



State of Rural Minnesota Report 2015



center for **rural policy**
and development

Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future

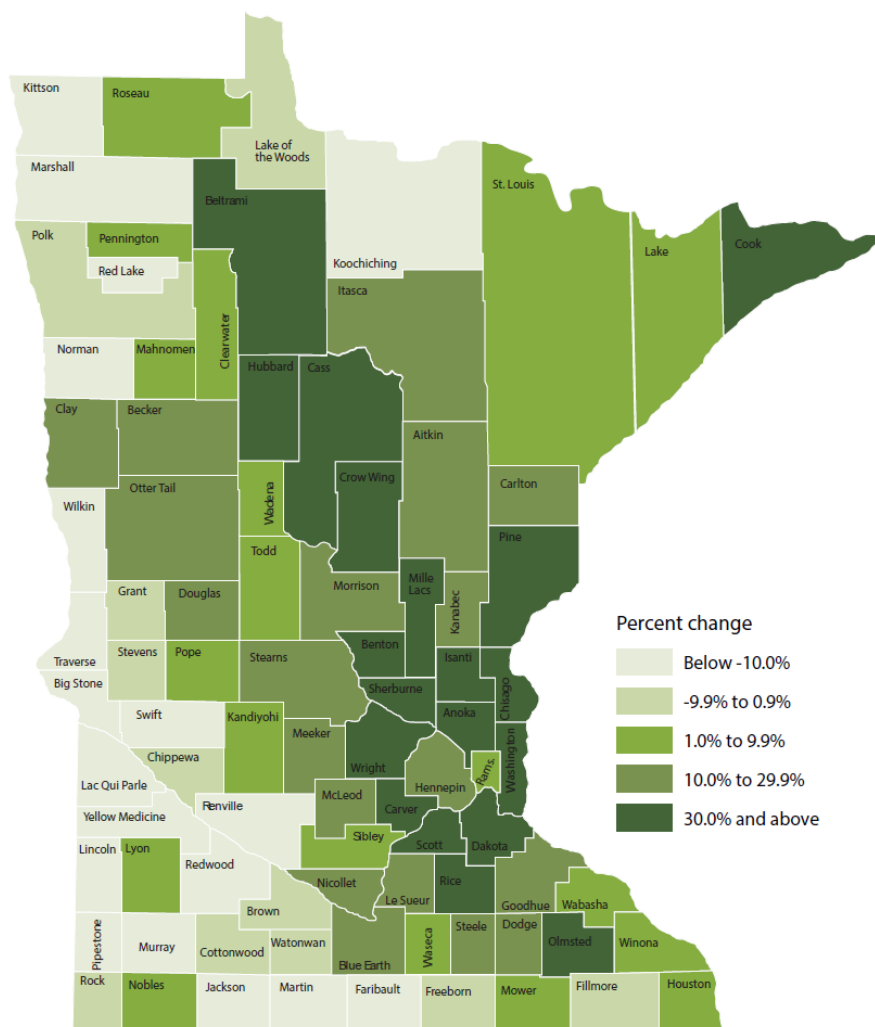
Introduction



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.

- ✓ Based in Mankato, Minn.
- ✓ 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.

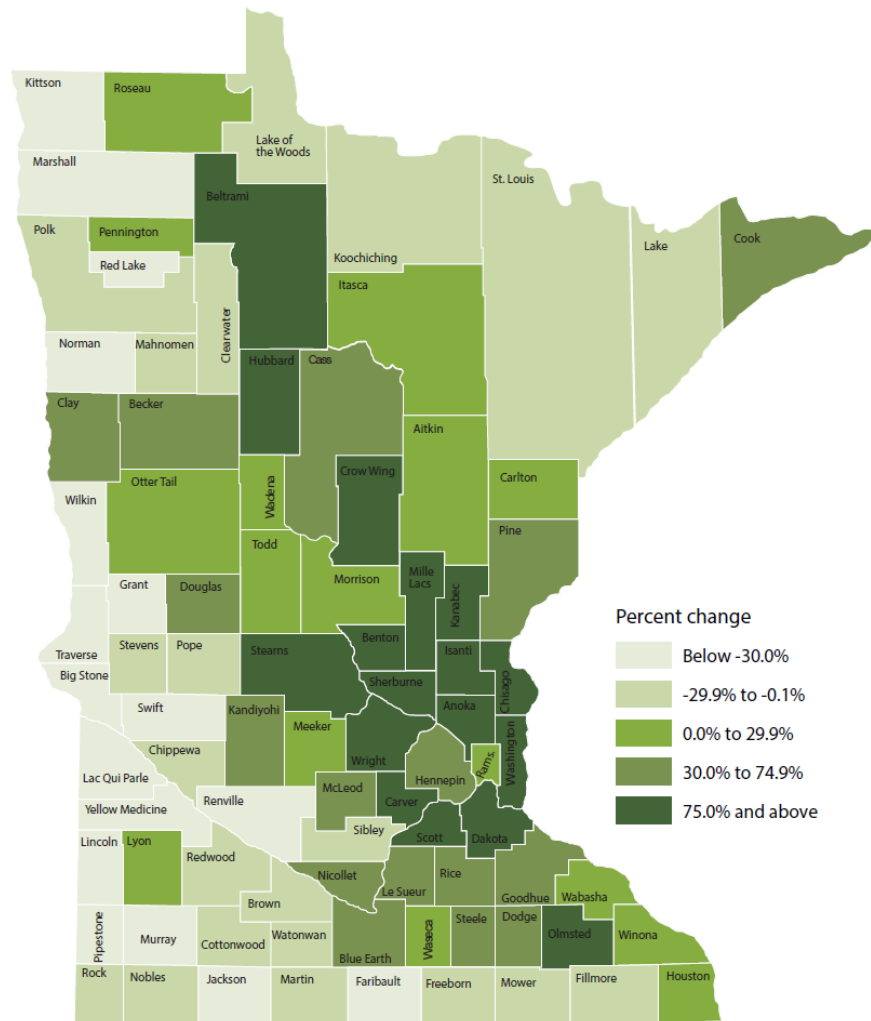
Population change, 1990-2014



- From 1990 to 2014, the state's population grew by approximately 1 million people, to 5.5 million.
- The most dramatic growth was seen in the Twin Cities suburbs, while growth in the Central Lakes region reflects the number of retiring Baby Boomers. Scott, Carver, and Wright counties more than doubled in population.
- A third of counties lost population during this time period.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates Program
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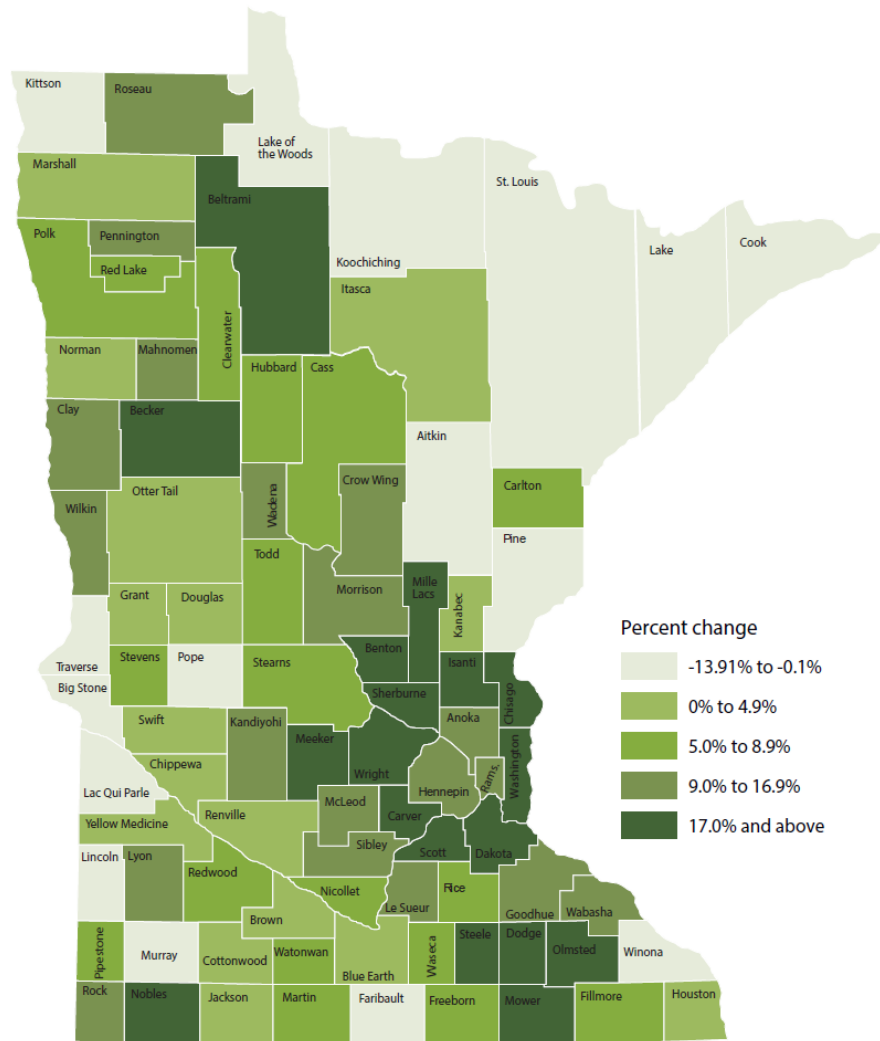
Long-term population change, 1960-2014



- Looking at how the population has changed since 1960 shows the relentless shift from the rural counties to the urban and suburban cores of the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester. Sherburne County has seen the most growth, increasing by 609%.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimate Program
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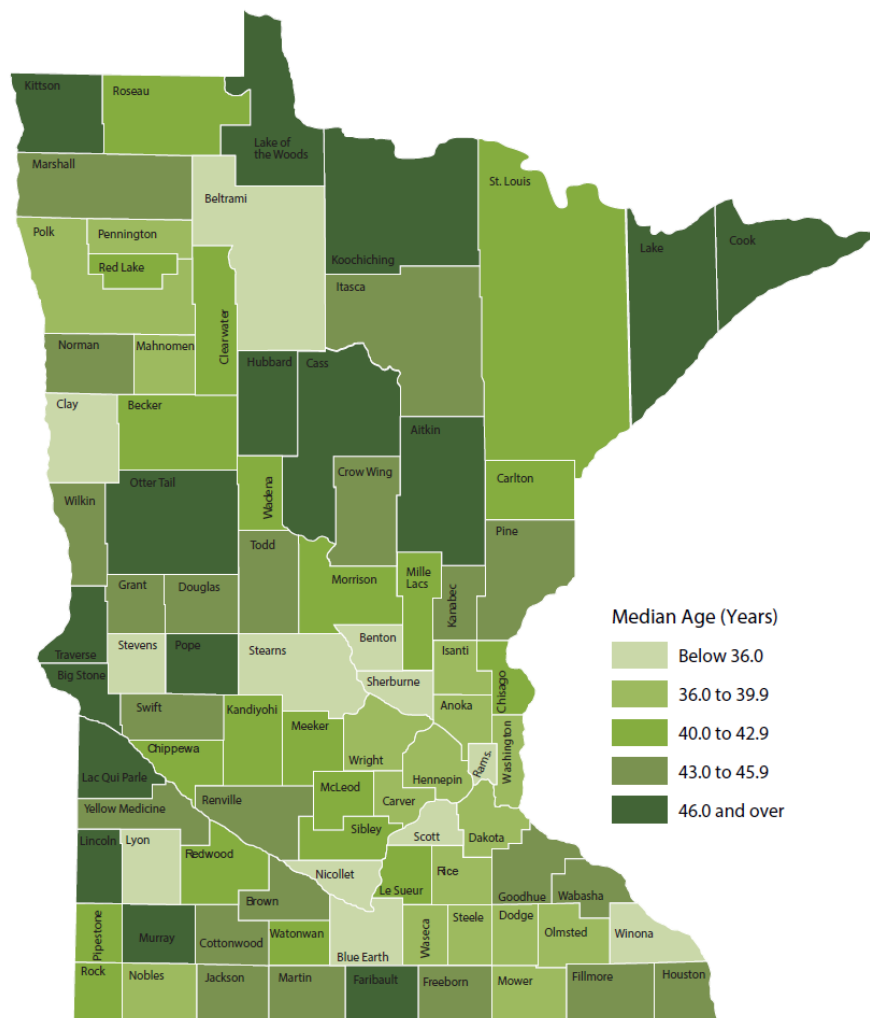
Projected population change, 2015-2045



- The projected growth in population is more widespread than it has been.
- While the highest growth will still be in the Twin Cities suburbs, Rochester, Owatonna, Bemidji, and Worthington are also expected to see high growth.
- Minorities and a large crop of Millennials will likely drive this growth.

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

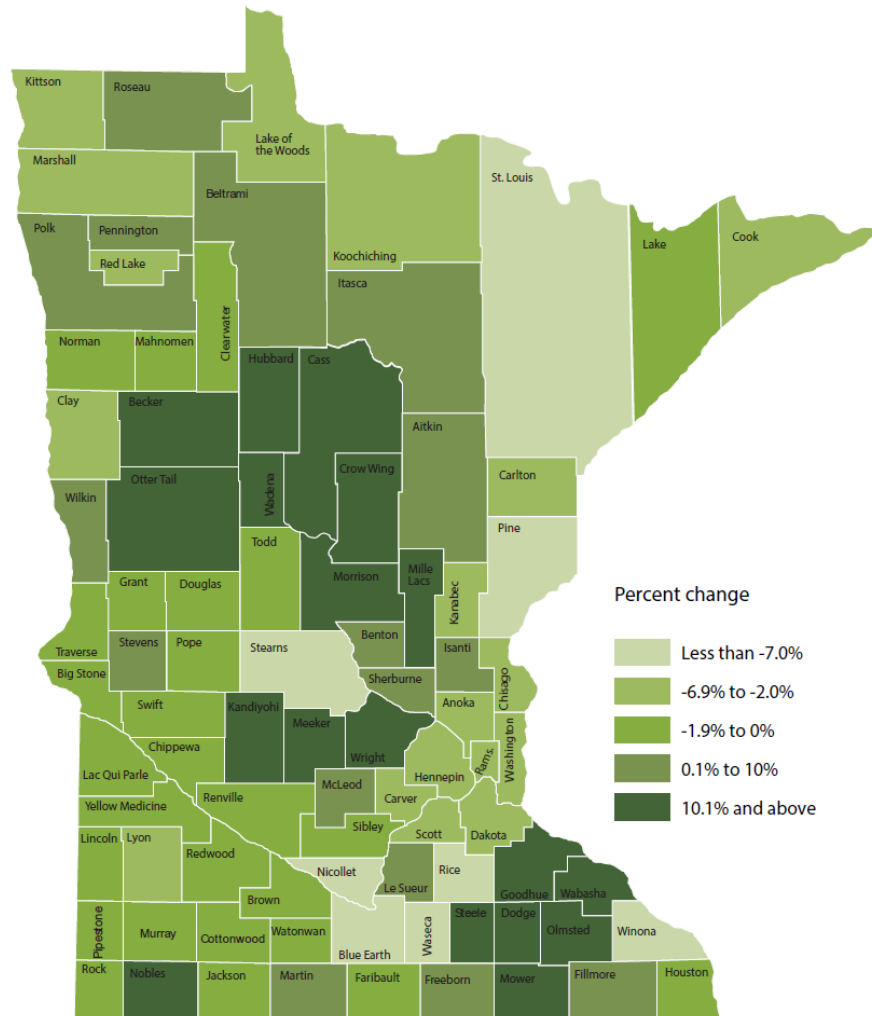
Median Age, 2014



- Fast-growing counties with young families and counties with large institutions of higher education or large minority populations tend to have the lowest median ages.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
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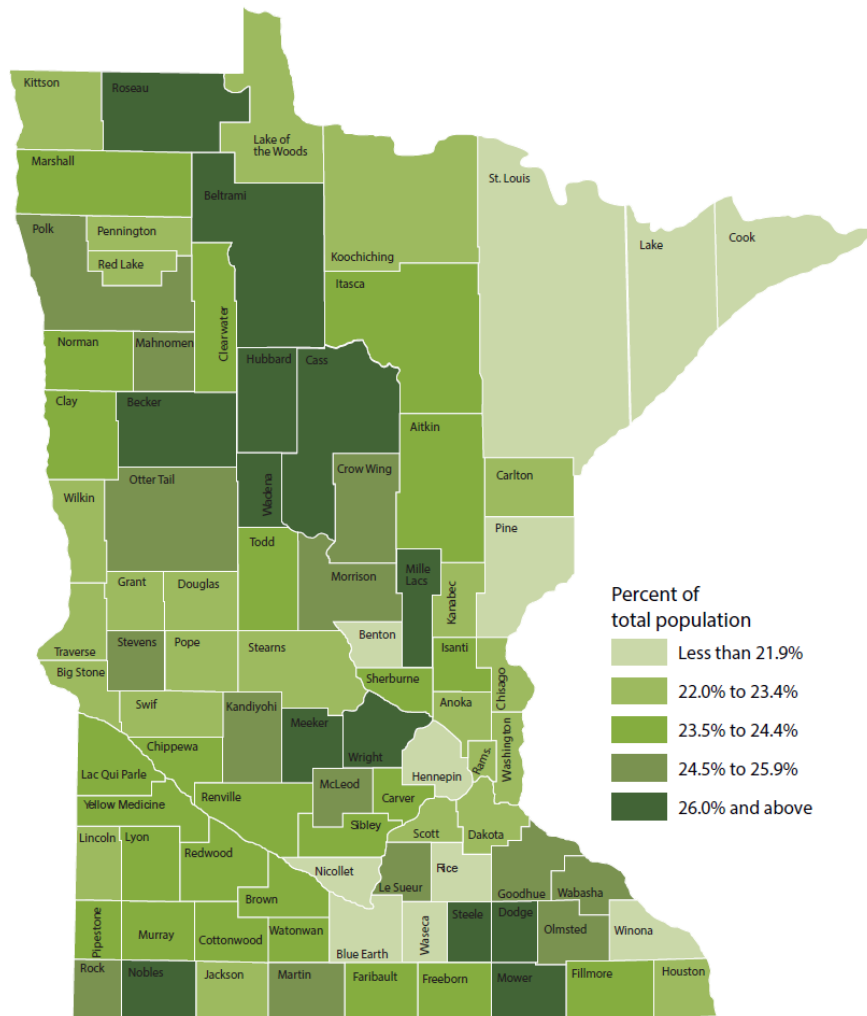
Projected population change, age 19 and under, 2015–2045



- The State Demographic Center is projecting that, unlike past decades, the population age 19 and under will grow the most in Greater Minnesota counties.

Data source:
Minnesota State Demographic Center
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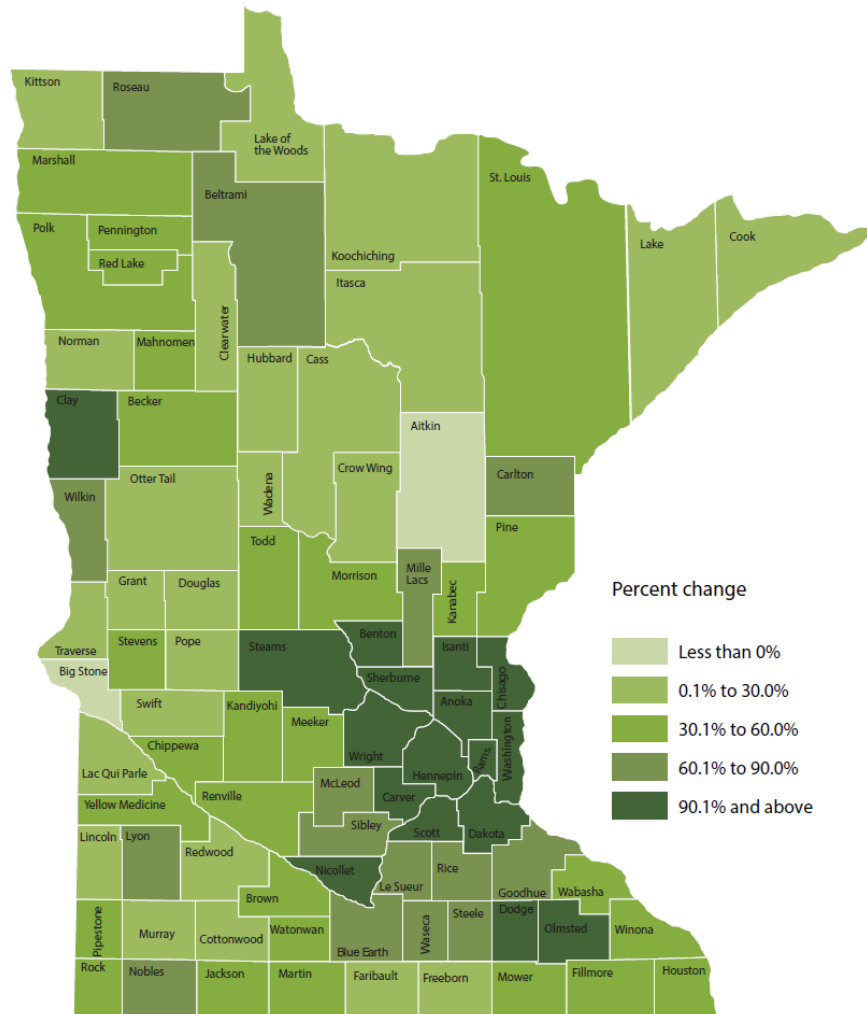
Projected population age 19 and under, 2045



- Population projections show the major demographic shift the state is currently undergoing. The State Demographic Center projects that in 30 years the largest concentrations of under-20s will be in Greater MN.

Data source:
Minnesota State Demographic Center
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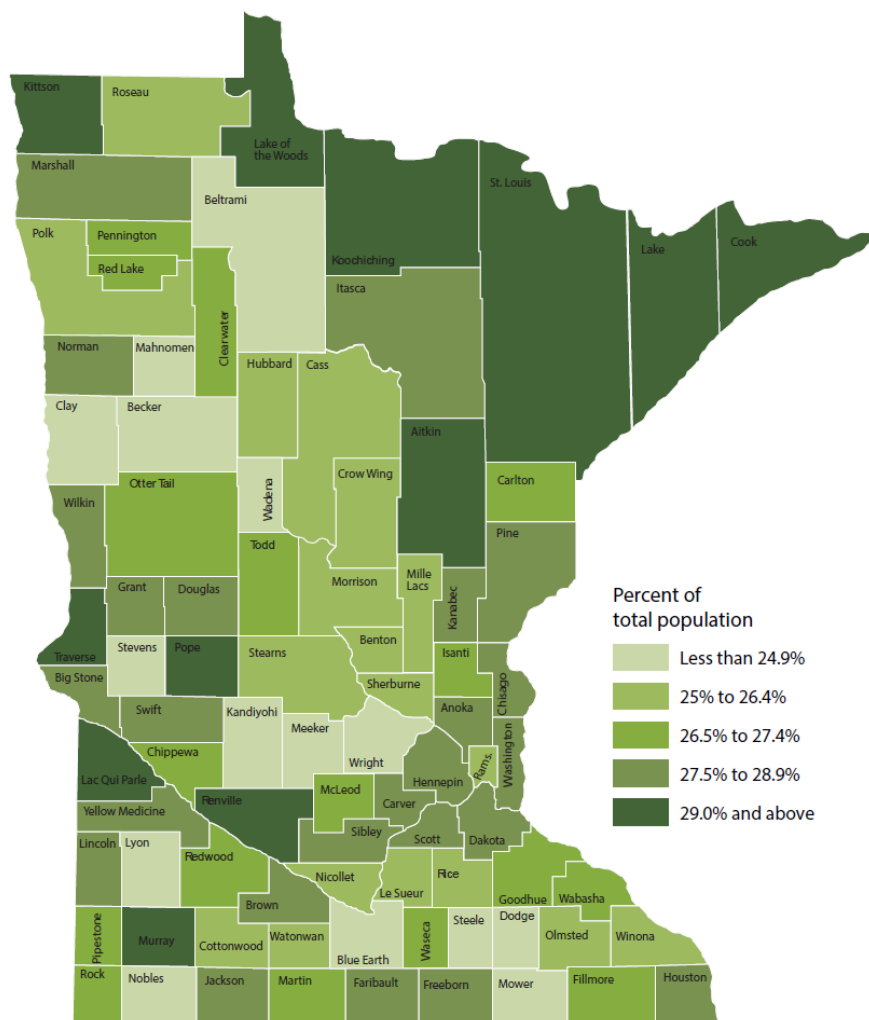
Projected population change age 65+, 2015–2045



- The core urban counties in the state are expected to see significant growth in their senior populations over the next 30 years.
- Rural counties, which already have a large over-65 population, will see slower growth.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
MN State Demographic Center
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Projected population age 65+, 2045



- Looking out over the next 30 years, the State Demographic Center projects a very different age landscape compared to the past.
- While college counties will continue to have smaller senior populations, only the most rural counties will have the largest groups of seniors, followed by the Twin Cities and suburbs.

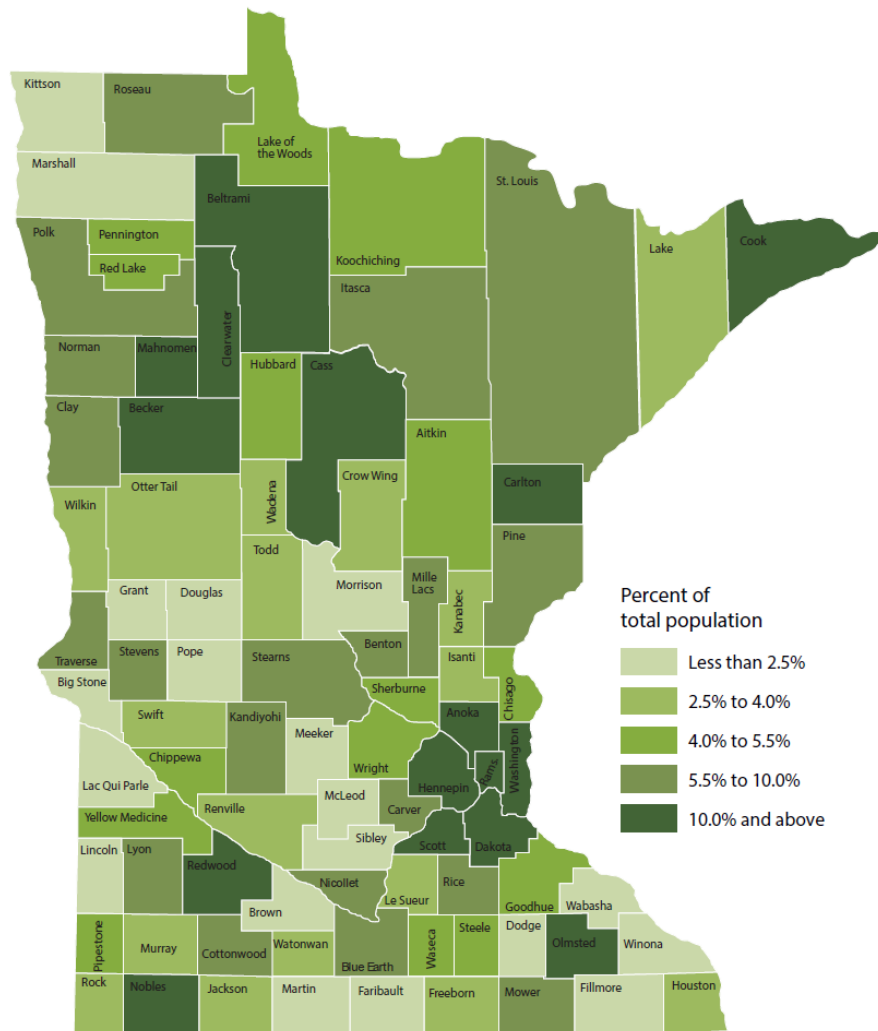
Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
MN State Demographic Center
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County	Decrease in white population	Increase in minority population	Change in total population
Aitkin	-209	497	288
Anoka	-4,570	34,600	30,030
Beltrami	-122	5,200	5,078
Cass	-605	1,537	932
Clearwater	-271	499	228
Dakota	-11,005	40,482	29,477
Goodhue	-460	1,308	848
Hennepin	-146,761	160,001	13,240
Itasca	-424	1,407	983
Mahnomen	-1,338	1,479	141
Rice	-422	3,801	3,379
Steele	-826	988	162

Twelve counties experienced population growth between 1990 and 2014 due to growth in their minority populations (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). Most of them are not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

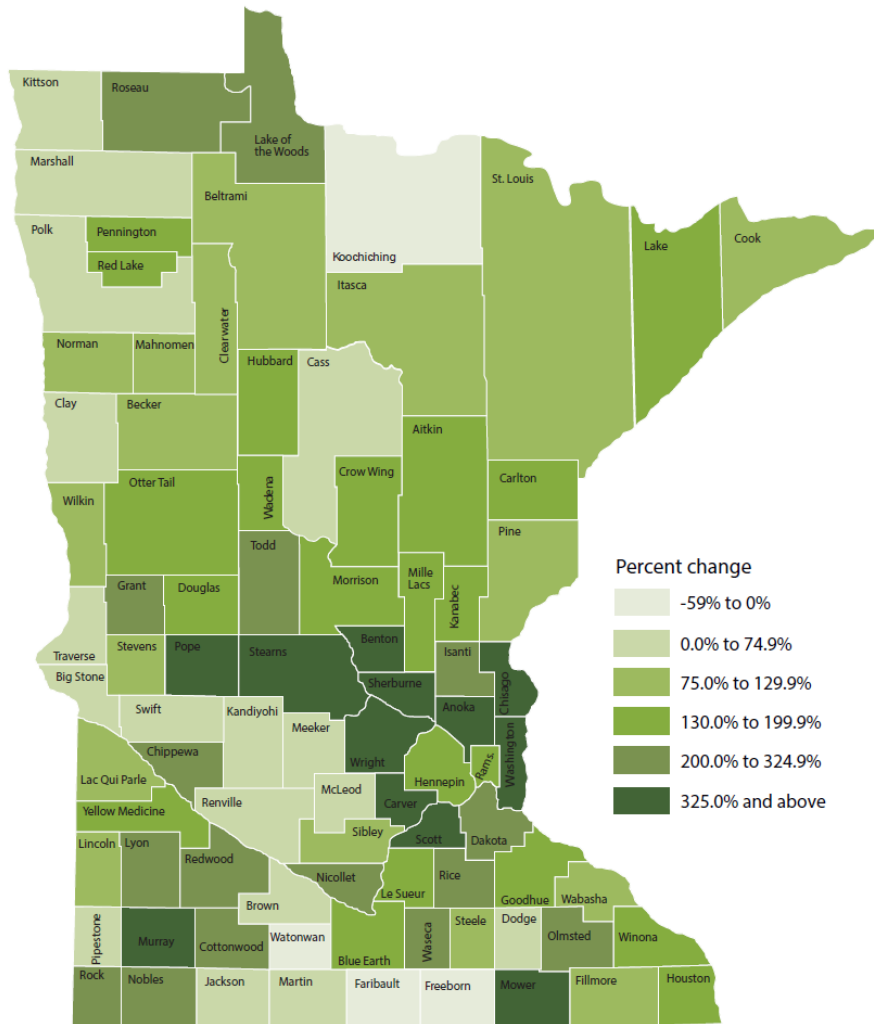
Distribution of people of color, 2014



- While the vast majority of Minnesota's population is still Caucasian, the state's population of color has grown from 6.3% of the population in 1990 to an estimated 14.2% in 2014.
- Counties in the north tend to have large Native American populations; Latinos and Somalis make up the largest minority groups in western and southern Minnesota.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
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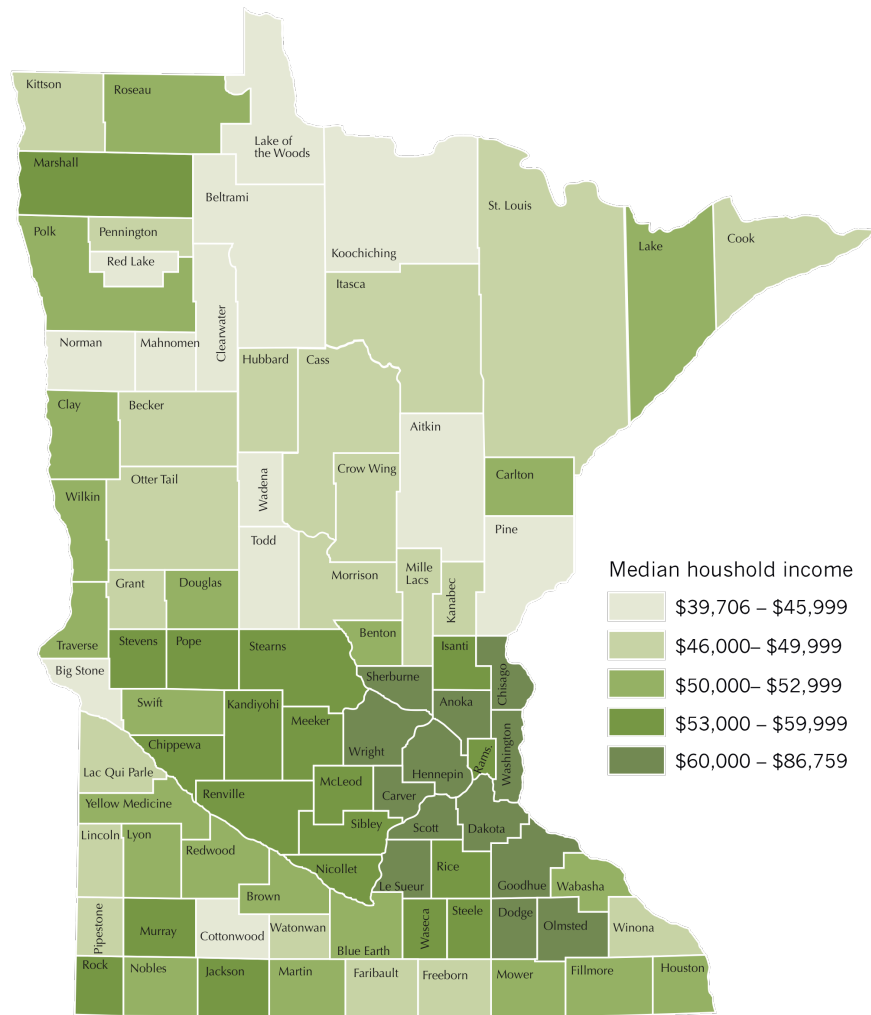
Growth in minority population, 1990-2014



- Northern counties have seen little change as their Native American populations remain relatively stable compared to other minority groups in the state.
- Numerous western and southern counties saw dramatic growth with the in-migration of Latinos, Laotians, Somalis, Sudanese, Hmong and other groups.
- However, some of the highest growth has been in the Twin Cities suburbs.

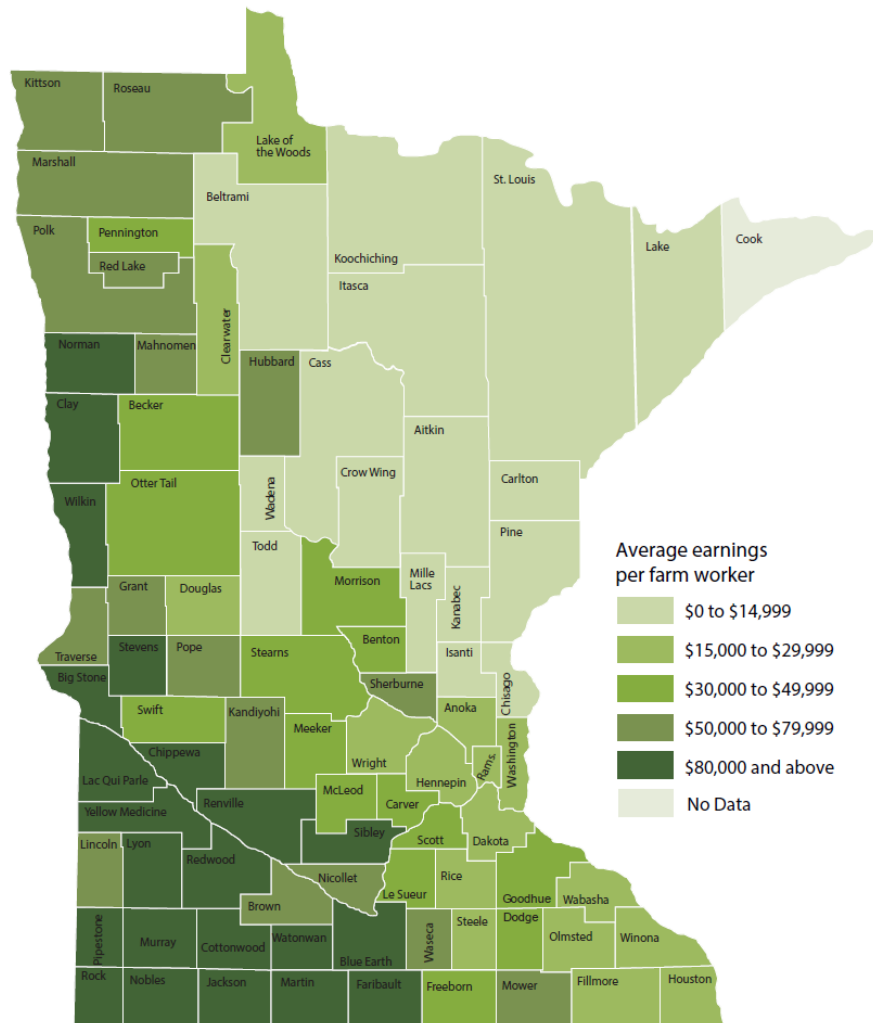
Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
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Median household income, 2013



- In 2013, Minnesota's estimated median household income was \$60,664.
- In Minnesota, incomes are highest around the Twin Cities metro area, especially in the suburban counties that ring the core cities.
- Scott County had the highest estimated median household income, at \$85,481, while Mahanomen County recorded the lowest, at \$39,706.

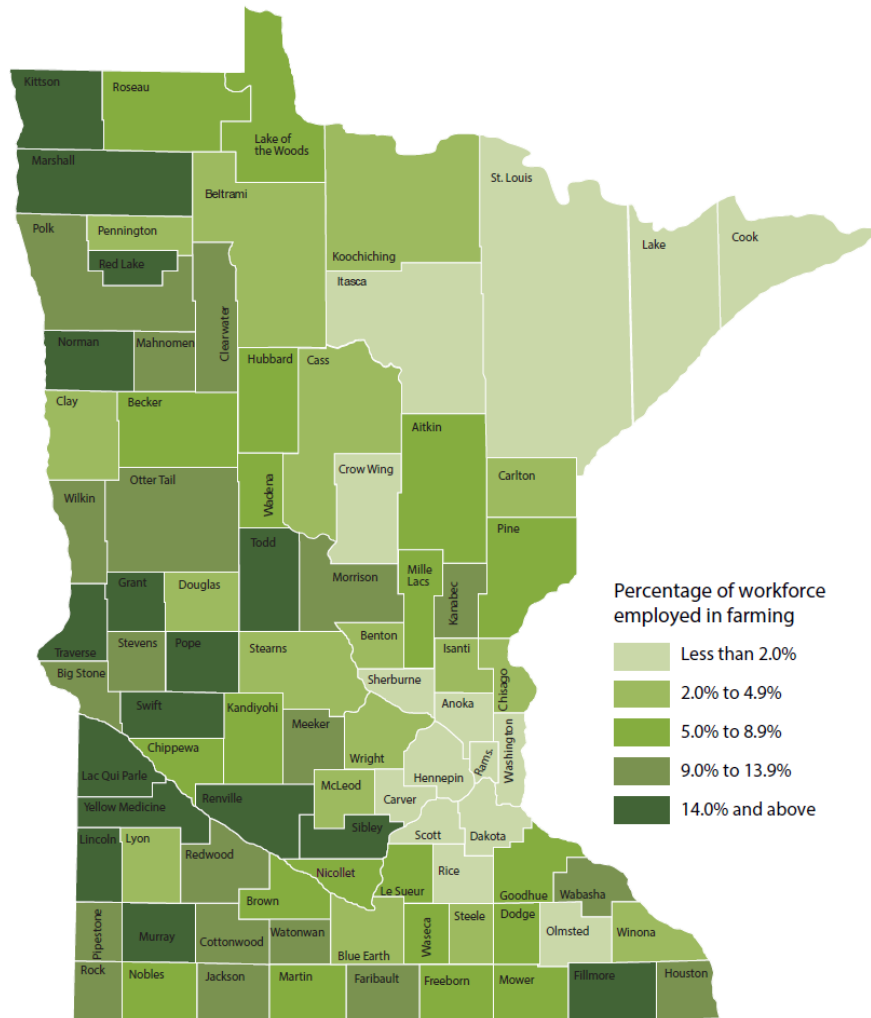
Average earnings in farming, 2013



- 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
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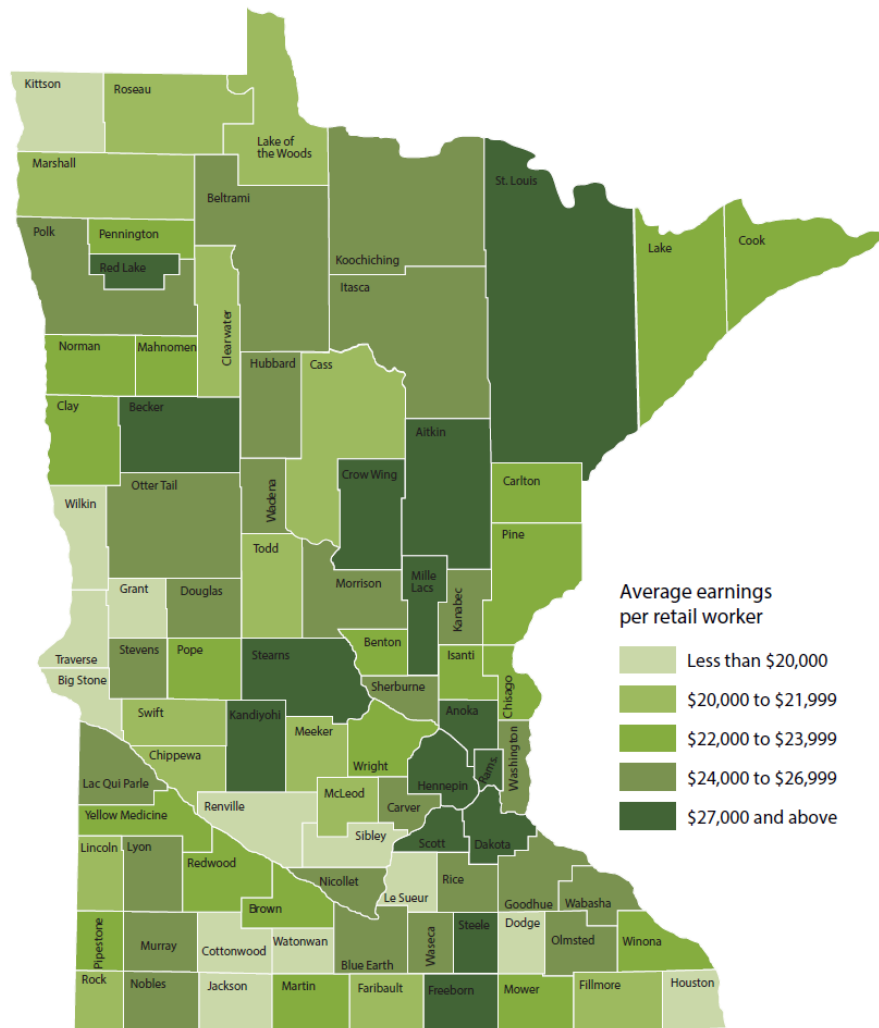
Workforce in farming, 2013



- Only about 2.3% of Minnesota's workforce is employed directly in farming, but that figure varies significantly across the state. Marshall County had the highest percentage of workforce working directly in farming, at 25% in 2013.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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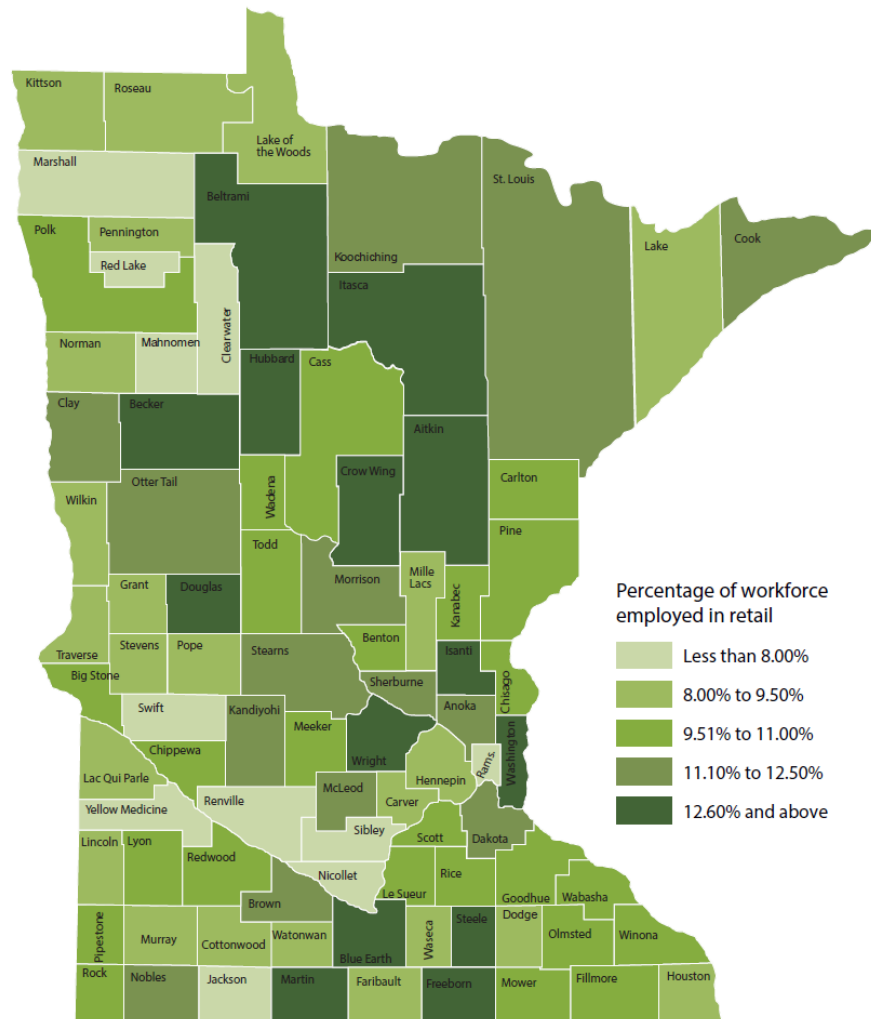
Average earnings in the retail sector, 2013



- Earnings from retail tend to be some of the lowest of any industry. The highest earnings from retail cluster around the Twin Cities. The average earnings from retail for the state in 2013 were \$29,506.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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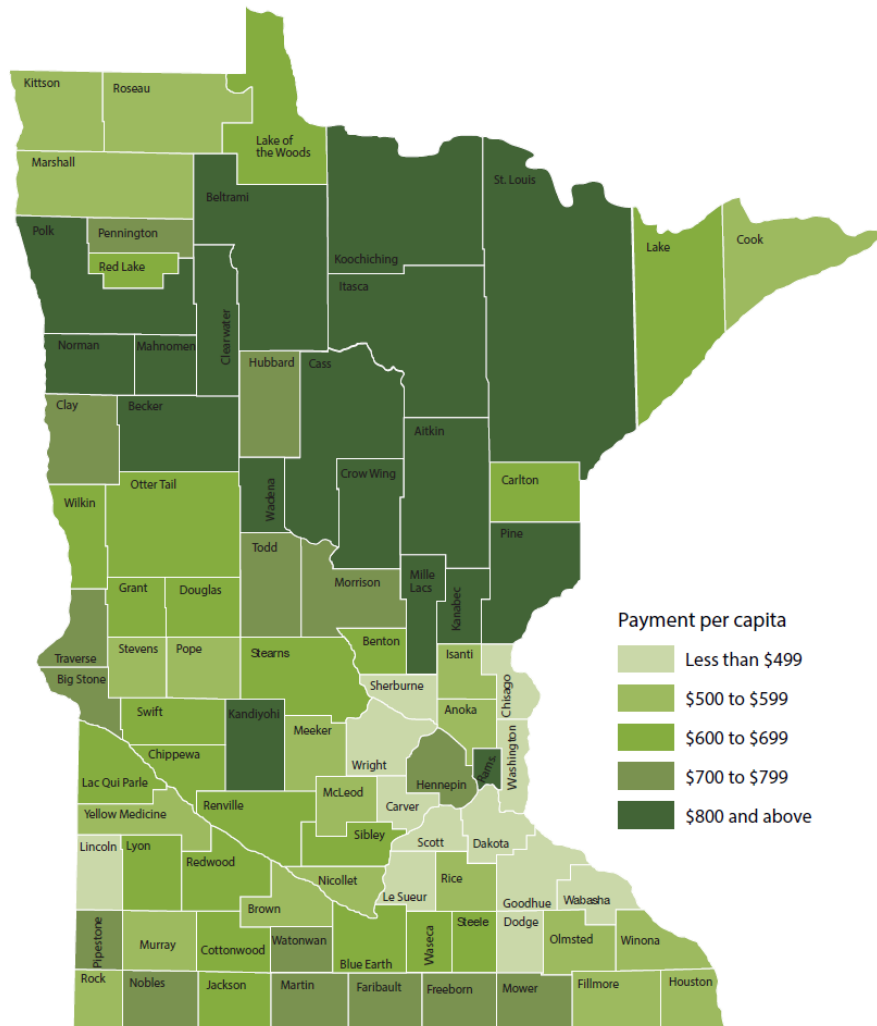
Workforce in the retail sector, 2013



- In Minnesota, approximately 9.9% of the workforce works in the retail sector. Retail centers can be seen around the state. Although the Twin Cities has some of the highest total earnings in retail, its low percentage of workforce in retail compared to the rest of the state shows a more diversified economy.

Data source:
MN Department of Employment
& Economic Development
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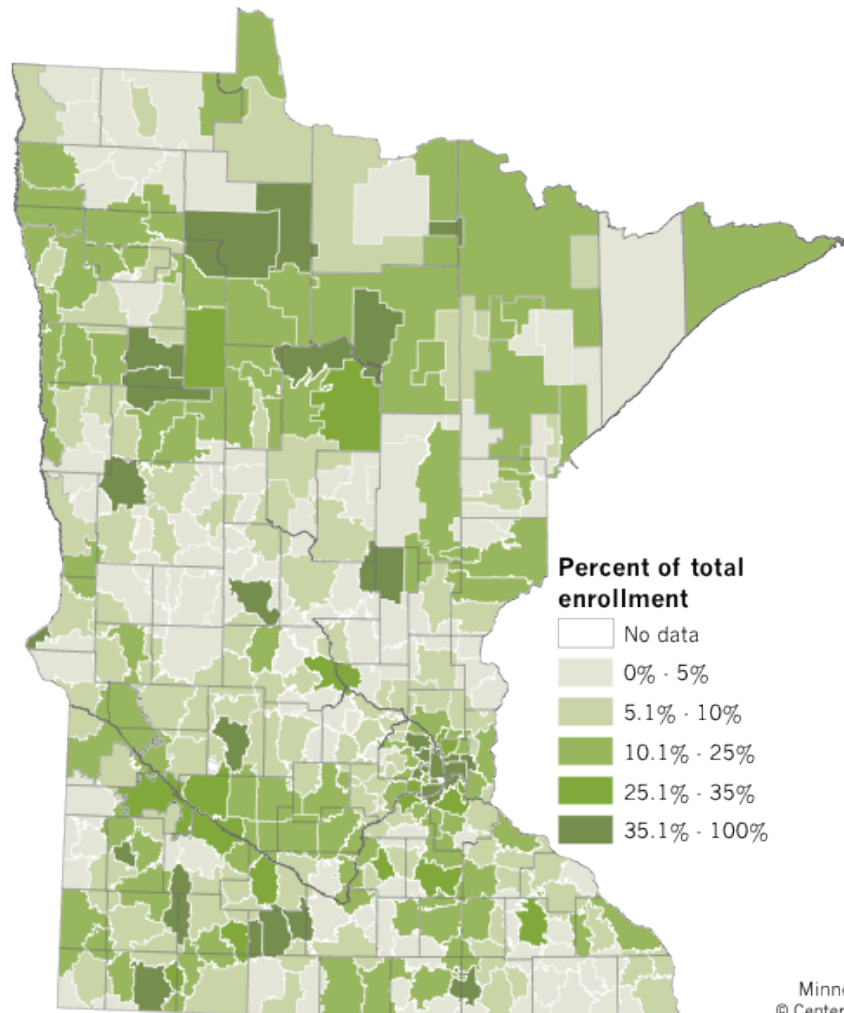
Public assistance payments per capita, 2013



- The average public assistance payment for Minnesota was \$686 in 2013.
- ✓ For the purposes of this report, public assistance includes family assistance, SNAP (food stamps), general assistance, supplemental security payments and other income maintenance benefits. It does not include medical payments or farm program payments.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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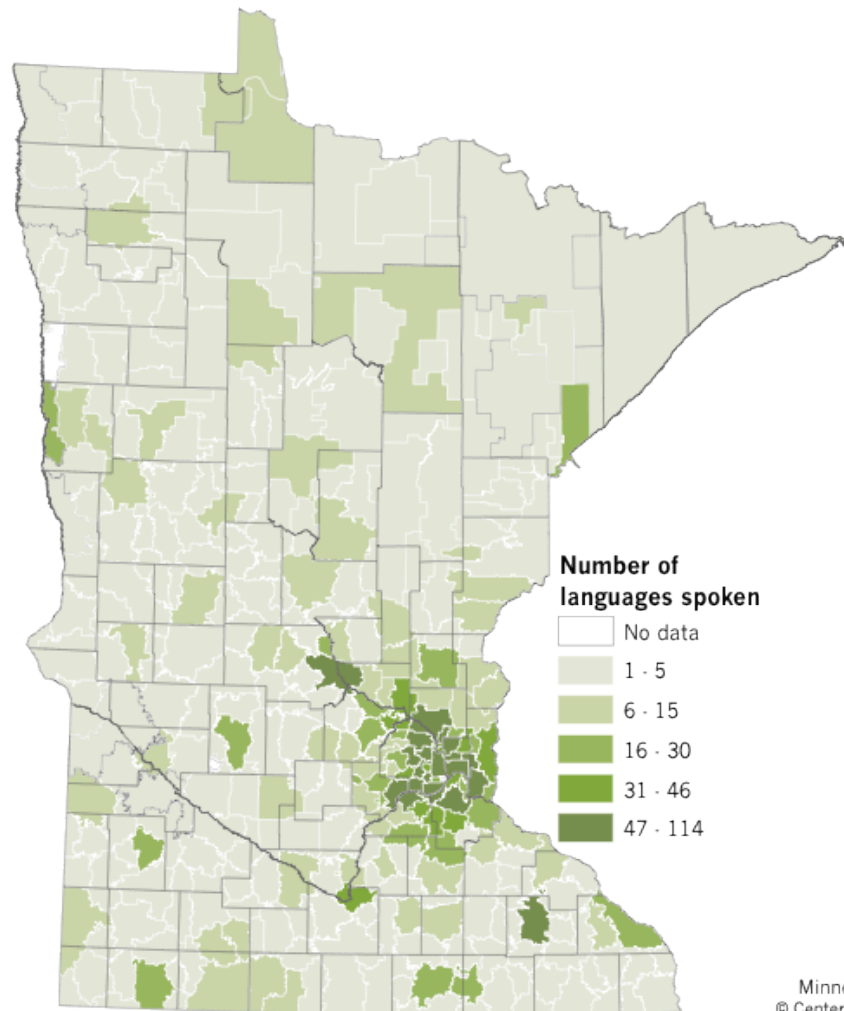
Students of color, 2011-2012



- The diversity of students continues to rise in the core Twin Cities districts and in suburban districts. While most of rural Minnesota remains white, a growing number of pockets of diversity can be found around the state. Native American students make up this population in the northern districts, while southern districts are home to largely immigrants of Latino, African and Asian origin.

Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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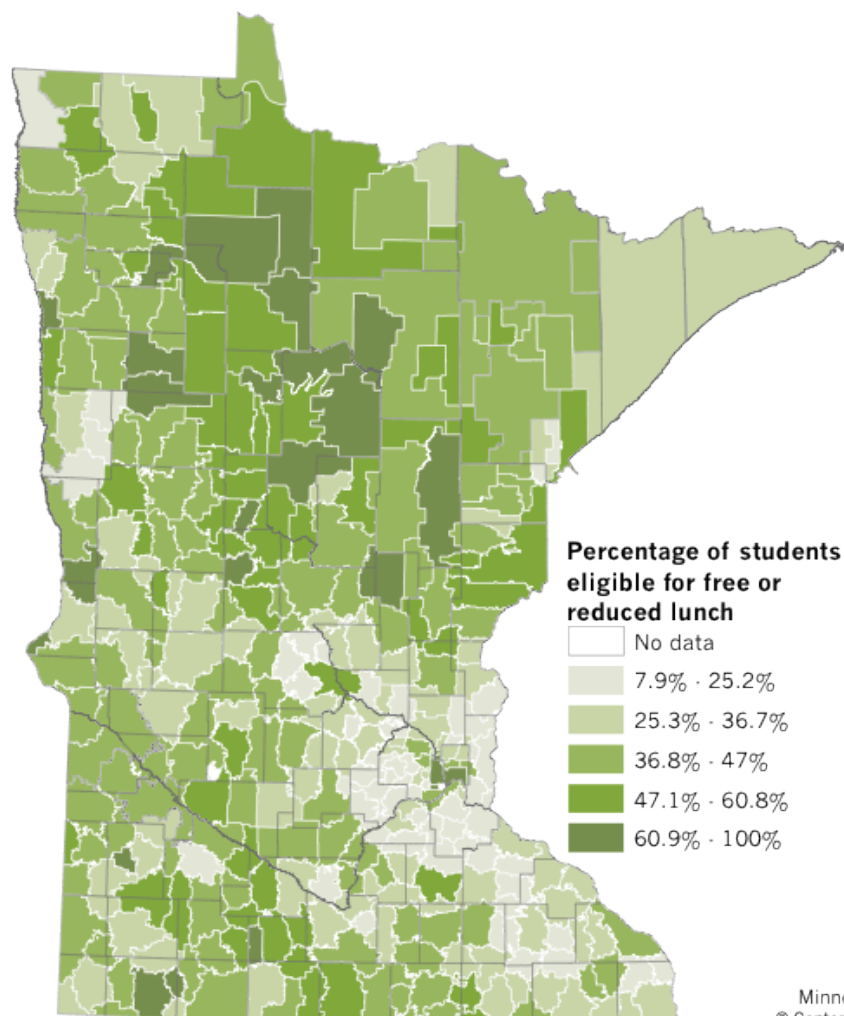
Languages spoken at home, 2011-2012



- Understanding the variety of languages spoken at home is important for effective curriculum design. St. Paul and Anoka-Hennepin had the largest number of languages spoken at home (114 and 96 respectively) in 2011, followed by Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan (85).

Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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Free lunch eligibility, 2010-2011



- For the state of Minnesota, 37.2% of students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in the 2010-2011 school year. Since recipients' families must meet certain income guidelines to qualify, free and reduced-price lunch can be a good proxy for poverty rates.

Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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Thank You!

Atlas of Minnesota
Online

www.ruralmn.org