

# REGIONAL TRENDS 2004

Dane County Department of Planning and Development

Dane County Wisconsin

**Summary**

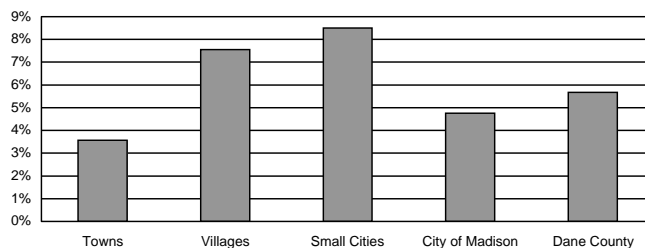
September 2005

## Population Growth

The population in Dane County grew from 445,253 in 2003 to 450,730 in 2004, according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration. While the total county population has grown by 5.7% since 2000, the amount of growth has varied widely for the County's municipalities. The city of Madison and towns grew by 4.7 and 3.6% respectively, while the smaller cities and villages grew by 8.5 and 7.6% respectively.



Population Growth: 2000-2004

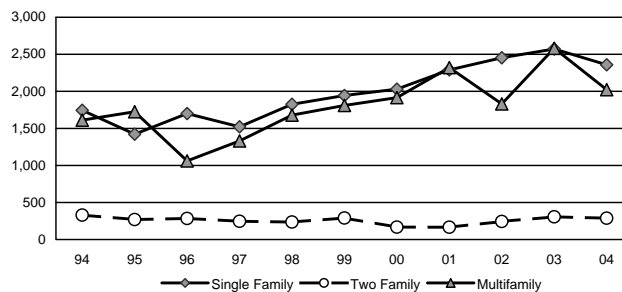


## Residential Development

There were 4,670 housing units constructed in Dane County in 2004, down from 5,458 in 2003. In 2004, single-family housing construction was down by 8.2%. Two-family and multifamily housing unit construction were down by 5.9% and 21.6%, respectively.



New Housing Units by Type

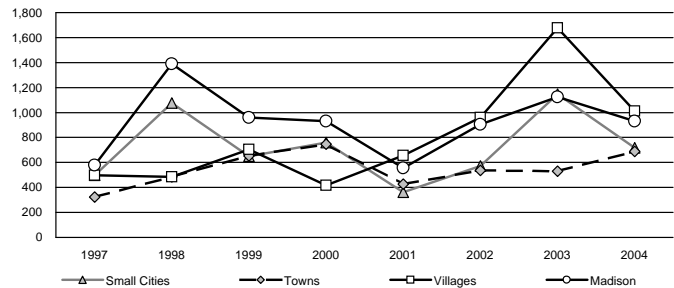


## Land Division

The total number of new parcels created in Dane County decreased by 25% from 2003 levels, down to 3,349 parcels. The number of parcels created increased in towns (30%), while the number of parcels created decreased in the villages (-40%), small cities (-38%) and the City of Madison (-17%).



**Parcels Created by Municipal Type: 1997-2004**

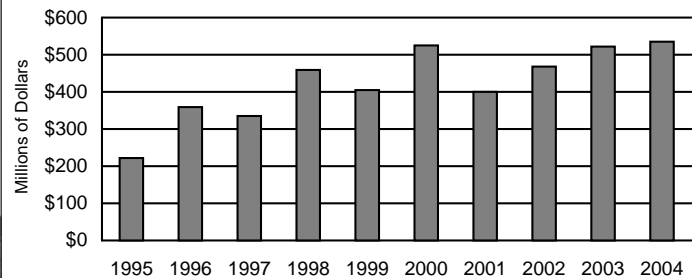


## Economic Development

Total nonresidential construction permit value was estimated at \$535 million in 2004. Among the highest value nonresidential projects in 2004 were: Overture Center-Phase II (\$50 million), Park St. Residence Halls/Office Building (\$30 million) and UW Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (\$24 million) in the City of Madison; Epic Systems (\$50 million) in the City of Verona, Waunakee High School Addition (\$21 million) in the Village of Waunakee, and High Track Cold Storage (\$13 million) in the Village of McFarland.



**Nonresidential Construction Permit Value**

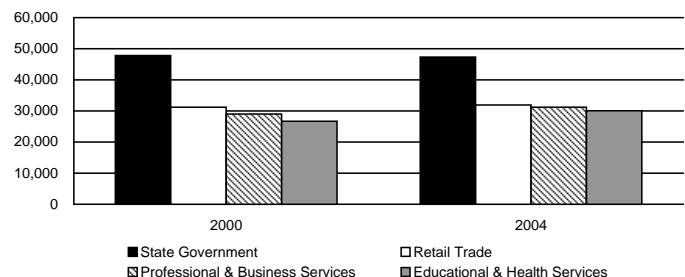


## Employment

The total employment base in Dane County increased by 3,117 new jobs, or 1.0%, over 2003 levels. The average unemployment rate in Dane County in 2004 was 2.6%, 0.1% lower than the level in 2003.



**Dane County Employment by the 4 Largest Sectors**

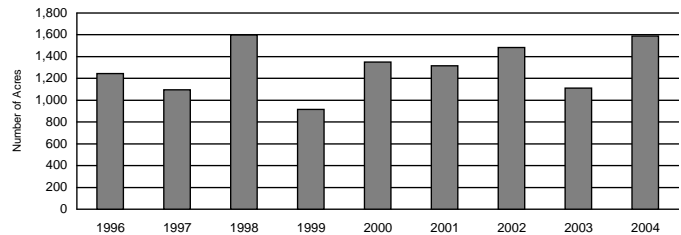


## Agricultural Lands

According to United States Department of Agriculture data, the average value of all agricultural land sold in Dane County increased from \$7,458 per acre in 2002 to \$8,747 per acre in 2003 (latest available data). The value of land sold for continued agricultural use (\$5,403 per acre in 2003) has increased every year since 1992. The value of land sold for non-agricultural use increased from \$12,249 per acre in 2002 to \$16,073 per acre in 2003. Approximately 1,588 acres were rezoned from the A-1 Agriculture (Exclusive) zoning to create 242 new lots in 2004, according to Dane County zoning records.



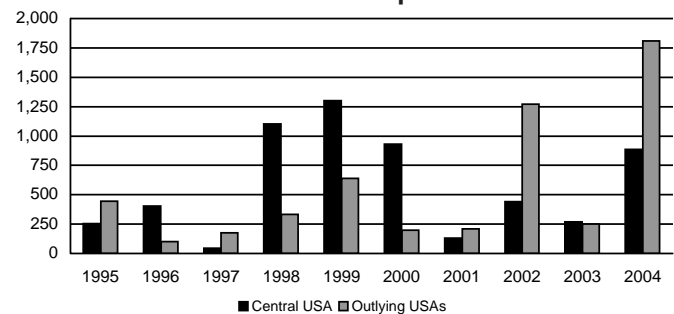
Acres Rezoned From A-1 Ex. Ag to Create New Lots



## Urban Service Areas

In 2004, 24 amendments were made to urban service area boundaries, adding 2,693 acres for development. From 1995 to 2004, a total of 11,202 acres were added to urban service areas for development. The total from 1986 to 2004 was 16,274. The City of Madison and areas immediately adjacent to the city are classified as the Central Urban Service Area (CUSA). Outlying Urban Service Areas (OUSAs) are the smaller scale urban communities.

Urban Service Area Amendments: 1995-2004  
Acres for Development



## Transportation

The Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan (Vision 2020), completed in 1997, serves as the guide for short- and long-range transportation improvements for all modes of travel within the Madison Metropolitan/Dane County area. The Madison Area MPO is preparing an update to the regional transportation plan, which will be completed by early 2006 with a planning horizon year of 2030.

Madison Metro's total fixed-route ridership increased from 10,934,125 passengers in 2003 to 10,962,345 in 2004, a 0.26% increase. The 2004 ridership total is Metro's highest since 1986. The overall ridership trend has been positive since 1990, with a 20.9% increase during this period.

According to the 2000 Census, 77% of Dane County residents working outside the home commuted via single-occupant vehicle, 10% carpoled, 4% used public transportation, 6% walked, and 2% bicycled. The mean travel time to work was 19.9 minutes, up 10% from 1990.

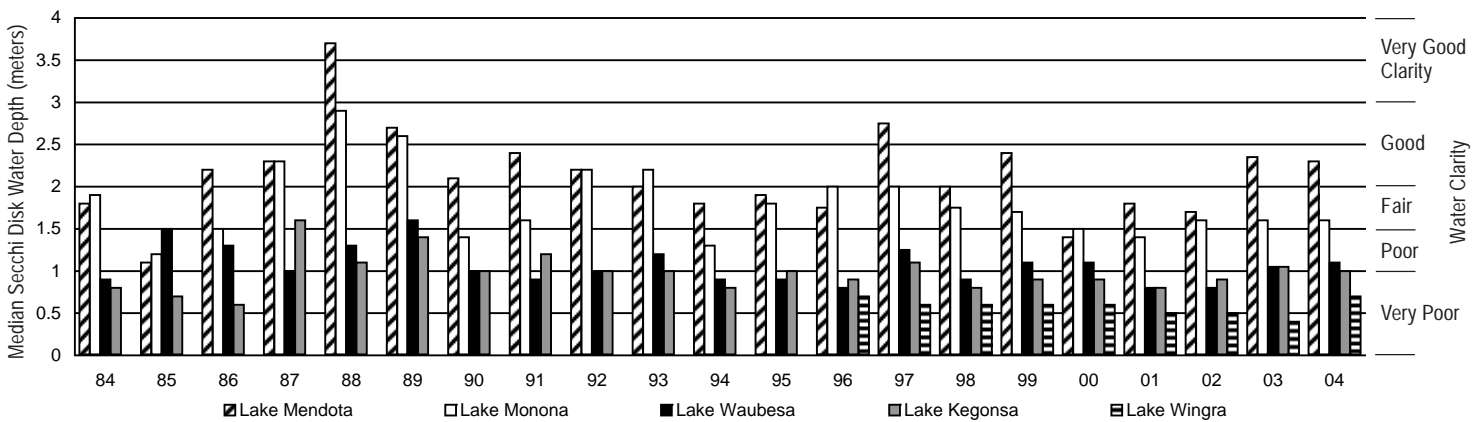
It is estimated that daily vehicle miles of travel (VMT) in the central Dane County area increased from 3.5 million in 1980, to 7.6 million in 1990, and to 10.1 million in 2000. The total personal vehicles in Dane County increased from 196,000 in 1980, to 243,000 in 1990, and to 300,000 in 2000.

## Environmental

While the quality of Dane County's ground and surface water is generally good, water pollution problems are also evident in some locations. Over-fertilization and sedimentation of our lakes from urban and rural nonpoint source stormwater runoff continues to be a problem. There have been areas of noticeable improvement in ground water quality. Atrazine in wells has shown improvement, due largely to state restrictions on atrazine use. However, groundwater quality indicates worsening trends for nitrates and salt. Despite the significant growth and development that has occurred, surface water quality in streams is not declining, and may actually be improving due to better wastewater treatment and improved urban stormwater quality management.

In 2004, the RPC reviewed 157 sewer extensions for plan consistency and also assisted communities in water resources management and planning. Sewer extension reviews include stormwater management plan review for most development on the urban fringe.

**Yahara Lakes Summer Water Clarity**



Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Bureau of Research, and U.W. Center for Limnology (1995-2004).

## School Enrollment

The 2004-05 public school enrollment data was not available at the time of publishing. The data is expected to be available in late 2005 and can be accessed through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at [www.dpi.state.wi.us/](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/). The Regional Trends 2004 publication is available on the CAPD website at [www.danecorpc.org](http://www.danecorpc.org) and will be updated with the 2004-05 enrollment data when it is available.

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