

# 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.

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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Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

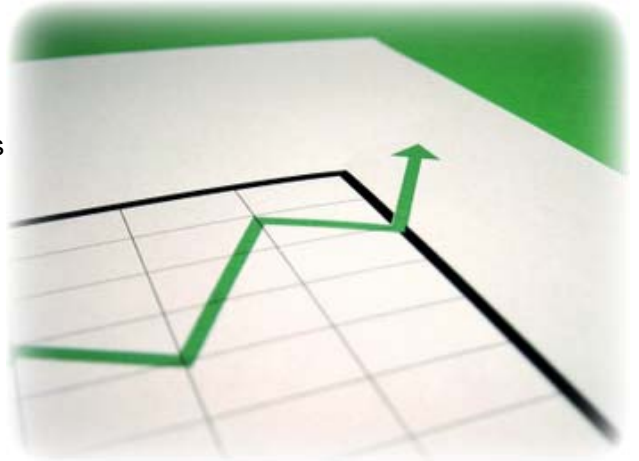
## Indicator 33: Growth in Gross State Product

[login](#)



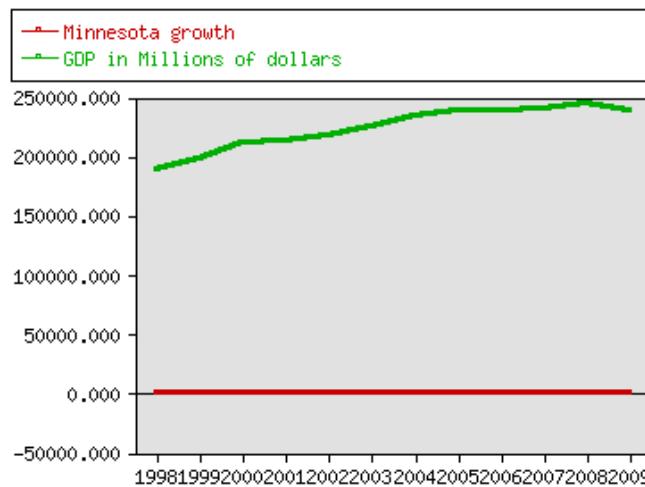
**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

**Rationale:** Economic growth creates jobs and may increase opportunities for better jobs and improved living standards. Sustainable, strong economic growth puts Minnesota in a better position to achieve other Minnesota Milestones goals. Gross state product is the most commonly used measure of overall economic production. Continuous growth in gross state product is a strong indication of a healthy economy.



**About this indicator:** Minnesota's gross state product declined by 2.3 percent in 2009, after four years of tepid growth. Growth was stronger in the late 1990s, when annual growth rates ranged between 3 and 5 percent.

Gross state product is the value of all goods and services produced in the state.



YEAR DATA

Minnesota growth

GDP in Millions of dollars

Annual real growth in the gross state product, U.S. Department of Commerce

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

Minnesota real GDP, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	1998	5.3%	189,260
	1999	4.5%	197,810
	2000	6.8%	211,177
	2001	0.8%	212,802
	2002	2.3%	217,705
	2003	3.4%	225,073
	2004	4.1%	234,347
	2005	1.7%	238,367
	2006	0.2%	238,938
	2007	0.7%	240,548
	2008	1.8%	244,759
	2009	-2.3%	239,043

Annual real growth in the gross state product, U.S. Department of Commerce

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

Minnesota real GDP, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Among 50 states and the District of Columbia, Minnesota ranked 46th in gross state product growth between 2000 and 2009. Minnesota's gain of 38 percent was below the national average of 43 percent. Per capita personal income (a major component of GDP) growth during the same period was also slower than the national average. Minnesota's rank in per capita personal income declined from 13th in 2000 to 18th in 2009.

**Technical notes:** The indicator used is millions of 2005 chained dollars. Because of changes in the industrial classification system, totals for 1996 and 1997 are not exactly comparable.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, regional accounts data, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/data.htm>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Growth in gross state product](#)

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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 34: Employment of Working-age Population

[login](#)



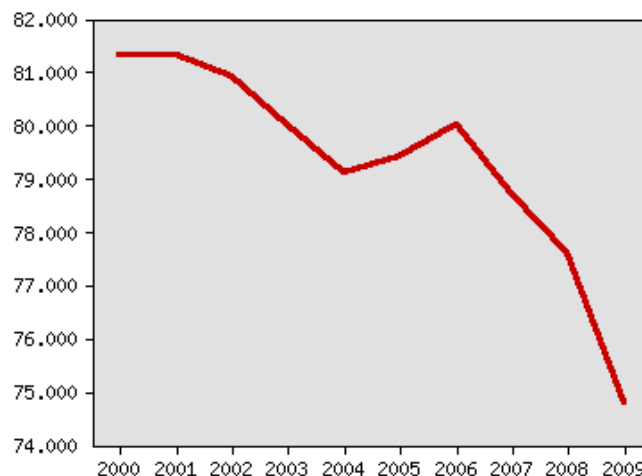
**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

**Rationale:** High labor participation rates, as measured by the proportion of the working-age population that is in the workforce, contribute to strong and sustainable economic growth. Economic growth creates jobs and may increase opportunities for better jobs and improved living standards.

**About this indicator:** The percentage of Minnesotans ages 16 to 64 who are employed has declined since 2000, from 81.3 percent to 74.8 percent in 2009. Minnesota continues to rank high among states, normally ranking in the top 5. These figures are subject to sampling error. Higher unemployment rates are a factor in the decline. Retirement of baby boomers in their late 50s and early 60s may also be contributing.



### Percent of population 16-64 who are employed



YEAR	DATA
2000	81.3%
2001	81.3%
2002	80.9%
2003	80.0%
2004	79.1%
2005	79.4%
2006	80.0%
2007	78.7%
2008	77.6%
2009	74.8%

Percent of population 16-64 who are employed, Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

**For comparison:** The American Community Survey also collects data on this topic. The 2008 and 2009 values in the ACS are similar to those in the Current Population Survey.

**Sources:**

- Current Population Survey data, provided by Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Employment of working-age population](#)

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

## Indicator 35: Employment/population ratio

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

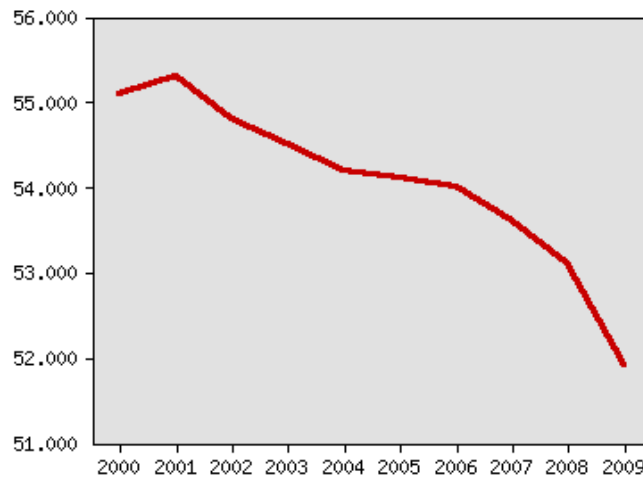
**Rationale:** A high employment/population ratio means that a large fraction of the population is working and paying taxes. It contributes to greater economic growth because employed people have more money to spend.

### About this indicator:

The employment to population ratio declined from 55.1 in 2000 to 53.1 in 2008 and then more sharply to 51.9 in 2009. The Great Recession is responsible for the sharp drop from 2008 to 2009, while slow job growth is probably a major reason for the earlier decline. Baby boomer retirements and lower workforce participation by young adults are other factors in the gradual downward drift.



### Employment to population ratio



YEAR	DATA
2000	55.1
2001	55.3

Employment to population ratio, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and U.S. Census Bureau

YEAR	DATA
2002	54.8
2003	54.5
2004	54.2
2005	54.1
2006	54.0
2007	53.6
2008	53.1
2009	51.9

Employment to population ratio, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and  
U.S. Census Bureau

**Things to think about:** The aging of the baby boom generation is expected to produce a lower employment/population ratio in the future, with negative implications for state tax revenues.

**Sources:**

- Employment data from Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development LAUS data, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/Home.htm>
- Population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>

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## Indicator 36: Change in Number of Jobs

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**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

**Rationale:** Minnesotans need good jobs in order to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to the overall economic well-being of the state.

**About this indicator:** From 2008 to 2009, jobs declined sharply by 4.7 percent in the private sector and 4.1 percent in the total economy. Between 2000 and 2008, the number of jobs in Minnesota increased only 2.7 percent. Employment declined in three of eight years since 2000.



### How is Minnesota doing?

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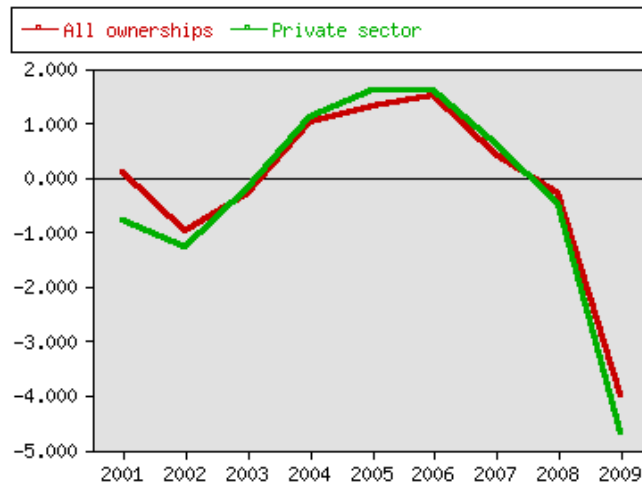
Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.



YEAR	DATA	Private sector
	All ownerships	
2001	0.1%	-0.8%
2002	-1.0%	-1.3%

Change in the number of jobs (all sectors), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Change in the number of jobs (private sector), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

YEAR	DATA	
2003	-0.3%	-0.2%
2004	1.0%	1.1%
2005	1.3%	1.6%
2006	1.5%	1.6%
2007	0.4%	0.6%
2008	-0.3%	-0.5%
2009	-4.0%	-4.7%

Change in the number of jobs (all sectors), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Change in the number of jobs (private sector), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** In the 1990s, the number of jobs grew 27 percent, a much faster rate than this decade. Between 2001 and 2008, job growth in Minnesota was slower than the national average, 2.6 percent compared to 4.0 percent.

**Technical notes:** The figures shown are for total employment in both public and private employment. The QCEW (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages) is based on establishments covered by unemployment insurance. The QCEW system covers about 97 percent of Minnesota jobs. It does not include self-employed people.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, QCEW employment data, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/qcew/default.aspx>

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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 37: Change in Number of Establishments [login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

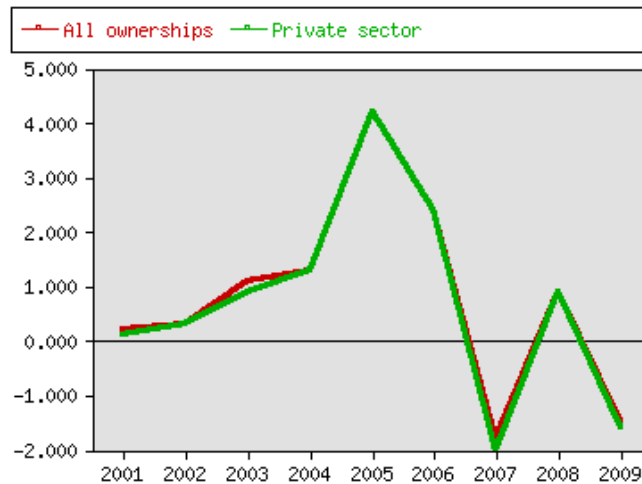
**Rationale:** The creation of new businesses is an indicator of a strong, dynamic economy. Small businesses and start-ups are responsible for much of the job growth in Minnesota.



**About this indicator:** The number of Minnesota establishments

declined in 2009 by nearly 2,600, or 1.5 percent. The number of establishments also declined in 2007. Growth earlier in the decade had also been slow. There was a net gain of 9,100 establishments between 2004 and 2008. Between 2000 and 2008, the total number of establishments grew 2.7 percent.

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), the source of this data, is based on all establishments covered under the Unemployment Insurance system.



YEAR DATA

All ownerships

Private sector

Percent change in establishments from previous year (all sectors), Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent change in establishments from previous year (private sector), Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	2001	0.2%	0.1%
	2002	0.3%	0.3%
	2003	1.1%	0.9%
	2004	1.3%	1.3%
	2005	4.2%	4.2%
	2006	2.4%	2.4%
	2007	-1.8%	-2.0%
	2008	0.9%	0.9%
	2009	-1.5%	-1.6%

Percent change in establishments from previous year (all sectors), Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent change in establishments from previous year (private sector), Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Establishment growth in Minnesota has lagged the national average. Between 2001 and 2008, the number of establishments in the U.S. increased 13.8 percent, compared to 8.5 percent in Minnesota.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, QCEW establishment data, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/qcew/default.aspx>

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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 38: Unemployment Rate

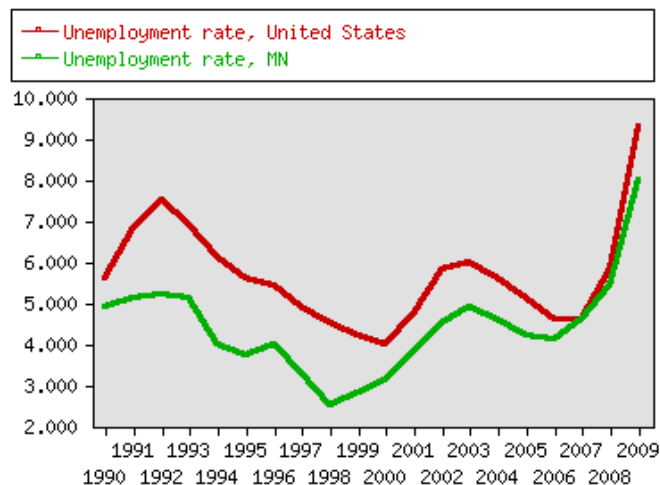
[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.*

**Rationale:** The unemployment rate affects people's financial well-being as well as overall state economic growth.

**About this indicator:** As the economy slumped in the 2000s, the annual unemployment rate grew from 4.0 percent in 2000 to 8.0 percent in 2009. Unemployment has leveled and begun to decline in 2010. The US average for 2009 was 9.3 percent.



YEAR	DATA	DATA
	Unemployment rate, MN	Unemployment rate, United States
1990	4.9%	5.6%
1991	5.1%	6.8%
<p>Minnesota unemployment rate, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development <a href="#">Edit trend</a>   <a href="#">Edit data</a></p> <p>United States unemployment rate, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development <a href="#">Edit trend</a>   <a href="#">Edit data</a></p>		

	YEAR	DATA	
	1992	5.2%	7.5%
	1993	5.1%	6.9%
	1994	4%	6.1%
	1995	3.7%	5.6%
	1996	4%	5.4%
	1997	3.3%	4.9%
	1998	2.5%	4.5%
	1999	2.8%	4.2%
	2000	3.1%	4%
	2001	3.8%	4.7%
	2002	4.5%	5.8%
	2003	4.9%	6%
	2004	4.6%	5.6%
	2005	4.2%	5.1%
	2006	4.1%	4.6%
	2007	4.6%	4.6%
	2008	5.4%	5.8%
	2009	8%	9.3%

Minnesota unemployment rate, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)  
United States unemployment rate, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** In November, 2010 the state unemployment rate stood at 7.1 percent seasonally adjusted, lower than the U.S. rate of 9.8 percent. Unemployment has declined moderately during 2010.

**Things to think about:** The unemployment rate is estimated and does not always follow the trend in other labor market indicators such as the number of jobs. The unemployment rate can go down if people give up looking for jobs, or conversely it can go up if improved economic prospects draw more workers into the job market.



**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/Home.htm>

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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 39: High School Education

[login](#)



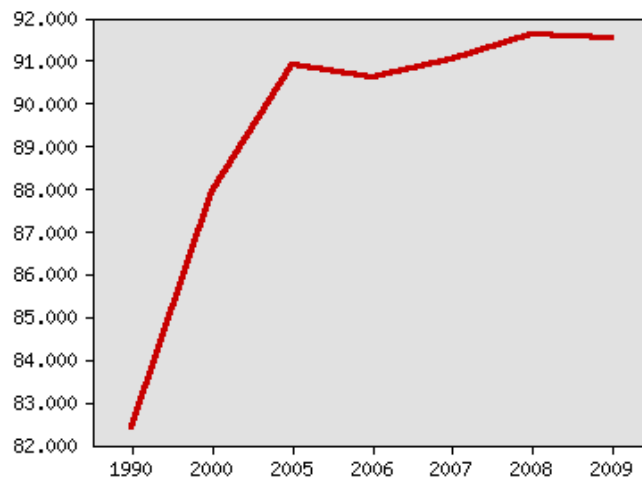
**Goal:** *Minnesota's workforce will have the education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.*

**Rationale:** A high school education is the minimal entry-level requirement for many jobs. The educational attainment of the workforce is important both for the state's economic development and the financial well-being of individuals.

**About this indicator:** The percentage of Minnesotans ages 25 and older who have graduated from high school rose from 82.4 percent in the 1990 Census to 90.1 percent in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey shows a 2009 rate of 91.5 percent, not statistically different from the 2008 rate.



## Percent of population ages 25+ with at least a high school diploma



YEAR DATA

YEAR	DATA
1990	82.4%
2000	87.9%
2005	90.9%
2006	90.6%
2007	91%
2008	91.6%
2009	91.5%

Percent of population ages 25+ with at least a high school diploma, U.S. Census Bureau

**For comparison:** Minnesota is statistically tied for first with four other states in the percentage of adults who have completed high school, according to the 2008 American Community Survey. The national average was 85.3 percent.

**Things to think about:** Much of the increase in educational attainment is traceable to the replacement of older generations who typically had less education. Educational attainment among younger adults has shown little change.

**Technical notes:** The data includes people who have received a GED or other high school equivalency certificate. In 2008, 11 percent of Minnesotans who had graduated from high school but not advanced to college had received their diploma via a GED or similar certificate.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey, <http://www.census.gov/>

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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 40: Some College Education

[login](#)



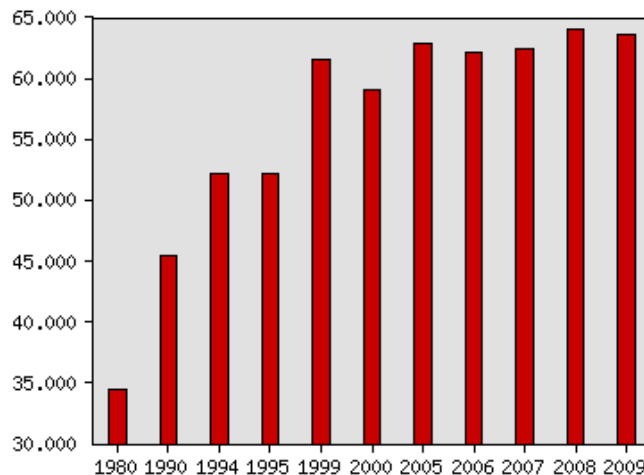
**Goal:** *Minnesota's workforce will have the education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.*

**Rationale:** A college education or technical training is increasingly seen as important both for the state's economic development and the financial well-being of individuals. College-educated workers are seen as more productive.



**About this indicator:** The percentage of Minnesotans ages 25 and older who have attended college rose from 45.5 percent in the 1990 Census to 59.1 percent in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey shows a 2009 rate of 63.6 percent, down slightly from 2008, but the change was not statistically significant.

## Percentage of Minnesotans age 25 and older with some college



YEAR	DATA
1980	34.5%
1990	45.5%
1994	52.2%

YEAR	DATA
1995	52.2%
1999	61.6%
2000	59.1%
2005	62.9%
2006	62.1%
2007	62.4%
2008	64.1%
2009	63.6%

Percentage of Minnesotans age 25 and older with some college, U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Things to think about:** Much of the increase in educational attainment is traceable to the replacement of older generations who typically had less education. Educational attainment among younger adults has shown little change.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey, <http://www.census.gov/>

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Undesirable or negative



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Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 41: College Graduation

[login](#)



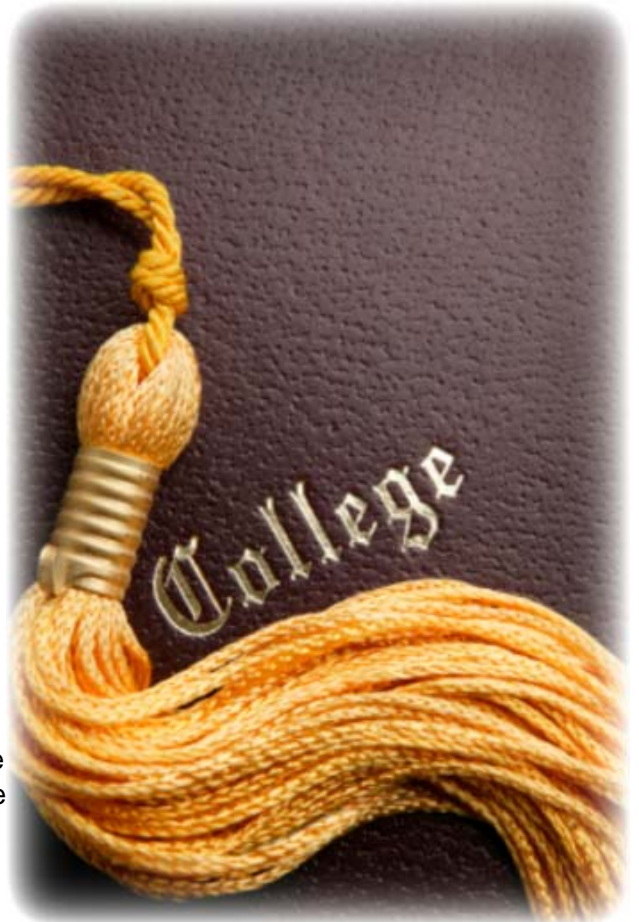
**Goal:** *Minnesota's workforce will have the education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.*

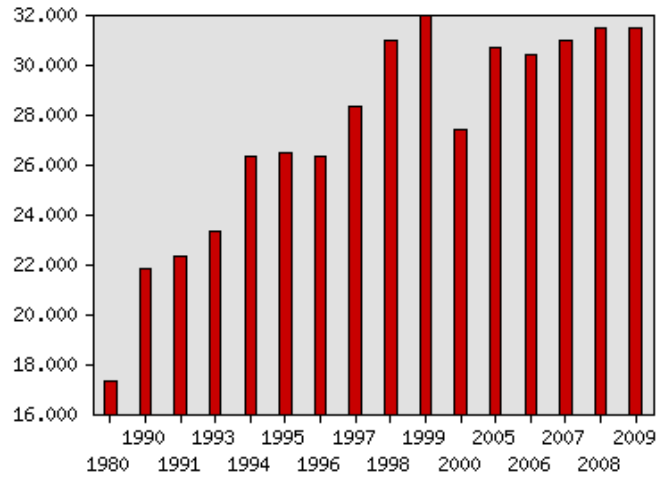
**Rationale:** Higher education is required for many of the jobs in the new global economy. The educational attainment of the workforce is important both for the state's economic development and the financial well-being of individuals.

**About this indicator:** The percentage of Minnesotans ages 25 and older who have graduated from college was 31.5 percent in 2009, according to the American Community Survey, unchanged from 2008. The percentage increased substantially from 21.8 percent in the 1990 Census and 27.4 percent in the 2000 Census.

Age 25 and older is the standard for computing educational attainment in Census surveys. Most adults have completed their formal educations by that age, though a small number continue.

**Percentage of Minnesotans age 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree**





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

1980	17.3%
1990	21.8%
1991	22.3%
1993	23.3%
1994	26.3%
1995	26.5%
1996	26.3%
1997	28.3%
1998	31%
1999	32%
2000	27.4%
2005	30.7%
2006	30.4%
2007	31%
2008	31.5%
2009	31.5%

Percentage of Minnesotans age 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree, U.S. Bureau of the Census

**For comparison:** In 2009, Minnesota ranked 11th among states on the proportion of adults who are college graduates. The national average was 27.9 percent.

**Things to think about:** Much of the increase in educational attainment is traceable to the replacement of older generations who typically had less education. Educational attainment among younger adults has shown little change.

**Sources:**

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

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

## Indicator 42: Median Household Income Compared to U.S. Median

[login](#)



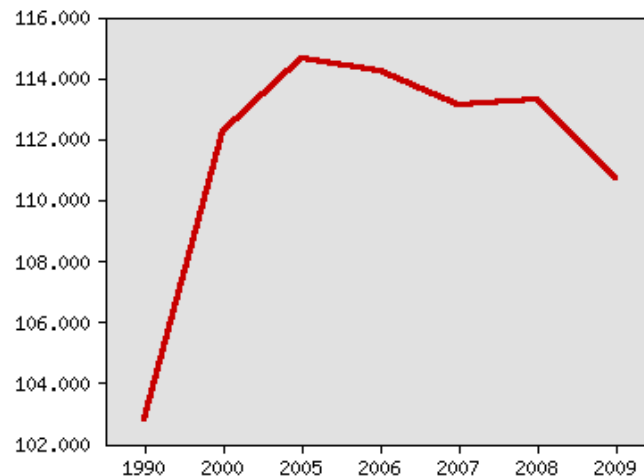
**Goal:** All Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

**Rationale:** The citizens who helped create Minnesota Milestones stated clearly that income slightly above the poverty level is not adequate for a reasonable standard of living. The indicators for this goal deal with several aspects of employment and income. Comparing Minnesota's median income to the nation's median income indicates how Minnesota families are faring compared to the rest of the nation.



**About this indicator:** Between 2005 and 2008, the ratio of Minnesota median household income to U.S. median household income ranged from 1.15 to 1.13. This was just slightly higher than the ratio in the 2000 Census, 1.12. In 2009, the indicator dropped to 110.74. Minnesota ranks 13th in median household income, down from 10th in 2006.

### Minnesota median household income as a percentage of U.S. median



YEAR DATA

Minnesota median household income as a percentage of U.S. median, U.S. Census Bureau

YEAR	DATA
1990	102.8%
2000	112.2%
2005	114.6%
2006	114.2%
2007	113.1%
2008	113.3%
2009	110.7%

Minnesota median household income as a percentage of U.S. median, U.S. Census Bureau

**For comparison:** In the 1990 Census, median income in Minnesota was 3 percent above the national average. Minnesota incomes grew rapidly relative to the national average in the 1990s, but in the 2000s income growth has been slower.

**Sources:**

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

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Median family income compared to U.S. median](#)

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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 43: Poverty Rate

[login](#)



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

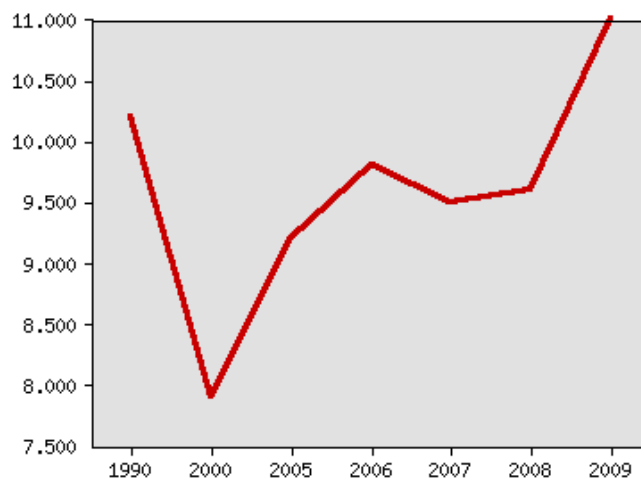
**Rationale:** Measuring the percentage of Minnesotans who live in poverty gives an indication of how many Minnesotans are not financially able to maintain a minimum standard of living. Milestones respondents indicated that incomes must be well above the poverty level in order to be considered adequate.



**About this indicator:** Poverty rates have risen since 2000 as the economy has slumped. The percent of Minnesotans in poverty decreased from 10.2 percent in 1990 to 7.9 percent in 2000. Since then, poverty rates have shown an upward trend. In 2009 the rate was 11.0 percent.

The 2009 federal poverty threshold for a family of four was \$21,954. Many Minnesotans with incomes above the poverty line still have difficulty making ends meet.

## Minnesota poverty rate



YEAR DATA

Minnesota poverty rate,

YEAR	DATA
1990	10.2%
2000	7.9%
2005	9.2%
2006	9.8%
2007	9.5%
2008	9.6%
2009	11%

Minnesota poverty rate,

**For comparison:** In 2009, Minnesota had the 11th lowest poverty rate among all states. The national poverty rate was 14.3 percent.

The Current Population Survey also provides poverty data. In 2009, the Minnesota poverty rate was 9.9 percent using the traditional poverty measure and 13.1 percent in the alternative CE-based measure.

**Things to think about:** The federal government is considering changes in the way poverty is measured. The current measure is often criticized because it does not account for shifts in spending patterns and does not factor in noncash benefits such as food stamps.

**Sources:**

- <http://www.census.gov/>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Poverty rate](#)

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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 44: Average Wage

[login](#)

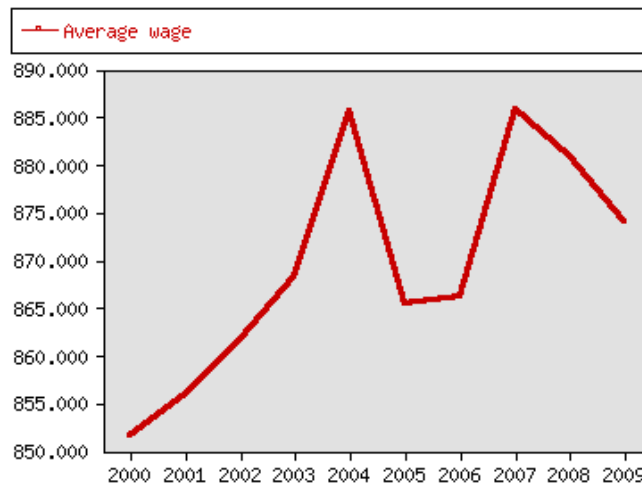


**Goal:** All Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living.



**Rationale:** Hourly or weekly wages are the major determinant of income and spending power for the working-age population.

**About this indicator:** Wages have grown slowly in the 2000s. The average weekly wage for workers in all industries was \$874 in 2009, compared to \$851 in 2000. These figures are adjusted for inflation. Between 2008 and 2009, Minnesota average wage decline by 0.8%, the second decline in two years



YEAR	DATA	% change
2000	Average wage 851.5	N

Average weekly wage in 2008 dollars, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Average weekly wage in 2008 dollars, % change from previous year, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

YEAR	DATA	
2001	855.9	0.5%
2002	861.7	0.7%
2003	868.2	0.8%
2004	885.6	2.0%
2005	865.4	-2.3%
2006	866.1	0.1%
2007	885.8	2.3%
2008	881.0	-0.5%
2009	874.0	-0.8%

Average weekly wage in 2008 dollars, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)  
Average weekly wage in 2008 dollars, % change from previous year, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**N:** No data

**For comparison:** Between 2001 and 2008, average wages in Minnesota and the U.S. grew at an almost identical rate. The 2009 average wage in the U.S., \$879, was close to the Minnesota average, \$874.

**Technical notes:** Data come from the QCEW system and are based on establishments qualifying for unemployment insurance coverage.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/qcew/default.aspx>

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## Indicator 45: Home Ownership

[login](#)



**Goal:** All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

**Rationale:** A high home ownership rate is typically an indication that the housing stock is in at least fair condition and that housing is affordable.

**About this indicator:** The rate of home ownership in Minnesota has leveled off and fallen slightly since 2005. The rate was 73.7 percent in 2009, down from 75.8 percent in 2005. The crisis in the housing market has increased the number of foreclosures and made some families leery about buying a house.



### How is Minnesota doing?

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



Undesirable or negative



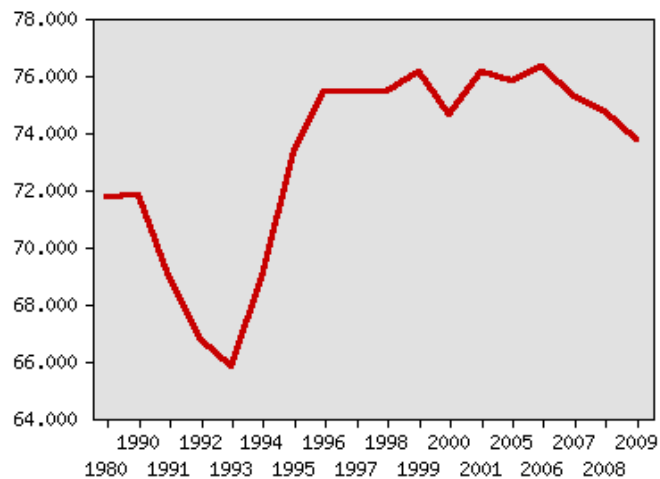
No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

Home ownership rose substantially in the 1990s and early 2000s. The 1990 rate was 71.8; this rose to 74.6 percent in 2000.

### Home ownership in Minnesota, total (percent)



YEAR	DATA
1980	71.7%
1990	71.8%

Home ownership in Minnesota, total (percent), U.S. Bureau of the Census

YEAR	DATA
1991	68.9%
1992	66.7%
1993	65.8%
1994	68.9%
1995	73.3%
1996	75.4%
1997	75.4%
1998	75.4%
1999	76.1%
2000	74.6%
2001	76.1%
2005	75.8%
2006	76.3%
2007	75.2%
2008	74.7%
2009	73.7%

Home ownership in Minnesota, total (percent), U.S. Bureau of the Census

**For comparison:** In 2009, Minnesota had the highest home ownership rate among all states. The national average was 65.9 percent.

**Sources:**

- [www.census.gov http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html](http://www.census.gov/factfinder/census.gov/home/saff/main.html)

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Home ownership](#)

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## Indicator 46: Housing Costs

[login](#)



**Goal:** All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.



**Rationale:** This indicator defines housing affordability in relation to household income.

**About this indicator:** Housing costs are rising relative to income for owners and declining for renters. The percentage of all households spending at least 30 percent of their income on housing declined from 31.1 to 27.8 percent between 2005 and 2009. Among renters, 46.8 percent spent at least 30 percent of their income on housing. Among homeowners, the figure was 30.4 percent.

### How is Minnesota doing?

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



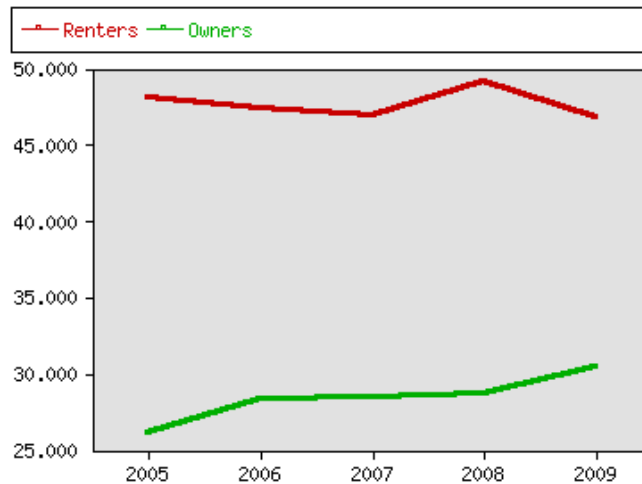
Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.



YEAR	DATA	
	Owners	Renters
2005	26.1%	48.1%
2006	28.3%	47.4%
2007	28.5%	46.9%

Share of income spent on housing, owners, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Share of income spent on housing, renters, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	2008	28.7%	49.1%
	2009	30.4%	46.8%

Share of income spent on housing, owners, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Share of income spent on housing, renters, U.S. Census Bureau [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Among owner-occupied households with a mortgage, Minnesota ranked 29th on the percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs. The Minnesota figure was 37.5 percent in 2009.

Housing costs are considerably higher than in the 2000 Census, when 37 percent of renters and 22 percent of owners lived in unaffordable housing.

**Technical notes:** Spending more than 30 percent of income on housing is a widely accepted indicator of expenditure levels that most households cannot afford.

**Sources:**

- [www.census.gov http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://www.census.gov/factfinder/census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Housing costs](#)

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## Indicator 47: Foreclosures

[login](#)



**Goal:** All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

**Rationale:** Foreclosures create severe stress for homeowners and contribute to lower property values, abandoned housing and a depressed housing and construction industry.

**About this indicator:** The number of foreclosures in Minnesota rose sharply from 6,472 in 2005 to 26,261 in 2008 and then dipped to 23,019 in 2009. In the first three quarters of 2010 there were 21,347 foreclosures. This suggests 2010 foreclosures will likely rival 2008 for the highest number recorded.



### 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.

### Number of foreclosures in Minnesota



YEAR	DATA
2005	6,472
2006	11,907
2007	20,398
2008	26,261

Number of foreclosures in Minnesota, Housing Link

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

2009	23,019
------	--------

Number of foreclosures in Minnesota, Housing Link

**For comparison:** The highest rates of foreclosure were in outer-ring suburbs of the Twin Cities, including Wright, Scott and Sherburne counties. These are rapidly-growing counties where many homes were purchased in recent years.

Minnesota has more foreclosures than many other states, and foreclosures are growing faster than the national average. According to RealtyTrac, in the third quarter of 2009 Minnesota had one foreclosure for every 217 households. Though lower than the national rate of one per 136 households, this rate was the 18th highest among states.

Between the second and third quarters of 2009, foreclosures in Minnesota grew 16 percent compared to the national average of 5 percent. From the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009, Minnesota foreclosures increased 100 percent, the 9th highest gain among states. The national year-to-year figure was 23 percent.

The Housing Link and RealtyTrac numbers are collected using different methodologies and covering different time periods, so figures from the two sources will vary. Both show the volatility and rapid changes that have occurred in foreclosure activity.

**Things to think about:** The 2009 quarterly data indicate the number of foreclosures is declining, but some experts predict another upswing in the near future because of high unemployment.

**Technical notes:** Housing Link collects its data from Sheriff's sales.

**Sources:**

- Housing Link, <http://www.housinglink.org/>

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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 48: Counties with In-Migration

[login](#)



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

**Rationale:** Minnesotans value their freedom to choose where to live. Minnesotans in communities throughout the state also want their youth to be able to make a living without moving away. Migration is a good indicator of the relative attractiveness of an area.

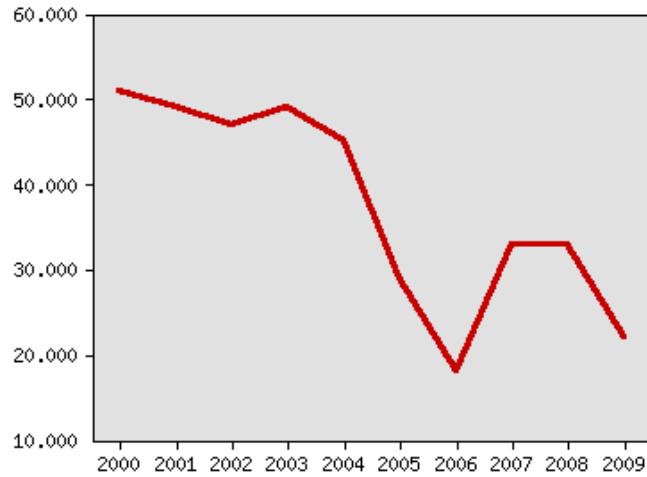
**About this indicator:** Fewer counties are experiencing in-migration in the 2000s. The number of counties with net in-migration declined from 51 in 2000-2001 to 22 in 2008-2009. Minnesota has 87 counties.

The decline in the number of counties with net-migration reflects lower population growth in the state as a whole. Less statewide growth has translated into slower growth in most regions of Minnesota.

Net migration is calculated by subtracting natural increase (births minus deaths) from population change. Out-migration does not necessarily lead to population loss if there is sufficient natural increase to compensate.

## Number of counties with net in-migration





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

2000	51
------	----

2001	49
------	----

2002	47
------	----

2003	49
------	----

2004	45
------	----

2005	29
------	----

2006	18
------	----

2007	33
------	----

2008	33
------	----

2009	22
------	----

Number of counties with net in-migration, Minnesota State Demographic Center

**For comparison:** Between 1990 and 2000, 55 counties experienced net in-migration.

**Sources:** Annual data calculated by Minnesota State Demographic Center

- <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/documents/MigrationTrendsInMinnesota2000to2005.pdf>
- <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/PopNotes/MigrationPN00/MigrationPN00.pdf>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Counties losing population](#)

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Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration



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## Indicator 49: Regional Disparity in Unemployment [login](#)



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

**Rationale:** Differences in unemployment rates are a key indicator of variations in economic opportunity.

**About this indicator:** The ratio of the highest regional unemployment rate to the lowest rate declined from 2.00 in 2000 to 1.55 in 2004, then rose again. In 2009 the ratio of the highest to the lowest was 1.56.



### How is Minnesota doing?

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



Undesirable or negative



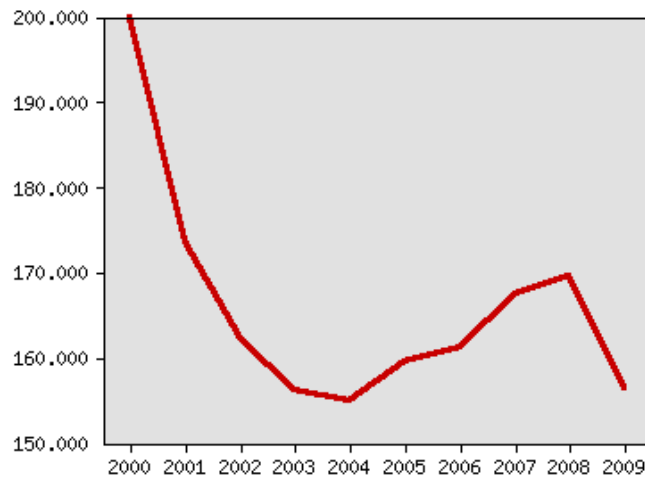
No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

The regions used are Economic Development Regions. There are 13 regions.

### Highest regional unemployment rate as a percentage of lowest regional unemployment rate



YEAR	DATA
2000	200%
2001	173.5%

Highest regional unemployment rate as a percentage of lowest regional unemployment rate, Minnesota  
Department of Employment and Economic Development

YEAR	DATA
2002	162.2%
2003	156.1%
2004	155%
2005	159.5%
2006	161.1%
2007	167.5%
2008	169.6%
2009	156.3%

Highest regional unemployment rate as a percentage of lowest regional unemployment rate, Minnesota  
Department of Employment and Economic Development

**For comparison:** In November, 2010 Region 8 (Southwest) had the lowest unemployment rate at 5.0 percent. The highest unemployment rate was 9.4 percent in Region 5, the North Central Region. The state unemployment rate in November was 6.6 percent, with a seasonally adjusted rate of 7.1 percent.

**Technical notes:** This indicator uses annual average unemployment rates.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/laus/Default.aspx>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Regional disparity in unemployment](#)

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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 50: Income by Congressional District

[login](#)



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

**Rationale:** Variations in household income are an indicator of differences in living standards and economic opportunities across Minnesota.

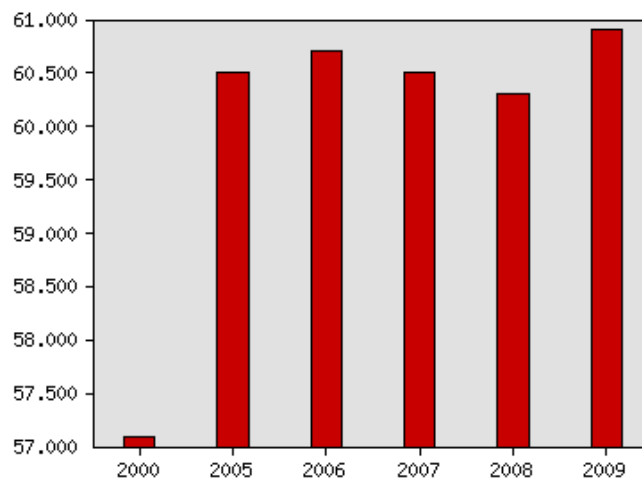
### About this indicator:

Congressional District incomes have become more equal in the 2000s, though disparities remain large. In 2000, the median income in the bottom-ranking district was 57

percent of the median in the top-ranking district. Between 2004 and 2009, the percentage fluctuated between 60 or 61 percent.



### Lowest district median as a percentage of highest district median



YEAR	DATA
2000	57.1%

Lowest district median as a percentage of highest district median, U.S. Census Bureau

YEAR	DATA
2005	60.5%
2006	60.7%
2007	60.5%
2008	60.3%
2009	60.9%

Lowest district median as a percentage of highest district median, U.S. Census Bureau

**For comparison:** Incomes are highest in the Second and Third Congressional Districts and lowest in the Seventh and Eighth Congressional Districts.

**Things to think about:** Increased equality among districts may be the result of low income growth in the wealthier areas, rather than high income growth in less affluent districts.

**Technical notes:** Data is for the 110th Congressional Districts. The 2000 Census presents data for both the 110th and 106th Congressional Districts.

Households include both families and nonfamily households. Example of nonfamily households are people living alone and unmarried couples. Nonfamily households typically have lower incomes. The mix of household types by District is one factor affecting income.

Median income marks the midpoint of the distribution. Half of all households have incomes above the median and half are below the median.

**Sources:**

- [www.census.gov http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html](http://www.census.gov/factfinder/census.gov/home/saff/main.html)

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