

Definitions

Employment. For this document, employment is defined as the number of jobs within the city, including part-time and full time jobs, based on data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MDEED) and Metropolitan Council estimates for the first quarter 2002. The total number of jobs in a city may differ from final Covered Employment totals published by MDEED and Metropolitan Council due to data processing differences.

Family. A family includes a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage or adoption.

Gross rent. The contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels if these are paid by the renter.

Hispanic/Latino. Respondents who classify themselves as Hispanic or Latino can be of any race because the Census records Hispanic or Latino as an ethnic category.

Homeless population. An estimate of the number of persons provided with temporary shelter and the number turned away due to lack of space for each of the seven counties within the Twin Cities metropolitan area, based on a survey conducted in May of each year.

Household. A household includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters.

Household income. Includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.

Householder. One person in the household is designated as the householder—it is usually someone who owns, is buying or rents the unit. It can be any household member aged 15 or over.

Housing costs as a percentage of household income. A computed ratio of monthly housing costs to monthly household income. Owners and renters who reported no income or a net loss for 1999 are not included in these tables. Additionally, renters who do not pay cash rent are also not included. The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses 30 percent, and in some instances 40 percent, as the upper limit households can pay for housing costs before they become unable to pay for the other necessities of life, such as food and clothing.

Housing unit. A housing unit may be a house, apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room intended for occupancy as a separate living quarters.

Married couple family. A family where the householder and his or her spouse live in the same household.

Measure of crowding. The Census considers a housing unit to be crowded if it has more than one person per room. For each unit, rooms include living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches suitable for year-round use, and lodgers' rooms. Excluded are strip or pullman kitchens, bathrooms, open porches, balconies, halls or foyers, half-rooms, utility rooms, unfinished attics or basements, or other unfinished space used for storage. A partially divided room is a separate room only if there is a partition from floor to ceiling, but not if the partition consists solely of shelves or cabinets. This definition is open to much interpretation based on cultural or preferential factors.

Median. The point where one half of the cases have values below that amount and the other half have values above that amount.

Monthly housing costs. For owners: the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgage, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes fees such as condominium fees and mobile home site rent. For renters: the monthly housing cost is the same as their gross rent (*see above*).

Non-family household. A householder living alone or with non-relatives only.

Non-white. All householders who indicated that their race was other than “white” or who indicated that they were of two or more races.

One-person household. An occupied unit with only one inhabitant.

Other family. These are families where one spouse is not present, and are classified by the sex of the householder. Male householder, no wife present, for instance, includes a household with a male maintaining a family household without a spouse present.

Persons per family. The result of dividing the number of persons living in families by the number of families.

Persons per household. The average number of persons living in households. To calculate this number, the people living in group quarters are subtracted from the total population. The result figure is the total number of persons in households. This number is divided by the total households to give persons per household.

Poverty. Defined according to the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) Statistical Policy Directive No. 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. The poverty thresholds vary depending upon three criteria: size of family, number of children, and, for 1- and 2-person families, age of the householder. If a family’s total income is less than the threshold, the family and every individual in it is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the official consumer price index. The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and excludes capital gains and the value of non-cash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). The thresholds used by the Census are shown in the table below. For a detailed discussion of poverty definitions, please see U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, “*Poverty in the United States: 1999.*” P-60-210.

Poverty Thresholds in 1999, by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Old (Dollars)

Size of family unit	Weighted average threshold	Related children under 18 years old								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)	8,501									
Under 65 years old	8,667	8,667								
65 years old and over	7,990	7,990								
Two people	10,869									
Householder under 65 years old	11,214	11,156	11,483							
Householder 65 years old and over	10,075	10,070	11,440							
Three people	13,290	13,032	13,410	13,423						
Four people	17,029	17,184	17,465	16,895	16,954					
Five people	20,127	20,723	21,024	20,380	19,882	19,578				
Six people	22,727	23,835	23,930	23,436	22,964	22,261	21,845			
Seven people	25,912	27,425	27,596	27,006	26,595	25,828	24,934	23,953		
Eight people	28,967	30,673	30,944	30,387	29,899	29,206	28,327	27,412	27,180	
Nine people or more	34,417	36,897	37,076	36,583	36,169	35,489	34,554	33,708	33,499	32,208

- **Family poverty status.** Based on a comparison of the total family income with the poverty threshold appropriate for that family’s size and composition. If the total income of the family is less than the appropriate threshold, then all members of the family are considered to be poor.
- **Individual poverty status.** Poverty status is initially determined at the family level and that status is then applied to all family members. If a person is living in a single person household, or a non-family household

(not living with anyone related by birth, marriage, or adoption), then the person's own income is compared to his or her poverty threshold. Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups also were excluded from the numerator and denominator when calculating poverty rates. They are considered neither "poor" nor "non-poor."

- **Household poverty status.** Since poverty is defined at the family level and not the household level, the poverty status of the household is determined by the poverty status of the householder. Households are classified as poor when the total 1999 income of the householder's family is below the appropriate poverty threshold. (For non-family householders, their own income is compared with the appropriate threshold.) The income of people living in the household who are unrelated to the householder is not considered when determining the poverty status of a household, nor does their presence affect the family size in determining the appropriate threshold.

Race. The 1990 and 2000 Censuses asked the question about people's race differently. In the 1990 enumeration, respondents were asked to classify themselves in one racial category, even if they were of two or more races. For 2000, respondents were able to report more completely, by indicating up to six race groups. The change in questions makes comparisons between years difficult. In 2000, responses were summarized into the following groups: black or African American, American Indian or Alaska native, white, Asian, native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, some other race, or into a number of categories of two or more races. Individual races are also tabulated, such as Chinese or Hmong within the Asian classification. The categories in this table include persons who recorded one race only. The "two or more races" category includes all persons who indicated more than one race.

Related children. Related children include the sons and daughters of the householder (including natural-born, adopted, or stepchildren) and all other people under 18 years old, regardless of marital status, in the household, who are related to the householder, except the spouse of the householder. Foster children are not included since they are not related to the householder.

Residential demolitions. Residential demolitions are reported by communities in their response to the Council's annual building permit survey. Demolition permits are not consistently required in all areas. Some communities are able to accurately measure and report how many units are taken out of the housing stock, others cannot, and some communities report only sporadically. Consequently, it is expected that these totals are low.

Residential permits issued. The Council annually surveys all cities and townships in the region about housing construction that occurred during the previous calendar year. Most communities send very accurate, complete information. Townhouses are difficult to classify from permit reports. Communities often rely on the designation made by the developer for this classification.

Single-family, attached units. Townhouse units most commonly fall into this definition.

Value of owner-occupied units. For Census tables, these values are self-enumerated in Census 2000. The question asks the respondent to estimate how much their property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale. The County Assessors' value is provided by the County Assessor's office.

Wage Information, 2002. Earnings ranges shown represent minimum wage; and 30%, 50%, 80%, and 100% of estimated 2002 median family income (U.S. HUD). Data is for first quarter 2002.

White-only. Householders who indicated "white" as their only race.

Year structure was built. Refers to when the building was first constructed, not when it was remodeled, added to, or converted. The information is provided by residents of the housing unit in the census, and thus may not be accurate, especially for rental properties and older homes.