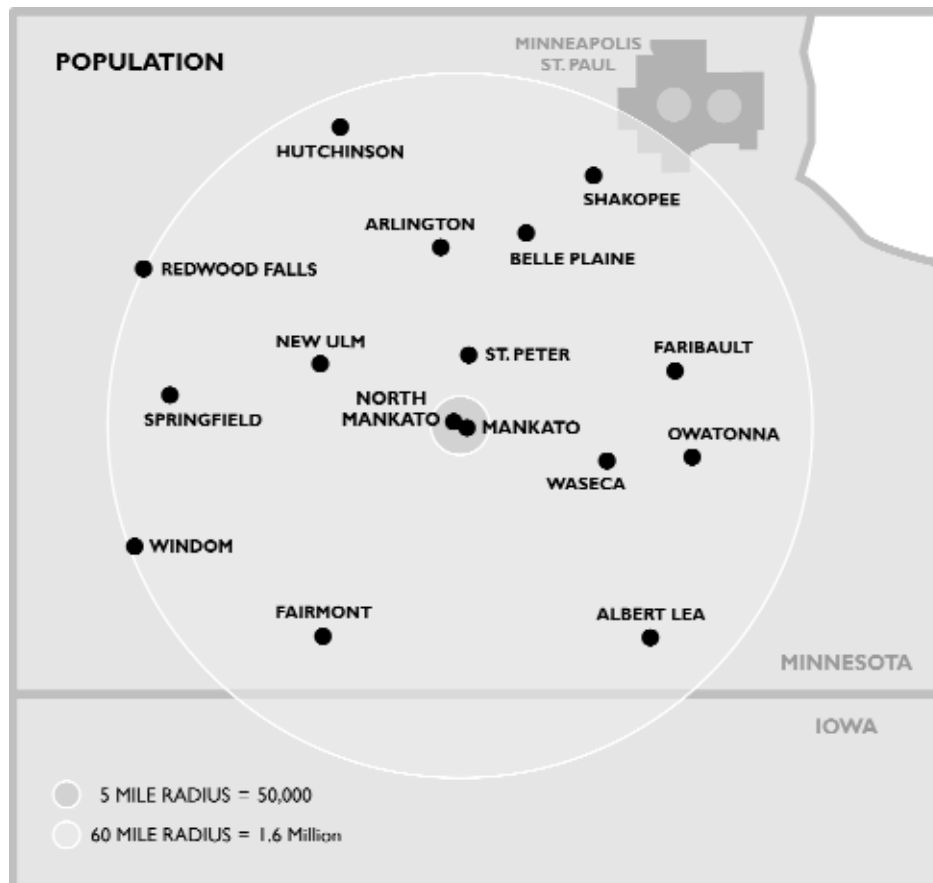


overview

The cities of Mankato and North Mankato are located along the Minnesota River in south-central Minnesota, 75 miles southwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul. (Drive time to the Twin Cities is approximately 1 1/2 hours.) The two cities are separated by the river, with Mankato located in Blue Earth County and North Mankato located in Nicollet County.

The combined community has a population of 47,608 (2005 estimate). Mankato•North Mankato has experienced tremendous growth over the past decade, evolving into a regional center that provides services to a population of 1.6 million within a 60-mile radius. Greater Mankato's strong, diverse economy is built around manufacturing, health care, services, agriculture, technology, and retail.

The community is known for its exceptional quality of life, educated workforce and worker productivity. It offers jobs, higher education, top-notch health care, arts, recreation, and metropolitan amenities while sidestepping the traffic jams, high crime rates, and high property taxes often associated with heavily urbanized areas.



overview

Rave Reviews

Bizjournals.com, 2006

Mankato/North Mankato was ranked 16th in the nation in a survey of 577 cities nationwide. The survey rates the country's "micropolitan areas in multiple quality of life criteria.

America's Promise, 2005

This national youth advocacy group, founded by Gen. Colin Powell and dedicated to making children and youth a priority, named Mankato one of the top 100 communities in the nation for kids. Criteria included the presence of caring adults, transportation for children, presence of places to learn and grow, education opportunities, and opportunities for children to volunteer.

Rolling Stone College Guide, 2005

Rolling Stone magazine named Mankato/St. Peter one of the top 50 college towns in the country because of its rich and diverse music scene.

Site Selection Magazine, 2002, 2003 and 2004

For three consecutive years, Mankato • North Mankato ranked in the top 25 small cities nationwide for new and expanded corporate facility projects. The community ranked number 16 in 2002 (the only Minnesota community to make the list), number 13 in 2003, and number 23 in 2004.

BizDemographics awarded Mankato an "A" in terms of business climate, a sign of excellent economic health. The study considered characteristics such as population growth, per capita income, job growth, and local educational levels.

Demographics Daily, September, 2000

Mankato and North Mankato placed in the top 50 U.S. cities classified as "dreamtowns." Cities were ranked according to quality of life indicators such as vitality, supply of good jobs, freedom from stress, connection to cultural mainstream, support for schools, access to health care, low cost of living, and small town character.

The New Rating Guide to Life in America's Small Cities, January, 1998

The City of Mankato was named the 14th most livable "micropolitan" in America and number one in Minnesota.

Cost of Living

	Mankato, MN	National Average
Cost of living index	97.7	99.52
Average yearly utility cost	\$3,054	\$3,196
Average Household Total Consumer Expenditures	\$38,458	\$41,075
Average Household Education Expenditures	\$353	\$451
Average Household Entertainment Expenditures	\$1,990	\$2,207
Average Household Transportation Expenditures	\$1,388	\$1,564

Source: Yahoo! Real Estate