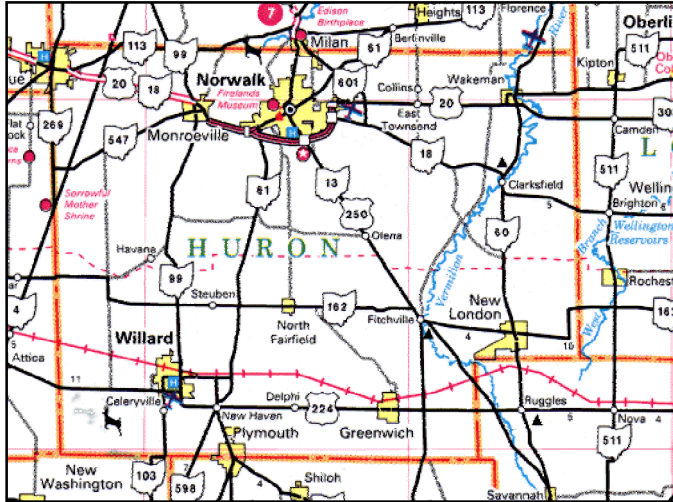


Chapter Two

Huron County Demographics



Huron County had 59,487 residents reported in the 2000 Census of Population. This was a 5.6 percent increase (3,247 more people) over the 1990 population of 56,240, and an 8.9 percent rise (4,879 people) over the 1980 population of 54,608.

Huron County's population density in 2000 was 120.7 persons per square mile, less than half the statewide average density of 277.3 persons per square mile, but a slight increase over the 1990 density of

114.1 persons per square mile.

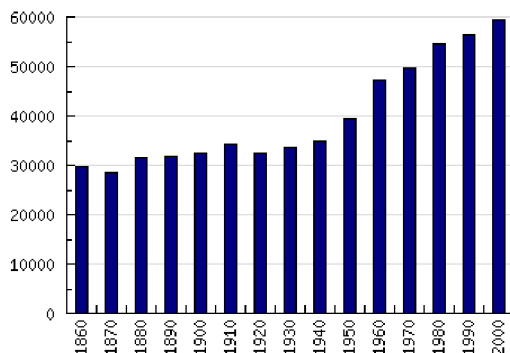
Historically, the county first recorded its population (6,675) in 1820. This doubled to 13,341 in 1830, slowly climbing to 32,330 in 1900. The population remained under 40,000 through the 1950 Census, when it was 39,353, then it took a significant jump to 47,326 in 1960. The increases were more marginal in the following decades, to 49,857 in 1970, 54,608 in 1980, 56,240 in 1990, and 59,487 in the most recent (2000) Census.

Table 1-1: Huron County Population

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	34,800	39,353	47,326	49,587	54,608	56,240	59,487
# Change		4,553	7,973	2,261	5,021	1,632	3,247
% Change		13.1	20.3	4.8	10.1	3.0	5.8

Source: U.S. Census of Population

Population Over Time



Huron County has thus experienced continuous growth, with variation over time in the rate of growth. The 20 percent jump experienced in the “baby boom” 1950’s was followed by much slower growth in the following decade, and growth has slowed somewhat over the past twenty years.

To further analyze population changes

over the past two decades, one can review the components of change, as quantified in the following table:

Table 1-2: Components of Population Change, Huron County, 1980 to 2000

	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	1980-2000
Births	4,493	4,548	4,565	4,480	18,086
Deaths	2,271	2,449	2,440	2,554	9,714

Table 1-3: Migration Estimates, Huron County

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	1990-2000
Inmig	2,809	2,535	2,655	2,800	3,037	3,017	2,963	2,716	2,822	2,881	28,235
Outmig	2,567	2,618	2,669	2,588	2,664	2,649	2,872	2,907	2,946	2,805	27,285
Net	242	-83	-14	212	373	368	91	-191	-124	76	950

Source: Ohio Department of Development

Combining the data from these two tables, it appears that births added 9,085; deaths subtracted 4,994, in migration added 28,235, and out migration subtracted 27,285 from the county's total population. While migration thus accounted for a much larger number of people in total, the net change from migration (+950 for the period 1990-2000) was less than that for births minus deaths for the same period (+4,051) in these estimates.

Population by Age Cohort

The following table provides data on Huron County's population by age, for 1990 and 2000.

Table 1-4: Population by Age, 1990 and 2000

Age Cohort	Total Pop. 1990	Total Pop. 2000	% Change 1990-2000	Male pop 2000	Female pop 2000
0-4	4,570	4,450	-2.5%	2,230	2,230
5-9	4,510	4,720	4.7	2,410	2,310
10-14	4,610	4,870	5.6	2,520	2,340
15-19	4,400	4,320	-1.8	2,260	2,060
20-24	3,710	3,540	-4.7	1,750	1,790
25-29	4,380	3,850	-12.2	1,940	1,910
30-34	4,650	4,080	-12.3	2,030	2,060
35-39	4,310	4,560	5.8	2,190	2,370
40-44	3,900	4,700	20.3	2,350	2,350
45-49	3,040	4,200	38.4	2,110	2,100
50-54	2,580	3,710	43.6	1,870	1,840
55-59	2,400	2,830	17.7	1,360	1,470
60-64	2,450	2,310	-5.9	1,120	1,180
65-69	2,180	2,080	-4.5	950	1,130
70-74	1,770	1,920	7.9	860	1,060
75-79	1,260	1,510	20.3	600	920
80-84	840	1,030	21.4	380	640
85+	660	820	23.5	220	600
Total	56,240	59,490	5.8	29,150	30,340

Source: 2000 Census of Population, Ohio Department of Development

In general, Table 4 indicates increases for those aged 40 to 59, many of whom fall within the "Baby Boom" generation", and decreases in immediately younger age cohorts from age 15 to 34. Also, the elderly age brackets from age 70 and beyond have increased.

Population by Jurisdiction

Table 1-5: Population by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Pop 1990	Pop 2000	% of County Total 2000	# Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
Huron Co.	56,240	59,487	100.0	+3,247	+5.8
Municipalities					
Bellevue (pt)	3,921	3,841	6.5	-80	-2.0
Norwalk	14,731	16,238	27.3	+1,507	+10.2
Willard	6,210	6,806	11.4	+596	+9.6
Greenwich	1,442	1,525	2.6	+83	+5.8
Milan (pt)	408	420	0.7	+12	+1.4
Monroeville	1,381	1,433	2.4	+52	+3.8
New London	2,642	2,696	4.5	+54	+2.0
N. Fairfield	504	573	1.0	+69	+13.7
Plymouth (pt)	929	849	1.4	-80	-8.6
Wakeman	951	951	1.6	0	0
Townships					
Bronson	1,656	1,780	3.0	+126	+7.6
Clarksfield	1,272	1,518	2.6	+246	+19.3
Fairfield	697	711	1.2	+14	+2.0
Fitchville	907	1,012	1.7	+105	+11.6
Greenfield	1,440	1,442	2.4	+2	+0.1
Greenwich	874	954	1.6	+80	+9.2
Hartland	885	979	1.6	+94	+10.6
Lyme	957	968	1.6	+11	+1.1
New Haven	2,098	2,011	3.4	-87	-4.1
New London	811	744	1.3	-67	-8.3
Norwalk	2,838	3,265	5.5	+427	+15.0
Norwich	968	1,072	1.8	+104	+10.7
Peru	852	1,043	1.8	+191	+22.4
Richmond	1,191	1,111	1.9	-80	-6.7
Ridgefield	1,138	957	1.6	-181	-15.9
Ripley	830	943	1.6	+113	+13.6
Sherman	550	501	0.8	-49	-8.9
Townsend	1,554	1,567	2.6	+13	+0.8
Wakeman	1,587	1,577	2.7	-10	-0.6

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population

Huron County is subdivided into nineteen Townships. It also encompasses two Cities (Norwalk and Willard) and a portion of a third City (Bellevue), as well as five Villages (New

London, Greenwich, Monroeville, Wakeman, and North Fairfield) and portions of two more (Milan and Plymouth). The preceding Table 5 presents population by jurisdiction for 1990 and 2000. This helps establish where recent growth patterns have been most pronounced. In absolute terms, the top gains in population took place in:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norwalk (1,507) 2. Willard (596) 3. Norwalk Township (427) 4. Clarksfield Twp. (246) 5. Peru Twp. (191) |
|--|

In terms of *percentage*, the five jurisdictions experiencing the highest proportion of population increase over the 1990's were these:

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peru Twp. +22.4% 2. Clarksfield Twp. +19.3% 3. Norwalk Twp. +15.0% 4. North Fairfield Village +13.7% 5. Ripley Twp. +13.6% |
|---|

Centers of population growth, and thus new residential development, appear to be the County's largest community (Norwalk), the second largest City (Willard), Townships near Norwalk (Norwalk Twp., and to a lesser extent, Bronson Twp.), and the eastern edge of the county (notably Clarksfield Twp.)

Table 1-6: New Septic System Reviews by Township

Township	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Bronson	14	6	13	9	42
Clarksfield	27	16	13	6	62
Fairfield	3	2	1	1	7
Fitchville	22	7	13	16	58
Greenfield	24	15	14	14	67
Greenwich	7	3	5	6	21
Hartland	22	13	13	22	70
Lyme	6	6	1	4	17
New Haven	6	8	7	5	26
New London	15	5	8	3	31
Norwalk	14	24	11	10	59
Norwich	5	8	6	6	25
Peru	9	6	6	8	29
Richmond	10	5	4	3	22
Ridgefield	5	4	7	2	18
Ripley	2	4	1	2	9
Sherman	2	5	1	2	10
Townsend	14	9	6	5	34
Wakeman	6	8	8	12	34
Total	213	154	138	136	641

Source: Huron County SWCD

Table 6 provides more evidence of the existence of residential growth areas in “suburban” Townships near Norwalk (Norwalk and Bronson), Willard (Greenfield, including Holiday Lakes), and in the eastern portion of the county (Clarksfield, Hartland, Fitchville Twps.) where out migration from Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties, as well as movement from area municipalities to a rural setting have been experienced. Geographically, the above four-year totals are spread out among the nineteen unincorporated Townships as follows:

Fig. 1-1: Septic System Reviews, 2003-2006 by Township

Lyme 17	Ridgefield 18	Norwalk 59	Townsend 34	Wakeman 34
Sherman 10	Peru 29	Bronson 42	Hartland 70	Clarksfield 62
Norwich 25	Greenfield 67	Fairfield 7	Fitchville 58	New London 31
Richmond 22	New Haven 26	Ripley 9	Greenwich 21	

Race and Ethnicity

Table 1-7: Population by Race and Ethnicity, Huron County and Ohio

	# Huron Co. 1990	# Huron Co. 2000	% Huron County	% Ohio
White	54,982	57,653	96.9	86.1
Black/African Am.	597	769	1.3	12.1
Am. Indian/Alaskan	85	325	0.5	0.7
Asian	153	203	0.3	1.4
Native Hawaiian/Pacific		22	---	0.1
Some other race	423	1,117	1.9	1.1
Hispanic or Latino	1,006	2,117	3.6	1.9

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population

While Huron County is less diverse than Ohio in total, it is home to a significant Black population and a small mix of other racial backgrounds. The Hispanic/Latino population is most notable in that it has increased from 1,006 in the 1990 Census to 2,117 in the 2000 Census, an increase of 1,111, or 110.4 percent. Further, it is suspected that the 2000 totals have been exceeded considerably during the current decade. This trend follows national patterns in growth of this ethnic group, and this growth trend is projected to continue.

Households

Huron County was home to 22,258 households in 2000, an increase of 10.0 percent and 2,019 households from 20,239 in 1990. This increase in households (and thus the need for individual housing) expanded at a larger rate than the 5.8 percent increase in population over that same decade. Average household size decreased over the same period, from 2.75 persons per household in 1990 to 2.64 persons in 2000. Although it has decreased, this average household size of 2.64 still exceeds the state average of 2.49.

Increases of over 100 households in political subdivisions over the 1990's included 102 in Bronson, 714 in Norwalk, 237 in Norwalk Township, and 238 in Willard.

The following table indicates that seven in ten of the County's households are family households, with related members living together, and over one third (slightly more than the state's percentage, 36.3 vs. 31.7) have children less than 18 years of age. Other data indicate more than one in ten households has a single female householder, nearly one-fourth have single householders living alone, and almost ¼ have elderly householders age 65 or over.

Huron County's average household size and average family size thus both exceed the state averages, indicating a need for somewhat larger housing accommodations on average than for the state as a whole.

Table 1-8: Household by Type, Huron County

	# Huron 1990	# Huron 2000	% Huron 2000	% Ohio 2000
Total Households	20,239	22,307	100.0	100.0
Family Households (families)	15,368	16,225	72.7	67.3
With own children under 18 years		8,095	36.3	31.7
Married Couple Family	12,835	13,053	58.5	51.4
With own children under 18 years		6,058	27.2	22.4
Female householder, no husband present	1,871	2,316	10.4	12.1
With own children under 18 years		1,519	6.8	7.3
Nonfamily households		6,082	27.3	32.7
Householder living alone	4,871	5,153	23.1	27.3
Householder 65 years and over	4,293	2,159	9.7	10.0
Households with individuals < 18 yrs.		8,686	38.9	34.5
Households with individs 65+ years		5,170	23.2	23.8
Average Household Size	2.75	2.64	---	2.49
Average Family Size	3.22	3.11	---	3.04

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population

Table 1-9: Households by Household Size, 2000

Size of Household	Huron County
Total:	22,307
Family households:	16,225
2-person household	6,651
3-person household	3,679
4-person household	3,432
5-person household	1,664
6-person household	534
7-or-more person household	265
Nonfamily households:	6,082
1-person household	5,153
2-person household	753
3-person household	108

Size of Household	Huron County
4-person household	51
5-person household	12
6-person household	2
7-or-more person household	3

Source: 2000 Census of Population

Household size is further described in the previous Table 9, which breaks family and non-family households down by the number of people in the households.

For family households, the two-person household is the most common size, comprising 41 percent of all such households, followed by three-person households (22.7 percent of family households). For nonfamily households, the single, one-person household comprised a large (84.7%) majority of all such households.

Educational Attainment

Table 1-10: Educational Attainment in Huron County

	# Huron County	% Huron County	% Ohio
Population 25 years +	37,576	100.0	100.0
Less than 9 th grade	1,759	4.7	4.5
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	5,364	14.3	12.6
High school graduate	18,320	48.8	36.1
Some college, no degree	6,281	16.7	19.9
Associate degree	1,750	4.7	5.9
Bachelor's degree	2,862	7.6	13.7
Graduate/prof. Degree	1,240	3.3	7.4
% HS grad or higher	---	81.0 (1990: 74.1%)	83.0
% Bachelor degree or higher	---	10.9 (1990: 9.4%)	21.1

Source: 2000 Census of Population

In general, Huron County appears to be two percentage points (81 vs. 83) behind the state regarding persons who have completed a high school education. However, the county's percentage of college graduates is at roughly half the State level, at 10.9 percent as opposed to the state incidence of 21.1 percent. However, graduate rates have increased since 1990.

Table 1-11: Residence in 1995

	# Huron Co.	% Huron Co.	% Ohio
Population 5 yrs and older	55,002	100.0	100.0
Same house in 1995	32,015	58.4	57.5
Different house in US in '95	22,465	40.8	41.4
Same County	14,594	26.5	26.3
Different County	7,871	14.3	15.0
Same state	5,876	10.7	9.5
Different state	1,995	3.6	5.6
Elsewhere in 1995	432	0.8	1.1

Source: 2000 Census of Population

Mobility

Huron Countians stayed put only slightly more than Ohioans as a whole: Where 57.5 percent of Ohio residents age 5 or more lived in the same house in 2000 that they did in 1995, the corresponding portion for Huron County was less than one point higher, at 58.4 percent. Of the 41.6 percent in the County who changed residences over those five years, 26.5 percent (or 14,594 people) moved within the County. Those segments coming from a different county (7,871 people or 14.3%) or state (1,995 or 3.6%) represented smaller and smaller portions of the total population. While Ohio as a whole is not known as a major importer of residents from other states, Huron County appears to attract slightly fewer non-Ohioans, on a percentage basis, than the State as a whole.

Commuting to Work

Table 1-12: Commuting Patterns

Percent of Huron County residents who work that work outside the county						33.6%	
Average commute time for Huron County residents, in minutes						20.2	
# workers age 16+ living in Huron County			27,571	# workers age 16+ working in Huron County		26,012	
# Commuting Outside Huron County			9,168	# commuting to work in Huron County		7,702	
Commute out to	Number		Percent	Commute in from	Number		Percent
	1990	2000	2000		1990	2000	2000
Erie Co.	3,093	4,048	14.7	Erie Co.	1,765	2,358	9.1
Lorain Co.	1,208	1,501	5.4	Sandusky Co.	1,082	1,305	5.0
Sandusky Co.	716	1,025	3.7	Richland Co.	1,172	1,244	4.8
Richland Co.	712	900	3.3	Seneca Co.	873	954	3.7
Cuyahoga Co.	--	399	1.4	Lorain Co.	377	421	1.6
Seneca Co.	143	282	1.0	Crawford Co.	366	400	1.5
Ashland Co.	288	264	1.0	Ashland Co.	314	388	1.5
Crawford Co.	39	141	0.5	Ottawa Co.	--	151	0.6
Ottawa Co.	--	111	0.4	Delaware Co.	--	45	0.2
Medina Co.	--	102	0.4	Wood Co.	--	43	0.2

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population

Table 12 helps describe the geography of work patterns in the area. Fully one-third of Huron County's residents who hold a job travel outside the county to work, with an average commuter time for all workers inside and out of the county of just over twenty minutes. The table indicates that Huron County is a net exporter of some 1,466 workers, with 9,168 residents working outside the county and 7,702 workers traveling into the county to work from outside homes. The most frequent employment destination outside Huron County was Erie County, to the immediate north, and Erie was also the most common county of residence for in-commuters. The next most common counties for both in- and out-commuting were Lorain (adjacent, to the east) and Sandusky (adjacent, to the west).

Commuting patterns within the County are more complicated than the simple county-level numbers. For example, Willard imports a significant number of workers from outside the

City and, indeed, outside the County. In Bellevue, much inter-county commuting between Huron and Sandusky Counties takes place, since the City straddles the Huron/Sandusky County line.

City-level in-commuting data are not available, but the 2000 Census does report on City-level information provided by residents of those cities and villages. The following table depicts the number of workers age 16 and over, broken down by working in place of residence, working outside the place of residence, and working outside the County of residence.

Table 1-13: Place of Work for residents of Selected Huron County Communities

	Bellevue (Huron Co.)	New London	Norwalk	Wakeman	Willard	Huron County
Worked in place of residence	772	404	4,096	58	1,555	7,296*
Worked outside place of residence	1,083	804	3,401	417	981	8,511*
Worked in County of residence	740	735	5,207	198	2,124	18,310
Worked outside Co. of residence	1,115	473	2,290	277	412	9,261
Total Workers 16 and older	1,855	1,208	7,497	475	2,536	27,571

Source: 2000 Census of Population - *Only those "living in a place" were counted for these items. In Huron County, 15,807 workers were included who "lived in a place" - a city or village.

Table 13 indicates that Huron County is, to a great degree, a county of commuters. Of the 15,807 workers living in a city or village, over half (8,511) worked outside their place of residence. The table also indicates a difference between communities. Wakeman, for example, is a "bedroom community" in that only 58 residents worked in the village, while 417 worked outside Wakeman. Presumably, much of the workforce traveled east into Lorain and other counties, since less than half (198) worked in Huron County and a majority (277) worked outside the County.

In New London, nearly twice as many worked outside the Village as within it. Of the five communities depicted, only Norwalk and Willard had more residents working within the municipality than outside.

Income Data, Huron County and Ohio

Huron County's households tend to be slightly more concentrated in the middle income brackets, with fewer households, proportionately, in the extreme lower brackets (up to \$15,000) and upper income categories (\$75,000 and above). The County's median household income is within \$398 of the state median, although median family income is \$3,126 less than the state median. Per capita income, at \$18,133, lags significantly behind the state figure, and is 86 percent of the state per capita income.

The incidence of poverty, with 6.5 percent of families in poverty, is somewhat less than the state proportion of 7.8 percent, and less than the 1990 proportion of 7.3 percent. The other categories measured – female headed households and individuals - are also less than the state's percentages. This again points to Huron County as housing families and individuals are somewhat more concentrated around the median, with only 291 households reporting incomes of \$150,000 or more.

Table 1-14: Income and Poverty Data, Huron County and Ohio

Income Factor	# Huron Co. 1990	#Huron Co. 2000	%Huron Co.	% Ohio
Number of Households	20,239	22,258	100.0	100.0
Household Income < \$10,000		1,512	6.8	9.1
\$10,000-\$14,999		1,307	5.9	6.4
\$15,000-\$24,999		3,272	14.7	13.4
\$25,000-\$34,999		3,331	15.0	13.6
\$35,000-\$49,999		4,325	19.4	17.3
\$50,000-\$74,999		5,330	23.9	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999		1,915	8.6	10.0
\$100,000-\$149,999		975	4.4	6.5
\$150,000-\$199,999		93	0.4	1.6
\$200,000 or more		198	0.9	1.7
Median Household Income	\$27,401	\$40,558	--	\$40,956
Median Family Income	\$32,133	\$46,911	--	\$50,037
Per Capita Income	\$11,552	\$18,133	--	\$21,003
Families in Poverty	1,124(7.3%)	1,058	6.5	7.8
Families; female householder, no husband		492	21.0	26.3
Individuals in Poverty	5,278 (9.5%)	4,998	8.5	10.6

Source: 2000 Census of Population

Housing Characteristics

The information contained in Table 15 (next page) has implications for the demographics of the county and residential land uses.

Huron County has a slightly higher proportion of owner-occupied housing units than the State, which is common for a relatively rural area. The average household sizes for both renter and owner occupied housing are somewhat higher than the state average, suggesting a need in the county for larger housing units. Further, as one may expect for a rural area, Huron County has a higher incidence of single-family units, duplexes, and even three- and four-unit structures, with fewer multi-unit developments, than the state as a whole. Because of this greater reliance on 1-4 unit structures, residential land uses require somewhat greater acreage per unit than in more urbanized areas with a higher proportion of multi-unit structures. Additionally, Huron County has a greater incidence of mobile homes than the state as a whole - which, again, would be expected for a rural area. Huron County's housing stock is slightly older than the statewide housing stock, with half the county's housing units (50.2 percent) built before 1960 and nearly one-third (32.5 percent) built before 1940.

The county appears to have a relatively sizeable affordable housing stock, with 56.2 percent of the units in the county valued at less than \$100,000. The median housing value in Huron County, \$95,100, is 91.7 percent of the statewide median of \$103,700 as reported in the 2000 Census. Median rent figures are similarly less in Huron County.

Table 1-15: Huron County Housing Characteristics

Housing Factor	# Huron Co. 1990	#Huron Co. 2000	%Huron Co. 2000	% Ohio 2000
Total Housing Units	21,382	23,594	100.0	100.0
Occupied housing units	20,239	22,307	94.5	92.9
Vacant Housing Units	1,143	1,287	5.5	7.1
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.3	1.4	--	1.6
Rental vacancy rate	5.2	5.9	--	8.3
Owner-Occupied housing units	14,499	16,098	72.2	69.1
Renter-occupied housing units	5,740	6,209	27.8	30.9
Avg. household size owner-occupied	2.82	2.73	--	2.62
Average household size renter-occupied		2.41	--	2.19
Units in Structure				
1-unit – detached	1,502	16,865	71.5	67.4
1 Unit – attached	269	532	2.3	3.8
2 units	2,631	1,452	6.2	5.2
3 or 4 units		1,333	5.6	4.8
5 to 9 units	626	786	3.3	4.8
10 to 19 units	518	373	1.6	3.9
20 or more units		372	1.6	5.5
Mobile home	2,116	1,881	8.0	4.6
Year Structure Built				
1999 to March 2000		521	2.2	1.8
1995 to 1998		1,839	7.8	5.8
1990 to 1994		1,409	6.0	5.7
1980 to 1989		2,290	9.7	9.5
1970 to 1979		3,363	14.3	15.8
1960 to 1969		2,320	9.8	14.3
1940 to 1959		4,184	17.7	24.6
1939 or earlier		7,668	32.5	22.5
Median number of rooms in units	6.0 (mean)	5.9	--	5.7
Value: Owner Occupied Units				
Less than \$50,000	4,051	788	6.2	8.5
\$50,000 - \$99,999	5,466	6,301	50.0	39.3
\$100,000 - \$149,999	752	3,467	27.5	28.0
\$150,000 - \$199,999	163	1,457	11.6	12.9
\$200,000 - \$299,999	36	463	3.7	7.8
\$300,000 - \$499,999	16	91	0.7	2.8
\$500,000 - \$999,999		27	0.2	0.7
\$1,000,000 or more		19	0.2	0.2
Median	\$56,700	\$95,100	--	\$103,700
Median mortgage mo. owner costs	\$559	\$849	--	\$963
Median gross rent for rental units	\$362	\$474	--	\$515

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Population Projections

Table 1-16: Huron County Population Projections to 2030

Age Cohort	2000	2010	2020	2030	2030 Male	2030 Female	# change 2000-30	% change 2000-30
0-4	4,450	4,180	4,350	4,600	2,320	2,280	150	3.4
5-9	4,720	4,650	4,430	4,800	2,410	2,390	80	1.7
10-14	4,870	5,050	4,740	4,870	2,420	2,450	0	0.0
15-19	4,320	4,920	4,820	4,560	2,320	2,240	240	5.6
20-24	3,540	3,870	3,960	3,560	1,750	1,810	20	0.6
25-29	3,850	2,970	3,430	3,190	1,540	1,650	-660	-17.1
30-34	4,080	3,510	3,750	3,770	1,880	1,890	-310	-7.6
35-39	4,560	4,510	3,590	4,000	2,020	1,980	-560	-12.3
40-44	4,700	4,410	3,820	4,030	2,170	1,870	-670	-14.3
45-49	4,200	4,590	4,520	3,610	1,930	1,680	-590	-14.0
50-54	3,710	4,500	4,210	3,630	1,890	1,740	-80	-2.2
55-59	2,830	3,870	4,230	4,160	2,180	1,980	1,330	47.0
60-64	2,310	3,270	3,970	3,710	1,830	1,880	1,400	60.6
65-69	2,080	2,460	3,330	3,630	1,690	1,940	1,550	74.5
70-74	1,920	1,890	2,630	3,170	1,420	1,750	1,250	65.1
75-79	1,510	1,420	1,690	2,280	960	1,330	770	51.0
80-84	1,030	1,090	1,090	1,510	530	980	480	46.6
85+	820	870	860	940	240	700	120	14.6
Total	59,490	62,040	63,430	64,020	31,480	32,530	4,530	7.6

Source: Ohio Dept. of Development Office of Strategic Research

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Strategic Research projects slow and steady growth for Huron County through 2030. By their projections, based on an age cohort analysis, the total population will increase by 7.6 percent over the thirty years between 2000 and 2030. This 7.6 percent projected rate exceeds projections for Erie (+2.5%), Sandusky (7.6%), Seneca (-11.5%), Crawford (-6.2%), and Richland (+3.1%) Counties, but is less than the increases projected for Ashland (+12.4%) and Lorain (+8.4%) Counties.

Looking at specific age brackets, Huron County's population is projected to age considerably, with increases in specific categories as great as 74.5 percent (in the case of 65-69 year olds), while younger adult categories will see a decline (ranging from -7.6 percent for those aged 30-34 to -17.1 percent for 25-29 year olds). This significant shift will have considerable implications with regard to employment (with a growing cadre of well tenured employees drawing larger paychecks than entry-level workers), housing needs (where accessibility and the needs of smaller, more elderly households will become increasingly important), shopping demands, and the need for services.

The ODOD projections indicate a net increase of 4.3 percent or 2,550 people between 2000 and 2010. If this increase were distributed throughout the county in the same proportion that the population changed over the decade of 1990-2000, the change would look like the projections shown on Table 17. However, this projection is based on a relatively simplistic assumption, basing future change on recent historical patterns. For this reason, the

population is only projected over ten years. It is noted that some more recently observed trends might make these numbers relatively inaccurate. Such trends include the recent growth of the Wakeman housing market and additional housing in the eastern portion of the County. Also, the growth “spurt” witnessed in Peru Township in the 1990’s (with 191 new net residents, a 22.4 percent increase) may not be necessarily repeated. This projection should thus be reviewed once 2010 Census data become available. Despite these weaknesses, and while these numbers should not be viewed as firm projections, they provide a generalized projection of the magnitude of slow growth or small reductions in population within County subdivisions that may occur over the coming decade. Please note that the projections do not precisely equal the county total due to rounding and averaging.

Table 1-17: Projections by Local Jurisdiction
(based on 1990-2000 population change)

Municipality	2000	2010	%	Township	2000	2010	%
Bellevue (pt)	3,841	3,784	-1.48	Bronson	1,780	1,880	5.63
Norwalk	16,238	17,466	7.56	Clarksfield	1,518	1,735	14.31
Willard	6,806	7,291	7.12	Fairfield	711	722	1.48
Greenwich	1,525	1,591	4.30	Fitchville	1,012	1,099	8.60
Milan (pt)	420	424	1.04	Greenfield	1,442	1,452	0.07
Monroeville	1,433	1,473	2.82	Greenwich	954	1,019	6.82
New London	2,696	2,736	1.48	Hartland	979	1,056	7.86
N. Fairfield	573	631	10.16	Lyme	968	976	0.82
Plymouth (pt)	849	795	-6.38	New Haven	2,011	1,950	-3.04
Wakeman	951	951	0.00	New London	744	698	-6.15
				Norwalk	3,265	3,628	11.12
Huron Co.	59,490	62,048	4.3	Norwich	1,072	1,157	7.93
				Peru	1,043	1,216	16.61
				Richmond	1,111	1,056	-4.97
				Ridgefield	957	844	-11.79
				Ripley	943	1,038	10.08
				Sherman	501	468	-6.60
				Townsend	1,567	1,576	0.59
				Wakeman	1,577	1,570	-0.44

Source: Projections based on 1990 and 2000 Census data, and ODOD County-level population projections.