

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The existing and past patterns of development and other conditions in the city of Sartell and surrounding area have a great influence on the community's future. Accurate, complete and up-to-date information on existing conditions and past trends is essential to a successful comprehensive plan.

An inventory and analysis of existing conditions provides merely a snapshot of a community at a point in time, but when analyzed against past trends, future trends may be estimated. Thus, the insight on past and future trends is often more important than the existing conditions themselves. A community's story is a compilation of snapshots.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The city of Sartell has been the beneficiary of good location, community growth and emerging economic opportunity. The community has seen steady growth over the past century that has allowed it to become a significant economic and residential center in Central Minnesota.

Below is a more detailed discussion of the population and other demographic characteristics of the community.

POPULATION

The identification of trends in population growth and other demographic data is a very important part of the comprehensive planning process. It can provide clues to future growth patterns and indicate what types of housing and public facilities may be needed in the future.

For example, an increase in young couples with children would require starter housing, new parks and schools, and new or upgraded community facilities; whereas, an increase in the elderly population would lessen the need for schools and increase the need for specialized housing. This section of the Comprehensive Plan contains information on Sartell's population including age, income and education as well as household characteristics.

The state of Minnesota is one of the fastest growing Midwestern states. However, the population growth trends are not evenly distributed across the state. Population increases are generally seen in and around the Twin Cities metro area, retirement counties in north-central Minnesota, and around major regional centers such as St. Cloud.

A significant portion of growth within Stearns County can be attributed to the growth associated with the city of Sartell. The city of Sartell accounted for approximately 13% of all population growth within Stearns County from 1990 to 2000.

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Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 show the changes in population that have taken place over time in Sartell and surrounding communities. Comparisons also are made to Stearns and Benton Counties and the state of Minnesota.

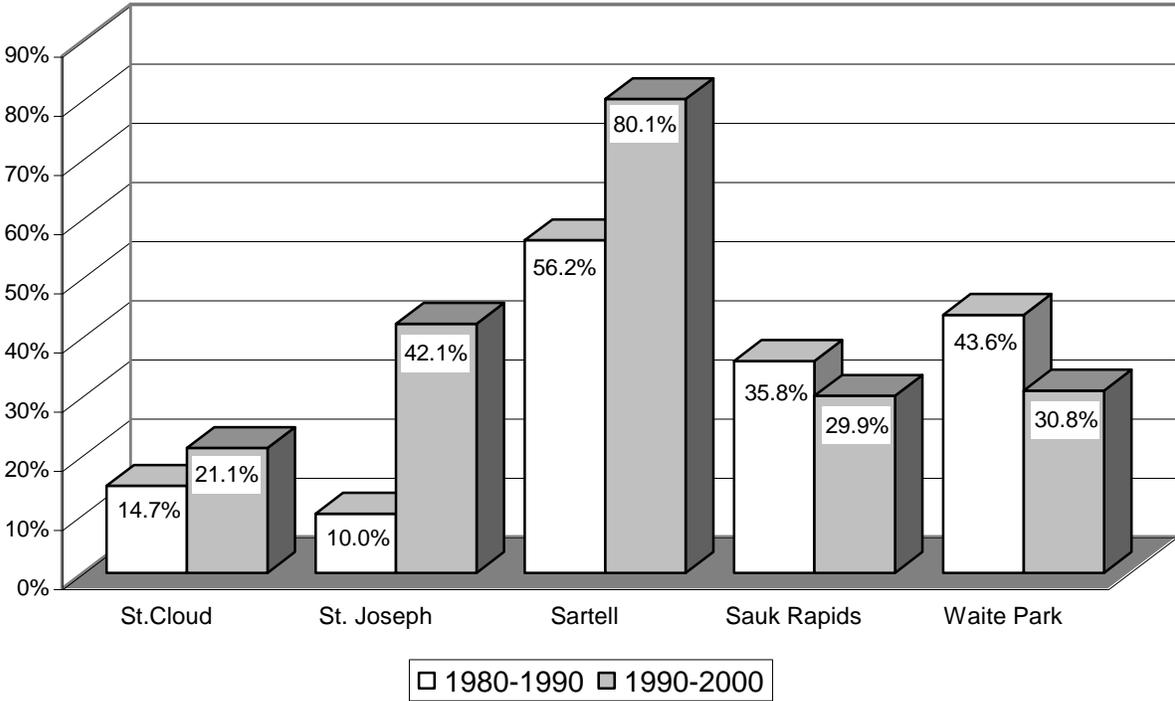
**Table 3-1
Population Trends
Sartell Area
1980-2000**

	1980	1990	1980 - 1990		2000	1990 - 2000		2007 Census Estimates	2000-2007	
			Change	% Change		Change	% Change		Change	% Change
Sartell	3,427	5,354	1,968	57.5	9,641	4,248	78.8	13,730	4,089	42.4
LeSauk Township	2,009	2,173	164	8.2	2,078	-95	-4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sauk Rapids	5,793	7,864	2,032	35.1	10,213	2,388	30.5	11,881	1,668	16.3
St. Cloud	42,566	48,812	6,246	14.7	59,107	10,295	21.1	66,503	7,396	12.5
St. Joseph	2,994	3,294	300	10	4,681	1,387	42	6,085	1,404	30
Waite Park	3,496	5,020	1,524	44	6,568	1,548	31	6,800	232	3.5
Benton County	25,187	30,185	4,998	19.8	34,226	4,081	13.5	39,504	5,278	15.4
Stearns County	108,161	118,791	10,630	9.8	133,166	14,375	12.1	146,051	12,885	9.7
Minnesota	4,075,970	4,375,099	299,129	7.3	4,919,479	544,380	12.4	5,220,393	300,914	6.1

Source: US Census Bureau

Sartell's population increased by 181 percent over a 20 year time period from 3,427 persons in 1980 to 9,641 in 2000 and reached an estimated population of 13,730 by mid 2007; that's an additional 40 percent growth rate from 2000 to 2007. The city's population grew considerably faster than the state of Minnesota as a whole, whose population increased by 21 percent during the same time period. The growth rate is also faster than Stearns and Benton Counties, which grew by 23 percent and 36 percent, respectively, in the same time frame. Growth during the 1990s outpaced the 1980s by 21 percent, or 2,280 people. No other entity listed above matched the growth rate of Sartell in either the 1980s or 1990s.

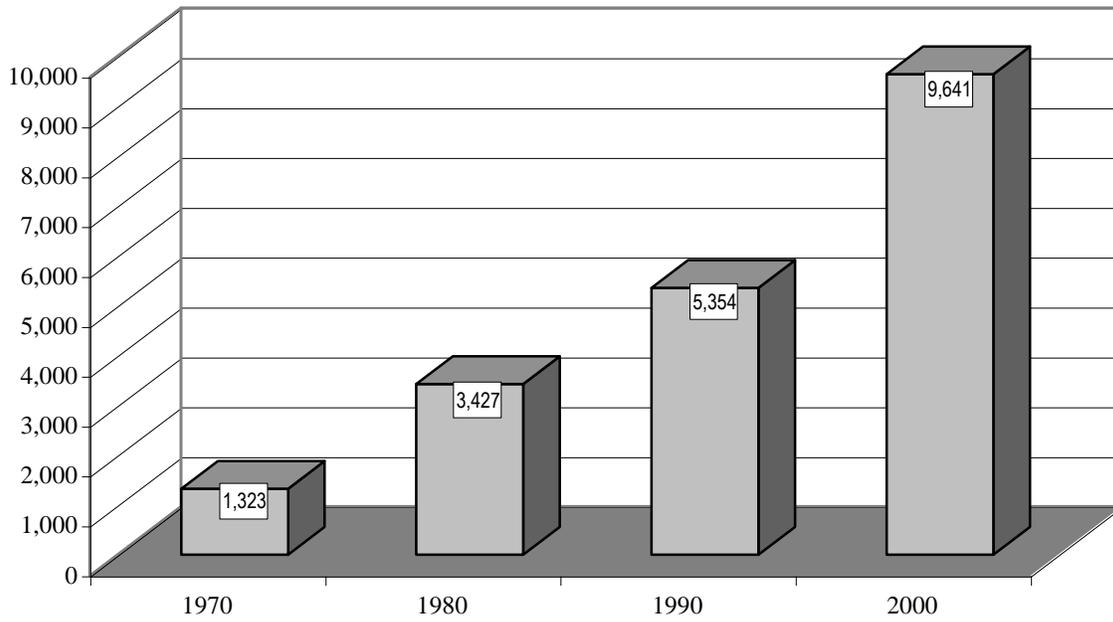
Figure 3-1
Percent Population Change
St. Cloud Metro Area Cities
1980 - 2000



Sartell’s proximity to St. Cloud, and the region’s proximity to the Twin Cities metro area, has fueled much of this growth. Growth has also been facilitated by the presence of Highways 10 and 15, which provide easy access and connectivity to surrounding communities, allowing residents to live in Sartell while commuting to jobs elsewhere.

The population of Sartell has increased steadily over the last 30 years. Figure 3-2 demonstrates the stable growth of the community. It is reasonable to expect that the city’s population will continue to grow as people migrate from growing St. Cloud in search of a more suburban lifestyle and as existing younger residents of the city begin to establish families. Increased population coupled with the national trend of lower density development, essentially ensures that the city will increasingly experience geographic growth pressure as well.

**Figure 3-2
Population History
City of Sartell**



Source: US Census

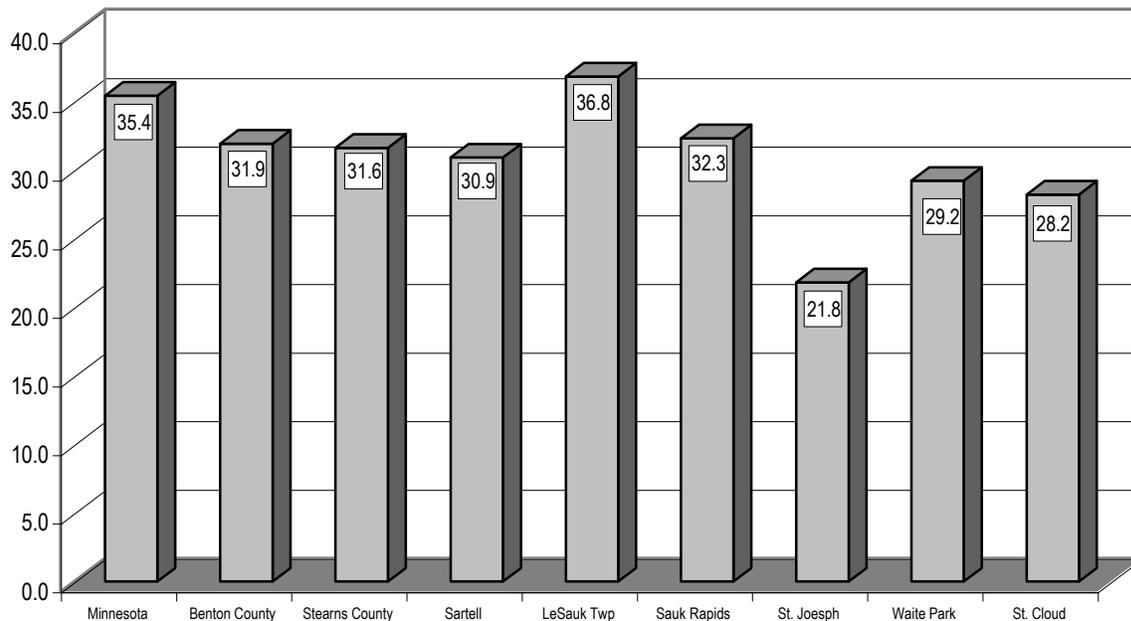
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POPULATION BY AGE

The population in Minnesota and the nation is steadily aging as the baby boomer generation reaches maturity. There has also been a recent increase in the younger age groups in many communities – known as the baby boomer echo. This trend is replicated in Stearns County, Benton County and in the Sartell area specifically.

Sartell's median age increased from 27.9 in 1980 to 30.9 in 2000. As demonstrated in Figure 3-3 the median age for the city of Sartell is lower than the statewide average, but is consistent with Stearns and Benton Counties. However, Sartell's median age is higher than most of the other St. Cloud metro area cities. This on the surface seems to go against the notion that Sartell is attracting new, younger residents with families. However, the presence of large universities in the area may be skewing the median age in St. Cloud and St. Joseph. St. Cloud State University is located in St. Cloud, and St. Benedicts and St. John's Universities are located in St. Joseph.

**Figure 3-3
Sartell Area
Median Age
2000**



Source: US Census

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According to Figure 3-4 the median age for both Stearns and Benton Counties are lower than that of the state. Also, Figure 4 demonstrates that the two counties are located in a twelve county area that is younger than the state's median age; and 2000 Census data shows this area's population to be growing.

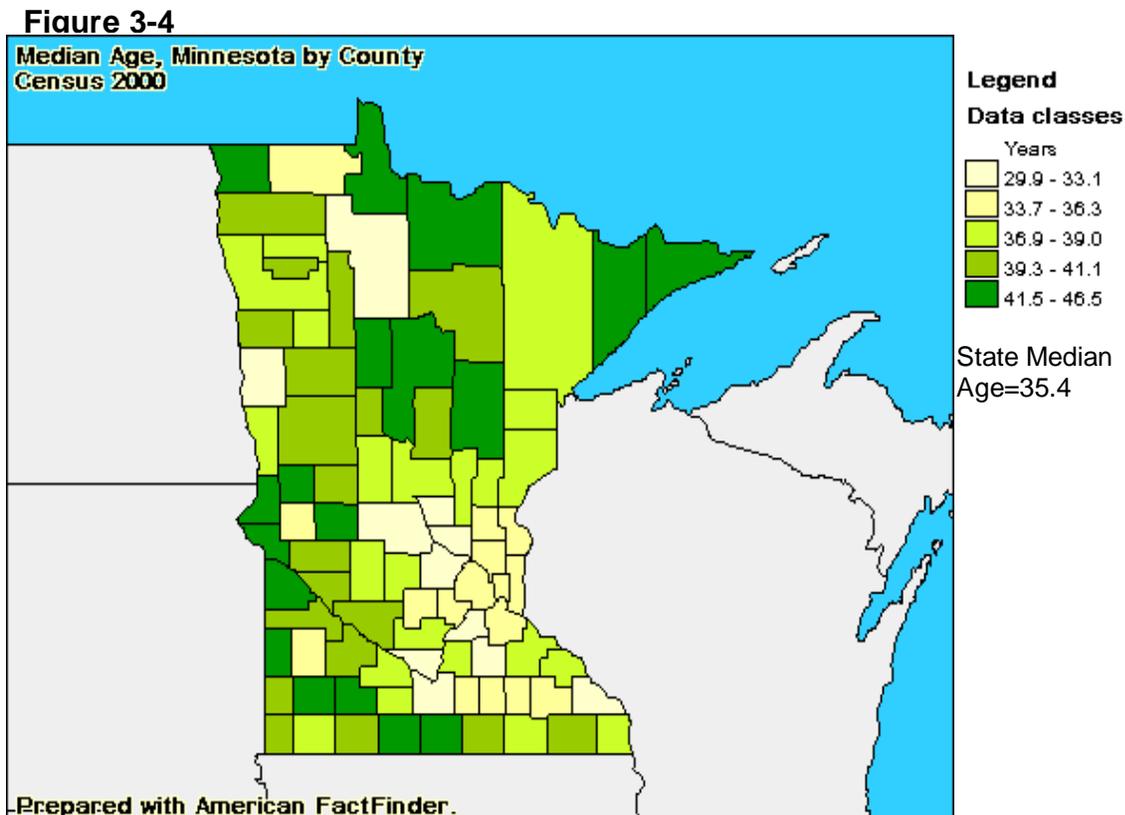


Table 3-2 compares Sartell's population breakdown by age with Stearns County, Benton County and the state. Sartell has a slightly higher percentage of people under the age of 14 with 27 percent, as compared to 20 percent in Stearns County, 22 percent in Minnesota overall, and 22 percent in Benton County. Also, Table 3-2 demonstrates that Sartell has a slightly lower percentage of people over the age of 60 with 10 percent, as compared to approximately 14 percent in Stearns and Benton Counties and Minnesota.

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**Table 3-2
Population by Age
Sartell Area
2000**

Age Cohort	Sartell		Stearns County		Minnesota		Benton County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	931	9.7	8,509	6.4	329,594	6.7	2,474	7.2
5 - 9	843	8.7	9,114	6.8	355,894	7.2	2,476	7.2
10 - 14	835	8.7	10,047	7.5	374,995	7.6	2,647	7.7
15 - 19	712	7.4	13,435	10.1	374,362	7.6	2,729	8.0
20 - 24	570	5.9	14,616	11.0	322,483	6.6	3,120	9.1
25 - 34	1,751	18.2	17,080	12.8	673,138	13.7	5,287	15.4
35 - 44	1,674	17.4	20,263	15.2	824,182	16.8	5,331	15.6
45 - 54	1,098	11.4	15,926	12.0	665,696	13.5	4,116	12.0
55 - 59	219	2.3	5,099	3.8	226,857	4.6	1,294	3.8
60 - 64	174	1.8	4,416	3.3	178,012	3.6	987	2.9
65 - 74	351	3.6	7,830	5.9	295,825	6.0	1,739	5.1
75-84	268	2.8	5,086	3.8	212,840	4.3	1,322	3.9
85 +	215	2.4	1,745	1.3	85,601	1.7	704	2.1
Total	9,641	100%	133,166	100	4,919,479	100%	34,226	100

Source: US Census

Table 3-3 shows Sartell's population breakdown by age for the years 1990 and 2000. There was an increase in every age group within the city. The largest population gains were in the 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 year-old groups. However, the highest rate of growth was seen in the 15 to 19 year-old groups, followed by the 45 to 54 and 35 to 44 year-olds. In both years, 25 to 34 year-olds comprised the largest segment of the community. These figures correlate to the city attracting new, younger residents with families.

Trends in age significantly impact a community's planning needs. The 20 to 29 year-old age group is typically the group that is starting out on its own and putting stakes in the community. Members of this age group, particularly in the upper end, are beginning to enter the family formation years; thus, increases or declines in this age group may indicate increasing or declining school enrollments in the near future.

The 20 to 24 year-old group is typically the age when many are seeking higher education and broader employment opportunities. In Sartell, this was one of the slower

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growing age groups from 1990 to 2000. This may indicate that young adults leave the community to explore these opportunities.

The 25 to 34 year-old group is the typical first-time homebuyer group while 20 to 24 year-olds are typically renters. The 25 to 34 year-old group comprises the largest segment of Sartell's population. Although large gains were made in this segment from 1990 to 2000 in terms of actual numbers, it did not grow at as fast a rate as most of the other groups did.

**Table 3-3
Population by Age
City of Sartell
2000**

Age Cohort	1990		2000		Change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	616	11.5	931	9.7	315	51.1
5 - 9	482	9.0	843	8.7	361	74.9
10 - 14	526	9.8	835	8.7	309	58.7
15 - 19	225	4.2	712	7.4	487	216.4
20 - 24	416	7.8	570	5.9	154	37.0
25 - 34	1,206	22.5	1,751	18.2	545	45.2
35 - 44	705	13.2	1,674	17.4	969	137.4
45 - 54	385	7.2	1,098	11.4	713	185.2
55 - 59	121	2.3	219	2.3	98	81.0
60 - 64	147	2.7	174	1.8	27	18.4
65 - 74	174	3.2	351	3.6	177	101.7
75 - 84	173	3.2	268	2.8	95	54.9
85 years +	178	3.3	215	2.2	37	20.8
Total	5,354	100%	9,641	100%	4,287	80.0

Source: US Census

The 30 to 49 year-old age groups tend to be looked at as the new generation of community leaders and business owners, and their children are found throughout the school system from kindergarten to 12th grade. These age groups also tend to be active in the community and demand high quality services for their children and families. However, these age groups also tend to be highly mobile and may move away from a community to find better opportunities. Within this population range, the 30 to 34 year-

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olds are typically first-time homebuyers while the 35 to 49 year-olds are typically included in the move-up homebuyer market.

In Sartell, 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 year-olds comprise the second and third largest segments of the population, respectively. They also experienced the largest and second largest gains of all groups from 1990 to 2000.

The 55 to 59 and 60 to 64 year-old groups have seen relatively smaller increases than the other groups in Sartell. Persons in the 50 to 64 year age group tend to be empty nesters and may move to smaller homes while young seniors aged 65 to 74 often seek a variety of housing options. Empty nesters in these age groups begin to abandon homes with several bedrooms and two or more stories for lower maintenance, two bedroom units, often on one story. In Sartell, the 65 to 74 year-old group experienced a moderate overall gain, but a relatively high rate of growth.

The 75 and over population has also seen fairly moderate growth. A sustained 75+ population has several planning implications for the city. Park and recreational demands of this group tend to be for passive activities rather than ball fields and playgrounds. Social services, elderly housing and medical services will be in demand and will most likely need to be located near one another.

Minnesota Planning projects a statewide decline in younger age groups and a significant increase in older age groups over the next 20 years. This trend mirrors similar trends nationwide. Table 3-4 shows population projections prepared by Minnesota Planning by age group for Stearns and Benton Counties through 2020. The greatest percent increases are expected to be in the 55 to 59 and 60 to 64 year-old groups, consistent with the trend toward an aging population. However, the greatest overall gain is expected to occur in the 15 to 19 year-old group.

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Table 3-4
Population Projections by Age
Stearns and Benton Counties
2000 - 2020

Age Group	Benton County			Stearns			Total	
	2020	2000 - 2020		2020	2000 - 2020		2000 - 2020	
		Change	% Change		Change	% Change	Change	% Change
0 - 4	2,810	336	14	8,390	-119	-1	217	2
5 - 9	2,980	504	20	9,580	466	5	970	8
10 - 14	3,040	393	15	11,410	1,363	14	1,756	14
15 - 19	2,770	41	2	15,900	2,465	18	2,506	16
20 - 24	2,880	-240	-8	14,690	74	1	-166	-1
25 - 34	7,200	1,913	36	15,900	-1,180	-7	733	3
35 - 44	7,300	1,969	37	19,710	-553	-3	1,416	6
45 - 54	6,410	2,294	56	14,820	-1,106	-7	1,188	6
55 - 59	3,070	1,776	137	5,340	241	5	2,017	32
60 - 64	2,640	1,653	167	4,530	114	3	1,767	33
65 - 74	3,580	1,841	106	7,400	-430	-5	1,411	15
75 - 84	1,580	258	20	5,040	-46	-1	212	3
85 +	750	46	7	2,030	285	16	331	14
Total	47,010	12,784	37	134,740	1,574	1	14,358	7.9

Source: MN Planning

Table 3-5 reflects on the 2000 Minnesota Planning projection by showing the Minnesota population for each age cohort in 2000 and showing the actual increase/decrease in each cohort in 2007. The largest percent decrease was in the 5 to 9 year-olds with a 24.7 percent drop in the population while the largest increase was in the 55 to 59 year-olds with a 40.3 percent increase. Other significant increases exist in the 45 to 54 and 60 to 64 year-olds; this reflection is consistent with an overall trend toward an aging population. Based on this information, Sartell can expect to experience similar population shifts.

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**Table 3-5
Population by Age
Minnesota
2000-2007**

Age Cohort	2000		2007		Change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	329,594	6.7	353,901	6.9	24,307	7.4
5 – 9	355,894	7.2	268,174	5.2	-87,720	-24.7
10 – 14	374,995	7.6	346,658	6.8	-28,337	-7.6
15 – 19	374,362	7.6	371,461	7.2	-2,901	-0.8
20 – 24	322,483	6.6	360,350	7.0	37,867	11.7
25 – 34	673,138	13.7	685,868	13.4	12,730	1.9
35 – 44	824,182	16.8	741,515	14.5	-82,667	-1.0
45 - 54	665,696	13.5	804,032	15.7	138,336	20.8
55 – 59	226,857	4.6	318,188	6.2	91,331	40.3
60 – 64	178,012	3.6	241,982	4.7	63,970	35.9
65 – 74	295,825	6.0	316,609	6.2	20,784	7.0
75 – 84	212,840	4.3	214,743	4.2	1,903	0.9
85+	85,601	1.7	104,864	2.0	19,263	22.5
Total	4,919,479	100%	5,128,345	100%	208,886	4.2

Sources: US Census Bureau; 2007 estimates, US Census 2000

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HOUSEHOLDS

The character of households can change over time in two ways as it relates to a city's population growth: by number and by size. If over time population growth is coupled with an increase in both the number and size of households, it generally tends to indicate a community growing from within, i.e., a high birth rate. However, if population growth is reflected by an increase in the number of households and a decrease in the size of the household, it may indicate that the community is growing due to an influx of new residents.

As shown in Table 3-6 below, along with the population, the number of households increased in Sartell between 1990 and 2000, while the size of households decreased. This indicates that the community is growing from an influx of new residents. This is also consistent with the national trends of smaller family sizes and more single person households.

**Table 3-6
Persons Per Household
City of Sartell
1990 - 2000**

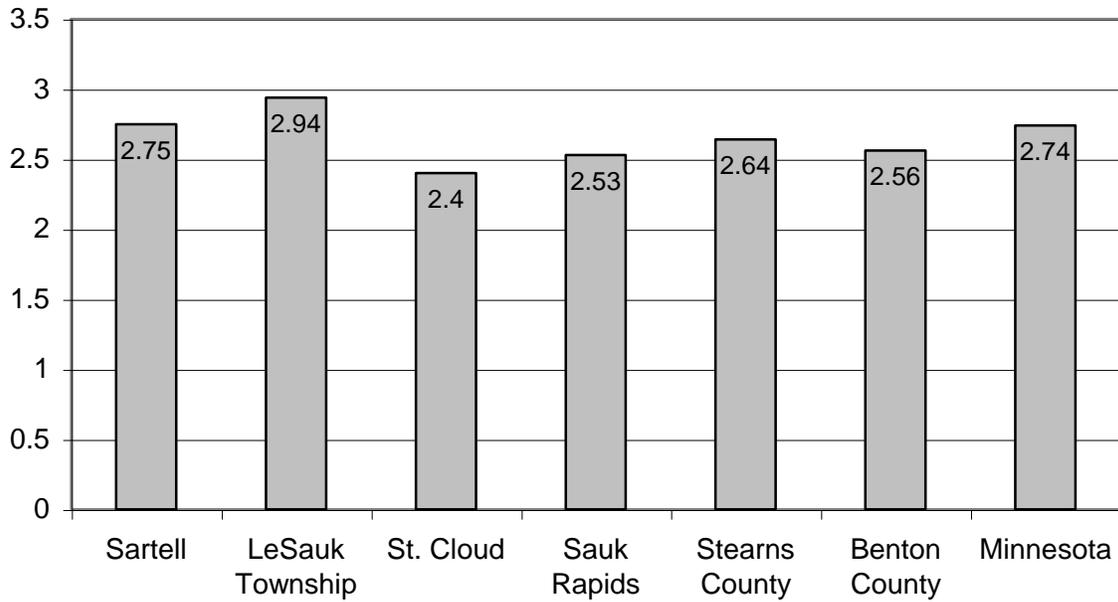
	1990	2000
Persons in Households	5,174	9,479
Households	1,849	3,443
Average Household Size	2.80	2.75

Source: US Census

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Figure 3-5 shows that household size in Sartell is higher than most surrounding communities, but consistent with the statewide average.

Figure 3-5
Average Household Size
Sartell Area
2000



Source: US Census

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Table 3-7 shows that from 1990 to 2000, the city experienced considerably higher household growth, 86 percent, than the state of Minnesota as a whole, which increased by 15 percent during the same time period. The growth rate is also faster than any of the surrounding cities, counties or LeSauk Township. In terms of actual numbers, Sartell gained more households than any other St. Cloud area city, except St. Cloud.

Table 3-7
Household Characteristics
Sartell Area
1980-2000

	Total Households			
	1990	2000	Change	% Change
Sartell	1,849	3,443	1,594	86
St. Cloud	17,746	22,652	4,906	28
LeSauk Township	679	639	-40	-6
Sauk Rapids	2,879	3,921	1,042	36
St. Joseph	755	1,120	365	48
Waite Park	2,116	2,967	851	40
Benton County	10,915	13,065	2,150	20
Stearns County	39,748	47,604	7,856	20
Minnesota	1,648,825	1,895,127	246,302	15

Source: US Census

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Table 3-8 shows population and household projections prepared by Minnesota Planning for Stearns and Benton Counties. The table indicates a 9 percent population increase between the two counties, with an 11 percent increase in households. This represents a 2.5 percent decrease in the average number of persons per household. This is a somewhat smaller decrease than the statewide projected decrease of 4.8 percent.

Table 3-8
Household and Population Projections
Benton and Stearns Counties
2000 - 2020

County	Year	Population	Households
Benton County	2000	34,226	13,065
	2020	47,010	16,490
Stearns County	2000	133,166	47,604
	2020	134,740	51,040
Total	2000	167,392	60,669
	2020	181,750	67,530
Change	Number	14,358	6,861
	Percent	9%	11%

Source: US Census