

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 Gratiot County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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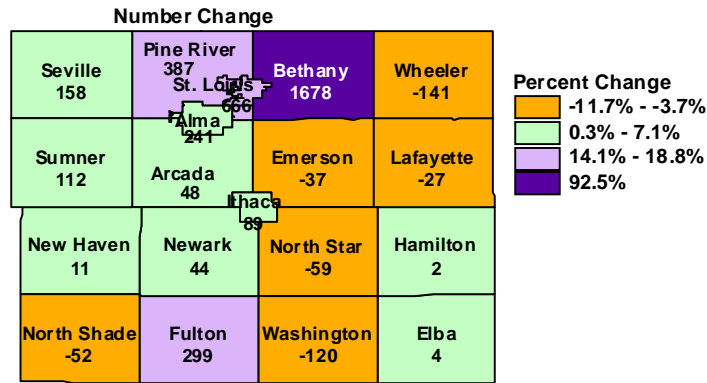
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Population

Gratiot County

Change from 1990 to 2000

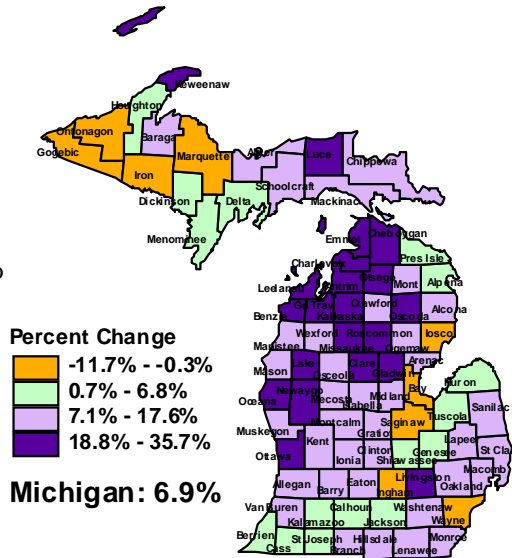


Gratiot County had 42,285 people in 2000, ranking as the 40st most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 3,303 persons, or 8.5% since 1990.

Bethany Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 92.5 percent. Bethany Township showed the largest number gain of 1,678 people.

There were 507 live births in Gratiot in 1998, of which 75 were to mothers age 19 and under, 394 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 38 to mothers age 35 and over.

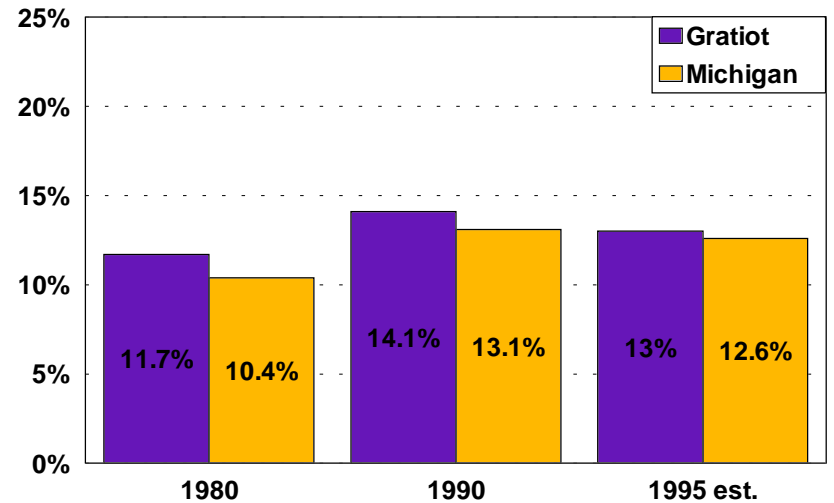
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

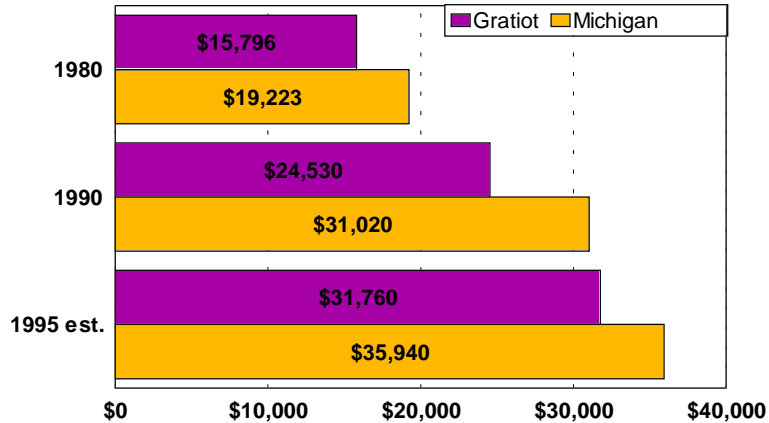
- In 1995, 4,958 persons in Gratiot County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 5,161 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Gratiot County ranked 43rd among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 43rd on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 1,934 kids (ages 0-17) in Gratiot County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 1,992 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 11.4 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 16.7 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Gratiot County experienced an increase in real median income of 11.0 percent, from \$28,603 to \$31,760. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Gratiot County ranked 41st 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 Gratiot County in 1998 was \$19,545, compared to \$17,971 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), an 8.8 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Gratiot County	50.9%	34.5%	14.7%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

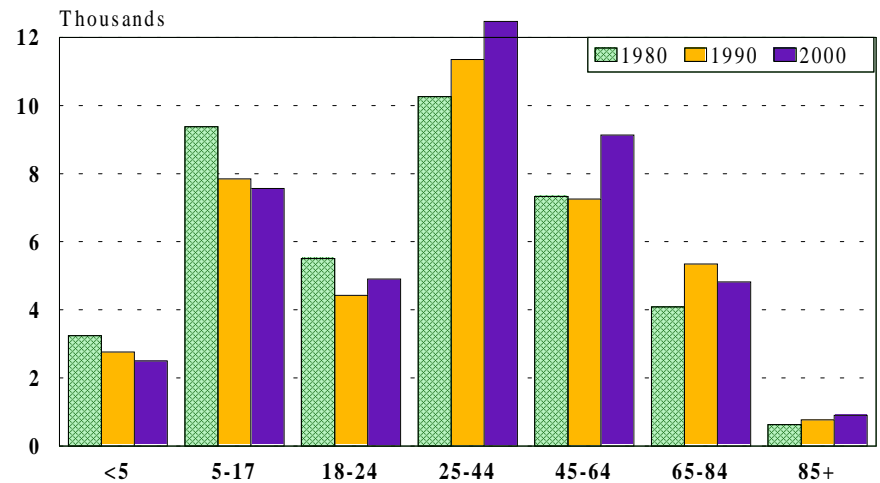
Age

The Median age of Gratiot residents continues to go up:

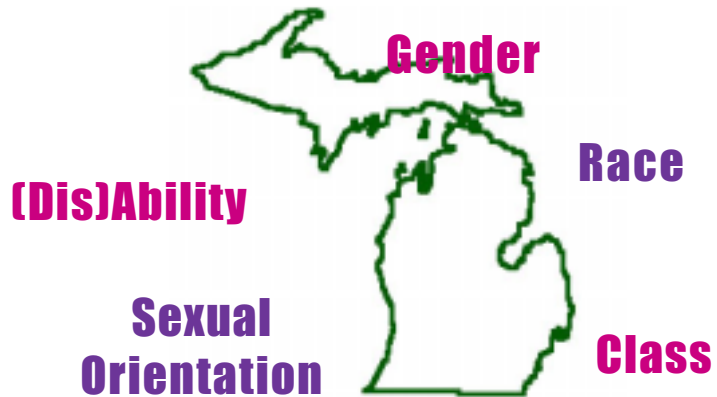
	1980	1990	2000
Gratiot	28.3	32.7	35.6
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- Of the 42,285 people who lived in Gratiot in 2000, 62.7 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 37.3 percent included 5.9 percent children under the age of 5, 17.9 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 13.5 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 1,878 or 25.9 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 379 or 7.1 percent since 1990. One in seven Gratiot residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Gratiot County



Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Gratiot County's population included 21,987 males and 20,298 females, or 52.0 percent and 48.0 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 14,501 households living in Gratiot County in 2000, 11,268 or 77.7 percent owned their own home and 3,233 or 22.3 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

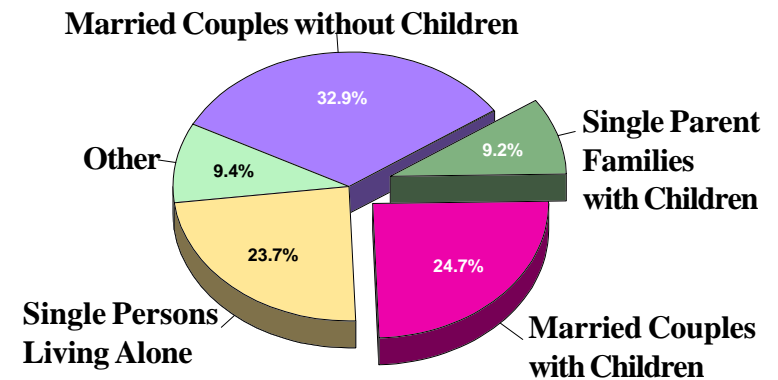
	Gratiot County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	38,024	89.9	78.6
Black*	1,554	3.7	14.1
American Indian*	200	0.5	0.5
Asian*	144	0.3	1.8
Other*	23	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	465	1.1	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,875	4.4	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

- .. There were 300 marriages in Gratiot County during 1998, down from 1990 when 343 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 Gratiot County in 1990 was 8.2 when 161 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 7.2 when 145 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, 1,870 children in Gratiot County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 17.7 percent of all children in Gratiot. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

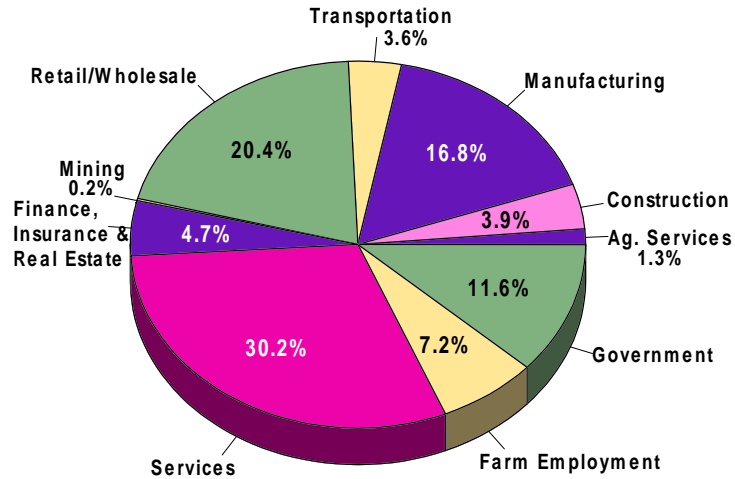
Types of Households in Gratiot County



2000 Census of Population and Housing

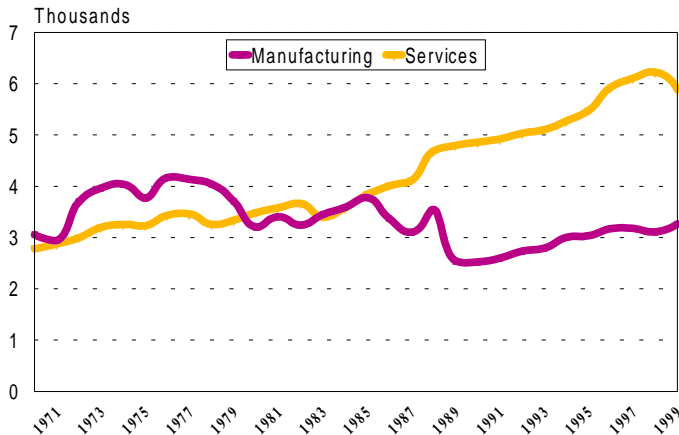
Employment

1999 Employment by Industry in Gratiot County



- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Gratiot from 17,344 in 1990 to 19,482 in 1999, a 12.3 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 30.2% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by 9.8 percentage points. Jobs in Manufacturing have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 29.4 percent since 1990.

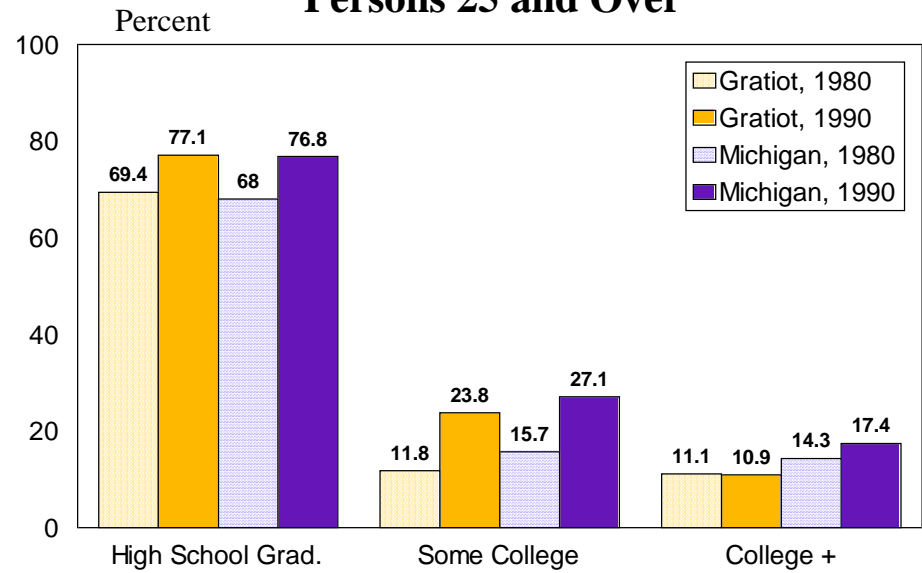
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



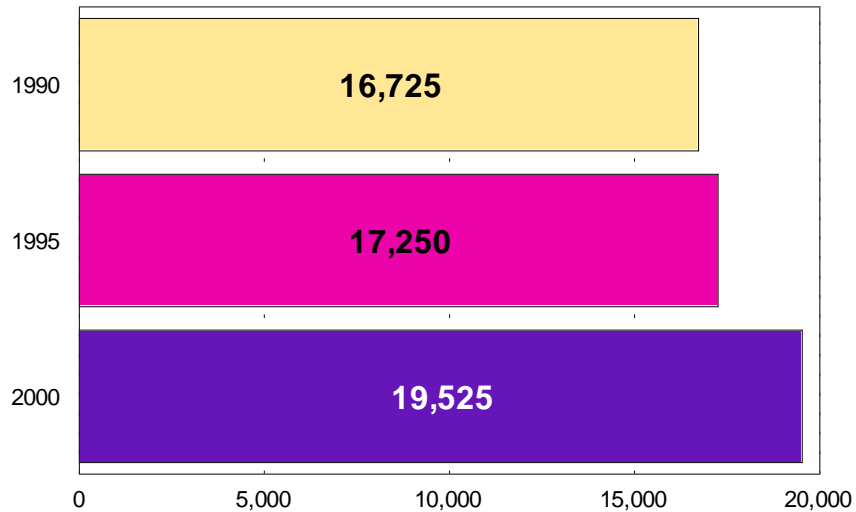
Education

- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 7.7 percentage points in Gratiot 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.
- Gratiot 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 Gratiot County the rate was 10.9 percent. Gratiot ranks 45th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 82 students dropped out of high school in Gratiot County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 3.6 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 48 students dropped out (2.1 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



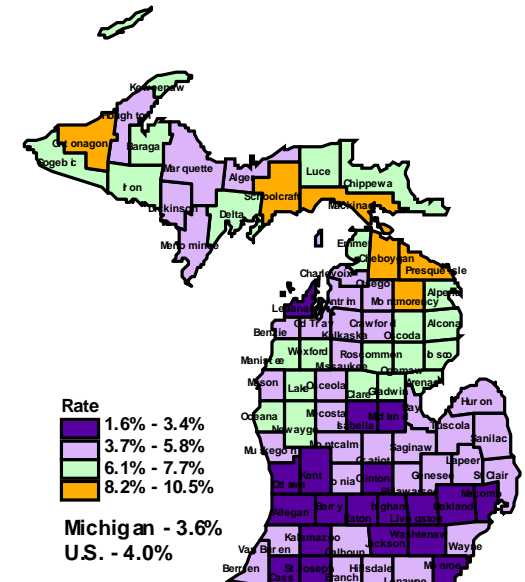
Total Number of Persons Employed in Gratiot County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Gratiot's labor force has grown from 18,425 in 1990 to 20,475 in 2000.
- In 1990, 90.8 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 95.4 percent employed.
- 61.2 percent of Gratiot's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, down from 62.4 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-seven percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 15 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.
- Gratiot County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.6 percent, compared to 4.5 percent in 1999 and 9.1 percent in 1990. 950 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 1,675 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

