

Community Demographics

Introduction

Population change is the primary component in tracking a community's growth as well as predicting future population trends. Population characteristics relate directly to the towns housing, educational, utility, community, and recreational facility needs, as well as its future economic development. Over time there can be fluctuations in the local and regional economy which can influence population change.

Population Counts

Table 1.1 displays the decennial population trends for the Town of Hunter from 1950 to 2000. Population levels during the fifty-year period have fluctuated significantly within the town. From 1950 to 1970, the town experienced a decrease of 39 persons. In the following decade from 1970 to 1980, the population increase was only 213 persons. In the most recent decade, the population actually increased by 208 persons to bring the town's population to its 2000 count of 765 persons.

Table 1.1: Population Trends, Town of Hunter, 1950-2000

1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change 1950-1970	Change 1970- 1980	Change 1980- 1990	Change 1990- 2000	Change 1950- 2000
420	327	381	594	557	765	-39	+213	-37	+208	+345

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950-2000

Comparative Population Trends

Table 1.2 presents a comparison of Hunter's population to the towns of Hayward, Ojibwa, Radisson, Round Lake, Winter and Sawyer County. Similarly, **Figure 1.1** depicts the comparative percent population change during the period for the selected areas.

Table 1.2: Comparative Population Trends, 1970-2000

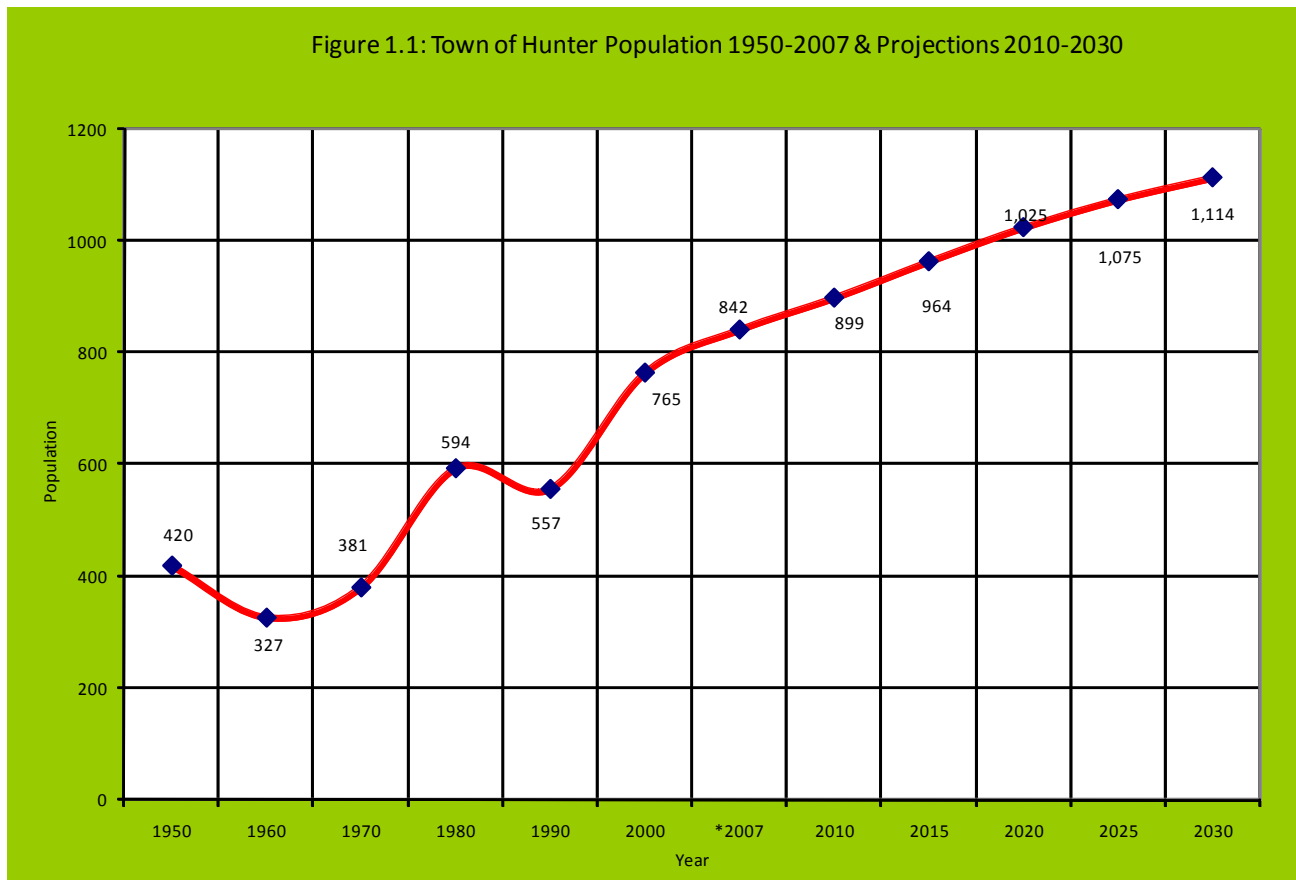
	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change 1970- 1980	Percent Change 1980- 1990	Percent Change 1990- 2000	Percent Change 1970- 2000
Town of Hayward	1,457	1,698	3,017	3,279	+16.5%	+77.7%	+8.7%	+125.1%
Town of Hunter	381	594	557	765	+55.9%	-6.2%	+37.3%	+100.8%
Town of Ojibwa	238	264	250	267	+10.9%	-5.3%	+6.8%	+12.2%
Town of Radisson	371	394	412	465	+6.2%	+4.6%	+12.9%	+25.3%
Town of Round Lake	557	786	727	962	+41.1%	-7.5%	+32.3%	+72.7%
Town of Winter	840	704	801	969	-16.2%	+13.8%	+21.0%	+15.4%
Sawyer County	9,670	12,843	14,181	16,196	+32.8%	+10.4%	+14.2%	+67.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970-2000

According to the Department of Administration’s Demographic Services Center, the Town of Hunter’s estimated January 1, 2008 population was 839 persons. This estimate represents an increase in population by 9.7 percent over the last eight years.

Population Projections

Population projections provide a look to the future. These projections are a representation of the future population based on past trends. Significant variances in future population can result due to future economic changes, increases or decreases in land prices, the number of seasonal homes being converted to year-round status, and the number of jobs available in the town or region. These population projections are the official projections produced by the Wisconsin Department of Administration to show potential forecasts for future population levels. As the town does not know today what the future population levels will be, the projections provide a guide for what might occur in the future. **Figure 1.1** charts the population projections for the Town of Hunter through 2030.

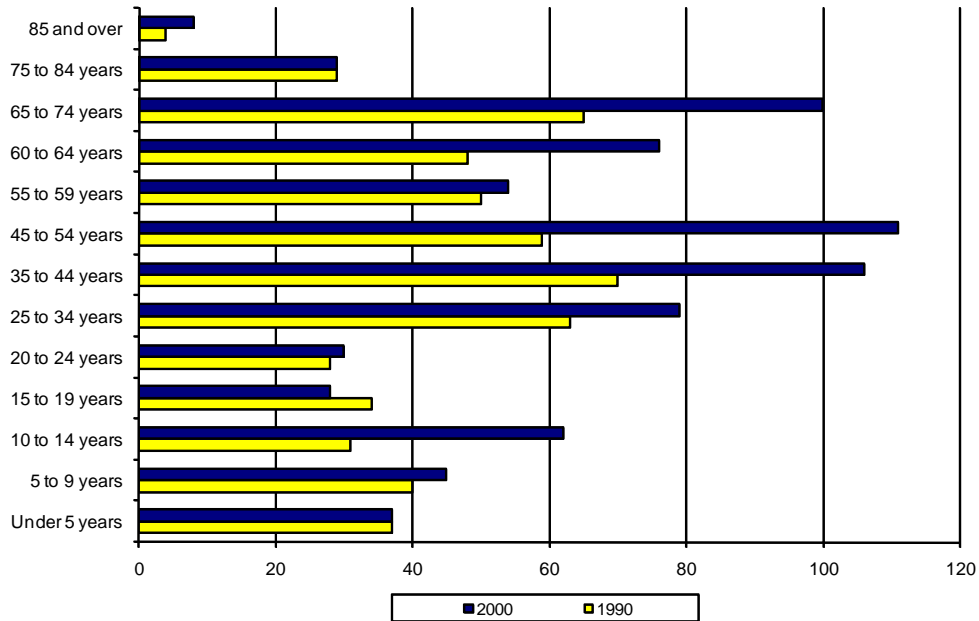


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Demographic Trends & Age Characteristics

Population figures and growth rates do not provide any insight about the characteristics of the population. To learn more about the people of the Town of Hunter, information about race, sex, and age of the population must be examined. **Figure 1.2** displays the age differences in Hunters from the 1990 and 2000 Census. Growth has occurred in almost every age category.

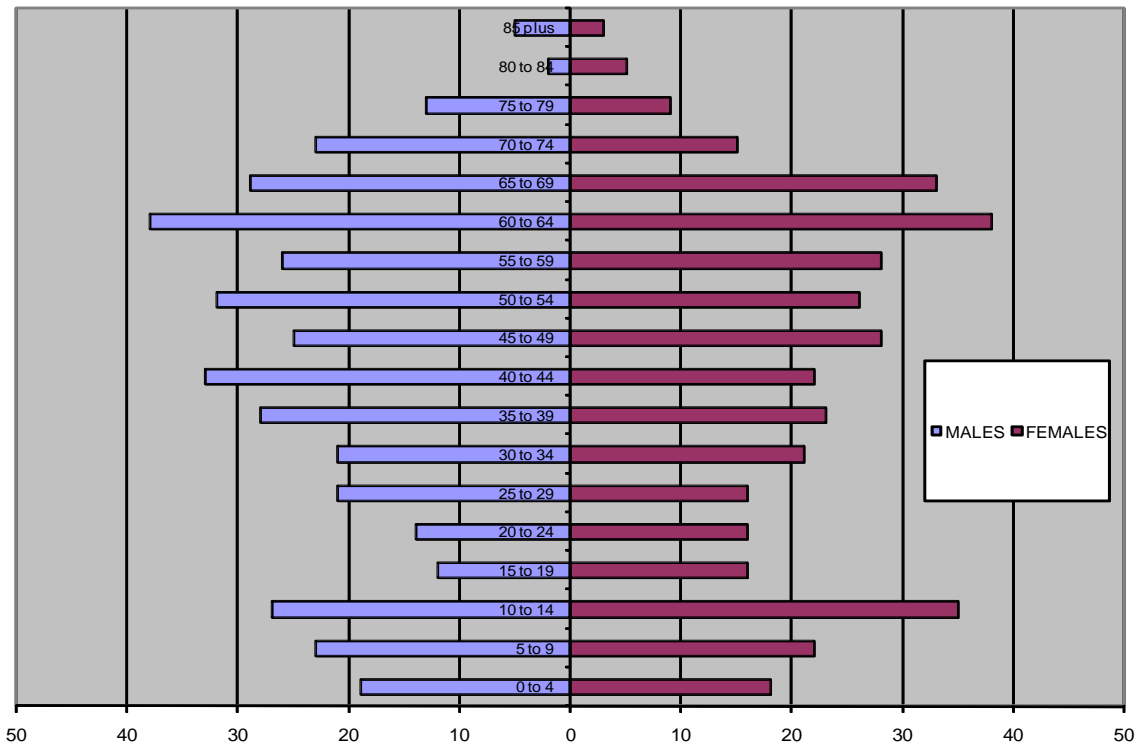
Figure 1.2: Town of Hunter Age Distribution 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1.3 displays year 2000 population pyramid for the Town of Hunter depicting male and female age distribution in the Town. As is typical with most towns in northern Wisconsin, there is a lack of people in the 18 to 24 age range. This can be attributed to people leaving for educational opportunities elsewhere.

Figure 1.3: Permanent Population Pyramid for Hunter, 2000



Racial Composition

The racial make-up of the Town of Hunter is mostly represented by white (62.7 percent) and American Indian (35.8 percent). Just over 25 percent of the land area in the Town of Hunter is part of the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation.

There are three Census Designated Places (CDPs) in Hunter (**Table 1.3**). CDP's are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporate areas. The data is provided for settled concentrations of populations that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated. The boundaries are usually defined in cooperation with local or tribal officials.

Chief Lake (part)	1,254.4 acres	Pop. 40
Little Round Lake (part)	--	--
New Post (part)	10,592 acres	Pop. 327

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Household Characteristics, Trends & Projections

References to some housing characteristics can be confusing. As a result, definitions referring to household characteristics may assist the reader in further understanding household figures. According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

A **household** includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit.

A **housing unit** is a house; apartment; mobile home; group of rooms; or single room occupied (or if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.

Occupants may consist of a single family; one person living alone; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated people who share a housing unit.

Non-Family Households consist either of one person living alone or of two or more persons who share a dwelling, but do not constitute a family

Table 1.4 below portrays some of the types of households in the Town of Hunter. Family households (2 or more persons residing in a home) represent the majority of households.

Table 1.4: Households by Type, Town of Hunter	Number
Total households	334
Family households (families)	231
With own children under 18 years	70
Married-couple families	169
With own children under 18 years	38
Female householder, no husband present	41
With own children under 18 years	19
Non-family households	103
Householder living alone	84
Householder 65 years and over	23
Households with individuals under 18 years	87
Households with individuals 65 years and over	98

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

National and state trends have all moved towards an increase in the number of households, along with a decrease in the average persons per household. The main reasons for this decrease in household size include, but are not limited to: a decrease in birth rates, people waiting longer to get married, and an increase in the average life span thereby resulting in more elderly people living alone. The Town of Hunter has followed this trend. The town has experienced an increase of 140 households since 1980, a 72.2 percent increase (**Table 1.5**). However, during this same period the number of persons per household has decreased from 3.06 to 2.29 (**Table 1.5**).

Table 1.5: Household Size, 1980-2000			
	1980	1990	2000
Total households	194	229	334
Average household size	3.06	2.43	2.29

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the total number of households (occupied year-round dwellings) will see a continued increase to the year 2030 (**Table 1.6**).

Table 1.6: Household Projections					
2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
377	420	464	504	536	560

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center

School Enrollment and Education Levels

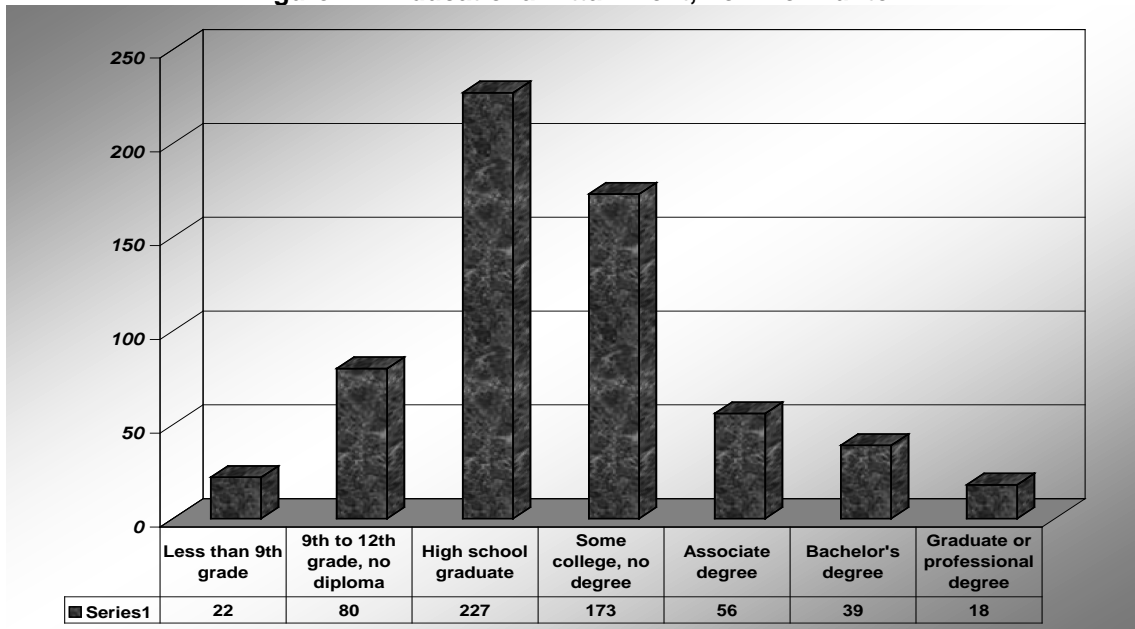
In 2000, there were 164 residents three years and older enrolled in school (Table 1.7). Most (57.3%) were in elementary school (grades 1-8). Figure 1.4 shows the educational attainment of individuals 25 years and over in the Town of Hunter. According to the data, 37 percent of 615 eligible individuals had at least a high school diploma, 28 percent has some college, 28 percent has some college, and 18 percent had a college degree.

Table 1.7: School Enrollment: Population 3-years and over enrolled in School

Nursery school, preschool	9
Kindergarten	15
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	94
High school (grades 9-12)	19
College or graduate school	27
Total	164

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1.4: Educational Attainment, Town of Hunter



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income Levels

More than any other type of data, income data indicates how an area is doing economically. Income is measured several ways and this section will explain and compare some of those statistics for the Town of Hunter. Table 1.8 compares median household income and per capita (per person) income with neighboring towns and Sawyer County, while Figure 1.5 reports the average annual income for households in Hunter. Most households (75%) earn between \$15,000 and \$74,999. Table 1.9 details selected income characteristics specifically for Hunter.

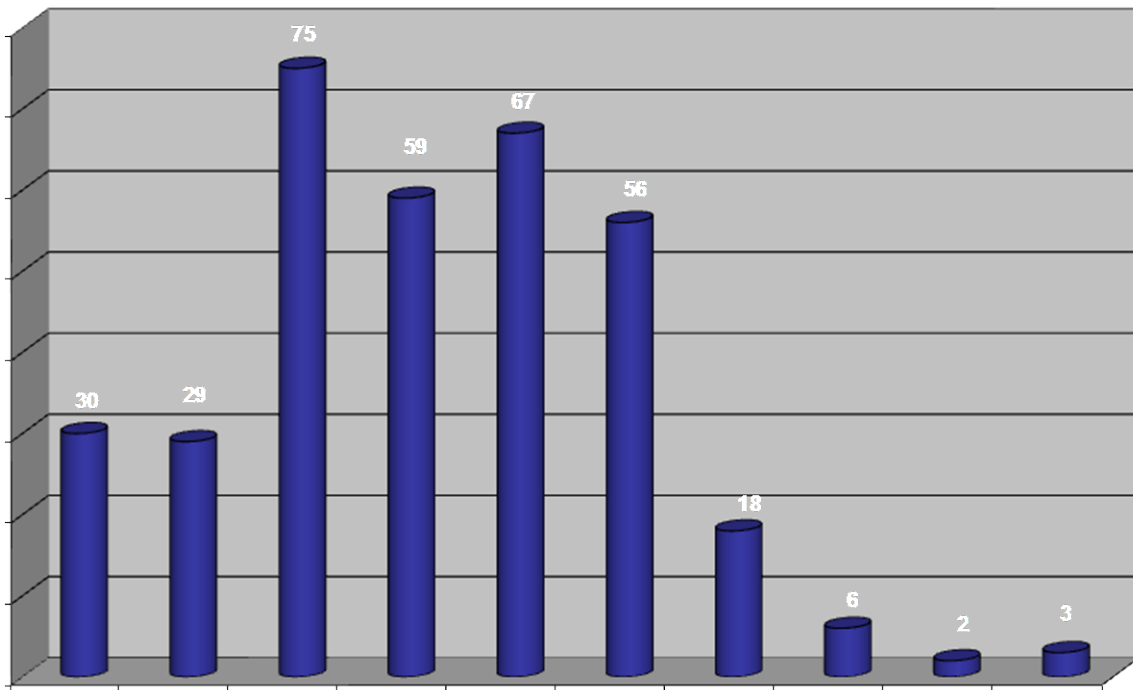
Table 1.8: Income Comparisons

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Town of Hayward	\$36,895	\$17,382
Town of Hunter	\$30,208	\$16,309
Town of Ojibwa	\$41,667	\$16,889
Town of Radisson	\$33,523	\$19,511
Town of Round Lake	\$40,179	\$24,951
Town of Winter	\$33,500	\$19,033
Sawyer County	\$32,287	\$17,634

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: 2000 U.S.

Census Bureau



With earnings	75.9%
Mean earnings (dollars)	\$33,287
With Social Security income	44.1%
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	\$11,616
With Supplemental Social Security income	6.1%
Mean Supplemental Security income (dollars)	\$5,429
With public assistance income	1.7%
Mean public assistance income (dollars)	\$1,167
With retirement income	20.3%
Mean retirement income (dollars)	\$15,722
Median household income	\$30,208
Per capita income	\$16,309
Male full-time, year-round workers	\$24,821
Female full-time, year-round workers	\$20,486

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment Characteristics

A community's labor force consists of all individuals age 16 and over who are employed, unemployed, or actively seeking work. Employment characteristics for the labor force and class of worker for Hunter are shown in **Table 1.10**. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, just over half (52.6%) of the civilian labor force is employed. The Town has a very small percent of people unemployed (0.9%). Most workers are paid a private wage or salary.

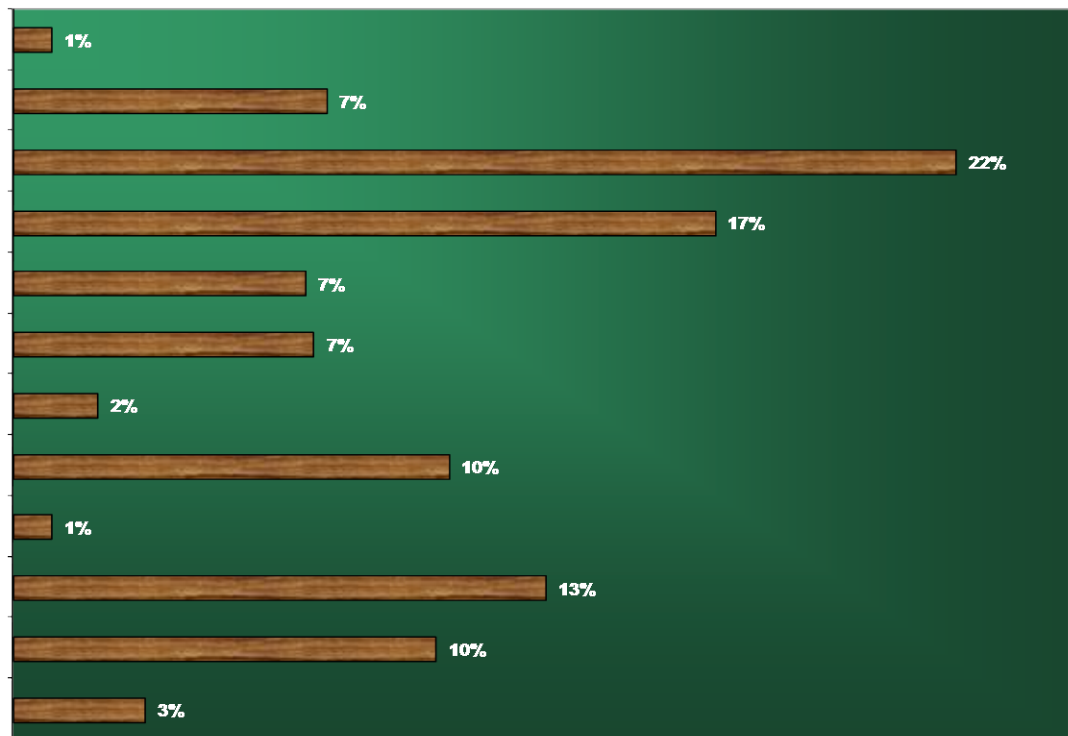
	Number	%
Population 16 years and over	665	100.0
In labor force	356	53.5
Civilian labor force	356	53.5
Employed	350	52.6
Unemployed	6	0.9
Percent of civilian labor force	1.7	N/A
Armed forces	0	0
Not in labor force	309	46.5
Class of Worker		
Private wage and salary workers	227	
Government workers	71	
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	52	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 350 residents of the town (16 years and over) were employed. **Figure 1.6** identifies employment by industry for the Town of Hunter residents at that time. As indicated by the chart, the recreation, accommodation, food services and entertainment industry sector employed the most residents (78), or 22 percent. Education, health and social services is the next largest industry sector employing 17 percent of Hunter residents.

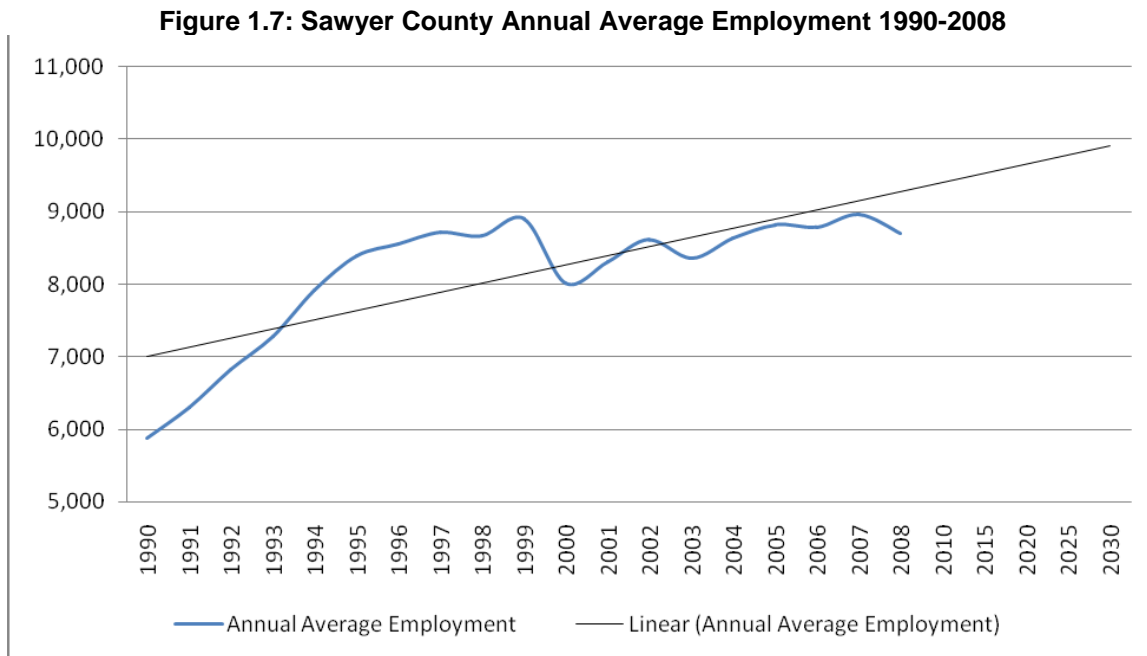
Based on Census 2000 data, of the 332 Town of Hunter residents 16 years and over who commuted to work:

- 57.2% drove a car, truck, or van
- 17.8% carpooled
- 1.5% used public transportation
- 14.2% walked
- 7.5% worked at home
- 1.8% used other means
- Mean travel time to work was 18.9 minutes



Sawyer County Employment Forecasts

Figure 1.7 represents the average annual employment data for Sawyer County from 1990-2008. Between 1990 and 1999, total annual average employment saw marked increases in employment levels. However, between 1999 and 2000 the annual average employment dropped nearly 1,000 jobs. Since 2000, annual average employment has fluctuated from year to year seeing increases and decreases in annual average employment figures. In 2007, the annual average employment reached a high in annual average employment, exceeding the high reached in 1999. However, this high was short lived as annual average employment dropped in 2008. A “trend line” is represented with **Figure 1.7** depicting a “best fit” of the known data values representing past annual average employment data. The Economic Development chapter of this plan highlights additional economic development data for Sawyer County and the Town of Hunter.



No forecasted employment levels are projected to the year 2030. However, the trend line to 2030 is one predictor of potential future employment. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development has developed projected employment, at a regional level to 2016. **Table 1.11** represents employment projections to 2016, for the 10-county region of Northwest Wisconsin.

TABLE 1.11: Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Area Industry Employment Projections, 2006-2016
(Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn counties)

NAICS	Industry Title	Estimated Employment ⁽¹⁾			
		2006	2016	Change	% Change
	Total, All Nonfarm Industries	70,370	74,820	4,450	6.3%
1133, 21, 23	Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	3,420	3,690	270	7.9%
31-33	Manufacturing	12,840	12,690	-150	-1.2%
311	Food Manufacturing	1,460	1,310	-150	-10.3%
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	4,930	4,900	-30	-0.6%
333	Machinery Manufacturing	1,700	1,590	-110	-6.5%
42, 44-45	Trade	10,780	10,820	40	0.4%
445	Food and Beverage Stores	2,080	2,040	-40	-1.9%
48-49, 22	Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	4,110	4,360	250	6.1%
52-53	Financial Activities	2,310	2,540	230	10.0%
61-62	Education and Health Services (Including State and Local Government)	13,550	15,480	1,930	14.2%
611	Educational Services (Including State and Local Government)	5,840	6,090	250	4.3%
623	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,190	2,360	170	7.8%
71-72	Leisure and Hospitality	8,060	8,930	870	10.8%
51, 54-56, 81	Information/Prof. Services/Other Services ⁽²⁾	7,190	7,980	790	11.0%
	Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Education and Hospitals) ⁽³⁾	8,110	8,340	230	2.8%

Notes:

(1) Employment is a count of jobs rather than people, and includes all part- and full-time nonfarm jobs. Employment does not include jobs among self-employed and unpaid family workers. Employment is rounded to the nearest ten, with employment less than five rounded to zero. Totals may not add due to rounding.

(2) An estimate of non-covered employment is included in NAICS 8131 (Religious Organizations), but not in any other industries.

(3) Government employment includes tribal owned operations, which are part of Local Government employment.

Information is derived using 2006 CES and 2006 QCEW data. Unpublished data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Census Bureau is also used.

To the extent possible, the projections take into account anticipated changes in Wisconsin's economy from 2006 to 2016. It is important to note that unanticipated events may affect the accuracy of the projections.

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, November 2008

Overall Goal Statement

The overall goal is the management of growth and the enhancement of the quality of life for people who are here and for those to come. To do this, the overall objective is to develop a comprehensive land use plan that meets the needs of the users while protecting the northwoods character and environmental integrity of the community.