

# 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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**Note:** The prison in Bloomer Township was incorrectly coded in the 2000 Census erroneously placing 613 inmates in Bushnell township. The map on page 2 displays the adjusted numbers and rates.

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## A portrait of

# Montcalm County



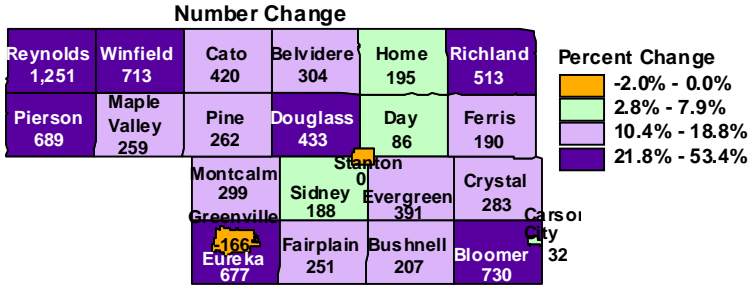
**Bringing Knowledge to Life!**

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# Population

## Montcalm County

Change from 1990 to 2000



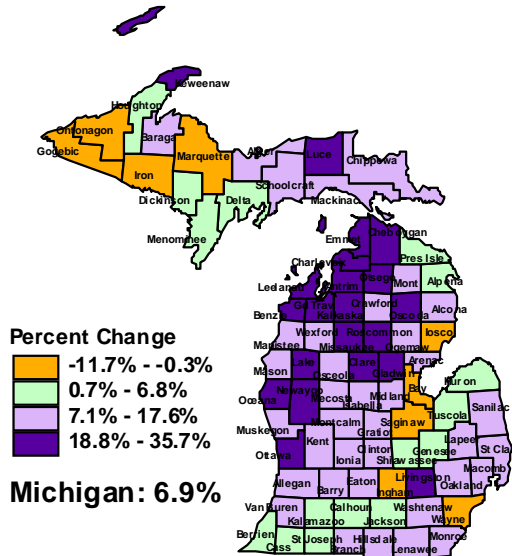
Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for prison geocoding errors. See back cover.

Montcalm County had 61,266 people in 2000, ranking as the 32nd most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 8,207 persons, or 15.5% since 1990.

Bushnell Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 63.5 percent. Reynolds Township showed the largest number gain of 1,251 people.

There were 831 live births in Montcalm in 1998, of which 112 were to mothers age 19 and under, 644 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 75 to mothers age 35 and over.

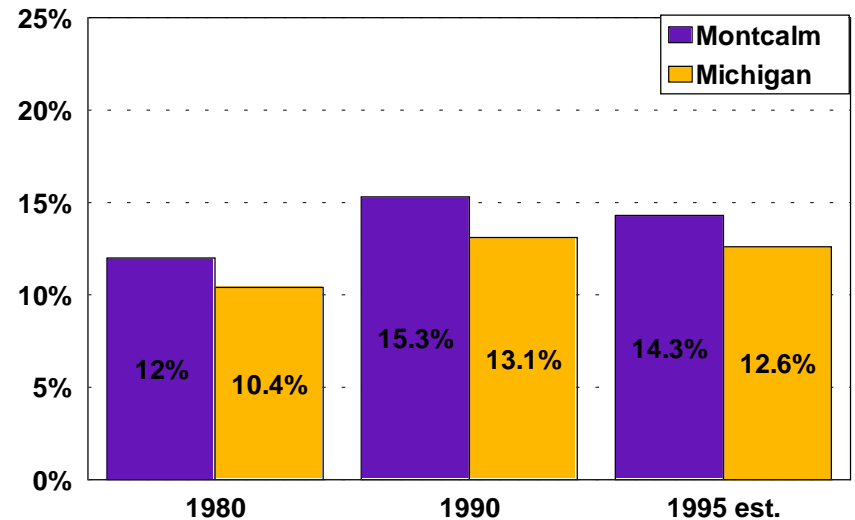
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



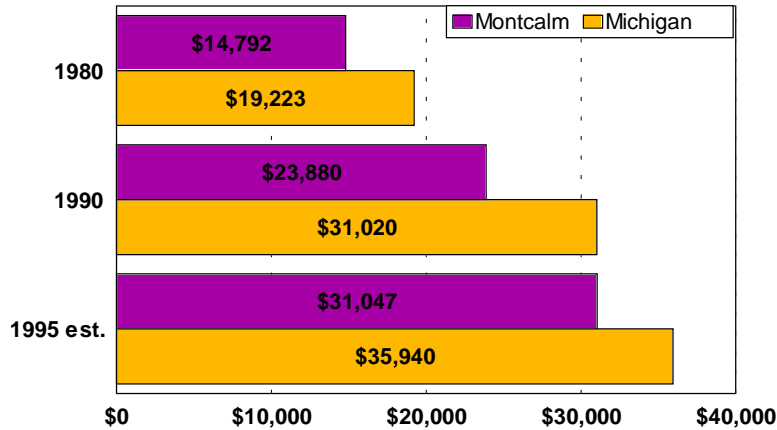
# Poverty

- In 1995, 8,226 persons in Montcalm County were below the poverty line, increasing from 7,800 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Montcalm County ranked 22nd among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 32nd on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 3,475 kids (ages 0-17) in Montcalm County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 2,877 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 15.3 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 15.8 percent.

## Poverty Rates of All Persons



## Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Montcalm County experienced an increase in real median income of 11.5 percent, from \$27,845 to \$31,047. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Montcalm County ranked 46th 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 Montcalm County in 1998 was \$16,583, compared to \$16,163 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 2.6 percent increase.

### Household Income Distribution\*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
<b>Montcalm</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

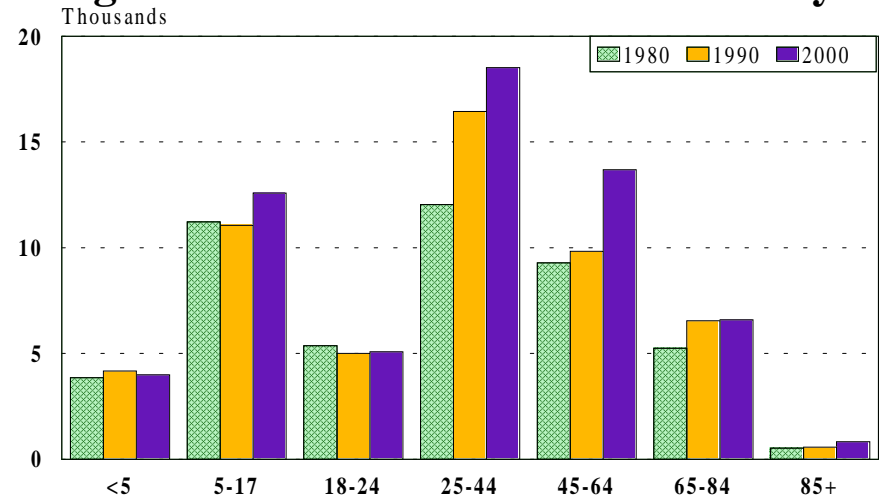
\* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

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

	1980	1990	2000
<b>Montcalm</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>35.9</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>36.5</b>

- Of the 61,266 people who lived in Montcalm in 2000, 60.8 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 39.2 percent included 6.5 percent children under the age of 5, 20.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 12.1 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 3,846 or 39.1 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 876 or 13.4 percent since 1990. One in eight Montcalm residents is age 65 or older.

## Age Distribution in Montcalm County



# Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Montcalm County's population included 31,452 males and 29,814 females, or 51.3 percent and 48.7 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 22,079 households living in Montcalm County in 2000, 18,008 or 81.6 percent owned their own home and 4,071 or 18.4 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

	Montcalm County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	57,313	93.5	78.6
Black*	1,308	2.1	14.1
American Indian*	330	0.5	0.5
Asian*	154	0.3	1.8
Other*	34	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	733	1.2	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,394	2.3	3.3

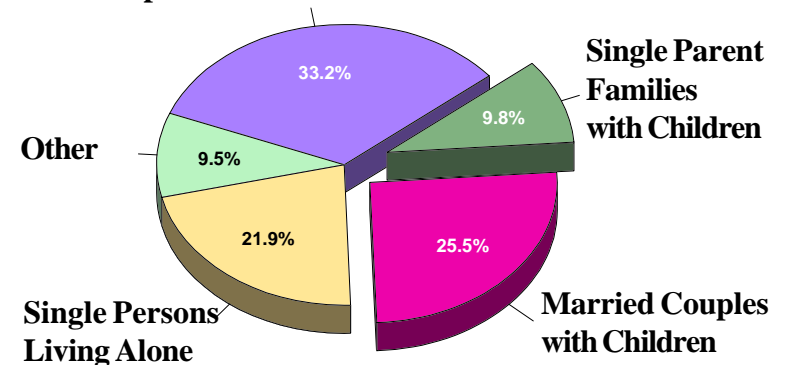
\* Not Hispanic or Latino

# Households & Families

- There were 469 marriages in Montcalm County during 1998, down from 1990 when 500 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 Montcalm County in 1990 was 10.6 when 282 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 8.8 when 267 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, 2,992 children in Montcalm County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 19.7 percent of all children in Montcalm. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

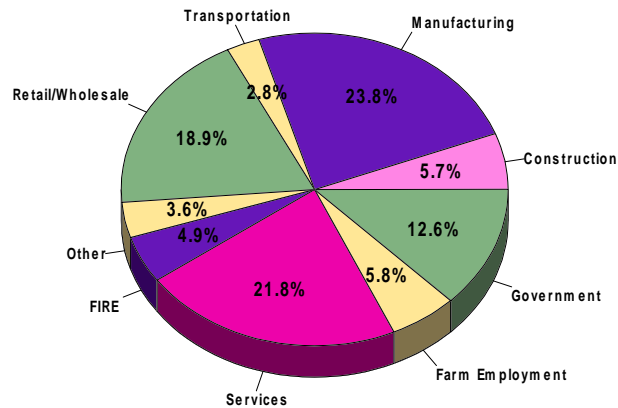
## Types of Households in Montcalm County

### Married Couples without Children



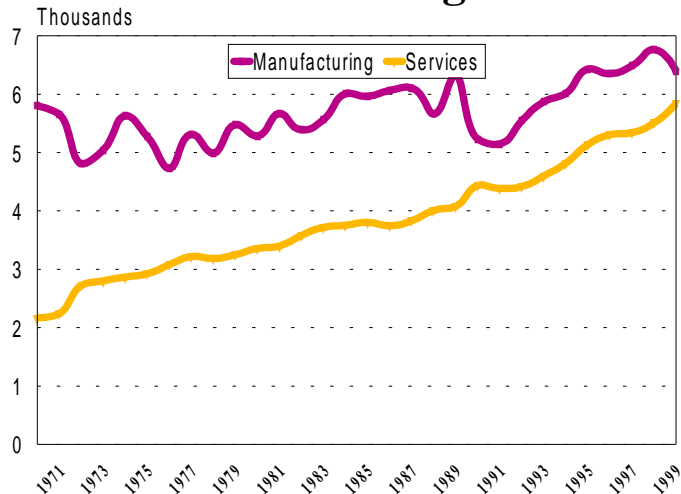
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 1999 Employment by Industry in Montcalm County



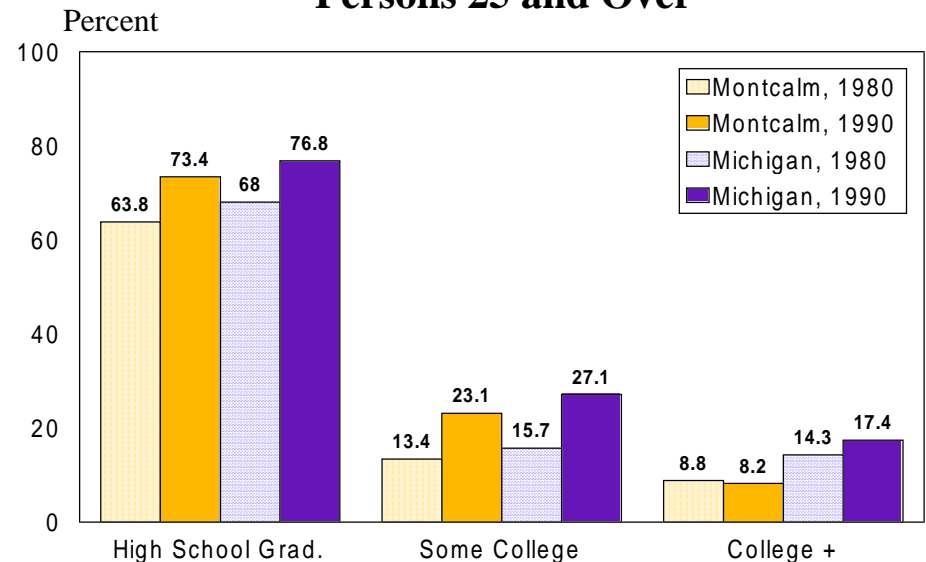
- .. The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Montcalm from 21,270 in 1990 to 26,844 in 1999, a 26.2 percent increase.
- .. Manufacturing accounted for 23.8% of all employment in 1999, leading Services by only 2.0 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 31.8 percent since 1990.

## Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

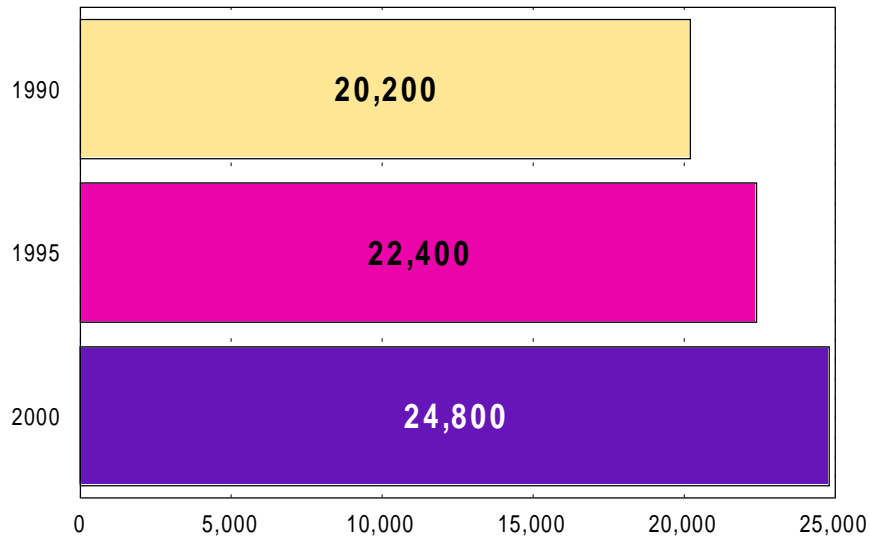


- .. High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.6 percentage points in Montcalm County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- .. Montcalm 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 Montcalm County the rate was 8.2 percent. Montcalm ranks 73rd among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- .. 187 students dropped out of high school in Montcalm County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 5.0 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 164 students dropped out (4.8 percent).

## Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



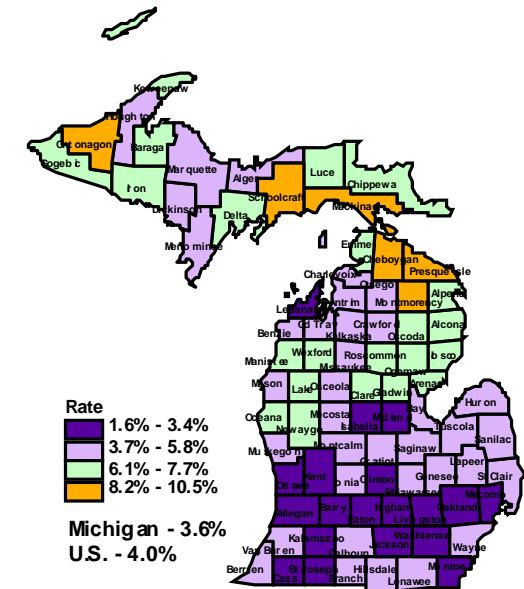
## Total Number of Persons Employed in Montcalm County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Montcalm's labor force has grown from 23,725 in 1990 to 26,125 in 2000.
- In 1990, 85.1 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 94.9 percent employed.
- 56.0 percent of Montcalm's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, down from 60.0 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-four percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 11 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.
- Montcalm County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 5.1 percent, compared to 5.9 percent in 1999 and 14.8 percent in 1990. 1,325 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 3,525 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

