



Benton County Statistical Data

DEMOGRAPHICS

Benton County has seen a **POPULATION INCREASE** of nearly 31% between 1990 and 2007, adding 9,319 people for a 2007 population of 39,504. The population is projected to contract 1.3% by 2010.

County	Population			2010 Population Projection	Change		2010 Projected Change
	1990	2000	2007		1990-2000	2000-07	
Benton	30,185	34,227	39,504	39,010	13.4%	15.4%	-1.3%
Region	501,503	610,149	709,386	719,850	21.7%	16.3%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Minnesota State Demographic Center, Metropolitan Council

- The county has a **younger than average population** with 24.6 % of the population being under 18 years old and only 10.3% being 65 or older.
- 6% of the population is **ethnically diverse**, compared to an average of 5.7% for the region and 14.1% for the state.
- As of 2000, 17.2% of the population had a **Bachelor's degree or higher** which is above average for the region (15%) but considerably lower than the state average (27.4%).
- **Mean travel time** to work is 21.1 minutes which is low for our region (25.9 average mean) and about the same as the state mean (21.9).
- In 2004, **median household income** was \$46,035 which was significantly lower than the state median income (\$51,202) and about the same as the IF regional average median income (\$46,682).
- The 2004 **poverty rate** was lower than average at 7.3% compared to the IF regional average of 8.4% and the state average of 8.1%.

	Persons under 18 years old, 2006	Persons 65 years old and over, 2006	Nonwhite Population Diversity, 2006	High school grads, age 25+, 2000	Bachelor's degree or higher, age 25+, 2000	Mean travel time to work (minutes), age 16+, 2000	Median household income, 2004	Persons below poverty, 2004
Benton	24.6%	10.3%	6.0%	84.9%	17.2%	21.1	\$46,035	7.3%
Region	23.8%	13.6%	5.7%	83.9%	15.0%	25.9	\$46,682	8.4%
Statewide	24.3%	12.1%	14.1%	87.9%	27.4%	21.9	\$51,202	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The annual **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** was 4.5% in 2006 and 6.1% in 2008, compared to an IF Region rate of 7.6% and a state average of 6.8%.

	2006	2007	2008	Difference 2006 - 2008
Benton	4.5%	5.0%	6.1%	1.6%
Region	5.5%	6.2%	7.6%	2.1%
Statewide	4.0%	4.6%	6.8%	2.8%

Source: MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

The **FORECLOSURE RATE** in 2005 was 0.24% compared to a 2008 rate of 1.16%. The 2008 Benton County rate is lower than the statewide rate of 1.26%.

	Foreclosure Rates by 2005 Households					07-08 Change	Owner/Renter Occupied (2000)	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Owner		% Renter	
Benton	0.24	0.65	1.17	1.16	-0.01	67%	33%	
Statewide	0.34	0.59	1.00	1.26	0.26	76%	24%	

Source: Greater Minnesota Housing – Foreclosures in Minnesota: A Report Based on Sheriff's Sale Data

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

As of 2006, Benton County had a total of 986 **EMPLOYER BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS** with a total of 14,646 employees and a payroll of \$466,828,000. The five top non-farm business sectors in the county as of 2006 were:

Industry	Total Payroll	Total Employees	Avg. Annual Wage	# of Establishments
Manufacturing	\$161,957,000	4,341	\$37,309	78
Construction	\$84,359,000	1,645	\$51,282	204
Retail Trade	\$46,057,000	2,126	\$21,664	132
Wholesale Trade	\$41,571,000	999	\$41,613	38
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$34,988,000	1,708	\$20,485	79

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – 2006 Business Patterns

As of 2006, there were 2,587 **NON-EMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS** with gross annual receipts of \$108,756,000.

	# of Non-employers Establishments			Receipts (\$1,000)
	2001	2006	Difference	2006
Benton	2,109	2,587	478	\$108,756
Region	44,097	54,251	10,154	\$2,181,839
Statewide	324,967	376,864	51,897	\$15,332,265

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Between 2004 and 2005 there were more **BUSINESS BIRTHS THAN DEATHS** and about equal numbers of business expansions and contractions.

	Births	Deaths	Difference	Expansions	Contractions	Difference	Constants
Benton	78	70	8	247	250	(3)	253
Region	3,267	2,764	503	8,092	7,833	259	10,423
Statewide	13,655	12,122	1,533	35,033	34,465	568	46,749

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau - 1989-2005 Business Information Tracking Series

From 2002 to 2007 the number of **FARMS** had decreased by 4.8% as the amount of total acreage had also decreased by 5.1%. The value of production had increased by 28.9% compared to an increase in the IF region of 43.4% and a 53.7% increase in the state.

	Number of Farms			Land in Farms			Average Size of Farm			Market Value of Production (Per \$1,000)		
	2002	2007	Change	2002	2007	Change	2002	2007	Change	2002	2007	Change
Benton	965	919	-4.8%	195,949	185,994	-5.1%	203	202	-0.5%	88,315	113,874	28.9%
Region	17,061	16,158	-5.3%	3,400,028	3,233,912	-4.9%	198	200	1.1%	1,034,064	1,483,172	43.4%
Statewide	80,839	80,992	0.2%	27,512,270	26,917,962	-2.2%	340	332	-2.4%	8,575,627	13,180,466	53.7%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

BUILDING PERMIT comparisons between 2007 and 2008 show a drop from 116 to 58 (50%) in total permits and a value drop of \$20,921,521 to \$11,044,907 (47.2%).

	Buildings					Construction Cost				
	2004	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	Percent	2004	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	Percent
Benton	278	116	58	(58)	-50.0%	40,639,503	20,921,521	11,044,907	(9,876,614)	-47.2%
Region	8,800	3,537	1,764	(1,773)	-50.1%	1,330,981,976	593,446,384	299,589,612	(293,856,772)	-49.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – Annual New Privately-Owned Residential Building Permits

This information has been compiled by the Initiative Foundation, an organization dedicated to building healthy communities within the 14 county central Minnesota area through nonprofit grants, business loans and leadership training programs.

For more information about this fact sheet or the foundation visit www.ifound.org or call (877) 632-9255.