

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. We typically report findings at a statewide level. However, because 73% of the state's local jurisdictions participated in 2019, we are also able to show summarized data for all local governments within any county, while still protecting confidentiality.

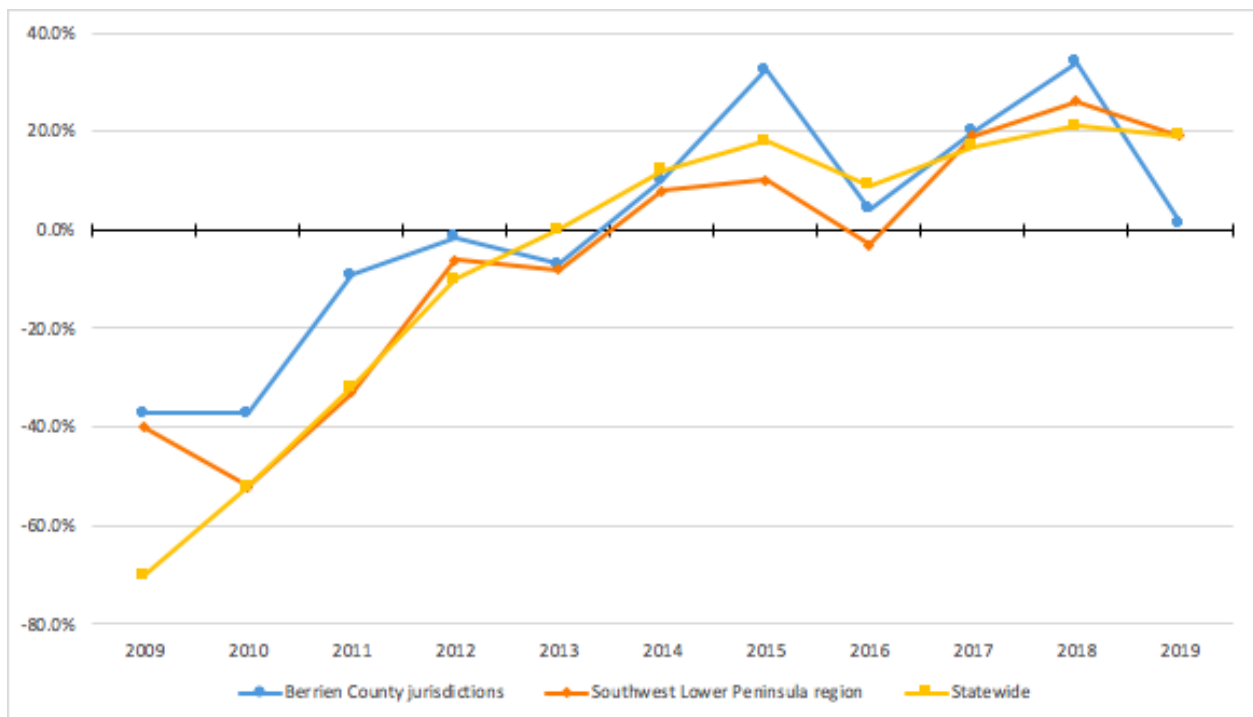
Fiscal Health: How your county compares

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 decade. 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 2019, **jurisdictions in Berrien County** overall had lower net fiscal health than the rest of the region, and lower net fiscal health compared to jurisdictions across the rest of the state.

Net fiscal health yearly change 2009-2019

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



Changes in Property Tax Revenue This Year

- Statewide, 57% of local governments in 2019 reported their property tax revenues increased compared to 2018, while only 12% reported their property tax revenues decreased.
- The Southwest region had about the same jurisdictions report increased revenues compared to the state overall, while Berrien County had 68% of jurisdictions report increases.

Percentage of jurisdictions reporting changes in property tax revenues (2019)

	Statewide	Southwest Region	Berrien County Jurisdictions
Increased	57%	57%	68%
No Change	28%	27%	16%
Decreased	12%	11%	13%

Preparedness for Next Economic Recession

- Looking ahead to future economic conditions, according to the Spring 2019 MPPS, 70% of jurisdictions across the state say they are somewhat (57%) or very (13%) prepared to deal with the potential impacts of the next recession, whenever it may happen, while 20% say their jurisdiction is somewhat (16%) or very (4%) unprepared.
- In the Southwest region, 71% of jurisdictions believe they are prepared to deal with the next economic recession.
- Slightly more jurisdictions in Berrien County (72%) believe they are prepared for the next recession compared to the statewide average (70%).
- A full report on recession preparations is available at: <http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/77>

Percentage of jurisdictions prepared to deal with next economic recession (2019)

	Statewide	Southwest Region	Berrien County Jurisdictions
Very prepared	13%	13%	17%
Somewhat Prepared	57%	58%	55%
Somewhat unprepared	16%	16%	22%
Very Unprepared	4%	1%	0%

Analysis of additional fiscal health indicators are available at: <http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/78>

On the Center's website (closup.umich.edu) you can also find data on policy topics from A to Z. For more information, contact CLOSUP by email (closup@umich.edu) or by phone (734-647-4091). Follow CLOSUP on twitter: @closup