

Minnesota food shelf use and socioeconomic indicators

1998 and 1999

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Summary

Food shelf use

The number of individual visits to food shelves decreased 1.5 percent in Minnesota from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 1 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 2.5 percent, from 5.1 percent in 1998 to 4.9 percent in 1999. Individual visits increased in five of the state's nine food bank regions and declined in the other four. North Central experienced the greatest growth in food shelf use and North Country had the greatest decline.

Economic indicators

During the same time period, the Minnesota unemployment rate remained at a low 2.5 percent; of the nine food bank regions, North Central has the highest unemployment rate (5.3%) and East Metro the lowest (1.8%), but Great Plains had the greatest increase in unemployment (10%) and Northern Lakes the greatest decline (-7.7%).

Average weekly wages increased 4.4 percent statewide, from \$581.26 to \$606.63. Wages are highest in the West Metro and lowest in North Country and Great Plains; increases were greatest in North Central and lowest in Great Plains. Services and trade were the two largest and lowest-paid sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 28 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the state. Great Plains has more government jobs than other regions and fewer in manufacturing. Northern Lakes has higher than average percentage of service jobs and lower fraction of manufacturing jobs. Southeast and Southwest both have higher than average rates of employment in manufacturing, which have the second highest rate of pay of the seven employment sectors.

In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 19.4 percent, from 10.8 percent in 1993 to 8.7 percent in 1995. Poverty rates were highest in Great Plains (13.4%) and lowest in East Metro (7.3%). Declines in poverty rates were greatest in the West Metro (-23.7%) and smallest in Great Plains (-13.5%). The median household income increased statewide from \$33,239 in 1998 to \$37,483 in 1999, a rise of 12.8 percent. Income levels were highest in the two metro regions and lowest in North Country and North Central. Northern Lakes experienced the greatest increase in median income during this period (+14.2%) and Southwest had the least growth (+7.2%).

The state's Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) caseload declined 10.5 percent from 1998 to 1999. Percentage declines were greatest in Central (-16.6%) and smallest in North Country (-4.9%). About 10 percent of Minnesotan's federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and 8.6 percent of state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit (WFC). North Central had the highest rate of claims for both credits and the two metro regions had the lowest rate.

Food program use indicators

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased 0.4 percent, from 26.2 percent of enrolled students in 1997-98 to 26.3 percent in 1998-99. Approval rates in 1998-99 were highest in North Country (37.7%) and lowest in Southeast (22.2%). North Country had the greatest increase in approval rates during this period (+6.5%) while Central had the greatest approval rate decline (-3.1%).

The number of families receiving the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) declined 3.8 percent from 1998 to 1999. Declines were greatest in the East Metro (-7.1%), while numbers actually increased by 11.6 percent in one region: Southwest. The number of households receiving food stamps declined 3.6 percent; the largest percentage declines were seen in North Central (-11.4%) and the smallest declines were in the metro regions. Great Plains was the only region to experience an increase in the number of households receiving food stamps (+4.8%). The number of people served home-delivered meals declined 1.2 percent from 1998 to 1999; data on meals are not available on a regional level.

Other indicators of need

The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by 13.7 percent statewide from 1998 to 1999; increases were greatest in Central (+24.9%) and Northern Lakes had a slight decline (-1%).

About 43 percent of renters in Minnesota cannot afford fair market rent, but Great Plains has a much higher unaffordability rate of 61 percent. The ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 7.5 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period, with homes most expensive (relative to wages) in the East Metro region and most affordable in North Country.

Factors that contribute to food shelf use

Based on statistical analysis, we found that the greater the proportion of a county's labor force in the higher-wage sectors of manufacturing and construction, the lower the county's food shelf use rate; and the higher the percentage of service sector employment, the higher the food shelf use. Two other factors were associated with lower food shelf use: higher median income and higher WIC participation rates.

Regional factors in food shelf use:

- The North Central region experienced the greatest growth in food shelf use, perhaps related to low wages and unemployment. The area has the highest unemployment rate in the state, although unemployment has declined quite a bit, and many people work in the low-wage service sector. Wages have increased, but they are still among the lowest in the state. Also, area food shelves have been increasing their outreach and attempting to provide better services. As a result, there may be more people aware of the help that the food shelves provide in an area where socioeconomic indicators suggest higher need.
- The North Country region had the greatest decline in food shelf use. North Country, along with Southwest and Great Plains, is almost recovered from the severe flooding and tornadoes experienced in recent years. North Country has the second lowest rate of employment in the two lowest paying industries, services and trade (49%). Also, while WIC participation has been dropping throughout the state, in North Country it is dropping at a much lower rate, the second lowest in the state. Taken together, all of these indicate less need for food shelf assistance.

Implications and recommendations

The Minnesota economy is booming. Unemployment rates are at historical lows and median household income is at an all-time high, among the best in the nation. The "rising economic tide" seems to be benefiting more people, indicated by the overall drop in food shelf use in Minnesota. Regardless, last year, more food bank regions in the state experienced increased use than declining use.

Wages: A number of people, including those leaving welfare for work, are earning low wages, perhaps working in service jobs, and having serious trouble making ends meet. Family health problems or other family crises can bring about situations that add to the need for assistance by programs such as food shelves. Efforts to increase wages so that families have sufficient income to meet their daily living needs and to make available

programs that help fill in the gaps for families are still very important in order to aid families who have not benefited by the improved economy.

WIC participation: WIC is one program that is helping families deal with meeting their food and nutrition needs. The higher the WIC participation in an area, the lower the county's food shelf use. Recently, the number of eligible women, infants and children participating in the program has declined, and some efforts were made to halt the decline. Efforts should continue to support increased use and ease of access to WIC in Minnesota, including sufficient funding so that all eligible people can get support from the program.

Affordable housing: Another strain on low income people is the cost of housing. Housing costs in Minnesota are quite high and are increasing. At least 40 percent of Minnesotans, and more in some regions, are unable to afford the 1999 fair market rent. Most often, people pay for housing first, and then deal with other needs such as food. As housing costs increase, especially for those with low-paying jobs, less money is available for food. As a result, more people need the support provided by food shelves. Efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing should be continued so that low-income people have options available that allow them to meet all their basic needs.

Background and introduction

In 1999, Minnesota Hunger Partners contracted with the Wilder Research Center to analyze 1998 and 1999 food shelf use in Minnesota relative to a variety of socioeconomic indicators. Hunger Partners provided data on food shelf use and indicator data were gathered from various sources.

This report first discusses statewide patterns and regional variations in food shelf use, and then does the same for economic indicators, food program indicators and other indicators of need. It also describes the results of statistical analyses of relationships between food shelf use and the various indicators.

The report next provides summary tables for the state and for each of the state's nine food bank regions which pull together food shelf use and all indicators for the specified geographic area and gives a verbal description of that area's patterns and trends.

The appendix of the report is a series of tables providing food shelf use data and indicator data for each county, organized alphabetically within each food bank region, for 1998 and 1999, or for the most recent years available. Definitions, sources and clarifying notes for each indicator are found at the end of each table.

Trends in food shelf use, 1998-99

Food shelf use

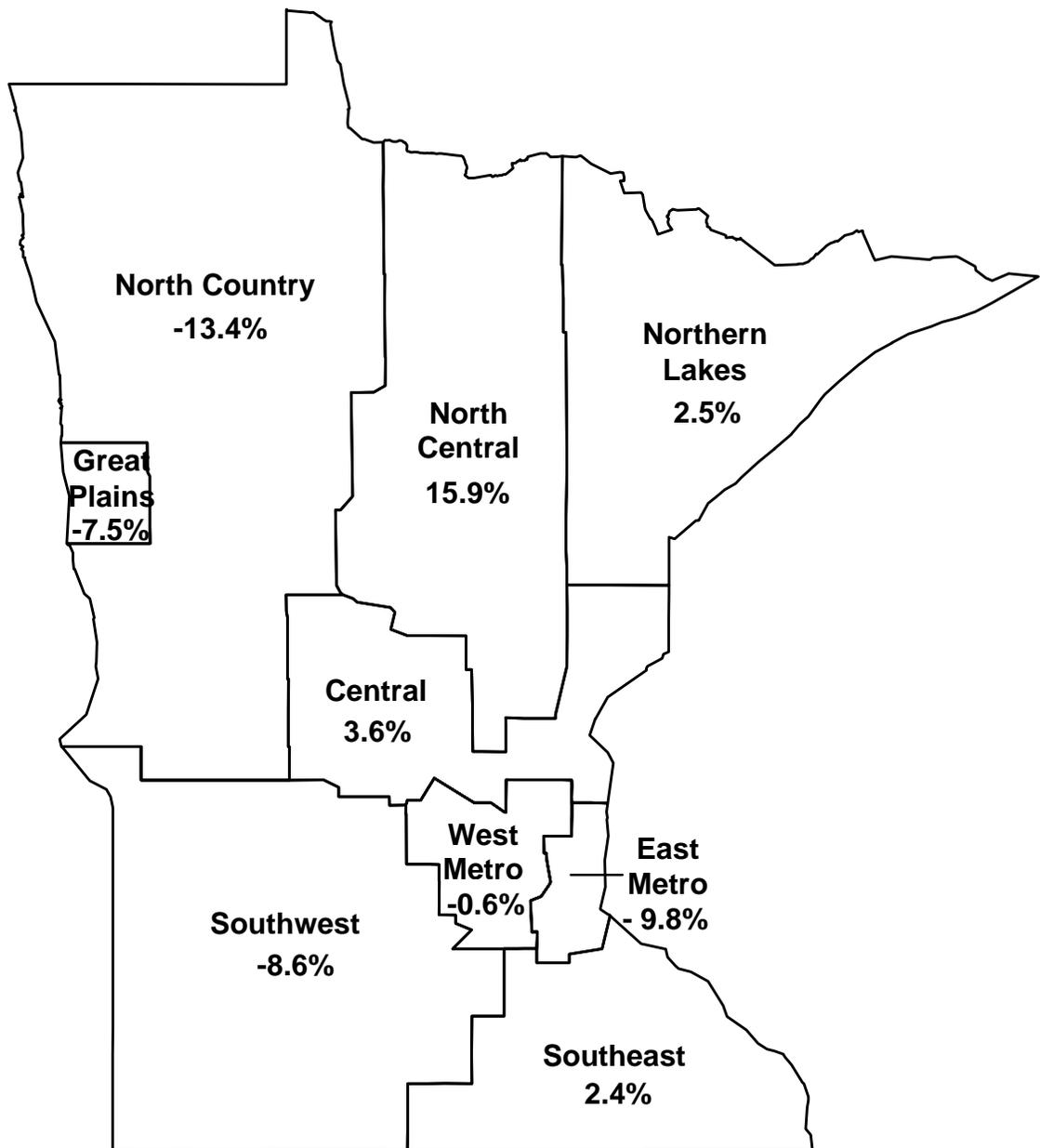
Food shelf use decreased slightly statewide from 1998 to 1999, from 1,266,408 individual visits in 1998 to 1,248,065 visits in 1999. At an estimated 5.3 visits per person, this implies that 235,484 separate individuals visited food shelves in 1999, nearly 5 percent of the state's population.

Individual visits increased in five of the state's nine food bank regions, ranging from a small 0.7 percent increase in the West Metro region to a 17.3 percent increase in North Central. But declines in food shelf visits in the state's other four regions – ranging from a 7.1 percent decline in Great Plains to a 13.1 percent decline in North Country – more than matched the increases, resulting in the 1.5 percent net decline in individual visits statewide.

Taking population growth into account, and assuming 5.3 visits per individual, there has been a 2.5 percent decrease from 1998 to 1999 in the percent of the state's population served by food shelves (the estimated "food shelf use rate"). But again, this trend varies widely by region. While North Country experienced a 13.4 percent decrease from 1998 to 1999 in the estimated percent of population using food shelves and East Metro saw a 10 percent decrease, North Central had a 15.9 percent increase and Central's food shelf use rate increased over 3 percent.

In 1999, the East Metro region has the lowest food shelf use rate (2.8%); Central, Northern Lakes and Southwest are lower than average (4.0%, 3.7% and 3.7%, respectively), Southeast is slightly above average (5.1%), North Central, North Country and West Metro are considerably above average (6.9%, 6.4%, and 6.3%), and Great Plains has the highest food shelf use rate in the state (8.9%)

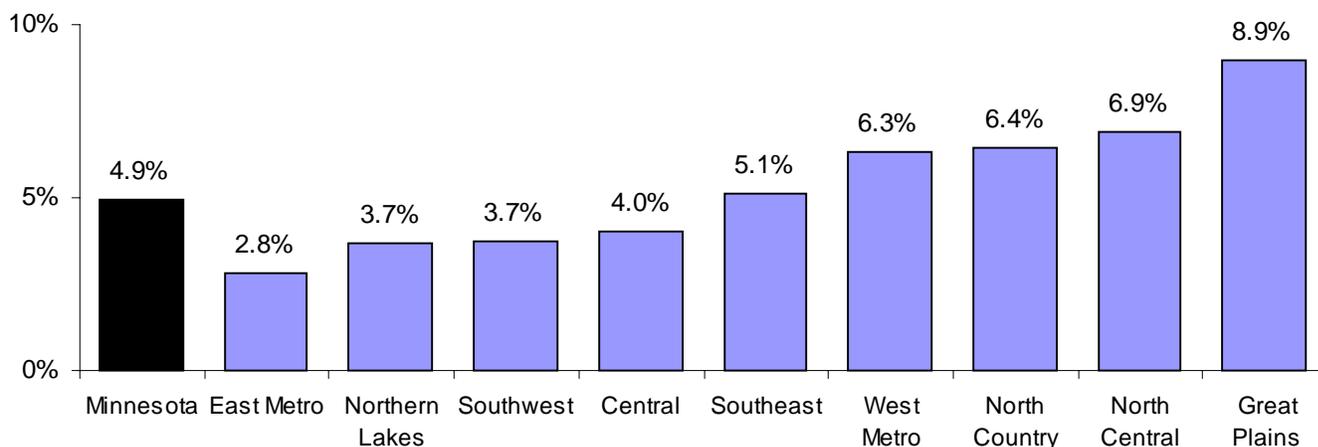
1. FOOD SHELF REGIONS: CHANGES IN PERCENT OF POPULATION SERVED, 1998-1999



2. FOOD SHELF USE, 1998 AND 1999

	Individuals served, 1998	Individuals served, 1999	Change, 1998-1999	Estimated percent of population served, 1998	Estimated percent of population served, 1999	Change, 1998-1999
Minnesota	1,266,408	1,248,065	-1.5%	5.1%	4.9%	-2.5%
Central	76,871	81,384	5.9%	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%
East Metro	168,081	153,691	-8.6%	3.1%	2.8%	-9.8%
Great Plains	26,387	24,512	-7.1%	9.7%	8.9%	-7.5%
North Central	58,849	69,045	17.3%	6.0%	6.9%	15.9%
North Country	129,710	112,685	-13.1%	7.4%	6.4%	-13.4%
Northern Lakes	45,461	46,665	2.6%	3.6%	3.7%	2.5%
Southeast	125,498	130,513	3.2%	5.0%	5.1%	2.4%
Southwest	101,321	92,342	-8.9%	4.1%	3.7%	-8.6%
West Metro	534,230	538,189	0.7%	6.4%	6.3%	-0.6%

3. ESTIMATED PERCENT OF POPULATION SERVED BY FOOD SHELVES, 1999



Economic indicators

Unemployment rates

Statewide, unemployment rates remained at 2.5 percent from 1998 to 1999. In the West Metro and Southeast, as well, unemployment rates did not change over the year, remaining at 2.0 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively. Unemployment rates declined in six regions: Central, East Metro, North Central, North Country, Northern Lakes and Southwest, but actually increased by 10 percent in Great Plains. Unemployment is highest in North Central (5.3%) and lowest in East Metro (1.8%).

4. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 1998 AND 1999

	Unemployment rate, 1998	Unemployment rate, 1999	Change
Minnesota	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
4Central	3.4%	3.2%	-5.9%
East Metro	1.9%	1.8%	-5.3%
Great Plains	2.0%	2.2%	10.0%
North Central	5.7%	5.3%	-7.0%
North Country	4.4%	4.3%	-2.3%
Northern Lakes	3.9%	3.6%	-7.7%
Southeast	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Southwest	3.0%	2.9%	-3.3%
West Metro	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%

Average weekly wage

In Minnesota over the last year, the average weekly wage increased 4.4 percent, from \$581.26 in 1998 to \$606.63 in 1999. Wages are highest in the East and West Metro regions (\$646 and \$721, respectively) and lowest in Great Plains and North Country (\$420 and \$416).

Wage rate increases were lowest in these two low-wage regions: Great Plains and North Country saw only 2.8 and 3.8 percent increases over the year. The highest wage rate increases were seen in low-to-moderate wage rate regions: North Central, with a \$490 average weekly wage in 1998 experienced a 13 percent climb from 1997 to 1998, and Central, with a \$482 wage rate, saw an 8 percent increase. Wage rate increases were more moderate in the two high wage rate regions: the East Metro experienced a 5.3 percent

increase in average weekly wage from 1997 to 1998, and the West Metro had a 6.8 percent increase.

5. AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE, 1997 AND 1998

	Average weekly wage, 1997	Average weekly wage, 1998	Change
Minnesota	\$581.26	\$606.63	4.4%
Central	\$445.56	\$482.34	8.3%
East Metro	\$613.57	\$646.05	5.3%
Great Plains	\$408.06	\$419.53	2.8%
North Central	\$433.00	\$489.60	13.1%
North Country	\$401.11	\$416.43	3.8%
Northern Lakes	\$485.90	\$508.96	4.7%
Southeast	\$499.44	\$525.61	5.2%
Southwest	\$418.27	\$443.99	6.1%
West Metro	\$674.82	\$720.70	6.8%

Employment by sector

Of the 2,462,159 individuals employed in non-agricultural, forestry, fishing and mining Minnesota jobs in 1998, 28 percent worked in the service industry, followed by wholesale and retail trade (24%), manufacturing (18%), government (14%). Finance, insurance and real estate accounted for 7 percent of employment, transportation and utilities for 5 percent, and construction for 4 percent. Most regions conform to this general pattern, with four exceptions: Great Plains, where the government sector accounts for a considerably higher fraction of employment (24%) and manufacturing provides little employment (4%); Northern Lakes, where services account for a higher than average percentage of employment (31%) and manufacturing is lower than average (9%); and Southeast and Southwest, where manufacturing accounts for nearly one-quarter of all employment.

For the state as a whole, trade and services are the lowest paid employment sectors; government jobs are about average; construction, manufacturing and transportation are above average; and finance, insurance and real estate are the most highly paid. By implication, then, the very small fraction of manufacturing jobs in Great Plains and Northern Lakes may account for the lower than average weekly wages in those regions, and the high percentage of manufacturing jobs in Southeast and Southwest help to raise the average weekly wages in those regions. Still, because of the wide range of wages within each sector and across regions, a definitive regional picture is difficult to draw.

6. EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, 1998

	All industries*	Construction % of all	Manufacturing % of all	Transportation & utilities % of all	Trade % of all	Finance, insurance & real estate % of all	Services % of all	Government % of all
Minnesota	2,462,159	4%	18%	5%	24%	7%	28%	14%
Central	144,593	5%	19%	4%	28%	3%	23%	16%
East Metro	523,519	4%	18%	4%	24%	7%	27%	15%
Great Plains	16,729	6%	6%	3%	29%	3%	27%	24%
North Central	69,337	4%	15%	4%	25%	4%	27%	19%
North Country	128,662	4%	17%	4%	25%	3%	24%	19%
Northern Lakes	111,847	4%	9%	5%	24%	3%	31%	19%
Southeast	230,131	4%	24%	4%	21%	4%	30%	13%
Southwest	208,989	4%	25%	4%	24%	8%	20%	17%
West Metro	1,028,352	4%	16%	6%	24%	8%	30%	10%
Avg. weekly wage	\$607	\$750	\$787	\$764	\$453	\$897	\$547	\$625

* Excluding agricultural, forestry, fishing and mining, which account for 1 percent of total employment.

Percent of population in poverty

From 1993 to 1995, the last year for which data are available, the state experienced a 19.4 percent decline in the percent of population in poverty, from 10.8 percent of total state population falling at or below the federal government poverty standard in 1993 to 8.7 percent in 1995.

1995 poverty rates were lowest – and 1993 to 1995 declines greatest – in the metro regions. After declining 22 percent in East Metro and 24 percent in the West Metro, the 1995 poverty rates were 7.3 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively. Southeast's 1995 poverty rate of 7.8 percent was also lower than the state average. 1995 poverty rates were highest – and declines smallest – in Great Plains and North Country. Great Plains had a 13.4 percent poverty rate in 1995; North Country poverty rate was 13 percent. Poverty rates were also higher than average in North Central (12.6%), Northern Lakes (11.4%), Southwest (9.3%), and Central (8.9%).

7. PERCENT OF POPULATION IN POVERTY, 1993 AND 1995

	Percent of population in poverty, 1993	Percent of population in poverty, 1995	Change
Minnesota	10.80%	8.70%	-19.4%
Central	10.6%	8.9%	-15.6%
East Metro	9.3%	7.3%	-21.5%
Great Plains	15.5%	13.4%	-13.5%
North Central	15.2%	12.6%	-16.8%
North Country	15.1%	13.0%	-14.2%
Northern Lakes	13.6%	11.4%	-15.9%
Southeast	9.1%	7.8%	-14.5%
Southwest	11.2%	9.3%	-17.1%
West Metro	10.1%	7.7%	-23.7%

Median household income

Median household income in Minnesota increased nearly 13 percent between 1993 and 1995, rising from \$33,239 to \$37,483. Income levels were highest in the metro regions in 1995: the average median income level for East Metro in 1995 was \$50,020, and for West Metro, \$49,257. The lowest average median household income levels in 1995 were in North Country (\$28,644) and North Central (\$28,959). From 1993 to 1995, average median incomes increased most in Northern Lakes region (14.2%), followed by the West Metro (12.6%) and North Central (12.5%). Southwest experienced the lowest median income growth (7.2%), followed by North Country (8.0%) and Southeast (8.1%).

8. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 1993 AND 1995

	Median household income, 1993	Median household income, 1995	Change
Minnesota	\$33,239	\$37,483	12.8%
Central	\$32,304	\$35,905	11.1%
East Metro	\$45,734	\$50,020	9.4%
Great Plains	\$31,363	\$34,271	9.3%
North Central	\$25,747	\$28,959	12.5%
North Country	\$26,526	\$28,644	8.0%
Northern Lakes	\$29,058	\$33,171	14.2%
Southeast	\$32,648	\$35,279	8.1%
Southwest	\$29,060	\$31,166	7.2%
West Metro	\$43,748	\$49,257	12.6%

MFIP cases

The average number of Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) cases per month declined 10.5 percent in Minnesota, from 48,060 in 1998 to 43,009 in 1999. Percentage declines in average MFIP caseloads were greatest in Central (-16.6%) and North Central (-14%), and above average in both Metro regions (East Metro: -11.6%; West Metro: -11.2%). North Country and Southwest experienced the smallest decreases (-4.9% and -5.1%, respectively).

9. MFIP, 1998 AND 1999

	Average monthly MFIP cases, 1998	Average monthly MFIP cases, 1999	Change
Minnesota	48,060	43,009	-10.5%
Central	2,509	2,093	-16.6%
East Metro	11,921	10,536	-11.6%
Great Plains	629	587	-6.7%
North Central	2,103	1,808	-14.0%
North Country	3,838	3,649	-4.9%
Northern Lakes	2,926	2,726	-6.8%
Southeast	2,925	2,618	-10.5%
Southwest	2,703	2,564	-5.1%
West Metro	18,506	16,428	-11.2%

Earned income tax credit and working family credit

Almost 10 percent of Minnesota residents filing federal tax forms in 1999 (1998 income) received the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), indicating that they met federal guidelines for tax filers who have earned income but fall beneath specific adjusted gross income levels (\$10,200 without children, \$26,928 with one child, \$30,580 with more than one child). Tax returns with EITC claims as a percentage of total tax returns are highest in North Central (15.6%), North Country (14.6%), Great Plains (13.0%) and Northern Lakes (12%) and lowest in East and West Metro regions (both 8.1%) and Southeast (9.9%).

Federal tax forms in 2000 (1999 income) indicate there was a 4 percent decline in Minnesota families receiving EITC. The largest drop was in Central (-8.1%) and the smallest was in Northern Lakes (-0.8%). The overall distribution by region changed only slightly over the two years.

Minnesota taxpayer claims of the Working Family Credit (WFC) parallel EITC claims, since eligibility for the federal credit qualifies a taxpayer for the Minnesota credit. Nearly 9 percent of Minnesota tax returns received Working Family Credit for the 1998 tax year. The percentage of Minnesota tax returns with WFC claims was highest in North Central (13.1%), North Country (12.3%), Great Plains (11%) and Northern Lakes (10.5%), and lowest in the East and West Metro (both 7.2%) and Southeast (8.6%).

10. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND WORKING FAMILY CREDIT, 1998

	Percentage of federal tax returns with EITC claims			Percentage of Minnesota tax returns with working family credit claims,
	1998	1999	Change	1998
Minnesota	9.7%	9.3%	-4.1%	8.6%
Central	11.1%	10.2%	-8.1%	9.6%
East Metro	8.1%	7.7%	-4.9%	7.2%
Great Plains	13.0%	12.1%	-6.9%	11.0%
North Central	15.6%	14.9%	-4.5%	13.1%
North Country	14.6%	14.0%	-4.1%	12.3%
Northern Lakes	12.0%	11.9%	-0.8%	10.5%
Southeast	9.9%	9.3%	-6.1%	8.6%
Southwest	10.9%	10.5%	-3.7%	9.8%
West Metro	8.1%	7.8%	-3.7%	7.2%

Food program use indicators

Free and reduced-price lunch approval rates

The number of students approved for free or reduced-price lunches at school has decreased from 223,517 in 1997-98 to 222,498 in 1998-99, a decline of 0.5 percent. Comparing the number of students approved to the number of students enrolled provides a free or reduced-price school lunch approval rate for the state of 26.3 percent in 1998-99, a slight increase of 0.4 percent since 1997-98. The 1998-99 approval rates were highest in North Country and North Central (37.7% and 34.7%, respectively), and lowest in Southeast (22.2%), followed by the East Metro (24.4%) and West Metro (24.5%). From 1997-98 to 1998-99, the greatest increases in approval rates were seen in North Country (6.5%) and Southwest (1.4%), and the greatest declines were experienced in Central (-3.1%), Great Plains (-2.5%), and North Central (-1.7%).

11. FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH APPROVAL RATES, 1997-98 AND 1998-99

	Free and reduced-price lunch approval rate, 1997-98	Free and reduced-price lunch approval rate, 1998-99	Change
Minnesota	26.2%	26.3%	0.4%
Central	26.0%	25.2%	-3.1%
East Metro	24.2%	24.4%	0.8%
Great Plains	27.8%	27.1%	-2.5%
North Central	35.2%	34.6%	-1.7%
North Country	35.4%	37.7%	6.5%
Northern Lakes	27.3%	27.4%	0.4%
Southeast	22.0%	22.2%	0.9%
Southwest	28.2%	28.6%	1.4%
West Metro	24.5%	24.5%	0.0%

WIC participation

Monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) declined 3.8 percent statewide, from 92,702 in 1998 to 89,170 in 1999. Declines were largest in the East Metro (-7.1%) and Great Plains (-5.4%). Moving against the general trend, the Southwest region experienced an 11.6 percent increase in WIC participation from 1998 to 1999.

12. WIC PARTICIPATION, 1998 AND 1999

	WIC monthly average participation, 1998	WIC monthly average participation, 1999	Change
Minnesota	92,702	89,170	-3.8%
Central	7,098	6,917	-2.6%
East Metro	21,199	19,688	-7.1%
Great Plains	1,177	1,114	-5.4%
North Central	4,540	4,422	-2.6%
North Country	9,741	9,657	-0.9%
Northern Lakes	4,638	4,449	-4.1%
Southeast	7,463	7,304	-2.1%
Southwest	9,937	11,089	11.6%
West Metro	25,427	24,530	-3.5%

Food stamp use

The average monthly number of households in Minnesota receiving food stamps declined 3.6 percent from 1998 to 1999, from 96,921 to 93,447. The largest percentage declines in households on food stamps were seen in North Central (-11.4%) and Central (-9.6%); the smallest declines were in the metro regions: -1.7 percent in West Metro and -2.5 percent in East Metro.

13. FOOD STAMP USE, 1998 AND 1999

	Average monthly number of households receiving food stamps, 1998	Average monthly number of households receiving food stamps, 1999	Change
Minnesota	96,921	93,447	-3.6%
Central	5,560	5,026	-9.6%
East Metro	20,150	19,656	-2.5%
Great Plains	1,341	1,406	4.8%
North Central	4,731	4,194	-11.4%
North Country	8,645	8,319	-3.8%
Northern Lakes	7,446	7,000	-6.0%
Southeast	6,978	6,607	-5.3%
Southwest	7,211	6,984	-3.1%
West Metro	34,863	34,255	-1.7%

Home-delivered meals

Data are not available on a county or regional level for home-delivered meals in Minnesota, but data do exist on the number of people served home-delivered meals by programs which receive federal Title III C funding through the Older Americans Act. From 1998 to 1999, the number of people served home-delivered meals declined by 1.2 percent.

14. HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

	Number of people served home-delivered meals, 1998	Number of people served home-delivered meals, 1999	Change
Minnesota	16,898	16,699	-1.2%

Other indicators of need

Subsidized child care

From 1998 to 1999, as the state continues to encourage families receiving MFIP assistance to move toward full-time employment, the number of families receiving state-subsidized child care in Minnesota increased 13.7 percent, from 23,365 to 26,564. Increases were greatest in Central (24.9%), West Metro (20.6%), North Central (18.9%) and East Metro (18.3%). The Northern Lakes region had a slight decline in the number of subsidized child care families (-1%), and Southwest region had a much smaller than average increase (2.2%).

15. SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE, 1998 AND 1999

	Average number of families receiving subsidized child care, 1998	Average number of families receiving subsidized child care, 1999	Change
Minnesota	23,365*	26,564	13.7%
Central	1,275	1,592	24.9%
East Metro	4,805	5,686	18.3%
Great Plains	364	392	7.7%
North Central	938	1,115	18.9%
North Country	2,148	2,380	10.8%
Northern Lakes	2,000	1,981	-1.0%
Southeast	2,257	2,531	12.1%
Southwest	1,988	2,031	2.2%
West Metro	7,344	8,856	20.6%

* State total exceeds sum of regions because some cases were not designated to specific counties.

Renters unable to afford fair market rent

By comparing fair market rents and estimated median family incomes, the National Low Income Housing Coalition has calculated county-level estimates of the percentage of renters unable to afford an area's fair market rent level. According to these calculations, 43 percent of Minnesota renters were unable to afford fair market rents in 1999. Fair market rents include shelter rent and the cost of utilities (except telephone) for housing that is privately owned, decent, safe, sanitary and modest. The fair market rent level is the 40th percentile of rents in an area, so that 40 percent of units rent under this amount. The generally accepted standard of affordability is 30 percent of income.

By these estimates, lack of housing affordability is by far the highest in the Great Plains region (61%), distantly followed by North Central and North Country (both 48%) and Central (46%). West Metro, East Metro and Southeast all have non-affordability rates of 43 percent.

16. RENTERS UNABLE TO AFFORD FAIR MARKET RENT, 1999

	Percentage of renters unable to afford fair market rent, 1999
Minnesota	43%
Central	46%
East Metro	43%
Great Plains	61%
North Central	48%
North Country	48%
Northern Lakes	44%
Southeast	43%
Southwest	45%
West Metro	43%

Home prices relative to wages

To better understand changes in housing affordability throughout Minnesota, median home sales prices by county were examined relative to average annual wages in that county. The changes in that ratio from the middle to the end of the 1990s were also calculated. For Minnesota as a whole, the average 1996 home cost 2.11 times the average annual 1995 wage. By 1999, the average Minnesota home cost 2.27 times the average annual 1998 wage, a 7.5 percent increase in housing costs relative to wages. By this measure, housing costs (relative to wages) are highest in the East Metro, followed by Great Plains, West Metro and Central, and lowest in North Country and Southwest. Increases in housing costs relative to wages from 1995-96 to 1998-99 are highest in Northern Lakes (14.5%) and North Country (11.7%) and lowest in the West Metro (1.6%).

17. HOME PRICES RELATIVE TO WAGES, 1995-96 AND 1998-99

	Ratio of average median home sale price (1996) to average annual wage (1995)	Ratio of average median home sale price (1999) to average annual wage (1998)	Change
Minnesota	2.11	2.27	7.5%
Central	3.32	3.53	6.2%
East Metro	3.60	3.82	5.9%
Great Plains	3.43	3.58	4.1%
North Central	2.70	2.93	8.6%
North Country	2.15	2.40	11.7%
Northern Lakes	2.49	2.85	14.5%
Southeast	2.72	2.94	7.8%
Southwest	2.33	2.49	6.7%
West Metro	3.49	3.55	1.6%

Relationships between food shelf use and socioeconomic indicators

While approximately 5 percent of the state's population used food shelves in 1999, regions varied widely in the prevalence of food shelf use, from a high of 9 percent in the Great Plains region to a low of 2.8 percent in the East Metro region. Using linear regression analysis to measure which of the indicators help "explain" the variations in 1999 food shelf use among Minnesota counties reveals that just three of the 14 have statistically-significant influence, and they explain about 31 percent of total variation among counties:

- The percentage of workers employed in the services sector has a positive association with food shelf use: the higher the percentage of a county's work force employed in the (lower-paying) service sector, the higher the county's food shelf use rate,
- 1995 median income levels have a negative association with food shelf use rates: the higher a county's median income, the lower the rate of food shelf use.
- WIC caseloads relative to population have a negative relationship with food shelf use: the higher the WIC caseload, the lower the county's food shelf use rate.

Analysis of 1998 food shelf use rates reveals a similar pattern, with four indicators explaining 36 percent of total variance among counties:

- The percentage of workers employed in construction had a negative association with food shelf use rates: the higher the percentage of workers employed in (higher-paying) construction, the lower the county's food shelf use.
- The percentage of workers employed in (higher-paying) manufacturing also had a negative association with food shelf use.
- WIC caseloads relative to population had a negative relationship with food shelf use: the higher the WIC caseload, the lower the county's food shelf use rate.
- 1995 median income levels had a negative association with food shelf use: higher median incomes meant lower food shelf use.

Taken as a whole, then, it appears that three factors: employment in higher paying professions, higher median incomes in prior years (probably associated with higher income later, as well), and use of the WIC program reduce the need for and use of food shelves in Minnesota counties. These factors, however, explain only one-third of Minnesota county differences in the percentage of population using food shelves; other factors not examined in this analysis account for the remainder of the inter-county variation.

18. REGRESSION OF FOOD SHELF USE RATES ON SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES, 1999

Independent variables	Unstandardized coefficients	Standardized coefficients (Beta)
intercept	5.186E-02* (.021)	
Percent of workforce employed in Service sector	.208*** (.052)	.441***
WIC caseload relative to population	-.139* (.068)	-.238*
Median household income 1995	-1.396E-06** (.000)	-.365**
R-SQ.		.345
Adjusted R-SQ.		.308
N		58

Note: Numbers in parentheses are standard errors.

- + Significant at $p < .10$
- * Significant at $p < .05$
- ** Significant at $p < .01$
- *** Significant at $p < .001$

19. REGRESSION OF FOOD SHELF USE RATES ON SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES, 1998

Independent variables	Unstandardized coefficients	Standardized coefficients (Beta)
intercept	.140*** (.020)	
Percent of workforce employed in Construction sector	-.591* (.241)	-.309*
Percent of workforce employed in Manufacturing sector	-.150*** (.037)	-.511***
WIC caseload relative to population	-.254** (.083)	-.397**
Median household income 1995	-8.764E-07+ (.000)	-.237+
R-SQ.		.419
Adjusted R-SQ.		.362
N		46

Note: Numbers in parentheses are standard errors.

+ Significant at $p < .10$

* Significant at $p < .05$

** Significant at $p < .01$

*** Significant at $p < .001$

State and region summaries

Minnesota

Food shelf use decreased 1.5 percent in Minnesota from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 1 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 2.5 percent, from 5.1 percent in 1998 to 4.9 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Minnesota unemployment rate remained at 2.5 percent, while average weekly wages increased 4.4 percent, from \$581.26 to \$606.63. Services and trade were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 28 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the state. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 19.4 percent, from 10.8 percent in 1993 to 8.7 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$33,239 in 1998 to \$37,483 in 1999, a rise of 12.8 percent. The state's MFIP caseload declined 10.5 percent. About 10 percent of Minnesotan's federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 8.6 percent of state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased 0.4 percent, from 26.2 percent of enrolled students to 26.3 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 3.8 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps declined 3.6 percent and the number of people served home-delivered meals declined 1.2 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by 13.7 percent.

About 43 percent of renters in Minnesota cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 7.5 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

20. MINNESOTA

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	1,266,408	1,248,065	-1.5%
Population	4,726,411	4,775,508	1.0%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	5.1%	4.9%	-2.5%
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.5%	0
Average Weekly Wages	\$581.26	\$606.63	4.4%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services: 28%; Trade: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	10.8%	8.7%	-19.4%
Median Household Income	\$33,239	\$37,483	12.8%
MFIP Participation	48,060	43,009	-10.5%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	9.7%	9.3%	-4.1%
Working Family Credit rate	8.6%	na	na
Percent of Enrolled Students Approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	26.2%	26.3%	0.4%
WIC Participation	92,702	89,170	-3.8%
Food Stamp Households	96,921	93,447	-3.6%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	16,898	16,699	-1.2%
Subsidized Child Care Families	23,365	26,564	13.7%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	43%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.11	2.27	7.5%

Central

Food shelf use increased 5.9 percent in the Central region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 2.1 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves increased by 3.6 percent, from 3.9 percent in 1998 to 4.0 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Central unemployment rate decreased from 3.4 to 3.2 percent (-5.9%) and average weekly wages increased 8.3 percent, from \$445.56 to \$482.34. Trade and services were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 28 percent and 23 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 15.6 percent, from 10.6 percent in 1993 to 8.9 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$32,304 in 1998 to \$35,905 in 1999, a rise of 11.1 percent. The Central region's MFIP caseload declined 16.6 percent. Approximately 11 percent of Central federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 9.6 percent of Central state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches declined 3.1 percent, from 26 percent of enrolled students to 25.2 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 2.6 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps declined more sharply, by 9.6 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by nearly 25 percent.

About 46 percent of renters in the Central region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 6.2 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

21. CENTRAL

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	76,871	81,384	5.9%
Population	372,824	380,836	2.1%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.2%	-5.9%
Average Weekly Wages	\$445.56	\$482.34	8.3%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Trade: 28%; Services: 23%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	10.6%	8.9%	-15.6%
Median Household Income	\$32,304	\$35,905	11.1%
MFIP Participation	2,509	2,093	-16.6%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	11.1%	10.2%	-8.1%
Working Family Credit rate	9.6%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	26.0%	25.2%	-3.1%
WIC Participation	7,098	6,917	-2.6%
Food Stamp Households	5,560	5,026	-9.6%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	1,275	1,592	24.9%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	46%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	3.32	3.53	6.2%

East Metro

Food shelf use decreased 8.6 percent in the East Metro region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 1.3 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 9.8 percent, from 3.1 percent in 1998 to 2.8 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the East Metro unemployment rate decreased from 1.9 to 1.8 percent (a 5.3% decline) and average weekly wages increased 5.3 percent, from \$613.57 to \$646.05. Services and trade were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 27 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 21.5 percent, from 9.3 percent in 1993 to 7.3 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$45,734 in 1998 to \$50,020 in 1999, a rise of 9.4 percent. The East Metro region's MFIP caseload declined 11.6 percent. Approximately 8.1 percent of East Metro federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 7.2 percent of East Metro state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased slightly, from 24.2 percent of enrolled students to 24.4 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 7.1 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps declined 2.5 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by over 18 percent.

About 43 percent of renters in the East Metro region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 5.9 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

22. EAST METRO

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	168,081	153,691	-8.6%
Population	1,024,443	1,037,991	1.3%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	3.1%	2.8%	-9.8%
Unemployment Rate	1.9%	1.8%	-5.3%
Average Weekly Wages	\$613.57	\$646.05	5.3%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services: 27%; Trade: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	9.3%	7.3%	-21.5%
Median Household Income	\$45,734	\$50,020	9.4%
MFIP Participation	11,921	10,536	-11.6%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	8.1%	7.7%	-4.9%
Working Family Credit rate	7.2%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	24.2%	24.4%	0.8%
WIC Participation	21,199	19,688	-7.1%
Food Stamp Households	20,150	19,656	-2.5%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	4,805	5,686	18.3%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	43%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	3.60	3.82	5.9%

Great Plains

Food shelf use decreased 7.1 percent in the Great Plains region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 0.4 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 7.5 percent, from 9.7 percent in 1998 to 8.9 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Great Plains unemployment rate increased from 2.0 to 2.2 percent (10%) and average weekly wages increased 2.8 percent, from \$408.06 to \$419.53. Trade and services were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 29 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 13.5 percent, from 15.5 percent in 1993 to 13.4 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$31,363 in 1998 to \$34,271 in 1999, a rise of 9.3 percent. The Great Plains region's MFIP caseload declined 6.7 percent. Approximately 13 percent of Great Plains federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 11 percent of Great Plains state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches decreased 2.5 percent, from 27.8 percent of enrolled students to 27.1 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 5.4 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps increased 4.8 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by nearly 8 percent.

About 61 percent of renters in the Great Plains region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 4.1 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

23. GREAT PLAINS

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	26,387	24,512	-7.1%
Population	51,522	51,717	0.4%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	9.7%	8.9%	-7.5%
Unemployment Rate	2.0%	2.2%	10.0%
Average Weekly Wages	\$408.06	\$419.53	2.8%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Trade: 29%, Services: 27%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	15.5%	13.4%	-13.5%
Median Household Income	\$31,363	\$34,271	9.3%
MFIP Participation	629	587	-6.7%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	13.0%	12.1%	-6.9%
Working Family Credit rate	11.0%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	27.8%	27.1%	-2.5%
WIC Participation	1,177	1,114	-5.4%
Food Stamp Households	1,341	1,406	4.8%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	364	392	7.7%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	61%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	3.43	3.58	4.1%

North Central

Food shelf use increased 17.3 percent in the North Central region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 1.2 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves increased by 15.9 percent, from 6.0 percent in 1998 to 6.9 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the North Central unemployment rate decreased from 5.7 to 5.3 percent (-7%) and average weekly wages increased 13.1 percent, from \$433.00 to \$489.60. Services and trade were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 27 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 16.8 percent, from 15.2 percent in 1993 to 12.6 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$25,747 in 1998 to \$28,959 in 1999, a rise of 12.5 percent. The North Central region's MFIP caseload declined 14 percent. Almost 16 percent of North Central federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 13 percent of North Central state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches decreased 1.7 percent, from 35.2 percent of enrolled students to 34.6 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 2.6 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps decreased 11.4 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by nearly 19 percent.

About 48 percent of renters in the North Central region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 8.6 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

24. NORTH CENTRAL

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	58,849	69,045	17.3%
Population	186,448	188,769	1.2%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	6.0%	6.9%	15.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.3%	-7.0%
Average weekly wages	\$433.00	\$489.60	13.1%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services: 27%, Trade: 25%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	15.2%	12.6%	-16.8%
Median Household Income	\$25,747	\$28,959	12.5%
MFIP Participation	2,103	1,808	-14.0%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	15.6%	14.9%	-4.5%
Working Family Credit rate	13.1%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	35.2%	34.6%	-1.7%
WIC Participation	4,540	4,422	-2.6%
Food Stamp Households	4,731	4,194	-11.4%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	938	1,115	18.9%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	48%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.70	2.93	8.6%

North Country

Food shelf use decreased 13.1 percent in the North Country region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 0.3 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 13.4 percent, from 7.4 percent in 1998 to 6.4 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the North Country unemployment rate decreased from 4.4 percent to 4.3 percent (-2.3%) and average weekly wages increased 3.8 percent, from \$401.11 to \$416.43. Trade and services were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s, the most recent period for which poverty data are available, the percent of total population in poverty declined by 14.2 percent, from 15.1 percent in 1993 to 13.0 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$26,526 in 1998 to \$28,644 in 1999, a rise of 8 percent. The North Country region's MFIP caseload declined 4.9 percent. Almost 15 percent of North Country federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 12.3 percent of North Country state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches decreased 6.5 percent, from 35.4 percent of enrolled students to 37.7 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 0.9 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps decreased 3.8 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by nearly 11 percent.

About 48 percent of renters in the North Country region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 11.7 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

25. NORTH COUNTRY

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	129,710	112,685	-13.1%
Population	328,649	329,759	0.3%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	7.4%	6.4%	-13.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.3%	-2.3%
Average weekly wages	\$401.11	\$416.43	3.8%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Trade: 25%, Services: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	15.1%	13.0%	-14.2%
Median Household Income	\$26,526	\$28,644	8.0%
MFIP Participation	3,838	3,649	-4.9%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	14.6%	14.0%	-4.1%
Working Family Credit rate	12.3%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	35.4%	37.7%	6.5%
WIC Participation	9,741	9,657	-0.9%
Food Stamp Households	8,645	8,319	-3.8%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	2,148	2,380	10.8%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	48%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.15	2.40	11.7%

Northern Lakes

Food shelf use increased 2.6 percent in the Northern Lakes region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 0.1 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves increased by 2.5 percent, from 3.6 percent in 1998 to 3.7 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Northern Lakes unemployment rate decreased from 3.9 percent to 3.6 percent (-7.7%) and average weekly wages increased 4.7 percent, from \$485.90 to \$508.96. Services and trade were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 31 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 15.9 percent, from 13.6 percent in 1993 to 11.4 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$29,058 in 1998 to \$33,171 in 1999, a rise of 14.2 percent. The Northern Lakes region's MFIP caseload declined 6.8 percent. Twelve percent of Northern Lakes federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 10.5 percent of Northern Lakes state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased 0.4 percent, from 27.3 percent of enrolled students to 27.4 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 4.1 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps decreased 6.0 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies decreased by 1 percent.

About 44 percent of renters in the Northern Lakes region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 14.5 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

26. NORTHERN LAKES

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	45,461	46,665	2.6%
Population	240,181	240,462	0.1%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	3.6%	3.7%	2.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.6%	-7.7%
Average weekly wages	\$485.90	\$508.96	4.7%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services 31%, Trade: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	13.6%	11.4%	-15.9%
Median Household Income	\$29,058	\$33,171	14.2%
MFIP Participation	2,926	2,726	-6.8%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	12.0%	11.9%	-0.8%
Working Family Credit rate	10.5%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	27.3%	27.4%	0.4%
WIC Participation	4,638	4,449	-4.1%
Food Stamp Households	7,446	7,000	-6.0%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	2,000	1,981	-1.0%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	44%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.49	2.85	14.5%

Southeast

Food shelf use increased 3.2 percent in the Southeast region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 0.8 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves increased by 2.4 percent, from 5.0 percent in 1998 to 5.1 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Southeast unemployment rate remained at 2.3 percent while average weekly wages increased 5.2 percent, from \$499.44 to \$525.61. Services and manufacturing were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 30 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 14.5 percent, from 9.1 percent in 1993 to 7.8 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$32,648 in 1998 to \$35,279 in 1999, a rise of 8.1 percent. The Southeast region's MFIP caseload declined 10.5 percent. Almost 10 percent of Southeast federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 8.6 percent of Southeast state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased 0.9 percent, from 22.0 percent of enrolled students to 22.2 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 2.1 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps decreased 5.3 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by 12.1 percent.

About 43 percent of renters in the Southeast region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 7.8 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

27. SOUTHEAST

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	125,498	129,552	3.2%
Population	475,552	479,453	0.8%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	5.0%	5.1%	2.4%
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Average weekly wages	\$499.44	\$525.61	5.2%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services 30%, Manufacturing: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	9.1%	7.8%	-14.5%
Median Household Income	\$32,648	\$35,279	8.1%
MFIP Participation	2,925	2,618	-10.5%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	9.9%	9.3%	-6.1%
Working Family Credit rate	8.6%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	22.0%	22.2%	0.9%
WIC Participation	7,463	7,304	-2.1%
Food Stamp Households	6,978	6,607	-5.3%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	2,257	2,531	12.1%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	43%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.72	2.94	7.8%

Southwest

Food shelf use decreased 8.9 percent in the Southwest region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 0.3 percent population decline, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves decreased by 8.6 percent, from 4.1 percent in 1998 to 3.7 percent in 1999.

During the same time period, the Southwest unemployment rate declined 3.3 percent, from 4.1 percent to 3.7 percent, while average weekly wages increased 6.1 percent, from \$481.27 to \$443.99. Manufacturing and trade were the two largest sectors of employment in 1998, constituting 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined by 17.1 percent, from 11.2 percent in 1993 to 9.3 percent in 1995. The median household income increased from \$29,060 in 1998 to \$31,166 in 1999, a rise of 7.2 percent. The Southwest region's MFIP caseload declined 5.1 percent. Almost 11 percent of Southwest federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 9.8 percent of Southwest state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches increased 1.4 percent, from 28.2 percent of enrolled students to 28.6 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC increased 11.6 percent. The number of households receiving food stamps decreased 3.1 percent. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by 2.2 percent.

About 45 percent of renters in the Southwest region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of median home sale prices to average wages increased by 6.7 percent over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

28. SOUTHWEST

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	101,321	92,342	-8.9%
Population	466,568	465,273	-0.3%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	4.1%	3.7%	-8.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	2.9%	-3.3%
Average weekly wages	\$418.27	\$443.99	6.1%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Manufacturing 25%, Trade: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	11.2%	9.3%	-17.1%
Median Household Income	\$29,060	\$31,166	7.2%
MFIP Participation	2,703	2,564	-5.1%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	10.9%	10.5%	-3.7%
Working Family Credit rate	9.8%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	28.2%	28.6%	1.4%
WIC Participation	9,937	11,089	11.6%
Food Stamp Households	7,211	6,984	-3.1%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	1,988	2,031	2.2%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	45%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	2.33	2.49	6.7%

West Metro

Food shelf use increased 0.7 percent in the West Metro region from 1998 to 1999; adjusting for 1.3 percent population growth, the estimated percent of population served by food shelves declined by 0.6 percent, from 6.4 to 6.3 percent.

During the same time period, the West Metro unemployment rate remained at 2 percent while the average weekly wage increased 6.8 percent, from \$674.82 to \$720.70. Services and trade are the two largest sectors of employment, constituting 30 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all jobs in the region. In the mid-1990s – the most recent period for which poverty data are available – the percent of total population in poverty declined nearly 24 percent, from 10.1 percent in 1993 to 7.7 percent in 1995. The median household income increased 12.6 percent from \$43,748 in 1998 to \$49,257 in 1999. The West Metro region MFIP caseload declined 11.2 percent. Approximately 8 percent of West Metro federal tax returns claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and 7 percent of West Metro state tax returns claimed the Working Family Credit.

The percentage of children approved for free and reduced-price school lunches remained stable at 24.5 percent, while the number of families receiving WIC declined 3.5 percent, similar to the nearly 2 percent decline in the number of households using food stamps. The number of families receiving child care subsidies increased by nearly 21 percent.

About 43 percent of renters in the West Metro region cannot afford fair market rent, and the ratio of home sale prices to wages in this region was among the highest in the state in 1998-99, but showed the lowest rate of increase statewide over the 1995-96 to 1998-99 period.

29. WEST METRO

	1998	1999	Change
Individual Visits to Food Shelves	534,230	538,189	0.7%
Population	1,580,224	1,601,248	1.3%
Estimated percent of population served by food shelves	6.4%	6.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Average weekly wages	\$674.82	\$720.70	6.8%
Employment (1998)	Top 2 sectors: Services: 30%, Trade: 24%		
Percent of Population in Poverty, 1993 and 1995	10.1%	7.7%	-23.7%
Median Household Income	\$43,748	\$49,257	12.6%
MFIP Participation	18,506	16,428	-11.2%
Earned Income Tax Credit rate	8.1%	7.8%	-3.7%
Working Family Credit rate	7.2%	na	na
Percent of Students Approved for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	24.5%	24.5%	0.0%
WIC Participation	25,427	24,530	-3.5%
Food Stamp Households	34,863	34,255	-1.7%
People Served Home-Delivered Meals	na	na	na
Subsidized Child Care Families	7,344	8,856	20.6%
Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent	na	43%	na
Median home sale price relative to average annual wages, 1995-96 and 1998-99	3.49	3.55	1.6%

Appendix

Food shelf use

	1998			1999			1998-1999 Change		
	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food
Minnesota	1,266,408	404,930	24,323,284	1,260,404	410,789	24,910,824	0%	1%	2%
Central	76,871	25,312	1,309,010	81,384	27,040	1,559,320	6%	7%	19%
Benton	3,003	1,015	47,855	3,375	1,195	67,730	12%	18%	42%
Chisago	4,818	1,542	67,690	5,876	1,791	79,316	22%	16%	17%
Morrison	10,731	3,167	172,800	10,603	3,206	219,850	-1%	1%	27%
Pine	10,750	3,075	163,501	14,054	3,799	249,334	31%	24%	52%
Sherburne	9,738	2,700	156,432	9,090	3,093	152,898	-7%	15%	-2%
Stearns	32,154	12,051	611,927	32,560	12,188	701,407	1%	1%	15%
Todd	5,677	1,762	88,805	5,826	1,768	88,785	3%	0%	0%
East Metro	168,081	48,499	2,846,309	153,691	44,802	2,589,186	-9%	-8%	-9%
Dakota	19,228	5,854	700,690	19,017	6,049	590,310	-1%	3%	-16%
Ramsey	129,697	37,513	1,825,360	114,813	33,466	1,643,476	-11%	-11%	-10%
Washington	19,156	5,132	320,259	19,861	5,287	355,400	4%	3%	11%
Great Plains	26,387	8,628	668,104	24,512	7,688	450,543	-7%	-11%	-33%
Clay	26,387	8,628	668,104	24,512	7,688	450,543	-7%	-11%	-33%
North Central	58,849	19,665	1,169,798	69,045	21,740	1,377,955	17%	11%	18%
Aitkin	4,014	1,558	123,979	4,557	1,891	149,684	14%	21%	21%
Cass	12,702	3,558	226,837	14,817	4,084	259,985	17%	15%	15%
Crow Wing	11,257	4,633	272,341	13,883	5,204	361,971	23%	12%	33%
Itasca	12,078	4,171	212,637	12,609	4,241	229,536	4%	2%	8%
Kanabec	2,091	587	42,857	3,437	852	60,160	64%	45%	40%
Koochiching	3,525	1,435	97,673	4,964	1,670	105,791	41%	16%	8%
Mille Lacs	13,182	3,723	193,474	14,778	3,798	210,828	12%	2%	9%

Food shelf use (continued)

	1998			1999			1998-1999 Change		
	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food
North Country	129,710	39,029	2,390,934	112,685	33,765	2,294,892	-13%	-13%	-4%
Becker	3,172	1,109	76,220	2,700	938	70,785	-15%	-15%	-7%
Beltrami	16,469	4,055	204,219	17,967	4,426	257,508	9%	9%	26%
Clearwater	1,028	330	21,929	1,170	358	26,442	14%	8%	21%
Douglas	6,079	1,833	254,570	5,921	1,782	295,150	-3%	-3%	16%
Grant	859	288	12,965	1,238	403	18,140	44%	40%	40%
Hubbard	2,913	589	48,438	3,503	972	59,053	20%	65%	22%
Kittson	519	139	10,255	434	115	8,440	-16%	-17%	-18%
Lake of the Woods	817	388	17,469	1,047	473	22,710	28%	22%	30%
Mahnomen	636	198	11,504	644	224	11,335	1%	13%	-1%
Marshall	10,333	3,039	133,087	8,708	2,634	161,907	-16%	-13%	22%
Norman	2,562	798	37,150	2,811	826	39,729	10%	4%	7%
Otter Tail	18,869	5,007	358,221	17,439	5,112	397,353	-8%	2%	11%
Pennington	6,889	2,144	33,180	7,330	2,267	55,958	6%	6%	69%
Polk	46,214	15,274	852,437	30,354	9,775	576,215	-34%	-36%	-32%
Pope	1,582	461	30,570	1,743	454	33,530	10%	-2%	10%
Red Lake	486	165	4,984	552	173	8,161	14%	5%	64%
Roseau	2,273	652	31,418	1,617	410	25,625	-29%	-37%	-18%
Stevens	1,941	702	43,418	1,866	685	51,863	-4%	-2%	19%
Traverse	562	169	5,730	468	149	4,905	-17%	-12%	-14%
Wadena	2,595	785	49,095	2,491	782	48,313	-4%	0%	-2%
Wilkin	2,912	904	154,075	2,682	807	121,770	-8%	-11%	-21%

Food shelf use (continued)

	1998			1999			1998-1999 Change		
	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food
Northern Lakes	45,461	17,994	839,720	46,665	17,045	980,309	2.6%	-5%	17%
Carlton	3,377	1,143	66,499	3,947	1,246	76,862	16.9%	9%	16%
Cook	133	51	862	152	67	1,245	14.3%	31%	44%
Lake	1,260	452	17,730	2,278	450	31,036	80.8%	0%	75%
St. Louis	40,691	16,348	754,629	40,288	15,282	871,166	-1.0%	-7%	15%
Southeast	125,498	47,050	2,439,650	129,522	49,991	2,570,356	3.2%	6%	5%
Dodge	5,774	2,199	41,759	5,888	2,339	52,212	2.0%	6%	25%
Faribault	2,011	643	27,199	2,012	600	24,454	0.0%	-7%	-10%
Fillmore	12,626	4,513	120,615	14,806	5,532	145,249	17.3%	23%	20%
Freeborn	7,002	2,246	129,305	6,419	2,013	126,414	-8.3%	-10%	-2%
Goodhue	7,992	2,985	137,338	8,150	2,936	135,430	2.0%	-2%	-1%
Houston	5,004	1,906	36,191	4,967	1,822	35,868	-0.7%	-4%	-1%
Mower	5,647	2,864	104,192	6,559	3,970	142,163	16.2%	39%	36%
Olmsted	47,193	17,453	1,203,075	43,940	16,657	1,255,093	-6.9%	-5%	4%
Rice	11,068	4,339	224,415	10,460	4,029	243,272	-5.5%	-7%	8%
Steele	9,516	2,893	247,436	9,548	3,008	256,527	0.3%	4%	4%
Wabasha	740	236	26,089	492	144	10,309	-33.5%	-39%	-60%
Waseca	2,489	1,084	50,750	2,503	1,099	47,519	0.6%	1%	-6%
Winona	8,436	3,689	91,286	13,778	5,842	95,846	63.3%	58%	5%

Food shelf use (continued)

	1998			1999			1998-1999 Change		
	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food
Southwest	101,321	32,416	1,573,443	92,342	30,647	1,585,562	-9%	-5%	1%
Big Stone	1,490	489	27,330	1,439	439	43,952	-3%	-10%	61%
Blue Earth	25,766	8,488	406,821	22,999	7,542	395,133	-11%	-11%	-3%
Brown	2,686	777	46,761	2,681	767	46,883	0%	-1%	0%
Chippewa	1,906	540	19,449	1,917	589	20,643	1%	9%	6%
Cottonwood	2,127	622	30,229	2,131	656	33,333	0%	5%	10%
Jackson	1,084	316	10,693	1,078	326	9,483	-1%	3%	-11%
Kandiyohi	7,400	2,349	149,532	7,496	2,828	138,814	1%	20%	-7%
Lac Qui Parle	787	271	13,550	819	275	13,750	4%	1%	1%
LeSueur	2,734	836	42,691	4,110	1,251	56,601	50%	50%	33%
Lyon	5,127	2,978	49,477	5,019	3,107	51,775	-2%	4%	5%
Martin	691	171	17,275	-	-	-	-100%	-100%	-100%
McLeod	3,685	1,419	109,763	3,360	1,282	115,688	-9%	-10%	5%
Meeker	5,291	1,556	111,305	4,923	1,536	112,816	-7%	-1%	1%
Murray	1,862	572	22,880	2,191	638	25,528	18%	12%	12%
Nicollet	1,784	557	76,594	2,877	812	94,785	61%	46%	24%
Nobles	10,109	2,558	89,934	5,342	1,246	86,075	-47%	-51%	-4%
Pipestone	3,351	969	47,478	3,228	1,083	43,760	-4%	12%	-8%
Redwood	12,233	3,623	119,709	9,706	3,041	106,874	-21%	-16%	-11%
Renville	1,353	469	23,350	1,395	439	21,950	3%	-6%	-6%
Rock	1,557	434	19,461	1,185	346	14,946	-24%	-20%	-23%
Sibley	2,270	567	45,852	2,296	588	52,013	1%	4%	13%

Food shelf use (continued)

	1998			1999			1998-1999 Change		
	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food	Individuals served	Households served	Pounds of food
Swift	2,510	815	33,954	2,351	729	35,470	-6%	-11%	4%
Watonwan	1,143	312	15,185	1,283	334	14,505	12%	7%	-4%
Yellow Medicine	2,375	728	44,170	2,516	793	50,785	6%	9%	15%
West Metro	534,230	166,337	11,086,316	538,189	171,801	11,321,506	1%	3%	2%
Anoka	40,364	12,562	740,253	40,633	12,537	778,537	1%	0%	5%
Carver	7,015	2,073	177,719	6,996	2,065	170,807	0%	0%	-4%
Hennepin	457,529	143,110	9,495,563	462,022	148,870	9,680,864	1%	4%	2%
Scott	14,629	4,327	363,300	15,668	4,537	389,879	7%	5%	7%
Wright	14,693	4,265	309,481	12,870	3,792	301,419	-12%	-11%	-3%

Source: *Minnesota Hunger Partners*

Estimated percent of population served by food shelves

	Estimated population		Estimated percent of population served by food shelves		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change
Minnesota	4,726,411	4,775,508	5.1%	5.0%	-1.5%
Central	372,824	380,836	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%
Benton	34,114	34,832	1.7%	1.8%	10.1%
Chisago	40,950	42,302	2.2%	2.6%	18.1%
Isanti	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Morrison	30,518	30,522	6.6%	6.6%	-1.2%
Pine	24,096	24,616	8.4%	10.8%	28.0%
Sherburne	60,339	63,356	3.0%	2.7%	-11.1%
Stearns	128,736	130,081	4.7%	4.7%	0.2%
Todd	24,035	24,240	4.5%	4.5%	1.8%
East Metro	1,024,443	1,037,991	3.1%	2.8%	-9.8%
Dakota	342,059	349,131	1.1%	1.0%	-3.1%
Ramsey	485,709	486,254	5.0%	4.5%	-11.6%
Washington	196,675	202,606	1.8%	1.8%	0.6%
Great Plains	51,522	51,717	9.7%	8.9%	-7.5%
Clay	51,522	51,717	9.7%	8.9%	-7.5%
North Central	186,448	188,769	6.0%	6.9%	15.9%
Aitkin	14,182	14,293	5.3%	6.0%	12.6%
Cass	26,310	27,042	9.1%	10.3%	13.5%
Crow Wing	51,741	52,608	4.1%	5.0%	21.3%
Itasca	43,919	44,154	5.2%	5.4%	3.8%
Kanabec	14,161	14,427	2.8%	4.5%	61.3%
Koochiching	15,068	14,895	4.4%	6.3%	42.5%
Mille Lacs	21,067	21,350	11.8%	13.1%	10.6%
North Country	328,649	329,759	7.4%	6.4%	-13.4%
Becker	29,495	29,757	2.0%	1.7%	-15.6%
Beltrami	38,664	39,210	8.0%	8.6%	7.6%
Clearwater	8,241	8,146	2.4%	2.7%	15.1%
Douglas	31,077	31,274	3.7%	3.6%	-3.2%
Grant	6,108	6,077	2.7%	3.8%	44.9%

Estimated percent of population served by food shelves (continued)

	Estimated population		Estimated percent of population served by food shelves		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change
Hubbard	16,909	17,031	3.3%	3.9%	19.4%
Kittson	5,301	5,175	1.8%	1.6%	-14.3%
Lake of the Woods	4,562	4,621	3.4%	4.3%	26.5%
Mahnomen	5,051	5,091	2.4%	2.4%	0.5%
Marshall	10,280	10,094	19.0%	16.3%	-14.2%
Norman	7,539	7,517	6.4%	7.1%	10.0%
Otter Tail	54,794	55,583	6.5%	5.9%	-8.9%
Pennington	13,541	13,557	9.6%	10.2%	6.3%
Polk	31,081	30,787	28.1%	18.6%	-33.7%
Pope	10,913	10,886	2.7%	3.0%	10.5%
Red Lake	4,237	4,202	2.2%	2.5%	14.5%
Roseau	16,086	16,085	2.7%	1.9%	-28.9%
Stevens	10,036	9,973	3.6%	3.5%	-3.3%
Traverse	4,248	4,168	2.5%	2.1%	-15.1%
Wadena	13,114	13,238	3.7%	3.6%	-4.9%
Wilkin	7,372	7,287	7.5%	6.9%	-6.8%
Northern Lakes	240,181	240,462	3.6%	3.7%	2.5%
Carlton	31,303	31,492	2.0%	2.4%	18.2%
Cook	4,751	4,772	0.5%	0.6%	20.2%
Lake	10,664	10,765	2.2%	4.0%	81.5%
St. Louis	193,463	193,433	4.0%	3.9%	-1.8%
Southeast	475,552	479,453	5.0%	5.1%	2.4%
Dodge	17,169	17,396	6.3%	6.4%	1.4%
Faribault	16,260	16,247	2.30%	2.34%	1.6%
Fillmore	20,763	20,688	11.5%	13.5%	17.4%
Freeborn	31,560	31,503	4.2%	3.8%	-8.5%
Goodhue	43,130	43,367	3.5%	3.6%	1.3%
Houston	19,267	19,489	4.9%	4.8%	-1.9%
Mower	37,104	37,152	2.9%	3.3%	14.9%
Olmsted	116,931	119,077	7.6%	7.0%	-8.4%

Estimated percent of population served by food shelves (continued)

	Estimated population		Estimated percent of population served by food shelves		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change
Rice	54,198	54,988	3.9%	3.6%	-8.0%
Steele	31,723	32,061	5.7%	5.6%	-1.4%
Wabasha	20,891	21,140	0.7%	0.4%	-37.3%
Waseca	18,534	18,560	2.50%	2.54%	1.8%
Winona	48,022	47,785	3.3%	5.4%	64.9%
Southwest	466,568	465,273	4.1%	3.7%	-8.6%
Big Stone	5,652	5,571	5.0%	4.9%	-2.0%
Blue Earth	53,727	53,874	9.0%	8.1%	-11.0%
Brown	27,069	26,903	1.9%	1.9%	0.4%
Chippewa	13,052	13,028	2.8%	2.8%	0.8%
Cottonwood	12,031	11,908	3.3%	3.4%	1.2%
Jackson	11,496	11,378	1.8%	1.8%	0.5%
Kandiyohi	40,887	40,826	3.4%	3.5%	1.4%
Lac qui Parle	7,995	7,813	1.9%	2.0%	6.5%
LeSueur	25,319	25,464	2.0%	3.0%	49.5%
Lincoln	6,486	6,424	0.0%	0.0%	#DIV/0!
Lyon	24,398	24,256	4.0%	3.9%	-1.5%
Martin	22,000	21,792	0.6%	0.0%	-100.0%
McLeod	34,142	34,552	2.0%	1.8%	-9.9%
Meeker	21,739	21,763	4.6%	4.3%	-7.1%
Murray	9,531	9,519	3.7%	4.3%	17.8%
Nicollet	29,482	29,272	1.1%	1.9%	62.4%
Nobles	19,275	19,113	9.9%	5.3%	-46.7%
Pipestone	10,057	9,993	6.3%	6.1%	-3.1%
Redwood	16,504	16,421	14.0%	11.2%	-20.3%
Renville	16,931	16,808	1.5%	1.6%	3.9%
Rock	9,723	9,619	3.0%	2.3%	-23.1%
Sibley	14,641	14,774	2.9%	2.9%	0.2%
Swift	11,495	11,344	4.1%	3.9%	-5.1%
Watonwan	11,519	11,548	1.9%	2.1%	12.0%
Yellow Medicine	11,417	11,310	3.9%	4.2%	6.9%

Estimated percent of population served by food shelves (continued)

	Estimated population		Estimated percent of population served by food shelves		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change
West Metro	1,580,224	1,601,248	6.4%	6.3%	-0.6%
Anoka	292,324	298,948	2.6%	2.6%	-1.6%
Carver	64,821	67,023	2.0%	2.0%	-3.5%
Hennepin	1,058,943	1,064,419	8.2%	8.2%	0.5%
Scott	79,114	82,994	3.5%	3.6%	2.1%
Wright	85,022	87,864	3.3%	2.8%	-15.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Minnesota State Demographic Center

Notes: The estimated population is the computed number of persons living in an area (resident population) as of July 1. The estimated population is calculated from a demographic components of change model that incorporates information on natural change (births and deaths) and net migration (net domestic migration and net movement from abroad) that has occurred in the area since the reference date, such as April 1, 1990, the date of the 1990 census.

Estimated percent of population served by food shelves in a given area is calculated as the ratio of estimated separate individuals served by that area's food shelves to the total estimated population of the area. The estimated separate individuals figure is calculated by dividing the number individuals served in a given area, divided by 5.3, the Urban Coalition's estimate of the average number of visits made to a food shelf in a year by the typical individual using a food shelf. (*Hunger Hurts: How the Government and the Economy are Failing Minnesota Families*, February 1991, Urban Coalition and the Minnesota Food Bank Network.)

Unemployment rate

	Unemployment rate, 1998	Unemployment rate, 1999	Change
Minnesota	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Central	3.4%	3%	-5.9%
Benton	3.2%	2.8%	-12.5%
Chisago	2.9%	2.9%	0.0%
Isanti	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Morrison	5.4%	5.2%	-3.7%
Pine	5.7%	5.4%	-5.3%
Sherburne	2.6%	2.5%	-3.8%
Stearns	2.9%	2.7%	-6.9%
Todd	5.2%	4.6%	-11.5%
East Metro	1.9%	1.8%	-5.3%
Dakota	1.8%	1.7%	-5.6%
Ramsey	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Washington	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%
Great Plains	2.0%	2.2%	10.0%
Clay	2.0%	2.2%	10.0%
North Central	5.7%	5.3%	-7.0%
Aitkin	7.5%	6.8%	-9.3%
Cass	5.6%	5.3%	-5.4%
Crow Wing	4.5%	3.9%	-13.3%
Itasca	6.4%	6.4%	0.0%
Kanabec	5.9%	5.8%	-1.7%
Koochiching	6.7%	6.0%	-10.4%
Mille Lacs	6.1%	5.6%	-8.2%
North Country	4.4%	4.3%	-2.3%
Becker	5.6%	4.9%	-12.5%
Beltrami	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%
Clearwater	10.8%	10.3%	-4.6%
Douglas	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Grant	4.6%	4.9%	6.5%
Hubbard	4.9%	4.3%	-12.2%

Unemployment rate (continued)

	Unemployment rate, 1998	Unemployment rate, 1999	Change
Kittson	5.1%	5.2%	2.0%
Lake of the Woods	3.9%	4.3%	10.3%
Mahnomen	8.5%	7.1%	-16.5%
Marshall	8.6%	8.6%	0.0%
Norman	4.9%	4.4%	-10.2%
Otter Tail	3.9%	3.8%	-2.6%
Pennington	4.4%	5.1%	15.9%
Polk	3.5%	3.4%	-2.9%
Pope	3.0%	2.7%	-10.0%
Red Lake	8.0%	8.2%	2.5%
Roseau	3.7%	3.6%	-2.7%
Stevens	2.4%	2.5%	4.2%
Traverse	4.1%	4.5%	9.8%
Wadena	4.7%	4.8%	2.1%
Wilkin	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Northern Lakes	3.9%	3.6%	-7.7%
Carlton	4.6%	3.8%	-17.4%
Cook	3.8%	3.3%	-13.2%
Lake	4.0%	3.5%	-12.5%
St. Louis	3.8%	3.5%	-7.9%
Southeast	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Dodge	3.2%	2.9%	-9.4%
Faribault	3.5%	3.4%	-2.9%
Fillmore	3.0%	2.9%	-3.3%
Freeborn	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%
Goodhue	2.5%	2.6%	4.0%
Houston	2.6%	3.1%	19.2%
Mower	2.0%	1.9%	-5.0%
Olmsted	1.6%	1.8%	12.5%
Rice	2.7%	2.6%	-3.7%
Steele	2.2%	2.2%	0.0%
Wabasha	2.4%	2.1%	-12.5%
Waseca	2.7%	2.8%	3.7%
Winona	2.2%	2.3%	4.5%

Unemployment rate (continued)

	Unemployment rate, 1998	Unemployment rate, 1999	Change
Southwest	3.0%	2.9%	-3.3%
Big Stone	3.5%	3.3%	-5.7%
Blue Earth	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Brown	3.7%	3.2%	-13.5%
Chippewa	3.9%	4.4%	12.8%
Cottonwood	4.9%	4.4%	-10.2%
Jackson	3.0%	2.5%	-16.7%
Kandiyohi	2.8%	3.0%	7.1%
Lac qui Parle	2.7%	2.9%	7.4%
Le Sueur	3.2%	3.0%	-6.3%
Lincoln	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Lyon	2.5%	2.3%	-8.0%
Martin	3.2%	3.0%	-6.3%
McLeod	2.7%	2.8%	3.7%
Meeker	4.8%	4.7%	-2.1%
Murray	3.9%	3.5%	-10.3%
Nicollet	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%
Nobles	4.1%	2.9%	-29.3%
Pipestone	2.5%	2.3%	-8.0%
Redwood	2.7%	2.4%	-11.1%
Renville	4.3%	4.1%	-4.7%
Rock	3.4%	2.7%	-20.6%
Sibley	3.9%	3.6%	-7.7%
Swift	2.9%	3.3%	13.8%
Watonwan	2.8%	3.5%	25.0%
Yellow Medicine	3.4%	3.6%	5.9%

Unemployment rate (continued)

	Unemployment rate, 1998	Unemployment rate, 1999	Change
West Metro	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Anoka	1.9%	2.0%	5.3%
Carver	1.8%	1.9%	5.6%
Hennepin	1.9%	1.9%	0.0%
Scott	3.7%	2.1%	-43.2%
Wright	2.7%	2.6%	-3.7%

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security's Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).

Notes: The unemployment rate is derived from the Current Population Survey taken monthly for the U.S. Bureau of Statistics. Annual rates are the averages of monthly unemployment rates.

"Unemployed persons," as the term is used by the LAUS program, means all civilians, non-institutionalized persons aged 16 or older who, during the week of the 12th were:

1. Not employed, available for work, and engaged in job seeking activities during the last 4 weeks;
2. Waiting to be called back to a job from which they were laid off; or
3. Waiting to report (within 30 days to a new wage or salaried job.)

Regional unemployment rates were derived by dividing the total number of unemployed in each region's counties by the total labor force within those same counties.

Average weekly wage

	Average weekly wage, 1997	Average weekly wage, 1998	Change
Minnesota	\$581.26	\$606.63	4.4%
Central	\$445.56	\$482.34	8.3%
Benton	\$441.74	\$467.45	5.8%
Chisago	\$442.15	\$464.16	5.0%
Isanti	\$432.20	\$457.48	5.8%
Morrison	\$396.65	\$413.95	4.4%
Pine	\$376.81	\$382.27	1.4%
Sherburne	\$485.77	\$505.64	4.1%
Stearns	\$456.85	\$511.76	12.0%
Todd	\$411.08	\$419.75	2.1%
East Metro	\$613.57	\$646.05	5.3%
Dakota	\$566.48	\$604.90	6.8%
Ramsey	\$644.29	\$677.23	5.1%
Washington	\$555.51	\$576.27	3.7%
Great Plains	\$408.06	\$419.53	2.8%
Clay	\$408.06	\$419.53	2.8%
North Central	\$433.00	\$489.60	13.1%
Aitkin	\$357.10	\$506.04	41.7%
Cass	\$352.82	\$367.53	4.2%
Crow Wing	\$439.36	\$463.83	5.6%
Itasca	\$485.41	\$501.76	3.4%
Kanabec	\$426.35	\$439.16	3.0%
Koochiching	\$514.62	\$238.48	-53.7%
Mille Lacs	\$380.96	\$391.55	2.8%
North Country	\$401.11	\$416.43	3.8%
Becker	\$387.88	\$412.76	6.4%
Beltrami	\$418.12	\$438.07	4.8%
Clearwater	\$411.42	\$399.58	-2.9%
Douglas	\$408.70	\$428.19	4.8%
Grant	\$382.08	\$376.19	-1.5%
Hubbard	\$385.59	\$403.65	4.7%

Average weekly wage (continued)

	Average weekly wage, 1997	Average weekly wage, 1998	Change
Kittson	\$375.25	\$385.32	2.7%
Lake of the Woods	\$389.85	\$402.44	3.2%
Mahnomen	\$358.69	\$382.73	6.7%
Marshall	\$391.35	\$397.73	1.6%
Norman	\$377.05	\$392.66	4.1%
Otter Tail	\$388.94	\$400.80	3.0%
Pennington	\$415.72	\$429.82	3.4%
Polk	\$397.96	\$414.48	4.2%
Pope	\$376.01	\$391.88	4.2%
Red Lake	\$360.58	\$375.32	4.1%
Roseau	\$449.69	\$465.29	3.5%
Stevens	\$432.42	\$442.73	2.4%
Traverse	\$365.59	\$382.40	4.6%
Wadena	\$374.76	\$393.76	5.1%
Wilkin	\$403.13	\$413.10	2.5%
Northern Lakes	\$485.90	\$508.96	4.7%
Carlton	\$508.10	\$525.84	3.5%
Cook	\$358.63	\$370.32	3.3%
Lake	\$473.93	\$483.44	2.0%
St. Louis	\$487.09	\$511.66	5.0%
Southeast	\$499.44	\$525.61	5.2%
Dodge	\$451.92	\$484.77	7.3%
Faribault	\$373.29	\$395.10	5.8%
Fillmore	\$372.64	\$384.39	3.2%
Freeborn	\$423.82	\$438.96	3.6%
Goodhue	\$467.81	\$488.34	4.4%
Houston	\$339.58	\$365.97	7.8%
Mower	\$445.26	\$479.64	7.7%
Olmsted	\$605.56	\$637.16	5.2%
Rice	\$493.35	\$513.40	4.1%
Steele	\$497.95	\$522.44	4.9%
Wabasha	\$402.13	\$428.24	6.5%
Waseca	\$451.29	\$465.91	3.2%
Winona	\$435.19	\$454.45	4.4%

Average weekly wage (continued)

	Average weekly wage, 1997	Average weekly wage, 1998	Change
Southwest	\$418.27	\$443.99	6.1%
Big Stone	\$333.17	\$334.37	0.4%
Blue Earth	\$449.27	\$473.57	5.4%
Brown	\$419.39	\$437.79	4.4%
Chippewa	\$418.73	\$437.50	4.5%
Cottonwood	\$357.26	\$398.09	11.4%
Jackson	\$388.55	\$380.76	-2.0%
Kandiyohi	\$424.93	\$449.00	5.7%
Lac qui Parle	\$355.86	\$366.14	2.9%
Le Sueur	\$424.42	\$440.48	3.8%
Lincoln	\$319.61	\$338.93	6.0%
Lyon	\$430.32	\$452.66	5.2%
Martin	\$396.63	\$417.76	5.3%
McLeod	\$516.83	\$530.07	2.6%
Meeker	\$413.85	\$419.45	1.4%
Murray	\$358.26	\$371.31	3.6%
Nicollet	\$435.23	\$463.72	6.5%
Nobles	\$382.92	\$403.46	5.4%
Pipestone	\$346.03	\$368.13	6.4%
Redwood	\$386.81	\$396.60	2.5%
Renville	\$391.48	\$402.73	2.9%
Rock	\$372.88	\$384.06	3.0%
Sibley	\$350.64	\$374.29	6.7%
Swift	\$378.37	\$397.62	5.1%
Watonwan	\$368.55	\$399.36	8.4%
Yellow Medicine	\$353.73	\$365.71	3.4%

Average weekly wage (continued)

	Average weekly wage, 1997	Average weekly wage, 1998	Change
West Metro	\$674.82	\$720.70	6.8%
Anoka	\$570.66	\$604.90	6.0%
Carver	\$586.15	\$605.36	3.3%
Hennepin	\$702.42	\$751.53	7.0%
Scott	\$514.98	\$560.01	8.7%
Wright	\$440.25	\$467.85	6.3%

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security ES-202 Program

Notes: "ES-202 data is collected in close cooperation with the RI (reemployment insurance) Tax division of the Department of Economic Security. The RI tax law requires wage and employment reporting of all the firms covered under the RI tax code. The ES-202 conducts ongoing surveys to verify the location and type of economic activity occurring at each of more than 140,000 reporting units (firms) in the state."

"Total wages, for purpose of the quarterly UI (unemployment insurance) reports submitted by employers in private industry in most states, including gross wages and salaries, bonuses, stocks options, tips and other gratuities, and the value of meals and lodging, where supplied. In some of the states, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans, such as 401(k) plans, are included in total wages. Total wages, however, do not include employer contributions to Old-age Survivors', and Disability Insurance (OASDI); health insurance; unemployment insurance; workers' compensation; and private pension and welfare funds."

Regional average weekly wage rates were derived by dividing the aggregate of the total annual wages for each region's counties by 52 to calculate the regional total of weekly wages, and then dividing that by the total average employment figure for those same counties.

Employment by sector

	All industries*	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance & real estate	Services	Government
		% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all
Minnesota	2,462,159	4.0%	17.9%	4.9%	24.3%	6.6%	27.8%	13.6%
Central	144,593	4.7%	18.6%	4.2%	28.2%	3.5%	23.3%	15.8%
Benton	13,086	8.0%	26.9%	3.0%	28.0%	1.8%	17.3%	10.1%
Chisago	11,187	6.3%	20.1%	1.9%	23.6%	3.3%	26.0%	17.7%
Isanti	8,700	4.7%	18.6%	3.9%	21.8%	2.8%	27.1%	19.9%
Morrison	10,487	4.2%	16.5%	4.0%	26.6%	2.7%	24.7%	19.7%
Pine	7,668	4.1%	5.3%	2.6%	24.9%	3.0%	36.0%	21.9%
Sherburne	17,001	6.1%	16.3%	9.1%	27.4%	2.9%	18.6%	17.6%
Stearns	70,526	3.8%	18.0%	4.0%	31.4%	4.2%	23.7%	13.9%
Todd	5,938	2.5%	30.9%	3.0%	19.3%	3.7%	14.7%	22.6%
East Metro	523,519	4.0%	18.1%	4.3%	24.2%	6.5%	27.5%	14.6%
Dakota	140,634	5.0%	17.7%	6.4%	29.7%	5.4%	23.0%	11.4%
Ramsey	321,945	3.5%	18.1%	3.4%	20.9%	6.9%	30.6%	16.2%
Washington	60,940	4.5%	19.4%	3.6%	28.8%	7.0%	20.9%	13.9%
Great Plains	16,729	5.7%	6.2%	2.8%	29.3%	3.1%	27.4%	23.9%
Clay	16,729	5.7%	6.2%	2.8%	29.3%	3.1%	27.4%	23.9%
North Central	69,337	4.5%	14.8%	3.8%	25.2%	4.0%	27.0%	19.1%
Aitkin	3,633	4.9%	13.8%	4.4%	28.2%	3.1%	22.5%	21.5%
Cass	8,446	3.6%	3.7%	1.5%	24.4%	4.6%	37.7%	23.8%
Crow Wing	23,802	5.1%	14.2%	4.0%	27.8%	5.1%	25.8%	17.3%

Employment by sector (continued)

	All industries*	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance & real estate	Services	Government
		% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all
Itasca	14,823	4.2%	13.6%	5.9%	24.1%	3.0%	23.8%	20.7%
Kanabec	3,982	7.7%	20.0%	1.0%	30.2%	4.1%	14.3%	22.0%
Koochiching	5,871	3.1%	26.9%	4.0%	20.8%	2.4%	24.6%	17.9%
Mille Lacs	8,780	3.3%	19.0%	2.6%	20.8%	3.3%	34.8%	15.4%
North Country	128,662	4.1%	17.2%	4.2%	25.4%	3.2%	24.2%	19.4%
Becker	10,699	4.6%	14.1%	4.7%	25.3%	2.9%	26.5%	18.2%
Beltrami	15,912	5.9%	6.8%	4.5%	26.9%	3.0%	30.8%	21.8%
Clearwater	2,397	7.4%	16.1%	3.6%	17.6%	2.8%	16.0%	34.8%
Douglas	14,698	5.9%	18.1%	4.8%	30.2%	3.1%	20.2%	16.8%
Grant	2,038	6.6%	13.8%	1.5%	21.1%	5.0%	29.3%	19.2%
Hubbard	5,633	5.2%	20.8%	2.8%	23.6%	3.1%	22.0%	18.4%
Kittson	1,537	2.1%	2.7%	4.6%	27.8%	5.5%	28.6%	24.9%
Lake of the Woods	1,519	3.1%	na	3.6%	21.3%	2.2%	32.8%	20.3%
Mahnomen	2,009	4.9%	1.5%	3.3%	13.3%	3.4%	54.6%	17.7%
Marshall	2,415	4.3%	13.0%	2.5%	24.6%	4.6%	17.8%	27.9%
Norman	2,093	3.2%	3.2%	6.2%	23.7%	5.5%	25.5%	27.2%
Otter Tail	20,777	4.4%	16.7%	6.2%	26.5%	3.3%	23.6%	17.0%
Pennington	7,826	1.4%	23.9%	3.0%	32.6%	2.2%	21.0%	15.3%
Polk	11,810	2.7%	14.8%	3.8%	24.3%	2.9%	26.2%	21.2%

Employment by sector (continued)

	All industries*	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance & real estate	Services	Government
		% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all
Pope	3,574	3.2%	15.0%	3.7%	28.5%	3.5%	21.7%	20.9%
Red Lake	1,167	5.1%	12.1%	7.5%	22.5%	4.7%	20.4%	25.2%
Roseau	8,970	1.0%	55.2%	1.5%	13.9%	2.0%	15.7%	10.1%
Stevens	4,494	5.2%	12.5%	3.1%	25.4%	3.6%	22.8%	24.0%
Traverse	1,322	2.0%	13.5%	3.7%	26.9%	6.1%	12.9%	33.6%
Wadena	5,777	2.3%	17.8%	4.3%	24.5%	2.9%	23.9%	23.1%
Wilkin	1,995	2.8%	2.5%	2.4%	29.3%	5.7%	28.1%	20.6%
Northern Lakes	111,847	3.8%	8.9%	4.6%	24.5%	3.2%	30.6%	19.1%
Carlton	12,335	7.1%	19.7%	2.7%	21.5%	3.2%	22.4%	22.6%
Cook	2,590	na	4.2%	1.6%	20.0%	2.4%	45.7%	21.4%
Lake	3,932	na	11.4%	na	21.9%	2.8%	23.7%	23.3%
St. Louis	92,990	3.6%	7.4%	5.1%	25.1%	3.2%	31.5%	18.4%
Southeast	230,131	3.7%	24.0%	3.8%	21.5%	3.5%	29.5%	12.5%
Dodge	4,342	4.5%	23.0%	1.8%	25.8%	3.3%	11.2%	25.0%
Faribault	5,873	5.2%	28.6%	5.0%	18.4%	4.0%	17.6%	18.1%
Fillmore	6,626	3.5%	18.9%	3.2%	24.7%	4.7%	22.2%	19.6%
Freeborn	13,214	3.5%	24.6%	3.7%	26.7%	3.4%	25.7%	11.2%
Goodhue	21,569	2.5%	24.0%	5.7%	22.0%	3.0%	27.9%	13.2%
Houston	5,117	3.5%	17.5%	9.0%	17.6%	3.0%	27.0%	19.8%

Employment by sector (continued)

	All industries*	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance & real estate	Services	Government
		% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all
Mower	14,834	4.0%	26.0%	3.4%	23.4%	2.8%	24.3%	15.0%
Olmsted	77,084	4.0%	17.1%	3.1%	19.8%	3.0%	43.3%	9.0%
Rice	21,987	5.4%	23.8%	1.9%	23.8%	2.6%	24.8%	16.3%
Steele	19,448	4.0%	35.6%	3.6%	19.8%	10.0%	17.2%	8.8%
Wabasha	7,126	4.1%	30.8%	8.3%	21.4%	2.7%	15.9%	15.1%
Waseca	8,257	2.0%	35.5%	3.8%	15.3%	2.9%	20.4%	18.0%
Winona	24,654	2.6%	31.3%	4.1%	23.6%	2.2%	22.5%	12.4%
Southwest	208,989	4.2%	24.7%	3.7%	23.9%	8.4%	19.8%	17.3%
Big Stone	1,855	10.2%	3.8%	1.3%	25.6%	4.8%	19.8%	32.6%
Blue Earth	31,138	4.6%	12.5%	4.2%	31.7%	35.7%	27.8%	13.9%
Brown	14,014	4.6%	30.3%	5.1%	22.4%	3.1%	20.4%	11.4%
Chippewa	5,730	9.1%	23.2%	4.3%	24.4%	3.9%	15.5%	17.3%
Cottonwood	4,496	2.9%	19.9%	3.9%	23.6%	4.0%	23.0%	20.5%
Jackson	4,527	3.7%	21.6%	2.7%	23.6%	3.2%	22.0%	19.6%
Kandiyohi	20,861	4.8%	16.8%	2.9%	25.4%	3.2%	23.1%	19.7%
Lac qui Parle	2,463	3.5%	14.0%	1.7%	24.7%	4.6%	21.5%	29.1%
Le Sueur	8,387	5.3%	33.3%	2.3%	19.1%	3.0%	18.3%	15.8%
Lincoln	1,788	6.3%	2.3%	6.9%	23.4%	3.1%	35.1%	20.1%
Lyon	14,437	4.4%	30.1%	3.1%	22.9%	5.2%	15.9%	17.4%
Martin	9,648	3.7%	21.7%	5.1%	27.4%	3.5%	21.3%	14.4%
McLeod	19,361	2.9%	48.5%	3.7%	18.7%	2.2%	9.1%	13.7%

Employment by sector (continued)

	All industries*	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance & real estate	Services	Government
		% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all	% of all
Meeker	6,358	4.9%	25.0%	4.5%	24.5%	2.9%	15.2%	19.6%
Murray	2,660	8.9%	11.1%	4.9%	23.6%	5.9%	19.5%	22.3%
Nicollet	13,626	2.0%	42.8%	1.8%	15.9%	2.8%	16.6%	16.1%
Nobles	9,603	2.8%	25.1%	4.6%	28.7%	3.7%	15.7%	17.6%
Pipestone	4,106	3.9%	20.0%	3.8%	25.4%	4.5%	16.0%	20.8%
Redwood	7,148	4.6%	19.6%	3.6%	24.2%	3.4%	24.3%	18.8%
Renville	6,145	4.0%	20.3%	5.1%	19.3%	4.8%	16.6%	20.2%
Rock	3,334	2.5%	6.2%	2.2%	28.3%	10.3%	21.5%	25.9%
Sibley	3,919	na	15.6%	2.2%	20.7%	3.4%	18.0%	21.4%
Swift	4,257	3.3%	22.0%	3.4%	22.5%	3.8%	21.7%	22.0%
Watonwan	4,819	5.4%	34.0%	4.9%	17.9%	3.7%	16.5%	15.8%
Yellow Medicine	4,309	3.3%	14.2%	4.4%	20.9%	3.1%	25.5%	26.0%
West Metro	1,028,352	3.9%	16.4%	6.0%	24.2%	8.4%	30.1%	10.4%
Anoka	100,815	6.7%	25.6%	3.3%	26.5%	2.3%	22.1%	12.8%
Carver	26,929	5.2%	35.7%	2.4%	18.8%	3.0%	19.0%	14.4%
Hennepin	845,056	3.2%	14.5%	6.5%	24.1%	9.7%	31.7%	9.8%
Scott	30,066	9.2%	19.2%	3.1%	21.4%	2.1%	31.0%	11.8%
Wright	25,486	6.9%	17.4%	6.3%	26.6%	3.4%	19.7%	17.2%

* Excluding agricultural, forestry, fishing and mining, which account for 1 percent of total employment.

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security, ES-202 program.

Percent of population in poverty

	Percent of population in poverty, 1993	Percent of population in poverty, 1995	Change
Minnesota	10.8%	8.7%	-19.4%
Central	10.6%	8.9%	-15.6%
Benton	10.4%	8.2%	-21.2%
Chisago	8.1%	6.0%	-25.9%
Isanti	9.7%	7.1%	-26.8%
Morrison	14.5%	13.2%	-9.0%
Pine	15.4%	13.2%	-14.3%
Sherburne	6.8%	5.5%	-19.1%
Stearns	10.3%	9.0%	-12.6%
Todd	16.4%	15.1%	-7.9%
East Metro	9.3%	7.3%	-21.5%
Dakota	5.5%	4.2%	-23.6%
Ramsey	13.3%	10.9%	-18.0%
Washington	4.9%	3.6%	-26.5%
Great Plains	15.5%	13.4%	-13.5%
Clay	15.5%	13.4%	-13.5%
North Central	15.2%	12.6%	-16.8%
Aitkin	18.1%	14.9%	-17.7%
Cass	20.0%	15.9%	-20.5%
Crow Wing	13.8%	11.7%	-15.2%
Itasca	15.4%	12.6%	-18.2%
Kanabec	14.7%	11.9%	-19.0%
Koochiching	12.2%	11.1%	-9.0%
Mille Lacs	13.5%	11.3%	-16.3%
North Country	15.1%	13.0%	-14.2%
Becker	17.4%	14.9%	-14.4%
Beltrami	21.5%	18.6%	-13.5%
Clearwater	21.1%	17.9%	-15.2%
Douglas	11.3%	9.3%	-17.7%
Grant	13.8%	12.2%	-11.6%
Hubbard	16.3%	14.0%	-14.1%

Percent of population in poverty (continued)

	Percent of population in poverty, 1993	Percent of population in poverty, 1995	Change
Kittson	11.2%	10.9%	-2.7%
Lake of the Woods	10.7%	9.1%	-15.0%
Mahnomen	20.3%	18.9%	-6.9%
Marshall	12.0%	11.1%	-7.5%
Norman	16.1%	14.6%	-9.3%
Otter Tail	13.5%	11.3%	-16.3%
Pennington	13.6%	11.3%	-16.9%
Polk	16.8%	14.1%	-16.1%
Pope	13.2%	10.8%	-18.2%
Red Lake	12.4%	11.3%	-8.9%
Roseau	8.4%	6.8%	-19.0%
Stevens	10.8%	10.1%	-6.5%
Traverse	14.3%	13.8%	-3.5%
Wadena	18.3%	16.0%	-12.6%
Wilkin	13.7%	11.3%	-17.5%
Northern Lakes	13.6%	11.4%	-15.9%
Carlton	11.6%	9.9%	-14.7%
Cook	7.0%	6.9%	-1.4%
Lake	9.9%	7.6%	-23.2%
St. Louis	14.2%	12.0%	-15.5%
Southeast	9.1%	7.8%	-14.5%
Dodge	9.0%	6.9%	-23.3%
Faribault	13.0%	10.3%	-20.8%
Fillmore	12.6%	10.9%	-13.5%
Freeborn	11.9%	10.2%	-14.3%
Goodhue	6.8%	6.0%	-11.8%
Houston	9.0%	7.6%	-15.6%
Mower	11.1%	9.6%	-13.5%
Olmsted	7.3%	6.6%	-9.6%
Rice	8.7%	7.5%	-13.8%
Steele	7.7%	6.2%	-19.5%
Wabasha	8.3%	6.8%	-18.1%
Waseca	9.3%	7.3%	-21.5%
Winona	10.3%	9.3%	-9.7%

Percent of population in poverty (continued)

	Percent of population in poverty, 1993	Percent of population in poverty, 1995	Change
Southwest	11.2%	9.3%	-17.1%
Big Stone	13.6%	12.8%	-5.9%
Blue Earth	12.5%	10.7%	-14.4%
Brown	8.7%	7.1%	-18.4%
Chippewa	13.1%	10.5%	-19.8%
Cottonwood	12.7%	10.0%	-21.3%
Jackson	11.8%	9.0%	-23.7%
Kandiyohi	14.4%	11.6%	-19.4%
Lac qui Parle	10.9%	9.3%	-14.7%
Le Sueur	8.8%	7.0%	-20.5%
Lincoln	14.0%	12.3%	-12.1%
Lyon	10.2%	8.6%	-15.7%
Martin	11.7%	9.9%	-15.4%
McLeod	7.3%	6.2%	-15.1%
Meeker	11.0%	8.6%	-21.8%
Murray	11.9%	9.9%	-16.8%
Nicollet	7.5%	6.6%	-12.0%
Nobles	11.5%	9.5%	-17.4%
Pipestone	11.8%	10.4%	-11.9%
Redwood	10.3%	8.8%	-14.6%
Renville	15.2%	11.5%	-24.3%
Rock	9.6%	8.3%	-13.5%
Sibley	10.9%	8.9%	-18.3%
Swift	13.9%	11.5%	-17.3%
Watonwan	12.1%	10.7%	-11.6%
Yellow Medicine	13.0%	9.9%	-23.8%

Percent of population in poverty (continued)

	Percent of population in poverty, 1993	Percent of population in poverty, 1995	Change
West Metro	10.1%	7.7%	-23.7%
Anoka	6.4%	5.1%	-20.3%
Carver	4.6%	3.5%	-23.9%
Hennepin	11.9%	9.1%	-23.5%
Scott	4.7%	3.5%	-25.5%
Wright	7.3%	5.7%	-21.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Notes: The Census Bureau estimates poverty rates using state and county models with selected variables based on administrative data including 1) data summarized from federal individual income tax returns, 2) numbers of food stamp program participation, and 3) Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) personal income estimates.

Regional poverty rates were derived by first, at the county level, dividing the estimated number in poverty by the percent in poverty to arrive at the total population estimate for each county, and then dividing the total number of persons in poverty within the region's counties by the total population estimate for the region's counties.

Median household income

	Median household income, 1993	Median household income, 1995	Change
Minnesota	\$33,239	\$37,483	12.8%
Central	\$32,304	\$35,905	11.1%
Benton	\$31,777	\$35,360	11.3%
Chisago	\$37,610	\$42,946	14.2%
Isanti	\$36,433	\$40,360	10.8%
Morrison	\$26,802	\$28,845	7.6%
Pine	\$25,509	\$29,300	14.9%
Sherburne	\$42,705	\$48,660	13.9%
Stearns	\$33,168	\$36,170	9.1%
Todd	\$24,427	\$25,595	4.8%
East Metro	\$45,734	\$50,020	9.4%
Dakota	\$48,673	\$53,049	9.0%
Ramsey	\$35,176	\$37,222	5.8%
Washington	\$53,354	\$59,790	12.1%
Great Plains	\$31,363	\$34,271	9.3%
Clay	\$31,363	\$34,271	9.3%
North Central	\$25,747	\$28,959	12.5%
Aitkin	\$21,047	\$25,176	19.6%
Cass	\$22,399	\$26,087	16.5%
Crow Wing	\$27,480	\$30,802	12.1%
Itasca	\$27,234	\$30,598	12.4%
Kanabec	\$27,092	\$29,405	8.5%
Koochiching	\$28,396	\$31,097	9.5%
Mille Lacs	\$26,584	\$29,550	11.2%
North Country	\$26,526	\$28,644	8.0%
Becker	\$25,335	\$27,947	10.3%
Beltrami	\$25,011	\$28,192	12.7%
Clearwater	\$22,333	\$24,607	10.2%
Douglas	\$27,977	\$31,388	12.2%
Grant	\$25,204	\$28,194	11.9%
Hubbard	\$24,313	\$26,656	9.6%

Median household income (continued)

	Median household income, 1993	Median household income, 1995	Change
Kittson	\$29,242	\$28,614	-2.1%
Lake of the Woods	\$28,473	\$30,950	8.7%
Mahnomen	\$21,805	\$23,523	7.9%
Marshall	\$27,222	\$28,927	6.3%
Norman	\$27,181	\$27,047	-0.5%
Otter Tail	\$26,871	\$29,598	10.1%
Pennington	\$26,773	\$30,361	13.4%
Polk	\$27,832	\$29,738	6.8%
Pope	\$25,286	\$28,232	11.7%
Red Lake	\$25,144	\$26,462	5.2%
Roseau	\$32,956	\$34,905	5.9%
Stevens	\$29,980	\$31,601	5.4%
Traverse	\$26,081	\$27,284	4.6%
Wadena	\$22,952	\$24,984	8.9%
Wilkin	\$29,070	\$32,322	11.2%
Northern Lakes	\$29,058	\$33,171	14.2%
Carlton	\$30,222	\$34,081	12.8%
Cook	\$28,035	\$32,891	17.3%
Lake	\$28,689	\$32,648	13.8%
St. Louis	\$29,284	\$33,064	12.9%
Southeast	\$32,648	\$35,279	8.1%
Dodge	\$35,510	\$38,669	8.9%
Faribault	\$26,645	\$28,515	7.0%
Fillmore	\$26,891	\$28,258	5.1%
Freeborn	\$29,022	\$30,507	5.1%
Goodhue	\$36,028	\$39,849	10.6%
Houston	\$31,343	\$33,867	8.1%
Mower	\$28,531	\$31,651	10.9%
Olmsted	\$42,608	\$45,170	6.0%
Rice	\$35,594	\$39,181	10.1%
Steele	\$36,253	\$39,802	9.8%
Wabasha	\$32,386	\$34,759	7.3%
Waseca	\$32,352	\$34,810	7.6%
Winona	\$31,260	\$33,585	7.4%

Median household income (continued)

	Median household income, 1993	Median household income, 1995	Change
Southwest	\$29,060	\$31,166	7.2%
Big Stone	\$23,966	\$25,115	4.8%
Blue Earth	\$30,343	\$33,833	11.5%
Brown	\$31,417	\$34,042	8.4%
Chippewa	\$28,035	\$31,106	11.0%
Cottonwood	\$26,868	\$28,324	5.4%
Jackson	\$27,769	\$29,457	6.1%
Kandiyohi	\$30,807	\$34,035	10.5%
Lac qui Parle	\$27,431	\$28,231	2.9%
Le Sueur	\$33,447	\$37,060	10.8%
Lincoln	\$23,978	\$24,614	2.7%
Lyon	\$31,177	\$33,972	9.0%
Martin	\$29,141	\$31,646	8.6%
McLeod	\$35,209	\$39,000	10.8%
Meeker	\$29,709	\$32,673	10.0%
Murray	\$27,901	\$28,444	1.9%
Nicollet	\$37,321	\$40,195	7.7%
Nobles	\$28,766	\$29,890	3.9%
Pipestone	\$26,353	\$28,114	6.7%
Redwood	\$29,015	\$31,005	6.9%
Renville	\$29,030	\$31,247	7.6%
Rock	\$30,212	\$30,944	2.4%
Sibley	\$29,984	\$31,266	4.3%
Swift	\$24,993	\$26,871	7.5%
Watonwan	\$26,673	\$28,223	5.8%
Yellow Medicine	\$26,945	\$29,845	10.8%
West Metro	\$43,748	\$49,257	12.6%
Anoka	\$45,458	\$49,172	8.2%
Carver	\$46,863	\$54,024	15.3%
Hennepin	\$38,486	\$43,653	13.4%
Scott	\$48,443	\$55,363	14.3%
Wright	\$39,488	\$44,072	11.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program

MFIP participation

	MFIP 1998	MFIP 1999	Change
Minnesota	48,060	43,009	-10.5%
Central	2,509	2,093	-16.6%
Benton	249	198	-20.5%
Chisago	220	201	-8.6%
Isanti	219	203	-7.3%
Morrison	259	190	-26.6%
Pine	263	224	-14.8%
Sherburne	313	235	-24.9%
Stearns	732	640	-12.6%
Todd	254	202	-20.5%
East Metro	11,921	10,536	-11.6%
Dakota	1,682	1,373	-18.4%
Ramsey	9,535	8,529	-10.6%
Washington	704	634	-9.9%
Great Plains	629	587	-6.7%
Clay	629	587	-6.7%
North Central	2,103	1,808	-14.0%
Aitkin	159	110	-30.8%
Cass	446	440	-1.3%
Crow Wing	503	420	-16.5%
Itasca	451	387	-14.2%
Kanabec	120	102	-15.0%
Koochiching	140	136	-2.9%
Mille Lacs	284	213	-25.0%
North Country	3,838	3,649	-4.9%
Becker	431	393	-8.8%
Beltrami	1,297	1,311	1.1%
Clearwater	143	129	-9.8%
Douglas	167	155	-7.2%
Grant	34	28	-17.6%
Hubbard	200	172	-14.0%
Kittson	26	24	-7.7%

MFIP participation (continued)

	MFIP 1998	MFIP 1999	Change
Lake of the Woods	12	10	-16.7%
Mahnomen	141	153	8.5%
Marshall	45	46	2.2%
Norman	52	53	1.9%
Otter Tail	354	307	-13.3%
Pennington	124	109	-12.1%
Polk	403	388	-3.7%
Pope	47	38	-19.1%
Red Lake	26	21	-19.2%
Roseau	38	44	15.8%
Stevens	46	40	-13.0%
Traverse	33	34	3.0%
Wadena	166	135	-18.7%
Wilkin	53	59	11.3%
Northern Lakes	2,926	2,726	-6.8%
Carlton	321	315	-1.9%
Cook	14	12	-14.3%
Lake	48	44	-8.3%
St. Louis	2,543	2,355	-7.4%
Southeast	2,925	2,618	-10.5%
Dodge	74	52	-29.7%
Faribault	106	83	-21.7%
Fillmore	74	64	-13.5%
Freeborn	296	260	-12.2%
Goodhue	159	133	-16.4%
Houston	79	67	-15.2%
Mower	306	256	-16.3%
Olmsted	874	796	-8.9%
Rice	298	276	-7.4%
Steele	185	182	-1.6%
Wabasha	82	76	-7.3%
Waseca	119	124	4.2%
Winona	273	249	-8.8%

MFIP participation (continued)

	MFIP 1998	MFIP 1999	Change
Southwest	2,703	2,564	-5.1%
Big Stone	36	35	-2.8%
Blue Earth	365	345	-5.5%
Brown	104	111	6.7%
Chippewa	56	54	-3.6%
Cottonwood	73	64	-12.3%
Jackson	62	53	-14.5%
Kandiyohi	386	370	-4.1%
Lac qui Parle	26	27	3.8%
Le Sueur	120	107	-10.8%
Lincoln	23	16	-30.4%
Lyon	144	134	-6.9%
Martin	177	158	-10.7%
McLeod	141	143	1.4%
Meeker	107	100	-6.5%
Murray	23	17	-26.1%
Nicollet	141	152	7.8%
Nobles	185	170	-8.1%
Pipestone	60	52	-13.3%
Redwood	69	74	7.2%
Renville	103	105	1.9%
Rock	39	34	-12.8%
Sibley	73	70	-4.1%
Swift	60	54	-10.0%
Watonwan	81	82	1.2%
Yellow Medicine	49	37	-24.5%
West Metro	18,506	16,428	-11.2%
Anoka	2,095	1,761	-15.9%
Carver	139	121	-12.9%
Hennepin	15,615	13,990	-10.4%
Scott	272	234	-14.0%
Wright	385	322	-16.4%

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Note: Figures represent the monthly average number of MFIP cases in each county for calendar years 1998 and 1999.

Earned income tax credit and working family credit

	Percent of federal tax returns with earned income tax credit			Percent of Minnesota tax returns with working family credit
	1998	1999	Change	1998
Minnesota	9.7%	9.3%	-4.1%	8.6%
Central	11.1%	10.2%	-8.1%	9.6%
Benton	10.7%	9.8%	-8.0%	10.0%
Chisago	9.3%	8.5%	-8.4%	8.0%
Isanti	11.2%	10.7%	-5.0%	10.0%
Morrison	15.9%	14.3%	-10.0%	13.0%
Pine	15.3%	14.7%	-3.7%	13.0%
Sherburne	8.0%	7.2%	-9.8%	7.0%
Stearns	10.4%	9.4%	-9.0%	9.0%
Todd	17.0%	15.7%	-7.5%	14.0%
East Metro	8.1%	7.7%	-4.9%	7.2%
Dakota	6.3%	5.8%	-8.3%	5.0%
Ramsey	10.3%	10.1%	-1.8%	9.0%
Washington	5.3%	5.1%	-3.7%	5.0%
Great Plains	13.0%	12.0%	-7.2%	11.0%
Clay	13.0%	12.0%	-7.2%	11.0%
North Central	15.6%	14.9%	-4.5%	13.1%
Aitkin	16.9%	15.9%	-6.1%	14.0%
Cass	21.5%	20.8%	-3.3%	17.0%
Crow Wing	14.0%	13.1%	-6.1%	12.0%
Itasca	15.3%	15.0%	-1.7%	13.0%
Kanabec	16.7%	15.3%	-8.4%	14.0%
Koochiching	13.7%	13.9%	1.8%	12.0%
Mille Lacs	14.7%	13.3%	-9.5%	12.0%
North Country	14.6%	14.0%	-4.1%	12.3%
Becker	16.2%	15.0%	-7.7%	13.0%
Beltrami	21.1%	21.2%	0.6%	16.0%
Clearwater	21.8%	18.9%	-13.4%	16.0%
Douglas	11.6%	10.8%	-7.3%	10.0%
Grant	12.9%	12.4%	-3.7%	11.0%
Hubbard	16.4%	16.2%	-1.3%	14.0%

Earned income tax credit and working family credit (continued)

	Percent of federal tax returns with earned income tax credit			Percent of Minnesota tax returns with working family credit
	1998	1999	Change	1998
Kittson	11.8%	10.6%	-10.6%	10.0%
Lake of the Woods	15.3%	14.0%	-8.4%	14.0%
Mahnomen	22.2%	22.7%	2.3%	17.0%
Marshall	12.2%	11.4%	-6.6%	11.0%
Norman	13.2%	12.7%	-3.1%	12.0%
Otter Tail	13.4%	12.1%	-9.6%	11.0%
Pennington	14.1%	14.0%	-1.0%	13.0%
Polk	13.9%	13.3%	-4.2%	12.0%
Pope	11.0%	10.8%	-1.7%	10.0%
Red Lake	13.0%	12.7%	-2.1%	12.0%
Roseau	12.0%	12.1%	1.1%	12.0%
Stevens	8.3%	8.1%	-2.4%	7.0%
Traverse	12.8%	12.3%	-3.5%	11.0%
Wadena	18.2%	16.8%	-7.8%	15.0%
Wilkin	10.5%	10.4%	-0.3%	9.0%
Northern Lakes	12.0%	11.9%	-0.8%	10.5%
Carlton	12.7%	12.6%	-1.3%	11.0%
Cook	10.8%	11.0%	2.5%	9.0%
Lake	10.2%	9.8%	-3.4%	9.0%
St. Louis	12.0%	12.0%	-0.6%	11.0%
Southeast	9.9%	9.3%	-6.1%	8.6%
Dodge	9.1%	8.5%	-6.8%	8.0%
Faribault	12.5%	11.8%	-6.0%	11.0%
Fillmore	11.3%	10.3%	-8.4%	9.0%
Freeborn	12.9%	11.9%	-8.1%	11.0%
Goodhue	8.2%	7.5%	-8.3%	7.0%
Houston	10.1%	9.6%	-5.0%	9.0%
Mower	12.4%	11.9%	-4.5%	11.0%
Olmsted	8.5%	8.0%	-5.3%	7.0%
Rice	9.4%	8.8%	-5.9%	8.0%
Steele	8.8%	8.3%	-6.2%	8.0%
Wabasha	9.7%	9.3%	-4.1%	9.0%
Waseca	10.6%	10.1%	-4.8%	10.0%
Winona	11.0%	10.4%	-5.2%	10.0%

Earned income tax credit and working family credit (continued)

	Percent of federal tax returns with earned income tax credit			Percent of Minnesota tax returns with working family credit
	1998	1999	Change	1998
Southwest	10.9%	10.5%	-3.7%	9.8%
Big Stone	13.8%	13.3%	-3.8%	12.0%
Blue Earth	11.3%	10.7%	-5.5%	10.0%
Brown	8.6%	8.3%	-3.1%	8.0%
Chippewa	10.8%	10.2%	-5.6%	8.0%
Cottonwood	11.9%	11.8%	-0.9%	11.0%
Jackson	11.1%	11.2%	0.5%	9.0%
Kandiyohi	13.0%	12.8%	-1.5%	12.0%
Lac qui Parle	9.7%	9.5%	-1.4%	9.0%
Le Sueur	8.8%	8.3%	-5.2%	8.0%
Lincoln	12.6%	11.4%	-9.3%	11.0%
Lyon	10.6%	10.2%	-3.8%	10.0%
Martin	12.5%	12.4%	-0.8%	11.0%
McLeod	8.8%	8.6%	-2.6%	8.0%
Meeker	10.5%	10.0%	-5.0%	9.0%
Murray	11.2%	10.5%	-6.3%	10.0%
Nicollet	8.5%	8.0%	-5.8%	8.0%
Nobles	13.8%	14.1%	2.2%	13.0%
Pipestone	12.1%	11.6%	-4.2%	11.0%
Redwood	10.9%	10.9%	-0.2%	11.0%
Renville	9.6%	10.0%	4.0%	10.0%
Rock	10.4%	9.1%	-12.5%	9.0%
Sibley	10.4%	10.3%	-1.1%	10.0%
Swift	13.1%	10.9%	-17.0%	10.0%
Watonwan	15.5%	13.8%	-11.0%	13.0%
Yellow Medicine	10.0%	10.7%	6.7%	10.0%
West Metro	8.1%	7.8%	-3.7%	7.2%
Anoka	8.0%	7.5%	-6.2%	7.0%
Carver	6.0%	5.4%	-9.7%	5.0%
Hennepin	8.4%	8.1%	-3.3%	7.0%
Scott	6.0%	5.6%	-5.3%	5.0%
Wright	8.5%	7.9%	-7.5%	7.0%

Sources: Minnesota Working Family Credit data are from the Tax Research Division, Minnesota *Department of Revenue*. Earned Income Tax Credit data are from the Internal Revenue Service.

Students approved for free and reduced-price school lunches

	Number of students approved, 1997-98	Number of students approved, 1998-99	Approval rate, 1997-98	Approval rate, 1998-99	Change in approval rate
Minnesota	223,517	222,498	26.2%	26.3%	0.4%
Central	18,650	18,065	26.0%	25.2%	-3.2%
Benton	1,083	1,172	21.0%	22.9%	9.1%
Chisago	1,626	1,550	21.1%	19.5%	-7.4%
Isanti	1,494	1,367	24.5%	22.8%	-7.1%
Morrison	2,770	2,433	45.0%	39.6%	-11.9%
Pine	1,554	1,657	33.7%	36.6%	8.7%
Sherburne	1,549	1,650	12.7%	12.9%	1.7%
Stearns	6,231	5,903	24.9%	24.1%	-3.4%
Todd	2,343	2,333	48.2%	49.1%	1.9%
East Metro	46,077	47,001	24.2%	24.4%	0.9%
Dakota	8,151	8,106	11.8%	11.5%	-2.3%
Ramsey	34,455	35,408	40.2%	40.9%	1.7%
Washington	3,471	3,487	9.9%	9.8%	-0.8%
Great Plains	2,582	2,500	27.8%	27.1%	-2.6%
Clay	2,582	2,500	27.8%	27.1%	-2.6%
North Central	13,097	12,764	35.2%	34.6%	-1.7%
Aitkin	1,130	1,059	48.1%	46.3%	-3.8%
Cass	2,191	2,410	45.0%	48.6%	8.1%
Crow Wing	3,251	3,124	32.0%	31.0%	-3.0%
Itasca	2,601	2,501	31.7%	31.1%	-1.9%
Kanabec	1,027	996	36.4%	35.3%	-2.9%
Koochiching	770	732	30.4%	29.1%	-4.4%
Mille Lacs	2,127	1,942	34.0%	31.3%	-7.9%
North Country	25,486	23,901	35.4%	37.7%	6.4%
Becker	1,871	1,816	37.1%	37.0%	-0.2%
Beltrami	4,178	4,381	50.5%	53.0%	5.0%
Clearwater	868	751	47.1%	42.3%	-10.2%
Douglas	1,581	1,537	27.5%	27.2%	-1.2%
Grant	477	490	30.9%	31.3%	1.4%

Students approved for free and reduced-price school lunches (continued)

	Number of students approved, 1997-98	Number of students approved, 1998-99	Approval rate, 1997-98	Approval rate, 1998-99	Change in approval rate
Hubbard	2,725	1,245	26.9%	43.6%	62.2%
Kittson	420	408	36.1%	37.6%	4.2%
Lake of the Woods	267	328	31.2%	38.4%	23.0%
Mahnomen	970	935	64.0%	65.7%	2.6%
Marshall	685	707	35.8%	38.3%	6.9%
Norman	529	580	35.6%	40.5%	13.9%
Otter Tail	2,891	2,801	29.9%	29.4%	-1.5%
Pennington	810	839	32.4%	33.5%	3.5%
Polk	2,164	2,087	34.6%	34.4%	-0.5%
Pope	763	748	40.1%	40.5%	0.9%
Red Lake	433	396	45.8%	45.4%	-0.8%
Roseau	1,109	1,110	28.5%	29.0%	1.8%
Stevens	389	324	22.4%	19.2%	-14.3%
Traverse	301	287	41.3%	41.2%	-0.3%
Wadena	1,603	1,638	48.0%	49.7%	3.5%
Wilkin	452	493	30.6%	33.7%	10.0%
Northern Lakes	11,454	10,867	27.3%	27.4%	0.2%
Carlton	1,843	1,792	28.0%	27.5%	-1.9%
Cook	97	124	12.9%	16.7%	29.2%
Lake	493	506	22.8%	23.8%	4.5%
St. Louis	9,021	8,445	27.8%	27.8%	0.2%
Southeast	18,717	18,765	22.0%	22.2%	0.8%
Dodge	767	713	19.2%	18.2%	-5.2%
Faribault	728	844	26.2%	31.3%	19.5%
Fillmore	972	1,015	27.7%	29.5%	6.6%
Freeborn	1,555	1,504	30.4%	29.6%	-2.7%
Goodhue	1,549	1,385	16.7%	17.4%	4.2%
Houston	740	689	20.5%	19.0%	-7.3%
Mower	1,663	1,684	27.7%	27.8%	0.4%
Olmsted	4,177	4,075	19.9%	19.4%	-2.5%

Students approved for free and reduced-price school lunches (continued)

	Number of students approved, 1997-98	Number of students approved, 1998-99	Approval rate, 1997-98	Approval rate, 1998-99	Change in approval rate
Rice	1,878	1,959	22.6%	23.5%	4.1%
Steele	1,153	1,106	18.2%	17.4%	-4.3%
Wabasha	775	1,004	18.8%	18.4%	-2.1%
Waseca	965	941	23.3%	23.4%	0.6%
Winona	1,795	1,846	26.6%	27.5%	3.4%
Southwest	24,395	24,369	28.2%	28.6%	1.4%
Big Stone	616	622	44.6%	46.7%	4.8%
Blue Earth	2,456	2,472	23.5%	24.1%	2.6%
Brown	991	1,057	21.9%	23.7%	8.3%
Chippewa	796	760	28.7%	28.2%	-1.8%
Cottonwood	718	731	34.8%	36.9%	6.0%
Jackson	634	599	32.4%	31.1%	-4.1%
Kandiyohi	1,939	2,102	29.6%	32.5%	9.9%
Lac qui Parle	725	697	34.1%	33.9%	-0.5%
Le Sueur	1,218	1,314	24.2%	25.8%	6.5%
Lincoln	417	395	39.8%	38.4%	-3.5%
Lyon	1,346	1,245	27.3%	26.0%	-4.7%
Martin	1,277	1,319	30.3%	32.0%	5.6%
McLeod	1,110	1,098	17.3%	17.4%	0.6%
Meeker	1,885	1,812	29.8%	28.7%	-3.8%
Murray	471	461	30.3%	30.4%	0.4%
Nicollet	492	468	20.5%	20.1%	-2.2%
Nobles	1,285	1,228	34.6%	34.2%	-1.2%
Pipestone	744	703	34.7%	32.2%	-7.3%
Redwood	1,134	1,185	31.7%	32.9%	3.8%
Renville	794	763	28.7%	28.6%	-0.5%
Rock	519	469	29.2%	26.8%	-8.2%
Sibley	662	644	26.1%	26.1%	0.1%
Swift	599	588	31.2%	30.9%	-1.1%
Watonwan	812	833	37.3%	38.2%	2.5%
Yellow Medicine	755	804	34.7%	36.6%	5.6%

Students approved for free and reduced-price school lunches (continued)

	Number of students approved, 1997-98	Number of students approved, 1998-99	Approval rate, 1997-98	Approval rate, 1998-99	Change in approval rate
West Metro	63,059	64,266	24.5%	24.5%	-0.1%
Anoka	10,490	10,433	16.9%	16.6%	-1.9%
Carver	1,044	1,127	9.7%	10.0%	3.4%
Hennepin	47,076	47,952	30.4%	30.5%	0.2%
Scott	1,517	1,660	12.3%	12.9%	5.1%
Wright	2,932	3,094	16.6%	17.0%	2.5%

Source: *Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning*

Notes: *These data are reported by school district. To derive county figures (and regional figures) each school district is first assigned to a county. Then county totals for both the number of students approved for free or reduced-price lunches and the total number of students enrolled are derived by adding each county's assigned districts. The "approval rate" is derived by dividing the county's (or region's) total number of students approved for free or reduced-price lunches by the total number of students enrolled in the county (or region).*

WIC participation

	WIC participation, monthly average, 1998	WIC participation, monthly average, 1999	Change
Minnesota	92,702	89,170	-3.8%
Central	7,098	6,917	-2.6%
Benton	803	662	-17.6%
Chisago	670	706	5.4%
Isanti	619	637	2.9%
Morrison	860	819	-4.8%
Pine	574	582	1.4%
Sherburne	828	868	4.8%
Stearns	2,011	1,979	-1.6%
Todd	733	664	-9.4%
East Metro	21,199	19,688	-7.1%
Dakota	3,955	3,511	-11.2%
Ramsey	15,658	14,655	-6.4%
Washington	1,586	1,522	-4.0%
Great Plains	1,177	1,114	-5.4%
Clay	1,177	1,114	-5.4%
North Central	4,540	4,422	-2.6%
Undesignated North Central	1,317		-100.0%
Aitkin	399	393	-1.5%
Cass	591	554	-6.3%
Crow Wing	1,413	1,417	0.3%
Itasca	na	1,246	-
Kanabec	312	313	0.3%
Koochiching	na	na	-
Mille Lacs	508	499	-1.8%
North Country	9,741	9,657	-0.9%
Undesignated North Country	2,827		-100.0%
Becker	na	872	-
Beltrami	1,173	1,179	0.5%
Clearwater	na	677	-

WIC participation (continued)

	WIC participation, monthly average, 1998	WIC participation, monthly average, 1999	Change
Douglas	773	757	-2.1%
Grant	150	134	-10.7%
Hubbard	na	493	-
Kittson	1,693	1,624	-4.1%
Lake of the Woods	106	103	-2.8%
Mahnomen	na	na	-
Marshall	na	na	-
Norman	na	na	-
Otter Tail	1,207	1,164	-3.6%
Pennington	na	na	-
Polk	931	974	4.6%
Pope	258	248	-3.9%
Red Lake	na	522	-
Roseau	na	na	-
Stevens	na	289	-
Traverse	na	na	-
Wadena	479	483	0.8%
Wilkin	144	138	-4.2%
Northern Lakes	4,638	4,449	-4.1%
Carlton	606	599	-1.2%
Cook	66	62	-6.1%
Lake	165	161	-2.4%
St. Louis	3,801	3,627	-4.6%
Southeast	7,463	7,304	-2.1%
Undesignated Southeast	830		-100.0%
Dodge	306	268	-12.4%
Faribault	na	na	-
Fillmore	333	328	-1.5%
Freeborn	572	494	-13.6%
Goodhue	na	821	-

WIC participation (continued)

	WIC participation, monthly average, 1998	WIC participation, monthly average, 1999	Change
Houston	302	290	-4.0%
Mower	770	724	-6.0%
Olmsted	1,879	1,978	5.3%
Rice	998	974	-2.4%
Steele	616	628	1.9%
Wabasha	na	na	-
Waseca	na	na	-
Winona	857	799	-6.8%
Southwest	9,937	11,089	11.6%
Undesignated Southwest	4,713		-100.0%
Big Stone	na	1,415	-
Blue Earth	916	985	7.5%
Brown	501	472	-5.8%
Chippewa	na	na	-
Cottonwood	na	442	-
Jackson	na	na	-
Kandiyohi	1,266	1,208	-4.6%
Lac qui Parle	na	na	-
Le Sueur	na	1,252	-
Lincoln	na	1,170	-
Lyon	na	na	-
Martin	na	na	-
McLeod	604	611	1.2%
Meeker	614	620	1.0%
Murray	na	na	-
Nicollet	363	381	5.0%
Nobles	na	789	-
Pipestone	na	na	-
Redwood	na	797	-
Renville	na	na	-

WIC participation (continued)

	WIC participation, monthly average, 1998	WIC participation, monthly average, 1999	Change
Rock	na	na	-
Sibley	407	395	-2.9%
Swift	na	na	-
Watonwan	553	552	-0.2%
Yellow Medicine	na	na	-
West Metro	25,427	24,530	-3.5%
Undesignated West Metro	1,282		-100.0%
Anoka	4,593	4,166	-9.3%
Carver	na	1,182	-
Hennepin	18,272	17,933	-1.9%
Scott	na	na	-
Wright	1,280	1,249	-2.4%
Undesignated to Region	1,482		-100.0%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Notes: The numbers represent persons served in a month by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. In both 1998 and 1999, WIC data were reported jointly for many counties; some of these multi-county combinations fall within Food Bank regions and some fall across regions, so specific county and regional figures may suffer a moderate degree of inaccuracy.

Food stamp use

	Food stamp cases, 1998	Food stamp cases, 1999	Change
Minnesota	96,921	93,447	-3.6%
Central	5,560	5,026	-9.6%
Benton	588	518	-11.9%
Chisago	446	425	-4.7%
Isanti	433	422	-2.5%
Morrison	616	532	-13.6%
Pine	607	561	-7.6%
Sherburne	515	446	-13.4%
Stearns	1,742	1,571	-9.8%
Todd	613	551	-10.1%
East Metro	20,150	19,656	-2.5%
Dakota	2,949	2,757	-6.5%
Ramsey	15,889	15,648	-1.5%
Washington	1,312	1,251	-4.6%
Great Plains	1,341	1,406	4.8%
Clay	1,341	1,406	4.8%
North Central	4,731	4,194	-11.4%
Aitkin	484	423	-12.6%
Cass	737	712	-3.4%
Crow Wing	1,248	1,109	-11.1%
Itasca	1,047	849	-18.9%
Kanabec	295	255	-13.6%
Koochiching	393	390	-0.8%
Mille Lacs	527	456	-13.5%
North Country	8,645	8,319	-3.8%
Becker	928	895	-3.6%
Beltrami	1,979	2,015	1.8%
Clearwater	326	312	-4.3%
Douglas	525	494	-5.9%
Grant	135	114	-15.6%
Hubbard	462	425	-8.0%

Food stamp use (continued)

	Food stamp cases, 1998	Food stamp cases, 1999	Change
Kittson	93	85	-8.6%
Lake of the Woods	58	58	0.0%
Mahnomen	227	233	2.6%
Marshall	164	164	0.0%
Norman	164	162	-1.2%
Otter Tail	1,014	925	-8.8%
Pennington	311	291	-6.4%
Polk	983	929	-5.5%
Pope	168	163	-3.0%
Red Lake	98	91	-7.1%
Roseau	124	134	8.1%
Stevens	188	179	-4.8%
Traverse	109	98	-10.1%
Wadena	451	420	-6.9%
Wilkin	138	132	-4.3%
Northern Lakes	7,446	7,000	-6.0%
Carlton	749	715	-4.5%
Cook	55	47	-14.5%
Lake	125	112	-10.4%
St. Louis	6,517	6,126	-6.0%
Southeast	6,978	6,607	-5.3%
Dodge	202	171	-15.3%
Faribault	288	272	-5.6%
Fillmore	316	283	-10.4%
Freeborn	647	606	-6.3%
Goodhue	381	353	-7.3%
Houston	252	234	-7.1%
Mower	858	789	-8.0%
Olmsted	1,781	1,731	-2.8%
Rice	645	583	-9.6%
Steele	414	412	-0.5%
Wabasha	230	214	-7.0%
Waseca	267	289	8.2%
Winona	697	670	-3.9%

Food stamp use (continued)

	Food stamp cases, 1998	Food stamp cases, 1999	Change
Southwest	7,211	6,984	-3.1%
Big Stone	132	124	-6.1%
Blue Earth	869	840	-3.3%
Brown	353	354	0.3%
Chippewa	196	180	-8.2%
Cottonwood	222	203	-8.6%
Jackson	144	142	-1.4%
Kandiyohi	949	911	-4.0%
Lac qui Parle	98	95	-3.1%
Le Sueur	296	288	-2.7%
Lincoln	98	92	-6.1%
Lyon	389	372	-4.4%
Martin	486	461	-5.1%
McLeod	320	331	3.4%
Meeker	318	293	-7.9%
Murray	111	98	-11.7%
Nicollet	335	346	3.3%
Nobles	413	412	-0.2%
Pipestone	179	168	-6.1%
Redwood	202	205	1.5%
Renville	257	266	3.5%
Rock	103	96	-6.8%
Sibley	163	160	-1.8%
Swift	229	217	-5.2%
Watonwan	193	192	-0.5%
Yellow Medicine	156	138	-11.5%
West Metro	34,863	34,255	-1.7%
Anoka	3,831	3,590	-6.3%
Carver	311	302	-2.9%
Hennepin	29,376	29,141	-0.8%
Scott	526	476	-9.5%
Wright	819	746	-8.9%

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Notes: Figures represent average monthly households receiving food stamps.

Home-delivered meals – Minnesota

Year	Meals served	People served	Meals/person
1981	366,531	4,574	80
1982	592,912	7,064	84
1983	794,002	9,029	88
1984	873,206	11,183	78
1985	932,720	11,388	82
1986	1,052,328	11,612	91
1987	1,143,182	12,229	93
1988	1,242,546	13,739	90
1989	1,301,327	14,648	89
1990	1,413,224	15,559	91
1991	1,486,027	15,516	96
1992	1,484,890	16,437	90
1993	1,578,211	17,291	91
1994	1,643,165	17,921	92
1995	1,674,176	18,024	93
1996	1,686,430	17,412	97
1997	1,684,022	15,673	107
1998	1,790,800	16,898	106
1999	1,850,613	16,699	111

Source: *Minnesota Board on Aging*

Notes: *These figures include only Title III-C federally funded meals.*

Subsidized child care

	Subsidized child care, 1998	Subsidized child care, 1999	Change
Minnesota	23,365	26,564	13.7%
Central	1,275	1,592	24.9%
Benton	186	218	17.2%
Chisago	122	146	19.7%
Isanti	92	103	12.0%
Morrison	108	150	38.9%
Pine	124	137	10.5%
Sherburne	185	239	29.2%
Stearns	347	457	31.7%
Todd	111	142	27.9%
East Metro	4,805	5,686	18.3%
Dakota	1,294	1,459	12.8%
Ramsey	2,998	3,600	20.1%
Washington	513	627	22.2%
Great Plains	364	392	7.7%
Clay	364	392	7.7%
North Central	938	1,115	18.9%
Aitkin	58	62	6.9%
Cass	138	155	12.3%
Crow Wing	309	369	19.4%
Itasca	177	216	22.0%
Kanabec	71	89	25.4%
Koochiching	93	100	7.5%
Mille Lacs	92	124	34.8%
North Country	2,148	2,380	10.8%
Becker	196	216	10.2%
Beltrami	349	405	16.0%
Clearwater	78	92	17.9%
Douglas	258	246	-4.7%
Grant	25	0	-100.0%
Hubbard	118	138	16.9%

Subsidized child care (continued)

	Subsidized child care, 1998	Subsidized child care, 1999	Change
Kittson	22	20	-9.1%
Lake of the Woods	13	13	0.0%
Mahnomen	47	51	8.5%
Marshall	52	58	11.5%
Norman	52	62	19.2%
Otter Tail	294	316	7.5%
Pennington	50	95	90.0%
Polk	201	237	17.9%
Pope	51	56	9.8%
Red Lake	26	30	15.4%
Roseau	62	56	-9.7%
Stevens	60	69	15.0%
Traverse	47	41	-12.8%
Wadena	115	146	27.0%
Wilkin	32	33	3.1%
Northern Lakes	2,000	1,981	-1.0%
Carlton	152	200	31.6%
Cook	4	11	175.0%
Lake	73	66	-9.6%
St. Louis	1,771	1,704	-3.8%
Southeast	2,257	2,531	12.1%
Dodge	77	83	7.8%
Faribault	na	95	na
Fillmore	84	206	145.2%
Freeborn	183	183	0.0%
Goodhue	154	29	-81.2%
Houston	93	106	14.0%
Mower	313	327	4.5%
Olmsted	691	715	3.5%
Rice	199	228	14.6%
Steele	144	151	4.9%
Wabasha	66	76	15.2%
Waseca	56	97	73.2%
Winona	197	235	19.3%

Subsidized child care (continued)

	Subsidized child care, 1998	Subsidized child care, 1999	Change
Southwest	1,988	2,031	2.2%
Undesignated Southwest	167		-100.0%
Big Stone	40	43	7.5%
Blue Earth	262	298	13.7%
Brown	137	145	5.8%
Chippewa	77	76	-1.3%
Cottonwood	68	76	11.8%
Jackson	47	67	42.6%
Kandiyohi	265	309	16.6%
Lac qui Parle	24	29	20.8%
Le Sueur	70	71	1.4%
Lincoln	na	na	na
Lyon	na	na	na
Martin	na	na	na
McLeod	93	106	14.0%
Meeker	106	118	11.3%
Murray	na	na	na
Nicollet	158	165	4.4%
Nobles	68	94	38.2%
Pipestone	38	43	13.2%
Redwood	59	66	11.9%
Renville	53	56	5.7%
Rock	50	48	-4.0%
Sibley	54	57	5.6%
Swift	50	61	22.0%
Watonwan	41	46	12.2%
Yellow Medicine	61	57	-6.6%

Subsidized child care (continued)

	Subsidized child care, 1998	Subsidized child care, 1999	Change
West Metro	7,344	8,856	20.6%
Anoka	1,222	1,241	1.6%
Carver	186	208	11.8%
Hennepin	5,480	6,862	25.2%
Scott	190	237	24.7%
Wright	266	308	15.8%
Undesignated to Region	123		-100.0%

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Notes: Figures represent the Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 quarterly average number of families receiving either Basic Sliding Fee or MFIP subsidized child care.

Subsidized child care data are reported jointly for Faribault and Martin counties, which fall in Southeast and Southwest regions, respectively. Subsidized child care data are reported jointly for Lincoln, Lyons and Murray counties, which all fall within Southwest region.

Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent

	Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent, 1999
Minnesota	43%
Central	46%
Benton	39%
Chisago	48%
Isanti	48%
Morrison	49%
Pine	45%
Sherburne	45%
Stearns	41%
Todd	51%
East Metro	43%
Dakota	40%
Ramsey	43%
Washington	45%
Great Plains	61%
Clay	61%
North Central	48%
Aitkin	62%
Cass	45%
Crow Wing	43%
Itasca	51%
Kanabec	47%
Koochiching	43%
Mille Lacs	44%
North Country	48%
Becker	50%
Beltrami	51%
Clearwater	48%
Douglas	44%
Grant	52%
Hubbard	43%

Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent (continued)Percent of renters unable to afford fair
market rent, 1999

Kittson	48%
Lake of the Woods	49%
Mahnomen	49%
Marshall	51%
Norman	45%
Otter Tail	45%
Pennington	50%
Polk	57%
Pope	45%
Red Lake	55%
Roseau	37%
Stevens	43%
Traverse	41%
Wadena	55%
Wilkin	45%
Northern Lakes	44%
Carlton	45%
Cook	37%
Lake	41%
St. Louis	53%
Southeast	43%
Dodge	39%
Faribault	41%
Fillmore	43%
Freeborn	45%
Goodhue	48%
Houston	43%
Mower	45%
Olmsted	39%
Rice	45%
Steele	38%
Wabasha	41%
Waseca	45%
Winona	48%

Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent (continued)

Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent, 1999

	Percent of renters unable to afford fair market rent, 1999
Southwest	45%
Big Stone	55%
Blue Earth	49%
Brown	43%
Chippewa	43%
Cottonwood	48%
Jackson	44%
Kandiyohi	51%
Lac qui Parle	52%
Le Sueur	35%
Lincoln	51%
Lyon	39%
Martin	43%
McLeod	44%
Meeker	50%
Murray	45%
Nicollet	39%
Nobles	38%
Pipestone	51%
Redwood	43%
Renville	41%
Rock	43%
Sibley	41%
Swift	51%
Watonwan	41%
Yellow Medicine	49%
West Metro	43%
Anoka	41%
Carver	44%
Hennepin	43%
Scott	41%
Wright	44%

Source: Figures are from *Out of Reach*, September 1999, National Low Income Housing Coalition, www.nlihc.org. The NLIHC report considers a unit affordable if it costs no more than 30 percent of the renter's income. Fair market rent figures and area median incomes used to calculate affordability come from HUD.

Housing costs relative to wages

	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1995-96	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1998-99	Change, 1995-96 to 1998-99
Minnesota	2.11	2.27	7.5%
Central	3.32	3.53	6.2%
Benton	3.54	3.70	4.4%
Chisago	4.66	4.97	6.6%
Isanti	3.86	4.33	12.3%
Morrison	2.64	3.17	20.0%
Pine	3.05	3.52	15.2%
Sherburne	4.05	4.51	11.3%
Stearns	3.47	3.38	-2.6%
Todd	1.82	2.24	23.2%
East Metro	3.60	3.82	5.9%
Dakota	4.26	4.25	-0.1%
Ramsey	2.85	3.18	11.7%
Washington	4.47	4.64	3.9%
Great Plains	3.43	3.58	4.1%
Clay	3.43	3.58	4.1%
North Central	2.70	2.93	8.6%
Aitkin	3.15	2.71	-14.0%
Cass	3.78	4.69	24.0%
Crow Wing	3.07	3.73	21.7%
Itasca	2.35	2.81	19.2%
Kanabec	2.60	3.07	17.9%
Koochiching	1.58	3.55	125.0%
Mille Lacs	3.37	4.13	22.5%
North Country	2.15	2.40	11.7%
Becker	3.02	3.32	9.9%
Beltrami	2.73	3.01	10.2%
Clearwater	1.46	1.71	17.1%
Douglas	3.69	4.04	9.5%

Housing costs relative to wages (continued)

	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1995-96	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1998-99	Change, 1995-96 to 1998-99
Grant	1.99	2.04	2.7%
Hubbard	3.10	3.71	19.7%
Kittson	1.03	1.40	35.4%
Lake of the Woods	2.59	2.18	-16.0%
Mahnomen	2.21	1.66	-24.8%
Marshall	1.80	1.69	-5.7%
Norman	1.40	1.56	11.8%
Otter Tail	2.86	3.35	17.5%
Pennington	2.15	2.39	11.4%
Polk	2.58	3.00	16.3%
Pope	2.49	2.89	16.0%
Red Lake	1.34	1.68	25.5%
Roseau	2.32	2.60	12.0%
Stevens	2.04	2.55	25.1%
Traverse	1.79	1.90	5.8%
Wadena	1.85	2.20	19.0%
Wilkin	1.78	2.33	30.5%
Northern Lakes	2.49	2.85	14.5%
Carlton	2.37	2.56	7.8%
Cook	4.42	5.57	26.0%
Lake	1.94	2.22	14.8%
St. Louis	2.37	2.59	9.4%
Southeast	2.72	2.94	7.8%
Dodge	3.49	3.45	-1.2%
Faribault	1.50	1.85	23.3%
Fillmore	2.77	3.20	15.7%
Freeborn	2.23	2.62	17.7%
Goodhue	3.73	3.90	4.6%
Houston	4.10	4.45	8.3%

Housing costs relative to wages (continued)

	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1995-96	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1998-99	Change, 1995-96 to 1998-99
Mower	2.27	2.35	3.2%
Olmsted	2.82	2.99	6.0%
Rice	3.51	4.20	19.5%
Steele	3.25	3.50	7.6%
Wabasha	3.63	3.70	2.0%
Waseca	3.20	3.26	1.9%
Winona	3.38	3.59	6.3%
Southwest	2.33	2.49	6.7%
Big Stone	1.87	2.19	17.2%
Blue Earth	3.29	3.59	9.3%
Brown	2.91	3.23	11.1%
Chippewa	1.95	2.13	9.2%
Cottonwood	1.94	2.04	5.1%
Jackson	1.88	2.43	29.3%
Kandiyohi	3.32	3.34	0.5%
Lac qui Parle	1.67	1.68	0.5%
Le Sueur	3.51	3.86	9.9%
Lincoln	1.38	2.01	45.3%
Lyon	3.12	3.14	0.7%
Martin	2.05	2.42	18.0%
McLeod	3.24	3.45	6.4%
Meeker	3.18	3.42	7.8%
Murray	2.11	1.97	-6.7%
Nicollet	3.88	4.35	12.2%
Nobles	2.47	2.38	-3.5%
Pipestone	1.82	1.92	5.5%
Redwood	2.11	2.41	14.3%
Renville	1.82	2.05	13.0%
Rock	2.96	2.99	0.8%
Sibley	2.81	3.21	14.3%

Housing costs relative to wages (continued)

	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1995-96	Ratio of median home sale price to average annual wage, 1998-99	Change, 1995-96 to 1998-99
Swift	2.09	2.07	-1.0%
Watonwan	1.86	2.31	24.0%
Yellow Medicine	2.07	1.72	-16.8%
West Metro	3.49	3.55	1.6%
Anoka	3.63	3.81	5.1%
Carver	4.83	5.02	4.0%
Hennepin	3.14	3.25	3.4%
Scott	4.76	4.81	1.0%
Wright	4.68	4.93	5.5%

Sources: Median home sale price data from 1996 and 1999 are from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Average annual wages for 1995 and 1998 are from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security ES-202 Program. See Average Weekly Wages table above for further details.