

Faces of the Future

MINNESOTA COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS 1995 – 2025

MINNESOTA PLANNING STATE DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER



Faces of the Future

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Minnesota Planning develops long-range plans for the state, stimulates public participation in Minnesota's future and coordinates activities among state agencies, the Minnesota Legislature and other units of government.

Faces of the Future: Minnesota County Population Projections 1995-2025 was prepared by Martha McMurry of the State Demographic Center.

Upon request, this report will be made available in alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning.

September 1998

For additional copies of this report or other population information, contact the State Demographic Center helpline at 651-296-2557.

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Looking ahead 30 years

Between 1995 and 2025:

- About 87 percent of Minnesota’s population growth will occur in nine primarily suburban counties in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.
- Almost half of Minnesota’s counties will lose population.
- The child population age birth to 14 will decline substantially in most counties.
- The number of people in the prime working-age group, 25 to 54, will decline in the majority of Minnesota counties.
- Most counties will have a large increase in the retirement-age population, 65 and older.

These are just a few of the changes projected for Minnesota counties over the next 30 years. Population projections by county were last prepared by the State Demographic Center at Minnesota Planning in 1993

and were based on the 1990 census. These new projections are based on 1995 population estimates and reflect trends that occurred between 1990 and 1995.

Population growth in the state and in most counties has been more rapid than anticipated in the 1993 projections. These higher numbers are reflected in this report, *Faces of the Future: Minnesota County Population Projections 1995-2025*, and a companion piece issued in May 1998 that looks at statewide population trends by age, gender, race and ethnic origin. This report deals with county-level population trends by age and gender.

Population projections tell us what the population will be in the future if assumptions about rates of birth, death and migration are true. Accuracy of the projections depends on the accuracy of the underlying assumptions about these future rates.

The total population of Minnesota is projected to grow 14.2

percent between 1995 and 2025. Nine suburban counties of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area will be the main drivers of this growth. These counties — Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Isanti, Scott, Sherburne, Washington and Wright — are projected to account for 72 percent of the state’s growth from 1995 to 2005 and 87 percent from 1995 and 2025.

Population increases are projected to be highest in Sherburne (92 percent), Carver (79 percent), Scott (73 percent) and Washington (57 percent) counties. Dakota County will have the largest gain in numbers of people (158,000), followed by Anoka (109,000) and Washington (101,000) counties.

Many counties will continue to lose population. The projections show that 42 of the state’s 87 counties will experience population loss over the next 30 years. Western Minnesota is projected to have the highest rates of loss. The largest individual population declines are projected for the counties of Lac Qui Parle (minus 28 percent), Big Stone (minus 28 percent), Lincoln (minus 24 percent), Traverse (minus 22 percent) and Murray (minus 22 percent). St. Louis County is projected to have the largest

drop in numbers of people (minus 15,000), followed by Freeborn (minus 5,000) and Faribault (minus 3,000).

The counties with growth rates closest to the state average of 14.2 percent will be Stearns (14 percent), Olmsted (14 percent) and Goodhue (13 percent).

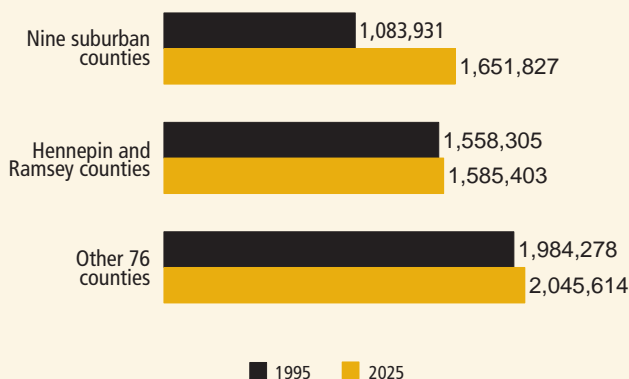
Economic assumptions play a key role in projections

Long-run population projections reflect underlying assumptions about how the economy will perform in different regions. These assumptions about economic trends affect the projections indirectly, in the form of assumptions about migration. The projections also reflect assumptions about fertility and mortality.

The strong growth projected for the Minneapolis-St. Paul, St. Cloud and Rochester areas reflects an expectation of continued strong employment and housing growth in these areas.

The 1990-to-1995 period saw relative economic improvement in the counties outside the

Projected population gains will concentrate in nine Twin Cities suburban counties



County age and sex projections are on diskette

As a new feature, this projections report offers detailed county data by age and gender on diskette, rather than in printed form. This approach is intended to save printing costs and allow users to do their own data manipulation. A printed version may be obtained through the Minnesota Planning web site at www.mnplan.state.mn.us or by calling the Census Helpline at 651-296-2557.

St. Cloud-Twin Cities-Rochester corridor. Most of these counties have experienced gains in employment, and if they did not gain population in the first half of the decade, they lost at a lower rate than in the 1980s. However, many of these nonmetropolitan counties have older populations and a long history of out-migration of young adults. The more recent positive trends are not enough to offset the older age structure and out-migration when population is projected into the future. To avoid population loss, these regions will have to attract more new residents or persuade more young adults to remain in the area.

In rural agricultural areas, large population losses will be produced by continued farm consolidation, an older age structure and out-migration of young people.

Moderate growth in the north-central region will be driven partly by expanding industries, such as forest products, and partly by recreation and retirement.

The population in southeastern Minnesota generally will remain stable or grow. The diverse economic base in this region will provide jobs and help attract or retain residents.

Counties adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area — including Rice, Goodhue, LeSueur, McLeod, Mille Lacs, Sibley and Pine — are projected to experience more development in the next 30 years as growth spills over from the current outer-ring suburbs.

The economy in northeastern Minnesota is projected to improve due to greater economic diversity and increased demand for recreation, but some parts of the region are still projected to lose population as a result of the older age structure and out-migration patterns.

Focusing close up: 1995 to 2005

From 1995 to 2005, Minnesota's total population is projected to increase about 7 percent. Growth will vary dramatically by county and age group. Population change by county will range from a loss of 12 percent in Big Stone County on the western border to a gain of 34 percent in Sherburne County, a rapidly growing suburban county located between Minneapolis and St. Cloud.

Statewide, the number of children age birth to 14 is projected to fall about 10 percent between 1995 and 2005. The annual number of Minnesota births has been falling in the 1990s as women born during the baby bust of the 1960s and 1970s moved into their prime child-bearing years. Because this generation of mothers is relatively small, the number of children is expected to shrink between 1995 and 2005.

Only a handful of counties, most in the Twin Cities suburbs, will see growth in the child population. In these counties, in-migration of young families will compensate for the overall trend. At the other

extreme, losses of 20 percent or more in the number of children will occur in much of western and northeastern Minnesota. In these regions, out-migration of young adults will exacerbate the effects of the small size of the baby bust generation.

The 25-to-54-year-old age group, the prime working-age population, will experience growth of about 6 percent statewide in the next 10 years, with gains in the 40-and-older age groups offsetting declines for those age 25 to 39. Increases in this population will be fastest in the Minneapolis-St. Paul suburbs and the St. Cloud region. Again, much of western and northeastern Minnesota is expected to post declines in this age group. Though these declines are not as dramatic as those in the child population, they will make it more difficult for employers in these areas to find enough workers.

The population age 65 and older is projected to go up about 8 percent statewide, about the same as the overall rate of population change. Growth in the younger elderly population will be slow because of the relatively small size of the Depression-era generation born in the 1930s.

Declines in the elderly population will occur in most of northwestern and southwestern Minnesota and many counties in southern and southeastern Minnesota. This reflects the history of out-migration from these mainly rural areas. Because so many of their young people left 30 or 40 years ago,

these areas now have relatively few people in late middle age.

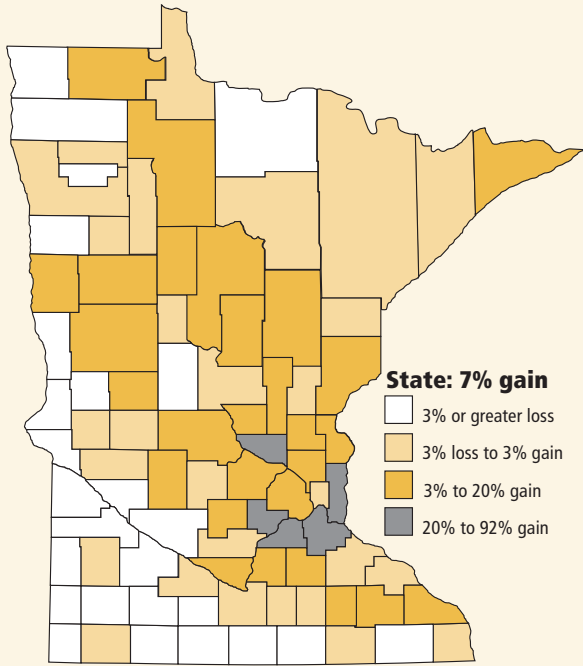
The highest growth rates for the retirement-age population will be found in the Twin Cities suburban counties and in north-central Minnesota. Many counties in the north-central area are popular retirement spots, and they are expected to continue to attract retirees. In the Twin Cities suburbs, many people who moved into their homes two to four decades ago are now approaching their retirement years. As these people age in place, the suburbs will experience a large growth in their elderly populations.

Taking the longer view: 1995 to 2025

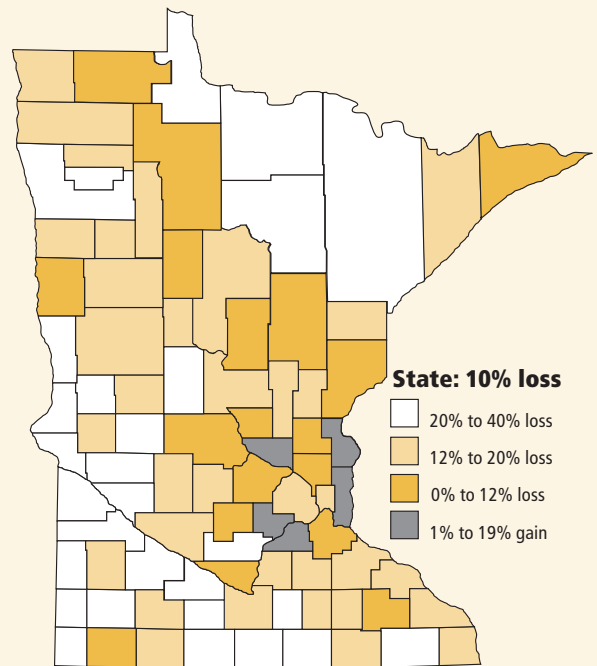
The aging of the baby boom and its succession by smaller generations will have a dramatic effect on long-term state and county population trends. Statewide, population is expected to grow about 14 percent during the next 30 years. As the population ages, there will be more deaths and fewer births. Population growth will depend more on attracting new residents from elsewhere. Areas that are not able to do this will have large population losses.

The number of children age birth to 14 is projected to fall about 16 percent during this 30-year period. This decline will be most noticeable during the first 10 or so years as the effect of the baby bust generation plays out; after that, the child population is projected to

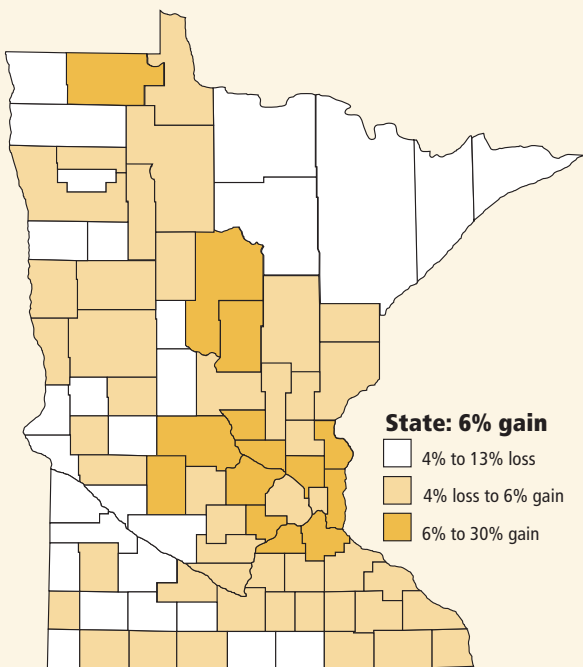
Suburban counties projected to grow fastest between 1995 and 2005



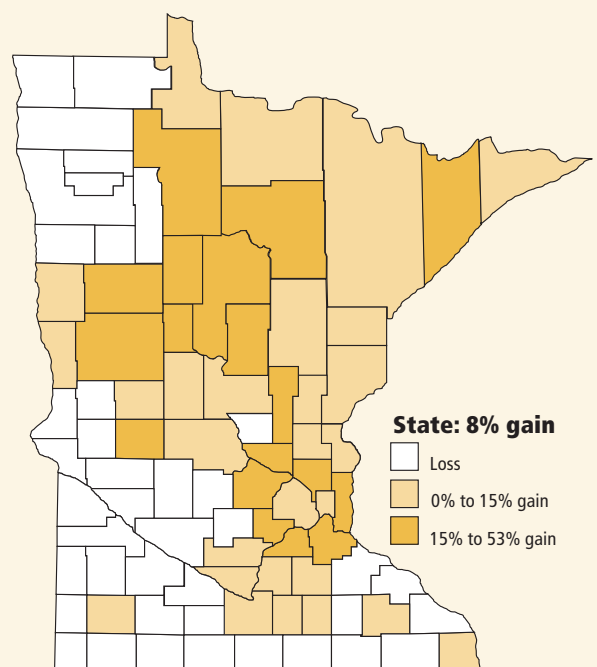
Population age birth to 14 projected to decline in most counties from 1995 to 2005



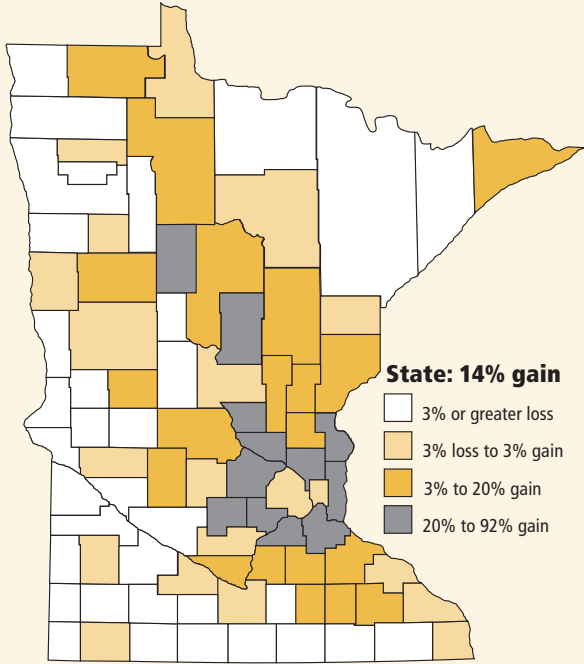
Suburban counties projected to gain most 25- to 54-year-olds from 1995 to 2005



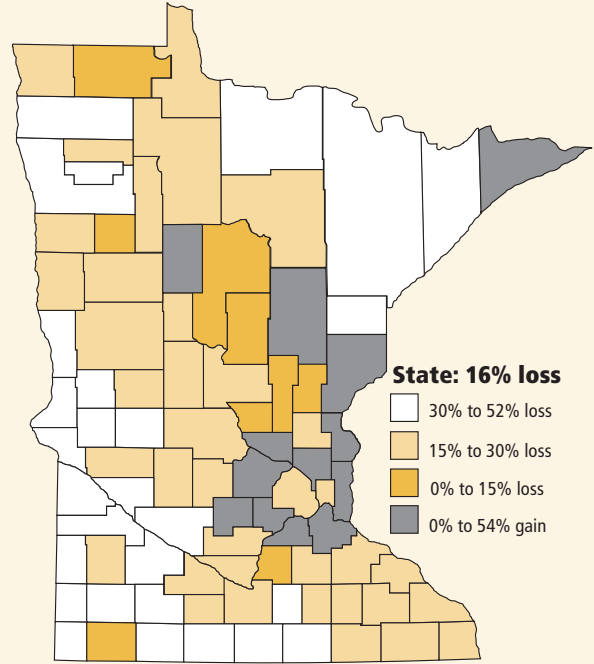
Population age 65 and older expected to drop in many rural areas from 1995 to 2005



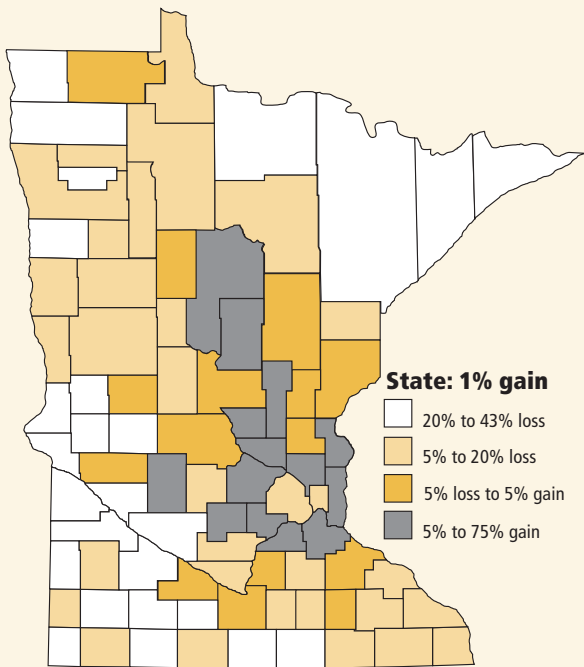
Suburban counties projected to grow fastest between 1995 and 2025



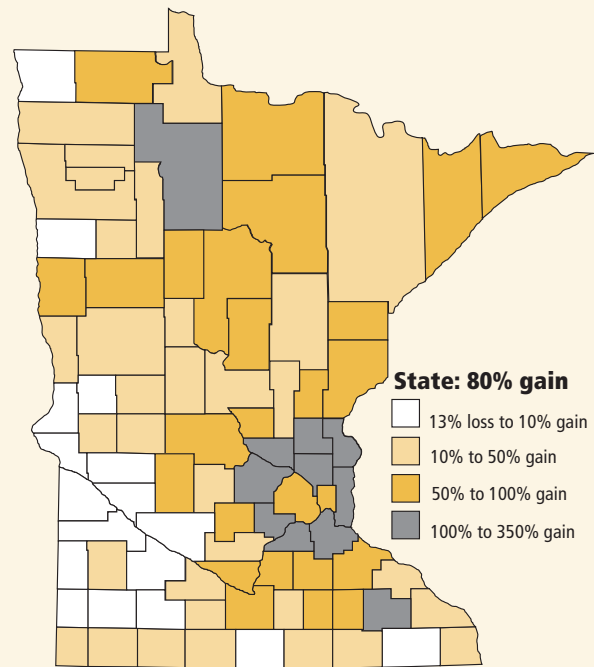
Declines in population age birth to 14 projected for most counties from 1995 to 2025



Population age 25 to 54 will decline in most counties between 1995 and 2025



Population age 65 and older expected to grow in most counties between 1995 and 2025



become more stable. The geographic imbalance will become even greater over time, however, as areas that attract young families will gain while other areas could lose up to one-third or even one-half of their child population.

While such a development has major implications for school enrollments in these areas, it should be emphasized that projections 30 years into the future are highly uncertain, especially when they deal with people who have not yet been born. Rural areas will not necessarily experience these huge losses if they attract a larger share of young families or if women start having more children than they do now.

If the projections hold true, the number of working-age people will decline in many areas of the state. Statewide, the number of 25- to 54-year-olds is projected to peak in 2010 and then begin to drop steadily. The total working-age population will be about 1 percent larger in 2025 than in 1995. Generally, the number of people age 25 to 39 is projected to fall, while the number age 40 to 54 will rise. Again, this projection largely reflects past birth trends.

Only a handful of counties, mostly in the rapidly growing Twin Cities suburbs, are expected to see growth of 5 percent or more in the 25-to-54-year-old age group. In contrast, many counties in northeastern and western Minnesota are projected to

have declines of more than 20 percent in this age category, with decreases expected throughout the 30-year period.

By 2025, the number of Minnesotans age 65 or older is projected to be 80 percent larger than in 1995. This age group will begin to grow very rapidly between 2010 and 2015, when baby boomers begin to pass their 65th birthdays. By 2025, most of the boomers will be in this elderly age group.

Growth in the 65-and-older population will occur in almost all areas of the state, though a few rural counties, mostly in southwestern Minnesota, are projected to see minimal gains or even declines due to long histories of out-migration. On the other hand, this age group is projected to triple or even quadruple in suburban counties such as Washington (350 percent), Scott (318 percent), Sherburne (283 percent), Dakota (272 percent), Anoka (218 percent) and Carver (209 percent). These counties have attracted large numbers of new residents who are now in their 30s and 40s. As these residents age, the elderly suburban population will grow.

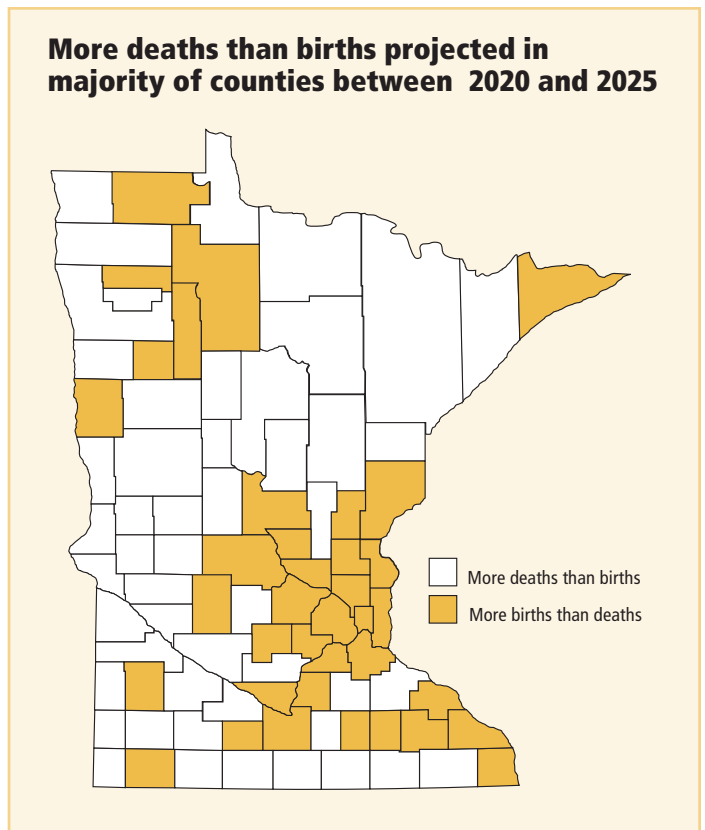
Even many counties that are projected to lose population or grow only slightly overall will see a considerable increase in their 65-plus population, simply because the baby boom generation is so large.

Projected trends in births and deaths

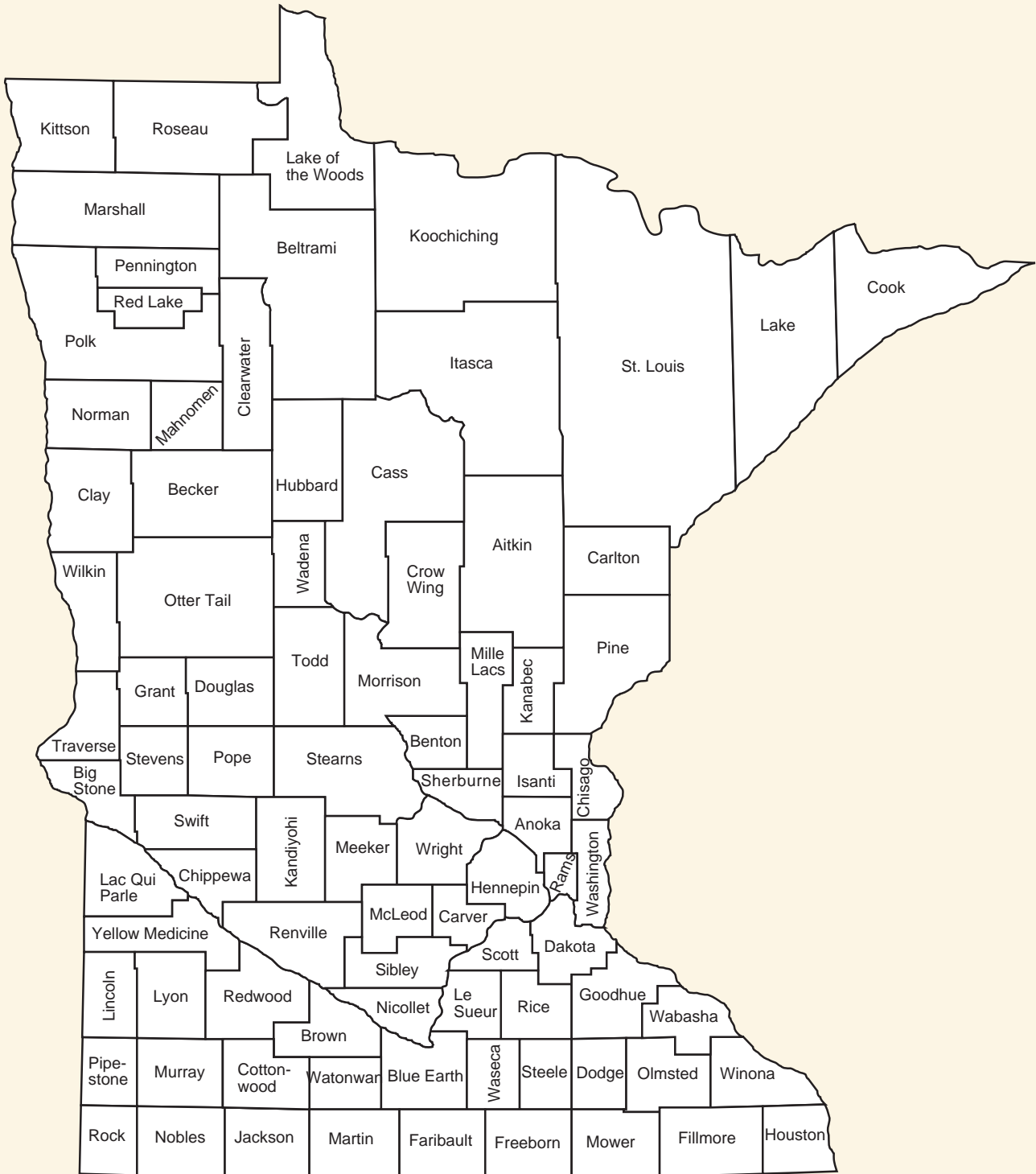
As the Minnesota population ages, the number of deaths is expected to rise and births to fall. Most counties will experience this trend. Rapidly growing suburban counties, however, are projected to have a rising number of births because so many young families are moving into them. Births are projected to increase in Dakota, Anoka, Washington and Sherburne counties, for example. Substantial declines in the number of births are anticipated in Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis counties, where in-migration is not expected to be sufficient to offset the aging of the population.

Deaths are projected to go up in most counties, with large numerical increases in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Suburban counties will see a large gain in deaths because their populations are both growing and aging. Deaths will decline in some rural counties, mainly because they have lost so much population.

By the 2020-to-2025 period, the projections show that 50 of 87 counties will have more deaths than births. The 37 counties with natural increase — more births than deaths — will be mostly in the southeastern or extreme north-central areas of the state.



Minnesota counties



Minnesota county projections, 1995 to 2025

	1995 Estimated population	PROJECTED POPULATION						PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	1995 to 2005	1995 to 2025
Aitkin	13,366	14,010	14,410	14,760	15,170	15,410	15,540	8%	16%
Anoka	272,636	296,880	318,260	337,590	355,540	370,530	381,890	17%	40%
Becker	29,163	29,970	30,410	30,720	31,010	31,120	30,890	4%	6%
Beltrami	36,508	38,870	40,590	41,340	41,370	41,280	41,050	11%	12%
Benton	33,362	36,510	39,590	42,450	44,890	46,980	48,650	19%	46%
Big Stone	6,026	5,660	5,300	4,990	4,760	4,570	4,360	-12%	-28%
Blue Earth	55,172	55,810	56,110	56,650	56,590	56,490	56,540	2%	2%
Brown	27,580	27,750	27,750	27,710	27,750	27,740	27,530	1%	-0%
Carlton	30,559	31,050	31,110	31,020	30,920	30,720	30,250	2%	-1%
Carver	57,010	65,160	72,940	80,460	87,910	95,360	102,320	28%	79%
Cass	23,801	25,190	26,220	27,050	27,710	28,180	28,350	10%	19%
Chippewa	13,097	12,680	12,170	11,710	11,350	10,960	10,510	-7%	-20%
Chisago	36,045	39,820	43,110	46,290	49,500	52,670	55,570	20%	54%
Clay	52,540	53,750	54,310	54,850	54,580	54,100	53,490	3%	2%
Clearwater	8,452	8,390	8,260	8,170	8,130	8,070	7,970	-2%	-6%
Cook	4,166	4,300	4,360	4,400	4,420	4,440	4,420	5%	6%
Cottonwood	12,768	12,440	12,010	11,650	11,300	10,970	10,600	-6%	-17%
Crow Wing	48,437	51,770	54,470	56,700	58,460	59,730	60,530	12%	25%
Dakota	316,272	350,120	380,410	407,520	432,510	455,080	473,540	20%	50%
Dodge	16,680	17,120	17,350	17,530	17,760	17,950	17,970	4%	8%
Douglas	30,424	31,510	32,240	32,810	33,340	33,740	33,790	6%	11%
Faribault	16,661	16,010	15,280	14,680	14,240	13,850	13,410	-8%	-20%
Fillmore	20,906	20,510	20,040	19,720	19,600	19,500	19,290	-4%	-8%
Freeborn	32,759	31,900	31,030	30,280	29,690	29,020	28,190	-5%	-14%
Goodhue	42,477	43,050	43,600	44,490	45,940	47,290	48,170	3%	13%
Grant	6,242	6,070	5,810	5,560	5,380	5,220	5,060	-7%	-19%
Hennepin	1,063,631	1,082,570	1,097,610	1,106,900	1,109,570	1,103,090	1,086,950	3%	2%
Houston	19,123	19,420	19,520	19,590	19,690	19,740	19,660	2%	3%
Hubbard	16,225	17,180	17,900	18,540	19,100	19,530	19,800	10%	22%
Isanti	28,664	30,260	31,360	32,240	33,120	33,910	34,310	9%	20%
Itasca	42,446	42,890	42,930	42,920	42,950	42,780	42,340	1%	-0%
Jackson	11,717	11,570	11,310	11,050	10,870	10,670	10,420	-3%	-11%
Kanabec	13,473	13,630	13,820	14,210	14,830	15,430	15,880	3%	18%
Kandiyohi	41,167	42,430	43,370	44,200	45,010	45,630	45,860	5%	11%
Kittson	5,572	5,380	5,170	5,010	4,910	4,830	4,730	-7%	-15%
Koochiching	15,911	15,620	15,320	15,000	14,640	14,200	13,580	-4%	-15%
Lac Qui Parle	8,717	8,340	7,850	7,370	6,950	6,600	6,260	-10%	-28%
Lake	10,473	10,540	10,420	10,230	10,000	9,720	9,340	-1%	-11%
Lake of the Woods	4,363	4,440	4,470	4,470	4,490	4,520	4,490	2%	3%
LeSueur	24,371	24,840	25,300	26,030	27,090	28,080	28,870	4%	18%
Lincoln	6,791	6,480	6,130	5,830	5,620	5,380	5,140	-10%	-24%
Lyon	25,211	25,620	25,850	26,010	25,740	25,740	25,610	3%	2%
McLeod	33,803	34,960	36,100	37,430	38,940	40,310	41,410	7%	23%
Mahnomen	5,127	5,070	4,980	4,950	4,990	5,010	5,030	-3%	-2%
Marshall	10,733	10,480	10,120	9,840	9,580	9,300	9,000	-6%	-16%

Minnesota county projections, 1995 to 2025 (continued)

	1995 Estimated population	PROJECTED POPULATION						PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	1995 to 2005	1995 to 2025
Martin	22,840	22,330	21,840	21,580	21,570	21,550	21,360	-4%	-6%
Meeker	21,352	21,460	21,340	21,220	21,220	21,170	20,950	-0%	-2%
Mille Lacs	19,807	20,700	21,220	21,710	22,420	23,140	23,710	7%	20%
Morrison	30,756	31,150	31,190	31,220	31,390	31,470	31,280	1%	2%
Mower	37,628	37,310	36,790	36,400	36,100	35,680	35,100	-2%	-7%
Murray	9,606	9,290	8,870	8,490	8,180	7,860	7,530	-8%	-22%
Nicollet	29,386	30,650	31,640	32,000	32,050	32,000	31,780	8%	8%
Nobles	20,408	20,550	20,610	20,720	20,850	20,860	20,850	1%	2%
Norman	7,885	7,670	7,380	7,130	6,920	6,700	6,470	-6%	-18%
Olmsted	113,968	118,730	122,490	125,440	127,840	129,490	130,000	7%	14%
Otter Tail	52,847	54,340	54,840	54,830	54,600	54,220	53,430	4%	1%
Pennington	13,391	13,400	13,370	13,390	13,410	13,370	13,230	-0%	-1%
Pine	22,816	23,400	23,920	24,650	25,650	26,550	27,230	5%	19%
Pipestone	10,433	10,160	9,830	9,530	9,290	9,060	8,780	-6%	-16%
Polk	32,904	32,610	32,120	31,660	31,350	30,940	30,330	-2%	-8%
Pope	10,906	10,890	10,760	10,510	10,240	9,950	9,580	-1%	-12%
Ramsey	494,674	497,710	501,780	504,920	506,390	504,290	498,460	1%	1%
Red Lake	4,481	4,380	4,210	4,030	3,900	3,800	3,670	-6%	-18%
Redwood	17,293	16,960	16,500	16,100	15,790	15,490	15,110	-5%	-13%
Renville	17,595	17,240	16,690	16,180	15,790	15,430	15,000	-5%	-15%
Rice	52,232	54,710	56,390	57,290	58,120	58,560	58,700	8%	12%
Rock	9,870	9,570	9,210	8,910	8,710	8,540	8,300	-7%	-16%
Roseau	16,025	16,660	17,150	17,600	18,060	18,490	18,820	7%	17%
St Louis	198,879	199,400	197,520	194,170	190,500	187,050	183,910	-1%	-8%
Scott	69,303	79,040	87,850	96,060	104,040	112,160	119,890	27%	73%
Sherburne	51,328	60,390	68,960	77,030	84,370	91,620	98,540	34%	92%
Sibley	14,584	14,350	14,180	14,170	14,360	14,590	14,700	-3%	1%
Stearns	126,912	134,730	139,750	142,480	143,630	144,050	144,980	10%	14%
Steele	31,817	32,290	32,570	32,830	33,190	33,410	33,320	2%	5%
Stevens	10,575	10,780	10,850	10,590	10,290	10,050	9,840	3%	-7%
Swift	11,081	11,000	10,990	11,060	11,130	11,110	11,010	-1%	-1%
Todd	23,742	23,390	22,920	22,670	22,720	22,710	22,500	-3%	-5%
Traverse	4,374	4,170	3,950	3,760	3,640	3,530	3,430	-10%	-22%
Wabasha	20,428	20,580	20,570	20,600	20,730	20,850	20,830	1%	2%
Wadena	13,294	13,470	13,490	13,410	13,250	13,030	12,730	1%	-4%
Waseca	18,031	17,830	17,600	17,410	17,310	17,150	16,890	-2%	-6%
Washington	175,441	200,830	221,250	237,890	252,340	265,370	275,950	26%	57%
Watonwan	11,764	11,460	11,160	10,990	10,890	10,750	10,560	-5%	-10%
Wilkin	7,399	7,200	6,980	6,800	6,670	6,550	6,380	-6%	-14%
Winona	48,987	49,990	50,760	50,730	50,620	50,350	50,060	4%	2%
Wright	77,232	84,060	89,840	95,160	100,480	105,550	109,820	16%	42%
Yellow Medicine	11,613	11,240	10,790	10,360	10,020	9,700	9,310	-7%	-20%
Minnesota	4,626,514	4,805,970	4,948,720	5,066,540	5,167,870	5,243,600	5,282,840	7%	14%

Regional and metropolitan area projections

The following projections are for Minnesota’s development regions, total metropolitan and nonmetropolitan populations, and for each metropolitan area.

Minnesota contains all or part of seven metropolitan areas as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in 1992. This publication presents projections only for the Minnesota portions of these metropolitan areas.

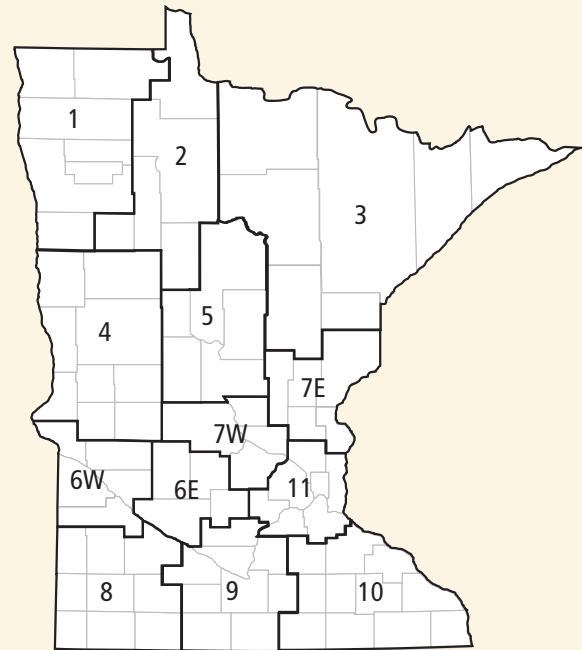
Metropolitan areas are defined on the basis of whole counties. Of Minnesota’s metropolitan areas, one (Rochester) includes

only one county. Four others (Duluth-Superior, Fargo-Moorhead, Grand Forks, and La Crosse) include two counties, but only one of them is in Minnesota. For these five metropolitan areas, the projections are identical with those for the individual county.

Minnesota’s seven metropolitan areas are defined as follows:

- Duluth-Superior, MN-WI (St. Louis County, MN; Douglas County, WI)
- Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN (Cass County, ND; Clay County, MN)
- Grand Forks, ND-MN (Grand Forks County, ND; Polk County, MN)

Minnesota’s 13 development regions



Projected population for Minnesota development regions, 1995 to 2025

Region	1995 Estimated population	PROJECTED POPULATION						PERCENT CHANGE 1995 to 1995 to	
		2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2005	2025
1 Northwest	90,991	90,580	89,520	88,660	88,130	87,430	86,250	-2%	-5%
2 Headwaters	70,675	73,950	76,200	77,470	78,080	78,410	78,340	8%	11%
3 Arrowhead	315,800	317,810	316,070	312,500	308,600	304,320	299,380	0%	-5%
4 West Central	204,470	208,680	210,150	210,430	209,750	208,480	205,890	3%	1%
5 North Central	140,030	144,970	148,290	151,050	153,530	155,120	155,390	6%	11%
6E Mid-Minnesota	113,917	116,090	117,500	119,030	120,960	122,540	123,220	3%	8%
6W Upper Minnesota Valley	50,534	48,920	47,100	45,490	44,210	42,940	41,450	-7%	-18%
7E East Central	120,805	127,810	133,430	139,100	145,520	151,700	156,700	10%	30%
7W Central	288,834	315,690	338,140	357,120	373,370	388,200	401,990	17%	39%
8 Southwest	124,097	122,640	120,320	118,290	116,350	114,570	112,340	-3%	-9%
9 South Central	220,389	221,030	220,860	221,220	221,850	222,200	221,640	0%	1%
10 Southeast	437,005	445,610	451,110	454,900	459,280	461,840	461,290	3%	6%
11 Twin Cities Area	2,448,967	2,572,310	2,680,100	2,771,340	2,848,300	2,905,880	2,939,000	9%	20%

- LaCrosse, WI-MN (LaCrosse County, WI; Houston County, MN)
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI (Anoka County, MN; Carver County, MN; Chisago County, MN; Dakota County, MN; Hennepin County, MN; Isanti County, MN; Ramsey County, MN; Scott County, MN; Sherburne County, MN; Washington County, MN; Wright County, MN; Pierce County, WI; St. Croix County, WI)
- Rochester, MN (Olmsted County, MN)
- St. Cloud, MN (Benton County, MN; Stearns County, MN)

Technical notes: methodology

The population projections presented in this publication were prepared using the cohort-component method. The 1995 county estimates by age and gender from the U.S. Census Bureau provided the starting point. These age estimates were adjusted to the estimates of total 1995 county population prepared by the Minnesota State Demographic Center at Minnesota Planning. Assumptions were then made about the rates of mortality, fertility and migration during each five-year period. The population at the end of each time period reflects the expected number of survivors, births during the period, and additions or subtractions attrib-

utable to migration. The projected population then becomes the basis for the next cycle of projections calculations. County projections in each age-sex group were controlled to the state totals. Regional and metropolitan area projections were derived by adding up the counties in the region or metropolitan area. Metropolitan area definitions are those established by the federal Office of Management and Budget in 1992.

Statewide fertility, migration and mortality rates are taken from the statewide projections published in *Faces of the Future: Minnesota Population Projections 1995-2025*. In that publication, projections by race were added together to derive the state population totals. The formulas were then reversed to

obtain the statewide rates that would give the same results found by adding the racial groups. Because of the differences in the bottom-up and top-down approach, the state population figures differ slightly from those in the previous publication. These differences should not be considered meaningful.

Mortality assumptions: Survival rates were assumed to be constant across all counties of the state. The projections assume that survival rates will increase slightly between 1995 and 2025. Most of the improvement in survival rates will occur at older ages. Survival rates at younger ages already are extremely high.

Fertility assumptions: The statewide total fertility rate

Projected population for Minnesota metropolitan areas, 1995 to 2025

	1995 Estimated population	PROJECTED POPULATION						PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	1995 to 2005	1995 to 2025
Metropolitan total	3,219,924	3,381,990	3,518,670	3,632,700	3,728,250	3,801,980	3,848,260	9%	20%
Nonmetropolitan total	1,406,590	1,423,980	1,430,050	1,433,840	1,439,620	1,441,620	1,434,580	2%	2%
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN	52,540	53,750	54,310	54,850	54,580	54,100	53,490	3%	2%
Duluth-Superior, MN-WI	198,879	199,400	197,520	194,170	190,500	187,050	183,910	-1%	-8%
Grand Forks, ND-MN	32,904	32,610	32,120	31,660	31,350	30,940	30,330	-2%	-8%
LaCrosse, WI-MN	19,123	19,420	19,520	19,590	19,690	19,740	19,660	2%	3%
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	2,642,236	2,786,840	2,913,370	3,022,060	3,115,770	3,189,630	3,237,240	10%	23%
Rochester, MN	113,968	118,730	122,490	125,440	127,840	129,490	130,000	7%	14%
St. Cloud, MN	160,274	171,240	179,340	184,930	188,520	191,030	193,630	12%	21%

Note: Projections are made for only the Minnesota portion of these metropolitan areas.

was projected to decline from about 1.84 children per woman in 1995 to 1.78 in the 2020-to-2025 period. The total fertility rate is the average number of children a woman will have during her lifetime if birth rates by age remain at current levels. The projections also assume that more women will have their children when they are in their late 20s or early 30s, while fewer will give birth when they are in their teens and early 20s. Age-specific fertility rates vary by county, and differences among counties were kept constant at their 1995 levels.

Migration assumptions:

Migration rates were assumed to vary by age, sex and county, as well as over time. The migration rates used are net migration rates, which express the difference between in-migration and out-migration. If more people move into an area than move out, there is net in-migration. If more people move out than move in, there is net out-migration.

The 1990-1995 net migration rates by county, age and gender were used as a starting point for deriving projected migration. The 1995 age estimates are not as accurate as the 1990 census age numbers, and one frequent result is odd-looking migration rates. To compensate for this, for most counties migration rates were averaged across several age groups. For example, rates for the birth-to-4, 5-to-9 and 10-to-14 age groups were usually averaged, as were rates for the 25-to-54 age groups. Rates for males and females were almost

always averaged within age groups.

Migration for people over age 65 was set to zero, with some exceptions. In counties that attract retirees, the projections assume net in-migration. For most of the large counties in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the projections assume net out-migration of elderly people. These assumptions are consistent with current and historical patterns.

The projections generally assume that migration rates by age will remain stable from 1995 to 2000. For the following three five-year periods, rates will converge slightly across counties. Generally the rates in each of these time periods were multiplied by 0.9 to obtain the rate for the next period. After the year 2015, migration rates were again held constant, this time at their 2010-to-2015 levels.

Some individual adjustments were made to this procedure in many counties. For counties surrounding the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (Rice, LeSueur, Sibley, Goodhue, McLeod, Mille Lacs, Kanabec and Pine), in-migration rates were raised and out-migration rates decreased slightly. The assumption was that these counties will begin to experience more growth related to metropolitan expansion.

In counties believed to be retirement centers, the projections assume increased net in-migration for people ages 55 to 74. For each five-year period

between 2000 to 2005 and 2010 to 2015, in-migration rates for these age groups were multiplied by 1.1. The projections assume that these retirement magnets — Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hubbard, Itasca and Otter Tail — have positive net in-migration among most age groups over 55. This assumption was made even if this in-migration pattern did not appear in the calculated 1990-to-1995 migration rates.

For college counties — Beltrami, Blue Earth, Clay, Lyon, Nicollet, Rice, Stevens, St. Louis, Stearns and Winona — migration numbers were adjusted for the 15- to 29-year-old age groups so that projected populations would rise or fall in a manner consistent with the overall state trends for these groups.

In a number of counties, the initial migration assumptions resulted in projected populations that recent trends suggested were too low. In these counties — Big Stone, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Itasca, Kanabec, Kittson, Koochiching, Mahnomen, Mower, Pope, Ramsey, Rock, St. Louis, Sibley, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Wilkin and Winona — out-migration rates were further decreased or in-migration rates increased.

Out-migration rates were raised and in-migration rates lowered in Roseau County on the assumption that the period of extremely rapid growth attributable to the expansion of two major local industries is ending

and that future gains will be smaller. In Swift and Pine counties, which have prisons, a similar procedure was followed for males age 20 to 44. In-migration rates were decreased slightly in Benton and Sherburne counties because the initial projections were extremely high.

In addition, some individual age-group migration rates in a few counties were adjusted because they appeared unrealistic.

County, region and metropolitan area data on diskette



The diskette on the inside back cover contains Minnesota county, region and metropolitan area projections from 1995 to 2025. Data is provided by five-year age group and sex for the years 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025. The projections were prepared by the State Demographic Center at Minnesota Planning to accompany this report.

There are three data files. Each is provided in two alternative formats: .WK1 and .prn.

Files labeled COUNTIES contain age-sex projections for Minnesota's 87 counties. The first line has the county name and the total county population.

Files labeled METROS have data for Minnesota's seven metropolitan areas and for the total metropolitan and nonmetropolitan population. The metropolitan areas are those defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in 1992. Note that the projections are only for the Minnesota portions of these metropolitan areas.

Files labeled REGIONS contain projections for Minnesota's 13 development regions.

Projected numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. For this reason, the age groups may not sum exactly to the area total.