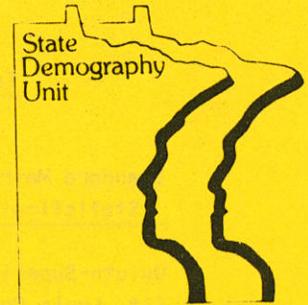


POPULATION NOTES

August, 1982



SDU-82-5

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RURAL AREAS LEAD MINNESOTA POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981

The population of Minnesota grew from 4,075,970 on April 1, 1980 to an estimated 4,100,602 on April 1, 1981, a growth rate of 6/10 of 1 percent. During this same period, the population of the United States grew by 1.2 percent, twice as quickly as Minnesota. The Minnesota growth rate is virtually unchanged from the average growth rate of 7/10 of 1 percent experienced each year between 1970 and 1980. These figures are derived from the 1980 census and estimates of the 1981 population of Minnesota counties, cities, and townships now available from the State Demography Unit.

Within the state, growth continues to be strongest in the Twin Cities suburbs and the lake areas of northcentral Minnesota, while the population of many of the state's central cities and agricultural areas continues to decline. However, suburban growth has slowed from the very rapid rates experienced during the 1970s while the area of rural growth has expanded. Rural growth in Minnesota is now more rapid than growth in either urban or suburban areas.

Rural Growth Rapid But Uneven

The 1970s saw renewed growth in the state's rural areas following a post-World War II decline.¹ This trend has continued since the 1980 Census. Between April 1, 1980 and April 1, 1981, the state's rural areas grew by 1.5 percent, making rural areas the most rapidly growing portion of the state (Figure 1).

Growth has not been evenly distributed around the state's rural areas, however. Between 1980 and 1981, many agricultural counties in southern and western Minnesota continued to lose population (Figure 2). These areas are frequently characterized by older populations, low birth rates, and high levels of outmigration. As has been the case since 1970, rural growth is strongest in the lake and resort areas of northcentral Minnesota. However, this growth, previously centered in five counties in the heart of the lakes region, has begun to expand outward into places possessing recreational amenities but not traditionally thought of as resort areas. Growth has quickened in areas such as Clearwater, Grant, Mahnomon, and Todd Counties, areas which experienced slow growth or decline during the 1970s. At the same time, areas such as Cass and Hubbard Counties saw the explosive growth of the 1970s begin to moderate.

Urban Population Growth Slows

In contrast to the rural areas, the population growth of the state's urbanized (central city and suburban) areas slowed from its 1970-1980 pace. This change was most noticeable in the suburban portions of the state's major metropolitan areas. During the 1970s, the total population of those portions of the state's six standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) outside of the central cities grew by an average rate of 1.9 percent per year. Between April, 1980 and April, 1981 the estimated growth in

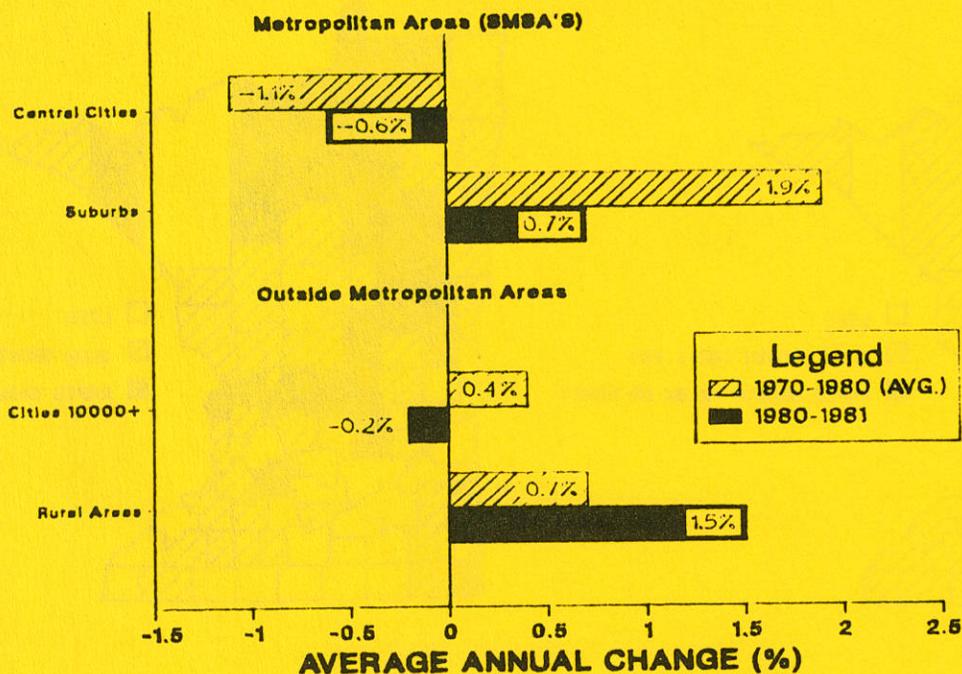
Table 1. METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATION: 1980 AND 1981

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area	Population		Percent Change 1980-1981	
	4/1/80	4/1/81		
Duluth-Superior ¹ (St. Louis County)	222,229	221,039	-0.5%	
	Duluth City	92,811	91,699	-1.2
	Balance of Area	129,418	129,340	-0.1
Fargo-Moorhead ¹ (Clay County)	49,327	49,506	0.4	
	Moorhead City	29,998	29,832	-0.6
	Balance of Area	19,329	19,674	1.8
Grand Forks ¹ (Polk County)	34,844	34,901	0.2	
	E. Grand Forks City	8,537	8,436	-1.2
	Balance of Area	26,307	26,465	0.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul ¹ (Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, Wright Counties)	2,070,271	2,075,321	0.2	
	Minneapolis City ²	370,951	368,310	-0.7
	St. Paul City ²	270,230	268,750	-0.5
	Balance of Area	1,429,090	1,438,261	0.6
Rochester (Olmsted County)	91,997	92,998	1.1	
	Rochester City	57,890	57,945	0.1
	Balance of Area	34,107	35,053	2.8
St. Cloud (Benton, Sherburne, Stearns Counties)	163,256	168,946	3.5	
	St. Cloud City	42,566	42,872	0.7
	Balance of Area	120,690	126,024	4.5

1. Only the Minnesota portions of these SMSAs are included.

2. 1981 estimates for Minneapolis and St. Paul were produced by the Metropolitan Council.

Figure 1
POPULATION CHANGE BY URBAN OR RURAL RESIDENCE



these areas was 0.7 percent. At the same time the rate of population loss in the central cities slowed from an average of 1.1 percent per year during the 1970s to 0.6 percent between 1980 and 1981. As the suburban boom of the 1960s and 1970s was in large part fueled by an exodus from the central cities, it is not surprising that a slowdown in suburban growth coincides with a lessening of central city decline.

This trend is especially visible in the Twin Cities area, which during the 1970s showed the state's most rapid suburban growth and most precipitous center city decline. Among the nine counties making up the Minneapolis-St. Paul SMSA, seven grew at an average rate of more than two percent a year during the 1970s, led by Wright County with an average annual growth rate of five percent. While this rapid growth was going on, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were losing an average of 1.4 percent of their population each year.

By contrast, only three metropolitan counties (Carver, Chisago, and Scott) grew by more than two percent between 1980 and 1981, while Wright County's growth slowed from five percent a year to 1.3 percent. The central cities, meanwhile, declined by only 0.6%, less than half their 1970-1980 average rate. It is premature to conclude that this represents a long-term trend,

but it clearly reflects a dramatic slowdown in residential building activity since the mid-1970s. Whether or not this trend continues depends on short-term economic conditions as well as long-term social and economic trends.

Beltrami, Isanti Are Fastest Growing Counties

The fastest growing counties in the state between April 1, 1980 and April 1, 1981 were Beltrami County in northcentral Minnesota and Isanti County on the northern fringe of the Twin Cities area, each of which grew by 5.3 percent. In Beltrami County this growth was in part fueled by the opening of a large electronics plant near Bemidji. The most rapid declines were experienced by Pennington County in northwestern Minnesota (loss of 3.0%), and Cottonwood (-3.6%) and Watonwan (-3.0%) Counties in southwestern Minnesota, each of which suffered from the economic problems of major area employers.

St. Cloud Remains Most Rapidly Growing Metropolitan Area

Between April 1, 1980 and April 1, 1981, the St. Cloud SMSA (Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties) grew by 3.5 percent, making it the most rapidly growing of the state's six SMSAs (Figure 3, Table 1). The Duluth SMSA (St. Louis County) experienced a slight population decline while the remaining four SMSAs experienced slight to moderate population growth. Most of

Figure 2

AVG ANNUAL POP CHANGE 1970-1980 POPULATION CHANGE 1980-1981

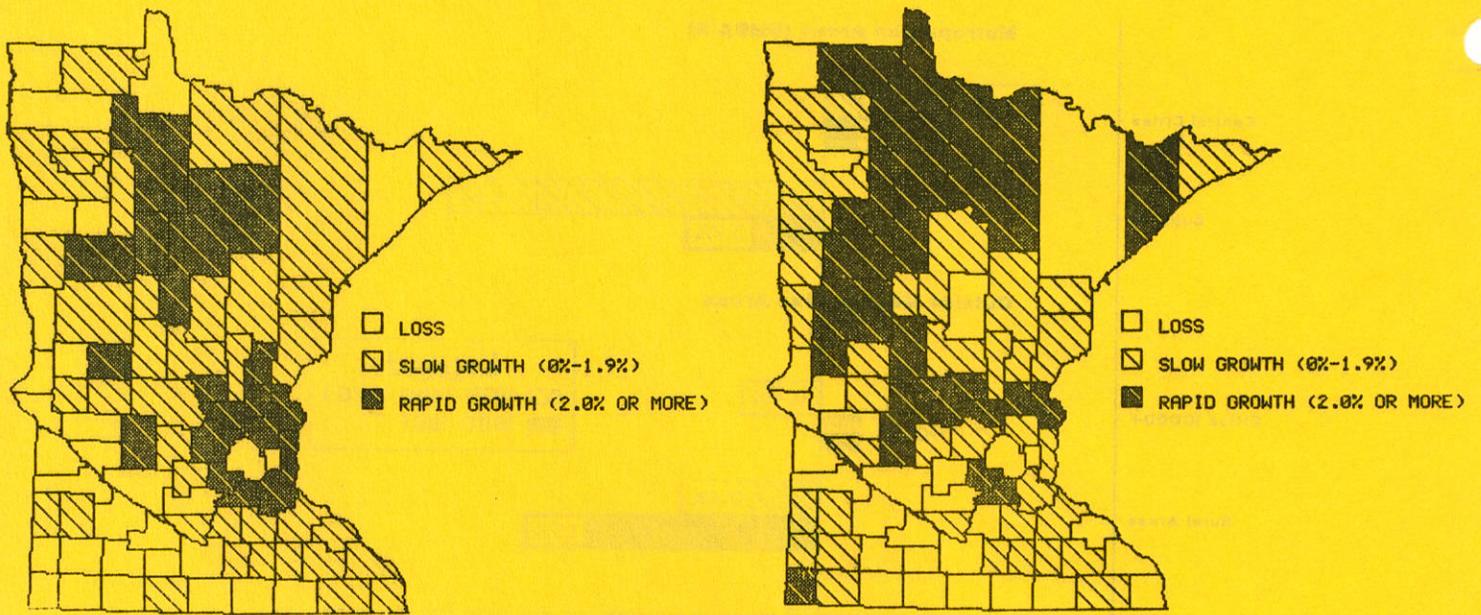


Figure 3

METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATION CHANGE 1980-1981

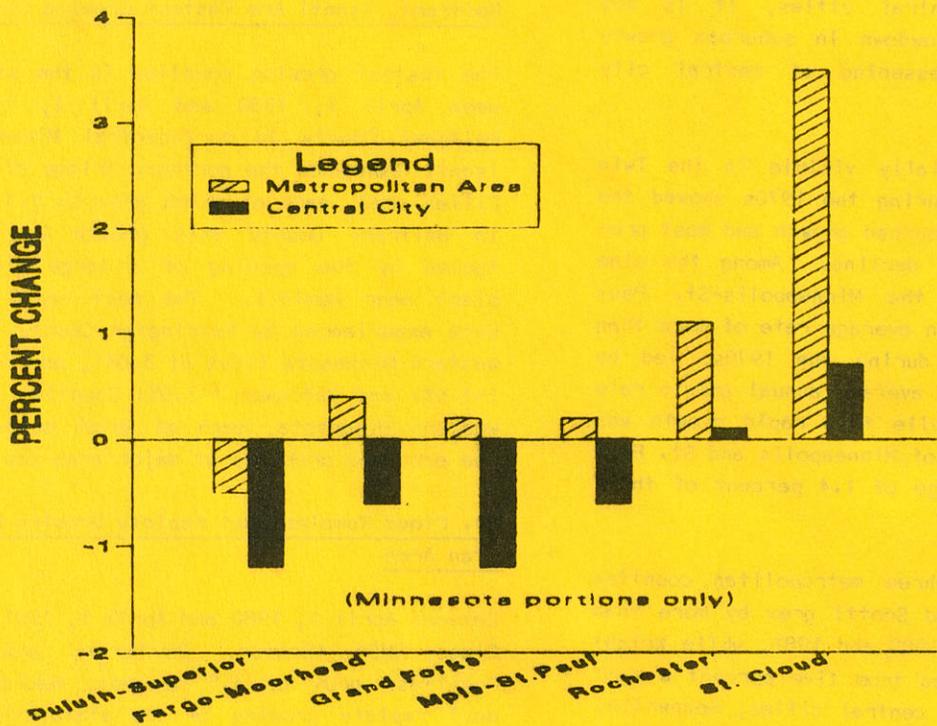


Table 2 CITIES OVER 10,000 OUTSIDE OF SMSA'S, 1980 AND 1981

City	County	Population		Percent Change
		4/1/80	4/1/81	1980-1981
Albert Lea	Freeborn	19,206	18,542	-3.9%
Austin	Mower	23,020	22,613	-1.8
Bemidji	Beltrami	10,949	11,008	0.5
Brainerd	Crow Wing	11,489	11,016	-4.1
Cloquet	Carlton	11,142	11,068	-0.7
Fairmont	Martin	11,506	11,347	-1.4
Faribault	Rice	16,241	16,104	-0.8
Fergus Falls	Otter Tail	12,519	12,592	0.6
Mankato	Blue Earth	28,642	28,489	-0.5
Marshall	Lyon	11,161	11,352	1.7
New Ulm	Brown	13,755	13,701	-0.4
Northfield	Rice	12,549	12,821	2.2
Owatonna	Steele	18,632	19,056	2.3
Red Wing	Goodhue	10,243	10,458	2.1
Willmar	Kandiyohi	15,895	16,583	4.3
Winona	Winona	25,075	24,744	-1.3
Worthington	Nobles	10,243	10,458	2.1

this growth, however, was suburban. In each case suburban growth outstripped central city growth with population declines in each central city except Rochester and St. Cloud.

Of the seventeen large Minnesota cities (10,000 people or more) outside of SMSAs, seven experienced population growth while ten declined. In most cases the population change was small (Table 3). The fastest growing large city outside of SMSAs is Willmar, which grew by an estimated 4.3 percent between April, 1980 and April, 1981.

County, City, and Township Populations Available

Estimates of the April 1, 1981 population of Minnesota counties, cities, and townships are now available from the State Demography Unit.² These estimates are derived from information included on state income tax returns. As these are estimates of population, they are not as accurate as a census. They are intended to provide information on trends during the ten year interval between federal censuses.

Copies of the estimates may be obtained by writing the State Demography Unit, 101 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. An order form is attached.

Either a complete set of tables or tables for individual counties may be requested. A detailed description of the methodology used to derive these estimates is also available.

Population Notes

This is the fifth in a series of "Population Notes" which will be published from time to time as information becomes available from the 1980 Census and other sources. Future notes will deal with such subjects as Minnesota's housing stock, household composition, and the state's Black population.

Footnotes:

1. Rural areas are defined here as cities, townships or unorganized territories located outside a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) and with a population of less than 10,000.
2. Population estimates for cities and townships within the seven county Twin Cities area are produced by the Metropolitan Council and are available from that office. These estimates will also be reproduced in the estimates publication available through the State Demography Unit.

Table 3. POPULATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES: 1970, 1980 AND 1981

County	Population			Percent Change	
	4/1/70 (Census)	4/1/80 (Census)	4/1/81 (Estimate)	1970-1980 Average	1980-1981
STATE	3,806,103	4,075,970	4,100,602	0.7	0.6
Atkin	11,403	13,404	13,621	1.8	1.6
Anoka	154,712	195,998	199,817	2.7	1.9
Becker	24,372	29,336	30,503	2.0	4.0
Beltrami	26,373	30,982	32,616	1.8	5.3
Benton	20,841	25,187	25,953	2.1	3.0
Big Stone	7,941	7,716	7,699	-0.3	-0.2
Blue Earth	52,322	52,314	52,306	-	-
Brown	28,887	28,645	28,370	-0.1	-1.0
Carlton	28,072	29,936	30,005	0.7	0.2
Carver	28,331	37,046	38,527	3.1	4.0
Cass	17,323	21,048	21,385	2.2	1.6
Chippewa	15,109	14,941	15,088	-0.1	1.0
Chisago	17,492	25,717	26,264	4.7	2.1
Clay	46,608	49,327	49,506	0.6	0.4
Clearwater	8,013	8,761	9,054	0.9	3.3
Cook	3,423	4,092	4,160	2.0	1.7
Cottonwood	14,887	14,854	14,318	-	-3.6
Crow Wing	34,826	41,722	41,561	2.0	-0.4
Dakota	139,808	194,266	197,527	3.9	1.7
Dodge	13,037	14,773	15,034	1.3	1.8
Douglas	22,910	27,839	28,376	2.2	1.9
Fairbault	20,896	19,714	19,605	-0.6	-0.6
Fillmore	21,916	21,930	21,989	-	0.3
Freeborn	38,064	36,329	35,705	-0.5	-1.7
Goodhue	34,804	38,749	39,040	1.1	0.8
Grant	7,462	7,171	7,321	-0.4	2.1
Hennepin	960,080	941,180	935,723	-0.2	-0.6
Houston	17,556	18,382	18,356	0.5	-0.1
Hubbard	10,583	14,098	14,448	3.3	2.5
Isanti	16,560	23,687	24,936	4.3	5.3
Itasca	35,530	43,069	45,239	2.1	5.0
Jackson	14,352	13,690	13,499	-0.5	-1.4
Kanabec	9,775	12,161	12,250	2.4	0.7
Kandiyohi	30,548	36,763	38,618	2.0	5.0
Kittson	6,853	6,672	6,641	-0.3	-0.5
Koochiching	17,131	17,571	17,992	0.3	2.4
Lac Qui Parle	11,164	10,592	10,447	-0.5	-1.4
Lake	13,351	13,043	13,355	-0.2	2.4
Lake of the Woods	3,987	3,764	3,901	-0.6	3.8
LeSueur	21,332	23,434	23,336	1.0	-0.4
Lincoln	8,143	8,207	8,168	0.1	-0.5
Lyon	24,273	25,207	25,494	0.4	1.1
McLeod	27,662	29,657	29,470	0.7	-0.6
Mahnomen	5,638	5,535	5,739	-0.2	3.7
Marshall	13,060	13,022	13,039	-	0.1
Martin	24,316	24,687	24,469	0.2	-0.9
Meeker	18,387	20,594	20,894	1.2	1.5
Mille Lacs	15,703	18,430	18,430	1.7	-
Morrison	26,949	29,311	29,436	0.9	0.4
Mower	44,919	40,390	40,111	-1.0	-0.7
Murray	12,508	11,507	11,537	-0.8	0.3
Nicollet	24,518	26,920	27,108	1.0	0.7
Nobles	23,208	21,840	22,263	-0.6	1.9
Norman	10,008	9,379	9,412	-0.6	0.4
Olmsted	84,104	91,997	92,998	0.9	1.1
Otter Tail	46,097	51,937	53,721	1.3	3.4
Pennington	13,266	15,258	14,797	1.5	-3.0
Pine	16,821	19,871	20,099	1.8	1.1
Pipestone	12,791	11,690	11,833	-0.9	1.2
Polk	34,435	34,844	34,901	0.1	0.2
Pope	11,107	11,657	11,825	0.5	1.4

Table 3 (Contd.)

County	Population			Percent Change	
	4/1/70 (Census)	4/1/80 (Census)	4/1/81 (Estimate)	1970-1980 Average	1980-1981
Ramsey	476,255	459,784	457,522	-0.4	-0.5
Red Lake	5,388	5,471	5,426	0.2	-0.8
Redwood	20,024	19,341	19,284	-0.3	-0.3
Renville	21,139	20,401	20,207	-0.4	-1.0
Rice	41,582	46,087	46,458	1.1	0.8
Rock	11,346	10,703	10,946	-0.6	2.3
Roseau	11,569	12,574	12,917	0.9	2.7
St. Louis	220,693	222,229	221,039	0.1	-0.5
Scott	32,423	43,784	45,768	3.5	4.5
Sherburne	18,344	29,906	31,393	6.3	5.0
Sibley	15,845	15,448	15,319	-0.3	-0.8
Stearns	95,400	108,161	111,600	1.3	3.2
Steele	26,931	30,328	30,850	1.3	1.7
Stevens	11,218	11,322	11,260	0.1	-0.5
Swift	13,177	12,920	12,918	-0.2	-
Todd	22,114	24,991	25,904	1.3	3.7
Traverse	6,254	5,542	5,473	-1.1	-1.2
Wabasha	17,224	19,335	19,157	1.2	-0.9
Wadena	12,412	14,192	14,223	1.4	0.2
Waseca	16,663	18,444	18,554	1.1	0.6
Washington	83,003	113,571	114,726	3.7	1.0
Watonwan	13,298	12,361	11,995	-0.7	-3.0
Wilkin	9,389	8,454	8,576	-1.0	1.4
Winona	44,409	46,256	46,030	0.4	-0.5
Wright	38,933	58,681	59,447	5.1	1.3
Yellow Medicine	14,523	13,653	13,539	-0.6	-0.8

 _____ Please send the complete listing of 1981 Minnesota population estimates.

_____ Please send 1981 population estimates for cities and townships in the following counties:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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