



## Migration a major factor in Minnesota's population growth

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- Almost half of Minnesota's population growth between 1990 and 2000 was due to net in-migration.
- All but five counties had a more positive migration pattern in the 1990s than in the 1980s.
- The largest net migration gains were among children and adults ages 25 to 44.
- The Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area accounted for more than two-thirds of total net in-migration during the decade.
- The lake and forest area of north central Minnesota had high net in-migration rates among adults ages 45 to 74.

Between 1990 and 2000, net migration accounted for almost half of Minnesota's population gain. For the first time in many decades, migration made a substantial contribution to the state's population growth. The number of people who moved into Minnesota outnumbered those who left by 258,056. This figure includes immigrants from other countries as well as people arriving from other states.

Net in-migration is a recent phenomenon in Minnesota, which for most of the last half century was a net exporter of people. Between 1940 and 1990 there was in-migration in only one decade, the 1970s, and that was at a very modest level.

The shift from net out-migration to net in-migration may actually have begun in the late 1980s, according to figures from the

U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The IRS data, though it has many flaws (see Note at the end of this report), is useful for indicating annual trends and for assessing migration exchanges with other states. IRS data going back to 1980 shows a net loss of migrants to other states in each year from 1980-1981 through 1986-1987. Since then, there has been net in-migration every year.

### Natural increase contributes to population growth

Despite the migration losses in most years from the 1940s through the 1980s, Minnesota's population continued to expand. Growth continued because there was natural increase – more births than deaths. Natural increase still contributes significantly to population growth, accounting for 53 percent of the total gain

### Trends in Minnesota Net Migration

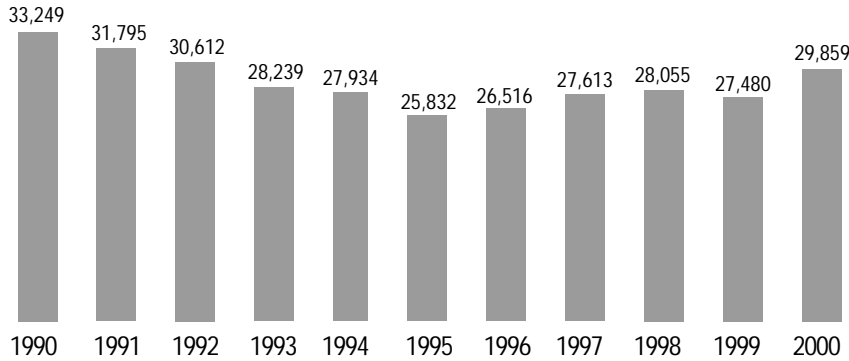
#### 1940-2000, by decade

1940-1950	-171,484
1950-1960	-98,140
1960-1970	-25,933
1970-1980	6,482
1980-1990	-29,515
1990-2000	258,056

Sources: Minnesota Analysis and Planning System (1940-1950 through 1960-1970). Minnesota State Demographic Center (1970-1980 through 1990-2000).

**Natural increase in Minnesota has risen since 1995 but still below 1990 levels**

Natural increase (births minus deaths)



Source: Minnesota for Health Statistics

relatively young age of in-migrants. As a result, higher in-migration results in more natural increase or at least less natural decrease.

**Fewer counties have net out-migration**

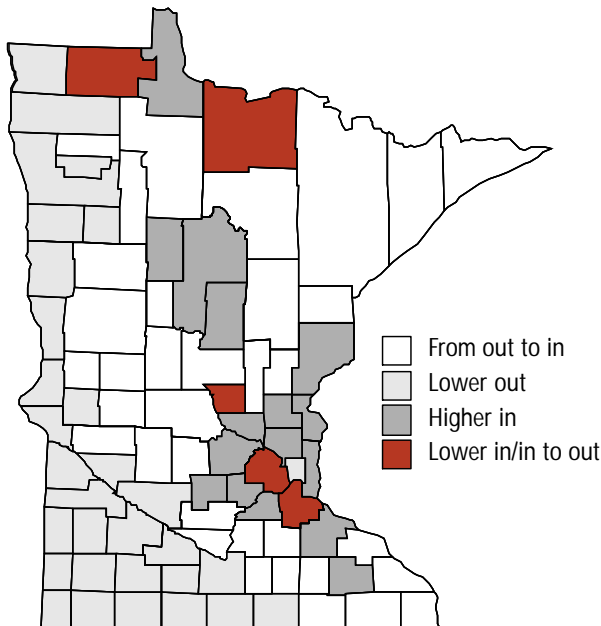
Almost every county in Minnesota had a more positive migration pattern in the 1990s than in the 1980s. Between 1990 and 2000, 55 of Minnesota's 87 counties experienced net in-migration. This was a sharp contrast to the 1980s, when only 20 counties had net in-migration. In addition to 35 counties that shifted from out-migration to in-migration, 16 counties had higher net in-migration in the 1990s. Another 31 counties continued to have out-migration, but at a lower level, in most cases a much lower level.

of 544,380 during the 1990s. The level of natural increase fell between 1990 and 1995 as the population aged and the number of deaths rose. Since 1995, however, there was a modest rise in natural increase, mostly because the number of births went up.

Many counties have seen a similar trend in natural increase: falling levels from 1990 to 1995, followed by a slight up tick as the decade ended. For example, in the year 1999, 38 counties had natural decrease (more deaths than births), but in 2000, the

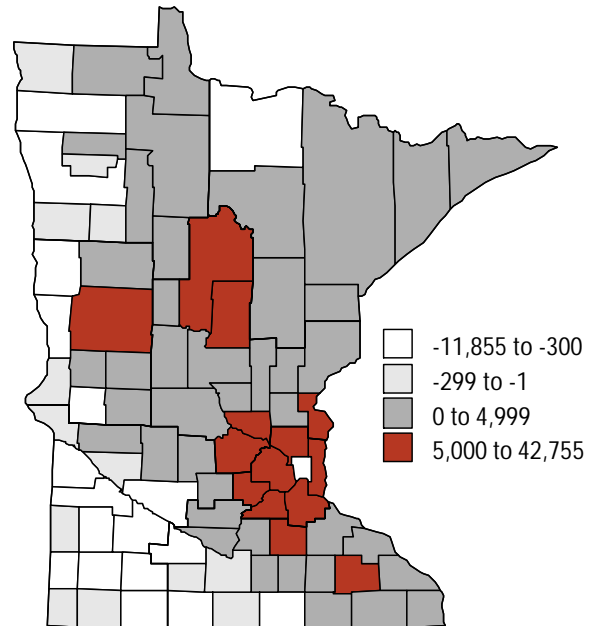
number of counties with natural decrease was reduced to 27. The increase in births has affected most areas of the state. When more young families move into a county, more babies are born. The number of deaths does not go up as much because of the

**Migration patterns 1990s compared to 1980s**



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Number of net migrants 1990 to 2000**



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

## Minnesota Natural Increase and Residual Net Migration by County, 1990 to 2000

County	1990 Population	2000 Population	Population Change	Births 4/1/90 – 3/31/00	Deaths 4/1/90 – 3/31/00	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Migration rate per 100
Aitkin	12,425	15,301	2,876	1367	1802	-435	3,311	26.6
Anoka	243,641	298,084	54,443	42270	11488	30782	23,661	9.7
Becker	27,881	30,000	2,119	3698	3148	550	1,569	5.6
Beltrami	34,384	39,650	5,266	5657	3028	2629	2,637	7.7
Benton	30,185	34,226	4,041	4986	2768	2218	1,823	6.0
Big Stone	6,285	5,820	-465	602	994	-392	-73	-1.2
Blue Earth	54,044	55,941	1,897	6317	4165	2152	-255	-0.5
Brown	26,984	26,911	-73	3160	2750	410	-483	-1.8
Carlton	29,259	31,671	2,412	3477	3021	456	1,956	6.7
Carver	47,915	70,205	22,290	9913	2895	7018	15,272	31.9
Cass	21,791	27,150	5,359	2844	2877	-33	5,392	24.7
Chippewa	13,228	13,088	-140	1506	1600	-94	-46	-0.3
Chisago	30,521	41,101	10,580	5372	2674	2698	7,882	25.8
Clay	50,422	51,229	807	6538	3746	2792	-1,985	-3.9
Clearwater	8,309	8,423	114	977	1076	-99	213	2.6
Cook	3,868	5,168	1,300	493	385	108	1,192	30.8
Cottonwood	12,694	12,167	-527	1392	1604	-212	-315	-2.5
Crow Wing	44,249	55,099	10,850	6238	4915	1323	9,527	21.5
Dakota	275,227	355,904	80,677	51787	13865	37922	42,755	15.5
Dodge	15,731	17,731	2,000	2406	1318	1088	912	5.8
Douglas	28,674	32,821	4,147	3533	3217	316	3,831	13.4
Faribault	16,937	16,181	-756	1655	2140	-485	-271	-1.6
Fillmore	20,777	21,122	345	2510	2638	-128	473	2.3
Freeborn	33,060	32,584	-476	3617	3619	-2	-474	-1.4
Goodhue	40,690	44,127	3,437	5125	4566	559	2,878	7.1
Grant	6,246	6,289	43	621	915	-294	337	5.4
Hennepin	1,032,431	1,116,200	83,769	158991	80638	78353	5,416	0.5
Houston	18,497	19,718	1,221	2349	1871	478	743	4.0
Hubbard	14,939	18,376	3,437	1777	1743	34	3,403	22.8
Isanti	25,921	31,287	5,366	3613	2090	1523	3,843	14.8
Itasca	40,863	43,992	3,129	4547	4342	205	2,924	7.2
Jackson	11,677	11,268	-409	1206	1281	-75	-334	-2.9
Kanabec	12,802	14,996	2,194	1573	1251	322	1,872	14.6
Kandiyohi	38,761	41,203	2,442	5433	3568	1865	577	1.5
Kittson	5,767	5,285	-482	581	831	-250	-232	-4.0
Koochiching	16,299	14,355	-1,944	1688	1647	41	-1,985	-12.2
Lac qui Parle	8,924	8,067	-857	828	1206	-378	-479	-5.4
Lake	10,415	11,058	643	1034	1233	-199	842	8.1
Lake of the Woods	4,076	4,522	446	485	419	66	380	9.3
Le Sueur	23,239	25,426	2,187	3185	2111	1074	1,113	4.8
Lincoln	6,890	6,429	-461	696	1060	-364	-97	-1.4
Lyon	24,789	25,425	636	3499	2303	1196	-560	-2.3
McLeod	32,030	34,898	2,868	4587	2972	1615	1,253	3.9
Mahnomen	5,044	5,190	146	766	584	182	-36	-0.7
Marshall	10,993	10,155	-838	1196	1155	41	-879	-8.0
Martin	22,914	21,802	-1,112	2535	2540	-5	-1,107	-4.8
Meeker	20,846	22,644	1,798	2689	2218	471	1,327	6.4
Mille Lacs	18,670	22,330	3,660	2578	2287	291	3,369	18.0
Morrison	29,604	31,712	2,108	3989	2854	1135	973	3.3
Mower	37,385	38,603	1,218	4604	4252	352	866	2.3
Murray	9,660	9,165	-495	1009	1009	0	-495	-5.1
Nicollet	28,076	29,771	1,695	3470	1794	1676	19	0.1
Nobles	20,098	20,832	734	2903	2056	847	-113	-0.6

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County	1990 Population	2000 Population	Population Change	Births 4/1/90 – 3/31/00	Deaths 4/1/90 – 3/31/00	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Migration rate per 100
Norman	7,975	7,442	-533	876	1147	-271	-262	-3.3
Olmsted	106,470	124,277	17,807	17758	7044	10714	7,093	6.7
Otter Tail	50,714	57,159	6,445	5858	6131	-273	6,718	13.2
Pennington	13,306	13,584	278	1688	1504	184	94	0.7
Pine	21,264	26,530	5,266	2741	2286	455	4,811	22.6
Pipestone	10,491	9,895	-596	1222	1275	-53	-543	-5.2
Polk	32,498	31,369	-1,129	4086	3917	169	-1,298	-4.0
Pope	10,745	11,236	491	1093	1450	-357	848	7.9
Ramsey	485,765	511,035	25,270	77102	39977	37125	-11,855	-2.4
Red Lake	4,525	4,299	-226	485	554	-69	-157	-3.5
Redwood	17,254	16,815	-439	2057	2162	-105	-334	-1.9
Renville	17,673	17,154	-519	2048	2195	-147	-372	-2.1
Rice	49,183	56,665	7,482	6436	4010	2426	5,056	10.3
Rock	9,806	9,721	-85	1153	1064	89	-174	-1.8
Roseau	15,026	16,338	1,312	2469	1365	1104	208	1.4
St. Louis	198,213	200,528	2,315	21128	22000	-872	3,187	1.6
Scott	57,846	89,498	31,652	13056	3321	9735	21,917	37.9
Sherburne	41,945	64,417	22,472	8505	2991	5514	16,958	40.4
Sibley	14,366	15,356	990	1839	1517	322	668	4.6
Stearns	118,791	133,166	14,375	16582	7151	9431	4,944	4.2
Steele	30,729	33,680	2,951	4196	2567	1629	1,322	4.3
Stevens	10,634	10,053	-581	977	951	26	-607	-5.7
Swift	10,724	11,956	1,232	1287	1420	-133	1,365	12.7
Todd	23,363	24,426	1,063	2798	2336	462	601	2.6
Traverse	4,463	4,134	-329	461	614	-153	-176	-3.9
Wabasha	19,744	21,610	1,866	2470	1964	506	1,360	6.9
Wadena	13,154	13,713	559	1662	1787	-125	684	5.2
Waseca	18,079	19,526	1,447	2358	1719	639	808	4.5
Washington	145,896	201,130	55,234	25519	7946	17573	37,661	25.8
Watonwan	11,682	11,876	194	1727	1292	435	-241	-2.1
Wilkin	7,516	7,138	-378	906	783	123	-501	-6.7
Winona	47,828	49,985	2,157	5652	4285	1367	790	1.7
Wright	68,710	89,986	21,276	12517	4908	7609	13,667	19.9
Yellow Medicine	11,684	11,080	-604	1302	1400	-98	-506	-4.3
Unknown				19	44	-25		
Minnesota	4,375,099	4,919,479	544,380	651,905	365,606	286,299	258,056	5.9

Notes: Natural increase=(births - deaths). Net migration= (population change - natural increase).

Net migration rate is per 100 population in 1990.

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center. Population from U.S. Census Bureau. Births and deaths from Minnesota Center for Health Statistics.

Only five counties had a less positive migration result in the 1990s. Four counties, including two of the largest, Hennepin and Dakota, had fewer net in-migrants. Only one county, Koochiching, had more net out-migration.

### Suburban counties have most net in-migration

The eleven counties comprising the Minnesota portion of the

Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area accounted for more than two-thirds of the state's net in-migration between 1990 and 2000. Though net in-migration has fallen in Dakota County, it continued to post the highest number of net migrants, 42,755, down from 50,794 in the 1980s. Washington County ranked second with net in-migration of 37,661, followed

by Anoka (23,661) and Scott (21,917) counties.

Outside the Twin Cities area, Crow Wing County had the highest amount of net in-migration, 9,527 followed by Olmsted (7,093), Otter Tail (6,718) and Cass (5,392) counties.

Ramsey County, home of St. Paul, had the greatest out-migration with a net loss of

11,855. Other counties with high net out-migration were Koochiching and Clay (both with -1,985), Polk (-1,298) and Martin (-1,107) counties.

Sherburne and Scott counties had the highest rates of net in-migration, expressed in terms of 1990 population, 40.4 and 37.9 per 100 respectively. Both are suburban counties in the Twin Cities area. Several counties in northern Minnesota

also had high rates of in-migration relative to their populations. These included Cook (30.8 per 100), Aitkin (26.6), Cass (24.7), Hubbard (22.8), Pine (22.6) and Crow Wing (21.5) counties. As these high in-migration rates indicate, areas with lakes and other amenities have attracted newcomers during the past decade.

**Children, young adults move to Minnesota**

Data on migration by age show that Minnesota is especially attractive to young families. The largest net in-migration numbers were among people ages 5 to 19 and 25 to 44. With strong economic growth and low unemployment rates last decade, Minnesota drew a large number of working-age people and their families.

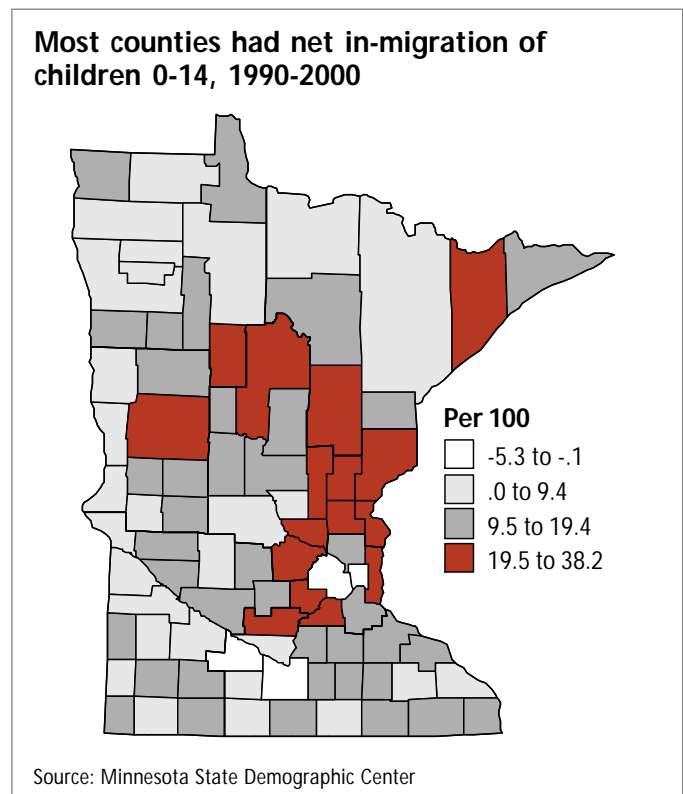
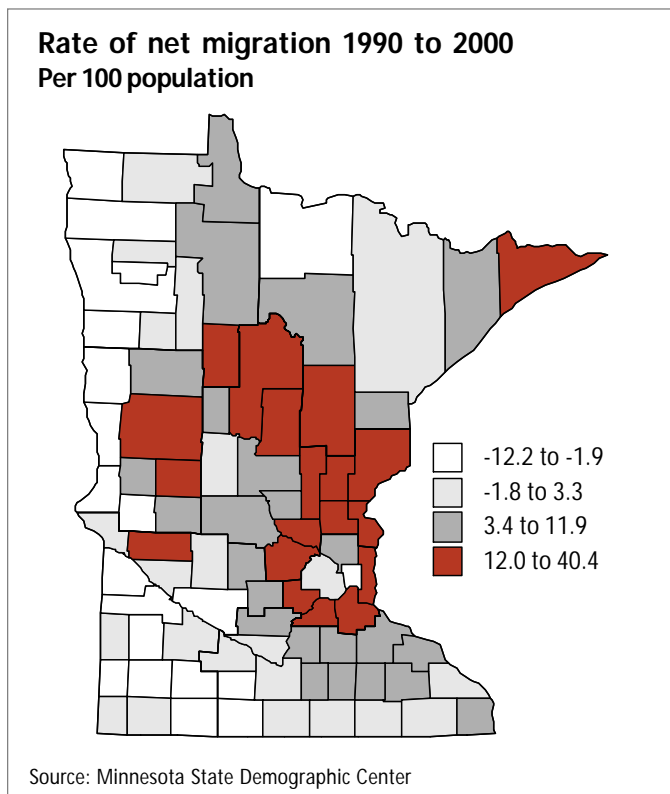
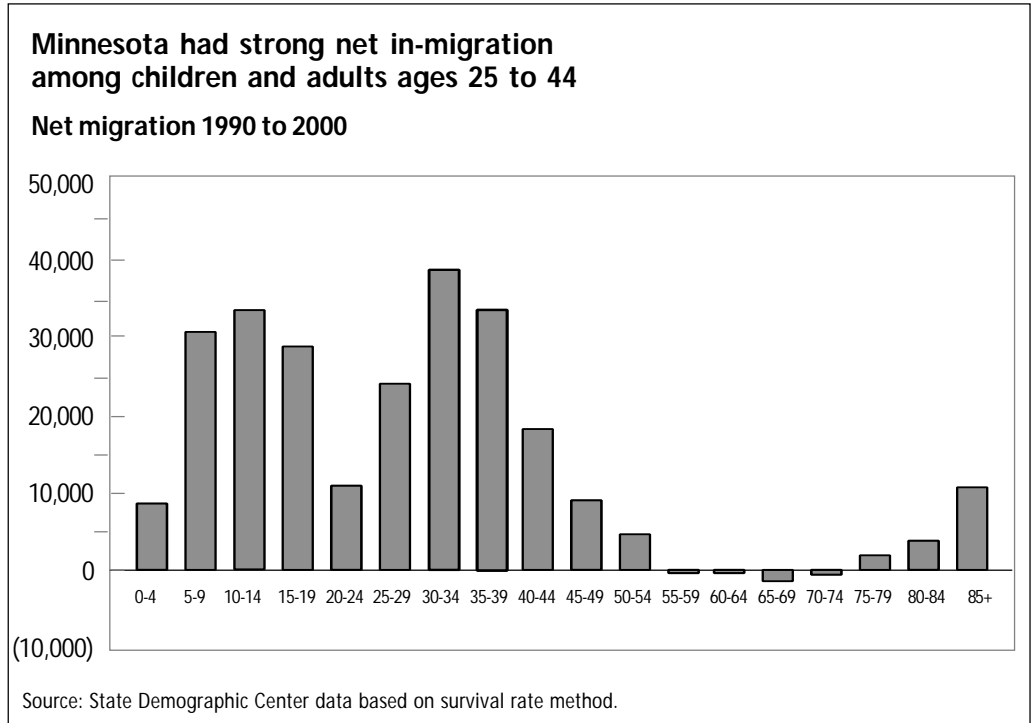
Minnesota had a net migration loss of people ages 55 to 74, and a modest gain of those

over age 75. This migration pattern among older people has been observed before. Younger elderly tend to leave Minnesota (though not in huge numbers), many for warmer

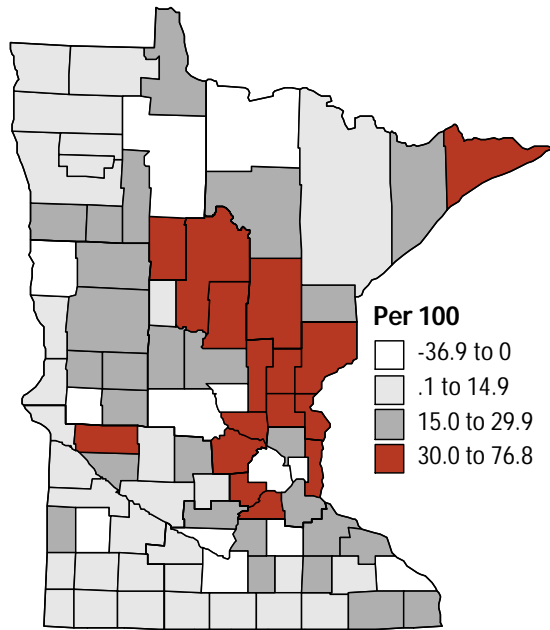
climates. Over age 75, moves are often related to growing dependency and a wish to be closer to relatives.

**Migration rates among age groups vary by county**

Most Minnesota counties had net in-migration among children under age 15 and among adults

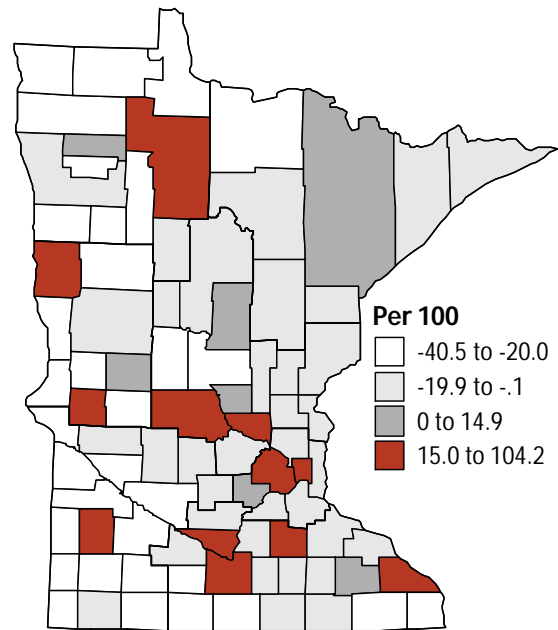


**Most counties have in-migration of adults ages 30 to 44**



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Most counties had net out-migration of young adults 15-24, 1990 to 2000**



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

30 to 44. Suburban counties around the Twin Cities and counties in the east central and north central regions had the highest in-migration rates in these age groups. Even counties in western Minnesota, where population losses were greatest, generally had at least a slight net in-migration of young families.

Young families migrate out of the most urbanized areas. The state's two largest counties, Hennepin and Ramsey, had a net migration loss among children age 0 to 14 and among adults 30 to 44. Counties with colleges and universities also had net out-migration among 30- to 44-year-olds as graduating students – those who were in their early twenties in 1990 – left for other areas.

Young adults ages 15 to 24 have a distinctive migration profile, with the great majority of counties experiencing out-migration in this age group. Western Minnesota has the highest out-migration rates among young adults. Young people tend to move into the state's two largest counties, Hennepin and Ramsey, or to counties with college campuses such as Winona, Clay and Rice.

Northern Minnesota lures adults ages 45 to 74. The number of net migrants is not as great in northern Minnesota as in counties with more people, but the rates of in-migration are often very high. Aitkin, Cass and Cook counties have the highest rates of net in-migration among people of these ages, trailed by Crow Wing and Hubbard counties. All these counties are in the lakes and forest region of north central Minnesota. Though this

region is attractive to retirees, the strong levels of net in-migration seen among children and among people in the 25- to 54-year-old age groups suggest retirement is not the only reason people are moving to the northern part of the state.

Adults ages 45 to 74 tend to move out of Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the state's most populous counties. Suburban areas continue to attract middle-age adults, but in the 55- to 64-year-old group, even some growing suburban counties such as Anoka and Dakota experience out-migration.

Among adults over age 75, migration to the lakes area is no longer a factor. Older people usually are not very mobile, but when they do move, it tends to be to suburban counties such as

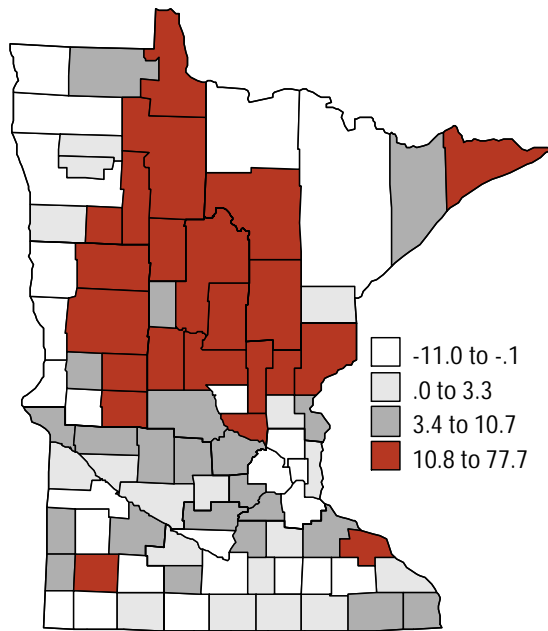
Sherburne, Washington or Carver. Olmsted County (Rochester) also has substantial net in-migration in this older age group. Older people who move may be relocating to be near family members or to take advantage of attractive housing options.

**Note on measuring migration**

The migration figures provided in this report are estimates of net migration, the excess of in-migrants over out-migrants or vice versa. Three methods for measuring net migration are used in this report: the residual method, the survival rate method and Internal Revenue Service data.

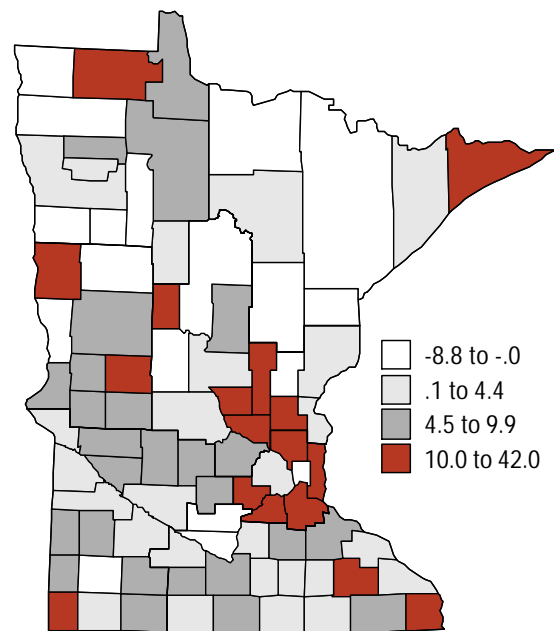
In the residual method, population change attributable to natural increase (births minus deaths) is subtracted from the total population change during the same time

### Northern Minnesota draws adults 55-64 Net migrants per 100, 1990 to 2000



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

### Suburban areas attract most migrants age 75+ Net migrants per 100, 1990 to 2000



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

period. A positive number indicates there was net in-migration, while a negative number indicates there was net out-migration. This method was used to obtain the figures on total net migration by county.

Potential sources of error in the residual method stem from the population count and the count of births and deaths. Since the census count in 2000 is believed to be more accurate than the 1990 count, the residual migration figures reported here are probably slightly high.

A drawback of the residual method is that it does not give data on net migration by age. To obtain figures on net migration by age, the survival method was used. With this method, life table survival rates are used to calculate the population that would be

expected if nobody moved and the population changed only because of births and deaths. For this report, the "forward method" was used; the 1990 population was aged forward in time and compared to the 2000 census population. The survival rates used were averages of the 1990 and 2000 survival rates. The difference between the expected population based on survival rates and the actual census population is the number of net migrants.

The accuracy of the survival rate method depends on the accuracy of population counts and mortality rates by age used to prepare the life table. Results of the residual and survival methods are generally very similar but not identical.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service data, based on matched income tax returns, provide a flawed measure of migration. The data

underrepresents young people, immigrants, low-income people and others who may not file returns in consecutive years. Despite these flaws, the IRS data is useful because it is available annually and is a good indicator of trends. The tax return information also

provides information on the origins and destinations of migrants.

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