

PROFILE OF WATONWAN COUNTY

BRIEF HISTORY OF COUNTY

Watonwan County was officially created by an act of the Minnesota Legislature made official by the signature of the Governor Alexander Ramsey on February 25, 1860. This county was formerly a part of Blue Earth County and both counties were part of a huge Brown County almost as large as the State of Ohio.

In 1895, the county seat was established in St. James and during that year the present courthouse was built. Watonwan County furnished a governor for Minnesota in the person of Winfield Scott Hammond, elected on the Democratic ticket on January 5, 1915. Governor Hammond died in office the following year.

This county has 12 townships and eight cities. It is in the heart of a rich agricultural area. Up to very recent times the railroads played a vital part in the history and welfare of this county's economy. In the past years, increased trucking service and use of passenger cars over state highways (linking this area with the north, south, east, and west) have diminished the role of the railroads. Industrial development through Tony Downs Food Company, ST (Scherr-Tumico) Industries, Westin Automotive, and Swift-Eckrich Inc., plus other smaller, yet enterprising companies, indicates prospects of industrial expansion in this area to serve the agricultural industry.

Source: County's website

QUICK FACTS OF COUNTY

Website: <http://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/>

Facts	Watonwan County	Minnesota
Land area, 2010 (square miles)	434.95*	79,626.74*
Average Persons per square mile, 2010	25.8*	66.6*
Number of Cities	8**	854***
Number of Townships	12**	1,784***

Sources:

*U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts, 2012)

**Number of Cities and Townships in Watonwan County (Minnesota Department of Administration)

***Number of Townships in Minnesota (Minnesota Association of Townships)

PROFILE ISSUES COVERED

❖ QUICK FACTS OF COUNTY

❖ POPULATION OF COUNTY

- Population Trend and Projections (2000-2040)
- Population Projection by Age Cohorts (2010- 2020)
- Population of Cities In Watonwan County (2006-2011)
- Population of Townships In Watonwan County (2006-2011)
- Key Highlights

❖ SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Projection of County's Household Types (2010-2020)
- Ethnic Composition of County's Population (2000 – 2011)
- Education Attainment (2012)
- Key Highlights

❖ COUNTY'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

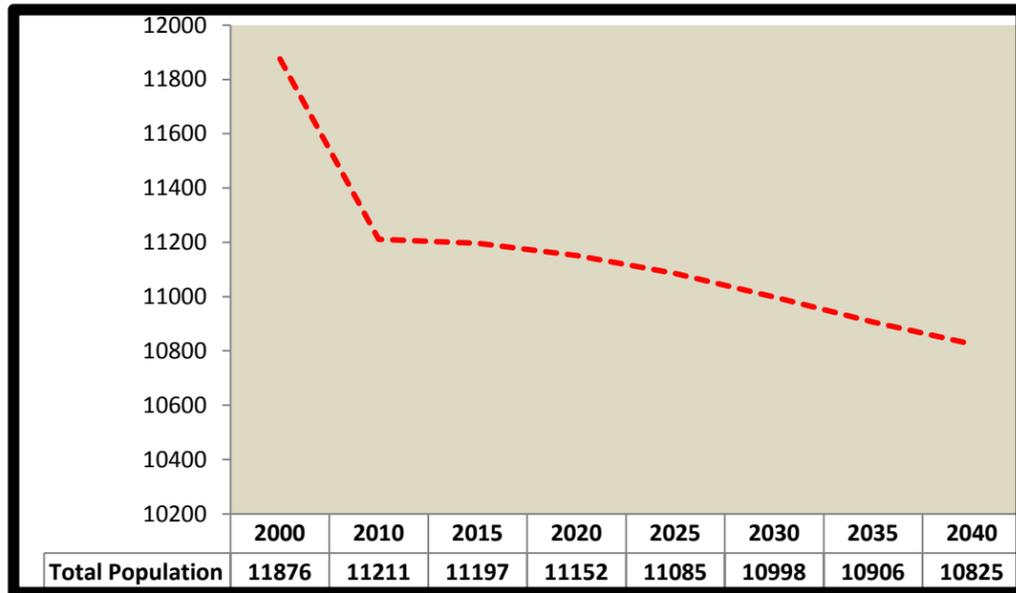
- County's Labor Force Outlook (2005-2035)
- County's Labor Force Outlook by Age Cohorts (2005-2035)
- Comparing Unemployment Rates for Watonwan County, Region Nine and Sate (2000 – 2012)
- Trend in County's Per Capita Income (2000-2011)
- Key Highlights

❖ COUNTY'S HOUSING PROFILE

- Housing Units: Total, Owner and Renter Units (2000-2011)
- Trend in County's Homeownership Rate (1990-2011)
- Other Housing Characteristics (2000-2011)
- Housing Expenditure for

POPULATION OF COUNTY

POPULATION TREND AND PROJECTIONS (2000-2040)



Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

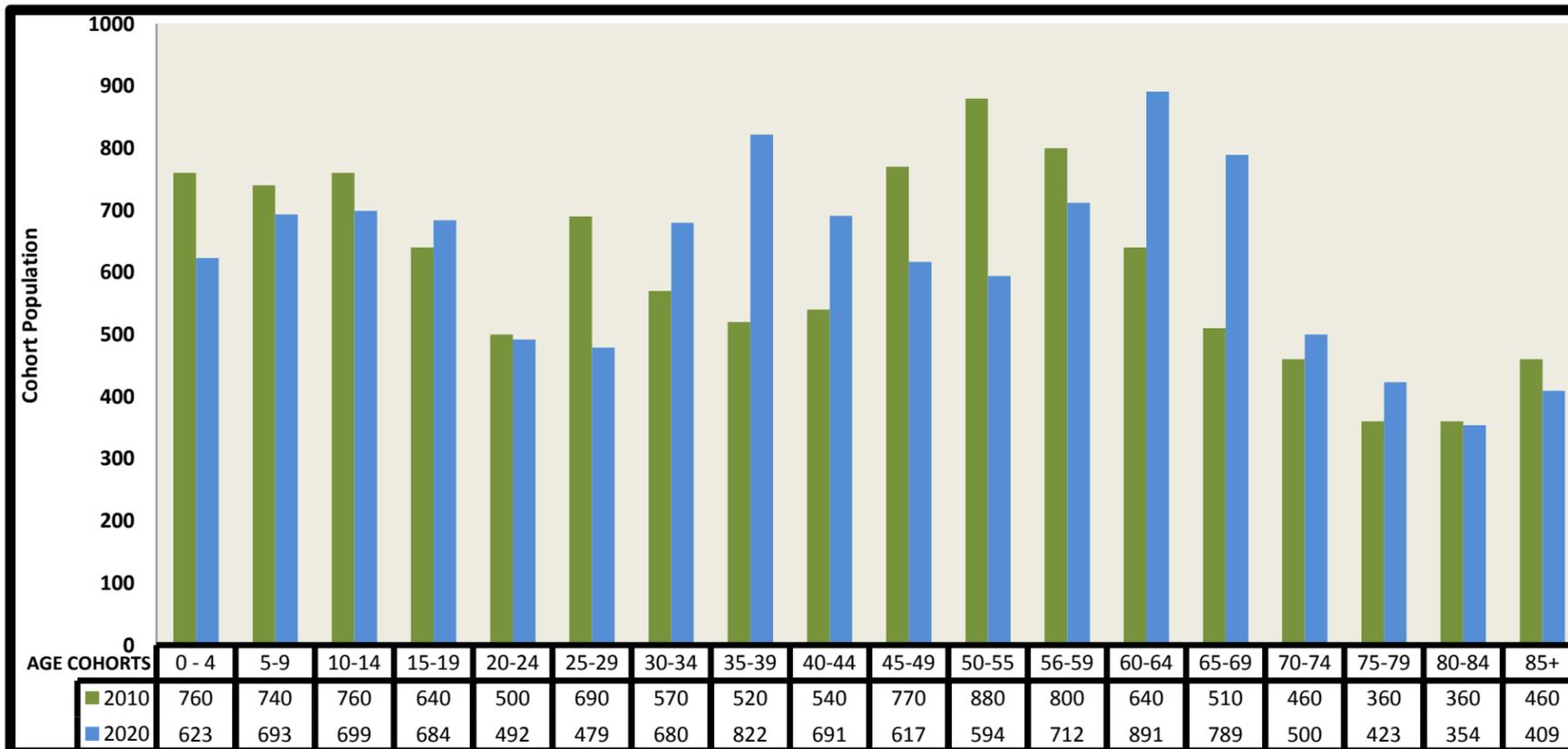
- ❖ The county's population is projected to decrease by a rate of between 0.1 – 0.8 per cent every five years from 2010 to 2040.
- ❖ Population less than 19 years are expected to account for 24 per cent of the County's projected population increase in 2020. This represents 7.5 per cent decrease in the less than 19 years population group (comparing the 2010 and 2020 populations).
- ❖ Age cohort groups above 65+ cohort are expected to increase, meaning around 22 per cent of the County's population in 2020 will be 65+ years old. This number is 15 per cent more of what was recorded in 2010 implying possible increase in demand for Senior Housing and health care needs in the County.

POPULATION OF CITIES IN WATONWAN COUNTY

City	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Butterfield	523	517	506	491	586	586
Darfur	122	121	119	114	108	109
La Salle	83	82	84	86	87	87
Lewisville	250	246	240	227	250	250
Madelia	2,299	2,283	2,252	2,201	2,308	2,307
Odin	111	110	106	103	106	106
Ormsby	94	94	92	90	56	56
St. James	4,634	4,625	4,587	4,473	4,605	4,597

Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

POPULATION PROJECTION BY AGE COHORTS (2010- 2020)



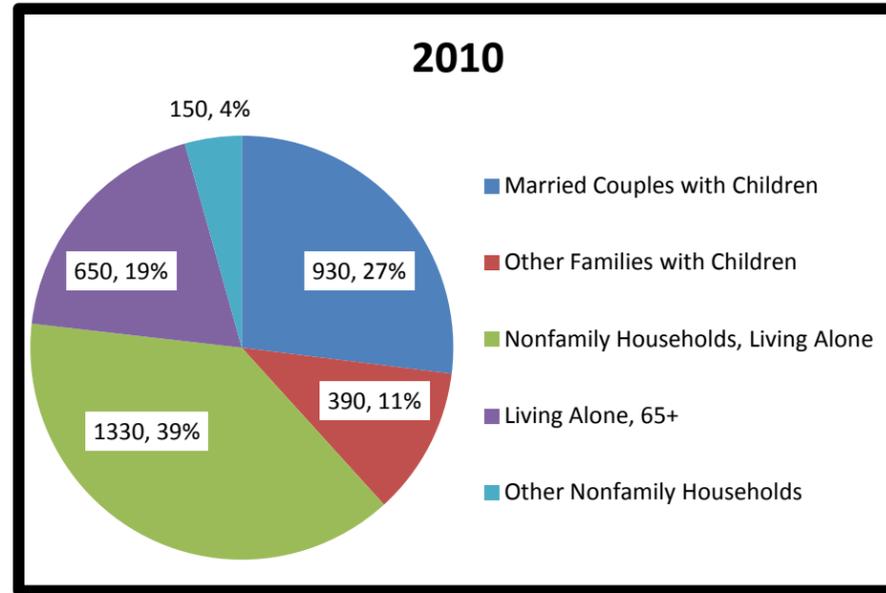
Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

POPULATION OF TOWNSHIPS IN WATONWAN COUNTY (2006- 2011)

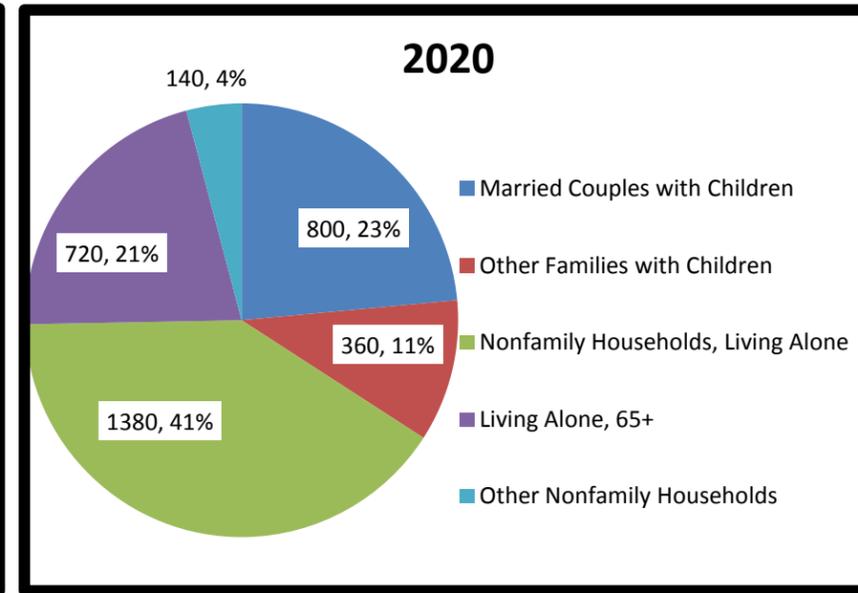
Township	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Adrian	150	149	147	142	142	143
Antrim	265	262	259	253	240	239
Butterfield	272	270	267	264	213	212
Fieldon	244	245	242	237	209	210
Long Lake	347	347	343	347	1,036	1,035
Madelia	369	367	363	358	351	352
Nelson	299	297	293	287	287	288
Odin	179	174	171	169	170	170
Riverdale	330	326	322	320	294	292
Rosendale	349	347	346	336	300	300
South Branch	288	286	280	274	282	280
St. James	272	270	267	268	260	258

SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

PROJECTION OF COUNTY'S HOUSEHOLD TYPES (2010- 2020)



Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012



Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF COUNTY'S POPULATION (2000 – 2011)

Ethnic Group	2000	2005-2009	2010	2011
White alone	9,848	8,572	8,635	8,598
Hispanic or Latino	1,804	2,128	2,203	2,252
Asian alone	100	190	194	92
Black or African American alone	36	16	14	29
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	25	19	12	34
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	2	0	20	33
Some Other Race alone	1	33	26	23
Two or more races	60	61	108	129

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Although there will be no significant increase in the number of “Non-family households living alone” the 14 per cent decrease in “Married Couples with Children” in 2020 may imply a potential increase in demand for single family housing in Watonwan County.
- ❖ The “Hispanic or Latino” population has significantly increased since 2000. In all, the percentage composition of minority ethnic groups (all except “white alone”) in the county’s population has increased from 17.1 per cent (in 2000) to 23 per cent (in 2011).
- ❖ Less than half (42 per cent) of the county’s 25+ population can be categorized as highly skilled labor force based on their education attainment (i.e. having attained more than high school degree).

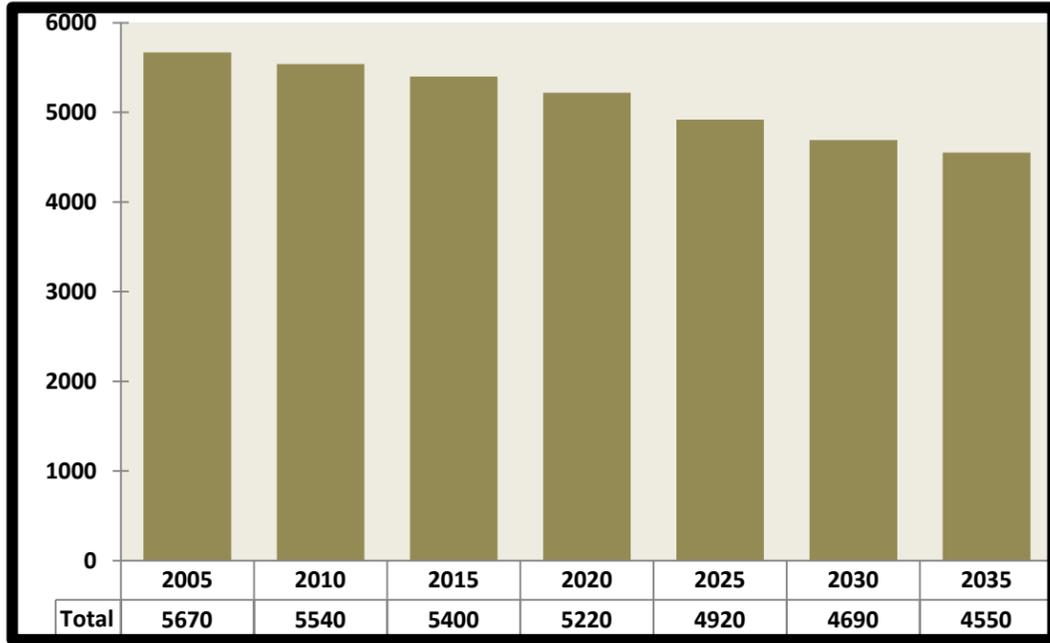
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT (2012)

	TOTAL	%
Population Age 25+	7,386	
< Grade 9	901	12.2
Grade 9-12	614	8.31
High School	2,752	37.26
Some College	1,363	18.45
Assoc Degree	656	8.88
Bach Degree	829	11.22
Grad Degree	271	3.67

Data Source: MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED),

COUNTY'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

COUNTY'S LABOR FORCE OUTLOOK (2005-2035)

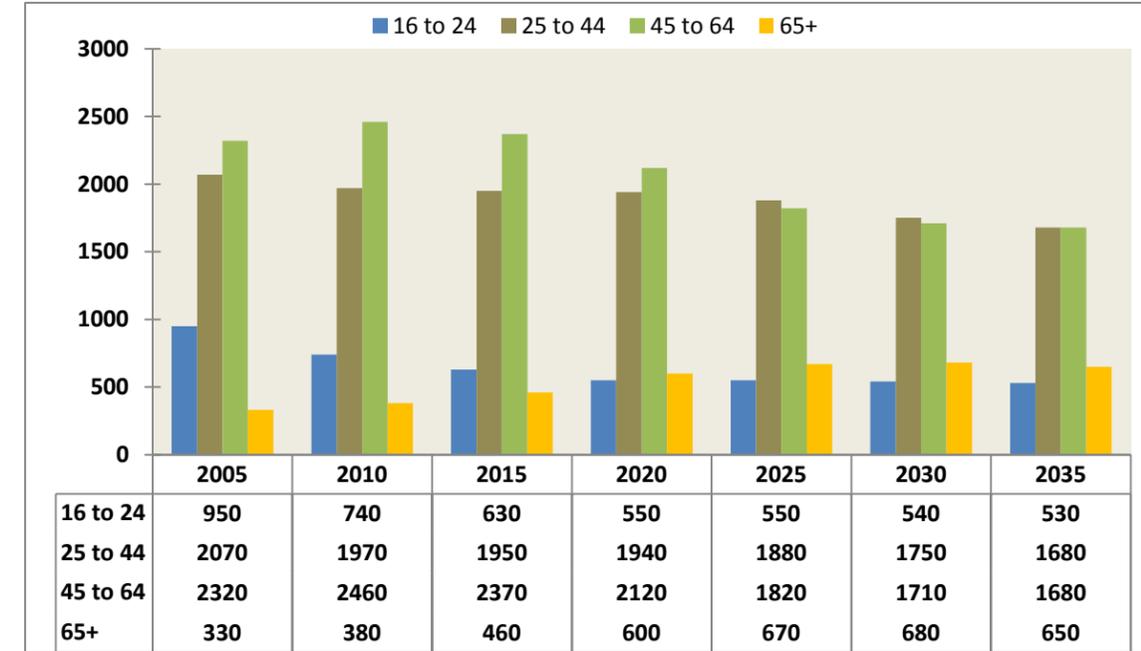


Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

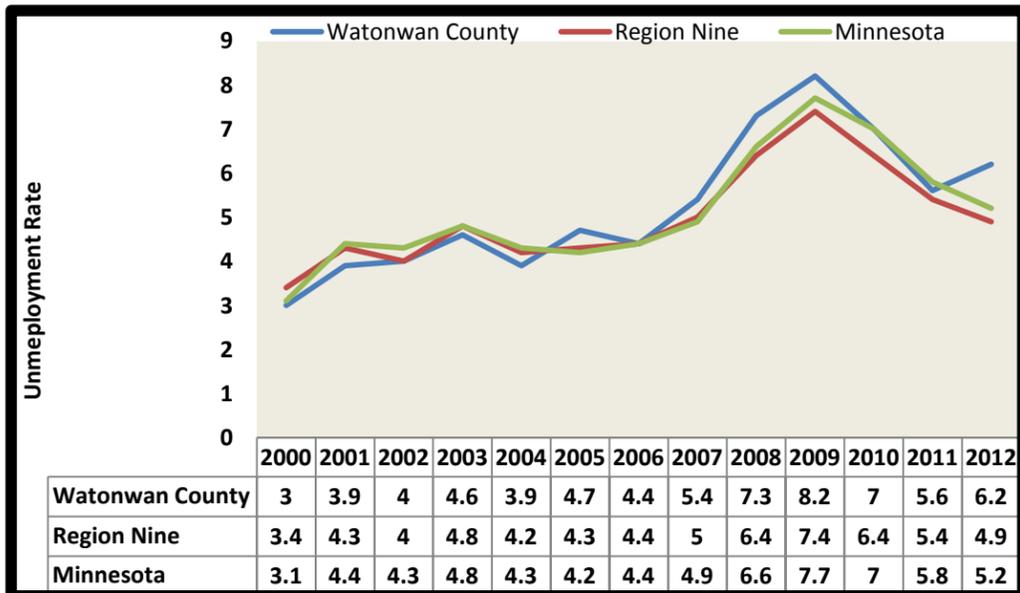
- ❖ Total labor force population is expected to decrease every five years at a rate of between 2.5 and 5.7 per cent from 2010 to 2035.
- ❖ The County's rising unemployment rate is now a percentage higher than the State's –the highest recorded difference since 2000.
- ❖ An individual in this County earns about 12 per cent less annually of what is averagely earned by a person statewide (using the 2011 per capita income statistics).

COUNTY'S LABOR FORCE OUTLOOK BY AGE COHORTS (2005-2035)



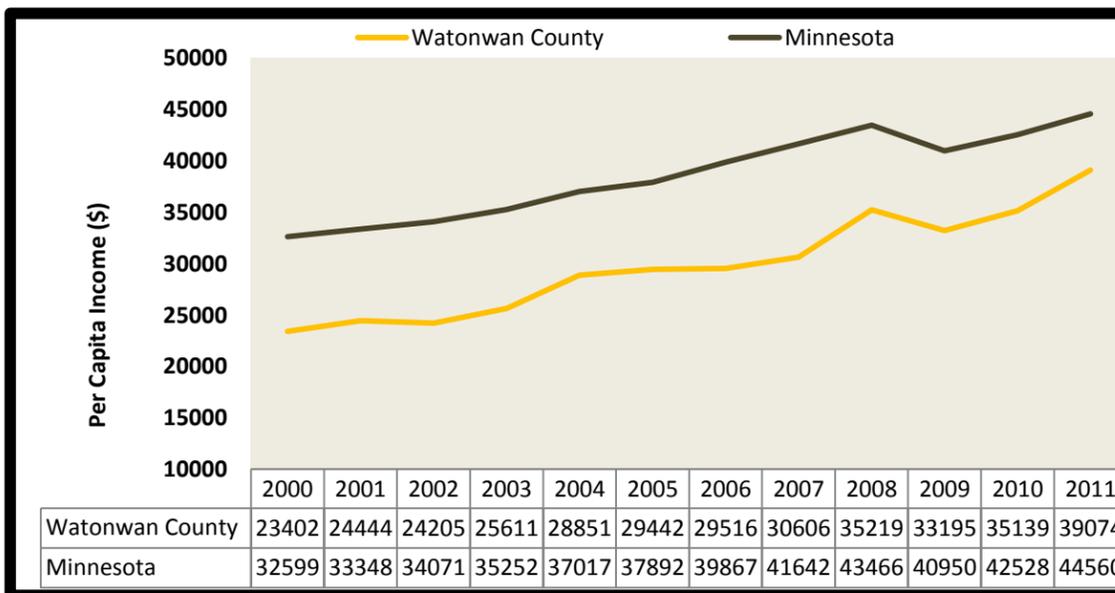
Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR WATONWAN COUNTY, REGION NINE AND STATE (2000 – 2012)



Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

TREND IN COUNTY'S PER CAPITA INCOME (2000-2011)

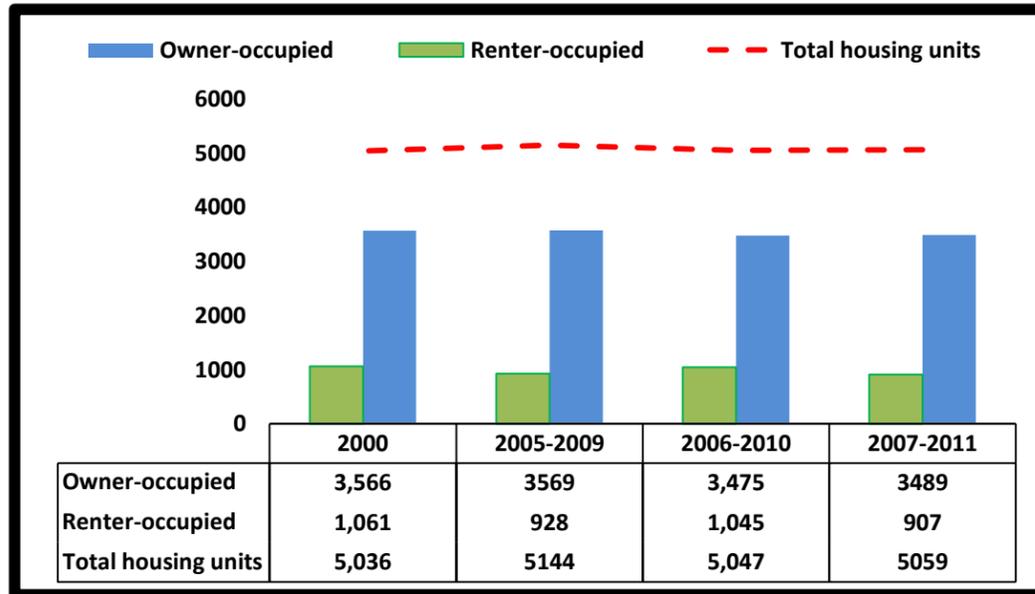


Data Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012

COST OF LIVING

COUNTY'S HOUSING PROFILE

HOUSING UNITS: TOTAL, OWNER AND RENTER UNITS (2000-2011)

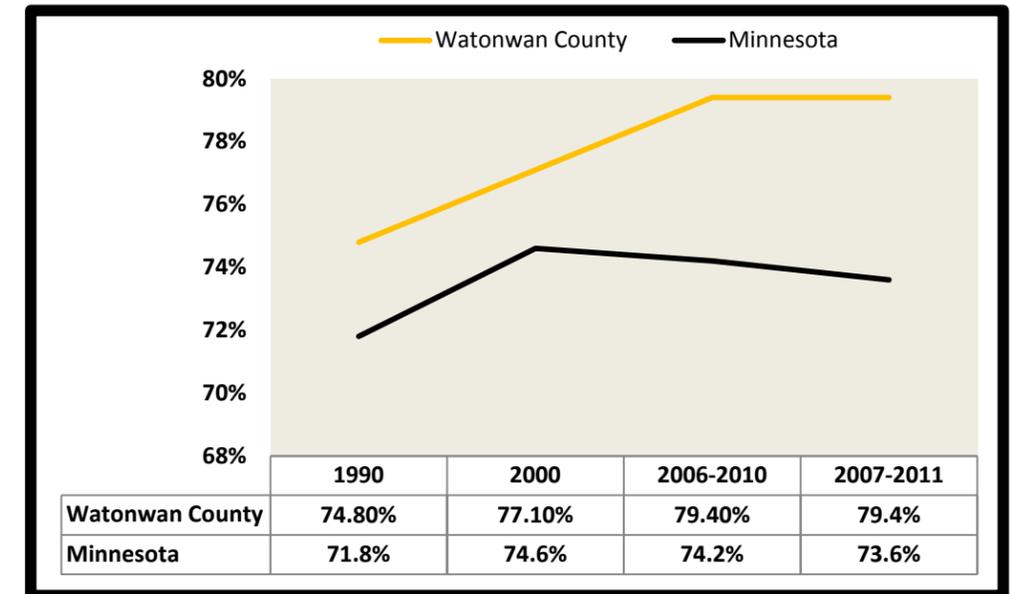


Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ There was no significant increase in the County's total housing units. Total occupied housing (both owner and renter occupied units) decreased by 5 per cent in 2011 (compared with the number of housing units in 2000).
- ❖ Homeownership rate in the County has been higher than that of the State since the 1990s.
- ❖ Annually, rent cost per household represents 37% of the total housing cost paid by a homeowner.

TREND IN COUNTY'S HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE



Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

OTHER HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS (2000-2011)

Characteristics	2000	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011
Occupied housing units	4,627	4497	4,520	4396
Vacant housing units	409	647	527	663
Population in owner-occupied housing units	9,383	8,866	8,779	8752
Population in renter-occupied housing units	2,323	2,043	2,282	2284
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	1.6	-	2.1	0.5
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	12.4	-	13.3	20.5
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.63	2.48	2.53	2.51
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.19	2.2	2.18	2.52

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

HOUSING EXPENDITURE FOR BLUE EARTH COUNTY (2012)

	\$ PER HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL \$000'S
Mortgage Interest	\$3,440	\$15,963
Property Taxes	\$1,514	\$7,027
Miscellaneous Owned Dwelling Costs	\$1,194	\$5,540
Rental Costs	\$2,271	\$10,541
Other Lodging	\$467	\$2,170

Data Source: MN DEED, 2012(mnprospector.com)