

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

Houghton County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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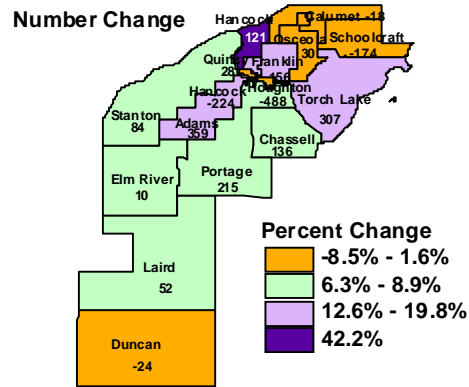
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Population

Houghton County

Percent Change from 1990 to 2000

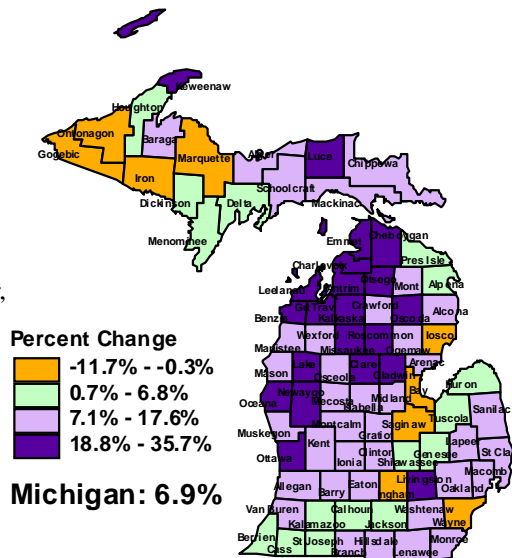


Houghton County had 36,016 people in 2000, ranking as the 45th most populous county in Michigan. The population has increased by 570, or 1.6% persons since 1990.

Hancock Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 42.2 percent. Adams Township showed the largest number gain of 359 people.

There were 366 live births in Houghton in 1998, of which 37 were to mothers age 19 and under, 273 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 57 to mothers age 35 and over.

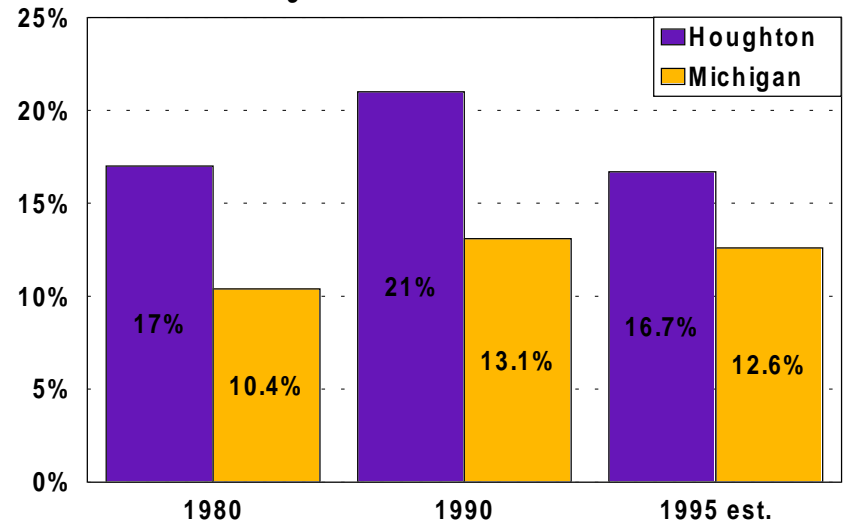
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



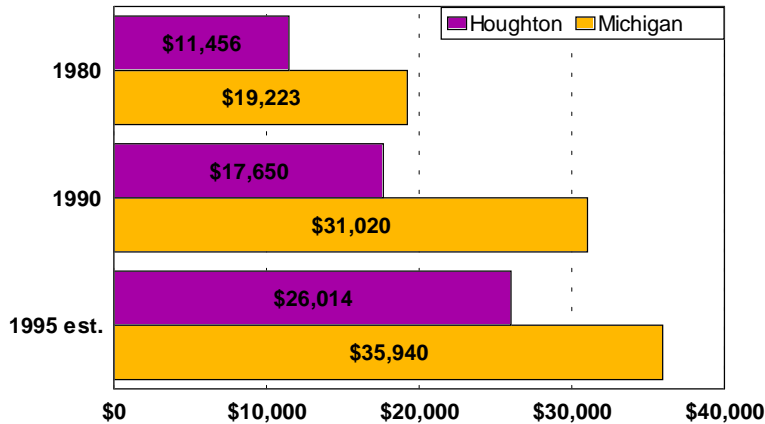
Poverty

- In 1995, 5,677 persons in Houghton County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 6,826 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Houghton County ranked 35th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 13th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 1,737 kids (ages 0-17) in Houghton County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 1,662 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 14.3 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 15.3 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Houghton County experienced an increase in real median income of 26.4 percent, from \$20,580 to \$26,014. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Houghton County ranked 71st 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 Houghton County in 1998 was \$18,732, compared to \$16,441 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 13.9 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Houghton	64.6%	26.5%	8.9%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

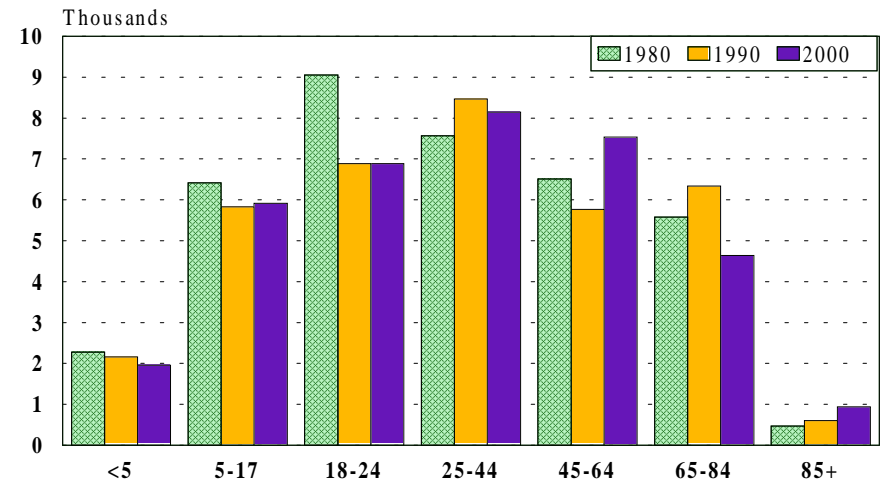
* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

The Median age of Houghton residents continues to go up:

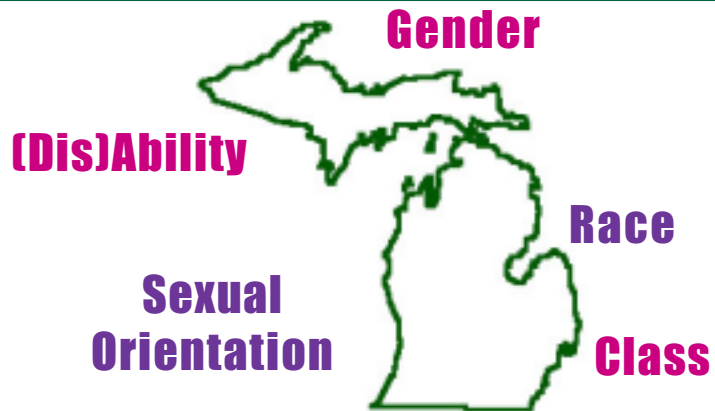
	1980	1990	2000
Houghton	27.4	31.7	34.0
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- Of the 36,016 people who lived in Houghton in 2000, 62.7 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 37.3 percent included 5.4 percent children under the age of 5, 16.4 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 15.5 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 1,769 or 30.7 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, decreased by 761 or 12.0 percent since 1990. One in seven Houghton residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Houghton County



Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Houghton County's population included 19,163 males and 16,853 females, or 53.2 percent and 46.8 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 13,793 households living in Houghton County in 2000, 9,851 or 71.4 percent owned their own home and 3,942 or 28.6 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

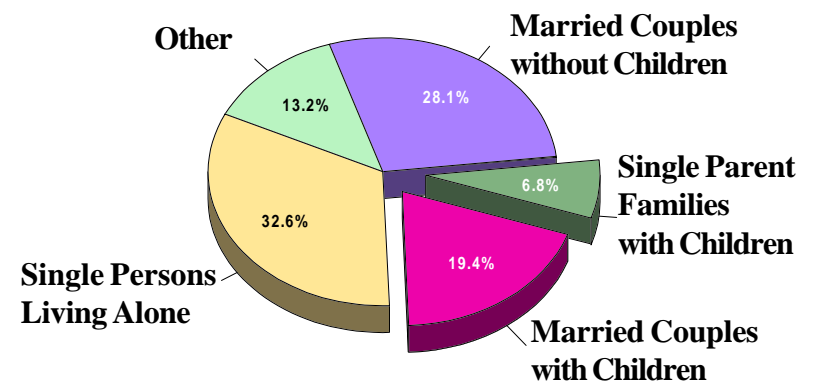
	Houghton County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	34,239	95.1	78.6
Black*	334	0.9	14.1
American Indian*	186	0.5	0.5
Asian*	643	1.8	1.8
Other*	28	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	335	0.9	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	251	0.7	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

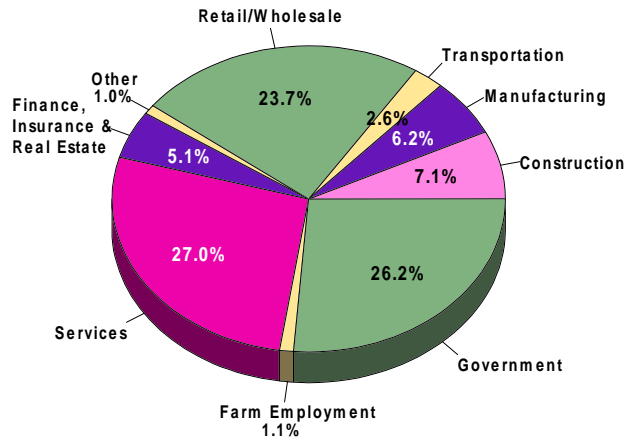
- .. There were 198 marriages in Houghton County during 1998, down from 1990 when 236 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, to 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 Houghton County in 1990 was 5.6 when 100 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 6.1 when 108 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, 1,229 children in Houghton County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 15.5 percent of all children in Houghton. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Houghton County



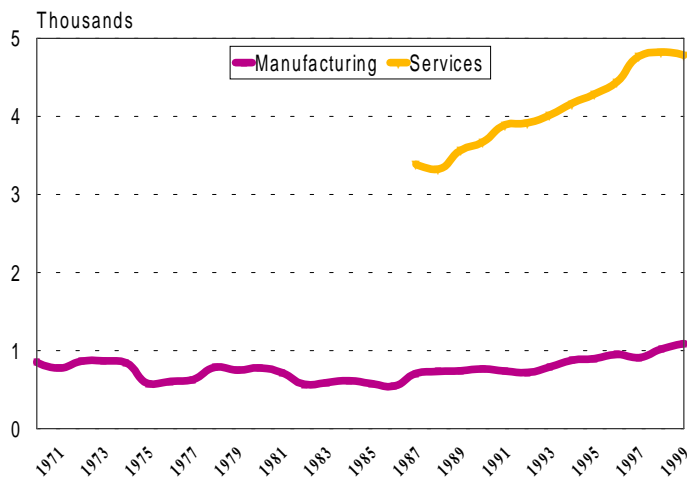
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Houghton County



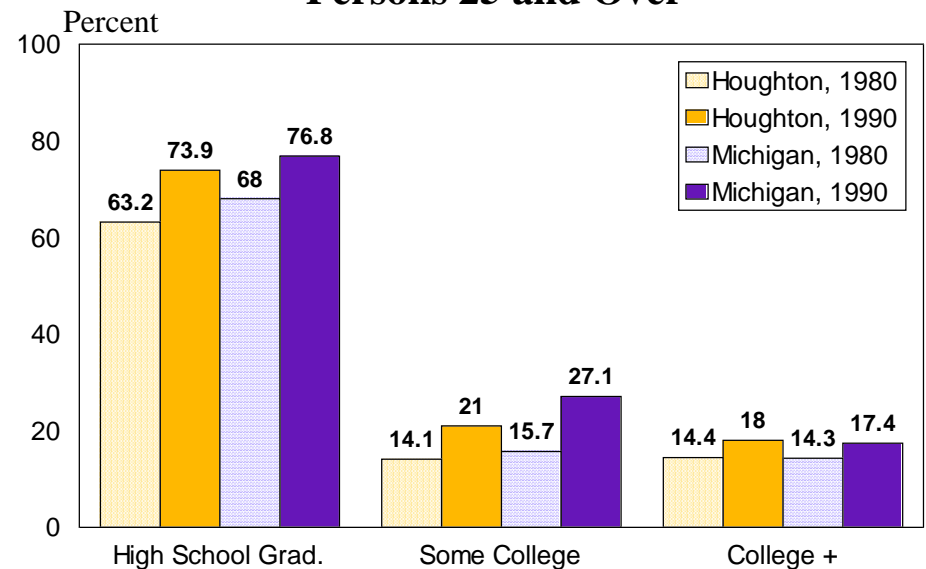
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Houghton from 14,500 in 1990 to 17,688 in 1999, a 22.0 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 27.0% of all employment in 1999, leading Government by 0.9 percentage points. Jobs in Manufacturing have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 42.5 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

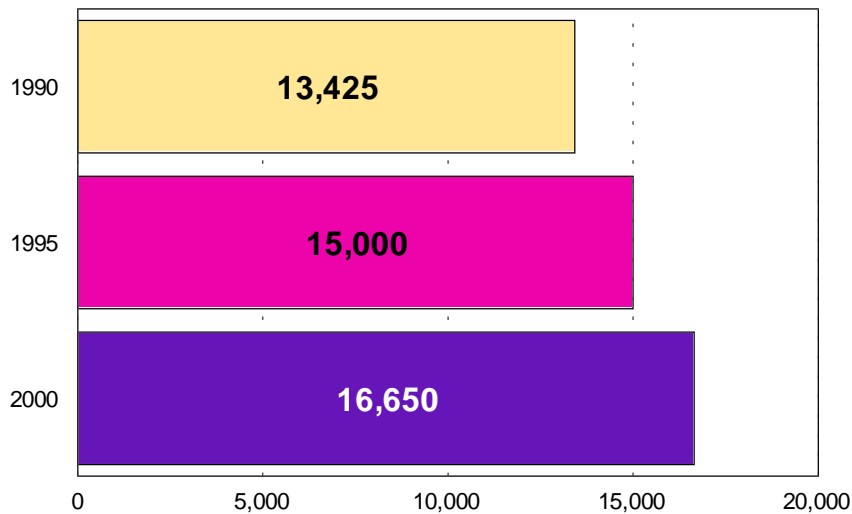


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 10.7 percentage points in Houghton County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Houghton County exceeds Michigan for those persons age 25 and over with a college degree. In 1990, 17.4 percent in Michigan had a college degree; in Houghton County the rate was 18.0 percent. Houghton ranks 15 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 66 students dropped out of high school in Houghton County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 3.7 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 45 students dropped out (2.7 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



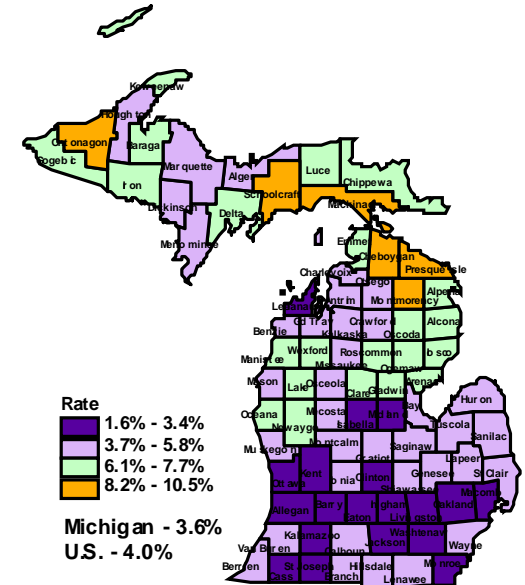
Total Number of Persons Employed in Houghton County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Houghton's labor force has grown from 14,525 in 1990 to 17,500 in 2000.
- In 1990, 92.4 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 95.1 percent employed.
- 60.0 percent of Houghton's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 51.3 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-three percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 15 percentage points higher than in 1980. Over five out of ten women with children under age six were in the work force in 1990, compared to nearly 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.
- Houghton County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.9 percent, compared to 4.6 percent in 1999 and 7.6 percent in 1990. 850 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 1,100 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

