[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:US state](/wiki/Template:US_state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols) **Minnesota** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [locally](/wiki/Upper_Midwest_American_English) [Template:Audio-IPA](/wiki/Template:Audio-IPA)) is a [state](/wiki/U.S._state) in the [Midwestern United States](/wiki/Midwestern_United_States). Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd state on May 11, 1858, created from the eastern half of the [Minnesota Territory](/wiki/Minnesota_Territory). The name comes from the [Dakota](/wiki/Dakota_language) word for "clear blue water".[[1]](#cite_note-1) Owing to its large number of lakes, the state is informally known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes". Its official motto is *L'Étoile du Nord (*[French](/wiki/French_language): *Star of the North).* Minnesota is the [12th largest in area](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) and the [21st most populous](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population) of the U.S. states; nearly 60 percent of its residents live in the [Minneapolis–Saint Paul](/wiki/Minneapolis–Saint_Paul) [metropolitan area](/wiki/Metropolitan_area) (known as the "Twin Cities"), the center of transportation, business, industry, education, and government and home to an internationally known arts community. The remainder of the state consists of western [prairies](/wiki/Prairie) now given over to intensive agriculture; [deciduous](/wiki/Deciduous) forests in the southeast, now partially cleared, farmed and settled; and the less populated [North Woods](/wiki/Laurentian_Mixed_Forest_Province), used for mining, forestry, and recreation.

Minnesota is known for its progressive political orientation and its high rate of civic participation and voter turnout. Until European settlement, Minnesota was inhabited by the [Dakota](/wiki/Dakota_people) and [Ojibwe](/wiki/Ojibwe)/[Anishinaabe](/wiki/Anishinaabe). The large majority of the original European settlers emigrated from [Scandinavia](/wiki/Scandinavia) and [Germany](/wiki/Germany), and the state remains a center of [Scandinavian American](/wiki/Scandinavian_American) and [German American](/wiki/German_American) culture. In recent decades, immigration from [Asia](/wiki/Asian_American), the [Horn of Africa](/wiki/Horn_of_Africa), and [Latin America](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) has broadened its historic demographic and cultural composition. Minnesota's standard of living index is among the highest in the United States, and the state is also among the best-educated and wealthiest in the nation.[[2]](#cite_note-2)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The word *Minnesota* comes from the [Dakota](/wiki/Dakota_language) name for the [Minnesota River](/wiki/Minnesota_River): *Mnisota*. The root *mni* (also spelled *mini* or *minne*) means "water" and "tō" ("ta") means "blue". *Mnisota* can be translated as *clear blue water* or *clouded blue water* depending on pronunciation.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) [Native Americans](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) demonstrated the name to early settlers by dropping milk into water and calling it *mnisota*.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Many places in the state have similar names, such as [Minnehaha Falls](/wiki/Minnehaha_Falls) ("laughing water" (waterfall)), [Minneiska](/wiki/Minneiska,_Minnesota) ("white water"), [Minneota](/wiki/Minneota,_Minnesota) ("much water"), [Minnetonka](/wiki/Lake_Minnetonka) ("big water"), [Minnetrista](/wiki/Minnetrista,_Minnesota) ("crooked water"), and [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis,_Minnesota), a combination of *mni* and *polis*, the Greek word for "city".[[5]](#cite_note-5)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|right|Minnesota, showing roads and major bodies of water](/wiki/File:National-atlas-minnesota.png) Minnesota is the second northernmost U.S. state (after [Alaska](/wiki/Alaska)). Its isolated [Northwest Angle](/wiki/Northwest_Angle) in [Lake of the Woods](/wiki/Lake_of_the_Woods) county is the only part of the 48 [contiguous states](/wiki/Contiguous_United_States) lying north of the [49th parallel](/wiki/49th_parallel_north). The state is part of the U.S. region known as the [Upper Midwest](/wiki/Upper_Midwest) and part of North America's [Great Lakes Region](/wiki/Great_Lakes_region_(North_America)). It shares a [Lake Superior](/wiki/Lake_Superior) water border with [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan) and a land and water border with [Wisconsin](/wiki/Wisconsin) to the east. [Iowa](/wiki/Iowa) is to the south, [North Dakota](/wiki/North_Dakota) and [South Dakota](/wiki/South_Dakota) are to the west, and the Canadian [provinces](/wiki/Province) of [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario) and [Manitoba](/wiki/Manitoba) are to the north. With [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[6]](#cite_note-6) or approximately 2.25 percent of the United States,[[7]](#cite_note-7) Minnesota is the 12th-largest state.[[8]](#cite_note-8)

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Tilted beds of the Middle](/wiki/File:StLouisRiver_JayCooke.JPG) [Precambrian](/wiki/Precambrian) Thomson Formation in [Jay Cooke State Park](/wiki/Jay_Cooke_State_Park)[[9]](#cite_note-9) Minnesota contains some of the oldest rocks found on earth. [Gneisses](/wiki/Gneiss) are about 3.6 billion years old (80 percent as old as the planet).[[9]](#cite_note-9)<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> About 2.7 billion years ago, [basaltic](/wiki/Basalt) [lava](/wiki/Lava) poured out of cracks in the floor of the primordial [ocean](/wiki/Ocean); the remains of this [volcanic](/wiki/Volcano) rock formed the [Canadian Shield](/wiki/Canadian_Shield) in northeast Minnesota.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) The roots of these volcanic mountains and the action of [Precambrian](/wiki/Precambrian) seas formed the [Iron Range](/wiki/Iron_Range) of northern Minnesota. Following a period of [volcanism](/wiki/Volcanism) 1.1 billion years ago, Minnesota's geological activity has been more subdued, with no volcanism or mountain formation, but with repeated incursions of the sea, which left behind multiple strata of [sedimentary rock](/wiki/Sedimentary_rock).[[9]](#cite_note-9) In [more recent times](/wiki/Glacial_history_of_Minnesota), massive ice sheets at least one kilometer thick ravaged the landscape of the state and sculpted its current terrain.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The [Wisconsin glaciation](/wiki/Wisconsin_glaciation) left 12,000 years ago.[[9]](#cite_note-9) These glaciers covered all of Minnesota except the far southeast, an area characterized by steep hills and streams that cut into the [bedrock](/wiki/Bedrock). This area is known as the [Driftless Zone](/wiki/Coulee_Region) for its absence of glacial drift.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Much of the remainder of the state outside the northeast has 50 feet (15 m) or more of [glacial till](/wiki/Glacial_till) left behind as the last glaciers retreated. Gigantic [Lake Agassiz](/wiki/Lake_Agassiz) formed in the northwest 13,000 years ago. Its bed created the fertile [Red River](/wiki/Red_River_of_the_North) valley, and its outflow, [glacial River Warren](/wiki/Glacial_River_Warren), carved the valley of the [Minnesota River](/wiki/Minnesota_River) and the Upper Mississippi downstream from Fort Snelling.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Minnesota is geologically quiet today; it experiences [earthquakes](/wiki/Earthquake) infrequently, and most of them are minor.[[12]](#cite_note-12) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Palisade,_Shovel_Point_(cropped).jpg)[Palisade Head](/wiki/Palisade_Head) on [Lake Superior](/wiki/Lake_Superior) formed from a [Precambrian](/wiki/Precambrian) [rhyolitic](/wiki/Rhyolitic) [lava](/wiki/Lava) flow.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The state's high point is [Eagle Mountain](/wiki/Eagle_Mountain_(Minnesota)) at 2,301 feet (701 m), which is only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) away from the low of 601 feet (183 m) at the shore of Lake Superior.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[13]](#cite_note-13) Notwithstanding dramatic local differences in elevation, much of the state is a gently rolling [peneplain](/wiki/Peneplain).[[9]](#cite_note-9) Two major [drainage divides](/wiki/Drainage_divide) meet in the northeastern part of Minnesota in rural [Hibbing](/wiki/Hibbing,_Minnesota), forming a triple [watershed](/wiki/Drainage_basin). [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) can follow the Mississippi River south to the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico), the [Saint Lawrence Seaway](/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_Seaway) east to the Atlantic Ocean, or the [Hudson Bay watershed](/wiki/Canada_Hudson_Bay_drainage) to the Arctic Ocean.[[14]](#cite_note-14) The state's nickname, the "Land of 10,000 Lakes", is apt, as there are 11,842 [Minnesota lakes](/wiki/Minnesota_lakes) over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in size.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The Minnesota portion of Lake Superior is the largest at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and deepest (at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) body of water in the state.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Minnesota has 6,564 natural rivers and streams that cumulatively flow for [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[15]](#cite_note-15) The [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River) begins its journey from its [headwaters](/wiki/Headwaters) at [Lake Itasca](/wiki/Lake_Itasca) and crosses the Iowa border [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) downstream.[[15]](#cite_note-15) It is joined by the [Minnesota River](/wiki/Minnesota_River) at [Fort Snelling](/wiki/Fort_Snelling,_Minnesota), by the [St. Croix River](/wiki/St._Croix_River_(Wisconsin-Minnesota)) near [Hastings](/wiki/Hastings,_Minnesota), by the [Chippewa River](/wiki/Chippewa_River_(Wisconsin)) at [Wabasha](/wiki/Wabasha,_MN), and by many smaller streams. The [Red River](/wiki/Red_River_of_the_North), in the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz, drains the northwest part of the state northward toward Canada's Hudson Bay. Approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of wetlands are contained within Minnesota's borders, the most of any state except Alaska.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Eagle_Mountain,_Minnesota.jpg)[Eagle Mountain](/wiki/Eagle_Mountain_(Minnesota)), the highest natural point in Minnesota at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is located in northeastern part of the state.

### Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|A](/wiki/File:Groundhog-Standing2.jpg) [groundhog](/wiki/Groundhog) in [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis), along the banks of the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River) Minnesota has four ecological provinces: [Prairie Parkland](/wiki/Prairie), in the southwestern and western parts of the state; the [Eastern Broadleaf Forest](/wiki/Temperate_deciduous_forest) ([Big Woods](/wiki/Big_Woods)) in the southeast, extending in a narrowing strip to the northwestern part of the state, where it transitions into [Tallgrass Aspen Parkland](/wiki/Tallgrass_Aspen_Parkland); and the northern [Laurentian Mixed Forest](/wiki/Laurentian_Mixed_Forest_Province), a transitional forest between the northern [boreal forest](/wiki/Taiga) and the broadleaf forests to the south.[[17]](#cite_note-17) These northern forests are a vast wilderness of [pine](/wiki/Pine) and [spruce](/wiki/Spruce) trees mixed with patchy stands of [birch](/wiki/Birch) and [poplar](/wiki/Populus).

Much of Minnesota's northern forest underwent logging at some time, leaving only a few patches of [old growth forest](/wiki/Old_growth_forest) today in areas such as in the [Chippewa National Forest](/wiki/Chippewa_National_Forest) and the [Superior National Forest](/wiki/Superior_National_Forest) where the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness](/wiki/Boundary_Waters_Canoe_Area_Wilderness) has some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of unlogged land.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Although logging continues, regrowth and replanting keeps about one third of the state forested.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Nearly all of Minnesota's prairies and [oak savannas](/wiki/Oak_savanna) have been fragmented by farming, grazing, logging, and suburban development.[[20]](#cite_note-20) While loss of habitat has affected native animals such as the [pine marten](/wiki/American_marten), [elk](/wiki/Elk), [woodland caribou](/wiki/Migratory_Woodland_Caribou), and [bison](/wiki/American_bison),[[21]](#cite_note-21) others like [whitetail deer](/wiki/Whitetail_deer) and [bobcat](/wiki/Bobcat) thrive. The state has the nation's largest population of [timber wolves](/wiki/Wolf) outside Alaska,[[22]](#cite_note-22) and supports healthy populations of [black bears](/wiki/American_black_bear), [moose](/wiki/Moose), and [gophers](/wiki/Gophers). Located on the [Mississippi Flyway](/wiki/Mississippi_Flyway), Minnesota hosts migratory waterfowl such as [geese](/wiki/Geese) and [ducks](/wiki/Ducks), and game birds such as [grouse](/wiki/Grouse), [pheasants](/wiki/Pheasants), and [turkeys](/wiki/Turkeys). It is home to [birds of prey](/wiki/Bird_of_prey) including the largest number of breeding pairs of [bald eagles](/wiki/Bald_eagle) in the lower 48 states as of 2007,[[23]](#cite_note-23) [red-tailed hawks](/wiki/Red-tailed_Hawk), and [snowy owls](/wiki/Snowy_owl). The lakes teem with sport fish such as [walleye](/wiki/Walleye), [bass](/wiki/Bass_(fish)), [muskellunge](/wiki/Muskellunge), and [northern pike](/wiki/Northern_pike), and streams in the southeast and northeast are populated by [brook](/wiki/Brook_trout), [brown](/wiki/Brown_trout), and [rainbow trout](/wiki/Rainbow_trout).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Minnesota map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Minnesota_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Minnesota experiences [temperature extremes](/wiki/List_of_Minnesota_weather_records) characteristic of its [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate), with cold winters and hot summers. The record high and low span is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Tower](/wiki/Tower,_Minnesota) on February 2, 1996, to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Moorhead](/wiki/Moorhead,_Minnesota) on July 6, 1936.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Meteorological events include [rain](/wiki/Rain), snow, blizzards, thunderstorms, hail, [derechos](/wiki/Derecho), [tornadoes](/wiki/Tornado), and high-velocity [straight-line winds](/wiki/Downburst). The growing season varies from 90 days per year in the [Iron Range](/wiki/Iron_Range) to 160 days in southeast Minnesota near the Mississippi River, and average temperatures range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[25]](#cite_note-25) Average summer [dew points](/wiki/Dew_point) range from about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the south to about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the north.[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26) Average annual precipitation ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and droughts occur every 10 to 50 years.[[25]](#cite_note-25)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected cities in Minnesota[[27]](#cite_note-27) | | | | |
| **Location** | **July (°F)** | **July (°C)** | **January (°F)** | **January (°C)** |
| [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis,_Minnesota) | 83/64 | 28/18 | 23/7 | –4/–13 |
| [Saint Paul](/wiki/Saint_Paul,_Minnesota) | 83/63 | 28/17 | 23/6 | –5/–14 |
| [Rochester](/wiki/Rochester,_Minnesota) | 82/63 | 28/17 | 23/3 | –5/–16 |
| [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota) | 76/55 | 24/13 | 19/1 | –7/–17 |
| [St. Cloud](/wiki/St._Cloud,_Minnesota) | 81/58 | 27/14 | 18/–1 | –7/–18 |
| [Albert Lea](/wiki/Albert_Lea,_Minnesota) | 84/62 | 29/17 | 23/5 | –5/–15 |
| [International Falls](/wiki/International_Falls,_Minnesota) | 77/52 | 25/11 | 15/–6 | –9/–21 |

### Protected lands[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|right|Pose Lake in the](/wiki/File:Pose_lake_Minnesota.jpg) [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness](/wiki/Boundary_Waters_Canoe_Area_Wilderness) Minnesota's first state park, [Itasca State Park](/wiki/Itasca_State_Park), was established in 1891, and is the [source](/wiki/Source_(river_or_stream)) of the Mississippi River.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Today Minnesota has [72 state parks](/wiki/List_of_Minnesota_state_parks) and recreation areas, [58 state forests](/wiki/List_of_Minnesota_state_forests) covering about four million acres (16,000 km²), and numerous state wildlife preserves, all managed by the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](/wiki/Minnesota_Department_of_Natural_Resources). There are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the [Chippewa](/wiki/Chippewa_National_Forest) and [Superior national forests](/wiki/Superior_National_Forest). The Superior National Forest in the northeast contains the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness](/wiki/Boundary_Waters_Canoe_Area_Wilderness), which encompasses over a million acres (4,000 km²) and a thousand lakes. To its west is [Voyageurs National Park](/wiki/Voyageurs_National_Park). The [Mississippi National River and Recreation Area](/wiki/Mississippi_National_River_and_Recreation_Area) (MNRRA), is a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) corridor along the Mississippi River through the Minneapolis–St. Paul Metropolitan Area connecting a variety of sites of historic, cultural, and geologic interest.[[29]](#cite_note-29)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Map of](/wiki/File:Minnesotaterritory.PNG) [Minnesota Territory](/wiki/Minnesota_Territory) 1849–1858 Before European settlement of North America, Minnesota was populated by the [Dakota people](/wiki/Dakota_people). As Europeans settled the east coast, Native American movement away from them caused migration of the [Anishinaabe](/wiki/Anishinaabe) and other [Native Americans](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) into the Minnesota area. The first Europeans in the area were French [fur traders](/wiki/Fur_trade) who arrived in the 17th century. Late that century, [Anishinaabe](/wiki/Anishinaabe), also known as [Ojibwe](/wiki/Ojibwe) Indians migrated westward to Minnesota, causing tensions with the [Dakota people](/wiki/Dakota_people).[[30]](#cite_note-30) Explorers such as [Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut](/wiki/Daniel_Greysolon,_Sieur_du_Lhut), Father [Louis Hennepin](/wiki/Louis_Hennepin), [Jonathan Carver](/wiki/Jonathan_Carver), [Henry Schoolcraft](/wiki/Henry_Schoolcraft), and [Joseph Nicollet](/wiki/Joseph_Nicollet) mapped out the state.

In 1762 the region became part of [Spanish Louisiana](/wiki/Louisiana_(New_Spain)) until 1802.[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) The portion of the state east of the Mississippi River became part of the United States at the end of the [American Revolutionary War](/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War), when the [Second Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783)) was signed. Land west of the Mississippi River was acquired with the [Louisiana Purchase](/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase), although a portion of the [Red River Valley](/wiki/Red_River_Valley) was disputed until the [Treaty of 1818](/wiki/Treaty_of_1818).[[33]](#cite_note-33) In 1805, [Zebulon Pike](/wiki/Zebulon_Pike) bargained with Native Americans to acquire land at the [confluence](/wiki/Confluence) of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The construction of [Fort Snelling](/wiki/Fort_Snelling) followed between 1819 and 1825.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Its soldiers built a [grist mill](/wiki/Grist_mill) and a [sawmill](/wiki/Sawmill) at [Saint Anthony Falls](/wiki/Saint_Anthony_Falls), the first of the water-powered industries around which the city of Minneapolis later grew. Meanwhile, squatters, government officials, and tourists had settled near the fort. In 1839, the army forced them to move downriver and they settled in the area that became St. Paul.[[35]](#cite_note-35) [Minnesota Territory](/wiki/Minnesota_Territory) was formed on March 3, 1849. The first territorial legislature (held September 2, 1849)[[36]](#cite_note-36) was dominated by men from New England or of New England ancestry.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Thousands of people had come to build farms and cut timber, and Minnesota became the [32nd U.S. state](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_date_of_admission_to_the_Union) on May 11, 1858. The founding population was so overwhelmingly of New England origins that the state was dubbed "the New England of the West".[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) [thumb|upright|Settlers escaping the](/wiki/File:Dakota_War_of_1862-stereo-right.jpg) [Dakota War of 1862](/wiki/Dakota_War_of_1862) Treaties between European settlers and the Dakota and Ojibwe gradually forced the natives off their lands and on to smaller reservations. In 1861, residents of Mankato formed the [Knights of the Forest](/wiki/Knights_of_the_Forest), with a goal of eliminating all [Indians](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) from Minnesota. As conditions deteriorated for the Dakota, tensions rose, leading to the [Dakota War of 1862](/wiki/Dakota_War_of_1862).[[42]](#cite_note-42) The result of the six-week war was the execution of 38 Dakota and the exile of most of the rest of the Dakota to the [Crow Creek Reservation](/wiki/Crow_Creek_Reservation) in [Dakota Territory](/wiki/Dakota_Territory).[[33]](#cite_note-33) As many as 800 white settlers died during the war.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Logging and farming were mainstays of Minnesota's early economy. The sawmills at Saint Anthony Falls, and logging centers like [Marine on St. Croix](/wiki/Marine_on_St._Croix,_Minnesota), [Stillwater](/wiki/Stillwater,_Minnesota), and [Winona](/wiki/Winona,_Minnesota), processed high volumes of lumber. These cities were situated on rivers that were ideal for transportation.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Later, Saint Anthony Falls was tapped to provide power for flour mills. Innovations by Minneapolis millers led to the production of Minnesota "patent" flour, which commanded almost double the price of "bakers'" or "clear" flour, which it replaced.[[44]](#cite_note-44) By 1900, Minnesota mills, led by [Pillsbury](/wiki/Pillsbury_Company), [Northwestern](/wiki/Northwestern_Consolidated_Milling_Company) and the Washburn-Crosby Company (a forerunner of [General Mills](/wiki/General_Mills)), were grinding 14.1 percent of the nation's grain.[[45]](#cite_note-45) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Phelpsmill_ottertailcounty.jpg)[Phelps Mill](/wiki/Phelps_Mill) in [Otter Tail County](/wiki/Otter_Tail_County,_Minnesota) The state's iron-mining industry was established with the discovery of iron in the [Vermilion Range](/wiki/Vermilion_Range_(Minnesota)) and the [Mesabi Range](/wiki/Mesabi_Range) in the 1880s, and in the [Cuyuna Range](/wiki/Cuyuna_Range) in the early 20th century. The ore was shipped by rail to [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota) and [Two Harbors](/wiki/Two_Harbors,_Minnesota), then loaded onto ships and transported eastward over the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes).[[33]](#cite_note-33) Industrial development and the rise of manufacturing caused the population to shift gradually from rural areas to cities during the early 20th century. Nevertheless, farming remained prevalent. Minnesota's economy was hard-hit by the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression), resulting in lower prices for farmers, layoffs among iron miners, and labor unrest. Compounding the adversity, western Minnesota and the Dakotas were hit by drought from 1931 to 1935. [New Deal](/wiki/New_Deal) programs provided some economic turnaround. The [Civilian Conservation Corps](/wiki/Civilian_Conservation_Corps) and other programs around the state established some jobs for Indians on their reservations, and the [Indian Reorganization Act](/wiki/Indian_Reorganization_Act) of 1934 provided the tribes with a mechanism of self-government. This provided natives a greater voice within the state, and promoted more respect for tribal customs because religious ceremonies and [native languages](/wiki/Native_language) were no longer suppressed.[[34]](#cite_note-34) After [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), industrial development quickened. New technology increased farm productivity through automation of [feedlots](/wiki/Feedlot) for hogs and cattle, machine milking at dairy farms, and raising chickens in large buildings. Planting became more specialized with [hybridization](/wiki/Hybrid_(biology)) of corn and wheat, and the use of farm machinery such as [tractors](/wiki/Tractor) and [combines](/wiki/Combine_harvester) became the norm. [University of Minnesota](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota) professor [Norman Borlaug](/wiki/Norman_Borlaug) contributed to these developments as part of the [Green Revolution](/wiki/Green_Revolution).[[34]](#cite_note-34) [Suburban](/wiki/Suburb) development accelerated due to increased postwar housing demand and convenient transportation. Increased mobility, in turn, enabled more specialized jobs.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Minnesota became a center of technology after World War II. [Engineering Research Associates](/wiki/Engineering_Research_Associates) was formed in 1946 to develop computers for the [United States Navy](/wiki/United_States_Navy). It later merged with [Remington Rand](/wiki/Remington_Rand), and then became [Sperry Rand](/wiki/Sperry_Rand). [William Norris](/wiki/William_Norris_(CEO)) left Sperry in 1957 to form [Control Data Corporation](/wiki/Control_Data_Corporation) (CDC).[[46]](#cite_note-46) [Cray Research](/wiki/Cray) was formed when [Seymour Cray](/wiki/Seymour_Cray) left CDC to form his own company. Medical device maker [Medtronic](/wiki/Medtronic) also started business in the Twin Cities in 1949.

## Cities and towns[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:OwatonnaBank.JPG)[National Farmers Bank](/wiki/National_Farmers_Bank) in [Owatonna](/wiki/Owatonna,_Minnesota) by [Louis Sullivan](/wiki/Louis_Sullivan) [Saint Paul](/wiki/Saint_Paul,_Minnesota), located in east-central Minnesota along the banks of the Mississippi River, has been Minnesota's [capital city](/wiki/List_of_capitals_in_the_United_States) since 1849, first as capital of the [Territory of Minnesota](/wiki/Territory_of_Minnesota), and then as state capital since 1858.

Saint Paul is adjacent to Minnesota's most populous city, [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis,_Minnesota); they and their suburbs are known collectively as the [Twin Cities](/wiki/Minneapolis–St._Paul) [metropolitan area](/wiki/Metropolitan_area), the 13th-largest metropolitan area in the United States and home to about 60 percent of the state's population.[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48) The remainder of the state is known as "[Greater Minnesota](/wiki/Regions_of_Minnesota)" or "Outstate Minnesota".

The state has 17 cities with populations above 50,000 (as of the 2010 census). In descending order of population, they are [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis,_Minnesota), [Saint Paul](/wiki/Saint_Paul,_Minnesota), [Rochester](/wiki/Rochester,_Minnesota), [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota), [Bloomington](/wiki/Bloomington,_Minnesota), [Brooklyn Park](/wiki/Brooklyn_Park,_Minnesota), [Plymouth](/wiki/Plymouth,_Minnesota), [Saint Cloud](/wiki/St._Cloud,_Minnesota), [Woodbury](/wiki/Woodbury,_Minnesota), [Eagan](/wiki/Eagan,_Minnesota), [Maple Grove](/wiki/Maple_Grove,_Minnesota), [Coon Rapids](/wiki/Coon_Rapids,_Minnesota), [Eden Prairie](/wiki/Eden_Prairie,_Minnesota), [Minnetonka](/wiki/Minnetonka,_MN), [Burnsville](/wiki/Burnsville,_Minnesota), [Apple Valley](/wiki/Apple_Valley,_Minnesota), [Blaine](/wiki/Blaine,_Minnesota) and [Lakeville](/wiki/Lakeville,_Minnesota).[[48]](#cite_note-48) Of these only Rochester, Duluth, and Saint Cloud are outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Minnesota's population continues to grow, primarily in the urban centers. The populations of metropolitan [Sherburne](/wiki/Sherburne_County,_Minnesota) and [Scott](/wiki/Scott_County,_Minnesota) counties doubled between 1980 and 2000, while 40 of the state's 87 counties lost residents over the same period.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|right|Minnesota's population distribution](/wiki/File:Minnesota_population_map_cropped.png) From fewer than 6,120 people in 1850, Minnesota's population grew to over 1.7 million by 1900. Each of the next six decades saw a 15 percent increase in population, reaching 3.4 million in 1960. Growth then slowed, rising 11 percent to 3.8 million in 1970, and an average of 9 percent over the next three decades to 4.9 million in the [2000 Census](/wiki/2000_United_States_Census).[[49]](#cite_note-49) The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates that the population of Minnesota was 5,489,594 on July 1, 2015, a 3.5 percent increase since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=PopEstUS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The rate of population change, and age and gender distributions, approximate the national average. Minnesota's [center of population](/wiki/Center_of_population) is in [Hennepin County](/wiki/Hennepin_County,_Minnesota).[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### Race and ancestry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The state's estimated racial composition in the 2011 [American Census Bureau](/wiki/American_Census_Bureau) estimate was:[[51]](#cite_note-51)\* [White American](/wiki/White_American): 86.9% ([Non-Hispanic Whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites) 83.1%, [White Hispanic](/wiki/White_Hispanic) 3.8%)

* [African American](/wiki/African_American): 5.4%
* [American Indian and Alaska Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States): 1.1%
* [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American): 4.0%
* [Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander_American): 0.0%
* Other races: 2.4%
* [Multiracial](/wiki/Multiracial_American): 1.8%

[Hispanics or Latinos](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) made up 4.7 percent of the population.

In 2011, non-Hispanic whites were involved in 72.3 percent of all the births.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Minnesota's growing [minority groups](/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States), however, still form a smaller percentage of the population than in the nation as a whole.[[53]](#cite_note-53) The principal ancestries of Minnesota's residents in 2010 were surveyed to be the following:[[54]](#cite_note-54)\* 37.9% [German](/wiki/German_American)

* 32.1% from the [Nordic countries](/wiki/Nordic_countries); (16.8% [Norwegian](/wiki/Norwegian_American), 9.5% [Swedish](/wiki/Swedish_American), 4.7% [Finnish](/wiki/Finnish_American), [Danish](/wiki/Danish_American), [Icelandic](/wiki/Icelandic_American), [Faroese](/wiki/Faroese_people) and [Karelian](/wiki/Karelians))
* 11.7% [Irish](/wiki/Irish_American)
* 6.3% [English](/wiki/English_American)
* 5.1% [Polish](/wiki/Polish_American)
* 4.2% [French](/wiki/French_American)
* 3.7% [Italian](/wiki/Italian_American)

Ancestries claimed by less than 3 percent of the population include [American](/wiki/United_States), [Czech](/wiki/Czech_American), and [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_American), each between 2 and 3 percent; [Sub-Saharan African](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_African) and [East African](/wiki/East_Africa), [Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_American), [French Canadian](/wiki/French_Canadian), [Scotch-Irish](/wiki/Scotch-Irish_American) and [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American), each between 1 and 1.9 percent; and less than 1 percent each for [Russian](/wiki/Russian_American), [Welsh](/wiki/Welsh_American), [Bosnian](/wiki/Bosnian_American), [Croatian](/wiki/Croatian_American), [Serbian](/wiki/Serbian_American), [Swiss](/wiki/Swiss_American), [Arab](/wiki/Arab_American), [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_American), [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_American), [Greek](/wiki/Greek_American), [Slovak](/wiki/Slovak_American), [Lithuanian](/wiki/Lithuanian_American), [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_American), and [West Indian](/wiki/West_Indian).<ref name = SSC>[Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2005-2007, Minnesota](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?geo_id=04000US27&ds_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_&qr_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&_lang=en&_sse=on)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link), U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved on July 4, 2009.</ref>

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:St_Paul_Cathedral_2012.jpg) [French Renaissance](/wiki/French_Renaissance_architecture) style [Cathedral of St. Paul](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Saint_Paul,_National_Shrine_of_the_Apostle_Paul) in the city of St. Paul

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The majority of Minnesotans are Protestants, including a significant [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheran) contingent, owing to the state's largely Northern European ethnic makeup, but [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholics) (of largely German, Irish, and Slavic descent) make up the largest single Christian denomination. A 2010 survey by the [Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) showed that 32 percent of Minnesotans were affiliated with [Mainline Protestant](/wiki/Mainline_Protestant) traditions, 21 percent were [Evangelical Protestants](/wiki/Evangelicalism), 28 percent were [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_the_United_States), 1 percent each were Jewish, [Muslim](/wiki/Islam), [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism), and Black Protestant, and smaller amounts were of other faiths, with 13 percent unaffiliated.[[55]](#cite_note-55) According to the [Association of Religion Data Archives](/wiki/Association_of_Religion_Data_Archives), the denominations with the most adherents in 2010 were the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) with 1,150,367; the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America) with 737,537; and the [Lutheran Church Missouri Synod](/wiki/Lutheran_Church_Missouri_Synod) with 182,439.[[56]](#cite_note-56) This is broadly consistent with the results of the 2001 [American Religious Identification Survey](/wiki/American_Religious_Identification_Survey), which also gives detailed percentages for many individual denominations.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Although [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) is dominant, Minnesota has a long history with non-Christian faiths. [Ashkenazi](/wiki/Ashkenazi) [Jewish](/wiki/Judaism) pioneers set up Saint Paul's first [synagogue](/wiki/Synagogue) in 1856.<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Minnesota is home to over 30 [mosques](/wiki/Mosque), mostly in the Twin Cities metro area.[[58]](#cite_note-58) The Temple of ECK, the spiritual home of Eckankar, is based in Minnesota, and there are tens of thousands of [Eckists](/wiki/Eckists) in the state.[[59]](#cite_note-59)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Once primarily a producer of raw materials, Minnesota's economy has transformed to emphasize finished products and services. Perhaps the most significant characteristic of the economy is its diversity; the relative outputs of its business sectors closely match the United States as a whole.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The economy of Minnesota had a [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) of $262 billion in 2008.[[61]](#cite_note-61) In 2008, thirty-three of the United States' top 1,000 publicly traded companies (by revenue) were headquartered in Minnesota,[[62]](#cite_note-62) including [Target](/wiki/Target_Corporation), [UnitedHealth Group](/wiki/UnitedHealth_Group), [3M](/wiki/3M), [General Mills](/wiki/General_Mills), [U.S. Bancorp](/wiki/U.S._Bancorp), [Ameriprise](/wiki/Ameriprise), [Hormel](/wiki/Hormel), [Land O' Lakes](/wiki/Land_O'_Lakes), [SuperValu](/wiki/SuperValu_(United_States)), [Best Buy](/wiki/Best_Buy) and [Valspar](/wiki/Valspar). Private companies based in Minnesota include [Cargill](/wiki/Cargill), the largest privately owned company in the United States,[[63]](#cite_note-63) and [Carlson Companies](/wiki/Carlson_Companies), the parent company of [Radisson Hotels](/wiki/Radisson_Hotels).[[64]](#cite_note-64) The [per capita personal income](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_income) in 2008 was $42,772, the tenth-highest in the nation.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The three-year [median household income](/wiki/Median_household_income) from 2002 to 2004 was $55,914, ranking fifth in the U.S. and first among the 36 states not on the Atlantic coast.[[66]](#cite_note-66) As of January 2015, the state's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.[[67]](#cite_note-67)

### Industry and commerce[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[upright|thumb|The](/wiki/File:IDS_reflecting_Wells_Fargo.jpg) [IDS Tower](/wiki/IDS_Tower), designed by [Philip Johnson](/wiki/Philip_Johnson), is the state's tallest building,[[68]](#cite_note-68) reflecting [César Pelli's](/wiki/César_Pelli) [Art Deco](/wiki/Art_Deco)-style [Wells Fargo Center](/wiki/Wells_Fargo_Center_(Minneapolis)) Minnesota's earliest industries were fur trading and agriculture. The city of Minneapolis grew around the [flour mills](/wiki/Gristmill) powered by [St. Anthony Falls](/wiki/St._Anthony_Falls). Although less than one percent of the population is now employed in the agricultural sector,[[69]](#cite_note-69) it remains a major part of the state's economy, ranking sixth in the nation in the value of products sold.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The state is the U.S.'s largest producer of [sugar beets](/wiki/Sugar_beets), [sweet corn](/wiki/Sweet_corn), and [green peas](/wiki/Green_peas) for processing, and farm-raised [turkeys](/wiki/Turkeys). Minnesota is also a large producer of corn and soybeans.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Minnesota has the most food [cooperatives](/wiki/List_of_food_cooperatives#United_States) per capita in the United States.[[72]](#cite_note-72) [Forestry](/wiki/Forestry) remains strong, including [logging](/wiki/Logging), [pulpwood](/wiki/Pulpwood) processing and paper production, and forest products manufacturing. Minnesota was famous for its soft-ore mines, which produced a significant portion of the world's [iron ore](/wiki/Iron_ore) for over a century. Although the high-grade ore is now depleted, [taconite](/wiki/Taconite) mining continues, using processes developed locally to save the industry. In 2004, the state produced 75 percent of the country's usable iron ore.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The mining boom created the port of [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota) which continues to be important for shipping ore, coal, and agricultural products. The manufacturing sector now includes technology and [biomedical](/wiki/Biomedical) firms in addition to the older food processors and heavy industry. The nation's first indoor [shopping mall](/wiki/Shopping_mall) was [Edina's](/wiki/Edina,_Minnesota) [Southdale Center](/wiki/Southdale_Center) and its largest is [Bloomington's](/wiki/Bloomington,_Minnesota) [Mall of America](/wiki/Mall_of_America).

Minnesota is one of 42 [U.S. states](/wiki/U.S._state) with its own [lottery](/wiki/Lottery); its games include [Powerball](/wiki/Powerball), [Mega Millions](/wiki/Mega_Millions), [Hot Lotto](/wiki/Hot_Lotto) (all three [multi-state](/wiki/Multi-State_Lottery_Association)), Northstar Cash and [Gopher 5](/wiki/Gopher_5).

### Energy use and production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Minnesota produces [ethanol fuel](/wiki/Ethanol_fuel) and is the first to mandate its use, a ten percent mix ([E10](/wiki/E10_fuel)).[[73]](#cite_note-73) In 2005 there were more than 310 service stations supplying [E85](/wiki/E85) fuel, comprising 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.[[74]](#cite_note-74) A two percent [biodiesel](/wiki/Biodiesel) blend has been required in [diesel fuel](/wiki/Diesel_fuel) since 2005. As of December 2006 the state was the country's fourth-largest producer of [wind power](/wiki/Wind_power), with 895 [megawatts](/wiki/Megawatt) installed and another 200 megawatts planned, much of it on the windy [Buffalo Ridge](/wiki/Buffalo_Ridge) in the southwest part of the state.[[75]](#cite_note-75)

### State taxes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Minnesota has a [progressive income tax](/wiki/Progressive_income_tax) structure; the four brackets of state [income tax](/wiki/Income_tax) rates are 5.35, 7.05, 7.85 and 9.85 percent.[[76]](#cite_note-76) As of 2008, Minnesota was ranked 12th in the nation in per capita total state and local taxes.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In 2008, Minnesotans paid 10.2 percent of their income in state and local taxes; the U.S. average was 9.7 percent.<ref name=TF>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The state [sales tax](/wiki/Sales_tax) in Minnesota is 6.875 percent, but there is no sales tax on clothing, prescription drug medications, some [services](/wiki/Service_(economics)), or food items for home consumption.[[78]](#cite_note-78) The [state legislature](/wiki/Minnesota_Legislature) may allow municipalities to institute local sales taxes and special local taxes, such as the 0.5 percent supplemental sales tax in Minneapolis.[[79]](#cite_note-79) [Excise taxes](/wiki/Excise) are levied on alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel. The state imposes a [use tax](/wiki/Use_tax) on items purchased elsewhere but used within Minnesota.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Owners of [real property](/wiki/Real_property) in Minnesota pay [property tax](/wiki/Property_tax) to their county, municipality, school district, and special taxing districts.[Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Fine and performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Mpls_arts.jpg) [Minneapolis Institute of Art's](/wiki/Minneapolis_Institute_of_Art) [Beaux-Arts](/wiki/Beaux-Arts_architecture) north facade, designed by [McKim, Mead, and White](/wiki/McKim,_Mead,_and_White). Minnesota's leading [fine art](/wiki/Fine_art) museums include the [Minneapolis Institute of Art](/wiki/Minneapolis_Institute_of_Art), the [Walker Art Center](/wiki/Walker_Art_Center), the [Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum](/wiki/Frederick_R._Weisman_Art_Museum), and the [The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA)](/wiki/The_Museum_of_Russian_Art). All are located in [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis). The [Minnesota Orchestra](/wiki/Minnesota_Orchestra) and the [Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra](/wiki/Saint_Paul_Chamber_Orchestra) are prominent full-time professional [musical ensembles](/wiki/Musical_ensemble) that perform concerts and offer educational programs to the Twin Cities' community. The world-renowned [Guthrie Theater](/wiki/Guthrie_Theater) moved into a new Minneapolis facility in 2006, boasting three stages and overlooking the Mississippi River. Attendance at [theatrical](/wiki/Theatre), [musical](/wiki/Music), and [comedy](/wiki/Comedy) events in the area is strong. In the United States, the Twin Cities' number of theater seats per capita ranks behind only [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City);[[80]](#cite_note-80) with some 2.3 million theater tickets sold annually.[[81]](#cite_note-81) The [Minnesota Fringe Festival](/wiki/Minnesota_Fringe_Festival) is an annual celebration of [theatre](/wiki/Theatre), [dance](/wiki/Dance), [improvisation](/wiki/Improvisation), [puppetry](/wiki/Puppetry), kids' shows, [visual art](/wiki/Visual_art), and musicals. The summer festival consists of over 800 performances over 11 days in Minneapolis, and is the largest non-juried performing arts festival in the United States.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

The rigors and rewards of pioneer life on the [prairie](/wiki/Prairie) are the subject of *Giants in the Earth* by [Ole Rolvaag](/wiki/Ole_Rolvaag) and the [*Little House*](/wiki/Little_House_on_the_Prairie) series of children's books by [Laura Ingalls Wilder](/wiki/Laura_Ingalls_Wilder). Small-town life is portrayed grimly by [Sinclair Lewis](/wiki/Sinclair_Lewis) in the novel [*Main Street*](/wiki/Main_Street_(novel)), and more gently and affectionately by [Garrison Keillor](/wiki/Garrison_Keillor) in his tales of [Lake Wobegon](/wiki/Lake_Wobegon). St. Paul native [F. Scott Fitzgerald](/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald) writes of the social insecurities and aspirations of the young city in stories such as [*Winter Dreams*](/wiki/Winter_Dreams) and *The Ice Palace* (published in [*Flappers and Philosophers*](/wiki/Flappers_and_Philosophers)). [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's](/wiki/Henry_Wadsworth_Longfellow) epic poem [*The Song of Hiawatha*](/wiki/The_Song_of_Hiawatha) was inspired by Minnesota and names many of the state's places and bodies of water.

### Entertainment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:First_Avenue_nightclub.jpg)[First Avenue](/wiki/First_Avenue_(nightclub)) nightclub, the heart of Minnesota's music community.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Minnesota musicians include [Bob Dylan](/wiki/Bob_Dylan), [Eddie Cochran](/wiki/Eddie_Cochran), [The Andrews Sisters](/wiki/The_Andrews_Sisters), [The Castaways](/wiki/The_Castaways), [The Trashmen](/wiki/The_Trashmen), [Prince](/wiki/Prince_(musician)), [Soul Asylum](/wiki/Soul_Asylum), [David Ellefson](/wiki/David_Ellefson), [Hüsker Dü](/wiki/Hüsker_Dü), and [The Replacements](/wiki/The_Replacements_(band)). Minnesotans helped shape the history of music through popular American culture: the Andrews Sisters' "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" was an iconic tune of World War II, while the Trashmen's "Surfin' Bird" and Bob Dylan epitomize two sides of the 1960s. In the 1980s, influential hit radio groups and musicians included [Prince](/wiki/Prince), [The Original 7ven](/wiki/The_Original_7ven), [Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis](/wiki/Jimmy_Jam_&_Terry_Lewis), [The Jets](/wiki/The_Jets_(Minnesota_band)), [Lipps Inc.](/wiki/Lipps_Inc.), and [Information Society](/wiki/Information_Society_(band)).

Minnesotans have also made significant contributions to comedy, theater, media, and film. The comic strip [*Peanuts*](/wiki/Peanuts) was created by St. Paul native [Charles M. Schulz](/wiki/Charles_M._Schulz). [Garrison Keillor](/wiki/Garrison_Keillor) resurrected old-style [radio comedy](/wiki/Radio_comedy) with [*A Prairie Home Companion*](/wiki/A_Prairie_Home_Companion), which has aired since 1974. The [cult shows](/wiki/Cult_television) [*Mystery Science Theater 3000*](/wiki/Mystery_Science_Theater_3000) and [*Let's Bowl*](/wiki/Let's_Bowl) originated in the Twin Cities, and [Lizz Winstead](/wiki/Lizz_Winstead) and [Craig Kilborn](/wiki/Craig_Kilborn) helped create the increasingly influential [Comedy Central](/wiki/Comedy_Central) program [*The Daily Show*](/wiki/The_Daily_Show).

[Joel and Ethan Coen](/wiki/Joel_and_Ethan_Coen), [Terry Gilliam](/wiki/Terry_Gilliam), [Bill Pohlad](/wiki/Bill_Pohlad), and [Mike Todd](/wiki/Mike_Todd) contributed to the art of [filmmaking](/wiki/Filmmaking) as writers, directors, and producers. Actors from Minnesota include [Loni Anderson](/wiki/Loni_Anderson), [Richard Dean Anderson](/wiki/Richard_Dean_Anderson), [James Arness](/wiki/James_Arness), [Jessica Biel](/wiki/Jessica_Biel), [Rachael Leigh Cook](/wiki/Rachael_Leigh_Cook), [Julia Duffy](/wiki/Julia_Duffy), [Mike Farrell](/wiki/Mike_Farrell), [Judy Garland](/wiki/Judy_Garland), [Peter Graves](/wiki/Peter_Graves), [Josh Hartnett](/wiki/Josh_Hartnett), [Garrett Hedlund](/wiki/Garrett_Hedlund), [Tippi Hedren](/wiki/Tippi_Hedren), [Jessica Lange](/wiki/Jessica_Lange), [Kelly Lynch](/wiki/Kelly_Lynch), [E.G. Marshall](/wiki/E.G._Marshall), [Chris Pratt](/wiki/Chris_Pratt), [Jane Russell](/wiki/Jane_Russell), [Winona Ryder](/wiki/Winona_Ryder), [Seann William Scott](/wiki/Seann_William_Scott), [Kevin Sorbo](/wiki/Kevin_Sorbo), [Lea Thompson](/wiki/Lea_Thompson), [Vince Vaughn](/wiki/Vince_Vaughn), [Jesse Ventura](/wiki/Jesse_Ventura), and [Steve Zahn](/wiki/Steve_Zahn).

### Popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|upright=.7|A youth](/wiki/File:MNfiddles.jpg) [fiddle](/wiki/Fiddle) performance at the [Minnesota State Fair](/wiki/Minnesota_State_Fair) [Stereotypical](/wiki/Stereotype) traits of Minnesotans include "[Minnesota nice](/wiki/Minnesota_nice)", [Lutheranism](/wiki/Lutheranism), a strong sense of community and shared culture, and a distinctive brand of [North Central American English](/wiki/North_Central_American_English) sprinkled with Scandinavian expressions. [Potlucks](/wiki/Potluck), usually with a variety of [hotdishes](/wiki/Hotdish), are popular small-town church activities. A small segment of the Scandinavian population attend a traditional lutefisk dinner to celebrate Christmas. Many of these Scandinavian cultural characteristics and personality traits are satirized on the nationally-syndicated public radio program [*A Prairie Home Companion*](/wiki/A_Prairie_Home_Companion). Life in Minnesota is depicted in movies such as [*Fargo*](/wiki/Fargo_(film)), [*Grumpy Old Men*](/wiki/Grumpy_Old_Men_(film)), [*Grumpier Old Men*](/wiki/Grumpier_Old_Men), [*Juno*](/wiki/Juno_(film)), [*Drop Dead Gorgeous*](/wiki/Drop_Dead_Gorgeous_(film)), [*Young Adult*](/wiki/Young_Adult_(film)), [*A Serious Man*](/wiki/A_Serious_Man), [*New in Town*](/wiki/New_in_Town), and in famous television series like [*Little House on the Prairie*](/wiki/Little_House_on_the_Prairie_(TV_series)), [*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*](/wiki/The_Mary_Tyler_Moore_Show), [*The Golden Girls*](/wiki/The_Golden_Girls), [*Coach*](/wiki/Coach_(TV_series)), [*The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show*](/wiki/The_Rocky_and_Bullwinkle_Show), and [*Fargo*](/wiki/Fargo_(TV_series)). Major movies that were shot on location in Minnesota include [*That Was Then... This Is Now*](/wiki/That_Was_Then..._This_Is_Now), [*Purple Rain*](/wiki/Purple_Rain_(film)), [*Airport*](/wiki/Airport_(1970_film)), [*Beautiful Girls*](/wiki/Beautiful_Girls_(film)), [*North Country*](/wiki/North_Country_(film)), [Untamed Heart](/wiki/Untamed_Heart)*,* [Feeling Minnesota](/wiki/Feeling_Minnesota)*,* [Jingle All The Way](/wiki/Jingle_All_The_Way)*,* [A Simple Plan](/wiki/A_Simple_Plan_(film)) *and* [The Mighty Ducks films](/wiki/The_Mighty_Ducks_(film_series))*.*

The [Minnesota State Fair](/wiki/Minnesota_State_Fair), advertised as *The Great Minnesota Get-Together*, is an icon of state culture. In a state of 5.4 million people, there were over 1.8 million visitors to the fair in 2014, setting a new attendance record.[[83]](#cite_note-83) The fair covers the variety of Minnesotan life, including [fine art](/wiki/Fine_art), [science](/wiki/Science), [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture), food preparation, [4-H](/wiki/4-H) displays, music, [the midway](/wiki/Midway_(fair)), and corporate merchandising. It is known for its displays of [seed art](/wiki/Seed_art), [butter](/wiki/Butter) sculptures of [dairy princesses](/wiki/Princess_Kay_of_the_Milky_Way), the birthing barn, and the "fattest pig" competition. One can also find dozens of varieties of food on a stick, such as [Pronto Pups](/wiki/Pronto_Pup), [cheese curds](/wiki/Cheese_curds#Fried_cheese_curds), and deep-fried candy bars. On a smaller scale, many of these attractions are offered at numerous county fairs.

Other large annual festivals include the [Saint Paul Winter Carnival](/wiki/Saint_Paul_Winter_Carnival), the [Minnesota Renaissance Festival](/wiki/Minnesota_Renaissance_Festival), Minneapolis' [Aquatennial](/wiki/Minneapolis_Aquatennial) and Mill City Music Festival, [Moondance Jam](/wiki/Moondance_Jam) in [Walker](/wiki/Walker,_Minnesota), [Sonshine Christian music festival](/wiki/Sonshine_Festival) in [Willmar](/wiki/Willmar,_Minnesota), the [Judy Garland](/wiki/Judy_Garland) Festival in [Grand Rapids](/wiki/Grand_Rapids,_Minnesota), the [Eelpout](/wiki/Eelpout) Festival on Leech Lake, and the [WE Fest](/wiki/WE_Fest) in [Detroit Lakes](/wiki/Detroit_Lakes,_Minnesota).

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:MayoMedicalCentersign2006-05-14.JPG) [Mayo Clinic](/wiki/Mayo_Clinic) in [Rochester](/wiki/Rochester,_Minnesota). Minnesotans have low rates of premature death, infant mortality, cardiovascular disease, and occupational fatalities.<ref name = UHC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[84]](#cite_note-84) They have long life expectancies,[[85]](#cite_note-85) and high rates of health insurance and regular exercise.<ref name = UHC/>[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87) These and other measures have led two groups to rank Minnesota as the healthiest state in the nation; however, in one of these rankings, Minnesota descended from first to sixth in the nation between 2005 and 2009 because of low levels of public health funding and the prevalence of [binge drinking](/wiki/Binge_drinking).<ref name = UHC/>[[88]](#cite_note-88) On October 1, 2007, Minnesota became the 17th state to enact the [Freedom to Breathe Act](/wiki/Freedom_to_Breathe_Act), a statewide smoking ban in restaurants and bars.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Medical care in the state is provided by a comprehensive network of hospitals and clinics headed by two institutions with international reputations. The [University of Minnesota Medical School](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota_Medical_School) is a high-rated teaching institution that has made a number of breakthroughs in treatment, and its research activities contribute significantly to the state's growing [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology) industry.[[90]](#cite_note-90) The [Mayo Clinic](/wiki/Mayo_Clinic), a world-renowned hospital based in [Rochester](/wiki/Rochester,_Minnesota), was founded by [William Worrall Mayo](/wiki/William_Worrall_Mayo), an immigrant from England.[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92) *U.S. News and World Report*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:'s) 2014–2015 survey ranked 4,743 hospitals in the United States in 16 specialized fields of care, and placed the Mayo Clinic in the top four in all fields except psychiatry, where it ranked seventh. The hospital ranked #1 in eight fields and #2 in three others.[[93]](#cite_note-93) The Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota are partners in the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics, a state-funded program that conducts research into [cancer](/wiki/Cancer), [Alzheimer's disease](/wiki/Alzheimer's_disease), [heart health](/wiki/Coronary_heart_disease), [obesity](/wiki/Obesity), and other areas.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Pillsbury_Hall.jpg) [Richardsonian Romanesque](/wiki/Richardsonian_Romanesque) Pillsbury Hall (1889) is one of the oldest buildings on the [University of Minnesota](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota) Minneapolis campus. One of the Minnesota Legislature's first acts when it opened in 1858 was the creation of a [normal school](/wiki/Normal_school) in [Winona](/wiki/Winona,_Minnesota). Minnesota's commitment to education has contributed to a literate and well-educated populace. In 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota had the second-highest proportion of high school graduates, with 91.5% of people 25 and older holding a diploma, and the tenth-highest proportion of people with bachelor's degrees.[[95]](#cite_note-95) In 2015, Minneapolis was named the nation's "Most Literate City", while St. Paul placed fourth, according to a major annual survey.[[96]](#cite_note-96) In a 2013 study conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics comparing the performance of eighth-grade students internationally in math and science, Minnesota ranked eighth in the world and third in the United States, behind Massachusetts and Vermont.[[97]](#cite_note-97) In 2014, Minnesota students earned the tenth-highest average composite score in the nation on the [ACT exam](/wiki/ACT_(examination)).[[98]](#cite_note-98) While Minnesota has chosen not to implement [school vouchers](/wiki/School_voucher),[[99]](#cite_note-99) it is home to the first [charter school](/wiki/Charter_school).[[100]](#cite_note-100) The state supports a network of public [universities](/wiki/University) and colleges, including 32 institutions in the [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System](/wiki/Minnesota_State_Colleges_and_Universities_System), and five major campuses of the [University of Minnesota](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota_system). It is also home to more than 20 private colleges and universities, six of which rank among the nation's top 100 [liberal arts](/wiki/Liberal_arts) colleges, according to [U.S. News & World Report](/wiki/U.S._News_&_World_Report).[[101]](#cite_note-101)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Duluth_canal.jpg) [Aerial Lift Bridge](/wiki/Aerial_Lift_Bridge) at [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota) Transportation in Minnesota is overseen by the [Minnesota Department of Transportation](/wiki/Minnesota_Department_of_Transportation) (MnDOT for short and used in the local news media). Principal transportation corridors radiate from the [Minneapolis–St. Paul](/wiki/Minneapolis–St._Paul) metropolitan area and Duluth. The major [Interstate highways](/wiki/Interstate_Highway_System) are [Interstate 35](/wiki/Interstate_35_in_Minnesota) (I-35), [I-90](/wiki/Interstate_90_in_Minnesota), and [I-94](/wiki/Interstate_94_in_Minnesota), with I-35 and I-94 passing through the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area, and I-90 traveling east-west along the southern edge of the state.[[102]](#cite_note-102) In 2006, a [constitutional amendment](/wiki/Constitutional_amendment) was passed that required sales and use taxes on motor vehicles to fund transportation, with at least 40 percent dedicated to [public transit](/wiki/Public_transit).[[103]](#cite_note-103) There are nearly two dozen [rail](/wiki/Rail_transport) corridors in Minnesota, most of which go through Minneapolis–St. Paul or Duluth.[[104]](#cite_note-104) There is water transportation along the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River) system and from the ports of [Lake Superior](/wiki/Lake_Superior).[[105]](#cite_note-105) [thumb|right|A](/wiki/File:Hiawatha_LRV.jpg) [METRO Blue Line](/wiki/Blue_Line_(Minneapolis-St._Paul_Metro)) vehicle in Minneapolis Minnesota's principal airport is [Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport](/wiki/Minneapolis–St._Paul_International_Airport) (MSP), a major passenger and freight hub for [Delta Air Lines](/wiki/Delta_Air_Lines) and [Sun Country Airlines](/wiki/Sun_Country_Airlines). Most other domestic carriers serve the airport. Large commercial jet service is provided at Duluth and Rochester, with scheduled commuter service to four smaller cities via [Delta Connection](/wiki/Delta_Connection) carriers [SkyWest Airlines](/wiki/SkyWest_Airlines), [Compass Airlines](/wiki/Compass_Airlines_(North_America)), and [Endeavor Air](/wiki/Endeavor_Air).[[106]](#cite_note-106) [Amtrak's](/wiki/Amtrak) daily [*Empire Builder*](/wiki/Empire_Builder) (Chicago–Seattle/Portland) train runs through Minnesota, calling at the [Saint Paul Union Depot](/wiki/Saint_Paul_Union_Depot) and five other stations.[[107]](#cite_note-107) Intercity bus providers include [Jefferson Lines](/wiki/Jefferson_Lines), [Greyhound](/wiki/Greyhound_Bus_Lines), and [Megabus](/wiki/Megabus_(North_America)). Local public transit is provided by [bus](/wiki/Bus) networks in the larger cities and by two rail services. The [Northstar Line](/wiki/Northstar_Line) [commuter rail](/wiki/Commuter_rail) service runs from [Big Lake](/wiki/Big_Lake,_Minnesota) to the [Target Field station](/wiki/Target_Field_(Metro_Transit_station)) in downtown Minneapolis. From there, [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) runs to Saint Paul Union Depot on the [Green Line](/wiki/Green_Line_(Minnesota)), and to the MSP airport and the [Mall of America](/wiki/Mall_of_America) via the [Blue Line](/wiki/Blue_Line_(Minneapolis-St._Paul_Metro)).

## Law and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

As with the federal government of the United States, power in Minnesota is divided into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

### Executive[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The executive branch is headed by the [governor](/wiki/Governor_(United_States)). Governor [Mark Dayton](/wiki/Mark_Dayton), DFL (Democratic Farmer Labor), took office on January 3, 2011, to become the first DFL governor to hold the seat in two decades. The governor has a [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)) consisting of the leaders of various state government agencies, called commissioners. The other elected constitutional offices are [secretary of state](/wiki/List_of_secretaries_of_state_of_Minnesota), [attorney general](/wiki/Minnesota_Attorney_General), and [state auditor](/wiki/Minnesota_State_Auditor).

### Legislature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Minnesota_State_Capitol.jpg) [Minnesota State Capitol](/wiki/Minnesota_State_Capitol) in Saint Paul, designed by [Cass Gilbert](/wiki/Cass_Gilbert). The [Minnesota Legislature](/wiki/Minnesota_Legislature) is a [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral) body consisting of the [Senate](/wiki/Minnesota_Senate) and the [House of Representatives](/wiki/Minnesota_House_of_Representatives). The state has sixty-seven districts, each covering about sixty thousand people. Each district has one senator and two representatives (each district being divided into *A* and *B* sections). Senators serve for four years and representatives for two years. In the November 2010 election, the [Minnesota Republican Party](/wiki/Minnesota_Republican_Party) gained twenty-five house seats, giving them control of the House of Representatives by a 72-62 margin.[[109]](#cite_note-109) The 2010 election also saw Minnesota voters elect a Republican majority in the Senate for the first time since 1972. In 2012, the Democrats regained the House of Representatives by a margin of 73-61, picking up 11 seats; the Democrats also regained the Minnesota Senate.

### Judiciary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

Minnesota's court system has three levels. Most cases start in the [district courts](/wiki/Minnesota_District_Courts), which are courts of general jurisdiction. There are 279 district court judgeships in ten judicial districts. Appeals from the trial courts and challenges to certain governmental decisions are heard by the [Minnesota Court of Appeals](/wiki/Minnesota_Court_of_Appeals), consisting of nineteen judges who typically sit in three-judge panels. The seven-justice [Minnesota Supreme Court](/wiki/Minnesota_Supreme_Court) hears all appeals from the tax court, the [workers' compensation court of appeals](/wiki/Minnesota_Workers'_Compensation_Court_of_Appeals), first-degree murder convictions, and [discretionary appeals](/wiki/Certiorari#State_courts) from the court of appeals; it also has [original jurisdiction](/wiki/Original_jurisdiction) over election disputes.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Two specialized courts within administrative agencies have been established: the workers' compensation court of appeals, and the tax court, which deals with non-criminal tax cases.

### Regional[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

In addition to the city and county levels of government found in the United States, Minnesota has other entities that provide governmental oversight and planning. Some actions in the Twin Cities metropolitan area are coordinated by the [Metropolitan Council](/wiki/Metropolitan_Council), and many lakes and rivers are overseen by [watershed districts](/wiki/Watershed_district_(Minnesota)) and [soil and water conservation districts](/wiki/Soil_and_water_conservation_district).

### Federal[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Minnesota's [United States senators](/wiki/United_States_senator) are Democrat [Amy Klobuchar](/wiki/Amy_Klobuchar) and Democrat [Al Franken](/wiki/Al_Franken). The outcome of the [2008 U.S. Senate election in Minnesota](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2008) was contested until June 30 the next year; when the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in favor of Franken, Republican [Norm Coleman](/wiki/Norm_Coleman) conceded defeat, and the vacant seat was filled by Franken.<ref name=frankin-wins-senate> [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The state has eight [congressional districts](/wiki/Minnesota_Congressional_Districts); they are represented by [Tim Walz](/wiki/Tim_Walz) ([1st district](/wiki/Minnesota's_1st_congressional_district); DFL), [John Kline](/wiki/John_Kline_(politician)) ([2nd](/wiki/Minnesota's_2nd_congressional_district); R), [Erik Paulsen](/wiki/Erik_Paulsen) ([3rd](/wiki/Minnesota's_3rd_congressional_district); R), [Betty McCollum](/wiki/Betty_McCollum) ([4th](/wiki/Minnesota's_4th_congressional_district); DFL), [Keith Ellison](/wiki/Keith_Ellison_(politician)) ([5th](/wiki/Minnesota's_5th_congressional_district); DFL), [Tom Emmer](/wiki/Tom_Emmer) ([6th](/wiki/Minnesota's_6th_congressional_district); R), [Collin Peterson](/wiki/Collin_Peterson) ([7th](/wiki/Minnesota's_7th_congressional_district); DFL), and [Rick Nolan](/wiki/Rick_Nolan) ([8th](/wiki/Minnesota's_8th_congressional_district); DFL).

Federal court cases are heard in the [United States District Court for the District of Minnesota](/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_District_of_Minnesota), which holds court in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and [Fergus Falls](/wiki/Fergus_Falls). Appeals are heard by the [Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals](/wiki/Eighth_Circuit_Court_of_Appeals), which is based in [St. Louis, Missouri](/wiki/St._Louis,_Missouri) and routinely also hears cases in St. Paul.

### Tribal[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

The [State of Minnesota](/wiki/State_of_Minnesota) was created by the [US](/wiki/United_States_of_America) out of the homelands of the Dakota and [Anishinaabe](/wiki/Anishinaabe) native peoples. Today the remaining native governments are divided into 11 semi-autonomous [reservations](/wiki/Indian_reservation) that negotiate with the US and the state on a peer nation-to-nation basis:

Four Dakota [Mdewakanton](/wiki/Mdewakanton) communities:

* [Prairie Island Indian Community](/wiki/Prairie_Island_Indian_Community)
* [Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community](/wiki/Shakopee_Mdewakanton_Sioux_Community)
* [Lower Sioux Indian Reservation](/wiki/Lower_Sioux_Indian_Reservation)
* [Upper Sioux Community - Pejuhutazizi Oyate](/wiki/Upper_Sioux_Community,_Minnesota)

Seven Anishinaabe reservations:

* [Bois Forte Band of Chippewa](/wiki/Bois_Forte_Band_of_Chippewa)
* [Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](/wiki/Fond_du_Lac_Band_of_Lake_Superior_Chippewa)
* [Grand Portage Band of Chippewa](/wiki/Grand_Portage_Band_of_Chippewa)
* [Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe](/wiki/Leech_Lake_Band_of_Ojibwe)
* [Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe](/wiki/Mille_Lacs_Band_of_Ojibwe)
* [White Earth Band of Ojibwe](/wiki/White_Earth_Band_of_Ojibwe)
* [Red Lake Band of Chippewa](/wiki/Red_Lake_Band_of_Chippewa)

The first six of the Anishinaabe bands compose the [Minnesota Chippewa Tribe](/wiki/Minnesota_Chippewa_Tribe), the collective federally recognized tribal government of the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth reservations.

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Election results from statewide races[[111]](#cite_note-111) | | | | |
| **Year** | **Office** | [**GOP**](/wiki/Minnesota_Republican_Party) | [**DFL**](/wiki/Minnesota_Democratic-Farmer-Labor_Party) | **Others** |
| rowspan=2|2014 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_2014) | 44.5% | **50.1%** | 5.4% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2014) | 42.9% | **53.2%** | 3.9% |  |
| rowspan=2|2012 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_2012) | 45.1% | **52.8%** | 2.1% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2012) | 30.6% | **65.3%** | 4.1% |  |
| 2010 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_2010) | 43.2% | **43.7%** | 13.1% |
| rowspan=2|2008 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_2008) | 43.8% | **54.1%** | 2.1% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2008) | 42.0% | **42.0%** | 16.0% |  |
| rowspan=2|2006 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_2006) | **46.7%** | 45.7% | 7.6% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2006) | 37.9% | **58.1%** | 4.0% |  |
| 2004 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_2004) | 47.6% | **51.1%** | 1.3% |
| rowspan=2|2002 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_2002) | **44.4%** | 33.5% | 22.1% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2002) | **49.5%** | 47.3% | 1.0% |  |
| rowspan=2|2000 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_2000) | 45.5% | **47.9%** | 6.6% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2000) | 43.3% | **48.8%** | 7.9% |  |
| 1998 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_1998) | 34.3% | 28.1% | **37.6%** |
| rowspan=2|1996 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_1996) | 35.0% | **51.1%** | 13.9% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_1994) | 41.3% | **50.3%** | 8.4% |  |
| rowspan=2|1994 | [Governor](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_1994) | **63.3%** | 34.1% | 2.6% |
| [Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_1994) | **49.1%** | 44.1% | 6.8% |  |
| 1992 | [President](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Minnesota,_1992) | 31.9% | **43.5%** | 24.6% |

Minnesota is known for a politically active citizenry, and [populism](/wiki/Populism) has been a longstanding force among the state's [political parties](/wiki/Political_party).[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113) Minnesota has a consistently high [voter turnout](/wiki/Voter_turnout) (due in part to its liberal [voter registration](/wiki/Voter_registration) laws) with virtually no evidence of unlawful voting.[[114]](#cite_note-114) In the [2008 U.S. presidential election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008), 78.2 percent of eligible Minnesotans voted—the highest percentage of any U.S. state—versus the national average of 61.2 percent.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Previously unregistered voters can register on [election day](/wiki/Election_Day_(United_States)) at their [polls](/wiki/Polling_place) with evidence of residency.[[116]](#cite_note-116) [Hubert Humphrey](/wiki/Hubert_Humphrey) brought national attention to the state with his address at the [1948 Democratic National Convention](/wiki/1948_Democratic_National_Convention). Minnesotans have consistently cast their Electoral College votes for Democratic presidential candidates since 1976, longer than any other state. Minnesota is the only state in the nation that did not vote for [Ronald Reagan](/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) in either of his presidential runs. Minnesota has gone to the Democratic Party in every presidential election since 1960, with the exception of 1972, when it was carried by [Richard Nixon](/wiki/Richard_Nixon) and the Republican Party.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have major party status in Minnesota, but its state-level "Democratic" party is actually a separate party, officially known as the [Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party](/wiki/Minnesota_Democratic-Farmer-Labor_Party) (DFL). Formed out of a 1944 alliance of the Minnesota Democratic and [Farmer-Labor](/wiki/Minnesota_Farmer-Labor_Party) parties, its distinction from the national [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), while still official, is now but a technicality.

The state has had active third party movements. The [Reform Party](/wiki/Reform_Party_of_the_United_States), now the [Independence Party](/wiki/Independence_Party_of_Minnesota), was able to elect former mayor of [Brooklyn Park](/wiki/Brooklyn_Park,_Minnesota) and [professional wrestler](/wiki/Professional_wrestler) [Jesse Ventura](/wiki/Jesse_Ventura) to the [governorship in 1998](/wiki/Minnesota_gubernatorial_election,_1998). The [Independence Party](/wiki/Independence_Party_of_Minnesota) has received enough support to keep major party status. The [Green Party](/wiki/Green_Party_of_Minnesota), while no longer having major party status, has a large presence in municipal government,[[117]](#cite_note-117) notably in [Minneapolis](/wiki/Minneapolis,_Minnesota) and [Duluth](/wiki/Duluth,_Minnesota), where it competes directly with the DFL party for local offices. Official "Major party" status in Minnesota (which grants state funding for elections) is reserved to parties whose candidates receive five percent or more of the vote in any statewide election (e.g., Governor, Secretary of State, U.S. President).

The state's [U.S. Senate](/wiki/United_States_Senate) seats have generally been split since the early 1990s, and in the [108th](/wiki/108th_United_States_Congress) and [109th](/wiki/109th_United_States_Congress) Congresses, Minnesota's congressional delegation was split, with four representatives and one senator from each party. In the 2006 midterm election, Democrats were elected to all state offices except for governor and lieutenant governor, where Republicans [Tim Pawlenty](/wiki/Tim_Pawlenty) and [Carol Molnau](/wiki/Carol_Molnau) narrowly won reelection. The DFL also posted double-digit gains in both houses of the legislature, elected [Amy Klobuchar](/wiki/Amy_Klobuchar) to the U.S. Senate, and increased the party's U.S. House caucus by one. [Keith Ellison](/wiki/Keith_Ellison_(politician)) [(DFL)](/wiki/Minnesota_Democratic-Farmer-Labor_Party) was elected as the first [African American](/wiki/African_American) U.S. Representative from Minnesota as well as the first [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) elected to Congress nationwide.[[118]](#cite_note-118) In 2008 DFLer and former comedian and radio talk show host [Al Franken](/wiki/Al_Franken) beat incumbent Republican [Norm Coleman](/wiki/Norm_Coleman) in the [United States Senate](/wiki/United_States_Senate_election_in_Minnesota,_2008) race by 312 votes out of 3 million cast.

In the election of 2010, Republicans took control of both chambers of the Minnesota legislature for the first time in 38 years, and with Mark Dayton's election the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party took the governor's office for the first time in 20 years. Two years later, the DFL regained control of both houses, and with Governor Dayton in office, the party has same-party control of both the legislative and executive branches for the first time since 1990. Two years later, the Republicans regained control of the Minnesota House in the 2014 election.[[119]](#cite_note-119)

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|right|upright=.75|](/wiki/File:KSTP_studios.jpg)[KSTP studios](/wiki/KSTP-TV) The Twin Cities area is the fifteenth largest [media market](/wiki/Media_market) in the United States as ranked by [Nielsen Media Research](/wiki/Nielsen_Media_Research). The state's other top markets are [Fargo–Moorhead](/wiki/Fargo–Moorhead) (118th nationally), [Duluth–Superior](/wiki/Twin_Ports) (137th), Rochester–Mason City–Austin (152nd), and [Mankato](/wiki/Mankato,_Minnesota) (200th).[[120]](#cite_note-120) [Broadcast television](/wiki/Terrestrial_television) in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest started on April 27, 1948, when [KSTP-TV](/wiki/KSTP-TV) began broadcasting.[[121]](#cite_note-121) [Hubbard Broadcasting](/wiki/Hubbard_Broadcasting), which owns KSTP, is now the only locally owned television company in Minnesota. There are currently [39 analog](/wiki/List_of_television_stations_in_Minnesota_(by_channel_number)) broadcast stations and 23 [digital](/wiki/Digital_television) channels broadcast over Minnesota.

The four largest daily newspapers are the [*Star Tribune*](/wiki/Star_Tribune) in Minneapolis, the [*Pioneer Press*](/wiki/St._Paul_Pioneer_Press) in Saint Paul, the [*Duluth News Tribune*](/wiki/Duluth_News_Tribune) in Duluth and the [*Post-Bulletin*](/wiki/Post-Bulletin) in Rochester. [*The Minnesota Daily*](/wiki/Minnesota_Daily) is the largest student-run newspaper in the U.S.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Sites offering daily news on the Web include [*The UpTake*](/wiki/The_UpTake), [*MinnPost*](/wiki/MinnPost.com), the Twin Cities *Daily Planet*, business news site [*Finance and Commerce*](/wiki/Finance_&_Commerce) [Template:WS](/wiki/Template:WS) and Washington D.C.-based [*Minnesota Independent*](/wiki/Minnesota_Independent). Weeklies including [*City Pages*](/wiki/City_Pages) and monthly publications such as *Minnesota Monthly* are available.

Two of the largest [public radio](/wiki/Public_radio) networks, [Minnesota Public Radio](/wiki/Minnesota_Public_Radio) (MPR) and [Public Radio International](/wiki/Public_Radio_International) (PRI), are based in the state. MPR has the largest audience of any regional public radio network in the nation, broadcasting on 37 radio stations.[[123]](#cite_note-123) PRI weekly provides more than 400 hours of programming to almost 800 affiliates.[[124]](#cite_note-124) The state's oldest radio station, [KUOM](/wiki/KUOM)-AM, was launched in 1922 and is among the 10 [–oldest radio stations](/wiki/List_of_oldest_radio_stations) in the United States. The [University of Minnesota](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota)-owned station is still on the air, and since 1993 broadcasts a [college rock](/wiki/Campus_radio) format.

## Sports, recreation and tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

Minnesota has a very active program of organized amateur and professional sports. Tourism has become an important industry, especially in the Lake region. In the North Country, what had been an industrial area focused on mining and timber has largely been transformed into a vacation destination. Popular interest in the environment and environmentalism, added to traditional interests in hunting and fishing, has attracted a large urban audience within driving range.[[125]](#cite_note-125)

### Organized sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:2006_WCHA_Final_Five.jpg) [University of North Dakota](/wiki/University_of_North_Dakota) and [St. Cloud State University](/wiki/St._Cloud_State_University) during the [WCHA](/wiki/Western_Collegiate_Hockey_Association) Final Five at the [Xcel Energy Center](/wiki/Xcel_Energy_Center). Minnesota has professional men's teams in all major sports. The [Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome](/wiki/Hubert_H._Humphrey_Metrodome) was home to the [Minnesota Vikings](/wiki/Minnesota_Vikings) of the National Football League through the 2013 season; it has been torn down and [U.S. Bank Stadium](/wiki/U.S._Bank_Stadium) now stands in its place. The Dome also hosted the [Minnesota Twins](/wiki/Minnesota_Twins) of Major League Baseball, winners of the [1987](/wiki/1987_World_Series) and [1991 World Series](/wiki/1991_World_Series), until 2010, when they began playing at [Target Field](/wiki/Target_Field). The [Minnesota Timberwolves](/wiki/Minnesota_Timberwolves) of the National Basketball Association play in the [Target Center](/wiki/Target_Center).

The National Hockey League's [Minnesota Wild](/wiki/Minnesota_Wild) play in St. Paul's [Xcel Energy Center](/wiki/Xcel_Energy_Center) and reached 300 consecutive sold-out games on January 16, 2008.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Previously, the [Minnesota North Stars](/wiki/Minnesota_North_Stars) competed in NHL from 1967 to 1993, which played the 1981 and 1991 [Stanley Cup Finals](/wiki/Stanley_Cup_Finals).

Minnesota also has minor-league professional sports. [NASL](/wiki/North_American_Soccer_League) [Minnesota United FC](/wiki/Minnesota_United_FC) replaced the [Minnesota Thunder](/wiki/Minnesota_Thunder) in 2010 and plays at the [National Sports Center](/wiki/National_Sports_Center) in [Blaine](/wiki/Blaine,_Minnesota). They will eventually join [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) in 2017 or 2018.[[127]](#cite_note-127)The Minnesota Swarm play at the Xcel Energy Center and play in the NLL (National Lacrosse League). Minor league baseball is represented both by major league-sponsored teams and independent teams such as the [St. Paul Saints](/wiki/St._Paul_Saints), who play at [CHS Field](/wiki/CHS_Field) in St. Paul.

Professional women's sports include the [Minnesota Lynx](/wiki/Minnesota_Lynx) of the Women's National Basketball Association, winners of the 2011, 2013, and 2015 WNBA Championships, the [Minnesota Lightning](/wiki/Minnesota_Lightning) of the [United Soccer Leagues](/wiki/United_Soccer_Leagues) [W-League](/wiki/W-League), the [Minnesota Vixen](/wiki/Minnesota_Vixen) of the [Independent Women's Football League](/wiki/Independent_Women's_Football_League), the [Minnesota Valkyrie](/wiki/Minnesota_Valkyrie) of the Legends Football League, and the [Minnesota Whitecaps](/wiki/Minnesota_Whitecaps) of the National Women's Hockey League.

The Twin Cities campus of the [University of Minnesota](/wiki/University_of_Minnesota) is a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I school competing in the [Big Ten Conference](/wiki/Big_Ten_Conference). Four additional schools in the state compete in NCAA Division I ice hockey: the University of Minnesota Duluth; Minnesota State University, Mankato; St. Cloud State University and [Bemidji State University](/wiki/Bemidji_State_University). There are nine [NCAA Division II](/wiki/NCAA_Division_II) colleges in the [Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference](/wiki/Northern_Sun_Intercollegiate_Conference), and nineteen [NCAA Division III](/wiki/NCAA_Division_III) colleges in the [Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference](/wiki/Minnesota_Intercollegiate_Athletic_Conference) and [Upper Midwest Athletic Conference](/wiki/Upper_Midwest_Athletic_Conference).[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129) The [Hazeltine National Golf Club](/wiki/Hazeltine_National_Golf_Club) has hosted the [U.S. Open](/wiki/U.S._Open_(golf)), [U.S. Women's Open](/wiki/U.S._Women's_Open_(golf)), [U.S. Senior Open](/wiki/U.S._Senior_Open) and [PGA Championship](/wiki/PGA_Championship). The course will also host the [Ryder Cup](/wiki/Ryder_Cup) in the fall of 2016, when it will become one of two courses in the U.S. to host all major golf competitions.[[130]](#cite_note-130) [Interlachen Country Club](/wiki/Interlachen_Country_Club) has hosted the [U.S. Open](/wiki/U.S._Open_(golf)), [U.S. Women's Open](/wiki/U.S._Women's_Open_(golf)), and Solheim Cup.

[Winter Olympic Games](/wiki/Winter_Olympic_Games) medallists from the state include twelve of the twenty members of the [gold medal](/wiki/Gold_medal) [1980 ice hockey team](/wiki/Miracle_on_Ice) (coached by Minnesota native [Herb Brooks](/wiki/Herb_Brooks)) and the bronze medallist [U.S. men's](/wiki/Curling_at_the_2006_Winter_Olympics#Men's) [curling](/wiki/Curling) team in the [2006 Winter Olympics](/wiki/2006_Winter_Olympics). Swimmer [Tom Malchow](/wiki/Tom_Malchow) won an Olympic gold medal in the [2000 Summer games](/wiki/2000_Summer_Olympics) and a silver medal in [1996](/wiki/1996_Summer_Olympics).

[Grandma's Marathon](/wiki/Grandma's_Marathon) is run every summer along the scenic [North Shore of Lake Superior](/wiki/North_Shore_(Lake_Superior)), and the [Twin Cities Marathon](/wiki/Twin_Cities_Marathon) winds around lakes and the Mississippi River during the peak of the [fall color season](/wiki/Color_change_in_leaves). Farther north, [Eveleth](/wiki/Eveleth,_Minnesota) is the location of the [United States Hockey Hall of Fame](/wiki/United_States_Hockey_Hall_of_Fame).

### Outdoor recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[thumb|right|Fishing in](/wiki/File:Lake_Calhoun_MN.jpg) [Lake Calhoun](/wiki/Lake_Calhoun) in Minneapolis [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Common_Loon_head_sideways.jpg) [common loon's](/wiki/Common_loon) distinctive cry is heard during the summer months on lakes throughout the state.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Minnesotans participate in high levels of physical activity,[[132]](#cite_note-132) and many of these activities are outdoors. The strong interest of Minnesotans in [environmentalism](/wiki/Environmentalism) has been attributed to the popularity of these pursuits.[[133]](#cite_note-133) In the warmer months, these activities often involve water. Weekend and longer trips to family [cabins](/wiki/Cottage) on Minnesota's numerous lakes are a way of life for many residents. Activities include [water sports](/wiki/Water_sports) such as [water skiing](/wiki/Water_skiing), which originated in the state,[[134]](#cite_note-134) [boating](/wiki/Boating), [canoeing](/wiki/Canoeing), and [fishing](/wiki/Fishing). More than 36 percent of Minnesotans fish, second only to Alaska.[[135]](#cite_note-135) Fishing does not cease when the lakes freeze; [ice fishing](/wiki/Ice_fishing) has been around since the arrival of early [Scandinavian](/wiki/Scandinavia) immigrants.[[136]](#cite_note-136) Minnesotans have learned to embrace their long, harsh winters in ice sports such as [skating](/wiki/Ice_skating), [hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey), [curling](/wiki/Curling), and [broomball](/wiki/Broomball), and snow sports such as [cross-country skiing](/wiki/Cross-country_skiing), [alpine skiing](/wiki/Alpine_skiing), [snowshoeing](/wiki/Snowshoe), and [snowmobiling](/wiki/Snowmobile).[[137]](#cite_note-137) Minnesota is the only U.S. state where [bandy](/wiki/Bandy) is played.[[138]](#cite_note-138) State and national [forests](/wiki/Forest) and the [seventy-two state parks](/wiki/List_of_Minnesota_state_parks) are used year-round for [hunting](/wiki/Hunting), [camping](/wiki/Camping), and [hiking](/wiki/Hiking). There are almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snowmobile trails statewide.[[139]](#cite_note-139) Minnesota has more miles of [bike trails](/wiki/Bike_trail) than any other state,[[140]](#cite_note-140) and a growing network of [hiking trails](/wiki/Trail), including the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Superior Hiking Trail](/wiki/Superior_Hiking_Trail) in the northeast.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Many hiking and bike trails are used for cross-country skiing during the winter.

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Minnesota](/wiki/Outline_of_Minnesota) – organized list of topics about Minnesota
* [Index of Minnesota-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Minnesota-related_articles)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Sisterlinks](/wiki/Template:Sisterlinks)

Culture and history

* [Minnesota Historical Society](http://www.mnhs.org/)
* [Minnesota Place Names](http://mnplaces.mnhs.org/upham/)
* [Minnesota Reflections](http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/)
* [Minnesota State Guide](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/states/minnesota/index.html) from the Library of Congress

General

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)

Government

* [State of Minnesota Official site](http://www.state.mn.us/)
* [Indian Affairs Council, State of Minnesota](http://mn.gov/indianaffairs/tribes.html)
* [Prairie Island Indian Community](http://www.prairieisland.org/)
* [Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community](http://www.shakopeedakota.org/)
* [Lower Sioux Indian Community](http://www.lowersioux.com/)
* [The Upper Sioux Community Pejuhutazizi Oyate](http://www.uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov/)
* [Minnesota Chippewa Tribe](http://www.mnchippewatribe.org/) [Bois Forte Band of Chippewa](http://www.boisforte.com/)
* [Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](http://www.fdlrez.com/)
* [Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](http://www.grandportage.com/)
* [Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe](http://www.llojibwe.org/)
* [Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe](http://www.millelacsojibwe.org/)
* [White Earth Indian Reservation Tribal Council](http://www.whiteearth.com/)
* [Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians](http://www.redlakenation.org/)

Maps and Demographics

* [Minnesota State Demographic Center](http://www.demography.state.mn.us/)
* [State Facts from USDA](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/state-data.aspx?StateFIPS=27&StateName=Minnesota#.U85vdPldVu0)
* [Minnesota State Highway Map](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/statemap/)
* [Minnesota at Open Street Map](http://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/165471)

Tourism and recreation

* [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html)
* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)

[Template:Geographic Location (8-way)](/wiki/Template:Geographic_Location_(8-way))

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