Feature Article

Wisconsin’s People: A Portrait of Wisconsin’s Population on the Threshold of the 21st Century

Wisconsin’s People

Department of Tourism
WISCONSIN'S PEOPLE: A PORTRAIT OF WISCONSIN'S POPULATION ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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WISCONSIN’S PEOPLE: A PORTRAIT OF WISCONSIN’S POPULATION ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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Introduction

In addition to meeting its constitutional requirement of providing the numbers used to reapportion the House of Representatives every ten years, the decennial census provides a variety of social and economic statistics about the nation’s people, families and housing. These statistics are mandated by a myriad of federal laws and administrative rules for administering programs and implementing formulae-driven funding activities such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Job Training Partnership Act. Every year, based on census data, over $100 billion in federal funds are allocated back to state, local and tribal governments under more than 100 different programs.

The census is a large and costly activity, and the American people, having paid for the effort through their federal taxes and contributed to the activity by their voluntary responses to census questionnaires, expect some return on their census investment that goes beyond federal program administration. The U.S. Census Bureau understands that. Beginning one year after the census enumeration, the Census Bureau gives back to the people, and to the neighborhoods and communities in which they live, a staggering amount of data. Many observers refer to this activity as one of updating the statistical portrait of our nation, our communities and neighborhoods.

As a consequence, the decennial census and the release of fresh census data becomes an occasion for stocktaking. How has our statistical portrait changed since the last census? How does our community measure up relative to its own goals or with respect to comparable communities nearby? Which neighborhoods have changed the most, and how? Where are the needs greatest, and where are the resources most abundant?

While individual census responses are protected by law, when these responses are aggregated the census becomes the statistical camera that every ten years takes the snapshot of our country, our 3,100 counties, our 39,000 units of local government, and literally millions of small units of “statistical geography” (census blocks, block groups, and city tracts) that can be used to analyze virtually every large neighborhood and all remote, rural, portions of this vast nation. Today, while satellite cameras take pictures and provide “pixel” readings to enable monitoring of changes on the land, so too the nation’s decennial census provides demographic “pixels” with which to capture change in population size, geographic distribution and composition along such dimensions as household and family characteristics, labor force
participation, income and poverty measures, veteran status, commuting to work, housing characteristics, and a host of additional items—each required by federal statute for program administration and funding.

The 2000 Census reveals that, standing on the threshold of the 21st century, Wisconsin is a state growing at annual rates not far above or below the national average. The distribution of the state’s population between urban and rural areas also is similar to the U.S. average. While our population is becoming increasingly more diverse in terms of its racial and ethnic mix, Wisconsin is still overwhelmingly a White, non-Hispanic population.

In this article, we examine what the 2000 Census reveals about the people, the families, and the communities of Wisconsin. In the next two sections we discuss overall population growth in the state and the sources of that growth. We then discuss one of the implications of population growth: an increasing density of population settlement across the landscape. In the context of the geographic distribution of Wisconsin’s population, and the geographic distribution of population change, we introduce the concepts “urban” and “rural” and discuss how the state’s population has become increasingly urbanized during the past century. We also introduce the somewhat related concepts of “metropolitan” and “non-metropolitan” distribution. In each of these topic areas, we also draw some brief comparisons with the pace of population change in Wisconsin relative to its neighbors in the Midwest. Following this, we present data for several of the most basic demographic approaches to “segmenting” the population. We discuss at some length both the age and sex composition of the population as well as the state’s racial and ethnic diversity. Major trends are identified that have an inherent demographic momentum likely to influence the demographic future of the state. Having discussed race and ethnicity, we shift attention to the somewhat related concept of ancestry as measured in the decennial census. This leads us next to a brief section on the foreign-born population in Wisconsin. This is followed by sections that deal with household and family composition in the state, the nature of work in Wisconsin, income and poverty measures, educational attainment, and a brief section on what the census can tell us about persons with disabilities. A final section takes a look at housing data from the 2000 Census. We conclude with a brief commentary on what this demographic portrait of Wisconsin’s people says about us, and how this portrait may change in coming years.

Population Growth and Sources of Growth

Wisconsin’s population stood at 5,363,675 on April 1, 2000 (Fig. 1). This number represents an addition of approximately 472,000 persons since the 1990 Census, the second highest numerical increase between two censuses since statehood in the middle of the 19th century (Fig. 2). Only in the 1950s, when Wisconsin added 518,000 residents, was the numerical growth higher—although the sources of growth in the 1950s differed significantly from those of the 1990s. Coming at the height of the post-World War II baby boom, growth during the 1950s was due entirely to the large difference between births and deaths (roughly 567,000). During the 1950 to 1960 period, the state actually lost residents through the migration
process because the number of residents leaving the state exceeded the number arriving by 49,000. By contrast, in the 1990s, the demographic exchanges were balanced very differently. Between 1990 and 2000 growth from net in-migration to the state accounted for almost half of total growth.

Figure 1

Total Population, Wisconsin: 1840 to 2000

(Millions)

*1840 to 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1840 to 2000

* 1840 population count is reported for the Wisconsin Territory.

Numerical growth in the 1990s was surprisingly robust, exceeding the growth anticipated by demographic projections made in the early 1990s. Wisconsin’s overall rate of growth, however, was a somewhat modest 10% for the decade (Fig. 3). This contrasts with a rate of growth of more than 13% for the U.S. as a whole. Thus, Wisconsin’s share of the national population continued a decline begun approximately a century ago (Fig. 4). As a consequence, Wisconsin joined nine other states, primarily in the Midwest and Northeast regions of the country, in losing a seat in the Congress in the reapportionment of the House of Representatives based on the final census counts. These seats went to eight states in the faster growing South and West regions (Fig. 5). The 2000 Census reapportionment took effect when the 108th Congress was elected in November 2002. Because each state is allotted votes in the Electoral College based on the sum of their U.S. senators and representatives, the new census numbers also mean that Wisconsin will have one less electoral vote in the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections than it did in 2000.

Components of Population Growth

Net change in Wisconsin’s population results from the addition of births and in-migrants and the subtraction of deaths and out-migrants. For most of the decades during the 20th century, the principal contribution to growth came from what demographers call natural increase (difference between births and deaths) (Fig. 6).
Figure 2
Population Increase by Decade, Wisconsin: 1840 to 2000
(Numeric Increase – Thousands)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1840 to 2000
* 1840 population count is reported for the Wisconsin Territory.

Figure 3
Population Increase by Decade, Wisconsin: 1840 to 2000
(Percent Increase)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1840 to 2000
* 1840 population count is reported for the Wisconsin Territory.
Figure 4
Wisconsin's Share of U.S. Total Population by Decade: 1840 to 2000
(Percent)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1840 to 2000
*1890 population count is reported for the Wisconsin Territory

Figure 5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, Congressional Apportionment
Figure 7 shows that the 1990s witnessed almost equal contributions to growth from natural increase and net migration (the latter being the difference between in-migrants and out-migrants). It is likely that an equal contribution from net migration and natural increase has not occurred since the early years of Wisconsin statehood, although data to test this assumption are not available.

Many social and economic factors contributed to the relatively strong growth of Wisconsin’s population during the 1990s. Declining mortality and improvements in medical technology, generally, has meant that Wisconsin residents are living longer, healthier lives. Nevertheless, the fact that Wisconsin’s population is getting larger and, importantly, the fact that the population has a higher proportion of elderly (ages where the impact of mortality is disproportionately felt) means that the number of deaths is slowly rising. Meanwhile, birth rates (and numbers) have remained relatively steady over the past three decades. As a consequence, contributions to growth arising from natural increase are diminishing over time. A strong state economy during the 1990s, coupled with economic distress in the Southwest and Northeast during the early 1990s, led to unprecedented levels of migration to the state.

**Increasing Density**

With a fixed land area and a growing population, Wisconsin’s population density has increased with the passage of time. Overall population density almost tripled from approximately 37 persons per square mile (of land area) in 1900 to 99 persons per square mile in 2000 (Fig. 8).
Wisconsin’s population density is high when compared to the rest of the nation, but roughly on par with the U.S. if low-density Alaska is removed from the calculation. Of course, population density varies dramatically across the state. Rural areas with low population density (average of 32 persons per square mile) contrast with
urban areas generally (average 2,240 persons per square mile) and with large, densely settled, areas such as the City of Milwaukee (6,214 persons per square mile) to form an exceedingly uneven landscape defined by density of population (Fig. 9).

Figure 9
3-D Perspective of Population Density, Wisconsin MCDs: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

The Distribution of Population Growth
With respect to population change in rural and urban areas, the course of Wisconsin’s demographic history largely parallels that of the country generally. The Census Bureau roughly defines the urban population to include all persons living in and around large cities over 50,000 population, in addition to those who reside in smaller cities and villages down to 2,500 population. The remainder of the population is considered to be rural.

At the time of statehood, over 90% of the state’s population was rural by today’s definition. The growth of cities and villages, however, quickly marked the acceleration of the urban population (Fig. 10). By 1900, 38% of Wisconsin’s 2-plus million residents were to be found in cities. One hundred years later, the 2000 Census found 68% of the population in cities and larger villages (this contrasts with 79%, nationally).
While the rural population has declined in relative numbers, the rural population, numerically, reached an all time high in the 2000 Census. From just under 1.3 million persons living in rural Wisconsin in 1900, the number increased to 1.7 million in the most recent enumeration (Fig. 10). Paralleling national patterns, the composition of the rural population itself changed dramatically during this period. One hundred years ago 70% of Wisconsin’s rural population consisted of farm families. The number of farms in the state increased in the 19th and early 20th centuries, reaching almost 200,000 farms in the mid-1930s when the population living on farms numbered just under 1 million persons. From then on, the number of farms and the farm population commenced a steady downward slide. Today, Wisconsin’s 1.7 million rural people largely live in nonfarm homes, in the 337 villages under 2,500 and in the state’s 1,263 towns. The population living on farms has declined to 137,000, today barely 8% of the rural population. The number of farms has declined to approximately 63,000.

Figure 10
Population by Rural and Farm Residence,
Wisconsin: 1850 to 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1850 to 2000

Present-day Wisconsin is an uneven blend of urban and rural people living in relatively close contact, but not always in immediate residential proximity. Fifty-eight of the state’s 72 counties have at least a portion of their populations categorized as urban. And even highly urban Milwaukee County has a very small rural population according to the rural/urban definitions employed in the 2000 Census (Fig. 11).
Figure 11

Percent of Population Urban, WI Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Another common way the Census Bureau views the geographic distribution of a population is to distinguish counties on the basis of population size and functional integration with surrounding large counties. Metropolitan counties are roughly defined as counties with a city of 50 thousand or more population plus those nearby counties where the extent of commuting to work in the city suggests a strong linkage between the city and its suburban counties. Figure 12 shows those 20 counties considered to be metropolitan at the time of the 2000 Census. 68% of the state's 5.4 million people resided in these counties at the time of the enumeration. The remaining 32% were residents of Wisconsin's 52 nonmetropolitan counties.
Because the 2000 Census enumerated 3.7 million persons in urban areas and 3.6 million in metropolitan areas, one is quick to conclude that the definitions mostly pick up the same aspects of an underlying population distribution. But this is not completely accurate. Figure 13 reveals that more than 600,000 Wisconsin rural residents were counted in metropolitan counties in the 2000 Census. Similarly, another 626,000 urban residents were enumerated in nonmetropolitan counties. The two different definitions, one based on county characteristics (metropolitan/nonmetropolitan) and the other on municipality size (urban/rural) — each useful in different applications — pick up different distributional aspects of the population (compare Fig. 11 and Fig. 12). Since county boundaries are relatively stable, and since county population estimates for noncensus years are deemed more accurate than municipality estimates, most demographic analysts interested in tracking the changing geographic distribution of the population over time give preference to the metropolitan/nonmetropolitan distinction (Fig. 14).

Figure 13


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Pct</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Pct</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Pct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>3,038,122</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>602,186</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3,640,308</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pct</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetro</td>
<td>625,521</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>1,097,846</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>1,723,367</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pct</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,663,643</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>1,700,032</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5,363,675</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>Pct</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Not only is the distribution of Wisconsin’s population uneven across the state, but population change is also not evenly distributed. Figure 15 shows the rate of overall population change between 1990 and 2000 for Wisconsin’s 1,852 municipalities and minor civil divisions. Growth was strong in the suburban ring of metropolitan areas, in much of the Fox River Valley and in those rural counties having attractive environmental amenities (lakes and forests). Figure 16 shows the percent change in population among Wisconsin’s 190 cities, 399 villages and 1,263 towns between 1990 and 2000.
While Wisconsin’s metropolitan population grew during the 1990s, much of that growth occurred in suburban areas. Indeed, the City of Milwaukee lost more than 31,000 residents between 1990 and 2000. Growth in the surrounding villages and cities in Milwaukee County was not sufficiently strong to counterbalance this loss, and the county itself lost more than 19,000 persons. Meanwhile, suburban communities in the surrounding counties of Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee together added almost 88,000 new residents. Strong growth also was evident in Wisconsin counties (St. Croix and Pierce) that are part of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

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**Figure 14**

Population by Metropolitan Status, Wisconsin: 1910 to 2000

(Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Nonmetro</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Demographic Trends in the 20th Century.

*Data for 1910 to 1940 are based on the metropolitan district concept and data for 1950 to 2000 are based on the metropolitan area concept as defined in each census.*
Figure 15
Population Change,
WI Minor Civil Divisions: 1990 to 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Age and Sex Composition

The median age of a population is often used as a single measure to describe a population as “young” or “old.” This particular statistical measure indicates that half the people counted in a census were younger than the median age; the other half were older. Populations with a median age under 20 years are generally considered to have a “young” age structure. Medians of greater than 40 typify relatively “old” populations.

Wisconsin’s population had a median age of 32.9 years in 1990, identical to that for the country as a whole. Demographers understand that there is a natural, built-in tendency for populations, in the aggregate, to grow older. As each individual member of Wisconsin’s population adds a year of life with each passing year, one might expect the median age of the aggregate population to advance just as rapidly – an additional ten years with each passing decade. This is a process demographers refer to as “aging in place.” But there are forces which retard this aggregate aging process. Every birth reduces the aging of the population – i.e., retards the advance of the median age – since it adds a new member to the population at the age of zero, certainly well below the median! At the other end of the age spectrum, where the majority of deaths are among older persons, every death also retards the advance of the median age, since it removes from the population someone whose age is above the median. The relatively smaller number of deaths of persons who are not older than the median age will have the opposite effect, but these numbers, and their
influence on the trend of median age, are relatively insignificant. Migration flows, both to and away from the state, also affect the median age depending on the ages of the migrants. For Wisconsin these forces worked in concert to slow the advance of the median age. In 2000, rather than being 10 years higher than the 1990 median, the median age of the Wisconsin population was 36.0 years – only 3.1 years older than 1990. The comparable median for the U.S. as a whole was 35.3 years.

When the median age is tracked over time from 1940 (Fig. 17), it becomes apparent that the 2000 Census likely recorded the “oldest population” in the state’s history. There are several reasons for this, but the most significant cause is that the large baby boom generation (the 1.8 million babies born in Wisconsin between 1947 and 1964) has entered middle age, and in the past 20 years has moved from ages mostly below the median age to ages mostly above the median. This process of aging has been reinforced by continued low birth rates and by increasing life expectancy for older persons.

Figure 17
Median Age of Population, Wisconsin: 1940 to 2000

Because of overall growth in the population, the number of people in each age group mostly increases from one census to another. Yet, because of irregularities in the age composition of the population – irregularities resulting from past swings in birth rates – some age groups increase much faster than others, and some age groups occasionally witness decline between any two censuses, despite overall population growth. The changing age and sex composition of Wisconsin’s population can be portrayed through the use of population pyramids. The overall shape of the pyramid and the length of the bars for each age group depict the age-sex distribution and changes in age-sex structure over time.
Figure 18 is one example of a population pyramid. Each horizontal bar shows the share of the population belonging to a particular age-sex group. For example, in the 2000 Census, young females ages 5 to 9 constituted approximately 3.4% of the state’s population. The white outline shows the anticipated population pyramid (based on formal population forecasts) for Wisconsin's population in the year 2020. Twenty years from the most recent census, the relative share of the population between the ages of 5 and 24 and between 35 and 49 will decline. On the other hand, the share of the population in ages above age 55 will increase substantially as the baby boom generation moves into their retirement years. This “graying of the population” is a trend that speaks clearly regarding some of the challenges the state will face in coming years in the areas of social, health and housing policy.

Figure 18
Population by Age and Sex, Wisconsin: 2000 & 2020 (Projected)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Population Projections 2002

Race and Ethnic Diversity

Since 1790, every population census in the United States has collected information on the racial and ethnic makeup of the population. Responding in part to changes in patterns of immigration (movement from abroad) and, in part, to evolving social or cultural views on race and ethnicity, the number of specific race and ethnic groups identified in the census has changed and generally increased over time. Presently there are clear rules at the federal level – defined by a statistical policy unit in, of all places, the Executive Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – which stipulate how race and ethnicity data are statistically (note, not culturally or anthropologically) defined. These regulations state how statistical data on race and ethnicity are to be gathered and tabulated by federal agencies. The decennial census must adhere to these rules. It is important to understand that, as
defined by the OMB, race and ethnicity are separate concepts. Since the 1980 Census, ethnicity in census data refers to whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not of Hispanic origin. So, people of a specific racial background (like White, Black or American Indian) can be Hispanic or not Hispanic. Likewise, Hispanics can be of any race.

Between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census, as a result of new OMB policy, there were two significant changes in racial categories and the way in which the questions were asked. First, the “Asian or Pacific Islander” category in 1990 was split into “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” in the 2000 Census. Second, and more profoundly, in 2000, for the first time, the census gave people the option of identifying themselves as being of two or more races (multiracial). The results from the 2000 Census show that, nationwide, 2.4% of the population identified themselves as multiracial, while, in Wisconsin, only 1.2% of the state’s population chose this option. To simplify discussion, the racial categories used in this report represent persons who identify themselves as being of a single race and the information presented on the Hispanic or Latino population encompasses Hispanics of all races. However, it appears that allowing people to identify as being of two or more races did have a significant effect on the data for Wisconsin’s American Indian population, a point which will be discussed in more detail shortly.

When the first data from Census 2000 began to be released in 2001, one of the most widely discussed and examined topics was the continuing racial and ethnic diversification of the population. For the United States as a whole, and for many states, the last few decades of the 20th century brought very rapid change and increase in racial and ethnic diversity. Much of this was fueled by large-scale immigration, primarily from Latin America and Asia. In general, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Hispanics represent increasing shares of the nation’s population and of many state populations.

Between 1990 and 2000, Wisconsin experienced relatively small, but nonetheless significant changes in the racial and ethnic makeup of its population. While persons of color (people who are non-White and/or Hispanic) still represent a small portion of Wisconsin’s total population, their share of the state’s total population rose from 7.8% in 1990 to 11.1% in 2000. In 1990, there were only five counties in which persons of color made up at least 10% of the total population. By 2000, 13 of the 72 counties had reached that level. In terms of numbers, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians make up most of Wisconsin’s racial ethnic population. However, as seen in Figure 19, a number of counties with a large American Indian presence (reservations and/or tribal lands) are among those with the highest percentages of racial ethnic populations. (All of the maps in this section of the report use corrected census data resulting from the erroneous assignment of the Oxford Correctional Facility to Marquette County.) Figure 20 shows the race/ethnic mix for the state as a whole.
Figure 19
Percent Minority, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Percent Non-White and/or Hispanic
Less than 5
5 to 10
10 to 35
35 or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
One of the most talked about notions surrounding changes in racial ethnic makeup was that of states, counties and cities that have recently become “majority minority” – that is, where the population of racial ethnic minorities outnumbers the population of White, non-Hispanics (sometimes referred to as Anglos). During the decade of the 90’s, California became a “majority minority” state. And, indeed, Milwaukee (55%), along with a handful of other large cities across the nation, transitioned into being a “majority minority” city between 1990 and 2000. A number of small towns (Menominee, Sanborn, Komensky, Russell, Bartelme, Lac du Flambaue, Couderay, & Red Springs), all either on or near American Indian reservations in Wisconsin, also were “majority minority” municipalities in 2000.

**Hispanic or Latino Population.** One of the most profound changes in Wisconsin’s racial/ethnic mix was the growth in the Hispanic/Latino population. Hispanics have had a long history in Wisconsin primarily as migrant agricultural workers who might spend a few months out of each year in Wisconsin before moving on to follow crops elsewhere. During the last few decades, and particularly in the 90’s, more Hispanics or Latinos settled into Wisconsin communities and were counted in the census. Between 1990 and 2000, Hispanics/Latinos were the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in Wisconsin. Overall, the population of Hispanics/Latinos more than doubled, increasing from 93,000 to 193,000. By 2000, the Hispanic/Latino population represented 3.6% of the total population of Wisconsin. A large portion of the state’s Hispanic/Latino population is concentrated in the southeastern corner of Wisconsin (Fig. 21). Four counties have more than 10,000 Hispanic/
Latino residents: Milwaukee (82,000), Racine (15,000), Dane (14,000), and Kenosha (11,000).

As seen in Figure 22, however, there was significant growth in the Hispanic/Latino population in most counties in Wisconsin. While the growth in small or rural counties represents relatively small numbers of people, the changes here are perhaps even more profound than in the large urban centers in southeastern Wisconsin where the numbers are higher. Attracted by jobs or perhaps making a decision to settle into communities after long periods of seasonal labor, people of Hispanic/Latino origin are coming to small Wisconsin communities, and bringing (often abruptly) new racial and ethnic diversification to these communities. It is clear that migration of Hispanic/Latinos to Wisconsin is tied, to a large degree, to the avail-
ability of jobs and other opportunities. In addition, there is some evidence that industries centered on agricultural production and food processing (such as meat packing or canning) may be particularly strong magnets for migration to Wisconsin from abroad and from elsewhere in the U.S. While some of this may ebb and flow with economic fluctuations, the flow of Hispanics/Latinos to the Midwest and to Wisconsin seems likely to continue over the coming decade.

As of 2000, most Hispanic/Latino residents in Wisconsin were born outside of Wisconsin. Approximately 20% were born in another state, and about 40% were born outside the U.S. A large majority (66%) of Wisconsin's Hispanic/Latino pop-
ulation is of Mexican heritage and a huge number of those who claim Mexican heritage moved to the U.S. and to Wisconsin between 1990 and 2000.

**Black or African American Population.** Over the last half century, Wisconsin’s largest race/ethnic group has been Blacks or African Americans and, indeed, many of the largest cities have vibrant Black communities that have helped shape the culture and politics of urban Wisconsin. This remains true through the 2000 Census, and in 2000 Blacks or African Americans represented almost 6% of the state’s total population. Between 1990 and 2000, the Black population in Wisconsin increased by 24%, growing from approximately 245,000 in 1990 to 300,000 in 2000.

![Figure 23](image)

**Percent Black or African American, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Most of the state’s Black population resides in southeastern and south central Wisconsin (Fig. 23). The five counties with the largest Black populations are: Milwaukee (231,000), Racine (20,000), Dane (17,000), Kenosha (8,000), and Rock (7,000). Nearly 76% of Black or African American persons in Wisconsin reside in Milwaukee County alone. Two counties have Black populations that are more than 10% of the population: Milwaukee (24.6%) and Racine (10.5%).

African Americans in Wisconsin currently are, and have always been, a predominantly urban population. In 2000, just over 98% of the Black population lived in urban areas. Even more starkly, 87% of Wisconsin’s Blacks live in just five cities: Milwaukee (223,000), Racine (17,000), Madison (12,000), Kenosha (7,000), and Beloit (5,000).

**American Indian Population.** American Indians have been a vital and significant population throughout Wisconsin’s history and, certainly, for hundreds of years prior to statehood. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of American Indians increased by nearly 20% and now stands at just under 44,000. Geographically, American Indians have a strong presence not only in those counties that have reservations or tribal lands but also in a number of urban counties. In 2000, the largest populations of American Indians were in Milwaukee County (7,000), Brown County (5,000) and Menominee County (4,000).

When considered as a percentage of the total population, northern Wisconsin counties have the highest percentages of American Indian residents. Four counties have populations that are more than 10% American Indian: Menominee (87%), Sawyer (16%), Forest (11%), and Ashland (10%) (Fig. 24).

As earlier mentioned, there is some evidence that the new opportunity offered in the 2000 Census for people to identify themselves as multiracial had a large impact on the “count” of American Indians in Wisconsin – perhaps a larger impact than for any other race group. Because of this change, it is not possible to know exactly how many residents who identified themselves as American Indian in the 1990 Census might have identified themselves as being multiracial in the 2000 Census (or vice versa). However, taking just the number of Wisconsin residents (16,157) who identified themselves as being American Indian and White in the 2000 Census, it seems likely that the “count” of American Indians in Census 2000 would have been substantially higher without the new multirace option. There is no question that because of a long social history together and more opportunities for living in the same communities that there are many people in Wisconsin who have both American Indian and White heritage. The decision to identify as both in the census may be emblematic of a certain pride in acknowledging American Indian culture. It may also be driven by a desire to reclaim tribal identity or may be just a reflection of a richer, more diverse, multicultural population. Whatever the reasons, when thinking about population growth and change for American Indians in Wisconsin, it may be particularly useful to include both those who identified themselves as “American Indian alone” and those who included American Indian as part of a multirace response (Fig. 25).
Asian Population. Along with Hispanics/Latinos, Asians are a relatively “recent” race/ethnic population in Wisconsin – one that has grown very rapidly over the last few decades through immigration from abroad or migration from elsewhere in the U.S. By 2000, Asians were the third largest racial group (89,000) in Wisconsin and represented just under 2% of the state’s total population.

Although the Asian population is concentrated in southeastern and south central Wisconsin, there also are large numbers of Asian residents in the central and east central regions of the state. The counties with the five largest Asian populations are: Milwaukee (24,000), Dane (15,000), Marathon (6,000), Waukesha (5,000), and Brown (5,000) (Fig. 26).
A large proportion of Wisconsin’s Asian population lives in urban areas and, indeed, six cities have more than 2,500 Asian residents: Milwaukee (18,000); Madison (12,000); Wausau (4,000); Green Bay (4,000); Sheboygan (3,000); and Appleton (3,000). In addition, many of the smaller municipalities in close vicinity to these cities also have significant Asian populations.

The growth of the Asian population in Wisconsin is largely due to increases in the number of Hmong people in Wisconsin. In the 2000 Census, Hmong were by far the largest subgroup within the Asian race category. In the late 1970s, Hmong people started arriving in Wisconsin as refugees from war-weary Laos and Thailand. Often assisted by church-related social service agencies, Hmong refugees from the war in Southeast Asia were resettled in a handful of communities in Wisconsin. Not surprisingly, growth of the Hmong population in those communities has continued through the 2000 Census, and there is some evidence that the presence of Hmong clan leaders is a magnet for new migration. Although the Hmong population is still relatively small in Wisconsin (34,000), it has become a very visible and integral part of many Wisconsin cities.

In 2000, seven counties (Milwaukee, Marathon, Sheboygan, Outagamie, La Crosse, and Dane) had more than 2,000 Hmong persons. At the same time, there was a Hmong presence in many more counties in Wisconsin than in 1990. In 1990, 33 counties had no Hmong residents and by the 2000 Census, that number had dropped to 15.

The list of cities in Figure 27 corresponds very closely with the cities originally selected for resettlement of Hmong refugees in Wisconsin. It also is clear that smaller communities that are nearby are experiencing growth in Hmong residents.
Figure 26
Percent Asian, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
This trend is likely to continue as the Hmong population continues to grow and is increasingly woven into the diverse fabric of Wisconsin communities.

Figure 27

**Hmong Population, Top 20 Wisconsin Municipalities: 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Hmong Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Milwaukee city</td>
<td>7,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wausau city</td>
<td>3,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Green Bay city</td>
<td>2,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sheboygan city</td>
<td>2,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Appleton city</td>
<td>2,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Madison city</td>
<td>1,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>La Crosse city</td>
<td>1,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eau Claire city</td>
<td>1,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oshkosh city</td>
<td>1,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Manitowoc city</td>
<td>976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Stevens Point city</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Weston village</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wisconsin Rapids city</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fond du Lac city</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Menomonie city</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kaukauna city</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Onalaska city</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Menomonie town</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Menasha city</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Holmen village</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

**Ancestry**

Ancestry is a complex cultural concept that variously refers to a person's ethnic origin or heritage. It may refer to their country of birth or birthplace of their parents (or other ancestors) prior to arrival in the United States. Ancestry in Wisconsin reflects the immigration, over the past many decades, of diverse population groups to America's urban and rural heartland. It particularly underscores the historical influx of German, Irish, Polish, and Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin. In 59 of 72 counties, these four ancestry groups dominated responses of Wisconsin residents in the 2000 Census (Fig. 28). German is by far the most common ancestry in Wisconsin, with 35% of ancestries reported by state residents as fully or partly German. This percentage is greater than for Irish (9%), Polish (8%), and Norwegian (7%) ancestries combined. In recent years, the substantial immigration of
people of Mexican origin to Wisconsin has catapulted its percentage of total ancestry to 2%. For residents of Wisconsin, about 3% of responses to the census ancestry question reveal a weakening of ties to some ancestral home (or mix of homes) abroad. For these persons, a response of “U.S.” or “American” sufficed.

Figure 28

Top 15 Ancestry Groups, Wisconsin: 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Ancestry</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>2,289,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>582,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>497,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>454,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>347,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>323,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>French (except Basque)</td>
<td>205,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>172,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>149,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>149,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>126,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>97,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>66,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Swiss</td>
<td>59,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Belgian</td>
<td>57,808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

German is the most common ancestry in every Wisconsin county with the exceptions of Menominee (American Indian), Trempealeau and Vernon (both Norwegian). German ancestry is particularly high in counties clustered north and west of Milwaukee County, as well as in Marathon and several of its surrounding counties. Irish ancestry is most concentrated in the southwest corner of Wisconsin, and Norwegian ancestry is most common on the western side of the state. Polish ancestry is distributed across the central, northeast and southeast regions of the state (see Figs. 29-32).
Figure 29
German Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Figure 30

Irish Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Percent Irish Ancestry
- Less than 7
- 7 to 9
- 9 to 11
- 11 or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Figure 31
Polish Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Figure 32
Norwegian Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

A number of smaller ancestry groups have populations concentrated in certain parts of the state, making them large enough to rank in the top three reported ancestry groups for individual counties. These ancestries are shown in Figure 33.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
### Figure 33
Smaller Ancestry Groups, Wisconsin: 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancestry</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Ancestry (cont.)</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calumet</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Outagamie</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Czech</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menominee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kewaunee</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauk</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Manitowoc</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walworth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American or Black</td>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racine</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Menominee</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sawyer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinette</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shawano</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oconto</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swiss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenosha</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td></td>
<td>Belgian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayfield</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnett</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Door</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kewaunee</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Finnish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

### Wisconsin’s Foreign-Born Population

Recent immigration to the United States has substantially increased the presence in our communities of persons who were not native born— that is, persons who were not U.S. citizens at birth. In the 2000 Census, 194,000 residents of Wisconsin (4% of the total population) were foreign born. Of these, 76,000 were naturalized citizens; 118,000 were not citizens. Nationally, the foreign born population accounted for 11% of the population in 2000, the highest percentage recorded in a census since 1940. While these percentages may seem high relative to those recorded in recent censuses, it is instructive to look back in time just a bit further. One hundred years ago, the census of 1900 recorded 14% of the national population as being foreign born. For Wisconsin the figure was 25%, a clue perhaps as to why
issues of ancestral heritage continue to interest many Wisconsinites to this day (Fig. 34).

One hundred years ago, the vast majority of the non-native population in Wisconsin was born in Europe. Today, little more than one-fourth of Wisconsin’s foreign born population was born in Europe (Fig. 35). Latin America (35%) and Asia (32%) are more common origins, with Mexico and Laos being the individual countries that dominate, respectively, those regions of the world.

More than one-fourth (29%) of Wisconsin’s foreign-born population entered the country between 1995 and 2000. About two-thirds (68%) of foreign-born residents of Wisconsin entered the U.S. since 1980 (Fig. 36).

**Figure 34**

*Foreign Born Persons as a Percent of the Total Population, Wisconsin and U.S.: 1880 to 2000*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1880 to 2000
Figure 35
Place of Birth of Foreign Born Population, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 36
Year of Entry of Foreign Born Population, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Wisconsin Households and Families

The census provides a great deal of information on the living arrangements of people. For example, much data are provided for those who live in housing units (single detached homes, duplexes, apartments, condominiums, manufactured homes, houseboats, etc.). The individuals who reside together in a housing unit are referred to as members of a “household” regardless of the number of such people or their relationships to one another. In 2000, there were 2.1 million households (occupied housing units) in Wisconsin. The population living in these households totaled 5.2 million persons (97% of the total population). Simple division yields an average household size in 2000 of 2.5 persons.

People who do not live in housing units (or, said another way, are not part of a household) are counted in the census among the “group quarters” population. These are people who reside in dormitories, nursing homes, prisons, long term health care facilities, various kinds of shelters, etc. — including those who have no usual place of residence (commonly called the “homeless” population). In 2000, 156,000 Wisconsin residents (3% of the total population) lived in some type of group quarters. The three principal types of living arrangements for the group quarters population are college dormitories, nursing homes, and correctional institutions (Fig. 37).

Figure 37
Group Quarters Population, Wisconsin: 2000

![Group Quarters Population Chart]

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Households have gotten smaller over time. Fifty years ago, the average household size in Wisconsin was 3.4 persons. Today it’s almost one person smaller on average: 2.5. What accounts for this change? By 1950, the early years of the post-war baby boom had arrived, and young adults were marrying at early ages. The median age at first marriage was approximately 20.3 years for women and 22.8
years for men. In addition, these young married couples were having children at younger ages and had a preference for somewhat larger families (three to four children was a common aspiration). When the baby boomers reached adulthood, they did so at a time when later marriage was common (median age at first marriage was 25.1 for women and 26.8 for men in 2000). These young adults tend to have their own children at later ages than did their parents. This led to larger numbers of young adults (the "baby boomers") in the 1970s and 1980s living alone, or married without children, or remaining unmarried but living with a roommate or partner.

Another trend was underway in the 1960s and 1970s. The divorce rate rose and reached very high levels in the United States, relative, say, to most European countries. The rise in divorces also contributed to the growth of small households. And finally, improvements both in health care and in the financial well-being of older citizens also contributed to smaller households (one or two persons). Consequently, these various demographic trends — later marriage, fewer children, high divorce rates and healthy older citizens, working together — meant that small households became increasingly common in the late 20th century.

Figure 38

**One Person Households, Wisconsin: 1900 to 2000**

(One Person Households as a Percent of All Households)

![Graph showing the percentage of one-person households in Wisconsin from 1900 to 2000.]

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Demographic Trends in the 20th Century
Data points are interpolated for 1910 through 1930 for which no data are available.

All of these forces conspired to reduce the average size of households in Wisconsin. As the population in general was increasing and household size was becoming smaller, the number of households grew at rates faster than the population. The difference between population growth and household growth was widest in the 1970s when, despite slow population growth (6.5% for the decade), the number of household increased by 24.3%. This was the decade that baby boom children left
their parents’ homes in large numbers and began forming their own households. High rates of divorce and the tendency for the elderly to maintain their own households later into older life also contributed to the high growth of households in the 1970s. See, for example, Figure 38 which shows the prevalence of one-person households over the past 100 years.

Figure 39

Households by Type, Wisconsin: 1970 to 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Family HHs</th>
<th>Female Headed</th>
<th>Male Headed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family HHs</td>
<td>Family HHs</td>
<td>Other Family HH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples</td>
<td>Married Couples w/o own Children</td>
<td>Married Couples with own Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with own Children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population and Housing: 1970 to 2000

The composition of households in Wisconsin has changed dramatically in recent decades. In 1970, about 20% of households consisted of one person living alone or multiple unrelated people living together (non-family households). Approximately 80% of all households enumerated in the 1970 Census were composed of families, defined by the Census Bureau as two or more persons living together and related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Of these family households, more than half were made up of married couples and their children (Fig. 39). Over the next three decades, non-family households increased from 255,000 to 698,000 and, by 2000, constituted more than one-third of all households in the state. Family households increased by more than 300,000 during this time but, as a proportion of all households, dropped in relative terms from 80% to 66%. Married couple families with children, 41% of the total in 1970, had fallen to 24% by 2000 – smaller by several percentage points than non-family households in 2000. Using television metaphors, “Ozzie and Harriet” had given way to “Friends.”

Wisconsinites at Work

The labor force is defined as persons age 16 or more who are either working or not working but looking for work. Between 1990 and 2000, Wisconsin’s labor force
grew by 350,000 persons (a 14% increase) to a total labor force of 2.9 million persons. While data are incomplete, and definitions of the working population have changed over time, this likely was the second largest numerical growth in one decade in the state’s history. Growth in the labor force during the 1970s was almost 489,000 persons — growth driven by the reaching of adulthood of the large post-war baby boom generation and the entrance of increasing numbers of women into the paid work force (Fig. 40).

The labor force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a population group in the labor force. These rates differ by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin groups, as shown in Figs. 41 and 42. Overall participation in the Wisconsin labor force reached 69% in 2000. Men traditionally have had higher rates than women, although the trends in the rates over time have also been different for men and women. Female labor force participation rates have been rising in recent decades as more women have entered the paid work force. By contrast, the rates for men have been declining, reflecting, in part, the increased availability of pensions and disability awards. The 2000 Census found 74% of men ages 16 and over in the labor force. For women the rate had risen to 64%.

Overall, Whites and White males had higher labor force participation rates than comparable groups in 2000, whereas American Indian women had higher labor force participation rates than other groups of women. Since 1960, with the exception of 2000, Hispanic men have had higher or very similar labor force participation rates as White men. Among women, Black women had the highest labor force par-
participation rates in 1970 and 1980, Hispanic women and White women had the highest rates in 1990, and American Indian women had the highest rate in 2000.

The gap in labor force participation between men and women is most pronounced at older ages. Partly this is due to the fact that women above, say, age 55 are part of a generation of women that was less likely than their younger counterparts to work outside the home after they married and had children. It also is due to the fact that women, on average, live longer than men. Thus, among older age groups there are more women than men in the totals used to determine labor force participation rates, which tends to lower the rate for women relative to men. Among persons 16 to 54 years old, roughly 86% of men and 80% of women are in the labor force. For persons ages 55 and older, 40% of men and 28% of women are in the labor force.

---

**Figure 41**

Labor Market Participation Rate by Age and Sex, Wisconsin: 2000

(Percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 to 19</td>
<td>64 %</td>
<td>61 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 21</td>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>78 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29</td>
<td>88 %</td>
<td>82 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34</td>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>82 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>91 %</td>
<td>82 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>90 %</td>
<td>80 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 59</td>
<td>68 %</td>
<td>67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 61</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>48 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 to 64</td>
<td>22 %</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 69</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 74</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Labor force participation rates also vary geographically (Fig. 43). In part, these differences reflect the association between labor force participation and the age composition of the population. Generally, counties in northern Wisconsin with "older" populations have lower overall labor force participation rates – a consequence of a relative loss of young adults who migrate away upon graduation from high school, coupled with the in-migration of retirees (compare Figs. 43 and 44).

Compared to other states in the Midwest, and with the exception of Minnesota, Wisconsin has a slightly higher percentage of men and women in the workforce. Wisconsin’s labor force participation in 2000 is about 5 percentage points higher than the U.S., about 3 points higher for men and more than 6 points higher for women (Fig. 45).
Figure 43
Labor Force Participation Rate, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Figure 44

Median Age, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Unemployment

Following a decade marked by a strong economy and job growth, overall unemployment in Wisconsin was a relatively low 4.7% in 2000. Unemployment is defined for persons ages 16 years and over as being out of paid work but actively seeking employment in the civilian labor force. Men were more likely to be unemployed than women (5.1% vs. 4.2%). There also remains a troubling disparity in unemployment when the data are broken down by race. Unemployment rates were highest among Black men and women (17% and 14%), a lingering consequence of lower educational achievement among Blacks, a serious “mismatch” between the residential location and availability of jobs and discrimination in hiring.

As with all demographic phenomena, unemployment rates vary considerably across the state (Fig. 46). The lowest rates of total unemployment in 2000 were in Calumet and Ozaukee Counties (2.2% each). These counties also had the lowest unemployment rates for men and women. Overall, 16 counties had less than 3% unemployment for women, and 6 counties had under 3% unemployment for men.

The county with the highest rate of unemployment was Menominee County (16.5%). Four other counties had unemployment rates over 8% – Iron (8.9%), Bayfield (8.5%), Jackson (8.3%), and Ashland (8.1%). Menominee, Iron, Bayfield, and Jackson each had unemployment rates greater than 10% among men. Only one county had an unemployment rate of over 10% among women (Menominee, 16%). Women in three other counties had unemployment rates over 6.5% – Adams (7.9%), Bayfield (6.7%) and Milwaukee (6.7%).
Compared to its neighbors and to the U.S., Wisconsin had a lower rate of unemployment in 2000 than did Illinois, Michigan, and the U.S. Its rate of unemployment was higher than the states of Iowa and Minnesota. This was true for both men and women (Fig. 47).
Industry

The 2000 Census confirms something that has long been understood in Wisconsin. Two principal industry groups for employment in the state stand out: manufacturing (22%) and education, health and social services (20%). These two industries, when also combined with retail trade (12%), employed over 50% Wisconsin’s labor force at the beginning of the 21st century (Fig. 48).

There are substantial sex differences among the workers in some industries (Fig. 49). Manufacturing accounts for a greater percentage of the male labor force (29%) than the female labor force (15%). Education, health and social services are strongly tilted toward female workers (32% of women in the labor force), while only 9% of men are employed in these industries. Other industries that notably employ more men than women are construction (10% vs. 1%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (6% vs. 2%). Women are significantly more likely than men to be employed in finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (8% vs. 4%).
The decline in farm numbers is a familiar trend and was shown in Figure 10. The number of workers involved in agriculture-related industries (including agriculture, forestry, and fishing) has also contracted for much of the 20th century. In the 1930s and 1940s, over one quarter of Wisconsin's labor force was employed in
agriculture-related industries. By 2000, this percentage had shrunk to less than 3% (Fig. 50).

The counties in Wisconsin with the highest percentage of workers employed in manufacturing in 2000 were Sheboygan (38%) and Manitowoc (35%). Figure 51 shows how the percentage of workers employed in manufacturing is distributed across Wisconsin by county. In four counties, 25% or more of the labor force was employed in education, health, and social services – Dane (26%), Ashland (26%), Eau Claire (28%), and La Crosse (25%). Retail trades employed over 15% of the labor force in four counties – Iowa (24%), Eau Claire (17%), Oneida (16%), and Vilas (16%).

Other than Michigan, Wisconsin has a larger manufacturing base of employment than its adjacent states (Fig. 52). It also has a higher percentage of employment in manufacturing than the U.S. as a whole. In terms of employment in most other segments of industry, Wisconsin is rather similar to other states and the U.S. as a whole. Wisconsin and Iowa, however, both rank somewhat lower in the percentage of the workforce employed by professional, scientific, management, administrative, and support industries.
Figure 51

Manufacturing Employment,
Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
How Wisconsinites Get to Work

The decennial census is the only activity of the federal government that provides uniformly consistent data for all counties, cities, villages and towns (and for sub-county “neighborhood” geography known as census tracts and block groups) in the U.S. As a consequence, the data have immense utility for local planning efforts. One such application of census data is in the specific area of transportation planning, because the census traditionally has included several questions relating to the “journey to work.”

In Wisconsin, as elsewhere, most people travel to work by themselves in cars, trucks, or vans. In 2000, this mode of transportation was used by nearly 80% of commuters (Fig. 53). Waukesha County had the highest percentage at 87%. Clark County had the lowest percentage (69%), due partly to the fact that it had the highest percentage of people who worked at home (14%).
About 10% of commuters carpool to work. Menominee County had the highest percentage of carpoolers at 20%. The next highest county was Marquette, at 14%. Waukesha County had the lowest rate (7%) (Fig. 54).

Public transportation, which is not available in all areas, was a relatively common form of commuting in Milwaukee County, where 7% of workers use public transportation to travel to work. Dane County had the greatest percentage of people riding bicycles to work (2%). In Ashland County, 8% of workers go to work on foot, the largest percentage in Wisconsin.

Driving alone to work has become increasingly more common. The percentage of people driving alone to work has risen from 62% in 1980 to almost 80% in 2000 (Fig. 55). During the same time period, the combined percentage of people who carpool, use public transportation, bicycle, or walk to work declined from 32% to 16%.
Figure 54
Percent of Workers Carpooling to Work, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Percent Car Pooling
- 7 to 9
- 10 to 11
- 12 to 14
- 20

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Figure 55
Means of Transportation to Work, Wisconsin: 1980 to 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1980 to 2000

Figure 56

(Percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Compared to most adjacent states and the U.S., Wisconsin has a somewhat higher percentage (79%) of people who drive alone to work (Fig. 56). Our rates of carpooling, biking, and walking are mostly similar to those of the other states and the U.S. Illinois had substantially higher use of public transportation (9%), as did the U.S. as a whole (5%).

In 2000, the majority (77%) of commuters in Wisconsin arrived at work within 30 minutes of leaving home (Fig. 57) About 39% had a commuting time of less than 15 minutes, and 38% traveled between 15 and 29 minutes. Fewer than 10% travel for 45 minutes or more on their way to work, including 4% who spend an hour or more commuting.

The average time it takes to get to work generally is shorter for workers in the northern part of the state. Exceptions to this general rule are for workers in those counties on Wisconsin’s border with Minnesota where work in the Twin Cities increases the average commute times for Wisconsin workers. Ashland County has the highest percentage of workers who get to their jobs in 15 minutes or less (63%) (Fig. 58). The corresponding figure for workers in Polk County is 34%. Polk County, on the other hand, has the largest percentage of workers who spend an hour or more commuting to their jobs (15%).

Change over time in the geographic distribution of Wisconsin’s population was discussed earlier in this article. Increasing portions of the population residing in suburban counties has brought with it longer average commute times. The average length of time it takes Wisconsin workers to get to their jobs increased by 22% from 1980 to 2000, from 17 minutes to roughly 21 minutes (Fig. 59). The percentage of people who commute for less than 30 minutes declined from about 83% to 77%, while the percentage of commuters who spend 45 minutes or more on their way to work increased from 6% to 9%.
Figure 57
Commuting Time to Work, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 58
Commuting Time, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Wisconsin workers had a higher percentage of short commutes (less than 15 minutes) than did workers in neighboring states, except for Iowa. Wisconsin commuters also had a substantially lower rate of long commutes (60 minutes or more) than those who live in Illinois (11%) and among workers nationally (8%) (Fig. 60).

In 2000, the majority of employed persons in Wisconsin worked in their county of residence (74%) (Fig. 61). In three Wisconsin counties, over 90% of workers have jobs in their county of residence – Dane (95%), Brown (92%) and La Crosse (92%). About 22% of employed persons living in Wisconsin work in a Wisconsin county other than their county of residence. In two counties, Calumet and Adams, this is true of over 50% of persons in the workforce (59% and 53%, respectively). A scant 4% of Wisconsin workers worked outside of the state in 2000. Of the 22 counties in Wisconsin that border other states, 8 see more than 15% of their employed residents commute to work outside of the state. In Florence County, over half (52%) of workers have jobs outside of Wisconsin. In Forest, Vernon, and Vilas counties, which also border other states, fewer than 2% of employed residents work outside the state. Of Wisconsin’s “interior” counties (i.e., those not bordering another state) three counties had 3% or more of their workers commuting outside the state – Dunn (5%), Bayfield (3%), and Racine (3%) (Fig. 62).
Figure 60
Commute Time, Wisconsin, Neighboring States and the U.S.: 2000
(Percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than 15 Minutes</th>
<th>60 Minutes or More</th>
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<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 61
Location of Employment: Wisconsin, 2000

- Worked in county of residence: 74%
- Worked outside county of residence: 22%
- Worked outside state of residence: 4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Compared to adjacent states, Wisconsin is about average in the percentage of workers who live and work in the same county, and the state’s rate (74%) is not much different from the national level (73%) (Fig. 63). The same is true of the percentage of state workers who work in another county in Wisconsin or commute to another state.
The percentage of workers in Wisconsin who work in their county of residence decreased from 1990 to 2000, from 79% to 74%. Almost all of this decrease was due to workers commuting to a neighboring Wisconsin county rather than commuting to work outside the state.

**Income and Poverty in Wisconsin**

The decennial census long-form questionnaire contains several questions relating to income for the year prior to the census. For example, the 1990 and 2000 censuses provide income data for years 1989 and 1999, respectively. Household income is also used to determine whether the members of the household fall above or below the officially established poverty threshold.

Examining change in income and poverty between 1989 and 1999 reveals an encouraging picture of growing prosperity for Wisconsinites. It must be noted, however, that the picture was taken before the downturn in the economy after the 2000 Census.

**Changes in Household Income.** Household income represents the combined income of all persons living together in a housing unit, whether related to each other or not. Generally households with two or three adults will have higher household income than will households consisting of a single adult living alone. Between 1989 and 1999 median income for Wisconsin households jumped by 12% to $43,791, compared with an increase of almost 7% to $41,994 at the national level. This means that half the households in Wisconsin had an income at or below $43,791 and half of all households had income at or above that level.
A snapshot of income for 1999 from the 2000 Census reveals that median household income varied starkly across the Wisconsin landscape. Along with Menominee County, the lowest incomes were reported in Iron, Rusk, and Ashland Counties. All had median household incomes under $32,000. Waukesha County, with a median income of $62,839, ranked highest in 2000 with more than twice the median income of Menominee County. Other suburban Milwaukee counties (Ozaukee and Washington) together with St. Croix County, in the shadow of Minneapolis and St. Paul, also were among the highest in median household incomes (Fig. 64).

Figure 64

Median Household Income, Wisconsin Counties: 1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
While income levels vary from county to county, the percentage growth in household income between 1990 and 2000 also varied. In general, counties with lower incomes were those that experienced higher income growth over the decade (Fig. 65). The most modest gain (under 5%) was posted by Milwaukee County. The largest increase (almost 60%) was posted by Menominee County where the 1989 base rate was very low and tribal gaming appears to have provided a strong economic boost. Even with this substantial gain, however, Menominee County retained its last place rank in median household income with $29,440 in 2000.

Figure 65

Percent Increase in Household Income,*
Wisconsin Counties: 1989 to 1999

Percent Increase in Income
Less than 15
15 to 20
20 to 25
25 or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1990 & 2000
*1989 Median Income was Adjusted to 1999 Dollars
**Figure 66**

**Poverty Rate, Wisconsin Counties: 1999**

Changes in Poverty. Poverty status for a household is based on a comparison of household income and a threshold level that changes every year and varies according to the size of household and number of children. The original poverty concept and definition dates from work carried out in 1964 at the federal Social Security Administration. The poverty thresholds were to be set at levels such that approximately one-third of a family’s income would be spent on an “economy” food budget.

Like median income, the percent of persons in poverty varied widely across Wisconsin counties in 2000 (Fig. 66). The county with the highest poverty rate, Menominee at 25%, exceeded the county with the lowest rate (Ozaukee at 3%) by more than a factor of eight. Ashland, Bayfield and Milwaukee Counties also
reported high poverty levels in 2000, all in the range of 13 to 14%. Next to Ozaukee, counties with low poverty rates included Waukesha, Washington and Calumet, all in the very low range of 3 to 4%.

Changes in poverty rates for Wisconsin counties are closely linked to changes in income. Nevertheless, there are some important exceptions. According to the 2000 Census, 9% of Wisconsinites lived in households having incomes below the 1999 poverty thresholds, a reduction in rate of 19% over the previous decade. During the same period, poverty declined nationally by almost 6% to an overall rate of 12%.

As with growth in income levels, the decline in poverty was shared across almost all Wisconsin counties. The only two counties where poverty increased, Ozaukee and Washington, were ones which had very low poverty rates in 1989. Despite the increases, both counties still had poverty rates of less than 4 percent. Oconto County fared the best with an 86 percent reduction in its poverty rate (Fig. 67).

**Educational Attainment**

Educational attainment is a measure based on the highest level of schooling completed by an individual. It is common practice to restrict this measure to the population aged 25 and older on the assumption that the majority of persons in this age group have completed their formal educations. Figure 68 shows that Wisconsin adults who have not graduated from high school declined between 1990 and 2000, from 21% to 15%. This decline is largely the result of what demographers call “demographic renewal.” Very elderly Wisconsin residents in 1990 – people who finished their formal educations at a time when high school completion rates were low – were lost to the Wisconsin population by 2000 either through death or migration to another state. In one sense, they were replaced by young people who passed their 25th birthday between 1990 and 2000 – most of whom had graduated from high school.

Wisconsinites with a high school education (but no further schooling) have also declined as more high school graduates continue their education. The share of those who have completed at least a college degree was 22% in 2000 – up from 18% in 1990.

Compared to the country as a whole, Wisconsin in 2000 had a lower proportion of its adult population who had not completed high school. It also had a lower proportion of adults with a college degree. Two of Wisconsin’s neighbor states, Minnesota and Illinois, have adult populations with a higher share of college graduates than Wisconsin (Fig. 69).
Figure 67
Declines in Poverty Rate,
Wisconsin Counties: 1989 to 1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1990 & 2000
Figure 68
Educational Attainment Among Persons 25 and Older,
Wisconsin: 1990 & 2000

(Percent)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1990 & 2000

Figure 69
Educational Attainment Among Persons 25 and Older,
Wisconsin, Neighboring States and U.S.: 2000

(Percent)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
Persons with Disabilities

Because the decennial census provides information for small communities and neighborhoods - information especially useful for local planning and needs assessments - the U.S. Census Bureau has long been under pressure to include questions specifically about persons with disabilities. Consequently, laws which mandate certain forms of accessibility and statutes that protect disabled persons from discrimination have required that the Census Bureau add disability questions to the census. According to the 2000 Census, Wisconsin has 791,000 noninstitutionalized residents (age 5 or older) with disabilities, which comprises roughly 16% of its noninstitutionalized population (Fig. 70). The census does not measure disabilities among those persons who live in institutions which means the count of 791,000 noninstitutional disabled persons greatly underestimates the full extent of disabilities in the state.

Figure 70
Disabled Persons as a Percent of the Total Population*,
Wisconsin and U.S.: 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 65+</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 16–64</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
*Shown only for the Civilian, Non-Institutional Population 5 Years and Older

At both the state and national levels, about 6 out of every 10 (noninstitutionalized) disabled individuals are between the ages of 16 and 64 years. In Wisconsin, more than one-third of the disabilities in this age group are ones that make it difficult to work ("employment disability") (Fig. 71).
Housing in Wisconsin

Understanding how people live, the characteristics of their homes, ownership rates, cost of housing, size of households, all help us to better understand the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin. Some of these issues were addressed in the section on households and families. In this final substantive section we look at Wisconsin’s housing stock.

The total number of housing units in Wisconsin in 2000 was 2.3 million, of which almost 90% were occupied at the time of the census (Fig. 72). This is similar to the national average of about 91%. Of the occupied housing units in Wisconsin, about 70% were in urban areas and 30% rural. This split is very close to that of the population itself (68% vs. 32%) (recall Fig. 10).

Among the 237,000 vacant housing units in 2000, the majority (62%) are categorized for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use (Fig. 73). Burnett and Vilas Counties had the greatest proportion of seasonal or recreational housing (over 95% of their vacant housing units are classified as such), while only 6% of Milwaukee County’s vacant housing units are considered seasonal (Fig. 74). Wisconsin has a much higher than average percent of vacant homes categorized as seasonal or recreational, with the U.S. average at only 37%.
In 2000, roughly 69% of Wisconsin’s housing stock was comprised of single unit (detached or attached) housing units (Fig. 75). The high was 90% (Vilas County) and the low was under 51% (Milwaukee County). Dane County had the highest proportion of housing units that are part of large multi-unit structures (10 or more units in structure) as a percentage of its total housing stock (20%), while Menominee County had the lowest percentage (1%).

Fewer than 2% of housing units statewide lacked complete plumbing facilities in 2000, but this figure ranged from a low of 0.2% in Outagamie County, to a high of 20% in Florence County. Almost 17% of Wisconsin’s housing units are relatively new (built between 1990 and 2000), while over 23% were built prior to 1939 (Fig. 76). The county with the newest housing stock was Menominee County, with just under 30% built between 1990 and 2000. Milwaukee County had the lowest proportion of new housing, with only 6% of its entire housing stock built in the preceding decade (Fig. 77). Over 44% of Lafayette County’s housing stock was built prior to 1939, while only 6% of Menominee County’s housing is of that age.
Figure 73
Vacant Housing Units by Type: Wisconsin, 2000

For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use 62%
For Migrant Workers 0.1%
Other Vacant 8%
For Rent 17%
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied 4%
For Sale Only 9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 74
Percent of All Housing Units Identified as Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use, Wisconsin Counties: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
**Figure 75**

Housing Units by Type of Structure, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

**Figure 76**

Housing Units by Year Built, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000
About 68% of the total housing units in Wisconsin in 2000 were owner-occupied, with a median value of $112,200, compared to a national median value of $119,600. In Wisconsin, the median value varied from a low of $58,000 for Menominee County to a high of $177,000 for Ozaukee County (Fig. 78). Almost 32% of housing units were renter-occupied, with the median rent in 2000 being $540, ranging from a low of $245 in Menominee County to a high of $726 per month in Waukesha County. The national median rent was $602 in 2000.
In Closing...

The decennial census is an amazing and massive undertaking. For almost a decade the U.S. Census Bureau works on building an operational plan for the next census, testing and evaluating hundreds of individual procedures, updating digital maps, designing questionnaires (in several languages), contracting with companies to design and build the "data capture" machinery and software to transfer responses from several hundred million individual sheets of paper to digital images, and working with its federal, state, local, tribal and commercial partners to devise an effective advertising and promotional campaign. Then, in year 9 of the decade, the really difficult work begins. In a relatively brief period of less than two years, the
Census Bureau must open, staff and equip hundreds of local census offices around the country, mobilize its promotional campaign, mail out more than 100 million census questionnaires, send local census employees out to knock on doors of housing units from which a census questionnaire hasn’t been received, convert the responses to digital files capable of being tabulated by computer, edit and verify the data, and report the final count to the President just nine months from the April 1 “Census Day.” The outcome is a set of data files that provide uniformly consistent and high quality data to update the demographic portrait of every state, county, municipality, neighborhood and school district in the country. The amount of data is staggering, and this brief article has hardly scratched the surface of what can be learned about our state and our communities. Interested readers who wish to scratch a bit deeper are encouraged to visit the Census Bureau’s website www.census.gov. After a little practice, this world of data becomes accessible 24 hours a day. Readers will quickly be able to expand this brief statistical portrait of Wisconsin on several topics not included here. They will also be able to take the ideas explored here and apply them to a new portrait for any of the state’s 1,852 cities, villages and towns.

Note: The authors acknowledge with deep appreciation the assistance they have received in number-finding, writing, editing and graphic production while preparing this report. Thanks go to Robin Blakely, Jeanette Karon, Charles Kostlevy, Johanna Peterson, Jennifer Vogt, and Elizabeth Wilke in the Applied Population Laboratory and David Egan-Roberston from the Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration. This research was funded in part by the Wisconsin Agricultural Research Station (project no. WIS04536). The authors would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by our colleagues at the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.
SPECIAL ARTICLES IN PRIOR BLUE BOOKS, 1960 TO 2001

For 1919 to 1933 Blue Books: see 1954 Blue Book, pp. 177-182.

Commerce and Culture

Education

Environment
The Landscape Resources of Wisconsin, by Philip H. Lewis, Jr., 1964 Blue Book, pp. 130-142.
The Mineral Resources of Wisconsin, by George F. Hanson, 1964 Blue Book, pp. 199-211.

Government

History


**Hours:** Building open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Capitol closes at 4 p.m. weekends and holidays.

**Information Desk:** Located in the rotunda, ground floor.

**Tours:** Daily Monday - Saturday at 9, 10, and 11 a.m., 1, 2, and 3 p.m.; Sundays at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. A 4 p.m. tour is offered between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Tours start at the Information Desk in the rotunda and last 45 to 55 minutes. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. Call (608) 266-0382 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

**Observation Deck:** 6th Floor, accessible from 4th floor via NW or W stairways. Open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is a small museum devoted to the Capitol at the entrance to the observation deck.

**Souvenirs:** Available at the Information Desk, include Capitol Guidebooks, Activity Books, postcards, miniatures, posters, and tour videos.

**Capitol Police:** Room B4 North.

**Handicapped Entrances:** At Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., East Washington Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue, and West Washington Avenue.

**Parking:** Parking on the Capitol square is restricted. Several public ramps are located within two blocks of the Capitol.

**Food:** Vending machines, rotunda basement.

**Senate Chamber:** South wing, 2nd floor; visitors gallery, 3rd floor.

**Assembly Chamber:** West wing, 2nd floor; visitors gallery, 3rd floor.

**Supreme Court Hearing Room:** East wing, 2nd floor.

**Governor’s Office and Conference Room:** East wing, 1st floor.

**Lieutenant Governor’s Office:** East wing, 1st floor.
Attorney General's Office: East wing, 1st floor.

Legislative Offices: To find a specific office, check one of the Capitol Directories located in the rotunda and on the ground floor of each wing.

Hearings: Information about the time and location of public hearings is posted at the entrance to each legislative chamber.


Capitol Facts & Figures

Construction Chronology:
West wing: 1906 - 1909
East wing: 1908 - 1910
Central portion: 1910 - 1913
South wing: 1909 - 1913
North wing: 1914 - 1917
First meeting of legislature in building: 1909
Dedication: July 8, 1965

Statistics:
Height of each wing: 61 feet
Height of observation deck: 92 feet
Height of dome mural: 184 feet, 3 inches
Height of dome (to top of statue): 284 feet, 9 inches
Length of building from N to S & E to W: 483 feet, 9 inches
Floor space: 448,297 square feet
Volume: 8,369,665 cubic feet
Original cost: $7,203,826.35
(including grounds, furnishings, and power plant)