



City of Alma, Michigan

Community Profile

Geographic Location:

The City of Alma was incorporated in 1905 and is 6.05 square miles in area. Alma is located in the center of the lower peninsula. Two major highways cross Alma, US-127 running north and south, and M-46 running east and west.

Mt. Pleasant, Saginaw, Midland, Bay City, Lansing, St. Johns, Ithaca and St. Louis are all within 50 miles of Alma (population: 5,000 – 400,000).

Miles from:

Chicago:	268	Cleveland:	287	Toronto:	342
Detroit:	138	Indianapolis:	307	Lansing:	54

Population:

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>County</u>
1950	8,341	33,249
1960	8,978	37,012
1970	9,611	39,246
1980	9,652	40,448
1990	9,034	38,982
2000	9,275	42,285

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Gratiot County				
Civilian Work Force:	18,950	20,100	20,278	21,039
Employed:	17,850	18,775	18,515	19,294
Unemployed:	1,100	1,325	1,763	1,745
% Unemployed:	5.5%	6.6%	8.7%	8.3%

Climate:

Centrally located between the Great Lakes, weather average of the lakes.

The highest temperature recorded was 108 and the lowest was –22.

The average dates of the last freezing temperature in the spring and the first in the fall are May 23 and October 6 respectively.

Precipitation is heaviest during the growing months, averaging 557% of the annual total during April to September.

Warmest Month:	July	Average Maximum:	84.0	Average Minimum:	60.0
Coldest Month:	February	Average Maximum:	32.9	Average Minimum:	16.5
Average Annual Precipitation:	41.54 "	Growing Season:	130 days	Days over 90° F:	3
Snow:	25.30"			Days below 0° F:	14

Municipal Services:

Form of City Government:	Commission – Manager
Police Department:	14 sworn officers, 2 civilian personnel
Fire Department:	23 volunteer firefighters
Major Streets:	15.50 miles
Local Streets:	31.27 miles
Bus System:	Dial-A-Ride Bus Service–9 buses, 1 trolley
Rubbish/Recycling Collection:	City contractor with once per week curbside collection
Rubbish Disposal:	Transfer station in mid-Michigan
Comprehensive Plan & City wide Zoning	

Community Living:

Number of dwellings:	3,114
Owner occupied:	63%
Rental housing available:	Yes
Rental apartments:	Yes
Public housing:	Senior – 159 units; Family – 326
Number of churches:	1 Catholic, 24 Protestant
Synagogue available:	Yes, 19 miles
Mosque available:	Yes, 19 miles
Number of retail/restaurant establishments:	109
Total annual wholesale sales:	\$137,629,000
Number of wholesale establishments:	35
Number of employed:	4,015

Cost of Housing:

1. Rental costs:	\$325 - \$850
2. Homes by State Equalized Valuation (50% of market value):	
0 - 20,000	125
20,100 - 30,000	627
30,100 - 40,000	576
40,100 - 50,000	405
50,100 - 60,000	229
60,100 - 70,000	156
70,100 - 80,000	140
80,100 - 100,000	95
100,100 - up	80

City and Local Facilities and Services:

1. Nine city owned parks (102) acres.
2. 14 tennis courts, 11 baseball/softball diamonds, 3 football fields, one 18-hole golf course (private country club), two 18-hole golf courses (open to public), 1 bowling alley (36 lanes), and numerous other recreational activities.
3. Winter sports activities such as skiing, snowmobiling, ice hockey and ice fishing are all within a short drive.
4. Alma College – 350 seat Dow Auditorium and Alma College Symphony, Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.
5. One local theater complex (six screens) and one playhouse.
6. Most major organizations, social and fraternal.
7. Alma Public Library with over 71,245 volumes.
8. Alma Industrial Park – certified – 11 acres available.

Newspapers:

Two newspapers and one shopper guide are distributed:

- Morning Sun - daily news edition (7 days per week)
- Gratiot County Herald - once per week news edition (Thursday)
- Alma Reminder - once per week shoppers guide

Television:

Cable television access.

Radio:

Four local radio stations:

- WQBX/WFYC (104.9) - Alma
- WMLM (1530 AM) - St. Louis
- WQAC (90.9) - Alma College
- WCMU (89.5) - Central Michigan University National Public Radio

Motels:

There are six motels located in the immediate area, with 184 rooms and two bed and breakfast facilities.

Medical Facilities:

Gratiot Community Hospital – 142-bed facility with 125 active medical staff and mid-level practitioners and over 250 volunteers. This is one of the most completely equipped and staffed out-state facilities in Michigan.

Gratiot County Mental Health Center – Full-time staff of 76 and 39 part-time. Short term in-patient and out-patient programs.

Retirement Community:

Masonic Pathways Retirement Home – 38 independent living units, 178 residential independent and assisted living rooms, 180 bed health care facility and 24 bed rehabilitation center.

Educational Facilities:

		<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Number</u>
Elementary	K – 4	1059	3
Middle School	5 – 8	537	1
High School	9 – 12	719	1
Parochial	PK – 6	75	
Alternative Ed		91	
Total Teachers			162
Alma College		1,377	
Central Michigan University (located in Mt. Pleasant, 14 miles north on U.S. 127)		27,452	

Financial Institutions:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Home Office</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Firstbank – Alma	Alma	\$ 856,184,000
Chemical Bank & Trust	Midland	3,724,750,000
Commercial Bank	Ithaca	268,144,000
LaSalle Bank	Troy	39,443,618,000
Gratiot Community Credit Union	Alma	17,097,367
GRACO Federal Credit Union	Alma	9,823,498

Transportation:

Major Highways:	US-127 (N & S) M-46 (E & W)	Nearest Airport:	Gratiot Community Airport
Bus Lines:	1	Distance:	3 miles
Rail Lines:	2	Runway Length:	5,000 and 3,200 feet
Trains per day:	No	Lighted:	Yes
Motor Freight Companies:	10	Surface:	Asphalt
Local Terminals:	3	Fixed Base Operator:	Yes
United Parcel Service:	Yes	Instrument Approach	
		Nearest Commercial	
		Airport:	MBS Intl. Saginaw
		Name of Airlines:	Northwest, United
		Flights:	14

Utilities:

Electric:	Consumers Energy	Water:	City of Alma
Natural Gas:	Consumers Energy		25% river, 75% well
Telephone:	Verizon	Plant Capacity:	4 million g.p.d.
Wastewater:	City of Alma	Daily Consumption:	.92 million gallons (min.) 1.23 million gallons (max.)
Plant Capacity:	2.5 million g.p.d.	Storage Capacity:	1 million gallons (ground) 500,000 gallons (elevated)
Present Load:	1.99 million g.p.d.	Pressure in mains:	45 lb. psi (min.) 75 lb. psi (max.)

Major Area Employers:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Product/Service</u>	<u>Employees</u>
ABC Fastener	Industrial Fasteners	21
Alma College	Educational Institution	291
Alma Container Corp.	Fabricating corrugated containers	25
Alma Concrete	Concrete	11
ADW Industries	Custom machinery & material handling	34
Alma Iron & Metal	Steel svc. center/scrap metal processing	24
Alma Products/Alma Piston	Motor vehicle parts	425
Alma Public Schools	Public education system	300
Alma Tire	Wholesale, retail & retreading of tires	25
Avalon Tahoe Pontoon Mfg.	Recreational pontoon boats	127
City of Alma	Municipal government	100
Consumers Energy Co.	Electricity & gas	145
Gratiot Medical Center	Healthcare	1,044
Firstbank	Financial	120
K-Mart	Retail	37
Lear Corp.	Plastic products, injection molding	295
Liquid Transport, Inc.	Petroleum product transportation	50
Liquipak	Mfg. flexible pouch pkg./contract pkg.	32
Masonic Pathways	Retirement community/hospital	273
Medler Electric	Wholesale electric supplies	26
Mid-Michigan Industries	Rehab/sheltered workshop for disabled	13
Production Machining	Automotive & steel castings machining	26
SPX/Contech	Aluminum castings	143
Terry Materials	Asphalt emulsion/asphalt cement	14
Traffic Management Svcs.	Shipping, routing, logistics	14
Verizon	Telephone Service	39

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Population	9,275	100.0%	Hispanic or Latino & Race	9,275	100.0%
Sex & Age			Total Population	9,275	100.0%
Male	4,173	45.0%	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	576	6.2%
Female	5,102	55.0%	Mexican	429	4.6%
Under 5 years	543	5.9%	Puerto Rican	24	0.3%
5 to 9 years	554	6.0%	Cuban	-	-
10 to 14 years	556	6.0%	Other Hispanic or Latino	123	1.3%
15 to 19 years	1,113	12.0%	Not Hispanic or Latino	8,699	93.8%
20 to 24 years	1,150	12.4%	White alone	8,434	90.9%
25 to 34 years	979	10.6%	Relationship		
35 to 44 years	1,154	12.4%	Total Population	9,275	100.0%
45 to 54 years	981	10.6%	In households	7,703	83.1%
55 to 59 years	407	4.4%	Householder	3,220	34.7%
60 to 64 years	266	2.9%	Spouse	1,467	15.8%
65 to 74 years	546	5.9%	Child	2,347	25.3%
75 to 84 years	594	6.4%	Own child under 18 years	1,914	20.6%
85 years and over	432	4.7%	Other relatives	183	2.0%
Median age (years)	33	X	Under 18 years	71	0.8%
18 years and over	7,248	78.1%	Nonrelatives	486	5.2%
Male	3,160	34.1%	Unmarried partner	205	2.2%
Female	4,088	44.1%	In group quarters	1,572	16.9%
21 years and over	6,126	66.0%	Institutionalized population	521	5.6%
62 years and over	1,733	18.7%	Noninstitutionalized population	1,051	11.3%
65 years over	1,572	16.9%	Household by Type		
Male	542	5.8%	Total Households	3,220	100.0%
Female	1,030	11.1%	Family households (families)	2,022	62.8%
Race			With own children under 18 years	1,043	32.4%
One Race	9,101	98.1%	Married-couple family	1,467	45.6%
White	8,695	93.7%	With own children under 18 years	643	20.0%
Black or African American	49	0.5%	Female householder, no husband present	443	13.8%
American Indian & Alaska Native	48	0.5%	With own children under 18 years	320	9.9%
Asian	70	0.8%	Nonfamily households	1,198	37.2%
Asian Indian	29	0.3%	Householder living alone	981	30.5%
Chinese	9	0.1%	Householder 65 years and over	416	12.9%
Filipino	3	-			0.0%
Japanese	7	0.1%	Households w/individuals under 18 years	1,097	34.1%
Korean	9	0.1%	Households w/individuals 65 years & over	805	25.0%
Vietnamese	2	0.0%	Average household size	2.39	X
Other Asian ¹	11	0.1%	Average family size	2.98	X
Native Hawaiian &			Housing Occupancy		
Other Pacific Islander	1	-	Total Housing Units	3,476	100.0%
Native Hawaiian	-	-	Occupied housing units	3,220	92.6%
Guamanian or Chamorro	-	-	Vacant housing units	256	7.4%
Samoan	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	20	0.6%
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	Homeowner vacancy rate	1.8	X
Some other race	238	2.6%	Rental vacancy rate	9.1	X
Two or more races	174	1.9%	Housing Tenure		
Race along or in combination with one or more races:³			Occupied Housing Units	3,220	100.0%
White	8,864	95.6%	Owner-occupied housing units	2,006	62.3%
Black or African American	82	0.9%	Renter-occupied housing units	1,214	37.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	121	1.3%	Avg. household size of owner-occupied units	2.55	X
Asian	83	0.9%	Avg. household size of renter-occupied units	2.14	X
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2	-			
Some other race	313	3.4%			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

(X) Not applicable

¹ Other Asian along, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100% because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000