

4. Manchester, New Hampshire

Manchester is located approximately 58 miles north-west of Boston. The population in 1992 was 173,800 with a projected population for 1999 of 173,700. The Greater Manchester Trade Area, covering all towns within a 20 mile radius of Manchester City, had an estimated population of 558,300 with a projected average annual growth rate of 0.8% through to the year 2000.

The three largest private sector employers in Manchester are Optima Health Inc., First NH Bank and Alexander's Shop & Save with the three largest manufacturing employers being Osram Sylavania, General Electric and Velcro USA.

5. Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota

Minneapolis-St Paul (the Twin Cities) are located approximately 410 miles north-west of Chicago and 240 miles south of the US-Canada border. Their 1990 population was 2,278,721 and is projected to be 2,571,000 by the year 2000.

Seventeen Fortune 500 companies have their headquarters in the Twin Cities with major private sector employers including 3M, General Mills and Honeywell.

6. Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina

Raleigh-Durham is located 270 miles south-west of Washington DC and 408 miles north-east of Atlanta. The 1990 population was 855,545 with a projected population of 1,058,000 for the year 2000.

In recent years high-technology industries have come to play a significant role in the economy of Raleigh-Durham. The three largest private sector employers are IBM Corporation, Northern Telecom Inc. and Glaxo Inc.

7. Sacramento, California

Sacramento is located 85 miles north-east of San Francisco. In 1994 the population of Sacramento was estimated to be 1,698,400.

The economic base of Sacramento covers all main business sectors with the most significant growth being in high-technology businesses. The three largest manufacturing employers are Hewlett-Packard, Intel Corporation and Sacramento Bee Newspapers.