



MINNESOTA COMPASS

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Inspiring action.

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Minnesota Compass: Trends at a glance

Minnesota Compass is a go-to resource for information you need to shape a strong Minnesota. It was developed in partnership with policymakers, nonprofit program managers, educators and other community leaders, to provide non-partisan, credible information in key topic areas that measure our state's well-being.

Major statewide trends

Civic Engagement — Leading the way

- With about 74 percent of the voting-age population casting a ballot during the 2008 election, Minnesota led all states.
- About 37 percent of Minnesotans volunteer—outpacing the nation by more than 10 percentage points.

Early childhood — Good start, but could be better

- Efforts to screen children at a younger age are improving: four out of five children screened across the state in 2008 were under age 5.
- During 2008, 1 in 21 babies (single births) born in Minnesota was low birth weight, up from one in 24 in 1990.

Economy and workforce — Showing improvement?

- In 2008, Minnesota's total economic output (GDP) per capita ranked 9th largest among the 50 states, while the growth rate ranks 29th for the decade.
- In 2008, nearly 79 percent of Minnesota adults (16-64) were employed, compared to 71 percent in the U.S. overall.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

More than half of Minnesota's residents live in the 7-county Twin Cities region. It is one of the fastest growing regions in the Midwest and is predicted to continue rapid growth, reaching three million by 2010.

While Minnesota is still not nearly as racially diverse as the nation, we are becoming more diverse. About 15 percent of our state's residents are now persons of color, compared to only about 1 percent in 1960. Between 2000 and 2008 the state's population of color grew by 32 percent, compared to only 2 percent among whites.

Age trends are also transforming our state. By 2030, the number of Minnesotans over age 65 is expected to more than double and older adults will comprise about one-fifth of our population.

Half of Minnesota's residents 65 and older live on \$23,000 or less annually.

One in 10 Minnesotans lived in poverty in 2008 (about \$22,000 annually for a family of four).

The median-income of Minnesota households was less in 2008 than it was in 1999 (inflation-adjusted). In 2008, half of Minnesota households made under \$57,300 a year.

Immigration to Minnesota has increased steadily since 1990. In 2008, about 7 percent of Minnesota residents were born outside of the U.S.

Among Minnesotans age 0-19, one in seven is a child of an immigrant.

Education — Not quite making the grade

- Overall, four out of five 3rd graders across the state read at grade level in 2009. However, only three out of five low-income students read at grade level compared to nine out of 10 higher-income students.
- Overall, only about seven of 10 Minnesota students graduated on time from high school in 2008; less than half of students of color did.

Environment — Mixed news

- In 2006, Minnesota's average annual greenhouse gas emissions declined slightly after increasing every year on record since 1970.

Health — A region weighing itself down?

- About one in four adults in our state was obese in 2008, up from one in six in 1995.
- Minnesota ranked third best among all states in the percentage of residents under 65 who had health care coverage in 2008.

Housing — Mortgaging people's futures

- 34 percent of households in Minnesota paid more than 30 percent of their income for housing in 2008, up from 22 percent in 2000.
- Less than half of Minnesota householders of color are homeowners, while nearly 80 percent of white householders owned their homes in 2008. This "homeownership gap" is substantially worse than for the U.S.

Public Safety — Getting safer

- Between 2000 and 2008, the serious crime rate declined 12 percent across the state, from 4,334 crimes per 100,000 residents to just over 3,000 crimes per 100,000 residents.

Transportation — Moving in the right direction

- The number and rate of traffic injuries and deaths on Minnesota's roads has been declining—there were 2000 fewer deaths and injuries in 2008 than in 2007.

KEY TRENDS IN THE TWIN CITIES 7-COUNTY REGION

44% — Percentage of students proficient in 11th grade math (MCA-II) in 2009, up from 32 percent in 2006.

1 in 27 — One reported crime for every 27 people in the region in 2008.

73% — Days the region's air quality was "good" in 2008, the best rating of the decade.

1 in 20 — Low birth weight babies (single births) in 2008, up from 1 in 23 in 1990, but the lowest percentage in 5 years.

76% — Voter turnout in 2008, nearly 20 percentage points above the nation.

1 in 3 — Households paying 30 percent or more of income for housing in 2008, up from one in four in 2000.

80% — White students who graduated from high school on time, compared to less than 50 percent of students of color in 2008.

1 in 150 — Likelihood of being injured or killed on our roads in 2008, down from 1 in 100 in 2000.

231,000 — Residents under age 65 without health insurance in 2008, despite our high coverage rate of 91 percent.

14% — On average, the percentage of household income that residents (13-county Twin Cities region) spend on transportation expenses; the same proportion as residents across the U.S.



Minnesota Compass is led by
Wilder Research

Go to the [Compass website](http://mncompass.org) to find state, region, and county trends and data, and resources for action: mncompass.org

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