



Community Profile for Houston , Minnesota



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Overview

Houston is a scenic, rural community with superior quality of life, an involved citizenry, excellent schools, and outstanding public services. Houston enjoys a progressive City Council, active Planning Commission, and a forward-thinking, responsive Economic Development Authority. A well maintained highway system and ample wastewater treatment capacity provide the base for a growing list of amenities that includes spacious city parks, the easternmost access to 60 miles of paved recreational trails and a new nature center that celebrates the area's natural heritage. Houston is located on National Scenic Byway Mn Hwy 16 which winds through mountainous bluffs, vibrant marshland, and established farmsteads as it parallels its westward journey along the Root River.

Location

County: Houston

Region: Southeast

Distance from Minneapolis: 140

Distance from nearest MSA*: 22 Miles from LaCrosse MSA

US Congressional District: 1

MN Legislative District(s): 31A

Web site: houston.govoffice.com

Last Updated: 8/21/2008



Population

Area	2007 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2000 Census	1990 Census
Community:	1,003	1,010	1,020	1,013
County:	19,779	19,869	19,718	18,497
Nearest MSA:	131,762	130,374	126,838	116,401
Minnesota:	5,263,610	5,231,106	4,919,479	4,375,099

Source: U.S. Census, State Demographer * Metropolitan Statistical Area



Major Employers

<i>Employer</i>	<i>NAICS</i>	<i>Products/Services</i>	<i>Employee Count</i>
Ace Communications Group	5171	Wired Telecommunications Carriers	105
Valley View Nursing Home	6231	Nursing Care Facilities	75
Houston Public Schools	6111	Elementary & Secondary Schools	70
Eastwood Bank	5221	Depository Credit Intermediation	16
Houston, City of	9211	Executive, Legislative, & Other Gen. Govt. Support	14
Root River Market Cooperative	4451	Grocery Stores	13
High Plains Cenex	4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods Merchant Wholesalers	12
Houston Dental Clinic	6212	Offices of Dentists	12
Bluff Country Financial Services	5412	Accounting, Tax Prep., Bookkeeping, & Payroll Services	10
Farmers Coop Elevator	4931	Warehousing & Storage	8
Hoskins Electric	2382	Building Equipment Contractors	8
Houston County Recycling	5621	Waste Collection	8
BP-Houston Food Mart	4471	Gasoline Stations	5
Loken Auto Sales & Service	441120	Used Car Dealers	5

[View All Employers Listed](#)

Workforce

	<i>Houston County</i>	<i><u>Southeast (10) Econ Dev Region</u></i>
Total Employment	10,539	257,055
Available Workforce	11,176	270,787
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.1%

Source: DEED - Labor Market Information: LAUS Annual Average 2008

Employment By Industry

	<i>Houston County</i>	<i><u>Southeast (10) Econ Dev Region</u></i>
Natural Resources and Mining	100	2,482
Construction	249	8,621
Manufacturing	675	40,264
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	1,012	41,463
Information	199	3,422
Financial Activities	147	8,434
Professional and Business Services	152	13,730
Education and Health Services	848	58,835
Leisure and Hospitality	288	19,921
Other Services	160	6,477
Government	1,170	30,407

N/A - No Data Available

Source: DEED - Labor Market Information: CEW Annual Data 2008



Occupations and Wages in Southeast Minnesota

<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Wage/Hr</i>	<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Wage/Hr</i>
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	\$29.59	Healthcare Support Occupations	\$13.05
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	\$17.32	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	\$18.62
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	\$11.83	Legal Occupations	\$27.34
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	\$24.06	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	\$26.55
Community and Social Services Occupations	\$17.82	Management Occupations	\$38.15
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	\$36.08	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	\$14.70
Construction and Extraction Occupations	\$22.04	Personal Care and Service Occupations	\$10.75
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	\$19.98	Production Occupations	\$14.84
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	\$12.72	Protective Service Occupations	\$18.61
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	\$8.76	Sales and Related Occupations	\$10.21
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	\$30.77	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$13.52

[View All Occupations and Wages](#)

Source: DEED - Labor Market Information: OES First Quarter, 2009

Utilities

Utility Type	Utility Name	Utility Phone	Contact	Contact Phone
Electricity	Tri-County Electric Cooperative	(507) 864-7783	Brian Krambeer	(800) 432-2285
Natural Gas	Minnesota Energy Resources Corp	1-800-889-9508	Rory Lenton	1-800-889-9508
Wastewater	Houston Wastewater Treatment Plant	(507) 896-2387	Bob Borowiak	507-896-2387
Water	Houston Wastewater Treatment Plant	(507) 896-2387	Bob Borowiak	507-896-2387

Water Information

Water Source:	Wells
Storage Capacity:	150,000 gal.
Pumping Capacity:	460 gal./minute
Average Demand:	75,000 gal./day
Peak Demand:	115,000 gal./day
Total Water Hardness:	316 ppm
Industrial Water Rate:	Base chg. \$5; \$1.80/1,000 gal.

Wastewater Information

Treatment Type:	Community Drain Field
Capacity of Plant:	250,000 gal./day
Average Flow:	75,000 gal./day
Peak Flow:	115,000 gal./day
Usage Charge:	Base chg. \$15; \$1.95/1,000 gallons



Communications

Telephone Information

Local Telephone Company:	Ace Communications Group
Telephone Number:	(507) 896-3192
Contact:	David Schroeder
Telephone Number:	(507) 896-3111
Digital Central Switch:	Yes
Equal Access Market:	Yes
Extended Area Service:	Yes
Custom Calling Features:	Yes
Customized Local Area Services:	Yes
Current Technologies:	DSL, T1, Fiber Optics, Wired Building

Internet Service

Local Public Internet Access Site:	Yes
Multiple Internet Service Providers:	No
Speed of Service:	
DEED Certification as E-Commerce Ready:	No

Cable TV Information

<i>Local Company</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Website</i>
Ace Digital TV	888-404-4940	

Newspapers Information

<i>Newspaper Name</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Houston Banner	(507) 896-2107	Weekly
LaCrosse Tribune	(608) 782-9710	Daily
Winona Daily News	(507) 454-6500	Daily

Additional Telecommunication Providers

<i>Telecommunication Type</i>	<i>Provider Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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Commercial Transportation & Shipping

Highway Information

<i>Interstate</i>	<i>Miles From Community</i>	<i>Load Limit in Tons</i>	<i>Seasonal Limit In Tons</i>
I-90	14	10	10

<i>Four Lane</i>	<i>Miles From Community</i>	<i>Load Limit in Tons</i>	<i>Seasonal Limit In Tons</i>
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<i>Other</i>	<i>Miles From Community</i>	<i>Load Limit in Tons</i>	<i>Seasonal Limit In Tons</i>
CO-9	Within	10	10
MN-16	Within	10	10
MN-76	Within	10	10

Truck Information

Truck Lines: 1
Truck Terminals: 0



Navigable Water Information

Water Name Depth

Rail Information

Inter-Modal Facility: No
 Inter-Modal Facility Distance: 25 miles

<i>Rail Line</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Reciprocal Switching</i>	<i>Distance to Main Line</i>	<i>Passenger Service</i>
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Air Service Information

	<i>International</i>	<i>Local Regional</i>	<i>Service</i>
<i>Name</i>	Rochester Intl. Airport	La Crosse Municipal Airport	Houston County Airport
<i>Location</i>	Rochester	La Crosse, WI	Caledonia
<i>Miles to</i>	65	20	13
<i>Longest Runway Length</i>	9,033 Feet	8,536 Feet	3,500 Feet
<i>Surface Type</i>	Paved	Paved	Paved
<i>Lighted</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Customs</i>	Yes	No	No
<i>Service Type</i>	Charter, Commercial, Freight, Jet	Charter, Commercial, Freight, Jet	
<i>Navigational Aids</i>	BEACON, ILS, VOR/DME	BEACON, ILS, VOR/DME	BEACON
<i>Weather Info Systems</i>	AWOSA/MNWas, SATVIDEOWEATHER	PUBLICTV, SATVIDEOWEATHER	
<i>Major Airlines</i>	American Eagle, Delta, Allegiant Air, Federal Express	American Eagle, Midwest Express, Northwest	

Daily Flights To MSP-Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl.:

Additional Commercial Transportation Providers

<i>Transportation Type</i>	<i>Provider Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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Housing & Commercial Activity

Housing Information

Single Family Units:	354	Percentage Owner Occupied:	80
Multiple Family Units:	5	Median Sales Price:	\$120,000.00
Mobile Homes:	4	Median Assessed Value:	\$85,000
Number of Units Built Since Last Census:	7	Median Rent:	\$375
Number of Residential Building Permits for 2007:	2	Vacancy Rate:	
Value of Residential Building Permits for 2007:	\$290,000		

Source: Census

Commercial Activity Information

Number of Commercial Building Permits for 2007:
 Value of Commercial Building Permits for 2007:
 Number of Public Building Permits for 2007:



Value of Public Building Permits for 2007:

Retail Sales Information

Year	Community Sales	County Sales
2006	\$0	\$134,556,547
2005	\$0	\$128,255,406
2004	\$0	\$118,251,004

Source: MN Dept. of Revenue

Business & Community Services

Financial Institutions Information

Name	Phone	Total Assets	Capital as % of Assets
Eastwood Bank	(507) 896-3179	\$30,000,000	---
Rushford State Bank LPO	(507) 896-7755	---	---

[View All Financial Institutions](#)

Lodging & Meeting Facilities Information

Facility	Number of Facilities Available	Facility Size	Teleconferencing Available	Teleconferencing Available to Public
Hotel	0		No	No
Motel	1	14 rooms	No	No
Conference Center	0		No	No

Additional Lodging & Meeting Facilities

Facility Type	Facility Name	Phone
Bed and Breakfasts	Addie's Attic Bed & Breakfast	507-896-3010
Bed and Breakfasts	Lilac & Lace Guest House	507-896-5710
Bed and Breakfasts	Money Creek Buffalo Ranch	507-896-2345
Bed and Breakfasts	The Bunkhouse	507-896-2080
Campgrounds	Cushon's Peak Campground	507-896-7325
Campgrounds	Money Creek Haven	507-896-3544
Conference Center	Houston Community Center	507-896-3159
Conference Center	Houston Nature Center	507-896-4668
Motel	Loken's Sawmill Inn	507-896-7050
Resort	Outback Ranch	507-896-5253



Local Medical Facilities Information

<i>Facility Type</i>	<i>Nbr of Facilities</i>	<i>Total Nbr of Beds</i>	<i>Telemedicine Available</i>
Clinic	1		No
Dentist	2		No
Doctor	1		No
Hospital	0		No
Nursing Home	1	68	No

Name of Nearest Hospital (if none in community): St. Francis Medical Center, LaCrosse, WI

Miles to Nearest Hospital: 21

Additional Local Medical Facilities

<i>Facility Type</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Telemedicine Available</i>
Assisted Living	Heritage Court Assisted Living	507-896-3125	Yes
Chiropractic	Houston Chiropractic Center	507-896-2227	Yes
Clinic	Fingers in Motion	507-896-3639	Yes
Clinic	Gundersen Lutheran	507-896-4200	Yes
Dentist	Houston Dental Clinic	507-896-2202	Yes
Urgent Care	Valley View Nursing Home	507-896-3125	No

Local Transit Information

<i>Service</i>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Available</i>
Inter-Community Bus	No	Taxi/Cab	No
Intra-Community Bus	Yes	Disabled Transportation	Yes

Local Transit Providers

<i>Transit Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Disabled Transportation	<u>Houston Hurricane Express</u>	507-896-3159
Intra-City Bus	<u>Houston Hurricane Express</u>	507-896-3159

Library Information

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Internet Access</i>
Houston Public Library	507-896-7323	Yes

Worship Information

<i>Worship Type</i>	<i>Worship Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Membership</i>
Baptist Church	Houston Baptist Church	507-896-3430	
Catholic Church	St. Mary's Catholic Church	507-896-2039	
Free Church	Bethany Evangelical Free Church	507-896-3321	
Lutheran Church	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church	507-896-3102	
Lutheran Church	Looney Valley Lutheran Church	507-896-3412	
Methodist Church	Money Creek United Methodist Church	507-896-2390	



Recreation Information

Facilities

City parks with playground, hiking & picnicking; community center, nature and information center, senior citizens' center.

Festival/Arts

Root River Triathlon-3rd Saturday in May; Houston Nature Center Summer Solstice Celebration - evening of the Summer Solstice; Houston Hoedown - last full weekend in July; America's Night Out Against Crime-1st Tuesday evening in August; ReCycled Bicycle Art Competition - September; Houston Arts Resource Council Holiday Art Sale-Thanksgiving Weekend.

Service Organizations

Chamber of Commerce, Ambulance/Fire Department, Tree Board, Friends of the Houston Nature Center, Friends of the Houston Public Library, Booster Clubs, Girl/Boy Scouts, Iris and Forget-Me-Not Garden Clubs, American Legion & Auxiliary, Nursing Home Auxiliary, Lions.

Education

Post-Secondary Information

Nearest Technical College & Specialty

Location

Miles To

Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical

Red Wing / Winona

25

Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical has more than 80 diverse programs in six major career fields: business and office, health and human services, sales and management, musical instrument repair, technical, and trade and industrial. It's located at three sites - Red Wing, Winona and Winona Airport - all along the majestic bluffs of the Mississippi River Valley and provides a welcoming college environment with small classes and instructors who know you by name. Through the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, students can transfer approved general education courses to other Minnesota State College and Universities. A two-year registered nurse associate degree program is offered in Red Wing and Winona. The automotive technology program is certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation. Trade and industrial majors include automotive; carpentry; machine tool and die; truck driving; and heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration. Technical majors include drafting, electronics, computer programming and networking with Cisco and Microsoft certification. The college is accredited as a distance learning institution by the Higher Learning Commission, offering online classes, certificates, diplomas and degrees. 8/08

Nearest Community College & Specialty

Location

Miles To

Rochester Community and Technical College

Rochester

65

Rochester Community and Technical College was founded in 1915 on a motion by Dr. Charles Mayo to the Rochester School Board. Rochester is Minnesota's oldest - and one of the nation's oldest - original community colleges. The 2005-2006 academic year marked RCTC's 90th anniversary. The college serves approximately 7,500 students in credit-based enrollments and 3,000 in noncredit courses. Degrees offered: Associate in Arts, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Science, diplomas, and certificates. Largest programs: Liberal arts, nursing, business, digital arts, law enforcement. Unique programs: Dental hygiene, equine science, horticulture technology, human services, radiography, surgical technology, veterinary technology. Its location is within University Center Rochester, an expansive campus that includes the University of Minnesota Rochester and Winona State University - Rochester Center, altogether serving approximately 20,000 credit and noncredit students annually. 8/08

Nearest Public College/University & Specialty

Location

Miles To

Winona State University

Winona

25

Winona State University is a premier regional university with graduate and undergraduate programs. It is enriched by a dynamic culture and is renowned for its principle-centered approach to education. Located in the high bluff country of the upper Mississippi Valley, Winona stands among the front ranks of midwestern universities and is recognized as one of the most distinctive undergraduate universities in the nation. Degrees offered: Associate of Arts; Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Science; 4 Special Licensure Programs; 10 Pre-Professional Programs; Master of Science. Winona State University is comprised of five colleges offering over 80 majors and 10 pre-professional programs: College of Business; College of Education; College of Liberal Arts; College of Nursing and Health Sciences; College of Science and Engineering. Your education will be shaped not only by extraordinary and approachable faculty, but also by our distinctive approach to teaching and learning, the way we use technology, and the rich natural beauty of this magnificent region that embraces our campus and community. 6/06



<i>Nearest Private College/University & Specialty</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Miles To</i>
<u>Saint Mary's University - Winona</u>	Winona	25

In the Lasallian spirit of faith and zeal, Saint Mary's University — a global and diverse learning community — serves students through relevant and innovative educational programs, experiences, and enterprises. The university is nourished by its Catholic intellectual, moral, and cultural traditions and is inspired by excellence in teaching as modeled by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The hallmark of the university is its commitment to serve the needs of individual learners and promote life-long learning in a variety of contexts. SMU enrolls about 6,000 students. Of those, about 1,350 are traditional undergraduates; more than 4,600 are adult learners in the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs. At the coeducational, residential Winona campus, located in the majestic bluffs of the Mississippi River Valley, the undergraduate College curriculum combines traditional liberal arts and sciences with career preparation in a student-centered environment. "U.S. News & World Report" (2008) ranks Saint Mary's in the National Universities category of its America's Best Colleges listing. 8/08

Telecommunications Use Available at Area Post-Secondary Institutions: Yes

Local K-12 Information

<i>School Type</i>	<i>Nbr of Schools</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Pupil/Teacher Ratio</i>
Elementary	1	273	K-6	14:1
Middle School				
Junior High				
Senior High	1	257	7-12	16:1
Private/Parochial				

School District: ISD 294
 Telecommunications Use Available at Local K-12: Yes
 High School Graduates Attending Post-Secondary: 65%
 State Wide Average: 68%

Education Institutions

<i>Education Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Other	McCOOL	
Other	Minnesota Virtual Academy	

Government

Structure Information

Organization: Mayor\Council
 Budget: \$1,745,473
 Community Bond Rating:
 Comprehensive Land Use Plan: Yes
 Locally Controlled Loan Program: Yes
 Recycling: Yes
 Fire Insurance Rating: 8
 Industrial Plans Approved By: City Building Official, City Council, Economic Development Authority, Planning Commission



Public Protection Services

Service Type	Regular	Part-Time	Volunteer	Seasonal
Fire	---	---	25	---
Police	2	---	6	---
Sheriff	---	---	---	---
EMT	---	---	16	---

Property Taxes

Payable 2008

Property Tax Information

State Tax Rate	45.95%
Municipal Tax Rate	104.07%
County Tax Rate	50.94%
School Tax Rate	3.18%
Misc. Tax Rate	0.33%
Total Tax Rate	204.48%

Assessed Market Value Information

Commercial	\$25,292,200
Residential	\$5,640,333
Other	\$6,491,310
Total	\$37,423,843

Commercial Buildings and Land Sites

Building Name Address City, State Zip Code	Type of Building Total Bldg Sqft Total Available	Contact Name Organization Phone Number	JOBZone	 Photo
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Land Site Address City, State Zip Code	Space Available Build To Suit Zoning	Contact Name Organization Phone Number	JOBZone	 Photo
<u>Houston Industrial Park</u> 300 Westgate Drive Houston, MN 55943-0667	4.3 Acres No Industrial	<u>Larry Jerviss</u> City of Houston (507) 896-3234		

Economic Development Services

Economic Development Authority:	Yes	Incentives A 7-member Economic Development Authority benefits Houston with its focus on retaining and attracting business.
Housing Redevelopment Authority:	Yes	
County Development Corporation:	No	
Chamber of Commerce:	Yes	
Port Authority:	No	

Contact Information

Larry Jerviss
City Administrator
Houston, City of
105 W Maple
Houston, MN 55943-0667
(507) 896-3234



Economic Development Organizations

<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
Chamber of Commerce	Houston Chamber of Commerce	507-896-4668	507-896-5668
EDA	Houston Economic Development Authority	507-896-3234	507-896-3643
HRA	Houston Housing Authority	507-896-2431	507-896-5431

Disaster & Emergency Services

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number(s)</i>
<u>Public Safety emergency resources</u>	1-800-422-0798 or metro 651-649-5451
<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency</u>	Region V FEMA 312-408-5500
<u>Small Business Administration Disaster Resources</u>	Disaster Area Offices 404-347-3771
Michael Olson, Emergency Preparedness Director	507-896-3123

Inquiries regarding this community's data go to Larry Jerviss

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