



Census Data Highlights:

- Michigan's median household income declined 4.3 percent between 2005 and 2008.
- In 2005 Michigan's median household income was .4 percent below the national median household income. In 2008 it was 6.6 percent below.
- Michigan's poverty rate is 17th highest in the nation, up from 23rd in 2005.

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United States Census Data: A Snapshot of Michigan Poverty, Income and Health Insurance in 2008

Throughout the month of September, the United States Census Bureau released *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance* data from the American Community Survey. This is a snapshot of these indicators with an in-depth report on these measures that will include housing and additional county level data forthcoming.¹

Poverty²

Even as cash assistance caseloads decline, Michigan's poverty rate continues to increase as unemployment rises and median household income drops. In 2008, the overall poverty rate was 14.4 percent, representing 1.4 million individuals. Child poverty was unchanged from the 2007 rate of 19 percent (just over 446,000 children), but family poverty increased to 10.5 percent.

While the number of people aged 65 years and older in poverty has increased since 2007, Michigan remains below the national average of 9.5 percent. In 2008, 8.3 percent of people 65 and over were living below the poverty level; in 2007 it was 8.0 percent.

Income³

Median household income has also continued to decline. In 2008, the median household income in Michigan was \$48,591, a 2.4 percent decline from 2007. Michigan's median household income in 2005 ranked 22nd highest in the nation, even as the state dipped below the national average. However, in 2008, the median household income dropped to 31st nationally, 6.6 percent below the national average of \$52,029.

Health Insurance

While 11.5 percent (1.1 million people) of all Michigan residents lack health insurance coverage, this is far below the national average of 15.1 percent. Michigan also fares far better than the national average with only 5.2 percent of children going without health insurance. Nationally, this rate is just below 10 percent.

¹ Data included in this report are for geographies with a population of 65,000 or above. Data for areas with a population over 20,000 is forthcoming.

² The poverty threshold for a family of three in 2008 was \$17,346.

³ References to income refer to data adjusted to 2008 levels.

Economic Status of Michigan and Its Urban Counties* — 2008

Geographical Area	TOTAL POVERTY		MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME			UNINSURED	UNEMPLOYMENT	
	2005	2008	2005 (adjusted to 2008 \$)	2008	Percent Change	2008	2005	2008
U. S.	13.3%	13.2%	\$51,001	\$52,029	2.0%	15.1%	5.1%	5.8%
Michigan	13.2%	14.4%	\$50,776	\$48,591	-4.3%	11.5%	6.8%	8.4%
County								
Allegan	9.7%	13.0%	\$51,474	\$49,201	-4.4%	12.1%	6.2%	7.7%
Bay	10.2%	12.1%	\$45,642	\$45,913	0.6%	9.7%	7.0%	7.9%
Berrien	18.9%	17.5%	\$43,475	\$42,512	-2.2%	14.0%	6.8%	8.1%
Calhoun	14.2%	16.0%	\$44,362	\$41,181	-7.2%	13.2%	6.6%	7.7%
Clinton	9.1%	9.8%	\$65,617	\$50,808	-22.6%	7.6%	5.3%	6.1%
Eaton	10.9%	7.9%	\$52,206	\$57,335	9.8%	6.9%	5.4%	6.4%
Genesee	15.9%	16.3%	\$46,843	\$44,611	-4.8%	9.7%	7.8%	10.6%
Gr. Traverse	8.0%	9.4%	\$52,467	\$48,509	-7.5%	11.0%	5.9%	7.6%
Ingham	18.8%	18.3%	\$46,875	\$45,287	-3.4%	10.3%	6.3%	7.2%
Isabella	24.2%	32.0%	\$39,648	\$34,946	-11.9%	13.4%	4.9%	6.0%
Jackson	13.9%	12.2%	\$51,895	\$46,896	-9.6%	9.6%	6.7%	8.7%
Kalamazoo	15.6%	16.0%	\$48,710	\$46,432	-4.7%	10.7%	5.2%	6.4%
Kent	12.1%	14.9%	\$51,236	\$50,530	-1.4%	11.3%	5.7%	6.9%
Lapeer	6.6%	11.9%	\$55,920	\$52,470	-6.2%	12.0%	7.9%	10.1%
Lenawee	9.0%	14.6%	\$53,241	\$50,369	-5.4%	12.1%	7.0%	10.2%
Livingston	4.4%	7.6%	\$78,908	\$71,486	-9.4%	9.2%	5.4%	6.7%
Macomb	8.6%	9.3%	\$58,807	\$55,399	-5.8%	10.7%	6.9%	8.8%
Marquette	N/A	14.3%	N/A	\$43,098	N/A	9.8%	5.7%	7.1%
Midland	13.7%	8.5%	\$50,636	\$49,239	-2.8%	9.2%	5.8%	6.3%
Monroe	10.0%	10.6%	\$61,390	\$57,157	-6.9%	7.7%	6.1%	8.9%
Muskegon	14.9%	18.1%	\$46,223	\$40,827	-11.7%	11.2%	6.9%	8.8%
Oakland	6.6%	8.5%	\$70,610	\$67,518	-4.4%	9.5%	5.7%	7.1%
Ottawa	6.7%	7.9%	\$62,847	\$55,459	-11.8%	7.3%	5.2%	7.0%
Saginaw	17.5%	19.2%	\$44,068	\$41,441	-6.0%	10.8%	7.9%	8.6%
Shiawassee	8.2%	14.1%	\$47,437	\$45,568	-3.9%	10.7%	7.8%	10.1%
St. Clair	9.0%	10.5%	\$54,823	\$51,573	-5.9%	8.6%	8.1%	10.4%
Van Buren	17.3%	14.7%	\$43,876	\$42,430	-3.3%	15.9%	6.9%	8.4%
Washtenaw	13.9%	14.6%	\$58,999	\$57,848	-2.0%	8.0%	4.4%	5.9%
Wayne	19.5%	20.1%	\$45,087	\$42,376	-6.0%	14.8%	8.7%	9.9%

*These counties have a total population of at least 65,000 people.

Sources: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005, 2008. Michigan Labor Market Information, 2005, 2008.