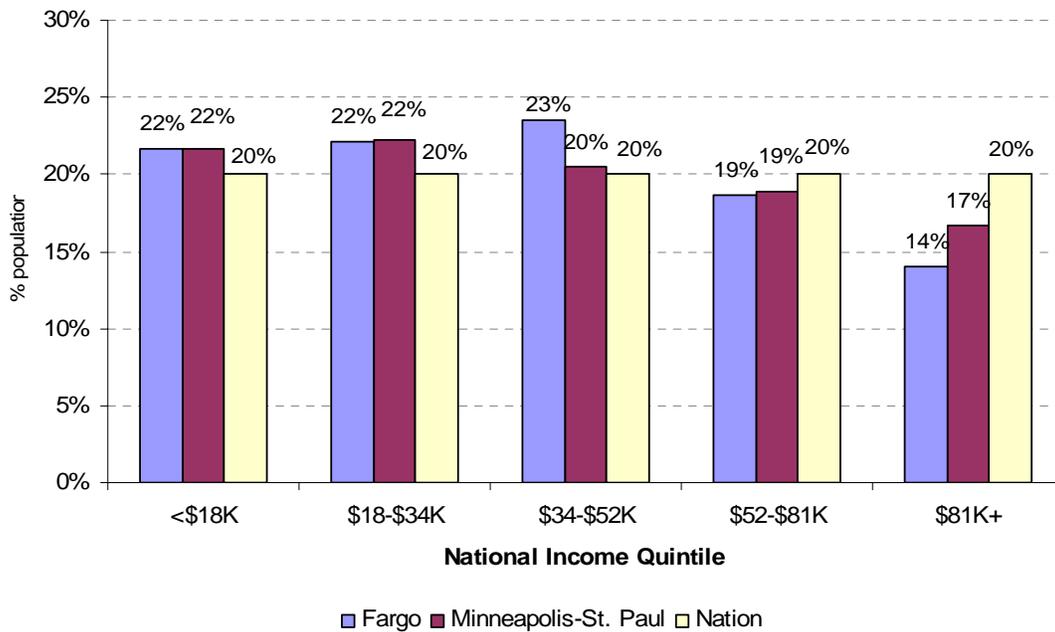


Income and Poverty⁹

Household incomes matter vitally. Income and poverty levels reflect the ability of residents to provide for themselves and their families, their capacity to support neighborhood businesses, and their prospects for building assets for the future. A city that is able to attract and retain a mix of household incomes may be well-positioned to offer high quality public services that meet the demands of its residents and workers.

Fargo's income distribution shows overall balance with a strong middle class

Proportion of Households by National Income Quintile, 2000



This income analysis was completed in accordance with the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program publication entitled "The Shape of the Curve: Housing Income Distributions in U.S. Cities 1979-1999", August 2004. Census reported incomes are re-calculated to match national income quintiles and adjusted for regional income differences.

⁹ "Compared to other indicators, income and poverty are especially sensitive to the timing of the decennial census. Both the 1990 and 2000 censuses were conducted near the peak of U.S. business cycles. There is little question that the nation's recent economic downturn has produced shifts in the trends and conditions outlined in this section. Still, this analysis of income and poverty changes ... sheds light on how the city fared in a relatively strong economy, and establishes a baseline for its residents' economic progress in the current decade." (*Minneapolis St. Paul Profile*, p. 55)

Fargo's median household income is low relative to comparison communities but its average household size is smaller as well

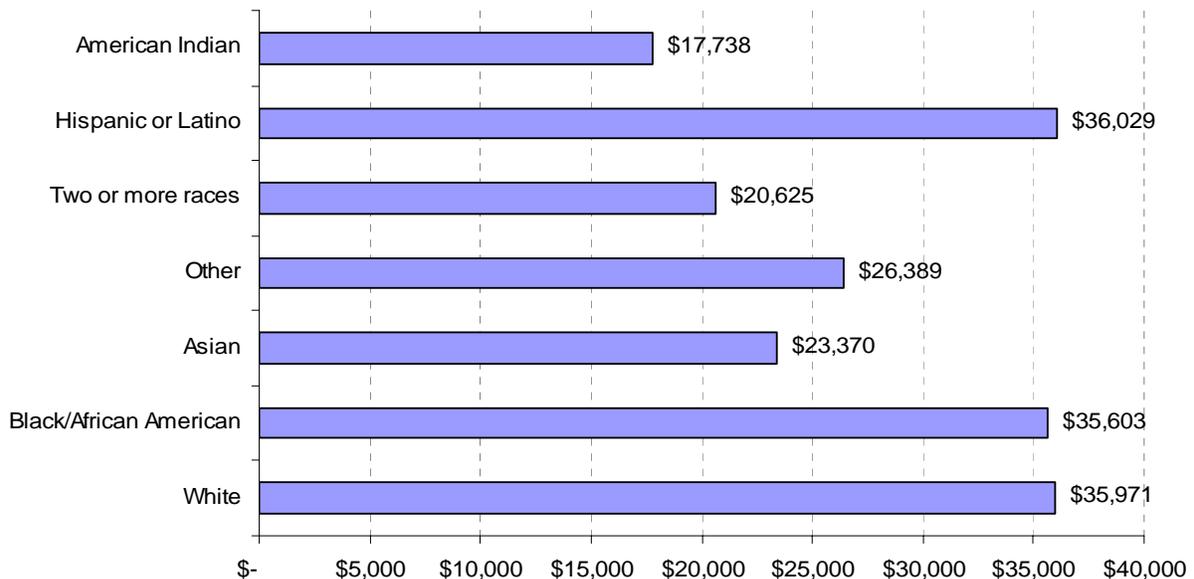
Median Household Income, 1990-2000

City	1990	2000	Change
Duluth, MN	\$31,399	\$33,766	7.5%
Fargo	\$34,027	\$35,510	4.4%
Kansas City, MO	\$35,890	\$37,198	3.6%
Columbus, OH	\$35,807	\$37,897	5.8%
Fargo Moorhead MSA	\$35,673	\$38,069	6.7%
Chicago, IL	\$35,337	\$38,625	9.3%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	\$35,555	\$38,774	9.1%
Indianapolis, IN	\$38,971	\$40,051	2.8%
Lincoln, NE	\$37,695	\$40,605	7.7%
Sioux Falls, SD	\$36,660	\$41,221	12.4%
Madison, WI	\$39,527	\$41,941	6.1%
Nation	\$40,382	\$41,994	4.0%
Sioux Falls MSA	\$37,302	\$43,387	16.3%
Fort Collins, CO	\$36,042	\$44,459	23.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P080A and P53, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Among racial/ethnic groups in Fargo, American Indians have the lowest household incomes

Median household income by race/ethnicity, 2000



Fargo's non-English speaking households have fairly high rates of English proficiency when compared to other communities

Share of non-English speaking households that are Limited English Proficient¹⁰, All Non-English speaking Households, 2000

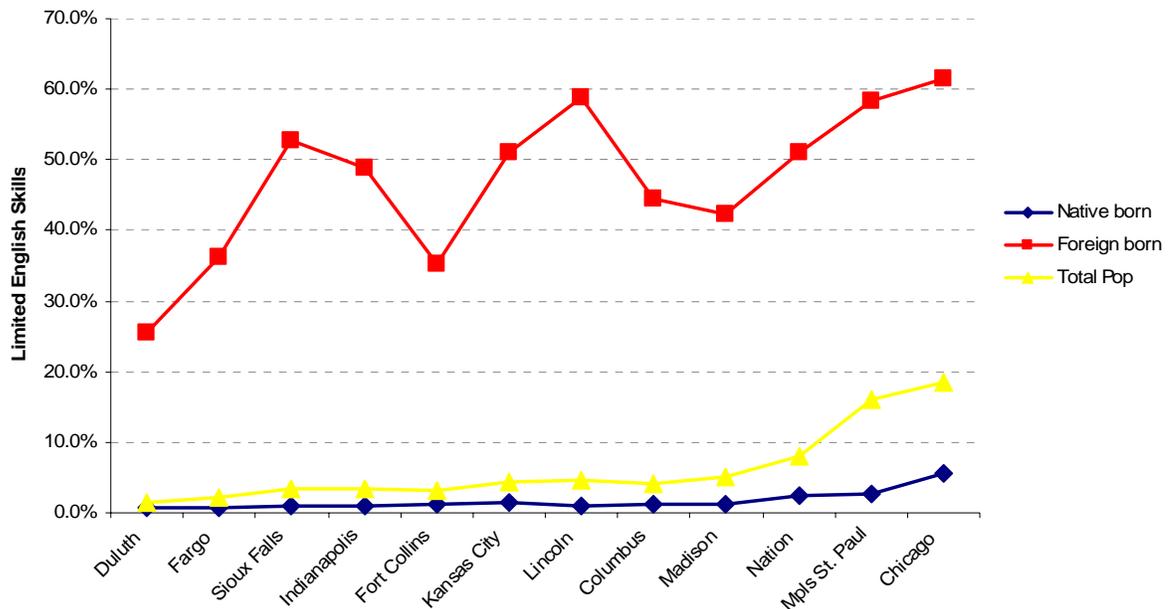
Household speaks as primary language...

City	Spanish	Indo-European	Asian	Other	Total Households
Fargo	10.2%	15.7%	20.0%	27.5%	1.3%
Sioux Falls, SD	23.0%	19.1%	31.4%	30.1%	2.0%
Fort Collins, CO	11.4%	6.3%	28.4%	10.8%	1.7%
Lincoln, NE	16.0%	19.7%	40.4%	30.1%	2.4%
Madison, WI	16.9%	8.1%	37.2%	16.4%	3.0%
Duluth, MN	7.4%	9.1%	25.1%	9.3%	0.8%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	30.8%	14.6%	38.6%	38.3%	5.7%
Kansas City, MO	21.2%	12.0%	32.0%	23.0%	2.3%
Columbus, OH	16.4%	14.6%	35.0%	27.8%	2.6%
Indianapolis, IN	29.2%	31.0%	34.6%	18.6%	10.2%
Chicago, IL	22.3%	13.6%	25.9%	17.3%	1.8%
Nation	23.9%	15.5%	29.2%	15.0%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P20, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

1,800 Fargo residents have limited English skills (2% of pop). Just 36% of foreign born residents have language issues - a high rate of English proficiency compared to other communities

English proficiency by place of birth, 2000



¹⁰ Food insecurity and other hardship measures were more closely associated with limited English proficiency than with either legal status or length of residency in the United States. ("The New Neighbors: A User's Guide to Data on Immigrants in U.S. Communities", Urban Institute (2003), 14.) "Limited English Proficient" individuals are those who do not speak English at home and who speak English less than "very well" (i.e., "well", "not well", or "not at all").

The poverty rate in Fargo fell in the 1990s, especially among the elderly

Overall poverty rate and poverty rate by age, 1990-2000

City	Poverty Rate		Child Poverty Rate		Elderly Poverty Rate	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Fort Collins, CO	17.0%	14.0%	11.3%	8.9%	11.4%	5.8%
Sioux Falls, SD	8.5%	8.4%	9.6%	10.7%	9.5%	7.4%
Fargo	13.7%	11.8%	11.3%	11.2%	10.0%	7.5%
Lincoln, NE	11.3%	10.1%	11.2%	11.3%	9.0%	6.0%
Madison, WI	16.1%	15.0%	13.2%	11.7%	4.8%	4.5%
Duluth, MN	16.6%	15.5%	18.1%	16.2%	10.0%	9.5%
Nation	13.1%	12.4%	18.3%	16.6%	12.8%	9.9%
Indianapolis, IN	12.5%	11.9%	18.9%	16.7%	11.7%	8.1%
Columbus, OH	17.2%	14.8%	24.4%	19.0%	13.0%	10.9%
Kansas City, MO	15.3%	14.3%	22.8%	20.6%	14.6%	10.5%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	17.8%	16.4%	28.8%	24.4%	10.9%	10.3%
Chicago, IL	21.6%	19.6%	33.9%	28.5%	15.9%	15.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P87, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Note: Child poverty includes children under age 18. Elderly poverty includes adults 65 and older.

The poverty rate for Blacks/African Americans living in Fargo is higher than it is in the selected comparison communities – first generation immigrants make up the majority of Fargo’s African American population

Poverty rate by race/ethnicity, 2000

City	White	Black/ African American	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian	Hispanic or Latino	Other Race	Two or More Races
Duluth, MN	14.0%	40.6%	23.2%	48.9%	20.0%	19.0%	28.6%
Fargo	10.6%	38.9%	21.9%	35.8%	18.8%	21.6%	29.1%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	8.6%	31.5%	32.5%	32.1%	27.9%	22.5%	24.5%
Chicago, IL	8.2%	29.4%	18.0%	22.0%	19.1%	20.0%	21.0%
Madison, WI	12.3%	29.1%	29.7%	26.4%	25.2%	24.7%	11.0%
Sioux Falls, SD	6.3%	28.2%	6.7%	49.0%	29.7%	21.8%	33.8%
Lincoln, NE	8.7%	27.1%	13.3%	21.1%	23.5%	18.9%	25.6%
Nation	8.1%	24.9%	12.6%	25.7%	22.6%	24.4%	18.2%
Kansas City, MO	7.8%	24.6%	17.1%	18.3%	17.9%	21.3%	21.5%
Columbus, OH	10.8%	23.4%	18.7%	26.3%	25.6%	18.7%	21.1%
Indianapolis, IN	7.9%	20.7%	12.6%	20.9%	16.3%	20.1%	20.5%
Fort Collins, CO	12.9%	12.5%	21.5%	23.1%	17.9%	21.3%	27.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P159 A-I, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Fewer than 2 out of 10 children in Fargo live near or below poverty, which is a better rate than in most peer communities and just about half the national rate

Share of families with children under 150% of poverty, 2000

City	Total families with children	Families with children under 150% Poverty	Percent
Fort Collins, CO	13,791	1,805	13.1%
Duluth, MN	9,175	1,367	14.9%
Sioux Falls, SD	16,640	2,557	15.4%
Madison, WI	20,652	3,246	15.7%
Fargo	10,911	1,929	17.7%
Lincoln, NE	28,137	5,035	17.9%
Indianapolis, IN	106,399	25,189	23.7%
Columbus, OH	93,227	24,064	25.8%
Kansas City, MO	58,398	15,852	27.1%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	76,107	22,145	29.1%
Nation	35,234,403	10,334,441	29.3%
Chicago, IL	366,051	129,090	35.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – PCT50, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)