

Fiscal Health among Jurisdictions in St. Joseph 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 72% of the state's local jurisdictions participated in Spring 2025, 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

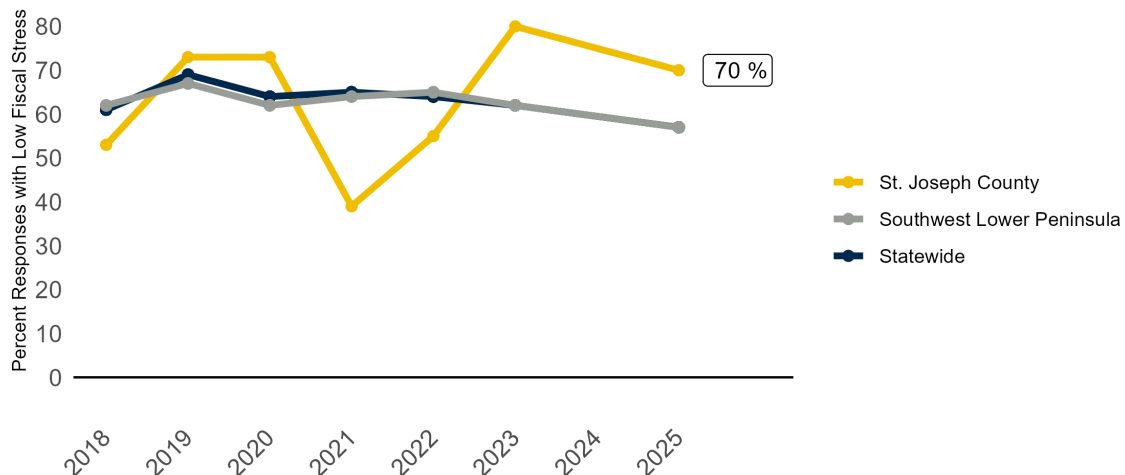
Each spring, the MPPS asks local government leaders to assess their jurisdiction's fiscal health on a variety of measures, from general assessments of overall fiscal health to changes in specific types of revenues and expenditures. One of the key indicators on the survey asks local leaders to rate their jurisdiction's overall fiscal condition on a scale of 1-10, where 1 is perfect fiscal health and 10 is fiscal crisis.

The graph below shows the percentage of jurisdictions who reported "low" fiscal stress—a 1-4 on the 10-point scale—among **all jurisdictions in St. Joseph County**, and compares this to regional and statewide percentages between 2018-2025.

In 2025, **jurisdictions in St. Joseph County** overall were more likely to report low fiscal stress than the rest of the region, and more likely to report low fiscal stress compared to jurisdictions across the rest of the state. Countywide, the fiscal stress for **all jurisdictions in St. Joseph County** is down compared to 2023.

Fiscal Health Yearly Change 2018-2025

Percentage of jurisdictions reporting "low" fiscal stress (1-4 on the 10-point scale)



Note: 2024 data excluded due to concerns with validity and comparability

Impact of end to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding on future local government fiscal health

- Among the 90% of jurisdictions statewide that say ARPA funding is applicable to their government, approximately one-third of county (36%), city (31%) and village (30%) officials say the upcoming end to ARPA funding will be a problem for their jurisdiction's fiscal health over the next five years. Township officials (21%) are significantly less likely to expect the end of ARPA funding to be a fiscal problem for their government.
- The Southwest Lower Peninsula region had fewer jurisdictions say that loss of ARPA funding will be a fiscal problem (19%) compared to the state overall (21%), and **St. Joseph County** had only 24% of jurisdictions report that the end of ARPA will be a fiscal problem for their local government.

Plans for Changes in Spending in the Coming Year

- Looking ahead, according to the Spring 2025 MPPS, over half (54%) of jurisdictions across the state say they are planning increased infrastructure spending in the coming year, and 45% plan to increase spending on public safety. However, only 20% plan to increase human services spending next year.
- In the Southwest Lower Peninsula region, 58% of jurisdictions are planning increases to infrastructure spending and 54% are increasing public safety spending.
- Fewer **jurisdictions in St. Joseph County** are predicting increased infrastructure spending, and fewer are predicting increased public safety spending.

Percentage of jurisdictions expecting to increase spending on infrastructure, public safety, and human services (2025)

	Statewide	Southwest Lower Peninsula Region	St. Joseph County Jurisdictions
Increased infrastructure spending	54 %	58 %	27 %
Increased public safety spending	45 %	54 %	38 %
Increased human services spending	20 %	21 %	17 %

Findings reports and easy-to-read data tables on these and other fiscal health indicators are available at: <https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/mpps-2025-spring>

On the Center's website you can also find data on a wide range of local policy topics, including **fiscal health, election administration, local energy policy, resident engagement, public safety, and much more**. For more information, contact CLOSUP by email (closup@umich.edu) or by phone (734-647-4091).