

Chapter 3 - Community Demographics

Comprehensive plans are prepared using a framework of population, household and economic trends. Demographic data available for the preparation of this plan is from the 2000 census, data that is eight years old. Although dated, information from 1990 and 2000 does still serve as an indicator of future influencing factors. Going forward, Hopkins will consider future data sources as they become available to better inform future planning decisions.

Regional Forecasts

The planning horizon for this plan is the year 2030, which is consistent with the regional system plans prepared by the Metropolitan Council as required under the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. The plan is also consistent with the Metropolitan Council 2030 Regional Development Framework that designates the City as a “Developed” community. The framework provides regional forecasts for each community in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Table 3.1 – Metropolitan Council’s 2030 Regional Forecasts

	1990	2000	Revised Development Framework		
			2010	2020	2030
Population	16,534	17,637	17,900	18,600	18,900
Housing	7,973	8,359	8,500	8,800	9,000
Employment	12,252	11,777	13,600	14,800	16,300

Hopkins will continue to experience additional growth over the next 20 years. A majority of this new growth will come through redevelopment initiatives. Redevelopment initiatives are discussed throughout the plan.

Population

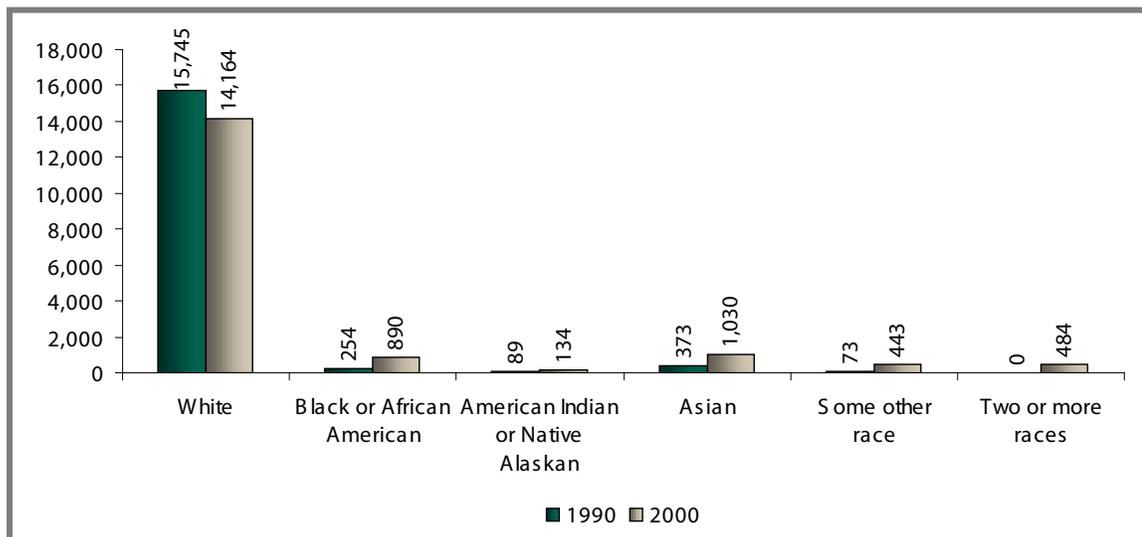
Between 1990 and 2000, Hopkins’ population increased about 4 percent. The Metropolitan Council anticipates a pattern of minor increases in population between now and 2030.

Hopkins has seen a significant change in foreign-born residents, as has the State of Minnesota. Between 1990 and 2000, the state’s foreign-born population increased 130 percent. The influx was massive enough to rank Minnesota 12th nationally in the rate of immigrant population growth, ahead of California, Florida and Texas. Minnesota has the largest population of Somali immigrants in the country – 9,300 according to the 2000 census, and the second largest population of Hmong, after California. About 42,000 Minnesotans were born in Mexico, making that country the largest single nation of origin for immigrants in the state. Immigrants have been attracted to jobs and a dynamic economy that was particularly strong in the latter half of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s.

In Minnesota, the Twin Cities captures roughly 80 percent of all immigration. Being a close-in suburban community, Hopkins has seen significant increases in immigrant populations. The 2000 census counted over 113,000 immigrants in the Twin Cities suburbs and exurbs, more than the total living in the central cities and a 150 percent increase over 1990.

This trend of increased immigration and changing demographics is likely to be one of the defining elements of Hopkins over the next decade. Changes in population will influence housing choices, jobs, schools and recreation.

Table 3.2 - Race



Age

Census data shows Hopkins to be getting older (see Table 3.3). This is a clear representation of the Baby Boom generation. Baby Boomers are 45 to 64 years in age and were born post World War II, making up a significant portion of the United States population.

Hopkins and the region have recognized the challenges likely to be faced with an aging Baby Boom population. An issue that is reflective of this trend is the decrease in household size (see Table 3.4). This is a result of an increase in the number of empty nesters. As the population ages and households become smaller, the demand for new housing will have an increasing focus on attached units. This trend could actually bode well for Hopkins because future redevelopment is likely to include predominately attached, higher density housing.

Table 3.3 – Age by Group

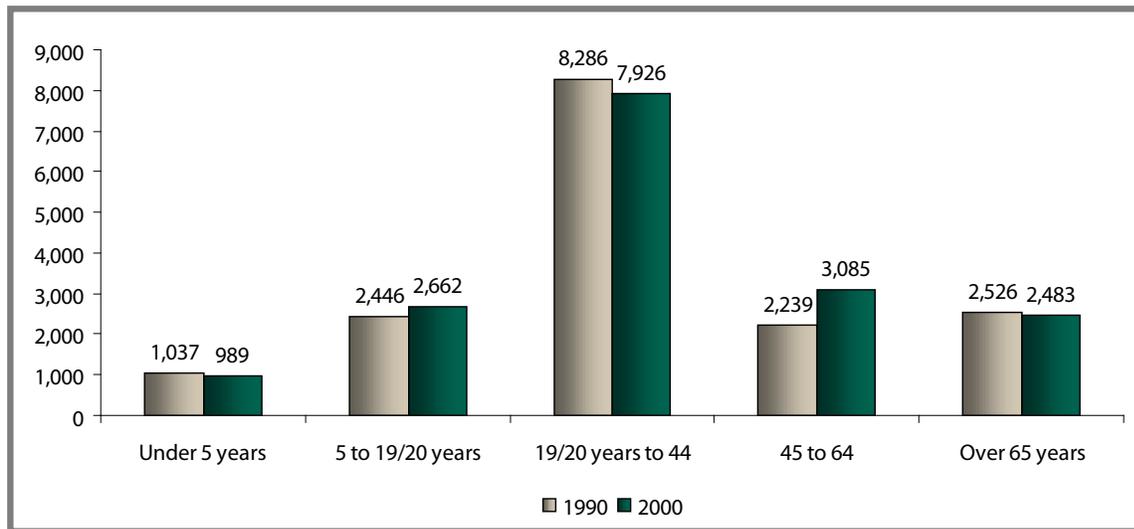
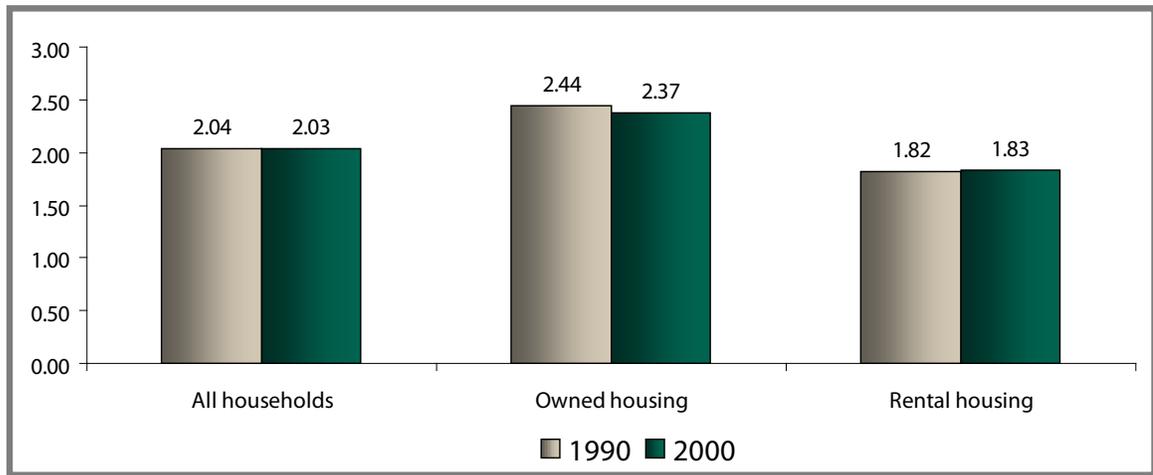


Table 3.4 – Household Size



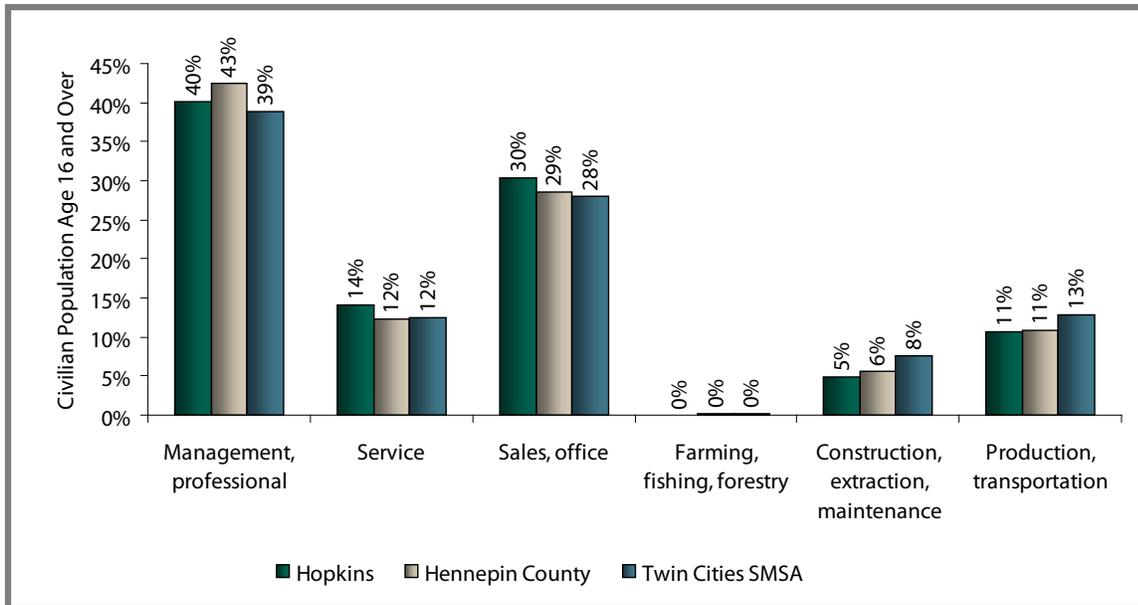
Housing

One of Hopkins’ greatest assets is its established single-family neighborhoods. Being a developed community limits the City’s ability to expand its single-family housing stock. New single-family homes have been a result of infill development or redevelopment initiatives. More recent housing projects have included higher density developments such as the Marketplace Lofts in downtown Hopkins and the Summit on TH 7. The housing chapter provides a more detailed report on the current housing trends in Hopkins.

Employment

Historically, the majority of Hopkins’ employment base has been industrial uses, influenced by the location of the Soo Line Rail Road, which provides easy access to ship goods. Over the past few decades, employment has shifted to more management and professional positions (see Table 3.5.). A recent office development, Cargill, has created 3,300 new jobs in Hopkins; however, industry and production is still a significant contributor to employment opportunities. Two of the largest employers in Hopkins, SuperValu and NAPCO International, Inc., provide 2,500 manufacturing and production jobs.

Table 3.5: Employment by Profession



Education

The City is located in the Independent School District (ISD) #270 which includes six elementary schools, two middle schools and a high school. Charter and private schools are also located in Hopkins. The City is home to The Blake School, Ubah Medical Academy and the Main Street School of Performing Arts.

Enrollment in Hopkins schools has been steady throughout the years, with the exception of the recent Baby Boom generation. As families from this era age in place, their children are graduating and moving out of their parents’ homes. This trend poses challenges in maintaining steady enrollment in the schools and, in fact, enrollments at the present time are declining. The City of Hopkins can support the Hopkins public schools by keeping the community a desirable place to live, thereby attracting new families and school-aged children.

Table 3.6: Education Obtainment

