

PROFILE OF BLUE EARTH COUNTY

BRIEF HISTORY OF COUNTY

Blue Earth County is located in the heart of southern Minnesota, on the western edge of an area once known as the “Big Woods.” Important features of the county are its many rivers, streams, and lakes. These natural highways were heavily traveled by the Indians who lived in the region for hundreds of years and left their cultural imprint.

The name Blue Earth is a translation of the Dakota Indian word “Mahkato,” meaning “Greenish blue earth.” The name of the city of Mankato would be “Mahkato” if a spelling mistake made when the name was chosen had not changed the “h” to “n”. The name has remained Mankato ever since.

The last decades of the 19th Century saw great growth in Blue Earth County. The railroad arrived in 1868. This acted as the impetus for the development and growth of many of the towns in the county. River traffic continued but lost the commercial business traffic to the railroads. Industry, especially milling, and business firms established themselves in the county. Agriculture played an important role in the economic climate of the area. Educational institutions chose sites here as their base. Cultural activities also increased in number with such events as Chatauquas, circuses, and other festivities.

Blue Earth County became the home for many different ethnic immigrants and Yankee settlers. The most concentrated were the Welsh in Judson and Cambria Townships, the Scots in Mapleton, Germans, and Norwegians in several areas through the county.

Blue Earth County has grown into a prosperous area, blending agriculture, business, industry, education, and culture into a thriving area from which its more than 55,000 residents can expect continued benefits in the future.

Source: County's website

QUICK FACTS OF COUNTY

Website: <http://www.blueearthcountymn.gov/>

Facts	Blue Earth County	Minnesota
Land area, 2010 (square miles)	747.84*	79,626.74*
Average Persons per square mile, 2010	85.6*	66.6*
Number of Cities	11**	854***
Number of Townships	23**	1,784***

Sources:

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

**Number of Cities and Townships in Blue Earth (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 Blue Earth County (2006- 2011)
- Population of Townships In Blue Earth 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

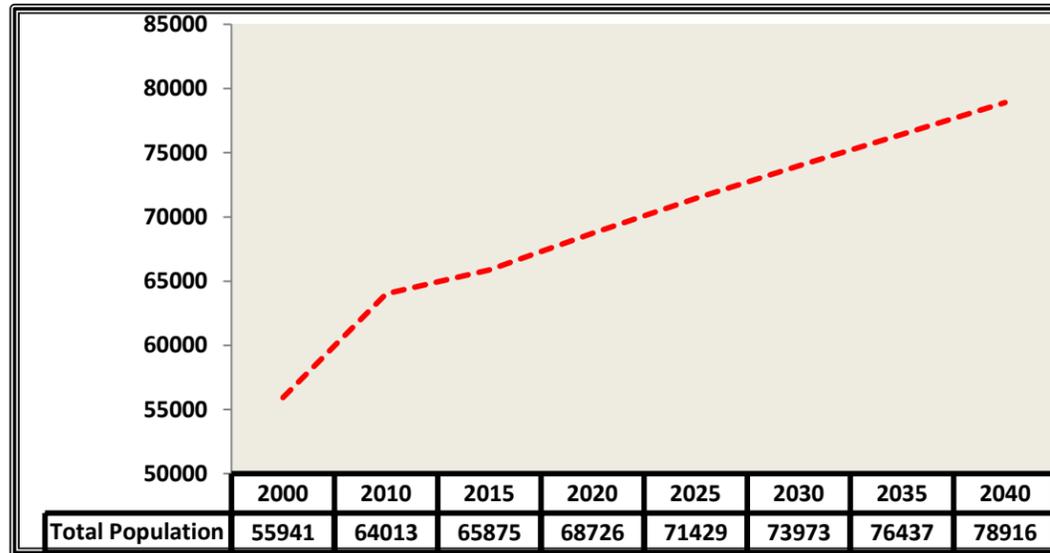
- County's Labor Force Outlook (2005-2035)
- County's Labor Force Outlook by Age Cohorts (2005-2035)
- Comparing Unemployment Rates for Blue Earth County, Region Nine and Sate (2000 – 2012)
- Trend in County's Per Capita Income (2000-2011)
- Key Highlights

❖ 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 Blue Earth County (2012)
- Key Highlights

POPULATION OF COUNTY

POPULATION TREND AND PROJECTIONS (2000-2040)



Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The number constituting the 20-24 age cohort in 2010 increased by almost twice (92 per cent) the number in the 15-19 age cohort. This was not the case for the 2020 projection, since it only increased by 39 per cent. This might be due to adjustments made to the projection model to exclude or minimize the number of college students (mostly MSU students) from the County's 2020 population.
- ❖ Population less than 19 years are expected to account for 27 per cent of the County's projected population increase in 2020. This represents a 25% increase in the less than 19 years population group (comparing the 2010 and 2020 populations). This will mean an increase in enrollment for K-12 education.
- ❖ Around 22 per cent of the County's population in 2020 will be 65+ years old, which is 60 per cent more of the number in 2010. This might result in an increase in demand for Senior Housing and health care needs in the County.

POPULATION OF CITIES IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY

City	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Amboy	541	539	541	543	534	533
Eagle Lake	2,070	2,115	2,229	2,315	2,422	2,482
Good Thunder	559	556	561	568	583	580
Lake Crystal	2,575	2,586	2,593	2,602	2,549	2,540
Madison Lake	928	935	935	939	1,017	1,033
Mankato	35,493	36,238	36,657	37,028	39,305	39,624
Mapleton	1,649	1,640	1,650	1,658	1,756	1,761
Pemberton	242	238	252	261	247	248
Skyline city	299	297	297	297	289	285
St. Clair city	795	789	789	793	868	871
Vernon Center	335	332	332	332	332	331

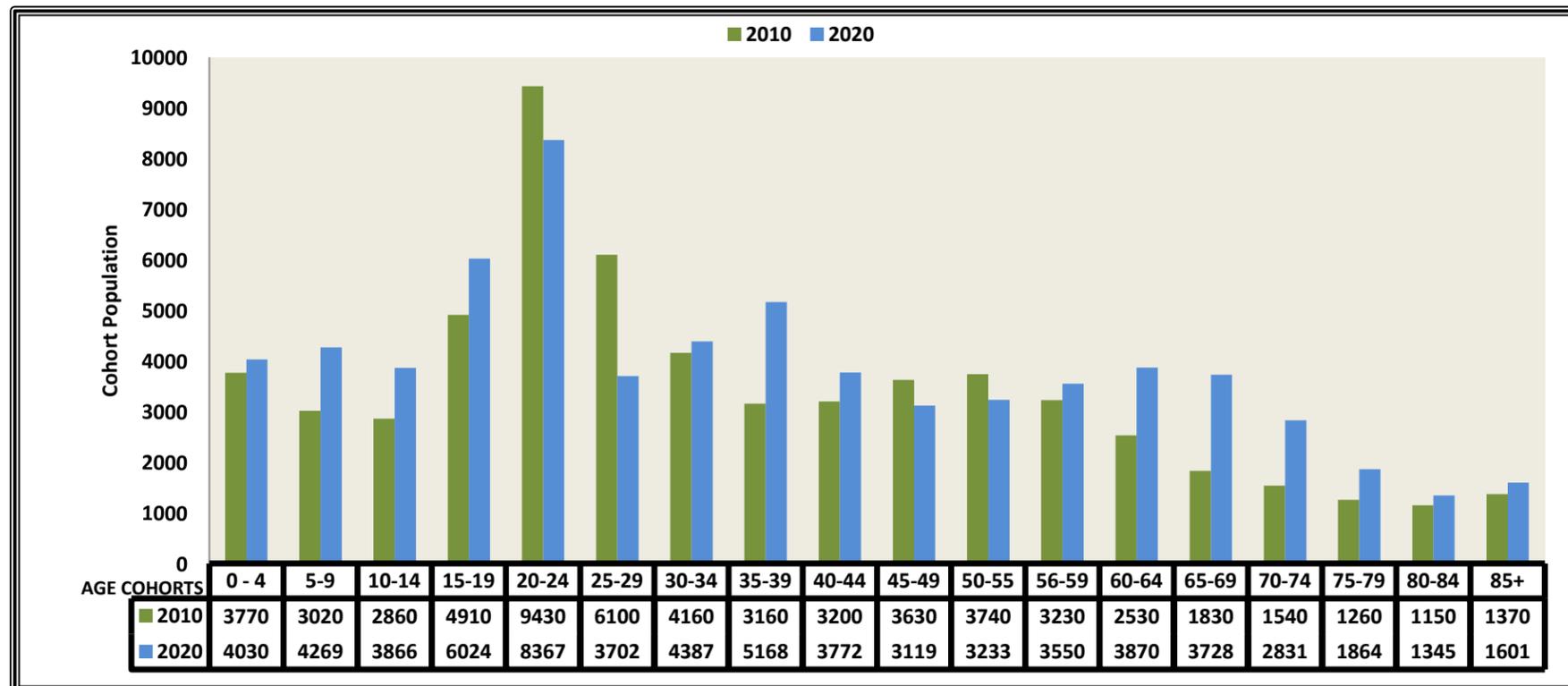
Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

POPULATION OF TOWNSHIPS IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY (2006- 2011)

Township	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Beauford	421	421	424	428	406	405
Butternut Valley	375	373	376	377	325	322
Cambria	258	258	263	263	260	255
Ceresco	242	243	246	249	239	240
Danville	263	254	254	254	240	238
Decoria	1,038	1,042	1,053	1,075	1,104	1,109
Jamestown	633	637	650	662	693	690
Judson	547	536	538	547	554	552
Le Ray	834	835	843	856	746	742
Lime	1,252	1,261	1,271	1,274	1,395	1,398
Lincoln	216	217	219	219	200	204
Lyra	353	350	350	350	327	323
Mankato	1,752	1,740	1,744	1,755	1,969	1,957
Mapleton	283	280	288	288	310	310
Medo	364	370	367	374	364	366
Pleasant Mound	212	210	210	213	214	215
Rapidan	1,031	1,023	1,028	1,033	1,101	1,101
Shelby	280	278	281	284	265	261
South Bend	1,449	1,449	1,462	1,476	1,682	1,677
Sterling	274	270	268	278	296	301
Vernon Center	269	264	264	264	262	266

Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

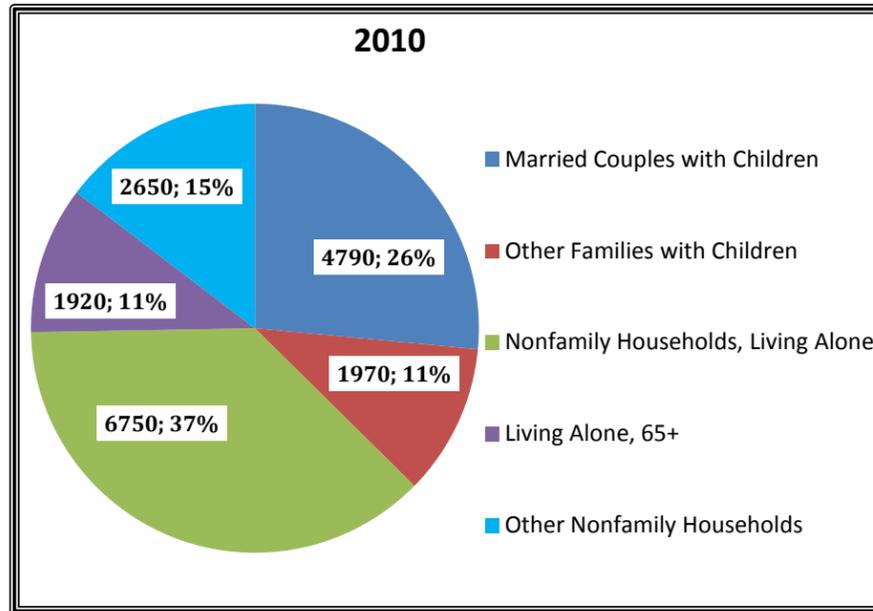
POPULATION PROJECTION BY AGE COHORTS (2010- 2020)



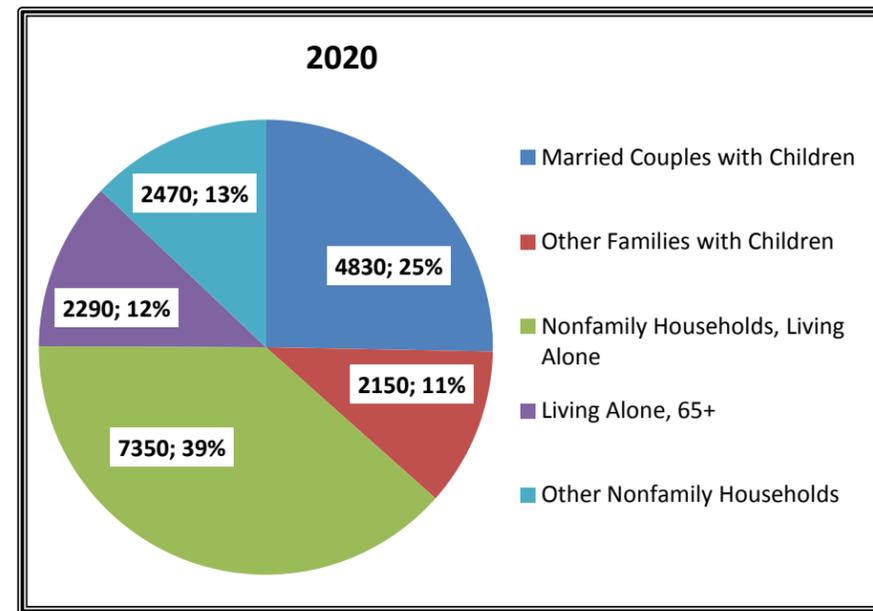
Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

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



Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012



Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

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

Ethnic Group	2000	2005-2009	2010	2011
White alone	52,620	55,057	57,338	57,768
Hispanic or Latino	988	1,292	1,573	1,605
Asian alone	988	1,331	1,235	1,302
Black or African American alone	658	1,188	1,514	1,495
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	137	57	78	107
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	34	0	0	0
Some Other Race alone	25	42	42	32
Two or more races	491	916	939	1,061

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The 9 per cent increase in “Non-family households living alone” and a percentage reduction in “Married Couples with Children” in 2020 imply a potential increase in demand for single family housing in Blue Earth County.
- ❖ The ethnic composition indicates a minimal but perceptible diversification in the County’s population – Significant population increases of 130%, 63% and 32% respectively were recorded for the Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian ethnic groups.
- ❖ Approximately 30 per cent of the county’s 25+ population have their bachelors and graduate degrees. In all, at least 64 per cent of the 25+ population can be seen to be very skilled.

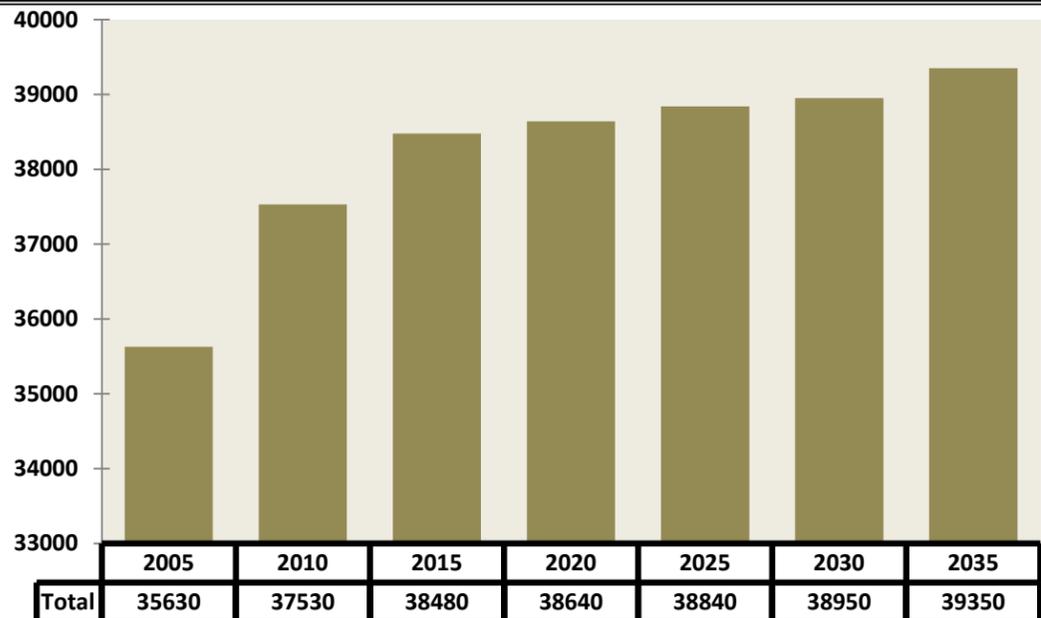
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT (2012)

	TOTAL	%
Population Age 25+	39,623	
< Grade 9	1,058	2.67
Grade 9-12	1,728	4.36
High School	11,461	28.93
Some College	9,252	23.35
Assoc Degree	4,257	10.74
Bach Degree	8,106	20.46
Grad Degree	3,761	9.49

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

COUNTY'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

COUNTY'S LABOR FORCE OUTLOOK (2005-2035)

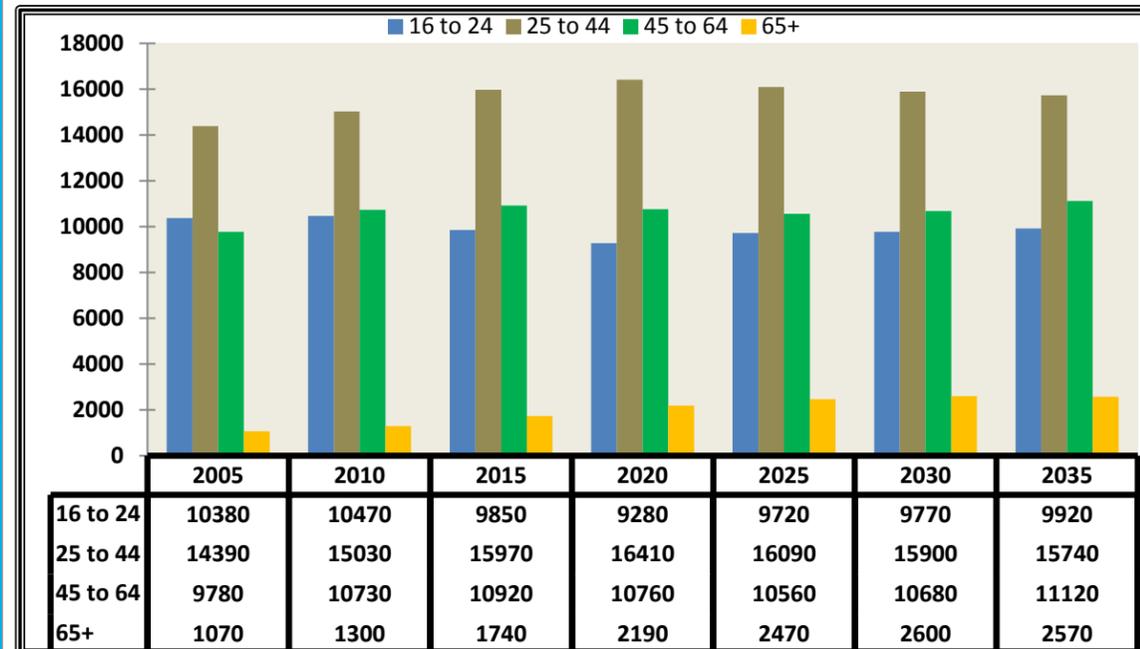


Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

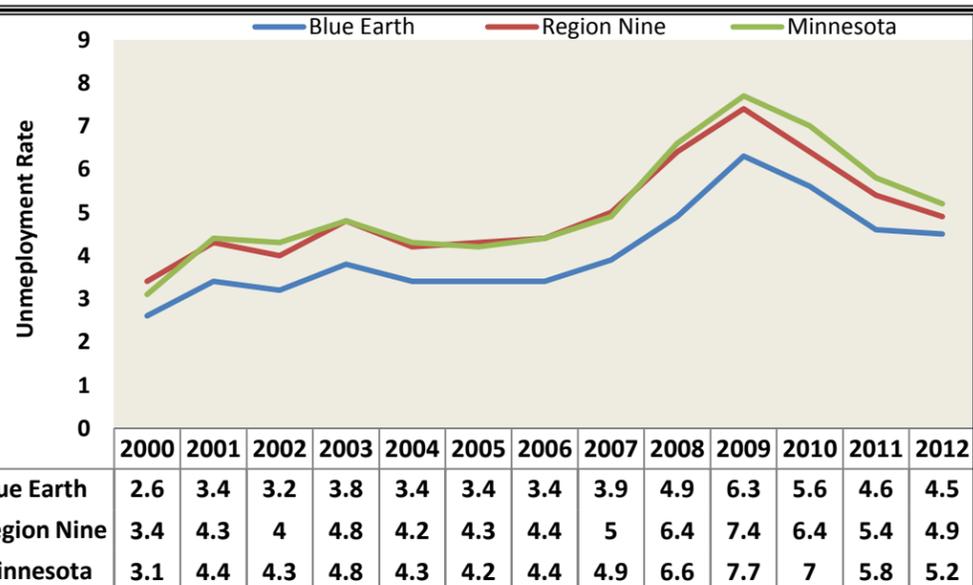
- ❖ The projected 3% increase in the County's labor force by 2020 will mainly be made up of persons above 65 years.
- ❖ Despite the in-migration of students into the county, population within 16-24 years are projected to decrease in 2020. The projected increase of this cohort in 2035 is still less than their recorded population in either 2005 or 2010.
- ❖ The county's unemployment rate has been lower than that of the region and the state since 2000 and the same applies to its per capita income. This implies that it might be relatively easier to find a job in the County but will earn about 17% 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)



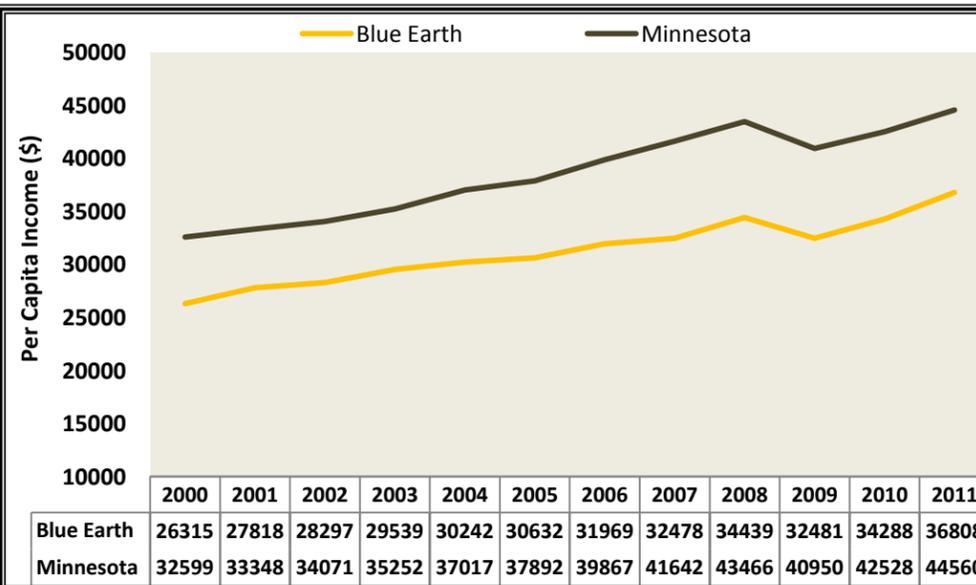
Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR BLUE EARTH COUNTY, REGION NINE AND STATE (2000 - 2012)



Data Source: MN DEED, 2012

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

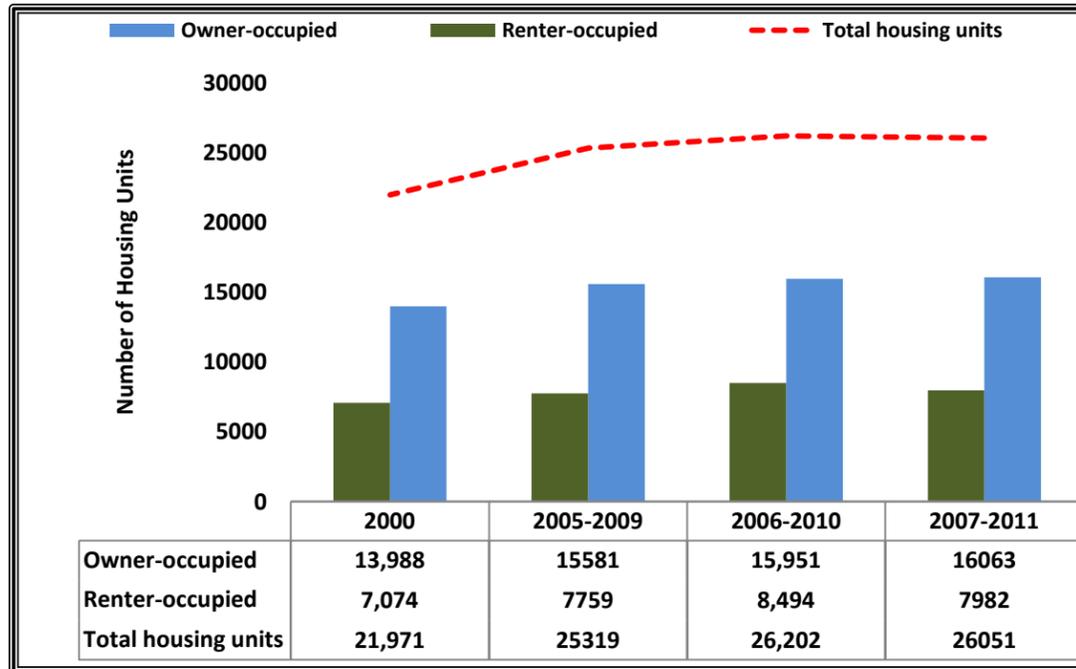


Data Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012

COST OF LIVING

COUNTY'S HOUSING PROFILE

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

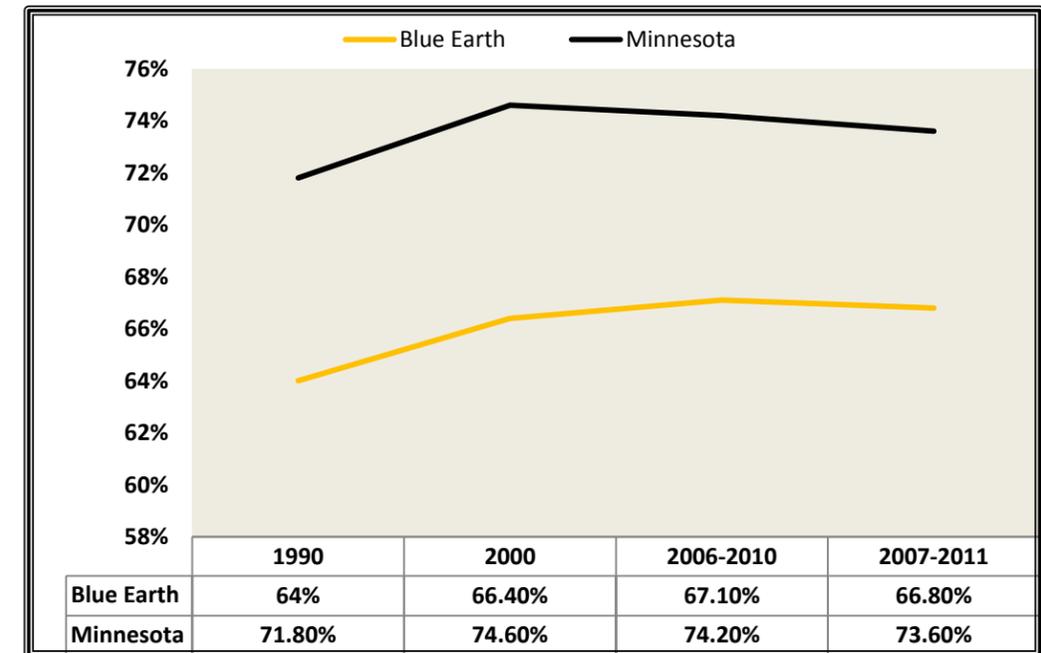


Data Source: MN State Demographic Center, 2012

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The County's experience of housing decrease in 2011 is accounted for by a decrease in renter-occupied housing – which is not surprising for a County with a rental vacancy rate of 6 per cent.
- ❖ The number of students in the County, with the varying rental housing demands might account for the high rental vacancy rate in the County.
- ❖ Annually, rent cost per household represents 34 per cent of the total housing cost paid by a homeowner.
- ❖ Homeownership rate in the County has generally been lower than the State's since the 1990s. It's been seen to be fluctuating within the range of 64 per cent and 67 per cent.

TREND IN COUNTY'S HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE



Data Source: Compiled from Decennial Census and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

OTHER HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS (2000-2011)

Characteristics	2000	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011
Occupied housing units	21,062	23,340	24,445	24,045
Vacant housing units	909	1,979	1,757	2,006
Population in owner-occupied housing units	36,871	39,229	40,771	41,288
Population in renter-occupied housing units	14,954	16,932	18,713	18,542
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	1.1	-	2.2	1.7
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	3.2	-	7.1	6
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.64	2.52	2.56	2.57
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.11	2.18	2.2	2.32

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

HOUSING EXPENDITURE FOR BLUE EARTH COUNTY (2012)

	\$ PER HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL \$000'S
Mortgage Interest	\$3,811	\$95,827
Property Taxes	\$1,651	\$41,519
Miscellaneous Owned Dwelling Costs	\$1,301	\$32,720
Rental Costs	\$2,272	\$57,123
Other Lodging	\$545	\$13,724

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