

KENT COUNTY TOURISM PROFILE

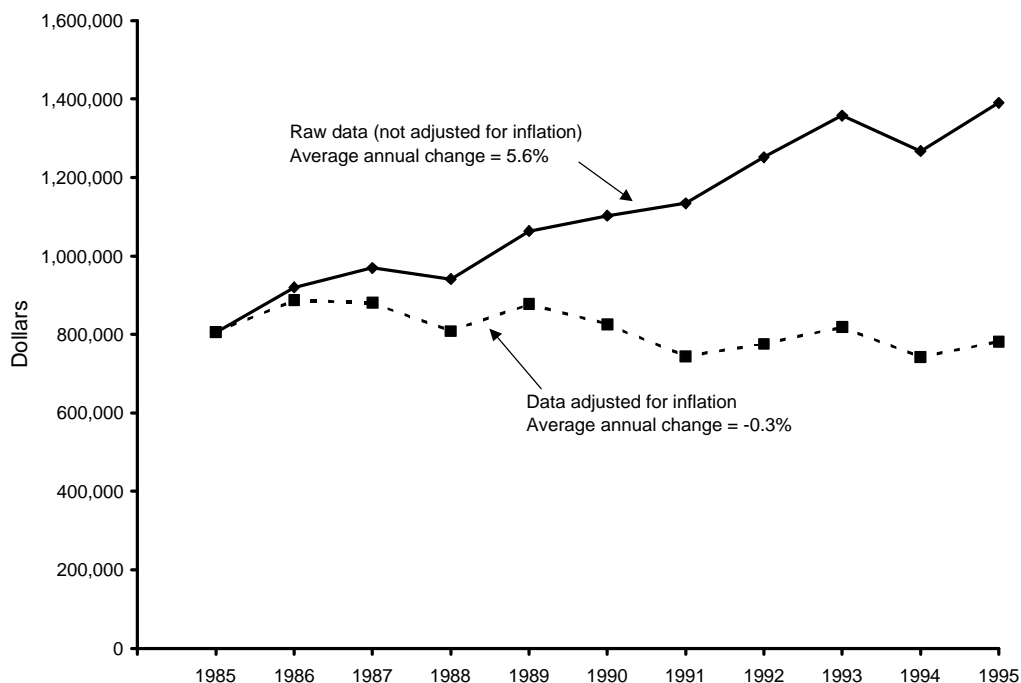
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MSU Extension has prepared this profile to help developers, tourism professionals, public officials, and others make informed decisions regarding the travel and tourism industry in Kent County. All statistics pertain to Kent County unless otherwise 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 offices in Kent County (616/336-3265 or 616/456-6988).



TRENDS IN STATE OF MICHIGAN LODGING USE TAX COLLECTIONS FOR KENT 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.

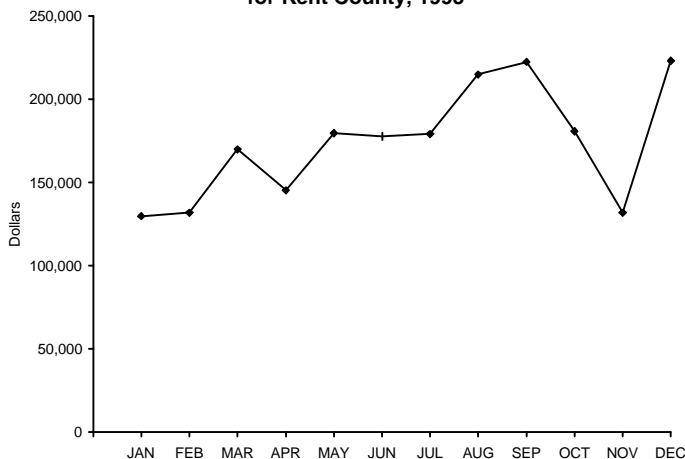
ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE, TRIP VOLUME, AND EXPENDITURES BY TOURISTS IN KENT AND NEIGHBORING COUNTIES, 1996

<u>COUNTY OF MAIN DESTINATION</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED NO. PLEASURE TRIP-NIGHTS</u>	<u>ESTIMATED DIRECT EXPENDITURES</u>
Allegan	1.9%	1,805,100	\$98,068,000
Barry	0.2%	153,900	\$8,363,000
Ionia	0.2%	197,300	\$10,720,000
Kent	2.9%	2,725,700	\$148,082,000
Montcalm	0.3%	291,100	\$15,812,000
Newaygo	0.3%	283,000	\$15,373,000
Ottawa	1.6%	1,467,900	\$79,748,000

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.

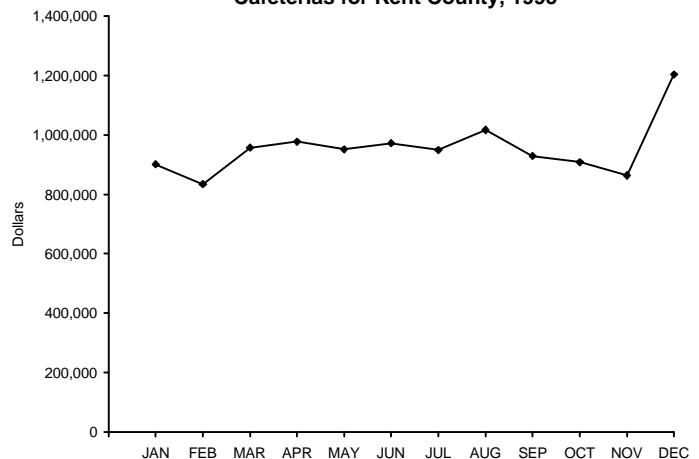
SEASONALITY IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

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



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Treasury.

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



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Treasury.

INDICATOR OF TRAVEL ACTIVITY FOR KENT COUNTY

Unadjusted (6%) State of Michigan lodging use tax collections (1995) \$2,085,687

RECREATION AND TRAVEL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

No. land acres in county (1989)	551,552
No. water acres in county (1989)	6,976
Total no. acres in county (1989)	558,528
No. acres of public recreation land (1990)	
National parks/lakeshores	0
National wildlife refuges	0
National forests	0
State parks and recreation areas	0
State boating and fishing sites	250
State game/wildlife areas	8,022
State forests	0
Other areas	0
Total	8,272
No. acres of publicly or privately owned forest land (1994)	155,500
Total no. acres of designated state or federal wilderness (1990) ...	0
Average no. inches of snowfall (1981/82-1990/91)	58.4
No. miles of Great Lake shoreline	0
Total no. miles of rivers and streams	772
No. miles of state or federal wild/scenic/natural river (1990)	144
No. inland lakes > 50 acres in size	42
Combined acres of natural or artificial lakes and ponds (1991)	9,974
Total no. acres of legislatively protected sand dunes (1989)	0

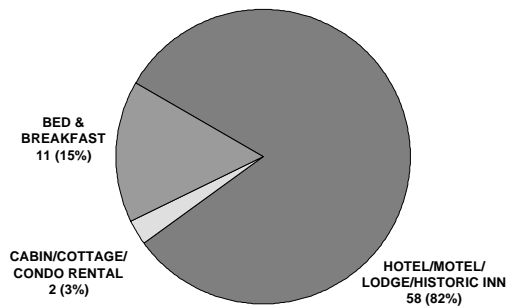
RECREATION AND TRAVEL FACILITIES

No. public access sites (1990)	24
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)	1
No. 9-hole golf courses (1995)	7
No. 18-hole golf courses (1995)	24
No. agricultural markets/wineries/u-picks (1993)	55
No. miles of designated scenic highway (1990)	0
No. owned second homes (1990)	1,347
No. licensed food service establishments (1995)	
Table service	482
Fast food	497
Cafeteria	134
Bar only	87
Other	826
Total	2,026
No. boat liveryes (1990)	18
No. watercraft for rent (1990)	217
No. miles of state-funded snowmobile trail (1990)	34.9
No. miles of hiking/skiing/mtn. biking trail (1994)	87.1
No. miles of designated off-road vehicle trail (1992)	0
No. museums (1990)	9
No. historical attractions open to the public (1990)	4
No. miles of interstate highway (1990)	47.7

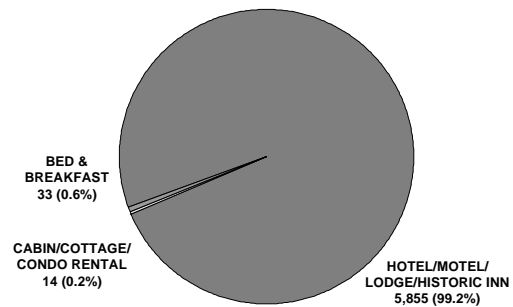
PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Grand Rapids (twice cited as an All American City) - an exciting cultural center with various colleges, a century-old art center, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Meyer May Mouse (Frank Lloyd Wright House), Heritage Hill historic neighborhood, historic Voigt House, the world's only public furniture museum, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum; numerous public golf courses; Wolverine World Wide Factory; John Ball Zoo; Jerry's Diner Village, Rockford.

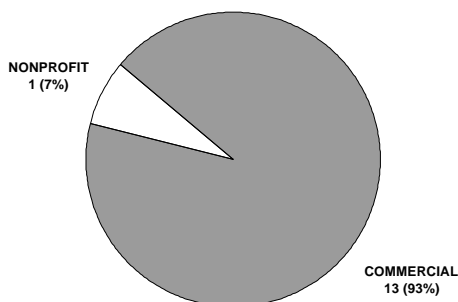
NO. COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1990



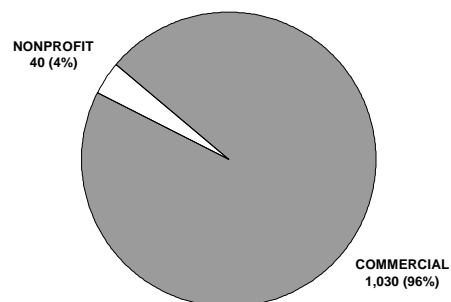
NO. GUEST-ROOMS IN COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1990



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. miles of state or federal wild/scenic/natural river	1990	144.0	1	1-39
Total no. units in commercial lodging establishments	1990	5,902	3	1-82
No. lifts or tows at downhill ski areas	1990	21	3	1-20
Estimated population	1995	525,355	4	1-83
No. historical attractions open to the public	1990	4	5	1-9
No. museums	1990	9	5	1-14
No. natural heritage sites	1990	0	7	1-7
Estimated direct pleasure trip expenditures	1996	\$148,082,000	7	1-83
Total no. miles of rivers and streams	1944	772	11	1-77
No. miles of designated hiking/skiing/mtn. biking trail	1994	87.07	19	1-79
No. licensed charter boats	1996	1	21	1-22
No. public access sites	1990	24	23	1-83
No. designated campsites	1990	1,070	33	1-81
No. miles of state-funded snowmobile trail	1990	34.9	34	1-47
Combined area of natural or artificial lakes and ponds	1991	9,974	34	1-83
No. miles of designated scenic highway	1990	0.0	35	1-35
No. miles of designated off-road vehicle trail	1992	0.0	38	1-38
No. agricultural markets/wineries/u-picks per 1,000 residents	1993	0.11	40	1-48
No. acres of publicly or privately owned forest land	1994	155,500	45	1-82
Average no. inches of snowfall (1981/82-1990/91)	Avg.	58.4	46	1-82
No. eating and drinking places per 1,000 residents	1995	3.86	47	1-74
No. owned second homes	1990	1,347	59	1-83
Total no. public golf course holes per 1,000 residents	1995	0.94	62	1-74
No. acres of public recreation land	1990	8,272	64	1-83
No. licensed rental watercraft per 1,000 residents	1990	0.43	68	1-76
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

- Cedar Springs Chamber of Commerce: P.O. Box 415, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber: 111 Pearl Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2831.
- Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 140 Monroe Center, Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2832. (616) 459-8287. Fax: (616) 459-7291. E-mail: grcvb@mclmail.com Web site: <http://www.grcvb.com>
- Greater Grandville Chamber of Commerce: P.O. Box 175, Grandville, MI 49468-0175.
- Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce: 8 Squires Street, P.O. Box 520, Rockford, MI 49348.
- Wyoming Area Chamber of Commerce: 1065 Rogers Plaza, S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509.
- West Michigan Tourist Association: 1253 Front Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-3216. (616) 456-8557. Fax: (616) 456-8958. Web site: <http://www.wmta.org>
- 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 Web site: <http://www.tourism.msu.edu/>



Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center
Michigan State University



County tourism profiles are a program of MSU Extension's Tourism Area of Expertise Team. Information about the Team and its programs may be found on the World Wide Web at "<http://www.tourism.msu.edu/>". Tourism profiles for each Michigan county, as well as explanations of technical terms and procedures, may be obtained from this same Web site.