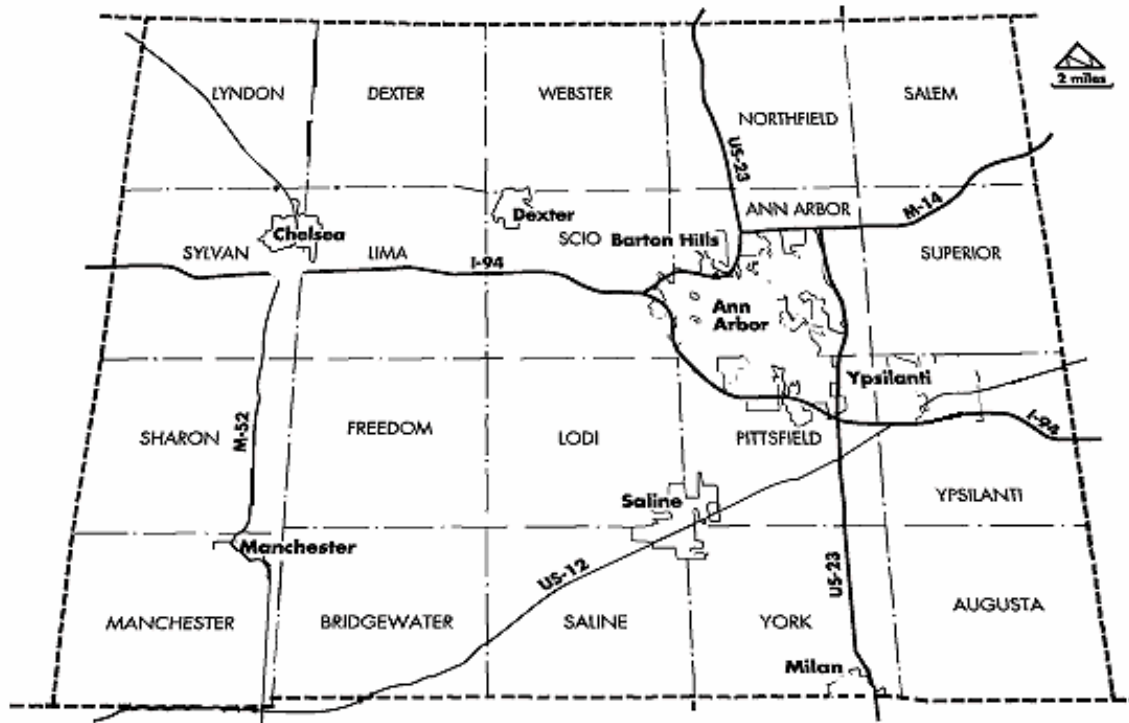


A Profile of Washtenaw County



Within Washtenaw County's 721 square miles are 28 local units of government including five cities, three villages, and twenty townships. Borders are shared with six other counties and 22 local units of government. Washtenaw County is the sixth largest county in population in the State of Michigan (2000 U.S. Census). According to Census data it is also one of the fastest growing. As of the 2000 U.S. Census, the Washtenaw County population totaled 322,895 people.

The City of Ann Arbor's population of 114,024 (including students) accounts for the greatest share at 35% of the total, followed by Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Townships at 15% and 9.3%, respectively. The City of Ypsilanti accounts for nearly 7% of the total population.

Information for the County Profile is from [A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County](#), adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2004. The Comprehensive Plan can be accessed on the Washtenaw County website at:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/comp_plan/

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Age

The greatest percentage of the current population, 36 percent, is within the 35-64 age group. This age group will continue to hold the largest percentage of the population through 2020. Currently, there is an even proportion of the population four years and younger, and 65 years and older. This percentage is expected to change in the future – the number of children under four years is projected to comprise seven percent, whereas the population greater than 65 is expected to increase to 13% (51,529 residents) of the total county population (SEMCOG 2020 Regional Development Forecast). This trend is due to the aging baby-boomer generation, and will be common to most communities nationwide.

Educational Attainment and College Enrollment

The educational level of Washtenaw County residents falls above the average for the State of Michigan. In 2000, 48.1% of Washtenaw County's population above age 25 held a bachelor's degree or higher. This is more than double that of Michigan overall, with 21.8% of its population holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

Washtenaw County is also home to a number of colleges and universities. The county has six postsecondary institutions that have a combined approximate enrollment of 80,000 students. The six institutions consist of three public institutions (The University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College), and three private institutions (Concordia University, Cleary University, and Ave Maria School of Law).

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

The latest census (2000) reveals that 12.3% of the county's population identify themselves as African American, and 6.3% identify themselves as Asian. Less than 3% of the population identify themselves as two or more races. People who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino, who can be of any race, comprise 2.7% of the population. Based on informal observations, the Hispanic and Latino population in Washtenaw County is increasing.

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Income

Washtenaw County's median household income is \$51,990 (2000 U.S. Census). This exceeds the median household income of the state, at \$44,667. Similarly, the per capita income for Washtenaw County of \$27,173 is also higher than the \$22,168 state per capita income.

Job Growth

A net migration of workers indicates strong job formation compared to the region. Washtenaw County has a large number of workers commuting into the county to work. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, over 70,000 people commute into the county, compared to 40,000 county residents commuting out of the county for work. Over the next twenty years, job growth is projected to increase by 20.5 percent, from the current 232,175 jobs in the county to 279,741 by 2020 (an increase of 47,566 jobs).

Employment

Employment is divided into eight industries. The service industry is the largest, employing over half (52%) of the workers. Other areas in which many people are employed include the retail industry (17%) and the manufacturing industry (15%). Only five percent were found to be working in the F.I.R.E. Sector (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate), closely followed by the Transportation, Communication and Utility Industry (4%). The industries that employ the fewest workers are Public Administration (3%) and Agriculture, Mining, and Natural Resources (2%). Transportation, Communication and Utility play a relatively high role in Ypsilanti Township while the Agriculture, Mining and Natural Resource industry employs only two percent of the county population. Mining and natural resource jobs are important for Bridgewater and Saline Township where up to 55 percent of the workers are employed in these areas.

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Housing

There are 131,069 housing units available in Washtenaw County (2000 U.S. Census). These units are spread throughout the county, however, similar to the population, most are located in the urban centers and surrounding townships. Sixty percent of the units are owner-occupied, an increase from 55% in 1990.

Environment & Land Use

Washtenaw County has over 175 lakes, three rivers including the Huron River (a State-designated Natural River), and numerous opportunities for recreation in over 350 state, regional, county and local parks.

There are approximately 462,325 acres of land in Washtenaw County. In 2000, most of the land (82%) was used for agricultural purposes or was in an undeveloped state. The built environment accounts for the remaining 18 percent.

Between 1990 and 2000, developed land categories increased while active agricultural lands, wetlands and woodlands decreased. During this same period, cultivated grass lands and shrub lands increased by 19 percent.

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture opportunities include theaters showcasing local, national, and international films, musicians, and theater productions; and our education systems including the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and four higher education colleges. A recent study of the economic impact of the arts by the Arts Alliance of the Ann Arbor Area showed that arts and cultural organizations generated over 2,600 jobs in the community and almost \$57 million in household income.