

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 Ottawa County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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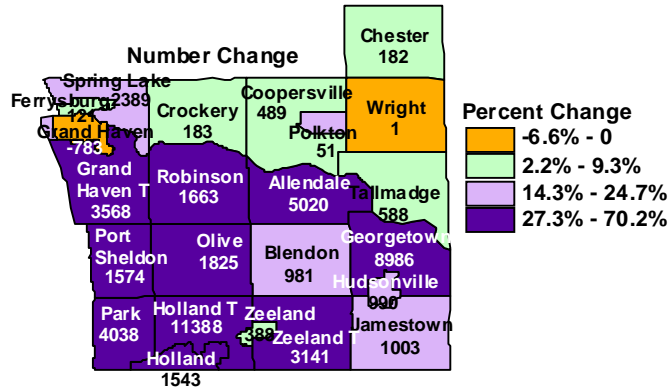
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Population

Ottawa County

Change from 1990 to 2000

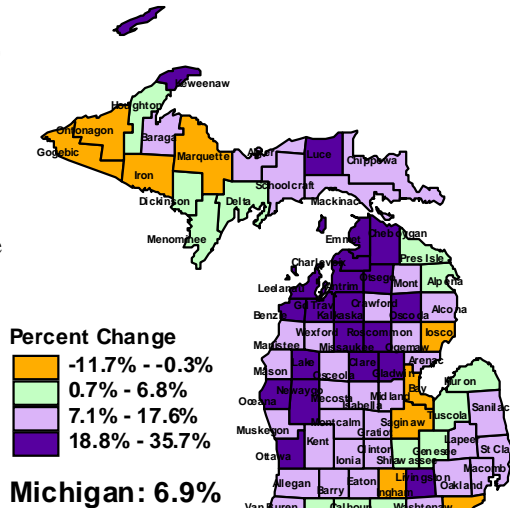


Ottawa County had 238,314 people in 2000, ranking as the 9th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 50,546 persons, or 26.9% since 1990.

Zeeland Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 70.2 percent. Holland Township showed the largest number gain of 11,388 people.

There were 3,541 live births in Ottawa in 1998, of which 322 were to mothers age 19 and under, 2,860 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 359 to mothers age 35 and over.

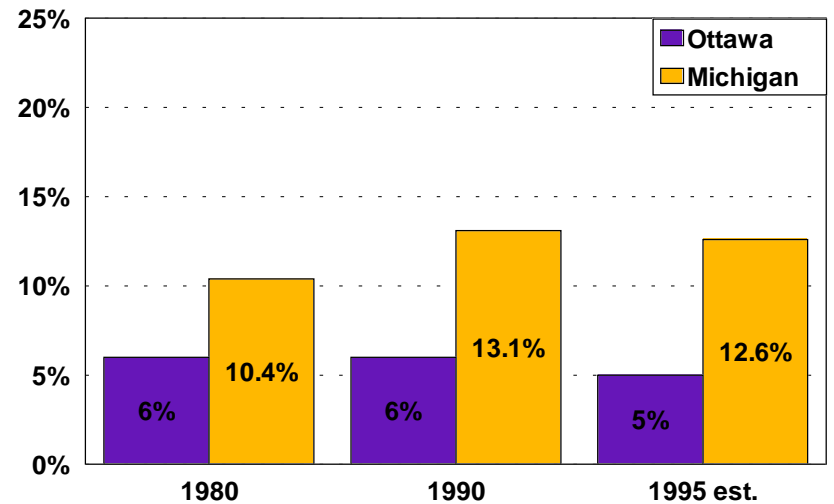
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

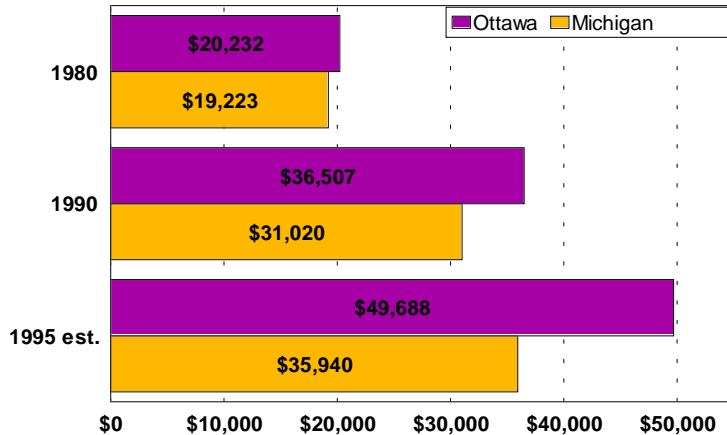
- In 1995, 10,769 persons in Ottawa County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 10,892 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Ottawa County ranked 18th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 82nd on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 4,162 kids (ages 0-17) in Ottawa County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in fifteen. In 1990, 3,428 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 6.5 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 9.7 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Ottawa County experienced an increase in real median income of 16.7 percent, from \$42,568 to \$49,688. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Ottawa County ranked 3rd 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 Ottawa County in 1998 was \$26,812, compared to \$23,718 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 13.0 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Ottawa County	29.3%	42.9%	27.8%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

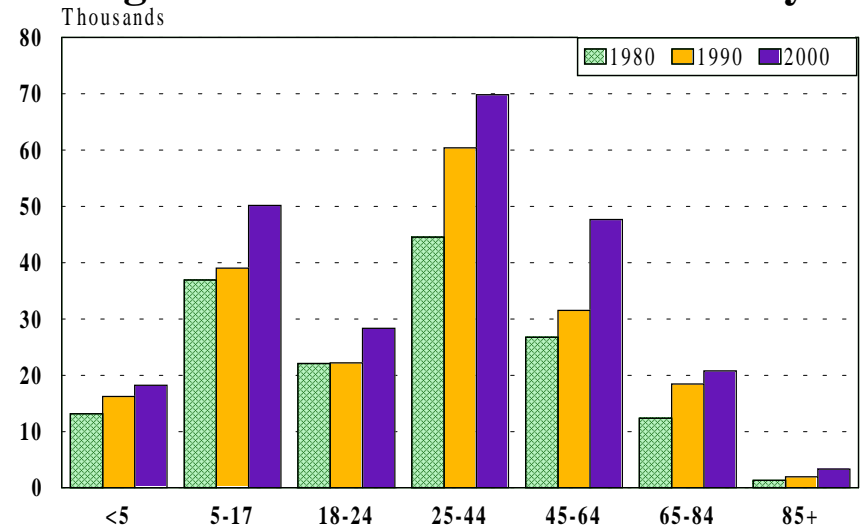
Age

The Median age of Ottawa residents continues to go up:

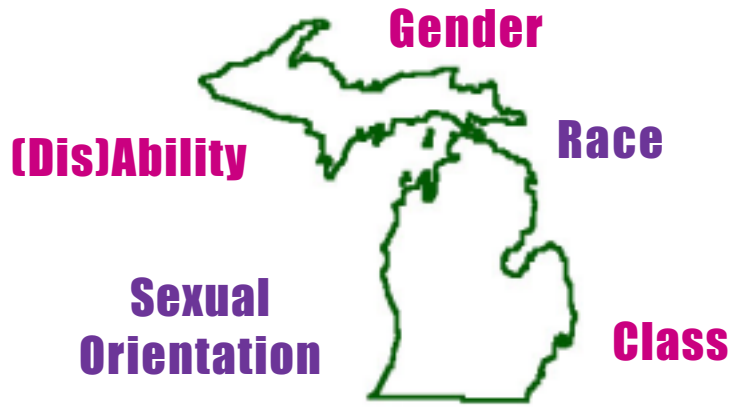
	1980	1990	2000
Ottawa	27.3	30.3	32.3
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.9
U.S.	30.0	33.0	36.5

- Of the 238,314 people who lived in Ottawa in 2000, 61.2 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 38.8 percent included 7.7 percent children under the age of 5, 21.0 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 10.1 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 16,127 or 51.2 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 5,680 or 30.8 percent since 1990. One in ten Ottawa residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Ottawa County



Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Ottawa County's population included 117,349 males and 120,965 females, or 49.2 percent and 50.8 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 81,662 households living in Ottawa County in 2000, 65,918 or 80.7 percent owned their own home and 15,744 or 19.3 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

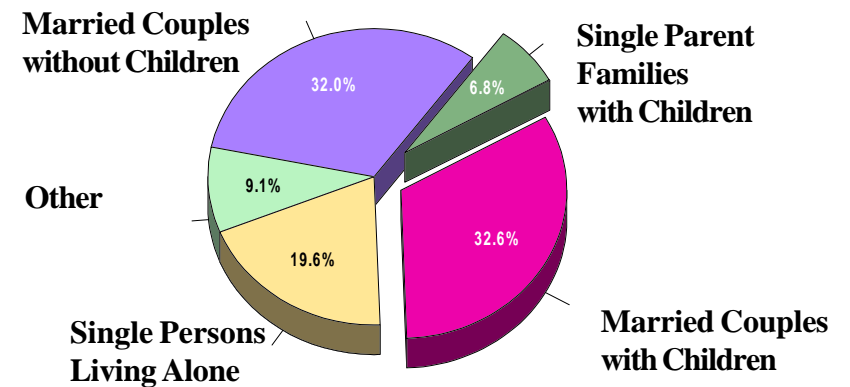
	Ottawa County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	211,058	88.6	78.6
Black*	2,380	1.0	14.1
American Indian*	681	0.3	0.5
Asian*	4,940	2.1	1.8
Other*	180	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	2,383	1.0	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	16,692	7.0	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

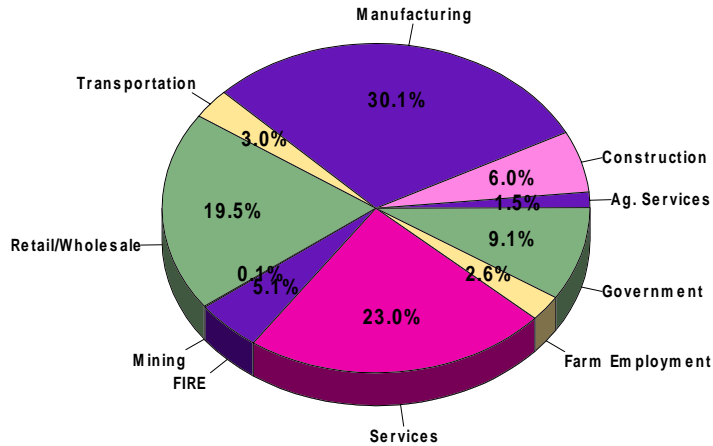
- .. There were 1,622 marriages in Ottawa County during 1998, up from 1,507 marriages occurred in 1990. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid'70s, to age 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 Ottawa County in 1990 was 6.0 when 564 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 6.8 when 767 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, 5,544 children in Ottawa County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 10.1 percent of all children in Ottawa. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in Ottawa County



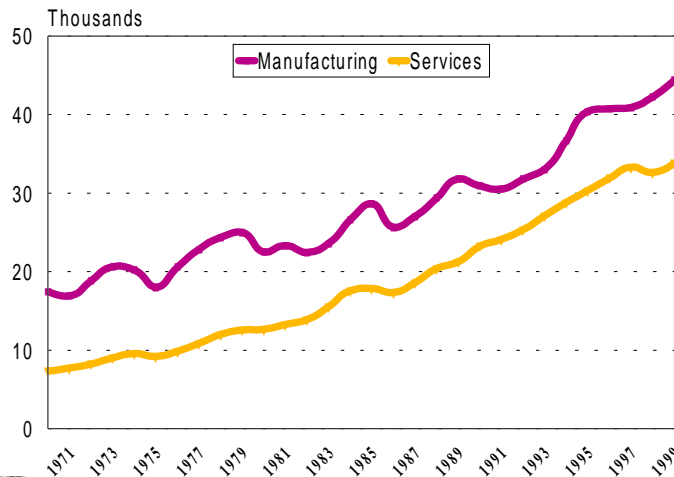
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Ottawa County



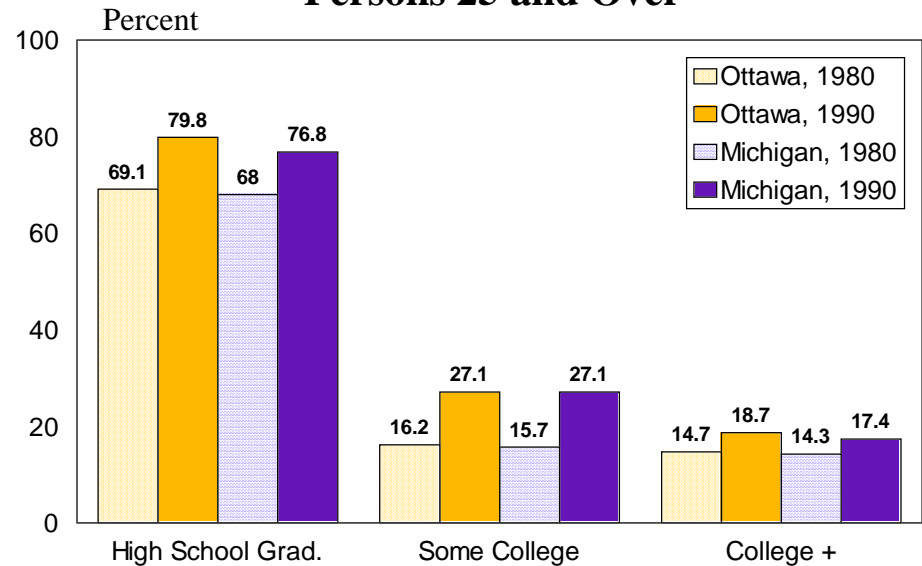
- .. The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Ottawa from 103,977 in 1990 to 147,497 in 1999, a 41.9 percent increase.
- .. Manufacturing accounted for 30.1% of all employment in 1999, leading the Services industry by 7.2 percentage points. Jobs in Retail/Wholesale have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 51.6 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

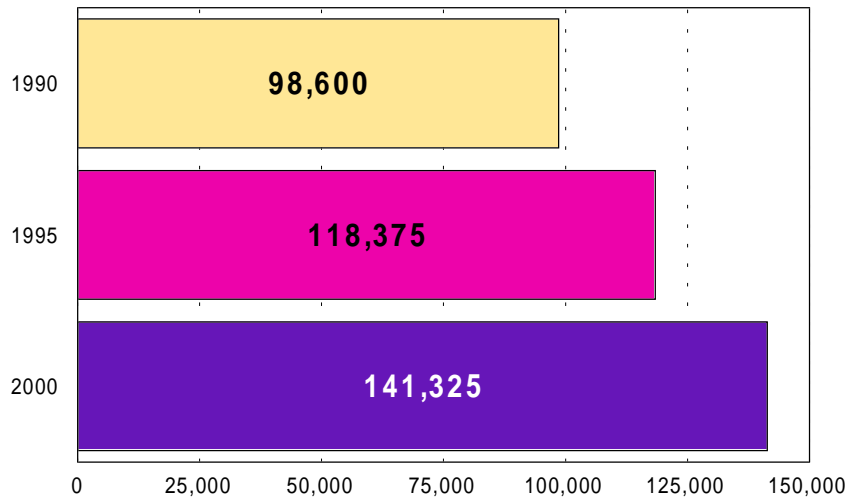


- .. High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 10.6 percentage points in Ottawa County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- .. Ottawa 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 Ottawa County the rate was 18.7 percent. Ottawa ranks 13 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- .. 519 students dropped out of high school in Ottawa County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 4.9 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 311 students dropped out (3.7 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



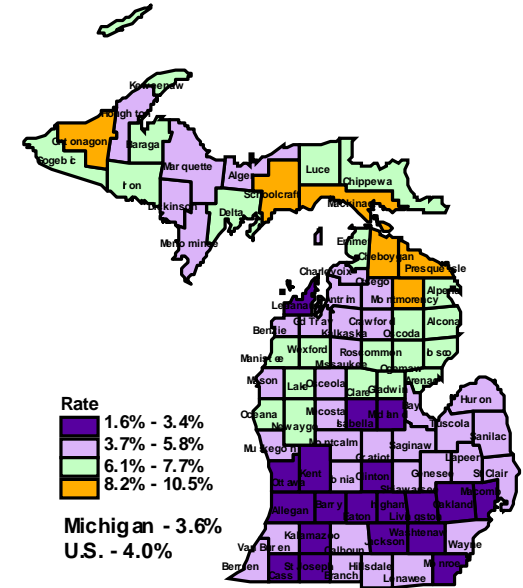
Total Number of Persons Employed in Ottawa County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Ottawa's labor force has grown from 104,275 in 1990 to 144,975 in 2000.
- In 1990, 94.6 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 97.5 percent employed.
- 81.8 percent of Ottawa's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 75.6 percent in 1990.
- Eighty percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 16 percentage points higher than in 1980. Nearly seven out of ten women with children under age six were in the work force in 1990, compared to 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.
- Ottawa County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 2.5 percent, compared to 2.7 percent in 1999 and 5.4 percent in 1990. 3,650 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 5,675 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

