Arenac-Iosco Counties

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFILE
Arenac County 367 square miles
Iosco County 549 square miles
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

County Seat
Arenac County Standish
Iosco County Tawas City

Miles (km) From
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>344 (554)</td>
<td>380 (612)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>310 (499)</td>
<td>330 (531)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>149 (240)</td>
<td>178 (287)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>383 (617)</td>
<td>418 (673)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>130 (209)</td>
<td>165 (266)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation
Air
- Oscoda-Wurtsmith
- Iosco County Airport
- Standish Industrial Airport
- MBS International Airport

Ports
- Alabaster; Port Gypsum

Rail
- Lake State Railway

Highways
- I-75; US-23; M-65; M-61
- M-55; M-33; M-13

Bus
- Indian Trails

Population (2001)
Arenac County 17,310
Iosco County 27,162
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income (2000)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$31,529</td>
<td>$30,090</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Per capital income
$19,961 $20,207
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Retail Sales (1997)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Retail Sales</th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$127,801,000</td>
<td>$224,315,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per capita retail sales
$7,815 $8,772
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment (2002)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total labor force</th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>10,875</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Employed
6,450 9,750

Unemployed
700 1,125

Percent unemployed
9.8 10.3
Source: Michigan Office of Labor Market Information

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Open for business

IF YOU’RE LOOKING TO LOCATE OR EXPAND YOUR business, you’ll find a warm welcome, and a bright future, in Arenac and Iosco counties.

Nestled along the north shore of Saginaw Bay and the western shore of Lake Huron, Arenac and Iosco counties offer an excellent business climate combined with an exceptional quality of life.

Abundant natural resources and access to transportation routes attracted the area’s Native American settlers, early European traders and homesteaders, turn-of-the-century entrepreneurs, and today’s manufacturers, shop owners and service providers.

Service-related businesses provide the majority — about 30 percent — of the area’s jobs. The next largest industry sector is retail trade, which employs about 20 percent of area workers. Local, state and federal jobs comprise the third largest sector, followed by manufacturing, finance/insurance/real estate, and transportation/public utilities. Construction rounds out the major employers, with contractors busy building new residential and commercial developments.

The area’s tourism industry is responsible for creating and sustaining many jobs: Visitors to the two counties annually inject more than $80 million into the local economy.
Renaissance Zones Spur Growth.

Helping spur economic growth are Renaissance Zones located in Arenac and Iosco counties. Designed to attract new business by granting virtually tax-free status for up to 10 years to businesses presently in a zone or moving into a zone, the Arenac and Iosco zones complement the many industrial parks already in the two-county area.

Arenac and Iosco Economic Development agencies and community Chambers of Commerce welcome inquiries about the area’s business opportunities, and can provide information about available sites, local demographics and tax incentives.

One of the most well-received projects has been the conversion of the base’s housing into the Villages of Oscoda, a site condominium of townhouses, ranch duplexes, duplex townhouses and single-family homes. Most of the homes have been purchased as second homes by vacationers and retirees. The zone also retains the former base’s 300 ft. x 11,800 ft. Landing field, now used by the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Service, the area’s fixed base operator.

Lake Huron shoreline communities in both counties have banded together to provide large capacity water and sewer systems.

A Nurturing Educational Environment. Area businesses and residents know the continued success of their communities depends on providing their youth with an educational environment that nurtures creativity while instilling responsibility. To that end, they generously support the area’s public school districts.

Three public school districts serve Arenac County residents: Arenac Eastern School District, AuGres-Sims School District and Standish-Sterling Community Schools. Public school districts in Iosco County...
Area businesses and residents know the continued success of their communities depends on providing their youth with an educational environment that nurtures creativity while instilling responsibility.

are Hale Area Schools, Oscoda Area Schools, Tawas Area Schools and Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools.

In addition to providing strong K-12 core curriculums, Arenac and Iosco school districts offer Headstart, alternative high schools, community education, vocational and technical training programs. Outside the classroom, students participate in numerous extracurricular activities, including academic clubs, music and art programs and interscholastic athletics.

Area businesses and industries offer high school students insights into potential careers by sponsoring work-study, job-shadowing and mentoring programs. Residents can also choose to send their children to one of the counties’ public charter academies or private schools.

Two intermediate school districts, the Bay-Arenac ISD and the Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency, provide the counties’ K-12 schools with special education, teacher professional development, technical training and other specialized services. Iosco RESA offers a recently built technical center and educational complex and the Bay Arenac Area ISD provides educational programs in a state-of-the-art technical center.

MANY HIGHER EDUCATION OPTIONS.

Area high school graduates and adult learners don’t have to travel far to pursue their education or obtain job training.

Providing classes in, or within a short commute of, the two counties are Delta College, Mid-Michigan Community College, Alpena Community College and Saginaw Valley State University.

- **Delta College**, founded in 1961, annually enrolls about 10,000 students. The two-year college offers certificates and associate’s degrees in a range of liberal arts, business and technical programs. Delta has articulation agreements with a number of Michigan’s four-year institutions which guarantee the transfer of the associate’s degree and of specific courses within the curriculum.

  Delta’s main campus is in University Center, in Bay County, with branches in Midland, Bay City and Saginaw. The college also offers courses via the Internet and telecourses. Delta College Corporate Services, established in 1983, provides businesses with workforce education and training in a range of fields, as well as providing custom programs to meet the needs of individual employers.

- **Alpena Community College** has operated
Arenac and Iosco County residents, businesses and visitors have the peace of mind that comes with ready access to quality, knowledgeable medical care.

a full service extension center in Iosco County since 1969. The college’s Huron Shores Campus, based at the Wurtsmith Renaissance Zone in Oscoda, offers advising, assessment and a variety of dual enrollment classes in Oscoda, Tawas, Twining and Whittemore. Fall and spring semesters are offered, as well as a six-week summer session. Customized training for business and industry is provided through the college’s Center for Economic and Human Resource Development. Spring Arbor College offers four-year degrees through Alpena Community College with classes in Iosco County.

- Mid-Michigan Community College recently became home to one of the state’s 18 Michigan Technical Education Centers (M-TEC). Designed to meet the specific training needs of area industry and construction trades in the mid-Michigan area, the center’s 21,000-square-foot facility features construction and manufacturing labs equipped with the latest tools and computer equipment.

- Saginaw Valley State University, founded in 1963, is located in University Center, in Bay County. The university attracts the region’s top students, offering them a selection of more than 80 programs leading to bachelor’s, master’s and specialist’s degrees. SVSU’s Center for Corporate and Professional Development provides businesses with customized training, and professional development opportunities for executives and support staff in topics ranging from information technology to materials management. The Center for Manufacturing Improvement at SVSU has a staff of veteran manufacturing professionals offering area businesses assistance in skills such as website development, benchmarking and lean manufacturing.

Delta College and Alpena College/Oscoda Campus provide services through regional offices of the Michigan Small Business Development Center. The SBTDC provides counseling, training and market research capabilities to existing small businesses, new venture companies, expanding businesses, new technology companies and innovators. Financial support from the Michigan Small Business Administration and local partners allows the services to be offered at low or no cost.

READY ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE. The area is served by two hospital systems which have service and air ambulance links to larger hospitals to the south:

- St. Mary’s Standish Community Hospital, in Standish, is a 69-bed hospital which has been providing acute care to area residents since 1961. The hospital offers a full range of services, including specialty clinics and 24-hour emergency care. SMSCH is affiliated with Ascension Health System. The hospital is undertaking a $5 million renovation that will provide new radiology, lab and emergency facilities. The hospital is among Arenac County’s top five employers.

- St. Joseph Health System, in Tawas City, is a 49-bed acute-care facility providing emergency services and a range of inpatient and outpatient care. The hospital also administers five satellite clinics, including an after-hours walk-in clinic in Oscoda. Recent expansions include a $10 million surgery wing and outpatient and joint replacement facilities. It is part of the Ascension Health System and the Seton Cancer Institute.

The Sterling Area Health Center provides health care services including pediatrics, internal medicine, gynecology, psychiatry, dentistry, substance abuse treatment and health education.
With 83 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 415 miles of rivers and streams, and 11,317 acres of lakes and ponds, the area is a water paradise.

Aune Medical Center in the Wurtsmith Renaissance Zone provides services from Alpena General Hospital and the Veterans Administration in the former air base hospital.

Area residents also receive medical care from numerous physicians, chiropractors, dentists and mental health professionals working in private practices. Five nursing homes and extended care facilities in the two-county area provide about 400 beds for patients needing ‘round-the-clock care.

**DIVERSE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.** With 83 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 415 miles of rivers and streams, and 11,317 acres of lakes and ponds, the area is a water paradise. The Arenac/Iosco shoreline has three Great Lakes recreational harbors, numerous marinas and a U.S. Coast Guard station. Iosco County is home to the AuSable River, a designated Scenic River that is nationally known. The Rifle River in Arenac County is also a popular canoeing and fishing destination.

Outdoor enthusiasts from hikers and bikers to hunters and cross-country skiers appreciate the two-county area’s 365,500 acres of forest, which includes 53,372 acres of state forest and 112,191 acres of national forest. In all, Arenac and Iosco counties encompass 167,544 acres of land dedicated to public recreation.

The two counties are also home to a vibrant cultural scene of music, art, dance and theater. The area’s history is kept alive at unique museums such as the Iosco County Historical Museum in East Tawas, the Yankee Air Force Museum at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, The Arenac County Historical Museum in AuGres, and historic lighthouses in both counties. The two counties are linked by the Sunrise Side Coastal Highway (US-23), a nationally designated Heritage Route.

The Iosco-Arenac District Library comprises branch libraries offering a full spectrum of services, including Internet access. The Robert J. Parks branch in Oscoda is an official Michigan Government Document Depository Library.

Special events, festivals and art fairs are held in Arenac and Iosco communities throughout the year.

If you’re looking to locate or expand your business, you’ll find a warm welcome, and a bright future, in Arenac and Iosco counties.

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**Climate**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January avg. lo/hi</td>
<td>11°F/28°F</td>
<td>29°F/29°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July avg. lo/hi</td>
<td>56°F/82°F</td>
<td>56°F/80°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. annual snowfall</td>
<td>45 inches</td>
<td>50 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. annual rainfall</td>
<td>28 inches</td>
<td>29 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing season</td>
<td>126 days</td>
<td>131 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NOAA Climate Summary, 1995

**Housing (2000)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Arenac Co.</th>
<th>Iosco Co.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing units</td>
<td>9,563</td>
<td>20,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>6,710</td>
<td>11,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median rent</td>
<td>$399/mo.</td>
<td>$416/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median home value</td>
<td>$77,700</td>
<td>$77,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeownership rate</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Partners for a better business community

Charter Township of Oscoda
City of Standish
Forward Corporation

Huron Community Bank
Independent Bank
Northland Area Federal Credit Union

Alabaster Township
Arenac Abstract & Title
Charter Township of AuSable
Citizens Bank

Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority
Sterling Area Health Center
ST Joseph Health System
Vantage Plastics