

## Social Equity Indicator: Median Household Income

**Why:** Income determines the quantity and quality of the goods and services a household can buy. Adequate and consistent income is essential to acquiring the assets and financial security necessary for prosperity. Household income is the most commonly used measure of income. Median income is considered a better indicator than average household income as it is not dramatically affected by unusually high or low values.

**What:** Household income is the sum of money income received in the calendar year by all household members 15 years old and over, including members unrelated to the householder. Money income includes amounts reported for wage or salary income, net self-employment income, public assistance payments, retirement or disability income, and so forth. Median income is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

**Where:** U. S. Census Bureau, *Decennial Census, and American Community Survey*. <http://www.census.gov/>

Median Household Income								
Geography	2000		2005		2006		2007	
	\$	Index Score	\$	Index Score	\$	Index Score	\$	Index Score
<b>Muskegon County</b>	\$38,008	3.3	\$41,911	3.3	\$40,883	3.1	\$40,110	3.0
Kent County	\$45,980	3.7	\$46,456	3.5	\$46,826	3.4	\$49,703	3.5
Ottawa County	\$52,347	4.0	\$56,984	4.0	\$56,576	3.9	\$55,088	3.7
<b>West MI Average</b>	\$45,445	3.7	\$48,450	3.6	\$48,095	3.5	\$48,300	3.4
Bay County	\$38,646	3.3	\$41,384	3.3	\$41,774	3.2	\$42,688	3.2
Genesee County	\$41,951	3.5	\$42,473	3.3	\$41,778	3.2	\$43,518	3.2
Saginaw County	\$38,637	3.3	\$39,957	3.2	\$38,362	3.0	\$42,877	3.2
<b>East MI Average</b>	\$39,745	3.4	\$41,271	3.2	\$40,638	3.1	\$43,028	3.2
Michigan	\$44,667	3.6	\$46,039	3.5	\$47,182	3.4	\$47,931	3.4
U.S.	\$41,994	3.5	\$46,242	3.5	\$48,451	3.5	\$50,740	3.5

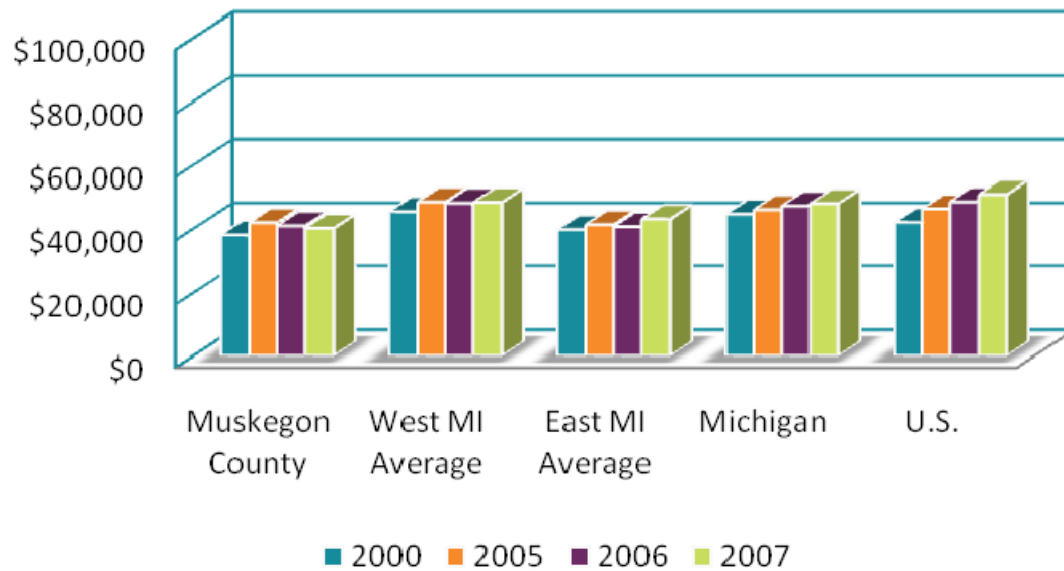
### Index Scores

**Rubric:** There is no definitive standard or consensus on sustainable income levels. Household incomes are influenced by factors such as cost of living, employment availability and distribution, and so forth. The rubric levels are based on the quintile or fifths distribution of household incomes as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau in Table H-1, "Historical Income Tables - Households. "

**Scale:** The income level for each score level 2.0 and above is the upper limit of each quintile reported for the indicated year in current (for that year) dollars. Each quintile represents 20%, or one fifth, of all households.

Rubric: Median Household Income					
Level	Index	Median HH Income Quintiles			
		2000	2005	2006	2007
Thriving	5	\$81,960	\$91,705	\$97,032	\$100,000
Advancing	4	\$52,265	\$57,658	\$60,000	\$62,000
Sustainable	3	\$33,005	\$36,000	\$37,774	\$39,100
Needs Improvement	2	\$17,955	\$19,178	\$20,035	\$20,291
Failing	1	\$8,978	\$9,589	\$10,018	\$10,146

## Median Household Income



- *Reported median household income in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties declined from 2006 to 2007, while all other reported geographies showed increases.*
- *In 2007, the average median household income in the West Michigan Counties was higher than the average for East Michigan Counties and Michigan.*
- *Index scores for median household income increased for Kent and Saginaw Counties, but continued declining or remained unchanged in all other reported geographies.*