

REGIONAL TRENDS 2005

Dane County Department of Planning and Development

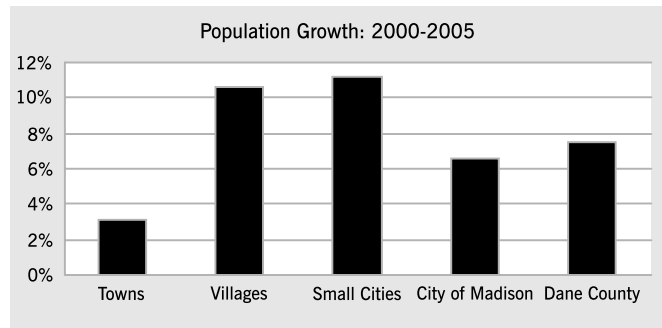
Dane County Wisconsin

Summary

October 2006

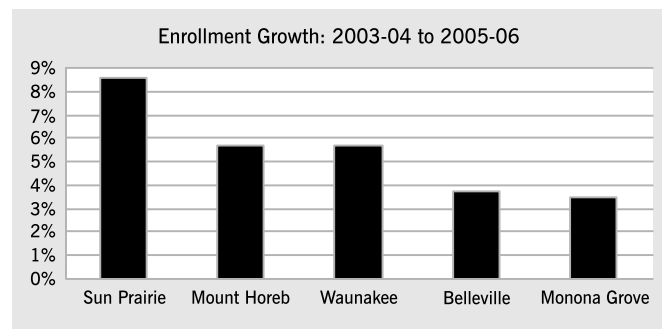
Population

The population of Dane County grew from 450,730 in 2004 to 458,297 in 2005, an increase of 1.7 percent. While the total county population has grown by 7.5 percent since 2000, the amount of growth has varied widely among county municipalities. Smaller cities grew by 11.2 percent and villages grew by 10.6 percent, while the City of Madison experienced a 6.6 percent increase and the towns 3.1 percent.



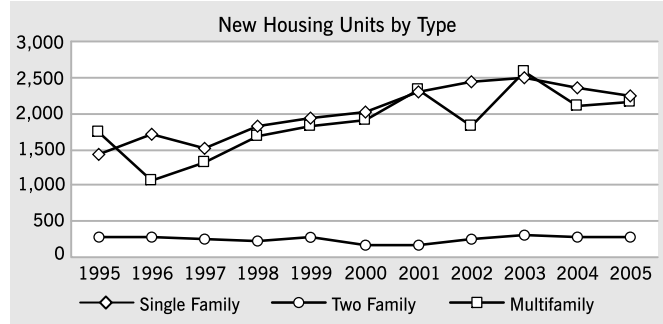
School Enrollment

K-12 public school enrollment in Dane County increased from 65,122 in 2003-04 to 65,574 in 2005-06, a 0.7 percent increase over two years. Enrollment figures for 2004-05 are not available for comparison due to difficulties with changes in Wisconsin data collection systems in that transition year. Some county school districts have shown declines over the past decade, while others have experienced considerable growth. Countywide, public school enrollment increased 8.8 percent from 1995-96 to 2005-06. The school districts with the highest growth since the 2003-04 school year are shown below.



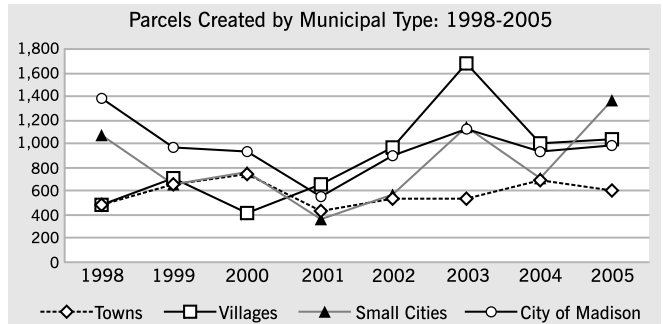
Residential Development

Construction permits were issued for 4,685 new housing units in Dane County in 2005, a 1.2 percent decrease from the 4,742 permits issued in 2004. In 2005, single-family housing construction permits were down by 5.0 percent from the previous year. Two-family housing construction was up 0.7 percent, and multifamily housing unit construction was up 2.8 percent.



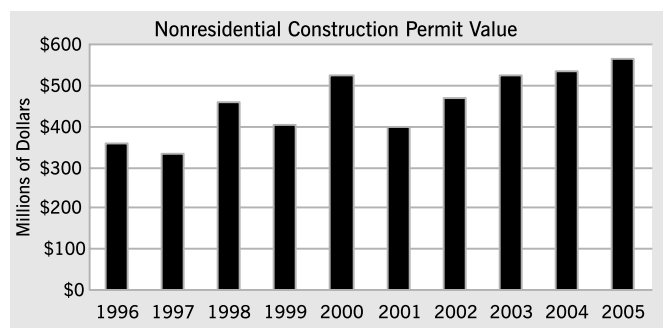
Land Division

The total number of new parcels created in 2005 in Dane County was 4,000, in increase of 19.4 percent compared to 2004 levels. Small cities increased by 91.2 percent (654 parcels), led by the creation of 979 lots in the City of Sun Prairie. Parcels created in villages increased by 3.6 percent (36 parcels) and the City of Madison increased by 5.3 percent (49 parcels). The number of parcels created in towns decreased by 12.8 percent (88 parcels).



Economic Development

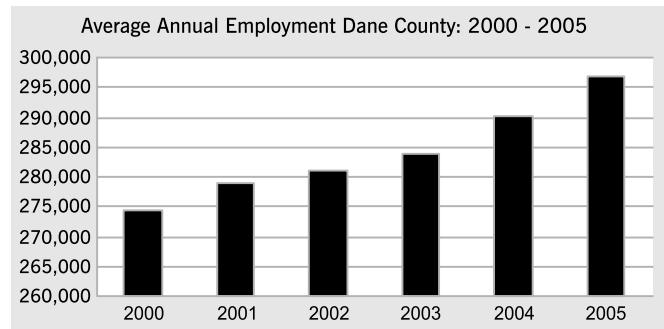
Total nonresidential construction permit value was estimated at \$565 million in 2005. Among the highest value nonresidential projects in 2005 were: St. Mary's Hospital addition (\$72 million), the University of Wisconsin –Madison Interdisciplinary Research Complex (\$50 million), and the Covance office addition (\$32 million) in Madison; the Fitchburg Town Center (\$25 million) and Hospice Care (\$13.2 million) in the City of Fitchburg; and a new wastewater treatment facility (\$16.5 million) in Sun Prairie.



Employment

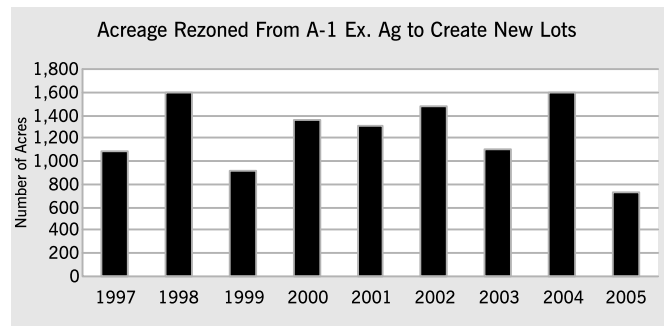
The 2005 average annual employment in Dane County of 296,887 was an increase of 6,658 jobs over 2004 employment, representing a 2.3 percent increase.

The unemployment rate in Dane County averaged 3.1 percent in 2005, 0.1 percent lower than in 2004 and 0.5 percent lower than the recent peak of 3.6 percent in 2003.



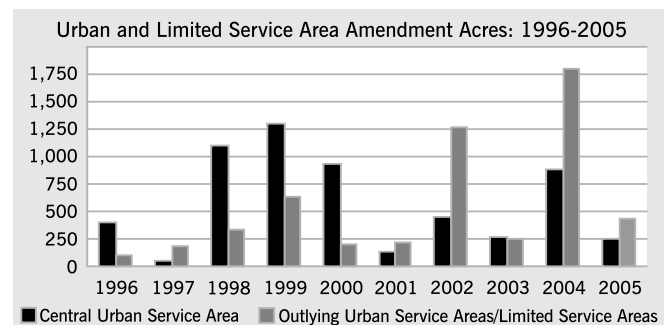
Agricultural Lands

The average value of all agricultural land sold in Dane County rose 56.6 percent in 2004 (latest data available), from \$8,747 per acre in 2003 to \$13,698. The value of land sold for continued agricultural use (\$6,765 per acre in 2004) has increased every year since 1992. The value of land sold for non-agricultural use increased from \$16,073 per acre in 2003 to \$23,839 in 2004. Approximately 984 acres were rezoned from the A-1 Agriculture (Exclusive) zoning to create 68 new lots in 2005, according to Dane County zoning records.



Urban and Limited Service Areas

In 2005, five amendments were made to urban service area boundaries, adding a total of 679 acres for development, 246 of which are located in the Central Urban Service Area (CUSA). Two amendments were made to limited service areas, adding six acres for development. From 1986 through 2005, a total of 17,007 acres were added to urban and limited service areas for development.



Environmental

While the quality of Dane County's groundwater 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 continue to be problems. 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 2005, the RPC reviewed 136 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.


Transportation

The Madison Area MPO is preparing an update to the regional transportation plan, which will be completed by fall of 2006 and have a planning horizon year of 2030.

Madison Metro's total fixed-route ridership increased from 10,962,345 passengers in 2004 to 11,475,597 in 2005, a 4.7 percent increase. The 2005 ridership total is Metro's highest since 1985. The overall ridership trend has been positive since 1990, with a 26.9 percent increase during this period.

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

 **Community Analysis and Planning Division**
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