Michigan’s Past, Present, and Future: Demographics, Economics, Politics

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Charles L. Ballard
Department of Economics
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI
ballard@msu.edu
Where there is economic opportunity, people will follow.
Population in Michigan, 1840-2009

Year

Population (in millions)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

The slowing of population growth in Michigan began at a time when the economy was still growing, but at a slower pace (both in absolute terms, and relative to the national average).

Year

Per-Capita Personal Income, in 2012 Dollars
0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000 35,000 40,000 45,000

Michigan
United States

In Michigan and the United States, 1929-2012

40,000 45,000

30,000 35,000

20,000 25,000

10,000 15,000

5,000

0
Per-Capita Personal Income:
Michigan as a Percent of the U.S. Average, 1950-2012
Also, this period of slowing OVERALL economic growth was accompanied by a major increase in income inequality.
Percent Change in Inflation-Adjusted Income from 1976-78 to 2006-08, For Households at Selected Points in the Income Distribution, For Michigan, Ohio, and the United States

Percentile of the Household Income Distribution

- Michigan
- Ohio
- United States
This relative decline has many sources. Here are two of the biggest:

1. Relative decline of manufacturing.

2. Increase in earnings for those with the highest levels of education.
Manufacturing’s Share of the Economy Has Shrunk Dramatically


Year

Percent
0 10 20 30 40 50 60

Michigan
United States
American men who have not been to college have fared especially poorly in the last 40 years.
Per-Capita Personal Income in Massachusetts and Michigan, As a Percent of the U.S. Average, 1950-2012

Year

Massachusetts

Michigan
Per-Capita Personal Income in Minnesota and Michigan, As a Percent of the U.S. Average, 1950-2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>College-Attainment Rank 2011</th>
<th>Income Rank 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At a time when education is so crucial to our future, Michigan has pursued a policy of systematic disinvestment in education.
Sources of Funds for Michigan State University, 1959-60 to 2012-13

Year

Percent

Tuition & Fees

State of Michigan Appropriations
In order to be equivalent to the real budget reductions of 2003-2011, we would have to cease state support for:

Central Michigan University,
Eastern Michigan University,
Ferris State University,
Grand Valley State University,
Lake Superior State University,
Michigan Technological University,
Northern Michigan University,
Oakland University,
Saginaw Valley State University,
University of Michigan - Dearborn,
University of Michigan - Flint, and
Western Michigan University.
One big reason for the decline in higher-education funding is the long-term decrease in tax revenue.
Tax Effort Has Reduced Substantially

State and Local Taxes as Percent of Personal Income, 1972-2010

- New York
- Michigan
- United States
- Texas
In my view, the current clamor for a tax cut is misplaced.
The Detroit metropolitan area is more racially segregated than any other major area in the United States.

Many of the problems of the city and the metropolitan area stem from the lack of a regional focus.
FIGURE 3.22
Minority Population of Michigan Census Tracts in Detroit Tri-County Area, 2000

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Table P4. Michigan Center for Geographic Information.
For the U.S. as a whole, the earnings gap between black and white men has decreased very slightly in the last 35 years, but the gap for women has increased.
Median Labor-Market Earnings for Blacks, As Percent of Median Earnings for Whites, For Full-Time Year-Round Workers In the United States, 1967-2011
In Michigan, African Americans have actually lost ground relative to whites.
Median Earnings for Black Men, As Percent of Median Earnings for White Men, For Michigan and Georgia, 1976-2008

- Michigan
- Georgia
Michigan, My Michigan

A song to thee, fair State of mine,
Michigan, my Michigan.

But greater song than this is thine,
Michigan, my Michigan.

The whisper of the forest tree,
The thunder of the inland sea,
Unite in one grand symphony
Of Michigan, my Michigan.