

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 **Isabella County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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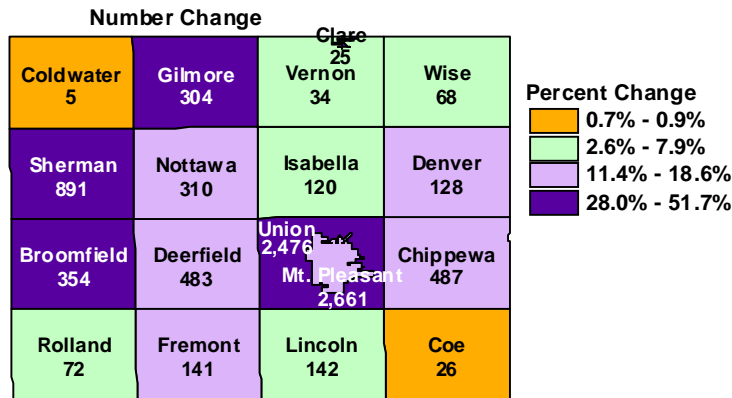
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Population

Isabella County

Change from 1990 to 2000

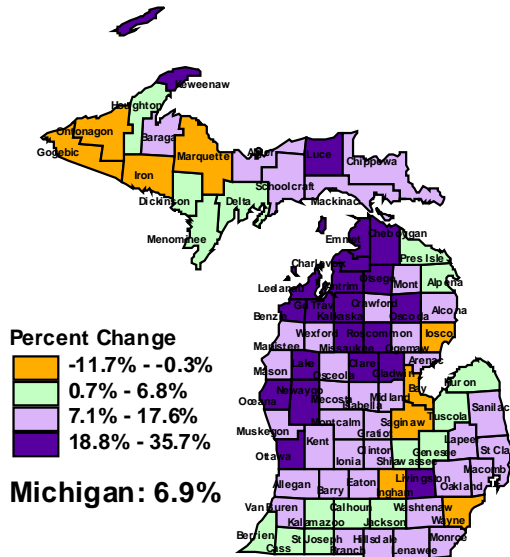


Isabella County had 63,351 people in 2000, ranking as the 29th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 8,727 persons, or 16.0% since 1990.

Sherman Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 51.7 percent. Mt. Pleasant showed the largest number gain of 2,661 people.

There were 651 live births in Isabella in 1998, of which 66 were to mothers age 19 and under, 532 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 53 to mothers age 35 and over.

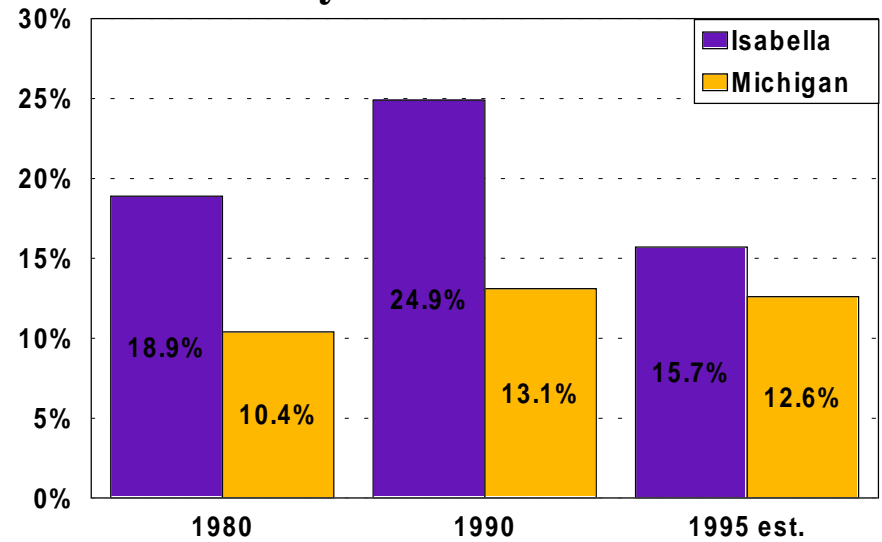
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

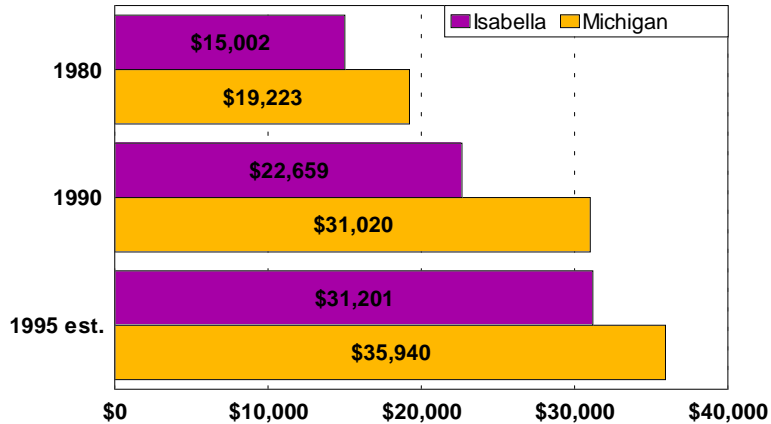
- In 1995, 8,267 persons in Isabella County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 12,054 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Isabella County ranked 21st among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 19th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 2,607 kids (ages 0-17) in Isabella County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 2,620 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 14.8 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 16.3 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Isabella County experienced an increase in real median income of 18.1 percent, from \$26,421 to \$31,201. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Isabella County ranked 44th 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 Isabella County in 1998 was \$19,696, compared to \$17,714 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), an 11.2 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Isabella County	54.3%	30.3%	15.4%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

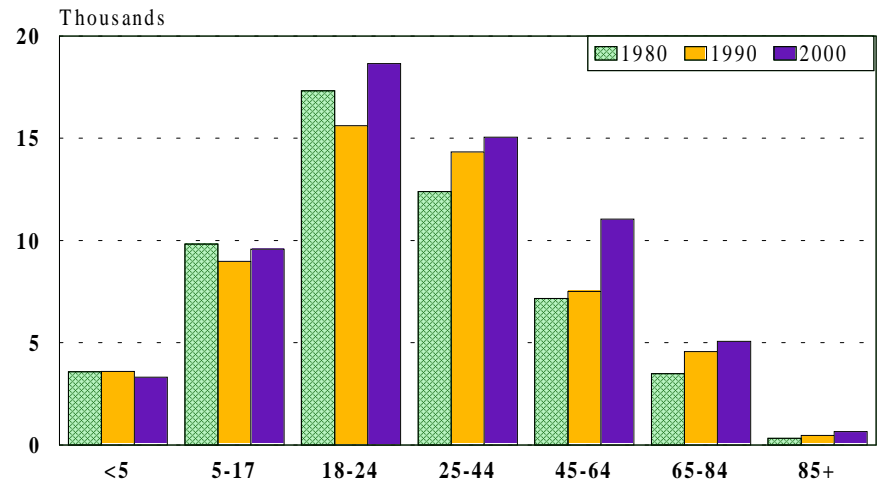
Age

The Median age of Isabella residents continues to go up:

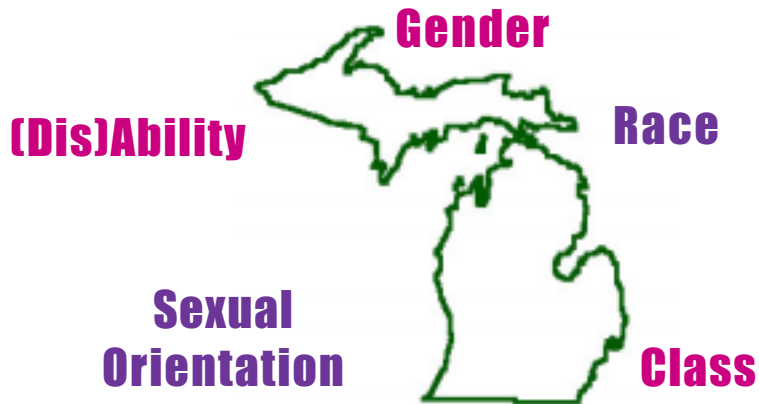
	1980	1990	2000
Isabella	22.5	24.5	25.1
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- Of the 63,351 people who lived in Isabella in 2000, 70.6 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 29.4 percent included 5.2 percent children under the age of 5, 15.1 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 9.0 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 3,536 or 47.1 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 1,148 or 25.1 percent since 1990. One in eleven Isabella residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Isabella County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Isabella County's population included 30,252 males and 33,099 females, or 47.8 percent and 52.2 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 22,425 households living in Isabella County in 2000, 14,175 or 63.2 percent owned their own home and 8,250 or 36.8 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

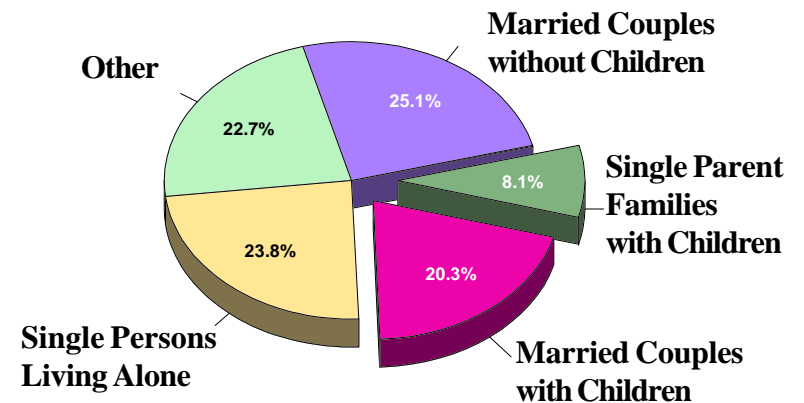
	Isabella County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	57,294	90.4	78.6
Black*	1,211	1.9	14.1
American Indian*	1,609	2.5	0.5
Asian*	877	1.4	1.8
Other*	83	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	858	1.4	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,419	2.2	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

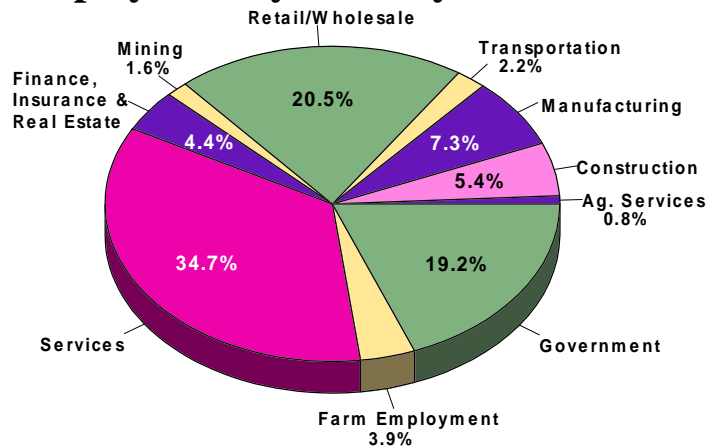
- There were 435 marriages in Isabella County during 1998, up from 395 marriages in 1990 when 395 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid '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 Isabella County in 1990 was 7.4 when 202 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 7.2 when 211 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, 2,456 children in Isabella County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 19.6 percent of all children in Isabella. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Isabella County



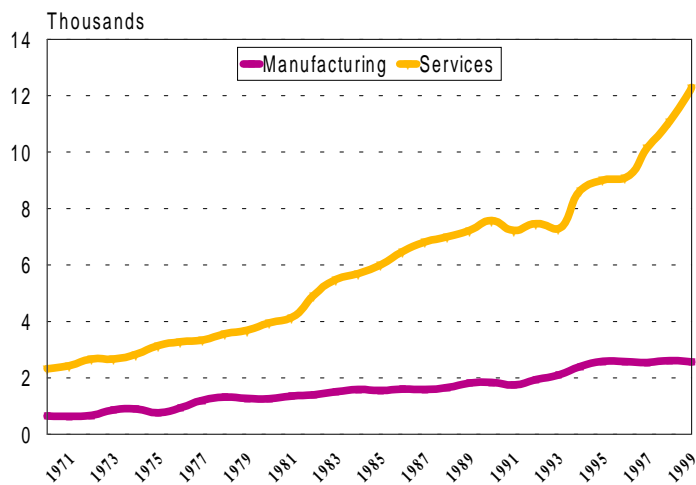
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Isabella County



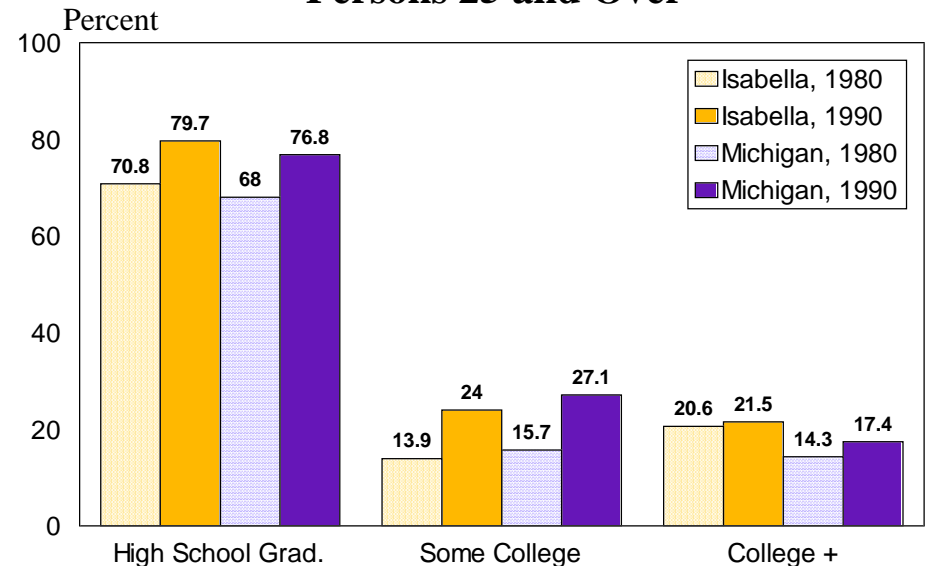
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Isabella from 28,726 in 1990 to 35,428 in 1999, a 23.3 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 34.7% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by 14.2 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 62.3 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

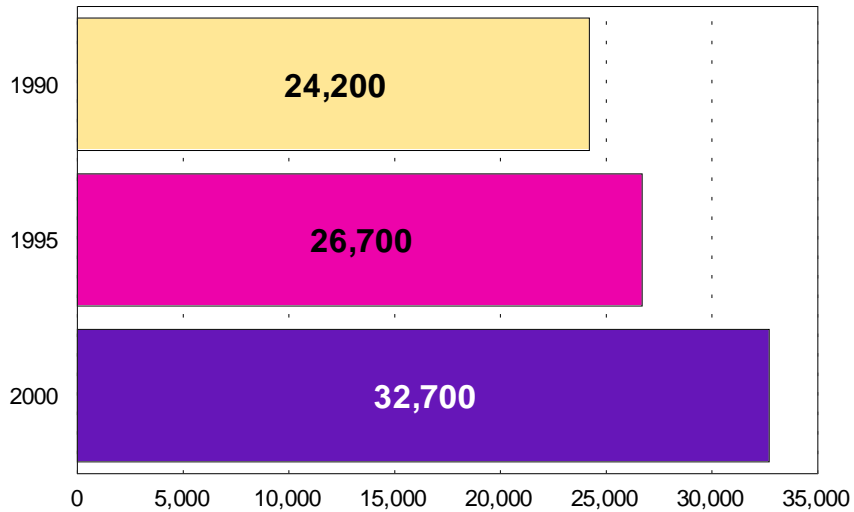


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 8.9 percentage points in Isabella County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Isabella 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 Isabella County the rate was 21.5 percent. Isabella ranks 8th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 57 students dropped out of high school in Isabella County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 3.2 percent. This is little change from 1990-91 when 54 students dropped out (3.2 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



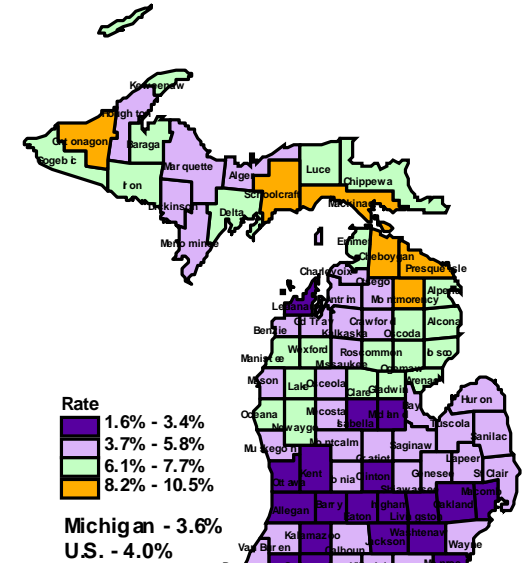
Total Number of Persons Employed in Isabella County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Isabella's labor force has grown from 25,825 in 1990 to 33,675 in 2000.
- In 1990, 93.7 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 97.1 percent employed.
- 64.7 percent of Isabella's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 59.6 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-six percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 10 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 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.
- Isabella County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 2.9 percent, compared to 3.1 in 1999 and 6.3 percent in 1990. 975 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 1,625 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

