

Chapter 3 - Population & Economic Characteristics

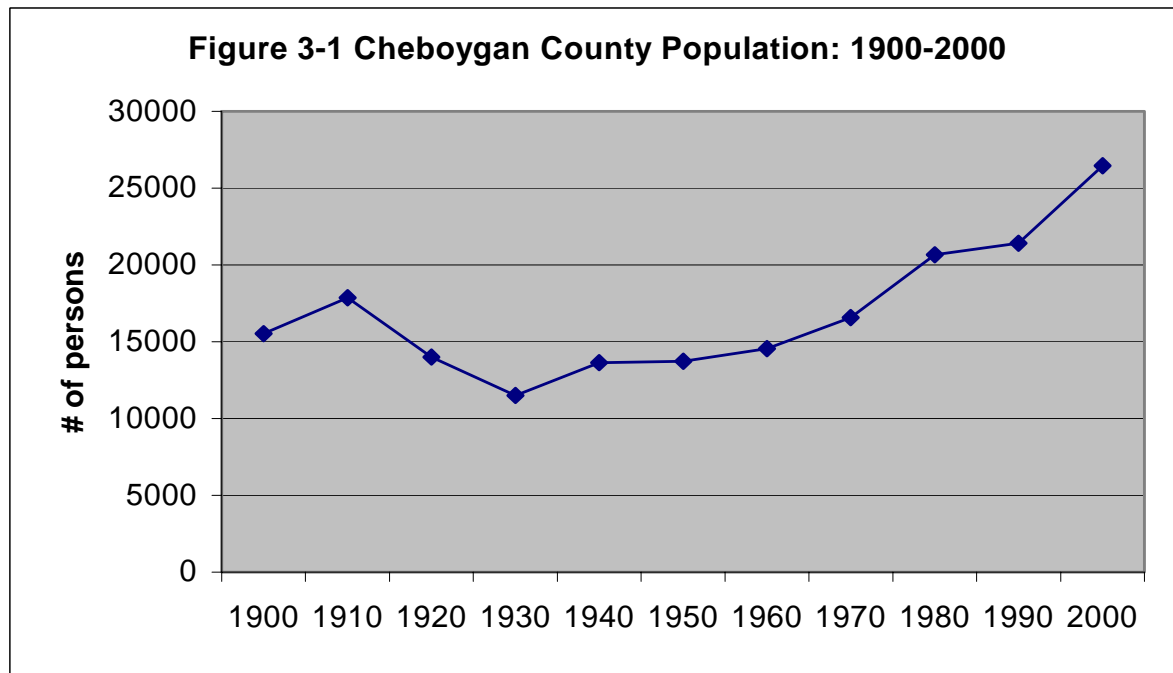
Population Overview

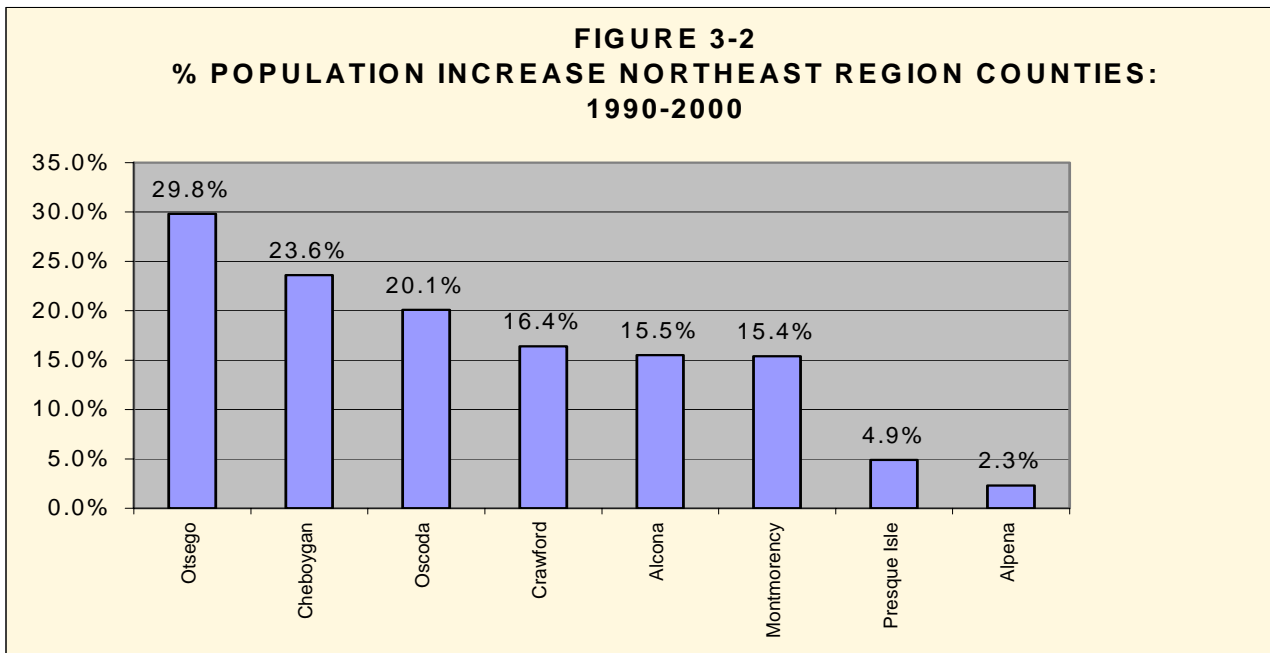
Over the past decade Cheboygan County's population grew rapidly adding 5,050 new residents. The growth rate for Cheboygan since 1990 was among the highest in the region and continued a 70 year trend in population growth. While it is unclear exactly what the future may hold, it is a good possibility that the county will continue to see increases in population. Plans to accommodate this projected growth need to be undertaken in advance in order to provide adequate services and infrastructure to the area's future residents.

Cheboygan County experienced a significant rate of growth in population over the past 10 years (Figure 3-1). Similar to the population growth rates for many northern Michigan counties, Cheboygan has been among the highest in the region and in the State. Between 1990 and 2000, Cheboygan had a growth rate of 23.6 percent. According to the 2000 Census, the official population count of Cheboygan County was 26,448 persons. This was a much larger increase than the preceding decade which had an increase of 3.6 percent. The population increase in 2000 continued the 70 year trend of increasing population base for Cheboygan County.

Similar to Cheboygan, the majority of the eight counties that make up the Northeast Region experienced significant population growth during the last decade. With the exception of Alpena and Presque Isle Counties, all the counties in the region experienced growth rates that ranged from 15 to 30 percent (Figure 3-2).

In 2000, the population density for Cheboygan County was 37 persons per square mile. The highest concentrations of people are located close to City of Cheboygan and around the villages of Mackinaw City and Indian River. Smaller concentrations are found in the villages of Topinabee, Wolverine, Tower, Alverno and Afton. The many miles of waterfront in Cheboygan County are also areas with higher population concentrations. Many residences are located along the shores of the Cheboygan and Black Rivers, around the inland lakes of Mullet, Burt and Black and along the Straits of Mackinac.





Population by Municipality

All of the municipalities in the County with the exception of Mackinaw Township and the Village of Mackinaw had an increase in population over the past decade. As seen in Table 3-1, over half of the municipalities had growth rates over 20 percent and nine townships had rates over 30 percent. The Township of Koehler had the highest rate of growth at 61.8 percent and the Townships of Ellis, Hebron and Mentor all had growth rates at or above 50 percent. Comparatively, the City of Cheboygan had relatively modest rate of growth at 5.9 percent but did have the largest numeric increase in population with an additional 1,296 persons and has the highest population concentration in the County.

Table 3-1					
Cheboygan County Population by Municipality 1980-2000					
Unit of Gov.	1980	1990	% Change	2000	% Change
Cheboygan Co.	20,649	21,398	3.6%	26,448	23.6%
Aloha Twp.	726	707	-2.8%	1,041	47.2%
Beaugrand Twp.	1,023	1,004	-1.9%	1,157	15.2%
Benton Twp.	2,017	2,388	18.4%	3,080	29.0%
Burt Twp.	520	533	2.5%	654	22.7%
Cheboygan City	5,106	4,999	-2.1%	5,295	5.9%
Ellis Twp.	298	345	15.8%	519	50.4%
Forest Twp.	971	929	-4.3%	1,080	16.3%
Grant Twp.	579	686	18.5%	947	38.0%
Hebron Twp.	188	202	7.4%	303	50.0%

Indian River	*	*	*	2,002	*
Inverness Twp.	2,179	1,952	-11.6%	2,278	16.7%
Koehler Twp.	755	722	-4.4%	1,168	61.8%
Mackinaw Twp.	550	604	9.8%	576	-4.6%
Mackinaw City	820	875	6.7%	859	-1.8%
Mentor Twp.	462	518	12.1%	781	50.8%
Mullett Twp.	934	1,056	13.1%	1,284	21.6%
Munro Twp.	459	512	11.5%	679	32.6%
Nunda Twp.	690	725	5.1%	925	27.6%
Tuscarora Twp.	1,952	2,297	17.7%	3,091	34.6%
Walker Twp.	260	256	-1.5%	292	14.1%
Waverly Twp.	456	371	-18.6%	472	27.2%
Wilmot Twp.	524	592	13.0%	826	39.5%
Wolverine Villiage	364	283	-22.3%	359	26.9%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census					
*No data prior to 2000					

Tuscarora Township moved past Benton Township and became the most populated township in the County with 3,091 residents. A large portion of the County population lives in the City of Cheboygan or in its surrounding townships. Forty-four percent of Cheboygan County's population lives in the City of Cheboygan or Beaugrand, Inverness, or Benton Townships.

Seasonal Population

Obtaining accurate numbers of seasonal residents and tourists is difficult. Because the U.S. Census is conducted each decade in April, the numbers only reflect those persons who live in the county on a year-round basis.

In 2000, the Census demonstrated that 28.8 percent of the total housing units in the county were seasonal. The percentage of Cheboygan County's housing units that are seasonal is roughly comparable to the surrounding counties and reflects the importance of northern Michigan counties as a tourism and recreation center and retirement community. There has been some conversion of seasonal units to year-round dwellings as the total number of seasonal units dropped by 1.1 percent over the last decade.

Although the number of seasonal dwellings has not increased, seasonal residents still contribute a significant number of persons to the population. A rough estimate of the number of county seasonal residents can be calculated by multiplying the number of county seasonal housing units (4,777) by the county's average number of persons per household (2.4), for a total of 11,465 persons. Seasonal residents, therefore, can add up to 43 percent to the county's year-round residents, for a total of 37,912 persons, compared to the actual 2000 Census figure of 26,448 persons. This figure does not include those seasonal visitors or tourists staying in area motels, campgrounds or family homes. It is impossible to obtain accurate count of the number of the tourists who visit the county.

Population Projections & Estimates

Population projections are from Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) and from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG). **(Table 3-2)** The DMB projections are based on 1990 population figures using projected fertility, mortality and migration rates by age, sex and race. The NEMCOG figures were determined by using the mean value of 6 extrapolation techniques developed in Richard Klosterman's Community Analysis and Planning Techniques text. These techniques mathematically fit curves to a time series of data and project values for future periods. Both sources project increases in the county's total population for the next 20 years, although the DMB projects a significantly slower rate of population growth.

Table 3-2 Cheboygan County Population Projections: 2000-2020					
Source	2000	2010	% Change 2000-2010	2020	% Change 2010-2020
NEMCOG	26,448	28,787	+9.2%	32,422	+12.6%
DMB*	24,400	25,100	+2.8%	26,386	+5.1%
*Projected population based on 1990 census					

Faced with these somewhat contradictory population projections, it is difficult to know which one will prove closest to the future reality. A comparison between population projections and population estimates can measure how accurate these projections may actually be. Past estimates showed NEMCOG's projections as being the closest. What the county's future population becomes is, of course, difficult to know for certain and is dependent upon many factors that are impossible to predict. Barring any major economic set-back, however, it is safe to say that the county's population will continue to grow each decade at a rate between the projections cited above.

DMB projections are the only ones which predict future population by age **(Table 3-3)**. Age distribution projections predict the county's 45 years of age and older age classifications will continue to grow, while estimated numbers of those under 25 years of age will continue to dwindle.

Table 3-3 Cheboygan County Projected Population by Age: 2000 - 2020			
AGE	2000	2010**	2020**
0-4 years	1,416	1,451	1,356
5-19 years	4,612	4,231	4,193
20-44 years	6,679	6,184	6,112
45-64 years	6,128	7,069	6,354
65 years & over	4,893	6,162	8,104
Total	23,728	25,097	26,119
Source: Michigan Department of Management and Budget			

Population Estimates

Population estimates from the DMB estimate the current population of the county. The estimates use the 2000 census as the base and are released each year in April. The estimates provide overall population numbers in the county as of the preceding July. The DMB estimates show that the county population grew by 2.4 percent since the 2000 census and as of July 2002 there were 27,072 people in Cheboygan County.

Age

The average age of the county's population is increasing. The county's age distribution continues to increase in those over 25 years of age and decrease in those less than 25 years of age. Table 3-4 clearly shows the aging of Cheboygan County over the past 30 years. In 2000, the largest age classification in the county was the 45-64 year-old bracket (26.3%), a decade earlier the largest classification was 25-44 years old (26.2%) and twenty years ago, the largest group was the 5-17 year olds (26.2%).

The median age of residents within the county increased from 31.4 years of age in 1980 to 41.3 years of age in 2000 (see Table 3-4). This trend is similar to that found in all of the surrounding counties, the rest of the State and the nation. In 2000, Cheboygan County's population by age revealed that less than 30 percent of the population was under the age of 25 years old. The County's population by age groupings resembles that found in surrounding counties. When compared to the State, these northern Michigan counties show lower percentages of younger persons and higher percentages of older persons.

Table 3-4
Cheboygan County Population by Age 1980 - 2000

	0-4 yrs.	5-17 yrs.	18-24 yrs.	25-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 yrs. & >	Total	Median Age
1980	1,510	5,405	1,477	5,172	4,201	2,884	20,649	31.4
% of total	7.3%	26.2%	7.2%	25.0%	20.3%	14.0%	100%	
1990	1,444	4,676	1,082	5,830	4,650	3,716	21,398	37.1
% of total	6.7%	21.9%	5.1%	27.2%	21.7%	17.4%	100%	
2000	1,557	4,706	1,647	6,827	6,967	4,744	26,448	41.3
% of total	5.9%	17.8%	6.2%	25.8%	26.3%	17.9%	100%	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The two smallest classifications were those 0-4 years old and 18 -24 years olds. The 18 -24 group had a slight increase over the past 10 years from 5.1 percent of the population to 6.2 percent.

Disability Status

Data shown on Table 3-5, gives an indication of how many disabled people reside in Cheboygan County. A person was classified as having a disability if they had a sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, going outside the home disability or an employment disability. The 2000 Census indicated there were 5,301 (20%) disabled persons in Cheboygan County. The largest number of disabled was between ages of 20 - 64 (2,999). The 65 and over age group had the highest percentage of persons with disability with 40 percent having a disability.

Cheboygan County has relatively the same percentage of disabled persons as other counties in the region. For the 8 county northeast region, the average percentage of individuals with a disability between 21 and 64 was 21.8 percent compared to 20.6 in Cheboygan County. Average percentage of individuals with a disability 65 and over was 41.7 percent, compared to 40.3 percent in Cheboygan County. The 2000 census cannot be compared with the 1990 census due to changes in questions.

**Table 3-5
Cheboygan County Disability Status* - 2000**

LOCAL UNIT	Disabled persons 5-20	% Disabled 5-20	Disabled persons 21-64	% Disabled 21-64	% of disabled persons 21-64 employed	Disabled persons 65+	% Disabled 65+
City of Cheboygan	91	7.7%	617	23.3%	37.6%	368	46.5%
Aloha Twp.	36	15.9%	114	19.0%	45.6%	72	35.6%
Beaugrand Twp.	27	12.2%	141	21.3%	53.9%	66	31.3%
Benton Twp.	34	5.4%	225	13.0%	50.2%	207	42.5%
Burt Twp.	4	5.2%	64	18.9%	48.4%	61	28.9%
Ellis Twp.	5	4.2%	77	25.0%	54.5%	28	48.3%
Forest Twp.	25	10.2%	138	23.3%	29.7%	84	45.9%
Grant Twp.	11	7.0%	140	26.5%	37.9%	86	34.1%
Hebron Twp.	7	8.9%	38	17.6%	50.0%	18	66.7%
Inverness Twp.	47	9.5%	204	15.6%	62.7%	148	41.7%
Koehler Twp.	13	6.7%	145	23.1%	40.7%	72	39.3%
Mackinaw Twp.	5	4.1%	53	17.3%	34.0%	35	30.7%
Mentor Twp.	11	6.8%	104	21.4%	52.9%	54	40.9%
Mullett Twp.	28	11.6%	146	20.4%	53.4%	99	36.3%
Munro Twp.	8	7.1%	72	18.1%	48.6%	45	45.0%
Nunda Twp.	22	9.5%	129	24.8%	50.4%	50	38.8%
Tuscarora Twp.	54	8.8%	356	21.0%	49.7%	239	38.0%
Walker Twp.	11	22.0%	36	22.2%	61.1%	31	72.1%
Waverly Twp.	14	13.0%	61	26.1%	52.5%	26	27.7%
Wilmot Twp.	12	6.2%	139	29.4%	45.3%	48	60.8%
Cheboygan Co.	465	8.5%	2,999	20.6%	46.4%	1,837	40.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

*Disability of civilian non-institutionalized persons.

Housing

The number of residential housing units in the county has been increasing at a rate greater than the population. This reflects the trend toward fewer persons per household. **Table 3-6** shows that between 1980 and 2000, Cheboygan County's total number of housing units increased by 32.8 percent, while the population during that same period increased by only 28.1 percent.

Table 3-6
Cheboygan County Housing Characteristics (1980 - 2000)

Housing Characteristics	1980	1990	% Change	2000	% Change
Total Housing Units	12,488	14,090	+12.8%	16,583	+17.7%
Total Occupied Units	7,277	8,201	+12.7%	10,835	+32.1%
Owner-Occupied (#)	5,994	6,522	+8.8%	8,969	+37.5%
Owner-Occupied (%)	82.4%	79.5%		82.8%	
Renter-Occupied (#)	1,283	1,679	+30.8%	1,866	+11.1%
Renter-Occupied (%)	17.6%	20.5%		17.2%	
Total Vacant Units	5,211	5,889	+13.0%	5,748	-2.4%
Seasonal Units	2,821	4,831	+71.3%	4,777	-1.1%
Vacancy Rate:**					
Owner (%)	2.6%	2.1%		2.0%	
Renter(%)	12.1%	8.4%		7.2%	
Persons Per Household	2.8	2.6		2.4	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The percentage of owner-occupied housing units in Cheboygan County increased in 2000 after dropping in the prior decade. In 1980, owner-occupied housing units made up 82.7 percent of the county's total occupied units. In 1990 they dropped to 79.5 percent and in 2000 the numbers rose to 82.8 percent, for an increase of 3.3 percent. The county's vacancy rate, both owner and renter, has continued to decrease over the past two decades.

Vacancy data is one measure of the availability of housing in a community. Sufficient housing stock, for both owner-occupied and renter-occupied must be provided to accommodate an expanding population base. According to the Census, Cheboygan County's housing market vacancy rate was remarkably low in 1980 at 2.6 percent and even lower in 1990 and 2000 at 2.1 percent and 2.0 percent respectively (**Table 3-6**). Nationally, typical vacancy rates of owner-occupied housing are approximately 5 percent. Cheboygan County's low percentage indicates a tight housing market and an inadequate supply of available units for new residents.

The greatest numbers of housing units are found, naturally, where the population centers are located. In Cheboygan County, population and housing units are most numerous in the City of Cheboygan, the two

townships east and south of the City, and in Tuscarora Township, mostly within and south of the community of Indian River and along the Burt Lake shoreline.

Table 3-7
Cheboygan County – 2000 Housing Units by Minor Civil Division

Unit of Government	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	% of Total Units	Seasonal Housing Units	% of Seasonal Units	Households with persons 65 and over	One person 65 or over living alone
Cheboygan Co.	16,583	10,835	100%	4,777	100%	3,282	1,282
Aloha Twp.	670	423	4.0%	206	4.3%	133	40
Beaugrand Twp.	643	484	3.9%	120	2.5%	148	54
Benton Twp.	1,627	1,248	9.8%	312	6.5%	345	131
Burt Twp.	794	312	4.8%	444	9.3%	134	56
Cheboygan City	2,365	2,146	14.3%	59	1.2%	630	314
Ellis Twp.	329	190	2.0%	115	2.4%	54	15
Forest Twp.	620	431	3.7%	153	3.2%	126	40
Grant Twp.	817	428	4.9%	347	7.3%	178	61
Hebron Twp.	195	118	1.2%	67	1.4%	24	11
Indian River	1,586	929	9.6%	558	11.7%	333	133
Inverness Twp.	1,226	914	7.4%	221	4.6%	230	85
Koehler Twp.	795	444	4.8%	318	6.7%	125	38
Mackinaw City*	630	404	3.8%	177	3.7%	123	64
Mackinaw Twp.	415	260	2.5%	118	2.5%	89	39
Mentor Twp.	455	317	2.7%	114	2.4%	97	33
Mullett Twp.	1,076	545	6.5%	448	9.4%	197	77
Munro Twp.	650	270	3.9%	347	7.3%	80	25
Nunda Twp.	706	370	4.3%	301	6.3%	95	33
Tuscarora Twp.	2,162	1,357	13.0%	692	14.5%	452	178
Walker Twp.	170	101	1.0%	51	1.1%	25	8
Waverly Twp.	404	182	2.4%	199	4.2%	65	24
Wilmot Twp.	464	295	2.8%	145	3.0%	55	20
Wolverine Vil.**	158	131	1.0%	17	0.3%	27	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The City of Cheboygan contains 14.3 percent (2,146 units) of all the total housing units within the county (**Table 3-7**). Tuscarora Township contains the second largest percentage (13.0%) and number of units (1,357), followed by Benton Township and Inverness Township.

Tuscarora Township has the largest number of seasonal housing units (692) within Cheboygan County due to the presence of Burt Lake. Seasonal housing units make up 32.0 percent of all housing units within Tuscarora Township. Benton, Burt, Grant, Kohler, Mullett, Munro and Waverly Townships all have large numbers of seasonal housing unit.

Table 3-7 also shows the number of households that have a person 65 and over and the number of people 65 and over that are living alone. Almost a third of all the occupied housing units in Cheboygan county have a resident that is 65 or over, and more than one in ten housing units is occupied by a person who is 65 or over and who is living alone. The City of Cheboygan, Indian River and Tuscarora Township had the highest numbers of these two groups.

When analyzing the age of the county's housing stock, it was found that 55.3 percent of all the housing units in Cheboygan County were built between 1970 and March 2000. The largest number (3,740) and percentage (22.6%) of housing units within the county were constructed between 1990 and 2000, as illustrated in Table 3-8. Over 30 percent of the housing units in the county were constructed before 1959.

Table 3-8 Age of Housing Structures in Cheboygan County		
Year Structure Built	Number	Percent
1990 to 2000	3,740	22.6%
1980 to March 1990	2,191	13.2%
1970 to 1979	3,235	19.5%
1960 to 1969	2,230	13.4%
1940 to 1959	2,647	16.0%
1939 or earlier	2,540	15.3%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census		

Census data from 2000 shows that the large majority of homes in Cheboygan County (80.8%) are single family detached stick built structures. Mobile homes are a popular housing option in the county and make up 11.7 percent of the housing units in the County. Multi-family dwellings make up 6.0 percent of the housing units and the remainder of the housing units (1.5%) are other housing options such as a boat, RV, or van.

Economic Overview

As with much of northern Michigan, Cheboygan County has long been an area of high poverty and unemployment and low incomes. This problem is due largely to the lack of high paying, year-round employment for local residents. Much of the available employment in Cheboygan County is seasonal in nature and centers on the service and retail sectors. Many of these jobs are related to the area's strong tourism economy and tend to be lower paying. While the data does show some improvement as measured by Cheboygan County's distress indicators (poverty and unemployment), the numbers are significantly higher than the state averages.

Forestry and Agriculture are important contributors to the local economic base of Cheboygan County. These areas are subject to possible conversion to other uses. As these resource lands are developed, the economic base of agricultural and forest products from the county will be reduced. Conversion of

land to scattered, isolated or low density forms development will reduce the critical mass of land needed to sustain viable agricultural and forest operations within the county.

Table 3-9 illustrates that Cheboygan County's median family income (1989 figures) was considerably lower than the State. By comparing median household income data, one finds that Cheboygan County's income levels are still below that of the State as a whole although incomes in this area are rising at a much faster rate than the State's. While the State's median household income rose by 43 percent, between 1989 and 1999, Cheboygan's increased by 59 percent.

Table 3-9 Cheboygan County Median Household Income 1989-1999			
Unit of Government	1989 Median Household Income	1999 Median Household Income	% Difference
Cheboygan	\$21,006	\$33,417	+59%
Michigan	\$31,020	\$35,940	+43%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

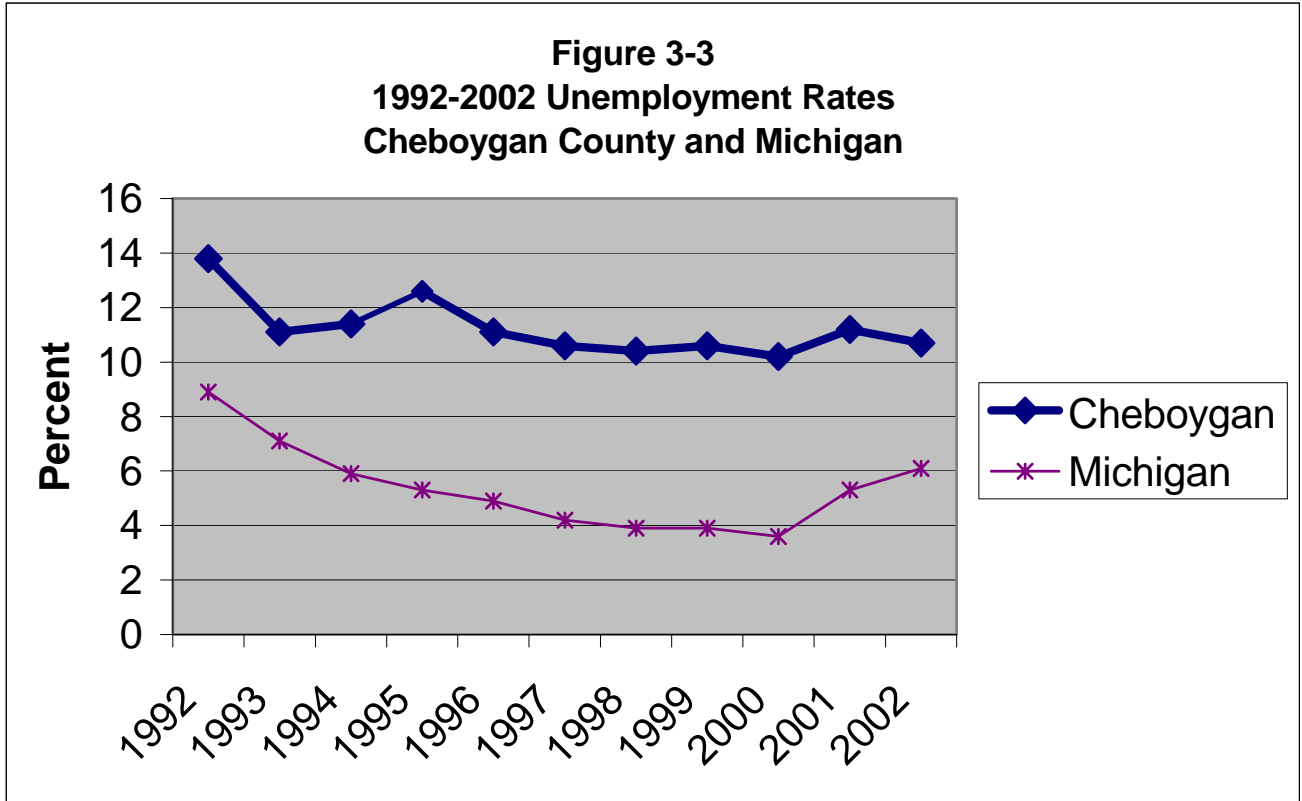
From 1990 to 2000, the poverty rate in Cheboygan County declined for families and individuals (Table 3-10). The poverty rate for families had a reduction of 11.1 percent, while individuals dropped by 2.9 percent.

Table 3-10 Poverty Status For Cheboygan County: 1990 & 2000				
Category	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Individuals	3,283	15.6	3,187	12.2
Families	750	12.3	667	8.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Unemployment

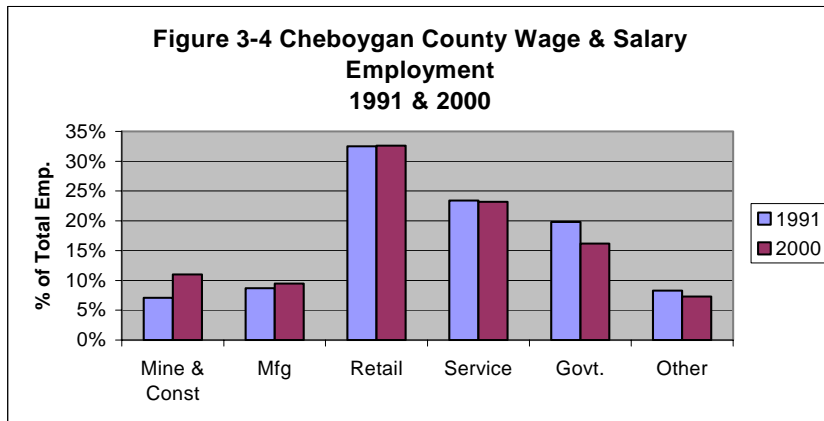
Unemployment rates for Cheboygan County have fluctuated, but have remained between 10 and 12 percent for most of the past decade (**Figure 3-3**). Over the past ten years, the smallest difference between the State's average unemployment rate and Cheboygan County's unemployment rate has been 4.0% (1993). From 1993 to 2000, the State's average unemployment rate annually decreased at a faster pace than the Cheboygan rate and the margin of difference between the two grew larger. In 2001 the state unemployment rate increased 2.5 points while the county rate increased 0.5 points. In 2002, Cheboygan County's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent above the State's average.



Cheboygan County's unemployment rate fluctuates with the seasons, reaching the peak during the winter months of January, February and March before dropping dramatically in the summer. For example, in months of January, February and March of 2002, the unemployment rate for the county was above 20 percent, while conversely, through the summer months of June, July August and September, the unemployment rate was below 5 percent. In the fall, the unemployment rate again increases as many tourist destinations close for the season and the cycle repeats.

Employment

Several notable changes occurred between 1991 and 2000 to the distribution of employment within Cheboygan County. While increased employment was found in some job producing sectors, declines occurred in others. The economy of Cheboygan County is largely centered on retail employment (32.6% of the wage and salary employment in 2000), with employment in the service sector at a distant 23.2 percent (Figure 3-4). Like many other counties in northern Michigan, Cheboygan is heavily dependant upon tourism for employment opportunities. In fact, this county has the largest percentage of retail



employment of any other county in the Northeast Region. Wage and salary employment in the government sector registered 16.2 percent of the total jobs in 2000. The manufacturing sector now constitutes only 9.5 percent. The county lost 150 manufacturing jobs between 1990 and 1991, which was due to the closing of the Proctor and Gamble plant. Since 1994, however, the county has been adding manufacturing employment once again. Employment in mining and construction and other sectors made up 11.0 and 7.3 percent, respectively, of the county's wage and salary employment in 2000.

Between 1991 and 2000, Cheboygan County registered an increase in wage and salary employment of nearly one third (+30.2% or 1,900 jobs) Data found in Table 3-10 shows that all of Cheboygan County's employment sectors registered some gains over the last decade. Mining and construction, for example increased by 100 percent in terms of wage and salary employment (+450 jobs). This was probably caused by increases in construction employment due to housing, retail, and motel/hotel construction in the urbanized areas of the county. The manufacturing sector recorded the second largest percent gain in employment during the period (+40.9% or 225 jobs). This is a very positive economic trend for the county which has been so dependant upon seasonal tourism employment. Gains in retail employment ranked third during the period (+30.5% or 625 jobs). Employment in the service sector gained 28.8 percent (+425 jobs), while the "other" sectors went up by 14.3 percent (+75 jobs). Government employment increased by only 6.0 percent (+75 jobs) during the period.

Table 3-11
Cheboygan County Wage And Salary Employment: 1991-2000

	Mining & Const.	Manufact.	Retail	Service	Govern.	Other*	Total**
1991	450	550	2050	1475	1250	525	6300
% Dif***	-5.3%	-21.4%	0.0%	1.7%	-2.0%	-4.5%	-3.1%
1992	475	575	2050	1625	1300	550	6575
% Dif***	5.6%	4.5%	0.0%	10.2%	4.0%	4.8%	4.4%
1993	525	575	2075	1725	1300	550	6725
% Dif***	10.5%	0.0%	1.2%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
1994	650	700	2275	1800	1250	600	7250
% Dif***	23.8%	21.7%	9.6%	4.3%	-3.8%	9.1%	7.8%
1995	650	725	2425	1875	1250	600	7500
% Dif***	0.0%	3.6%	6.6%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%
1996	650	750	2500	1875	1250	625	7625
% Dif***	0.0%	3.4%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	1.7%
1997	675	750	2525	1975	1250	625	7800
% Dif***	3.8%	0.0%	1.0%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
1998	750	725	2625	2075	1250	650	8075
% Dif***	11.1%	-3.3%	4.0%	5.1%	0.0%	4.0%	3.5%
1999	825	775	2575	2000	1275	600	8075
% Dif***	10.0%	6.9%	-1.9%	-3.6%	2.0%	-7.7%	0.0%
2000	900	775	2675	1900	1325	600	8200

% Dif***	9.1%	0.0%	3.9%	-5.0%	3.9%	0.0%	1.5%
* Other = Transportation, Communications & Utilities, Wholesale Trade and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate.							
** Total may not add due to rounding							
*** Figure shows percentage difference from the preceding year.							
Note: Figures for 1990 through 1994 are revised benchmarked as of 1996, for 1995 as of 1998, for 1996 as of 1999, for 1997-1999 as of 2000 and for 2000 as of 2001.							
Source: Michigan Department of Career Development, Employment Services Agency							

Commuting to Work

As shown by **Table 3-12**, a vast majority (83%) of workers in Cheboygan County drive to work alone. Slightly less people carpooled to work in 2000 than 1990. The number of people walking to work also decreased during this time period. Increase in the mean travel time to work from 26.5 minutes to 28 minutes reflects people living farther from their places of employment.

Table 3-12
Cheboygan County Work Commute 1990 & 2000

Mode of Transportation	1990		2000	
	#	%	#	%
Drove Alone	228	82.9%	323	83.0%
Carpooled	33	12.0%	38	9.8%
Public Transportation (includes taxi)	0	0.0%	4	1.0%
Walked	8	2.9%	9	2.3%
Worked at home	6	2.2%	13	3.3%
Other means	0	0.0%	2	0.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Forestry

Land cover statistics show that 63.8% of Cheboygan County is forested (both public and private property). Monies generated from timber harvesting of the State Forest and other timber producing lands in the county contribute to the State and local economy and play an important role in the county's economic picture. Data from the "*Michigan Timber Industry – An Assessment of Timber Production Output and Use, 1994*" shows that in 1994, Cheboygan County had the fourth largest saw-log production numbers in the State and yielded 58,121 cords of pulpwood for all tree species. Cheboygan County also produced the second greatest amount of cords yielded for all species by any county in the Northern Lower Peninsula. The approximate mill delivered value of saw-logs harvested in Cheboygan County in 1994 totaled \$2,930,000. The approximate value of all pulpwood production in the county in 1994 totaled \$1,370,000.

Agriculture

From 1992 through 1997, there was a dramatic increase in total acreage and numbers of farms in Cheboygan County (**Table 3-13**). During that time period, the number of farms increased by 23.5% (a

gain of 40 farms) and the amount of acreage increased by 23.8% (9,711 acres). The average size of a farm only changed slightly from 241 acres to 240 acres.

The 1997 Census of Agriculture shows that the market value of agricultural products sold increased by 27 percent to \$5,848,000 in 1997. Crop sales accounted for 21 percent of the market value and livestock sales accounted for 79 percent. The average market value per farm for agricultural products sold increased by 3 percent from \$27,072 per farm in 1992 to \$27,847 in 1997

Table 3-13
Cheboygan County Number of Farms & Total Acres in Farms: 1974 - 1997

	# of Farms	% Change	Acres in Farms	% Change
1974	178	-20.2%	46,527	-17.9%
1978	221	+19.5%	50,395	+7.7%
1982	197	-12.2%	46,088	-9.3%
1987	171	-15.2%	42,363	-8.8%
1992	170	-0.6%	40,871	-3.7%
1997	210	+23.5%	50,582	+23.8

Source: Census of Agriculture - U.S. Census Bureau