

# Michigan State University Extension



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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* **Ionia County**



**Bringing Knowledge to Life!**

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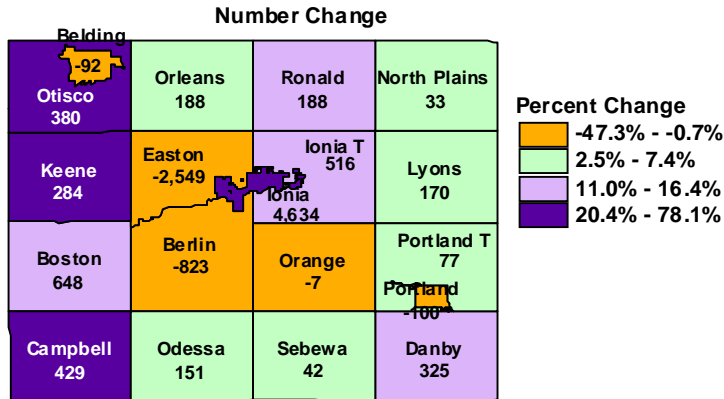
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# Population

## Ionia County

Percent Change from 1990 to 2000

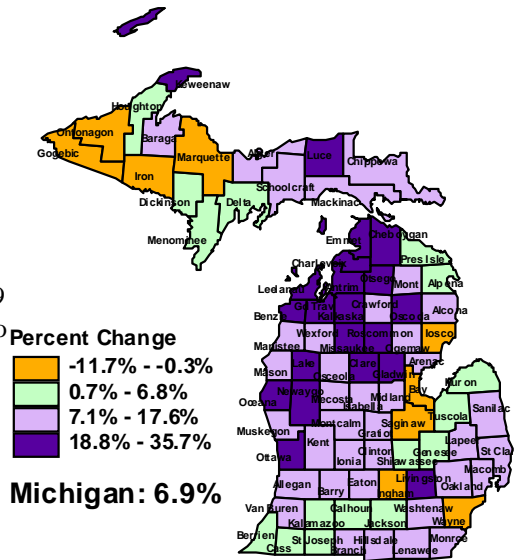


Ionia County had 61,518 people in 2000, ranking as the 31st most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 4,494 persons, or 7.9% since 1990.

Ionia showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 78.1 percent. Ionia also showed the largest number gain of 4,634 people.

There were 821 live births in Ionia in 1998, of which 120 were to mothers age 19 and under, 649 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 52 to mothers age 35 and over.

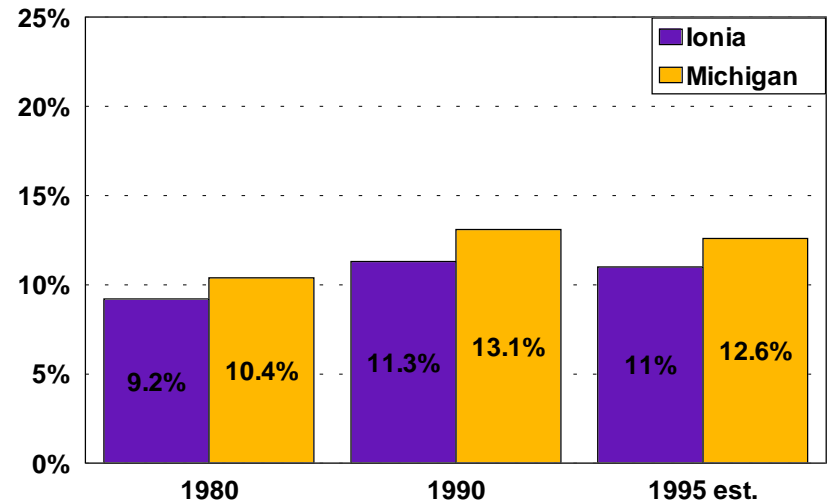
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



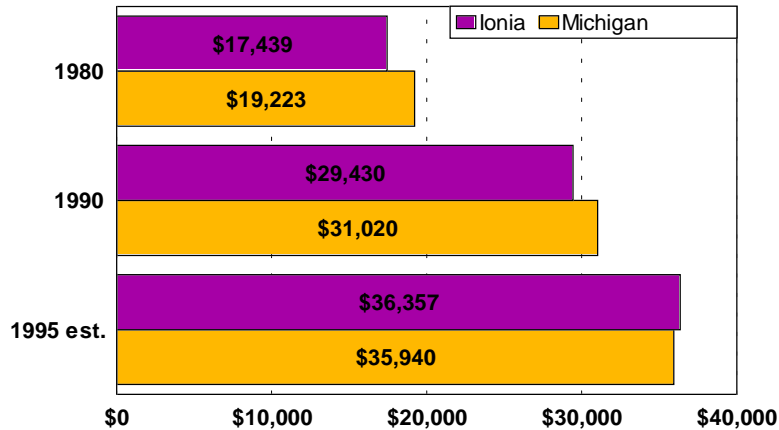
# Poverty

- In 1995, 6,159 persons in Ionia County were below the poverty line, increasing from 5,857 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Ionia County ranked 32nd among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 59th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 2,566 kids (ages 0-17) in Ionia County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in seven. In 1990, 2,379 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 11.9 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 13.8 percent.

## Poverty Rates of All Persons



## Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Ionia County experienced an increase in real median income of 5.9 percent, from \$34,316 to \$36,357. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Ionia County ranked 22nd 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 Ionia County in 1998 was \$16,832, compared to \$16,549 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 1.7 percent increase.

### Household Income Distribution\*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
<b>Ionia County</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

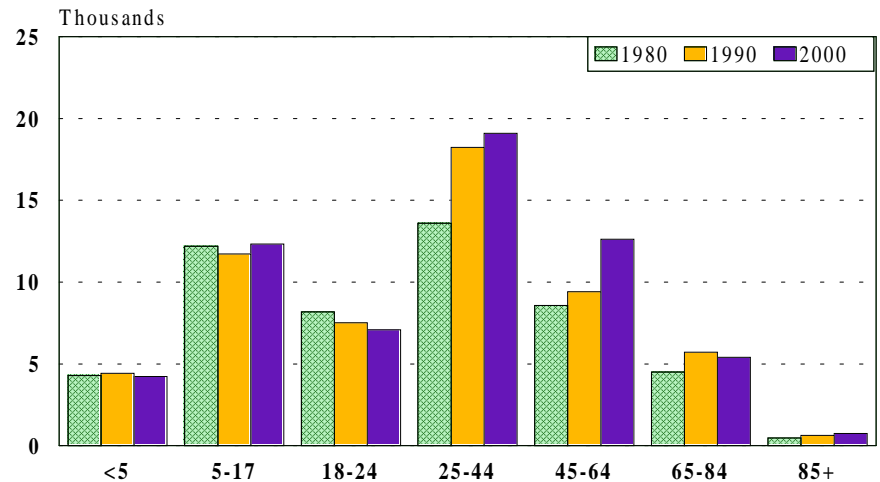
\* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

## The Median age of Ionia residents continues to go up:

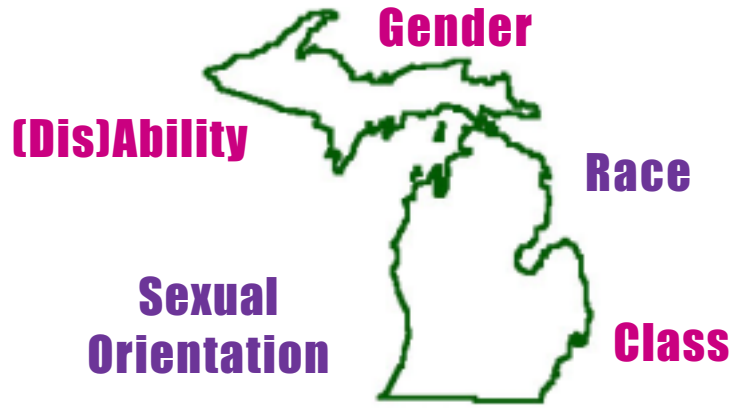
	1980	1990	2000
<b>Ionia</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>35.5</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.3</b>

- Of the 61,518 people who lived in Ionia in 2000, 63.1 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 36.9 percent included 6.9 percent children under the age of 5, 20.0 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 10.0 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 3,223 or 34.3 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 454 or 7.9 percent since 1990. One in eleven Ionia residents is age 65 or older.

## Age Distribution in Ionia County



# Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Ionia County's population included 32,930 males and 28,588 females, or 53.5 percent and 46.5 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 20,606 households living in Ionia County in 2000, 16,481 or 80.0 percent owned their own home and 4,125 or 20.0 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

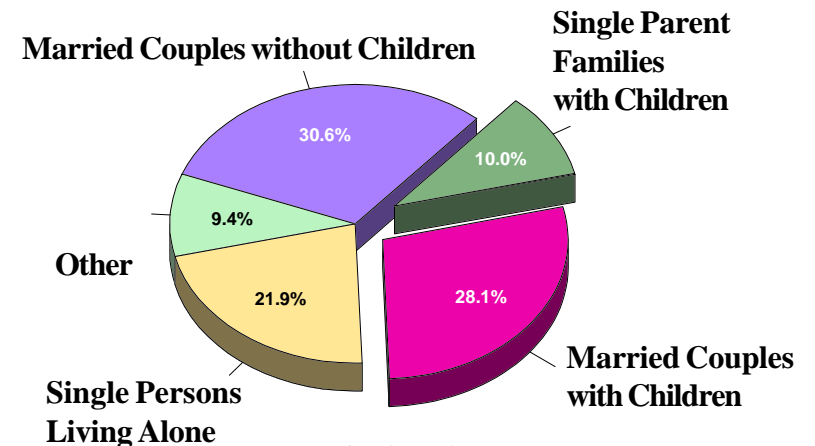
	Ionia County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	55,749	90.6	78.6
Black*	2,759	4.5	14.1
American Indian*	286	0.5	0.5
Asian*	194	0.3	1.8
Other*	39	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	780	1.3	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,711	2.8	3.3

\* Not Hispanic or Latino

# Households & Families

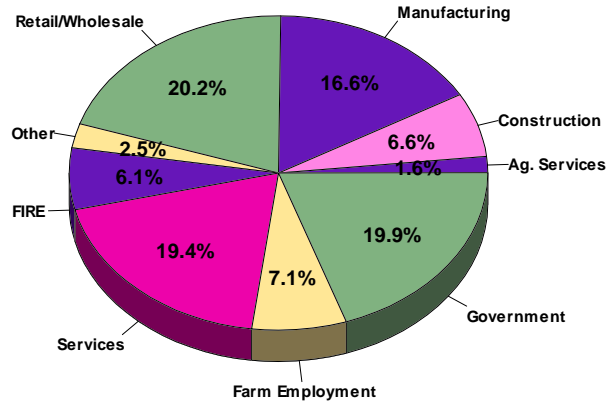
- There were 437 marriages in Ionia County during 1998, down from 492 marriages in 1990 when 492 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, 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 Ionia County in 1990 was 8.4 when 241 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 8.3 when 277 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, 2,792 children in Ionia County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 17.3 percent of all children in Ionia. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

## Types of Households in Ionia County



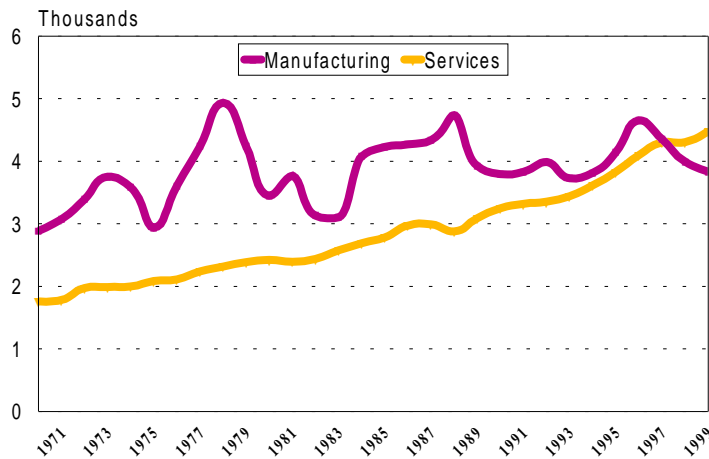
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 1999 Employment by Industry in Ionia County



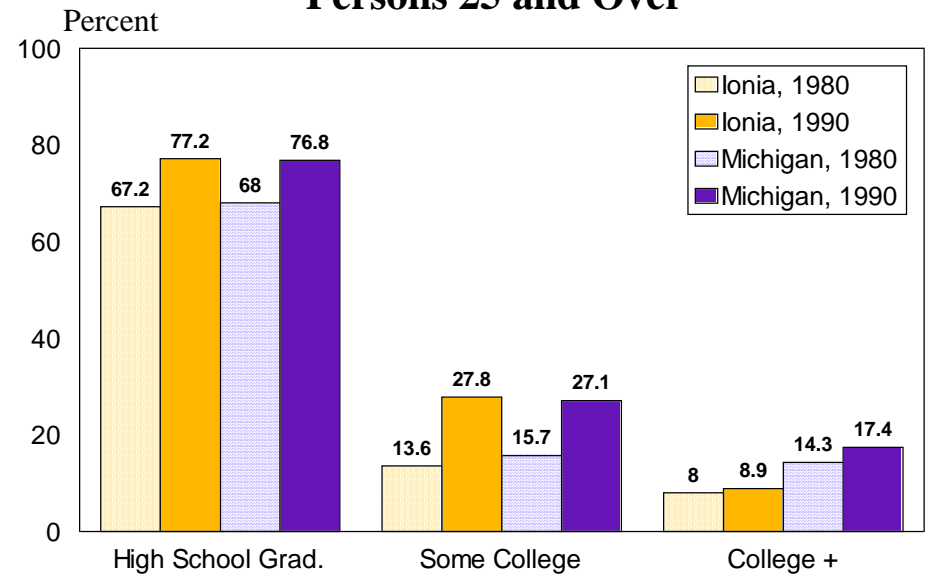
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Ionia from 19,877 in 1990 to 23,095 in 1999, a 16.2 percent increase.
- Retail and Wholesale Trade accounted for 20.2% of all employment in 1999, leading Government by 0.3 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 38.3 percent since 1990.

## Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

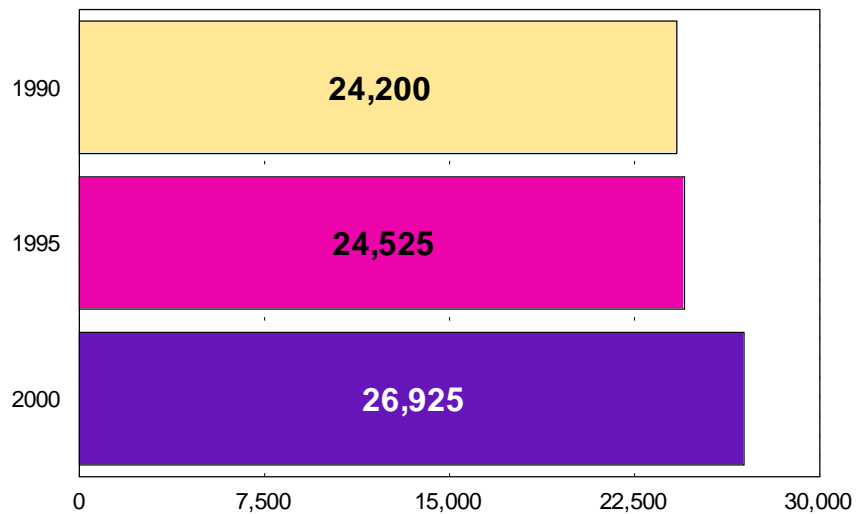


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 10.0 percentage points in Ionia County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Ionia 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 Ionia County the rate was 8.9 percent. Ionia ranks 66 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 157 students dropped out of high school in Ionia County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 4.3 percent. This is down from 1990-91 when 160 students dropped out (5.1 percent).

## Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



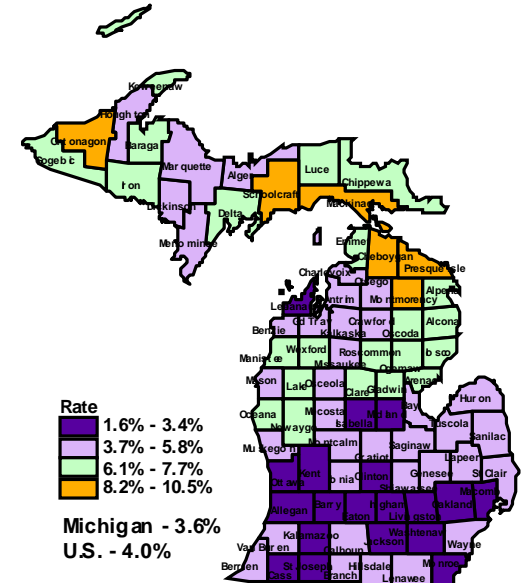
## Total Number of Persons Employed in Ionia County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Ionia's labor force has grown from 26,950 in 1990 to 28,050 in 2000.
- In 1990, 89.8 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 96.0 percent employed.
- 59.8 percent of Ionia's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, down from 63.2 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-nine percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 14 percentage points higher than in 1980. Nearly seven 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.
- Ionia County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.0 percent, compared to 4.3 percent in 1999 and 10.2 percent in 1990. 1,125 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 2,750 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

