

POPULATION TRENDS

Population Characteristics

The 2000 US Census counted Tompkins County's population as 96,501 people. Between 1990 and 2000, Tompkins County grew by 2.6% compared to a 5.5% population increase for New York State, and a 13.1% population increase for the US.

Tompkins County has an unusually high percentage of college students. As shown in the table below, college students account for 58% of the population for the City of Ithaca, and 28% of the county's population.

1990 and 2000 Population Summary - City, County, State, US

	City of Ithaca 1990	City of Ithaca 2000	Tompkins County 1990	Tompkins County 2000	NYS 1990	NYS 2000	US 1990	US 2000
Total Population	29,541	29,287	94,097	96,501	17.99M	18.98M	248.7M	281.4M
College Student Population	16,361	16,915	26,744	27,205	1.44M	1.30M	17.9M	17.5M
% of Population that is students	55.38%	57.76%	28.42%	28.19%	8.00%	6.86%	7.20%	6.21%
Permanent Population	13,180	12,372	67,353	69,296	16.55M	17.68M	230.8M	263.9M
% of Population that is Permanent Residents	44.62%	42.24%	71.58%	71.81%	92.00%	93.14%	92.80%	93.79%

Source: US Census 1990, 2000

Educational Attainment

Tompkins County’s population, age twenty-five and older, has an exceptionally high educational attainment level. The table below compares the County’s educational attainment levels to New York State and the nation. The US Census indicates that 47.5% of the population over age 25 has at least a Bachelors degree. This figure includes graduate students who are over age 25. Adjusting the statistics to remove those students, the permanent population has 41.5% with Bachelors and higher degrees, and a conversely low 9.6% with less than a high school diploma. The adjusted figures also indicate educational attainment well above the national and State averages.

1990 and 2000 Educational Attainment for Population 25 years and over - County, State, US

	Tompkins County 1990	Tompkins County 2000	NYS 1990	NYS 2000	US 1990	US 2000	Tompkins Adjusted 1990*	Tompkins Adjusted 2000*
Less than High School Diploma	13%	9%	25%	21%	25%	20%	15%	10%
Bachelors, Professional, Graduate degree	42%	48%	23%	27%	20%	24%	34%	42%

*Adjusted equals Population 25 years and over less Cornell’s 5,941 graduate students registered in 1990, and 5405 graduate students in 2000.
 Source: US Census 1990, 2000, and Cornell’s Institutional and Research Planning for graduate student enrollment numbers

Personal Income Trends

Personal income and earnings are tracked by the Census every ten years. The table below shows that Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca per capita personal income figures are lower than New York State or the US. This is largely due to the high proportion of college students in the county. A better indicator of the permanent population’s wealth is the median family income. Table 1C shows that the 1999 median family income (mfi) in Tompkins County was \$53,041 which was 3% above the NYS mfi of \$51,691, and 6% above of the US mfi of \$50,046. The City of Ithaca mfi was 20% below the County mfi.

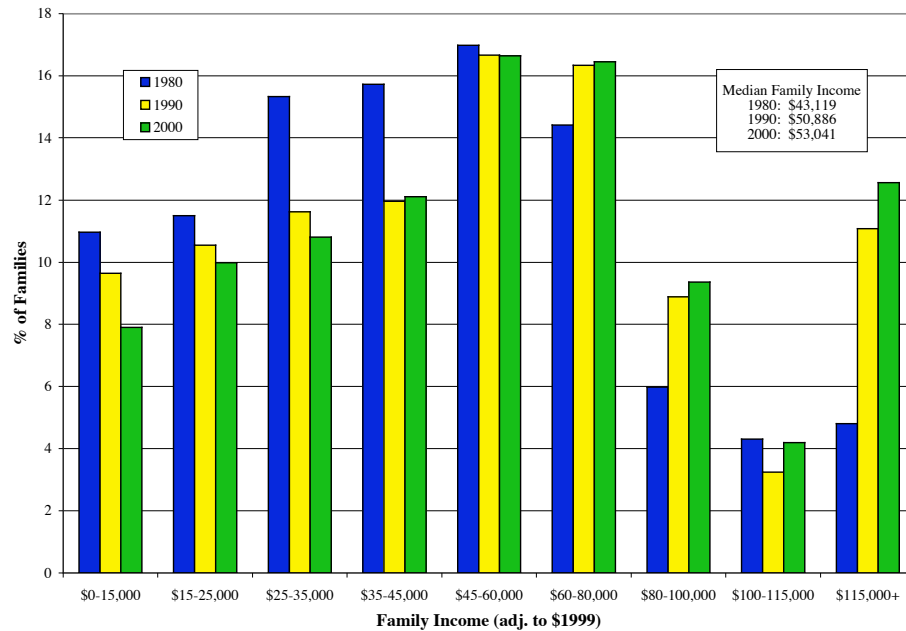
1989 and 1999 Income Summary - City, County, State, US

	City of Ithaca 1989	City of Ithaca 1999	Tompkins County 1989	Tompkins County 1999	NYS 1989	NYS 1999	US 1989	US 1999
Per Capita Income (pci)	\$12,382	\$13,408	\$17,701	\$19,659	\$22,176	\$23,389	\$19,379	\$21,587
Median Household Income	\$23,839	\$21,441	\$37,283	\$37,272	\$44,303	\$43,393	\$40,393	\$41,994
Median family Income (mfi)	\$41,375	\$42,304	\$50,900	\$53,041	\$53,409	\$51,691	\$47,340	\$50,046

Source: US Census 1990, 2000 (In 1999\$)

Between 1980 and 2000, many of the County’s middle class families saw their real incomes rise significantly, as demonstrated in the chart below on the left. The biggest shift upward was for 1980 to 1990; this upward trend continues though its pace slowed in the 1990s. Nevertheless, about 660 families (8%) remained in the very-low income bracket, making less than \$15,000 a year.

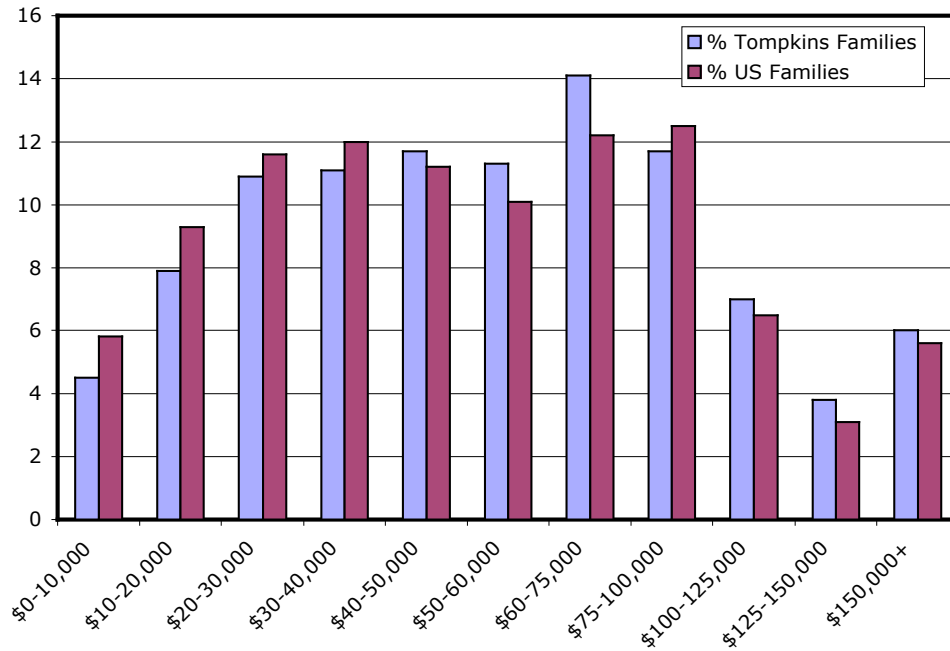
Change in Tompkins County Real Family Income 1980 to 2000



Source: US Census 1980, 1990 and 2000

The chart below compares the distribution of family income for Tompkins County families and US families. In 2000, Tompkins County's median family income was \$53,041, compared to \$50,046 for the U.S.

Comparison of US and Tompkins 2000 Family Income Distribution



Source: US Census 2000

Poverty Trends

The US Census Bureau estimates that between 1989 and 1999 the percent of persons in poverty in Tompkins County decreased from 18.9% to 17.6%. The table below shows that the total number of children living below the poverty level in Tompkins County decreased by 18.8%, compared to a 14.5% increase for NYS, and a national increase of 2.8%.

Tompkins County Poverty Estimates for Children Under 18 years old – 1990 to 2000

	TOMPKINS					NEW YORK					UNITED STATES				
	1990		2000		% Chg 1990- 2000	1990		2000		% Chg 1990- 2000	1990		2000		% Chg 1990- 2000
	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	
Pop. under 18*	17,603	100.0%	17,692	100.0%	0.51%	4,181,056	100.0%	4,581,111	100.0%	9.57%	62,605,519	100.0%	70,925,261	100.0%	13.2%
Below Poverty	2,516	14.3%	2,043	11.5%	-18.80%	799,531	19.1%	915,710	20.0%	14.53%	11,428,916	18.3%	11,746,858	16.6%	2.7%
Below 50% poverty	n/a	n/a	896	5.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	480,385	10.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,274,343	7.4%	n/a
Below 200% poverty	n/a	n/a	5,509	31.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,790,718	39.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	26,806,452	37.8%	n/a

*for whom poverty is determined

Source: Kids Count (based on US Census Data) www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/aecensus.cgi?action=profile

Who composes Tompkins County’s families in poverty? Half of families in poverty are headed by single mothers with children under 18. And 80% are families with dependent children. Children are at the highest risk for poverty with nearly 17% of children under age 5 living in poverty. This means that young families, still developing their careers and juggling child care responsibilities, are facing the most difficult economic situations. The following table shows the distribution of families in poverty by race and family type.

Tompkins County 2000 Distribution of Families in Poverty by Type and Race

	Family Type	All	% of fam type	% all fam's	White	% of fam type	% wht fam's	Black	% of fam type	% blk fam's	Asian	% of fam type	% Asn fam's	Hispanic	% of fam type	% Hsp fam's
Poverty	Married, children under 18	286	4.1	1.5	196	3.1	1.1	4	2.2	0.7	77	18.9	9.3	6	6.6	1.8
	Married, no children	222	2.7	1.2	150	2.0	0.9	10	9.1	1.8	50	14.0	6.0	17	17.0	5.1
	Father, children under 18	109	14.2	0.6	98	13.6	0.6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	Male, no dep children	10	3.4	0.1	10	3.7	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	Mother, children under 18	662	29.5	3.4	503	27.8	2.9	43	22.1	7.7	27	64.3	3.2	55	43.0	16.6
	Female, no dep children	30	4.4	0.2	25	4.0	0.1	5	13.2	0.9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Above Poverty	Married, children under 18	6,717	95.9	34.9	6,056			181			330			85		
	Married, no children	8,041	97.3	41.8	7,438			100			307			83		
	Father, children under 18	656	85.8	3.4	623			12			0			0		
	Male, no dep children	287	96.6	1.5	259			18			3			5		
	Mother, children under 18	1,583	70.5	8.2	1,307			152			15			73		
	Female, no dep children	656	95.6	3.4	593			33			22			8		
Total Families		19,259		100.0	17,258	89.6		558	2.9		831	4.3		332	1.7	
Total Families in poverty		1,319		6.8												

Source: US Census 2000