

Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur counties grow

2010 Census

Counties

	2000	2010	Percent Change
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Blue Earth	55,941	64,013	+14.4
Brown	26,911	25,893	-3.8
Faribault	16,181	14,553	-10.1
Le Sueur	25,426	27,703	+8.9
Martin	21,802	20,840	-4.4
Nicollet	29,771	32,727	+9.9
Sibley	15,356	15,226	-0.8
Waseca	19,526	19,136	-2
Watonwan	11,876	11,211	-5.6

Five area counties lose population; Faribault falls by 10 percent

By Tim Krohn

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Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur counties saw solid growth in the past decade, while five area counties shed population, led by a 10 percent fall in Faribault County.

Blue Earth County grew more than

14 percent from 2000 to 2010 according to figures released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nicollet County was the next fastest growing, increasing by nearly 10 percent.

The combined counties make up the Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area, which increased nearly 13 percent.

“That’s huge, that’s wonderful,” said Jonathan Zierdt, president and CEO of Greater Mankato Growth.

The Mankato-area growth, while solid, was not as big as Rochester and

2010 Census

Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area (includes all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties)

2000	2010	Percent change
85,712	96,740	+12.9

St. Cloud; Rochester grew by 24 percent to nearly 107,000 people, making it the third largest city. St. Cloud grew

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by 11 percent.

Zierdt said steady growth is preferred to too rapid of growth.

“You do want to be careful not to grow too quickly. You need to keep up with your infrastructure and have

strategic, responsible growth or you have residents who aren't happy because they aren't getting the services they need,” he said.

“But to have a nice up-tick says we are a destination where people want to make their home. It reaffirms the quality of our community.”