

Positively Minnesota

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND DO BUSINESS



Minnesotans aren't big on boasting. We don't like to "toot our own horns," so to speak. But we don't mind when someone does it for us. Check out what others are saying.

Proven Partners

Top five most competitive states – *Beacon Hill Institute*
Top eight most competitive metropolitan areas (Minneapolis-St. Paul)
– *Beacon Hill Institute*
Top 10 states for clean energy – *U.S. Green Building Council*

Enviably Business Climate

Top five metropolitan areas for business (Minneapolis-St. Paul) – *MarketWatch*
Top seven states for business – *CNBC*
Top 10 states for lower business taxes on new investment – *Ernst & Young LLP*

Tireless Work Ethic

Top two states for labor force participation rate – *Bureau of Labor Statistics*
Top metro market for finding employment (Minneapolis-St. Paul) – *Forbes*
Top six metros for job seekers (Minneapolis) – *Monster.com*

A+ Education

Top two states for share of population with high school diploma
– *Bureau of the Census*
Top four states for keeping college graduates – *Forbes*
Top 11 public research universities (University of Minnesota) – *The Center for Measuring University Performance*

Matchless Innovation

Top two states for medical device patents – *U.S. Patents and Trademark Office*
Top six states for IT professionals – *Kauffman Foundation*
Top six cities for inventiveness (Minneapolis-St. Paul) – *Bloomberg Businessweek*

Positively Magnetic

Top state for Fortune 500 companies per capita and top eight in the number of Fortune 500 companies – *Fortune*
Top nine states for the number of largest private companies – *Forbes*

Rock Solid Foundation

Lower rates for industrial electricity users than the national average
– *Energy Information Administration*
One of the nation's lowest natural gas prices for industrial users
– *Energy Information Administration*
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport ranks second nationwide in customer satisfaction – *J.D. Power and Associates*

Growing Global

Top five states for the number of global Fortune 500 companies – *Fortune*
Top seven states for agricultural exports – *Minnesota Department of Agriculture*
Top nine states for high-tech exports – *TechAmerica Foundation*
Top 20 states for manufactured exports – *Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development*

World Class Support Services

Top three states for the number of commercial banks
– *Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.*
Top three metros for the highest concentration of banks (Minneapolis-St. Paul)
– *Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.*
Top seven metros for SBA loans (Minneapolis-St. Paul)
– *U.S. Small Business Administration*
Top eight states for venture capital per capita
– *Beacon Hill Institute*

Living the Good Life

Top five states listed on the Camelot Index
– *State Policy Reports*
Top seven most affordable cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul) – *Forbes*
Top three states for quality of life
– *Business Facilities*
Top city for fitness (Minneapolis)
– *American College of Sports Medicine*
Top two cities for cleanliness (Minneapolis) – *Travel and Leisure*



The Land of 10,000

Minn-ovations

From medical and technological breakthroughs to food and pop culture, Minnesota has spawned some of the most innovative ideas and products around ...



Ann Bancroft
Pioneering polar explorer



August Wilson
Playwright and poet

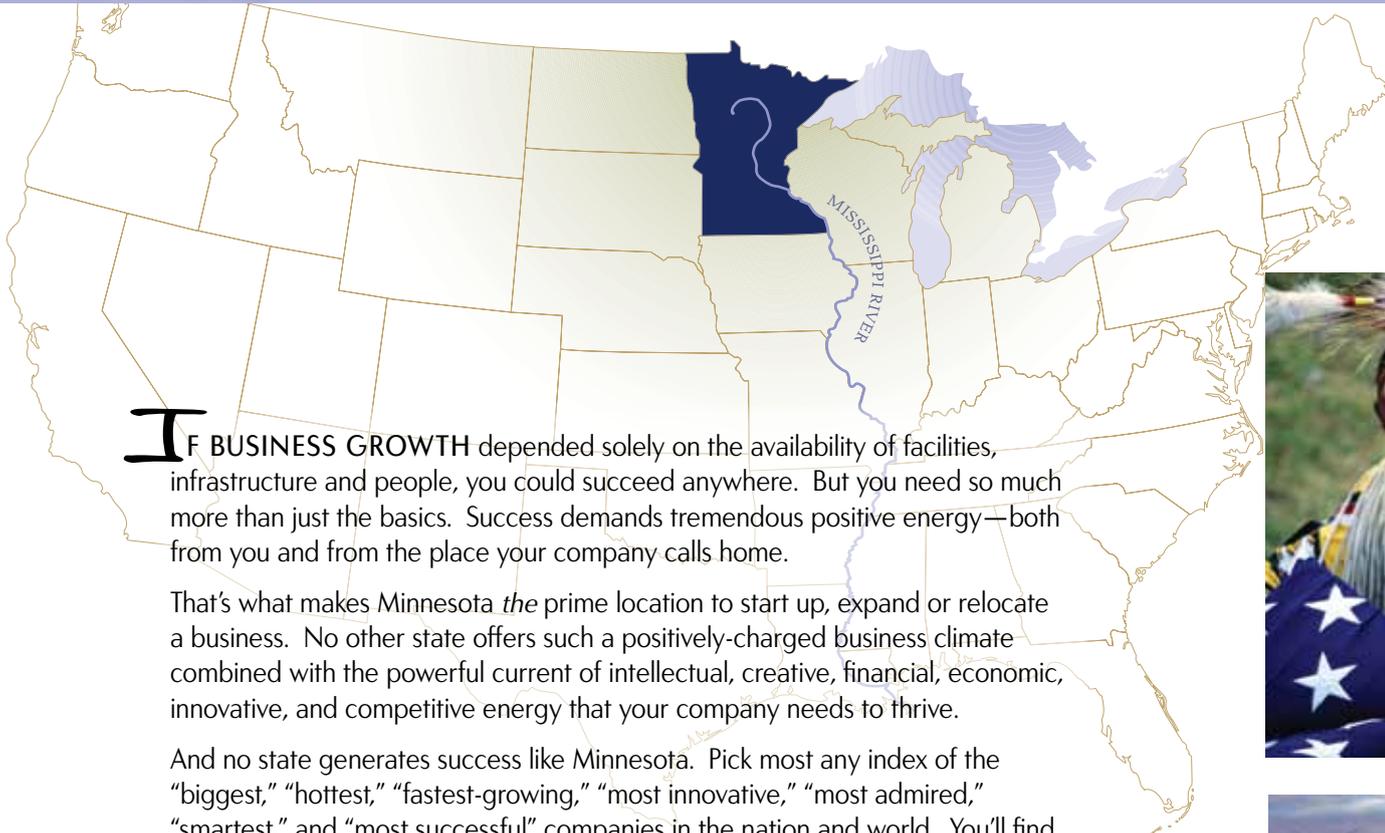


Bob Dylan
Rock 'n' roll icon



Charles Lindbergh
Aviation pioneer

Famous MINNESOTANS



IF BUSINESS GROWTH depended solely on the availability of facilities, infrastructure and people, you could succeed anywhere. But you need so much more than just the basics. Success demands tremendous positive energy—both from you and from the place your company calls home.

That's what makes Minnesota *the* prime location to start up, expand or relocate a business. No other state offers such a positively-charged business climate combined with the powerful current of intellectual, creative, financial, economic, innovative, and competitive energy that your company needs to thrive.

And no state generates success like Minnesota. Pick most any index of the "biggest," "hottest," "fastest-growing," "most innovative," "most admired," "smartest," and "most successful" companies in the nation and world. You'll find Minnesota companies at or near the top.

No wonder Minnesota is such a magnet for talent. No wonder it's such a great place to live, work and do business. No wonder you're asking: "Can Minnesota help me write the next chapter in my company's success story?"

Positively!

We've got as many reasons as we have lakes (a mere 10,000) why you should make Minnesota your new business home. But let's start with these compelling few.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/locating



Red Lake pow wow



Jackson, MN, wind turbines



Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis

Gizmos and Technological Wonders

Minnesota companies have not only made life easier with technology. In many cases they've revolutionized it.

1885
Furnace thermostat. Inventor Albert Butz's heating control device was the birth of Honeywell.

1888
The union suit. Not really a technological wonder. But when winter rolls around, thank heavens for this full-body set of long underwear.

1925
Masking tape. 3M inventor Dick Drew developed the only slightly-sticky tape for use in auto body shops.

1926
Closed-cabin aircraft. Northwest Airways debuted the nation's first closed-cabin commercial plane, a three-passenger craft.

1940
Uranium separation. Physicist Alfred Nier helped develop the atomic bomb by separating uranium isotopes 235 and 238.

1942
Electronic autopilot. This Honeywell invention helped guide World War II bombers.

1947
Magnetic recording tape. Developed by 3M, it became the industry standard.

1952
Computer tape. Another 3M innovation.



Charles Schulz
Cartoonist, creator of Peanuts



Ethan and Joel Coen
Award-winning filmmakers



F. Scott Fitzgerald
Great American novelist



Garrison Keillor
Writer, radio show host

Famous MINNESOTANS

Business Climate

Minnesota has four distinct seasons, but the business climate is always warm, sunny and ideal for nurturing growth and success.

Our strongly pro-business policies, favorable tax rates, lower operating expenses, tax credits for research and development, favorable workers' compensation costs, and streamlined state regulatory requirements are tremendous competitive advantages that have helped thousands of companies turn mere potential into outstanding achievement.

Big brains. Big ideas. Big leadership. Big industries. Big potential. Big performance. We've got it all—big time.

Plenty of states can talk a good game. But you need more than clever branding, catchphrases and pretty pictures. You need a business partner that can *play* a good game.

Minnesota is a solid, steady partner whose performance speaks for itself. Whether you're talking economic growth, job growth or business expansions, we are routinely ranked as one of the best, most competitive business locations in the nation.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/businessclimate

Mayo Clinic Researcher, Rochester, Minnesota



Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins



Picturesque Rushford, Minnesota



A timeline OF MINNESOTA'S INVENTIVE HISTORY

1952
First scientific computer. Known as ERA 1103, and the Univac 1103, this computer was developed by St. Paul-based Engineering Research Associates.

1953
Flight Data Recorder. More commonly known as the "black box," this aviation innovation was a product of General Mills.

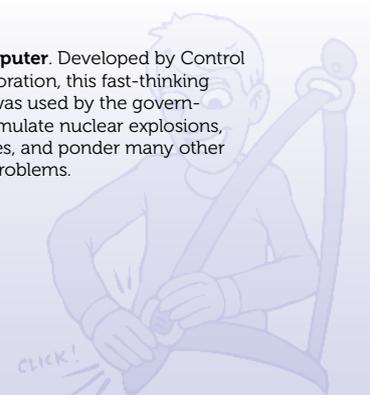
1955
Taconite process. Edwin W. Davis' taconite pellet process allowed for the use of lower-grade iron ore and breathed new life into Minnesota's Iron Range.

1960s
Ring laser gyroscope. Designed by Honeywell, this invention stabilizes and helps guide airplanes, rockets, submarines and spacecraft.

1962
ALVIN. The world's first deep-sea submarine. Developed by General Mills' Mechanical Division, it explored the wreck of the Titanic.

1963
Retractable seat belt. Engineer James Ryan developed this restraint that self-tightens during a crash.

1964
Supercomputer. Developed by Control Data Corporation, this fast-thinking machine was used by the government to simulate nuclear explosions, break codes, and ponder many other complex problems.





Gordon Parks
Life Magazine photographer/essayist



Harold Stassen
Instrumental in forming United Nations



Harry Blackmun
U.S. Supreme Court Justice



Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President of the United States

Support Services

Few things are as important to your success as ready access to money and expertise.

Minnesota has some of the most pro-business commercial lenders in the nation, strong support from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and an eager pool of venture capital companies and equity investors to help you start up or expand your business.

Companies benefit from a wide variety of capital sources, including loans, stock offerings and venture capital from institutions headquartered or operating in Minnesota. In addition, a variety of federal, state and local programs are available to support business financing.

Once you've begun, great business performances require a great supporting cast. Few businesses have all the expertise they need in-house. Fortunately, Minnesota is deep in first-rate professional, technical and creative services that make every company shine.

Management. Accounting and law. Advertising, marketing, public relations and Web design. Shipping and freight forwarding. Minnesota is bursting with support services firms that are recognized nationally for their expertise, innovation and creativity.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/support

US Open Golf Tournament, Hazeltine Golf Course, Minnesota



International Shipping, Duluth, Minnesota



University of Minnesota genetic research on spring wheat



A timeline OF MINNESOTA'S INVENTIVE HISTORY

1970s

Tissue culture technology. Ronald L. Phillips and a research team at the University of Minnesota paved the way for genetic engineering of crops when they regenerated whole corn plants from a tissue sample.

1976

CRAY-1 supercomputer. Designed by computer genius Seymour Cray.

1980

Post-it Notes. 3M's Art Fry developed sticky yellow pieces of paper we just can't live without.

1987

Breathe Right nasal strip. St. Paul native Bruce Johnson, who suffered from chronic nasal congestion, came up with the idea for these in the middle of the night.

1990

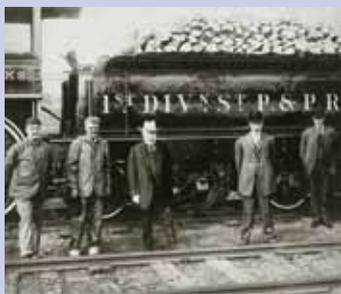
Gopher Internet portal. The first software for navigating the Internet, created at the University of Minnesota.

1994

Polylactic acid polymer. Scientist Patrick Gruber figured out how to produce this biodegradable plastic polymer derived from corn. It's used to make all kinds of environmentally friendly plastic products that can break down.

2007

Environmentally friendly thin-film batteries. Cymbet Corporation's Ener-Chip family of batteries are designed to eliminate battery replacement and last the life of the devices they power. The green battery keeps hazardous materials, flammable solvents and other harmful elements out of ground, air and water.



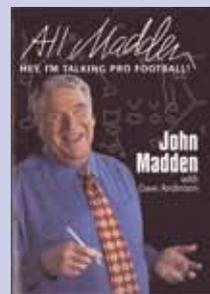
James J. Hill
Great Northern Railroad magnate



Jean Paul Getty
Oil executive/philanthropist



Jessica Lange
Academy Award-winning actress



John Madden
Sportscaster and former NFL coach

Famous MINNESOTANS

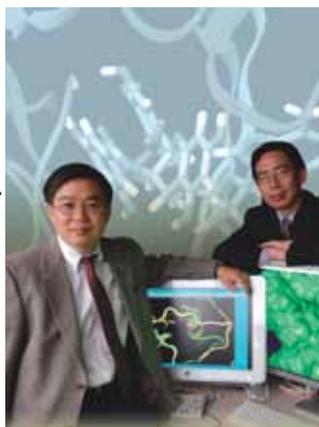
University of Minnesota graduate



Mall of America, largest enclosed shopping mall in the United States



The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota



Education and Workforce

Education is at the very heart of Minnesota's success, and we take great care to protect and nurture the educational system that is so crucial to the quality of our workforce and our future.

Our network of public and private universities, colleges and technical schools blankets the entire state and includes some of the nation's most admired institutions. The educational crown jewel is the University of Minnesota, whose ground-breaking research attracts some of the brightest and best faculty in the world.

As a top-ranked place for people with a bachelor's degree or higher, we've got more diplomas hanging on the wall than just about any other state. And our responsiveness to—and collaboration with—business and industry is unrivaled, ensuring a highly skilled workforce is always available.

From scientific and high-tech professionals, to high-level management expertise, to well-trained trades and production workers, Minnesota has a large and remarkably talented workforce.

Known nationwide for high skill, high productivity, high motivation and low absenteeism, our workforce is a key competitive advantage for companies of all types. We jealously guard our reputation for being hard working and smart working. Above all, we expect the best from ourselves. And we don't tolerate slackers. We give our employers everything they pay for—and then some. It's a matter of honor.

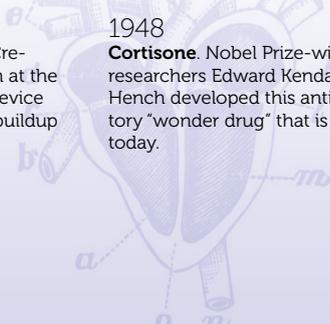
Learn more at:
www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/education

Medical Marvels and Breakthroughs

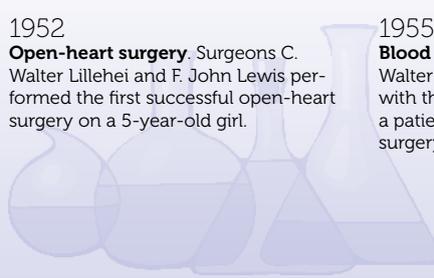
There's really no way to count all the lives that have been saved by the inventions and discoveries of Minnesota's world-class medical inventors and researchers.



1931 Wangensteen suction tube. Created by Owen H. Wangensteen at the University of Minnesota. The device removes deadly gas and fluid buildup during abdominal surgery.



1948 Cortisone. Nobel Prize-winning researchers Edward Kendall and Philip Hench developed this anti-inflammatory "wonder drug" that is widely used today.



1952 Open-heart surgery. Surgeons C. Walter Lillehei and F. John Lewis performed the first successful open-heart surgery on a 5-year-old girl.

1955 Blood pump. Richard DeWall and C. Walter Lillehei made surgery safer with this device that puts oxygen into a patient's blood during open-heart surgery.



Jolly Green Giant
Marketing icon



Judy Garland
Actress, singer



Laura Ingalls Wilder
Pioneer, author



Norman Borlaug
Nobel Peace Prize winner 1970

Infrastructure and Utilities

Every successful business rests on a foundation of transportation, communications and energy infrastructure—and Minnesota’s is rock solid.

We earn five-star ratings for being logistics friendly. Our network of highways, railways, air carriers, ports and waterways makes it easy to get materials to the factory and finished products to markets worldwide.

Located in the heart of the U.S. Midwest, we’re just a short flight away from any of North America’s major financial or commercial centers. And with direct flights to key cities across the globe, our international airport can put you face-to-face with overseas customers, distributors, partners and suppliers at a moment’s notice.

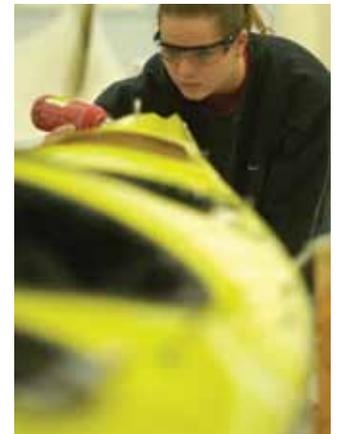
From electricity to telecommunications, our utilities are abundant, reliable, affordable and always on the cutting edge of the green revolution.

Wired or wireless, Minnesota’s telecommunications infrastructure and services deliver top-shelf voice, video, Internet and data communications in cities and rural communities alike.

A healthy balance of coal, nuclear power and renewable resources like wind, hydropower, wood and waste allows Minnesota to offer an abundant supply of electricity at prices comfortably below the national average. North America natural gas is competitively priced.



Wind turbine, Port of Duluth

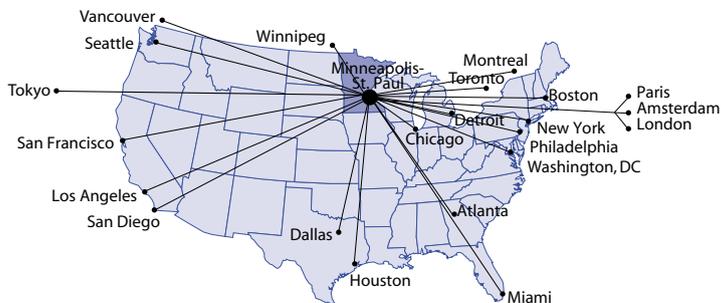


Wenonah Canoe, Winona, Minnesota



Light rail in metro area

Selected Non-Stop
Destinations from
MSP Airport



Learn more at:
www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/infrastructure

A timeline OF MINNESOTA'S INVENTIVE HISTORY

Hearing aid. Minnesota firm Stryker, Inc., was the first firm to create the device.

Pacemaker. Working in his garage, electrical engineer Earl Bakken developed the implantable pacemaker and founded the world-renowned company known as Medtronic.

1960s
Mechanical heart valve. C. Walter Lillehei helped design two valves that are still in use today.

1960s
Anesthesia monitor. Physicist Alfred Nier and others developed this operating room technology.

1966-68
Organ transplants. The first pancreas

transplant, and the first successful kidney and bone marrow transplants were done at the University of Minnesota.

1996
Transgenic mouse. Hoping to give researchers a tool to help understand the development of Alzheimer’s disease, neurologist Karen Hsiao Ashe bred a mouse genetically disposed to inherit the disease.

1998
Ziagen. Chemist Robert Vince developed the compounds that led to this medication for treating HIV/AIDS.

2001
Anthrax test. The Mayo Clinic developed this DNA test, which can detect anthrax in less than an hour.

2004
Digital pacemaker. Medtronic introduces world’s first digital pacemaker.



Patty Berg
Founding member of the LPGA



Prince
Rock 'n' roll icon



Robert R. Gilruth
Launched America's space program



Roy Wilkins
Leader in U.S. civil rights movement

Famous MINNESOTANS

Research and Development

So many remarkable innovations have come from Minnesota that we're tempted to call them *Minn-ovations*.

From food products to medical breakthroughs to technological wonders to gizmos and toys, Minnesota companies have given the world many life-saving, life-improving and life-changing "firsts."

The cardiac pacemaker. The mechanical heart valve. The supercomputer. Aviation's flight data recorder (or black box). The snowmobile. Waterskiing. Rollerblades. Crisp-crust frozen pizza. The shopping mall. These are just a few examples of the inventive and creative genius of Minnesotans.

It's a tradition that continues today at an unbridled pace because of Minnesota's uniquely entrepreneurial environment and the heavy emphasis our companies and educational institutions place on research and development.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/research

The Minnesota Capitol, St. Paul



Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota



Glenn Metalcraft, Princeton, Minnesota



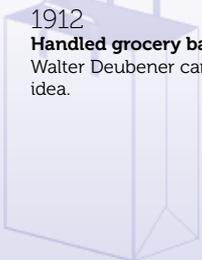
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Food for Thought

Few things hold our attention like food, so here are some food-related firsts:

1912
Handled grocery bag. St. Paul grocer Walter Deubener came up with the idea.



1919
Pop-up toaster. Stillwater mechanic Charles Strite invented the Toastmaster, a brand still produced today.



1922
Haralson apple. Developed by FB. Haralson at the University of Minnesota.



1923
Milky Way candy bar. Candy maker Frank C. Mars invented the gooey treat in Minneapolis.





Seymour Cray
Inventor of the supercomputer



Sinclair Lewis
Renowned author



Terry Gilliam
Monty Python's Flying Circus



Thomas Friedman
Journalist/author

Exporting and International Trade

Highly visible and successful in the international marketplace, Minnesota companies are keenly aware that the world is their customer.

With established market strongholds in North America and throughout Europe, nation-leading initiatives in China and India, and an eye toward ground-floor entry into emerging markets worldwide, only our status as a global competitor is growing faster than our exports.

The state's manufactured exports have shown strong growth (nearly doubling in a decade) and remarkable resilience during economic downturns, and they tend to outperform the nation as a whole.

Top export industries include computers and electronics, machinery and transportation equipment. Top markets by region are Asia, North America and the European Union.

Key to the state's economic well-being, manufactured exports alone are responsible for nearly 150,000 jobs in Minnesota.

Our reputation as a great place to do business is well known to company executives outside the United States. More than 700 affiliates of foreign-owned companies from Asia, Europe, Canada and Latin America are directly invested in Minnesota.

Learn more at:
www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/trade

Sunset over Hungry Jack Lake



Cannon River Winery, Cannon Falls, Minnesota



Minneapolis night life on Nicollet Avenue



Minnesota agriculture



A timeline OF MINNESOTA'S INVENTIVE HISTORY

1924
Wheaties. The "breakfast of champions" was developed by the Washburn Crosby Co. of Minneapolis in 1924. The cereal was originally known as Washburn's Gold Medal Whole Wheat Flakes. But because the name was too cumbersome, it was shortened to Wheaties.

1925
The Green Giant. The well-known mascot of the Minnesota Valley Canning Company in Le Sueur made his first appearance.

1931
Bisquick. The first premixed biscuit mix was produced by General Mills.

1937
SPAM. The famous luncheon meat in a can was created in 1937 by Jay C. Hormel, son of Austin-based Hormel founder George C. Hormel.

1947
Packaged cake mix. Betty Crocker's Ginger Cake, the first product of its kind, was produced by General Mills.

1979
Crisp-crust frozen pizza. Restaurateur Rose Totino patented frozen pizza dough.

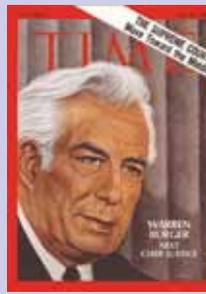
2003
Let's Dish. Co-founders Ruth Lundquist and Darcy Olson came up with the novel idea for quick, wholesome food preparation as a way to help busy families balance work and home life. Using provided recipes, ingredients, and equipment, customers can cook a week's worth (or more) of complete meals in just a couple hours. Today, the company has stores throughout the United States.



Walter Mondale
Vice President and U.S. Ambassador



Wanda Gág
Children's author

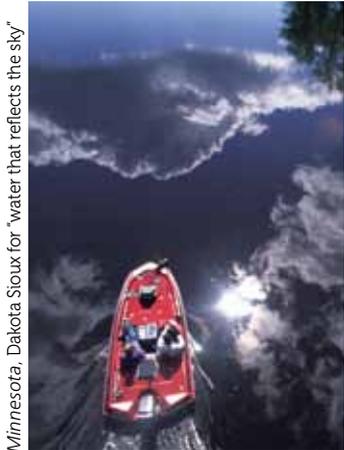


Warren E. Burger
Chief Justice U.S. Supreme Court



William and Charles Mayo
Founders of the Mayo Clinic

Famous MINNESOTANS



Minnesota, Dakota Sioux for "water that reflects the sky"



Citon Computer Corp., Duluth, Minn.



Landmark Center, Minnesota

Major Companies

Success attracts success. So it's no surprise that some of the world's most recognized companies call Minnesota home—and many more have major operations here.

Target Corp. 3M. Best Buy. General Mills. Medtronic. Cargill. These are just a few of our corporate heavyweights.

We have more Fortune 500 companies per capita than anyone—a list that has grown substantially in the past few years as more and more companies recognize the tremendous advantages of locating in Minnesota. And many of the nation's largest privately held companies were born and are thriving here.

What draws them and keeps them growing? One of the nation's steadiest and most diversified economies. With strengths in several key industries and sectors, Minnesota puts companies on incredibly sound footing.

It's the ideal environment for dreaming, taking risks, and turning big ideas into big success.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/companies

Major Industries

In this atmosphere, Minnesota companies have become world leaders in manufacturing, biotechnology, medical devices, pharma and biologics, food and high technology. Other companies are helping lead the green revolution with clean technology, wind power, solar energy, and biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel.

Couple our industrial strengths with our world-class institutions for research, development and commercialization, and the opportunities for collaboration, growth, spinoff and new ventures are countless for companies of all sizes.

Small companies get big. Big companies get bigger. Momentum builds momentum. And the cycle of success repeats.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/industries

A Whole Lotta Fun Stuff

Over the years, Minnesota inventors and companies have given the world a whole lot of fun.

1922
Water skis. The brainchild of a bored Ralph Samuelson, who fashioned skis out of two 8-foot pine boards.

1947
Tonka trucks. Founded by a group of schoolteachers, the Mound Metalcraft Company (which later took the name Tonka) manufactured some of the nation's most popular toys.

1948
Cootie. Was one of several games (Don't Spill the Beans, Ants in the Pants and Don't Break the Ice) created by postman Herb Schaper.

1962
Front-engine snowmobile. Ed Het-teen, founder of Polaris and Arctic Enterprises, gave the Arctic Cat its snow claws.

1964ish
Twister. Originated in St. Paul at a company called Reynolds Guyer House of Design.

1969
Nerf ball. The famous indoor-safe foam ball was invented by Reyn Guyer.

1980
Rollerblades. Collegiate hockey player Scott Olson came up with the idea as a way to practice in the summer.

1993
Magnetic poetry. Aspiring poet Dave Kapell invented the word magnets to help him write.

Minnesota's Fortune 500 Companies

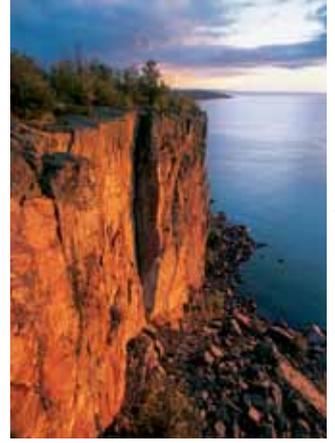
United Health Group	HEALTH CARE INSURANCE
Target Corporation	GENERAL MERCHANDISERS
Best Buy	SPECIALTY RETAIL
Supervalu	FOOD & DRUG STORES
3M	DIVERSIFIED PRODUCTS
CHS	FOOD DISTRIBUTION
U.S. Bancorp	COMMERCIAL BANKS
Medtronic	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
General Mills	FOOD PRODUCTS
Land O' Lakes	FOOD PRODUCTS
Xcel Energy	UTILITIES
Ameriprise Financial	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES
C.H. Robinson Worldwide	TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS
Thrivent Financial	LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE
Hormel Foods	FOOD PRODUCTS
Mosaic	CHEMICALS
Ecolab	CHEMICALS
St. Jude Medical	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Nash Finch	FOOD WHOLESALERS
Alliant Techsystems	AEROSPACE

Fortune Magazine

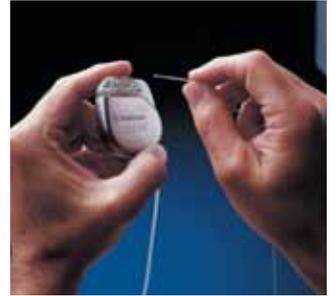
Minnesota's Top Privately Held Companies

Cargill	FARM PRODUCTS
Carlson Companies	LODGING
Schwan Foods	FOOD PRODUCTS
Andersen Windows	GENERAL BUILDING MATERIALS
Rosen's Diversified	MEAT PRODUCTS
MA Mortenson	HEAVY CONSTRUCTION
Holiday Companies	GROCERY STORES

Forbes Magazine



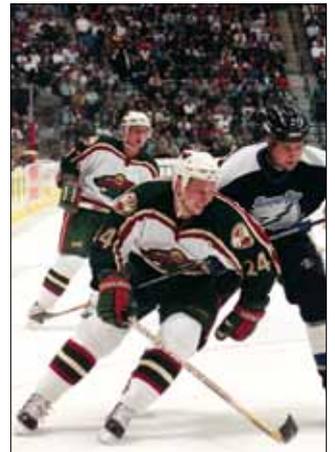
Tettegouche State Park, Lake Superior



Medtronic implantable device



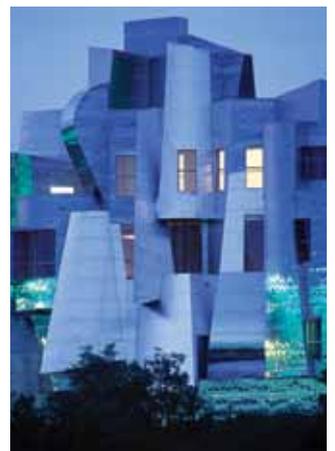
Store fronts in Hastings



The Minnesota Wild, professional hockey



Mississippi River headwaters



Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis

PHOTO CREDITS FOR FAMOUS MINNESOTANS

Ann Bancroft – Haberman and Associates Inc.; **August Wilson** – Marc Norberg; **Bob Dylan** – Daniel Kramer; **Charles Lindbergh** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Charles Schulz** – Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, Santa Rosa, CA; **Ethan and Joel Coen** – AP Images; **F. Scott Fitzgerald** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Garrison Keillor** – Prairie Home Productions; **Gordon Parks** – Rose Sprott Swain at rssprimages@aol.com; **Harold Stassen** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Harry Blackmun** – Joseph Lavenburg, National Geographic Society, Courtesy of the Supreme Court of the United States; **Hubert H. Humphrey** – Minnesota Historical Society; **James J. Hill** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Jolly Green Giant** – greefus groinks; **Judy Garland** – www.thejudyroom.com; **Norman Borlaug** – Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo; **Patty Berg** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Prince** – Matt Becker Collection, photo by Eric Mortenson; **Robert R. Gilruth** – NASA; **Roy Wilkins** – Cecil Layne, Minnesota Historical Society; **Seymour Cray** – Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota; **Sinclair Lewis** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Terry Gilliam** – www.leoneal.com; **Thomas Friedman** – Charles Haynes; **Walter Mondale** – Minnesota Historical Society; **Wanda Gág** – Minnesota Historical Society; **William and Charles Mayo** – Minnesota Historical Society

COVER PHOTO courtesy of Meet Minneapolis

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS courtesy of Explore Minnesota Tourism; University of Minnesota; USDA

Compare Minnesota



We're so confident you'll be impressed with Minnesota that we actually encourage you to do some comparison shopping. And we give you the tool to do it.

Compare Minnesota, our easy-to-use online database, lets you see how Minnesota stacks up against other states or how Minneapolis-St.

Paul compares with the nation's major metropolitan areas across several business and economic indicators.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/compare

The Right Location

We make it easy to find the perfect Minnesota location for your business startup, expansion or relocation.

MNProspector.com provides essential details on commercial real estate for sale or lease in Minnesota and supplements the listings with community profiles and demographic details.

Learn more at:

www.MNProspector.com

Shovel-Ready Sites



Our Shovel-Ready Certified Sites save you time and money and take the headache and uncertainty out of your site search.

We work closely with communities and property owners to certify that the most time-consuming legal, technical and regulatory aspects of developing specific commercial and industrial sites are already complete.

Learn more at:

www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/shovelready

Contact us.

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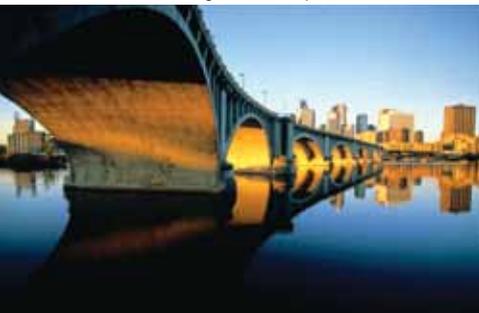
**Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
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Call us at **651-259-7432** or **1-800-657-3858** E-mail us at Economic.Development@state.mn.us

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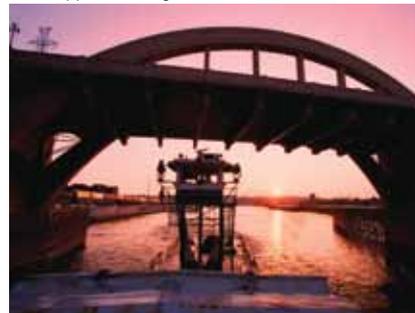
The Third Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis



Medtronic Headquarters, Fridley, Minnesota



Mississippi River barge, St. Paul, Minnesota



Minnesota Gophers TCF Football Stadium

