

CHAPTER 1 Issues And Opportunities Element

66.1001(2)(a) Wis. Statutes

Section 1.1 Description of Planning Area

Sharon is the 2nd largest town (out of 17 towns) in Portage County in terms of geographic size, encompassing an area of approximately 41,488 acres or 64.83 sq. miles. The Town (political unit) includes all of congressional township T24&25N-R9E. The Town of Sharon is located on the northern edge of Portage County and is bordered on the north by Marathon County, on the south by the Town of Stockton, on the east by the Towns of New Hope and Alban, and on the west by the Towns of Hull and Dewey.

From the Portage County Historical Society: The Town of Sharon is crossed by a continental divide: On the West it is drained by the Plover River which flows into the Wisconsin River, a tributary of the Mississippi River which empties its waters in the Gulf of Mexico; on the East side runs the Tomorrow River which farther down is called the Waupaca River, a name which is Indian meaning tomorrow. This stream is a tributary of the Wolf River and their waters flow through Lake Michigan and the St. Lawrence River and eventually flow into the North Atlantic Ocean. The escarpment which represents a terminal moraine, the furthest advance of the last Wisconsin glaciations, in the southern part of the town is the continental divide; farther North the moraine has been eroded to let the Plover River make its way through it. There the continental divide is not clearly marked; it is an area with swamps and lakes.

Up until 1960, the Town of Sharon was a typical rural agriculture-based community with a steadily declining population, due mostly to the changes in agricultural economy. Thus, the decade of the 1960's marked the end of the Town of Sharon's declining population and the beginning of a growth period, and population estimates for 2025 portray a continued growth pattern.

The region was first wooded and attracted lumbermen. When it was cleared of trees it became farmland. Among the pioneer settlers were Irish and German Catholics who set down roots around where Ellis is today. Beginning in 1857 the first Polish family settled in this area, creating the first Polish rural settlement in the State and the second in the United States. Coming along with these Polish emigrants was their respect of the land, religion, family and an ethic of hard work.

Polonia was named by a Polish priest when he established a new Catholic church on top of the moraine east of Ellis. By the 1900's at least 10,000 people, more than one-third of the population of Portage County, were of Polish descent. With a heavy influx through the early part of the century, that percentage increased so that today 60% of the population can claim Polish ancestry. Subsequently, more Polish immigrants came to the region to farm. Polish Americans continued the legacy given by their ancestors. This legacy is also evident by the dedication of Highway 66 as the Polish Heritage Highway.

Additional history of the Town of Sharon may be found at the Portage County Historical Society and local County Libraries.

Map 011

See the Map of Town of Sharon Area

Section 1.2 Town of Sharon Vision

We envision that in 2020 Sharon will be.....

- A distinctive rural community blending into a beautiful natural setting;
- Home to productive family farms;
- An environmentally aware community;
- A diverse and progressive community working together to address issues of local importance; and
- A growing community, with growth that should enhance the rural character of the town.

We believe there is room for us to grow, but in ways that will maintain and enhance the values of rural living that we enjoy today. To do this we must build upon our community's strengths and unique qualities; avoid complacency by promoting creativity, leadership and creative problem solving; and be willing to work together to address a variety of difficult problems we will surely face in a changing future.

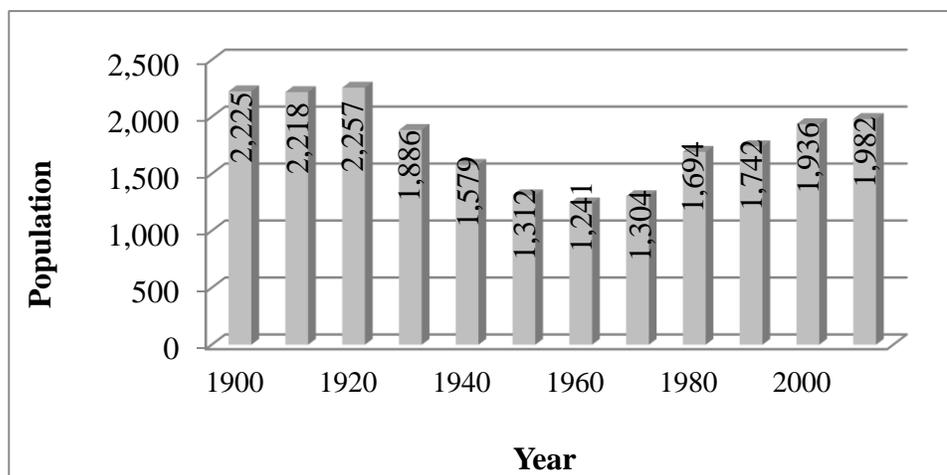
Section 1.3 Demographic Trends and Population Growth

Every 10 years the Federal government performs the national census, and these census results are the main source of the information we use to understand how communities change over time. The Town of Sharon has seen a considerable variation in its growth rate over the last 100 years.

Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for the Town of Sharon (Figure 1). The first major trend was a steady decline in the Town's population over a forty-year period from 1930 through the 1960's. This is characteristic of an agriculture-based economy that saw a steady decline in farm numbers, but an increase in average size of farm.

This declining population trend was reversed in the 1970's, with the Town experiencing a significant upturn in population during the 1970s as urban residents began moving back to rural or semi-rural areas. In Portage County, the impact of this migration back to the rural areas occurred earlier and was greater in those towns located adjacent to the larger population centers.

Figure 1 Town of Sharon Population Change: 1900 to 2010



Source: US Census Bureau

The Town of Sharon's most dramatic growth occurred during the 1970's, with the Town documenting population increases of 29.9% for the 1970-1980 period (Table 1.1). From 1980 to 2010, the growth slowed, increasing by 17% for the period. The growth experienced by the Town of Sharon over the past forty years mirrored the percentage increase of Portage County. The population change for the 2000-2010 decade for the Town of Sharon was 2.4%.

Table 1.1 Sharon Comparison Population Change: 1970 to 2010

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000-2010 Change	1970-2010 Change
Town of Sharon	1,304	1,694	1,742	1,936	1,982	2.4%	52.0%
Town of Alban	606	768	860	897	885	-1.3%	46.0%
Town of Dewey	575	803	849	975	932	-4.4%	62.1%
Town of Hull	3,124	5,122	5,563	5,493	5,346	-2.7%	71.1%
Town of New Hope	492	625	694	736	718	-2.4%	45.9%
Town of Stockton	1,537	2,208	2,494	2,896	2,917	0.7%	89.8%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	70,019	4.2%	47.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1970 - 2010; State of Wisconsin Dept. of Administration; Portage County Planning and Zoning Department.

Population growth is a combination of many factors including birth, death, and in and out migration. By examining migration patterns for the residents of the Town of Sharon, we can better understand where the growth in the community is occurring (Table 1.2). The U.S. Census provides data on where residents were living one year prior to the census. The "Same House" column identifies the Sharon residents that lived in the same dwelling in 2010; this can be an indicator of long-term residency. The "Different House, Portage County" column identifies the Sharon residents that lived in a home outside the Town, but within Portage County. The "Different House, Different County" column identifies the Sharon residents that lived in a home outside of the Town and Portage County, but within the State of Wisconsin. The "Different State" column identifies the Sharon residents that lived in a home outside the State of Wisconsin. Altogether, this information provides insight into the nature and pace of new residents moving into the Town.

Table 1.2 Place of Residence for Town Residents One Year Prior to 2010 Census

	Same House		Different House, Portage County		Different House, Different County		From a Different State	
	2010	%	2010	%	2010	%	2010	%
Town of Sharon	1,825	90%	132	7%	34	2%	28	1%
Town of Alban	729	96%	19	3%	10	1%	0	0%
Town of Dewey	1,041	99%	7	1%	0	0%	6	1%
Town of Hull	4,729	90%	460	9%	63	1%	19	0%
Town of New Hope	671	95%	35	5%	0	0%	0	0%
Town of Stockton	2,710	95%	127	4%	12	0%	0	0%
Portage County	55,399	81%	8,134	12%	4,037	6%	926	1%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2009

Based on 2010 census information, ninety percent (90%) of the Town's residents lived in the same house which is up from 60% in 1995. This would show that long-term residents are becoming a larger fraction of the total population. Three percent (3%) of residents in 2010 lived in a different county or state in 2010. This is well below the 7% average for Portage County. We do not know what county or state these residents came from.

A. Age Distribution

Table 1.3 details the number of Town residents that occupied specific age groups in each of the last three census years, along with similar information for an average of all Portage County Towns and the County as a whole.

The median age for the Town of Sharon is 43.3 years in 2010. The median age for Sharon and the Towns is increasing about 5 years per decade since 1990. The "median age" is the point where ½ of the population lies above and ½ lies below; the older this age is, the older the overall population for a place is becoming. The County as a whole has seen its median age increase slower, at about 3 years per decade. This is an indication that the towns overall are aging more rapidly than the County's villages or City of Stevens Point.

As one would expect with the rise in median age, the percentage of the population for the towns within Portage County over the age of 65 has been trending upward since 1990 as well. The Town of Sharon 65+ population segment increased from 12.4% of total population in 1990 to 12.7% in 2010. The average Portage County town saw this segment increase from 8.6% to 13.1%, and the County as a whole increased from 10.8% to 12.8%. When examining all of the age groups, we find that all groups below the age of 35 are declining in both raw numbers and percent for Town and County population averages, while the reverse is true for age groups above the age of 45. In Sharon, the age groups under 35 are losing population at about the same rate as the rest of the towns.

Further insight into the nature of the Town's population change over time can be gained through examining how the different age groups change as they move through their life cycles. Age groups for the towns and County (or "cohorts" as they are called when tracking a group of same-aged people) have been displayed in the table in ten-year increments to more easily see how their numbers increase or decline over different census years. The diagonal series of gray and white boxes within Table 1.3 indicate the path of each age cohort through the three census periods.

Table 1.3 Distribution of Population, by Ten-Year Age Groups

Age	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Under 5 years	124 7.1%	115 5.9%	107 5.4%	117 7.8%	94 6.0%	79 5.3%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%	3,891 5.6%
5 to 14 years	308 17.7%	251 13.0%	255 12.9%	268 17.9%	253 16.1%	195 13.0%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%	8,095 11.6%
15 to 24 years	234 13.4%	280 14.5%	217 10.9%	197 13.2%	193 12.3%	170 11.4%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%	14,038 20.0%
25 to 34 years	273 15.7%	231 11.9%	213 10.7%	237 15.8%	179 11.4%	137 9.1%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%	8,431 12.0%
35 to 44 years	296 17.0%	321 16.6%	253 12.8%	244 16.3%	287 18.3%	200 13.3%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%	7,991 11.4%
45 to 54 years	159 9.1%	330 17.0%	360 18.2%	158 10.6%	255 16.3%	289 19.2%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%	10,180 14.5%
55 to 64 years	132 7.6%	182 9.4%	325 16.4%	147 9.8%	147 9.4%	234 15.6%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%	8,438 12.1%
65 to 74 years	135 7.7%	126 6.5%	157 7.9%	83 5.5%	93 5.9%	123 8.2%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%	4,723 6.7%
75 to 84 years	73 4.2%	76 3.9%	69 3.5%	37 2.5%	50 3.2%	57 3.8%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%	2,846 4.1%
85 years and over	8 0.5%	24 1.2%	26 1.3%	9 0.6%	14 0.9%	17 1.1%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%	1,386 2.0%
Total	1,742	1,936	1,982	1,496	1,566	1,501	61,405	67,182	70,019
Median Age	32.7	38.2	43.3	32.2	37.8	43.9	29.3	33.0	35.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010

B. Education Levels

Levels of educational attainment have followed a similar trend of improvement across the different municipal divisions within Portage County (Table 1.4). The residents of the Town experienced an increase in overall educational attainment during the past decade. This was a result of the combination of in-migration, continued educational involvement by the existing residents of the Town and the passing of older residents who did not have the educational opportunities enjoyed today.

The number and percentage of Town of Sharon residents age 25 and over who had less than a 9th grade education decreased significantly between 1990 and 2010. The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from twenty-three percent (23%) to forty-four percent (44%) over the same period. There is a strong increase in the numbers and per cent of residents with some college and associate, bachelors, and grad/professional degrees not only in the Town but also in the County.

Table 1.4 Comparison of Educational Attainment for Residents 25 Years and Older

Ed. Attainment (Persons 25 yrs.+)	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Less Than 9th Grade	240 22.3%	132 10.1%	72 4.8%	110 12.9%	61 5.9%	42 4.2%	4,065 11.6%	2,420 6.0%	1,577 3.8%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	113 10.5%	110 8.4%	95 6.3%	80 9.3%	83 8.1%	72 7.2%	3,029 8.7%	3,019 7.5%	2,415 5.9%
High School Graduate	480 44.6%	651 49.6%	673 44.7%	381 44.6%	427 41.6%	422 42.1%	14,082 40.2%	14,952 37.2%	14,911 36.4%
Some College (No Degree)	65 6.0%	185 14.1%	263 17.5%	116 13.6%	184 17.9%	166 16.6%	5,205 14.9%	7,572 18.9%	8,143 19.9%
Associate Degree	53 4.9%	59 4.5%	145 9.6%	42 4.9%	74 7.2%	88 8.8%	1,922 5.5%	2,802 7.0%	3,263 8.0%
Bachelor's Degree	95 8.8%	118 9.0%	185 12.3%	89 10.4%	142 13.8%	145 14.4%	4,594 13.1%	6,468 16.1%	7,151 17.5%
Grad / Profess Degree	30 2.8%	57 4.3%	72 4.8%	37 4.3%	57 5.5%	67 6.6%	2,107 6.0%	2,910 7.2%	3,502 8.5%
Total	1,076	1,312	1,505	855	1,028	1,001	35,004	40,143	40,962

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 and American Community Survey 2005-2009

C. Households and Income

The Town of Sharon residential community is made up of different types of households. The US census defines a household simply as "including all of the people who occupy a housing unit". People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters. Table 1.5 details the changes in the make-up of Town of Sharon households over the last 20 years and compares them to the Portage County data and the average of the County Towns. Family households are growing in number in the Town and County but are steady to declining as a percentage of total households while those living alone or with unrelated people are increasing in number and as a percent of total households.

The Persons Per Household (PPH) calculation for the Town of Sharon and average of Towns have continued a declining trend over the last 20 years. Sharon closely matches the size and rate of decline of the Towns, while the overall County PPH rate has been a bit smaller. The Town of Sharon PPH now about matches that of the County (2.55 versus 2.54).

Table 1.5 Household Type Comparison, Town of Sharon, Town Average, Portage County

Households By Type	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Family Households	473	544	589	399	445	446	14,883	16,496	17,270
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	81.8%	77.2%	76.0%	82.5%	78.9%	76.4%	69.9%	65.9%	62.1%
Married-couple families	415	492	516	354	395	390	12,645	13,808	14,155
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	87.7%	90.4%	87.6%	88.6%	88.8%	87.4%	85.0%	83.7%	82.0%
Other family, male householder	28	23	29	17	21	24	602	861	1,023
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	5.9%	4.2%	4.9%	4.3%	4.7%	5.3%	4.0%	5.2%	5.9%
Other family, female householder	30	29	44	28	29	32	1,636	1,827	2,092
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	6.3%	5.3%	7.5%	7.1%	6.5%	7.2%	11.0%	11.1%	12.1%
Nonfamily Households	105	161	186	85	119	138	6,423	8,544	10,544
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	18.2%	22.8%	24.0%	17.5%	21.1%	23.6%	30.1%	34.1%	37.9%
Householder living alone	96	121	153	68	93	108	4,679	6,130	7,559
<i>Percent of Non-Family Households</i>	91.4%	75.2%	19.7%	80.1%	77.9%	78.1%	72.8%	71.7%	71.7%
Householder 65 years and over	55	58	62	27	33	39	1,933	2,196	2,632
<i>Percent of Non-Family Households</i>	52.4%	36.0%	8.0%	31.8%	27.7%	28.6%	30.1%	25.7%	25.0%
Total Households	578	705	775	484	563	584	21,306	25,040	27,814
Persons Per Household	3.01	2.75	2.56	3.01	2.71	2.55	2.71	2.54	2.39

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010.

Another instructive piece of information on the state of households within the Town is the level of income that each household achieves. Again the census provides insight into the range of incomes present within Sharon. Table 1.6 describes how household incomes have changed in the last 20 years.

Table 1.6 Household Income Comparison, Town of Sharon, Town Average, and Portage County

Household Income Per Year	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1989	1999	2010	1989	1999	2010	1989	1999	2010
Less Than \$10,000	88 14.9%	39 5.5%	27 3.3%	46 0.1%	25 0.0%	21 0.0%	3,210 15.0%	1,767 7.0%	1,854 6.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	44 7.5%	24 3.4%	21 2.5%	36 0.0%	24 0.0%	24 0.0%	1,978 9.3%	1,608 6.4%	1,520 5.6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	110 18.7%	61 8.7%	46 5.6%	83 0.1%	55 0.0%	51 0.0%	4,072 19.1%	3,174 12.6%	3,180 11.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	99 16.8%	84 11.9%	51 6.2%	83 0.1%	74 0.1%	58 0.0%	3,654 17.1%	3,425 13.6%	2,744 10.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	149 25.3%	113 16.0%	131 15.9%	121 0.2%	111 0.1%	83 0.0%	4,370 20.5%	4,484 17.9%	3,908 14.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	76 12.9%	214 30.4%	222 26.9%	82 0.1%	150 0.1%	149 0.1%	2,983 14.0%	5,771 23.0%	6,002 22.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9 1.5%	100 14.2%	159 19.3%	22 0.0%	79 0.1%	109 0.0%	661 3.1%	2,820 11.2%	3,709 13.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	12 2.0%	49 7.0%	137 16.6%	8 0.0%	35 0.0%	71 0.0%	274 1.3%	1,346 5.4%	2,828 10.5%
\$150,000 or more	2 0.3%	21 3.0%	31 3.8%	5 0.0%	18 0.0%	29 0.0%	134 0.6%	717 2.9%	1,200 4.5%
Total Households	589	705	825	72,151	144,105	287,923	21,336	25,112	26,945
Median H-Hold Income	\$30,491	\$53,750	\$67,636	\$31,575	\$47,680	\$59,331	\$28,686	\$43,487	\$50,978

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010.

The percentage of households in the Town of Sharon making greater than \$50,000 per year has increased from 16.7% in 1989 to 66.6% in 2010. Median household income has increased from \$30,491 to \$67,636 over the same period. The percentage increase of households earning greater than \$50,000 for Portage County as a whole is slightly lower over the 20-year period (19% to 51.1%); the Towns average was 23.9% to 60.2%.

With the examination of income information, the Town of Sharon should also assess the poverty status of its residents. "Poverty" is generally defined as a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. That is, they are the same throughout the United States. However, the poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, food stamps, and Medicaid). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated children under age 15 (such as foster children). Table 1.7 outlines poverty

thresholds for 1990, 2000 and 2010. Table 1.8 lists the census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons age 65 and above, and families within the Town of Sharon, the Towns average, and Portage County as a whole.

Table 1.7 Poverty Thresholds: 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2011

Size of Family Unit (Poverty Threshold)	1980	1990	2000	2011
One Person	\$4,190	\$6,652	\$8,794	\$11,702
Two Persons	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$11,239	\$15,063
Three Persons	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$13,738	\$17,595
Four Persons	\$8,414	\$13,481	\$17,603	\$23,201
Five Persons	\$9,966	\$15,792	\$20,819	\$27,979
Six Persons	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$23,528	\$32,181
Seven Persons	\$12,761	\$20,241	\$26,754	\$37,029
Eight Persons	\$14,199	\$22,582	\$29,701	\$41,414
Nine Persons or More	\$16,896	\$26,848	\$35,060	\$49,818

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1.8 Percent in Poverty Comparison, Town of Sharon, Town Average, and Portage County

Poverty Statistics For Selected Populations	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1989	1999	2010	1989	1999	2010	1989	1999	2010
Persons	1,735	1,936	2,037	1,462	1,566	1,503	57,805	67,182	65,720
Below poverty level	144	113	111	129	80	73	7,454	6,074	7,924
% below poverty	8.3%	5.8%	5.4%	8.8%	5.1%	4.9%	12.9%	9.0%	12.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	216	226	245	121	157	198	5,327	7,354	8,356
Below poverty level	36	26	38	13	14	12	740	561	690
% below poverty	16.7%	11.5%	15.5%	10.6%	8.7%	5.9%	13.9%	7.6%	8.3%
Families	482	546	656	391	445	458	14,927	16,643	17,658
Below Poverty Level	27	15	18	26	15	16	1,051	725	901
% below poverty	5.6%	2.7%	2.7%	6.7%	3.3%	3.5%	7.0%	4.4%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 Census.

According to census figures, the Town of Sharon and Town Average shows a lower per cent earning below the poverty level compared to the County level. However, Sharon has almost double the percentage of its seniors living in poverty than both the average town and the County.

D. Employment Characteristics

Table 1.9 summarizes employment by industry data provided for the last three census years. This information represents what type of industry that the working residents of Sharon were employed by, and is not a listing of the employment currently located within the Town. The

discussion of the Sharon economy will take place within the Economic Development Element of this Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted that the method used for classifying industries was changed between the 1990 and 2000 census, and therefore the information included in the industry categories of Table 1.9 is not entirely consistent for comparison between those years. The table attempts to place the three census years in a useable context.

Table 1.9 Summary of Employment by Industry

Industry	Town of Sharon			Town Average			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	130	80	77	79	57	52	1,755	1,241	1,290
	15%	7%	6%	11%	7%	6%	6%	3%	4%
Construction	68	93	99	41	49	54	1,297	1,707	1,873
	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%
Manufacturing	161	223	247	152	180	148	5,373	6,314	5,207
	19%	20%	20%	21%	22%	18%	18%	18%	14%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	71	59	77	46	54	49	1,511	1,948	1,888
	8%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Information	0	17	18	0	15	10	0	835	773
	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	2%
Communications/Other Public Facilities	7	0	n/a	7	0	n/a	367	0	n/a
	1%	0%	~	1%	0%	~	1%	0%	~
Wholesale Trade	34	50	40	23	29	21	1,026	1,235	976
	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Retail Trade	105	145	68	118	99	113	5,667	4,813	4,929
	12%	13%	6%	16%	12%	14%	19%	13%	14%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	102	133	187	79	85	69	3,359	3,682	3,605
	12%	12%	15%	11%	10%	8%	11%	10%	10%
Professional, Management, Administrative	0	31	55	0	29	44	0	1,627	1,933
	0%	3%	5%	0%	4%	5%	0%	5%	5%
Business and Repair Services	21	0	n/a	18	0	n/a	941	0	n/a
	2%	0%	~	2%	0%	~	3%	0%	~
Personal Services	17	0	n/a	16	0	n/a	777	0	n/a
	2%	0%	~	2%	0%	~	3%	0%	~
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation Services	8	63	56	5	47	58	388	3,005	3,709
	1%	6%	5%	1%	6%	7%	1%	8%	10%
Educational, Health, Social Services	102	191	240	100	138	157	5,617	7,192	7,851
	12%	17%	20%	14%	17%	19%	19%	20%	22%
Other	27	31	27	22	33	32	1,362	1,236	1,440
	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%
Public Administration	8	24	29	19	19	18	710	842	929
	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Total Employed Persons	861	1,140	1,220	726	833	824	30,150	35,677	36,403
Unemployed Persons	29	34	66	38	38	43	1,590	2,255	2,198
Total Labor Force	890	1,174	1,286	765	871	867	31,740	37,944	601
Percent Unemployed	3.4%	3.0%	5.1%	5.7%	5.1%	5.4%	5.3%	6.3%	6.0%
Persons 16 Years +	1,276	1,558	1,724	1,045	1,192	1,216	47,202	53,135	55,871

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010, and American Community Survey 2005-2009

patterns of growth and development. The following statements are reflective of the overall desires of the community:

Goal 1: Maintain or improve the current quality of life and rural character in the Town by properly guiding development patterns.

Objectives:

- Support agricultural operations. Inform non-farm housing in agricultural areas of the right to farm law.
- Protect major wetlands throughout the Town and natural areas as defined in chapter 8.
- Ensure that newly developed or redeveloped areas are consistent with the comprehensive plan.
- Encourage non-farm development in areas away from intensive agricultural activities, in order to minimize farm/non-farm conflicts.

Policies:

- Effective implementation tools, such as the Portage County Zoning Ordinance, official maps, and Town ordinances should be used and enforced.
- Design plans to grant the resident the greatest amount of freedom and latitude that is reasonably possible and yet maintain an orderly and cohesive rural environment within the town.