

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 **St. Clair County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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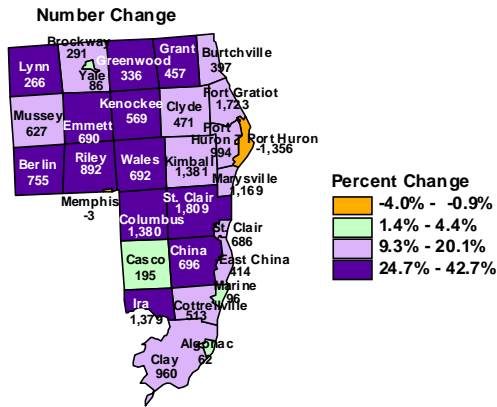
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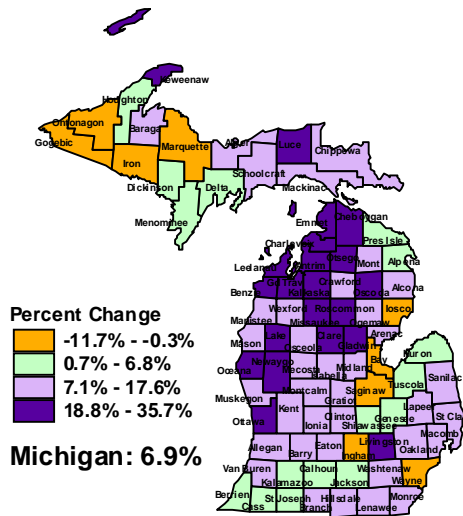
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Population

St. Clair County Change from 1990 to 2000



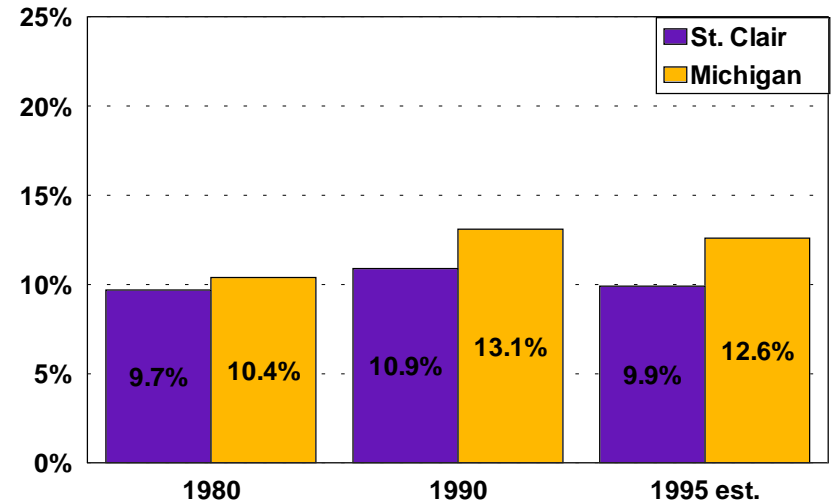
- St. Clair County had 164,235 people in 2000, ranking as the 12th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 18,628 persons, or 12.8% since 1990.
- Columbus Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 42.7 percent. St. Clair Township showed the largest number gain of 1,809 people.
- There were 2,075 live births in St. Clair in 1998, of which 244 were to mothers age 19 and under, 1,635 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 195 to mothers age 35 and over.
- Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

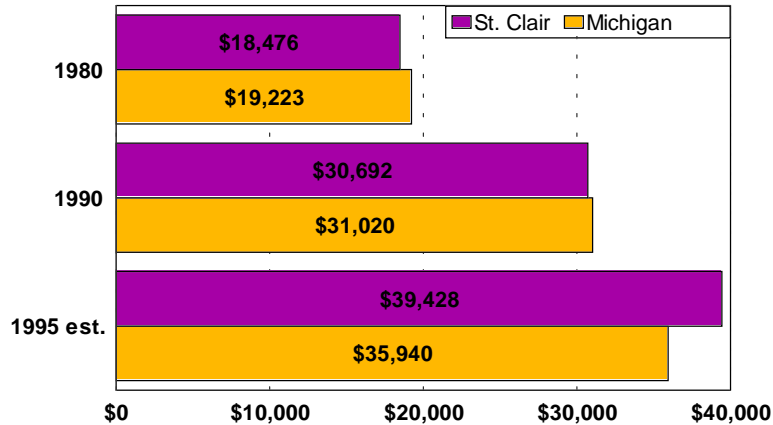
- In 1995, 15,575 persons in St. Clair County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 15,754 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- St. Clair County ranked 14th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 64th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 6,531 kids (ages 0-17) in St. Clair County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in seven. In 1990, 6,042 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 9.1 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 12.0 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in St. Clair County experienced an increase in real median income of 10.2 percent, from \$35,788 to \$39,428. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, St. Clair County ranked 48th 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 St. Clair County in 1998 was \$23,976, compared to \$21,940 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 9.3 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
St. Clair County	40.2%	36.1%	23.8%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

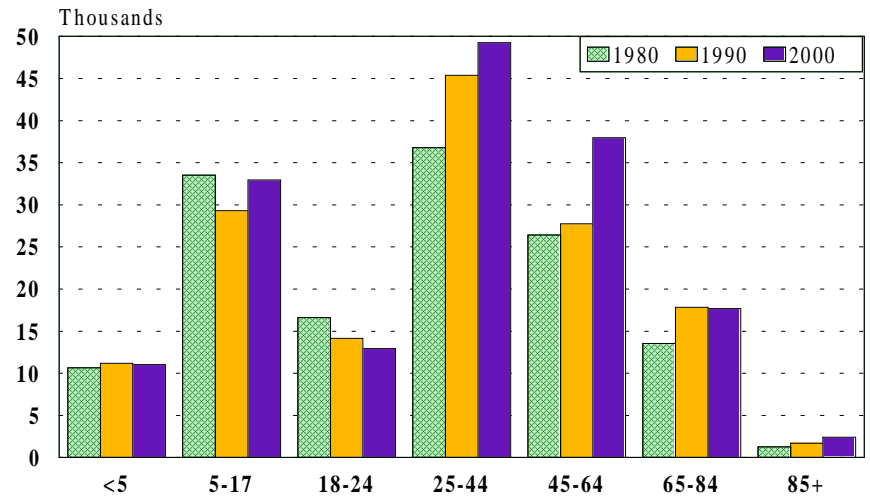
Age

The Median age of St. Clair residents continues to go up:

	1980	1990	2000
St. Clair	29	32.7	36.4
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.9
U.S.	30.0	33.0	36.5

- Of the 164,235 people who lived in St. Clair in 2000, 61.0 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 39.0 percent included 6.7 percent children under the age of 5, 20.1 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 12.2 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 10,247 or 36.9 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 2,258 or 12.7 percent since 1990. One in eight St. Clair residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in St. Clair County



Multiculturalism



- In 2000, St. Clair County's population included 80,914 males and 83,321 females, or 49.3 percent and 50.7 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 62,072 households living in St. Clair County in 2000, 49,419 or 79.6 percent owned their own home and 12,653 or 20.4 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

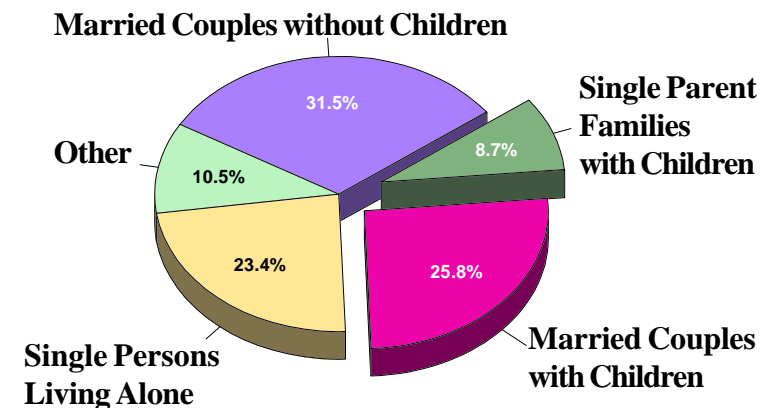
	St. Clair County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	153,893	93.7	78.6
Black*	3,381	2.1	14.1
American Indian*	742	0.5	0.5
Asian*	637	0.4	1.8
Other*	107	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	1,882	1.1	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	3,593	2.2	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

- There were 1,153 marriages in St. Clair County during 1998, down from 1,191 marriages 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 St. Clair County in 1990 was 9.4 when 690 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 8.8 when 700 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, 7,277 children in St. Clair County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 18 percent of all children in St. Clair. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

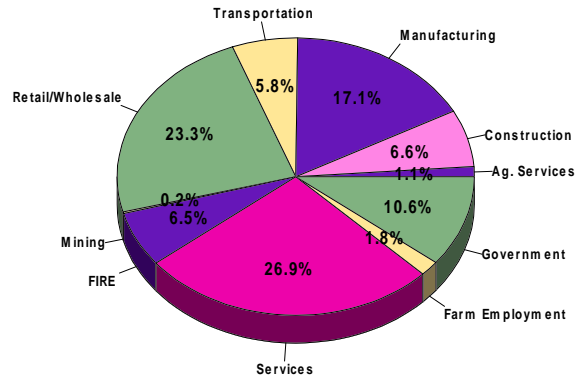
Types of Households in St. Clair County



2000 Census of Population and Housing

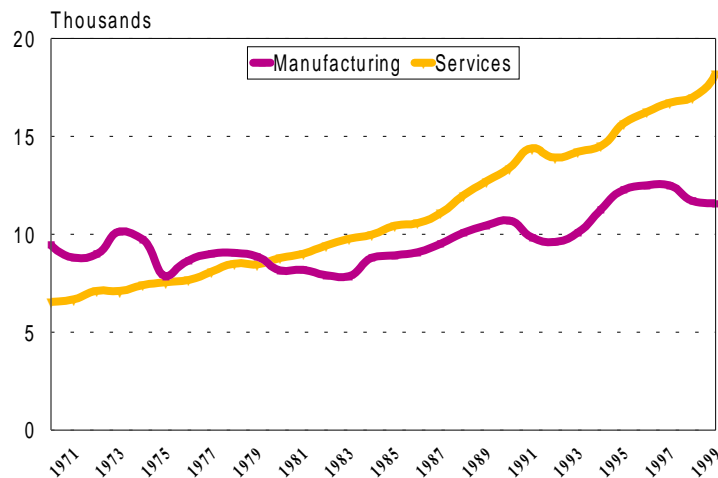
Employment

1999 Employment by Industry in St. Clair County



- .. The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in St. Clair from 55,315 in 1990 to 67,627 in 1999, a 22.3 percent increase.
- .. The Services industry accounted for 26.9% of all employment in 1999, leading Retail and Wholesale Trade by only 3.6 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all major industries, climbing 36.1 percent since 1990.

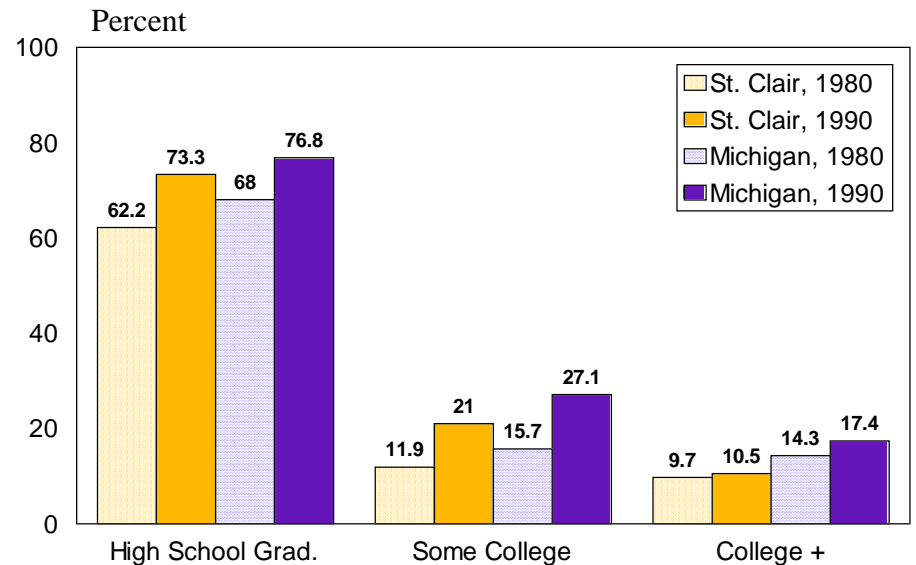
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



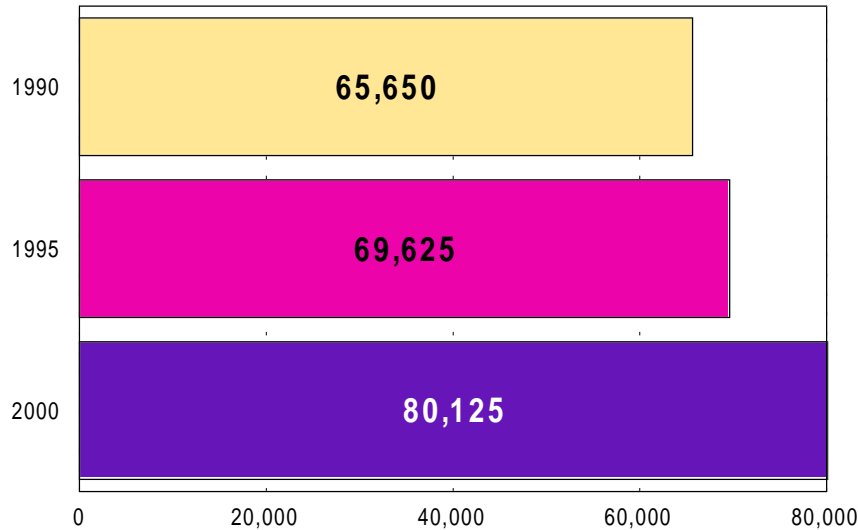
Education

- .. High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.8 percentage points in St. Clair 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.
- .. St. Clair 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 St. Clair County the rate was 10.7 percent. St. Clair ranks 71 among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- .. 352 students dropped out of high school in St. Clair County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 4.7 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 138 students dropped out (2.0 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



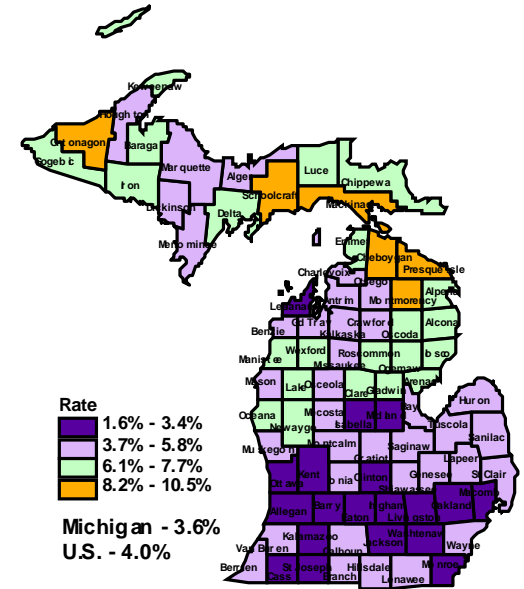
Total Number of Persons Employed in St. Clair County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. St. Clair's labor force has grown from 72,175 in 1990 to 83,650 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.0 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 95.8 percent employed.
- 66.8 percent of St. Clair's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, virtually unchanged from 65.9 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-two percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 18 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 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.
- St. Clair County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.2 percent, compared to 4.4 percent in 1999 and 9.0 percent in 1990. 3,525 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 6,500 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

