

Strategic Direction Four: Community Development & Economic Vitality

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will work in new and collaborative ways to maintain and build vital communities and economies at the local, regional and state level.

Rationale - Minnesota's higher education systems should "assist the state in being competitive in the world market and to prepare a highly skilled and adaptable workforce that meets Minnesota's opportunities and needs." (Minnesota State Statute Section 135A.053, Subdivision 1.) The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System is in a unique and important position to help Minnesotans develop the knowledge and skills they need to create strong communities and economies.

Indicator 11: Economic Development

Measure 11A: Graduate Related Employment Rate

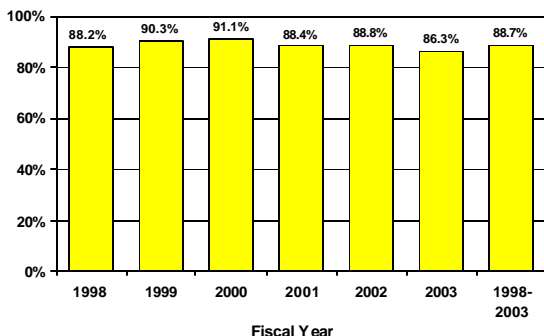
Definition: Measure 11A reports system graduates' employment rate during the year after graduation in occupations that they report were related to their program or major. The numerator is the number of graduates that reported related employment. The denominator is the number of graduates in related employment plus those seeking related employment.

Significance: Measure 11A is significant in that it indicates the extent to which college and university instructional programs are providing graduates with the knowledge and skills that employers are seeking. This measure is complementary to Measure 11B, Graduate Continued Education Rate, which indicates the proportion of graduates that continued their education.

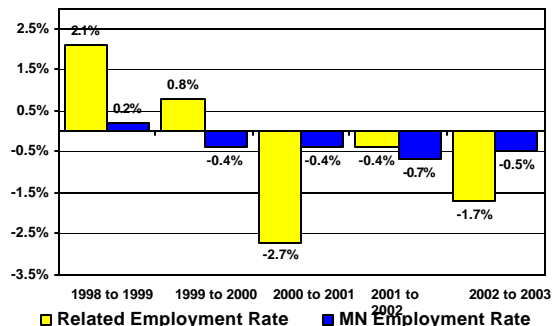
Measure: The related employment rate for system graduates in Fiscal Year 2003 was 86.3 percent, as shown in Figure 11A-1. This rate is down from a high of 91.1 percent for Fiscal Year 2000 graduates and at its lowest point during the period from 1998 to 2003.

Context: The annual change in the related employment rate tends to exceed the change in the Minnesota unadjusted employment rate. When rates are increasing, the related rate increases faster than the Minnesota rate. When rates are decreasing, the related rate also decreases faster than the Minnesota rate.

**Figure 11A – 1
GRADUATE RELATED
EMPLOYMENT RATE**



**Figure 11A – 2
CHANGES IN RELATED EMPLOYMENT
RATE EXCEED
MN EMPLOYMENT RATE**



Drill-Downs: Related employment rates for Fiscal Year 2003 graduates were highest at graduate and diploma levels, as shown in Figure 11A-3.

