

County-wide, growth in housing units will likely increase at a rate somewhere in between the 13% increase projected based on WDOA population projections and the 26% increase projected using the linear census population projection. This is assuming the current housing construction market conditions continue to slow as they have in the last few years. The projections based on various permit activity are likely to underestimate the amount housing units seen by the year 2030. These alternative projections are based on historical data from a period of time that was considered a construction slow-down. Population estimates show that the number of housing units in Burnett County is likely to increase steadily.

2.4 Population and Housing Trends and Outlook

Population Trends in Wisconsin

The WDOA, Demographics Services, July 2001 report, *Population Trends in Wisconsin: 1970-2000* included the following findings:

Between 1970 and 2000, Wisconsin's total population grew by 945,854 persons, or 21.41%. However, this overall change differed by decade. To understand how Wisconsin's population changed, one must examine the components: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (in-migration minus out-migration).

1970s

The decade of the 1970s saw a population increase of 287,821 from 4,417,821 to 4,705,642, or 6.5%. There were 681,959 births and 404,266 deaths, resulting in a natural increase of 277,693 persons. Net migration was 10,128 persons.

1980s

The state's population increased by 3.96% to 4,891,769. Total births increased to 727,817 and deaths were 414,694, resulting in a natural increase of 313,123 persons. However, net out-migration of 126,996 persons produced an overall population change of only 186,127 persons. Most of the state's out-migration occurred during the deep recession of the early and mid 1980s.

1990s

Wisconsin's population increased by a robust 9.65 % to 5,363,675. The 1990s experienced the smallest natural increase of the three decades because of fewer births and a larger number of deaths that resulted in a natural increase of about 243,687 persons. However, the most significant trend during the 1990s was a turnaround in migration with 228,219 more people moving into the state than moving out. The impact of natural increase and positive net migration yielded a population increase of about 471,906 persons, by far the highest of the three decades. In fact, the 1990s were the second fastest growing decade in the state's history. Wisconsin's highest period of growth occurred in the 1950s when the population grew by 517,202.

Towns

In 1970, towns made up 27.68 percent of the total population. By 2000, their proportion of the total had risen to 31.10 percent. Towns grew by 17.71 percent in the 1970s, 2.31 percent in the 1980s, and 13.30 percent during the 1990s.