

**City of Minneapolis  
FY 2005 Budget  
Background Information**

**Community Profile**

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Minneapolis combines the Dakota word for water ("minne") with the Greek word for city ("polis"), a fitting name for a city with 22 of Minnesota's 12,034 lakes. Minneapolis is renowned for combining the best of urban life with the neighborhoods and quality of life found in smaller towns. Residents enjoy exciting cultural and recreational opportunities in beautiful natural surroundings.

**History**

In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, French explorers searching for the Northwest Passage were the first Europeans to visit the region. In the 1820s, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, soldiers from Fort Snelling constructed a sawmill and flourmill at the St. Anthony falls. By the 1850s, the village of St. Anthony had been established on the east bank of the Mississippi and the village of Minneapolis on the west bank. The two towns were soon linked by a suspension bridge. Minneapolis' first volunteer fire company was organized in 1862, and the community was incorporated as a city in 1867. In 1872, Minneapolis and St. Anthony were united to form one city.

**Location**

Minneapolis is the largest city in Minnesota and the center of finance, industry, trade and transportation for the Upper Midwest. At 44.58°–north latitude and 93.15°–west longitude, Minneapolis is 59 square miles (153 square kilometers), including 3.6 square miles (9.4 square kilometers) of inland water. It drapes along the banks of the nation's largest river, the Mississippi.

**Climate**

Minneapolis has an average annual temperature of 45° F (7° C). During an average winter, the temperatures can reach 20° below zero Fahrenheit (-29° C). Minneapolis has four distinct seasons, with moderate spring and fall weather. Summer is comfortable because lakes and trees serve as natural air conditioners.

**Population**

Minneapolis is home to an estimated 382,618 people (2000 Census). Males comprise 50.2% of the population, while females comprise 49.8%. Children and youth aged 19 and younger make up 25.7% of the population. Seniors age 65 and above, are 9.1% of the population. The median age is 31.2 years. African Americans comprise 18% of the population. People of American Indian and Alaska Native descent are 2.2% of the

population. People of Asian ethnicity make up 6.1% of the population. The Hispanic population of Minneapolis is 7.6% of the total population.

Minneapolis is one of the cities in the country with the largest number of households with one individual – 40.3% of the households fit that description.

**Economy**

In the early years, Minneapolis’ economy was based on a booming lumber industry and the processing of Minnesota grain with the tremendous power-generating capabilities of St. Anthony Falls. Large flourmills along the river evolved into the international corporations of Pillsbury, Washburn Crosby (General Mills) and Cargill, which remain headquartered in the Minneapolis area.

The ten largest employers of full-time workers in Minnesota include the following companies, most with major operations in Minneapolis:

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Approximate Total Number of Employees</b>
State of Minnesota	56,000
United States Government	35,000
Target Corporation	32,000
University of Minnesota	31,000
Mayo Foundation	25,000
Allina Health System	22,000
3M Company	19,000
Fairview Health System	18,000
Northwest Airlines Corporation	18,000
Wells Fargo	15,000

Major industries today include machinery and metal fabricating, plastics, computers and publishing. Minneapolis is also a center for graphic arts, printing, electronics and instruments, as well as a transportation center and distribution point for the Upper Midwest. Education is a powerful player in Minneapolis’ economy, as is banking, insurance and other service industries. With seven hospitals and the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis is a nationally known center for medicine, and the area is home to many high-technology medical product companies.

The City's top ten payers of property taxes in 2004 are as follows:

<b>Taxpayer</b>	<b>Type of Business</b>	<b>Net Tax Capacity</b> <i>(property value times state-defined rate for that class of property)</i> <i>Dollars in millions</i>	<b>Percentage of Total Tax Capacity</b>
1. Northern States Power	Utilities	\$6.04	4.4%
2. Target Corporation	Office Buildings and Retail	\$4.96	3.9%
3. American Express Financial Corporation	Office Buildings	\$4.93	3.8%
4. NWC Limited Partnership	Commercial/Industrial Buildings	\$2.82	2.2%
5. City Center Associates	Office Buildings	\$2.36	1.9%
6. Ryan Companies US, Inc.	Real Estate/Office Buildings	\$2.39	1.9%
7. Eighth Street Tower Corporation	Office Buildings	\$2.23	1.8%
8. Wells Operating Partnership LP	Office Buildings	\$2.23	1.8%
9. First Minneapolis-Hines Co.	Office Buildings	\$2.01	1.6%
10. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Banks	\$1.80	1.4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 31.8</b>	<b>25%</b>

The City's unemployment rate has increased over the past three years:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b> <b>(through 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr)</b>
Total Labor Force	220,055	220,430	225,238
Employment	209,169	208,376	212,544
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.5%	5.6%
Unemployment	10,885	12,054	12,694

Minneapolis per capita incomes have increased slightly in the same time frame:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Total in millions	\$6.6	\$7.3	\$7.5
Per Capita	\$17,092	\$18,873	\$19,399
Per Household	\$42,494	\$44,246	\$45,479

Retail Sales in Minneapolis for the past four years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Minneapolis Retail Sales (in billions)</b>
2000	\$6.7
2001	\$6.1
2002	\$6.1
2003	\$5.5

## **Neighborhoods**

Minneapolis has 81 residential neighborhoods offering a broad range of housing to 163,000 households. Minneapolis is well known for its concerned and active citizenry which has engaged in partnerships with government and business to improve neighborhoods and create economic opportunities. The City shares the nation's current challenge to increase the number of affordable housing units.

## **Downtown**

A downtown housing boom has increased downtown residents to an estimated 28,000, with projection of 30,000 by 2010. In addition to downtown residents, more than 163,000 people work in downtown Minneapolis. Second-story skyways keep downtown busy and thriving even on the coldest days. Nicollet Mall—a 12-block-long shopping area closed to automobile traffic and flanked by some of the nation's finest department stores and specialty stores—is the retail heart of Minneapolis. It also has Gaviidae Commons, City Center and the Crystal Court.

## **The Arts**

The Twin Cities is second only to New York in per capita attendance at theater and arts events. Minneapolis has more than 30 theaters. The Guthrie Theater and the Children's Theatre Company are recognized as two of the country's best. The City also boasts two world-class art museums, the Minneapolis Institute of Art and Walker Art Center, and is home to the internationally acclaimed Minnesota Orchestra. Neighborhood arts activities—festivals, galleries and events—play a growing role in resident art participation.

## **Education**

Forty-three thousand students are enrolled in Minneapolis primary and secondary schools. Non-public primary and secondary school enrollment is about 7,000. The City offers several vocational training and specialty schools. The main campus of the University of Minnesota sits on the banks of the Mississippi just minutes from downtown. It is a major landgrant research institution with a long tradition of community and public service, and it ranks among the top 20 universities in the U.S. It is also one of the largest. Total enrollment was 63,769 for 2003 and 65,247 for 2004. Other institutions of higher education in Minneapolis include Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Dunwoody Institute, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Augsburg College, Metropolitan State University, the University of Saint Thomas and the College of Saint Catherine.

## **Sports**

Three major league teams call Minnesota home. At the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, up to 55,000 fans can watch the world-champion Minnesota Twins in action. When the Minnesota Vikings are in town, the Dome can seat 64,000 football enthusiasts. In 1990, the Target Center was constructed downtown for the Minnesota Timberwolves of the National Basketball Association. Minneapolis has the capacity to host large events at the City's Convention Center, which completed a major expansion in early 2002.

## **Parks**

Minneapolis residents not only watch sports, they participate as well. Playing in summer softball leagues, golfing and jogging, biking or rollerblading around the City's lakes are favorite pastimes. Residents enjoy boating, fishing, wind surfing and swimming in the summertime and ice skating, ice fishing, skiing and ice sailing during the winter. Early in Minneapolis' development, the land around five large lakes was dedicated to the public as parkland. With one acre of parkland for every 60 residents, outdoor recreation is an important part of life, and it is estimated that a City park is ready for fun no more than six to eight blocks from every home.

*The City of Minneapolis Communications Department contributed significantly to the Community Profile.*