

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

Ontonagon County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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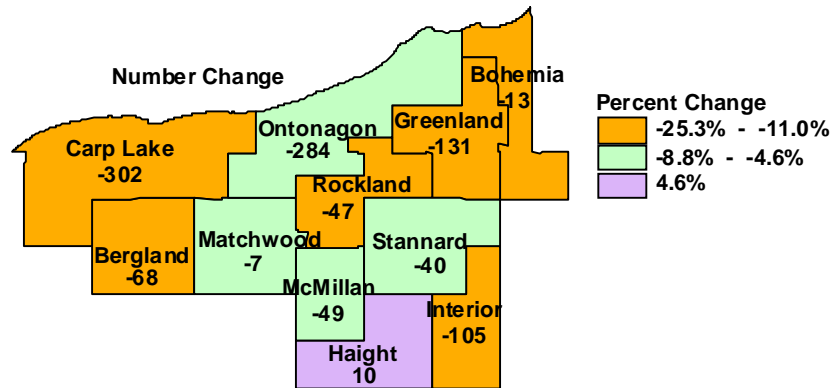
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Population

Ontonagon County

Change from 1990 to 2000

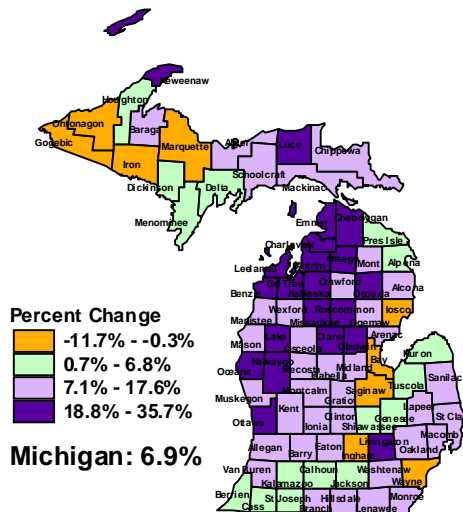


Ontonagon County had 7,818 people in 2000, ranking as the 81st most populous county in Michigan. The population decreased by 1,036 persons, or 11.7% since 1990.

Haight Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 4.6 percent. Haight Township also showed the largest number gain of 10 people.

There were 52 live births in Ontonagon in 1998, of which 4 were to mothers age 19 and under, 39 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 9 to mothers age 35 and over.

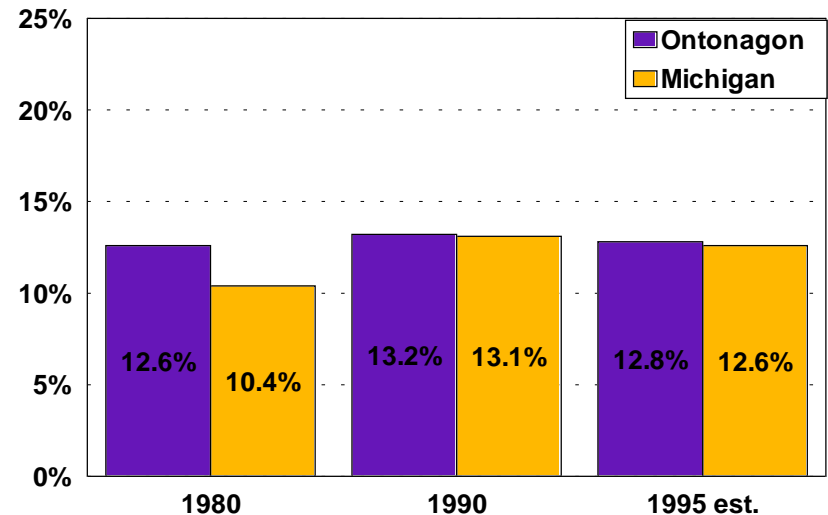
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

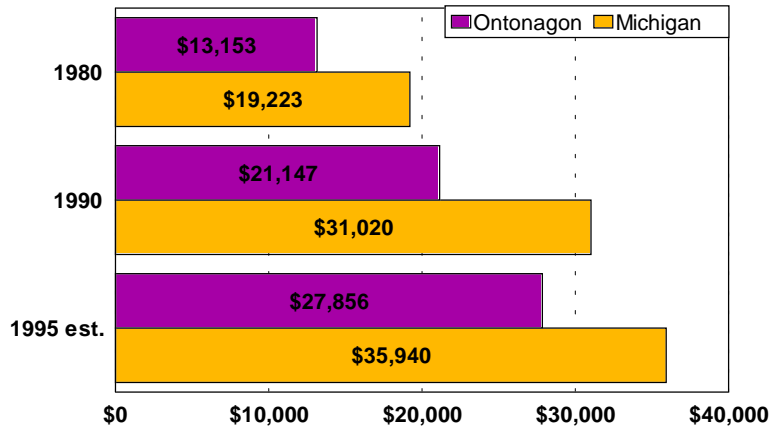
- In 1995, 1,082 persons in Ontonagon County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 1,149 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Ontonagon County ranked 81st among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 47th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 363 kids (ages 0-17) in Ontonagon County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in five. In 1990, 348 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 14.0 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 16.0 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Ontonagon County experienced an increase in real median income of 13.0 percent, from \$24,658 to \$27,856. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Ontonagon County ranked 62nd 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 Ontonagon County in 1998 was \$18,985, compared to \$17,330 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 9.5 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Ontonagon	58.1%	32.5%	9.4%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

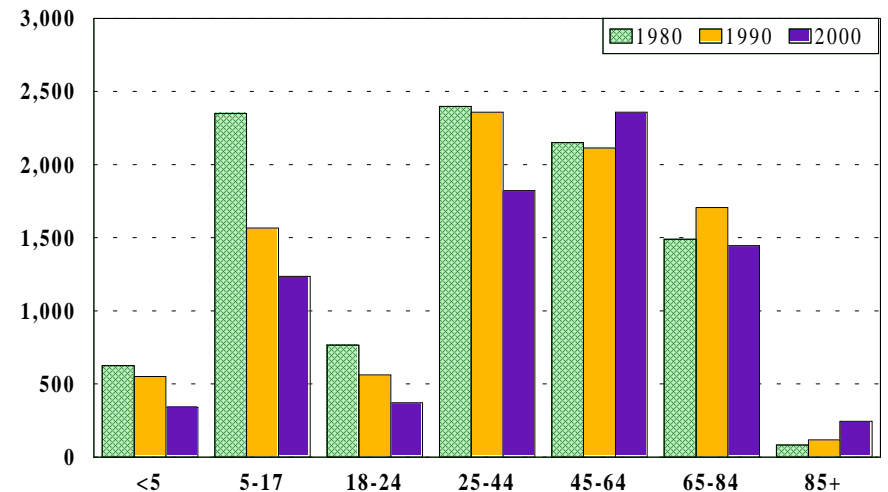
Age

The Median age of Ontonagon residents continues to go up:

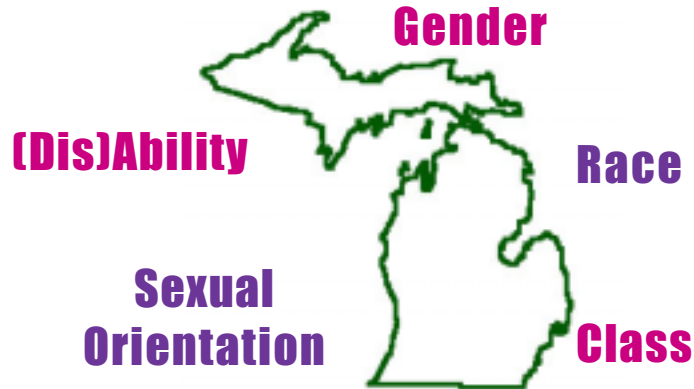
	1980	1990	2000
Ontonagon	34.5	40.2	45.9
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.9
U.S.	30.0	33.0	36.5

- Of the 7,818 people who lived in Ontonagon in 2000, 58.2 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 41.8 percent included 4.4 percent children under the age of 5, 15.8 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 21.6 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 245 or 11.6 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, decreased by 15 or 0.9 percent since 1990. One in five Ontonagon residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Ontonagon County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, Ontonagon County's population included 3,961 males and 3,857 females, or 50.7 percent and 49.3 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 3,456 households living in Ontonagon County in 2000, 2,938 or 85.0 percent owned their own home and 518 or 15.0 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

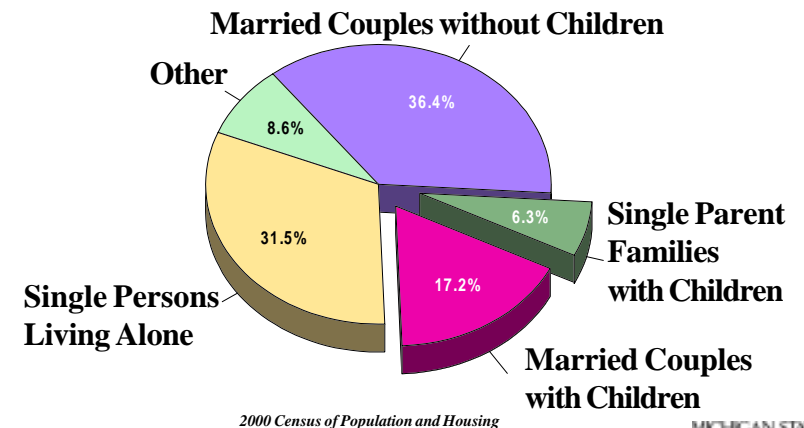
	Ontonagon County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	7,567	96.8	78.6
Black*	2	0.0	14.1
American Indian*	74	0.9	0.5
Asian*	14	0.2	1.8
Other*	9	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	94	1.2	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	58	0.7	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

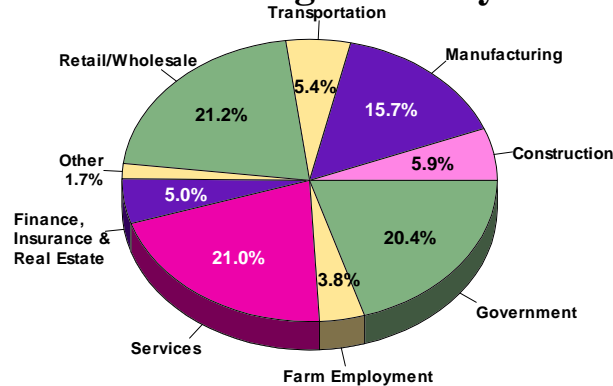
Households & Families

- There were 36 marriages in Ontonagon County during 1998, down from 63 marriages in 1990 when 63 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 Ontonagon County in 1990 was 6.3 when 28 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 4.8 when 19 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, 323 children in Ontonagon County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 15.3 percent of all children in Ontonagon County. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Ontonagon County

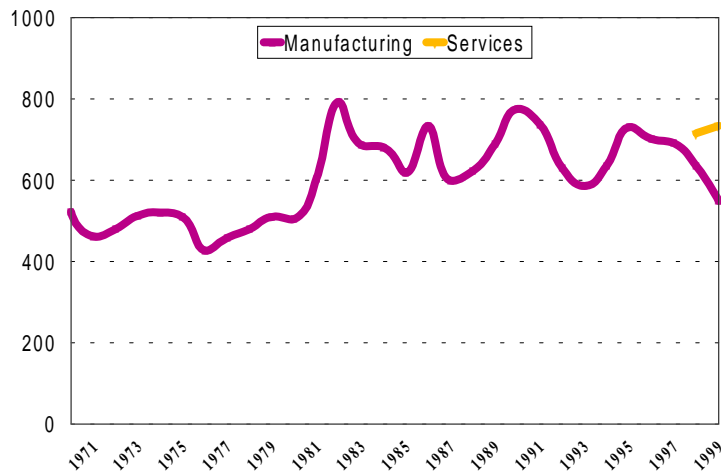


1999 Employment by Industry in Ontonagon County



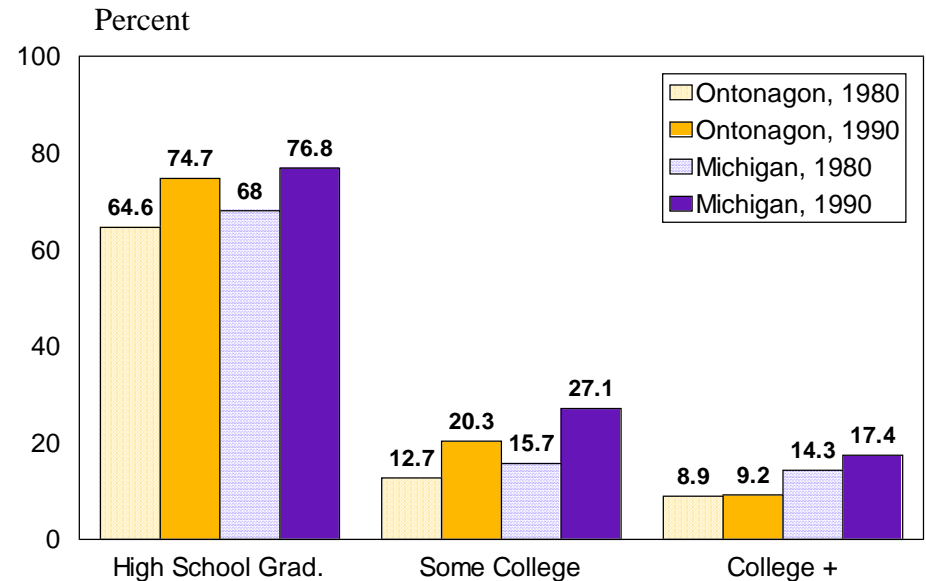
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has decreased in Ontonagon from 4,416 in 1990 to 3,498 in 1999, an 20.8 percent decrease.
- Retail and Wholesale Trade accounted for 21.2% of all employment in 1999, leading Services by only 0.2 percentage points. Jobs in Retail and Wholesale Trade gained 6.7 percent from 1990 to 1998, the only industry to show an increase.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

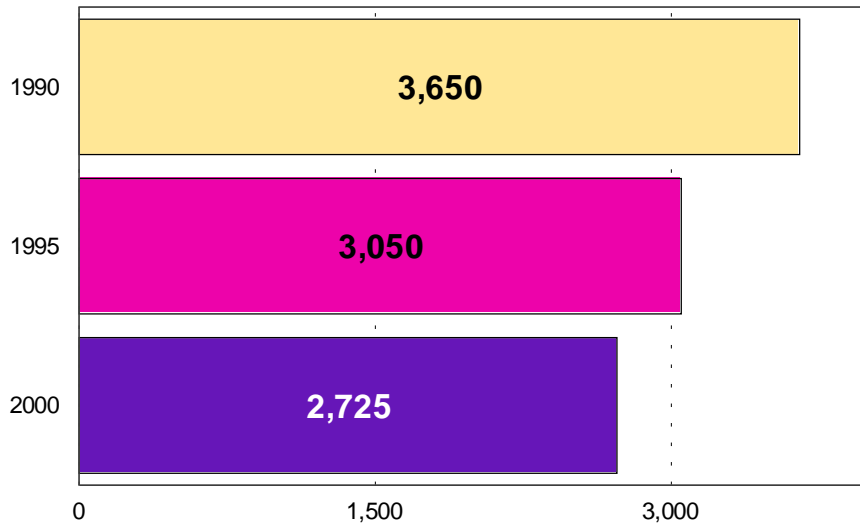


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 10.0 percentage points in Ontonagon County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- Ontonagon 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 Ontonagon County the rate was 9.2 percent. Ontonagon ranks 63 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 11 students dropped out of high school in Ontonagon County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 2.8 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 6 students dropped out (1.2 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



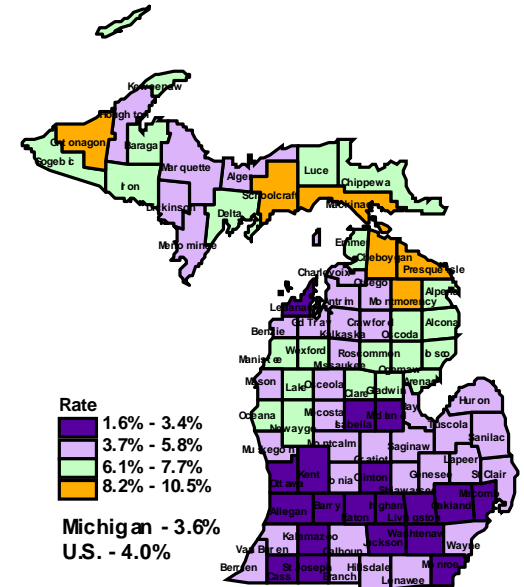
Total Number of Persons Employed in Ontonagon County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Ontonagon's labor force has declined from 3,850 in 1990 to 2,975 in 2000.
- In 1990, 94.8 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that decreased to 91.6 percent employed.
- 46.0 percent of Ontonagon's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, down from 54.9 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-two percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 13 percentage points higher than in 1980. Over five 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.
- Ontonagon County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 8.2 percent, compared to 9.0 percent in 1999 and 5.7 percent in 1990. 250 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 225 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

