

CHAPTER 2 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Population

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Alpena Township's 9,060 residents (4,415 male - 4,645 female) make up nearly one-third of Alpena County's population. Both the Township and the County experienced slight population decreases of approximately half a percent since the 2000 U.S. Census was conducted. **Table 2-1** below illustrates population trends for both the Township and the County from 1900 to 2010. As the table shows both governmental units experienced population growth each decade between 1930 and 1980, but the Township figures indicate a much faster growth rate than the County. Over the past 100 years, the 1980 population was the highest for both units. A two percent increase occurred for both units at the 2000 census count.

Table 2-1 Population Trends Alpena Township and Alpena County, 1900-2010				
Year	Alpena Township		Alpena County	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1900	1,173	---	18,254	---
1910	928	-20.9%	19,965	+9.4%
1920	701	-24.5%	17,869	-10.5%
1930	813	+16.0%	18,574	+3.9%
1940	1,675	+106.0%	20,766	+11.8%
1950	2,932	+75.0%	22,189	+6.9%
1960	6,616	+125.6%	28,556	+28.7%
1970	9,001	+36.0%	30,708	+7.5%
1980	10,152	+12.8%	32,315	+5.2%
1990	9,602	-5.4%	30,605	-5.3%
2000	9,788	+1.9%	31,314	+2.3%
2010	9,060	-7.4%	29,598	-10.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Although Alpena County experienced a small population decrease over the last decade, it remains the most populous county in the eight-county Northeast Michigan Region. Neighboring Presque Isle County also noted a decrease (-7.2 percent). Other counties showing population decreases were Cheboygan at -1.1 percent, Oscoda at -8.3 percent, Crawford at -1.4 percent, Alcona at -6.6 percent, and Montmorency at -5.3 percent. Otsego showed a small population increase at 3.7 percent.

When comparing population density for all governmental units in Alpena County, the Township ranks second with 86.4 persons per square mile. The City of Alpena has 1,233.3 persons per square mile, while the County as a whole shows a population density of 51.5 persons per square mile. Land area comparisons for governmental units in Alpena County show Alpena Township with 104.9 square miles, which is second only to and slightly smaller than Ossineke Township with 106 square miles of land mass. Refer to **Table 2-2** below for an illustration of land area and population density comparisons for 2000 and 2010.

**Table 2-2
Land Area and Population Density
Alpena County Governmental Units, 2000 & 2010**

Governmental Unit	Land Area in Square Miles	Persons per Square Mile	
		2000	2010
Alpena County	574.2	54.6	51.5
City of Alpena	8.5	1,329.9	1,233.3
Alpena Township	104.9	93.3	86.4
Sanborn Township	43.8	49.1	48.3
Maple Ridge Township	51.9	33.0	32.6
Wilson Township	79.5	26.1	25.5
Long Rapids Township	54.7	18.6	18.5
Ossineke Township	106.0	16.6	15.8
Green Township	71.4	16.9	17.2
Wellington Township	53.4	5.5	5.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010.

Seasonal Population

In discussing the population for Alpena Township, it is important to note that the figure presented by the 2010 Census does not reflect the actual number of persons residing in the community during the summer months. This situation can be seen throughout much of Northern Michigan. The Census tally, taken on April first, does not count residents who winter elsewhere. Respondents are asked to declare a permanent residence different from their April location, if more than six months are spent at the alternate address. However, many fail to do so for reasons of misunderstanding or for tax purposes.

In reviewing the social and economic information derived from the 2010 Census data, the figures presented for housing characteristics show 558 units or 11.4 percent of the total housing units are listed as seasonal, recreational or occasional use homes in Alpena Township. For Alpena County that figure is 12.2 percent. With this in mind, it can be assumed that the Township's resident population increases by approximately 10 percent during the summer months. In addition, many summer visitors stay at private lodging places, campgrounds, or at the homes of family or friends. It would be impossible to obtain an accurate count of the number of tourists who visit the area. However, the influence that tourists have on the local economy is significant.

The percentages of Alpena Township and Alpena County housing units that are seasonal in nature are much less than neighboring counties.

Age Distribution and Racial Make-Up

Age distribution comparisons for the Township, the County, and the State are presented as **Table 2-3**. In general, Alpena Township is experiencing an aging population, as is most of Northern Michigan. The median age for Alpena Township increased from 41.9 years in 2000 to 49.1 years in 2010. For Alpena County, median age increased from 40.4 years in 2000 to 46.7 years in 2010, as compared to an increase of 35.5 years in 2000 to 38.9 years in 2010 for the State of Michigan.

**Table 2-3
Age Distribution
Alpena Township, Alpena County, State of Michigan, 2010**

Age Group	Alpena Township		Alpena County		State of Michigan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	448	4.09%	1,508	5.5%	596,286	6.0%
5-9 years	455	5.0%	1,656	6.2%	637,784	6.5%
10-14 years	508	5.6%	1,792	7.3%	675,216	6.8%
15-19 years	544	6.0%	1,969	7.6%	739,599	7.5%
20-24 years	391	4.3%	1,444	4.9%	669,072	6.8%
25-34 years	754	8.0%	2,891	10.2%	1,164,149	11.8%
35-44 years	942	10.4%	3,233	16.3%	1,277,974	12.9%
45-54 years	1,596	17.6%	5,020	14.0%	1,501,033	15.2%
55-59 years	789	8.7%	2,313	5.8%	683,186	6.9%
60-64 years	628	6.9%	1,982	5.2%	568,811	5.8%
65-74 years	1,085	12.0%	2,978	9.0%	724,709	7.3%
75-84 years	714	7.9%	1,977	5.9%	444,940	4.5%
85 years and over	206	2.3%	810	2.2%	191,881	1.9%
Median Age	48.4 years		45.6 years		38.9 years	

Source: Table DP-1, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2010 U.S. Census.

Of the 9,060 Alpena Township residents at the time of the 2010 Census, 97.4 percent were White, 0.2 percent were African American, 0.6 percent were Native American, 0.1 percent were Asian, less than 0.0 percent were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.1 percent were of some other race.

Households

Census data from 2010 shows Alpena Township has an average household size of 2.25 persons per household, as compared to 2.27 persons per household in Alpena County and 2.49 persons per household for the State of Michigan. In general, household size has decreased nationwide over the past several decades. The trend to smaller households is important, because it creates demand for additional housing units even in the absence of a numerical increase in population. **Table 2-4** demonstrates the decrease in household size. **Table 2-5** compares household types for both the Township and the County over the past two decades.

**Table 2-4
Average Household Size (Persons per Household)
Alpena Township, Alpena County, State of Michigan – 2000 & 2010**

Alpena Township		Alpena County		State of Michigan	
2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
2.39	2.73	2.40	2.20	2.56	2.54

Source: Table 5, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, 2000 U.S. Census. Table DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2010 U.S. Census.

**Table 2-5
Household Comparisons
Alpena Township, Alpena County - 2000 & 2010**

Household Type	Alpena Township		Alpena County	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Total Households	4,037	3,976	12,818	12,791
Family Households	2,857	2,671	8,694	8,164
With own children under 18	1,165	1,585	3,767	3,004
Married Couple	2,373	2,155	7,093	6,401
With own children under 18	885	606	2,791	2,010
Female householder, no husband present	331	366	1,151	1,252
With own children under 18	188	211	698	714
Nonfamily Households	1,180	1,305	4,124	4,627
Householder living alone	1,010	1,117	3,557	3,935
Householder 65 years & over	459	503	1,710	1,738

Source: Table 5, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, 2000 U.S. Census. Table DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2010 U.S. Census.

Income and Employment

Three measures of income (median family, median household, and per capita) are illustrated in **Table 2-6**, comparing Township, County, and State. As in the previous decade, income statistics presented for the 2010 Census show Alpena Township income indicators at approximately 77 percent of the State figures. Alpena Township poverty status for families has increased since 2000 yet is lower than the State.

**Table 2-6
Income and Poverty Statistics
Alpena Township, Alpena County, State of Michigan, 2010**

Income Type	Alpena Township		Alpena County		State of Michigan	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Median Family Income	\$46,181	\$46,575	\$42,366	\$38,081	\$53,457	\$60,895
Median Household Income	\$39,889	\$42,722	\$34,177	\$38,081	\$44,667	\$48,669
Per Capita Income	\$18,779	\$25,377	\$17,566	\$21,867	\$22,168	\$25,482
% Families Below Poverty	5.5%	12.1%	7.7%	17.1%	7.4%	15.7%

Source: Table 9, Census of Population and Housing 2000 U.S. Census. Table DP-3, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics, 2010 U.S. Census.

Alpena Township's economic base is so intertwined with that of the City of Alpena that it would be difficult to separate the two. Since most major employers in the County are located either in the City or the Township, no attempt has been made to differentiate between the two in the next table. **Table 2-7** includes a listing of major economic base employers and local government employers located in Alpena County and the number of persons employed by each. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments prepared information shown on the table.

Employer	Type of Industry	# Employees 2000	# Employees 2010
Alpena Public Schools	Education	1,000	461
Alpena Regional Medical Center	Medical Care	897	950
Besser Company	Concrete Block Making Machines	500	97
Lafarge Corporation	Cement	265	265
DPI (formerly LPC)	Hardboard Manufacturing	250	300
Alpena County	Government	200	160
Devere	Global Construction Design	125	150
NEMROC	Sheltered Workshop	180	115
Alpena Community College	Education	147	441
NEMSCA	Social Service	150	150
Tendercare Alpena	Nursing and Convalescent Home	150	150

Source: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth publishes monthly and annual employment data. Annual Alpena County employment data for the years 2006 through 2010, is shown as **Table 2-8**. As can be seen, the workforce has declined slightly over the past five years. On the unemployment side of the picture, the unemployment rate has increased for the years 2006 to 2010.

Governmental Unit	Year	Labor Force #	Employment #	Unemployment #	Unemployment %
Alpena County	2006	15,007	13,877	1,130	7.5%
	2007	15,015	13,780	1,235	8.2%
	2008	14,984	13,648	1,386	8.9%
	2009	14,715	12,729	1,986	13.5%
	2010	14,113	12,242	1,871	13.3%
State of Michigan					
	2010	4,144,990	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 25.
Source: Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Labor Market Analysis Section.

Commuting to Work

According to the 2010 Census, the vast majority (86.7 percent) of Alpena Township workers (16 years and over) commute to work by driving alone, while 7.6 percent carpool, 0.3 percent use public transportation, 1.3 percent walk to work, 1.1 percent use some other means, and 2.8 percent work at home. For Alpena Township workers, the mean travel time to work is 14.3 minutes.

Education

Education is an important factor in analyzing the capabilities of the local work force and the economic vitality of a community. Of the 9,060 persons in Alpena Township 25 years of age and over (according to the 2010 Census), 90.7 percent have attained an education of high school graduate or higher (up from 85.1 percent in 2000), while 17.2 percent have attained a bachelor's degree or higher (up from 14.8 percent in 2000). This level of education achievement is somewhat higher than the County, with 83.1 percent (83.1 percent in 2000) of the population having earned a high school diploma and 13.2 percent (13.2 percent in 2000) earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The Township and County educational levels are compared to the State levels of 83.4 percent (83.4 percent in 2000) and 21.8 percent (21.8 percent in 2000) for high school and bachelor's degree, respectively.

Disability Status

For tracking disability status, the 2000 U.S. Census was broken into three different age categories for the non-institutionalized population: 5 to 20 years, 21 to 64 years, and 65 years and over. For Alpena Township, there are 2,050 persons in the 5 to 20 age group, and 229 persons (11.2 percent) are disabled. In the 21 to 64 age group, 1,087 of the 5,555 persons (19.6 percent) are disabled. However, 46.4 percent of the disabled in this age group are employed. Of the 1,633 persons in the 65 and over age group, 833 persons (47 percent) have a disability.

For Alpena County comparable statistics from the 2010 U.S. Census show 8.2 percent in the 5 to 17 age group have a disability. In the 18 to 64 age group, 14.8 percent are disabled, but 51.5 percent of the disabled are employed. Of the 4,614 persons in the 65 and over age group, 61.2 percent have a disability.