

## CHAPTER 2: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Population

**Table 2-1** illustrates population trends for all municipalities in Alpena County for census years 1980, 1990, and 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census lists Wilson Township’s population at 2,074. This represents an increase of 9.0% from 1990. Wilson Township’s official population has fluctuated with a 9.3% population decrease occurring from 1980-1990. The decrease continues into 2007 as the US Census estimates that Wilson Township has decreased in population by 5.6% from 2000-2007 (**Table 2-2**). This is similar to the county-wide decrease of 5.1%. According to the 2000 US Census category for race, 98.9 percent of the population in Wilson Township was white; with American Indian, African American and Hispanic accounting for the balance of the 1.1 percent.

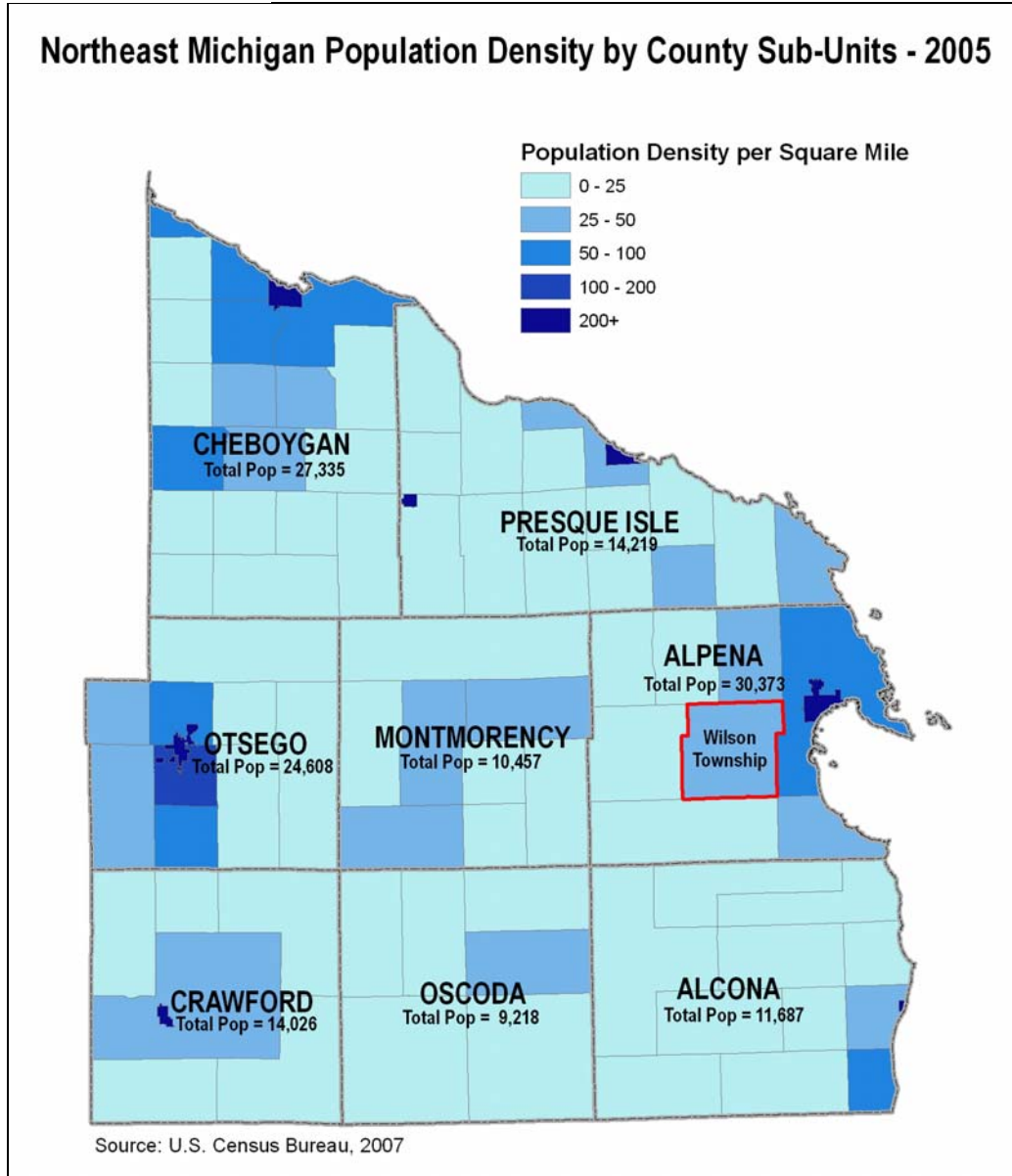
Municipality	1980 Pop.	1990 Pop.	% Change '80-'90	2000 Pop.	% Change '90-'00
Alpena County	32,315	30,605	-5.3%	31,314	2.3%
City of Alpena	12,214	11,354	-7.0%	11,304	-0.4%
Alpena Twp.	10,152	9,602	-5.4%	9,788	1.9%
Green Twp.	1,083	1,095	1.1%	1,205	10.0%
Long Rapids Twp.	1,006	1,021	1.5%	1,019	-0.2%
Maple Ridge Twp.	1,572	1,514	-3.7%	1,715	13.3%
Ossineke Twp.	1,607	1,654	2.8%	1,761	6.5%
Sanborn Twp.	2,297	2,196	-4.4%	2,152	-2.0%
Wellington Twp.	286	269	-5.9%	296	10.0%
<b>Wilson Twp.</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000

	Census	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	4/00 – 7/07
<b>Alpena County</b>	<b>31,314</b>	<b>31,131</b>	<b>30,854</b>	<b>30,649</b>	<b>30,494</b>	<b>30,186</b>	<b>29,814</b>	<b>29,707</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>
City of Alpena	11,304	11,179	11,025	10,926	10,853	10,707	10,549	10,490	-7.3%
Alpena twp.	9,788	9,764	9,726	9,704	9,687	9,603	9,538	9,534	-2.5%
Bal. of Green Twp	1,205	1,199	1,190	1,180	1,171	1,163	1,145	1,139	-5.2%
Long Rapids Twp	1,019	1,016	1,008	999	992	986	970	966	-5.2%
Maple Ridge Twp	1,715	1,718	1,709	1,700	1,696	1,678	1,655	1,646	-4.0%
Ossineke Twp.	1,761	1,755	1,740	1,725	1,712	1,701	1,675	1,669	-5.2%
Sanborn Twp	2,152	2,135	2,111	2,091	2,076	2,055	2,023	2,013	-6.5%
Wellington Twp	296	297	296	293	291	292	288	288	-2.7%
<b>Wilson Twp</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>

Source: Michigan Department History, Arts, & Libraries, 2008; US Bureau of the Census

Figure 2-1



## Households

According to the 2000 Census, of the 768 households in Wilson Township, 602, or 78%, were reported as being family households, and 166, or 22%, as being non-family households. 270 households were families with children under the age of 18. 138 householders lived alone, and of that number, 63 were over the age of 65 years. The average number of persons per household was 2.69.

## Housing Characteristics

Of the 933 housing units reported in Wilson Township by the 2000 Census, 768 (82%) were occupied and 165 (18%) were vacant. Of the occupied units, 700 (91%) were owner-occupied and 68 (9%) were rentals. Of the 165 vacant units, 91 were classified as “seasonal, recreational, or occasional use”. See **Table 2-3**. The majority of housing units in Wilson Township (70%) were constructed prior to 1980, with 17% having been constructed in 1939 or earlier. The median home value for housing units in Wilson Township was listed as \$76,400 in 2000 with the majority (57.8%) having a value between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

MUNICIPALITY	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied Housing Units	% Owner Occupied	% Renter Occupied	Total Vacant Housing Units	% Seasonal*	Vacant % Owner	Vacant % Renter
Alpena County	15289	12818	79.1	20.9	2471	10.2	1.6	6.5
City of Alpena	5200	4874	67.4	32.6	326	0.8	1.8	5.8
Alpena Twp	4757	4037	83.2	16.8	720	10.3	1.4	7.4
Green Twp	789	471	92.4	7.6	318	37.6	2.0	10.0
Long Rapids Twp	560	404	92.8	7.2	156	22.1	1.6	3.3
Maple Ridge Twp	814	640	91.4	8.6	174	15.4	1.8	3.5
Ossineke Twp	1043	675	90.2	9.8	368	29.4	1.6	8.3
Sanborn Twp	979	838	93.3	16.7	141	9.2	1.0	11.4
Wellington Twp	214	111	88.3	11.7	103	43.5	3.0	0.0
<b>Wilson Twp</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000  
 \* Figure shows the seasonal housing units as a percentage of the unit's total housing units.

## School Enrollment and Educational Attainment

In 2000, 572 persons in Wilson Township over the age of three years were enrolled in school, 478 in pre-school, elementary or high school, and 94 in college. Of the 1,338 persons 25 years and older, 505 were high school graduates, while 134 had attended school into the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade with no diploma and 137 had completed less than the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. 315 had received some college with no degree, 125 had Associate's degrees, 88 had earned a Bachelor's degree, and 34 had earned a graduate or professional degree. Wilson Township has a lower percentage of residents with a bachelors degree or higher than Alpena County and the State of Michigan as well as a higher percentage of residents with a high school diploma (**Table 2-4**).

**Table 2-4  
Educational Attainment 2000**

	Wilson Township	Alpena County	Michigan
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade education	10.2%	7.4%	4.6%
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	10.0%	9.5%	11.9%
High school graduate*	37.7%	35.7%	31.3%
Some college, no degree	23.5%	25.1%	23.3%
Associate degree	9.3%	9.1%	7.0%
Bachelor's degree	6.6%	7.9%	13.7%
Graduate or professional degree	2.5%	5.3%	8.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

\*includes equivalency

## Age Distribution

The median age of the population of Wilson Township is 39.1 years, as reported in the 2000 U.S. Census; 26% of the total population was under eighteen years of age, while 14% was 65 years and over. Wilson Township has the lowest percentage of person 65+ in Alpena County. The most populous age group in the Township is 25-44 years. **Table 2-5** below illustrates the percentage of age distribution by population for all municipalities in Alpena County.

**Table 2-5  
Age Distribution by Municipality for Alpena County - 2000**

	< 5 Yrs.	%*	5-17 Yrs.	%*	18-24 Yrs.	%*	25-44 Yrs.	%*	45-64 Yrs.	%*	65 Yrs. & >	%*
Alpena Co.	1,716	5.5	5,702	18.0	2,436	7.8	8,309	26.5	7,784	25.0	5,357	17.1
City of Alpena	644	5.7	1,954	17.3	945	8.4	2,998	26.5	2,549	21.7	2,214	19.6
Alpena Twp	515	5.3	1,697	17.3	679	6.9	2,544	26.0	2,720	27.8	1,633	16.7
Green Twp	49	4.1	234	19.4	82	6.8	307	25.4	329	27.3	204	17.0
Long Rapids Twp	47	4.6	203	19.9	79	7.8	279	27.4	258	25.3	163	16.0
Maple Ridge Twp	91	5.3	388	22.6	101	5.9	503	29.3	410	24.0	222	12.9
Ossineke Twp	108	6.1	337	19.1	126	7.2	449	25.5	476	27.0	265	15.1
Sanborn Twp	123	5.7	411	19.1	153	7.1	577	26.8	566	26.3	322	15.0
Wellington Twp	14	4.7	59	20.0	20	6.8	77	26.0	77	26.0	49	16.6
<b>Wilson Twp</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>13.7</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

\*Figure shows the percentage each age grouping represents of the local unit's total population.

## Disability Status

Data shown on **Table 2-6**, gives an indication of the number of disabled people residing in Alpena County. A person was classified as having a disability if they had a sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, going outside the home disability or an employment disability. The Census showed that in 2000 there were 6,632 (21%) disabled persons in Alpena County. The largest number of disabled persons in the County were between the ages of 21 - 64 (3,511). Wilson Township has 379 disabled residents. The 65 and over age group had the highest percentage of persons with disability with almost one out of every two having some type of disability (45.5%).

<b>Table 2-6 Alpena County Disability Status* - 2000</b>						
<b>LOCAL UNIT</b>	<b>Disabled persons 5-20</b>	<b>% Disabled 5-20</b>	<b>Disabled persons 21-64</b>	<b>% Disabled 21-64</b>	<b>Disabled persons 65+</b>	<b>% Disabled 65+</b>
Alpena Co.	773	11.1%	3,511	20.6%	2,348	43.8%
City of Alpena	334	13.2%	1,169	20.2%	892	42.8%
Alpena Twp.	229	11.2%	1,087	19.6%	833	47.0%
Green Twp.	12	4.5%	167	24.9%	80	38.6%
Long Rapids Twp.	13	5.6%	146	24.0%	53	34.2%
Maple Ridge Twp.	44	9.8%	189	19.2%	97	42.5%
Ossineke Twp.	47	12.3%	226	23.7%	118	45.7%
Sanborn Twp.	42	8.4%	265	21%	117	37.3%
Wellington Twp.	17	23.9%	50	34.5%	26	55.3%
<b>Wilson Twp.</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>45.5%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
\*Disability of civilian non-institutionalized persons.

## Income and Poverty

Income statistics (**Table 2-7**) from the 1990 and 2000 US Census for Wilson Township show the Township's median household income lagging behind that of the state of Michigan; however the Township has the second highest household income in Alpena County. **Table 2-8** shows that one-quarter of the households in Wilson Township have a household income of \$35,000 - \$49,999. 14% of the households have an income under \$15,000. This is an improvement from 1990 when the percentage of households with an income less than \$15,000 was 27.1%. In 2000, a higher percentage of households exist in income brackets from \$35,000 and up than did in 1990.

	1990	2000
State of Michigan	\$31,020	\$44,667
Alpena County	\$22,598	\$34,177
Alpena Township	\$27,011	\$39,889
City of Alpena	\$20,472	\$30,353
Green Township	\$21,042	\$34,271
Long Rapids Township	\$20,781	\$36,083
Maple Ridge Township	\$23,400	\$35,871
Ossineke Township	\$18,288	\$34,375
Sanborn Township	\$23,520	\$35,000
Wellington Township	\$20,625	\$28,393
<b>Wilson Township</b>	<b>\$23,368</b>	<b>\$37,198</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

	Number of households (2000)	% in 2000	% in 1990
Less than \$10,000	52	6.8	16.5
\$10,000 – \$14,999	56	7.3	10.6
\$15,000 - \$24,999	126	16.4	26.3
\$25,000 - \$34,999	124	16.2	20.1
\$35,000 - \$49,999	192	25.0	16.1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	119	15.5	8.0
\$75,000 - \$99,999	55	7.2	1.8
\$100,000 - \$149,999	25	3.3	0.0
\$150,000 - \$199,999	10	1.3	n/a
\$200,000 or more	8	1.0	n/a

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

From 1990 to 2000, poverty rates in Wilson Township dropped in all categories (**Table 2-9**). The poverty rate for families with children was 10.4 percent in 1990 and 4.1 percent in 2000. The greatest change was in families with female head of household which dropped from 44.1 percent to 17.7 percent.

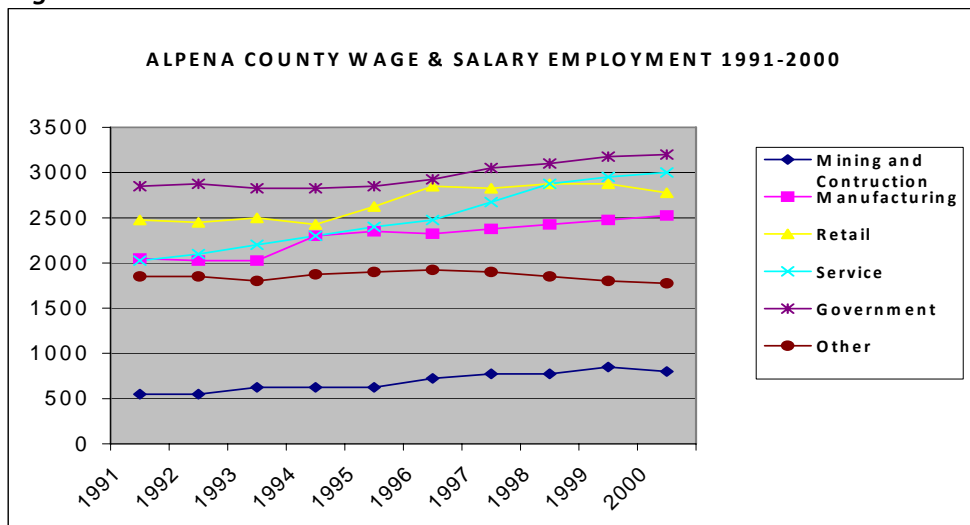
Category	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Families	56	10.4%	24	4.1%
Families with female head of household	15	44.1%	8	17.7%
Individuals	253	13.4%	112	5.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## Employment

As is true for much of Northeast Lower Michigan, in 2000, employment in Alpena County was most likely to be found in the retail sector, government employment or services (**Figure 2-2**). In 2000, employment in government, services, and manufacturing in Alpena County was increasing while retail, mining, and construction employment was leveling off. In 2000, the labor force in Wilson Township totaled 1,543 people with the majority of those in the civilian labor force. 36.2% of Wilson Township residents were not in the labor force (**Table 2-10**). **Table 2-11** shows that the three most prevalent industries in which Wilson Township residents are employed in are education, health, and social services (22.9%), manufacturing (20.6%), and retail trade (13.2%). **Table 2-12** shows the distribution of jobs by industry for all of Alpena County from 2002-2005. Retail trade has dominated the private employment sector, however the number of available jobs has decreased. Manufacturing and construction are the next two largest job sectors with manufacturing jobs increasing and construction jobs slightly decreasing during this time period. However, state and local government or government enterprises has dominated overall employment during this time period.

**Figure 2-2**



<b>Table 2-10 Wilson Township Labor Force</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>1990</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Population 16 years and older	1,432	100%	1,543	100%
Civilian Labor Force	867	60.5%	969	62.8
Armed Forces	3	0.2%	15	1.0%
Not in Labor Force	562	39.2%	559	36.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

<b>Table 2-11 Wilson Township Residents Employment by Industry 2000</b>		
<b>Industry</b>	<b>2000</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Agriculture, forestry, and mining	50	5.7
Construction	66	7.5
Manufacturing	181	20.6
Wholesale trade	36	4.1
Retail trade	116	13.2
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	27	3.1
Information	9	1.0
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	32	3.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	36	4.1
Educational, health, and social services	201	22.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	49	5.6
Public administration	19	2.2
Other services	57	6.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

**Table 2-12  
Alpena County Jobs by Industry 2002-2005**

Components by Industry (number of jobs)	2002	2003	2004	2005
Private employment	13,677	13,618	13,827	13,802
Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	154	131	142	138
Mining	53	59	49	57
Utilities	73	74	75	74
Construction	1,075	1,017	1,011	1,020
Manufacturing	1,854	1,887	2,094	2,063
Wholesale trade	560	552	584	586
Retail Trade	2,700	2,670	2,563	2,468
Transportation and warehousing	397	403	446	419
Finance and insurance	563	558	557	567
Real estate and rental and leasing	539	577	633	675
Professional and technical services	0	386	393	0
Government and government enterprises	3,323	3,252	3,128	3,118
Federal, civilian	106	116	107	99
Military	64	62	64	60
State and local	3,153	3,074	2,957	2,959

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce, Issued May 2007

## Unemployment

The unemployment rates for Alpena County have historically been higher than the State of Michigan (**Table 2-13**). Alpena County's economy, like the state of Michigan, was stronger in the late 90's. Since 2001, the annual unemployment rate for Alpena County began to rise until finally reaching over 14% in 2009 nearly equaling the State of Michigan rate. The 2009 average does not include November and December's figures.

**Table 2-13  
Average Annual Alpena County Unemployment Rates**

Year	Alpena County	Michigan
2009*	14.2%	14.0%
2008	9.3%	8.4%
2007	8.3%	7.2%
2006	7.6%	6.9%
2005	7.5%	6.9%
2004	8.5%	7.1%
2003	9.1%	7.1%
2002	8.5%	6.2%
2001	7.7%	5.2%
2000	5.5%	3.7%
1999	5.9%	3.8%

Source: Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth  
\* January -October

## Commuting to Work

As shown by **Table 2-14**, the vast majority of workers from Wilson Township drive to work alone. While the numbers of people who use varying methods of transportation to work remained relatively stable from 1990-2000, a significant increase in the number of people working from home occurred. This number has likely continued to increase from 2000-2009 due to advancements in technology which allows for more flexibility in office location.

Table 2-14				
Wilson Township Work Commute 1990 & 2000				
Mode of Transportation	1990		2000	
	#	%	#	%
Drove Alone	613	84.2%	736	83.4%
Carpooled	45	6.2%	52	5.9%
Public Transportation (includes taxi)	2	0.3%	2	0.2%
Walked	10	1.4%	14	1.6%
Worked at home	50	6.9%	77	8.7%
Other means	8	1.1%	1	0.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## Agriculture

According to the 2005 Census of Agriculture prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, the amount of land being farmed in Alpena County decreased from 78,047 acres in 1997 to 73,790 acres in 2005. 36,063 acres of cropland were harvested in 2005. Corn (5,144 acres), wheat (2,507 acres), oats (1,845 acres), dry edible beans (1,528 acres), and soybeans (1,845 acres) are the primary crops in Alpena County. 23,126 acres of land is used for hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop. In 2005, there were 9,974 heads of cattle, 179 hogs and pigs, 60 sheep and lambs, and 1,137 chickens (layers). **Table 2-15** highlights agricultural statistics for Alpena County.

Table 2-15	
Agriculture in Alpena County	
Farms (number)	460
Land in farms (acres)	73,790
Land in farms - Average size of farm (acres)	160
Land in farms - Median size of farm (acres)	120
Farms by size - 1 to 9 acres	9
Farms by size - 10 to 49 acres	123
Farms by size - 50 to 179 acres	211
Farms by size - 180 to 499 acres	88
Farms by size - 500 to 999 acres	22
Farms by size - 1,000 acres or more	7
Total cropland (farms)	425
Total cropland (acres)	49,683
Total cropland - Harvested cropland (farms)	373

Total cropland - Harvested cropland (acres)	36,063
Irrigated land (farms)	12
Irrigated land (acres)	252
Farms by value of sales - Less than \$2,500	222
Farms by value of sales - \$2,500 to \$4,999	52
Farms by value of sales - \$5,000 to \$9,999	53
Farms by value of sales - \$10,000 to \$24,999	42
Farms by value of sales - \$25,000 to \$49,999	31
Farms by value of sales - \$50,000 to \$99,999	24
Principal operator by primary occupation - Farming	253
Principal operator by primary occupation - Other	207
Cattle (farms)	218
Hogs and pigs (farms)	17
Sheep and lambs (farms)	16
Chickens - meat(farms)	6
Chickens – layers (farms)	40
Corn (farms)	86
Wheat (farms)	36
Oat (farms)	58
Barley (farms)	13
Sorghum (farms)	3
Soybeans (farms)	10
Dry edible beans (farms)	9
Potatoes (farms)	5
Forage (farms) (land used for hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	318
Sunflower seeds (farms)	4
Vegetables (farms)	21
Land in orchards (farms)	15

Source: The Census of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, 2005