

# 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* **Iron County**



**Bringing Knowledge to Life!**

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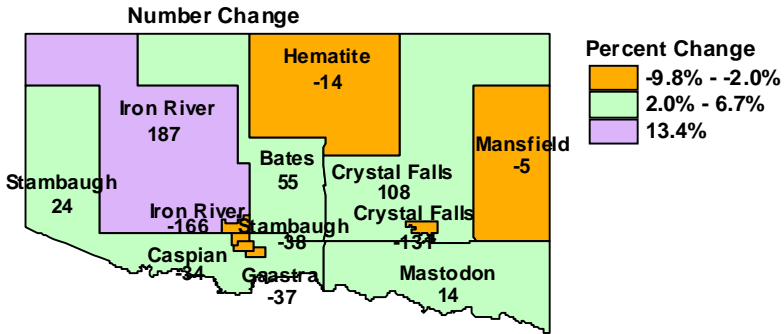
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# Population

## Iron County

Percent Change from 1990 to 2000

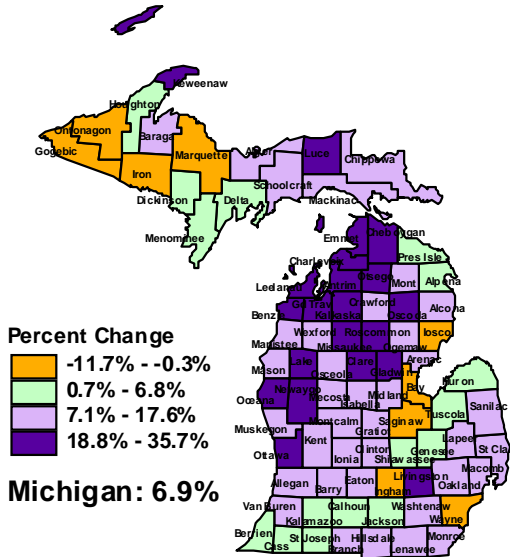


Iron County had 13,138 people in 2000, ranking as the 72nd most populous county in Michigan. The population decreased by 37 persons, or 0.3% since 1990.

Iron River Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 13.4 percent. Iron River Township also showed the largest number gain of 187 people.

There were 113 live births in Iron in 1998, of which 12 were to mothers age 19 and under, 86 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 15 to mothers age 35 and over.

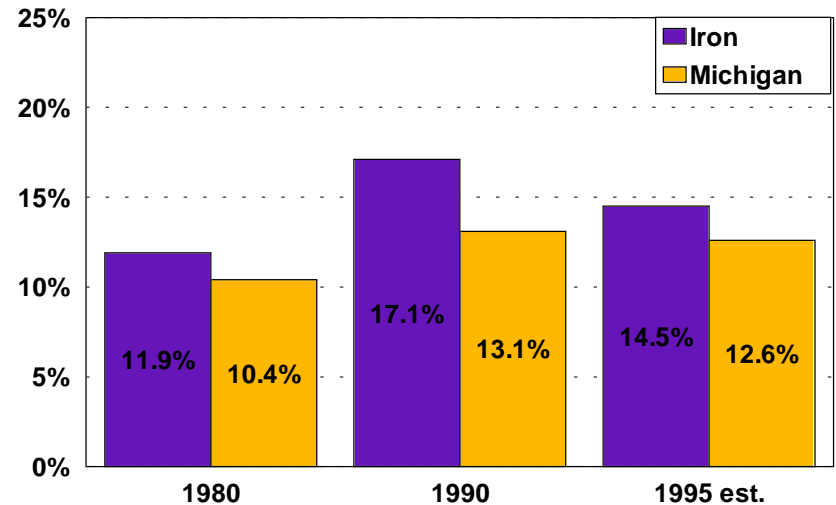
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



# Poverty

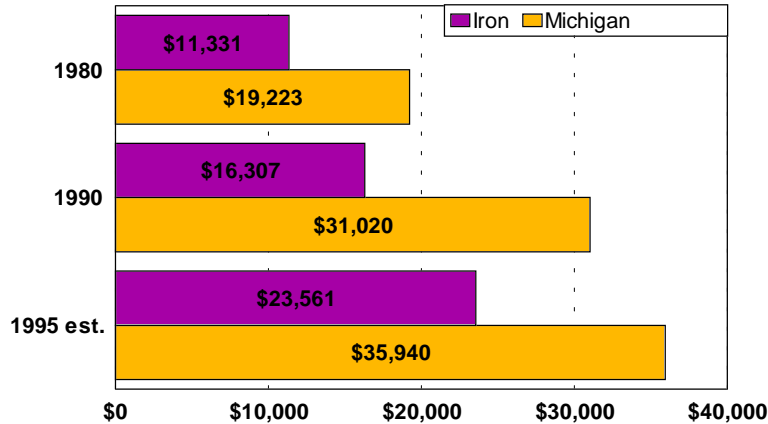
- In 1995, 1,873 persons in Iron County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 2,206 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Iron County ranked 71st among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 29th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 595 kids (ages 0-17) in Iron County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 675 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 17.4 percent. This was up from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 15.4 percent.

## Poverty Rates of All Persons



# Household Income

## Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Iron County experienced an increase in real median income of 23.9 percent, from \$19,014 to \$23,561. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Iron County ranked 80th 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 Iron County in 1998 was \$19,141, compared to \$17,250 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), an 11.0 percent increase.

### Household Income Distribution\*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
<b>Iron County</b>	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

\* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

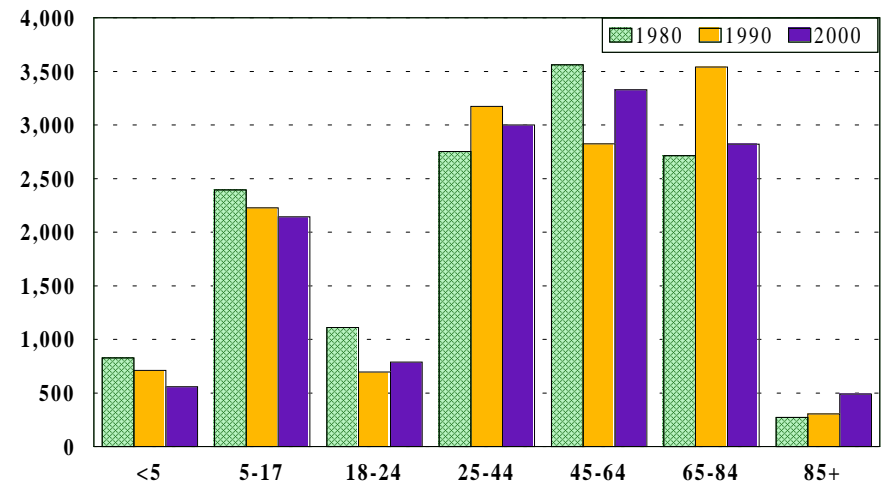
# Age

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

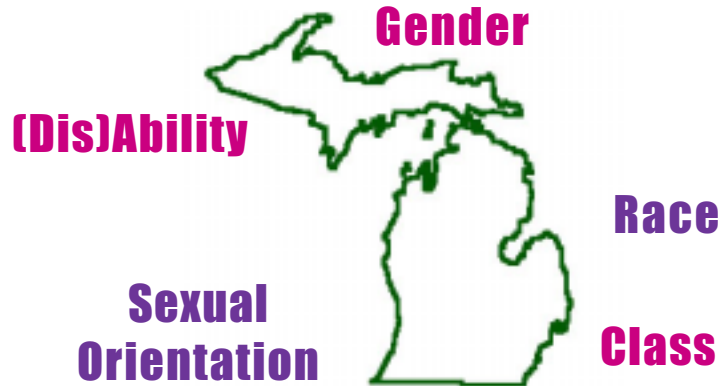
	1980	1990	2000
<b>Iron</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.4</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>35.5</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.3</b>

- Of the 13,138 people who lived in Iron in 2000, 54.2 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 45.8 percent included 4.3 percent children under the age of 5, 16.3 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 25.2 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 506 or 17.9 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, decreased by 227 or 6.4 percent since 1990. One in four Iron residents is age 65 or older.

## Age Distribution in Iron County



# Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Iron County's population included 6,485 males and 6,653 females, or 49.4 percent and 50.6 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 5,748 households living in Iron County in 2000, 4,737 or 82.4 percent owned their own home and 1,011 or 17.6 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

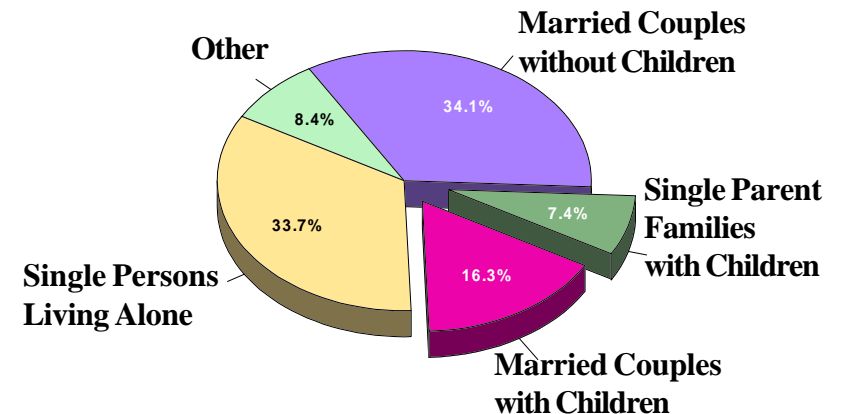
	Iron County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	12,601	95.9	78.6
Black*	144	1.1	14.1
American Indian*	132	1.0	0.5
Asian*	26	0.2	1.8
Other*	7	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	144	1.1	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	84	0.6	3.3

\* Not Hispanic or Latino

# Households & Families

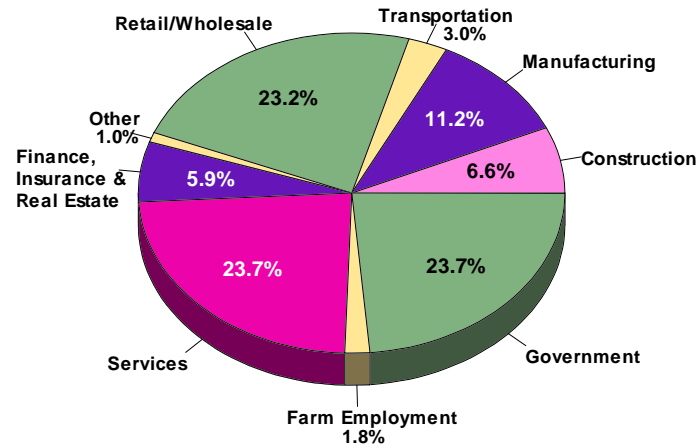
- .. There were 74 marriages in Iron County during 1998, down from 1990 when 85 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid '70s, to age 28 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 Iron County in 1990 was 6.8 when 45 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 7.8 when 50 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, 544 children in Iron County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 18.6 percent of all children in Iron. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

## Types of Households in Iron County



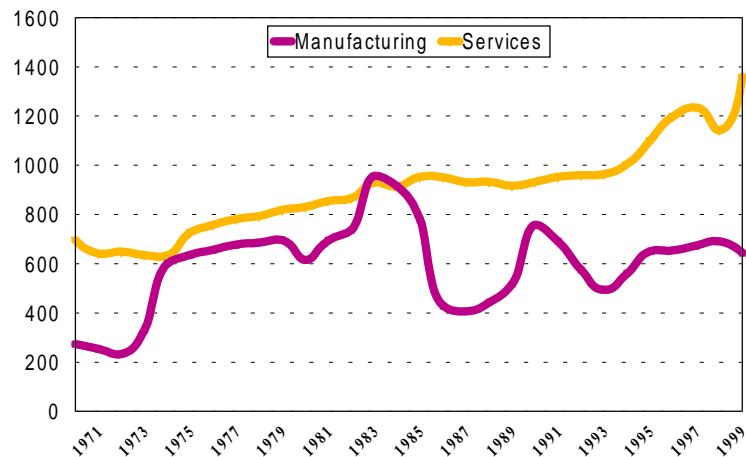
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 1999 Employment by Industry in Iron County



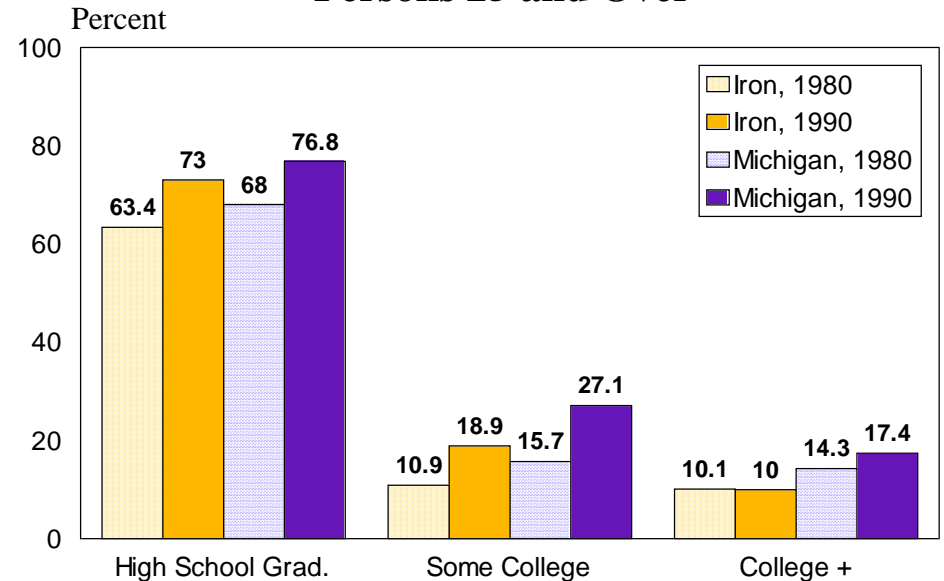
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Iron from 5,070 in 1990 to 5,747 in 1999, a 13.4 percent increase.
- The Services and Government accounted for 23.7% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by 0.5 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 45.8 percent since 1990.

## Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

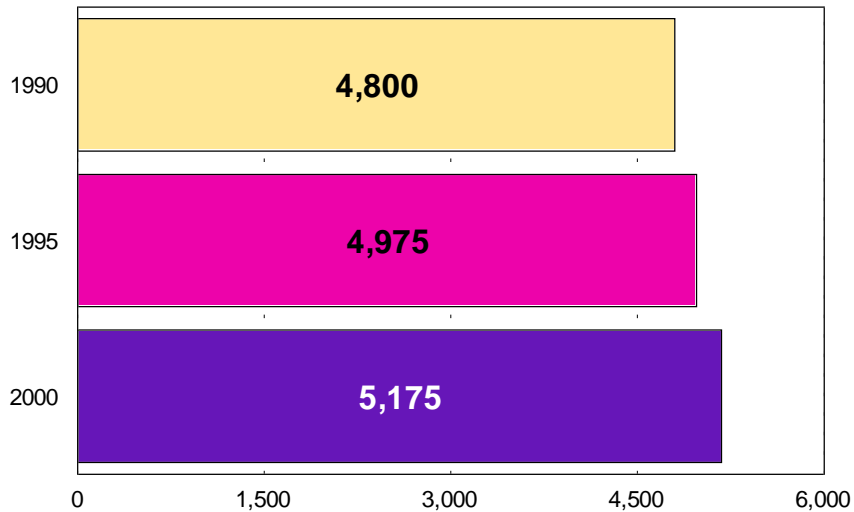


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.5 percentage points in Iron County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Iron 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 Iron County the rate was 10.0 percent. Iron ranks 57 among Michigan’s 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 17 students dropped out of high school in Iron County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 2.5 percent. This is up from 1991-92 when 4 students dropped out (0.7 percent).

## Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



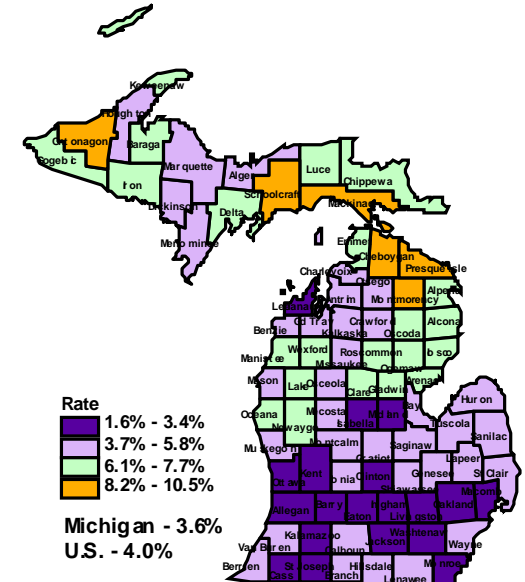
## Total Number of Persons Employed in Iron County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Iron's labor force has grown from 5,275 in 1990 to 5,525 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.0 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 93.7 percent employed.
- 51.1 percent of Iron's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 50.0 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-five percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 22 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 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.
- Iron County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 6.3 percent, compared to 6.8 percent in 1999 and 9.1 percent in 1990. 350 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 475 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

