

ASSUMPTIONS AND PROJECTIONS

The following assumptions were derived from the 2000 Comprehensive Assessment of Housing Needs for Mower County:

1. The County appears primed for considerably greater growth in the coming decade that it has seen in the past.
2. Population is expected to increase by 1,290 persons by 2010 largely due to the continued outreach of employers located in both the Austin and Rochester urban areas. Communities located along major transportation networks are expected to capture the largest portion of this growth. Smaller, isolated communities are projected to lose small portions of their existing resident base.
3. The number of households in Mower County is expected to increase by roughly 6 percent, or 1,015 households.
4. The 25 to 44-age population is expected to continue to decline, especially in the Austin area. This is due to the increasing number of single person households entering the area as well as the out-migration of young families.
5. The aging of the existing population is expected to result in a slowly increasing number of residents aged 65 and over.
6. Overall median income is expected to increase by about 19%. This is due to an expected 19% decline in the number of households with incomes below \$25,000 as well as an expected 96% increase in the number of households with incomes above \$100,000.
7. The number of employed persons is expected to increase. Although most of these jobs will be in entry-level positions, an increase in higher-paying positions is also expected.
8. An increased demand for housing is anticipated.

**FIGURE 22
MOWER COUNTY POPULATION
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS**

