

LAKE TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN
August 21, 2023

The township’s 2020 population of 657 persons was 65% greater than its 1940 population of 398 persons. During this same period, Huron County’s population decreased 3.6%, from 32,584 to 31,407 persons.

The varying growth rates of the township and county since 1940 have resulted in an increase in the proportion of Lake Township residents comprising the total county population. The township’s population comprised 1.2% of the county population in 1940 and 2.1% of its population in 2020 – an increase of about 75%.

TABLE C-1
Population Trends & Growth Rates Comparison
(previous ten-year growth rate indicated by “%”)

YEAR	LAKE TOWNSHIP	HURON COUNTY	STATE of MICHIGAN
1940	398	32,584	5,256,106
1950	379 -4.8%	33,149 1.7%	6,371,766 21.2%
1960	448 18.2%	34,006 2.0%	7,823,194 18.6%
1970	532 18.8%	34,083 0.2%	8,881,826 11.9%
1980	822 54.5%	36,459 7.0%	9,262,078 4.1%
1990	800 -2.7%	34,951 -4.1%	9,295,297 0.4%
2000	996 24.5%	36,079 3.2%	9,938,444 6.9%
2010	855 -17.5%	33,118 -8.2%	9,883,640 -0.5%
2020	657 -23.2%	31,407 -5.2%	10,077,331 2.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The township’s overall rising population has increased population density. Its population density was 19 persons per square mile in 1940 and 31 persons per square mile in 2020, somewhat lower than that of the county as a whole (38 persons per square mile). By comparison, the Village of Caseville is one of the most densely populated communities in the county and had a 2020 population density of 593 persons per square mile.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Estimating future population growth can provide important insights into identifying future land use and public services needs. Projecting the growth of a community's population over a prescribed period of time is not an exact science. The many unpredictable factors that affect growth make population projections somewhat speculative. Because of the severity of the housing and financial market that surfaced in 2007, both in Michigan and nationally, along with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting changes in employment conditions and workplace patterns, projecting population growth is uniquely challenging. This is further exacerbated by the township’s seasonal population shifts and impacts on the reliability of local census data.

The Michigan Bureau of Labor Market has prepared projections for county populations through 2040 and the projections reflect a continual decline in Huron County’s population between 2020 and 2040. If Lake Township’s current 2.1% share of Huron County’s total population continues, the township’s population can be expected to be about 596 in 2030 and 538 in 2040.