

# Minnesota Milestones 2011

## Milestones 2011

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Welcome to Minnesota Milestones 2011! Minnesota Milestones began in 1991 in the belief that a shared vision, clear goals and measurement of results would lead to a better future for Minnesota. The report uses 60 progress indicators to determine whether the state is achieving 19 publicly determined goals. The goals are grouped in four broad areas: People, Community and Democracy, Economy and Environment.

As a starting point, readers are encouraged to read the [summary](#) of Minnesota Milestones 2011. The summary provides a brief overview on how Minnesota is progressing toward each goal. [Read more about Minnesota Milestones...](#)



## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

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Our children will not live in poverty.

- 1 [Child Poverty](#)
- 2 [Low-income School Children](#)

Families will provide a stable, supportive environment for their children.

- 3 [Teen Pregnancy](#)
- 4 [Kids Count Rank](#)

All children will be healthy and start school ready to learn.

- 5 [Low Birth Weight](#)
- 6 [On-time Immunization](#)
- 7 [School Readiness](#)

Minnesotans will excel in basic and challenging academic skills and knowledge.

- 8 [Third-grade Reading](#)
- 9 [11th Grade Math](#)
- 10 [High School Graduation](#)
- 11 [College Readiness](#)

Minnesotans will be healthy.

- 12 [Health Insurance](#)
- 13 [Infant Mortality](#)
- 14 [Life Expectancy](#)
- 15 [Diabetes](#)
- 16 [Obesity](#)
- 17 [Tobacco Use](#)
- 18 [Suicide](#)
- 19 [Index of Well-Being](#)
- 20 [Traffic Injuries and Fatalities](#)

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Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.

- 21 [Volunteering](#)
- 22 [Violent and Property Crime](#)
- 23 [Homicide Rate](#)
- 24 [Juvenile Apprehensions](#)

All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.

- 25 [Food Shelf Use](#)
- 26 [Homelessness](#)
- 27 [Employment of People with Disabilities](#)
- 28 [Bias Crimes](#)
- 29 [Voter Turnout](#)

Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.

- 30 [Price of Government](#)
  - 31 [Bridges in Good Condition](#)
  - 32 [Commute Times](#)
- 

Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.

- 33 [Growth in Gross State Product](#)
- 34 [Employment of Working-age Population](#)
- 35 [Employment/population ratio](#)
- 36 [Change in Number of Jobs](#)
- 37 [Change in Number of Establishments](#)
- 38 [Unemployment Rate](#)

Minnesota's workforce will have the education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.

- 39 [High School Education](#)
- 40 [Some College Education](#)
- 41 [College Graduation](#)

All Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

- 42 [Median Household Income Compared to U.S. Median](#)
- 43 [Poverty Rate](#)
- 44 [Average Wage](#)

All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

- 45 [Home Ownership](#)
- 46 [Housing Costs](#)
- 47 [Foreclosures](#)

Rural areas, small cities and urban neighborhoods throughout the state will be economically viable places for people to live and work.

- 48 [Counties with In-Migration](#)
  - 49 [Regional Disparity in Unemployment](#)
  - 50 [Income by Congressional District](#)
- 

Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.

- 51 [Energy use per person](#)
- 52 [Air quality](#)
- 53 [Greenhouse gas emissions](#)
- 54 [Lake water quality](#)
- 55 [Water use](#)

56 [Drinking water quality](#)

Minnesotans will restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse plants and wildlife.

57 [Frogs](#)

58 [Loon populations](#)

59 [Breeding bird populations](#)

Minnesotans will have opportunities to enjoy the state's natural resources.

60 [Outdoor Recreation](#)



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### How is Minnesota doing?

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Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 21: Volunteering

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.*

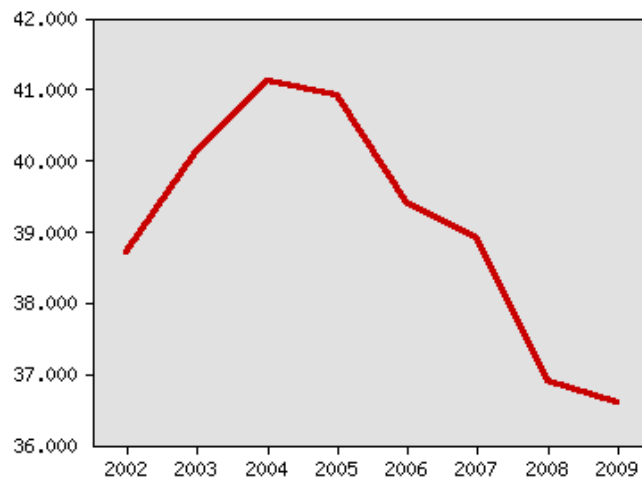
**Rationale:** Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness. Volunteerism reflects a sense of commitment to community.

**About this indicator:** In 2009, 36.6 percent of Minnesotans ages 16 and older said they had volunteered during the past 12 months. The number shows no clear trend over time.

In 2009, Minnesotans contributed an estimated 160.1 million hours of service.



### % of people 16 and older who volunteer



YEAR DATA

YEAR	DATA
2002	38.7%
2003	40.1%
2004	41.1%
2005	40.9%
2006	39.4%
2007	38.9%
2008	36.9%
2009	36.6%

% of people 16 and older who volunteer, U.S. Bureau of the Census

**For comparison:** Minnesota ranked third among all states and the District of Columbia in the rate of volunteering, using a three-year average for 2007-2009. Minnesota placed twelfth on the annual volunteer hours per resident, 42.1.

Compared to the national average, Minnesotans are more likely to volunteer to collect and distribute food.

Earlier versions of Milestones used data from the Minnesota State Survey. Volunteering rates were considerably higher in the Minnesota State Survey than in the Current Population Survey data shown here. This reflects differences in questions asked and methodology.

**Things to think about:** Minnesotans are most likely to volunteer for religious and educational activities.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/MN>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Volunteer work](#)

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## Indicator 22: Violent and Property Crime

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.*



**Rationale:** Crime rates are an important aspect of community safety. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be involved in their communities. Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness.

**About this indicator:** The rate of serious property crime has generally declined since 2002. The violent crime rate has fluctuated but remains well below levels of the early 1990s.

### How is Minnesota doing?

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Undesirable or negative

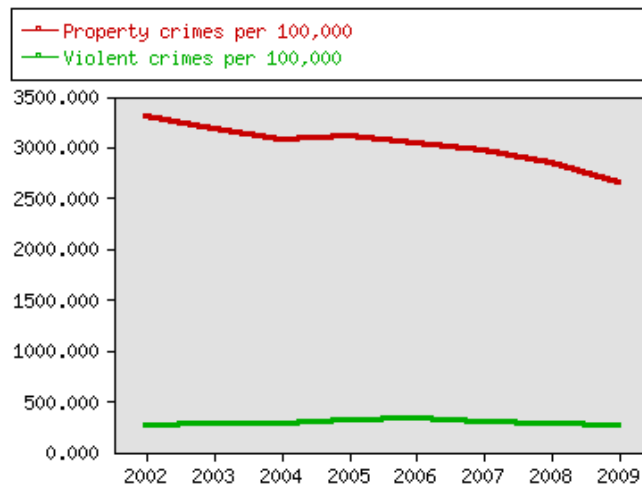


No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

The data is based on crimes reported to law enforcement. In addition, estimates are made for non-reporting and partially reporting jurisdictions.



YEAR DATA

Violent crimes per 100,000

Property crimes per 100,000

Violent crimes reported per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Property crimes reported per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA
	2002	263 3,301
	2003	271 3,168
	2004	275 3,076
	2005	305 3,106
	2006	326 3,041
	2007	289 2,962
	2008	271 2,834
	2009	250 2,644

Violent crimes reported per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Property crimes reported per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** On measures of crime rates, Minnesota ranks in the middle of the states. In 2007, 16 states had lower violent crime rates. Twenty-two states had lower property crime rates.

Minnesota's violent crime rate is substantially lower than the national average, 289 per 100,000 compared to 467. The property crime rate in Minnesota is also below the national average, 3,037 per 100,000 versus 3,264.

**Things to think about:** The F.B.I. suggests caution in comparing crime statistics across regions or over time. Not all crimes are reported, and the likelihood a crime is reported may vary by region. Estimates made for non-reporting jurisdictions may vary in accuracy.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, <http://www.bca.state.mn.us/CJIS/documents/Page-15-02.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau, The 2009 Statistical Abstract, [http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law\\_enforcement\\_courts\\_prisons/crimes\\_and\\_crime\\_rates.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law_enforcement_courts_prisons/crimes_and_crime_rates.html)

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Violent and property crime](#)

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## Indicator 23: Homicide Rate

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.*

**Rationale:** Minnesotans want to be comfortable and safe in their communities. Crime rates are an important aspect of community safety. Murders are considered the single most serious type of crime.

**About this indicator:** Between 2000 and 2009 the homicide rate declined slightly from 2.9 to 1.8 per 100,000.



### Homicide rate per 100,000

#### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.



YEAR	DATA
2000	2.9
2001	2.5
2002	2.6
2003	2.6

Homicide rate per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Health

YEAR	DATA
2004	2.6
2005	2.7
2006	2.5
2007	2.3
2008	2.5
2009	1.8

Homicide rate per 100,000, Minnesota Department of Health

**For comparison:** Department of Justice Statistics show Minnesota had the 11th lowest homicide rate in 2007. According to data compiled by the Death Penalty Information Center, Minnesota had the 6th lowest homicide rate in 2009.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Health <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/annsum/index.htm>
- U.S. Census Bureau population estimates <http://www.census.gov/>
- U.S. Census Bureau, the 2009 Statistical Abstract [http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law\\_enforcement\\_courts\\_prisons/crimes\\_and\\_crime\\_rates.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law_enforcement_courts_prisons/crimes_and_crime_rates.html)
- Death Penalty Information Center, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/home>

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## How is Minnesota doing?

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Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 24: Juvenile Apprehensions

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.*

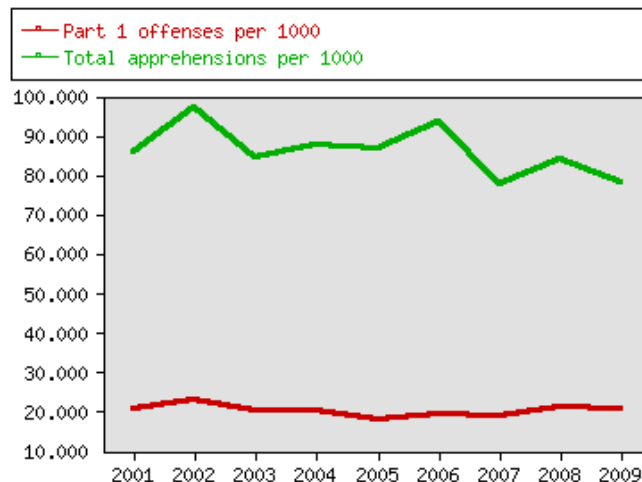


**Rationale:** Youth crime is an important factor in community safety. Youth commit a disproportionate share of crimes in Minnesota, especially serious property crimes. Many youths who are apprehended continue their criminal careers as adults.

**About this indicator:** The rate of all juvenile apprehensions has fluctuated during the 2000s, showing no clear trend. The rate of apprehensions for more serious Part 1 offenses also shows no clear trend.

Arrests of juveniles are called apprehensions. The overall rate includes violent crime and property crime (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson). In 2009, youth ages 10-17 accounted for 19 percent of all violent and serious property crimes arrests in Minnesota, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The apprehension rate is a different measure than the crime rate. The age of the perpetrator is not available for every crime, only for those that result in an apprehension or arrest. Also, a single apprehension may cover several offenses.



YEAR DATA

Total apprehensions per 1000

Part 1 offenses per 1000

	YEAR	DATA	
	2001	85.9	20.5
	2002	97.2	22.9
	2003	84.6	20.1
	2004	87.7	20.1
	2005	86.5	18.1
	2006	93.3	19.4
	2007	77.8	19
	2008	83.8	21
	2009	78.0	20.6

Juvenile apprehensions rate per 1000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Juvenile part 1 offenses per 1000, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Minnesota has relatively high rates of juvenile apprehensions. In 2009, the total apprehension rate for juveniles was the 9th highest in the nation. The apprehension rate for Part 1 offenses was 25th highest.

**Technical notes:** In the calculation of juvenile apprehension rates by state, the numerator used was the number of apprehensions for persons ages 10 to 17. The denominator was the estimated population ages 10 to 17. There are few apprehensions of children under age 10.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota apprehension data from Minnesota Department of Public Safety <http://www.bca.state.mn.us/CJIS/Documents/Page-15-02.html>
- Population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>
- Apprehension data by state from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 Crime in the United States, <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cius>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Juvenile apprehensions](#)

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## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 25: Food Shelf Use

[login](#)



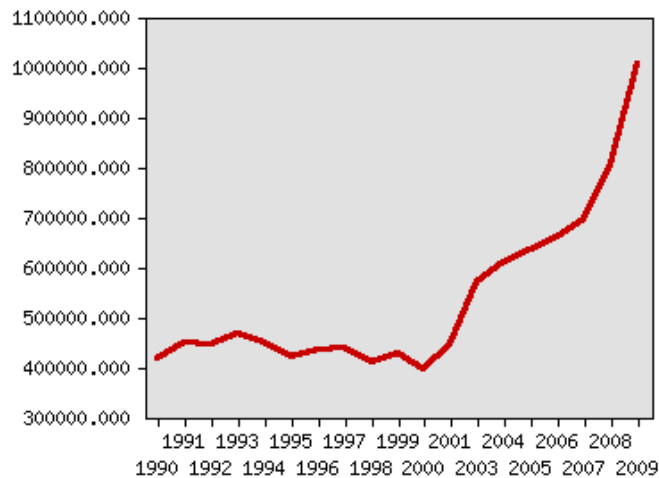
**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.*

**Rationale:** Food shelf use gives some indication of the number of Minnesotans requiring assistance with this basic need, and the availability of food assistance to help them.

**About this indicator:** The number of household visits to food shelves has grown each year since 2003. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of visits increased 25 percent.



## Household visits to food shelves



YEAR	DATA
1990	416,552
1991	449,232

Household visits to food shelves, Hunger Solutions Minnesota

YEAR	DATA
1992	446,175
1993	465,977
1994	447,213
1995	421,369
1996	433,214
1997	435,881
1998	408,335
1999	425,583
2000	396,002
2001	443,939
2003	571,031
2004	609,730
2005	634,116
2006	660,476
2007	695,004
2008	805,207
2009	1,006,714

Household visits to food shelves, Hunger Solutions Minnesota

**For comparison:** No national figures are available on food shelf use. The USDA reports data on household food insecurity based on responses to the annual food security module in the Current Population Survey. Survey questions cover anxiety that the household budget is inadequate to buy enough food, concern over inadequate quantity or quality of food, and instances of reduced food intake. For the 2007-2009 period, Minnesota's rate of food security was 10.5 percent, lower than 43 other states.

**Sources:**

- Hunger Solutions <http://www.hungersolutions.org/>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**



- [Food shelf use](#)

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## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 26: Homelessness

[login](#)



**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.*

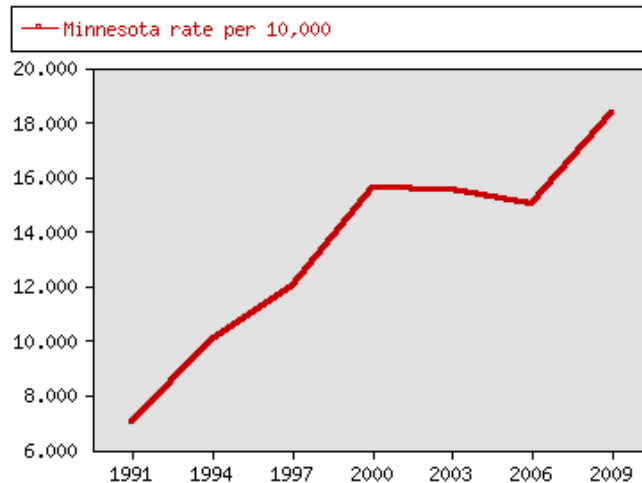


**Rationale:** This indicator deals with one of the most basic human needs – a safe, stable place to live.

### About this indicator:

Homelessness rose substantially in 2009 after a period of stability earlier in the 2000s. Data is available once every three years from a survey conducted by Wilder Research. The survey looks at people living without shelter. In 2009, the rate of homelessness in Minnesota was 18.4 per 10,000 population, well above the 2006 rate of 15.0. The number of homeless people has more than tripled since 1991, when the survey was first conducted.

The 2009 survey found 6,449 homeless people in the 7-county Twin Cities area, accounting for 67 percent of the statewide total.



YEAR DATA

Minnesota rate per 10,000

Number of homeless

Homelessness rate per 10,000 in Minnesota, Wilder Research [Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Number of persons experiencing homelessness, Wilder Research [Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	1991	7.0	3,079
	1994	10.0	4,553
	1997	12.0	5,645
	2000	15.6	7,696
	2003	15.5	7,811
	2006	15.0	7,713
	2009	18.3	9,630

Homelessness rate per 10,000 in Minnesota, Wilder Research [Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Number of persons experiencing homelessness, Wilder Research [Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** The 2009 survey found striking indicators of the recent economic downturn. Forty percent of those interviewed reported job loss or reduced hours as a reason they lost housing. More people experienced long-term homelessness. There was a rapid increase in the number of homeless young adults ages 18 to 21.

**Things to think about:** The survey is done at a single point in time. Over a year, the number of people who experience homelessness for at least a short period is much greater.

African Americans and American Indians are greatly overrepresented in the homeless population.

Experience of domestic abuse is common among women in shelters.

#### Sources:

- Wilder Research <http://www.tccompass.org/>
- Overview of Wilder homeless survey, [http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/research/Homelessoverview2006\\_3-07.pdf](http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/user_upload/research/Homelessoverview2006_3-07.pdf)

#### Related 2002 Milestones indicator:

- [Homelessness](#)

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## Indicator 27: Employment of People with Disabilities

[login](#)



**Goal:** All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.



**Rationale:** Many people with disabilities are able to work and want to work despite the obstacles they face. Providing employment opportunities helps both the individual and employers seeking workers. People with full-time jobs pay more taxes and require less government assistance.

**About this indicator:** In 2009, 24 percent of Minnesotans ages 16 to 64 who had a disability worked full-time year-round. Among people the same age without a disability, 56 percent worked full-time year-round. Eight percent of working-age Minnesotans report having a disability.

### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

YEAR	DATA	
	% with a disability employed	% Without a disability employed
2008	25.8%	56.7%
2009	23.9%	56%

Percent of people with a disability aged 16-64 employed year-round, full-time, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of people without a disability aged 16-64 employed year-round, full-time, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Minnesota ranked 20th on the proportion of people with disabilities who work full-time, year-round.

**Technical notes:** The way disability is measured was changed significantly in the 2008 American Community Survey. Results from before 2008 are not comparable to those from 2008 and later.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey,  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>

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Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 28: Bias Crimes

[login](#)



**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.*



**Rationale:** Incidents of bias or hate crimes are harmful not only to the individual victims, but also to Minnesota communities and neighborhoods. They indicate a lack of acceptance of the increasing diversity of Minnesota's communities.

**About this indicator:** In 2009, 155 bias crimes were reported. The number has fluctuated from year to year with no long-term trend evident.

Racial bias was the most common type of bias (65 percent), followed by sexual orientation (18 percent).

## Reported bias crimes



YEAR	DATA
2000	183

Reported bias crimes, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

YEAR	DATA
2001	209
2002	206
2003	220
2004	247
2005	228
2006	152
2007	182
2008	165
2009	155

Reported bias crimes, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**For comparison:** The FBI collects data on bias crimes, but data from various areas is not comparable.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Minnesota Justice Information Services, <http://www.bca.state.mn.us/CJIS/Documents/Page-15-02.html>

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## Indicator 29: Voter Turnout

[login](#)



**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.*

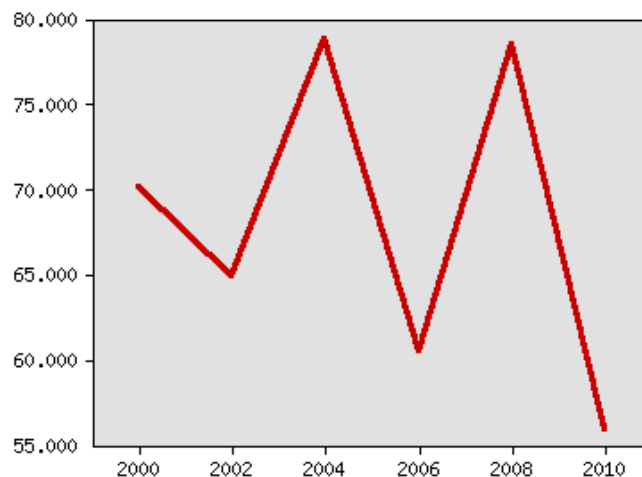
**Rationale:** High voter turnout is an indicator that people are interested and believe they can make a difference in government. This goal reflects Minnesotans' desire for open and representative government, as well as the belief that broad-based and energetic citizen participation in the political process and civic affairs is a sign of a healthy democracy.



**About this indicator:** In the 2010 general election, 55.9 percent of

eligible Minnesota voters went to the polls. This was considerably below the voting level in the 2008 Presidential election, 78.4 percent, and also lower than in the previous off-year election, 60.5 percent.

## Percent of eligible Minnesotans who voted in state general elections



YEAR	DATA
2000	70.1%

YEAR	DATA
2002	64.9%
2004	78.8%
2006	60.5%
2008	78.5%
2010	55.9%

Percent of eligible Minnesotans who voted in state general elections, Minnesota Secretary of State

**For comparison:** Minnesota had the highest voting rate of all states in the 2010 election, 55.5 percent, ahead of second-place Maine with 54.5 percent. This measure of voting is slightly different than the one cited above. It is based on the turnout rate for the office with the highest number of votes cast. The numbers cited above are based on total ballots cast rank. Total ballots cast is considered a better indicator of participation, but not all states provide the data.

**Technical notes:** Different results would be obtained using the total voting-age population instead of the estimated number of eligible voters as the denominator. People who are not citizens or are ex-felons still on parole status may not vote. Residents living abroad may be eligible to vote but do not appear in the population estimates. For these reasons, many consider a measure based on eligibility to be more meaningful. Data on age is easier to find, however.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Secretary of State. The data are compiled by Dr. Michael McDonald of George Mason University. Historical Minnesota voting turnout, <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=137>
- United States Election Project, [http://elections.gmu.edu/voter\\_turnout.htm](http://elections.gmu.edu/voter_turnout.htm)

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Voter turnout](#)

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Undesirable or negative



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Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 30: Price of Government

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.*

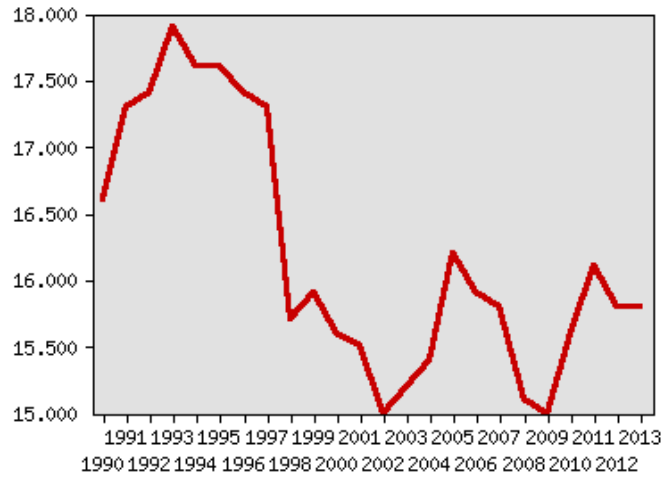
**Rationale:** Minnesotans expect their state and local governments to spend money carefully and effectively. This indicator indirectly measures progress toward this goal by tracking how much government spends compared to how much people earn.

**About this indicator:** The proportion of personal income going to state and local revenues has fluctuated within a narrow range and shows no real trend since 2000. The annual figure ranges between 15.0 and 16.2 percent of income.

This indicator reports the price of government based on actual revenues collected. During good economic times, revenues sometimes exceed expectations and push the actual price of government above the target set by the Governor and Legislature.



**State and local government taxes and fees, as a percentage of personal income**



YEAR	DATA
------	------

1990	16.6%
1991	17.3%
1992	17.4%
1993	17.9%
1994	17.6%
1995	17.6%
1996	17.4%
1997	17.3%
1998	15.7%
1999	15.9%
2000	15.6%
2001	15.5%
2002	15%
2003	15.2%
2004	15.4%
2005	16.2%

YEAR	DATA
2006	15.9%
2007	15.8%
2008	15.1%
2009	15%
2010	15.6%
2011	16.1%
2012	15.8%
2013	15.8%

State and local government taxes and fees, as a percentage of personal income, Minnesota Department of Finance

**For comparison:** The price of government has declined since the mid-1990s, when it was in excess of 17.0 percent.

Comparisons with other states are not possible. This measure is unique to Minnesota.

**Technical notes:** Most local governments begin their fiscal year in January, while state government and school districts have fiscal years that begin in July. The price of government is computed for the fiscal years ending between July 1 and June 30. For example, the 2007 price of government is based on local government revenue for the fiscal year ending December 2006 and school district and state revenue for the fiscal year ending June 2007.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Management and Budget, Financial Forecasts and Updates, <http://www.finance.state.mn.us/>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Price of government](#)

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Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a  
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- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:

-  Undesirable or negative
-  No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions
-  Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 31: Bridges in Good Condition

[login](#)



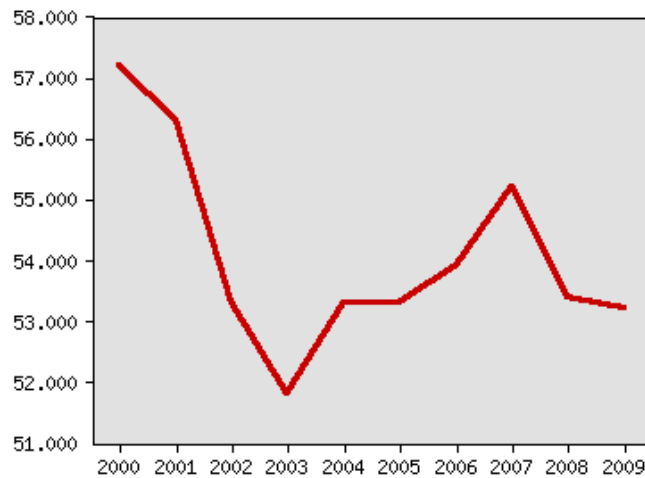
**Goal:** *Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.*

**Rationale:** Timely maintenance of bridges, a critical part of Minnesota's infrastructure, is important to the state's economy and transportation system.



**About this indicator:** In 2009, 87.4 percent of state Principal Arterial bridges were in Good or Satisfactory structural condition, measured by deck area. This included 53.7 percent in good condition. The remaining 12.6 percent were in fair or poor condition. The target goal set by Mn/DOT is 55 percent in good condition. The 55 percent goal has been met in the past and the state is on target to meet this goal again by 2012.

## Percentage of state highway bridges in good condition, by principal arterials square footage



YEAR	DATA
2000	57.2%
2001	56.3%

Percentage of state highway bridges in good condition, by principal arterials square footage, Minnesota  
Department of Transportation

YEAR	DATA
2002	53.3%
2003	51.8%
2004	53.3%
2005	53.3%
2006	53.9%
2007	55.2%
2008	53.4%
2009	53.2%

Percentage of state highway bridges in good condition, by principal arterials square footage, Minnesota  
Department of Transportation

**Technical notes:** The indicator is based on bridges 20 feet and over on State Highway Principal Arterials. This includes 2536 bridges.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2008 Annual Transportation Performance Report, <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/measures/performance-reports.html>

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### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 32: Commute Times

[login](#)



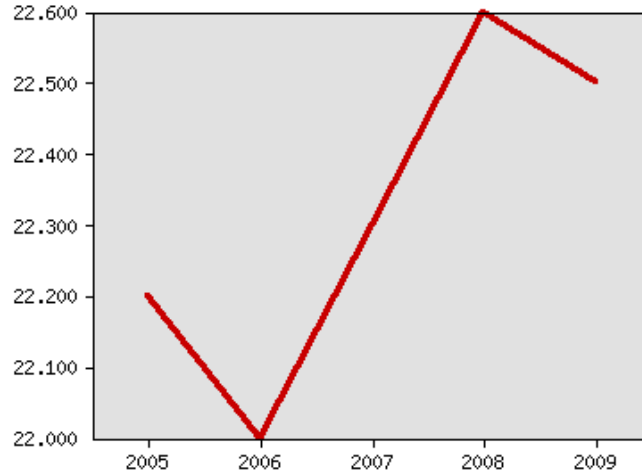
**Goal:** *Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.*

**Rationale:** The adequacy of the state's transportation system affects residents daily. Traffic congestion is inconvenient for commuters and adversely affects businesses that depend on timely delivery of goods and services.



**About this indicator:** The average commute time to work in 2009 was 22.5 minutes, not significantly different than the 22.6 minutes in the 2008.

### Mean travel time to work (minutes)



YEAR	DATA
2005	22.2
2006	22
2007	22.3

Mean travel time to work (minutes), U.S. Census Bureau

YEAR	DATA
2008	22.6
2009	22.5

Mean travel time to work (minutes), U.S. Census Bureau

**For comparison:** In the 2000 Census, the average travel time to work was 21.9 minutes. In 1990, it was 19.1 minutes.

In the 2009 American Community Survey, the national average was 25.1 minutes. Minnesota had the 17th lowest average commuting time.

**Things to think about:** Commuting times reflect more than the presence or absence of congestion. Where people live relative to their place of employment is another important factor. Many Minnesotans are willing to trade a longer commute for less expensive housing or a desired lifestyle.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>, Economic profiles.

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