

**KALAMAZOO lands right in that sweet spot** as a community, offering big city amenities with a small town feel. The Kalamazoo Promise makes Kalamazoo a great place to raise a family, and residents of all ages and family configurations will find plenty of things to do. Kalamazoo is equidistant between Detroit and Chicago. You can be in either city in two-and-a-half hours. In Kalamazoo, you are also only 40 minutes from Lake Michigan and only several hours from great skiing in Northern Michigan. Find an online cost-of-living calculator and see how affordable living in Kalamazoo can be. Affectionately referred to as The Zoo, Kazoo, Kzoo, or just KZ, Kalamazoo offers much more than anyone might realize.



## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

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Kalamazoo County - 260,000+ residents

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/mi/kalamazoo-county-population>

City of Kalamazoo - 76,000+ residents

- White - 68%
- Black/African American - 22%
- Asian - 2%
- Two or more races - 7%
- Other race(s) - 1%
- Hispanic/Latin (any race) - 8%
- Poverty Rate - 28%
- <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/kalamazoo-mi-population>

City of Portage - 49,000+ residents

- White - 87%
- Black/African American - 5%
- Two or more races - 4%
- Asian - 3%
- Other race(s) - 1%
- Hispanic/Latin (any race) - 5%
- Poverty Rate - 8%
- <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/portage-mi-population>



## **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

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Kalamazoo's three institutions of higher learning bring educated, progressive residents to our community.



[Western Michigan University](#) - public research university founded in 1903  
20,000 enrollment (4th largest university in Michigan)

[Kalamazoo College](#) - private liberal arts college founded in 1833

1,400 enrollment

[Kalamazoo Valley Community College](#) - public community college established in 1966

6,500 enrollment



## MAJOR CORPORATIONS

Kalamazoo is home to a number of major, international corporations with staff from around the globe.

Stryker Corp - surgical and medical devices manufacturer

Pfizer - manufacturer of medicines and vaccines

*(Kalamazoo-based Upjohn Company was acquired by Pfizer in 2015)*

[Bell's Beer](#)

PNC Bank

Bronson Health

Ascension/Borgess Health



## THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE

[The Promise](#) provides scholarships of up to 100% of post-secondary tuition at Michigan colleges and universities for all graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Kalamazoo's cultural life abounds with opportunities in every art form.



[Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#) - 100 year-old professional orchestra

[The Gilmore Piano Festival](#) - biannual festival featuring classical, jazz, and popular pianists [Fontana Chamber Arts](#) - presenter of world-class chamber music

[Farmers Alley Theater](#) - professional, Equity theater company

[Kalamazoo Civic Theater](#) - third-largest community theater in the country

[Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#) - art museum and school

[Kalamazoo Bach Festival & Chorus](#) - focus on Bach; includes music from the Renaissance to now

[Black Arts & Cultural Center](#) - develop potential and creativity, preserve Black cultural heritage

[Kalamazoo Junior Symphony](#) - advances orchestral performance opportunities for youth in SW MI

[Kalamazoo Children's Chorus](#) - children grades 3-12 explore challenging work in one of 6 choirs

[Stulberg International String Competition](#) - annual competition for string artists under the age of twenty

[Wellspring/Cori Terry Dancers](#) - offers a unique and authentic voice in modern dance

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Beyond arts & culture, Kalamazoo has many additional opportunities for your leisure time.

[Kalamazoo Nature Center](#) - fosters opportunities to discover, enjoy, value, and care for nature

[The Air Zoo](#) - aerospace and science experience; museum for over 100 rare aircraft

[The Gilmore Car Museum](#) - preserves the history and heritage of the American car; >500 on display

[Kalamazoo Valley Museum](#) - history, science, and technology museum (it's free!)

[Kalamazoo State Theater](#) - music, shows, and films in a classic movie palace

[Kalamazoo Growlers](#) - summer collegiate baseball league team

[Kalamazoo Wings](#) - professional ECHL team; AA affiliate to 1 NHL and 1 AHL team

[OutFront Kalamazoo](#) - Kalamazoo's LGBTQIA+ community organization & Pride sponsor



## **WEBSITES for more general information**

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[Discover Kalamazoo](#)

[Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#)

[Kalamazoo ranked #1 Coolest Place to Live with Lowest Cost of Living](#)

[Kalamazoo Menu Facebook group](#)

[Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence](#)