

**STATE of COUNTY ADDRESS
1988**

**DANIEL T.MURPHY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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February 25, 1988

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Good morning Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen

Each year I stand before you to report on the condition of our county and ask for your help in tackling the many challenges which face us. I recognize that in order to move county government forward --- we need the help of Republicans and Democrats, cities and townships --- business and labor --- and most importantly, the citizens of this great county.

Working together, all departments of Oakland County Government are responsible for maintaining the outstanding quality of life which we enjoy. And a recent survey by the Detroit News proves our hard work is paying off. The study shows that our abundance of affordable housing, the convenience of shopping, our excellent schools, and our fine cultural and recreational facilities make Oakland County the shining star on the map of Michigan. That is something which makes us all very proud.

But, our success didn't happen by accident. It came about as a result of the commitment made by this administration, this Board of Commissioners and hundreds of others across this county who serve the needs of our people.

We continue to succeed because we respond to our residents' needs and because when we set goals we accomplish them. As all of you know, in 1983 we made economic development a top priority of Oakland County Government in order to diversify our economy and provide jobs for our people. 1987 was again a banner year for growth and expanded opportunity in Oakland County.

To see our economic development progress, just drive north to Auburn Hills and examine the Oakland Technology Park. G M F Robotics recently dedicated its new world headquarters there. Borg-Warner Automotive, Pentair Corporation's Lincoln Division and many other major companies are also opening operations in the area. And with launching of Phase Two of the Tech Park there is potential for the creation of an additional ten thousand new jobs.

In 1983 representatives of business, government and the university banded together with a dream to develop a new industrial park. Today that dream is a successful reality, with employment figures exceeding our expectations.

Our Economic Development, Community Development and Planning divisions are working with local governments using all avenues available to assist in the well planned growth of this county.

If you look to the south you will find our small business counselor working with representatives of Pontiac, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Royal Oak and Pleasant Ridge to help redevelop their downtown areas.

The work we are doing today will allow us to continue to provide an excellent standard of living for our citizens well into the future. According to NPA Data Services Inc., a Washington D.C. based consulting firm, Oakland County is projected to have one hundred eighty-six thousand new jobs by the year two thousand. This means that tomorrow's children won't have to move out of state to find jobs. Instead, they will have the opportunity to stake their future and raise their families, here, in Oakland County.

BREAK FOR VISUAL ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I'd like to take a few minutes to share with you some interesting and important data from the University of Michigan Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations.

In a recent study, U of M economists predicted that Oakland County should gain about forty-five thousand private non-manufacturing jobs between 1986 and 1989, which more than compensates for the projected loss of about eight thousand jobs in manufacturing.

Just look at these two illustrations.

Since 1979 Oakland County's non-farm employment growth is a whopping twenty-seven point eight percent. As you can see it far exceeds any other area in Michigan and is twelve point seven percent higher than the national average.

This second chart shows the growth of private sector jobs from 1983 (a peak employment year) through 1989. As you can see, Oakland County far outpaces the rest of Michigan.

We're in a major transition for diversity. In spite of plant closings and layoffs, Oakland County will still have a net employment and growth larger than any major city or county in Michigan.

BACK TO SPEECH

But, we will need cooperation to address the serious environmental issues facing us.

In 1988, Oakland County will complete the planning for a resource recovery facility and will begin to negotiate contracts for the design, construction and operation of a facility that will burn more than one thousand tons of solid waste per day. This facility will allow us to decrease our dependence on sanitary landfills and will provide planning for our disposal needs in future years.

We are also developing a solid waste management plan that will include a program to recycle up to twenty percent per year of Oakland County's waste within the next five years. We believe that moving away from a total reliance on landfills to a combination of incineration and recycling is an environmentally sound approach to dealing with our waste products.

Planning for our future is just plain sensible. We recognize as the county's population increases so must the facilities which house the departments which serve our residents. To accommodate this growth we expect to break ground this year on a new library building, a new computer center, an addition to our courthouse and a parking deck for about three hundred vehicles.

All of these projects are designed to make Oakland County Government work more effectively and efficiently for its citizens. We know we can make these improvements within the current tax rate, meaning meeting the obligation of bonding for the projects.

Making Oakland County government more efficient is very important, but making it more effective is essential. I promise in 1988 we will continue to use even more innovative financial planning techniques to lower the cost of government.

Unlike many other counties, even unlike many other states --- our administrative departments work together to save money.

For example, our Computer Services Department, working with the Friend of the Court Division, has devised computerized methods of identifying people who don't pay child support. Federal and state agencies have used the results of this project to identify parents who don't comply with child support agreements. This targeted location program insures that parents, not governments, pay for the support of their children.

Our Computer Services Department also works with the Prosecutor's Office and has devised an automated subpoena-by-mail system. When complete, police officers will stop spending valuable time delivering subpoenas. And this efficient cooperative program will save taxpayers more than one-half million dollars a year.

Through our courts, we still look for ways to put people convicted of misdemeanors and non-violent felony crimes to work. During 1987, the 52nd District Court Probation and Court Community Service placed several hundred offenders to work in the county painting, making general repairs, performing clerical duties and in other jobs totalling fifty thousand non-paid work hours. This resulted in a savings of close to a half million dollars.

Through the cooperation of different departments of county government, we have made many noteworthy achievements. For example, our Veterans' Service Division, in cooperation with the Cultural Council, has received approval to erect a monument dedicated to Oakland County Veterans from all wars. The Veterans' Service Division, in

conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Service, has also conducted the fourth annual small business seminar for Veterans.

Working with the Board of Commissioners, our Emergency Management Division is in the process of implementing Oakland County's 9-1-1 service plan. Since receiving final approval, we have been working through twenty-five major installation steps toward our goal of November 14, 1988 for final installation.

We are very proud of our E M S program. Since 1974, the E M S program was designed to provide quality emergency medical care to save lives. It is a partnership between the medical community, the local public safety departments, private ambulance companies and county government. It has been an unqualified success. In recognition of the outstanding service that it provides, our E M S program has received seven national achievement awards since 1978.

One award was received for the cost sharing partnership between hospitals and county government to provide E M S radio communications services to hospitals, fire departments and ambulance companies. Together we are saving lives and saving money.

All of this growth and success does not come without problems. Growth creates challenges and there is no doubt that one of our great challenges in Oakland County is to make our roads wider, smoother and more accessible for our citizens. With the passage of the state transportation package, Oakland County can expect to receive between eight and fourteen million dollars in the first year toward improving our County's roads.

But that's not enough to solve the problem. However, it is a beginning. The voters must decide whether or not they wish to pay for a more comprehensive road package.

And, while we are on the subject of transportation, it's my unfortunate duty to report to you that the future of public transit in Oakland County remains bleak. If we are to assure the existence of even a modest bus transportation system, which will serve the elderly, handicapped and transit dependent of Oakland County, then we must begin to use

some of our dollars, as they become available, to build a fund that can be used to get an acceptable system at work in our county. In addition, an improved transit system will assist in relieving the traffic congestion in our county as we look toward the future and the twenty-first century.

I believe that in the final analysis our success will be measured by how well we address the most dependent individuals in our society -- our children and our older citizens. Within our departments of Human Services and Public Services we have one hundred ninety-two programs that deal with human needs.

In the area of education, we have developed a school health curriculum project that brings health and safety concerns into the classrooms where children can listen to experts talk about health concerns. This program is widely recognized as one of the finest in the nation.

Oakland County is on the forefront of providing screening programs to prevent debilitating diseases such as cancer. Our breast cancer screening program has expanded its scope by providing a mobile unit to bring the service to homes and offices.

That brings me to another problem, one which affects so many in Oakland County, the problem of the homeless. Right now the problem is being studied by a task force I appointed, which will be making recommendations so that we can get a true handle on what the situation is. The causes of homelessness vary. There are those who suffer temporary financial setbacks, those who are subject to domestic upheaval and some who, because of a physical or mental handicap, cannot sustain themselves.

Once we know what the problems are concerning the homeless, it will then be necessary for county government to look at what we can do to help alleviate some of the problems.

Taking steps to alleviate problems such as the homeless will require sums of money yet undetermined that would have to be appropriated by this Board. Such money may not relieve the entire problem, but it is expected that it can be used as seed money or challenge grants by which money can be pooled to get the job done.

I am also creating a senior citizens advisory council to provide input on issues involving their needs.

These groups will spearhead our efforts to see to it that all residents, young and old, enjoy the high quality of life we have come to expect here in Oakland County.

CONCLUSION

As I reflect on the past I can say that 1987 was an outstanding year for the people of Oakland County. Our budget was balanced, tax rates were stable and our citizens had greater opportunities for themselves and their families than ever before in our history.

But as our progress continues Oakland County has not forgotten about those who need our help along the way. And, I assure you, that the values of caring and concern about people will continue to be one of the guiding principles of Oakland County government.

We can, and will, continue to educate our residents about the services county government provides. Whether it involves economic issues or health issues, county government is committed to educating our people about opportunities available to them.

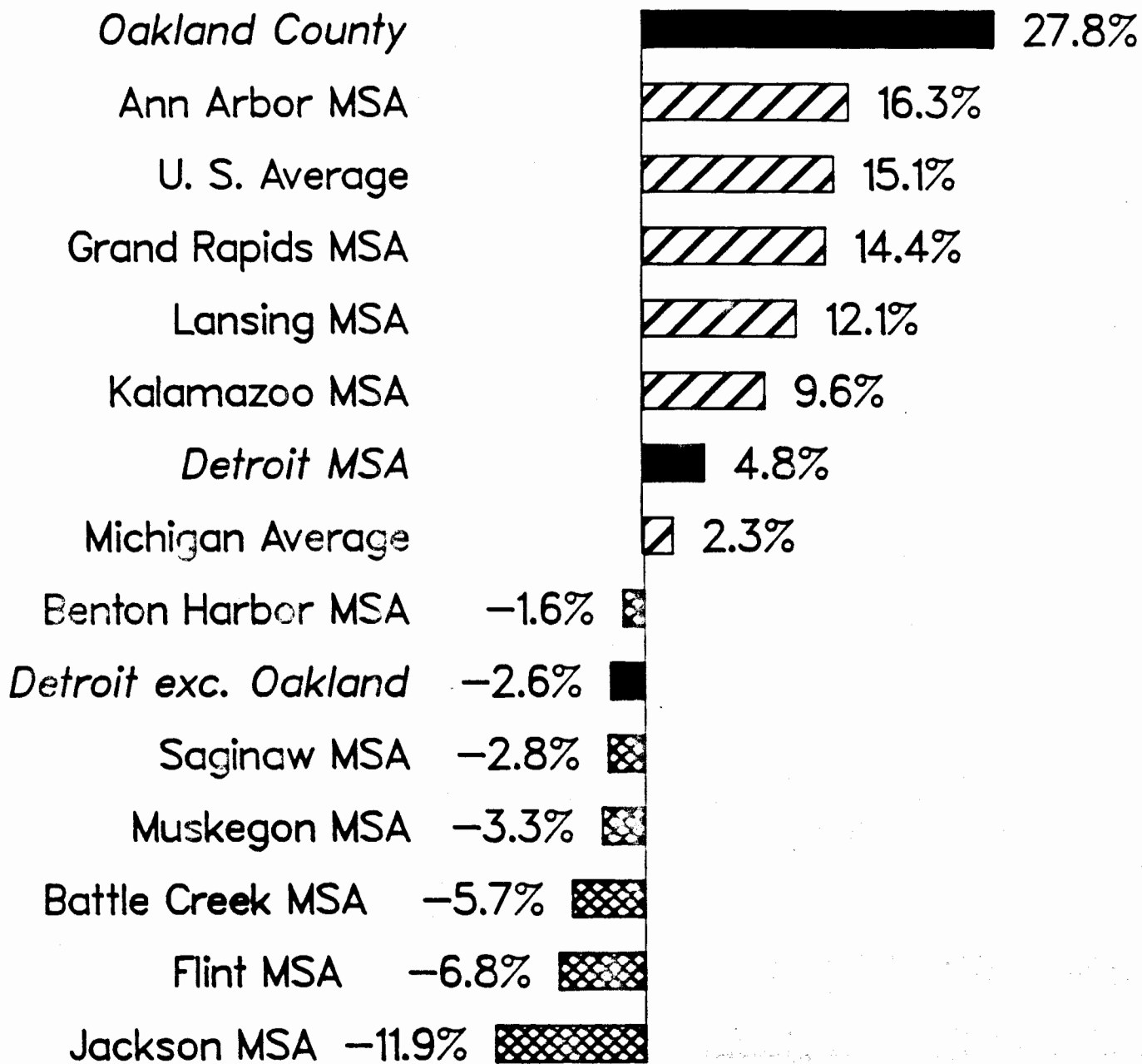
Without question, Oakland County is one of America's great counties. With skilled workers, dynamic entrepreneurs and a philosophy of growth, our economic fortunes look bright. With excellent service organizations, outstanding health care facilities and an unmatched parks and recreational system, our quality of life is second to none. All in all, we have a great deal for which to be thankful.

Our outlook for 1988 continues to be optimistic. Working together, we will continue to set the pace for counties across this country. Our ability to work together will determine our rate of progress so evident here today, I am confident that we can and will successfully tackle any challenge in our path.

Thank you.

Total Private Nonfarm Employment Growth

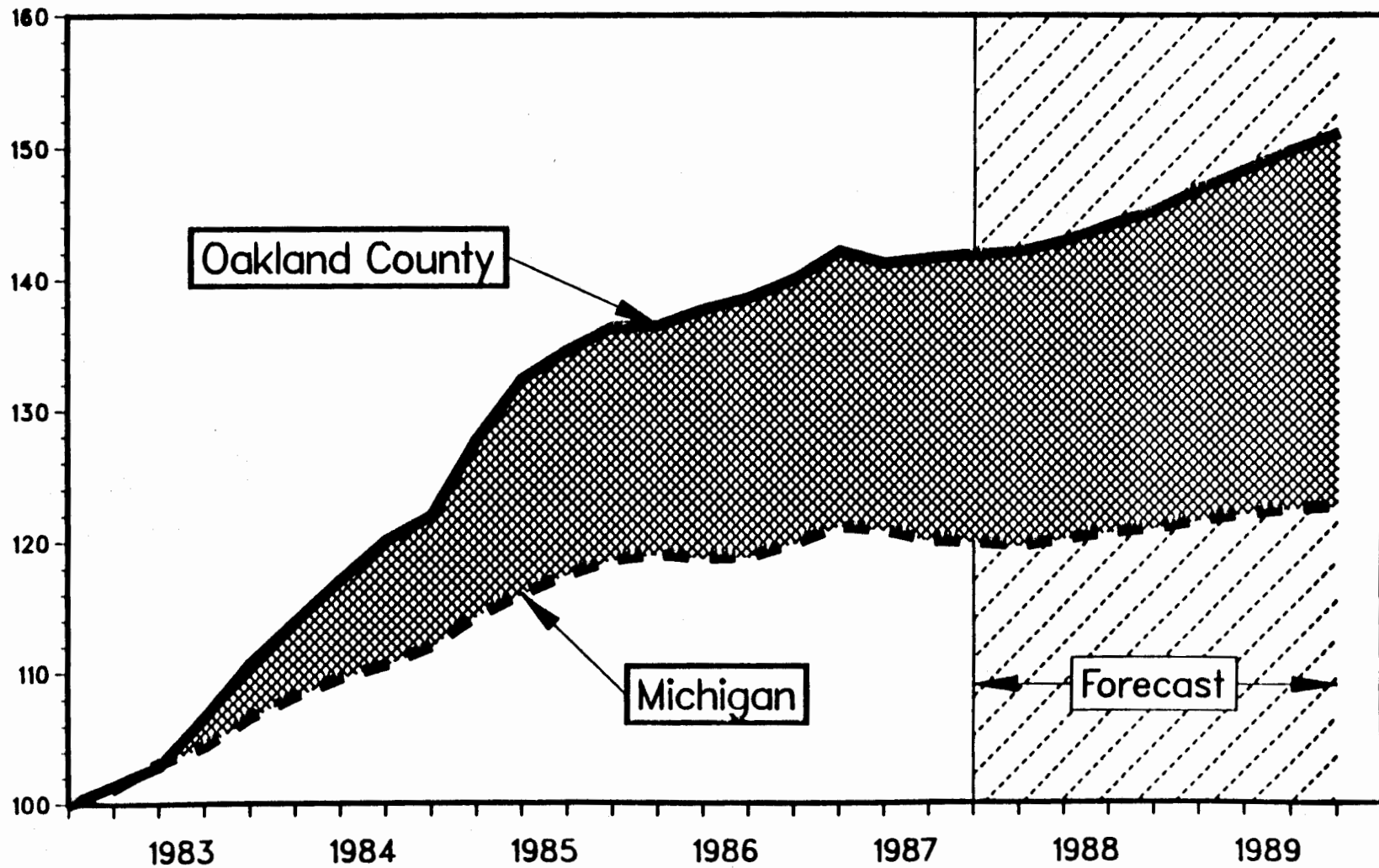
1979 – 1987



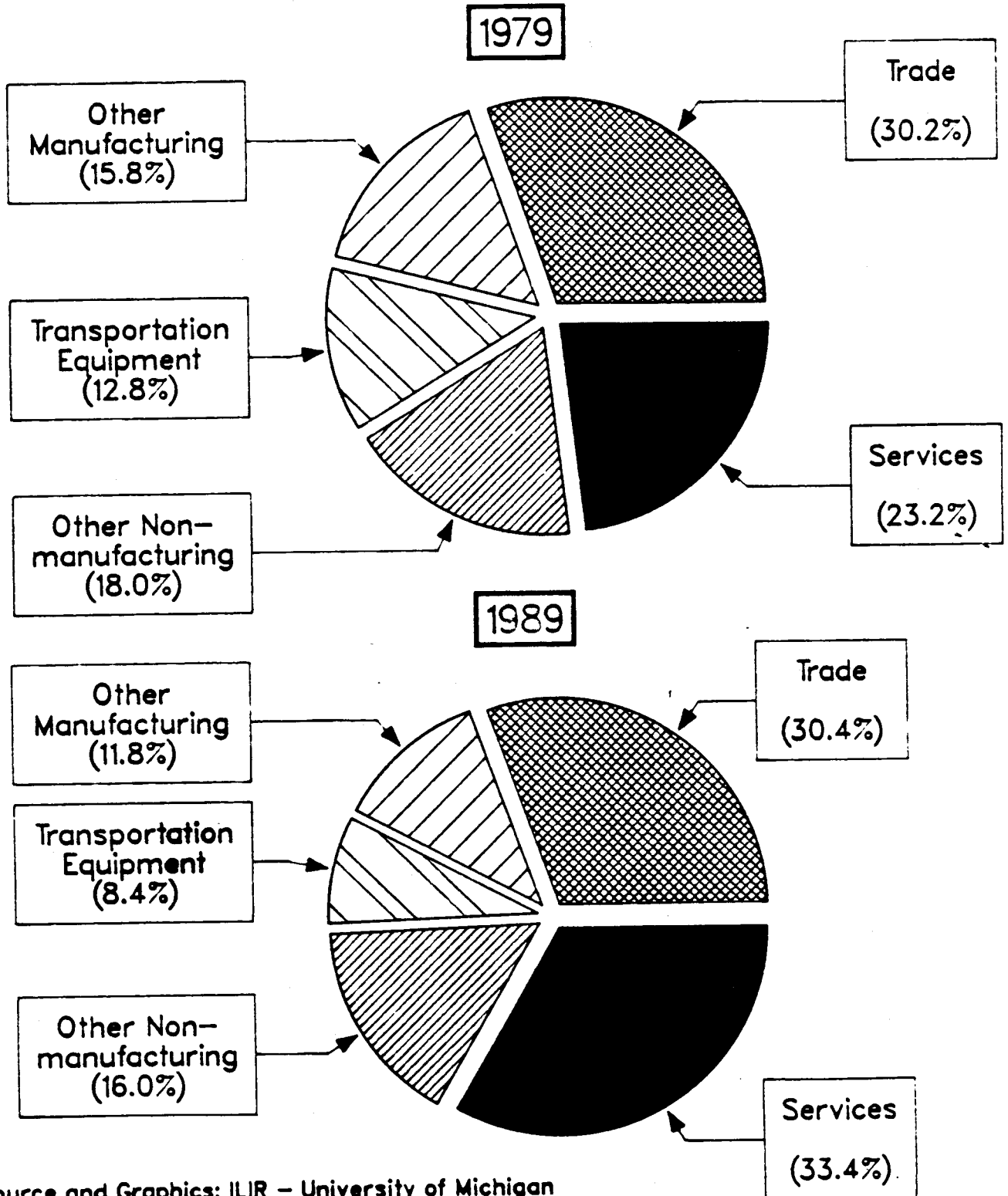
Note: MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area

Growth of Private Sector Employment Oakland County vs. Michigan, 1983 – 1989

(Fourth Quarter of 1982 = 100)



Oakland County, 1979 and 1989 Distribution of Private Employment



Source and Graphics: ILIR - University of Michigan