

MICHIGAN'S POPULATION (2000 CENSUS)

Michigan's population increased more in the 1990s than in the previous two decades combined, reaching nearly 10 million in the 2000 Census. The state's 6.9% growth during the 1990s represents a marked increase over growth rates of 4.4% in the 1970s and 0.4% in the 1980s. This higher rate of growth represents a strengthening of the state's economy relative to the rest of the nation.

Nevertheless, the most recent decade continues a pattern of slower growth in Michigan and the rest of the Midwest than in the nation as a whole. The nation's growth has recently been fueled largely by international immigration, which is highest in the western states and lowest in the Midwest. Michigan has grown more slowly than the nation as a whole since 1970.

Geographic Differences in Population Growth

Population growth continues to be concentrated in areas outside city and village limits. The population of Michigan's cities and villages decreased by 0.4% during the 1990s while the number of people in the remainder of the state increased by 17.4%. This continues a shift of population from cities and villages which began in the 1970s, and it reflects a pattern experienced across the nation. Despite numerous annexations, the number of people in Michigan's cities and villages decreased by 8% from 1970 to 2000 while the number of people in the remainder of the state increased by 52%. Cities and villages contained only 55% of Michigan's population in 2000, compared to 66% in 1970.

This trend reflects several factors:

- As household size decreases, a community's housing stock can accommodate fewer residents. Reasons for decreasing household size include a lower rate of marriage, a later age at marriage, more people having fewer children or no children at all, more older households which no longer have children, and more people who are divorced or widowed.
- As land within cities and villages becomes more fully developed, opportunities to construct new housing occur primarily outside city and village limits.
- Areas outside city and village limits tend to offer larger parcels of land and — at least temporarily — less congestion and an opportunity for people to escape from social problems experienced in their previous neighborhoods. Younger and larger families are particularly drawn to new neighborhoods outside city and village limits.

Northern Lower Peninsula

The northern half of the Lower Peninsula continues to be the fastest-growing portion of Michigan, increasing in population by 18% during the 1990s. The counties from Clare northward have led the state in growth since 1970. While the rate of population increase for these counties in the 1990s exceeded their 8.4% growth in the 1980s, it was far below their 29% growth in the 1970s.

Several factors contribute to the growth of this region:

- Land and housing costs are low in many areas.
- The northern Lower Peninsula has many outdoor recreational opportunities.
- This region offers more employment opportunities than in previous decades.
- Counties in the northern Lower Peninsula are less crowded than metropolitan counties.
- This region is experiencing return-migration of people who left in prior decades.
- Ownership of recreational property sometimes leads to permanent migration by people who had previously been seasonal residents of northern Michigan.

Upper Peninsula

The slowest-growing portion of Michigan is the Upper Peninsula (U.P.), which grew by only 1.2% in the 1990s. The population of the U.P. has held fairly steady since 1910, alternating between decades of modest growth and decades of slight decline; it decreased by 2% over the 90-year period from 1910 to 2000. The long-term decline of the mining industry and a lack of employment opportunities for young people have contributed to a long-term out-migration from many counties of the U.P. As a result, many counties have few young families and a relatively large number of elderly residents. Thus, 14 out of 16 counties in the U.P. had more deaths than births from 1997 through 1999. This tends to mask a modest net in-migration in recent years that reflects the same factors listed above with respect to the northern Lower Peninsula.

Metropolitan Counties

Michigan's "central" metropolitan counties¹ grew by 2.2% in the 1990s after declining slightly in population during the 1980s. These counties led the state in growth from 1900 to 1930, but they have grown more slowly than the state as a whole since 1950. The "fringe" metropolitan counties² grew by 12.7% during the 1990s, following an increase of 6.4% in the 1980s. These counties led the state in growth from 1930 to 1970, and since 1970 they have surpassed the growth rate of the state as a whole. The nonmetropolitan counties of the Lower Peninsula grew by 10% in the 1990s, continuing a pattern of moderate growth since the Census of 1930.

Age Structure

The age structure of Michigan is very similar to that of the U.S. as a whole. Its fluctuations have far-reaching implications, and they reflect fluctuations in birth rates over time.

- The largest segment of the population is aged 35-44, representing the last ten years of the Baby Boom. The eventual movement of this age group out of the prime labor force and into retirement will have important effects on retirement systems, financial markets, consumption patterns, and employment opportunities for younger workers.
- The number of young working-age adults (ages 20 to 34) declined by 12.0% from 1990 to 2000. This made low levels of unemployment easier to achieve during the 1990s. The declining population in this age group reflects the fact that the number of births from 1966 to 1975 was lower than the number of births ten years earlier during the last decade of the Baby Boom, and the number of births during the "Baby Bust" of the middle and late 1970s was even lower than the number of births in the middle and late 1960s.
- The population segments from age 5 to age 19 are larger than the immediately preceding or following age groups. This reflects the fact that birth levels were generally higher in the 1980s and early 1990s than in either the mid-1970s or the late 1990s. This bulge in the age distribution has caused a temporary increase in overall school enrollment, and it is likely to contribute to an increase in college enrollment over the next decade. The movement of this population into the labor force over the next two decades will tend to make full employment more difficult to achieve.
- The number of children under 5 declined by 4.3% from 1990 to 2000 because the number of births in the late 1990s was lower than the number of births in the late 1980s. In fact, Michigan's number of births from 1995 through 1999 was lower than in any other five-year period since World War II. Overall school enrollment can therefore be expected to drop somewhat from current levels as the children now under 5 proceed through the educational system.
- The number of persons aged 45-59 increased by 38% during the 1990s, reflecting the first decade of the Baby Boom as well as the fact that birth rates were higher during World War II than during the Great Depression. The number of retirements can be expected to increase sharply around the middle of the current decade as people who were in this age group in 2000 begin to reach age 65. The number of retirements can be expected to increase sharply again in the following decade as Baby Boomers begin to reach age 65.
- The number of younger seniors (age 60-74) declined by 3.6% from 1990 to 2000, largely reflecting a lower number of births during the Great Depression than during the preceding decade. The number of persons turning 65 was therefore relatively low during the late 1990s, and it will remain low during the first half of the current decade as well.
- The number of persons age 75 and over increased by 27.3% during the 1990s. This primarily reflects high levels of in-migration and an increasing number of births during the early decades of the 20th century. Increases in this age group have a large effect upon the demand for health care. However, that effect is now being somewhat offset by a simultaneous decline in the number of people reaching age 65. Likewise, the number of people reaching age 75 can be expected to decrease after 2010 as the number of people reaching age 65 increases.

¹Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Midland, Muskegon, Saginaw, Wayne, and Washtenaw.

²Allegan, Clinton, Eaton, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Ottawa, St. Clair, and Van Buren.

MICHIGAN POPULATION BY AGE, 1990-2000

Age Group	1990 Census	2000 Census	% Change
Under 5 years	702,554	672,005	- 4.3%
5 to 9 years	692,247	745,181	7.6%
10 to 14 years	666,370	747,012	12.1%
15 to 19 years	696,803	719,867	3.3%
20 to 24 years	705,318	643,839	- 8.7%
25 to 34 years	1,574,553	1,362,171	- 13.5%
35 to 44 years	1,406,149	1,598,373	13.7%
45 to 54 years	948,119	1,367,939	44.3%
55 to 59 years	392,787	485,895	23.7%
60 to 64 years	401,936	377,144	- 6.2%
65 to 74 years	655,838	642,880	- 2.0%
75 to 84 years	345,716	433,678	25.4%
85 years and over	106,907	142,460	33.3%

Family Structure

The number of Michigan residents living alone increased by 22.8% from 1990 to 2000. More than one-third are age 65 or over. People living alone include widows and widowers, people who have never married, and people who are divorced or separated from their spouses.

The number of female-headed families without a husband present increased by 7.1% during the 1990s. This is much less than the 22.4% growth of this category during the 1980s, and it is also less than the 10.7% growth of households overall. Families in this category account for 12.5% of Michigan's households, and they can include single mothers with children, married women whose spouses are absent, mothers with unmarried partners, widows living with their adult children, women living with sisters or other relatives, etc.

The number of married-couple families increased by 3.4% from 1990 to 2000, following a decrease of 3.3% from 1980 to 1990. Married-couple families represented 51.4% of all Michigan households, down from 55.1% in 1990 and 61.0% in 1980.

The number of married-couple families with children of their own under 18 years of age decreased by 0.2%. This is much less than the decrease of 14.0% from 1980 to 1990. Such families represented 23.1% of Michigan households, down from 25.6% in 1990 and 31.8% in 1980.

In reversal of a long-standing trend, there was a decrease from 1990 to 2000 in the percentage of young Michigan children in households headed by a mother with no spouse present.³ Such households accounted for 17.4% of Michigan's children under age 6 in 2000. Although this figure is above the 14.1% figure for 1980, it is below the peak of 18.1% that was reached in the 1990 Census. The decrease reflects a substantial decline in teen pregnancy rates during the 1990s.

³A mother with no spouse present can be single, separated, divorced, or widowed. If a child's father and mother are not married to each other, their household would generally be classified as having no spouse present even if they are living together. Even households with a married parent can fall into this classification when a spouse is separated from the household due to incarceration, military service, employment, or other situations. It should also be noted that the information reported on the census does not always reflect formal legal relationships. Unmarried couples can choose to report themselves as married even if they are not. A portion of the decrease in married couples and the corresponding increase in households with no spouse present in recent decades may reflect a change in reporting patterns, as more unmarried couples feel comfortable reporting a partner or roommate instead of a spouse.