

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 **Kent County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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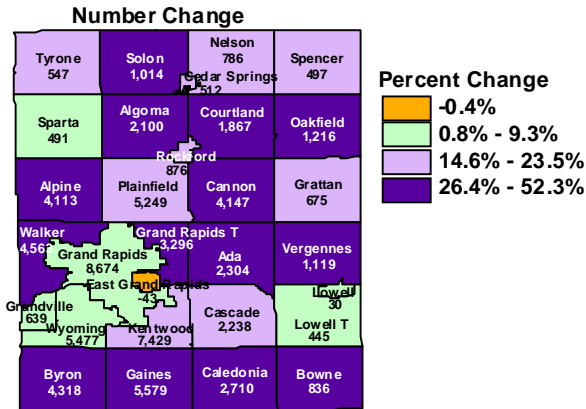
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Population

Kent County

Change from 1990 to 2000

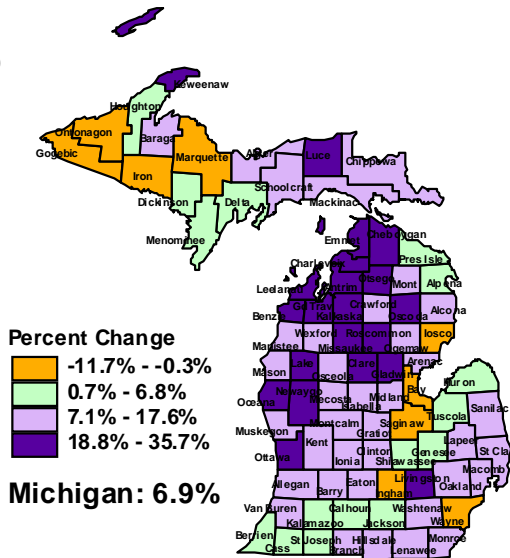


• Kent County had 574,355 people in 2000, ranking as the 4th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 73,704 persons, or 14.7% since 1990.

• Cannon Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 52.3 percent. Grand Rapids showed the largest number gain of 8,674 people.

• There were 9,155 live births in Kent in 1998, of which 1,097 were to mothers age 19 and under, 6,983 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 1,073 to mothers age 35 and over.

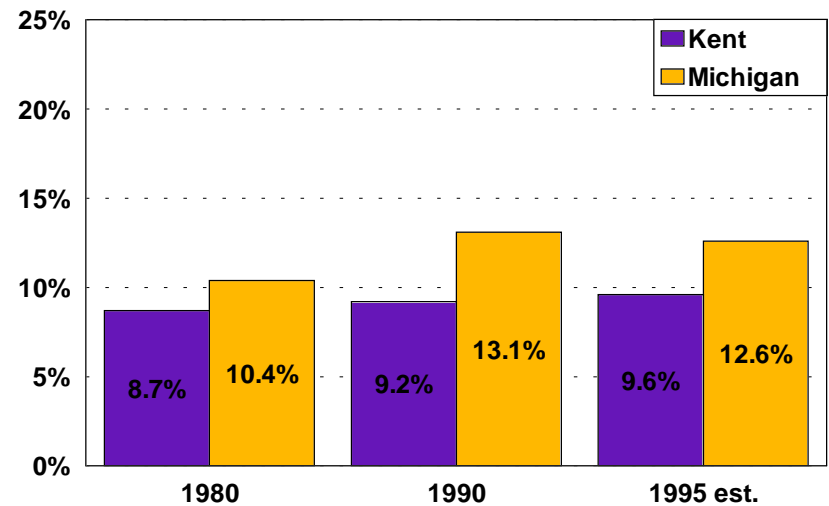
• Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

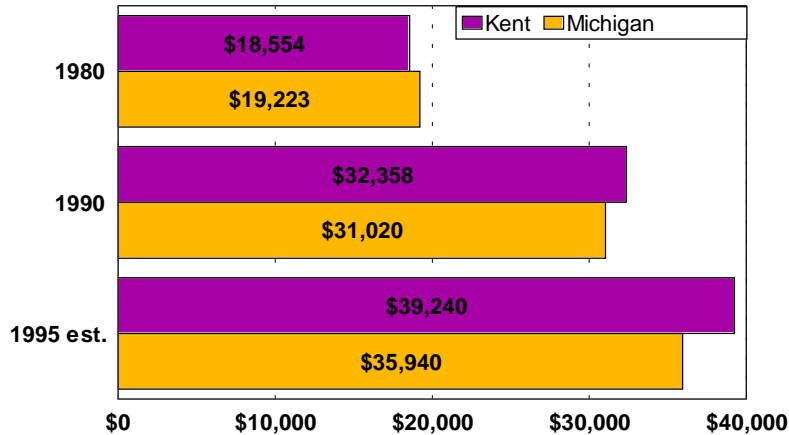
- In 1995, 51,365 persons in Kent County were below the poverty line, increasing from 44,789 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Kent County ranked 4th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 66th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 21,490 kids (ages 0-17) in Kent County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in seven. In 1990, 17,382 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 8.6 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 11.1 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Kent County experienced an increase in real median income of 4.0 percent, from \$37,730 to \$39,240. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Kent County ranked 13th 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 Kent County in 1998 was \$28,820, compared to \$24,182 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 19.2 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Kent County	36.5%	39.0%	24.5%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

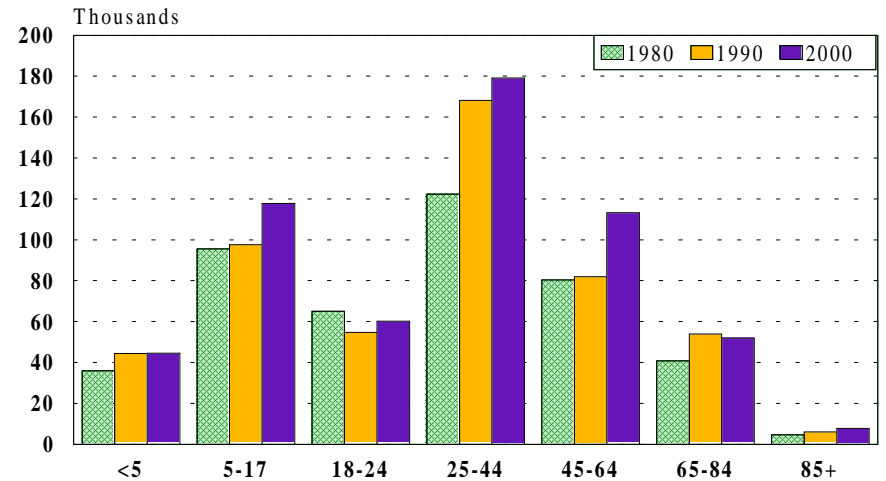
Age

The median age of Kent residents continues to go up:

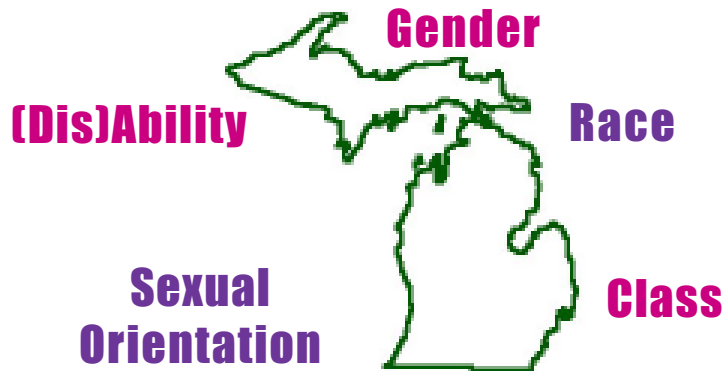
	1980	1990	2000
Kent	28	30.7	32.5
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- Of the 574,335 people who lived in Kent in 1999, 61.4 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 38.6 percent included 7.8 percent children under the age of 5, 20.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 10.4 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 31,322 or 38.2 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 5,756 or 10.7 percent since 1990. One in nine Kent residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Kent County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Kent County's population included 282,618 males and 291,717 females, or 49.2 percent and 50.8 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 212,890 households living in Kent County in 2000, 149,679 or 70.3 percent owned their own home and 63,211 or 29.7 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

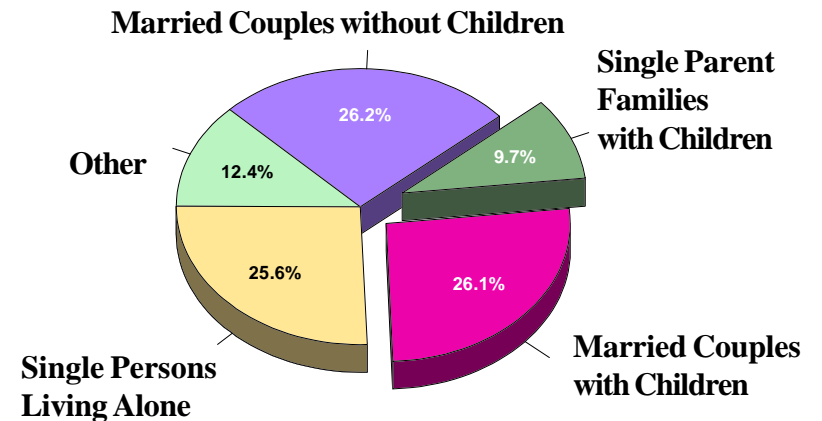
	Kent County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	461,162	80.3	78.6
Black*	49,994	8.7	14.1
American Indian*	2,528	0.4	0.5
Asian*	10,577	1.8	1.8
Other*	916	0.2	0.1
Two or more races*	8,975	1.6	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	40,183	7.0	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

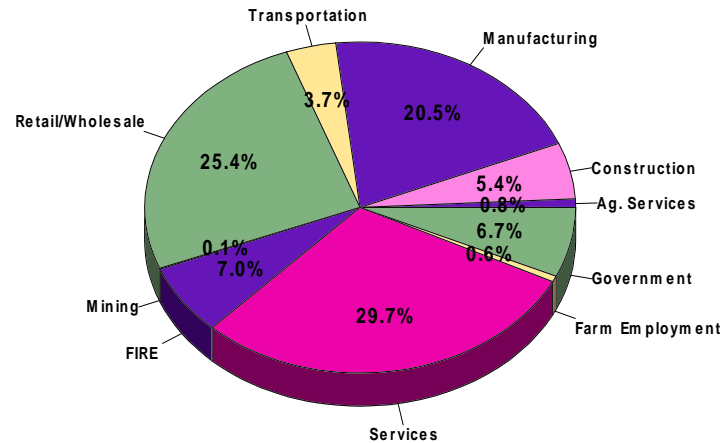
- There were 4,586 marriages in Kent County during 1998, down from 1990 when 4,908 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, to age 28 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 Kent County in 1990 was 9.0 when 2,261 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 7.6 when 2,063 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, 27,819 children in Kent County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 19.6 percent of all children in Kent. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Kent County



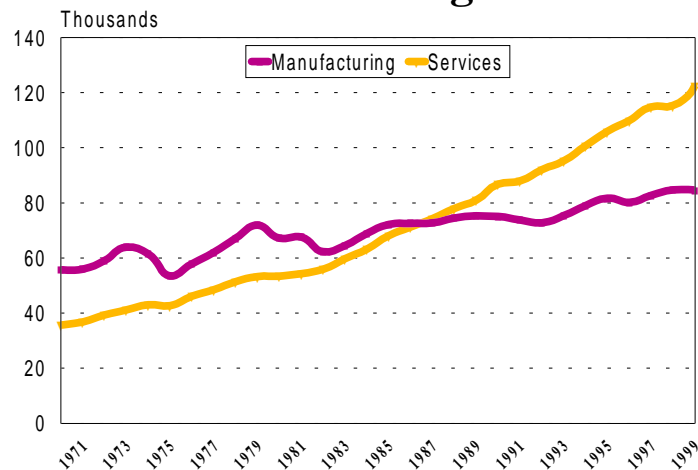
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry Kent County



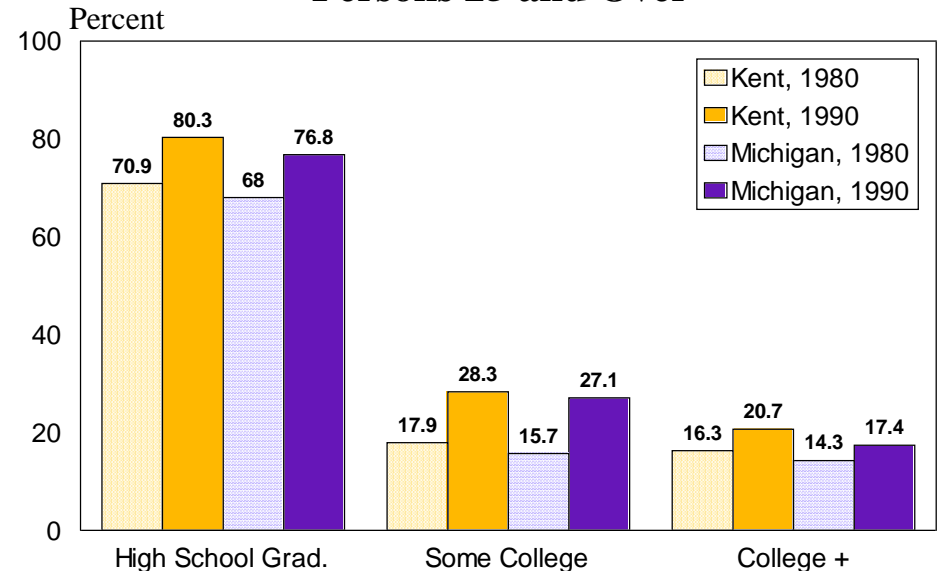
- .. The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Kent from 337,898 in 1990 to 413,129 in 1999, a 22.3 percent increase.
- .. The Services industry accounted for 29.7% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by 4.3 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 41.4 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

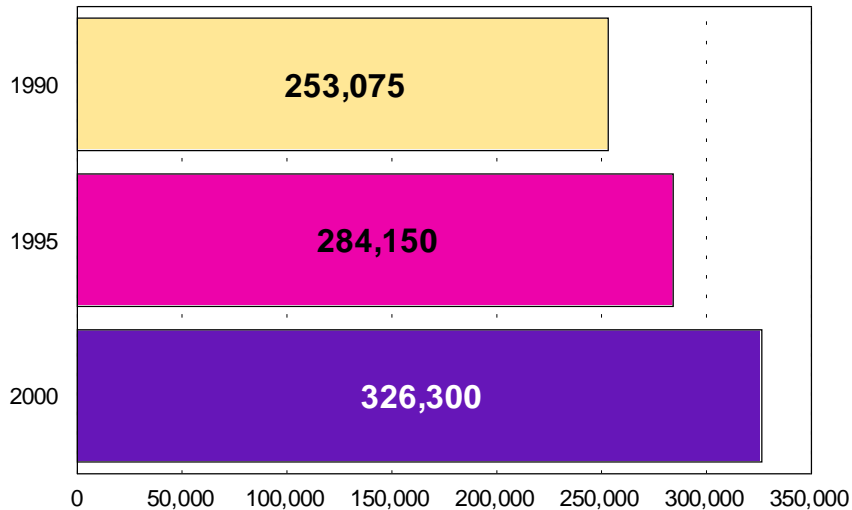


- .. High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.4 percentage points in Kent County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- .. Kent 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 Kent County the rate was 20.7 percent. Kent ranks 9th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- .. 893 students dropped out of high school in Kent County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 3.9 percent. This is down from 1990-91 when 599 students dropped out (3.2 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



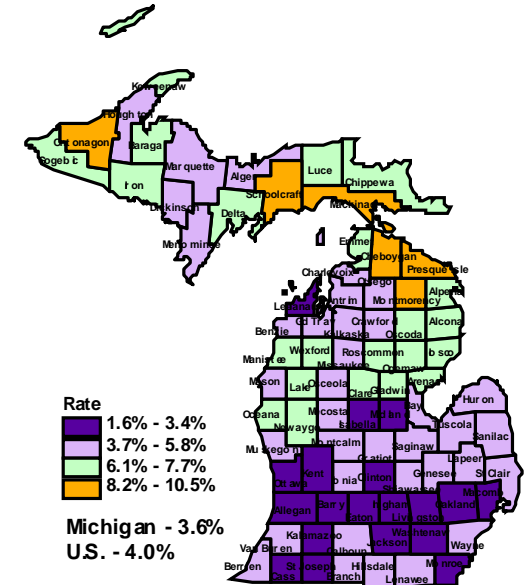
Total Number of Persons Employed in Kent County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Kent's labor force has grown from 268,700 in 1990 to 336,725 in 2000.
- In 1990, 94.2 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 96.9 percent employed.
- 78.4 percent of Kent's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 72.3 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-eight percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 13 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 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.
- Kent County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 3.1 percent, same as in 1999 and compared to 5.8 percent in 1990. 10,425 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 15,600 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

