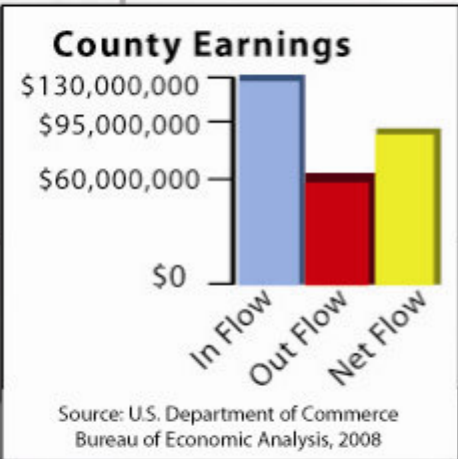
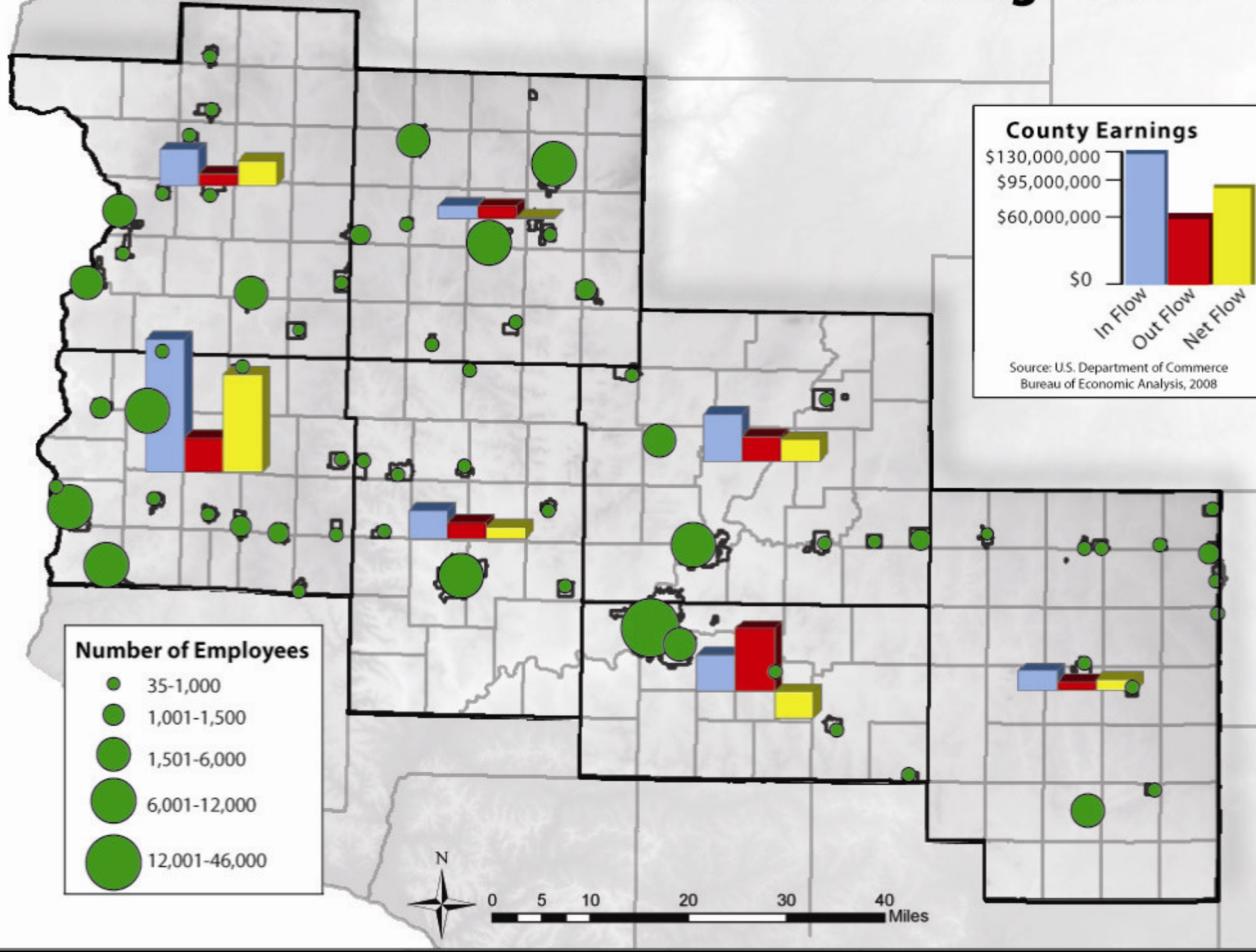


West Central Wisconsin Commuter Flows of Annual Earnings 2006



Commuting times increased dramatically for the region's residents between 1990 and 2000, and more residents are working outside their place and county of residence. As shown in the table below, these trends are most dramatic in Polk and St. Croix counties, with large numbers of commuters travelling to the Twin Cities. Note that in 2000, over 43 percent of all employed persons in St. Croix County worked in Minnesota. It is not surprising to see Barron County have a high percentage (86 percent) of employed persons working in Barron County, as larger employment centers are outside of a reasonable commute. Also, the cities of Barron and Rice Lake provide a range of employment opportunities. In addition, as a regional employment hub, the City of Eau Claire significantly influences the percent of employed persons who live and work in Eau Claire County.

Commuters by County (2000 U.S. Census)

County	Place of Employment (%)		
	County of Residence	Outside County of Resid., in Wisconsin	Outside County of Resid., Other State
Barron	85.9%	11.6%	2.4%
Chippewa	65.9%	33.0%	1.1%
Clark	66.6%	32.8%	0.6%
Dunn	65.3%	29.5%	5.2%
Eau Claire	82.2%	16.5%	1.3%
Polk	61.7%	15.0%	23.3%
St. Croix	48.7%	7.6%	43.8%
Region	68.9%	19.3%	11.9%

The map shows the relative number of employees who work in each of the incorporated areas of our region, as well as the movement of earnings. Inflows and outflows reflect the annual earning of commuters and whether they reside within the same county as their place of unemployment.

Counties with a high net inflow (e.g., St. Croix County) have large numbers of workers who commute outside the county for their place of unemployment. Eau Claire County has a negative net inflow, due to the large number of workers who commute to the Eau Claire area from adjacent counties. This map does not necessarily reflect spending trends, however, since many workers shop in their place of employment, rather than their place of residence.