

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

VanBuren County



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

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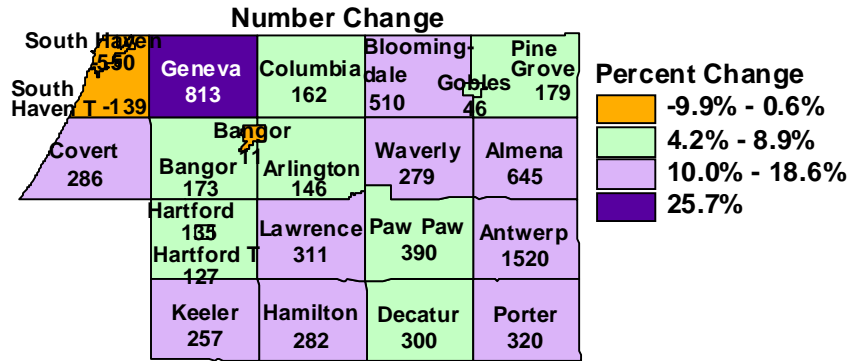
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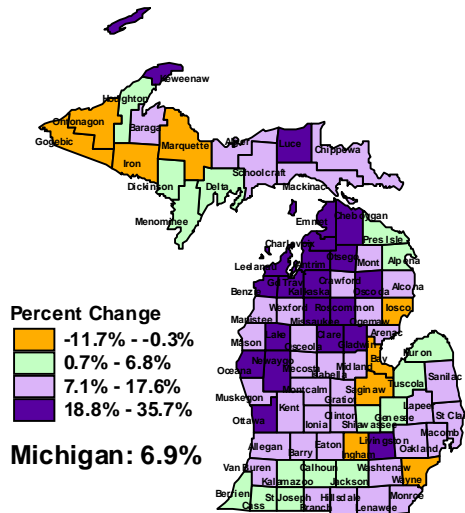
Population

Van Buren County

Change from 1990 to 2000



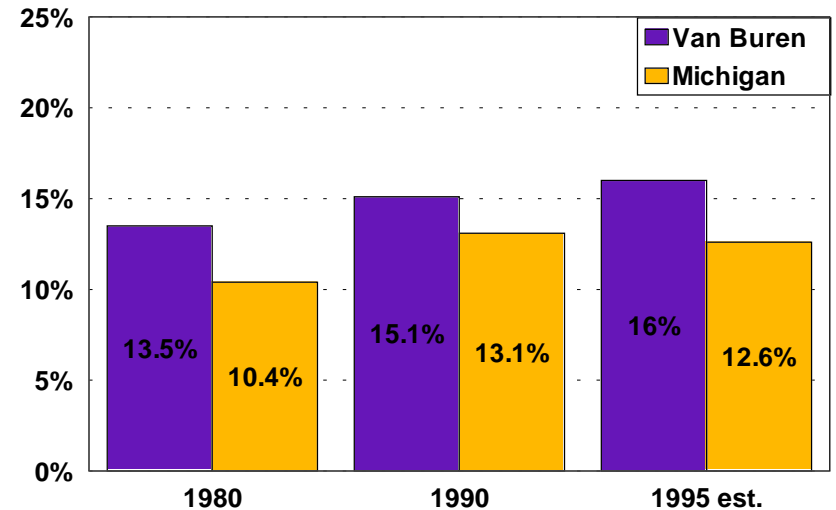
- Van Buren County had 76,263 people in 2000, ranking as the 25th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 6,203 persons, or 8.9% since 1990.
- Geneva Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 25.7 percent. Antwerp Township showed the largest number gain of 1,520 people.
- There were 1,047 live births in Van Buren in 1998, of which 167 were to mothers age 19 and under, 776 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 104 to mothers age 35 and over.
- Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

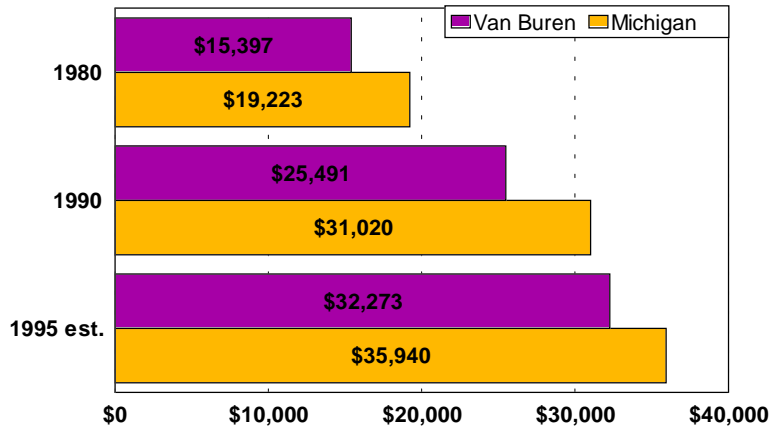
- In 1995, 12,151 persons in Van Buren County were below the poverty line, increasing from 10,456 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 1995 was \$15,569. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Van Buren County ranked 16th among all Michigan counties on the number of persons in poverty in 1995 and 15th on the poverty rate.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 5,387 kids (ages 0-17) in Van Buren County were below the poverty level in 1995. This represents one child in four. In 1990, 4,225 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 1990 was 14.3 percent. This was down from the previous decade when the poverty rate for Seniors was 15.6 percent.

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- Between 1990 and 1995, households in Van Buren County experienced an increase in real median income of 8.6 percent, from \$29,723 to \$32,273. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Compared to other Michigan counties, Van Buren County ranked 39th 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 Van Buren County in 1998 was \$19,313, compared to \$17,908 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 7.8 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution*

	\$ 0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 +
Van Buren	49.0%	36.2%	14.8%
Michigan	40.6%	34.1%	25.5%

* 1990 Census of Population & Housing

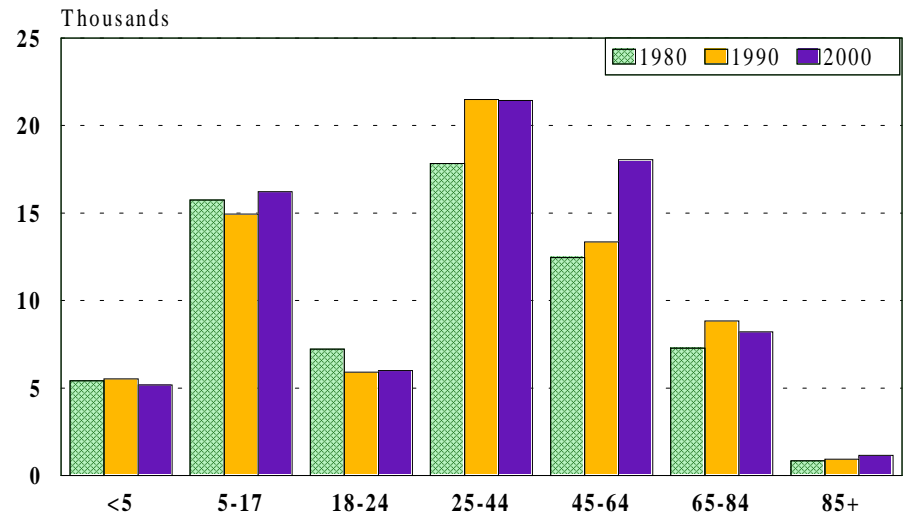
Age

The Median age of VanBuren residents continues to go up:

	1980	1990	2000
VanBuren	29.7	33.3	36.6
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- Of the 76,263 people who lived in VanBuren in 2000, 59.6 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.4 percent included 6.8 percent children under the age of 5, 21.3 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 12.3 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 4,706 or 35.3 percent since 1990.
- “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 537 or 6.1 percent since 1990. One in eight VanBuren residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Van Buren County



Multiculturalism



- .. In 2000, Van Buren County's population included 37,843 males and 38,420 females, or 49.6 percent and 50.4 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- .. Of the 27,982 households living in Van Buren County in 2000, 22,266 or 79.6 percent owned their own home and 5,716 or 20.4 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 or Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000

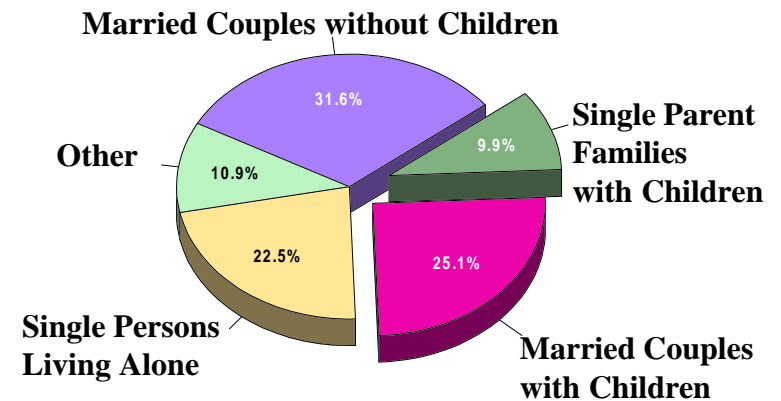
	Van Buren County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	64,466	84.5	78.6
Black*	3,939	5.2	14.1
American Indian*	651	0.9	0.5
Asian*	226	0.3	1.8
Other*	91	0.1	0.1
Two or more races*	1,256	1.6	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	5,634	7.4	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

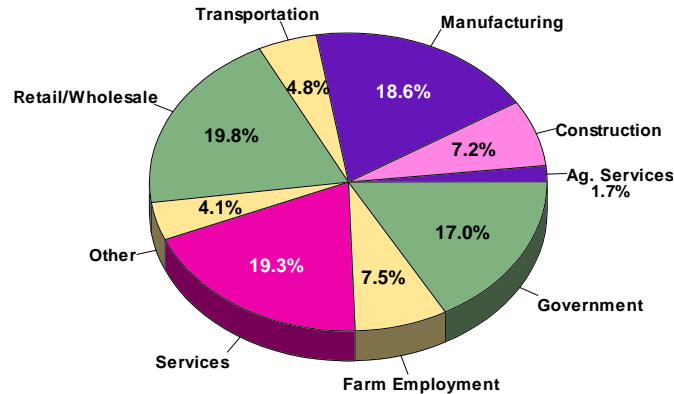
- .. There were 513 marriages in Van Buren County during 1998, down from 1990 when 628 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- .. In Michigan, median age at marriage continues to go up, from age 25 for males and 23 for females in the mid'70s, to 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 Van Buren County in 1990 was 11.0 when 387 divorces occurred. In 1998, the rate was 10.8 when 410 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, 4,358 children in Van Buren County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 21.4 percent of all children in Van Buren. In Michigan, 22.5 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

Types of Households in VanBuren County



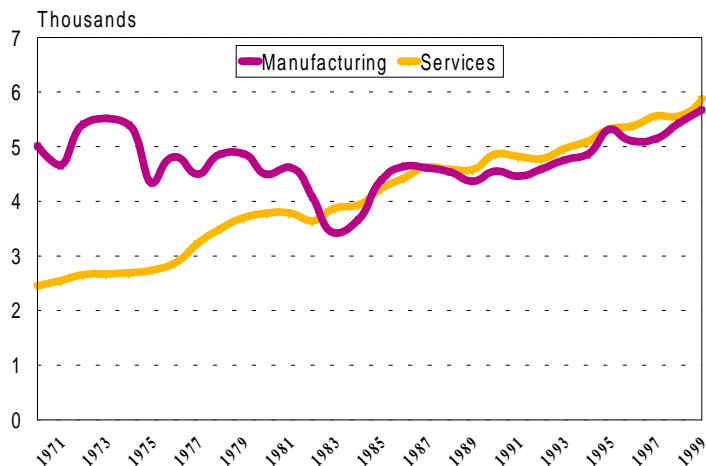
2000 Census of Population and Housing

1999 Employment by Industry in Van Buren County



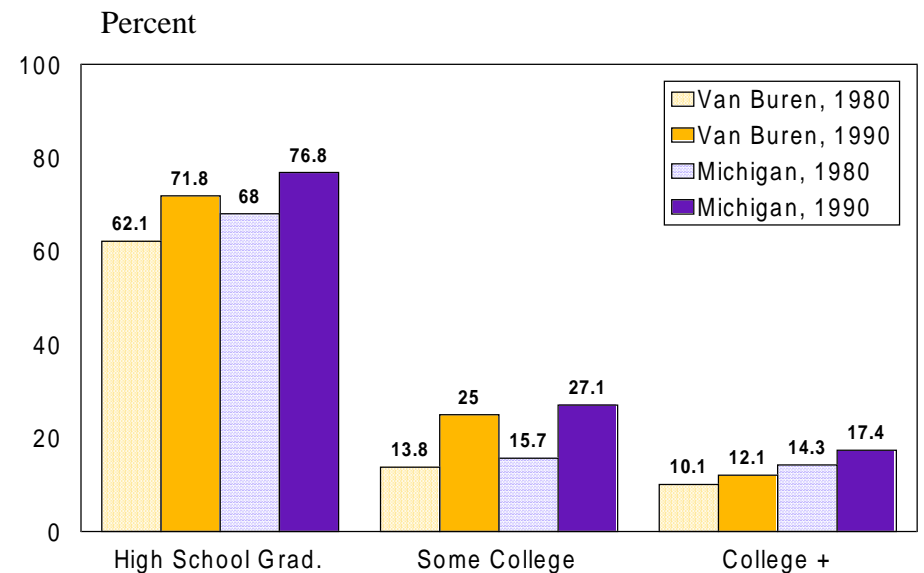
- .. The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Van Buren from 25,992 in 1990 to 30,497 in 1999, a 17.3 percent increase.
- .. Retail and Wholesale Trade accounted for 19.8% of all employment in 1999, leading Services by only 0.5 percentage points. Jobs in Manufacturing have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 24.7 percent since 1990.

Jobs in Manufacturing & Services

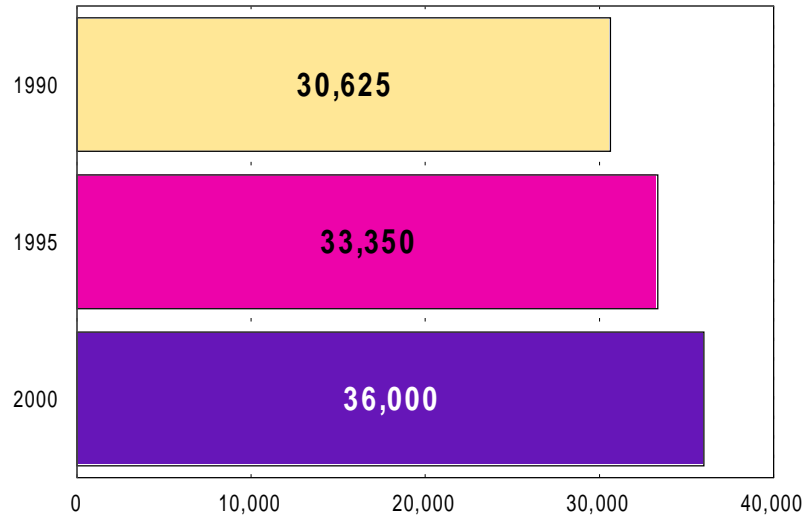


- .. High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1980 to 1990 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 9.7 percentage points in Van Buren County and 8.8 percentage points in Michigan. This is due largely to the fact that a much higher rate of young adults (age 25-29) has completed high school than those in older age groups.
- .. Van Buren 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 Van Buren County the rate was 12.1 percent. Van Buren ranks 33rd among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- .. 292 students dropped out of high school in Van Buren County during the 1997-98 school year for a rate of 6.1 percent. This is up from 1990-91 when 177 students dropped out (4.4 percent).

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



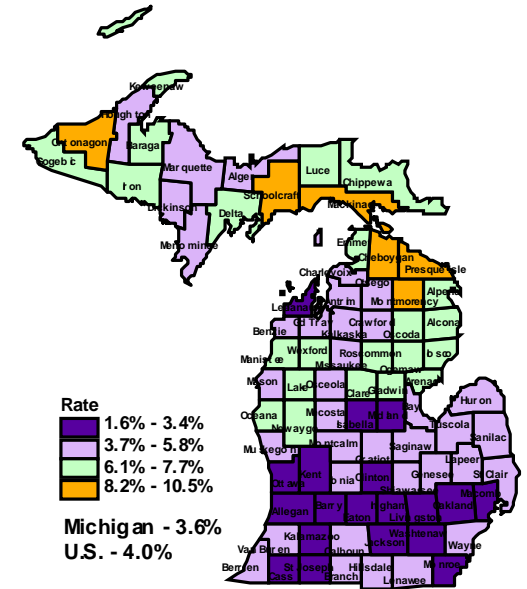
Total Number of Persons Employed in Van Buren County



- The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Van Buren's labor force has grown from 33,650 in 1990 to 37,675 in 2000.
- In 1990, 91.0 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 95.6 percent employed.
- 65.6 percent of Van Buren's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 65.1 percent in 1990.
- Seventy-eight percent of all women with school age children worked in 1990, nearly 16 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 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.
- Van Buren County's annual average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.4 percent, compared to 4.3 percent in 1999 and 8.9 percent in 1990. 1,650 people were unemployed in 2000, compared to 3,000 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

