

# MANISTEE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS



## THE DETAILS



**25,519 (2024)**  
Current Population



**1.4 million**  
Out-Of-Market  
Annual Visitors



**\$1.11 billion**  
Manistee County  
GDP (2023)



**11,347**  
Labor Force  
as of 2025



**Manistee  
Blacker Airport**  
Service to Chicago  
O'Hare



**Deep Water Port**  
with Lake Freighters



**CXS Railroad to  
Grand Rapids**  
Located around  
Lake Manistee

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF MANISTEE COUNTY

The Manistee area is a great location for resources, affordability, strong manufacturing, workforce history, and outstanding quality of life characteristics.

Where we live is strongly influenced by the area's desirable location on the Lake Michigan shoreline, our state, and national forests, trails, historic downtown riverfront, and our own rich cultural history.

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Manistee County offers prime sites for industrial, manufacturing, and distribution development, with flexible options for production, warehousing, and logistics operations. The region has a skilled, reliable workforce supported by local training programs, and competitive land and facility costs make it an attractive location for expansion or new operations.

Located along US-31 with connections to I-196 and I-94, the county provides direct access to regional and national markets, rail networks, and nearby ports. Local governments are committed to supporting industrial growth through incentives and streamlined permitting, making Manistee County a business-friendly location ready for investment and long-term success.



Chris Franckowiack

## CURRENT ECONOMY

Manistee County has a diverse economy that is bolstered by steady, long-standing manufacturers. Like many other northern Michigan communities, we are maturing towards a robust tourism sector, and the area's affordability and opportunities make it poised for successful investment.

### Largest Employers in Manistee County

- |                                     |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Little River Casino Resort          | Munson Healthcare<br>Manistee Hospital | Crystal Mountain                          | Packaging Corporation of America        |
| Little River Band of Ottawa Indians |  |   | Manistee County                         |
| Manistee Area Public Schools        |  |   | Morton Salt, Inc                        |
| Meijer 279                          | West Shore Community College           | Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties, LLC | M R Products, Inc.<br>Home of MR. CHAIN |
| Oaks Correctional Facility          | Blarney Castle Oil & Propane           | Onekama Consolidated Schools              | Centra Wellness Network                 |



Transportation & Utilities  
13% - 1,485



Manufacturing  
9.3% - 1,058



Service Providing  
30% - 3,417



Education & Health  
3.4% - 397



Liesure & Hospitality  
7.8% - 886



Goods-producing  
13% - 1,476





## CATALYST PROJECTS & COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

West Shore Community College invested over \$5 million to repurpose a vacant 14,000-square-foot building in the heart of downtown Manistee. Their vision included a community use building that housed college classes, economic, and community development organizations including the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce.

Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital invested \$3.7 million in an emergency department renovation. The upgraded facilities will provide better care with equipment, privacy, and additional safety designs. Munson also completed a 44,000-square-foot Community Health Center in 2018, at its Parkdale campus. The \$13 million helped improve the hospital's ability to deliver quality care to patients.

Hampton Inn & Suites Manistee Waterfront - West Michigan-based 6PM Hospitality and Pioneer Construction worked with the Chamber economic development team on this transformable project that created a new hospitality destination. This has quickly turned into a destination for visitors and has revitalized Manistee's Lake Michigan coastline.

Manistee Township is welcoming the Riley Apartments, a 288-unit market-rate housing development located directly off of US-31. This project represents the largest housing build-out in Manistee County's history and is designed to address the region's growing demand for workforce and family housing. Phase One will deliver 144 units, with completion expected in summer 2026.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In May 2021, a \$31 million bond passed for the Manistee Area Public Schools to create secure and efficient 21st-century learning facilities supportive of our mission to provide an inclusive, high-quality, diverse educational environment that inspires and fulfills the goals of all learners at every stage of their journey. We are proud to share that the newly constructed school officially opened its doors for the 2025 school year, marking an exciting new chapter for students, staff, and the entire community.