In 2016...

United States: 323,127,513
Michigan: 9,928,300
Metro Detroit: 4,297,617
Detroit: 672,795

Source: U.S. Census, 2016 Population Estimates
According to 2016 census population estimates, Detroit is now the 23rd largest city in the United States, slipping from its rank of 18th largest in 2010, having been surpassed by cities such as Seattle, Denver, El Paso, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Boston. Detroit was the only city among the 25 largest in the country that has lost population since 2010. However, over the past five years, the rate of population decline has slowed, and there is renewed optimism that the city’s population might begin to grow again in the near future.

Detroit is now the 23rd largest city in the U.S.
Since 1926, Detroit’s size has been fixed at 139 square miles. Detroit is larger in area than Manhattan or cities with larger populations, such as Boston or San Francisco. However, when compared to the 25 largest cities in the United States by population, 19 are larger in size.

How dense is Detroit?
There are few pockets of density in Detroit, and most of the city exists at what could be considered a suburban level of density. This lack of density limits the ability to provide walkable neighborhoods with amenities in close proximity to residents’ homes. There are only eight census block groups in Detroit that have a density of more than 15 housing units per acre, and approximately half of the city has a density of less than five units per acre.

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Detroit 139 square miles

Manhattan 22 square miles

Boston 48 square miles

San Francisco 46 square miles

Houston 639 square miles
Transportation

Twenty-five percent of Detroit’s households do not have access to their own vehicle. This presents an obvious challenge for their ability to get where they need to go, whether it is to a job, school or other necessities. Those who have access to a vehicle face challenges with the cost of insurance. Detroit’s auto insurance rates are twice that of other regional locations.

Over the past several years, there have been many improvements to Detroit’s transportation network. In addition to the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) bus system, which operates 43 bus routes, Detroit is now home to the QLINE, a 3.3-mile streetcar rail line. Detroit also has the MoGo bike share, with 430 bikes across 43 stations. The city has 104 miles of bike lanes, of which 8.7 miles are protected. For those who drive within the city, the condition of the roads is a challenge. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments reports that only 15% of Detroit’s roadways are in good condition, with 43% in poor condition.

Means of Transportation to Work

- 69% Drove Alone
- 15% Carpool
- 9% Public Transit
- 1% Bicycle
- 4% Walked
- 2% Other
- 5% Worked from Home

Commute Time

- 19% < 10 mins.
- 43% 15-30 mins.
- 23% 30-45 mins.
- 6% 45-60 mins.
- 8% > 60 mins.

43% of commutes are 15-30 mins. *Because of rounding, numbers may not add up to 100%.

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, the total crime rate and violent crime rate in Detroit have been decreasing since 2011. Additionally, property crime has been on the decline since 2013, and the number of fires per year in Detroit also has steadily decreased. In 2016, the city experienced 3,400 building fires, 300 fewer than 2015.

Between 2014 and 2016, 65,000 LED streetlights were installed throughout the city. Prior to the start of replacement, at least 40% of the city’s streetlights were not functioning thus leaving many areas in the dark. With streetlight replacement complete, Detroit is now the largest city in the U.S. to have 100% LED public lighting. The city has also expanded the Project Green Light Detroit program, in which the police department has partnered with more than 181 businesses to install high-definition cameras that can be monitored at the city’s Public Safety Headquarters.

Public Safety

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