

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(a)

Issues and Opportunities (County Demographics)

Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20-year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

INTRODUCTION

Properly planning for Sawyer County's future requires an understanding of the county's population and demographic trends. This chapter inventories and analyzes available data to gain a basic understanding of the current population and demographics as well as to identify trends that are occurring. From this knowledge base future trends and issues can be determined.

This element provides the basic population and demographic information using population counts and estimates, age distribution data, and population forecasts. Information pertaining to household characteristics, education and income levels will also be analyzed. The base map of the county (Map 1) represents the political boundaries across the County.

The overall goal of the comprehensive plan is to help maintain and improve the quality of life for the people of Sawyer County. To do this, the overall objective is to guide our future in a manner consistent with the element goals, objectives, actions, and identified programs contained in this document. To meet this objective, the overall action is to adopt and implement the comprehensive plan and continue to strengthen and work cooperatively with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.

Population

Population change is the primary component used to track growth and predict future population trends. Additionally, population characteristics relate directly to housing, educational, utility, community, and recreational facility needs, as well as future economic development. Factors which can influence population change are fluctuations in the local and regional economies, natural disasters, and transportation improvements.

Table 1-1 displays the population changes in Sawyer County over the last century. The population has increased significantly since 1900, but there have been fluctuations in the county's population. There are two main reasons why population changes over time. One is net migration, which is the difference between the number of people moving out of an area from the number of people moving into an area during a given time period. The other is natural increase which is the difference between the number of

deaths from the number of births in a given time period. Combined, they provide the components to population change in a given area.

Table 1-1: Sawyer County Population 1900-2000

1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
3,593	6,227	8,243	8,878	11,540	10,323	9,475	9,670	12,843	14,181	16,196

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-2 displays the historic population changes for all municipalities in Sawyer County from 1950 to 2000. Since 1950, 12 of the county's 21 municipalities have seen an increase in population. The largest increases were in the towns of Bass Lake, Hayward, Edgewater, Round Lake and Spider Lake. The Town of Draper saw the largest decrease in population at -66.3 percent. Sawyer County gained 5,873 persons or a 56.9 percent increase over the 50-year time period.

Table 1-3 displays the population change in 10-year increments for municipalities in Sawyer County. The 1980's were a period with less population growth than the 1990's. From 1980 to 1990, the county grew by 10.4 percent. From 1990 to 2000 it grew by 14.2 percent. Most of the growth occurred in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Town of Bass Lake experienced population changes which were unique from all other jurisdictions with growth of greater than 30 percent during both decades. Draper had the greatest population decline over the 20-year period.

Table 1-2: Historic Population, Sawyer County

Municipality	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	1950-2000 Number Change	1950-2000 Percent Change
T. Bass Lake	751	705	832	1,288	1,717	2,244	1,493	198.8%
T. Couderay	389	340	170	394	386	469	80	20.6%
T. Draper	507	314	258	242	208	171	-336	-66.3%
T. Edgewater	242	236	286	441	509	586	344	142.1%
T. Hayward	1,282	1,304	1,690	2,331	3,017	3,279	1,997	155.8%
T. Hunter	420	327	381	594	557	765	345	82.1%
T. Lenroot	547	532	577	926	966	1,165	618	113.0%
T. Meadowbrook	260	200	190	202	192	146	-114	-43.8%
T. Meteor	256	167	117	105	111	170	-86	-33.6%
T. Ojibwa	282	281	238	264	250	267	-15	-5.3%
T. Radisson	658	358	371	394	412	465	-193	-29.3%
T. Round Lake	476	464	557	786	727	962	486	102.1%
T. Sand Lake	597	562	598	768	821	774	177	29.6%
T. Spider Lake	200	246	259	331	362	391	191	95.5%
T. Weirgor	417	384	331	386	356	370	-47	-11.3%
T. Winter	1,118	1,009	840	704	801	969	-149	-13.3%
V. Couderay	133	113	123	114	92	96	-37	-27.8%
V. Exeland	211	214	189	219	180	212	1	0.5%
V. Radisson	--	179	206	280	237	222	43	24.0%
V. Winter	--	--	--	376	383	344	-32	-8.5%
C. Hayward	1,577	1,540	1,457	1,698	1,897	2,129	552	35.0%
Sawyer County	10,323	9,475	9,670	12,843	14,181	16,196	+5,873	56.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

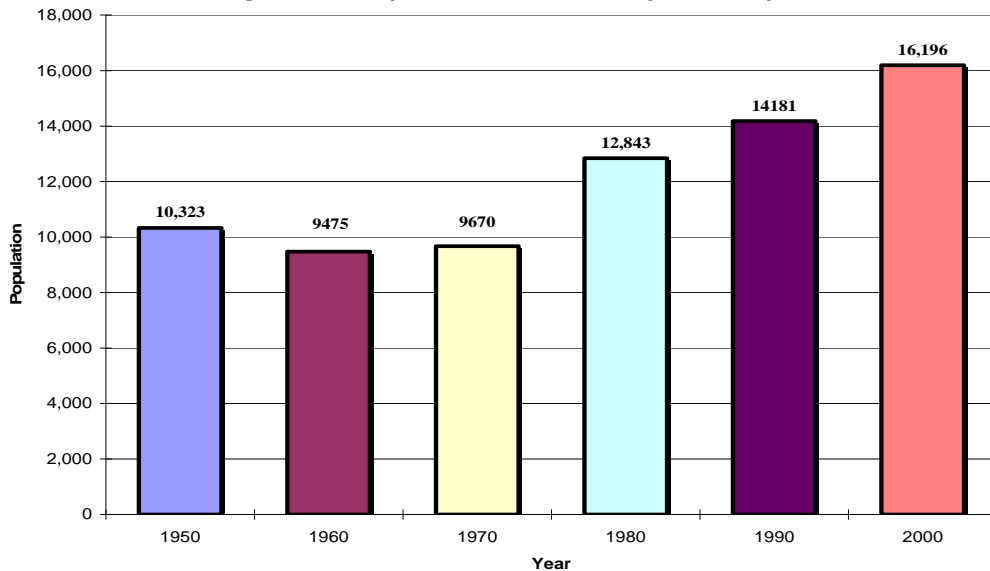
Table 1-3: Population Change, Sawyer County

Municipality	1980-1990		1990-2000		1980-2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
T. Bass Lake	429	33.3%	527	30.7%	956	74.2%
T. Couderay	-8	-2.0%	83	21.5%	75	19.0%
T. Draper	-34	-14.0%	-37	-17.8%	-71	-29.3%
T. Edgewater	68	15.4%	77	15.1%	145	32.9%
T. Hayward	686	29.4%	262	8.7%	948	40.7%
T. Hunter	-37	-6.2%	208	37.3%	171	28.8%
T. Lenroot	40	4.3%	199	20.6%	239	25.8%
T. Meadowbrook	-10	-5.0%	-46	-24.0%	-56	-27.7%
T. Meteor	6	5.7%	59	53.2%	65	61.9%
T. Ojibwa	-14	-5.3%	17	6.8%	3	1.1%
T. Radisson	18	4.6%	53	12.9%	71	18.0%
T. Round Lake	-59	-7.5%	235	32.3%	176	22.4%
T. Sand Lake	53	6.9%	-47	-5.7%	6	0.8%
T. Spider Lake	31	9.4%	29	8.0%	60	18.1%
T. Weirgor	-30	-7.8%	14	3.9%	-16	-4.1%
T. Winter	97	13.8%	168	21.0%	265	37.6%
V. Couderay	-22	-19.3%	4	4.3%	-18	-15.8%
V. Exeland	-39	-17.8%	32	17.8%	-7	-3.2%
V. Radisson	-43	-15.4%	-15	-6.3%	-58	-20.7%
V. Winter	7	1.9%	-39	-10.2%	-32	-8.5%
C. Hayward	199	11.7%	232	12.2%	431	25.4%
Sawyer County	1,338	10.4%	2,015	14.2%	3,353	26.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-1 visually displays the historic population for Sawyer County from 1950-2000.

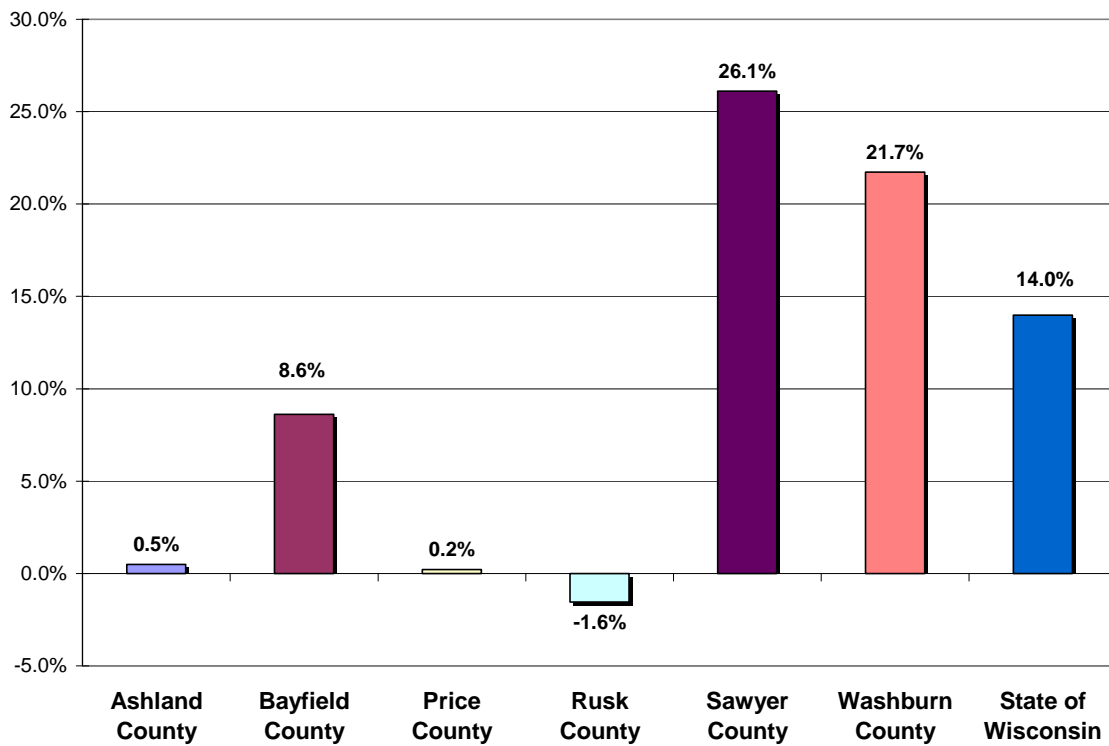
Figure 1-1: Population Trends, Sawyer County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-2 presents a comparison of the percent change in population over the last 20-years in Sawyer County with neighboring counties and the State of Wisconsin. As seen in the figure, all counties surrounding Sawyer County grew except for Rusk, which decreased slightly. Sawyer County increased the most at 26.1 percent. Washburn County and the State of Wisconsin had the second the third largest increases when compared to Sawyer County.

Figure 1-2: Comparative Percent Population Growth, Sawyer County and Selected Counties and State of Wisconsin, 1980-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Every year the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA), Demographic Services Center develops population estimates for every municipality and county in the state. Table 1-4 displays the January 1st 2007 and 2009 population estimates from WDOA. According to the estimates, three of the four incorporated villages in Sawyer County lost population over the 2000 to 2009 time period.

Table 1-4: Population Estimates, Sawyer County

Municipality	2000 Census	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	2009 Estimate	Number Change 2000-2009	Percent Change 2000-2009
T. Bass Lake	2,244	2,433	2,447	2,476	232	10.3%
T. Couderay	469	476	483	482	13	2.8%
T. Draper	171	196	200	206	35	20.5%
T. Edgewater	586	635	641	636	50	8.5%
T. Hayward	3,279	3,520	3,574	3,592	313	9.5%
T. Hunter	765	842	839	841	76	9.9%
T. Lenroot	1,165	1,315	1,342	1,343	178	15.3%
T. Meadowbrook	146	150	153	151	5	3.4%
T. Meteor	170	174	185	182	12	7.1%
T. Ojibwa	267	312	319	325	58	21.7%
T. Radisson	465	475	476	480	15	3.2%
T. Round Lake	962	1,083	1,103	1,111	149	15.5%
T. Sand Lake	774	822	838	854	80	10.3%
T. Spider Lake	391	418	423	419	28	7.2%
T. Weirgor	370	418	431	428	58	15.8%
T. Winter	969	1,110	1,126	1,130	157	16.2%
V. Couderay	96	96	95	95	-1	-1.0%
V. Exeland	212	207	208	209	-3	-1.4%
V. Radisson	222	223	216	216	-6	-2.7%
V. Winter	344	342	333	345	1	0.2%
C. Hayward	2,129	2,295	2,321	2,325	196	9.2%
Sawyer County	16,196	17,542	17,753	17,846	1,646	10.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

Natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) in Sawyer County resulted in a net loss in population over the last seven years. Migration has been the major factor behind the county's overall population growth. Of all surrounding counties, Sawyer County had a high net migration, second only to Washburn County during the past seven years. Table 1-5 displays the components of population change for Sawyer County and neighboring counties. All counties in the region except for Ashland County experienced a greater net migration than natural increase.

**Table 1-5: Components of Population Change,
Sawyer County and Selected Counties**

	2000-2007		Number Change – 2000-2007		
	Total Births	Total Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Total
Ashland County	1,362	1,335	27	-14	13
Bayfield County	902	987	-85	1,062	977
Price County	867	1,331	-464	711	247
Rusk County	1,073	1,221	-148	428	280
Sawyer County	1,258	1,286	-28	1,374	1,346
Washburn County	1,159	1,234	-75	1,442	1,367

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

A shifting age in population structure is a national trend that is evident in Wisconsin and also Sawyer County. This is largely due to the baby-boomer generation, which is the largest segment of the overall population, moving to enjoy early retirement or home based businesses. As this age group gets older, the demand for many services such as health care will increase. It will become increasingly important for municipalities to recognize these trends and to plan for the new demands that will need to be met. Table 1-6 displays the population by age cohort for Sawyer County from 1990 and 2000.

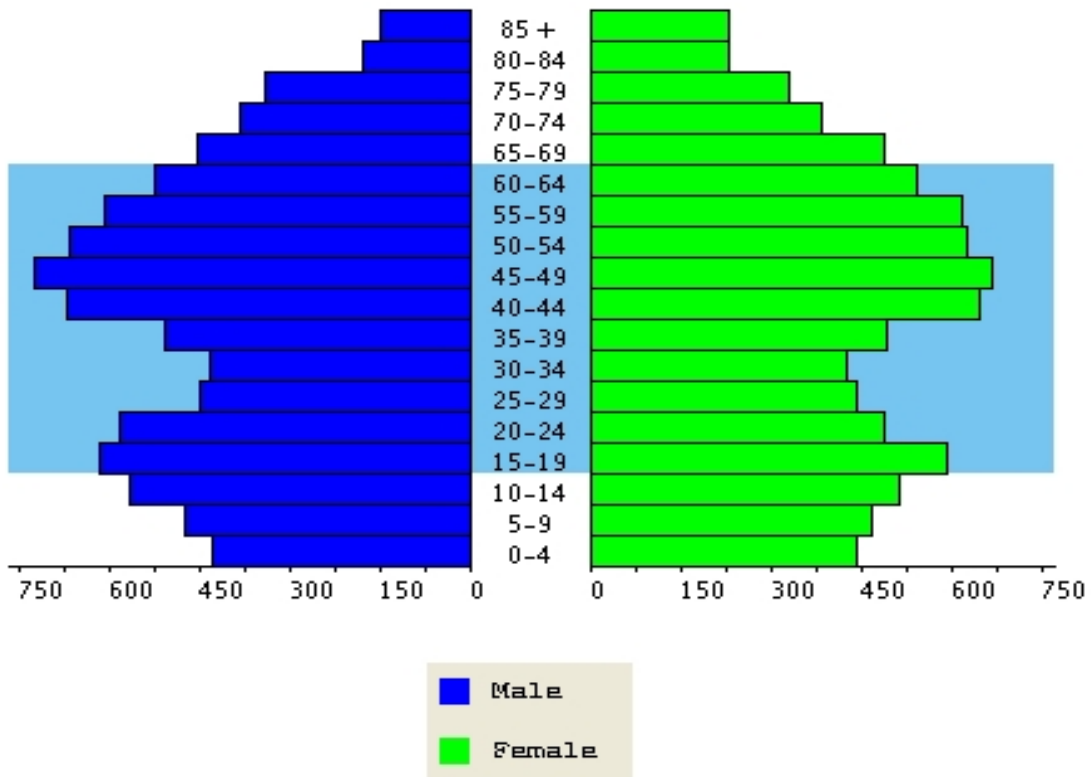
Table 1-6: Population by Age Cohort, Sawyer County

Age	1990		2000		Percent Change 1990-00
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Under 5	992	7.0	891	5.5	-10.2
5 to 9 years	1,120	7.9	1,021	6.3	-8.8
10 to 14 years	1,009	7.1	1,260	7.8	24.9
15 to 19 years	862	6.1	1,096	6.8	27.1
20 to 24 years	610	4.3	605	3.7	-0.8
25 to 34 years	1,864	13.1	1,529	9.4	-18.0
35 to 44 years	1,891	13.3	2,459	15.2	30.0
45 to 54 years	1,430	10.1	2,376	14.7	66.2
55 to 59 years	789	5.6	1,059	6.5	34.2
60 to 64 years	876	6.2	996	6.1	13.7
65 to 74 years	1,543	10.9	1,656	10.2	7.3
75 to 84 years	960	6.8	907	5.6	-5.5
85 or older	235	1.7	341	2.1	45.1
Total	14,181	100.0	16,196	100.0	14.2
Median Age	37.9		42.1		

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

Some shifts in the age structure within Sawyer County are apparent. First, the median age increased by 11.1% to reach the 2000 median age of 42.1. This is significantly higher (6.1 years) than the state's median age of 36.0. Second, the 45-54 age group increased by 66.2%, showing the impact of the baby-boomer generation on total population. Third, the 85 and older age segment of the population increased by 45%. Figure 1-3 displays the population pyramid for Sawyer County in 2000.

**Figure 1-3: Population by Age and Sex for Sawyer County, 2000
(Total Population)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Shaded area denotes typical working age)

Race

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 81.7 percent of the total population was white and Native American (American Indian) and Alaska Native represents 16.1 percent of the population. The remaining population (2.2%) was distributed between Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races.

Population Forecasts and Projections

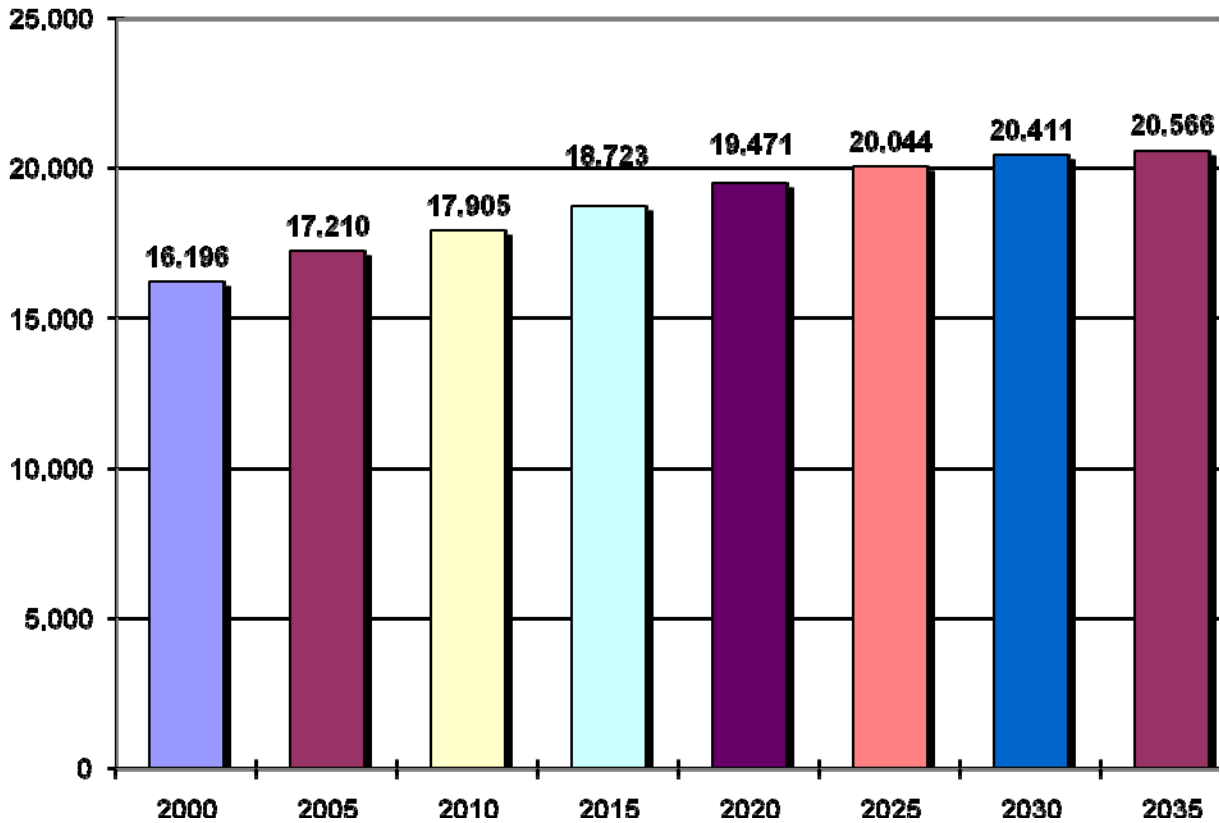
Population forecasts are based on past and current population trends (Table 1-7 and Figure 1-4). They are not predictions, rather they extend past growth trends into the future and their reliability depends on the continuation of these past growth trends. Projections are therefore most accurate in periods of relative socio-economic and cultural stability. Projections should be considered one of many tools used to help anticipate and predict future needs within the county. Population levels are subject to physical conditions, environmental concerns, land use, zoning restrictions, taxation, annexation, and other political policies that influence business and personal location decisions. The method utilizes Wisconsin Department of Administration projections, (the official state projections).

Table 1-7: Population Projections, Sawyer County

Municipality	2000 Census	2009 Estimate	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Numeric Change '00-'30	Percent Change
T. Bass Lake	2,244	2,476	2,500	2,658	2,806	2,927	3,017	773	34.4%
T. Couderay	469	482	484	497	507	514	516	47	10.0%
T. Draper	171	206	180	178	174	169	164	-7	-4.1%
T. Edgewater	586	636	644	674	701	721	735	149	25.4%
T. Hayward	3,279	3,592	3,587	3,739	3,878	3,982	4,045	766	23.4%
T. Hunter	765	841	899	964	1,025	1,075	1,114	349	45.6%
T. Lenroot	1,165	1,343	1,344	1,424	1,500	1,562	1,606	441	37.9%
T. Meadowbrook	146	151	144	139	134	127	120	-26	-17.8%
T. Meteor	170	182	185	197	208	218	224	54	31.8%
T. Ojibwa	267	325	302	315	326	334	339	72	27.0%
T. Radisson	465	480	489	503	515	523	525	60	12.9%
T. Round Lake	962	1,111	1,129	1,205	1,278	1,339	1,384	422	43.9%
T. Sand Lake	774	854	838	854	867	873	872	98	12.7%
T. Spider Lake	391	419	427	444	458	469	474	83	21.2%
T. Weirgor	370	428	421	438	453	464	470	100	27.0%
T. Winter	969	1,130	1,143	1,222	1,296	1,357	1,403	434	44.8%
V. Couderay	96	95	86	82	79	75	71	-25	-26.0%
V. Exeland	212	209	200	197	195	190	184	-28	-13.2%
V. Radisson	222	216	224	220	216	210	203	-19	-8.6%
V. Winter	344	345	336	327	319	308	295	-49	-14.2%
C. Hayward	2,129	2,325	2,343	2,446	2,536	2,607	2,650	521	24.5%
Sawyer County	16,196	17,846	18,723	19,471	20,044	18,434	20,411	4,215	26.0%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services and U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-4: Population Trends 2000-2035, Sawyer County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

Future population projections reveal significant shifts between age cohorts through 2035 (Table 1-8). In most cohort ranges, population levels rise and fall over the 25 year horizon. However, the age cohorts from 65 years of age and over see a marked increase in population over the time period represented.

Table 1-8: Age Cohort Shifts: 2000-2035

	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Under 5	891	889	927	954	952	928	883
5 to 9 years	1,021	885	894	933	961	960	934
10 to 14 years	1,260	923	896	906	946	975	972
15 to 19 years	1,096	989	868	843	853	892	918
20 to 24 years	605	914	751	660	641	650	678
25 to 34 years	1,529	1,707	2,051	1,946	1,649	1,518	1,505
35 to 44 years	2,459	1,876	1,794	2,059	2,437	2,299	1,939
45 to 54 years	2,376	2,691	2,595	2,222	2,128	2,418	2,831
55 to 59 years	1,059	1,700	1,901	1,801	1,468	1,414	1,416
60 to 64 years	996	1,626	1,917	2,146	2,062	1,726	1,686
65 to 74 years	1,656	2,053	2,638	3,283	3,786	3,938	3,583
75 to 84 years	907	1,003	1,074	1,266	1,655	2,072	2,410
85 or older	341	379	417	452	506	611	811
Total	16,196	17,635	18,723	19,468	20,044	20,401	20,566

Source: US Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

In comparing population projections for surrounding counties, between 2000-2035 Sawyer County is projected to grow 27.0 percent, second behind Washburn County at 28.5 percent. Rusk County is projected to grow the least at 0.02 percent. See Table 1-9 for more details.

Table 1-9: Comparative Projections for Surrounding Counties 2010-2035

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	Number Change	Percent Change
Ashland	17,014	17,178	17,364	17,489	17,484	17,374	360	2.1%
Bayfield	16,114	16,642	17,146	17,554	17,835	17,967	1,853	11.5%
Price	16,076	16,207	16,314	16,328	16,216	15,948	-128	-0.8%
Rusk	15,591	15,709	15,787	15,766	15,622	15,350	-241	-1.5%
Sawyer	17,905	18,723	19,471	20,044	20,411	20,566	2,661	14.9%
Washburn	17,734	18,549	19,328	19,950	20,376	20,609	2,875	16.2%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

Household, Employment and Income Characteristics

Households

Household data helps to understand the generalized composition and make-up of households and families. This information is particularly important in assessing future living arrangements for Sawyer County residents. A **household** includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. Of the 6,640 total households in 2000, 1,741 (26.2%) are one person households, while 4,899 (73.8%) have two or more persons per household. Of all households, 4,581 (69.0%) are family households and 318 (4.8%) are reported as non-family households. Table 1-10 displays household characteristics for Sawyer County.

Table 1-10: Sawyer County Household Characteristics, 2000

	TOTAL
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	6,640
1 PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	1,741
1 person household, male householder	918
1 person household, female householder	823
2 OR MORE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	4,899
Family Households	4,581
Married couple families	3,600
Married couple families with own children under 18 years	1,184
Female householder, no husband present	663
Female householder, no husband present, with own children under 18 years	444
Female householder, no husband present, with no own children under 18 years	219
2 persons in household	2,430
3 persons in household	868
4 persons in household	730
5 persons in household	363
6 persons in household	114
7 or more persons in household	76
Non-family Households	318
Male householder	193
Female householder	125
Average Household Size	2.39
Average Family Size	2.86

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-11 details household trends for the past 20 years for Sawyer County and its municipalities. The 2000 Census identified 6,640 households in Sawyer County, an increase of 19.2 percent from 1990 and an increase of 41.9 percent from 1980.

Table 1-11: Household Trends

Municipality	1980	1990	2000
T. Bass Lake	469	635	830
T. Couderay	127	146	176
T. Draper	89	92	84
T. Edgewater	167	205	245
T. Hayward	789	1025	1,219
T. Hunter	194	229	334
T. Lenroot	325	383	479
T. Meadowbrook	67	70	60
T. Meteor	44	51	62
T. Ojibwa	89	99	110
T. Radisson	129	160	185
T. Round Lake	299	310	431
T. Sand Lake	289	336	347
T. Spider Lake	130	159	186
T. Weirgor	131	139	157
T. Winter	263	308	381
V. Couderay	43	40	40
V. Exeland	78	74	92
V. Radisson	102	92	98
V. Winter	154	172	164
C. Hayward	700	844	960
Sawyer County	4,678	5,569	6,640

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-12 projects the total number of households to the year 2030 for Sawyer County and its municipalities.

Table 1-12: Household Projections

Municipality	2000 Census	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Number Change	Percent Change
T. Bass Lake	830	989	1,085	1,169	1,236	1,286	456	54.9%
T. Couderay	176	194	206	214	220	223	47	26.7%
T. Draper	84	95	96	96	95	93	9	10.7%
T. Edgewater	245	288	311	330	345	354	109	44.5%
T. Hayward	1,219	1,428	1,536	1,626	1,694	1,736	517	42.4%
T. Hunter	334	420	464	504	536	560	226	67.7%
T. Lenroot	479	591	647	694	733	761	282	58.9%
T. Meadowbrook	60	63	63	62	60	57	-3	-5.0%
T. Meteor	62	72	79	85	91	94	32	51.6%
T. Ojibwa	110	133	143	151	157	161	51	46.4%
T. Radisson	185	208	221	230	237	240	55	29.7%
T. Round Lake	431	541	595	645	685	714	283	65.7%
T. Sand Lake	347	402	422	438	447	451	104	30.0%
T. Spider Lake	186	217	233	245	254	260	74	39.8%
T. Weirgor	157	191	205	216	224	229	72	45.9%
T. Winter	381	471	519	563	597	623	242	63.5%
V. Couderay	40	38	38	37	36	34	-6	-15.0%
V. Exeland	92	93	94	95	94	92	0	0.0%
V. Radisson	98	106	107	107	106	103	5	5.1%
V. Winter	164	171	172	171	167	162	-2	-1.2%
C. Hayward	960	1,119	1,206	1,274	1,329	1,366	406	42.3%
Sawyer County	6,640	7,830	8,442	8,952	9,343	9,599	2,959	44.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Wisconsin Department of Administration

Employment Characteristics

Labor Force

Table 1-13 shows the annual averages for both elements of the labor force (employed and unemployed) for Sawyer County from 2002 to 2006. It should be noted that Sawyer County employment fluctuates on a seasonal basis. The number of employed peaks in early summer, generally July, while the number of unemployed is highest bottoms out in early fall, generally October.

Table 1-13: Sawyer County Civilian Labor Force Data					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Labor Force	9,189	8,993	9,191	9,387	9,388
Employed	8,620	8,366	8,630	8,822	8,786
Unemployed	569	627	561	565	602
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	7.0%	6.1%	6.0%	6.4%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Work Force Development, Bureau of Workforce Training, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2007

Figure 1-5 illustrates the number of employed persons in Sawyer County from 1990 through 2006 and general employment trend from 2010 to 2030.

Figure 1-5: Employment Levels 1990-2006, Employment Trends to 2030

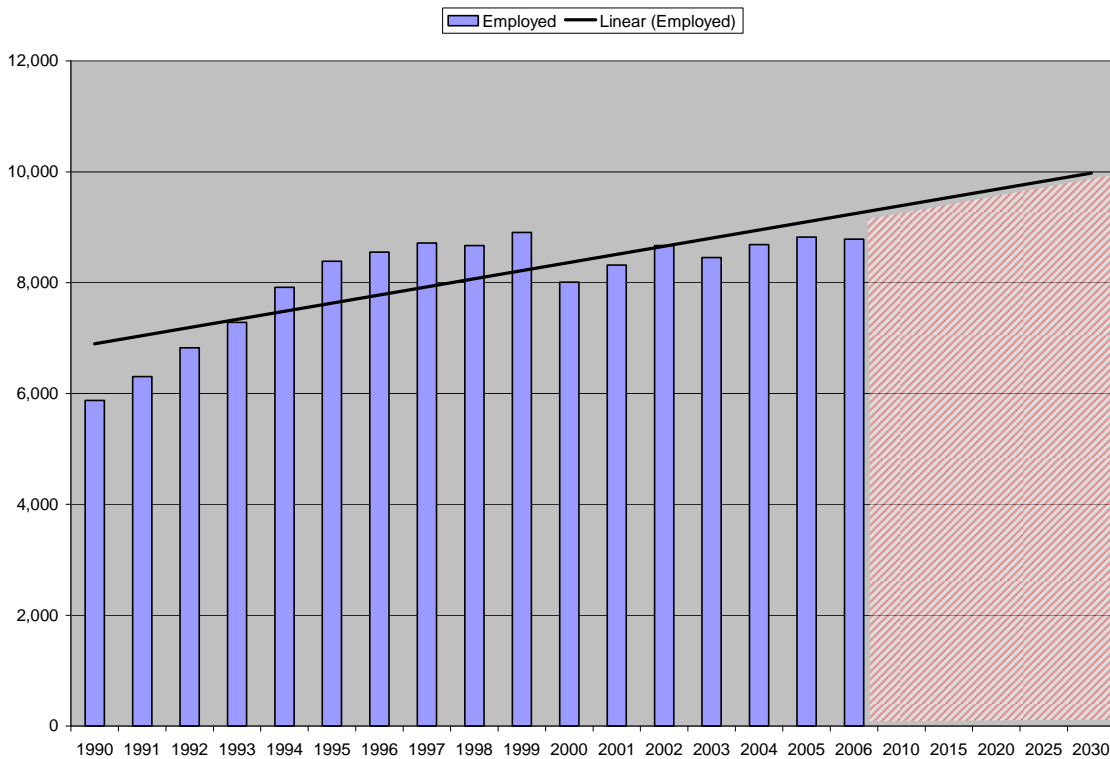
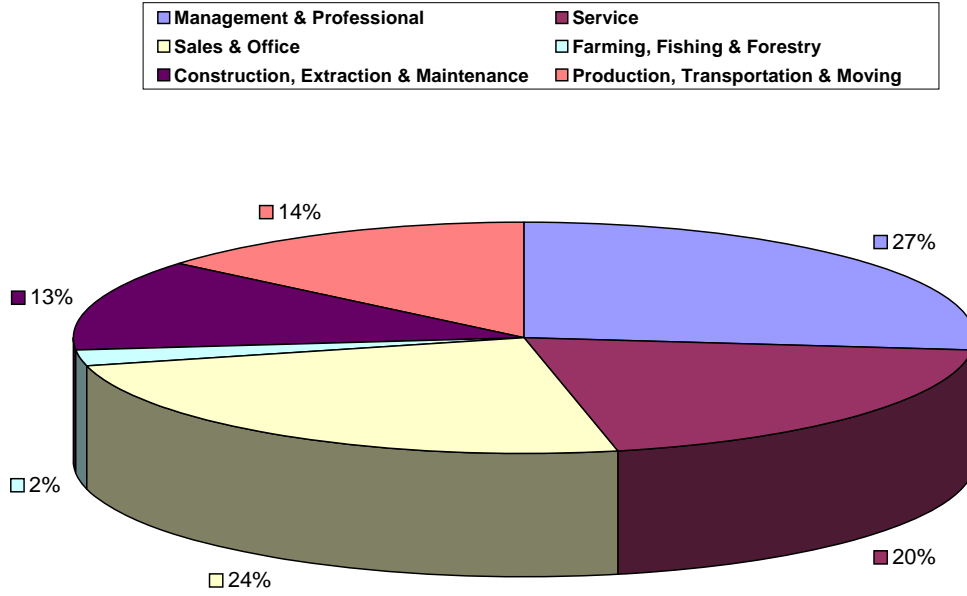


Figure 1-6 displays the relative numbers employed by occupation in Sawyer County during 2000.

Figure 1-6: Employment by Occupation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 1-14: Wages in Sawyer County by Occupation Group

	County Employment Distribution	Median Wage
Management	5%	\$35.49
Life, Physical, & Social Science	<2%	\$24.34
Computer & Mathematical	<2%	\$23.03
Legal	<2%	\$21.43
Business & Financial Operations	<2%	\$20.80
Community & Social Services	<2%	\$20.56
Architecture & Engineering	2%	\$20.04
Education, Training, & Library	6%	\$18.41
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	5%	\$17.24
Construction & Extraction	6%	\$17.13
Protective Services	<2%	\$14.77
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	3%	\$13.29
Buildings & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	5%	\$11.73
Office & Administrative Support	14%	\$11.58
Transportation & Material Moving	6%	\$11.56
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	<2%	\$11.07
Healthcare Support	2%	\$11.03
Production	9%	\$10.75
Sales & Related	16%	\$9.25
Personal Care & Service	4%	\$9.11
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	9%	\$7.51
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	<2%	not avail.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Work Force Development, Bureau of Workforce Training

The sales and related occupation group employed the most workers. These occupations are found primarily with retail trade and provide roughly 16 percent of the jobs in the county. This dominance, with a median wage of \$9.25 per hour, significantly influences other wages and income in the county. Additionally, over two-thirds of the jobs with less than 12 percent have median hourly wages higher than \$20.00. Both factors, plus jobs, especially those with part time and seasonal lower wages, contribute to a low, overall median wage. Wages by occupation group for Sawyer County are shown in more detail in Table 1-14.

Table 1-15 lists the top ten prominent public/private employers in Sawyer County. The County's largest private sector employer is Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, followed by Wal-Mart, Louisiana Pacific, and Northern Lakes Coop.

Table 1-15: Prominent Public & Private Employers in Sawyer County

Employer Name	Industry Type	Number of Employees
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government	Tribal governments	250-499
Lac Courte Oreilles Casino & Lodge	Casinos, except casino hotels	250-499
Hayward Community School District	Elementary & secondary schools	250-499
County of Sawyer	Executive & legislative offices	250-499
Hayward Area Memorial Hospital	General medical & surgical hospitals	250-499
Wal-Mart	Discount department stores	100-249
Louisiana Pacific Corp	Wood product manufacturing	100-249
LCO Community College	Junior colleges	100-249
Northern Lakes Coop	Supermarkets & grocery	100-249
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249

Source: Wisconsin Department of Work Force Development, 2008

Income Characteristics

Median Income & Poverty Levels

The 2000 Census reports Sawyer County has a median household income of \$32,287, a median family income of \$38,843, and a per-person income of \$17,634. As indicated in Table 1-16, these incomes are below the state and national values. Nearly 13 percent of residents are living at or below the poverty level. Sawyer County poverty levels are greater than the State of Wisconsin and the United States. Table 1-17 compares the same categories for surrounding counties.

Table 1-16: Income and Poverty, 2000				
Municipality	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Percent Persons Living at or Below Poverty Level
T. Bass Lake	\$31,274	\$32,179	\$15,026	17.4%
T. Couderay	\$24,861	\$32,143	\$12,916	16.6%
T. Draper	\$27,500	\$31,875	\$15,647	21.6%
T. Edgewater	\$38,542	\$41,786	\$18,907	7.4%
T. Hayward	\$36,895	\$43,300	\$17,382	13.6%
T. Hunter	\$30,208	\$29,702	\$16,309	14.9%
T. Lenroot	\$35,000	\$45,481	\$19,230	8.7%
T. Meadowbrook	\$29,167	\$41,667	\$19,208	2.3%
T. Meteor	\$30,625	\$49,375	\$12,487	7.8%
T. Ojibwa	\$41,667	\$43,750	\$16,889	7.1%
T. Radisson	\$33,523	\$37,708	\$19,511	7.9%
T. Round Lake	\$40,179	\$51,071	\$24,951	6.7%
T. Sand Lake	\$32,266	\$37,500	\$18,322	11.3%
T. Spider Lake	\$37,396	\$47,813	\$26,461	4.2%
T. Weirgor	\$31,875	\$33,750	\$15,691	8.5%
T. Winter	\$33,500	\$41,125	\$19,033	12.7%
V. Couderay	\$40,417	\$41,042	\$14,008	11.4%
V. Exeland	\$21,000	\$31,071	\$14,689	14.2%
V. Radisson	\$25,625	\$38,500	\$16,122	16.5%
V. Winter	\$22,955	\$25,625	\$15,404	17.5%
C. Hayward	\$28,421	\$36,287	\$16,658	14.5%
Sawyer County	\$32,287	\$38,843	\$17,634	12.7%
State of Wisconsin	\$43,791	\$52,911	\$21,271	8.7%
United States	\$41,994	\$50,046	\$21,587	12.4%

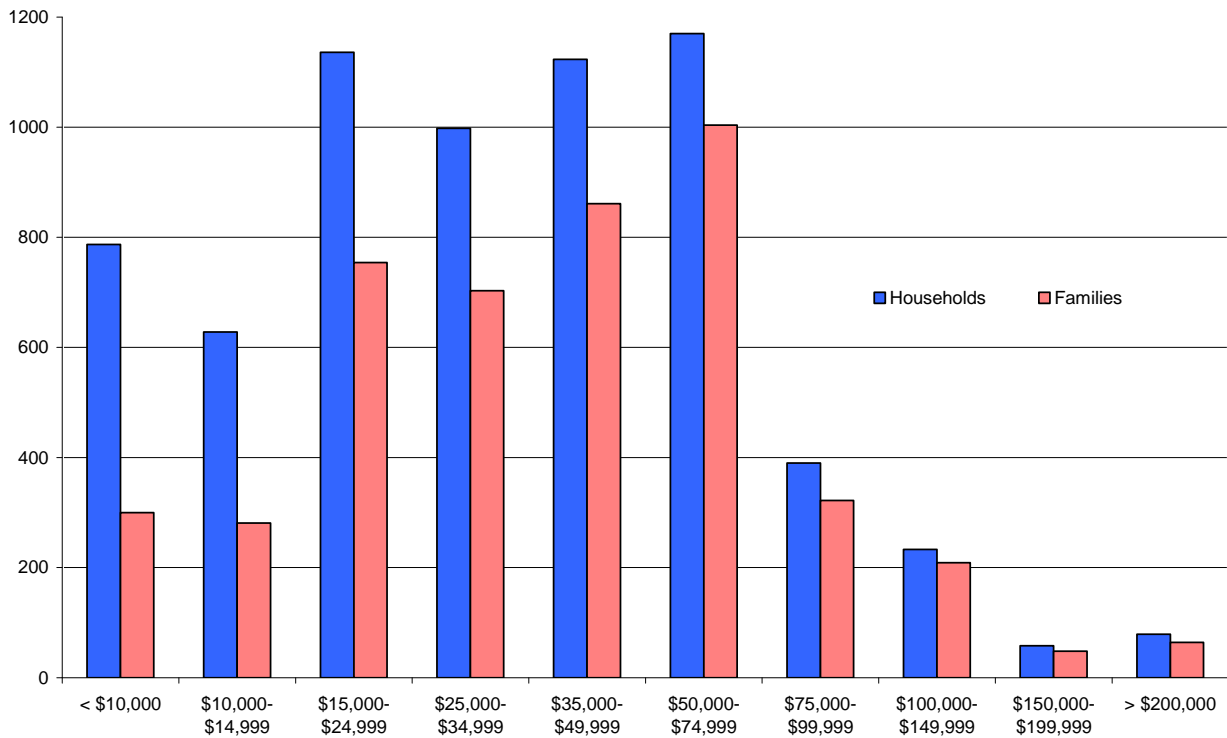
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-17: Income and Poverty by Counties, 2000				
County	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Percent Persons Living at or Below Poverty Level
Ashland	\$31,628	\$39,531	\$16,069	11.9%
Bayfield	\$33,390	\$39,774	\$16,407	12.5%
Price	\$35,249	\$42,837	\$17,837	8.9%
Rusk	\$31,344	\$38,359	\$15,563	11.8%
Sawyer	\$32,287	\$38,843	\$17,634	12.7%
Washburn	\$33,716	\$40,486	\$17,341	9.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-7 compares household and family income for Sawyer County. Household income is higher than family income in all income categories.

Figure 1-7: Household & Family Income, Sawyer County

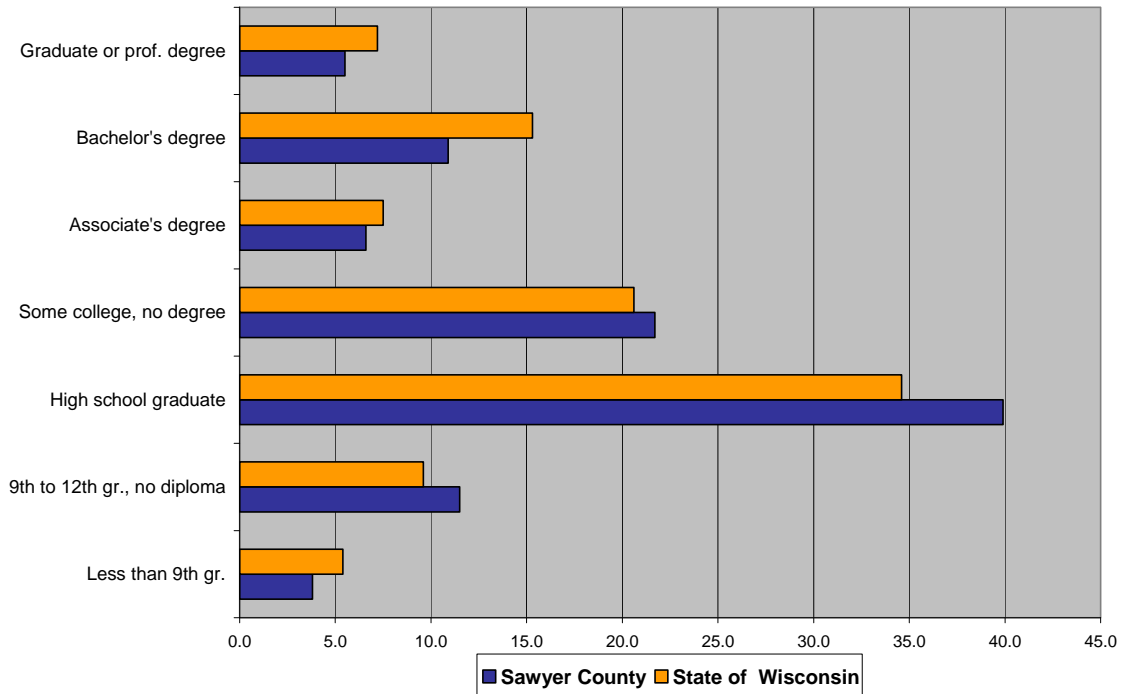


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Education

Educational attainment in Sawyer County is similar to that of the State of Wisconsin as seen in Figure 1-8. The 2000 U.S. Census showed that about 85 percent of the Sawyer County residents 25 years and older had a high school diploma, about the same as the State of Wisconsin. According to the 2000 Census, Sawyer County showed about 16.5 percent of residents 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher while the State of Wisconsin total is around 22 percent.

Figure 1-8: Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000