

## 2.1 Population Characteristics

### Population Counts

Population counts provide information both for examining historic change and for anticipating future community trends. Table 2-1 displays the historic year round population counts for Burnett County according to the U.S. Census. The 2008 census population estimate for Burnett County is 16,791.

Table 2-1  
Historic Population Counts, Burnett County, 1900-2008

Year	Burnett County Population	% Change from Previous Census
1900	7,478	-
1910	9,026	20.7
1920	10,735	18.9
1930	10,233	-4.7
1940	11,382	11.2
1950	10,236	-10.1
1960	9,214	-10.0
1970	9,276	0.7
1980	12,340	33.0
1990	13,084	6.0
2000	15,674	19.8
2008	16,791	7.1

Source: US Census Bureau and WDOA

Burnett County has grown by more than 8,000 people in the last 100 years. The 2000 population count of 15,674 is nearly 110% greater than the county's 1900 population count of 7,478. The county had experienced consecutive decades of a declining population from 1940 to 1960 which resulted in a loss of approximately of about 2,000 residents. Even with these decades of population decline the county population more than doubled since 1900. The county experienced its greatest rates of population growth from 1970 to 1980 at 33.0%, and from 1900 to 1910 at 20.7%.

Table 2-2 shows population counts for Burnett County and its communities for the census years 1970 through 2000. All communities in Burnett County have seen growth in population since 1970. The highest rates of growth occurred in the towns of Jackson, Lincoln, Oakland, Scott, Union and Webb Lake, with each of these communities more than doubling its population since 1970. When considering the number increase, the Village of Grantsburg and towns of Meenon and Grantsburg are added to the list of fastest growing communities, each adding more than 400 people since 1970. The towns of Wood River and Roosevelt are the Burnett County communities that experienced the slowest rate of year round population growth since 1970.