

explore  
MINNESOTA  
living



Make the Move to Minnesota

Enjoy the good life in Minnesota: a great place to live, work and play.



# Make the Move to Minnesota



**M**innesota is a great place to live, work and play. It's a state with good career opportunities, excellent education systems and health care, and exciting arts, entertainment and pro sports teams. It's known for its high quality of life and affordable cost of living. And the "Land of Lakes" is a beautiful place to call home, a land of pine and hardwood forests, rolling countryside dotted with barns, cities studded with parks, and of course, those nearly 12,000 lakes for which it is famous.

Minnesota has been one of the most livable states nationwide in the last eight years, ranking first between 1997 and 2003 and second in 2004. The State Policy Reports considered such factors as economic performance, health, crime and education when it placed

Minnesota at the top of its "2002 Camelot Index." And the United Way of America also rates Minnesota first in its "State Caring Index," based on a variety of social and economic indicators. In fact, Minnesota always ranks at or near the top in quality-of-life ratings.



## Minnesota's People

**Population:**  
5 million

**Minneapolis-St. Paul  
Twin Cities Area Population:**  
3 million

16th largest metropolitan area  
in the U.S.

**Becoming More Diverse:**  
12 percent of Minnesotans are  
Black, Asian, American Indian,  
Hispanic/Latino, or other

## Good Internet Resources About Minnesota

[www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us)

The official Web site of the state of Minnesota, with links to dozens of other sites with a wealth of information on a variety of topics.

[www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com)

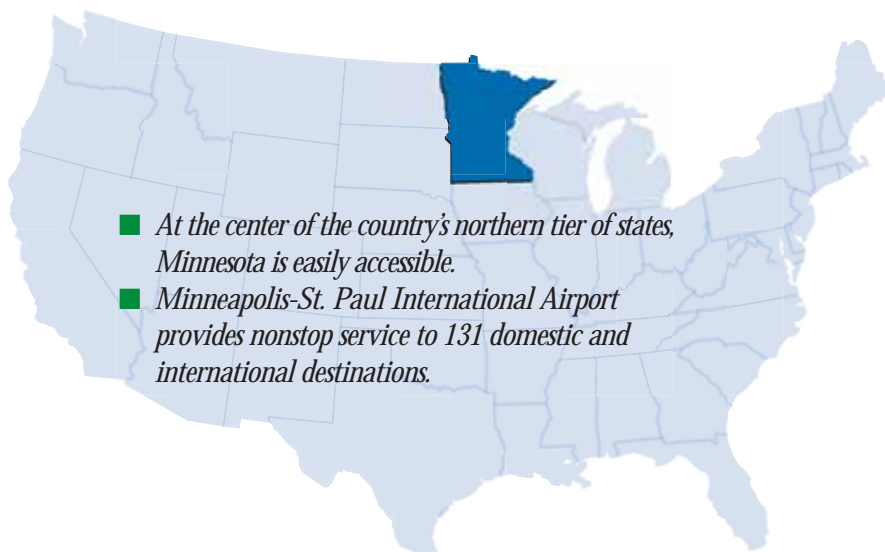
Information on doing business in Minnesota, community profiles and Minnesota data; Department of Employment and Economic Development.

[www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)

Extensive information about travel and recreation in Minnesota; Explore Minnesota Tourism.

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- *At the center of the country's northern tier of states, Minnesota is easily accessible.*
- *Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport provides nonstop service to 131 domestic and international destinations.*

# A Place to Call Home

**I**n Minnesota, you can choose your hometown based on the lifestyle you want. If you thrive in the city with all of its cultural amenities, the Twin Cities area is the place for you. If you prefer life away from the bustle, telecommute from a lakeside home in the north woods. Or, choose a home and life somewhere between these two options, from urban to rural.

- *Minnesota is the best state in the country in which to raise children, ranking 1st in the nation in the 2004 Kids Count report.*
- *The Twin Cities ranked 14th among the Forbes 2004 list of "Best Cities for Singles."*
- *In 2003 Minnesota ranked 2nd in the nation in home ownership, with a rate of 77.2 percent.*

## The Twin Cities Area

The Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul offers big city living with all of its amenities, but easy access to the pleasures of Minnesota. The Places Rated Almanac rates the Twin Cities area as the ninth best place to live in the United States, giving it very high ratings for transportation, education, arts, recreation and health care. The metropolitan area is also known nationally for its vast parks and trail systems, many of them encircling lakes or bordering the Mississippi River. The average one-way commute is 23 minutes, there's an extensive bus system, and the first light-rail commuter line is already operating.

Over the past 10 years, the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul have become thriving residential neighborhoods, with high-rise apartments, hip warehouse lofts and attractive townhouses. City neighborhoods offer beautiful old homes close to parks, schools and jobs. The greater Twin Cities area encompasses a range of cities and several counties, with a wide ring of suburbs and small towns on the edge of the metropolis. Here you can find a range of



housing and proximity to major employers on the loop of highways around the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

## Greater Minnesota

There are several other major cities in the state with a wide range of employers, good schools and medical facilities, excellent shopping and recreation, and cultural amenities such as orchestras and theaters. Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud and the Moorhead area are all vital metropolitan centers, a great home for those looking for midsized cities. Numerous smaller cities around the state offer similar amenities. Many families enjoy the quieter pace of life in these communities, with their Main Street connections, friendly feel and the ease of "getting away from it all."



# Minnesota Works



Minnesota is a great place to find meaningful work and build a career. Its economy is one of the most diverse in the nation, with most types of major industries doing business in Minnesota. Quality jobs at good wages draw newcomers, and keep residents committed to their home state. In fact, some companies find that when employees transfer here, they never want to leave.

- *Minnesotans earn a good living. Minnesota's per capita personal income ranks seventh in the country.*
- *Minnesota is the nation's "hardest working" state, with 75.7 percent of its residents participating in the state's labor force. Minnesota is known for its productive, motivated workforce with low rates of absenteeism.*
- *The state is among the nation's top five for economic performance, development capacity and business vitality in a recent report by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, and ranked 9th in overall economic competitiveness in a Beacon Hill Institute survey. In fact, many reports rate Minnesota highly in economic vitality.*
- *Minnesota companies are regularly cited as among the most family-oriented in America to work for, and quality child care is readily available. Working Mother magazine named Minnesota one of the best states for child care.*

Some of the world's most recognized corporations

## Fortune 500 Companies

Target Corp., United Health Group, Best Buy, Super Valu, 3M, U.S. Bancorp, General Mills, Northwest Airlines, Cenex Harvest States, St. Paul Companies, Xcel Energy, Medtronic, Thrivent Financial, Land O'Lakes, Hormel Foods, Nash Finch, Ecolab, C.H. Robinson, Pepsi Americas

make their home here, including 19 Fortune 500 companies. In addition to these "big-name" companies, Minnesota employers include thousands of smaller businesses across the state, health care organizations, educational institutions and many innovative startup companies. Minnesotans have amassed the eighth highest number of patents per thousand residents. One study found Minnesota to rank seventh in technology jobs.

Minnesota products are found around the world. Exports range from agricultural commodities and processed foods to such high-tech products as heart valves and electronic controls.

With its diverse and resilient economy, Minnesota is a good place to plant roots and grow a career.



# Top Grades in Education



Whether you want to continue your own education or plan for your children's future, you'll find that Minnesota is dedicated to educational excellence, from preschool to professional programs. Dozens of the state's public schools have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as "Blue Ribbon Schools" noted for their academic excellence.

Many educational innovations have been embraced in Minnesota. The state's open enrollment program allows public school students to attend schools outside

of their own school district if they choose. Or, they can select special magnet schools that provide expanded opportunities in areas such as language, science or arts. High school students looking for a challenge may enroll in college courses tuition-free.

- *Minnesota's population is well educated. More than 90 percent have a high school diploma and nearly 33 percent have earned bachelor's degrees, the ninth highest in the nation.*
- *More than 90 percent of the state's residents are within a half-hour drive of a post-secondary institution.*
- *The University of Minnesota ranks eighth among public research universities in the country, and 10th in research and development spending, surpassing Harvard University and MIT. There are four U of M campuses, including its largest in the Twin Cities.*
- *The separate Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has seven universities and 25 community and technical colleges located throughout the state. Minnesota is also home to 29 private colleges or universities.*

# A Great State of Health

Minnesota consistently rates as one of the healthiest states in the country. One reason is the availability of high-quality health care. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the University of Minnesota are world renowned for their medical research, innovations and patient care. In fact, the Mayo Clinic is the second best hospital nationwide according to the *U.S. News and World Report*. In addition to the top-quality health clinics and hospitals available in the Twin Cities area, excellent medical facilities are located in cities throughout the state. Duluth, St. Cloud, Rochester and the Moorhead area serve as medical centers for their areas.

Insurance coverage also helps keep Minnesotans healthy; over 90 percent are covered by health insurance, with over two-thirds being covered privately.

- *Minnesotans' life expectancy is the second highest in the nation.*
- *Minnesota is the healthiest state in the nation (tied for first place), according to a United Health Foundation ranking based on a variety of factors.*





# Let Minnesota Entertain You



It's easy to find something fun to do in Minnesota. The hard part is fitting it all in. The plethora of exciting things to see and do has made tourism a major business in this state.

- *Mall of America, the country's largest shopping and entertainment complex, draws visitors from around the world.*
- *The Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota Zoo, the Minnesota Children's Museum, and Valleyfair amusement park are all big with families.*



- *Home teams to cheer for: Twins baseball, Vikings football, Minnesota Wild hockey, and Timberwolves and Lynx basketball. And the University of Minnesota teams have an avid following.*

## The Arts Scene

Minnesota arts will entertain and enlighten you. Its vibrant arts environment is one of the reasons Minnesota is often cited as a "most livable" state. A Carnegie Mellon University report ranked the Twin Cities among the top 10 on the "Bohemian Index" for its concentration of creative people.

Two excellent orchestras, several exciting dance companies, a fine opera company and several art museums help make the Twin Cities the cultural center of the Upper Midwest.

The Twin Cities is especially known for its lively theater. The Guthrie Theater is the best known, yet more than two dozen professional productions are presented in the Twin Cities on a typical weekend. Productions by the Children's Theatre Company and the Theatre de la Jeune Lune were selected for New York City runs in 2001 and 2002. The Children's Theatre Company won the 2003 Regional Theatre Tony Award.



Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, and the Moorhead area all have orchestras, theater companies, art museums and galleries. Even smaller towns are artistically rich. The villages of Lanesboro and New York Mills were both named among the "Top 100 Art Towns" in America.

Minnesota stages spotlight concerts by the top performers in the country. The Twin Cities music scene includes jazz and blues clubs, along with a wide selection of nightclubs that bill rock, country and progressive bands. The WE Country Music Fest in Detroit Lakes and the Bayfront Blues Festival in Duluth are two of the biggest events of their kind in the country.

# Fun in the Great Outdoors



Ask Minnesotans what they like about living here, and they're sure to bring up Minnesota's beauty — its lakes and forests, its pastoral country scenes — and how easy it is to get out and enjoy nature. No city is far away from a walk in the woods, a beach by the lake, a spot to go fishing. And even in Minneapolis, the state's biggest city, you can find all of those things right in town.

The rugged North Shore of Lake Superior, the majestic Mississippi River and its headwaters, the pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness — all draw visitors from afar. Thousands of lakes splash the countryside, and much of Minnesota is blanketed with forests.

## Just A Few Recreational Highlights:

- *More than 450 golf courses, including many fashioned by top-name links designers.*
- *Fishing for walleye, bass, northern pike, trout and a variety of panfish.*
- *More paved bike trails than any other state, running through scenic countryside along former railroad beds.*
- *More than 72 beautiful state parks including Voyageurs National Park which straddles the country's northern border.*
- *Adventures like Lake Superior and whitewater kayaking, mountain biking and rock climbing.*

For those who enjoy a more easy-going view of the great outdoors, there are 20 designated Minnesota Scenic Byways; six of these are also national byways. Fall brings a colorful display as trees turn orange, crimson and bronze. Fall color drives are an autumn tradition, and the weather is great for hiking, biking, golfing and fishing.

Minnesotans take full advantage of their fourth season. Winter enthusiasts take to the snow with zeal. Minnesota's winter playground offers beautiful cross-country ski trails, 15,000 miles of snowmobile trails, cozy ice-fishing huts, and numerous downhill ski and snowboard areas, including the largest

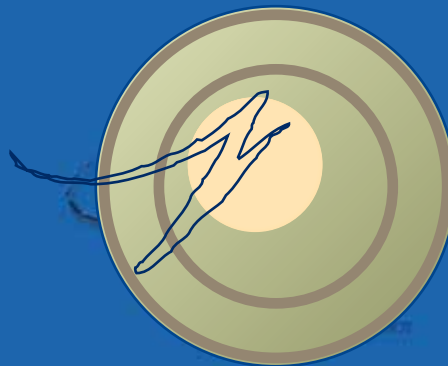
in the Midwest. Snowshoeing and dogsledding are other winter adventures. And there's always the simple fun of sledding down the neighborhood hill.

Not that we're on the go every second. One of the greatest outdoor pleasures is simply to relax under a canopy of trees and breathe in the fresh air, even from your own back yard. The "Land of Sky Blue Waters" will reel you in with its beauty alone.

Since the state is 400 miles long, temperatures vary from south to north, with slightly warmer temperatures south of the Twin Cities, and cooler temperatures in the northern parts of the state. About two-thirds of days have no measurable precipitation. ❄️



Twin Cities Average Temperatures	
	High/Low
January 31	24°/6°
April 30	64°/42°
July 31	83°/63°
September 30	66°/45°



**MINNESOTA**  
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