

# REGIONAL TRENDS 2006

Dane County Department of Planning and Development

Dane County Wisconsin

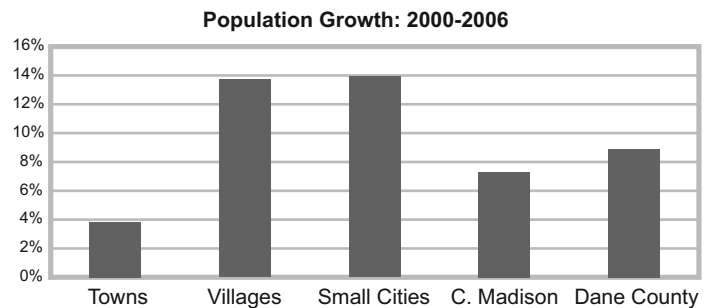
Summary

November 2007

## Population

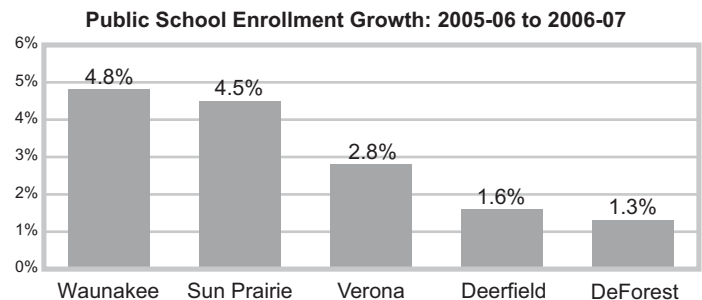
The population of Dane County reached 464,513 in 2006, according to Wisconsin Department of Administration estimates. This is an increase of 6,216 (1.36 percent) over the previous year. The total county population has grown 8.9 percent since 2000. Small cities have grown the fastest among Dane County municipalities since 2000, adding 11,702 residents, a 13.9 percent increase in population. The growth rate in villages in Dane County has been comparable at 13.7 percent, adding 8,181 new residents. The population of the City of Madison has increased by 15,226, or 7.3 percent since 2000, and towns have gained 2,878 residents, a 3.8 percent increase.

According to the 2006 estimates, 48.1 percent of Dane County residents reside in the City of Madison, 20.6 percent reside in small cities, 16.7 percent in towns, and 14.6 percent in villages.



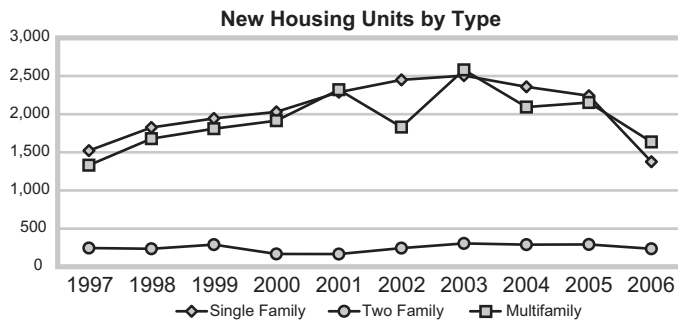
## School Enrollment

K-12 public school enrollment in Dane County increased from 65,574 in 2005-06 to 66,348 in 2006-07, a 1.2 percent increase. Private school enrollment increased by 1.8 percent (116 students) over the same period. Public school enrollment increased 6.5 percent from 1996-97 to 2006-07. Public school enrollment makes up approximately 91 percent of total county school enrollment, showing a very slight decline since 1996-97 when 92 percent of students were enrolled in public schools. Growth in enrollment was seen from 2005-06 to 2006-07 in seven of the 15 suburban school districts in Dane County, the Madison Metropolitan School District, and private schools as a whole. Declines were seen in eight suburban districts. School districts with the highest growth since the 2005-06 school year were Waunakee and Sun Prairie. The Wisconsin Heights school district saw the greatest decline.



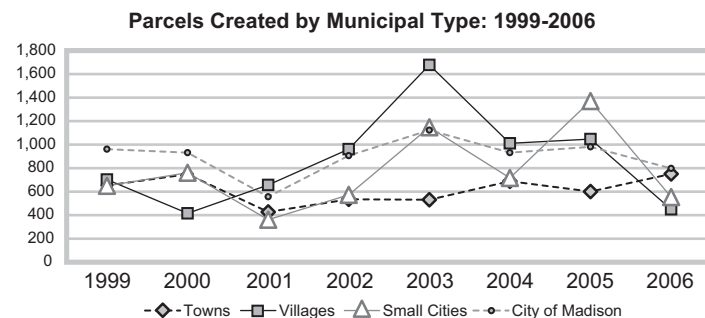
## Residential Development

Construction permits were issued for 3,249 new housing units in Dane County in 2006, a 30 percent decrease from the 4,685 permits issued in 2005. In 2006, single-family housing construction permits were down by 39 percent from the previous year. Two-family housing construction was down 19 percent, and multifamily housing unit construction was down 24 percent.



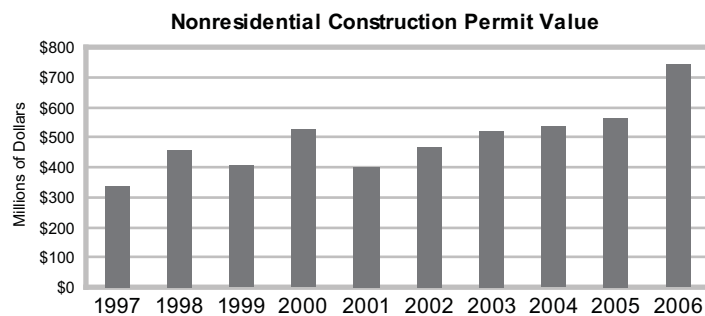
## Land Division

A total of 2,553 new parcels were created in Dane County in 2006, 36 percent fewer than were created in 2005. While the number of parcels created in towns increased by 25 percent (150 parcels more than created in 2005), 597 fewer parcels were created in villages (a 57 percent reduction), 817 fewer parcels were created in small cities (a 60 percent reduction), and 183 fewer parcels in the City of Madison (down 19 percent).



## Economic Development

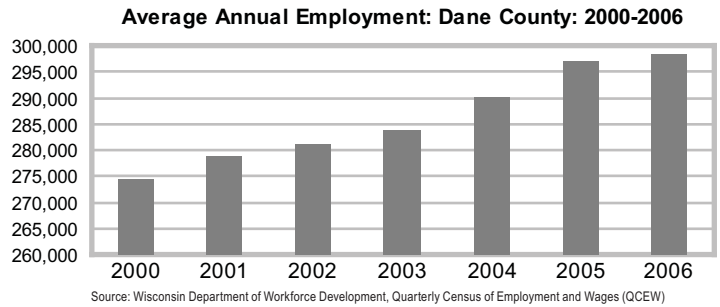
Total nonresidential construction permit value was estimated at \$740 million in 2006, \$175 million higher than in 2005. High value nonresidential projects permitted in Dane County in 2006 included: the second phase of the University of Wisconsin –Madison Interdisciplinary Research Complex in Madison (\$50 million); phase one of University Square in Madison (\$34.8 million); Epic Systems training facility and auditorium in Verona (\$30 million); the UW-Madison Grainger Hall addition in Madison (\$29 million); Blackhawk Evangelical Church in Madison (\$25 million); the St. Mary’s Hospital project in Madison (\$21 million); Marshall Erdman & Associates corporate office building in Madison (\$20 million); Holiday Inn in Madison (\$20 million); and the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Monona (\$19 million).



## Employment

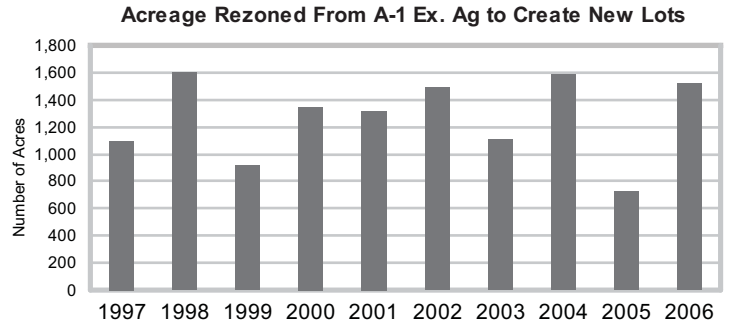
The 2006 average annual employment in Dane County of 298,291 was an increase of 1,404 jobs over 2005 employment, representing a 0.5 percent increase.

The unemployment rate in Dane County averaged 3.2 percent in 2006, 0.1 percent higher than in 2005 and 0.4 percent lower than the recent peak of 3.6 percent in 2003.



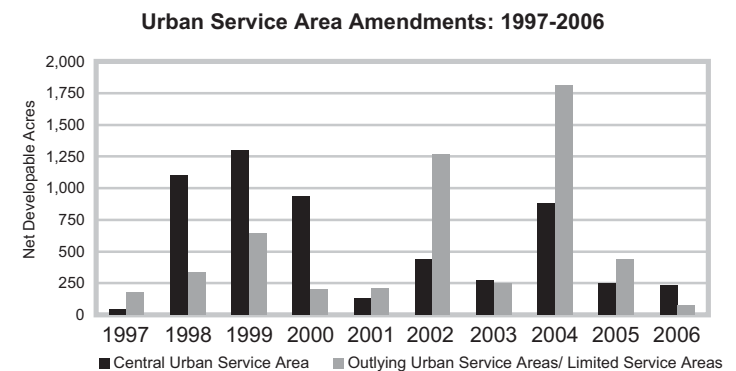
## Agricultural Lands

The average value of all agricultural land sold in Dane County rose 44.5% in 2005 (latest data available), from \$13,689 per acre in 2004 to \$19,799. The value of land sold for continued agricultural use decreased by 13.5 percent to \$5,852, the first decrease since 1989. The value of land sold for non-agricultural use increased from \$23,839 per acre in 2004 to \$28,542 in 2005. Approximately 1,799 acres were rezoned from the A-1 Agriculture (Exclusive) zoning to create 232 new lots in 2006, according to Dane County zoning records.



## Urban Service Areas

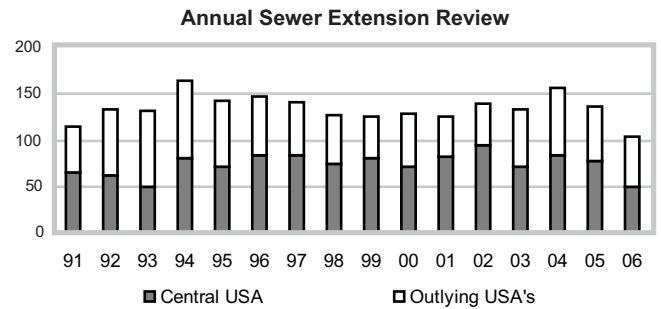
In 2006, eight amendments were made to urban service area boundaries, adding 308.6 acres for development. From 1986 through 2006, a total of 17,316 acres were added to urban service areas for development.



## 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 2006, the RPC reviewed 104 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 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (now the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board) adopted *Regional Transportation Plan 2030: Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County* in November 2006.

Madison Metro's total fixed-route ridership increased from 11,475,597 passengers in 2005 to 12,034,468 in 2006, a 4.9 percent increase. The overall ridership trend has been positive since 1990, with a 32% 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.

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