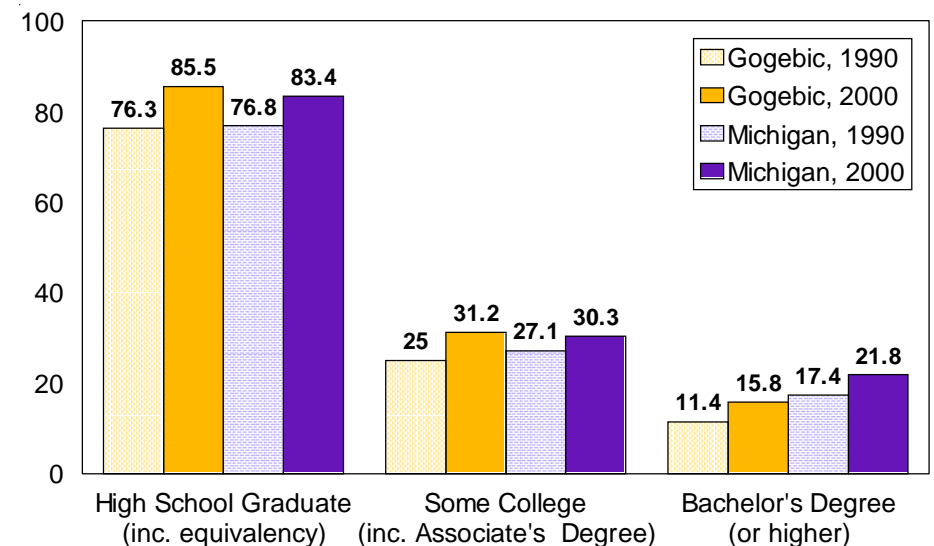
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



- ◆ High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1990 to 2000 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.2 percentage points in Gogebic 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.
- ◆ Gogebic 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 Gogebic County the rate was 15.8 percent. Gogebic ranks 35th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- ◆ 84 teenagers age 16 to 19 in Gogebic County were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates for a rate of 7.8 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

Percent



Where Gogebic County Residents Work

Gogebic County residents who worked in their own county:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	5,192	5,042	4,953
Percent	78.8	79.4	83.4

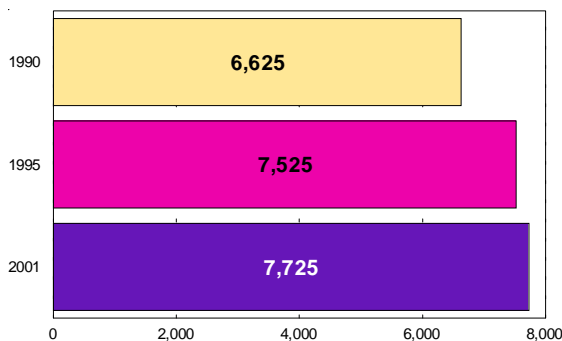
Gogebic County residents who worked outside their own county, but in Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	122	523	499
Percent	1.9	8.2	8.4

Gogebic County residents who worked outside Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	1,276	789	487
Percent	19.4	12.4	8.2

- 80.9 percent of all Gogebic County women with school age children were in the labor force in 2000, over 10 percentage points higher than in 1990. 68.6 percent of women with children under the age of six were working in 2000, compared to 60.7 percent in 1990.
- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Gogebic's labor force has grown from 7,250 in 1990 to 8,150 in 2000.
- 56.9 percent of Gogebic's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 50.0 percent in 1990.

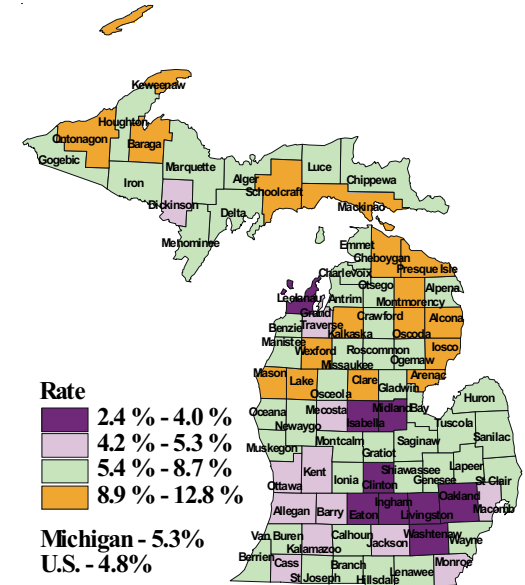


Total Number of Gogebic County Persons Employed

- In 1990, 91.4 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 93.9 percent employed.

2001 Unemployment Rate

- Even though Michigan's overall unemployment rate was low in 2001, many counties continue to experience high rates.
- Gogebic County's annual average unemployment rate in 2001 was 7.3 percent, compared to 6.3 percent in 2000 and 8.4 percent in 1990. 600 people were unemployed in 2001, compared to 600 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

