

# POPULATION

## Notes

MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHER

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OSD 91-61

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### POPULATION GROWTH CONCENTRATED IN METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

- Minnesota was the fastest growing state in the Midwest during the 1980s.
- Minnesota now ranks twentieth among the 50 states in population size.
- Growth was concentrated in a few populous metropolitan counties.
- Population losses were widespread in western, southern and northeastern Minnesota.
- Over 55 percent of the state's population now reside in the ten county Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- A majority of Minnesota's 854 cities lost population between 1980 and 1990.

Minnesota's population surpassed Louisiana's during the 1980s, moving Minnesota up from twenty-first place among

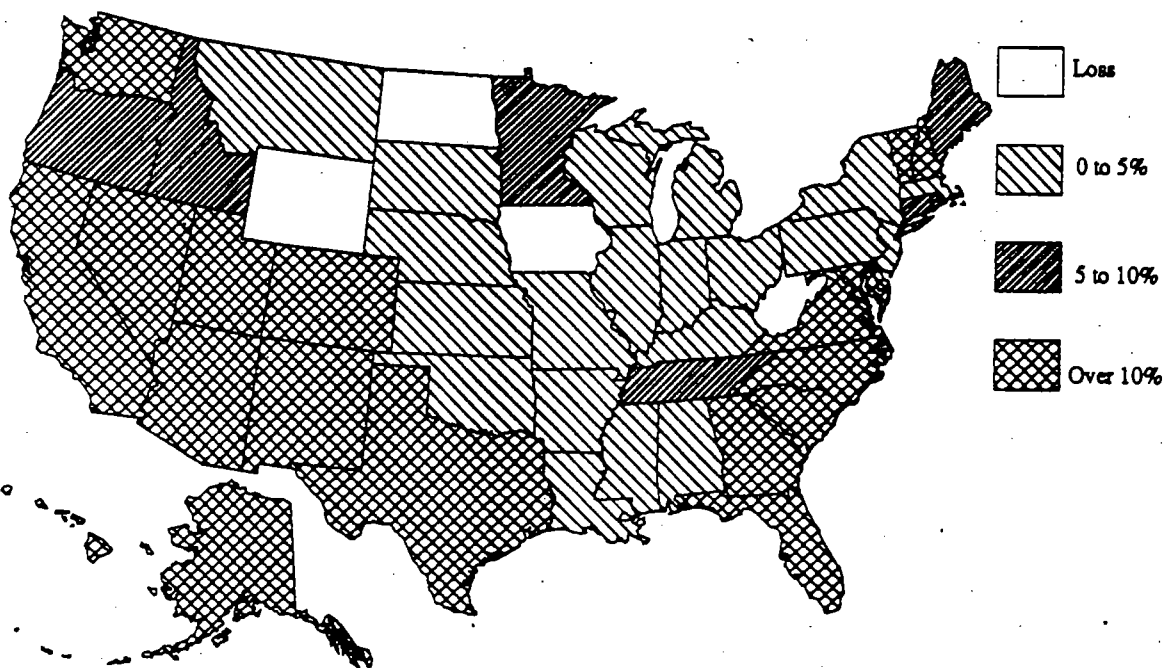
the 50 states in population size in 1980 to twentieth place in 1990. Minnesota's population as of April 1, 1990, stood at 4,375,099, an increase of 7.3 percent since the 1980 Census. The state's rate of growth was slightly faster than the 7.1 percent increase during the 1970s, but substantially less than the 11.5 percent growth experienced between 1960 and 1970 and the 14.5 percent growth during the peak "baby boom" years of the 1950s.

Although Minnesota's growth rate during the 1980s was below the national rate of 9.8 percent, Minnesota had the highest rate of population increase of the 12 states in the Midwest (Figure 1). Among Minnesota's neighboring states, Wisconsin grew by 4.0 percent, South Dakota increased by 0.8 percent and both North Dakota and Iowa lost population.

#### Growth Concentrated In A Few Populous Counties

Much of the population growth in Minnesota during the 1980s was concentrated in its most populous counties.

Figure 1. 1980-90 Population Change



Population growth in most of the state was less dispersed and slower than during the 1970s, even though Minnesota's population grew at a slightly faster rate in the 1980s than it did in the 1970s. During the 1970s, there were 35 counties with growth rates exceeding 10 percent and only two counties with population losses of more than 10 percent. During the 1980s, 12 counties grew more than 10 percent, while 23 counties had losses exceeding 10 percent. Only ten counties had population growth rates during the 1980s which exceeded their growth rates during the 1970s.

Rapid population growth occurred in the St. Cloud, Rochester and Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Population growth also occurred near major regional trade and service centers such as Mankato, Winona, Willmar, Brainerd, Alexandria and Bemidji. Growth was not confined to these cities, but also occurred in adjacent townships and small cities within commuting distance. Some growth also occurred in the lake and forest areas of north central Minnesota, but population growth in these areas was generally much slower than during the 1970s.

Population losses were widespread in western, southern and northeastern Minnesota. Only five of the thirty-nine counties in western and southwestern Minnesota (Development Regions 1,4,6W,8 and 9) experienced population growth between 1980 and 1990. All seven counties in northeastern Minnesota (Development Region 3) recorded population losses during the decade.

### Metropolitan Share Of Population Increases

During the past decade, Minnesota's metropolitan population increased by 339,210, while the nonmetropolitan population declined by 40,081. With these population shifts, more than 2 of every 3 Minnesotans now live within one of the five metropolitan areas. Over 55 percent of the state's population reside in the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA.

Four of the five metropolitan areas gained population. The Minneapolis-St. Paul, Rochester and St. Cloud metropolitan areas all experienced growth rates exceeding 15 percent (Table 1). Modest growth occurred in the Moorhead

TABLE 1. MINNESOTA'S METROPOLITAN AREAS: 1970-1990

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	1990 Population	1980 Population	1970 Population	1980-90 Change	1970-80 Change
<b>DULUTH-SUPERIOR (1)</b> (St. Louis County)	198,213	222,229	220,693	-10.8%	0.7%
Duluth	85,493	92,811	100,578	-7.9%	-7.7%
Balance of MSA	112,720	129,418	120,115	-12.9%	7.7%
<b>FARGO-MOORHEAD (1)</b> (Clay County)	50,422	49,327	46,608	2.2%	5.8%
Moorhead	32,295	29,998	29,687	7.7%	1.0%
Balance of MSA	18,127	19,329	16,921	-6.2%	14.2%
<b>MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL (1)</b> (Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, Wright Counties)	2,413,873	2,093,871	1,947,597	15.3%	7.5%
Minneapolis	368,383	370,951	434,400	-0.7%	-14.6%
St. Paul	272,235	270,230	309,866	0.7%	-12.8%
Balance of MSA	1,773,255	1,452,690	1,203,331	22.1%	20.7%
<b>ROCHESTER</b> (Olmsted County)	106,470	92,006	84,104	15.7%	9.4%
Rochester	70,745	57,890	53,776	22.2%	7.7%
Balance of MSA	35,725	34,116	30,328	4.7%	12.5%
<b>ST. CLOUD</b> (Benton, Sherburne, Stearns Counties)	190,921	163,256	134,585	16.9%	21.3%
St. Cloud	48,812	42,566	39,691	14.7%	7.2%
Balance of MSA	142,109	120,690	94,894	17.7%	27.2%
<b>METROPOLITAN MINNESOTA</b>	2,959,899	2,620,689	2,433,587	12.9%	7.7%
Central Cities	877,963	864,446	967,998	1.6%	-10.7%
Balance of MSAs	2,081,936	1,756,243	1,465,589	18.5%	19.8%
<b>NONMETROPOLITAN MINNESOTA</b>	1,415,200	1,455,281	1,372,516	-2.8%	6.0%

(1) Includes only the Minnesota portion of these metropolitan areas.

metropolitan area. The Duluth area population dropped by 10.8 percent between 1980 and 1990.

Because of the dominant influence of the Twin Cities area, aggregated data indicate that most of the population growth in Minnesota since 1980 occurred in the suburban and outlying areas of the metropolitan areas. However, the experience of individual metropolitan areas is quite varied. The rate of population loss in the balance of St. Louis County was much higher than in the city of Duluth. The city of Moorhead grew, while its outlying areas lost population. The outlying areas of the Rochester MSA grew, but not nearly as fast as the city of Rochester. Population growth in the balance of the St. Cloud MSA was slightly faster than in the city of St. Cloud.

The population of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA grew by 320,002 during the 1980s. Much of that growth occurred in the second and third ring of suburbs. The central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which suffered substantial population losses during the 1960s and 1970s, stabilized during the 1980s. Several of the older inner-ring suburbs lost population during the decade, continuing a pattern first observed during the 1970s. Although these suburbs lost substantially more people during the decade than the two central cities, the rate of loss was slower than that observed during the 1970s.

#### Dakota And Sherburne Are Fastest Growing Counties

The 1990 Census confirmed changes indicated by population estimates during the 1980s. Dakota and Anoka counties are now larger than St. Louis County. Olmsted County became the eighth county with over 100,000 residents. Minnesota's 87 counties range in size from Cook with 3,868 residents to Hennepin with 1,032,431 residents (Table 2). There are 13

counties with more than 50,000 residents. Half the counties in Minnesota have populations under 21,000, and 15 counties have fewer than 10,000 residents.

During the 1980s, 17 counties grew faster than the state rate of 7.3 percent, a much smaller number than during the 1970s (Figure 2). Just four of the seventeen counties (Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, and McLeod) are nonmetropolitan counties. During the decade, Dakota County was the fastest growing county in the state, with Sherburne County close behind. Sherburne County is the only county in Minnesota where every unit of local government gained population. Forty-nine counties lost population between 1980 and 1990. Lake County, beset by economic problems associated with a reduced demand for iron ore from northeastern Minnesota, had the highest rate of population loss. Other counties with high rates of loss were located along Minnesota's western border.

For many of the 22 counties which grew during the 1970s and lost population during the 1980s, the 1980s were probably more representative of long term growth trends. Thirty-nine counties, mainly in western and northeastern Minnesota, are smaller now than they were in 1940. Five counties along Minnesota's western border (Kittson, Traverse, Norman, Lac qui Parle, and Marshall) have experienced population losses of more than 40 percent during the last 50 years. Unfortunately, for many of these counties, population losses showed no sign of moderating during the 1980s.

During the 1980s, Hennepin County became the only Minnesota county with a population exceeding one million. It added over 91,000 residents between 1980 and 1990, the largest increase of any county in the state. In

Figure 2. County Population Change

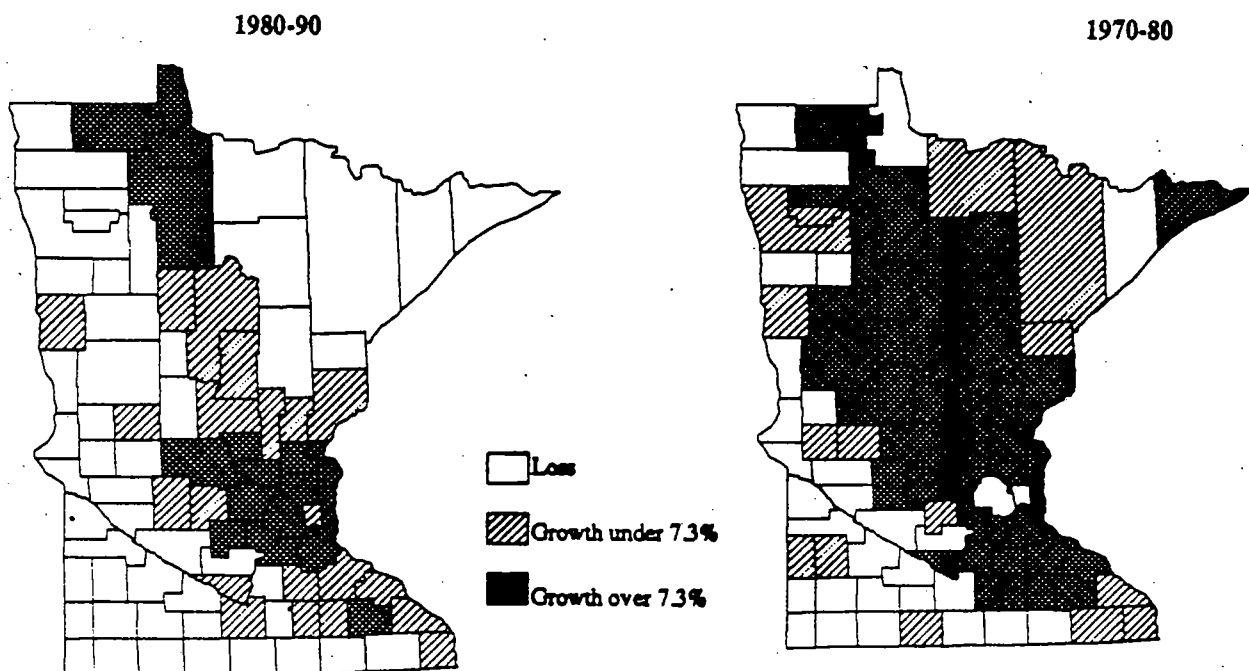


TABLE 2. COUNTY POPULATION: 1970-1990

County	1970	1980	1990	% Change	% Change
	Population	Population	Population	1970-80	1980-90
MINNESOTA	3,806,103	4,075,970	4,375,099	7.1%	7.3%
AITKIN	11,403	13,404	12,425	17.5%	-7.3%
ANOKA	154,712	195,998	243,641	26.7%	24.3%
BECKER	24,372	29,336	27,881	20.4%	-5.0%
BELTRAMI	26,373	30,982	34,384	17.5%	11.0%
BENTON	20,841	25,187	30,185	20.9%	19.8%
BIG STONE	7,941	7,716	6,285	-2.8%	-18.5%
BLUE EARTH	52,322	52,314	54,044	0.0%	3.3%
BROWN	28,887	28,645	26,984	-0.8%	-5.8%
CARLTON	28,072	29,936	29,259	6.6%	-2.3%
CARVER	28,331	37,046	47,915	30.8%	29.3%
CASS	17,323	21,050	21,791	21.5%	3.5%
CHIPPEWA	15,109	14,941	13,228	-1.1%	-11.5%
CHISAGO	17,492	25,717	30,521	47.0%	18.7%
CLAY	46,608	49,327	50,422	5.8%	2.2%
CLEARWATER	8,013	8,761	8,309	9.3%	-5.2%
COOK	3,423	4,092	3,868	19.5%	-5.5%
COTTONWOOD	14,887	14,854	12,694	-0.2%	-14.5%
CROW WING	34,826	41,722	44,249	19.8%	6.1%
DAKOTA	139,808	194,279	275,227	39.0%	41.7%
DODGE	13,037	14,773	15,731	13.3%	6.5%
DOUGLAS	22,910	27,839	28,674	21.5%	3.0%
FARIBAULT	20,896	19,714	16,937	-5.7%	-14.1%
FILLMORE	21,916	21,930	20,777	0.1%	-5.3%
FREEBORN	38,064	36,329	33,060	-4.6%	-9.0%
GOODHUE	34,804	38,749	40,690	11.3%	5.0%
GRANT	7,462	7,171	6,246	-3.9%	-12.9%
HENNEPIN	960,080	941,411	1,032,431	-1.9%	9.7%
HOUSTON	17,556	18,382	18,497	4.7%	0.6%
HUBBARD	10,583	14,098	14,939	33.2%	6.0%
ISANTI	16,560	23,600	25,921	42.5%	9.8%
ITASCA	35,530	43,069	40,863	21.2%	-5.1%
JACKSON	14,352	13,690	11,677	-4.6%	-14.7%
KANABEC	9,775	12,161	12,802	24.4%	5.3%
KANDIYOHI	30,548	36,763	38,761	20.3%	5.4%
KITTSO	6,853	6,672	5,767	-2.6%	-13.6%
KOOCHICHING	17,131	17,571	16,299	2.6%	-7.2%
LAC QUI PARLE	11,164	10,592	8,924	-5.1%	-15.7%
LAKE	13,351	13,043	10,415	-2.3%	-20.1%
LAKE OF THE WOODS	3,987	3,764	4,076	-5.6%	8.3%
LE SUEUR	21,332	23,434	23,239	9.9%	-0.8%
LINCOLN	8,143	8,207	6,890	0.8%	-16.0%
LYON	24,273	25,207	24,789	3.8%	-1.7%
McLEOD	27,662	29,657	32,030	7.2%	8.0%

TABLE 2. COUNTY POPULATION: 1970-1990 (continued)

County	1970	1980	1990	% Change	% Change
	Population	Population	Population	1970-80	1980-90
MAHNOMEN	5,638	5,535	5,044	-1.8%	-8.9%
MARSHALL	13,060	13,027	10,993	-0.3%	-15.6%
MARTIN	24,316	24,687	22,914	1.5%	-7.2%
MEEKER	18,387	20,594	20,846	12.0%	1.2%
MILLE LACS	15,703	18,430	18,670	17.4%	1.3%
MORRISON	26,949	29,311	29,604	8.8%	1.0%
MOWER	44,919	40,390	37,385	-10.1%	-7.4%
MURRAY	12,508	11,507	9,660	-8.0%	-16.1%
NICOLLET	24,518	26,929	28,076	9.8%	4.3%
NOBLES	23,208	21,840	20,098	-5.9%	-8.0%
NORMAN	10,008	9,379	7,975	-6.3%	-15.0%
OLMSTED	84,104	92,006	106,470	9.4%	15.7%
OTTER TAIL	46,097	51,937	50,714	12.7%	-2.4%
PENNINGTON	13,266	15,258	13,306	15.0%	-12.8%
PINE	16,821	19,871	21,264	18.1%	7.0%
PIPESTONE	12,791	11,690	10,491	-8.6%	-10.3%
POLK	34,435	34,844	32,498	1.2%	-6.7%
POPE	11,107	11,657	10,745	5.0%	-7.8%
RAMSEY	476,255	459,784	485,765	-3.5%	5.7%
RED LAKE	5,388	5,471	4,525	1.5%	-17.3%
REDWOOD	20,024	19,341	17,254	-3.4%	-10.8%
RENVILLE	21,139	20,401	17,673	-3.5%	-13.4%
RICE	41,582	46,087	49,183	10.8%	6.7%
ROCK	11,346	10,703	9,806	-5.7%	-8.4%
ROSEAU	11,569	12,574	15,026	8.7%	19.5%
ST. LOUIS	222,693	222,229	198,213	0.7%	-10.8%
SCOTT	32,423	43,784	57,846	35.0%	32.1%
SHERBURNE	18,344	29,908	41,945	63.0%	40.2%
SIBLEY	15,845	15,448	14,366	-2.5%	-7.0%
STEARNS	95,400	108,161	118,791	13.4%	9.8%
STEELE	26,931	30,328	30,729	12.6%	1.3%
STEVENS	11,218	11,322	10,634	0.9%	-6.1%
SWIFT	13,177	12,920	10,724	-2.0%	-17.0%
TODD	22,114	24,991	23,363	13.0%	-6.5%
TRAVERSE	6,254	5,542	4,463	-11.4%	-19.5%
WABASHA	17,224	19,335	19,744	12.3%	2.1%
WADENA	12,412	14,192	13,154	14.3%	-7.3%
WASECA	16,663	18,448	18,079	10.7%	-2.0%
WASHINGTON	83,003	113,571	145,896	36.8%	28.5%
WATONWAN	13,298	12,361	11,682	-7.0%	-5.5%
WILKIN	9,389	8,454	7,516	-10.0%	-11.1%
WINONA	44,409	46,256	47,828	4.2%	3.4%
WRIGHT	38,933	58,681	68,710	50.7%	17.1%
YELLOW MEDICINE	14,523	13,653	11,684	-6.0%	-14.4%

# State Planning Agency, Demographer's Office

contrast, St. Louis County suffered the biggest population loss, dropping by over 24,000 during the past 10 years.

There were only 16 counties which added more people or lost fewer people during the 1980s than they did during the 1970s. Seven of the ten Twin Cities MSA counties had larger population increases during the 1980s. The only counties which did not grow as fast were the outlying counties of Chisago, Isanti and Wright. Benton, Sherburne, Olmsted and McLeod counties also experienced greater population growth in the 1980s than in the previous decade.

Population growth in the 1980s was also greater in Roseau County, which was the fastest growing nonmetropolitan county in Minnesota during the 1980s. Much of the population growth in the county was centered on the city of Warroad. Warroad was one of the fastest growing nonmetropolitan cities, but its growth was eclipsed by nearby townships. The five fastest growing organized townships in Minnesota are all located in Roseau County, led by Lake Township with an increase of almost 149 percent. Roseau County's neighbor, Lake of the Woods County, which lost population in every decade from 1940 to 1980, gained population between 1980 and 1990.

After a slight population decline in the 1970s, Blue Earth County grew in the 1980s. The growth in Blue Earth County reflects Mankato's importance as a regional center for south central and southwestern Minnesota. Population losses moderated in two other southern Minnesota counties, Mower and Watonwan, which have lost population since 1960.

## Most Cities Lose Population

Between 1980 and 1990, a majority of Minnesota's 854 cities lost population (Table 3). The smaller the city, the higher the probability that it lost population. Nearly 73 percent of the cities with under 1,000 residents in 1990 lost population during the decade. City population losses were

TABLE 3. CITIES BY SIZE OF PLACE: 1990

Size Category	# of Cities	1990 Population	1980-90	
			Population Change	# Losing Population
100,000+	2	640,618	-563	1
50,000-99,999	7	454,109	75,130	1
25,000-49,999	17	632,610	108,664	5
10,000-24,999	47	767,530	91,149	15
5,000-9,999	41	302,207	34,932	10
2,500-4,999	67	232,392	13,081	25
1,000-2,499	134	218,791	797	65
500-999	154	107,931	-1,602	94
250-499	140	50,437	-2,209	96
<250	245	33,664	-5,416	201
Total	854	3,440,289	313,963	513

also more prevalent outside the metropolitan areas. Over 71 percent of the 605 nonmetropolitan cities lost population versus 33 percent of the metropolitan cities.

Minneapolis continues to be the state's largest city, followed by St. Paul, Bloomington, Duluth and Rochester (Table 4). As intercensal population estimates had indicated, Bloomington passed Duluth to become the state's third largest city. Coon Rapids, Burnsville and Plymouth are newcomers to the list of the ten largest cities. These three cities, along with Brooklyn Park, all exceeded 50,000 population during the decade. St. Cloud rounds out the list of the ten largest cities.

Savage was the fastest growing city in Minnesota during the 1980s. Its population grew by over 150 percent. Following closely was Eden Prairie with an increase of 142 percent. A total of eight cities, all located within the ten county Twin Cities MSA, more than doubled their population between

TABLE 4. MINNESOTA'S LARGEST CITIES

1990 Rank	1980 Rank	City	County	1990 Population	1980 Population	Percent Change
1	1	Minneapolis	Hennepin	368,383	370,951	-0.7%
2	2	St. Paul	Ramsey	272,235	270,230	0.7%
3	4	Bloomington	Hennepin	86,335	81,831	5.5%
4	3	Duluth	St. Louis	85,493	92,811	-7.9%
5	5	Rochester	Olmsted	70,745	57,890	22.2%
6	7	Brooklyn Park	Hennepin	56,381	43,332	30.1%
7	12	Coon Rapids	Anoka	52,978	35,826	47.9%
8	14	Burnsville	Dakota	51,288	35,674	43.8%
9	15	Plymouth	Hennepin	50,889	31,615	61.0%
10	9	St. Cloud	Stearns/Benton/ Sherburne	48,812	42,566	14.7%

**TABLE 5. FASTEST GROWING CITIES**

1990 Rank	City	County	1990 Population	1980 Population	Percent Change
1	Savage	Scott	9,906	3,954	150.5%
2	Eden Prairie	Hennepin	39,311	16,263	141.7%
3	Eagan	Dakota	47,409	20,700	129.0%
4	Centerville	Anoka	1,633	734	122.5%
5	Albertville	Wright	1,251	564	121.8%
6	Vadnais Heights	Ramsey	11,041	5,111	116.0%
7	St. Francis	Anoka	2,538	1,184	114.4%
8	Shafer	Chisago	368	180	104.4%
9	Woodbury	Washington	20,075	10,297	95.0%
10	Maple Grove	Hennepin	38,736	20,525	88.7%
11	Champlin	Hennepin	16,849	9,006	87.1%
12	Chanhassen	Carver	11,732	6,351	84.7%
13	Lino Lakes	Anoka	8,807	4,966	77.3%
14	Monticello	Wright	4,941	2,830	74.6%
15	Lakeland Shores	Washington	291	171	70.2%
16	Rosemount	Dakota	8,622	5,083	69.6%
17	Lakeville	Dakota	24,854	14,790	68.0%
18	Victoria	Carver	2,354	1,425	65.2%
19	St. Michael	Wright	2,506	1,519	65.0%
20	Elk River	Sherburne	11,143	6,785	64.2%
21	Pine Springs	Washington	436	267	63.3%
22	Andover	Anoka	15,216	9,387	62.1%
23	Plymouth	Hennepin	50,889	31,615	61.0%
24	Apple Valley	Dakota	34,598	21,818	58.6%
25	Prior Lake	Scott	11,482	7,284	57.6%

1980 and 1990 (Table 5). Of the 25 fastest growing cities during the 1980s, only Elk River is located outside the Twin Cities MSA.

Eleven cities added more than 10,000 residents between 1980 and 1990, led by Eagan with an increase of 26,709. Rochester is the only city of the eleven which is not a Twin Cities suburb. Other cities outside the ten-county Twin Cities area with large population increases include St. Cloud, Elk River, Mankato, Moorhead, Hutchinson, Northfield and Sauk Rapids.

**UPDATE:**

The Demographer's Office has received many questions about the availability of information from the 1990 Census. To find census data, you do not always need to contact our office. Much of the census data you need can be found at State Data Centers located throughout Minnesota. This Population Note will spotlight how to access the census information if you live in northern Minnesota. In future Notes we will spotlight how to access the 1990 Census information if you live in the central and southern portions of Minnesota.

There are no printed reports available from the Census Bureau at this time. However, there have been two releases of data. The first data released from the Bureau were the Thank You America numbers which were sent to city, township and county officials. The Thank You America numbers are just totals of population for cities, townships, counties, and metropolitan areas. The second release of information are the Public Law 94-171 data. The Public Law Data include total population, race, Hispanic origin, housing units and over 18 population for all units of geography down to the block level. The complete set of Public Law data are available only in electronic format. If you have questions about purchasing the Public Law data, please contact the State Demographer's Office. If you want data for only a few areas, you may be able to get them from a State Data Center in your region. Many Data Centers will have this data in CD-ROM format.

1990 Census Data are also available on DataNet, an on-line data base from the Minnesota State Planning Agency. DataNet is available on an annual subscription basis. DataNet contains 1990 Census data from the census tract

### State Data Centers in Northern Minnesota:

Beltrami County	Bemidji	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	(218)751-3108
Beltrami County	Bemidji	A.C. Clark Library, Bemidji State University	(218)755-3342
Clay County	Moorhead	Lake Agassiz Region Library	(218)233-7594
Clay County	Moorhead	Moorhead State University Library, Documents	(218)236-2349
Ottertail County	Fergus Falls	Public Library	(218)739-9387
Pennington County	Thief River Falls	Northwest Regional Library	(218)681-4325
Pennington County	Thief River Falls	Northwest Regional Development Commission	(218)681-2637
Polk County	Crookston	U of M-Technical College, Media Resources	(218)281-6510, Ext. 399
St. Louis County	Duluth	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	(218)722-5545
St. Louis County	Duluth	Duluth Public Library	(218)723-3802
St. Louis County	Duluth	University of Minnesota-Duluth, Reference	(218)726-6157
Wadena County	Staples	Region Five Regional Development Commission	(218)894-3233

level up to state level. For further information call (612)296-1211.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT:

#### A Conference on Demographic Information, Data Use and the 1990 Census

Data from the 1990 census and other federal, state and local sources of information can be essential for planning and decision making in government, schools, social service agencies, business, and health care agencies. A special

conference is scheduled for June 11-12, 1991 at the Earle Brown Center, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota, to examine sources of information and ways in which the data can be used. Sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau, the State Demographer's Office, and the University of Minnesota's Center for Population Analysis and Policy, the program will meet the afternoon of June 11 and all day June 12. The fee is \$50. Please contact Judy Weber, Department of Professional Development, 338 Nolte Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 for a complete brochure and registration form. Telephone (612)625-4331.



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