

Ten Years of Fiscal Health among Jurisdictions in Berrien County

This fiscal health factsheet is from the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), an ongoing survey of the top elected and appointed officials in every unit of general purpose local government across the state. The MPPS is designed to gather local leaders' opinions, inform state policymakers and others regarding local government issues, and show local leaders how peer communities around the state are dealing with a variety of challenges. While we typically report findings at a statewide level, because over 73% of the state's local jurisdictions participate we are also able to show summarized data for all local governments within any county, while still protecting jurisdictions' confidentiality.

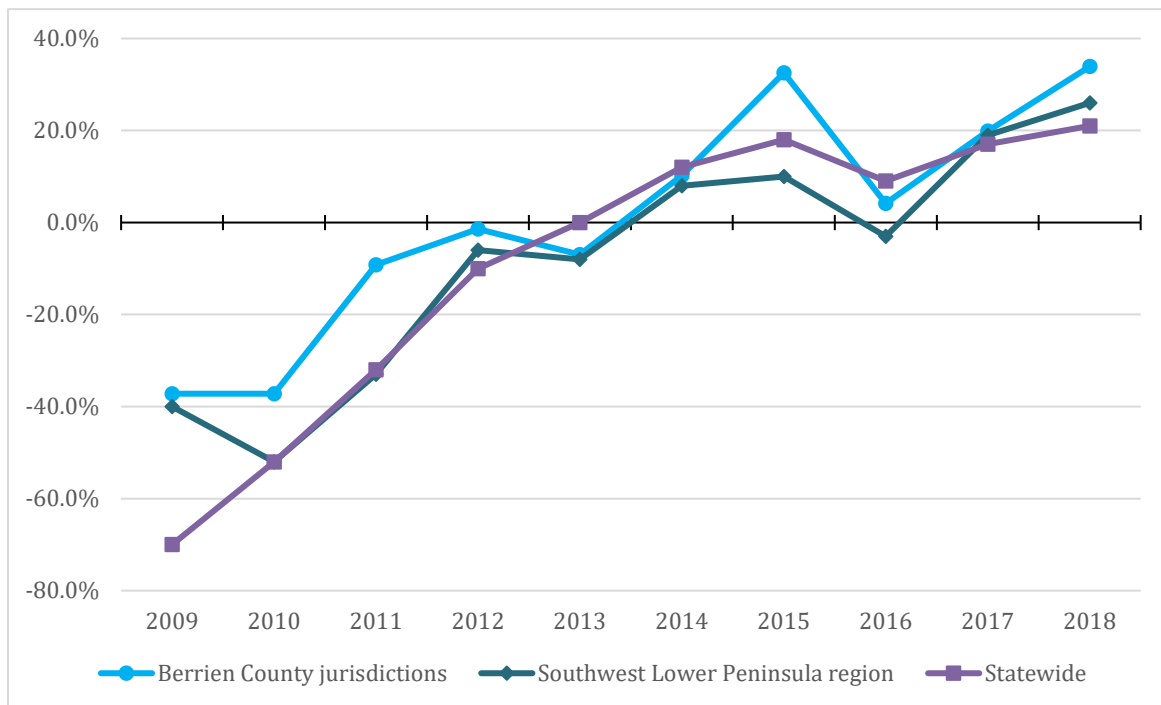
Fiscal Health: How your county compares

Each spring since 2009, the MPPS has asked local government leaders to assess their jurisdiction's fiscal health. One of the key indicators on the survey asks whether the jurisdiction is *better* or *less able* to meet its fiscal needs compared to the prior year.

The graph below shows "net fiscal health" for **all jurisdictions in Berrien County**, compared to regional and statewide averages, for the last ten years. Net fiscal health is the percentage of jurisdictions that were better able to meet their needs in a particular year, minus the percentage that were less able. A data point below the zero-axis shows that more jurisdictions reported declining fiscal health than reported improving health in that year. In 2018, **jurisdictions in Berrien County** overall had higher net fiscal health than the rest of the region, and higher net fiscal health compared to jurisdictions across the rest of the state.

Net fiscal health yearly change 2009-2018

Percentage of jurisdictions reporting improving fiscal health minus percentage reporting declining health



Changes in Property Tax Revenue This Year

- Statewide, 52% of local governments in FY2018 reported property tax revenues increased compared to FY2017, while only 15% reported property tax revenues decreased.
- The Southwest Lower Peninsula region had fewer jurisdictions report increased revenues compared to the state overall, while Berrien County had 60% of jurisdictions report increases.

Percentage of jurisdictions reporting changes in property tax revenues (2018)

	Statewide	Southwest Lower Peninsula Region	Berrien County Jurisdictions
Increased	52%	45%	60%
No Change	30%	36%	28%
Decreased	15%	16%	12%

Plans for Employee Pay Rates in the Coming Year

- According to the Spring 2018 MPPS, 61% of jurisdictions across the state expected they would increase their employee pay rates in the coming year, while less than 1% reported plans to decrease rates.
- In the Southwest Lower Peninsula region, 62% of jurisdictions anticipated increasing employee pay rates this year.
- More employee pay rate increases were expected among jurisdictions in Berrien County compared to the statewide average.

Percentage of jurisdictions expecting to change employee rates (2018)

	Statewide	Southwest Lower Peninsula Region	Berrien County Jurisdictions
Plan to Increase	61%	62%	73%
No Changes Planned	34%	31%	23%
Plan to Decrease	0%	1%	4%

Analysis of additional fiscal health indicators are available at <http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/71/>.

On the website you can also find data on policy topics from A to Z, including **public safety, economic development, road funding, and much more**. For more information, contact CLOSUP by email (closup@umich.edu) or by phone (734-647-4091). Follow CLOSUP on twitter: @closup