County Facts: Mecosta County, MI
Population 43,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 5.8% (Mecosta County), 4.6% (MI), 3.6% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 4.4% (Mecosta County), 5.1% (MI), 6.3% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $57 (Mecosta County), $53 (MI), $45 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 7% (Mecosta County), 0% (MI), 16% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 17% (Mecosta County), 10% (MI), 14% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 20% (Mecosta County), 10% (MI), 1.7% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 6.8% (Mecosta County), 6.6% (MI), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 46% (Mecosta County), 46% (MI), 15% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 20% (Mecosta County), 20% (MI), 20% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 10% (Mecosta County), 8% (MI), 6% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 17% (Mecosta County), 17% (MI), 15% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 0.9% (Mecosta County), 1.2% (MI), 0.9% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $6.3 (Mecosta County), $6.4 (MI), $7.2 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Ferris State Univ. (public)**
  - Low-income share of students: 9.1%
  - Low-income student success rate: 46.0%

- **Michigan 4-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 6.3%
  - Low-income student success rate: 50.3%

- **U.S. 4-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 9.3%
  - Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Ferris State Univ. (public)**
  - Low-income share of students: 11.0%
  - Low-income student success rate: 27.7%

- **Michigan 2-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 15.6%
  - Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

- **U.S. 2-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 27.7%
  - Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

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Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mecosta County</th>
<th>MI</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>82.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- **Mecosta County**
- **MI**
- **United States**
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau