

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 **Muskegon County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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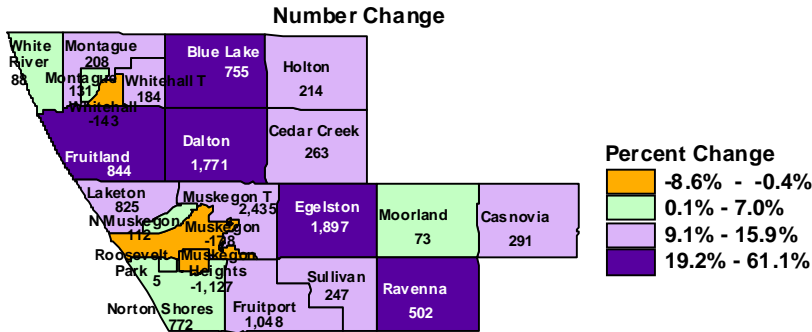
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Population

Muskegon County

Change from 1990 to 2000

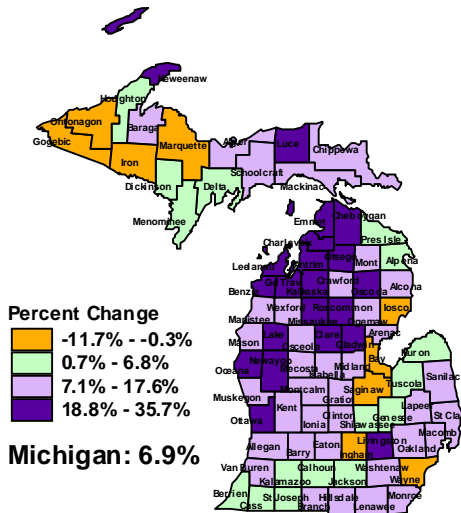


Muskegon County had 170,200 people in 2000, ranking as the 11th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 11,217 persons, or 7.1% since 1990.

Blue Lake Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 61.1 percent. Muskegon Township showed the largest number gain of 2,435 people.

There were 2,369 live births in Muskegon in 1998, of which 403 were to mothers age 19 and under, 1,790 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 176 to mothers age 35 and over.

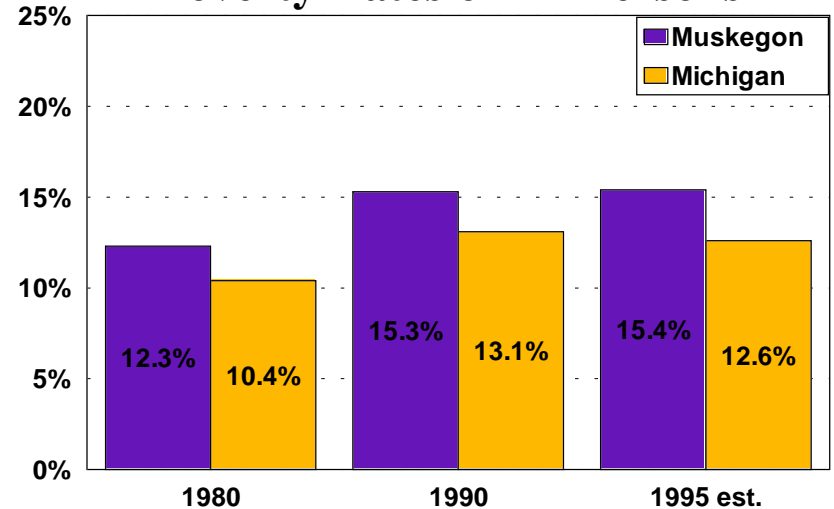
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



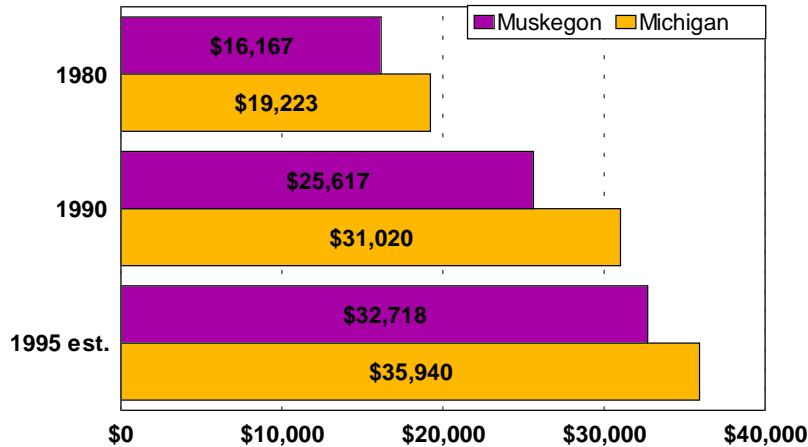
Poverty

- In 1995, 25,058 persons in Muskegon County were below the poverty line, increasing from 23,506 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Muskegon County ranked 10th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 22nd on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 11,026 kids (ages 0-17) in Muskegon County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in four. In 1990, 10,173 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 10.5 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 9.3 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Muskegon County experienced an increase in real median income of 9.5 percent, from \$29,870 to \$32,718. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Muskegon County ranked 37th 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 Muskegon County in 1998 was \$21,016, compared to \$18,885 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), an 11.3 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Muskegon	48.8%	35.7%	15.6%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

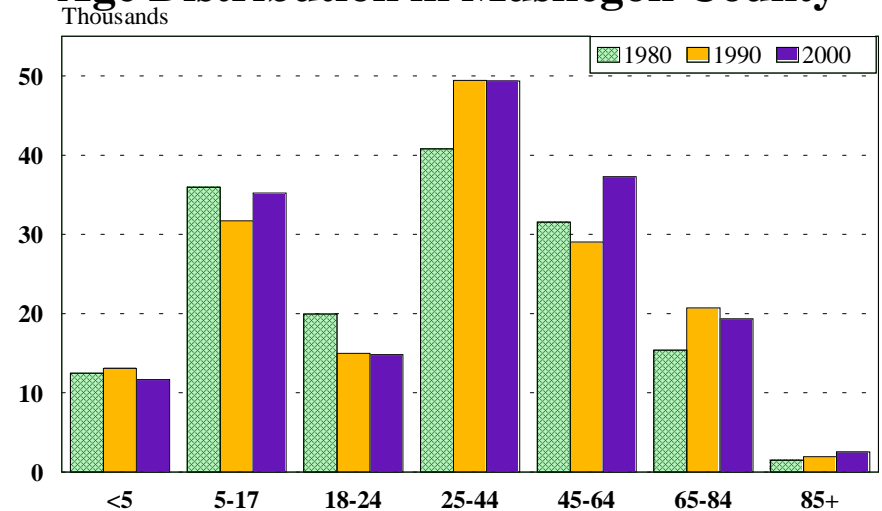
* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

The Median age of Muskegon residents continues to go up:

	1980	1990	2000
Muskegon	28.9	32.7	35.5
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.9
U.S.	30.0	33.0	36.5

- Of the 170,200 people who lived in Muskegon in 2000, 59.6 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.4 percent included 6.9 percent children under the age of 5, 20.7 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 12.9 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 8,236 or 28.4 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 1,182 or 5.7 percent since 1990. One in seven Muskegon residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Muskegon County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Muskegon County's population included 84,359 males and 85,841 females, or 49.6 percent and 50.4 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 63,330 households living in Muskegon County in 2000, 49,227 or 77.7 percent owned their own home and 14,103 or 22.3 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

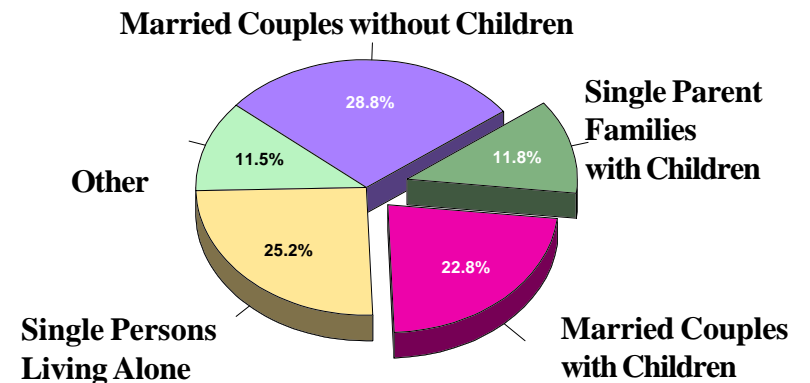
	Muskegon County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	135,379	79.5	78.6
Black*	23,971	14.1	14.1
American Indian*	1,237	0.7	0.5
Asian*	711	0.4	1.8
Other*	149	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	2,752	1.6	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	6,001	3.5	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

- There were 1,314 marriages in Muskegon County during 1998, down from 1990 when 1,433 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 Muskegon County in 1990 was 10.6 when 841 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 10.2 when 852 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, 11,607 children in Muskegon County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 26.0 percent of all children in Muskegon. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

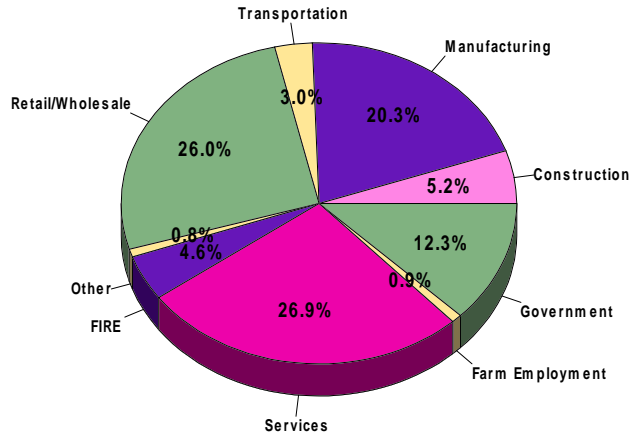
Types of Households in Muskegon County



2000 Census of Population and Housing

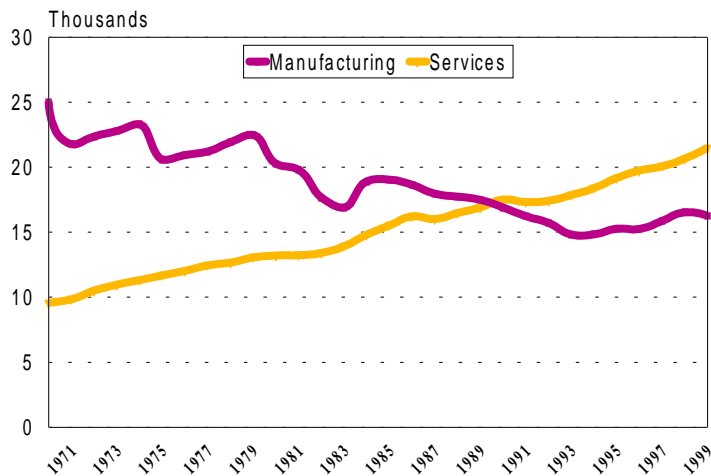
Employment

1999 Employment by Industry in Muksegon County



- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Muskegon from 70,868 in 1990 to 80,100 in 1999, an 13.0 percent increase.
- The Services industry accounted for 26.9% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by 0.8 percentage points. Jobs in Retail/Wholesale have risen the fastest of all major industries, climbing 27.4 percent since 1990.

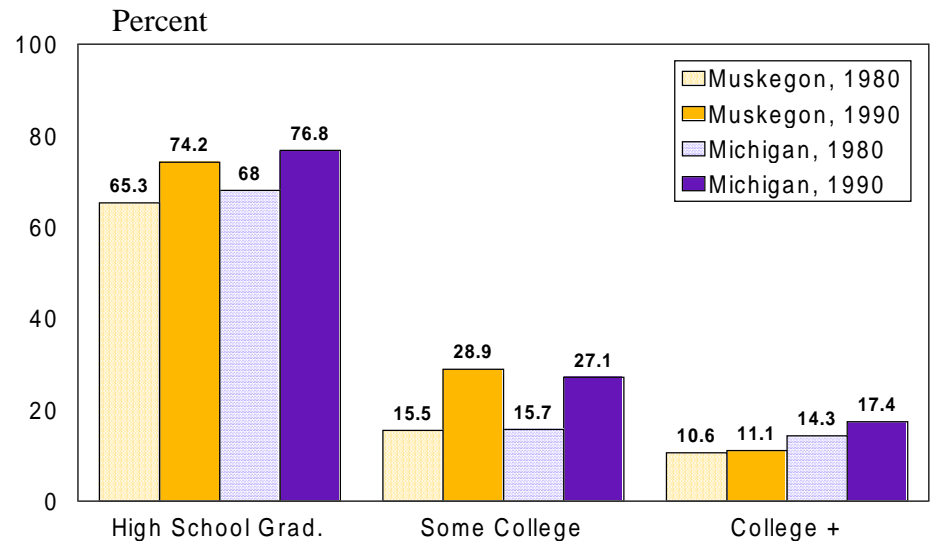
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



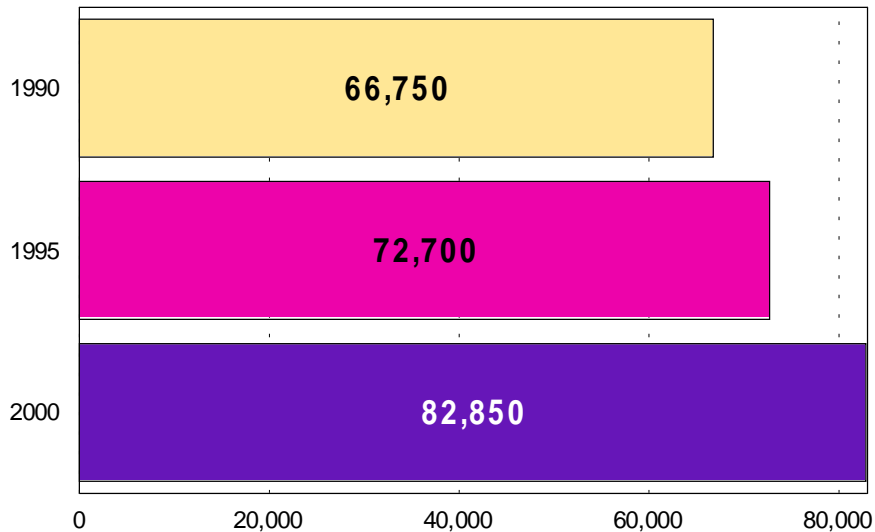
Education

- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.0 percentage points in Muskegon 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.
- Muskegon 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 Muskegon County the rate was 11.1 percent. Muskegon ranks 41st among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 361 students dropped out of high school in Muskegon County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 4.5 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 342 students dropped out (4.6 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



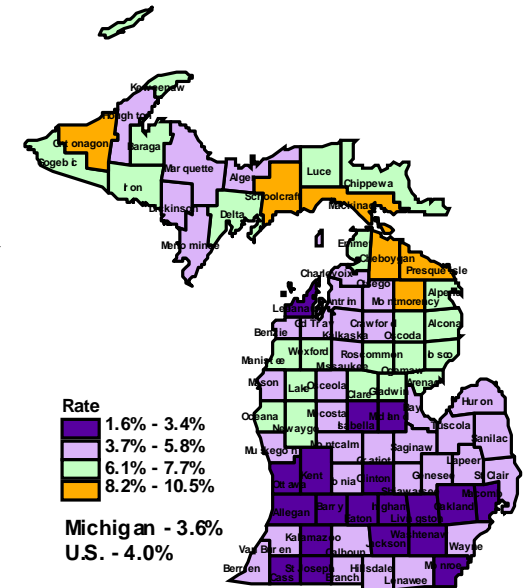
Total Number of Persons Employed in Muskegon County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Muskegon's labor force has grown from 73,125 in 1990 to 86,800 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.3 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 95.4 percent employed.
- 67.5 percent of Muskegon's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 61.6 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-three percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 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.
- Muskegon County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.6 percent, compared to 4.7 percent in 1999 and 8.7 percent in 1990. 3,950 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 6,350 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

