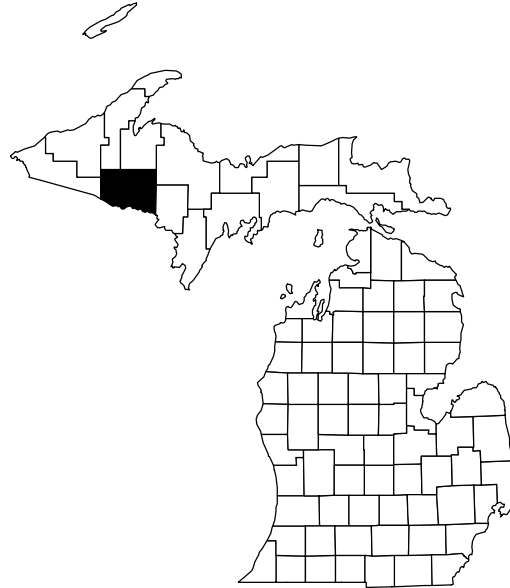


# IRON COUNTY TOURISM PROFILE

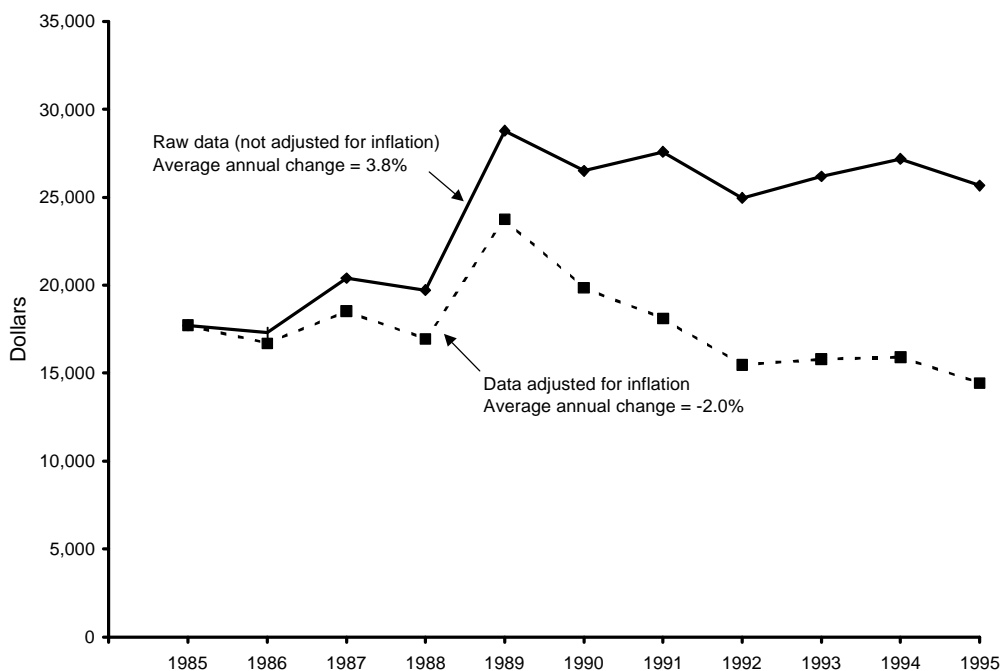
Prepared by Daniel M. Spencer, Dae-Kwan Kim, and Philip J. Alexander

October 1998

MSU Extension has prepared this profile to help developers, tourism professionals, public officials, and others make informed decisions regarding the travel and tourism industry in Iron County. All statistics pertain to Iron County unless otherwise noted, and are the most current available. Further assistance is available from the Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center at Michigan State University (517/353-0793) or the MSU Extension office in Iron County (906/875-6642).



## TRENDS IN STATE OF MICHIGAN LODGING USE TAX COLLECTIONS FOR IRON COUNTY



NOTE: The lodging use tax is a state tax on the rental of a guest-room or cabin. To ensure comparability of statistics over the entire 10-year period shown, tax collections after May 1, 1994, when the tax rate increased from 4% to 6%, were adjusted so that they equaled what they would have been at the 4% rate. The comparable statewide average annual change figures are 6.3% in the case of raw data and 0.4% in the case of adjusted data.

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Treasury, Systems Division.

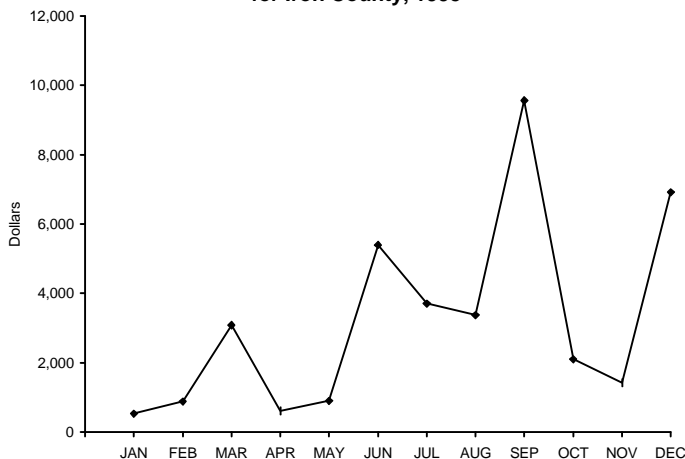
# ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE, TRIP VOLUME, AND EXPENDITURES BY TOURISTS IN IRON AND NEIGHBORING COUNTIES, 1996

<u>COUNTY OF MAIN DESTINATION</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED NO. PLEASURE TRIP-NIGHTS</u>	<u>ESTIMATED DIRECT EXPENDITURES</u>
Baraga	0.3%	259,900	\$14,118,000
Dickinson	0.7%	683,300	\$37,123,000
Gogebic	1.8%	1,659,800	\$90,174,000
Houghton	0.6%	591,200	\$32,116,000
Iron	0.6%	545,800	\$29,652,000
Marquette	1.5%	1,425,600	\$77,448,000

NOTE: Estimates are based on results from a telephone survey being conducted by the Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center at Michigan State University. "Pleasure trips" are overnight or day trips to places at least 50 miles from respondents' homes that were made for enjoyment, including vacations, weekend getaways, shopping trips, and trips to visit friends and relatives. The study region consists of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Ontario. "Market share" is the percentage of pleasure trips to Michigan that originated from this region and had a given county as its main destination. Estimated pleasure trip-nights are the product of these percentages and a survey-based estimate of 93.8 million pleasure trip-nights in Michigan in 1996. Direct expenditures are the product of these percentages and a survey-based estimate of \$5.1 billion in direct pleasure trip expenditures in Michigan in 1996. Estimates do not include pleasure trip-nights or expenditures of travelers who resided outside the study region or who merely passed through a county. Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision as additional data become available. They should be used judiciously since they are in some cases based on small samples for a given county.

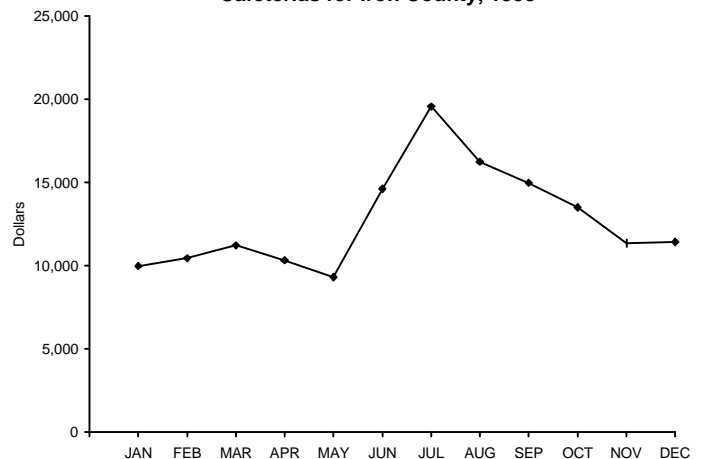
## SEASONALITY IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

**State of Michigan Lodging Use Tax Collections  
for Iron County, 1995**



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Treasury.

**State of Michigan Sales Tax Collections of Family Restaurants and  
Cafeterias for Iron County, 1995**



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Treasury.

## INDICATORS OF TRAVEL ACTIVITY FOR IRON COUNTY

Estimated number of visits to Bewabic State Park (1996) .....	48,676
Unadjusted (6%) State of Michigan lodging use tax collections (1995) .....	\$38,493

# RECREATION AND TRAVEL RESOURCES

## NATURAL RESOURCES

No. land acres in county (1989) .....	744,384
No. water acres in county (1989) .....	30,720
Total no. acres in county (1989) .....	775,104
No. acres of public recreation land (1990)	
National parks/lakeshores .....	0
National wildlife refuges .....	0
National forests .....	172,884
State parks and recreation areas .....	316
State boating and fishing sites .....	2,845
State game/wildlife areas .....	0
State forests .....	79,428
Other areas .....	0
Total .....	255,473
No. acres of publicly or privately owned forest land (1994) .....	662,300
Total no. acres of designated state or federal wilderness (1990) ...	0
Average no. inches of snowfall (1981/82-1990/91) .....	90.6
No. miles of Great Lake shoreline .....	0
Total no. miles of rivers and streams .....	902
No. miles of state or federal wild/scenic/natural river (1990) .....	49
No. inland lakes > 50 acres in size .....	87
Combined acres of natural or artificial lakes and ponds (1991) .....	29,456
Total no. acres of legislatively protected sand dunes (1989) .....	0

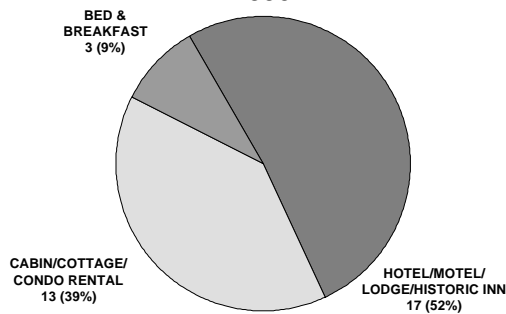
## RECREATION AND TRAVEL FACILITIES

No. public access sites (1990) .....	31
No. recreational harbors on the Great Lakes (1990) ....	0
No. Great Lake marinas (1994) .....	0
No. Great Lake marina slips (1994) .....	0
No. licensed charter boats (1996) .....	0
No. 9-hole golf courses (1995) .....	1
No. 18-hole golf courses (1995) .....	1
No. agricultural markets/wineries/u-picks (1993) .....	2
No. miles of designated scenic highway (1990) .....	44.4
No. owned second homes (1990) .....	2,474
No. licensed food service establishments (1995)	
Table service .....	32
Fast food .....	16
Cafeteria .....	10
Bar only .....	20
Other .....	6
Total .....	84
No. boat liveries (1990) .....	8
No. watercraft for rent (1990) .....	99
No. miles of state-funded snowmobile trail (1990) .....	123.2
No. miles of hiking/skiing/mtn. biking trail (1994) .....	130.9
No. miles of designated off-road vehicle trail (1992) ....	0
No. museums (1990) .....	1
No. historical attractions open to the public (1990) .....	0
No. miles of interstate highway (1990) .....	0.0

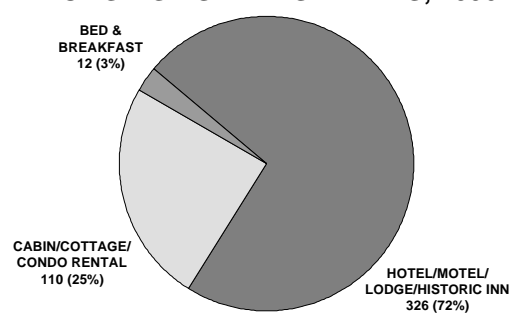
## PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Copper Country State Forest; Iron County Courthouse, Crystal Falls; Iron County Museum Park, Caspian; Bewabic State Park; Ottawa National Forest; outdoor recreation activities, including fishing, canoeing, camping, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling.

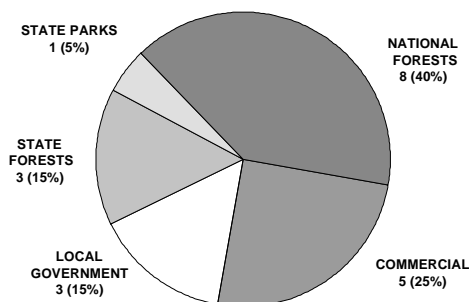
**NO. COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1990**



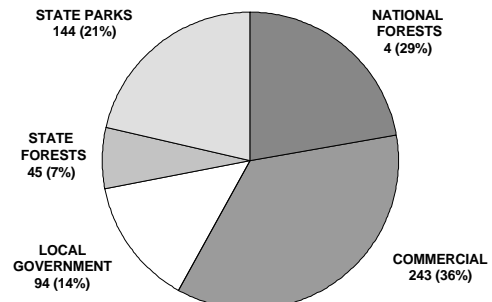
**NO. GUEST-ROOMS IN COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1990**



**NO. CAMPGROUNDS, 1990**



**NO. CAMPSITES, 1990**



# RANK IN RELATION TO OTHER MICHIGAN COUNTIES

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Date of Data</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>County's Rank</u>	<u>Range of Ranks Statewide</u>
No. acres of publicly or privately owned forest land .....	1994	662,300	4	1-82
Combined area of natural or artificial lakes and ponds .....	1991	29,456	5	1-83
No. public access sites .....	1990	31	6	1-83
No. natural heritage sites .....	1990	0	7	1-7
Total no. miles of rivers and streams .....	1944	902	8	1-77
No. historical attractions open to the public .....	1990	0	9	1-9
No. miles of state-funded snowmobile trail .....	1990	123.2	9	1-47
No. eating and drinking places per 1,000 residents .....	1995	6.37	10	1-74
No. acres of public recreation land .....	1990	255,473	10	1-83
No. museums .....	1990	1	13	1-14
No. lifts or tows at downhill ski areas .....	1990	8	13	1-20
No. miles of designated hiking/skiing/mtn. biking trail .....	1994	130.98	16	1-79
No. miles of state or federal wild/scenic/natural river .....	1990	49.0	19	1-39
No. miles of designated scenic highway .....	1990	44.4	22	1-35
No. licensed charter boats .....	1996	0	22	1-22
Average no. inches of snowfall (1981/82-1990/91) .....	Avg.	90.6	26	1-82
No. licensed rental watercraft per 1,000 residents .....	1990	7.51	28	1-76
Total no. public golf course holes per 1,000 residents .....	1995	2.05	30	1-74
No. agricultural markets/wineries/u-picks per 1,000 residents .....	1993	0.15	36	1-48
No. miles of designated off-road vehicle trail .....	1992	0.0	38	1-38
No. owned second homes .....	1990	2,474	38	1-83
Estimated direct pleasure trip expenditures .....	1996	\$29,652,000	49	1-83
Total no. units in commercial lodging establishments .....	1990	448	50	1-82
No. designated campsites .....	1990	676	54	1-81
Estimated population .....	1995	13,177	72	1-83
No. miles of Great Lake shoreline .....	n.d.	0.0	- - -	1-38
No. Great Lake marina slips per 1,000 residents .....	1994	0.00	- - -	1-41

NOTE: This table is intended to provide an indication of the county's competitive advantages and disadvantages. Many types of tourism facilities are patronized by local residents as well as tourists. The number of such facilities in a given county is therefore a function of the county's population as well as its popularity as a tourist destination. To provide a meaningful indication of popularity in such cases, counts of facilities are presented as number of facilities per 1,000 residents. "Natural heritage sites" are scenic vistas, unique geological features, significant wildlife observation areas, or major waterfalls. Range of ranks statewide is not always 1-83 due to ties.

## SOURCES OF STATISTICS IN THIS PUBLICATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census; Michigan Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Public Health, Transportation, and Treasury; Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center at Michigan State University.

## RESOURCES FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

- Iron County Chamber of Commerce: 50 East Genesee Street, Iron River, MI 49935.
- Iron County Tourism Council: 50 E. Genesee St., Iron River, MI 49935. (906) 265-3822. Fax: (906) 265-5605.
- Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association: 618 Stephenson Avenue, P.O. Box 400, Iron Mountain, MI 49801-0400. (906) 774-5480. Fax: (906) 774-5190. Web site: <http://www.travel.com>
- Travel Michigan: P.O. Box 30226, Lansing, MI 48909. (517) 373-0670. Web site: <http://www.Michigan.org/>
- Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center, Michigan State University: 172 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1222. Phone: (517) 353-0793. Fax: (517) 432-2296. E-mail: [dholecek@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:dholecek@pilot.msu.edu) Web site: <http://www.tourism.msu.edu/>



Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center  
Michigan State University

