



This map shows the commuting pattern from Wisconsin to Minnesota in the region. Due to the urban distribution pattern inside and outside the region, there are countless commuting patterns in this part of the state. With well over three million people living in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the employment sphere of influence reaches well into the west-central Wisconsin region. Like the population density map, this map was created by a technique called kriging, which interpolates the number of people commuting to Minnesota for a location based on data from nearby locations. This technique allows the creation of a map that shows the general Wisconsin to Minnesota commuting pattern for the region. As would be expected, a major concentric ring is located in Polk and St. Croix counties.

Some of the more noticeable observations on the map are the number of commuters from the cities of Menomonie and Eau Claire. In general, and as would be expected, the greater distance from the Minnesota border, the fewer people commute to Minnesota. In fact, per 2000 data, over 44 percent of workers in St. Croix County were employed outside of Wisconsin. Due to the kriging technique and the combination of very insignificant numbers of Minnesota commuters in the rural areas of the eastern portion of the region and data representing only the seven-county region, the outlying area of many of the counties shows higher rates of Minnesota commuters. In most instances, these higher rates are incorrect.