

## Sustainability Sector Averages

**Table One** to the right shows overall average index scores by sector for the five selected geographies: Muskegon County, West Michigan, East Michigan, Michigan, and the United States.

Because 2000 is regarded as a peak year for various economic and social indicators it is used as the starting year for trend comparisons. The overall Social Equity score for Muskegon County improved between 2005 and 2006 but still showed a decline from the 2000 score. The Muskegon County score for Environmental Integrity showed a slight improvement between 2000 and 2006, while Economic Prosperity declined.

Index scores for the three West Michigan counties are significantly higher than those for the East Michigan Counties across all periods.

<b>Table One: Prosperity Index Scores and 2000 to 2006 Trends* by Sustainability Sector</b>																
Sustainability Sector	Sector Index	Muskegon County			West MI <sup>1</sup>			East MI <sup>2</sup>			Michigan			U.S.		
		2000	2005	2006	2000	2005	2006	2000	2005	2006	2000	2005	2006	2000	2005	2006
Social Equity	Score	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
	Trend	down			down			down			down			steady		
Environmental Integrity	Score	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.4
	Trend	steady			rising			rising			rising			rising		
Economic Prosperity	Score	2.7	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	3.1	2.9	2.6	3.5	3.1	3.1
	Trend	down			down			down			down			down		
<b>Overall Average</b>	Score	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>
	Trend	steady			steady			steady			down			steady		

\*Only score changes greater than ± 0.1 are classified as rising or down.

2006 overall Index scores for Social Equity and Economic Prosperity declined from peak scores in 2000, while Environmental Integrity scores were relatively stable. Muskegon County scored at a sustainable level or higher on 4 out of 6 Social Equity indicators in 2006.

## Social Equity



**Table Two** shows the measures and Index scores for the six Social Equity indicators.

Muskegon County scored at a sustainable level or higher on indicators of Median Household Income,

Household Income Spread, Home Ownership and Infant Mortality. The Infant Mortality score improved significantly from the 2005 score of 2.8 to 3.7 in 2006.

Areas needing improvement are Nursery/Pre-School Enrollment and Unemployment Rate. Unemployment continues to drag other indicators. For the first quarter of 2008, the Unemployment Rate increased to 7.6% for an even lower Index score of 1.2.

<b>Table Two: Social Equity Sector - 2006 Indicators and Scores</b>											
Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI <sup>1</sup>		East MI <sup>2</sup>		Michigan		U.S.		
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	
Median Household Income	\$40,883	3.1	\$48,095	3.5	\$40,638	3.1	\$47,182	3.4	\$48,451	3.5	
Household Income Spread	\$8,291	5.0	\$11,685	4.0	\$11,118	4.2	\$14,066	3.2	\$17,076	2.3	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	6.7	3.7	6.7	3.7	8.5	2.8	7.6	3.2	6.7	3.7	
Nursery/Pre-School Enrollment	38.9%	2.4	45.9%	3.2	44.6%	3.1	46.0%	3.3	46.1%	3.3	
Home Ownership	79.3%	4.9	78.9%	4.9	76.2%	4.5	75.2%	4.4	67.3%	3.4	
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	1.6	5.9%	2.0	7.5%	1.3	6.9%	1.6	4.6%	2.7	
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>3.5</b>		<b>3.6</b>		<b>3.2</b>		<b>3.2</b>		<b>3.2</b>		

## Environmental Integrity



**Table Three** to the right shows the six Environmental Integrity measures and scores. Overall, the score for Muskegon County on these indicators stayed close to the 2.7 score in 2000.

The Solid Waste indicator score showed the most improvement increasing from 1.3 in 2000 to 2.9 in 2006. The score for Toxic Release Inventory also increased significantly – from 3.2 in 2000 to 3.6 in 2006.

The Index score for ground-level Ozone – an air pollutant associated with smog – declined from 2.9 in 2000 to 2.4 in 2006.

## Economic Prosperity



The indicators selected for the Economic Prosperity sector are shown in **Table Four**. The indicators selected were those that are known to reflect economic growth and development.

Overall, the sector scores declined from 2.7 in 2000 to 2.4 in both 2005 and 2006. The score for Employment Growth showed the most significant change from 2005 to 2006 – rising from 1.3 to 1.7.

While employment opportunities have increased, the scores for earnings indicators – Per Capita Personal Income and Average Weekly Wages – have decreased since 2000. The score for Personal Income declined from 2.1 in 2000 to 1.8 in 2006; and Average Weekly Wages fell from 2.3 to 1.8 over the same period.

**Table Three:**  
Environmental Integrity Sector - 2006 Indicators and Scores

Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI <sup>1</sup>		East MI <sup>2</sup>		Michigan		U.S.	
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index
Toxic Release Inventory <i>lbs per capita</i>	10.39	3.6	15.21	3.0	12.22	3.4	8.69	3.8	14.19	3.1
Particulate Matter <i>2.5 µm/m<sup>3</sup></i>	11.30	3.5	12.03	3.4	10.55	3.6	11.59	3.5	11.42	3.5
Land for Agriculture <i>acres per cap (2005)</i>	0.42	1.7	0.45	1.8	0.86	2.4	1.00	2.7	3.16	5.0
Urban Sprawl <i>FTA/100,000 pop</i>	12.55	2.9	11.03	3.3	12.01	3.0	10.75	3.3	14.24	2.4
Ozone <i>ppm</i>	0.0900	2.4	0.0848	2.6	0.0735	3.1	0.0769	2.9	0.0764	2.9
Solid Waste <i>cubic yards per capita</i>	4.11	2.9	3.10	3.5	3.15	3.4	2.82	3.6	3.36	3.3
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>2.8</b>		<b>2.9</b>		<b>3.2</b>		<b>3.3</b>		<b>3.4</b>	

*Index scores for Environmental Integrity and Economic Prosperity in Muskegon County lagged Michigan scores. Muskegon County did show improvement in Employment Growth and Particulate Matter between 2005 and 2006.*

**Table Four:**  
Economic Prosperity Sector - 2006 Indicators and Scores

Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI <sup>1</sup>		East MI <sup>2</sup>		Michigan		U.S.	
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index
Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,560	1.8	\$31,244	2.3	\$28,890	2.0	\$33,788	2.6	\$36,714	2.9
Employment Growth <i>avg/year 2002-06</i>	0.52%	1.8	0.24%	1.4	-1.14%	0.0	-0.70%	0.0	0.87%	2.1
Employment Distribution	0.892	1.9	0.960	2.6	0.873	1.7	0.906	2.1	NA	
Bachelor's Degrees <i>ages 25 to 34</i>	18.7%	2.2	26.8%	3.1	23.0%	2.6	27.4%	3.2	28.8%	3.4
Average Weekly Wages	\$653	1.8	\$703	2.1	\$720	2.2	\$811	2.8	\$818	2.8
Population Growth <i>avg/year 2002-06</i>	0.28%	4.7	0.54%	4.4	-0.24%	1.8	0.12%	4.9	0.75%	4.2
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>2.4</b>		<b>2.7</b>		<b>1.7</b>		<b>2.6</b>		<b>3.1</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Average of data and scores for Muskegon, Kent and Ottawa Counties.

<sup>2</sup> Average of data and scores for Bay, Genesee and Saginaw Counties.