

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 for 2007 remained unchanged from 2006 but showed a decline from the 2000 score. The Muskegon County score for Environmental Integrity showed an improvement between 2000 and 2007, while Economic Prosperity declined.

Below are summary analyses and data for the indicators selected for each sustainability sector. More detailed information on the indicators and index score calculations may be found on the website www.muskegonasc.org.

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 all indicators except Unemployment Rate.

Muskegon County index scores showing improvement since last year's report were Infant Mortality and Pre-School Enrollment. The Infant Mortality score was at 2.4 in 2000 and rose to 3.9 in 2007. The Index score for Pre-School Enrollment was at 3.6 in 2000, dropped to a low of 1.5 in 2005, and rose in 2007 to 3.8.

Index scores for Household Income Spread and Home Ownership in Muskegon County declined significantly between 2006 and 2007, but remained at sustainable levels. The Unemployment Rate index score for Muskegon County dropped between 2006 and 2007 and continued to remain at a less than sustainable level.

**Table One:
Prosperity Index Scores and 2000 to 2007 Trends* by Sustainability Sector**

Sustainability Sector	Sector Index	Muskegon County			West MI ¹			East MI ²			Michigan			U.S.		
		2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007
Social Equity	Score	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.0
	Trend	down			down			down			down			down		
Environmental Integrity	Score	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.5
	Trend	rising			rising			rising			rising			rising		
Economic Prosperity	Score	2.7	2.4	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	3.1	2.6	2.2	3.5	3.1	3.2
	Trend	down			steady			steady			down			down		
Overall Average	Score	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.2
	Trend	steady			steady			steady			down			steady		

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

2007 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 5 out of 6 Social Equity indicators in 2007.

**Table Two:
Social Equity Sector - 2007 Indicators and Scores**

Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI ¹		East MI ²		Michigan		U.S.	
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index
Median Household Income	\$40,110	3.0	\$48,300	3.4	\$43,028	3.2	\$47,931	3.4	\$50,740	3.5
Household Income Spread	\$10,785	4.3	\$13,061	3.6	\$12,021	3.9	\$14,972	2.9	\$18,453	1.1
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	6.3	3.9	6.4	3.8	9.0	2.5	7.8	3.1	6.8	3.6
Nursery/Pre-School Enrollment	50.0%	3.8	50.0%	3.8	45.1%	3.1	46.4%	3.3	47.3%	3.4
Home Ownership	77.1%	4.6	76.1%	4.5	76.0%	4.5	74.8%	4.4	67.2%	3.4
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	1.3	6.2%	1.9	7.3%	1.3	8.2%	0.9	4.6%	2.7
Sector Index	3.5		3.4		3.1		3.0		3.0	

Environmental Integrity



Table Three to the right shows the six Environmental Integrity measures and scores 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 3.4 in 2007. The score for Toxic Release Inventory also increased slightly – from 3.2 in 2000 to 3.4 in 2007.

The score for Urban Sprawl dropped from 2.9 in 2006 to 2.3 in 2007. The measure used for this indicator is Fatal Traffic Accidents per 100,000 population. The Index score for ground-level Ozone – an air pollutant associated with smog – declined from 2.9 in 2000 to 2.6 in 2007.

Table Three:
Environmental Integrity Sector - 2007 Indicators and Scores

Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI ¹		East MI ²		Michigan		U.S.	
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index
Toxic Release Inventory <i>lbs per capita</i>	11.75	3.4	11.13	3.5	14.08	3.1	9.86	3.7	13.51	3.2
Particulate Matter <i>2.5 µm/m³</i>	10.50	3.6	11.81	3.4	10.62	3.6	12.65	3.3	11.75	3.4
Land for Agriculture <i>acres per capita</i>	0.46	1.8	0.40	1.7	0.86	2.4	1.00	2.7	3.03	5.0
Urban Sprawl <i>Fatal Traffic Accidents /100,000 population</i>	14.91	2.3	10.98	3.3	12.49	2.9	10.79	3.3	12.41	2.9
Ozone <i>parts per million</i>	0.086	2.6	0.086	2.6	0.083	2.6	0.084	2.6	0.076	2.9
Solid Waste <i>cubic yards per capita</i>	3.15	3.4	2.82	3.6	3.27	3.4	2.88	3.6	3.27	3.4
Sector Index	2.9		3.0		3.0		3.2		3.5	

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 2006 and rose slightly to 2.5 in 2007. The score for Employment Growth showed the most significant change from 2006 to 2007 – rising from 1.7 to 2.2.

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 1.6 in 2007; and Average Weekly Wages fell from 2.3 to 1.8 over the same period.

The index score for Environmental Integrity in Muskegon County lagged the Michigan score, but Economic Prosperity surpassed it. Muskegon County did show improvement in Employment Growth and Particulate Matter between 2006 and 2007.

Table Four:
Economic Prosperity Sector - 2007 Indicators and Scores

Indicator	Muskegon County		West MI ¹		East MI ²		Michigan		U.S.	
	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index	Measure	Index
Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,880	1.6	\$31,839	2.1	\$29,012	1.8	\$34,423	2.3	\$36,714	2.7
Employment Growth <i>avg/year 2003-07</i>	0.80%	2.2	0.86%	2.3	0.02%	1.0	-0.04%	1.0	1.21%	2.9
Employment Distribution	0.913	2.2	0.966	2.7	0.869	1.7	0.907	2.1	NA	
Bachelor's Degrees <i>ages 25 to 34</i>	20.6%	2.4	30.0%	3.5	19.5%	2.3	27.1%	3.2	29.1%	3.4
Average Weekly Wages	\$673	1.8	\$737	2.1	\$736	2.1	\$834	2.7	\$855	2.8
Population Growth <i>avg/year 2003-07</i>	0.21%	4.8	0.49%	4.5	-0.37%	1.6	-0.01%	2.0	0.77%	4.2
Sector Index	2.5		2.9		1.8		2.2		3.2	

¹ Average of data and scores for Muskegon, Kent and Ottawa Counties.

² Average of data and scores for Bay, Genesee and Saginaw Counties.