

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND ASSUMPTIONS

In order to analyze future housing, park and recreation, governmental, utility and transportation needs of the city, it is important to review historic trends that have occurred and develop assumptions for the future growth of the community. Population projections, land use and housing needs are dependent upon a number of factors including those which are outside of the city's control; however, projections are necessary in order to assist the city in its long range planning for appropriate infrastructure and services, and funding of those items. The information contained in this chapter has been obtained through statistical data released by the United States Census Bureau, the State Demographer's Office, Scott County, and the City of Belle Plaine, including building permit activity.

## I. SOCIAL PROFILE SUMMARY

- **Population and Housing.** The MN Department of Administration State Demographic Center estimated that the City of Belle Plaine's population as of April 1, 2005 was 6,037, and increase of 13.9 % from the April 1, 2004 estimate of 5,300 persons and 2,094 households. This was up from 5,002 persons and 1,959 households in 2003; 4,550 persons and 1,754 households in 2002; and, 4,124 persons and 1,530 households in 2001. The U.S. Census Bureau calculated a census population of 3,789 in 2000 (1,424 housing units) an increase from a population of 3,149 in 1990, representing a 20% increase over the ten-year period.
- **Age distribution.** Statistics indicate the City of Belle Plaine had a median age of 34.9 years (2000 Census), increasing from 32.2 years in the 1990 Census. This is slightly higher than Scott County's median age of 32.7 years. The median age in Minnesota was 35.4 years and the U.S. median age in 2000 was 35.3 years. 28.1% of Belle Plaine's population in 2000 was under the age of 18 and 12.4% of the population 65 years old or older.
- **Gender.** 2000 Census information identifies a gender distribution of 50.6% female to 49.4% male within the City of Belle Plaine, illustrating a slightly higher female to male ratio than Scott County (49.5% to 50.5%). The ratio is similar to Minnesota (50.5% female to 49.5% male) and nation (50.9% to 49.1%).
- **Income.** The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Income Guidelines places the 2002 Median *Family* Income in Scott County at \$76,700. The 2000 Census reports a median family income in the City of Belle Plaine of \$59,539. It is estimated that a total of 206 individuals in the City of Belle Plaine are below the poverty level (2000 Census).
- **Employment.** The Minnesota Work Force Center estimates 65,037 people in the labor force in Scott County in April 2005, with 62,808 employed, resulting in a 3.4% unemployment rate. During this same time period Minnesota had an unemployment rate of 4.1% and the United States unemployment rate was 4.9%.
- **Travel Time to Work.** According to the 2000 Census, workers in Belle Plaine traveled an average of 24.5 minutes to their place of employment. This is comparable to workers within Scott County which reported an average of 24.3 minutes for a commute time. The national mean travel time to work reported as a part of the 2000 Census was 25.5 minutes.

## II. POPULATION GROWTH

Census data demonstrates increased growth within the City of Belle Plaine as well as Scott County over the past few decades. The rate of growth has increased significantly since the 2000 census was completed.

As indicated in the following Table 3-1, the State Demographer's Office estimated the population Scott County, will increase 102.9% by 2030, or from 89,498 (the 2000 Census population) to a 2030 estimated population of 181,630.

**TABLE 3-1  
SCOTT COUNTY: POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP**

Age Group	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2000 - 2030 % Change
0-4	8,296	8,510	9,660	11,050	12,320	13,120	13,650	64.5
5-9	8,273	9,440	9,640	10,710	12,010	13,160	13,880	67.8
10-14	7,438	9,120	10,060	10,280	11,290	12,540	13,630	83.2
15-19	5,867	7,500	8,880	9,660	9,850	10,770	11,890	102.7
20-24	4,060	5,980	7,140	8,100	8,640	8,830	9,570	135.7
25-29	6,257	7,370	9,310	10,340	11,070	11,320	11,540	84.4
30-34	8,705	8,420	9,450	11,420	12,350	12,970	13,050	49.9
35-39	10,133	9,690	9,310	10,320	12,230	13,120	13,690	35.1
40-44	8,304	10,870	10,260	9,870	10,820	12,710	13,580	63.5
45-49	6,005	8,590	10,910	10,240	9,850	10,770	12,600	109.8
50-54	4,755	6,090	8,470	10,550	9,890	9,520	10,400	118.7
55-59	3,547	4,640	5,910	8,140	10,050	9,420	9,090	156.3
60-64	2,314	3,450	4,530	5,760	7,870	9,690	9,100	293.3
65-69	1,721	2,220	3,280	4,310	5,470	7,440	9,110	429.3
70-74	1,355	1,570	2,020	2,960	3,930	5,000	6,790	401.1
75-79	1,063	1,240	1,430	1,830	2,670	3,570	4,560	329.0
80-84	762	890	1,040	1,180	1,510	2,230	3,000	293.7
85+	643	810	1,000	1,240	1,440	1,800	2,500	288.8
Total	89,498	106,400	122,300	137,960	153,260	167,980	181,630	102.9

\* Source MN State Demographer's Office.

### III. BUILDING PERMIT TRENDS.

Building permits trends are also a useful tool in projecting future growth. Since the 2000 Census data is already four years old, building permits assist with identifying more recent trends. Table 3-6 illustrates the steady increase in single-family homes beginning in the year 1996 as well as the steady increase in the average value of single-family homes.

**TABLE 3-2  
BELLE PLAINE BUILDING PERMITS 2000-2005**

Type of Permit	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	#	\$ Value	#	Value	#	Value	#	Value	#	Value
Single Family Homes	195	25,595,032	155	20,498,000	139	19,987,000	114	19,051,115	74	14,022,810
Townhouse units	17	1,986,000	23	2,678,000	10	1,294,000	36	2,929,332	9	1,213,638
Multiple Family Units Renter Occupied	12	624,000	3	290,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
Garages/Remodels	97	693,000	149	909,540	132	725,700	169	1,329,171	26	198,258
** Miscellaneous	114	134,224	217	77,800	113	71,300	619	38,635	78	
Commercial/Industrial	13	1,342,000	35	2,402,500	21	1,053,000	19	3,543,709	14	277,764
Public	2	6,500	5	1,620,000	21	1,911,600	7	93,500	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>30,370,839</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>28,475,840</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>25,042,600</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>28,038,463</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>15,712,470</b>

\*Source: City of Belle Plaine Building Permit Reports for single-family and townhouse units are through 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2005, others in 2005 are through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2005.

\*\* Miscellaneous permits include fences, decks, signs, fireplaces and sheds.

#### **IV. CITY OF BELLE PLAINE POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS**

It is understood the nature of the City's future with respect to housing, retail, commercial, and industrial market potentials depends to a great extent on the population growth that may take place in the coming years. As such, the confidence with which future market situations may be assessed is closely related to the quality of the population projections employed. A second consideration of significance is the development of a viable approach to the provision of municipal services. In administering the construction of these increasingly costly systems, the City must constantly anticipate, if not control, the amount and location of their demand. Failure to maintain a managed approach would be fiscally irresponsible and could put the City in jeopardy of engaging a trade-off between environmental quality and financial solvency.

The role that population projections play in all of these areas is central. As such, the provision of high quality projections has been a basic aim for this report and for support of municipal service policy development.

Projections of population and households in Belle Plaine were developed on the basis of an analysis of local and regional trends and policies, and through the application of economic and demographic principals, with emphasis on the detailed profile of the City developed in this planning inventory. Specific data applied to the projections were the rate of residential building permits issued since 1992, trends in city's urban and rural areas and Scott County growth.

##### **A. Population Projection Methods**

Four methods of analyzing historic population trends to develop future projections were utilized. These include the "Top Down" method, the "Lineal Model", the Met Council's "Cohort-Survival" method and building permit analysis.

The **Top Down method** calculates the city's population as a percentage of Scott County's population. Belle Plaine has been growing, but at a slower rate than Scott County, until the recent few years. The following table suggests that Belle Plaine will continue to make up four to five percent of the Scott County's future population.

**TABLE 3-3  
TOP DOWN METHOD OF POPULATION PROJECTION**

<b>Top Down Method Of Population Projection for City Based on Met Council Projection for the County</b>											
Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
<b>Scott County*</b>	32,423	43,784	57,846	89,498	108,578	115,997	147,840	170,870	193,900	207,785	221,670
<i>% Growth Annually</i>	-	3.50%	3.21%	5.47%	4.17%	4.78%	2.72%	2.39%	1.92%	1.75%	0.43%
<b>City of Belle Plaine</b>	2,328	2,754	3,149	3,789	5,002	6,037	6,815	7,877	8,939	9,579	10,219
<i>Belle Plaine as a percent of Scott County Population**</i>	-	6.29%	5.44%	4.23%	4.61%	4.61%	4.61%	4.61%	4.61%	4.61%	4.61%

\* Scott County estimates based on Met Council Projections thru 2030 released in September, 2005, Belle Plaine projection factor based on change over previous five years.

\*\*2003 and 2005 Based on State Demographer's Estimate

**B. The Lineal Method** assumes that the historical rate of growth (percentage change) will continue in the future. The City of Belle Plaine's population increased an average of 4.92% per year over that past 30 years and at an average rate of 6.03% per year over the past 15 years. The following table suggests an average rate of growth of 4.98% will continue with a higher annual growth rate in early years and decreasing rate of growth in later years.

**TABLE 3-4  
LINEAL MODEL POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS**

Year	Population	% Change over 5 years	Annual % Growth	Annual Change in Growth Rate***
1970	2,328	-		
1980	2,754	18.30%	3.66%	
1990	3,149	14.34%	2.87%	
2000	3,789	20.32%	4.06%	1.19%
*2003	5,002	32.01%	6.40%	2.34%
*2004	5,300	5.96%	5.96%	-0.44%
**2005	6,037	13.91%	13.91%	7.95%
2010	7,868	30.32%	6.06%	-0.30%
2015	10,135	28.82%	5.76%	-0.23%
2020	12,940	27.67%	5.53%	-0.16%
2025	16,418	26.87%	5.37%	-0.09%
2030	20,756	26.42%	5.28%	-0.02%
Average			6.99%	

\* 2003-2005 based on State Demographer's Office Estimate

\*\*2010 Population based on average annual growth rate from 2000 to 2005

\*\*\*Projects a decrease in rate of growth per year.

**C. Met Council Projections**

Belle Plaine is located within the Metropolitan Council jurisdiction; therefore, the Met Council has included Belle Plaine in its planning projections. The following table includes population projections for various cities and townships within Scott County based on a method of forecasting known as the cohort-survival method. The cohort-survival method takes the existing population by age and sex and projects it forward using assumptions about rates of births, deaths and migration for five-year age groups, by gender. Past trends for these age-specific rates are analyzed and future assumptions regarding these rates provide input to the model. Recent birth, death and migration rates are given the greatest weight in developing assumptions about the future. The anticipated growth is more aggressive than the MN State Demographer's Office projections with a projected 141% increase in population in Scott County between 2000 and 2030, versus the 102.9% projected by the Demographer's Office. The Metropolitan Council has noted a projected decrease in household size, and population between 2020 and 2030 due to the aging baby-boomer.

The Metropolitan Council, as a part of the October 2005 System Statement projected the population of Belle Plaine will increase by 67% between 2010 and 2030 and by 30% between 2020 and 2030. In November, 2005, the City responded to the Metropolitan Council noting that based on historical growth, building permit trends in the past five years (2000-2005) and number of pending plats for new subdivisions, the community projected a 2030 population closer to 19,000. The revised agreed upon population and household projections for the City are included in Table 3-8. This plan recognizes the Metropolitan Council's projection; however, will utilize the city's projections in order to ensure proactive planning for its stand alone water and sanitary sewer systems. The City has adopted a local capital improvement plan which includes infrastructure requirements for a five year period. Those expenditures are adjusted annually to meet actual needs.

The City of Belle Plaine and Metropolitan Council agreed on the following forecasts, through 2020. The City anticipates development will occur at a more aggressive rate, based on building permits and discussions with developers who have options on land surrounding the City of Belle Plaine. The City is therefore planning for a more rapid increase in order to proactively plan infrastructure. Since the city operates its own wastewater and water facilities, this does not impact the Metropolitan System.

**TABLE 3-5  
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL POPULATION FORECASTS  
(COHORT SURVIVAL METHOD)**

System Statements as of October 2007					
City or Township	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Belle Plaine	3,149	3,789	7,300	11,800	16,300
Belle Plaine Twp.	691	806	770	790	1,300
Blakeley Twp.	456	496	600	730	800
Elko	223	472	2,650	6,400	10,200
Jordan	2,909	3,833	7,200	8,300	11,500
New Market	227	332	3,050	6,700	10,600
Prior Lake	11,482	15,917	28,000	40,400	39,900
St. Lawrence Twp.	418	472	600	800	1,400
Savage	9,906	21,115	31,900	39,000	42,700
Shakopee	11,739	20,568	39,500	48,500	52,000
Scott County Total**	57,846	89,498	145,6400	185,700	215,370

\* Source: Metropolitan Council, October 2007

\*\* Total includes townships not illustrated in Table 3-5.

**D. Building Permits.** Table 3-6 illustrates the number and value of construction of single-family housing since 1995 along with their construction values. The average value per home has increased remarkably (40%) over the past five years for the period ending March, 2005. The U.S. Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight places the increase in housing values across the state at 55% during the same period. The number of annual permits has fluctuated over the previous decade with a peak in 2001 at 195 new single family home permits.

Using the average number of building permits over the past five complete years or 2000 through 2004 (736 total or 147 average) and assuming a similar or “steady” rate of growth, and multiplying this by the number of people per household (2.6); future population is projected to add 382 people per year or 1,910 per five year planning period, through 2020. It is projected this rate will increase to 180 permits per year for the period 2020 to 2030 or 1800 new housing units and at a density of 2.6 persons per household, resulting in an additional population of 4,680 people between 2020 and 2030.

**TABLE 3-6  
SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SUMMARY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Average \$ Value Per Home</b>
1996	20	\$ 2,445,439	\$ 122,272
1997	19	\$ 2,245,164	\$ 118,167
1998	46	\$ 5,618,821	\$ 122,148
1999	72	\$ 8,111,605	\$ 112,661
2000	133	\$ 15,595,032	\$ 117,256
2001	195	\$ 25,585,115	\$ 131,206
2002	155	\$ 20,498,000	\$ 132,245
2003	139	\$ 19,987,000	\$ 143,791
2004	114	\$ 19,051,116	\$ 167,115
2005*	74	\$ 14,022,810	\$ 189,497
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>99**</b>	<b>\$ 13,237,477</b>	<b>\$ 129,651</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>\$ 133,160,120</b>	<b>\$ 137,704</b>

Source: City of Belle Plaine Building Permit Records

\* 2005 permits are January through September, 2005

\*\*Average Excludes 2005 data since it was not a full year.

**TABLE 3-7  
POPULATION PROJECTIONS BASED ON BUILDING PERMITS**

YEAR	Projected Permits per Year	Projected New Residents Per Year Based on 2.6 per household	Projected Population
<b>2000</b>			3,789
<b>2005</b>			6,037
<b>2010</b>	155	403	8,052
<b>2015</b>	175	455	10,327
<b>2020</b>	175	455	12,602
<b>2025</b>	180	468	14,942
<b>2030</b>	180	468	17,282

\*2000 Based on US Census. 2005 Based on State Demographer's Estimate.

A summary of the City's population projections is illustrated in Table 3-8 along with projected households and residential land use needs. The fourth column in Table 3-8 takes into account the additional population and households resulting in the possible annexation of already developed household in the townships. This assumes the annexation of an average of four homes per year within the townships and city orderly annexation boundaries.

**TABLE 3-8  
SUMMARY OF POPULATION PROJECTIONS, HOUSEHOLD GROWTH  
AND RESIDENTIAL LAND DEMAND**

Year	Building Permit Trend Analysis	*Met Council Population Projection	City's Population Projection Based on Various methods+ Annexation of homes/yr from Belle Plaine, Blakely and St. Lawrence Townships	Households based on Met Council projection and 2.6 people per household	Households based on City Projections and 2.5 to 2.6 people per household	Add. Resid. Acres* Per 5 years	Roads, Etc.** (20% additional land required)	Employment
<b>2000</b>	3,789	3,789	3,789	1,457	1,457		-	1,469
<b>2005</b>	6,037	6,037	6,037	2,322	2,322	288	346	*1,776
<b>2010</b>	8,052	7,300	7,300	2,900	2,900	193	231	2,220
<b>2015</b>	10,327	0	9,550	-	3,673	258	309	2,665
<b>2020</b>	12,602	11,800	11,800	4,700	4,700	342	411	3,110
<b>2025</b>	14,942	0	15,613	-	5,982	427	513	3,550
<b>2030</b>	17,282	16,300	19,425	6,500	7,480	499	599	4,000
Increase 2005 to 2030	11,245	10,273	13,388	3,947	5,158	1,719	2,063	2,224

\* Source of 2005 Employment Estimate: Metropolitan Council

**V. HOUSEHOLD GROWTH**

The existing house stock within the community can provide important insight for both projecting future household types and identifying potential opportunities related to promoting a variety of life-cycle housing. Table 3-9 illustrates differences in housing within local communities and regional governments. The statistics indicate base of general housing options/choices within Belle Plaine at this time.

**TABLE 3-9  
OWNER-OCCUPIED AND RENTAL STATISTICS- 2000 CENSUS**

Area	Owner-Occupied	% of Total Units	Renter Occupied	% of Total Occupied Units
<b>Belle Plaine</b>	1,089	78%	307	22%
<b>Jordan</b>	1,110	82%	239	18%
<b>Le Sueur</b>	1,117	72%	428	28%
<b>New Prague</b>	1,286	76%	408	24%
<b>Norwood YA</b>	853	73%	318	27%
<b>Scott Co.</b>	26,535	86%	4,157	14%
<b>State</b>	1,412,865	75%	482,262	25%

Source: 2000 Census date: Dwelling Units by Type

Continued household growth within the City is expected over the next two decades. The State Demographer’s Office anticipates the number of households within Scott County to increase from 30,692 households to 55,540 or an 81% between the year 2000 and 2020. A breakdown of projected household growth within Scott County is illustrated in Table 3-10, below. Census data indicates the number of households within the City of Belle Plaine increased 30% over the past decade from 1,092 households in 1990 to 1,424 in 2000. Based on the average of the three types of population projections, and an average household size of 2.6 individuals, the number of households within Belle Plaine is projected to increase at a higher percent pace than the overall household growth within Scott County.

**TABLE 3-10  
PROJECTED HOUSEHOLD GROWTH**

Year	Scott County Households	Belle Plaine Households
2000	<b>30,692</b>	<b>1,457</b>
2005	36,700	2,156
2010	43,000	2,640
2015	49,310	3,185
2020	55,540	3,783
2025	61,590	4,473
2030	67,280	5,252
2000-2010 % change	40.1%	81%
2000-2030 % change	119.2%	260%

Source: MN State Demographic Center. 2000 # estimated from 2000 Census. County projection numbers rounded to the nearest 10. Belle Plaine Households: MDG, Inc. based on historic building permit plus annexation population projections and average 2.6 persons per household.

**VI. BELLE PLAINE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**A. Household size and type.**

Of the 1,424 housing units, 1,396 or 98% were occupied housing units. Of the total number of occupied units, the U. S. Census data indicates a significantly higher percent of family households (68%) than non-family households (32%) within the City of Belle Plaine. Of the occupied housing units, 77% were occupied by traditional family units while 23% were occupied by non-family households. Of the occupied rental units, 36% were occupied by traditional families while 64% were occupied by non-family households. The Census defines non-family households as those with persons who are not related by birth, marriage or adoption.

**TABLE 3-11  
OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

<b>AREA</b>	<b>FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
City of Belle Plaine	949 (68%)	447 (32%)	1,396 (100%)
Belle Plaine Township	222 (83%)	44 (17%)	266 (100%)
Blakeley Township	133 (80%)	33 (20%)	166 (100%)
Scott County	23,977 (78.1%)	6,715 (21.9%)	30,692 (100%)

Source: 2000 Census, Minnesota State Demographer's Office

The average household size in 2000 was 2.59 persons, which was considerably less than the reported 2.88 persons per household in 1990. The average household size reported in the 2000 Census for Scott County was 2.89 persons per household.

As depicted in the following Table, 2000 statistics indicate just over half of all households consist of married couples. Children 18 years and under reside in 40% of all family households.

**TABLE 3-12  
FAMILIES BY PRESENCE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY TYPE  
CITY OF BELLE PLAINE – 2000 CENSUS**

<b>Households by Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Total Households	1,396
Total Family Households	949 (68%)
Total Family Households with children under 18 years old	539 (38.6% of all Households, 56.8% of all Family Households)
Married Couple-Family Household With and without children	746 (53.4% of all Households)
Married Couple-Family Household with children under 18 years old	393 (28.2% of Married Couple-Family Households and 41.4% of all Family Households)
Female householder, no husband present with children under 18 years old	104 (11% of all Family Households)

## B. Age.

Table 3-13 identifies the age distribution within Belle Plaine. The City of Belle Plaine had a median age of 34.9 years (2000 Census). This is slightly higher but comparable to a Scott County median age of 32.7 years. The median age in Minnesota was 35.4 years and the U.S. median age in 2000 was 35.3 years.

**TABLE 3-13  
BELLE PLAINE AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION**

<b>Age Group (Years)</b>	<b>Belle Plaine 2000 Census</b>	<b>Percent Of Total Population</b>
Under 5	283	7.5
5 to 9	295	7.8
10 to 14	301	7.9
15 to 19	277	7.3
20 to 24	187	4.9
25 to 34	554	14.6
35 to 44	631	16.7
45 to 54	382	10.1
55 to 59	139	3.7
60 to 64	126	3.3
65 to 74	265	6.8
75 to 84	238	6.3
85 and older	120	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3789</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Census- 2000

## C. Educational Attainment.

Belle Plaine is a part of School District # 716 which includes the City of Belle Plaine and adjacent townships. According to the 2000 Census, the City of Belle Plaine had 1,016 people aged three years and older who were currently enrolled in school. Of these students, 81 or 8% were enrolled in college or graduate school, 282 or 27.8% were enrolled in high school (grades 9-12), 523 or 51.5% were enrolled in middle or elementary school (grades 1-8), 59 or 5.8% were in kindergarten and 71 or 7.0% were in nursery school or preschool.

The School District includes an elementary school, junior high school and high school. The School District is in the process of constructing a new elementary school, an addition to the current high school and renovations to the junior high school.

According to the 2000 Census, there were 2,461 people in Belle Plaine 25 years of age and older. Of these, 81.5% graduated from high school. Of those not graduating from high school, 11.6% (286) completed less than 9 years of education and 6.9% (170) completed between 9 and 12 years of education but did not obtain a diploma. 17.3% or 426 individuals of the population 25 years and over obtained bachelors degrees or higher.

When compared to cities similar in size and geographic location, Belle Plaine residents fall mid-range for number of residents with high school diplomas or bachelors degree (or higher) as their maximum level of education attained.

**TABLE 3-14  
MAXIMUM LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED**

Area	With Diploma	Percent	W/O Diploma	Percent	Some College or Assoc Degree	Percent	Bachelors or Higher	Percent	Total
<b>Belle Plaine</b>	1,106	40.15%	523	18.98%	687	24.94%	439	15.93%	2,755
<b>Jordan</b>	822	32.70%	334	13.29%	979	38.94%	379	15.08%	2,514
<b>Le Sueur</b>	1042	36.43%	565	19.76%	780	27.27%	473	16.54%	2,860
<b>New Prague</b>	1,178	37.60%	532	16.98%	813	25.95%	610	19.47%	3,133
<b>Norwood/YA</b>	995	45.89%	335	15.45%	655	30.21%	183	8.44%	2,168

**D. Employment.**

Employment statistics from the 2000 census indicates 2,898 people age 16 and over are in the labor force. The mean time traveled to work by commuters was 24.5 minutes, in 2000. The Table below illustrates the methods of getting to work by the 1,906 employees who commute.

**TABLE 3-14  
METHODS OF TRAVELING TO WORK**

	Number of commuters	Percent of commuters	Percent of labor force
Car, truck, van-drive alone	1,543	81%	53%
Carpooled	203	11%	7%
Public Transportation	0	0%	0%
Walked	66	3%	2%
Other	3	0%	0%
Worked at home	91	5%	3%
<b>Total Employees</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000

The Minnesota Work Force Center estimates 65,037 people in the labor force in Scott County in April 2005, with 62,808 employed, resulting in a 3.4% unemployment rate. During this same time period Minnesota had an unemployment rate of 4.1% and the United States unemployment rate was 4.9%.

**E. Income.**

The 2000 Census reports a median *family* income in Belle Plaine of \$59,539. The median *household* income in Belle Plaine was \$50,272. Comparing the median *household* income with other area communities, Belle Plaine's is higher than that in the cities of Jordan, Le Sueur, New Prague and Norwood Young America and the state average. The City of Belle Plaine's median household and family income levels are; however, significantly lower than Scott County's.

The 2000 Census indicates that 206 people (5.8% of the population) in Belle Plaine were below the poverty level. Of the communities surveyed Belle Plaine had more persons living in poverty (5.8%) than Scott County as a whole (3.4%), the City of Jordan (4.1%) and the City of Norwood Young America (5.6%) but fewer than New Prague (6.5%), Le Sueur (8.8%) and the state average (7.9%).

**TABLE 3-15  
1999 INCOME PROFILES**

Area	Per Capita Income	Household Income	Family Income	% People Below Poverty Level
<b>Belle Plaine</b>	\$19,433	\$50,272	\$59,539	5.8
<b>Jordan</b>	\$17,217	\$47,468	\$53,363	4.1
<b>Le Sueur</b>	\$21,605	\$42,372	\$53,362	8.8
<b>New Prague</b>	\$17,732	\$41,750	\$50,341	6.5
<b>Norwood/YA</b>	\$18,431	\$46,152	\$54,792	5.6
<b>Scott County</b>	\$26,418	\$66,612	\$72,212	3.4
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$23,198	\$47,111	\$56,874	7.9

Source: 2000 Census- 1999 statistics.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development calculates average weekly wages for employment positions within cities and counties in Minnesota. Table 3-16 illustrates average weekly wages for the latest reporting period available (third quarter 2004) at the time of the drafting of this chapter (June, 2005). The table reveals the average weekly wage for jobs located in the City of Belle Plaine is significantly lower than the other areas studied.

**TABLE 3-16  
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES FOR JOBS WITHIN BELLE PLAINE**

Area	Avg. Weekly Wage	Avg. Hourly Wage
<b>Belle Plaine</b>	\$418	\$10.45
<b>Jordan</b>	\$732	\$18.30
<b>Le Sueur</b>	\$638	\$15.95
<b>New Prague</b>	\$569	\$14.23
<b>Norwood/YA</b>	\$560	\$14.00
<b>Scott County</b>	\$689	\$17.23
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$777	\$19.43

Source: MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

**F. Race.**

2000 Census statistics indicate 3,690 of the 3,754 residents (97.4%) of Belle Plaine residents classify themselves as white or Caucasian. 43 residents (1.1%) are Hispanic or Latino, 0.7% of the population (27) is Asian, 0.4% (15) of the population are American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.1% of the population is Black or African American (5), with various other races or two or more races also present (0.3% of the population).

When compared to other communities sampled, Belle Plaine has a more racially diverse population than New Prague (1.8% minority) or Norwood Young America (1.9% minority) but not as racially diverse as Jordan (5.9% minority), Le Sueur (7.5 minority) and Scott County (6.4% minority). The Minnesota Demographer's Office reports the two most significant trends demographic trends shaping Minnesota through the year 2025 are the aging of the population and an increasingly diverse population.