

POPULATION NOTES

Sept. 1997

OSD 97-83

More moved into Minnesota than out between 1990 and 1995

Martha McMurry

In the first half of the 1990s, the number of people moving to Minnesota exceeded the number leaving the state by an estimated 83,900. This pattern of strong net in-migration (more people moving in than out) is unusual for Minnesota, which experienced net out-migration (more people moving out than in) in all but one decade from the 1940s through the 1980s. The post-1990 trend reflects a more favorable exchange with states outside the Midwest. The shift to a more positive migration pattern has been most conspicuous outside the Twin Cities area.

Trends in Minnesota net migration 1940 - 1995

By decade:

1940-1950	(171,500)
1950-1960	(98,100)
1960-1970	(25,900)
1970-1980	6,500

By 5-year period:

1980-1985	(53,700)
1985-1990	24,100
1990-1995	83,900

Note: Numbers rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources: Minnesota Analysis and Planning System (1940-1950 through 1960-1970); Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning (other time periods).

Highlights at a glance...

- In the first half of the 1990s, Minnesota saw strong net in-migration (more people moving into the state than moving out).
- Greater net gains to Minnesota came from outside the Midwest, as opposed to neighboring states.
- Except for a few large metropolitan counties, most counties have had a more positive migration level this decade than last decade.

Historically, swings in migration levels have been more moderate in Minnesota than in many other states. Though in most time periods slightly more people moved out than in, the net migration rate has hovered near zero for decades. On average, in the 1960s there was an annual net out-migration of about 2,600 people. In the 1970s, there was a very slight net in-migration, averaging about 650 per year. In the 1980s, the annual average net out-migration was approximately 3,000. Now, suddenly, between 1990 and 1995 average net in-migration has jumped to almost 16,800 per year.



The shift from net out-migration to net in-migration appears to have started in the late 1980s and accelerated in the early 1990s. Higher levels of net in-migration are the major reason that Minnesota has experienced strong population growth in the 1990s. The state's population grew 5.4 percent between 1990 and 1995.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service data based on matched income tax returns (see technical note, page 7) shows that in-migration and net migration both peaked in 1992-93. It is too early to say whether the slightly lower in-migration levels in 1993-94 and 1994-95 are random fluctuations or whether they mark the beginning of a return to lower levels of net in-migration, or perhaps even to net out-migration.

Minnesota in-migration peaked in 1992-93

	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)	Gross (in plus out)
1985-86	74,311	82,835	(8,524)	157,146
1986-87	76,310	83,265	(6,955)	159,575
1987-88	79,015	74,289	4,726	153,304
1988-89	80,872	77,454	3,418	158,326
1989-90	83,223	78,618	4,605	161,841
1990-91	77,952	72,571	5,381	150,523
1991-92	77,062	69,731	7,331	146,793
1992-93	83,989	68,900	15,089	152,889
1993-94	81,200	71,967	9,233	153,167
1994-95	82,800	74,495	8,305	157,295

Note: Data comes from matched federal income tax returns. Since not all movers file returns every year under the same Social Security number, these figures underestimate migration.

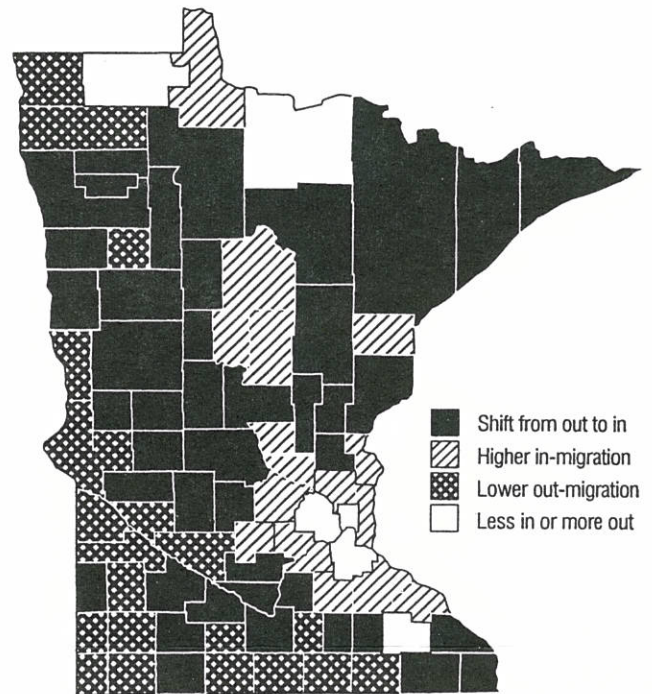
Source: Internal Revenue Service

It is tempting to interpret the high net in-migration in the first half of the 1990s to mean that Minnesota is attracting many more new residents, but a more important factor is that fewer people are leaving. Internal Revenue Service figures show that net out-migration between 1985 and 1990 (-2,730) shifted to net in-migration from 1990 to 1995 (45,449). These net migration numbers differ from those at the beginning of this report, which are based on the residual method. (See technical note, page 7.) The shift reflects a small gain in the number of people moving into Minnesota (2.4 percent) combined with a substantial 9.8 percent decline in out-migration. Thus the higher levels of net in-migration indicate both more attraction of new residents and more retention of old residents, but increased retention has been more important.

Gross migration, the sum of all people moving into or out of the state, was lower in the 1990 to 1995 period

(760,667) than in the preceding five years (790,192). The total is lower mainly because fewer people are moving out of state.

Changes in net migration between 1990 - 1995 and 1985 - 1990 were mostly positive



Source: Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning

Pattern of exchange with other states has shifted

Minnesota's patterns of migration exchange with other states have changed. Greater net gains to Minnesota are coming from outside the Midwest. Minnesota now has higher net in-migration from the Boston-Washington corridor, foreign addresses and California. The drain from Minnesota to the Sun Belt has lessened. At the same time, net migration gains from bordering states are much lower than in the past.

Minnesota's border states have traditionally been a major source of net migration gains, but this is changing. More people continue to move to Minnesota from all border states combined than go in the opposite direction, but the net gain from these states has declined. About 29 percent of movers coming to Minnesota are from one of the four bordering states, according to Internal Revenue Service figures. Wisconsin remains the single leading source of in-migrants.

**More net in-migration from other states
(based on tax returns)**

	1990 to 1995			1985 to 1990			Changes from 1985-1990 to 1990-1995		
	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)
ALL STATES	403,003	357,664	45,339	393,731	396,461	(2,730)	9,272	(38,797)	48,069
Bordering states									
Iowa	25,188	19,771	5,417	29,343	19,309	10,034	(4,155)	462	(4,617)
North Dakota	28,535	23,133	5,402	32,931	21,485	11,446	(4,396)	1,648	(6,044)
South Dakota	13,668	14,576	(908)	15,908	12,929	2,979	(2,240)	1,647	(3,887)
Wisconsin	47,725	50,794	(3,069)	50,655	45,468	5,187	(2,930)	5,326	(8,256)
TOTAL	115,116	108,274	6,842	128,837	99,191	29,646	(13,721)	9,083	(22,804)
Other Midwestern states									
Illinois	27,779	18,993	8,786	25,468	21,000	4,468	2,311	(2,007)	4,318
Indiana	6,873	5,309	1,564	6,575	5,698	877	298	(389)	687
Kansas	5,468	4,720	748	5,637	5,076	561	(169)	(356)	187
Michigan	11,106	9,225	1,881	11,183	11,079	104	(77)	(1,854)	1,777
Missouri	8,268	7,208	1,060	7,701	7,986	(285)	567	(778)	1,345
Nebraska	6,691	5,531	1,160	7,647	5,666	1,981	(956)	(135)	(821)
Ohio	7,968	6,397	1,571	7,007	7,092	(85)	961	(695)	1,656
TOTAL	34,033	28,361	5,672	33,538	31,823	1,715	495	(3,462)	3,957
California	36,238	23,066	13,172	28,180	37,024	(8,844)	8,058	(13,958)	22,016
Other major Sun Belt states									
Arizona	10,844	14,403	(3,559)	11,204	20,551	(9,347)	(360)	(6,148)	5,788
Florida	13,703	15,965	(2,262)	12,278	21,873	(9,595)	1,425	(5,908)	7,333
Texas	23,836	21,367	2,469	22,166	21,726	440	1,670	(359)	2,029
TOTAL	48,383	51,735	(3,352)	45,648	64,150	(18,502)	2,735	(12,415)	15,150
Other Western and Pacific states									
Alaska	2,638	2,742	(104)	3,312	2,920	392	(674)	(178)	(496)
Colorado	11,694	13,013	(1,319)	13,826	13,766	60	(2,132)	(753)	(1,379)
Hawaii	2,070	1,945	125	1,680	1,892	(212)	390	53	337
Idaho	1,502	2,100	(598)	1,661	1,740	(79)	(159)	360	(519)
Montana	3,847	4,154	(307)	5,110	3,854	1,256	(1,263)	300	(1,563)
Nevada	2,948	3,913	(965)	2,112	3,648	(1,536)	836	265	571
New Mexico	2,184	2,476	(292)	2,140	2,500	(360)	44	(24)	68
Oregon	3,531	4,201	(670)	3,085	4,418	(1,333)	446	(217)	663
Utah	2,347	2,365	(18)	2,481	2,069	412	(134)	296	(430)
Washington	9,200	10,070	(870)	7,471	11,352	(3,881)	1,729	(1,282)	3,011
Wyoming	1,657	1,667	(10)	2,452	1,561	891	(795)	106	(901)
TOTAL	43,618	48,646	(5,028)	45,330	49,720	(4,390)	(1,712)	(1,074)	(638)
Northeastern states									
Connecticut	2,827	1,826	1,001	2,563	2,769	(206)	264	(943)	1,207
Maine	903	654	249	976	1,026	(50)	(73)	(372)	299
Massachusetts	4,308	2,988	1,320	3,901	4,777	(876)	407	(1,789)	2,196
New Hampshire	1,141	688	453	1,008	1,391	(383)	133	(703)	836
New Jersey	4,013	2,553	1,460	3,856	3,531	325	157	(978)	1,135
New York	8,917	5,706	3,211	7,570	7,010	560	1,347	(1,304)	2,651
Pennsylvania	5,897	4,663	1,234	5,279	5,508	(229)	618	(845)	1,463
Rhode Island	711	426	285	588	594	(6)	123	(168)	291
Vermont	552	428	124	305	492	(187)	247	(64)	311
TOTAL	29,269	19,932	9,337	26,046	27,098	(1,052)	3,223	(7,166)	10,389

More net in-migration from other states (based on tax returns)

	1990 to 1995			1985 to 1990			Changes from 1985-1990 to 1990-1995		
	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)	In-movers	Out-movers	Net (in minus out)
Mid-Atlantic states									
Delaware	427	284	143	344	466	(122)	83	(182)	265
District of Columbia	795	744	51	596	779	(183)	199	(35)	234
Maryland	3,702	2,755	947	2,743	3,669	(926)	959	(914)	1,873
Virginia	6,383	5,222	1,161	5,442	6,275	(833)	941	(1,053)	1,994
TOTAL	11,307	9,005	2,302	9,125	11,189	(2,064)	2,182	(2,184)	4,366
Foreign addresses									
	16,281	9,610	6,671	11,800	14,370	(2,570)	4,481	(4,760)	9,241
Southern states									
Alabama	1,474	1,772	(298)	1,607	1,639	(32)	(133)	133	(266)
Arkansas	1,877	2,349	(472)	1,719	2,220	(501)	158	129	29
Georgia	4,845	5,830	(985)	4,407	6,215	(1,808)	438	(385)	823
Kentucky	2,236	2,189	47	2,159	2,507	(348)	77	(318)	395
Louisiana	2,190	1,613	577	2,743	1,694	1,049	(553)	(81)	(472)
Mississippi	1,756	1,301	455	1,364	1,006	358	392	295	97
North Carolina	5,008	5,534	(526)	4,521	5,337	(816)	487	197	290
Oklahoma	3,492	3,004	488	4,097	3,308	789	(605)	(304)	(301)
South Carolina	1,773	1,862	(89)	1,569	1,816	(247)	204	46	158
Tennessee	3,578	4,109	(531)	2,868	3,948	(1,080)	710	161	549
West Virginia	409	450	(41)	493	432	61	(84)	18	(102)
TOTAL	28,638	30,013	(1,375)	27,547	30,122	(2,575)	1,091	(109)	1,200

Note: Data comes from matched income tax returns. The number of exemptions claimed on tax returns is used to estimate the number of migrants. Since not all movers file returns every year under the same Social Security number, the numbers underestimate migration.
Source: Internal Revenue Service

From 1985 to 1990, Minnesota experienced net in-migration of 29,646 from its immediate neighbors, according to Internal Revenue Service figures. This declined to only 6,842 in the 1990 to 1995 period. From 1990 to 1995, Minnesota lost more residents to Wisconsin and South Dakota than it gained from those states, and had smaller net gains from Iowa and North Dakota. The change reflects both a decline in in-migration from neighboring states and increased out-migration to them.

Minnesota experienced net in-migration from Midwestern states beyond its immediate borders, with the largest net gains from Illinois. The overall migration numbers for this group of states did not change dramatically from the previous five years, though there were some shifts in the patterns for individual states.

California's sluggish economy and other problems in recent years, combined with the relatively strong economy in Minnesota, have made California less attractive to Minnesotans. Migration patterns between the two states altered dramatically — from a net loss of 8,844 for Minnesota between 1985 and 1990 to a net gain of 13,172 in the next five years. The change reflects both rising in-

migration, up 29 percent, and a 38 percent decline in out-migration from Minnesota to California.

Net out-migration to other major Sun Belt states, including Arizona and Florida, was lower between 1990 to 1995 than in the previous five years. Minnesota now experiences net in-migration from Texas, a major change from the early 1980s, and net in-migration from Texas has increased since the late 1980s.

Net in-migration to Minnesota from states along the "BosWash corridor" (from New England to the District of Columbia) has risen sharply. By and large, decreasing out-migration has been a bigger factor than increasing in-migration. Substantially fewer Minnesotans are moving to New York, Massachusetts and so on, and a few more people are moving from these states to Minnesota.

Minnesota loses more residents to most Western and Pacific states than it gains from them, a pattern that has remained fairly stable for the past decade. Migration to and from Southern states is relatively small. There are a few more out-migrants to the South than in-migrants, but the difference is not large.

Higher net inflow from abroad

Between 1990 and 1995, Minnesota had a net in-migration of 6,671 people who filed tax returns from a foreign address in one year and Minnesota in the following year. This was a sharp contrast to the net out-migration of 2,570 that occurred from 1985 to 1990. The "foreign" category in the Internal Revenue Service data does not include immigrants and refugees, because these groups do not file tax returns before moving to Minnesota. The largest foreign groups in the tax return data are military personnel stationed overseas and other Americans who are working abroad. Military downsizing may be one reason for the shift from net out-migration to net in-migration.

Data from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service shows that more than 35,000 immigrants from other countries came to Minnesota between 1990 and 1994. These include refugees, people joining family members, and other categories of legal immigrants. These new arrivals added to the state's migration stream, though it is not clear what the exact net effect is. Some of the 35,000 may have moved on to other states or returned to their native countries within the same five-year period covered in this report. Figures on undocumented immigrants are unavailable.

Most counties have more positive migration

Only 25 of Minnesota's 87 counties experienced net out-migration in the first half of the 1990s, compared to 66 that had net out-migration between 1985 and 1990. Most counties, particularly those outside metropolitan areas, have shifted toward a more positive migration profile. This includes 43 counties that had net out-migration between 1985 and 1990 but moved to net in-migration from 1990 to 1995. An additional 16 counties had net in-migration in both time periods, but the level was higher between 1990 and 1995. Another 22 counties, mostly in western and southern Minnesota, continued to have net out-migration, but at lower levels.

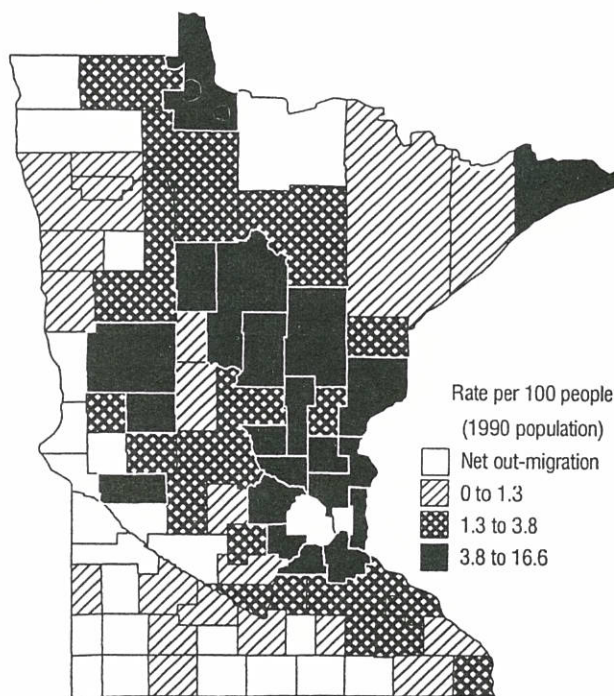
This leaves only six counties that had a more negative net migration profile in 1990-1995 than in 1985-1990. These include, however, the three most populous counties in the state: Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota. Hennepin and Ramsey counties both shifted from modest net in-migration to modest net out-migration. Dakota County continued to have net in-migration in the

first half of the 1990s, but at a lower level than in the preceding decade. Olmsted County, where Rochester is located, also experienced a declining rate of net in-migration.

Overall, the change in migration patterns has favored the counties outside the seven-county Twin Cities area. Net in-migration in the seven-county area dropped from 103,800 between 1985 and 1990 to 47,600 from 1990 to 1995. In the remaining 80 counties, a net out-migration of 80,200 in the latter part of the 1980s reversed to net in-migration of 53,200 in the first half of the 1990s. The overall rate of net in-migration outside the Twin Cities (2.5 per 100) is now higher than in the seven-county area (2.1 per 100).

The overall Twin Cities figures are heavily weighted by the Hennepin and Ramsey county numbers. Net in-migration continues to be very high in some Twin Cities suburban counties, particularly Washington, Scott and Carver. Many counties in western Minnesota continue to have net out-migration.

**Net migration rate for Minnesota counties,
1990 - 1995**



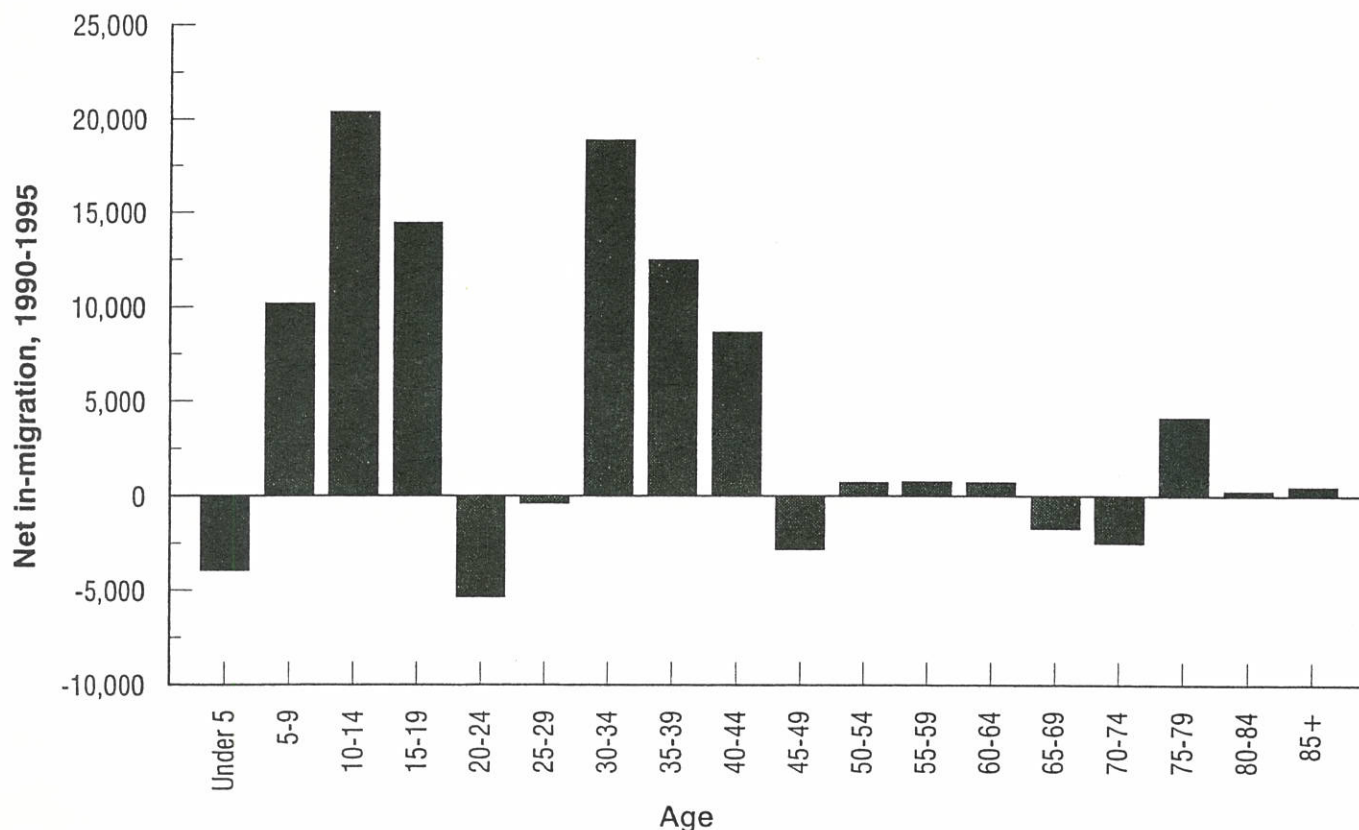
Source: Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning

Net migration by county, 1990 - 1995 and 1985 - 1990

County	Net Migration		1990 - 1995 net migration per 100 1990 population	County	Net Migration		1990 - 1995 net migration per 100 1990 population
	1990 - 1995	1985 - 1990			1990 - 1995	1985 - 1990	
Aitkin	1,160	(780)	9	Morrison	490	(1,460)	2
Anoka	13,120	12,910	5	Mower	(60)	(2,570)	0
Becker	940	(4,000)	3	Murray	(100)	(1,640)	-1
Beltrami	700	(1,240)	2	Nicollet	410	(1,150)	1
Benton	1,950	1,850	6	Nobles	(90)	(2,020)	0
Big Stone	(90)	(1,590)	-1	Norman	70	(1,080)	1
Blue Earth	40	(770)	0	Olmsted	1,810	2,490	2
Brown	200	(1,790)	1	Otter Tail	2,120	(4,830)	4
Carlton	1,070	260	4	Pennington	20	(750)	0
Carver	5,760	4,480	12	Pine	1,320	(10)	6
Cass	1,940	270	9	Pipestone	(90)	(930)	-1
Chippewa	(110)	(1,630)	-1	Polk	120	(2,240)	0
Chisago	4,370	1,090	14	Pope	240	(1,040)	2
Clay	600	(900)	1	Ramsey	(11,300)	3,690	-2
Clearwater	160	(920)	2	Red Lake	0	(650)	0
Cook	230	(520)	6	Redwood	40	(1,680)	0
Cottonwood	90	(1,080)	1	Renville	(10)	(1,930)	0
Crow Wing	3,540	480	8	Rice	1,850	350	4
Dakota	21,800	37,480	8	Rock	(30)	(940)	0
Dodge	380	(120)	2	Roseau	440	730	3
Douglas	1,540	(1,680)	5	St. Louis	610	(9,100)	0
Faribault	(50)	(1,820)	0	Scott	7,080	3,060	12
Fillmore	160	(1,010)	1	Sherburne	6,970	5,410	17
Freeborn	(430)	(2,330)	-1	Sibley	100	(1,590)	1
Goodhue	1,510	50	4	Stearns	2,750	(1,850)	2
Grant	150	(860)	2	Steele	190	(930)	1
Hennepin	(9,900)	28,920	-1	Stevens	(60)	(720)	-1
Houston	280	(1,030)	2	Swift	430	(1,840)	4
Hubbard	1,220	(650)	8	Todd	130	(2,830)	1
Isanti	1,970	(1,050)	8	Traverse	(30)	(690)	-1
Itasca	1,350	(3,940)	3	Wabasha	330	0	2
Jackson	60	(1,920)	0	Wadena	170	(840)	1
Kanabec	470	(130)	4	Waseca	330	(1,120)	-2
Kandiyohi	1,320	(2,320)	3	Washington	21,090	13,270	14
Kittson	(50)	(950)	-1	Watsonwan	(170)	(240)	-1
Koochiching	(520)	(390)	-3	Wilkin	(170)	(1,010)	-2
Lac Qui Parle	(60)	(1,350)	-1	Winona	470	(340)	1
Lake	120	(1,210)	1	Wright	4,920	1,830	7
Lake of the Woods	200	90	5	Yellow Medicine	(70)	(1,090)	-1
Le Sueur	520	(1,040)	2	Minnesota	83,860	24,050	2
Lincoln	90	(830)	1				
Lyon	(280)	(1,730)	-1				
McLeod	990	700	3				
Mahnomen	(10)	(640)	0				
Marshall	(280)	(1,880)	-3				
Meeker	(220)	(1,650)	-1				
Meeker	270	(730)	1				
Mille Lacs	920	(290)	5				

Notes: Calculated using the residual method (see technical note, page 7). Positive numbers indicate that more people moved in than out. Negative numbers indicate that more people moved out than in. Net migration numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. County numbers do not add up to state total because county population estimates are not controlled to the state total.
Source: Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning

Minnesota has net in-migration among people ages 5 - 19 and 30 - 44



Source: Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning

More net in-migration of young families

Families with children are attracted to Minnesota, according to estimates of net migration by age. These estimates show substantial net in-migration among those ages 5 to 19 and among adults ages 30 to 44. Age groups in which more people moved out of Minnesota than into Minnesota include the early 20s, 45 to 49, and 65 to 74. There appears to be modest net in-migration among people over age 75. Net migration numbers for most other age groups are near zero.

Comparing the figures from the 1990 census to the Demographer's Office estimates for 1990 to 1995, the most striking age-related change is greater net in-migration among children and among adults in their 30s and early 40s. Since people are most likely to have children living at home when they are in their 30s and 40s, this suggests more net inflow of young families. Clearly Minnesota is either attracting or retaining more families with children than was the case in the late 1980s.

Technical note on measuring migration

Three methods of estimating migration are used in this report: the residual method, the survival rate method, and Internal Revenue Service data.

Residual method: Population change attributable to natural increase (births minus deaths) is subtracted from the total population change during the same time period. The resulting number is net migration. A positive number means there was net in-migration (more people moving in than out). A negative number means there was net out-migration (more people moving out than in). The residual method provides no information about the characteristics of movers, the number of people who moved in versus the number who moved out, or the origins and destinations of migrants. Sources of error include incorrect estimates of population and allocation of births and deaths to the wrong county.

Survival rate method: Survival rates by age and gender, calculated by the State Demographer's Office, are used to estimate the population that would be expected if nobody moved and population changed only because of births and deaths. The difference between the expected population based on survival rates and the actual population is the number of net migrants. Potential sources of error in the survival rate method include incorrect estimates of population by age and gender, and errors in the estimates of survival rates. The survival rate method was used to obtain figures on net migration by age.

Internal Revenue Service matched returns: Federal income tax returns with the same Social Security number are matched from year to year to note changes in residence. This data does not give complete coverage of the population. Immigrants, young adults and others

who do not file tax returns in both years are under represented in the tax files. Despite this shortcoming, the data is valuable because it shows in-migration and out-migration separately, is available annually, and provides information about the origins and destinations of movers.

Population Notes is published quarterly by the Office of the State Demographer at Minnesota Planning. For information or additional copies of Population Notes, contact the Census Help Line at (612) 296-2557.

Upon request, Population Notes will be made available in an 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.



658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

POPULATION NOTES

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171
St. Paul, MN