

TWIN CITIES AGE TRENDS AND FORECASTS, 1970 TO 2030

This report looks at past trends in the changing age composition of the Twin Cities Seven County Metro Area from 1970 to 2000 and how it is expected to change over the next 30 years. Differences in the geographic distribution of various age groups in 2000 are also mapped and analyzed.

SUMMARY

- The greatest population gains in the 1990s were in the 45 to 54 age group. It increased by 135,000 as a result of baby-boomers moving into an age category previously occupied by the small depression and World War II cohort. The continued aging of the population is expected to increase the demand for a wider range of housing choices than the traditional large lot, suburban single family home.
- The 35 to 44 age group, the younger half of the baby boom, also grew substantially in the 1990s, by 93,000. Gains of this magnitude for this group and the older baby-boom group were expected.
- The only age group to experience significant population loss in the previous decade was the 20 to 34 year olds. This age group was expected to lose population because it is the small cohort that followed the post-war baby boom. It is ironic that even though the region lost population in this age group, it is the age group responsible for the region growing more than expected. It lost 37,000 fewer people than were forecasted, about the difference between Council forecasts for 2000 and the census count. Strong in-migration of racial and Hispanic minorities in the decade is the primary source of this young adult population.
- Except for the 65 to 74 age group all age groups over age 35 had slightly fewer people in 2000 than the Council had forecasted in the mid-1990s.
- These age shifts of the 1990s are consistent with the strong net in-migration gains of racial minorities and Hispanics in the region between 1990 and 2000.
- The changing age group populations will affect future growth rates, housing demands, school needs, travel behavior and transportation service needs.
- Between 2000 and 2030 the population under age 55 is projected to increase by 19% (425,000) while the number of people 55 and over is expected to grow by 111% (over half a million).

A table showing metro area age trends and forecasts from 1970 to 2030 is at the end of this report.

BACKGROUND

An individual's needs change greatly with age over their lifetime. Education, employment, housing, health care and transportation needs are all profoundly affected by age. To effectively plan to meet these needs it is important to anticipate how the numbers of people in different age groups will change over time. The extremely unbalanced age distribution that is the legacy of the low birth rates of the great depression and World War II, the post-war baby boom and the subsequent baby-bust will continue to cause huge shifts in the in the populations of specific age groups beyond the Council's 2030 forecast horizon.

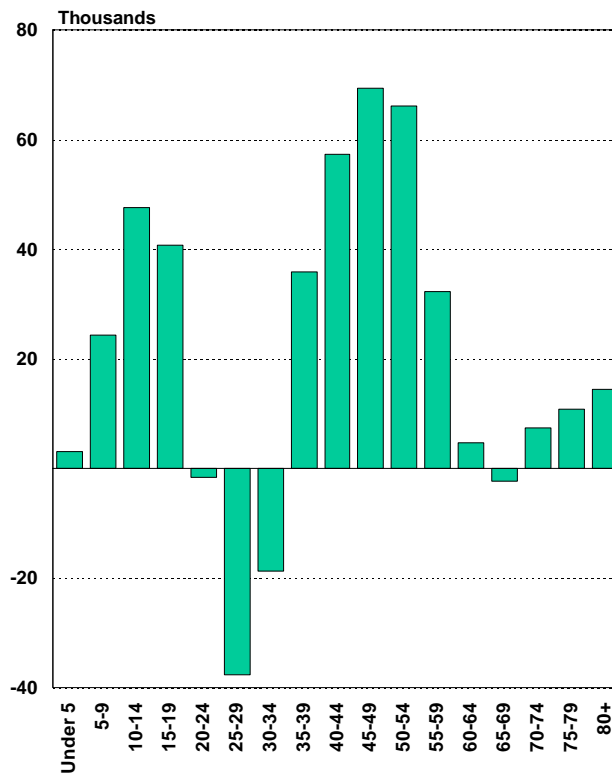
Every single person in a 10-year age group will be gone from that age group in 10 years. Whether that age group shows growth or decline will greatly depend on how many people there were in the younger cohort 10 years earlier. Births, deaths and migration will also affect the size of different age groups. Births, obviously, will be the primary determinant of the number of people in the youngest age group while death

rates have little impact except for the oldest age groups. Migration rates have historically been highest for young adults, but migration can result in growth or decline in the size of any population age group.

REGIONAL AGE TRENDS, 1990 TO 2000

- All but four of the 18 five-year age categories identified by the 2000 census increased in number in the Twin Cities metro area between 1990 and 2000. The biggest gain was in ages 45 to 54, mostly the result of baby-boomers getting 10 years older and replacing the much smaller cohort born from 1935 to 1945 (depression and war babies).
- Persons aged 35 to 44 increased by 93,000. Again this was due to baby-boomers getting older. This group was born from 1955 to 1965, the peak baby-boom years. Its growth was less than the older baby-boomers because this age group was simply replacing a large cohort that preceded it.
- The 10 to 14 age group increased by nearly 48,000 and the 15 to 19 age group grew by 41,000. This group is comprised mostly of the children of the baby-boomers and is somewhat larger than the group they are replacing.
- The biggest declines were for young adults. The 25 to 29 year olds lost nearly 38,000, the 30 to 34 age group lost nearly 19,000 and the 20 to 24 group lost about 2,000. One might assume such losses were due to massive out-migration, but that is not the case. The reason that ages 20 to 34 declined is that they are the smaller baby-bust generation born from 1965 to 1980.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Population Change by Age Group, 1990 to 2000



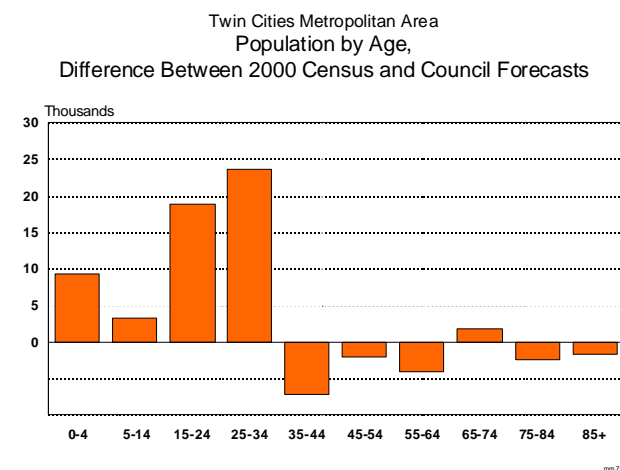
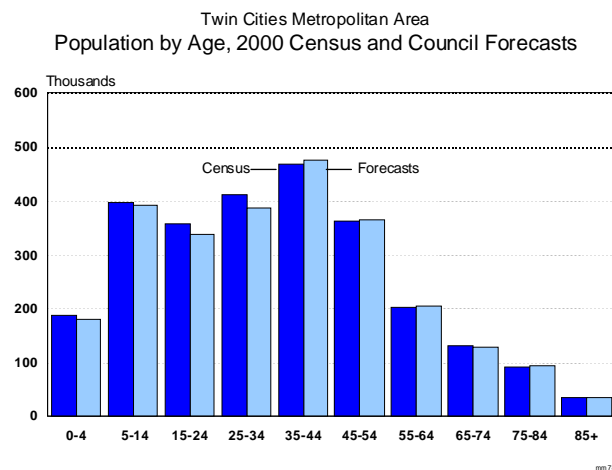
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- The only other age group that lost population was the 65 to 69 year-olds, losing about 2,000. Unlike the 20 to 34 year-olds, their decline was due more to out-migration than to a shift in cohort size or an increase in the death rate.
- The growth in the 75 to 84 age group reflects the modest post-war baby boom occurring after WWI. It was the small size and short duration of this “baby boom” that lead demographer’s to greatly underestimate the post World War II baby boom when it began after the war.

2000 CENSUS REGIONAL AGE COMPOSITION COMPARED TO COUNCIL PRE-CENSUS FORECASTS

It is useful to compare forecasts to actual data in order to provide early detection of trend shifts. Evaluating the accuracy of the forecasts is also an obvious goal, but accuracy is largely dependent on the continuation of the prevailing overall context (the economy, life style preferences, etc.) that influences demographic behavior.

- Looking at just the changes in age composition from 1990 to 2000 one is likely to draw a much different conclusion than they would by comparing the 2000 census numbers to the Council forecasts for that year. Forecast differences indicate how migration and births affected the region’s age composition in ways that were not anticipated.



- Except for ages 20 to 34, there were population increases in all but one five-year age group. Although there were fewer 20 to 34 year olds than a decade earlier, this age group was the primary reason why the region grew more than the Council had forecast. This group had 37,000 more people in 2000 than

had been forecast prior to the 2000 Census. Based on the age composition in 1990 and historic migration patterns, the forecast model predicted a loss of 96,000 people in this age group, but the loss was only 58,000. In-migration of predominantly younger racial and Hispanic minorities in the 1990s compensated for much of the expected generational population loss. That difference is close to the 40,000 difference between the Council overall regional forecast and the 2000 Census figure.

- All of the other under-20 age groups also grew more than expected, about 18,000 more, with half in the under-5 age group. Although births were up about 7,000 over projections for the whole decade, most of the unanticipated growth was due to migration gain.
- While all of the under-35 age groups had more growth than expected only two of the over-35 age groups did. There were about 500 more 65 to 69 year olds and 1,300 more 70 to 74 year olds than expected. If this were due to greater longevity one would have expected it to affect the other elderly groups. This leaves migration as the probable cause. It could be that fewer people in that age group are relocating permanently to the sun belt and are just going south for the winter and returning in time to complete the census in April. Another factor is the number of spouses who return after they are widowed.

REGIONAL AGE FORECASTS 2000 TO 2030

Forecasts of age composition have been an integral part of the Council's overall population forecasting work since its creation in 1967. Like previous efforts, the most recent forecasts used a standard model (cohort-component) to project future age composition. Ages were grouped into five-year categories and projected at five-year intervals out to the year 2030.

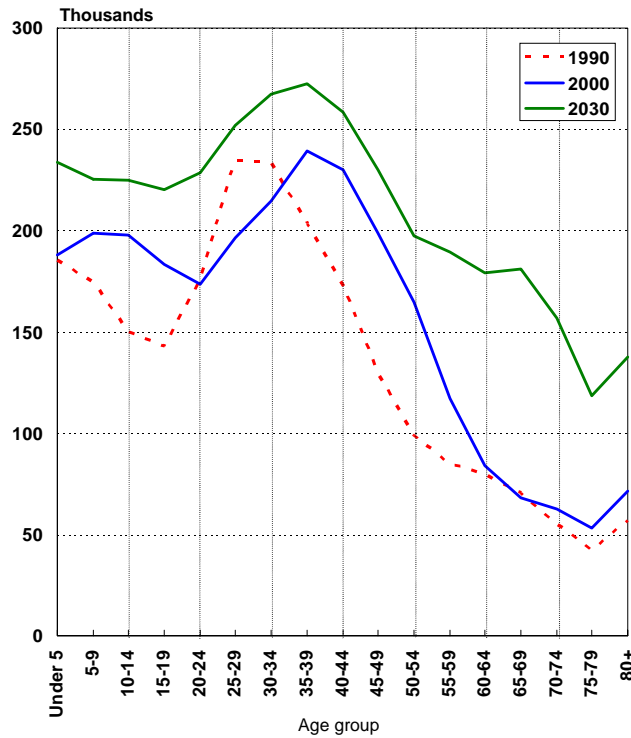
The model simply replicates how a population changes by applying age-specific birth, death and migration rates to the existing population's age structure. These rates for each 5-year age group were not altered significantly from the current rates. While there is no certainty the current rates will remain stable, there is no basis for significantly altering them. Even though the rates are held fairly constant, when applied to the region's current unbalanced age structure the resulting forecasts show considerable variation in the numbers of births, deaths and migration over time. As the baby boom generation continues to age it will dramatically affect the region's age composition.

- Between 2000 and 2030 the population in all five-year age groups is expected to increase. For those under age 55, the projected increase will be 425,000, while the number of those aged 55 and over will grow by over half a million (507,000).
- In terms of percentage increase, the change is much more dramatic. The projected 30-year increase for those under age 55 is 19% compared to 111% for those aged 55 and over.
- The highest projected percentage increase from 2000 to 2030 of any 5-year age group under age 55 is just 32% (those aged 20 to 24). The lowest percentage for those 55 and over is 62% (those aged 55 to 59).
- The 65 to 69 age group is expected to experience the greatest growth from 2000 to 2030. It is projected to add 112,500, an increase of 165%.

The changing size of different age groups will affect future regional growth rates, housing demand, school needs, travel behavior and transportation service needs, the work force and health care. But age alone cannot predict these changing demands. For example, in assessing future housing market demands cultural differences in housing preference and income also play a role, but they are not nearly as

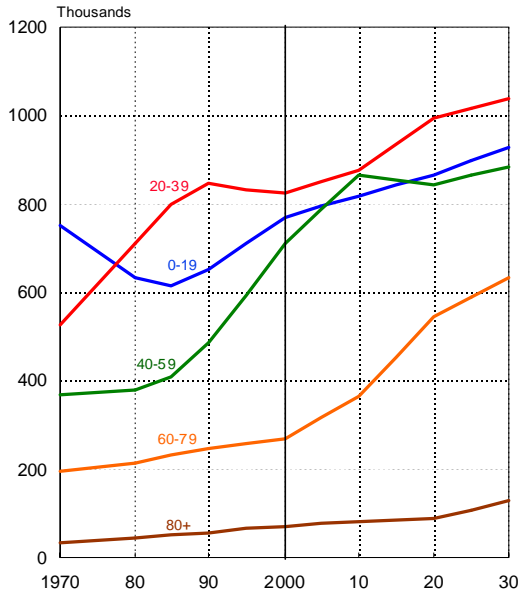
predictable as the aging of a population. The difference in the age distribution for 1990, 2000 and 2030 is shown in the graph below. What is evident besides the general growth of the region is the continued aging of the baby boom group.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Trends and Forecasts, 1990, 2000 and 2030



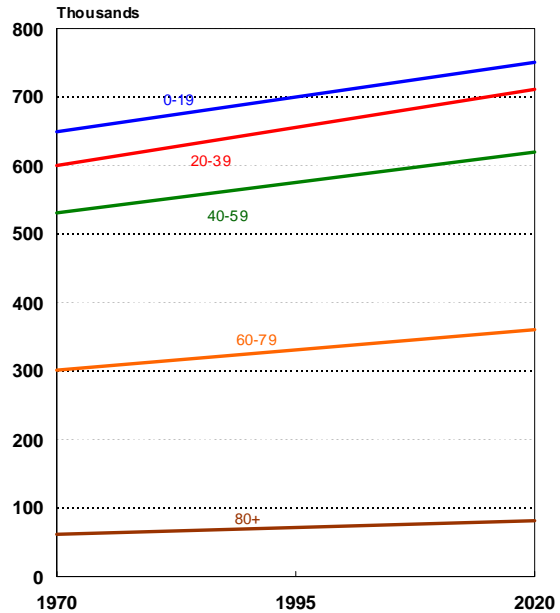
The interaction between different age groups is important in a number of areas, particularly when the size of the groups that interact change dramatically over time. These shifts can have an especially great impact on school districts, the housing market and the work place. The following graphs compare the changing relationship between different age groups historically and how they are projected to change in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Many of these trends are not unique to the Twin Cities, but how this region deals with the impacts of these changes will affect our competitive position among the nation's metropolitan areas.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Forecasts by Age
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



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Age Forecasts
Area with Moderate Growth and Balanced Population



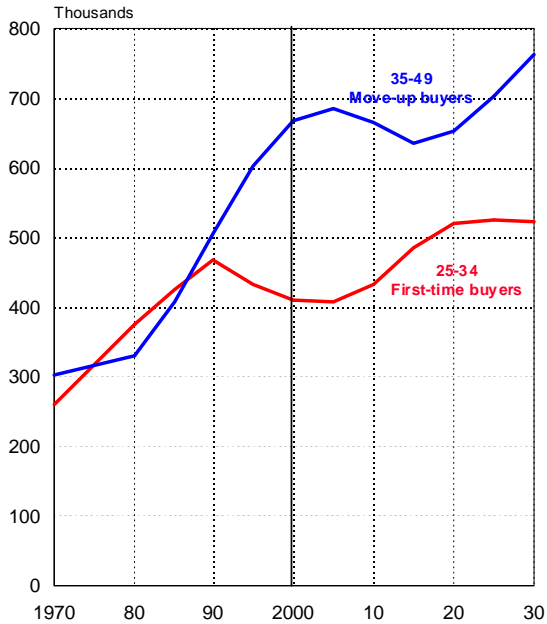
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The above two graphs break population into 20-year age groups. The graph on the left shows the 7-county metro area's population trends from 1970 to 2000 based on U. S. Census data. It reflects the great changes in fertility that were a result of the baby boom and the subsequent rapid drop in fertility that followed it in the early 1970s. The result of these sharp changes in fertility continues to the present and can be predicted with some certainty well into the future. Metro Council forecasts to 2030 are also shown on the graph. Changes in life expectancy could alter the timing of these trends somewhat, but would not really make a difference in the overall forecasts. Not much increase in life expectancy has been assumed in the Council forecasts.

The changing age trends also reflect age-related in-migration shifts. Migration has not had nearly as much impact on age composition historically because migration behavior by age has been fairly consistent over time, even if the levels of migration change. The major migration change of the past several decades was that the region experienced a net out-migration of about 40,000 people in the 1970s. There was net in-migration of about 100,000 in the 1950s, 1960s and 1980s. That increased to 135,000 in the 1990s and is expected to decline slightly over the next three decades. Young adults have been by far the most frequent movers in every decade. With young adults come young children. The migration rates drop steadily from age 30 on, with a slight upturn after age 75.

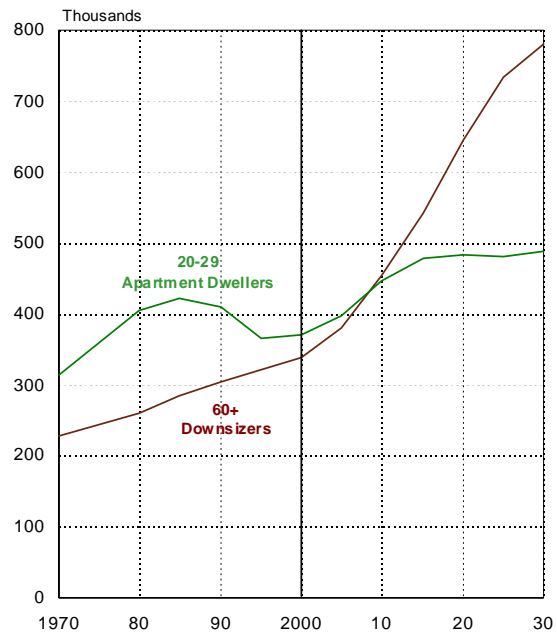
To illustrate just how dramatic these age shifts are, the graph on the right (above) shows what the population age distribution trends would look like for an area with the same overall population and growth rate as the Twin Cities from 1970 to 2000, but with stable fertility and migration rates. Without the huge historic shifts in fertility rate, demographic analysis and forecasting would be of much less interest or importance for planning.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Forecasts and Single Family Housing Demand
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



mm 1324

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Forecasts and Multifamily Housing Demand
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



mm 1325

One of the most significant impacts of changing age structure has been on the region's housing market. Housing choice is affected by age through the relationship between age and income and age and life style. Younger people have lower incomes on average and less equity. Retired people may also have lower incomes, but typically have more equity. Age also relates to life style, which can influence housing choice. While there are obvious age linkages, housing preferences may change over time with new generations in ways that are independent of age *per se*.

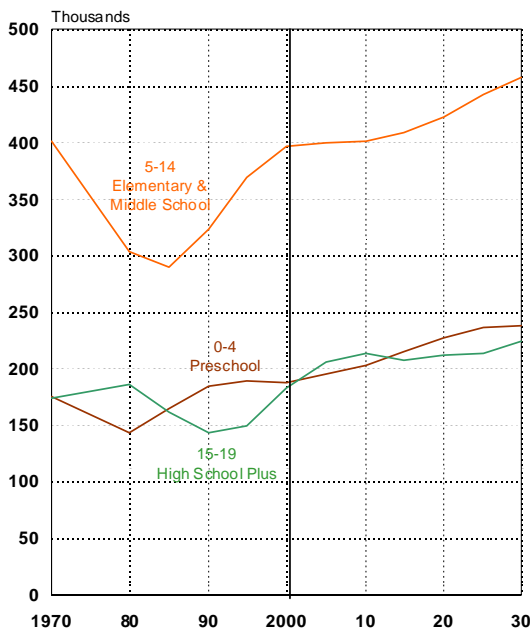
The graph on the left (above) shows the relationship between 25 to 34 year olds and 35 to 49 year olds, typical ages for first-time homebuyers and move-up homebuyers respectively. From 1970 to 1990 there were as many people in the first-time buyer age group as the move-up group (even though the latter group covered a wider range of ages). This acted to facilitate the move-up market; that is, there were plenty of young people entering the housing market to buy the starter homes of those wanting to move-up in housing. There was a fairly sharp change in this relationship in the 1990s, and in 2005 there are probably about 300,000 more people in the 35 to 49 age group (the baby boom) as in the 25 to 34 age group (the baby-bust generation). These age changes do not appear to have had much impact on the housing market, at least to-date. Although the gap will close some over the next 15 years it will still be there and should widen again after 2020. One of the ways that some of this imbalance appears to have been countered is that there has been a strong market for housing in large parts of the central cities, which may be accommodating some of the move-up market. Increases in migration, which occurred in the 1990s, may have made the gap a little more than it might have been, since young adults comprise a large share of in-migrants.

The graph to the right (above) shows the relationship between people aged 20 to 29, many of whom live in apartments (although as they age they are more likely to become home owners) and people over age 60. People over age 60 are increasingly likely to move from their larger single family homes to

apartments, condominiums or town homes as they age. Historically, many older homeowners have stayed in their homes as long as they were able. With changing generations and a broader range of multifamily housing options, they may choose to downsize sooner in the future. This trend needs close monitoring, because multifamily housing occurs at much higher densities, resulting in less need to develop raw land on the suburban edge.

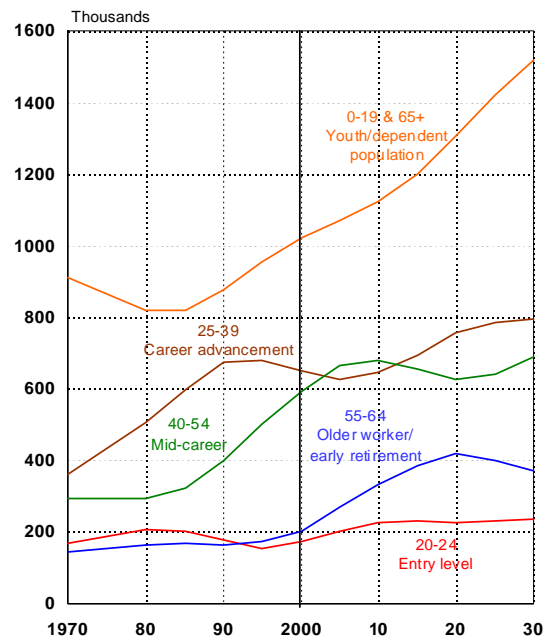
The graph also shows a decline in young adults from 1985 to 1995 and relatively modest growth in the over-60 age group. This was a period of strong single family housing construction, meeting the demands of the baby-boom generation moving into the ages where most households live in single family housing. This is the 35 to 49 age group shown on the previous graph. Beginning in about 2000, the numbers of 20 to 29 year olds and over-60 year olds began to increase more rapidly, although the increase was not nearly as strong as the increase in the share of multifamily housing that has been built since 2000. Both these age groups are expected to increase steadily over the next 10 years, and the over-60 age group will continue its rapid growth out to 2030. These trends should result in continued strong demand for town homes and multifamily housing for the foreseeable future, although the housing market typically shows more variation than these steady age trends. Long-term monitoring of housing and age trends are necessary to detect shifts that may be driven by forces beyond simple age relationships, for example changes in the economy or generational preference shifts.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Forecasts and School Needs
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



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Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Forecasts and the Labor Force
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



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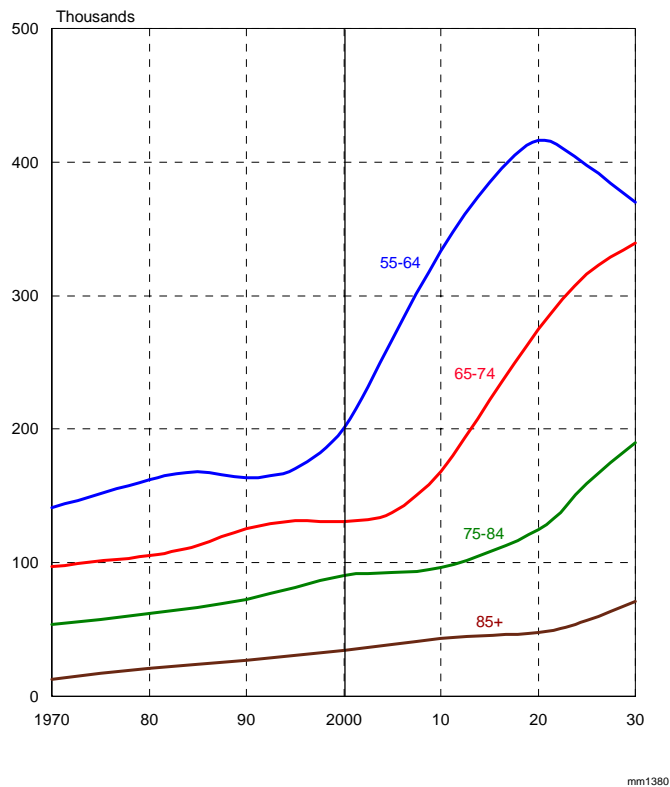
The graph on the left (above) breaks the population of persons under 20 into three school-related age groups: pre-school (0 to 4 year olds), elementary and middle school (5 to 14 year olds) and high school and early post-secondary education (15 to 19 year olds). While the baby-boom generation's impact can be seen in shifts in these age groups through the year 2000, fertility trends and recent migration are expected to level the future trends for these age groups. The huge drop in 5 to 14 year olds occurring from 1970 to the mid-1980s, and subsequent decline in the 15 to 19 year age group had enormous impact on schools.

Because age and school attendance by grade level are so highly correlated, it makes it difficult to deal with large changes in age and therefore enrollment numbers. Many districts had to close schools in response to shrinking enrollments. The impacts were much greater for many districts than indicated by regional trends, since there was growth in newer suburban school districts and even sharper declines in older districts. The increases in student age population that occurred since 1990 have brought enrollments close to their 1970 levels regionally, but the growth has mostly been in districts that were comprised of edge suburbs. Even within some of the larger suburban districts with growing enrollment there may be losses in their older parts. These districts still have to deal with transportation issues, shifting of school enrollment areas and economic pressures to close schools in some parts of their district.

In the graph on the right (above) the labor force is broken into four age groups. The population under age 20 and over age 65, most of whom aren't in the labor force, is also shown. The most notable trend is the steep increase projected for the age groups that are mostly not in the labor force. This group is expected to almost double from the early 1980s to 2030, while the four labor force age groups show more moderate increases, including periods of actual decline. The obvious question is that with fewer workers, will there be enough earnings to provide for the needs of the "dependent" population? Rising costs of education and health care, and huge increases in the population drawing social security add to the concerns. These patterns are nationwide, and addressing them will require a nationwide effort. But it still would be worthwhile to consider how they will affect the region and what regional actions would be appropriate to deal with the impacts.

The changes within the labor force that have already occurred appear to be greater than the projected future changes, but the impacts of the aging of the baby-boom generation on the labor force is not finished. When this large group entered the labor force they faced greater competition for jobs. Greater competition has remained as this generation has sought to advance their careers. The counter-culture movement born in the 1970s was in part a response by some members of this group to the impacts of greater work place competition. Now as this group is entering retirement age the competition has taken a different turn, as some employers are concerned about losing too large a chunk of their experienced labor force in a relatively short time span. This is occurring without much growth in the numbers of younger workers, resulting in efforts to retain workers. This comes at a time when those looking to retire in the not too distant future are less certain about social security and their pensions, and are seeing rapid increases in the cost of health care and health insurance. These trends and forecasts are national, but it is important for the region to consider their impacts and seek ways to ensure they do not undermine our economic strength relative to other metro areas.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Age Forecasts and the Older Population
Development Framework Forecasts, 2004



The final chart in this series (above) breaks the over-55 population into four categories. The historic trends of older people are much more uniform than for the younger age groups because fertility rates did not vary as much prior to the baby boom. Evident in all four age groups trend lines is the modest post-war baby boom that occurred in the 1920s and the subsequent drop in fertility rates during the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II. But these shifts pale in comparison to the huge surge of older persons that will occur as the baby-boom generation reaches the older age categories. These people are already born, and they have not been very mobile. These charts show the timing of these future shifts with a fairly high degree of certainty.

For the Twin Cities there are some interesting migration patterns of the elderly that should be monitored. There has historically been some increase in out-migration as people reach retirement age. There are others who live in other locations in the winter, but their place of residence is what they tell the U. S. Census Bureau. Even if they live in the Twin Cities for half of the year, they are only counted in one location. There has also been a slight return migration of the 75 and over age group, usually women who have been widowed in a retirement location, coming back to the Twin Cities to be with family and to take advantage of better health and nursing home care. Even with the steep increase in elderly population the percentage of the population over 65 will still make up a relatively small share of the population-- 9.7 percent in 2000 and 16.6 percent in 2030.

TWIN CITIES SUBREGIONAL 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS

Background

The age distribution of the Twin Cities population not only changes over time as a legacy of the fertility fluctuations of the baby boom and the periods of low fertility rates that preceded and followed it, but its distribution of different age groups shows even more spatial variation. Because needs related to age groups are often very localized, these patterns are important in planning for schools, housing for the elderly, recreation, the marketing of numerous products and services, etc. For the most part the patterns evident today will not be the same as they will be in the future, but the predictable nature of the aging process will allow us to anticipate how areas may change as they mature.

A common metropolitan example is the maturing of a suburb. New homes are built and occupied by younger families with children. As the families mature, children grow up and eventually leave home. This will generally reduce a community's overall population, but typically even more dramatically lowers the school age population. If large areas are developed quickly and homogeneously, the impact on school districts can be enormous. These communities' populations continue to age until the housing is turned over to new young families. Historically, a sizeable share of a community's "empty-nesters" remained in their single family homes as long as they were able. Income levels reflected in housing values can alter this pattern somewhat, in that families moving into wealthier areas are typically older and have older children. They also have more options for choosing other locations, such as nearby condos, lake homes or somewhere in the sun belt when they become empty nesters or retire.

The process described above can be seen in the trends for many of the region's older city neighborhoods over several complete cycles. Over time these demographic cycles can alter not only the age composition, but the socioeconomic characteristics of a population as well. How this plays out depends on the type and quality of the housing stock and perceptions about the neighborhood. Redevelopment can also result in dramatic changes, as is now occurring in and around the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Areas with a large stock of multifamily housing will tend to have more turnover, but will also tend to maintain the same age composition. This is especially evident near college campuses or in retirement communities.

A series of maps has been prepared that shows the distribution patterns of population for seven different age groups in 2000. These patterns are shown by census tract, the area designated by the U. S. Census Bureau for collecting and tabulating the 2000 census. There are nearly 700 such tracts in the seven-county area. Maps for the age groups are linked below.

- [Under 5](#)
- [5 to 17](#)
- [18 to 29](#)
- [30 to 39](#)
- [40 to 54](#)
- [55 to 64](#)
- [65 and over](#)

Breakpoints were set to reveal concentrations of very high or very low percentages in an age group and to group areas with similar values, rather than to divide the distributions into even percentages.

General patterns

The age distribution patterns tend to follow concentric rings reflecting stage of development from the central cities outward. They show similarities to the Council's policy planning areas. There is, however, considerable variation from these general spatial patterns reflecting the unique development history of particular areas.

Population under age 5 (7.1% of the region's population)

The highest percentages of young children are located in two different areas. One of these areas is the parts of the outlying suburbs with high growth rates and a high percentage of single family housing, but not those with the highest incomes. The other area is in the central city areas of minority concentration. It is also noteworthy that much of the rest of the central cities have percentages of children at about the regional average. This is also true of some of the oldest suburbs, such as St. Louis Park and Columbia Heights, which have seen much of their housing turn over to new young families.

The lowest percentages are mostly in the Minneapolis core area (the downtown and adjacent areas to the south and west with high concentrations of apartments) and around the University of Minnesota. There are also a scattering of tracts with low percentages of young children in downtown St. Paul and the nearby Ramsey Hill mansion district, the inner ring suburbs and older second ring suburbs. Another very visible difference is between the eastern and western rural areas, with lower percentages in the eastern areas. High incomes here and elsewhere in the region also correlate with low percentages of children. Although prominent on the map these rural areas have very low-density populations.

Population ages 5 to 17 (19.3% of the region's population)

The distribution pattern of children aged 5 to 17 is quite similar to that of younger children. The most visible difference is in the rural area and edge suburbs, which reflect a more uniform distribution of this age group in the region, especially in the rural area.

As with the under age 5 group, the same core central cities areas show up as areas with low percentages of children. The areas of minority population concentrations show up even more strongly as areas with high percentages of 5 to 17 year olds.

A more subtle distinction is that in parts of the central cities and older suburbs the under 5 age group is relatively more strongly represented than 5 to 17 year olds. This occurs in areas that have seen housing turnover to younger families quite recently. It remains to be seen whether they remain, increasing the numbers of older children in the future, are replaced by similar young families or whether there are changes in the racial/ethnic composition, which in other parts of the central cities has resulted in high percentages of children of all ages.

What happens to this age group in an area directly relates to schools. The quality of schools, or at least how families with children perceive them, will have an impact on their location decisions and future enrollments. Planning for this group is not easy because most areas with concentrations of school age children will mature into areas of empty nesters with no children in about the number of years it takes for children to finish school. Many empty nesters remain in place for decades after their children finish school.

Population ages 18 to 29 (16.7% of the region's population)

The young adult group is heavily represented in the core areas of the central cities (downtown Minneapolis and the adjacent area to the southwest and the University of Minnesota). These are areas of heavy concentrations of multifamily housing. These areas also are ones with lower median household incomes. This is likely to change in some parts of the core area, with the addition of more expensive multifamily housing.

In the suburban tracts with high young adult populations there is generally a high percentage of apartments also. The levels of concentration of this age group are more than any other age group except the over age 65 group. Although this age group is very transient, it tends to be replaced by people in the same age group, thus maintaining share of this age group in a tract for some time.

Population ages 30 to 39 (17.2% of the region's population)

Not surprisingly the 30 to 39 year age group distribution looks very much like the distribution pattern for children under age 5. There are some differences in this pattern in the central cities. In the areas of minority concentration with very high percentages of children under 5 and ages 5 to 17, the percentage of 30 to 39 year olds isn't that high. In part this is because their percentages of children are so high other groups can not be as highly represented. But these areas also have more births to mothers under age 30 and they have a higher percentage of one-parent families. In south Minneapolis the proportion of young children is relatively low compared to the numbers of 30 to 39 year olds, an indication that this area has a number of households headed by persons of child-bearing age with few or no children. This age group is one of the most uniformly distributed within the region (fewer tracts with extreme divergence from the regional average for this group).

Population ages 40 to 54 (22.5% of the region's population)

The ages 40 to 54 population tends to be more evenly spread throughout the developed portion of the region than other age groups. South Minneapolis, the neighborhoods west and south of the downtown in St. Paul and the two downtowns have similar percentages of this age group as do large parts of a number of inner ring and second ring suburbs and rural areas. The most prominent exceptions are areas of minority concentration in north and central Minneapolis and in north central and eastern St. Paul, which have few people in this age group. The other notable difference is a number of mostly outer suburban and rural tracts (mostly in Washington County). Some of these tracts are high income, but many more tracts with similar incomes do not have a high percentage of adults 40 to 54. There appears to be a closer correlation with housing type; most tracts with high percentages in this age group also have very high single family detached housing percentages. Because of the small size of tracts, there can be considerable variation in how they developed, which plays a strong role in their age distribution for decades. Although the patterns are quite different than the distribution of 30 to 39 year olds, this age group also is quite uniformly spread throughout the region.

Population ages 55 to 64 (7.6% of the region's population)

The 55 to 64 age group's pattern is similar to the 40 to 54 age group. Differences result in some suburban areas where the population has matured; many of the 40 to 54 year olds have reached age 55. This is especially true in a large part of suburban Ramsey County, mostly east of I-35W, rural Washington County and in several Hennepin County suburbs such as Bloomington, Edina, Minnetonka and Golden Valley. Some of these are areas of high income, but most of them are not. There is also some similarity in this age group's distribution pattern with that of the over-65 age group. In general the higher concentrations of elderly are in somewhat older closer-in suburbs, while the higher percentages of the 40 to 54 age group are just beyond the areas with higher shares of 55 to 64 year olds.

Population 65 and over (9.7% of the region's population)

The distribution pattern of elderly population shows the greatest variation among tracts. This pattern reveals large areas with very few elderly and it also has areas with shares far above this group's share of the regional population. The areas with the percentages of elderly above their regional share of 9.7% basically define the fully developed suburbs. The fully developed area extends further outward in the western suburbs encompassing the Lake Minnetonka communities and so do the areas with higher elderly percentages. The White Bear Lake and Stillwater areas also show above average shares. The area of highest concentration is most evident in Roseville, a result of where Roseville's population was in the aging cycle when the 2000 Census was taken. Except for a few isolated tracts in the central cities with large elderly housing facilities, the central cities now have relatively few people over age 65. This is a sharp reversal from the previous two decades, when Minneapolis and St. Paul had the highest shares of elderly population. This shift reflects the continued maturing and recycling of a community's population. The ring of newer suburbs surrounding the developed suburbs generally has very low elderly percentages. The rural areas where farming is strongest also have somewhat higher elderly percentages than the developing suburbs. These areas have had less new growth to dilute the share of the over-65 population. Only the most distant parts of Carver, Dakota and Scott County have elderly percentages above the regional average, however.

The over-65 age group is one that would have a number of unique service needs, especially those that are well past age 65. But any planning to meet these needs has to be geographically flexible because the places with the highest elderly populations now will generally be the ones with the biggest shifts in the future, especially if the area's population aged 55 to 64 is low. The exceptions will be those areas where multifamily housing for the elderly has been provided, although these units can change if the market isn't there.

Twin Cities Seven-County Population Forecast 1970 to 2030, October 2002*							
Age group	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Under 5	175,534	142,520	185,100	188,236	196,454	222,777	233,875
5 to 9	202,394	141,320	174,360	198,690	194,569	208,098	225,143
10 to 14	199,179	161,630	149,970	197,611	198,501	202,719	224,933
15 to 19	173,492	186,740	142,800	183,491	210,481	206,325	220,304
20 to 24	166,082	204,570	175,360	173,732	221,003	224,881	228,779
25 to 29	147,055	199,560	234,200	196,455	220,329	255,837	252,156
30 to 34	113,349	174,820	233,380	214,700	206,261	259,780	267,210
35 to 39	101,015	132,720	203,520	239,341	209,371	234,356	272,462
40 to 44	102,601	104,150	172,770	229,983	213,712	205,372	258,676
45 to 49	99,976	93,370	129,380	198,735	235,025	205,446	229,789
50 to 54	88,860	94,130	98,810	164,857	221,514	205,225	197,380
55 to 59	76,312	89,440	84,710	117,051	183,815	216,793	189,359
60 to 64	64,975	72,730	79,230	83,929	145,556	194,822	179,117
65 to 69	52,530	58,550	70,670	68,266	98,249	153,930	180,800
70 to 74	44,494	46,930	54,970	62,349	67,521	117,468	156,900
75 to 79	33,422	36,330	42,560	53,309	52,372	75,328	118,280
80+	33,342	46,390	56,930	71,321	85,388	93,319	137,858
Total	1,874,612	1,985,873	2,288,729	2,642,056	2,960,120	3,282,474	3,573,020
Change from the previous decade		111,261	302,856	353,327	318,064	322,354	290,546
Percentage change		5.9%	15.3%	15.4%	12.0%	10.9%	8.9%

*Results from the original forecast model. Subsequent revisions were made for the city total population and household forecasts as part of the 2004 Regional Development Framework and Systems Statements. The overall impact was to increase the regional population by about 70,000 in 2030.

Assumptions for Metropolitan Council 2000 to 2030 forecasts

1. A total fertility rate of 1.9 was assumed over the entire forecast period. The fertility rate is the average number of children a female will have in her lifetime; the replacement rate is 2.1. The rate was 1.83 in 1990, dropped to 1.79 in 1995 and rose to 1.86 in 1998 and 1.9 in 1999. These differences are miniscule when looked at in a long-term perspective. Fertility rates were well over 3 in the late 1950s. But even minor differences over a long time period can make a significant difference in the overall population. The brief upward trend in the late 1990s, which preceded the forecasts, will be closely monitored to see whether it declines to the past decade averages or continues upward.

2. Migration was assumed to average 6,000 per year for both males and females for the first year of the forecasts (2000), with net rates calculated for each five-year age and sex group. Net migration was adjusted after each five-year model iteration to reflect the changing age composition generated by the model. By 2030, male net migration was 6,743 per year; for females it was 6,944. Annual net migration in the 1990s was about 6,850 for males and 6,580 for females, with higher numbers assumed to have occurred in the latter half of the 1990s. Subsequent census data will be needed to validate that assumption. Historically, net migration has varied substantially. Although net migration was close to 100,000 in the 1950s, 1960s and 1980s, it was 134,000 in the 1990s and minus 40,000 in the 1970s.

3. The modest declines in death rates from 1990 to 2000 were projected at a dampened rate. Tests of various options based on varying these trends produced minor differences. Unless there are catastrophic occurrences, even dramatic changes in the death rates will only have a significant impact on the very oldest age groups. This would have important societal implications, but would still not have a great impact on the overall population forecast.

