

# State of Rural Minnesota Report 2013



center for **rural policy**  
and development

*Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future*

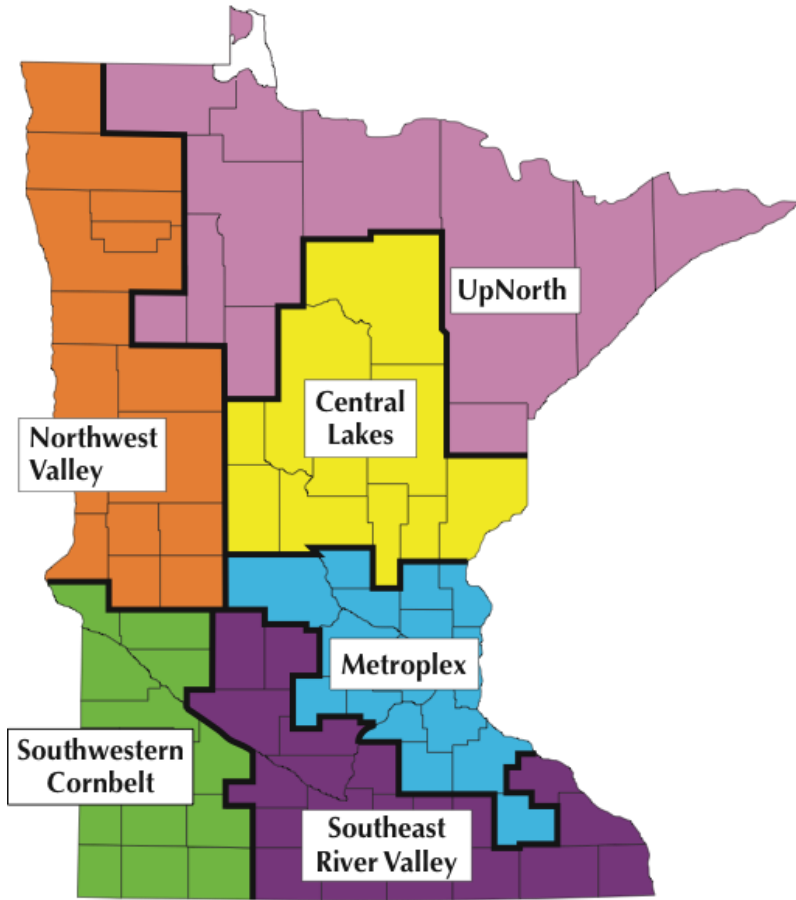
# Introduction



**In 1997, a group of rural Minnesota advocates came together to create a rural policy “think tank” that would provide policy makers, rural advocates and concerned citizens with an objective, unbiased and politically “unspun” examination of contemporary rural issues.**

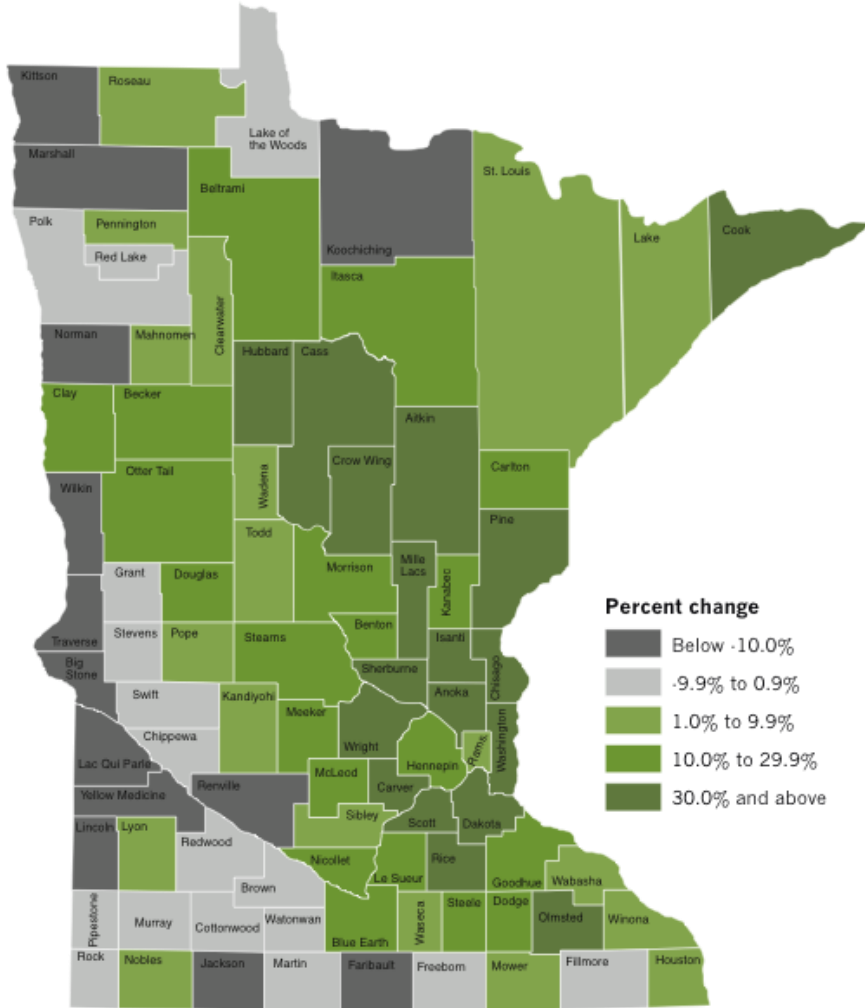
- ✓ Non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization
- ✓ Dedicated to providing Minnesota’s policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.
- ✓ The Center is recognized as a leading resource for rural policy research and development.

# A State of Diverse Regions



- Ruralplexes: **Regions based on common characteristics.** Developed for the Center by former State Demographer Tom Gillaspay and State Economist Tom Stinson.
- *The State of Rural Minnesota* uses these regions to show **major characteristics and trends** of Minnesota's people and economy.

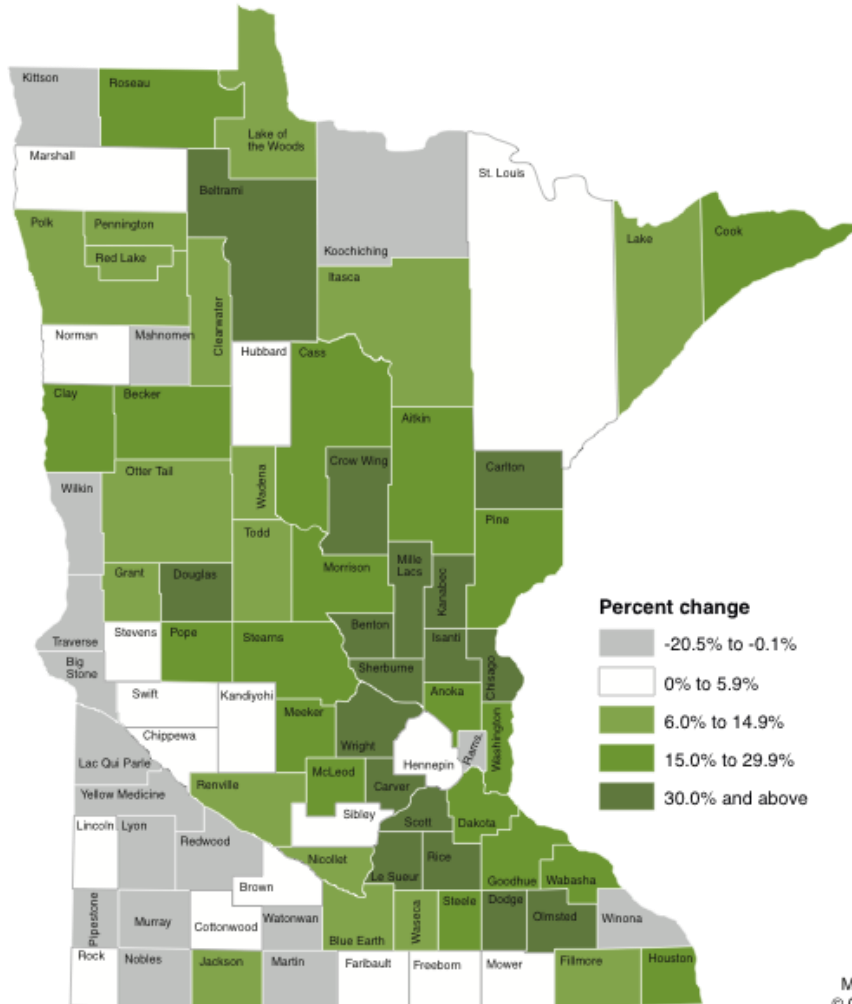
# Population change, 1990-2010



- From 1990 to 2010, the state's population grew by nearly 1 million, to 5.3 million. The most dramatic growth was seen in the Twin Cities suburbs, stretching up into the Central Lakes area.

Data source:  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
Population Estimates Program  
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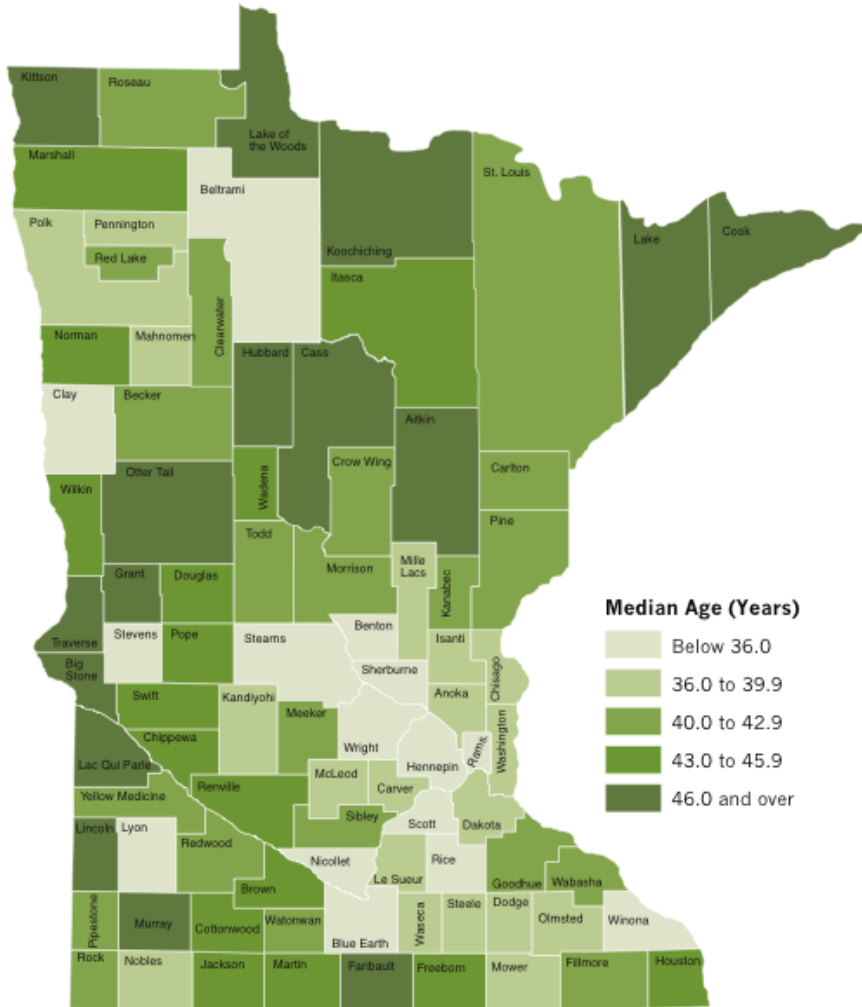
# Projected population change, 2010-2035



- Minnesota's State Demographic Center projects that population trends will continue much as they have: the western and southern counties will continue to lose population while growth will continue to radiate out from the Twin Cities and north into the central lakes region.

Data source:  
Minnesota State Demographic Center  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

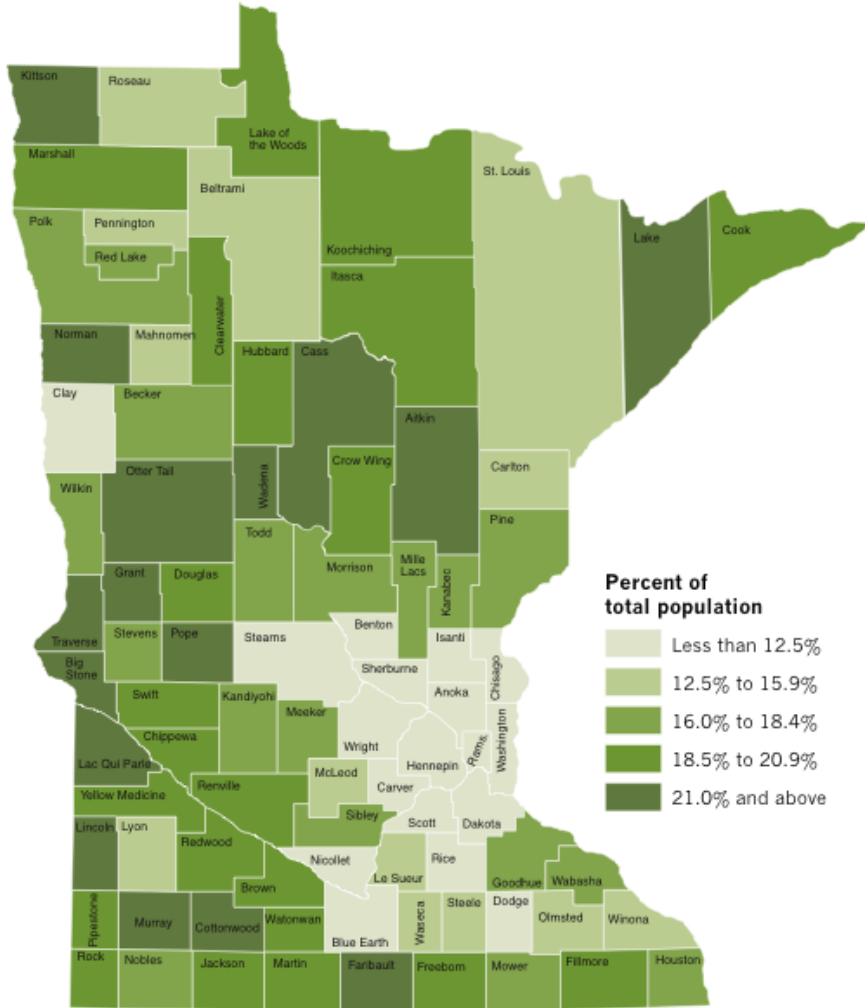
# Median Age, 2010



- Median age—the age at which half the population is older and half is younger—gives an indication of the overall age of the population in an area. Fast-growing counties with young families, large institutions of higher education, or large minority populations tend to have a lower median age.

Data source:  
U.S. Census Bureau  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

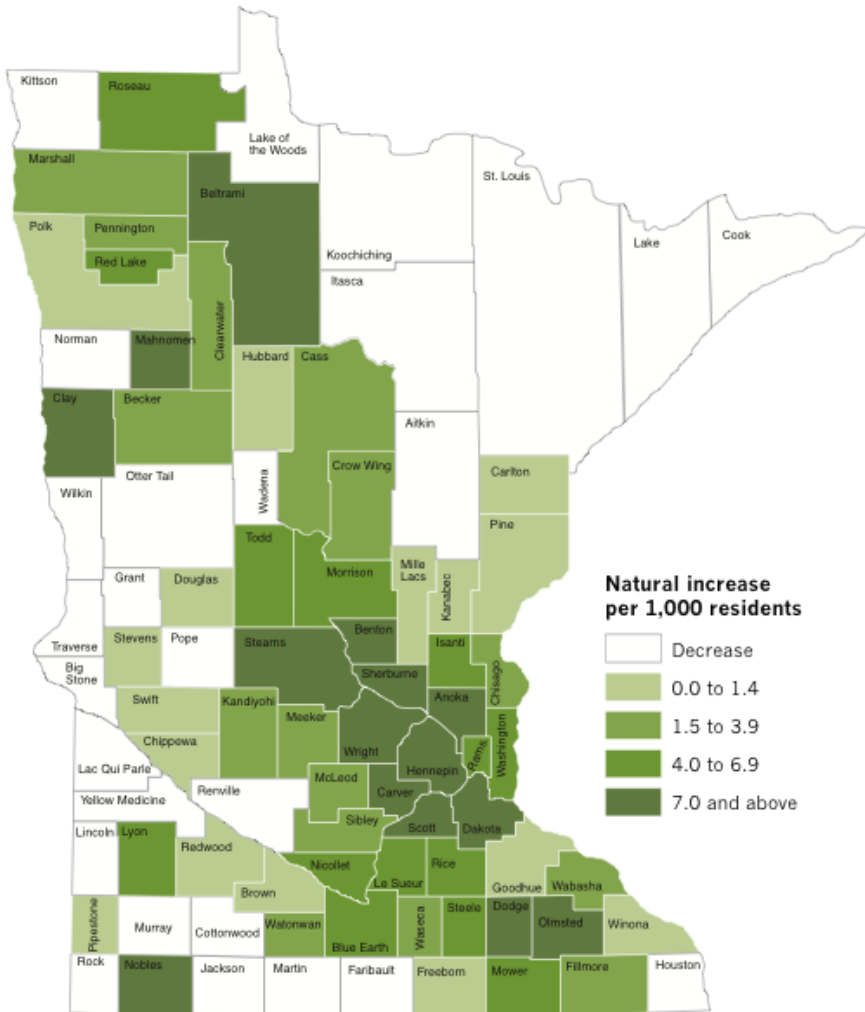
# Population 65+, 2010



- The higher percentage of seniors remaining in rural counties has many implications for state and local government, such as a demand for increased levels of service to those living on low and/or fixed incomes.

Data source:  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Population Estimate Program  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

# Natural rate of increase, 2010

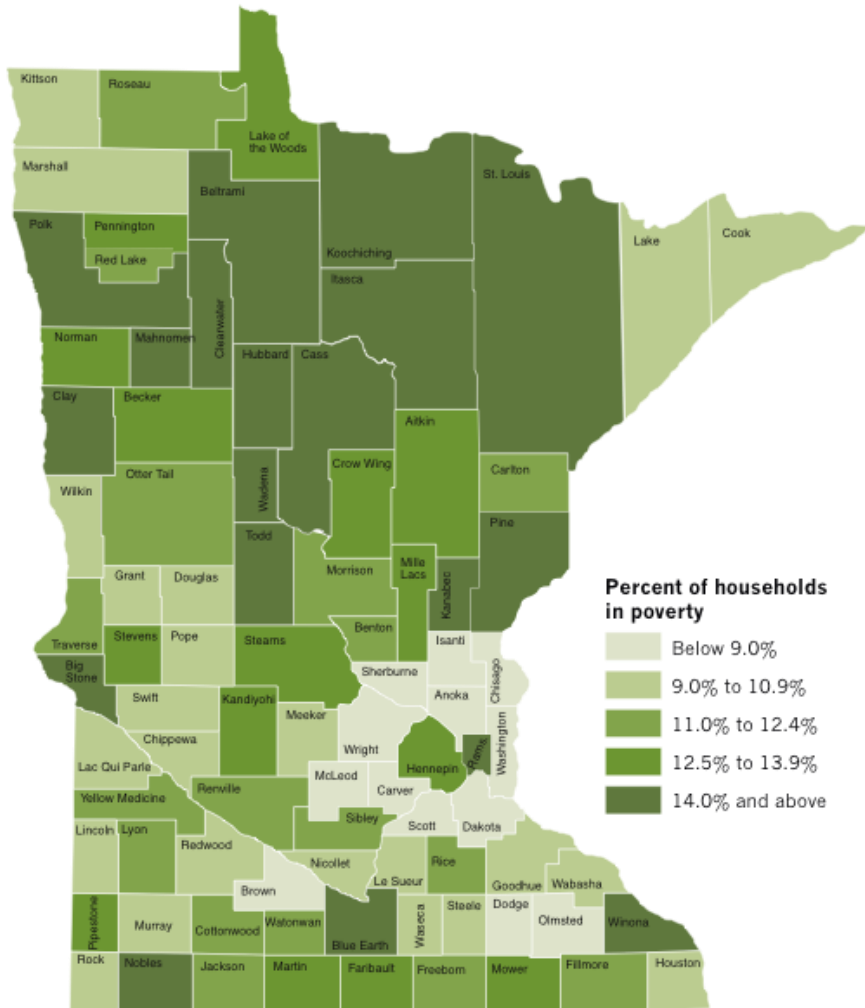


- Natural increase is simply the number of births minus the number of deaths. The highest increases have been in the western suburbs, Dodge County, Olmsted County and in the north central counties. Meanwhile, several rural counties showed a natural decrease. Natural increase, however, this does not take into consideration immigration, which is driving population growth in some rural counties.

Data source:  
 U.S. Department of Health  
 Annual Health Summary  
 © Center for Rural Policy and Development



# Population in poverty, all ages, 2011



- The poverty rate for Minnesota in 2011 was estimated at 11.8% compared to 15.9% for the United States as a whole.

Data source:  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

# Economics

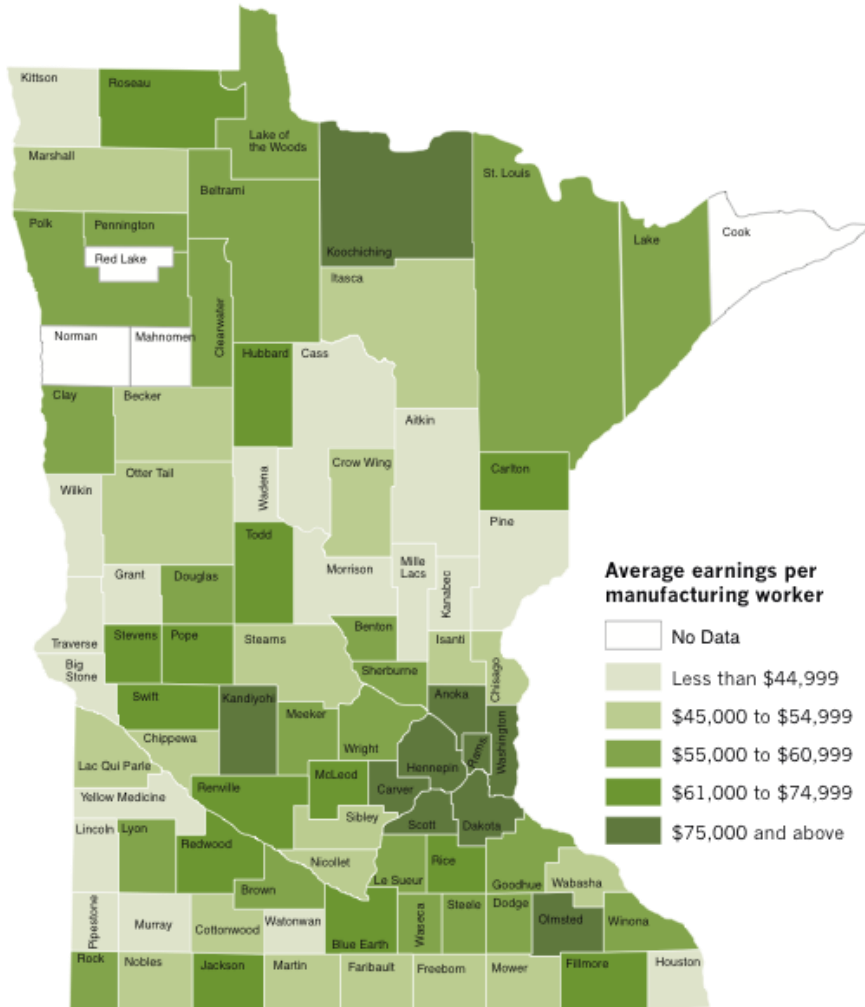


*Regional per-capita earned income (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2011).*

Region	Per-capita earnings
Metroplex	\$57,040
Southeast River Valley	\$41,442
Southwestern Cornbelt	\$44,758
Northwest Valley	\$36,766
Up North	\$41,661
Central Lakes	\$33,425
Minnesota	\$52,184

*Earnings by place of work divided by workforce.*

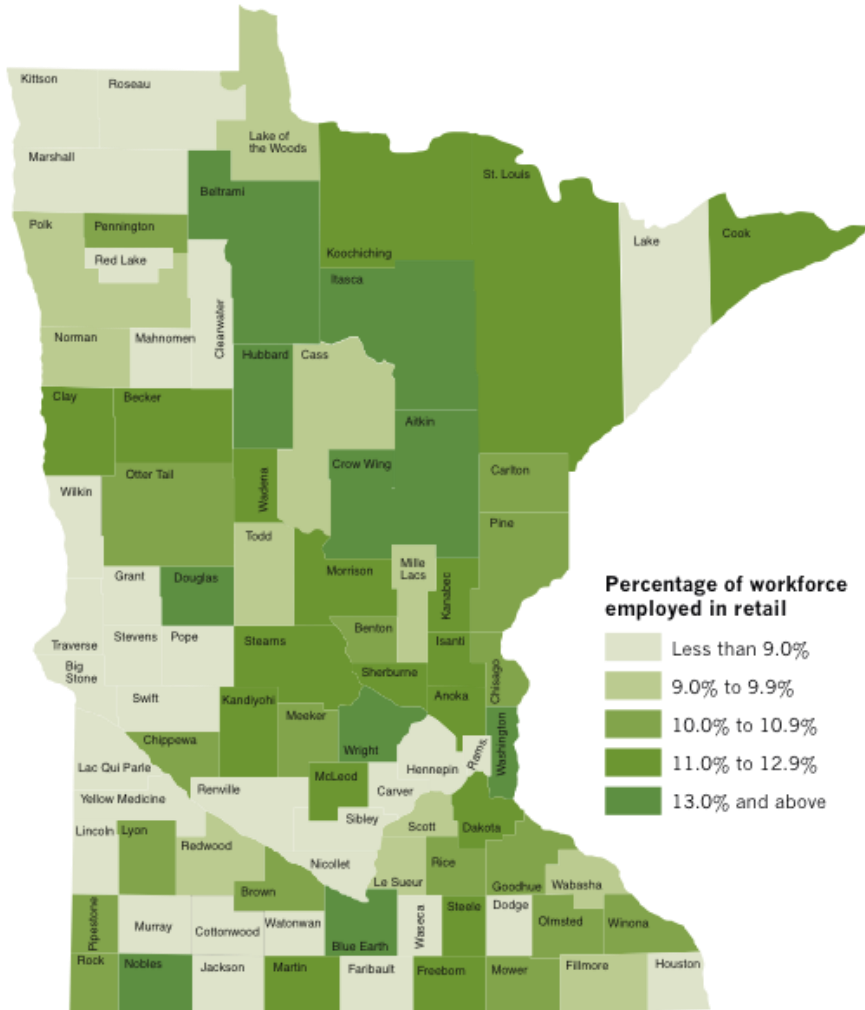
# Average earnings in the manufacturing sector, 2011



- Typically, manufacturing is one of the better paying industries. It has a strong presence in rural Minnesota.

Data source:  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

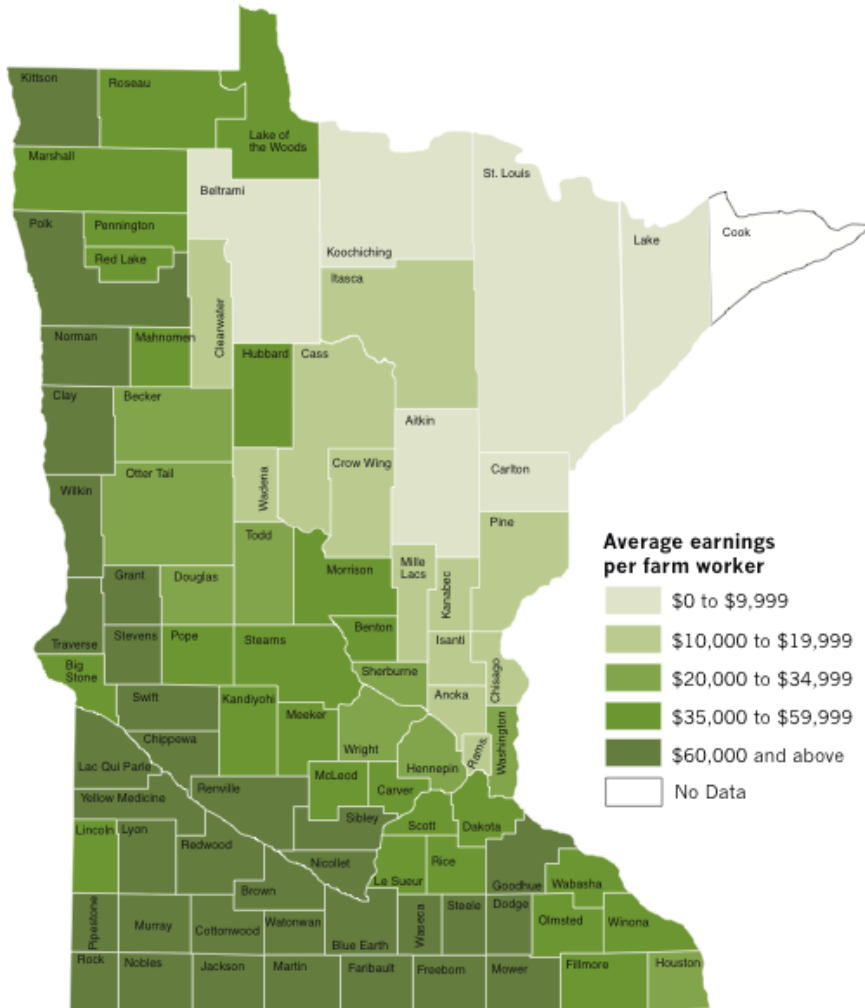
# Workforce in the manufacturing sector, 2011



- Despite losing nearly 50,000 manufacturing jobs between 2005 and 2009, Minnesota still has a number of counties—mostly rural—where employment is concentrated in manufacturing.

Data source:  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

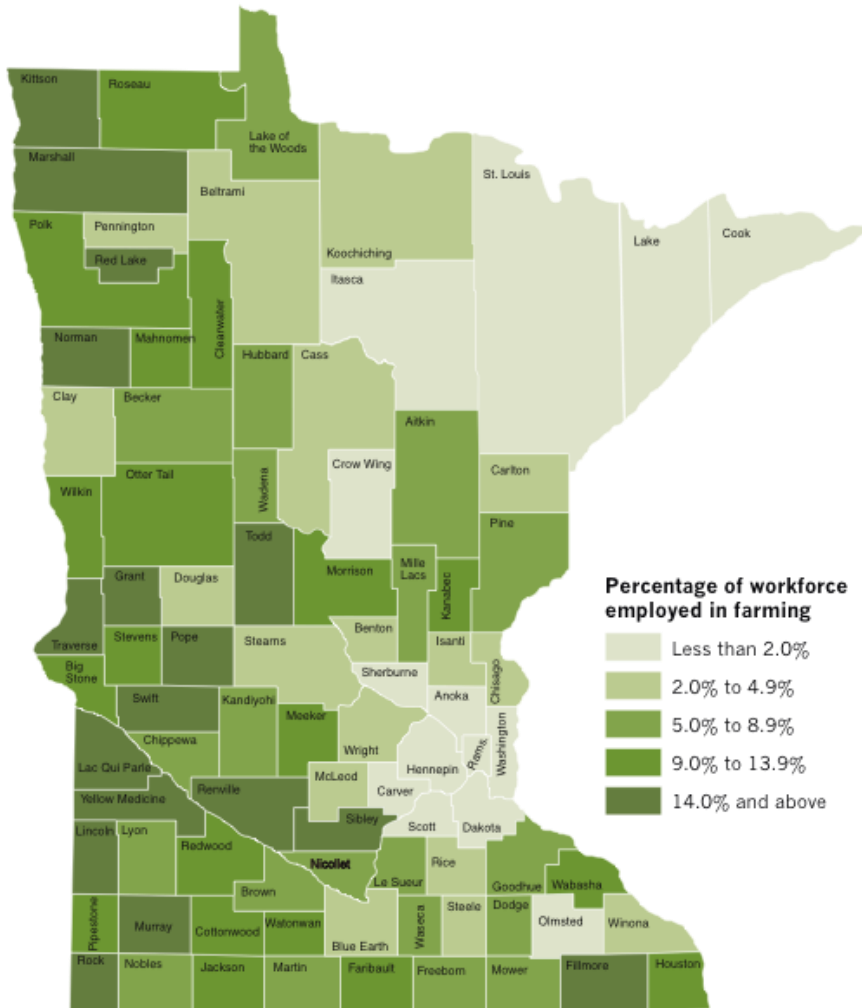
# Average earnings in farming, 2011



- Farming has had a strong presence in Minnesota historically and continues to do so today. The distribution of wealth from farming is apparent.

Data source:  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

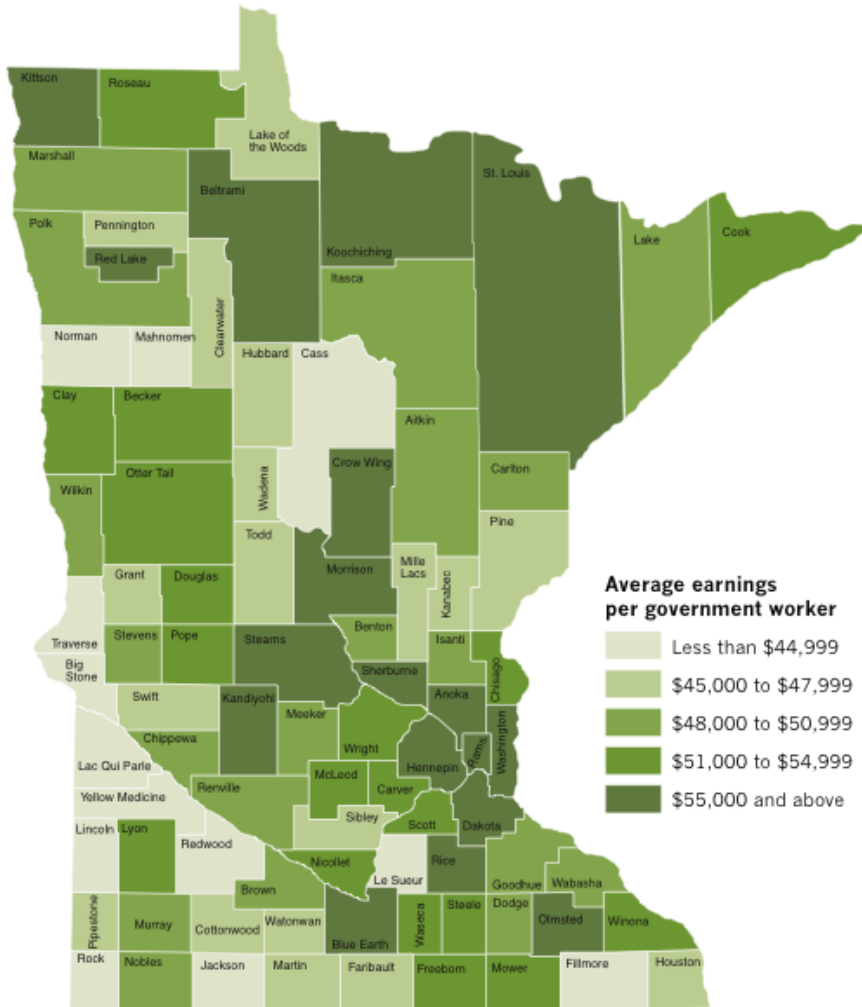
# Workforce in farming, 2011



- Only about 2.5% of Minnesota's workforce is employed directly in farming, but that figure varies significantly across the state. Some counties have 20% or more of their workforce working directly in farming.

Data source:  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
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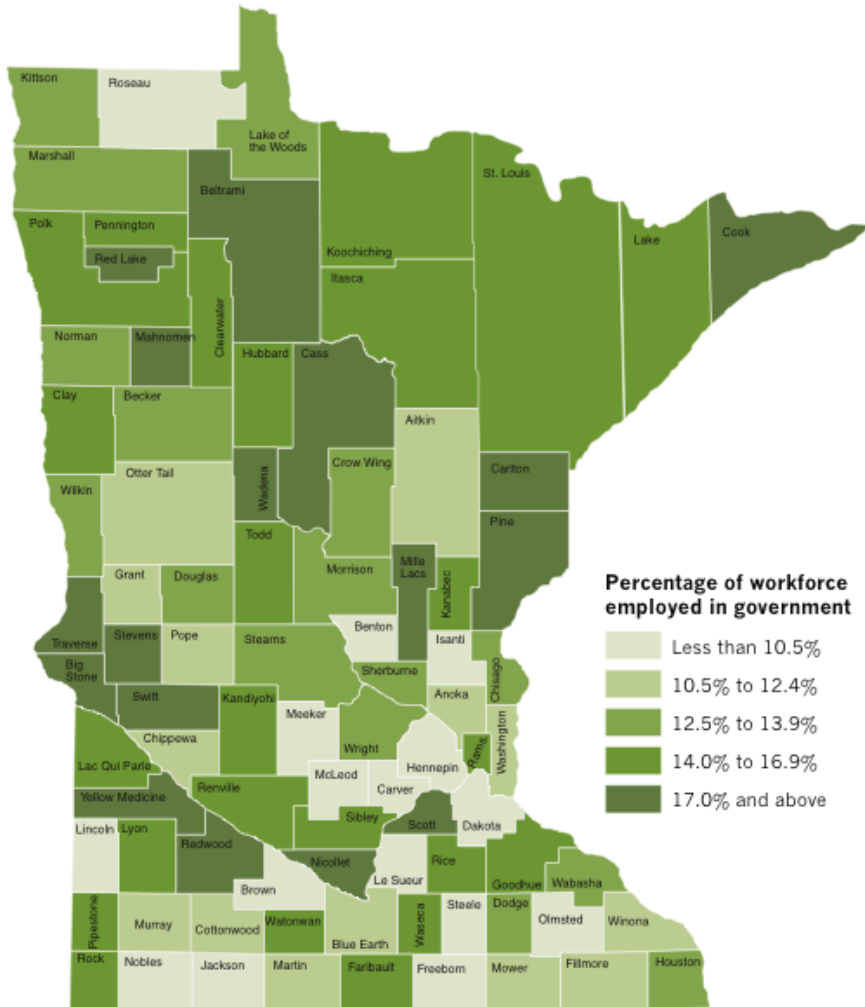
# Average earnings in the government sector, 2011



- Government is a major employer in many rural counties. The highest average salaries tend to cluster in the metro area even though government makes up a smaller segment of the workforce in these counties.

Data source:  
 U.S. Department of Commerce  
 Bureau of Economic Analysis  
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# Workforce in the government sector, 2011

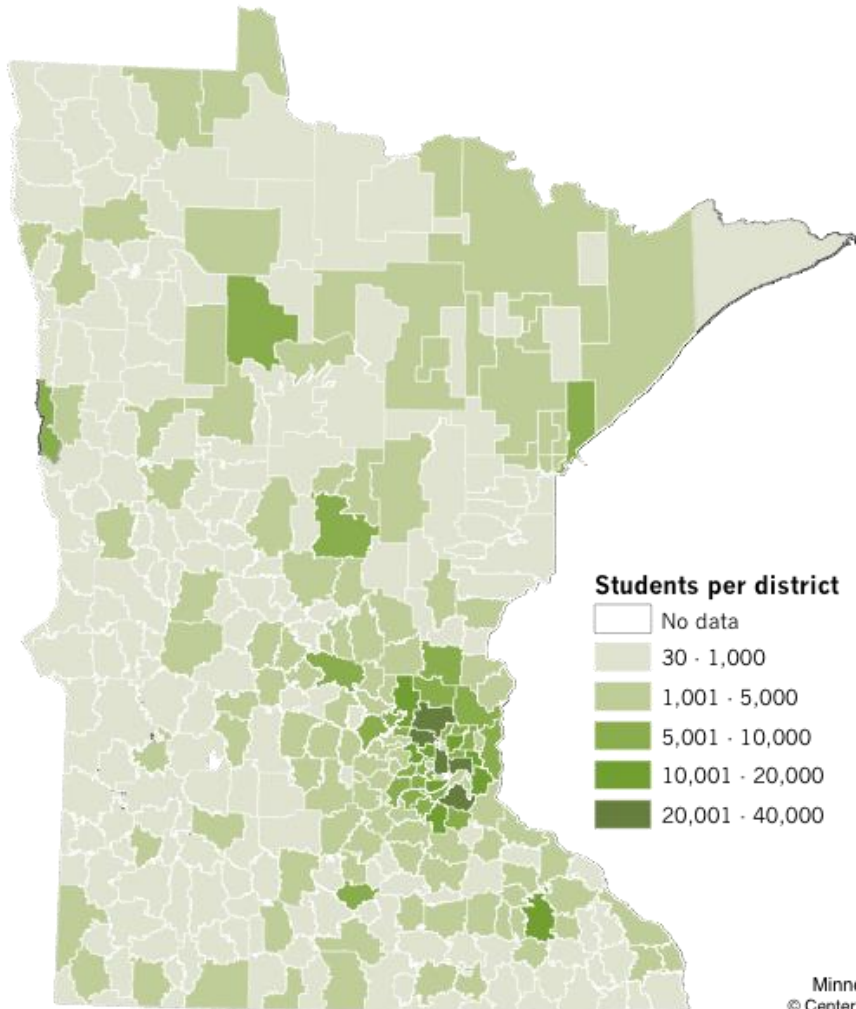


- Government is a major employer in many rural counties, where the need for services is disproportionate to the population. In Minnesota in 2010, 12.2% of the workforce worked in the government sector. Mahnomens County had the highest percentage, at 46.5%.

Data source:  
 U.S. Department of Commerce  
 Bureau of Economic Analysis  
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# Total School Enrollment, 2011-2012



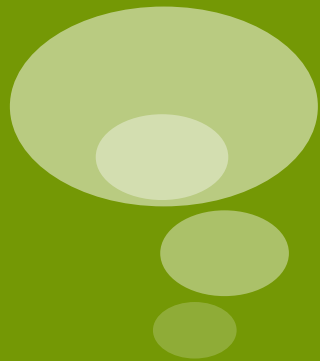
- Minnesota's public school districts had 839,426 students enrolled in the 2011-2012 school year, up nearly 4,800 students from one year earlier.
- ✓ 14 districts: 10,000+ students
- ✓ 24 districts: 5,000-9,999
- ✓ 120 districts: 1,000-4,999
- ✓ 177 districts: less than 1,000

Data source:  
Minnesota Department of Education  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

# Areas of Opportunity



- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Technology
- Convergence
  - Keep an eye on....
  - Workforce
  - Education-meeting needs of employment opportunities
  - The Need of a “One Stop Shop”



**Thank You!**

**Atlas of Minnesota  
Online**

**[www.ruralmn.org](http://www.ruralmn.org)**