

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 **Mason County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

MICHIGAN STATE
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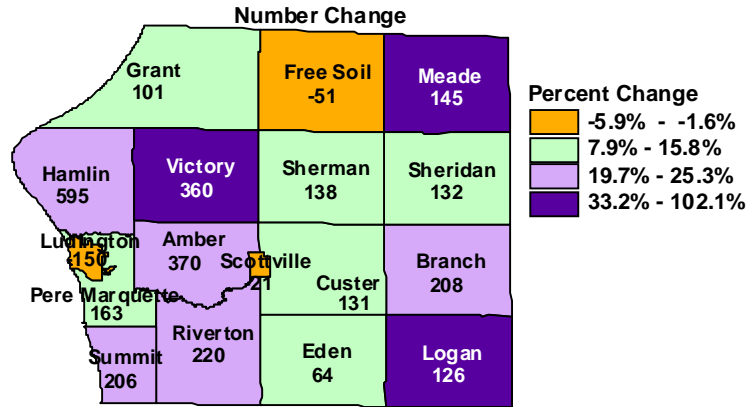
MICHIGAN STATE
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Population

Mason County Change from 1990 to 2000

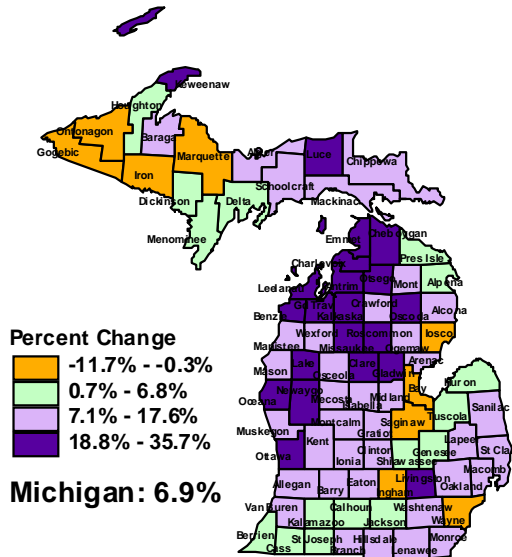


Mason County had 28,274 people in 2000, ranking as the 50th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 2,737 persons, or 10.7% since 1990.

Meade Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 102.1 percent. Hamlin Township showed the largest number gain of 595 people.

There were 309 live births in Mason County in 1998, of which 50 were to mothers age 19 and under, 227 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 32 to mothers age 35 and over.

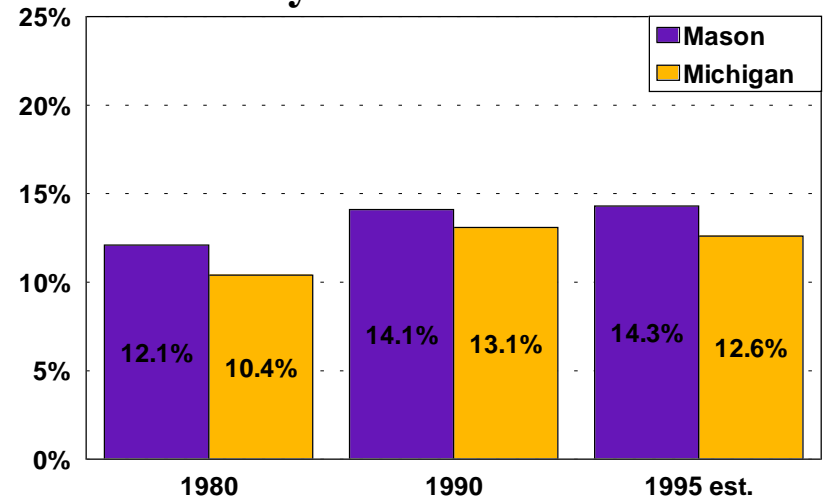
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

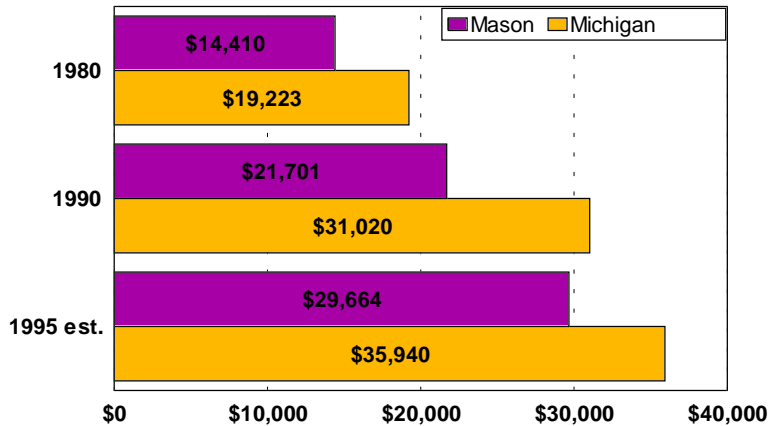
- In 1995, 3,963 persons in Mason County were below the poverty line, increasing from 3,536 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Mason County ranked 50th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 31st on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 1,542 kids (ages 0-17) in Mason County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 1,335 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 11.5 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 18.5 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Mason County experienced an increase in real median income of 17.2 percent, from \$25,304 to \$29,664. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Mason County ranked 52nd 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.
- Per Capita income in Mason County in 1998 was \$20,551, compared to \$18,355 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 12.0 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Mason County	56.3%	32.4%	11.2%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

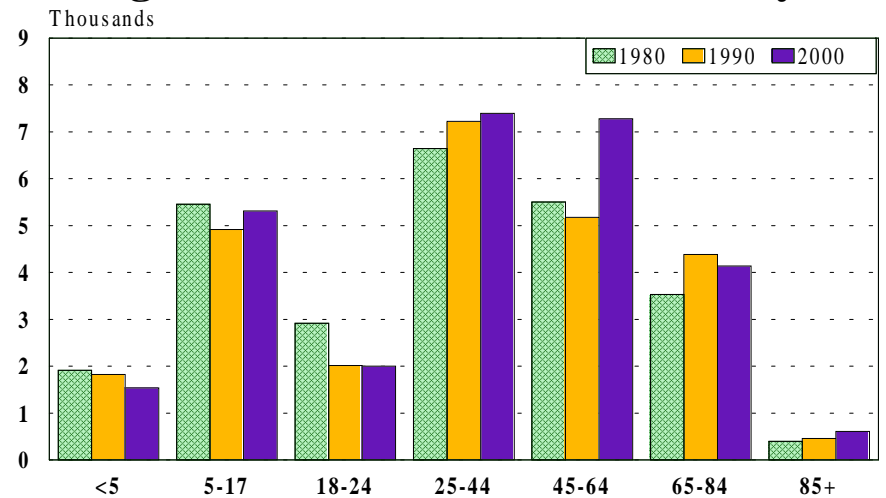
Age

The Median age of Mason residents continues to go up:

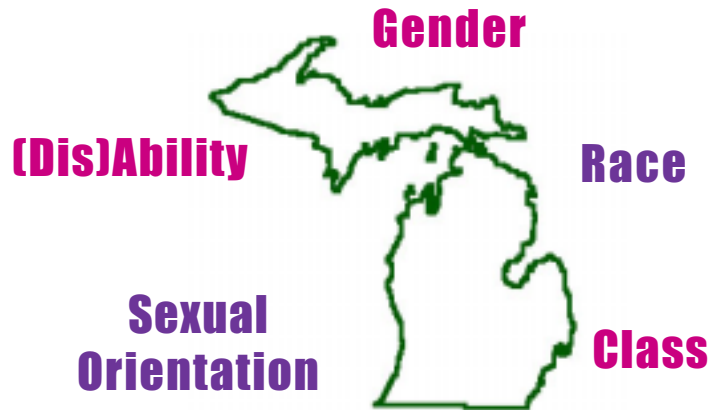
	1980	1990	2000
Mason	32.3	36.2	40.4
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.9
U.S.	30.0	33.0	36.5

- Of the 28,274 people who lived in Mason in 2000, 59.0 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 41.0 percent included 5.4 percent children under the age of 5, 18.8 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 16.8 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 2,103 or 40.6 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 364 or 8.3 percent since 1990. One in six Mason residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Mason County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Mason County's population included 13,961 males and 14,313 females, or 49.4 percent and 50.6 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 11,406 households living in Mason County in 2000, 8,944 or 78.4 percent owned their own home and 2,462 or 21.6 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

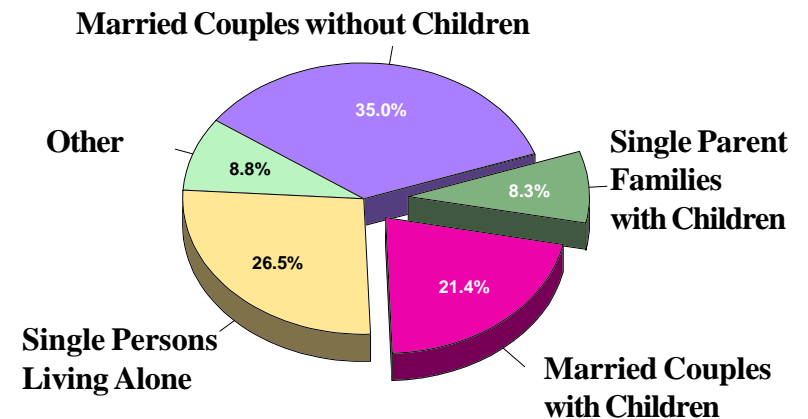
	Mason County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	26,576	94.0	78.6
Black*	200	0.7	14.1
American Indian*	211	0.7	0.5
Asian*	78	0.3	1.8
Other*	18	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	339	1.2	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	852	3.0	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

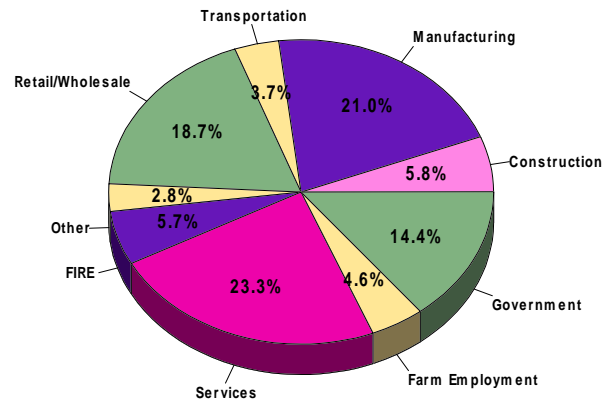
- There were 261 marriages in Mason County during 1998, down from 1990 when 269 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, to age 28 for 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 Mason County in 1990 was 11.9 when 152 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 9.2 when 128 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, 1,255 children in Mason County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 18.7 percent of all children in Mason. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Mason County



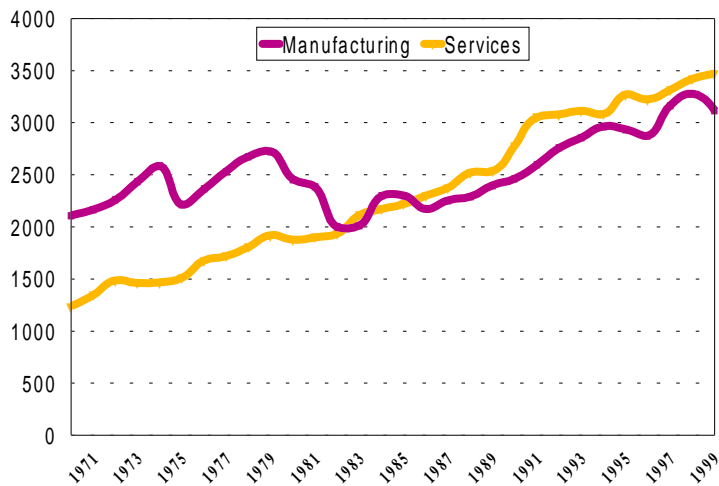
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Mason County



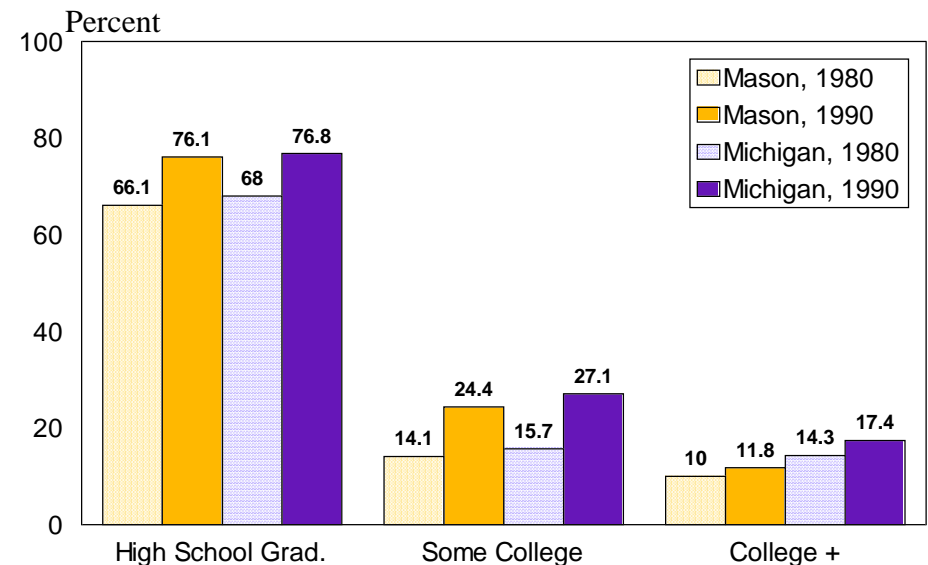
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Mason from 11,497 in 1990 to 14,926 in 1999, a 29.8 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 23.3% of all employment in 1999, leading Manufacturing by only 2.4 percentage points. Jobs in Retail/ Wholesale have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 30.2 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

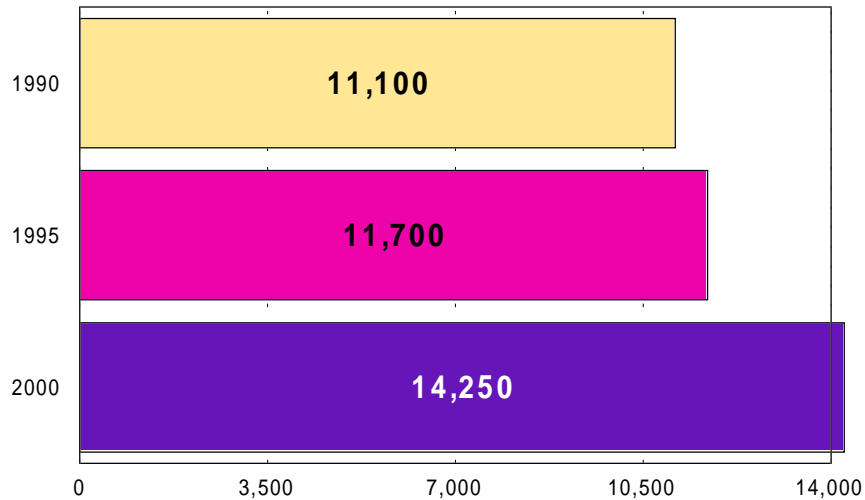


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 10.0 percentage points in Mason County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Mason 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 Mason County the rate was 11.8 percent. Mason ranks 35th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 78 students dropped out of high school in Mason County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 4.9 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 44 students dropped out (3.3 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



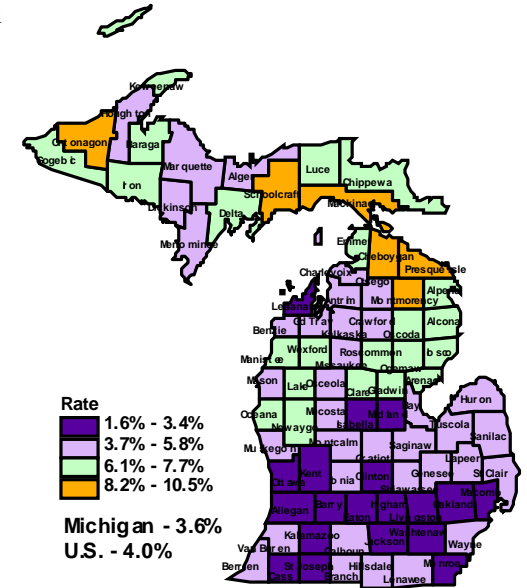
Total Number of Persons Employed in Mason County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Mason's labor force has grown from 12,150 in 1990 to 15,075 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.4 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 94.5 percent employed.
- 67.7 percent of Mason's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 62.3 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-four percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, 13 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 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.
- Mason County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 5.5 percent, compared to 6.2 percent in 1999 and 8.6 percent in 1990. 825 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 1,050 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

