

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 **Wexford County**



Bringing Knowledge to Life!

**MICHIGAN STATE
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Population

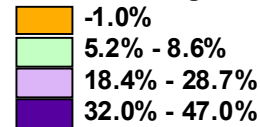
Wexford County

Population Change from 1990 to 2000

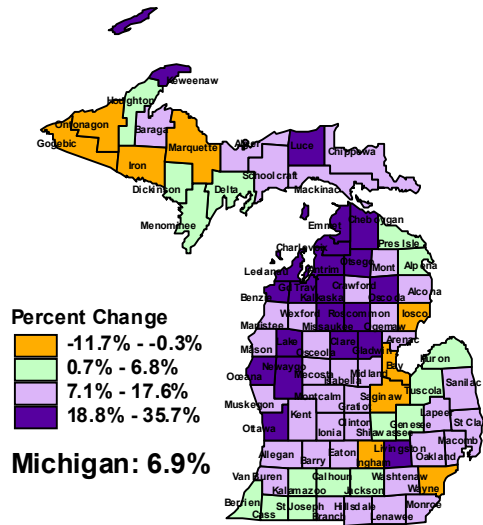
Number Change

Wexford 231	Hanover 374	Greenwood 170	Liberty 159
Springville 334	Antioch 139	Colfax 207	Manton 160
Slagle 99	Boon 108	Selma 308	Cedar Creek 476
South Branch 24	Henderson 14	Cherry Grove 565	Haring 461
			Clam Lake 499

Percent Change



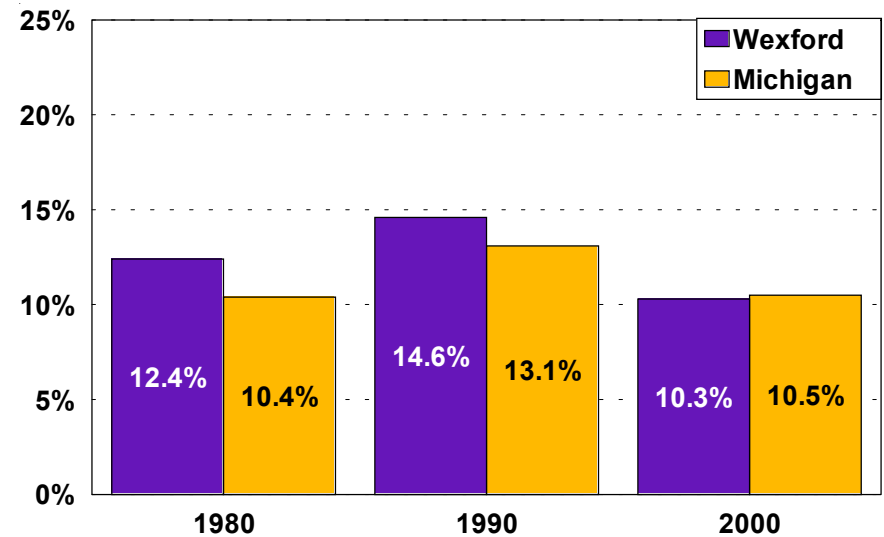
- Wexford County had 30,484 people in 2000, ranking as the 49th most populous county in Michigan. The population increased by 4,124 persons, or 15.6% since 1990.
- Cedar Creek Township showed the largest percentage gain from 1990 to 2000 at 47.0 percent. Cherry Grove Township showed the largest number gain of 565 people.
- There were 382 live births in Wexford in 2000, of which 53 were to mothers age 19 and under, 297 to mothers age 20 to 34 and 32 to mothers age 35 and over.
- Population change (based on percent change) varied widely across Michigan counties.



Poverty

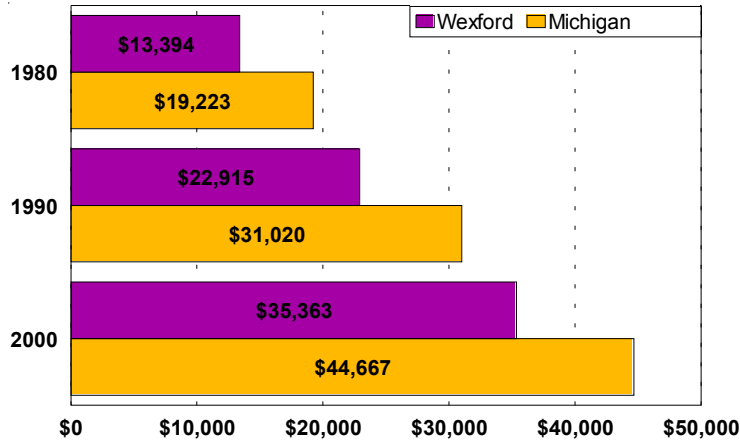
- In 2000, 3,096 persons in Wexford County were below the poverty line, decreasing from 3,812 persons in 1990.
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in 2000 was \$17,603. In 1990, it was \$13,360.
- Though poverty rates for most groups were down in 2000 compared to 1990, female-headed families with related children still experienced very high rates. In Wexford County, 77 female-headed families with children under age 5 were below poverty, a rate of 46.0 percent.
- Children represent the highest poverty rate of any age group. 984 kids (ages 0-17) in Wexford County were below the poverty level in 2000. This represents one child in eight. In 1990, 1,508 kids were poor.
- The poverty rate for Seniors (persons age 65 and over) in 2000 was 8.5 percent. This was down from the previous two decades when the rate was 13.7 percent (1990) and 14.7 percent (1980).

Poverty Rates of All Persons



Household Income

Median Household Income



- ◆ Between 1990 and 2000, households in Wexford County experienced an increase in real median income of 18.9 percent, from \$29,740 to \$35,363. Real income is adjusted for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- ◆ Compared to other Michigan counties, Wexford County ranked 49th in 2000 in median household income.
- ◆ Michigan leads most other Mid-West states in median household income at \$44,467 ranking 3rd among the 12 states in the region. Nationally, we rank in the top third. The U.S. median income was \$41,994.
- ◆ PerCapita income in Wexford County in 1998 was \$20,114, compared to \$17,354 in 1990 (in 1998 dollars), a 15.9 percent increase.

Household Income Distribution in 2000

	\$0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000+
Wexford	33.0%	35.9%	17.9%	13.2%
Michigan	26.5%	28.9%	20.6%	24.1%

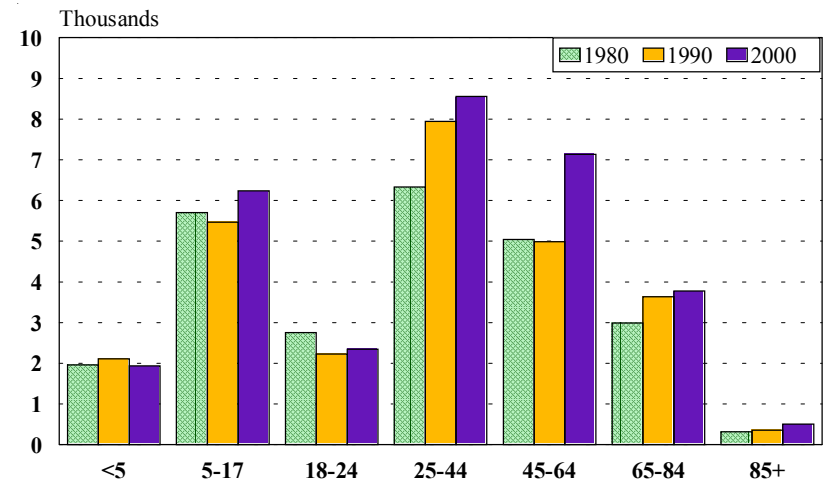
Age

The median age of Wexford residents continues to go up:

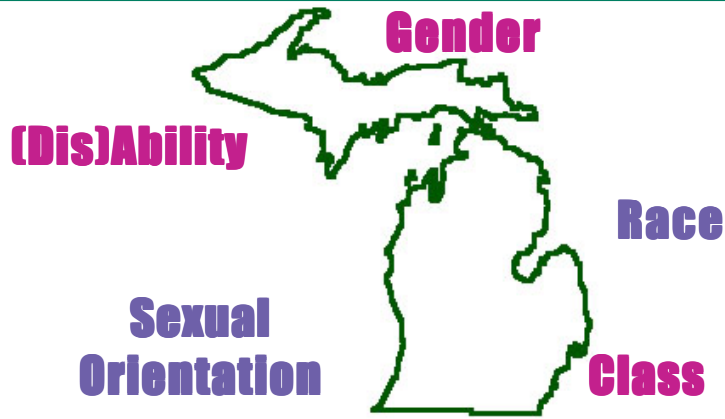
	1980	1990	2000
Wexford	30.6	33.2	37.3
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5
U.S.	30.0	33.0	35.3

- ◆ Of the 30,484 people who lived in Wexford in 2000, 59.2 percent were between 18 and 64 years of age; the remaining 40.8 percent included 6.4 percent children under the age of 5, 20.5 percent youth ages 5 to 17 and 14.0 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 2,148 or 43.1 percent since 1990.
- ◆ “Seasoned citizens,” those age 65 and over, grew by 646 or 17.8 percent since 1990. One in seven Wexford residents is age 65 or older.

Age Distribution in Wexford County



Multiculturalism



- ◆ In 2000, Wexford County's population included 15,094 males and 15,390 females, or 49.5 percent and 50.5 percent respectively. For Michigan, males represent 48.7 percent and females 51.3 percent.
- ◆ Of the 11,824 households living in Wexford County in 2000, 9,376 or 79.3 percent owned their own home and 2,448 or 20.7 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

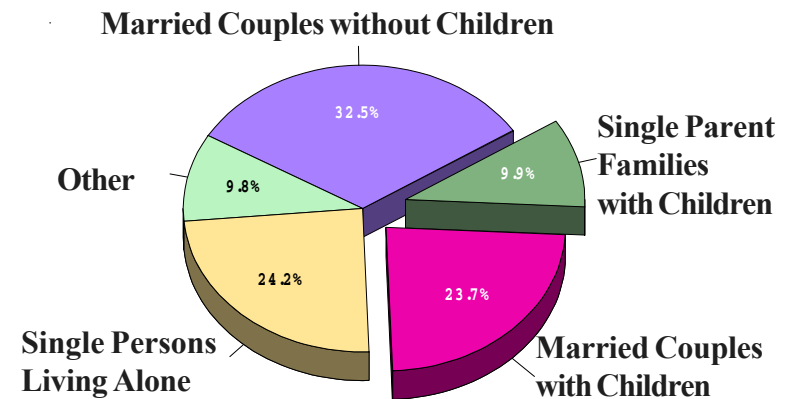
	Wexford County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
White*	29,469	96.7	78.6
Black*	54	0.2	14.1
American Indian*	215	0.7	0.5
Asian*	126	0.4	1.8
Other*	19	0.1	0.1
Two or more races	294	1.0	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	307	1.0	3.3

* Not Hispanic or Latino

Households & Families

- ◆ There were 11,824 households in Wexford County in 2000 with an average size of 2.6 persons and 8,386 families with an average family size of 3.0 persons.
- ◆ There were 258 marriages in Wexford County during 2000, down from 1990 when 225 marriages occurred. Across the state, marriage numbers and rates have fallen since the '70s.
- ◆ The divorce rate in Wexford County in 1990 was 12.0 when 159 divorces occurred. In 2000, the rate was 12.2 when 181 marriages ended in divorce.
- ◆ In 2000, 36,922 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.
- ◆ 179 grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren in Wexford County in 2000, representing 37.4 percent of all grandparents living with their own grandchildren.
- ◆ In 2000, 1,939 children in Wexford County under age 18 lived with a single parent. This represented 24.5 percent of all children in Wexford. In Michigan, 25.1 percent of all children lived in single parent families.

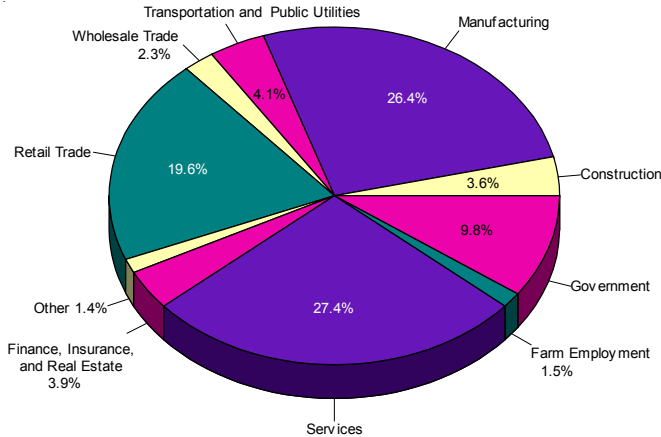
Types of Households in Wexford County



2000 Census of Population and Housing

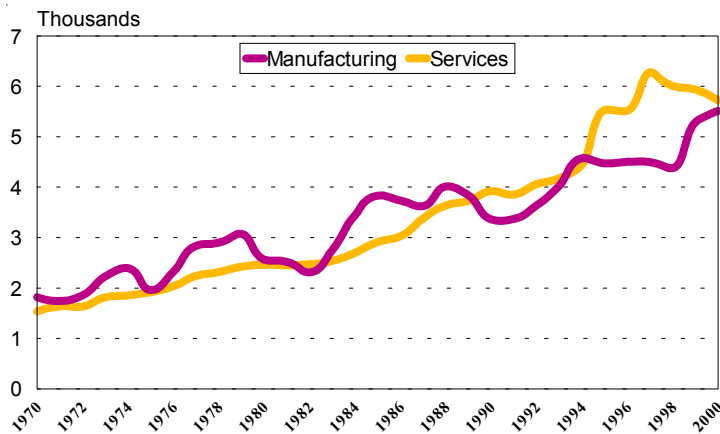
Employment

2000 Employment by Industry in Wexford County



- ◆ The total number of full- and part-time jobs has increased in Wexford from 14,739 in 1990 to 20,881 in 2000, a 41.7 percent increase.
- ◆ The manufacturing industry saw the largest number gain since 1990, adding 2,151 jobs. The transportation and public utilities industry had the largest percentage increase at 74.6 percent, adding 365 jobs.

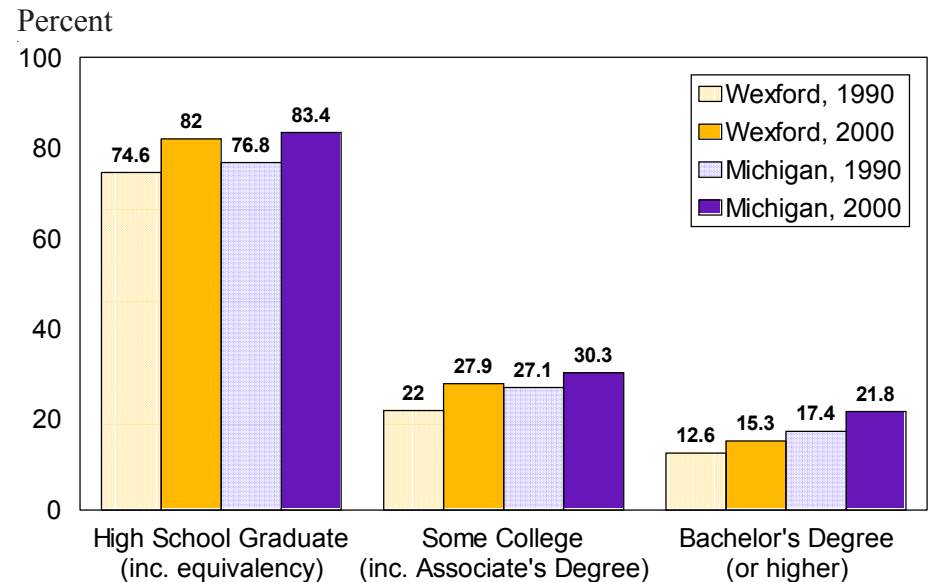
Jobs in Manufacturing & Services



Education

- ◆ High school graduation rates increased significantly from 1990 to 2000 for persons age twenty-five and over – by 7.3 percentage points in Wexford County and 6.6 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.
- ◆ Wexford County lags behind Michigan for those persons age 25 and over with a college degree. In 2000, 21.8 percent in Michigan had a college degree; in Wexford County the rate was 15.3 percent. Wexford ranks 36th among Michigan's 83 counties for persons age 25 and over with a college degree.
- ◆ 214 teenagers age 16 to 19 in Wexford County were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates for a rate of 11.2 percent. This compares with a Michigan rate of 8.7 percent and a national rate of 9.8 percent.

Educational Attainment Persons 25 and Over



Where Wexford County Residents Work

Wexford County residents who worked in their own county:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	10,898	8,839	7,392
Percent	80.1	86.0	89.7

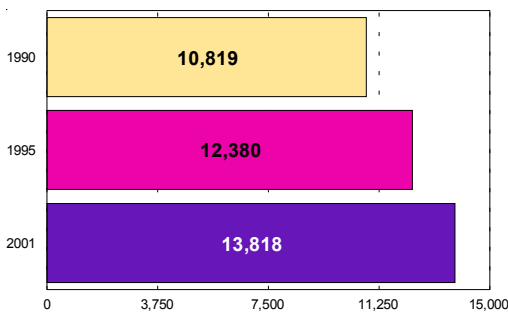
Wexford County residents who worked outside their own county, but in Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	2,642	1,396	820
Percent	19.4	13.6	9.9

Wexford County residents who worked outside Michigan:

	2000	1990	1980
Number	66	37	30
Percent	0.5	0.4	0.4

- ◆ 76.7 percent of all Wexford County women with school age children were in the labor force in 2000, nearly 3 percentage points higher than in 1990. 68.2 percent of women with children under the age of six were working in 2000, compared to 62.3 percent in 1990.
- ◆ The Labor Force consists of those who are employed and those currently unemployed but seeking employment. Wexford's labor force has grown from 12,389 in 1990 to 16,019 in 2000.
- ◆ 68.6 percent of Wexford's population age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, up from 63.4 percent in 1990.

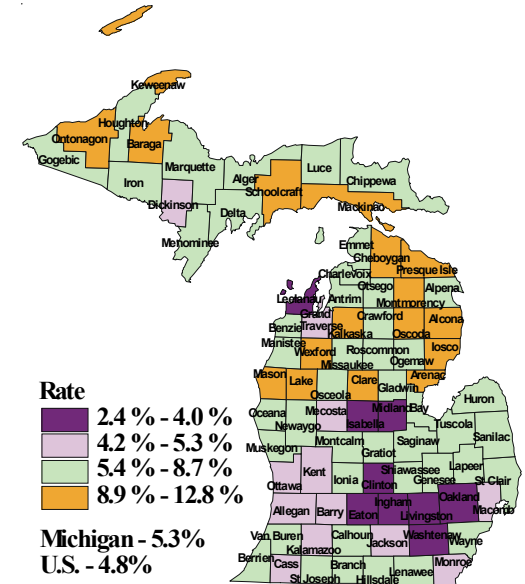


Total Number of Wexford County Persons Employed

- ◆ In 1990, 87.3 percent of the labor force was employed; in 2000 that increased to 93.3 percent employed.

2001 Unemployment Rate

- ◆ Even though Michigan's overall unemployment rate was low in 2001, many counties continue to experience high rates.
- ◆ Wexford County's annual average unemployment rate in 2001 was 10.2 percent, compared to 6.7 percent in 2000 and 12.7 percent in 1990. 1,578 people were unemployed in 2001, compared to 1,570 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 - 2001

