Minnesota Department of
ENERGY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT
Office of Human Resources Planning

State Demography Unit

POPULATION NOTES

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PROJECTIONS SHOW AN OLDER, MORE SUBURBAN POPULATION

The population of Minnesota is projected to increase from 4,075,970 in 1980 to 4,371,052 in 1990, a rise of 7.2%. This is almost identical to the 7.1% rate of growth experienced in 1970 to 1980. Slightly lower increases are projected for the 1990s and 2000s. The counties surrounding the Twin Cities are expected to have the fastest rates of population growth, while population declines can be anticipated in southern and western Minnesota and on the Iron Range. As the baby boom generation continues to age and elderly people continue to live longer, the median age will rise from 29.2 in 1980 to 39.2 in 2010. The number of older people will increase over the 30-year period, and the number of children will decline, after increasing during the 1980s.

The State Demography Unit will publish detailed age and sex projections by county as soon as possible. However, it may be early spring before these publications are available for distribution.

Fastest Growth is Projected in First and Second Ring Suburbs

The fastest rates of population growth during the 1980s are projected in the first and second ring suburban counties surrounding the Twin Cities, especially in Sherburne, Wright, Chisago, Isanti, and Dakota Counties (Figure 1, Table 1). These are all counties that have experienced rapid growth in recent years. After 1990, these areas are projected to continue growing though at a slightly lower rate.

In the 1980s, Hennepin County is projected to grow slightly and Ramsey County to decline about 0.2%. Over the longer term, both counties are projected to lose population, though less rapidly than in the past. Hennepin County, which has more area for expansion, will decline more slowly than Ramsey County.

Moderate levels of population growth in the 1980s are projected for the lake area counties of north central Minnesota and for a belt of counties directly south of the metropolitan region. These areas will continue to grow, though at more moderate rates, through the 1990-2000 and 2000-2010 periods.

Population loss is projected in many of the rural counties of southern and western Minnesota. Most of the southern and western counties tend to have considerable outmigration, and many have lost population in the past. St. Louis and Lake Counties on the Iron Range are also projected to lose population, especially during the 1990s. The largest population declines during the 1980s will occur in Traverse, Lake, Pipestone, Murray, and Norman Counties.

FIG. 1 PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGES 1980-1990

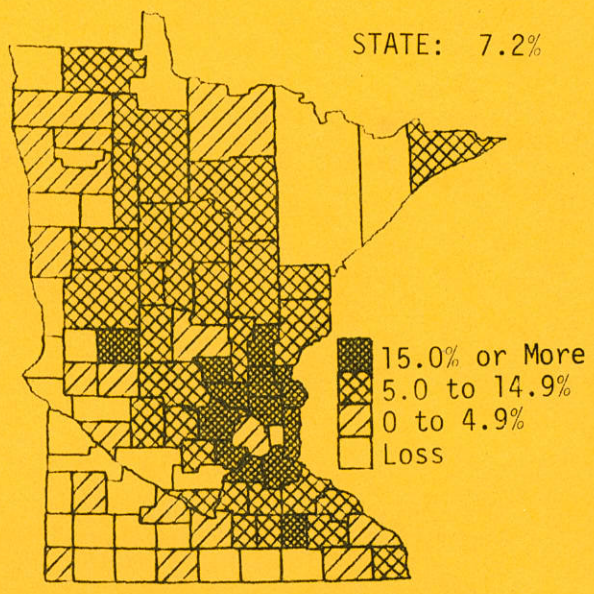

TABLE 1. 1980 CENSUS AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 1985-2010
FOR MINNESOTA COUNTIES

COUNTY	1980 CENSUS	Projections 1985	1990	2000	2010
MINNESOTA	4,075,970	4,222,504	4,371,052	4,600,536	4,756,137
Aitkin	13,404	13,731	14,111	14,650	14,810
Anoka	195,998	211,851	228,750	256,022	272,250
Becker	29,336	31,238	33,366	37,320	40,317
Beltrami	30,982	32,989	34,705	39,654	44,103
Benton	25,187	27,150	29,294	32,959	36,393
Big Stone	7,716	7,518	7,353	7,082	6,746
Blue Earth	52,314	54,281	54,613	54,646	56,153
Brown	28,645	28,689	28,773	28,580	28,199
Carlton	29,936	30,897	31,942	33,483	34,170
Carver	37,046	40,852	45,276	53,102	58,940
Cass	21,050	22,538	24,086	27,105	29,573
Chippewa	14,941	15,014	15,097	15,061	15,076
Chisago	25,717	29,729	34,520	44,644	54,315
Clay	49,327	50,585	50,651	50,859	50,943
Clearwater	8,761	9,038	9,388	10,166	10,815
Cook	4,092	4,260	4,423	4,633	4,689
Cottonwood	14,854	14,690	14,552	14,194	13,756
Crow Wing	41,722	44,632	47,667	53,115	57,232
Dakota	194,279	223,070	256,451	317,668	367,505
Dodge	14,773	15,820	17,008	19,197	21,263
Douglas	27,839	30,022	32,542	37,463	41,655
Faribault	19,714	19,196	18,757	17,773	16,672
Fillmore	21,930	21,929	22,000	22,047	21,876
Freeborn	36,329	36,275	36,298	36,280	35,968
Goodhue	38,749	40,261	42,025	45,322	47,645
Grant	7,171	7,100	7,073	7,000	6,878
Hennepin	941,411	950,763	952,521	926,388	890,988
Houston	18,382	18,806	19,293	20,099	20,495
Hubbard	14,098	14,911	15,820	19,043	21,881
Isanti	23,600	27,131	31,242	39,974	48,284
Itasca	43,069	45,705	48,429	52,940	56,057
Jackson	13,690	13,353	13,068	12,485	11,762
Kanabec	12,161	13,297	14,610	17,261	19,651
Kandiyohi	36,763	38,965	41,474	45,786	48,939
Kittson	6,672	6,477	6,317	6,018	5,677
Koochiching	17,571	17,871	18,180	18,552	18,533
Lac Qui Parle	10,592	10,476	10,410	10,193	9,910
Lake	13,043	12,578	12,126	11,439	10,658
Lake of the Woods	3,764	3,745	3,730	3,727	3,723
LeSueur	23,434	24,226	25,113	26,854	28,278
Lincoln	8,207	8,102	8,038	7,933	7,769
Lyon	25,207	25,623	26,056	26,759	27,008
McLeod	29,657	30,492	31,361	32,774	33,764

(continued)

TABLE 1. 1980 CENSUS AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 1985-2010
FOR MINNESOTA COUNTIES

COUNTY	1980 CENSUS	Projections 1985	1990	2000	2010
Mahnomen	5,535	5,373	5,216	4,981	4,735
Marshall	13,027	13,030	13,065	13,047	12,928
Martin	24,687	24,994	25,347	25,630	25,630
Meeker	20,594	21,324	22,152	23,718	25,025
Mille Lacs	18,430	19,375	20,458	22,540	24,394
Morrison	29,311	29,834	30,431	32,592	34,071
Mower	40,390	39,968	39,678	39,163	38,241
Murray	11,507	11,151	10,801	10,116	9,428
Nicollet	26,929	27,978	28,846	30,192	31,037
Nobles	21,840	21,598	21,418	21,065	20,588
Norman	9,379	9,082	8,805	8,347	8,019
Olmsted	92,006	96,550	101,211	107,038	110,840
Otter Tail	51,937	54,226	56,852	61,636	64,769
Pennington	15,258	15,527	15,812	16,183	16,315
Pine	19,871	20,775	21,827	25,101	28,051
Pipestone	11,690	11,304	10,949	10,376	9,826
Polk	34,844	34,847	35,067	35,226	34,753
Pope	11,657	11,862	12,121	12,562	12,813
Ramsey	459,784	460,617	458,721	439,952	412,564
Red Lake	5,471	5,401	5,367	5,368	5,327
Redwood	19,341	19,093	18,897	18,441	17,858
Renville	20,401	20,076	19,835	19,234	18,497
Rice	46,087	48,087	49,678	52,466	54,437
Rock	10,703	10,693	10,720	10,805	10,885
Roseau	12,574	12,901	13,266	13,858	14,348
St. Louis	222,229	216,788	211,727	209,746	207,165
Scott	43,784	48,729	54,389	65,165	73,259
Sherburne	29,908	36,895	45,796	60,841	74,672
Sibley	15,448	15,383	15,368	15,209	14,998
Stearns	108,161	114,474	119,710	128,098	135,336
Steele	30,328	31,559	32,856	34,856	36,413
Stevens	11,322	11,378	11,334	11,362	11,244
Swift	12,920	12,850	12,818	12,741	12,536
Todd	24,991	25,926	26,992	29,056	30,763
Traverse	5,542	5,289	5,079	4,759	4,470
Wabasha	19,335	20,210	21,184	22,903	24,336
Wadena	14,192	14,612	15,104	16,115	16,879
Waseca	18,448	19,310	20,214	21,685	23,247
Washington	113,571	127,353	142,921	171,593	191,702
Watonwan	12,361	12,099	11,815	11,181	10,647
Wilkin	8,454	8,348	8,254	8,111	8,015
Winona	46,256	47,303	47,879	48,536	49,034
Wright	58,681	67,596	78,065	99,925	121,747
Yellow Medicine	13,653	13,245	12,897	12,195	11,420

Baby Boom Generation Affects Age Group Changes

A look at the projected changes by age over a 30-year time span shows clearly the continuing impact of the baby boom and the baby bust generations (Table 2). The larger baby boom cohort will be concentrated in the 30-44 age groups in 1990, the 40-54 year-old groups in 2000, and the 50-64 year-old groups in 2010. In each decade there is a large increase in these baby boom age groups.

The smaller cohorts born after 1960 during the so-called "baby bust" will also have an effect on age group changes. The number of 15-24 year-olds will be smaller in 1990 than in 1980, and there will be a subsequent decline in the number of 25-34 year-olds in 2000 and the number of 35-44 year-olds by 2010. These population changes anticipated in the age groups made up of working age adults are predictable based on the number of babies born many years earlier.

TABLE 2. 1980 POPULATION AND PROJECTED POPULATION BY AGE, MINNESOTA 1980-2010

Age	1980 Census	Projected 1990	Projected 2000	Projected 2010
MINNESOTA	4,075,970	4,371,052	4,600,536	4,756,137
% Change[1]		7.2%	5.3%	3.4%
0-4	307,249	336,740	290,273	286,535
% Change		9.6%	-13.8%	-1.3%
5-9	296,295	336,258	315,396	282,112
% Change		13.5%	-6.2%	-10.6%
10-14	333,378	310,228	339,079	291,882
% Change		-6.9%	9.3%	-13.9%
15-19	399,818	296,147	335,821	314,886
% Change		-25.9%	13.4%	-6.2%
20-24	393,566	326,620	305,034	333,902
% Change		-17.0%	-6.6%	9.5%
25-29	363,435	388,024	289,232	328,872
% Change		6.8%	-25.5%	13.7%
30-34	313,104	383,423	319,843	299,381
% Change		22.4%	-16.6%	-6.4%
35-39	246,357	355,918	381,402	284,759
% Change		44.5%	7.2%	-25.3%
40-44	202,860	308,009	378,116	315,731
% Change		51.8%	22.8%	-16.5%
45-49	187,051	240,193	348,453	374,018
% Change		28.4%	45.1%	7.3%
50-54	193,199	193,103	295,509	364,028
% Change		-0.0%	53.0%	23.2%
55-59	189,457	174,272	226,158	331,356
% Change		-8.0%	29.8%	46.5%
60-64	170,638	173,165	176,226	273,256
% Change		1.5%	1.8%	55.0%
65-69	149,114	160,254	150,776	197,554
% Change		7.5%	-5.9%	31.0%
70-74	121,034	135,723	141,651	145,734
% Change		12.1%	4.4%	2.9%
75-79	92,738	108,846	123,962	119,240
% Change		17.4%	13.9%	-3.8%
80-84	63,889	75,583	92,817	100,408
% Change		18.3%	22.8%	8.2%
85+	57,789	68,546	90,788	112,483
% Change		29.8%	32.4%	23.9%
MEDIAN AGE	29.2	32.5	36.4	39.2

[1] % change from number in age group 10 years earlier.

Number of Children Declines in 1990s

The number of children under 10 is projected to increase moderately during the 1980s and then decline. The number of births is expected to rise during the 1980s because of the large number of women from the baby boom era in the childbearing years. This increase in births will occur even if, as projected, the number of births per woman remains constant and relatively low. After 1990, the smaller baby bust cohort will become of childbearing age and there will be a subsequent decline in the number of births.

75 and Older Population Will Increase

For most age groups over 75, there will be population increases in every decade. As older people live longer, the number of people in the oldest age groups will continue to grow rapidly. One exception to this rule is the expected decline in the number of 75-79 year-olds between 2000 and 2010. This is a delayed effect from the Depression of the 1930s, when low birth rates produced a relatively small age cohort. By the year 2000, these Depression-era children will begin moving into their 70s.

Median Age Will Go Up

The median age of the Minnesota population is projected to increase from 29.2 in 1980 to 32.5 in 1990 and 39.2 in 2010. This increase in median age reflects several factors, including the aging of the baby boom, the long-term decline in the number of children, and the increase in the number of older people. These latter two trends in turn reflect continued low fertility rates and a continuation of the trend towards higher survival rates at older ages.

Youth Dependency Will Decline; Aged Dependency Will Rise

As a result of the decline in the 0-14 year-old population after 1990 (Figure 2), the ratio of children to working age adults will decrease substantially from 35.2 in 1980 to 26.7 in 2010 (Table 3). The number of persons over 65 will grow rapidly in every decade, but this rapid growth will result in only a moderate increase in the aged dependency ratio, from 18.0 to 21.0. This modest increase in aged dependency can be attributed to the fact that the actual number of people over 65 will remain small relative to other age groups.

After 2010, when the baby boom generation reaches retirement age, the increases in aged dependency will become more marked. Overall, during the 30-year period covered by the projections, the total dependency ratio will go down. The relatively small increases in elderly dependency will be more than offset by the larger decreases in youth dependency.

FIG. 2 PERCENT CHANGE PROJECTED IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS: MINNESOTA, 1980-2010

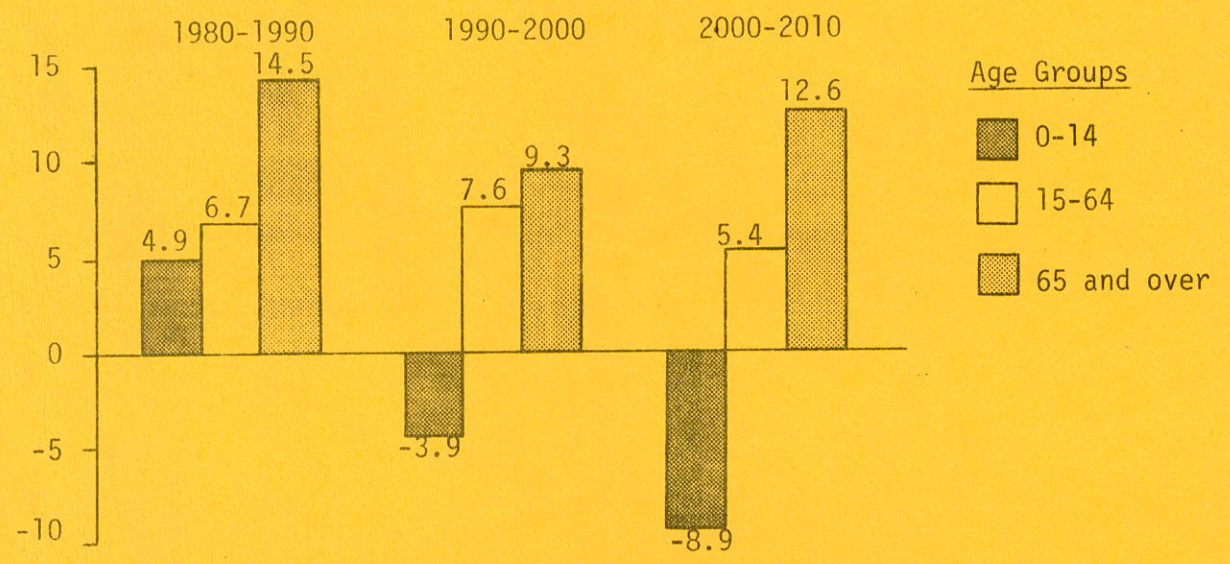

TABLE 3. DEPENDENCY RATIOS: MINNESOTA, 1980-2010

	1980	Projected 1990	2000	2010
Youth Dependency Ratio[1]	35.2	34.6	30.9	26.7
Aged Dependency Ratio[2]	18.0	19.3	19.6	21.0
Total Dependency Ratio[3]	53.2	53.9	50.5	47.7

[1] $\frac{\text{Population 0-14}}{\text{Population 15-64}} \times 100$

[2] $\frac{\text{Population 65+}}{\text{Population 15-64}} \times 100$

[3] Sum of youth dependency and aged dependency ratios

Methodology

The population projections prepared by the State Demography Unit use the 1980 Census as a starting point and employ the cohort-component method to project future population for 5-year intervals up to 2010. Projections will be published for the state and for each county and region by 5-year age-sex groups. The projections make the following assumptions: (1) Survival rates will increase slightly. Survival rates at older ages will increase the most. Survival rates are assumed to be constant across counties. (2) Fertility rates will vary by county, but remain constant over time. The total fertility rate for the state is assumed to be about 1.85 births per woman. (3) Migration rates vary by age, sex, and county. Over time the migration rates will level off and begin to converge toward zero. The state is assumed to have slight outmigration in every decade. (4) The state totals are projected first. County numbers are constrained to add up to the state total in each age-sex group.

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