



Compass Points 2025

Place Matters




Minnesota Compass looks at key measures on a number of topic areas to help policymakers and nonprofit, business, and community leaders identify, understand, and act on issues that affect lives and communities.

What does place-based data tell us about Minnesota?

Our quality of life can vary depending on where we live, even within the same state. Where we **live** matters. Where we **work** matters. Where we **build community** matters. All of these “wheres” matter to our well-being. So, even though Compass Points gives us an annual pulse of how Minnesota is doing as a state, it's important to dive into the data that reflect our particular community, region, or neighborhood.

Minnesota Compass has pulled together some trends to show how the Twin Cities metro region and greater Minnesota vary—or are similar—on quality-of-life issues.

Minnesota's economy is strong overall, but not felt equally



-  Record-high number of jobs in 2024
-  Highest economic productivity
-  One of nation's highest workforce participation rates, especially in the Twin Cities

High inflation has effectively led to a drop in median household income. The impact has been felt harder in greater Minnesota.



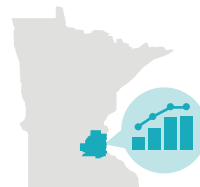
Children are struggling

Minnesota students have not recovered from pandemic disruptions.

-  Dramatic drop in 8th grade math proficiency
-  3rd grade reading proficiency has plateaued

Greater Minnesota has a greater share of young children screened before Kindergarten. It is also home to a smaller share of babies born at low birth rate although all regions are trending worse.

Safety indicators differ



The Twin Cities experienced an increase in crime rates from 2019-2022, but saw a return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.



Greater Minnesota experienced a small increase in crime in 2020, but continues a decades-long downward trend.

Minnesotans are educated and engaged



Adults holding a bachelor's degree or higher:

Greater MN 

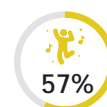
Twin Cities 



Minnesota has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation (**76%** in the 2024 election).



Help their neighbors



Attend arts and cultural events



Volunteer

MINNESOTA'S POPULATION AT A GLANCE

	2020	2023		2020	2023
Overall population	5.7 million	5.8 million	Older adults (age 65+)	949,000	1.0 million
Twin Cities	3.2 million	3.2 million	Twin Cities	466,000	511,000
Greater Minnesota	2.5 million	2.6 million	Greater Minnesota	484,000	512,000
Children and youth (age 0-17)	1.3 million	1.3 million	Foreign-born residents	472,000 (2019)	495,000
Twin Cities	729,000	719,000	Twin Cities	373,000 (2019)	375,000
Greater Minnesota	589,000	582,000	Greater Minnesota	99,000 (2019)	120,000
Working-age residents (age 18-64)	3.4 million	3.4 million	People of color	1.2 million	1.3 million
Twin Cities	2.0 million	1.9 million	Twin Cities	920,000	971,000
Greater Minnesota	1.5 million	1.5 million	Greater Minnesota	318,000	355,000

Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

MINNESOTA'S QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

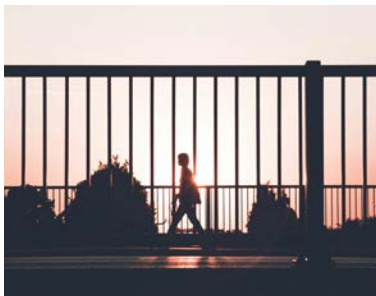
	CURRENT	RECENT TREND	NATIONAL RANK (1=BEST)
ARTS & CULTURE	57% Adults age 18+ who attended a cultural event in the past year	SAME	8
	40% Adults age 18+ who created or performed art in the past year	SAME	17
	29% Students participating in artistic lessons at least once a week	--	--
CHILDREN & YOUTH	54% Students who are connected to a caring adult	WORSE	--
	64% Students participating in enrichment activities 3x/wk	--	--
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	76% Voted in 2024 election (voting-eligible)	WORSE	2
	42% Residents age 16+ who volunteer	SAME	3
	64% Adult neighbors who help neighbors	SAME	6
EARLY CHILDHOOD	59% Children screened before age 5	WORSE	--
	7% Low-weight births	WORSE	7
ECONOMY	\$68,000 Per-capita GDP	BETTER	17
	3.0 million Number of available jobs	BETTER	19
	\$85,100 Median household income (2023 dollars)	WORSE	13
	9% Poverty rate	SAME	4



	CURRENT	RECENT TREND	NATIONAL RANK (1=BEST)
EDUCATION	47% 3rd-graders who are proficient in reading	WORSE	--
	41% 8th-graders who are proficient in math	WORSE	--
	84% Students who graduate high school on time	SAME	35
ENVIRONMENT	57% Days air quality was rated "good" (Twin Cities)	SAME	5
	22.0 Tons of greenhouse gas emissions per person	BETTER	--
HEALTH	33% Adults age 18+ who are obese	WORSE	19
	5% Residents under age 65 who are uninsured	SAME	4
	11% Adults age 18+ with diabetes	WORSE	12
HOUSING	10,522 People experiencing homelessness	WORSE	--
	28% Households who pay 30% or more of income for housing	WORSE	16
	26 ppt Homeownership gap (white, of color)	BETTER	40
PUBLIC SAFETY	20 Serious crimes committed per 1,000 residents	SAME	--
	17 Property crimes committed per 1,000 residents	BETTER	--
	3 Violent crimes committed per 1,000 residents	WORSE	--
	87% Students who feel safe at school	WORSE	--
	85% NEW Adults who feel safe in their community	--	--
TRANSPORTATION	4 Traffic injuries and fatalities per 1,000 residents	BETTER	5
	1% Highway miles rated in poor condition	BETTER	--
	18% Household income spent on transportation (Twin Cities)	SAME	8
	59 Annual hours of delay per auto commuter (Twin Cities)	SAME	6
	16,100 Average number of jobs reachable within a 30-minute commute by foot or transit (Twin Cities)	WORSE	12
WORKFORCE	80% Proportion of adults working	SAME	2
	40% Adults age 25+ with a bachelor's degree	BETTER	11
	67% Graduation rate at 4-year institutions (within 6 years)	BETTER	14
	54% Graduation + transfer rate at 2-year institutions (within 3 years)	SAME	8



2024 HIGHLIGHTS:



LUMARIS COMMUNITY SURVEY:

How safe do Minnesotans feel?

When Minnesota Compass convened a topic advisory group to re-examine and update our public safety indicators page, the advisors wanted to know more than crime rates and traffic fatalities. For the first time in our nearly 20-year history, we took a leap in collecting our own primary data for this measure. We worked with the team at Lumaris to add three items to their Minnesota Community Survey, a new web-based panel survey of more than 3,000 Minnesota adults. We wanted to know if Minnesotans felt safe in their communities, if that perception has changed in recent years, and if fear of crime deters them from doing things they like to do.

[READ OUR REPORT>](#)



[GET THE DATA>](#)



PRESS FORWARD MINNESOTA GRANT :

A collaboration on data-informed journalism

Mshale, a newspaper serving Minnesota's African communities, and Minnesota Compass will collaborate to produce data-based stories to increase understanding of how policies affect African immigrants. African immigrants are one of the fastest growing demographics in the state.

Press Forward funds programs and organizations that strengthen local democracy, increase diversity, embrace digital technology, build sustainable models, and boost demand for quality local news.

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