Chapter One

Minnesota in Profile

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MINNESOTA IN PROFILE

Organized as territory: March 3, 1849

Entered Union: May 11, 1858 (32nd state)

Motto: L' Étoile du Nord (The North Star)

Nicknames: "Land of 10,000 Lakes," "The Gopher State," "The North Star State"

Area: 86,938.87 square miles (12th largest state) Land area: 79,610.08 square miles Inland waters: 7,328.79 square miles

Width: 348 miles

Length: 406 miles

Highest point: Eagle Mountain (Cook County), 2,301 feet above sea level

Lowest point: Surface of Lake Superior, 602 feet above sea level

Major river systems: Mississippi, Minnesota, and Red River of the North; Minnesota water flows in three directions: north to Hudson Bay, east to the Atlantic Ocean, and south to the Gulf of Mexico; no water flows into the state.

Number of lakes: 11,842 that are larger than 10 acres

Number of rivers and streams: 6,564 (69,200 miles)

Population: 5,800,386 (2023 estimate from the Minnesota State Demographic Center)

Population density per square mile: 72.13 (Minnesota State Demographic Center/Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)

Largest cities: Minneapolis 433,633; Saint Paul 310,997; Rochester 122,969; Bloomington 91,537; Duluth 86,788 (Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2023)

Urban population: 4,101,754 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021)* Rural population: 1,604,720 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021)

Economic output in goods and services: \$346.2 billion (2021 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimate) Jobs in Minnesota: 2.8 million; More than one in four jobs in the state is in the education and health industry sector (Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2021)

Median household income: \$85,086** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023) Percent of Minnesotans living below the poverty line: 9.3% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023)

*In 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau changed the criteria for defining urban areas, including raising the minimum population threshold for qualification from 2,500 to 5,000.

**Median household incomes among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic households are statistically lower than median income for all households in Minnesota. Median income is \$49,738 for Black-headed households, \$45,289 among American Indian-headed households, and \$68,240 for Hispanic-headed households. (2018-2022 American Community Survey)

CLIMATE (Airport Weather Stations, 1991-2020 normals)	DULUTH	INTERNATIONAL FALLS	MINNEAPOLIS/ ST. PAUL	ROCHESTER	ST. CLOUD
Annual precipitation (inches)	31.2	25.4	31.6	34.7	28.5
Annual snowfall (inches)	90.2	73.0	51.2	53.2	47.9
Average temperature (°F)	40.6	37.4	46.9	44.8	42.9
Winter min average temperature (°F)	6.0	-1.9	12.2	10.4	6.4
Summer max average temperature (°F)	75.2	75.7	81.0	78.6	79.3
Growing season (days)*	128	110	165	154	137

*Days between median last spring freeze and median first fall freeze (1981-2010)

Sources: State Climatology Office, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State Demographic Center, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, National Weather Service

Demography

The state's population in 2023 was 5,800,386, according to the Minnesota State Demographic Center. Between 2010 and 2020, Minnesota's population grew by 7.6% - slightly higher than the national average growth rate of 7.4% - and added 403,000 new residents – about twice as many as any other midwestern state. Since the 2020 Census, however, growth in Minnesota and in the U.S. has slowed considerably. Between 2020 and 2023, the Census Bureau estimates that Minnesota grew by 1.6 percent.



More than half of our state's residents (55%) live in the 7-county Twin Cities metro, though there are also large population centers in Rochester, Duluth, and Saint Cloud. Between 2010 and 2020, the metropolitan statistical areas in Minnesota with the highest average annual growth rates were Fargo-Moorhead (2.0%), Minneapolis-St. Paul (1.1%), and Rochester (0.9%).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in four Minnesotans identifies as belonging to a Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) racial or ethnic group. Between 2010 and 2020, the White non-Hispanic population in Minnesota declined by

about 50,000 residents, making the total population growth fully attributable to BIPOC populations. In the future, any population growth will also likely be fueled by the relatively younger BIPOC populations, as well as from populations moving to Minnesota from other states and from abroad.

Minnesota's adult population between the ages of 18 and 64 currently accounts for 61% of the total population. Minnesota State Demographic Center projections indicate that the number of older adults turning 65 between 2010 and 2030 will be greater than the past four decades combined.

In total, Minnesotans aged 65 years and older numbered 959,272 in 2021—an increase of more than 250,000 people over the decade. This number is expected to continue to swell to 1.2 million by 2030.





Minnesota's oldest residents— those aged 85 and above—are expected to grow from about 110,000 residents to about 140,000 over the next ten years.

Education

Public Schools	
Number of Schools	2,260
Alternative Learning	361
Distance Learning Programs	179
Tribal-Contract Schools	4
Elementary Schools Grades PK-6	997
Middle Schools Grades 5-8	250
Secondary Schools Grades 7-12	469
Junior Highs Grades 7-9	13
Senior Highs Grades 9-12 or 10-12	221
Combined Grades 7-12	235
Staff	
Licensed staff	75,073
Non-licensed staff	65,376

Pre-K through Grade 12 Students - Enrollment 2023-24 School Year			
Demographic Group	Number of Students	% of Total	
American Indian	29,781	3.4%	
Asian	61,703	7.1%	
Hispanic	96,058	11.0%	
Black	102,511	11.8%	
White	534,538	61.4%	
Multiracial	44,226	5.1%	
Hawaiian Pacific Islander	1,003	0.1%	
Other Indigenous Peoples	746	0.1%	
K-12 Enrollment	870,566		
Special Populations			
Special Education-receiving services	161,157	18.5%	
English Language Learners	78,746	9.0%	
Free & Reduced Lunch Eligible	369,389	42.4%	

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Revenue

The Minnesota Department of Revenue administers 30 different tax types and collects more than \$33 billion in tax revenue annually for the state. Each year, the department serves:

- More than 3.1 million individual income tax filers
- Tax professionals, legislators, military, seniors, farmers
- Over 850,000 property tax refund filers
- 87 counties and nearly 850 licensed property tax assessors
- More than 500,000 business income tax filers

Taxes collected by the department pays for education, local government aid, property tax relief, social service programs, highways, economic development incentives and grants for businesses, and other state programs and operations.



History of Major Taxes Percent Share

Minnesota Income, Sales, and Property Tax Shares

FY 1957 - 2027



Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue and Price of Government, November 2022

Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue and Price of Government, November 2022 Includes sales tax rebates FY 1999-2001

Energy

Minnesota has about 400 E85 (a blend of 15% motor gasoline and 85% ethanol) fueling stations, the second-highest after California. It is the nation's fifth-largest fuel ethanol producer, accounting for 9% of U.S. total production.

The Pine Bend refinery near Minneapolis-Saint Paul is the nation's 13th-largest oil refinery and the largest refinery in a nonoil-producing state. It can process about 335,000 barrels of crude oil per calendar day.

In 2023, renewable resources supplied 33% of Minnesota's total in-state electricity generation, more than three-fourths of it from wind energy. Minnesota ranks among the 10 states with the highest share of wind power generation.

Minnesota's two nuclear power plants fueled 21% of the state's electricity net generation

in 2023, although the amount of nuclear power generated in the state was the lowest since 2013.

Minnesota's natural gas-fired generation reached a record high in 2023 and exceeded coal-fired generation for the first time.



Electric Power Sector Consumption by Source, 2022

Commercial 16.0%

Transportation

31.2%

Residential

20.2%

Industrial

32.6%

Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 2022

Amounts in trillions of British thermal units

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Transportation

Transportation systems are essential to Minnesota's quality of life and economic competitiveness. MnDOT develops an annual scorecard to track progress across the state on the agency's performance on our many modal systems. To view the full scorecard, visit https://www.dot.state.mn.us/measures.

Twin Cities Transit Ridership Boardings recorded by public transit providers

serving metro-area counties (million)



Twin Cities transit ridership was down in 2020 due to the pandemic. Work from home, online learning, and stay-at-home orders along with reduced service for a majority of the year lead to the lowest ridership in over a decade. Ridership has increased slowly since then.

Twin Cities Freeway Congestion



The extent of peak period congestion decreased dramatically in 2020, with 1.4% of the system congested during peak hours. Congestion has returned to near pre-pandemic levels.

Greater Minnesota Transit Ridership

Boardings recorded by public transit providers serving Greater Minnesota (million)



Greater Minnesota transit service rides declined significantly in 2020 due to changes in service levels and travel caused by the pandemic. Prior to 2020 rides were stable but well below ridership goals.





Based on traffic volumes, every state highway is assigned one of five time frames for clearing snow and ice after a winter event. These time frames, or targets, range from 0 to 3 hours for high traffic roads to 9 to 36 hours for less-traveled roads. The percent of bare lane targets measure tracks the frequency with which MnDOT achieves highway-specific targets over an entire winter season.

Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Agriculture

Minnesota's farm and food sector has always been a powerful engine driving our state economy, and even with some extreme challenges (worldwide pandemic, low prices, weather), we can still stand proud of our hardworking farmers and farm families and the significant contributions they make every day to put food on our tables.

In addition to our over 65,000 farms, Minnesota's agriculture sector provides more than 431,000 jobs for the state and generates approximately \$28 billion in market value. In national rankings, Minnesota is #1 in production of turkeys raised, #2 in production of hogs, and #3 in grain and dry edible bean production.

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2023	
Number of farms	65,531
Land in farms (acres)	25,442,625
Average size of farm (acres)	388

Farms by Value of Sales	Number	Percent of Total
Less than \$2,500	18,998	29
\$2,500 to \$4,999	3,533	5
\$5,000 to \$9,999	4,091	6
\$10,000 to \$24,999	5,562	8
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4,268	7
\$50,000 to \$99,999	5,328	8
\$100,000 or more	23,751	36

Top Crops in Acres, 2022	
Corn for grain	8,600,000
Soybeans	7,350,000
Hay and haylage	75,000
Wheat, spring	1,300,000
Sweet corn	96,900

Livestock Inventory, 2024	
Cattle and calves	2,130,000
Chickens and broilers	61,400,000
Goats	48,000
Hogs	9,300,000
Sheep and lambs	111,000
Turkeys	38,500,000

Farms by Size	Number	Percent of Total
1 to 9 acres	4,401	7
10 to 49 acres	15,218	23
50 to 179 acres	18,844	29
180 to 499 acres	14,183	22
500 to 999 acres	6,421	10
1,000+ acres	6,464	10

Top Counties: Land in Farms	Acres
Polk	1,083,394
Marshall	912,128
Otter Tail	770,922
Stearns	643,463
Renville	626,065

Source: Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 2022 Census of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Environment and Climate

Air Quality in Minnesota

Minnesota's air quality is good overall, but it is not the same in all parts of the state and doesn't affect all Minnesotans equally. Overall pollution levels have been going down and this trend is expected to continue. However, people in some areas experience pollution levels that are high enough

to worsen health condi-Air Quality Risk tions or are exposed to pollutants that don't have Communities of color and Statewide average Low-income people indigenous communities federal or state standards. In recent years, Minnesota has seen more "bad guideline air" days caused by smoke 53% are abo risk guidelin 78% are above from wildfires outside risk guidelines of the state. This trend is likely to continue as climate change worsens MPCA, January 2025 heat and drought in North America.

Water Quality in Minnesota

Minnesota's water has come a long way from the days when raw sewage flowed untreated into rivers as a matter of course. However, there is still much to be done to restore the impaired lakes, rivers, and streams in the state. Land use is a major factor in current water quality problems — agricultural drainage, urban and rural runoff, and erosion caused by removing vegetation from shorelines.

As required by the federal Clean Water Act, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) assesses all waters of the state and creates a list of bodies of water that fail to meet water quality standards every two years. In 2024, 198 impairments were added to the Impaired Waters list. In total, there are 6,339 impairments in Minnesota. Unhealthy conditions for fish and bugs are the most common impairment. This information will lead to studies and plans to restore the waters to standards.

Climate

Our climate has already changed and will continue to change. Minnesotans are feeling impacts of climate change, from higher temperatures, more extreme storms with intense flooding, and changes in our unique and cherished ecosystems. These impacts will continue to have serious effects on the economy, natural environment, and quality of life in Minnesota.

Frequent and intense storms are now occurring more than any time on record, and the trend is projected to continue. Record-breaking floods damage streets, wastewater facilities, businesses, homes, farms, and natural resources, costing local governments, business owners, and residents millions of dollars in cleanup and repairs. Annual precipitation has increased as well, especially in the southern parts of the state.

Minnesota is getting warmer, especially winter nights in the northern parts of the state. Daily average minimum temperatures during winter (Dec-Feb) have increased 7.3 degrees from 1895-2021 in northern Minnesota, 6.0 degrees in central Minnesota and 4.9 degrees in southern Minnesota. Minnesota lakes have lost an average of 10 to 14 days of ice cover in the past 50 years, affecting lake and fish health, outdoor recreation opportunities, local governments, and business owners.

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

For more information on Minnesota State Parks, visit: www.mndnr.gov/stateparks Open year-round, Minnesota State Parks and recreation areas showcase the diverse and abundant natural resources of the

Open year-round, Minnesota State Parks and recreation areas showcase the diverse and abundant natural resources of the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." State parks offer a variety of educational and recreational programs, and activities such as camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and cross-country skiing. (Region of state where park is located: NW-Northwest; NE-Northeast; S-South; Metro-Twin Cities Metro Area)

Afton (Metro) - 6959 Peller Avenue South, Hastings, MN 55033 Phone: (651) 201-6780 Banning (NE) - P.O. Box 643, Sandstone, MN 55072 Phone: (320) 216-3910 Bear Head Lake (NE) - 9301 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731 Phone: (218) 235-2520 Beaver Creek Valley (S) - 15954 County Road 1, Caledonia, MN 55921 Phone: (507) 724- 2107 Big Bog State Recreation Area (NW) - P.O. Box 428, Waskish, MN 56685 Phone: (218) 888-7310 Big Stone Lake (S) - 35889 Meadowbrook State Park Road, Ortonville, MN 56278 Phone: (320) 839-3663 Blue Mounds (S) - 1410 161st Street, Luverne, MN 56156 Phone: (507) 283-6050 Buffalo River (NW) - 565 155th Street South, Glyndon, MN 56547 Phone: (218) 498-2124 Camden (S) - 1897 Camden Park Road, Lynd, MN 56157 Phone: (507) 872-7031 Carley (S) - c/o Whitewater State Park, 19041 Highway 74, Altura, MN 55910 Phone: (507) 312-2300 Cascade River (NE) - 3481 West Highway 61, Lutsen, MN 55612 Phone: (218) 387-6000 Charles A. Lindbergh (NW) - 1615 Lindbergh Drive South, Little Falls, MN 56345 Phone: (320) 616-2525 Crow Wing (NW) - 3124 State Park Road, Brainerd, MN 56401 Phone: (218) 825-3075 Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (NW) - 307 3rd Street, Ironton, MN 56455 Phone: (218) 772-3690 Father Hennepin (NE) - 41294 Father Hennepin Park Road, Isle, MN 56342 Phone: (320) 676-8763 Flandrau (S) - 1300 Summit Avenue, New Ulm, MN 56073 Phone: (507) 233-1260 Forestville/Mystery Cave (S) - 21071 County 118, Preston, MN 55965 Phone: (507) 352-5111 Fort Ridgely (S) - 72158 County Road 30, Fairfax, MN 55332 Phone: (507) 426-7840 Fort Snelling (Metro) - 101 Snelling Lake Road, St. Paul, MN 55111 Phone: (612) 279-3550 Franz Jevne (NE) - State Highway 11, Birchdale, MN 56629; Phone: (218) 888-7310 Frontenac (S) - 29223 County 28 Boulevard, Frontenac, MN 55026 Phone: (651) 299-3000 Garden Island State Recreation Area (NW) - c/o Zippel Bay State Park, 3684 54th Avenue Northwest, Williams, MN 56686 Phone: (218) 783-6252 George H. Crosby Manitou (NE) - c/o Tettegouche State Park, 5702 Highway 61, Silver Bay, MN 55614 Phone: (218) 353-8800 Glacial Lakes (NW) - 25022 County Road 41, Starbuck, MN 56381 Phone: (320) 239-2860 Glendalough (NW) - 24869 Whitetail Lane, Battle Lake, MN 56515 Phone: (218) 261-6900 Gooseberry Falls (NE) - 3206 Highway 61 East, Two Harbors, MN 55616 Phone: (218) 595-7100 Grand Portage (NE) - 9393 East Highway 61, Grand Portage, MN 55605 Phone: (218) 877-8630 Great River Bluffs (SE) - 43605 Kipp Drive, Winona, MN 55987 Phone: (507) 312-2650 Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area (S) - 20596 Highway 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350 Phone: 320-234-2550 Hayes Lake (NW) - 48990 County Road 4, Roseau, MN 56751 Phone: (218) 425-7504 Hill Annex Mine (NE) - c/o Scenic State Park, 56956 Highway 7, Big Fork, MN 56628 Phone: (218) 247-7215 Interstate (Metro) - P. O. Box 254, 307 Milltown Road, Taylors Falls, MN 55084 Phone: (651) 539-4500 Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle State Recreation Area (NE), 7196 Pettit Road, Gilbert, MN 55741 Phone: (218) 735-3831 Itasca (NW) - 36750 Main Park Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470 Phone: (218) 699-7251 Jay Cooke (NE) - 780 Highway 210, Carlton, MN 55718 Phone: (218) 673-7000 John A. Latsch (SE) - c/o Whitewater State Park, 19041 Highway 74, Altura, MN 55910 Phone: (507) 312-2300 Judge C.R. Magney (NE) - 4051 East Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN 55604 Phone: (218) 387-6300 Kilen Woods (S) - 50200 860th Street, Lakefield, MN 56150 Phone: (507) 832-6034 La Salle Lake State Recreation Area (NW) - 10221 County 9, Solway, MN 56678 Phone: (218) 699-7251 Lac qui Parle (S) - 14047 20th Street Northwest, Watson, MN 56295 Phone: (320) 734-4450 Lake Bemidji (NW) - 3401 State Park Road Northeast, Bemidji, MN 56601 Phone: (218) 308-2300 Lake Bronson (NW) - 3793 230th Street, Box 9, Lake Bronson, MN 56734 Phone: (218) 754-2200 Lake Carlos (NW) - 2601 County Road 38 Northeast, Carlos, MN 56319 Phone: (320) 852-7200 Lake Louise (S) - 12585 766th Avenue, Le Roy, MN 55951 Phone: (507) 352-5111 Lake Maria (Metro) - 11411 Clementa Avenue Northwest, Monticello, MN 55362 Phone: (763) 272-4040 Lake Shetek (S) - 163 State Park Road, Currie, MN 56123 Phone: (507) 763-3256 Lake Vermillion - Soudan Underground Mine (NE) - P.O. Box 335, 1379 Stuntz Bay Road, Soudan, MN 55782 Phone: (218) 300-7000 Maplewood (NW) - 39721 Park Entrance Road, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 Phone: (218) 863-8383

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

(continued)

McCarthy Beach (NE) - 7622 McCarthy Beach Road, Side Lake, MN 55781 Phone: (218) 274-7200 Mille Lacs Kathio (NE) - 15066 Kathio State Park Road, Onamia, MN 56359 Phone: (320) 532-3523 Minneopa (S) - 54497 Gadwall Road, Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: (507) 386-3910 Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area (Metro) - 20550 Park Boulevard, Jordan, MN 55352 Phone: (651) 259-5774 Monson Lake (NE) - 1690 15th Street Northeast, Sunburg, MN 56289 Phone: (320) 366-3797 Moose Lake (NE) - 4252 County Road 137, Moose Lake, MN 55767 Phone: (218) 460-7001 Myre-Big Island (S) - 19499 780th Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007 Phone: (507) 668-7060 Nerstrand Big Woods (S) - 9700 170th Street East, Nerstrand, MN 55053 Phone: (507) 384-6140 Old Mill (NW) - 33489 240th Avenue Northwest, Argyle, MN 56713 Phone: (218) 754-2200 Red River State Recreation Area (NW) - 515 2nd Street Northwest, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 Phone: (218) 773-4950 Rice Lake (S) - 8485 Rose Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 Phone: (507) 414-6191 St. Croix (NE) - 30065 St. Croix Park Road, Hinckley, MN 55037 Phone: (320) 280-7880 Sakatah Lake (S) - 50499 Sakatah Lake State Park Road, Waterville, MN 56096 Phone: (507) 698-7851 Savanna Portage (NE) - 55626 Lake Place, McGregor, MN 55760 Phone: (218) 419-1500 Scenic (NE) - 56956 Scenic Highway 7, Bigfork, MN 56628 Phone: (218) 571-2600 Schoolcraft (NE) - 9042 Schoolcraft Lane Northeast, Deer River, MN 56636 Phone: (218) 328-8982 Sibley (S) - 800 Sibley Park Road Northeast, New London, MN 56273 Phone: (320) 354-2055 Split Rock Creek (S) - 336 50th Avenue, Jasper, MN 56144 Phone: (507) 348-7908 Split Rock Lighthouse (NE) - 3755 Split Rock Lighthouse Road, Two Harbors, MN 55616 Phone: (218) 595-7625 Temperance River (NE) - c/o Tettegouche State Park, 5702 Highway 61, Silver Bay, MN 55614 Phone: (218) 663-3100 Tettegouche (NE) - 5702 Highway 61, Silver Bay, MN 55614 Phone: (218) 353-8800 Upper Sioux Agency (S) - 5908 Highway 67, Granite Falls, MN 56241 Phone: (320) 564-4777 Whitewater (S) - 19041 Highway 74, Altura, MN 55910 Phone: (507) 312-2300 Wild River (Metro) - 39797 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012 Phone: (651) 583-2125 William O'Brien (Metro) - 16821 O'Brien Trail North, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047 Phone: (651) 539-4980 Zippel Bay (NW) - 3684 54th Avenue Northwest, Williams, MN 56686 Phone: (218) 783-6252

NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS, AND RECREATION AREAS

For more information on national parks in Minnesota visit: http://home.nps.gov/applications/parksearch/state.cfm?st=mn

Grand Portage National Monument - P.O. Box 426, 170 Mile Creek Road, Grand Portage, MN 55605 Phone: (218) 475-0123

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area - 111 East Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 105, St Paul, MN 55101 Phone: (651) 293-0200

North Country National Scenic Trail (runs through several states including Minnesota) -318 East Main Street, Suite K, Lowell, MI 49331 Phone: (616) 319-7906

Pipestone National Monument - 36 Reservation Ave, Pipestone, MN 56164 Phone: (507) 825-5464 x214

Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway (runs through Minnesota and Wisconsin) -401 North Hamilton Street, Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024 Phone: (715) 483-2274

Voyageurs National Park - 360 Highway 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649 Phone: (218) 283-6600

The People of Minnesota

MINNESOTA STATE GOVERNMENT







Results By County



Metro Area







Results By District

Metro Area





WINNING PARTY FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE BY DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024





Rochester Area





VOTING SYSTEMS USED BY PRECINCT GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024





WINNING PARTY FOR U.S. SENATE BY PRECINCT GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024







The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota

The Minnesota Secretary of State is the keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota and affixes the seal to government documents to make them official. Just as people authenticate a document by signing their name to it, the state seal acts as the State's signature.

The state seal is contained within a traditional round design. The outer circle of the seal contains 98 rectangular golden bars, representing the state's 87 counties and the 11 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes within the border of Minnesota;

Lettering of the seal states "The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota," and, moving towards the center, then contains a series of blue roundels, which are decorative only;

The innermost part of the circle contains several symbols representing the State of Minnesota, including: images of wild rice, the official state grain; the common loon, the official state bird; a star representing the Star of the North, or, "L'étoile du Nord," the state motto; the phrase "Mni Sóta Makoce," the Dakota language term for "Land of the sky tinted water" or "Land where the waters reflect the skies." This phrase is the source of the name of our state — Minnesota — and represents both continuity and change, in language over time; trees representing the official state tree, Norway Pine, and other natural areas of the state of Minnesota; a stylized representation of a body of water, representing Minnesota's many lakes, rivers, and abundance of water.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature created a State Emblem Redesign Commission to reimagine the state's seal and flag. The historic seal was retired, and the new seal was adopted on May 11, 2024.



State Flag

The Minnesota State Flag represents many of the state's best-known traits including its many lakes and rivers and the North Star.

On its left side, the flag contains a dark blue background with a white, 8-point star. One of the points of the star points north, representing the state's motto "L'étoile du Nord."

The dark background is a stylized shape of the outline of the State of Minnesota, representing the land of Minnesota.

The remainder of the flag is a solid, bright blue, representing water. Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes, the home of the Headwaters of the Mississippi River, Lake Superior, and the start of the Great Lakes Basin.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature created a State Emblem Redesign Commission to reimagine the state's seal and flag. The historic flag was retired, and the new flag was adopted on May 11, 2024.

State Bird

Minnesota's state bird, the common loon (*Gavia immer*), was adopted by the Legislature in 1961. (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.145) Loons are large black and white birds with red eyes. They have wingspans up to five feet, body lengths up to three feet, and can dive to depths of 90 feet. Its name comes from a Norwegian word that means "wild, sad cry." Approximately 12,000 loons make their summer homes in Minnesota.





State Butterfly

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), also known as the milkweed butterfly, was adopted as the state's official butterfly in 2000 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1497). The monarch is one of the few butterfly species that migrates with the change in seasons. Approximately four generations of monarchs are born in Minnesota each summer and live roughly four weeks; the

exception is the last generation of the season, which survives for six months. Monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed, which grows throughout Minnesota.

State Drink and Muffin

Milk was adopted as the official state drink in 1984 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1495). Our state produces 9.5 billion pounds of milk a year (4.5 percent of the nation's total) and ranks eighth in dairy production among the states.

The blueberry muffin was adopted as the official muffin of the state of Minnesota in 1988 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1496).



State Fish

After being first proposed to be the state fish in 1953, the walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*) was adopted in 1965(*Minnesota Statutes* 1.146). This popular game fish is found throughout Minnesota in lakes and rivers. The largest walleye ever caught in Minnesota weighed 17 pounds, 8 ounces.



State Flower

From the earliest days, the Legislature wanted the pink and white lady slipper (*Cyprideum reginae*) to be the state flower. However, in 1893, the Legislature passed a resolution mistakenly naming the wild lady slipper as the state flower. The 1902 Legislature passed a new resolution to correct its error. In 1967, the Legislature made the pink and white lady slipper a state symbol (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.142).

One of Minnesota's rarest wildflowers, this plant thrives in open swamps, bogs, and damp woods. Lady slippers grow slowly, taking four to 16 years to produce their first flowers, which bloom in late June or early July. The plants live for up to 50 years and grow up to four feet tall.





State Fruit

The Honeycrisp[™] apple was adopted as the state fruit in 2006 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1475). It was produced from a 1960 cross of Macoun and Honeygold apples, as part of a University of Minnesota apple-breeding program to develop a winter-hardy tree with high quality fruit. Honeycrisp apples are about three inches in diameter, have an exceptionally crisp and juicy texture, and are harvested from mid-September to mid-October in east-central Minnesota.

State Gemstone

The Lake Superior agate was named the official state gemstone in 1969 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.147). This beautiful quartz stone is banded with rich red and orange colors derived from iron ore in the soil. These agates are normally about the size of a pea, but can be as large as 20 pounds. Dispersed throughout Minnesota by glaciers in the last Ice Age, these agates can be found on the banks of rivers, in gravel pits, or in other places where pebbles and gravel abound.



State Grain



Wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), was adopted as the official state grain in 1977 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.148). This aquatic grass is not related to common rice and was a staple food for Minnesota's American Indian tribes for centuries. Wild rice is still harvested from lakes in the traditional way, by canoe. However, people interested in harvesting wild rice in Minnesota must purchase a wild ricing license, similar to a fishing or hunting license. Today, as in the past, much of the wild rice produced in the world comes from Minnesota. It's also the only cereal grain native to North America.

State Mushroom

Morchella esculenta, commonly known as the morel, sponge mushroom or honeycomb morel, was adopted in 1984 as the official state mushroom (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.149). Morels are edible and considered a rare delicacy. They grow two to six inches high, are creamy tan or shades of brown and gray in color, and boast pitted, spongy heads, smooth stems and hollow interiors. In the spring, morels can often be found in southeastern Minnesota fields and forests.





State Photograph

The photograph "Grace," depicting an elderly man bowing his head and giving thanks, taken by Eric Enstrom in 1918 in Bovey, Minnesota, was adopted as the official state photograph in 2002 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1498).

A copy of the photograph, presented to the state by Enstrom's daughter, Rhoda Nyberg, is on display in the Secretary of State's office in St. Paul.

State Soil

First proposed in 1939, Lester soil became the official state soil in 2012 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.485). Lester soils are well-drained, have a dark grayish brown surface with clay loam and loam subsoils. The characteristics of this soil developed from both grasslands and forests. This soil is a valuable resouce for forage, corn, and soybean production. Lester soil can be found in central and south-central Minnesota.





State Sport

The 2009 Legislature designated ice hockey as the official state sport of Minnesota (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.1499). Minnesota is home to the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth. In the 1980 Winter Olympics, St. Paul native Herb Brooks was the head coach of the gold medal-winning men's national ice hockey team. Team USA upset the Soviet Union 4-3 in what became known as the "Miracle on Ice." Brooks was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1990.

State Tree

The Red or Norway pine (*Pinus resinosa*) became the official state tree in 1953 (*Minnesota Statutes* 1.143). The Red pine can live to be 400 years old and can reach heights of nearly 150 feet with a trunk up to five feet in diameter. Its needles are four to six inches long and grow in pairs.

Red pines when small are popular as Christmas trees, and are harvested for use as structural timber and pulpwood when mature. They also make suitable poles, pilings, mining timbers, and railroad ties.





State Bee

The rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) was adopted as the state's official bee in 2019 (Minnesota Statutes 1.1465). It is listed as a federally endangered species and has declined by 87 percent in the last 20 years. Minnesota is one of only 10 states where the rusty patched bumble bee is currently found. Bumble bees are important pollinators for many crops and plants, including blueberries, cranberries and even tomatoes. A variety of native and introduced flowering plants, shrubs and trees all provide nectar and pollen for the rusty patched and other bumble bees.

State Song

"Hail! Minnesota," was written in 1904 by University of Minnesota students Truman E. Rickard and Arthur E. Upson. A second verse was penned in 1905. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association, owner of the copyright to the song, released its copyright to the words and music, and in 1945 the Legislature adopted "Hail Minnesota" as the state song.

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Governor's Residence



The governor's residence, located at 1006 Summit Avenue in Saint Paul, is the official home of the governor's family. The 20-room, 16,000-square-foot English Tudor mansion was donated to the state of Minnesota in 1965 by the family of the original owners. Designed by Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney, the residence has nine bedrooms, eight bathrooms, nine fireplaces, and sits on 1.5 acres of land. Five people work at the residence: the manager, assistant manager, chef, housekeeper and groundskeeper. Free guided public tours are typically available during the summer months. For more information, visit mn.gov/admin/governors-residence.

STATE HISTORIC SITES

The following historic sites are maintained and operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. For more information, go to www.mnhs.org or call (651) 259-3000.

Alexander Ramsey House, St. Paul Birch Coulee Battlefield, Morton Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, Little Falls Comstock House, Moorhead Folsom House, Taylors Falls Forest History Center, Grand Rapids Fort Ridgely, Fairfax Harkin Store, New Ulm Historic Forestville, Preston Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul James J. Hill House, St. Paul Jeffers Petroglyphs, Comfrey Lac qui Parle Mission, Montevideo Lower Sioux Agency, Morton Marine Mill, Marine on St. Croix Mill City Museum, Minneapolis Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Onamia Minnehaha Depot, Minneapolis Minnesota History Center, St. Paul Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Elk River Sibley Historic Site, Mendota Snake River Fur Post, Pine City Split Rock Lighthouse, Two Harbors Traverse des Sioux, St. Peter W.W. Mayo House, Le Sueur



Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Onamia Minnesota Historical Society