

# Michigan State University Extension



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## *A portrait of* **St. Joseph County**



**Bringing Knowledge to Life!**

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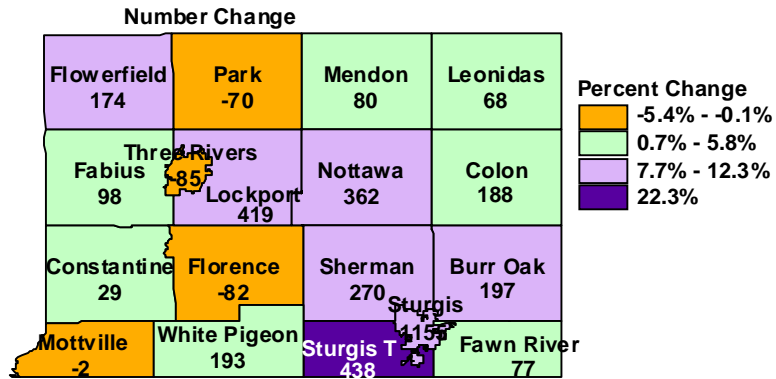
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# Population

## St. Joseph County

Change from 1990 to 2000

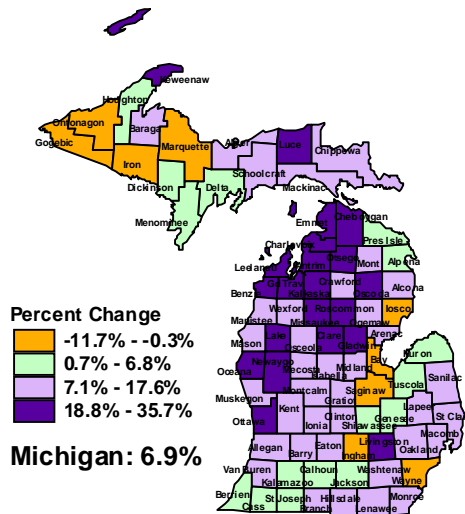


St. Joseph County had 62,422 people in 2000, ranking as the 30th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 3,509 persons, or 6.0% since 1990.

Sturgis Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 22.3 percent. Sturgis City showed the largest number gain of 1,155 people.

There were 884 live births in St. Joseph in 1998, of which 114 were to mothers age 19 and under, 693 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 77 to mothers age 35 and over.

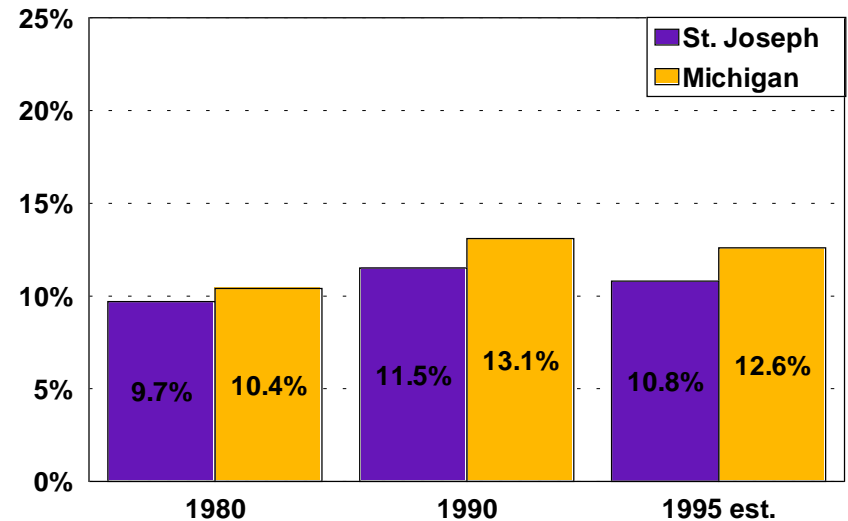
Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



# Poverty

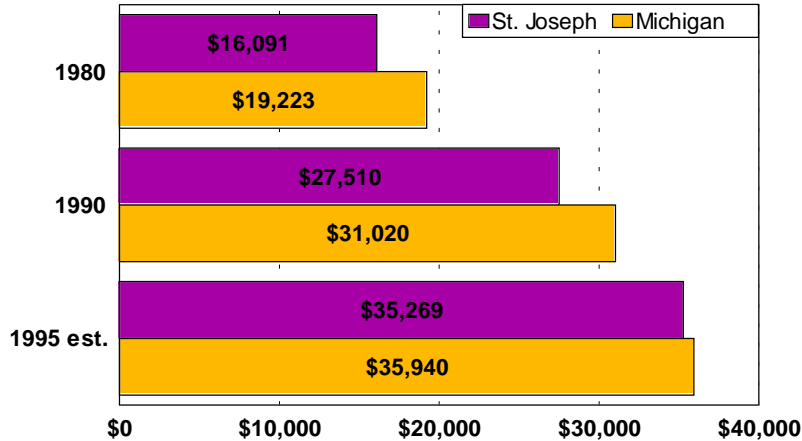
- In 1995, 6,603 persons in St. Joseph County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 6,669 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- St. Joseph County ranked 28th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 60th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 2,843 kids (ages 0-17) in St. Joseph County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in six. In 1990, 2,778 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 8.2 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 8.3 percent.

## Poverty Rates of All Persons



# Household Income

## Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in St. Joseph County experienced an increase in real median income of 9.9 percent, from \$32,077 to \$35,269. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, St. Joseph County ranked 67th 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. Joseph County in 1998 was \$21,566, compared to \$18,931 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 13.9 percent increase.

### Household Income Distribution\*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

\* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

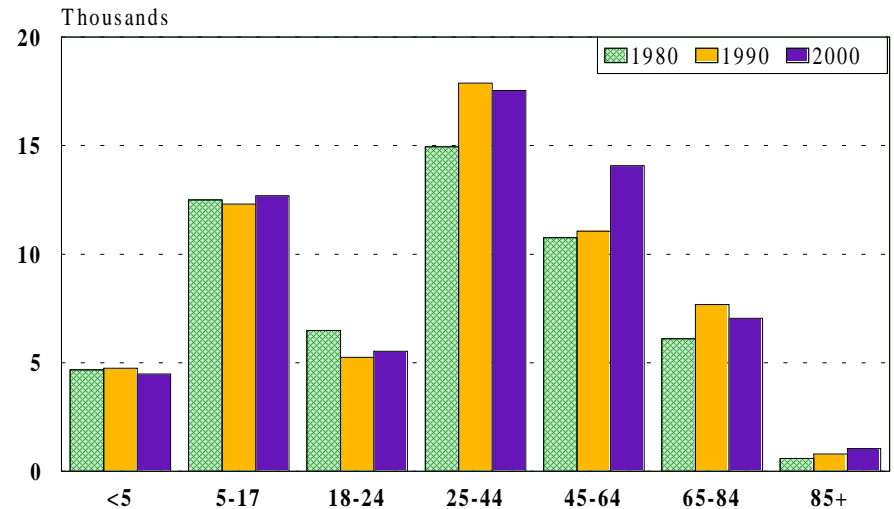
# Age

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

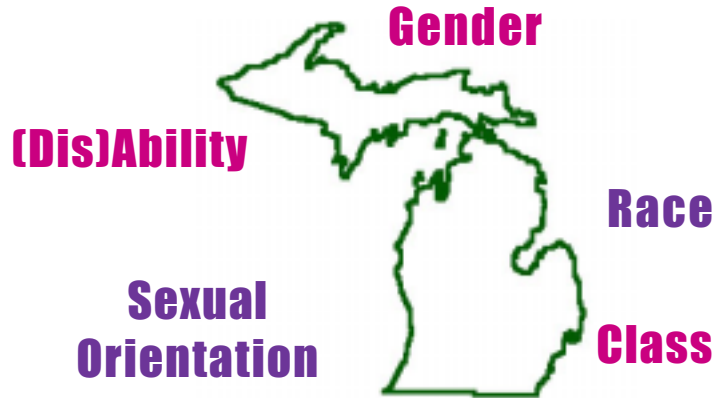
	1980	1990	2000
<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>35.5</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.3</b>

- Of the 62,422 people who lived in St. Joseph in 2000, 59.5 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.5 percent included 7.2 percent children under the age of 5, 20.3 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 13.0 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 3,017 or 27.3 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 414 or 5.4 percent since 1990. One in seven St. Joseph residents is age 65 or older.

## Age Distribution in St. Joseph County



# Multiculturalism



- In 2000, St. Joseph County's population included 30,855 males and 31,567 females, or 49.4 percent and 50.6 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- Of the 23,381 households living in St. Joseph County in 2000, 17,986 or 76.9 percent owned their own home and 5,395 or 23.1 percent rented. For Michigan, the rate of home ownership was 73.8 percent and 26.2 percent rented.
- 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

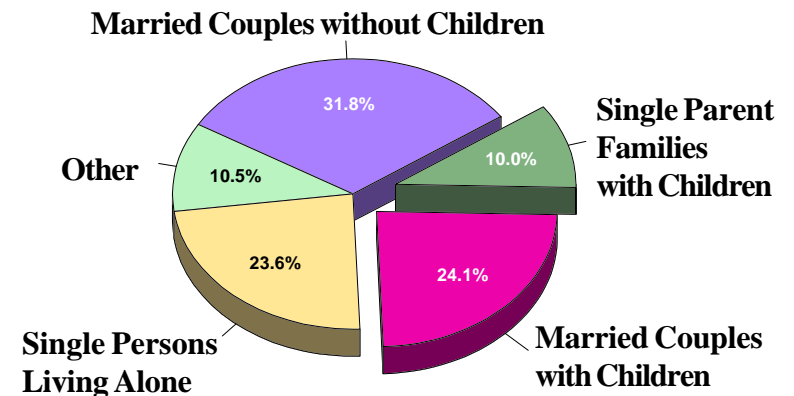
	St. Joseph County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	56,994	91.3	78.6
Black*	1,561	2.5	14.1
American Indian*	208	0.3	0.5
Asian*	353	0.6	1.8
Other*	63	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	755	1.2	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	2,488	4.0	3.3

\* Not Hispanic or Latino

# Households & Families

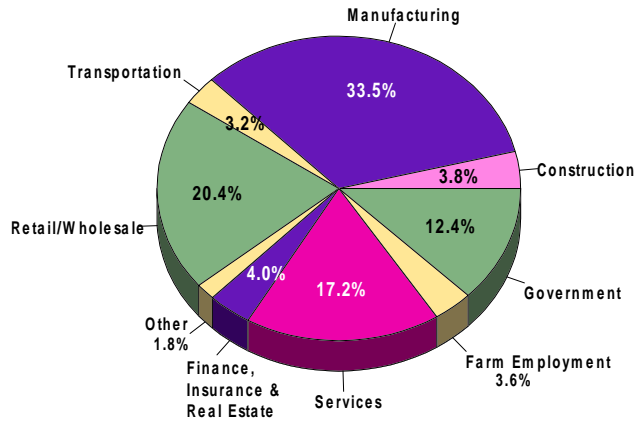
- There were 455 marriages in St. Joseph County during 1998, down from 1990 when 455 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid-'70s, to age 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 St. Joseph County in 1990 was 12.1 when 356 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 10.8 when 331 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, 3,373 children in St. Joseph County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 19.9 percent of all children in St. Joseph. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

## Types of Households in St. Joseph County



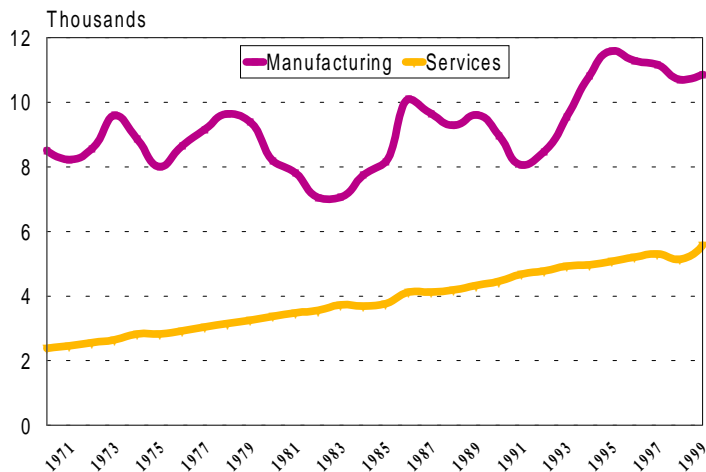
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 1999 Employment by Industry in St. Joseph County



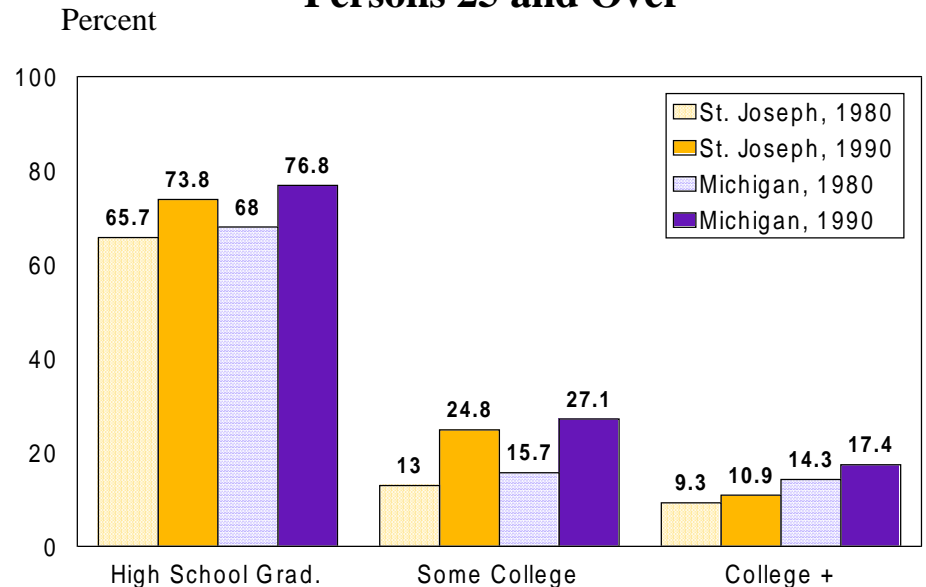
- The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in St. Joseph from 27,094 in 1990 to 32,377 in 1999, a 19.5 percent increase.
- Manufacturing accounted for 33.5% of all employment in 1999, leading the Retail and Wholesale Trade industry by 13.1 percentage points. Jobs in Services have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 25.0 percent since 1990.

### Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

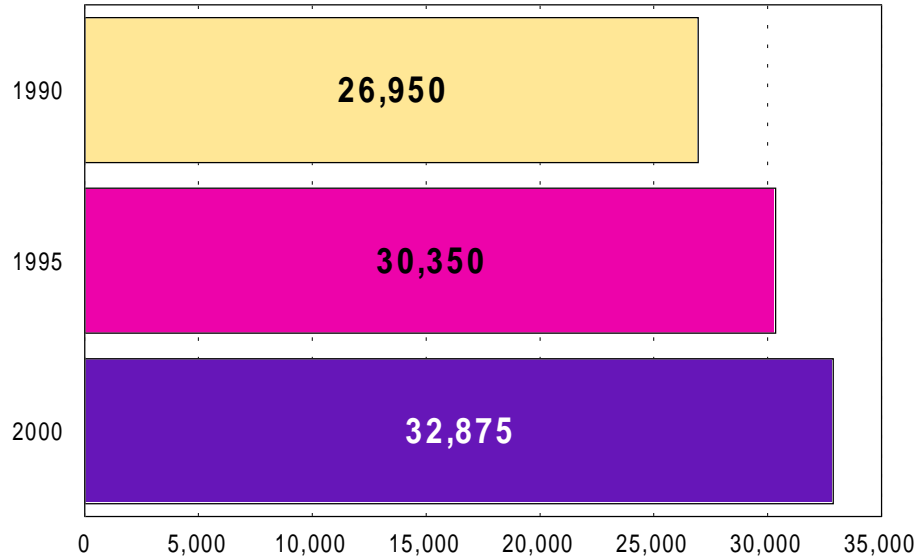


- High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 8.1 percentage points in St. Joseph County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- St. Joseph 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. Joseph County the rate was 10.9 percent. St. Joseph ranks 67th among Michigan’s 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- 213 students dropped out of high school in St. Joseph County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 6.6 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 211 students dropped out (6.7 percent).

### Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



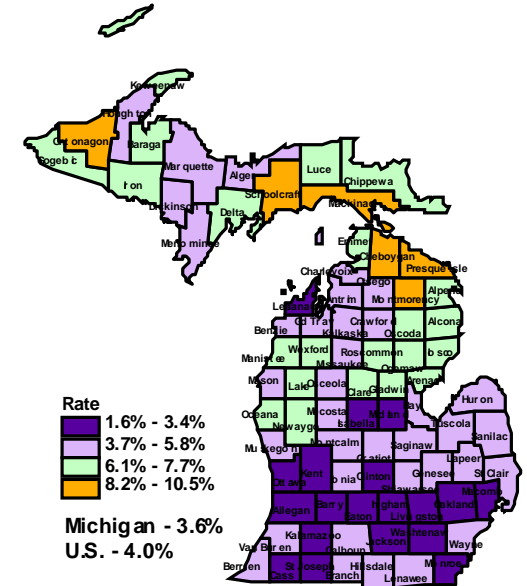
## Total Number of Persons Employed in St. Joseph County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. St. Joseph's labor force has grown from 29,600 in 1990 to 34,050 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.0 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 96.5 percent employed.
- 72.1 percent of St. Joseph's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 67.8 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-five percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, over 10 percentage points higher than in 1980. Over six out of ten women with children under age six were in the work force in 1990, compared to 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.
- St. Joseph County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 3.4 percent, compared to 3.2 percent in 1999 and 8.9 percent in 1990. 1,175 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 2,650 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

