

Community Demographic Background

This chapter addresses population and employment trends for Minnetonka and compares them with data for Hennepin County and adjacent communities, where relevant. Most data is drawn from the 1990 Census, with estimates in the 1990s provided by the Metropolitan Council. Housing information is included in the Housing Plan chapter.

Population

As Table 2-1 shows, the City's greatest "growth spurts" occurred in the 1960s and 1980s. The population leveled off in the 1970s but the number of households continued to increase. The decline in household size, which continued through the 1980s, is beginning to level off.

Table 2-1: Population and Household Change, 1960-1995

Year	1960	1970	1980	1990	1997 (est.)
Population	25,037	35,776	38,683	48,370	52,176
Percent change	--	42.9	8.1	25.0	7.8
Households		9,088	12,667	18,687	20,915
Percent change		--	39.4	47.5	11.9
Persons per household*		3.85	3.00	2.56	2.49

* Does not include population in group quarters (609 in 1990, 351 est. in 1996)

Population and Household Forecasts

Table 2-2 shows both Metropolitan Council and City forecasts for population and household change. The "City forecasts" are based on a more detailed analysis of land use and development potential by Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) and

are correlated to the land use changes proposed in the Land Use element of this Plan. They differ only slightly from the Metropolitan Council forecasts.

Both sets of forecasts show the City's population declining slightly from its current level, while the number of households continues to increase. This trend may occur as the City adds new medium- and high-density housing, especially senior housing, since these housing types appeal to one- or two-person households.

Table 2-2: Population and Household Forecasts, 1997 - 2020

Year	1997 (est.)	2000	2010	2020
Population (Metro Council)	52,176	52,000	50,500	50,800
Population (City)	52,176	50,638	51,132	49,815
Households (Metro Council)	20,915	21,400	22,000	22,700
Households (City)	20,915	20,332	22,013	23,111

Table 2-3: Age Distribution, 1980 - 1990

Age Group	1980	Percent of total pop.	1990	Percent of total pop.	Hennepin County - percent
Under 5	2,938	7.6	3,859	8.0	8.9
6-17	8,863	22.9	7,839	16.2	14.2
18-24	3,601	9.3	3,772	7.8	10.6
25-34	6,381	16.5	8,299	17.2	21.0
35-54	11,042	28.5	15,289	31.6	26.4
55-64	3,422	8.8	4,551	9.4	7.6
65 and over	2,436	6.3	4,761	9.8	11.3

Age Distribution

As shown in Table 2-3, the largest growth in the 1980s occurred in the over-65 group, which comprised almost 10 percent of the population by 1980. The percentages of school-aged children and “college-aged” youth declined, while children under 6 and young (25-34) and middle-aged adults (35-54) increased in numbers. Compared to Hennepin County, Minnetonka has larger percentages of middle-aged and “empty-nester” adults, and children over five. It has smaller percentages of young adults, youth, and children under five.

Household and Family Composition

As shown in Table 2-4, non-family households (composed of several unrelated persons) and one-person households showed the greatest rate of increase in the 1980s, while families without children and single-parent families showed smaller increases. Families with children remained basically unchanged in numbers, but shrank as a percentage of the population. This decline is less marked in Minnetonka, however, than elsewhere in the region.

Table 2-4: Household and Family Status, 1980 - 1990

	1980	1990	Percent Change
Households			
One-person hshlds.	1,743	3,975	128.1
Non-family hshlds.	503	1,375	173.4
Families			
Married w/ children*	5,334	5,330	0
Married, no children	4,067	6,353	56.2
One-parent, female with children*	815	963	18.1
without children	296	472	59.5
One-parent, male with children*	123	186	51.2
without children	101	177	75.2

* “With children” means that the householder has related children under 18 living at home.

Persons in Poverty

The poverty level was defined as \$12,674 for a family of four in 1989; the 200% level is twice that amount. In Hennepin County as a whole, 9.2 percent of all persons are below the poverty level. Although Minnetonka experienced an increase in persons below poverty level, their number as a percentage of the City's population is still very small.

Table 2-5: Poverty Level, 1980 - 1990

	1980	Percent of total	1990	Percent of total	Percent change, 1980 - 1990
All persons	819	2.2	981	2.1	19.8
Persons under 18			215	0.5	
Persons over 65			151	0.3	

Racial Composition

Although minority populations grew substantially in the 1980s, they still constitute a very small percentage of the population, with Asian-Americans constituting the largest group, at just under two percent.

Table 2-6: Racial Composition, 1980 - 1990

	1980	Percent of 1980 pop.	1990	Percent of 1990 pop.
African American	163	0.4	443	0.9
American Indian	65	0.2	85	0.2
Asian and other	410	1.1	892	1.8
Hispanic*	193	0.5	392	0.8
Total Minority*		2.0		3.5

* Hispanic population consists of people of any race. Therefore, "percent minority" includes all persons of minority races plus persons who identified themselves as white and Hispanic.

Income Levels

Median household income levels in Minnetonka increased slightly compared to inflation in the 1980s, while family income levels held constant.

Table 2-7: Household and Family Income, 1980 - 1990

	1979 (1989\$)	1989	Percent change
Median Household	32,435 (54,351)	57,395	5.6
Median Family	30,214 (50,630)	50,659	0

Incomes in Minnetonka are well above average. In the metropolitan region, median household income was \$43,781 in 1989; an increase of 5.3 percent from the adjusted 1979 income. Median family income was \$36,678 in 1989, an increase of 6 percent from the adjusted 1979 figure.

Median household income is related to household size: the larger the household, the more people available for the work force, resulting in greater household income. If Minnetonka is compared to neighboring communities, both it and Plymouth, with larger household sizes, show higher household incomes than the other communities.

Table 2-8: Income Profiles, Minnetonka and Neighbors, 1990

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	1990 Household Size	
Minnetonka	\$50,659	\$25,221	2.6	
Wayzata	34,947	27,646	2.2	
Plymouth	51,314	21,908	2.7	
St. Louis P.	34,778	??	2.2	
Hennepin Co.	35,659	??	2.4	

Employment

Over 76 percent of the City's residents were in the labor force in 1990, and 96 percent of this group was employed. The unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. By

comparison, 74.5 percent of the metropolitan region's population was in the labor force, with an unemployment rate of 4.6 percent. (The "labor force" is the civilian population 16 years old and over who are either employed or seeking work at the time of the Census.)

Occupations

The employed population can be classified by the industry sector they are employed in and by their occupational group -- that is, the nature of their individual job (managerial, technical, service, etc.). Minnetonka has much larger percentages of its population in executive and managerial positions and in sales than does the Twin Cities region, while a lower percentage is found in the other categories, such as services and production.

Table 2-9: Occupational Distribution of Employed Residents (percent of total employment), 1990

Occupational Group	Minnetonka	Twin Cities Region
Exec./managerial	22.7	14.3
Professional specialty	18.5	19.7
Technical specialties	3.9	4.7
Sales	20.0	12.7
Admin. support	15.0	18.4
Services	8.2	11.9
Production, skilled crafts	5.8	9.5
Operators, laborers	5.4	12.5

Commuting Patterns

Most of the City's workforce -- about 75 percent - commuted to destinations outside the City in 1990. The majority drove alone, but substantial percentages used car pools, walked or worked at home. Since 1990, the addition of High Occupancy Vehicle lanes on I-394 and expansion of express bus service may have led to an increase in numbers of transit users.

Table 2-10: Commuting Patterns, 1990

	Number	Percent	
Drive Alone	23,111	84.5	
Car Pool	1,931	7.1	
Public Trans., bike	625	2.3	
Walk/Work at Home	1,472	5.4	
Other	195	0.7	
Total	27,334	100.0	

Employment in Minnetonka

As shown in Table 2-11, Minnetonka has grown into a major employment center, beginning in the 1970s. Employment growth has remained strong through the 1980s and 1990s. From 1993 through 1997, Minnetonka ranked fifth among all Twin Cities communities in total job growth, with 6,208 new jobs. The City also led the region in manufacturing jobs gained during this period, with 2,796 new jobs.

Table 2-11: Employment Change, 1970-1995

Year	1970	1980	1990	1995 (est.)
Employment	5,290	19,818	35,536	40,275
Percent change	--	275.0	79.3	13.3

Employment growth, shown in Figure 2-12, is forecast by the Metropolitan Council to continue increasing rapidly to a total of 56,000 jobs in 2020. The City's own estimates, however, indicate a gradual decrease in the rate of job growth as the City's supply of developable land declines. The City's employment projections are based on a calculation of existing and future land use by Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) and represent what the City considers a reasonable amount of employment growth.

Table 2-12: Employment Forecasts, 1995 - 2020

Year	1995 (est.)	2000	2010	2020
Employment (Metro Council)	40,275	45,600	53,000	56,000
Percent change	--	13.2	16.2	5.7
Employment (City)	40,275	45,600	49,292	54,241
Percent change	--	13.2	8.1	10.0