

Arenac-Iosco Counties

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFILE



Area

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	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
Chicago	344 (554)	380 (612)
Cleveland	310 (499)	330 (531)
Detroit	149 (240)	178 (287)
Indianapolis	383 (617)	418 (673)
Lansing	130 (209)	165 (266)

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)	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
Median Household income	\$31,529	\$30,090

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

Retail Sales (1997)	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
Total Retail Sales	\$127,801,000	\$224,315,000
Per capita retail sales	\$7,815	\$8,772

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment (2002)	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
Total labor force	7,150	10,875
Employed	6,450	9,750
Unemployed	700	1,125
Percent unemployed	9.8	10.3

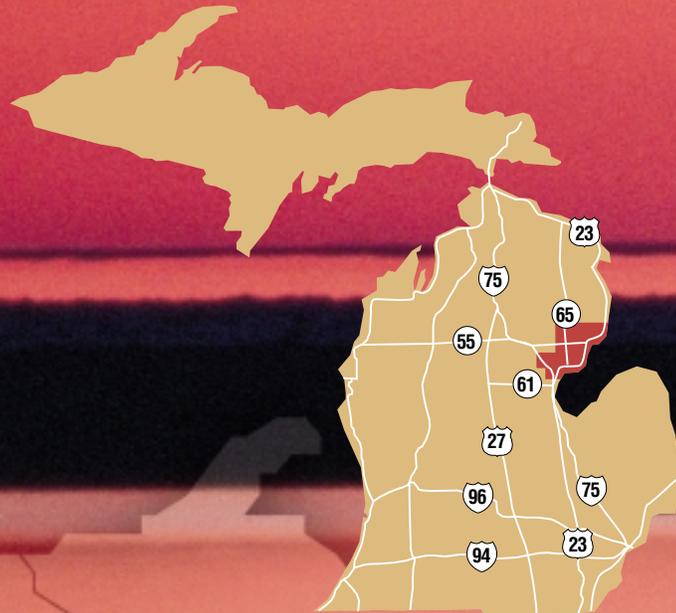
Source: Michigan Office of Labor Market Information

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Arenac-Iosco Counties ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFILE

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Open for business

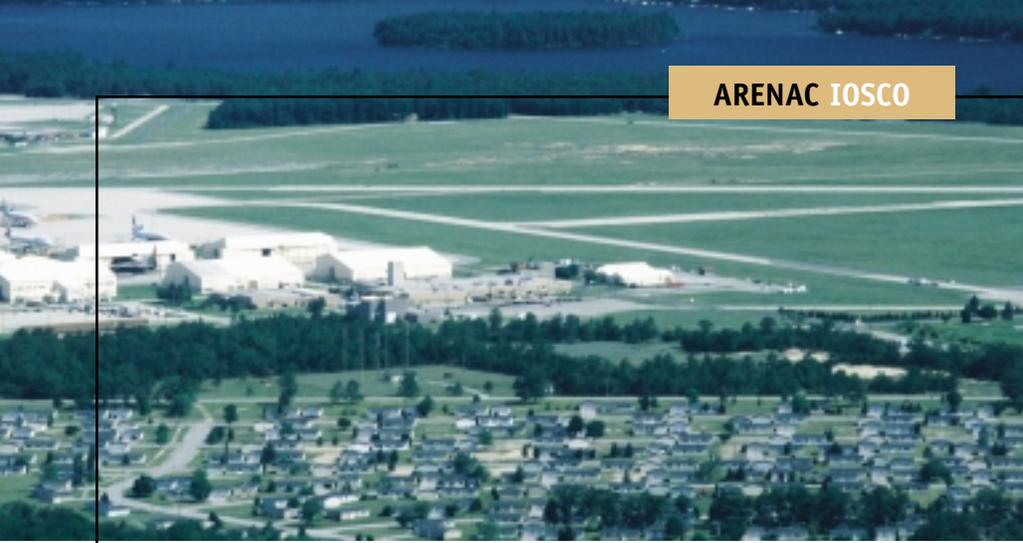
IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO LOCATE OR EXPAND YOUR business, you'll find a warm welcome, and a bright future, in Arenac and Iosco counties.

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.



**Major Manufacturing Employers
IOSCO COUNTY**

Firm	Location	Product
ITT Automotive	Oscoda Tawas City East Tawas	Extruded & injection-molded plastic & parts
Tawas Tool Co.	East Tawas	Machine cutting tools
Starboard Industries	East Tawas	Coextrusions
National Gypsum Co.	National City	Drywall
RPI Inc.	Oscoda	Auto parts, levers, controls
Tawas Industries Inc.	Tawas City	Air, fuel & oil filters
Norwood Products Co.	Oscoda	Billiard cues
Tawas Plating Co.	Tawas City	Powder coating, electroplating
Schaaf Lumber Co.	East Tawas	Roof & floor trusses
Proline Archery Systems	Hale	Crossbows
Darton Archery	Hale	Bows, plastic parts

ARENAC COUNTY

Firm	Location	Product
Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp.	Standish	Automatic fire sprinklers & alarms
Maple Ridge Hardwoods	Sterling	Hardwood lumber
Bopp-Busch Manuf. Co.	Au Gres	Metal stamping, dies, wire assemblies & parts
Crew Products Co.	Au Gres	Welding
Bessinger Pickle Co. Inc.	Au Gres	Dill pickles
Bay City Shovels	Au Gres	Machinery, shredding equipment
Hayes Lemmerz	Au Gres	Foundry equipment
Vantage Plastics	Standish	Vacuum formed plastics, auto. dunnage
M & M Industries Inc.	Standish	Checking fixtures & gauges
Arenac County Independent	Standish	Newspaper, commercial printing

Other Major Employers

ARENAC COUNTY

Firm	Location	Product
Standish Area Schools	Standish	Secondary education
Standish Community Hospital	Standish	Health care
First American Healthcare Inc.	Standish	Health care
Ashcrafts Market Inc.	Standish	Grocery stores
Forward Corp.	Standish	Gasoline service station
Citizens Bank	Standish	Commercial banks

IOSCO COUNTY

Firm	Location	Product
Tawas St. Joseph Hospital	Tawas City	Healthcare
Oscoda Area School District	Oscoda	Secondary education
Tawas Area Schools	East Tawas	Secondary education
Tawas Bay Associates	East Tawas	Hotels, motels
Tendercare Inc.	Tawas City	Nursing home
Iosco Co. Medical Care Facility		Nursing home
Northern Supermarkets	Tawas City	Grocery stores
Kmart Corp.	Oscoda	Department store
National Gypsum Co.	National City	Non-metallic minerals

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.

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 local township and city governments, welcome inquiries about the area's business opportunities, and can provide information about available sites, local demographics and tax incentives.

Iosco County is home to the 2,200-acre Wurtsmith Renaissance Zone. Formerly Wurtsmith Air Force Base, the zone is the only lower peninsula former military base converted for civilian use. It includes an industrial park and professional park. Among the businesses, agencies and community groups which have located at Wurtsmith are a health clinic, a Veterans Administration Clinic, public library, civic theater, Alpena Community College, the Yankee Air Force Museum, and several private industrial businesses.

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



Education (2000)

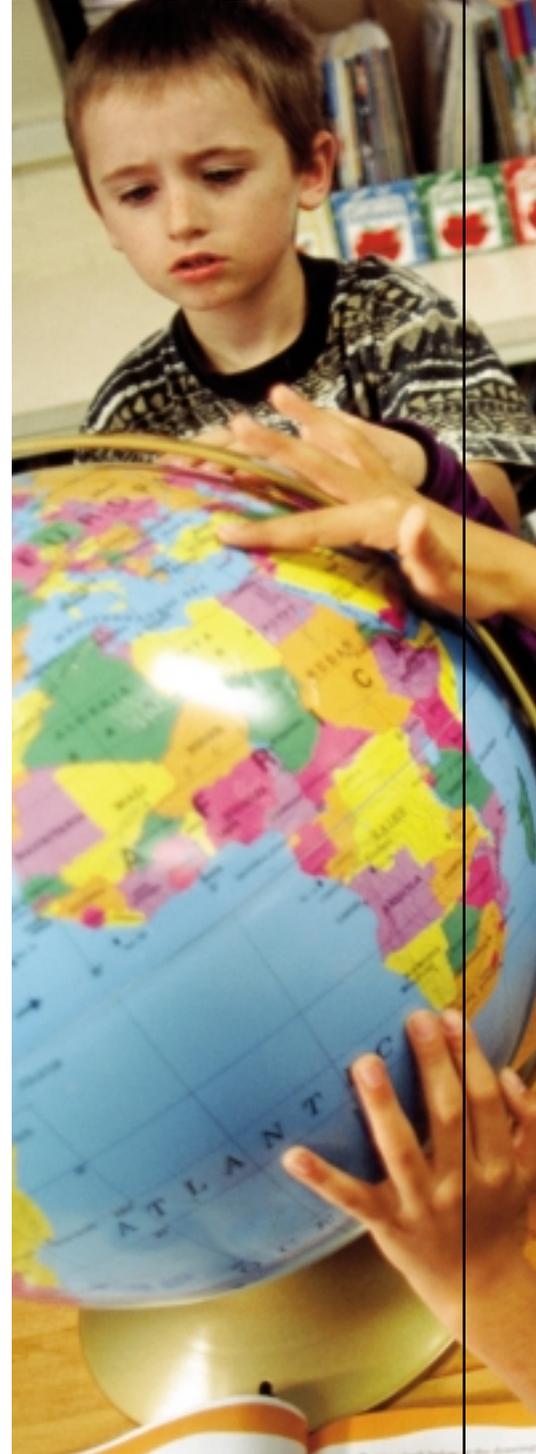
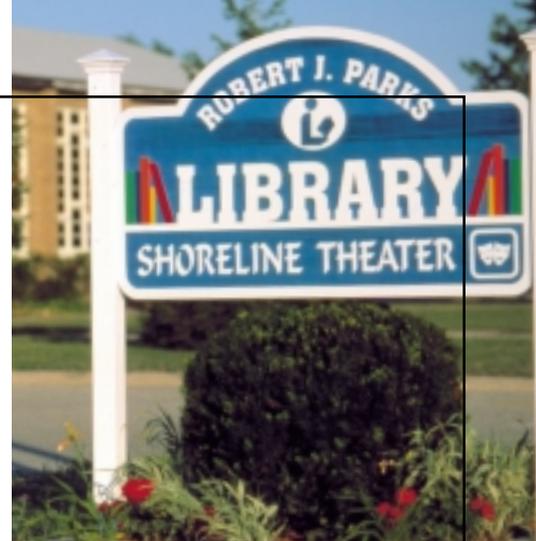
High school graduates, persons age 25+

Arenac County	76.8%
Iosco County	77.9%

Bachelor's degree or higher, persons age 25+

Arenac County	9.1%
Iosco County	11.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



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.

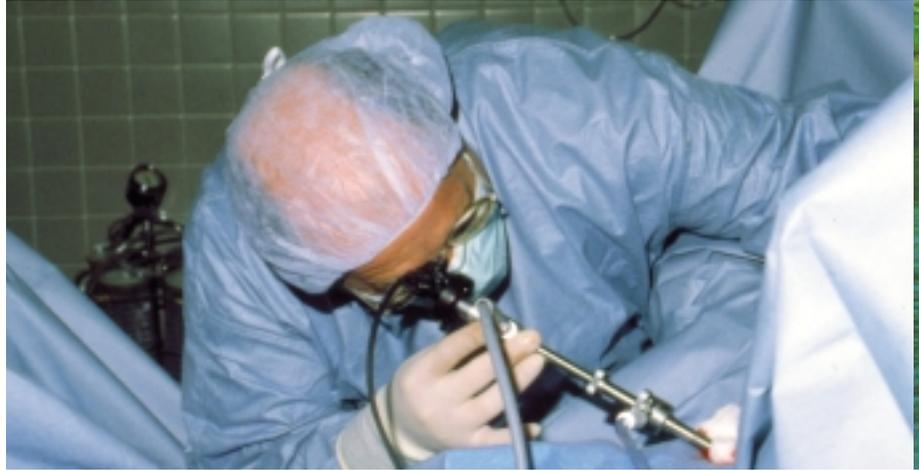
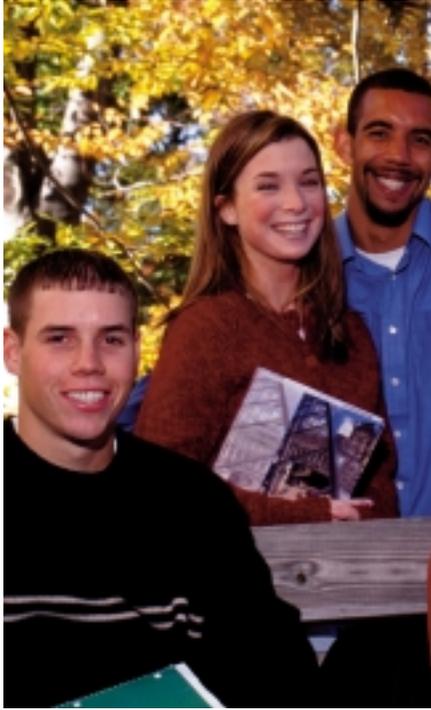
MANY HIGHER EDUCATION OPTIONS.

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.



Climate	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
January avg. lo/hi	11°F/28°F	29°F/29°F
July avg. lo/hi	56°F/82°F	56°F/80°F
Avg. annual snowfall	45 inches	50 inches
Avg. annual rainfall	28 inches	29 inches
Growing season	126 days	131 days

Source: NOAA Climate Summary, 1995

Housing (2000)	Arenac Co.	Iosco Co.
Housing units	9,563	20,432
Households	6,710	11,727
Median rent	\$399/mo.	\$416/mo.
Median home value	\$77,700	\$77,100
Homeownership rate	84.6%	82%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



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 Au Gres, 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. ■



Partners for a better business community



County of Iosco &
Iosco County Economic
Development Forum



Charter Township of Oscoda



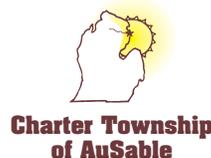
City of Standish



Forward Corporation



Huron Community Bank



IDEAL HOMES, INC.



VantagePlastics