

AGENDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

"An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items on/or not on the current agenda. Items requiring Council action maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate. You will be limited to three (3) minutes and we ask that you conduct yourself in a professional, courteous manner, and refrain from the use of profanity. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the loss of your privilege to speak".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. To consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City EDA for August 11, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS:

2. 7E Regional Profiles and Chisago County
3. September EDA Updates

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Continued discussion on EDA work Plan

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURN

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 11, 2025
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

*On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming EDA were present:
EDA Members: Mayor Iverson, Andrew Buccanero, Alex Bulmer, and Jeff Allen
Also Present: Robb Linwood - City Administrator*

ABSENT: Schilling

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

“An opportunity for members of the public to address the EDA on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring EDA action maybe deferred to staff for research and future EDA Agendas if appropriate.”

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City EDA for June 2, 2025

A MOTION WAS MADE BY EDA MEMBER BULMER SECONDED BY EDA MEMBER ALLEN TO APPROVE THE “REGULAR MEETING” MINUTES OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR JUNE 2, 2025

Voting Aye: Iverson, Allen, Bulmer, and Buccanero

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the “Consent Agenda” will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2. To consider the resignation of Trent Hampton from the Wyoming EDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER IVERSON SECONDED BY BULMER TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF TRENT HAMPTON FROM THE WYOMING EDA

Voting Aye: Iverson, Buccanero, Allen, and Bulmer

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

3. MNCAR Expo

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BULMER SECONDED BY ALLEN TO RECOMMEND APPROVE THE ATTENDANCE OF THE WYOMING EDA AT THE MNCAR EXPO AND FUNDS FOR BOOTH ITEMS

Voting Aye: Iverson, Buccanero, Allen, and Bulmer

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

4. 2026 Budget Discussion

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER IVERSON SECONDED BY ALLEN TO RECOMMEND APPROVE THE 2026 EDA BUDGET IN AN AMOUNT OF \$15,000

The EDA discussed some of their continued goals and work plan.

- The EDA discussed some digital billboards, the downtown plan, painting electrical boxes, mural ideas on the street
- They discussed the Wyoming Play Area, Rosenbauer, Polaris, Hallberg, Educational component.
- A coffee shop in the community is a priority.
- Wyoming Signage on the freeway
- Water Tower Light discussion.

Voting Aye: Iverson, Buccanero, Allen, and Bulmer

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

5. To consider a letter of interest from Theresa Meyer to join the Wyoming EDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BUCCANERO SECONDED BY ALLEN TO APPROVE THERESA MEYER TO A COMMISSION MEMBER OF THE WYOMING EDA

Voting Aye: Iverson, Buccanero, Allen, and Bulmer

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Wyoming EDA Updates – August

City Administrator Linwood gave the update that the business of the month for July is Regal Machine and for August is the Hallberg Center for Creative Arts. He also spoke about the new development of approximately 30 single family homes and 6 row houses on the west side of the freeway or Carlos Avery Pointe.

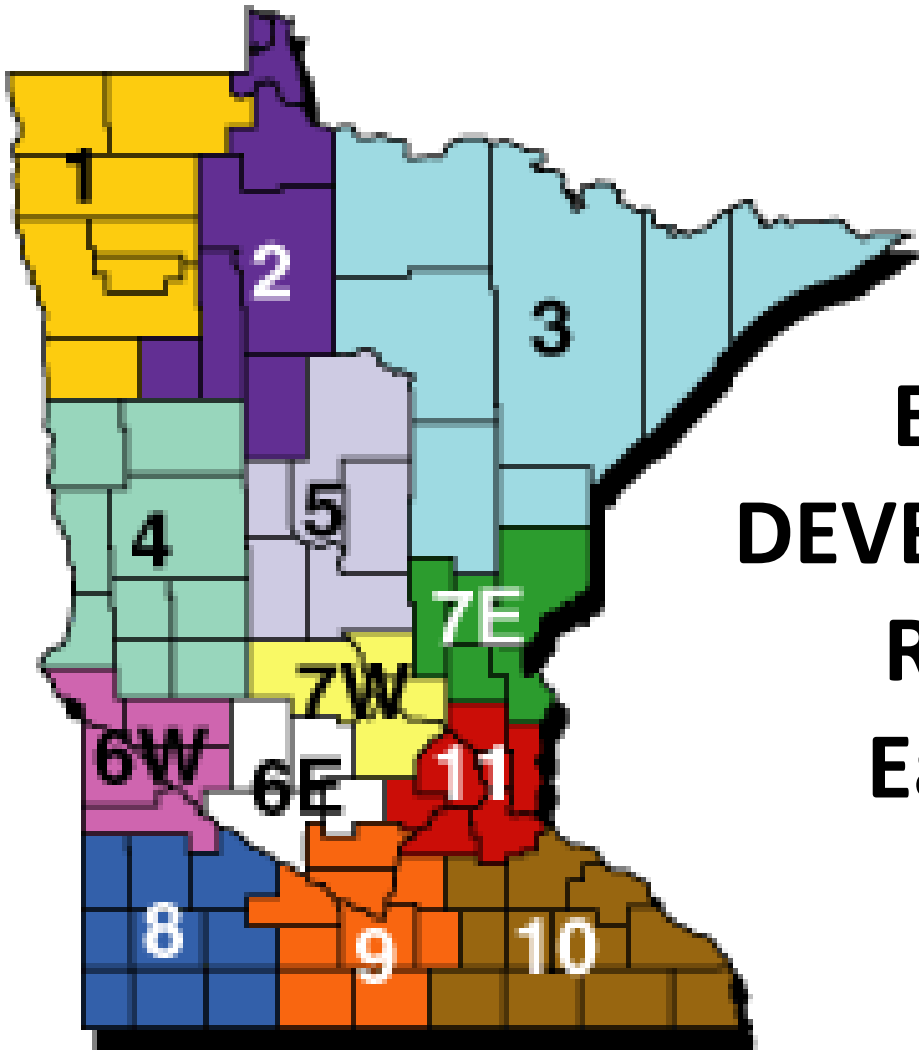
ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BULMERSECONDED BY ALLEN TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 11, 2025 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AT 6:26P.M.

Voting Aye: Iverson, Buccanero, Allen, and Bulmer

Voting Nay:

Abstain:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION 7E: East Central

Covers counties:
 Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec
 Mille Lacs, and Pine

2024 REGIONAL PROFILE

Updated January 2025

Luke Greiner
 Regional Analyst, Central & Southwest Minnesota
 Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
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DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION CHANGE

Economic Development Region 7E – East Central includes 5 counties, located in the Central Minnesota planning region. Region 7E was home to 175,943 people in 2023, comprising 3% of the state’s total population. The region saw a 4% population increase since 2020, making it the eighth largest of the 13 economic development regions (EDRs) in total population, and the second fastest growing. In comparison, the state of Minnesota saw a 0.6% gain from 2020 to 2023 (Table 1).

	2020 Population	2023 Estimates	2020-2023 Change	
			Number	Percent
Region 7E	169,123	175,943	+6,820	+4.0%
Chisago Co.	56,621	58,535	+1,914	+3.4%
Isanti Co.	41,135	43,182	+2,047	+5.0%
Kanabec Co.	16,032	16,602	+570	+3.6%
Mille Lacs Co.	26,459	27,427	+968	+3.7%
Pine Co.	28,876	30,197	+1,321	+4.6%
Minnesota	5,706,494	5,737,915	+31,421	+0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Chisago County is the largest county in Region 7E and is the 18th largest county of 87 in the state, with over 58,500 people in 2023. It added 1,914 people, a 3.4% increase, since 2020, the 11th fastest growth rate. Isanti County experienced the fastest growth in the region with an increase of 2,047 people and now has over 43,000 people. The next largest county is Pine County with 30,197 people, while Mille Lacs County increased by 3.7% and has 27,427 people, and Kanabec County is the smallest county in the region with 16,602 people, the 52nd largest county in the state.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

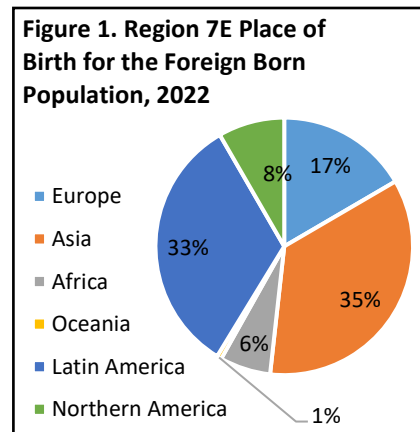
With an aging population, Region 7E experienced a natural decrease – more deaths than births – of -406 people from 2020-2023. However, the region gained substantial population because of net domestic migration with an increase of 7,104 residents moving into the area, nearly all in-migration was from domestic residents from other parts of the state or U.S. (Table 2).

Without much international in-migration, Region 7E is now home to 3,213 foreign born residents, or about 1.9% of the total population. The number of immigrants in the region increased by 40% since 2010, faster than the statewide growth rate of 31%. Just over 35% (1,130 people) of these immigrants were from Asia, while the largest number was from Central and South America, accounting for 41% of the region’s foreign-born. Lastly, there were 533 people from Europe, but this population has decreased since 2010 (Figure 1).

	Total Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	Inter-national	Domestic
Region 7E	+6,794	-406	5,814	6,220	+7,234	+130	+7,104
Minnesota	+31,111	+40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	+34,624	-45,976

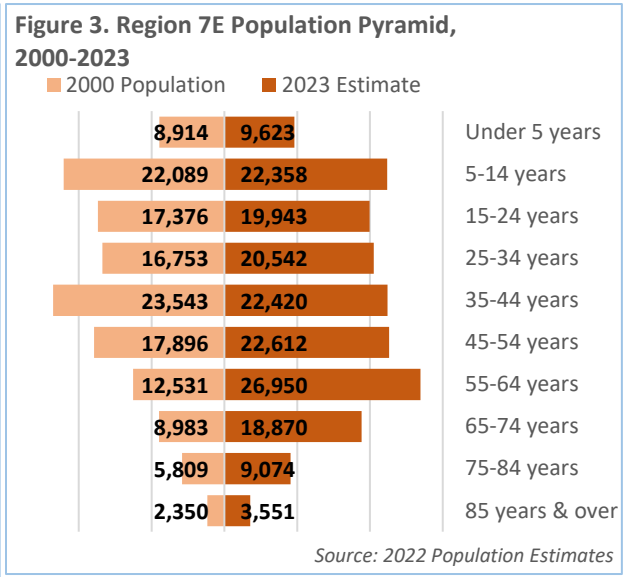
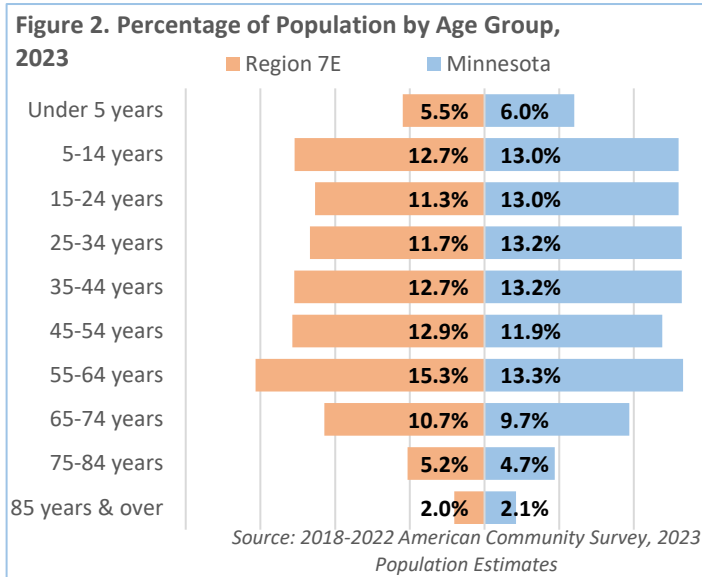
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Based on year of entry, Region 7E’s foreign born population was “older” than the rest of the state. About 22% of the region’s immigrants entered the U.S. since 2010 and another 21% entered between 2000 and 2009, compared to 33% and 29% statewide. The remaining 57% of immigrants in the region settled in the U.S. prior to 2000. Foreign-born residents have a different age profile than the native-born population, with only 11% being between under 25 years of age, compared to 30% of the total population. About 18% of the foreign-born population has less than a high school degree while another 37% is a high school graduate. Meanwhile, 18% of foreign-born people in the region have a bachelor’s or higher degree.



POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

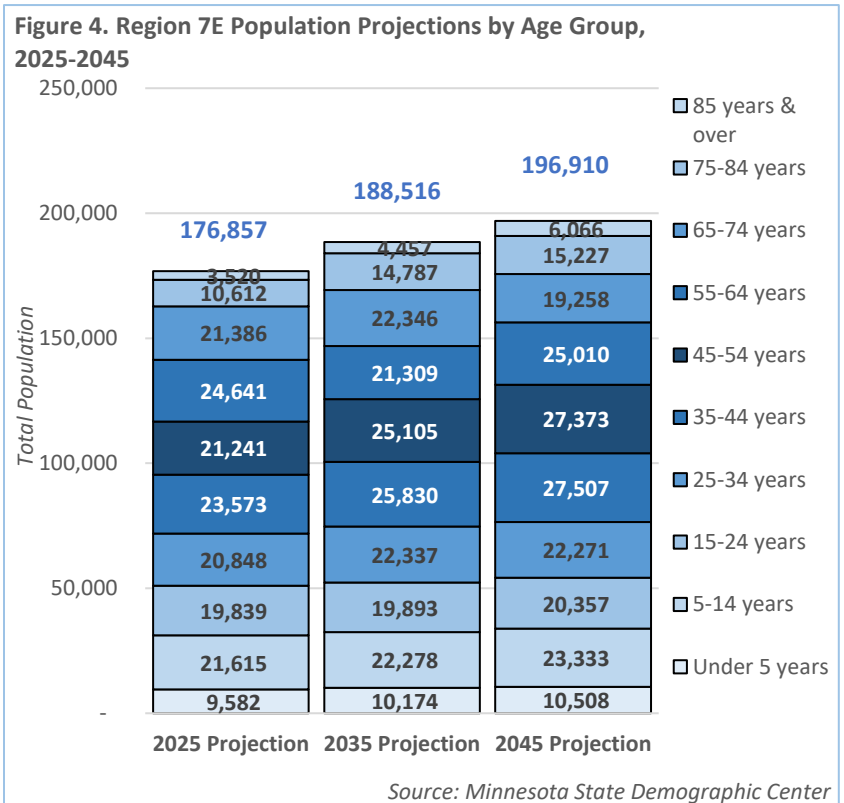
Region 7E has a slightly older population than the rest of the state, with 18% of residents aged 65 years and over, compared to 16.5% statewide. In addition, Region 7E had a higher percentage of people in the 45- to 64-year-old age groups, but consequently had a lower percentage of people in the 25- to 44-year-old age group, typically the leading edge of the “prime working years”. A large portion of the area’s population is a part of the Baby Boom generation, which is creating a significant shift in regional demographics over time. Between 2000 and 2023, the 55 years or older group added more than 28,000 residents (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).



POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP

The more rapid recent population growth is expected to help drive continued growth in the future. According to the [State Demographic Center](#), Region 7E is expected to gain nearly 20,000 residents from 2025 to 2045, an 11.3% increase (see Figure 4). By comparison the state of Minnesota is projected to grow 5.5%.

Much of this population growth is expected to happen in older age groups. Region 7E is projected to add 7,161 people aged 75 years and over, as well as about 6,132 people in the 45- to 54-year-old age group. However, Region 7E is projected to lose 2,128 people in the 65 to 74 year old age group – as current Baby Boomers continue to age.



POPULATION BY RACE

Region 7E’s population is less diverse than the state’s, and actually became less diverse recently, bucking historical trends. In 2020, 90.5% of the region’s residents reported white alone as their race, compared to 92.3% in 2022 and 79.8% statewide. At 1.4%, Region 7E had a higher percentage of American Indian or Alaska Natives than the state, but otherwise had much smaller percentages of people of all other race and origin groups, especially Black or African American, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino origin (Table 3).

With 6,240 people, the largest racial or ethnic group other than White is people of two or more races, which increased 147% from 2011 to 2022. Conversely, the region saw an 18% decline in the number of American Indian residents.

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Region 7E				Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022		Percent	Change from 2011-2022
			Numeric	Percent		
Total	170,099	100.0%	+6,849	+4.2%	100.0%	+7.9%
White	156,958	92.3%	+2,486	+1.6%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	1,821	1.1%	+104	+6.1%	6.7%	+44.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	2,300	1.4%	-510	-18.1%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian & Other Pac. Islander	2,056	1.2%	+1,055	+105.4%	5.1%	+37.1%
Some Other Race	724	0.4%	+4	+0.6%	2.3%	+84.7%
Two or More Races	6,240	3.7%	+3,710	+146.6%	5.3%	+159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	4,356	2.6%	+1,500	+52.5%	5.7%	+34.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

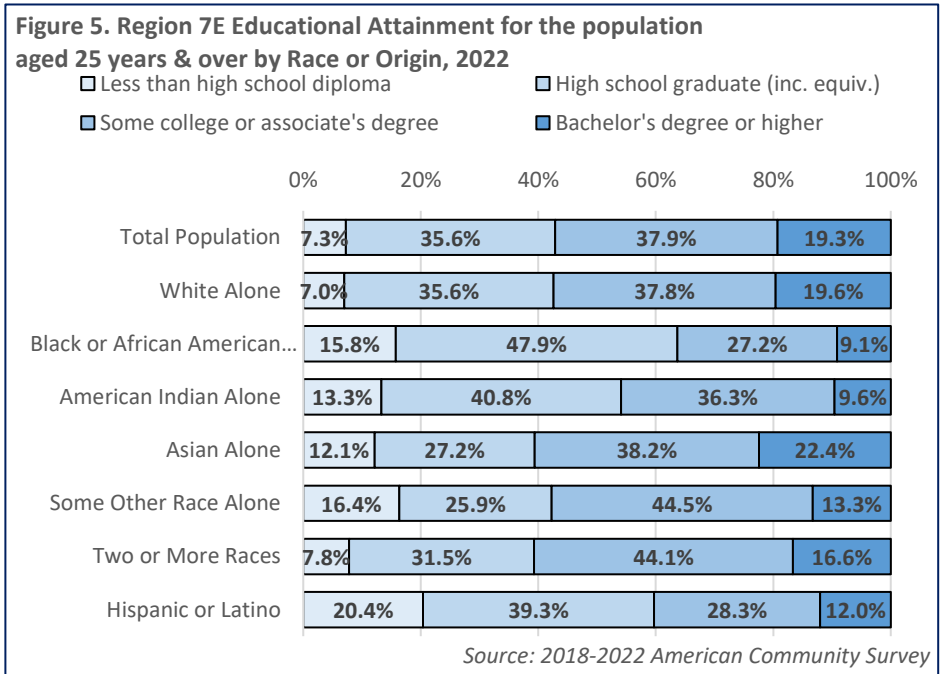
With 33% of adults aged 25 years and over having a college degree, Region 7E has lower educational attainment than the state, where half of adults have an associate, bachelor’s, or advanced degree. However, 13.3% of adults in Region 7E have an associate degree, which outpaces the state. Another 25% have some college experience, but no degree.

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Population Aged 25 years & Over	Region 7E		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 25 years & over	119,900	100.0%	100.0%
Less than high school	8,691	7.2%	6.3%
High school graduate (incl. equiv.)	42,707	35.6%	23.7%
Some college, no degree	29,428	24.5%	20.2%
Associate degree	15,942	13.3%	11.7%
Bachelor's degree	16,303	13.6%	24.9%
Advanced degree	6,829	5.7%	13.3%

Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Educational attainment varied significantly by race and ethnicity in Region 7E. In addition to overall educational attainment being lower in the region than the state, the percentage of people of other races with less than a high school diploma was even higher.

Roughly two-thirds of Black or African American residents in the region had a high school diploma or less, as did over half of American Indians and Hispanics or Latinos. In contrast, a higher share of people of Two or More Races and Asians had attended some college or earned a degree (Figure 5). Asians also had the highest share of those with a bachelor’s or higher.



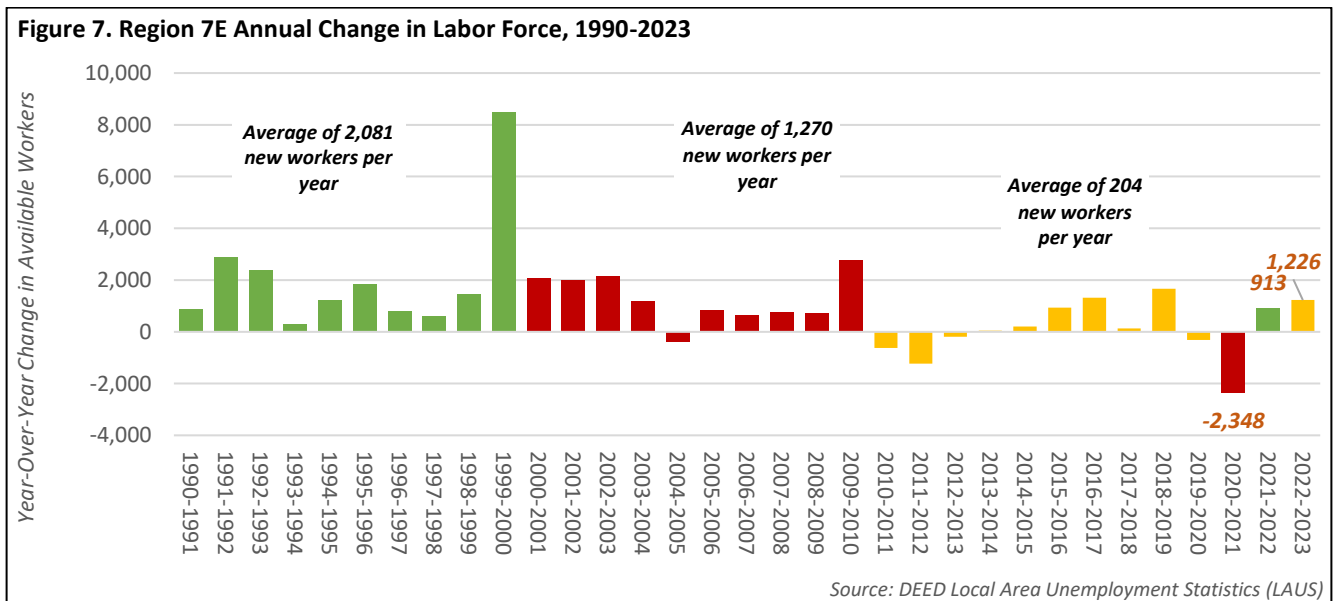
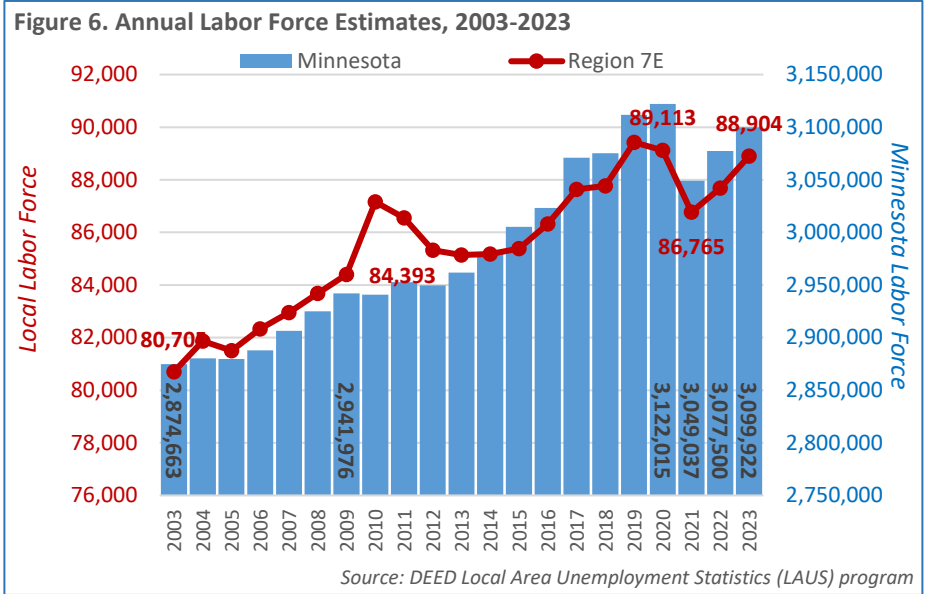
LABOR FORCE

LABOR FORCE CHANGE

According to data from DEED’s [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, Region 7E had an annual average labor force count of just under 89,000 workers through 2023. The recent increase of the labor force is a rebound from the past few years. After rising rapidly in the early part of the century, labor force slowed after 2010 before again increasing into 2019 (Figure 6). At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the labor force declined precipitously, losing

more than 2,000 workers over two years. With relatively low unemployment rates, the labor market in Region 7E remains similar compared to before the pandemic, with about 3,662 unemployed workers actively seeking work in 2023, down from a peak of over 9,000 workers in 2009 and 6,700 in 2020.

Averaging a net gain of 2,081 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2000, employers in Region 7E were able to tap into a large and growing pool of talented workers. Although the regional labor force and economy continue to grow, the rate of labor force growth slowed considerably, demonstrated by Region 7E adding an average of only 204 workers per year from 2010 to 2020. Finally, the trend was punctuated by a loss of more than 2,300 into 2021 (Figure 7). A relaxed labor market in 2023 has helped reduce friction in the economy from a lack of workers. Domestic in-migration from urban counties to the south have become a relief despite still having a smaller labor force than pre-pandemic. Businesses have and will continue to adjust to slower labor force growth and maximize collaboration with local education partners.



LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS

In step with the region’s projected population changes, applying current labor force participation rates to population projections by age group, as shown in Figure 4, would lead to steady increases in workforce numbers in Region 7E over the next decade (Table 5).

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

With 65% of people aged 16 years and over in the labor force, Region 7E had lower labor force participation rates than the state’s 68.7%. The region had lower labor force participation rates than the state in all but the youngest age group, and the overall rate was lower because a lower percentage of Region 7E’s labor force was the 25-44 age group (Table 6). Likewise, the region had lower participation rates than the state in most race groups. In addition, there were around 6,000 workers with disabilities in the regional labor force.

Table 5. Region 7E Labor Force Projections

	2025 Labor Force Projection	2035 Labor Force Projection	2025-2035 Change	
			Numeric	Percent
16 to 19 years	4,462	4,447	-15	-0.3%
20 to 24 years	7,674	7,748	+74	+1.0%
25 to 44 years	37,679	40,857	+3,177	+8.4%
45 to 54 years	18,316	21,648	+3,332	+18.2%
55 to 64 years	17,069	14,761	-2,308	-13.5%
65 to 74 years	4,795	5,010	+215	+4.5%
75 years & over	899	1,224	+325	+36.2%
Total Labor Force	90,895	95,695	+4,800	+5.3%

Source: calculated from Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

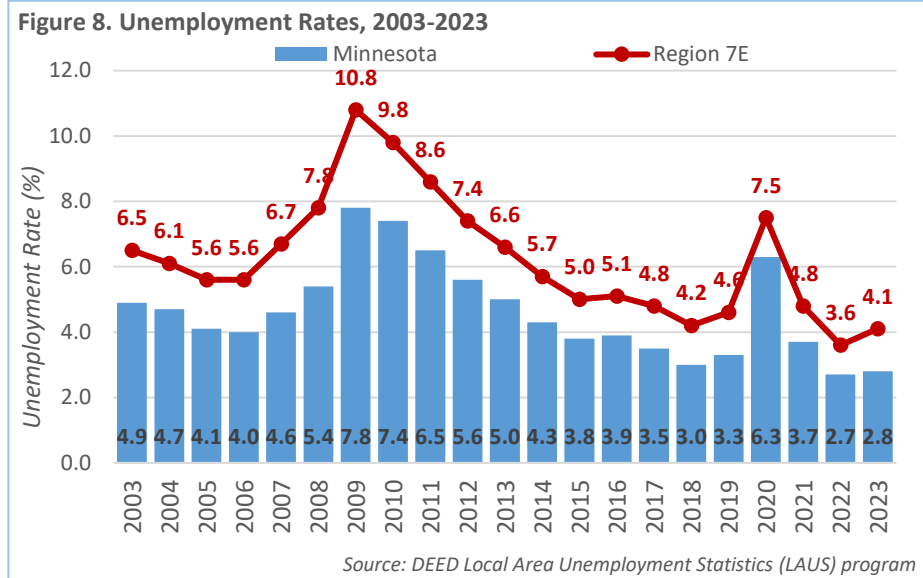
Table 6. Employment Characteristics, 2022

	Region 7E			Minnesota		Percent of Total Labor Force	
	In Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Region 7E	Minnesota
Total Labor Force	88,733	64.7%	4.4%	68.7%	4.0%		
16 to 19 years	4,501	53.2%	7.2%	53.0%	9.8%	5.1%	5.1%
20 to 24 years	7,212	82.1%	6.6%	83.1%	6.7%	8.1%	9.7%
25 to 44 years	35,231	84.8%	4.7%	88.8%	3.5%	39.7%	42.8%
45 to 54 years	18,851	86.2%	3.8%	87.8%	2.9%	21.2%	19.0%
55 to 64 years	18,049	69.3%	3.0%	72.8%	3.1%	20.3%	17.6%
65 to 74 years	4,090	22.4%	3.5%	27.6%	3.3%	4.6%	4.9%
75 years & over	776	6.4%	1.8%	6.6%	3.2%	0.9%	0.8%
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin							
White alone	83,409	65.3%	4.1%	67.8%	3.4%	94.0%	81.3%
Black or African American	433	27.7%	9.5%	71.5%	8.7%	0.5%	6.1%
American Indian & Alaska Native	862	52.0%	16.4%	57.6%	11.9%	1.0%	0.7%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,096	70.0%	4.7%	73.9%	3.6%	1.2%	5.2%
Some Other Race	436	73.8%	3.9%	76.1%	6.1%	0.5%	2.3%
Two or More Races	2,470	62.1%	7.9%	74.3%	6.6%	2.8%	4.3%
Hispanic or Latino	1,905	64.6%	6.7%	77.0%	6.3%	2.1%	5.4%
Employment Characteristics by Veteran Status, 18 to 64 years							
Veterans, 18 to 64 years	3,978	76.1%	5.2%	81.1%	4.0%	4.8%	3.4%
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	5,868	51.5%	10.1%	54.4%	10.2%	7.4%	5.9%
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	72,159	80.7%	4.1%	84.4%	3.3%	81.3%	79.5%
Less than H.S. Diploma	3,778	64.5%	5.4%	67.2%	4.6%	5.2%	4.7%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	21,983	74.1%	2.0%	76.8%	2.5%	30.5%	19.0%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	30,421	84.4%	3.2%	85.1%	3.6%	42.2%	32.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	15,960	89.1%	2.1%	90.3%	2.0%	22.1%	43.4%

Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

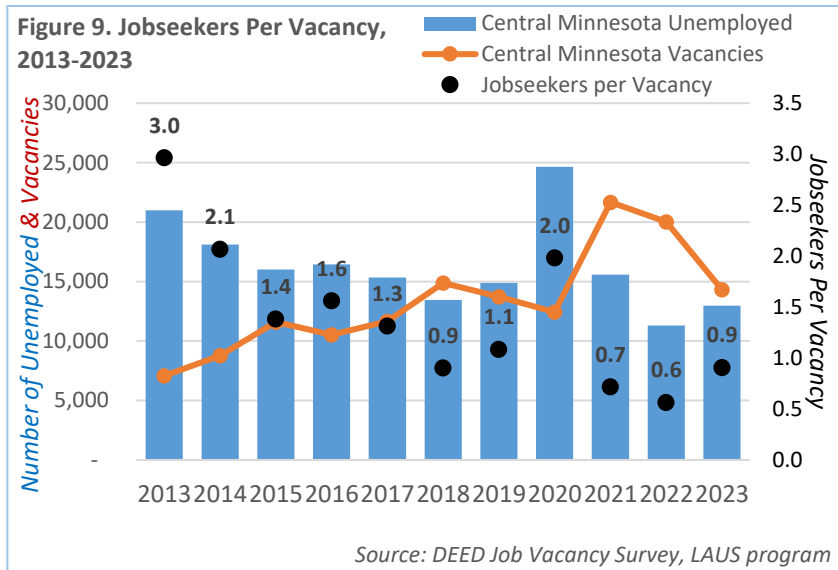
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Region 7E has consistently had higher unemployment rates than the state, typically hovering around 1.5% above the state rate. According to DEED’s [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#), Region 7E’s rate rose as high as 10.8% in 2009, which was the highest of the 13 EDRs, and 3% above the state rate. Since then, the state and region’s economies have recovered and unemployment rates have dropped, with Region 7E reporting 4.6% in 2019, before spiking to 7.5% in 2020. Rates then returned to historical lows in 2022 and 2023. (Figure 8).



JOBSEEKERS PER VACANCY

As the number of available workers has declined, the region’s labor market has tightened. One clear demonstration of this is the ratio of unemployed jobseekers per vacancy, which dipped below 1-to-1 over the past three years. After the temporary disruption of 2020, a steep increase in vacancies paired with declining unemployment led to an all-time low ratio of 0.6 in 2022 (Figure 9). According to recent Job Vacancy Survey results, there were 14,320 openings reported by Central Minnesota employers compared to 12,977 unemployed jobseekers in the region in 2023. The ratio climbed as high as 4.1-to-1 in 2011.



COMMUTE SHED AND LABOR SHED

According to commuting data from the [Census Bureau](#), Region 7E is a net labor exporter, having more workers than available jobs. In sum, 31,008 workers both lived and worked in Region 7E in 2021, while 16,492 workers drove into the region from surrounding counties for work, compared to 47,500 workers who lived in the region but drove to surrounding counties for work (Table 7 and Figure 10).

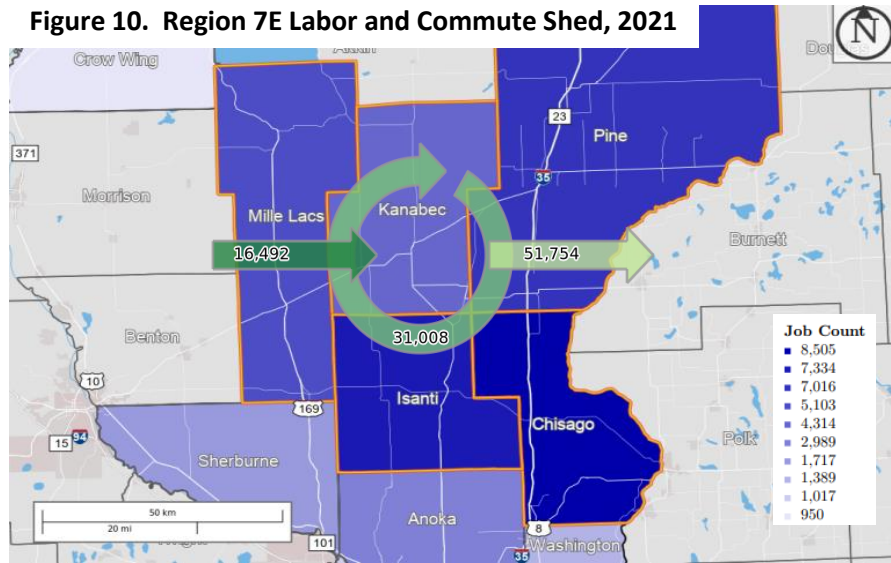
	2021	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	47,500	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	16,492	34.7%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	31,008	65.3%
Living in the Selection Area		
Living in the Selection Area	82,762	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	51,754	62.5%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	31,008	37.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap

Chisago County is the largest county and the largest employment center in the region and was the biggest draw for workers, followed by Isanti County, Pine County, Mille Lacs County, and Kanabec County is the smallest.

Most workers in the region commute to the Twin Cities metro area and Hennepin County, as well as to the northern and eastern counties like Ramsey, Anoka, and Washington County (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Region 7E Labor and Commute Shed, 2021

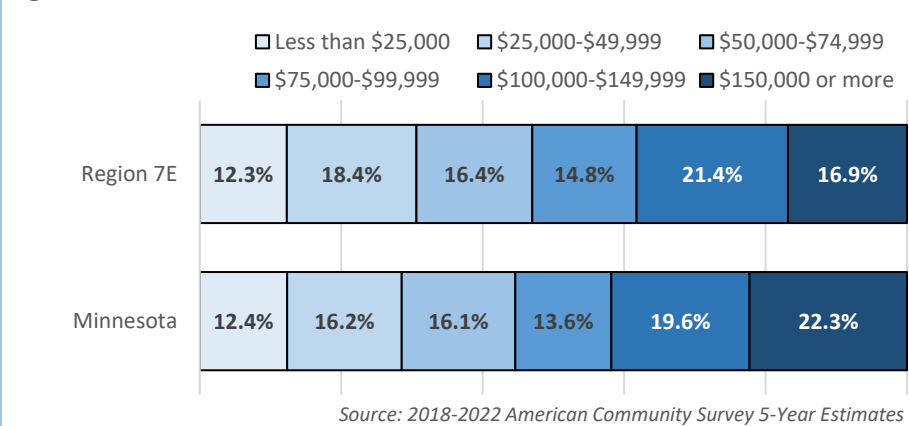


INCOMES, WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

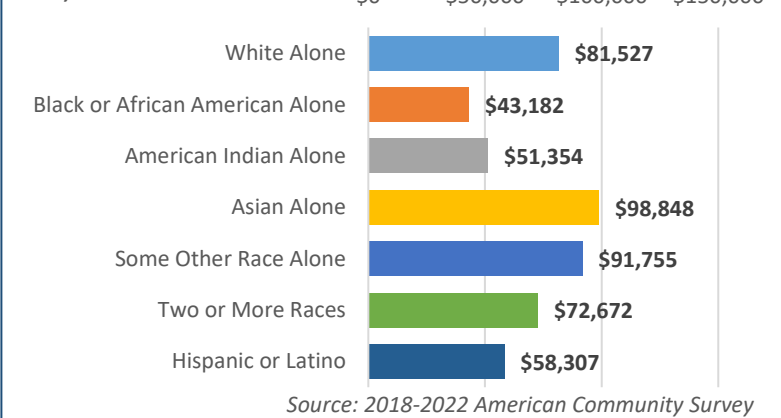
At \$80,935, median household incomes were lower in Region 7E than the state, where the median income in 2022 was \$84,313. Just over 30% of the households in the region had incomes below \$50,000 in 2022, similar to statewide. Similarly, only 17% of households in Region 7E earned over \$150,000 per year, compared to 22% percent of households statewide (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2022



Median household incomes varied by race or origin in the region. Asian and people of some other race households reported the highest incomes in Region 7E, with a median income that was more than \$17,000 higher than for White households. Next highest were incomes for two or more races and Hispanic or Latino households at. In contrast, American Indian households reported much lower household incomes, as did Black households (Figure 12). Sample sizes for all minority races are small, leaving room for errors and significant fluctuations in all data points from year to year.

Figure 12. Region 7E Median Household Income by Race, 2022



COST OF LIVING

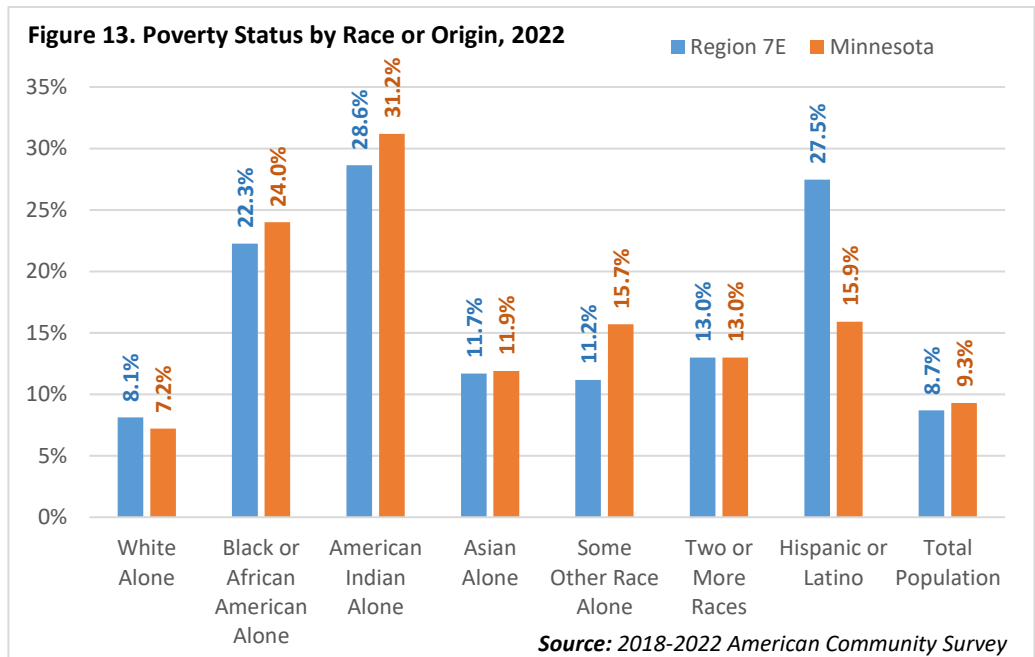
According to DEED’s [Cost of Living tool](#), the basic needs budget for an average Minnesota family (which consists of 2 adults and 1 child, with 1 full-time and 1 part-time worker) was \$67,320 in 2023. The cost of living for a similar family in Region 7E was \$69,084 – which was the second highest of the 13 EDRs in the state, behind only the Twin Cities metro area. The highest monthly costs were for transportation, food, and housing; and the cost of the region’s transportation was significantly higher than the state. In order to meet the basic cost of living for the region, the workers in the family scenario described would need to earn \$22.14 per hour over the course of 60 hours per work week, a 12% increase from the prior year (Table 8).

Table 8. Region 7E Cost of Living, 2023										
Family Composition	Number of Workers	Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Region 7E										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	\$35,952	\$17.28	\$0	\$408	\$160	\$1,010	\$675	\$340	\$403
Single, 1 child	1 FT	\$57,588	\$27.69	\$852	\$600	\$398	\$1,286	\$681	\$452	\$530
2 parents, 1 child	1 FT, 1 PT	\$69,084	\$22.14	\$426	\$930	\$575	\$1,286	\$1,236	\$530	\$774
2 parents, 2 children	2 FT	\$94,932	\$22.82	\$1,267	\$1,210	\$584	\$1,736	\$1,289	\$706	\$1,119
State of Minnesota										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375
2 parents, 1 child	1 FT, 1 PT	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

DEED’s Cost of Living tool provides different estimates for household compositions including single people, partnered couples, and up to 4 children. For a single person living alone and working full-time, the estimated yearly cost in Region 7E would be \$35,952, which would require an hourly wage of \$17.28 to meet the basic needs standard of living (Table 8). That was again the second highest in the state.

Overall, Region 7E’s poverty rate was 8.7%, which was below the statewide rate of 9.3%. Like incomes, poverty levels varied widely by race and origin. It was estimated that over 29% of the region’s American Indian and 28% of Hispanic or Latinos were below the poverty level in 2022. Likewise, poverty levels hovered around 11% those of Two or More Races, and 22% for Black or African Americans. About 11% percent of Asian or other Pacific Islanders also were below the poverty level in 2022 and only 11% of those identifying as Some Other Race were below the poverty level. With the exception of the higher rate for Whites and Hispanics/Latinos, the region’s poverty rates were below the statewide rates (Figure 13).



WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

According to DEED’s [Occupational Employment Statistics](#) program, the median hourly wage for all occupations in Region 7E was \$22.48 in the first quarter of 2024, which was the sixth highest wage level of the 13 EDRs in the state. Region 7E’s median wage was \$2.04 below the state’s median hourly wage, equaling 92% of the statewide wage rate, and \$4.60 below the median hourly wage in the 7-County Twin Cities metro area, which would amount to \$9,568 per year for a full-time worker. Region 7E had lower wages than neighboring Regions 7W at \$23.85 and Region 3 at \$23.41, but higher than Region 5 at \$21.89 (Table 9).

Nearly 11% of the jobs in Region 7E were Food Prep and Serving Related occupations, which had a higher concentration than the state as a whole. The highest location quotient was for Protective Service occupations, at 1.7. Region 7E also had a higher share of workers in Community & Social Service; Education, Training & Library; Food Preparation & Serving Related; Farming, Fishing, & Forestry; Healthcare Support; and Construction and Extraction occupations (Table 10).

	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment
EDR 1 - Northwest	\$23.51	35,370
EDR 2 - Headwaters	\$22.68	32,230
EDR 3 - Arrowhead	\$23.41	138,010
EDR 4 - West Central	\$23.04	89,340
EDR 5 - North Central	\$21.89	62,970
EDR 6E - Southwest Central	\$22.72	50,190
EDR 6W - Upper MN Valley	\$22.61	16,230
EDR 7E - East Central	\$23.18	48,440
EDR 7W - Central	\$23.85	175,560
EDR 8 - Southwest	\$22.81	52,080
EDR 9 - South Central	\$23.24	100,990
EDR 10 - Southeast	\$24.26	240,340
EDR 11 - 7-County Twin Cities	\$27.78	1,743,500
State of Minnesota	\$25.22	2,881,100

Source: [DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics](#)

	Region 7E				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment	Share of Total Employment	Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Employment	Share of Total Employment
Total, All Occupations	\$23.18	48,440	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$48.04	2,620	5.4%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.51	1,560	3.2%	0.5	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.52	390	0.8%	0.2	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.50	720	1.5%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$37.53	340	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$28.47	1,580	3.3%	1.6	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$43.72	170	0.4%	0.5	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.45	3,760	7.8%	1.4	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$25.64	300	0.6%	0.5	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$41.14	3,030	6.3%	1.0	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.31	3,230	6.7%	1.1	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$27.55	1,300	2.7%	1.7	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$15.24	5,200	10.7%	1.3	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.29	1,350	2.8%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.97	1,150	2.4%	1.2	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.40	4,940	10.2%	1.2	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.38	5,190	10.7%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.75	80	0.2%	1.4	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.61	2,780	5.7%	1.5	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.91	1,840	3.8%	1.0	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$23.23	3,470	7.2%	1.0	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$19.92	3,430	7.1%	0.9	\$22.86	225,820	7.8%

Source: [DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics](#)

Not surprisingly, the lowest-paying jobs are concentrated in food prep and serving, building, grounds cleaning and maintenance, sales and related, personal care and service, and healthcare support, which tend to have lower experience and educational requirements. For the most part, the gap in pay between Region 7E and the state is also much lower in these jobs, or has higher wages than statewide. In contrast, the highest paying jobs are found in management, legal, architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, healthcare practitioners, business and financial operations, and life, physical, and social science occupations, which all need higher levels of education and experience, including many that require postsecondary training. The pay gaps between the region and state are much bigger in these occupations.

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Employers in Central Minnesota reported 14,320 job vacancies in 2023, which was substantially less than 2022 but continues to be relatively high. The median hourly wage offer was \$19.13 across all occupations but ranged from a low of \$14.55 per hour for Personal Care and Service workers, to roughly \$32 per hour for Computer and Mathematical occupations.

Overall, 31% of the openings were part-time, only 33% required any postsecondary education, and 36% required a year or more of experience (Table 11). In sum, educational requirements in the region have been declining over the past 5 years, while previous work experience requirements were rising, largely the result of an expanding economy and tightening labor market. Of all openings in Central Minnesota in 2023, roughly a quarter had a median wage offer below \$16.43, which was about \$0.75 below the wage needed for a single person without children to meet a basic needs cost of living standard in Central Minnesota.

Table 11. Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

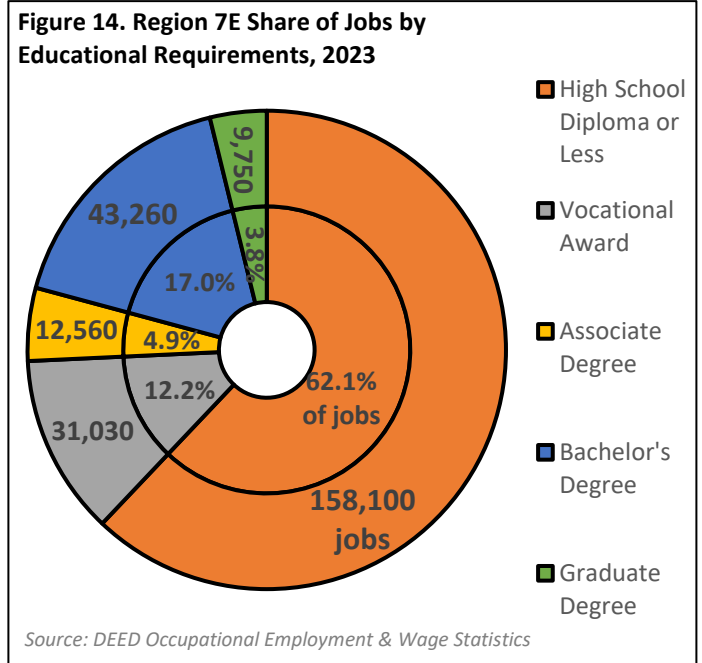
Central Minnesota	Number of Total Vacancies	Median Hourly Wage Offer	Percent Part-Time	Percent Temp or Seasonal	Requiring Postsecondary Education	Requiring 1 or More Years of Work Exp.	Requiring Certificate or License	Job Vacancy Rate
Total, All Occupations	14,320	\$19.13	31%	6%	33%	36%	48%	5.2%
Management	281	\$28.24	3%	1%	91%	97%	80%	1.9%
Business & Financial Operations	220	\$26.20	11%	15%	63%	70%	28%	2.1%
Computer & Mathematical	132	\$32.07	3%	1%	34%	92%	10%	4.4%
Architecture & Engineering	230	\$30.57	3%	1%	56%	74%	52%	6.4%
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	60	\$31.02	2%	2%	60%	52%	70%	3.5%
Community & Social Service	417	\$25.91	24%	3%	83%	89%	91%	7.9%
Legal	40	\$31.72	0%	2%	100%	100%	100%	4.2%
Education, Training & Library	597	\$19.04	30%	22%	71%	14%	78%	3.3%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	187	\$17.70	85%	67%	43%	21%	46%	7.9%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,967	\$28.25	33%	1%	86%	40%	97%	11.6%
Healthcare Support	1,097	\$17.11	57%	1%	45%	16%	81%	6.8%
Protective Service	272	\$24.39	36%	9%	42%	53%	85%	6.3%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,319	\$14.84	48%	3%	1%	16%	6%	9.9%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	318	\$16.27	39%	7%	0%	15%	17%	3.9%
Personal Care & Service	433	\$14.55	25%	7%	16%	13%	41%	8.2%
Sales & Related	1,632	\$17.55	29%	3%	5%	22%	15%	6.5%
Office & Administrative Support	747	\$17.98	15%	4%	11%	47%	17%	2.5%
Construction & Extraction	297	\$23.74	0%	1%	27%	69%	70%	1.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	589	\$24.92	4%	1%	33%	51%	56%	5.2%
Production	993	\$20.14	9%	7%	18%	46%	5%	3.5%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,275	\$19.17	43%	11%	4%	41%	78%	5.1%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Similar to Job Vacancy Survey results, data from DEED’s Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics program shows that only about 38% of jobs in the region require postsecondary education for entry. The other 62% can be started with a high school diploma or less and possibly some amount of on-the-job training (Figure 14).

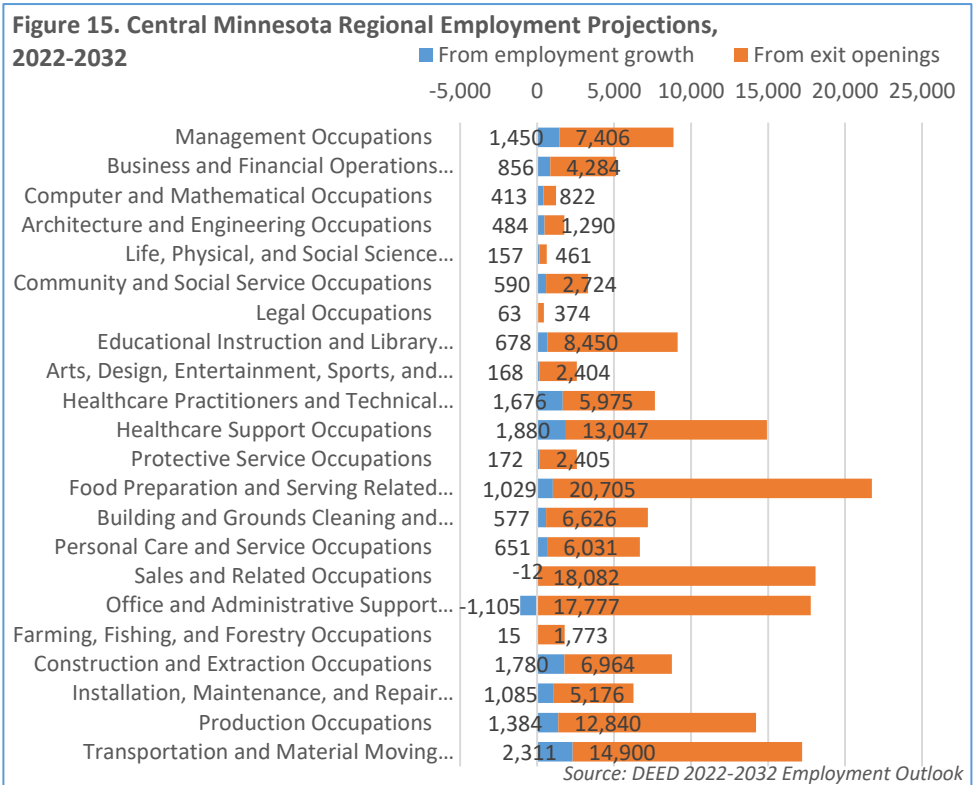
Certain careers – such as Dentists, Lawyers, and Teachers – require a college education, while other jobs – including Cost Estimators, Sales Representatives, and Correctional Officers – do not. College is an excellent way to move up career ladders and open windows of opportunity to licensed fields that would otherwise be closed, such as Nursing or Engineering. Many of these occupations offer high wages and are in high demand in the marketplace. While education is typically a worthwhile investment, college can be expensive – with average annual expenses ranging between \$13,000 and over \$54,000 per year in Minnesota. For those who go to college, choice of major matters – different programs lead to jobs that earn different amounts of money.



EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Overall, the 13-county Central Minnesota planning area is projected to grow 5.2% from 2022 to 2032, a gain of 16,302 new jobs. The revised faster growth projection makes the region the fastest growing region out of the 6 planning areas.

In addition, the region is also expected to need 160,516 replacement openings to fill existing jobs left vacant by retirements and other career changers. Healthcare Support, Architecture and Engineering and Computer and Mathematical occupations are expected to see the most new growth, but every occupational group will show some future demand either through new jobs or replacement openings (Figure 15).



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

According to DEED's [Occupations in Demand](#) tool, there are roughly 300 occupations showing relatively high demand in the region, with training and education requirements ranging from short-term on-the-job training to postsecondary education to advanced degrees. These occupations are spread across different sectors but are also concentrated in the region's major industries. For example, Nursing Assistants, Personal Care Aides, Home Health Aides, Licensed Practical and Registered Nurses, Electricians, Industrial Engineers, Machinists, Truck Drivers, and Teachers are all in high demand (Table 12).

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$35,817/yr	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$60,953/yr	Registered Nurses \$97,279/yr	General & Operations Managers \$82,833/yr
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$35,952/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,289/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,926/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,116/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,548/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,035/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$78,056/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Exc. Special and CTE \$66,539/yr
Cashiers \$31,985/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,872/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,316/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$108,690/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$38,723/yr	Machinists \$61,397/yr	Calibration Technologists and Technicians \$51,876/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,309/yr
Janitors and Cleaners \$37,511/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$43,830/yr	Dental Hygienists \$95,926/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$73,436/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$24,272/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,071/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$77,932/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$65,914/yr
Childcare Workers \$32,303/yr	Electricians \$79,223/yr	Surgical Technologists \$66,288/yr	Industrial Engineers \$97,918/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,389/yr	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors \$54,808/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,531/yr	Project Management Specialists \$85,453/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$44,527/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,462/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$46,438/yr	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$69,045/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

ECONOMY

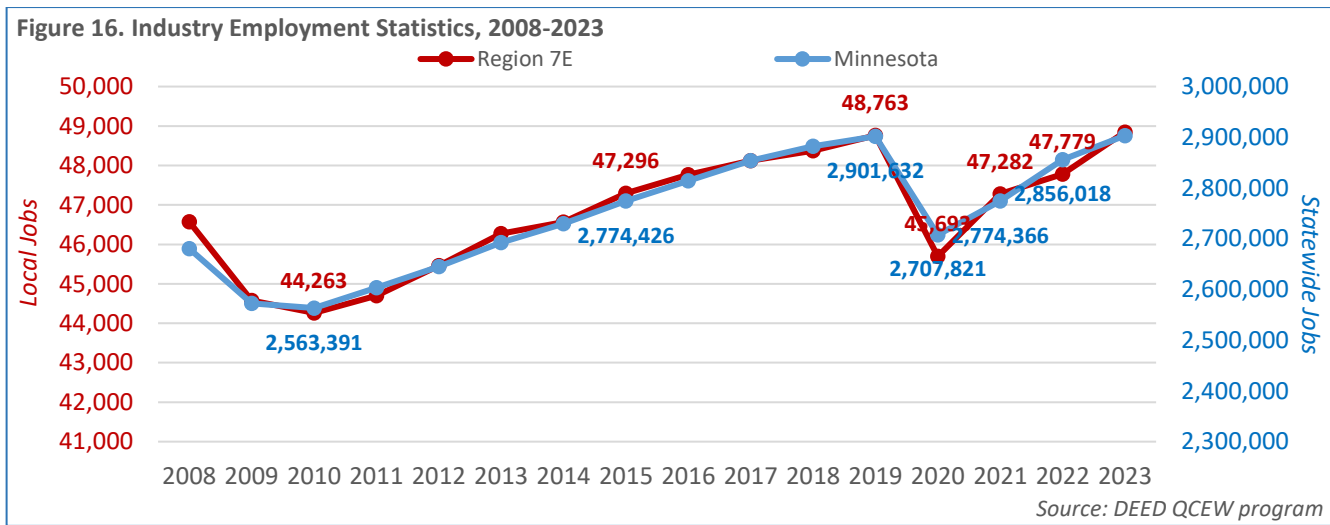
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

According to DEED's [Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\) program](#), Region 7E was home to 4,179 business establishments providing 48,846 covered jobs through 2023, with a total payroll of over \$2.42 billion. That was about 1.7% of total employment in the state of Minnesota, making it the fourth smallest of the 13 EDRs in the state. Average annual wages were \$49,616 in the region, which was about \$22,000 lower than the state's average annual wage, and the second lowest of the 13 EDRs. Chisago County is the largest employment center in the region, with 16,084 jobs at 1,367 firms; accounting for 33% of the region's jobs. Isanti County was the next largest, with 11,754 jobs at 958 firms, followed by Mille Lacs County with 788 firms and 9,133 jobs and Pine County with 7,780 jobs at 718 firms, while Kanabec is the smallest economy with 4,094 jobs at 348 firms (Table 13).

Geography	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll	Average Annual Wage	2022-2023		2019-2023	
					Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Region 7E	4,179	48,846	\$2,423,523,215	\$49,616	+1,067	+2.2%	+83	+0.2%
Chisago Co.	1,367	16,084	\$900,811,326	\$56,007	+267	+1.7%	+481	+3.1%
Isanti Co.	958	11,754	\$567,234,494	\$48,259	+324	+2.8%	+572	+5.1%
Kanabec Co.	348	4,094	\$200,717,520	\$49,027	+125	+3.1%	+187	+4.8%
Mille Lacs Co.	788	9,133	\$428,230,447	\$46,888	+187	+2.1%	-592	-6.1%
Pine Co.	718	7,780	\$326,529,428	\$41,970	+164	+2.2%	-564	-6.8%
State of Minnesota	207,647	2,903,264	\$207,665,582,979	\$71,528	+47,246	+1.7%	+1,632	+0.1%

Source: [DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\)](#)

Region 7E has seen employment ups and downs over the past 15 years. It ended 2019 with about 2,150 more jobs than it had in 2014, but then the region was initially hit harder by the pandemic than the state. Since then, it has recovered more quickly through 2023. Before the pandemic, job growth had been steady out of the Great Recession (Figure 16).



With 9,261 jobs at 581 firms, Health Care & Social Assistance is the largest employing industry in Region 7E, accounting for 19% of total jobs in the region. Due to the region’s older population, the largest sector was Nursing & Residential Care Facilities which had 3,634 jobs. However, the region’s fastest growing Health Care sector was Social Assistance including housing, food, family, child care and other social services.

Retail Trade is the next largest industry in Region 7E, with 6,732 jobs at 477 firms, accounting for 13.8% of total jobs in the region. Accommodation & Food Services is the third largest industry with 6,032 jobs at 322 stores, but was hit especially hard during the pandemic, remaining down 450 jobs. The related Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry also provided 859 jobs at 78 locations, also suffering significant employment losses during the pandemic. These three industries provide 8% of the region’s jobs but have relatively low average wages.

With 5,180 jobs at 248 firms Manufacturing is the fourth largest industry in Region 7E and saw negative growth over the past year. Wages in manufacturing were almost \$10k higher than the total across all industries. Region 7E also has a high concentration of public sector jobs in Educational Services, with 4,768 jobs at 81 institutions – primarily at Elementary & Secondary Schools, but also at Junior Colleges.

Eight of the 20 main industries in the region remain down from their pre-pandemic employment levels, with the largest relative deficits in Health Care and Social Assistance, Public Administration, Accommodation & Food Services.

NAICS Industry Title	2023 Annual Data			Avg. Annual Wage	2022-2023		2019-2023	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll (\$1,000s)		Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	4,179	48,846	\$2,423,523	\$49,616	+1,067	+2.2%	+83	+0.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	56	289	\$12,641	\$43,740	-19	-6.2%	-66	-18.6%
Mining	6	32	\$1,782	\$55,682	0	0.0%	-7	-17.9%
Construction	708	3,310	\$229,189	\$69,242	+46	+1.4%	+406	+14.0%
Manufacturing	248	5,180	\$307,576	\$59,378	-135	-2.5%	+28	+0.5%
Utilities	22	265	\$26,924	\$101,599	+18	+7.3%	+10	+3.9%
Wholesale Trade	121	810	\$45,709	\$56,431	+12	+1.5%	+78	+10.7%
Retail Trade	477	6,732	\$219,442	\$32,597	+78	+1.2%	+385	+6.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	189	1,216	\$62,812	\$51,655	-20	-1.6%	+12	+1.0%
Information	48	543	\$28,708	\$52,869	-14	-2.5%	-45	-7.7%
Finance & Insurance	133	954	\$63,055	\$66,096	-1	-0.1%	-11	-1.1%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	119	195	\$6,824	\$34,997	-19	-8.9%	-71	-26.7%
Professional & Technical Services	216	1,472	\$140,846	\$95,684	+70	+5.0%	+214	+17.0%
Management of Companies	10	117	\$8,009	\$68,456	-5	-4.1%	+35	+42.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	175	1,238	\$65,589	\$52,980	+10	+0.8%	+219	+21.5%
Educational Services	81	4,768	\$231,963	\$48,650	+120	+2.6%	+3	+0.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	581	9,261	\$503,630	\$54,382	+319	+3.6%	-600	-6.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	78	859	\$15,878	\$18,485	+175	+25.6%	+65	+8.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	322	6,032	\$156,194	\$25,894	+285	+5.0%	-450	-6.9%
Other Services	441	1,499	\$49,593	\$33,084	+36	+2.5%	-3	-0.2%
Public Administration	150	4,070	\$247,157	\$60,727	+110	+2.8%	-121	-2.9%

Source: [DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\)](#)

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

According to DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program, the workforce in the region was aging over the past 10 years. Nearly one-quarter (24.7%) of workers in the region were 55 years or older, compared to 22.1% statewide and just 19.9% in the region one decade earlier. In contrast, the percentage of workers aged 20-24 or 45-54 was falling. (Table 15).

As noted above, wages were climbing across the board for all workers due to rising demand and a tight labor market. While wages were still lowest for the youngest and oldest workers who tend to fill lower-skilled, less-than-fulltime jobs in industries like Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Services, the two youngest age groups enjoyed the fastest percentage increase in wages from 2011 to 2021. Wages were highest for workers between 45 and 64 years of age, and males earned more per hour than females, though much of the difference is associated to the substantial increase in hours worked by males.

Region 7E	Percentage of Workers		Percent of Workers, Minnesota		Median Hourly Wage		Median Hours Worked (Per Qtr.)	
	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012
Total, all ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$20.50	\$14.32	362	380
19 years & under	9.4%	8.7%	6.6%	6.3%	\$14.28	\$7.80	130	129
20 to 24 years	8.6%	10.4%	9.2%	11.3%	\$17.98	\$10.31	296	279
25 to 44 years	39.5%	38.1%	43.6%	42.3%	\$23.07	\$15.90	420	424
45 to 54 years	17.9%	22.9%	18.4%	21.9%	\$24.74	\$17.13	455	452
55 to 64 years	18.1%	15.6%	16.7%	14.7%	\$22.40	\$16.88	436	431
65 years & over	6.6%	4.3%	5.4%	3.5%	\$18.15	\$13.01	225	220
Male	44.0%	42.3%	49.1%	49.1%	\$22.85	\$15.88	439	444
Female	56.0%	57.7%	50.9%	50.9%	\$19.68	\$13.25	325	345

Source: [DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics](#)

EMPLOYMENT DIVERSITY

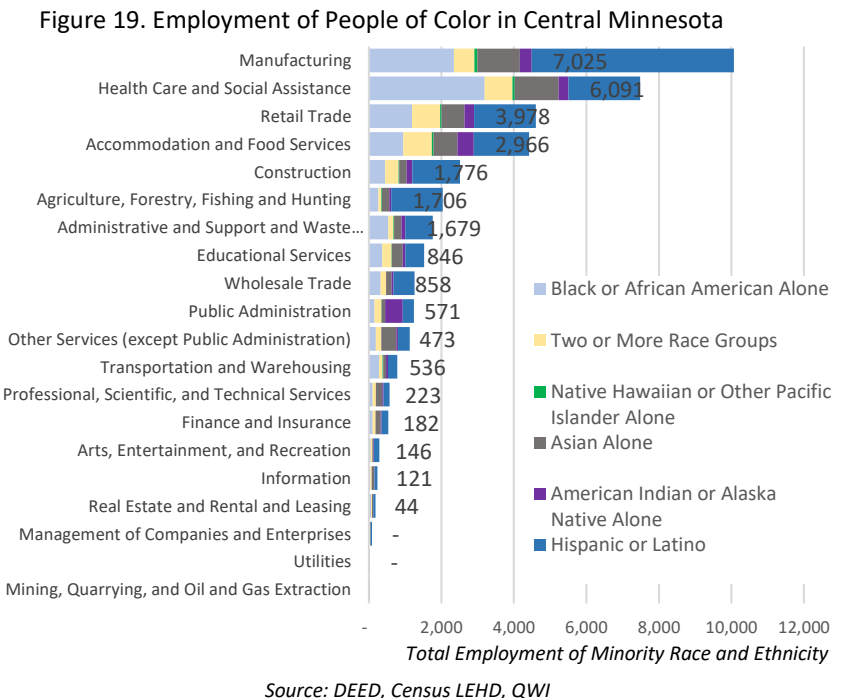
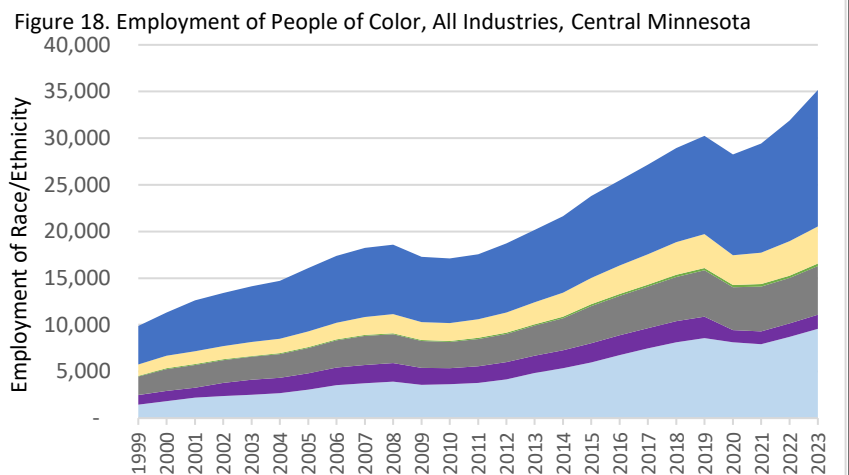
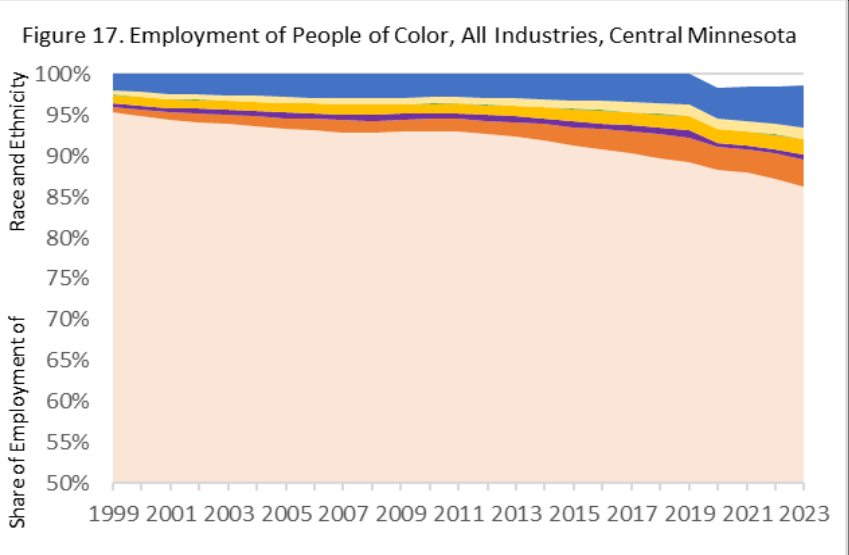
Wages were highest for workers between 45 and 64 years of age, and males worked substantially more hours than females. Interestingly, from 2010 to 2020 jobs held by workers 45 to 54 years saw the largest decline in the share of jobs they hold, dropping from 22.2% in 2010 to 18.2% in 2020.

People of color account for 9.5% of the total labor force in Central Minnesota and hold a slightly higher share of jobs, compared to the state overall where they amount to 19.7% of the labor force. According to data from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators program, people of color held 35,162 jobs in Central Minnesota, compared to 255,251 jobs held by White workers. The number of jobs has nearly doubled since 2003 when People of color held 13,420 jobs (Figure 17).

People of color held an additional 21,041 jobs since 2003 compared to 2,831 by White workers.

Hispanic/Latino workers hold the largest number of jobs of the racial and ethnic minority groups with 14,609 jobs in 2023, almost half of all minority held jobs. The next largest number of jobs held by a minority group was Black or African American, holding 9,571 jobs in 2023. The number of jobs held by this race has increased by 7,052 since 2003, amounting to a 280% increase (Figure 18).

The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting sector and Manufacturing sector have the highest share of non-White employment at 28% and 20%, respectively. Accommodation & Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance also have 15% of



jobs held by non-White workers. The largest numbers of non-White workers are employed in Manufacturing (10,066 jobs) and Health Care & Social Assistance (7,482 jobs). The least diverse industries include Utilities and Mining (Figure 19).

INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

Central Minnesota is projected to grow 5.2% from 2022 to 2032, a gain of 16,302 new jobs, which would make it the fastest growing region in the state. The largest growing industry is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance, which may account for one-quarter of total projected growth in the region by 2032.

The fastest growth (10.9%) in the region is expected to be in the Construction industry, continuing a decades long trend of rapid growth, Professional and Technical Service is also expected to grow twice as fast as the overall region. (Table 16).

Table 16. Central Minnesota Industry Projections, 2022-2032

Industry	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032	Numeric Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	315,929	332,231	+5.2%	+16,302
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & hunt	5,295	5,457	+3.1%	+162
Mining	354	352	-0.6%	-2
Utilities	1,986	1,998	+0.6%	+12
Construction	20,532	22,780	+10.9%	+2,248
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	+7.2%	+3,004
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	+7.9%	+886
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	+0.3%	+97
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	+9.2%	+856
Information	3,002	3,214	+7.1%	+212
Finance & Insurance	8,346	8,644	+3.6%	+298
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,796	1,884	+4.9%	+88
Professional & Technical Services	7,080	7,833	+10.6%	+753
Management of Companies	1,960	2,146	+9.5%	+186
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	+6.1%	+635
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	+1.2%	+291
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	+9.1%	+4,168
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4,858	5,168	+6.4%	+310
Accommodation & Food Services	21,188	22,474	+6.1%	+1,286
Other Services	10,880	11,311	+4.0%	+431
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	+3.2%	+653

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

NONEMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

Region 7E was home to 11,196 self-employed businesses or “nonemployers” in 2021, which are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as “businesses without paid employees that are subject to federal income tax, originating from tax return information of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).” Unlike covered employment, Region 7E had been seeing a steady decline in nonemployers over time, however recently the region added more than 100 of these businesses. Together, these nonemployers in Region 7E generated sales receipts of \$555.6 million in 2021 (Table 17).

Table 17. Nonemployer Statistics, 2021

	2021		2021-2021	
	Number of Firms	Receipts (\$1,000s)	Change in Firms	Percent Change
Region 7E	11,196	\$555,596	+113	+1.0%
Chisago Co.	3,784	\$184,456	-68	-1.8%
Isanti Co.	2,820	\$147,036	+180	+6.8%
Kanabec Co.	1,063	\$54,932	0	0.0%
Mille Lacs Co.	1,779	\$85,377	+13	+0.7%
Pine Co.	1,750	\$83,795	-12	-0.7%
State of Minnesota	429,672	\$22,727,564	+41,117	+10.6%

Source: U.S. Census, Nonemployer Statistics program

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Unlike other parts of Greater Minnesota, agriculture is not a key industry in Region 7E, with 3,416 farms producing just under \$285 million in the market value of products sold in 2021 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All of the counties in the planning region rank near the bottom in Minnesota in regards to the market value of products sold, with all five counties ranked between 66th and 77th of the 87 counties in the state (Table 18). Market value of products sold has increased by 33% from 2017-2022.

Table 18. Census of Agriculture, 2022

	Number of Farms	Market Value of Products Sold	State Rank
Region 7E	3,416	\$284,274,000	12
Chisago Co.	740	\$54,864,000	72
Isanti Co.	814	\$73,159,000	66
Kanabec Co.	531	\$32,517,000	77
Mille Lacs Co.	603	\$43,931,000	68
Pine Co.	728	\$58,065,000	70
Minnesota	65,531	\$28,482,097,000	

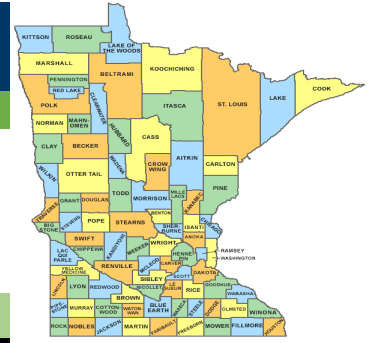
Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture

Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting Luke Greiner at 320-223-6992 or at luke.greiner@state.mn.us

COUNTY PROFILE

Chisago Co.

Chisago Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7E, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

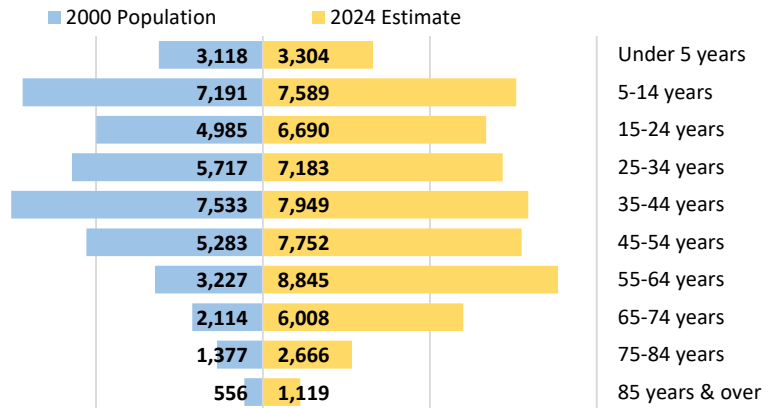
2024 population:	59,105 people	Median Age:	40.8 years
Population change, 2020-2024	2,484 people 4.4% increase	state:	38.6 years

Chisago Co. is the 18th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 8th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Chisago Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	3,304	5.6%
5-14 years	7,589	12.8%
15-24 years	6,690	11.3%
25-34 years	7,183	12.2%
35-44 years	7,949	13.4%
45-54 years	7,752	13.1%
55-64 years	8,845	15.0%
65-74 years	6,008	10.2%
75-84 years	2,666	4.5%
85 years & over	1,119	1.9%
Total Population	59,105	100.0%

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Chisago Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Chisago Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2024

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Chisago Co.	2,487	403	2,502	2,099	2,101	136	1,965
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

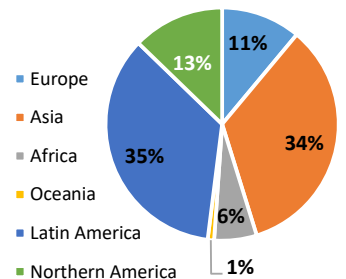
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Chisago Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Chisago Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

	Chisago Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	1,356	2.4%	380	38.9%	8.6%	24.7%
Europe	150	11.1%	-52	-25.7%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	463	34.1%	167	56.4%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	80	5.9%	-2	-2.4%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	12	0.9%	-7	-36.8%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	651	48.0%	274	72.7%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	478	35.3%	124	35.0%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	173	12.8%	150	652.2%	2.5%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023



Chisago Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

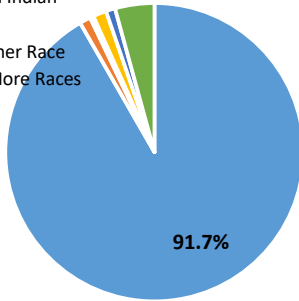


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Chisago Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
Total	57,434	100.0%	7.0%	100.0%	6.8%
White	52,665	91.7%	2.7%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	688	1.2%	11.1%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	224	0.4%	-18.2%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	830	1.4%	87.8%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	577	1.0%	113.7%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,450	4.3%	200.2%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1,565	2.7%	73.5%	6.2%	37.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

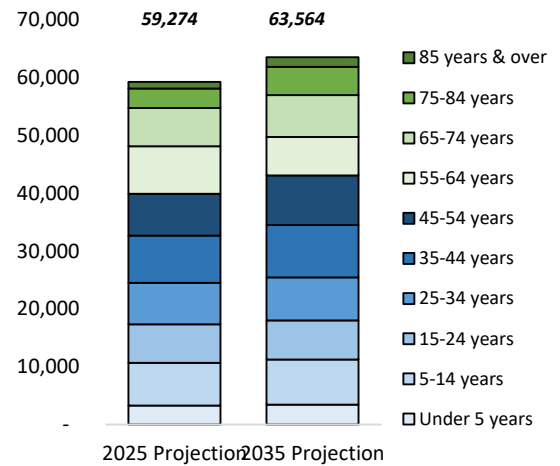
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Chisago Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

Chisago Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	3,263	3,446	183	5.6%
5-14 years	7,404	7,829	425	5.7%
15-24 years	6,671	6,764	93	1.4%
25-34 years	7,177	7,443	266	3.7%
35-44 years	8,187	9,047	860	10.5%
45-54 years	7,220	8,577	1,357	18.8%
55-64 years	8,212	6,671	-1,541	-18.8%
65-74 years	6,632	7,241	609	9.2%
75-84 years	3,388	4,885	1,497	44.2%
85 years & over	1,120	1,661	541	48.3%
Total Population	59,274	63,564	4,290	7.2%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

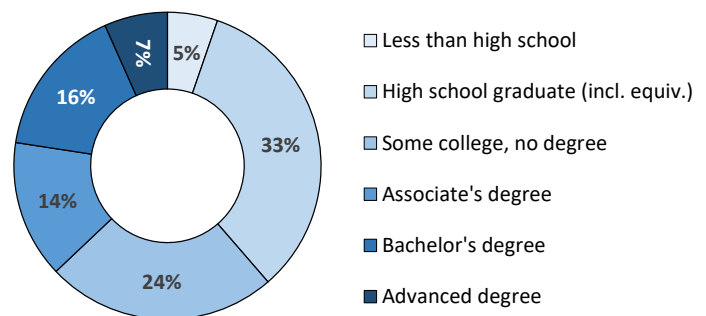


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Chisago Co. has a higher percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Chisago Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:	94.7%
College-educated:	61.4%
state:	68.8%
Associate's Degree:	14.5%
Bachelor's Degree:	15.9%
Advanced Degree:	6.7%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023



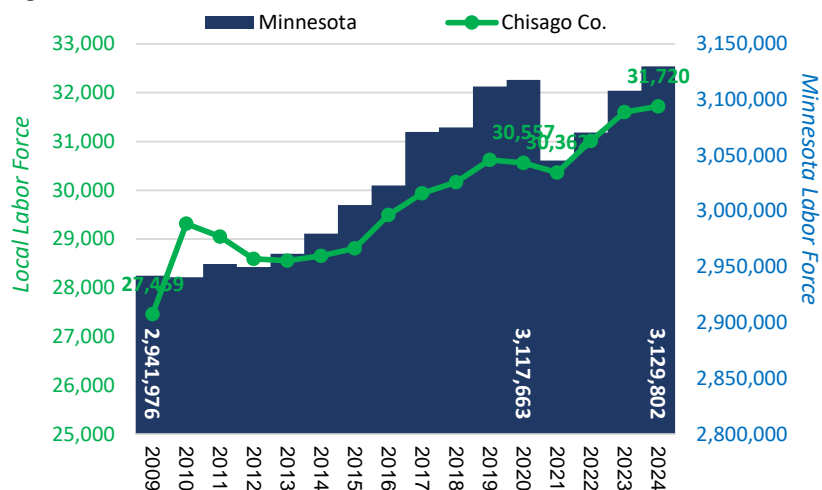
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.2%, Chisago Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Chisago Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.8% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Chisago Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

31,720 available workers	
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	4,261 workers 15.5% increase
3.2% unemployment rate	2.8% state
1,015 unemployed workers	

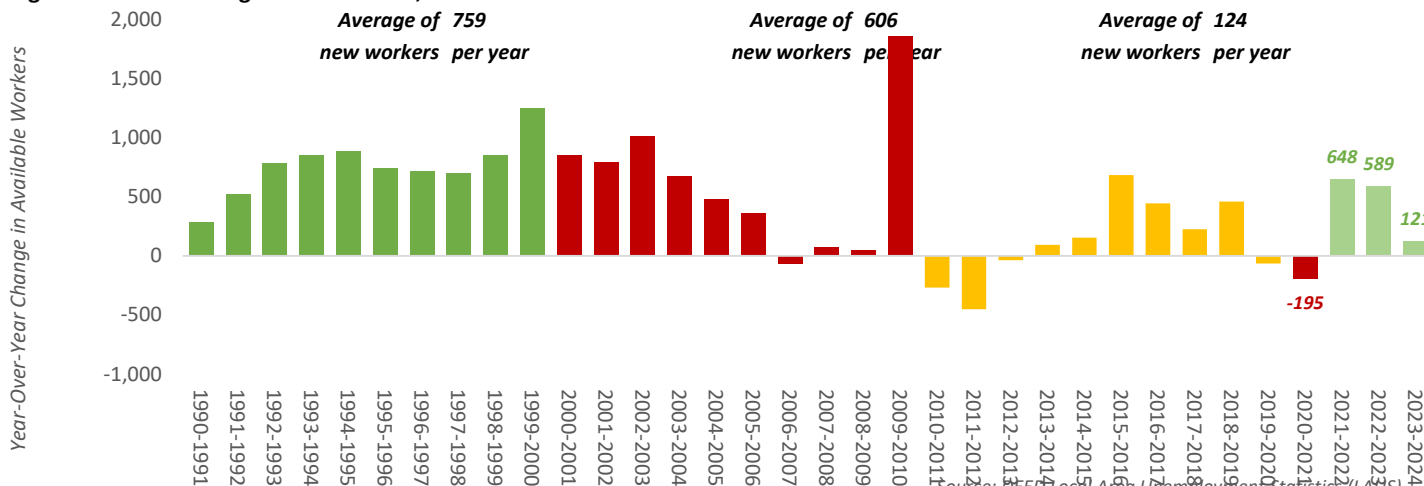
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Chisago Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Chisago Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2024



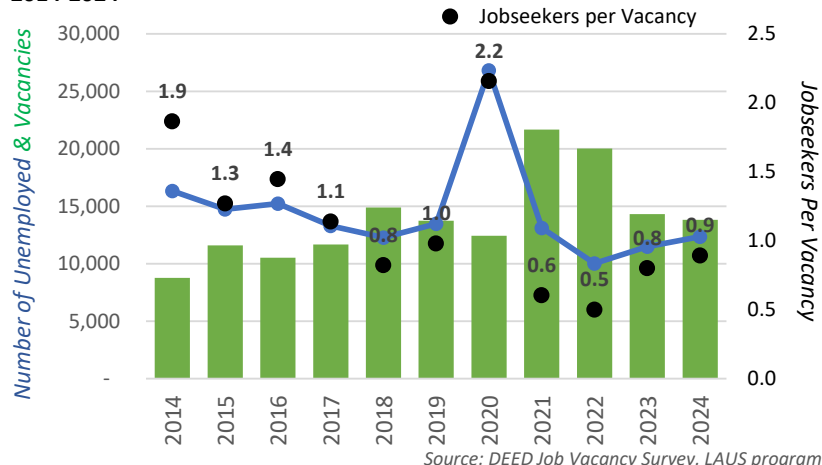
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	3,922	3,951
25 to 54 years	19,302	21,437
55 to 64 years	6,153	4,998
65 years & over	2,114	2,451
Total Labor Force	31,491	32,838

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2024, job vacancies in Central returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

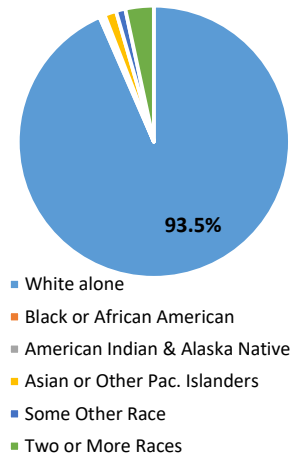
LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Chisago Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Chisago Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

	Chisago Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	31,144	67.3%	3.9%	68.5%	3.9%	16,899	14,233
16 to 19 years	1,507	50.6%	12.4%	52.7%	9.9%	829	677
20 to 24 years	2,334	79.1%	6.4%	83.4%	6.5%	1,338	997
25 to 44 years	12,461	84.7%	4.4%	88.7%	3.5%	6,629	5,834
45 to 54 years	6,554	87.0%	2.0%	87.8%	2.9%	3,609	2,941
55 to 64 years	6,439	74.9%	2.3%	72.8%	3.0%	3,461	2,980
65 to 74 years	1,512	25.9%	3.3%	27.8%	3.4%	846	666
75 years & over	324	8.8%	0.9%	6.6%	3.1%	187	138
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin							
White alone	29,109	68.0%	4.0%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	111	18.3%	6.3%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	90	43.9%	0.0%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	438	70.8%	3.2%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	347	80.3%	0.0%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	1,052	65.4%	3.5%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	855	78.3%	3.7%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,729	54.9%	10.5%	55.3%	9.5%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	25,467	82.6%	3.2%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	870	74.0%	3.8%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	6,757	73.1%	1.2%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	11,039	86.9%	3.2%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	6,784	88.0%	2.6%	90.5%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023



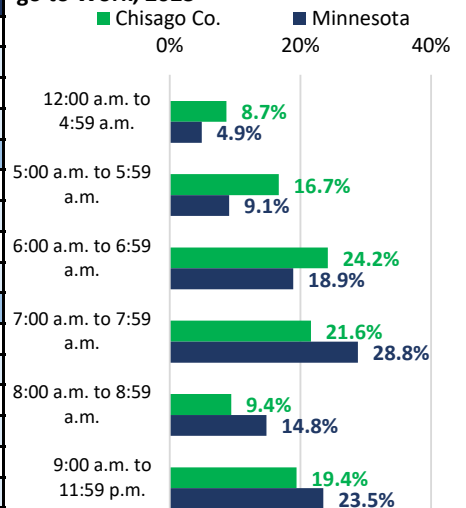
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

A smaller percentage of workers in Chisago Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Chisago Co. also had a longer average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Chisago Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	28,416	97.1%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	12,584	43.0%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	15,832	54.1%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	849	2.9%	64,576	2.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	24,670	84.3%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	234	0.8%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	673	2.3%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	3,717	12.7%	463,770	15.8%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	3,190	10.9%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	6,116	20.9%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	4,741	16.2%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	6,965	23.8%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	4,770	16.3%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	3,512	12.0%	149,698	5.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	31.6 minutes		23.1 minutes	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

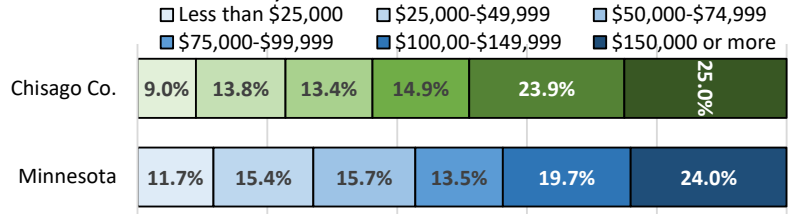
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Chisago Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Chisago Co. had the 8th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$98,260
state	\$87,556
Median Family Income	\$115,382
state	\$111,492
Per Capita Income	\$43,265
state	\$46,957

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Chisago Co. had a higher cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$19.8 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$24.17 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2024

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Chisago Co.	\$41,175	\$19.80	\$0	\$410	\$158	\$1,345	\$648	\$406	\$464
State of Minnesota	\$36,768	\$17.68	\$0	\$424	\$156	\$1,154	\$573	\$365	\$392
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Chisago Co.	\$75,407	\$24.17	\$425	\$934	\$567	\$1,669	\$1,219	\$602	\$868
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

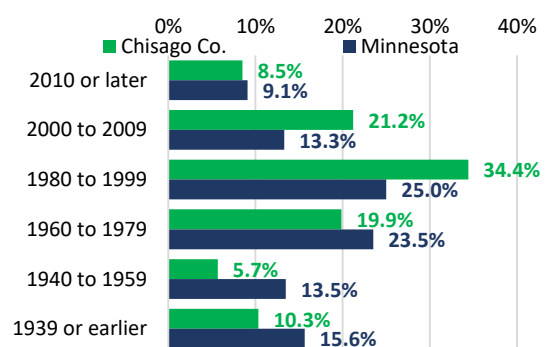
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Chisago Co. had a higher median house value than the state, having the 8th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Chisago Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Chisago Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	18,200	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	979	5.4%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	281	1.5%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	373	2.0%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,082	5.9%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,087	28.0%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	7,552	41.5%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	2,846	15.6%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$326,600		\$305,500

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage	\$1,963
state	\$1,890

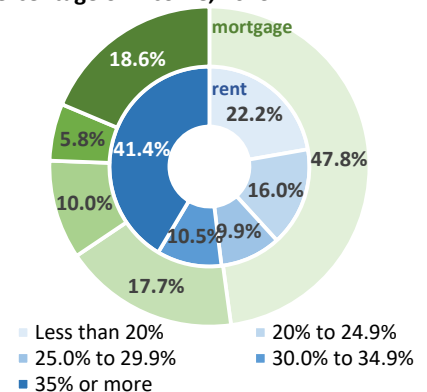
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	24.4%
state	22.5%

Median monthly rent costs	\$1,112
state	\$1,235

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	51.9%
state	47.2%

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2023



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.51 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 7E than the state. Overall, Region 7E had the 5th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$49.04) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$16.3) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 7E				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
Total, All Occupations	\$23.51	49,570	100.0%	1.0	\$26.22	2,920,470	100.0%
Management	\$49.04	2,650	5.3%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$37.30	1,690	3.4%	0.5	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$40.80	490	1.0%	0.3	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.58	740	1.5%	0.8	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$38.18	320	0.6%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$29.53	1,380	2.8%	1.4	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$38.85	180	0.4%	0.5	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$26.86	3,950	8.0%	1.4	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$27.01	280	0.6%	0.5	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$42.03	3,160	6.4%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$19.18	3,420	6.9%	1.1	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$29.77	1,290	2.6%	1.6	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$16.30	5,400	10.9%	1.3	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$19.06	1,470	3.0%	1.1	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.54	1,220	2.5%	1.1	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.52	4,900	9.9%	1.2	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.54	5,490	11.1%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.85	80	0.2%	1.4	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.96	2,690	5.4%	1.4	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$29.77	1,930	3.9%	1.1	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.81	3,290	6.6%	0.9	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.24	3,540	7.1%	0.9	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025

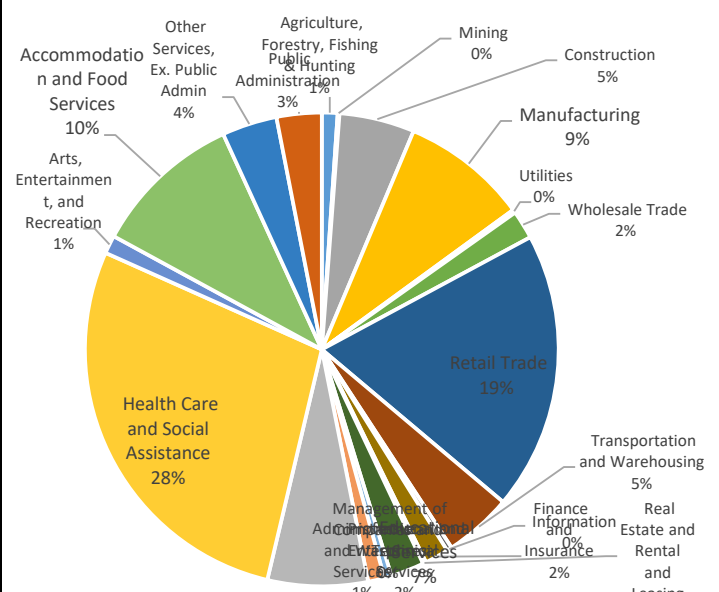
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Chisago Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 13827 job vacancies posted by employers in 2024, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	13,827	\$19.81
Management	319	\$29.45
Business & Financial Operations	394	\$33.36
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$26.02
Architecture & Engineering	197	\$30.87
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	122	\$33.52
Community & Social Service	283	\$23.80
Education, Training & Library	735	\$19.62
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,450	\$29.97
Healthcare Support	1,363	\$18.33
Protective Service	189	\$21.58
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,814	\$15.03
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	260	\$16.97
Personal Care & Service	417	\$14.99
Sales & Related	1,861	\$15.92
Office & Administrative Support	911	\$20.11
Construction & Extraction	693	\$22.04
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	695	\$23.62
Production	598	\$20.21
Transportation & Material Moving	1,128	\$20.98

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$35,817/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$60,953/yr	Registered Nurses \$97,279/yr	General and Operations Managers \$82,833/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$35,952/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,289/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,926/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,116/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,548/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,035/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$78,056/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,539/yr
Cashiers \$31,985/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,872/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,316/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$108,690/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$38,723/yr	Machinists \$61,397/yr	Calibration Technologists and Technicians \$51,876/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,309/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,511/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$43,830/yr	Dental Hygienists \$95,926/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$73,436/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$24,272/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,071/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$77,932/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$65,914/yr
Childcare Workers \$32,303/yr	Electricians \$79,223/yr	Surgical Technologists \$66,288/yr	Industrial Engineers \$97,918/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,389/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$54,808/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,531/yr	Project Management Specialists \$85,453/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$44,527/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,462/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$46,438/yr	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$69,045/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

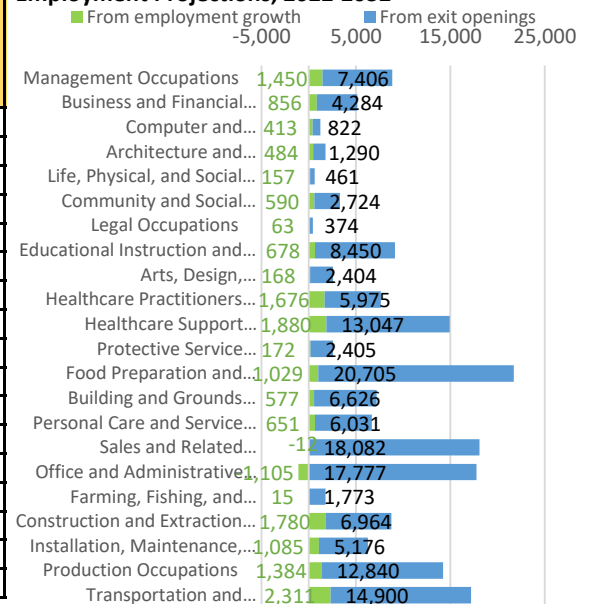
Chisago Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	315,929	332,231	5.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,649	5,809	2.8%
Utilities	1,986	1,998	0.6%
Construction	20,532	22,780	10.9%
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	7.9%
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	9.2%
Information	3,002	3,214	7.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	10,142	10,528	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	9,040	9,979	10.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	6.1%
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	9.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	26,046	27,642	6.1%
Other Services	10,880	11,311	4.0%
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	3.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Chisago Co. had the 27th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Chisago Co. was the 57th fastest growing in the past year and the 40th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Chisago Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,398 business establishments

\$57,835 annual average wage

16,072 jobs

\$929,531,093 total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2024: 958 jobs, 6.3% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

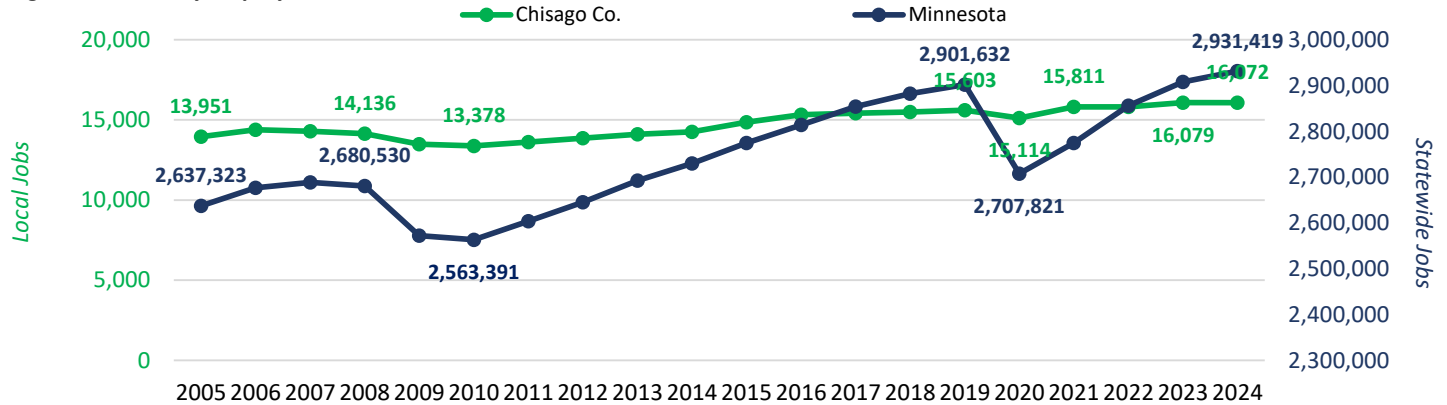
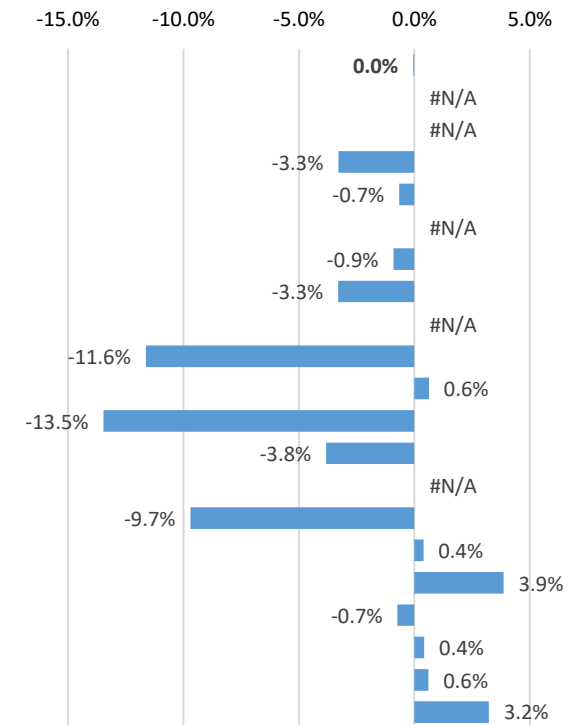


Table 15. Chisago Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
Total, All Industries	16,072	100.0%	\$57,835
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	1,204	7.5%	\$83,104
Manufacturing	2,403	15.0%	\$64,893
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	437	2.7%	\$58,467
Retail Trade	1,732	10.8%	\$39,617
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	38	0.2%	\$70,169
Finance & Insurance	160	1.0%	\$71,629
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	45	0.3%	\$23,897
Professional & Technical Services	705	4.4%	\$123,932
Management of Companies	19	0.1%	\$21,620
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	410	2.6%	\$49,230
Educational Services	1,272	7.9%	\$52,324
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,787	23.6%	\$59,101
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	408	2.5%	\$21,384
Accommodation & Food Services	1,402	8.7%	\$22,819
Other Services	497	3.1%	\$37,676
Public Administration	1,086	6.8%	\$72,891

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Waages (QCEW)

For more information on Chisago Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

Luke Greiner | Regional Analyst, Central & Southwest
 CareerForce St. Cloud | 1542 Northway Dr. Door 2 | St. Cloud MN 56303
 Office: 320-223-6992 | E-mail: luke.greiner@state.mn.us
 web: www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: May 23, 2025



EDA Communication

Date: September 5, 2025

Presented to: EDA Members

Presented by: Robb Linwood, City Administrator

Department: Administration

Reference: Updates

Method: Communications

Wyoming's EDA Business of the Month:

Minnesota Machining Inc – High-quality parts delivered on time

At Minnesota Machining Inc., they take pride in being your reliable provider of high-quality parts precisely crafted to meet your specifications. Since their inception in 1995, our family-owned business has been committed to fostering strong, long-term relationships with each of our customers. With over 25 years of experience in the industry, we've built our reputation on the pillars of reliability, quality, and trust.

Their state-of-the-art Haas, Mazak, and Milltronics machining centers stand at the core of our operations, enabling them to deliver products that consistently exceed expectations. They understand the critical nature of time in every project. That's why They've dedicated to providing honest, accurate lead times and ensuring that your orders are delivered on time every time. Contact them today to see why we provide the CNC machining Wyoming, MN relies on.

For more information - <https://www.mn-machining.com/>



Manufacturers Month – October 8th, 2025 -

Career Exploration in Manufacturing Event: This event will offer student tours of manufacturing facilities and a hands-on activity (like a Jeopardy-style game) at Split Rocks in Wyoming, MN. It brought together a dozen manufacturers and over 170 students, along with local educators and workforce professionals

Chisago County HRA/EDA – Meeting Time Change – They now meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 330PM



EDA Communication

Date: September 5, 2025

Presented to: EDA Members

Presented by: Robb Linwood, City Administrator

Department: Administration

Reference: Work Plan and Goals

Method: Old Business

Billboard Discussion

I did receive an email from Chuck Bolkom with regarding the billboards and here is the information he shared, he also provided the powerpoint proceeding this memo.

- Provide a quick overview of a proposed digital billboard campaign and costs.

How it Works

- Ad length is eight seconds.
- Daily plays
 - Full rotation: 1,300+ plays per day
 - Half rotation: 650+ plays per day

Recommended Placements

- Board 1001 or Board 1003
- Right-hand read, visible to northbound traffic

Investment

- Full rotation: \$500–\$550 per week, dependent on total program length
- Half rotation: \$300–\$350 per week, dependent on total program length

Campaign Term

- Recommended duration: 25 to 52 weeks
- Creative fee is waived for a launch campaign with a 26-week commitment

Creative Process

- Simple kickoff
 - We brainstorm goals.
 - Vendor team develops creative options for review and approval.

Suggested Next Steps

- Confirm board availability and final weekly rates for selected term length.
- Request proof-of-performance reporting and sample schedules.
- Approve campaign duration and rotation level.
- Authorize creative development and timeline to launch.

Mural Discussion

I have discussed the street mural with a few different vendors, the Wyoming Creative Arts group does not have a muralist as part of their group. The muralists have reviewed the downtown plan and I should have more information at the Meeting.

Tower Light Discussion

I have had some communications Teknephos regarding lighting at the water tower, I am stil waiting for some cost estimates for different levels of lighting as of Friday, September 5, but I will update the group on Monday with any new information.



**City of Wyoming, MN
Digital Billboard Overview**

For Robb

September 5, 2025

City of Wyoming, MN

Digital Billboard Overview

North Star Media Partners can support your efforts with the following:

- Significant awareness building with a local, regional and super regional audience. Current and future citizens, business development firms, corporate and civic leaders from all of the state travel our corridor.
- Digital Billboard impact that positions Wyoming as a growing community with great benefits and opportunity.
- Highway 35 audiences that are significant!
 - We are above the Forest Lake split - providing East and West Metro traffic.
 - We are below Highway 8 - reaching audiences that don't make it to Wyoming. Our locations on Highway 35 have 40 percent more audience than reaches Wyoming.
- Fantastic ad creative development - our team of creative directors will provide develop an ad campaign that tells your story, is flexible - we'll launch with 3 to 5 ads and will update throughout the campaign.

How is works:

Ad Length: :08 seconds

Number of ads per day:

Full Rotation - 1300 plus

Half Rotation - 650 plus

Recommended Billboard: Board 1001 or Board 1003 - Right Hand Read / Northbound Traffic

Investment:

Full Rotation - \$500 to \$550 per week - depending on length of program

Half Rotation - \$300 to \$350 per week - depending on length of program

Campaign Recommendation - 25 to 52 Weeks

Creative Investment - no charge for launch campaign with 26 week commitment

Easy to get started, we brainstorm creative goals and my team develops campaign for consideration.



North Twins Cities Metro Digital Billboard Operator

Independently
Owned and
Operated

Service
Oriented &
Community
Involvement

Largest
Possible
Addressable
Market

Major Freeway
Locations

14 Digital Locations
I94 – Albertville
HW 35 – Forest Lake
Highway 65 – Ham Lake

Static Locations
Forest Lake
St. Paul

Ad Campaigns
That Break
Through

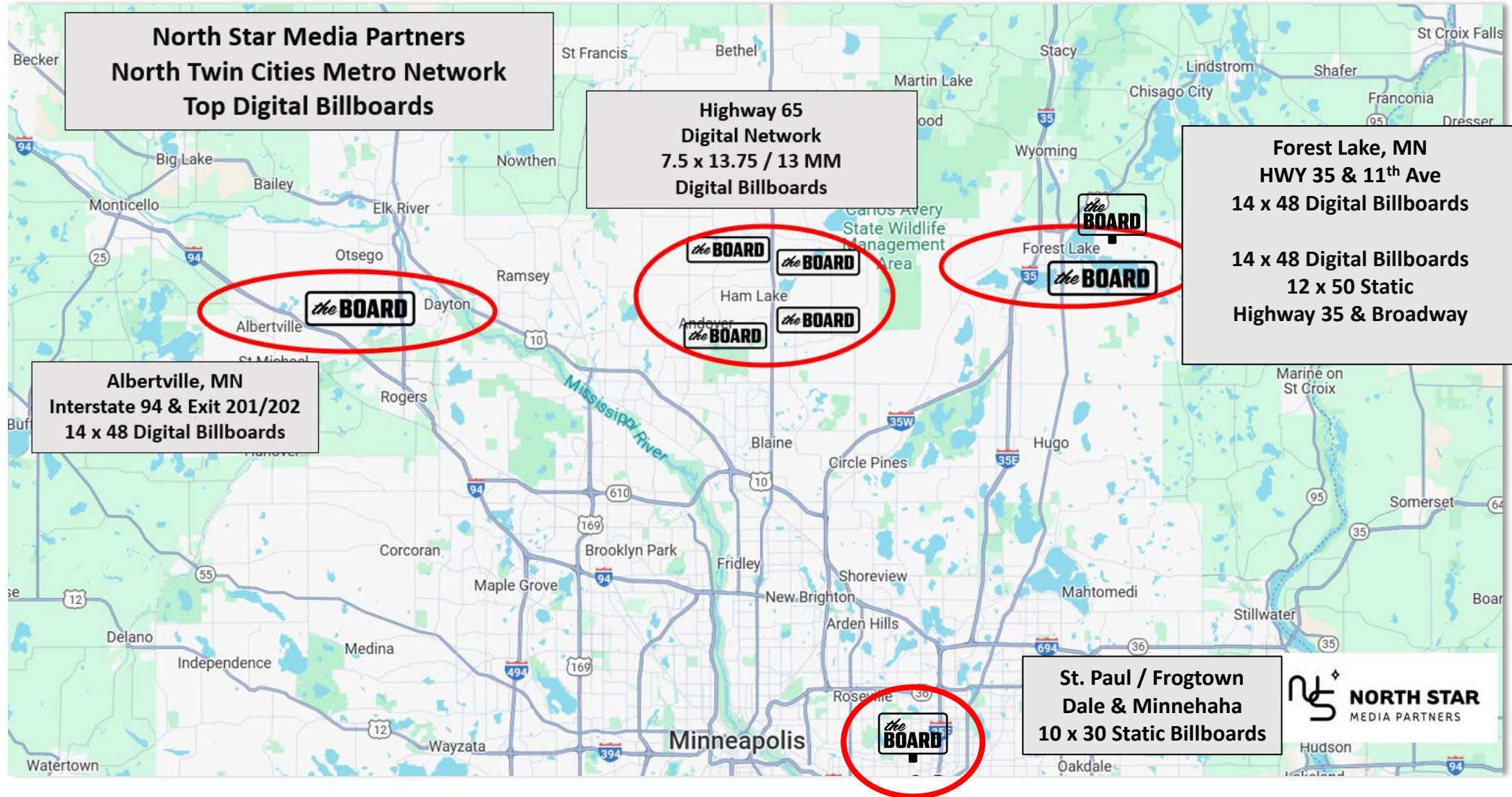
Digital Billboard
Creative Services

Understanding
Your Goals

Customizing
Tailored
Solutions

North Star Media Partners delivers impact with locations in high growth North Twin Cities Metro locations on three major roadways. We specialize in brand building campaigns for local and regional advertisers.

Coverage Across The Top of the Twin Cities Metro





Digital Billboard Impact Reach, Creativity, Results



All Along the
Purchase Process

GAME CHANGING AWARENESS

TOP AUDIENCE REACH

DIGITAL OUT OF HOME
JUMPS OFF THE SCREEN

100,000's IMPRESSIONS
PER WEEK

CREATIVE AGILITY
=
POWERFUL CAMPAIGNS

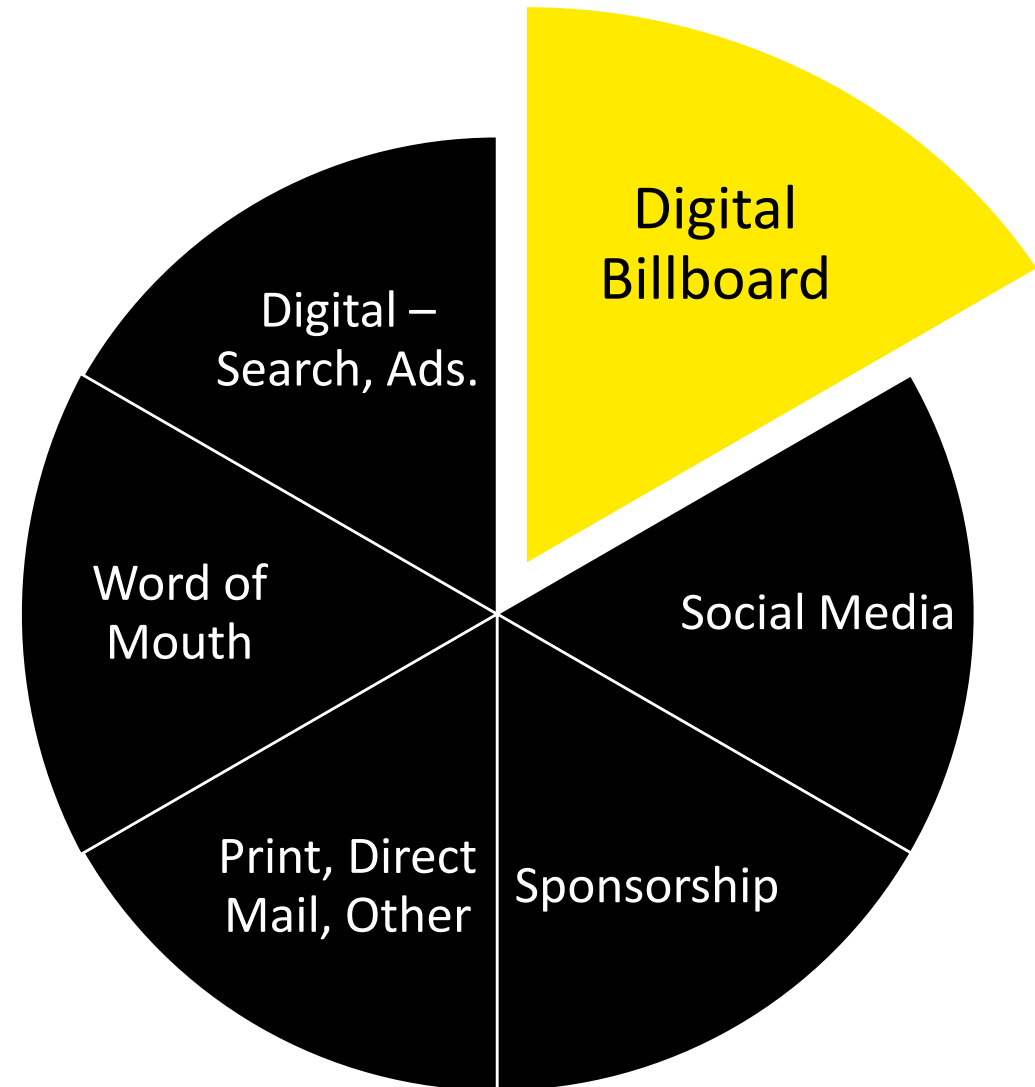
LEAST EXPENSIVE
INVESTMENT
COST PER THOUSAND

ALL OF YOUR
MARKETING
WILL DO BETTER!

Ongoing Digital Impact = Activating New Customers

DOOH = Media Mix Fuel

- **All of your investments get stronger**
- **Biggest Audience Impact**
- **Reach = Awareness**
- **Awareness drives:**
 - **Understanding**
 - **WOM**
 - **Search**
 - **Traffic**



Commitment to Consistency

A Budget You Can Sustain

Reach
Large
Audiences

Strong
Creative
Campaign

Frequency
Hundreds of
Ads = Day

Flexible – Agile

Affordable -
Low Cost Per
Thousand

Brand Building

Growth

Traffic Driving

Own Your
Category

Own Your Category

Earn Top of the Mind Awareness

Creative Development





North Star Media Partners Creative Services

Digital Billboard Ad Campaign

- **Creative Included** - North Star Media Partners will help build unique campaigns that position your firm for lasting awareness, engagement and sales growth.

CREATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
PROVIDED

TEAM OF BILLBOARD
DESIGN EXPERTS

SMART
IMPACTFUL
CREATIVE

FLEXIBLE
MULTI-MESSAGE
APPROACH

- **Smart Creative** - Our goal is to run campaigns:
 - That stand out!
 - Use the flexibility of digital billboards – campaigns that include multiple, updated messages.
 - Resonate with local and regional advertisers
 - Separate you from your core competitors



Forest Lake, MN
Highway 35 and 11th Avenue
Back-to-Back Digital



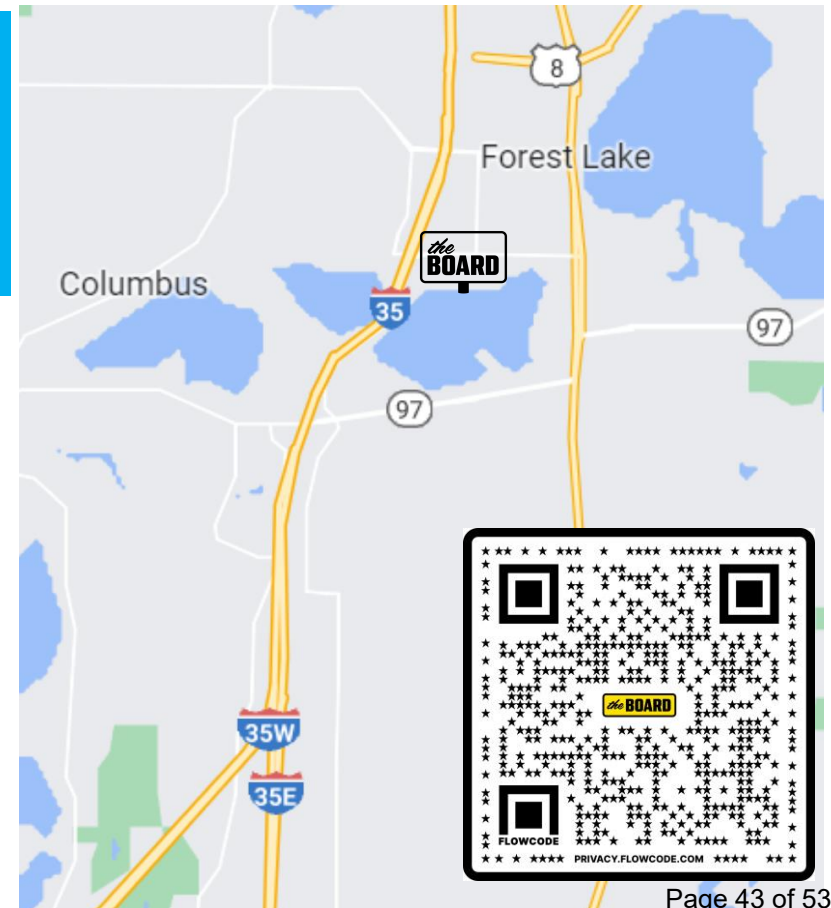


Forest Lake, MN HW35/11th Ave Minneapolis/St. Paul – 1001 RHR



Location Overview: Dominating Northeast Twin Cities metro HW35 digital location targeting northbound traffic North of the Forest Lake Split combining significant traffic from both Minneapolis (35W) and St. Paul (35E). This RHR has significant dwell time and dominating position over the road in the flourishing Forest Lake, MN retail corridor. This is the primary highway between the Twin Cities metro and NW Wisconsin and Duluth, MN. Reach high indexing suburban commuters, locals and regional audiences. Viewable from HW35, the 11th Avenue Bridge and well traveled county road.

Description: Hwy 35, 1.47 mi. N/O MN 97 at 11th Ave & HW35; 1.31 mi S/O US HW 8		
Geopath ID: 50592245	Media Type: Digital	MSP/St. Paul DM Weekly Impressions
Facing: South - RHR	Size: 14' x 48'	Total Persons – 191,487
City: Forest Lake	Zip: 55025	Persons 18+ - 154,112
Latitude: 45.268685	Longitude: -93.008031	



www.GetUpOnTheBoard.com

Location: Highway 35/11th Avenue – Right Hand Read - Northbound



Highway 35 at 11th Avenue – North of the Forest Lake Split

- 1st Digital in Northeast Twin Cities Metro
- Weekly Drive Time Stopped Traffic
- Combining Minneapolis & St. Paul Metro Traffic
- Gateway to Suburban, Northern MN and Western WI
- Major Retail Trading Area – Walmart, Target, Home Depot,
- Cub Foods, Menards and 50 other retailers



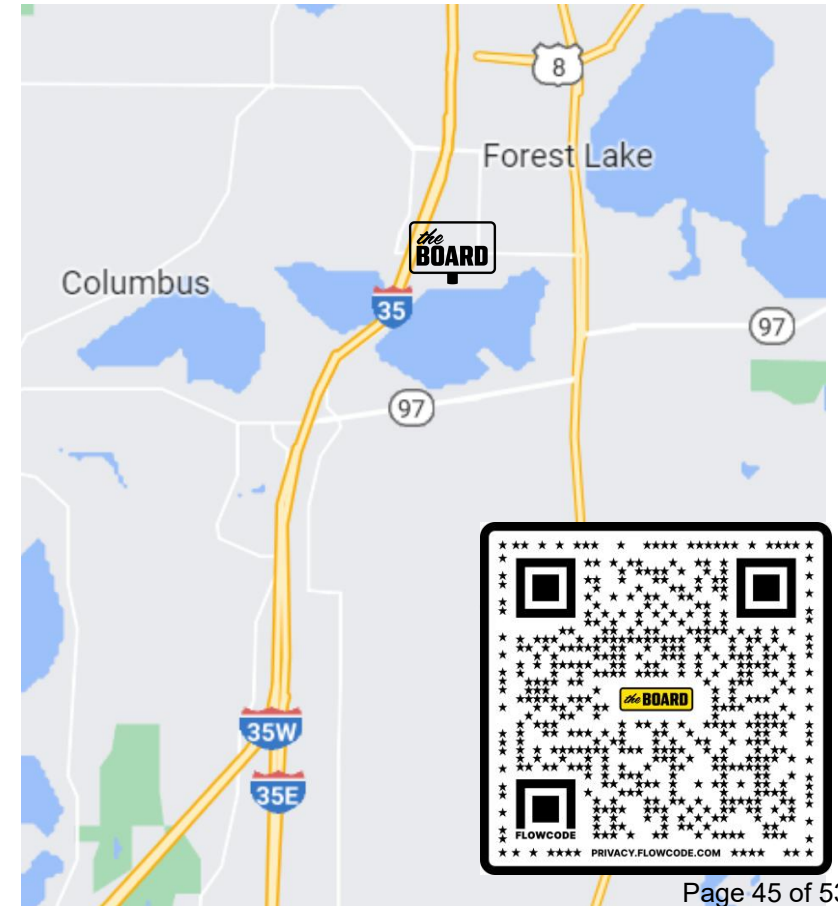
Forest Lake, MN HW35/11th Ave Minneapolis/St. Paul – 1002 LHR



NORTH STAR MEDIA PARTNERS

Location Overview: Dominating Northeast Twin Cities metro HW35 digital location delivering intense southbound audiences coming into the Twin Cities - North of the Forest Lake Split bringing significant traffic from both Minneapolis (35W) and St. Paul (35E). This LHR is the 1st Digital Billboard entering the metro from points north including all outer suburbs, Duluth and Western Wisconsin travelers. Significant dwell time and elevated, dominating position over the road in the flourishing Forest Lake, MN retail corridor.

Description: Hwy 35, 1.47 mi. N/O MN 97 at 11th Ave & HW35; 1.31 mi S/O US HW 8		
Geopath ID: 50592253	Media Type: Digital	MSP/St. Paul DMA/Weekly Impressions
Facing: North LHR	Size: 14' x 48'	Total Persons – 140,970
City: Forest Lake	Zip: 55025	Persons 18+ - 114,875
Latitude: 45.268733	Longitude: -93008015	



www.GetUpOnTheBoard.com

Location: Highway 35/11th Avenue – Left Hand Read - Southbound



- ### Highway 35 at 11th Avenue – North of the Forest Lake Split
- 1st Digital in Northeast Twin Cities Metro
 - Southbound HW35 traffic, HW 8 Westbound traffic, Forest Lake Broadway onramp traffic.
 - Weekly Drive Time Stopped Traffic
 - Combining Minneapolis & St. Paul Metro Traffic
 - Gateway to Suburban, Northern MN and Western WI
 - Major Retail Trading Area – Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Cub Foods, Menards and 50 other retailers



Digital Billboard - HW 35 and 11th Ave

Forest Lake, Minnesota

Investment Overview

Investment Recommendation:

- 1 full position – an :08 second ad running every 8th ad
- Over 1300 ads per day
- Weekly impact of over 9100 ads per week
- Creative flexibility – change creative often
- All investments are per week

Right Hand Read – Northbound Traffic Board 1001

- 13 Weeks - \$700 per week
- 26 Weeks - \$650 per week
- 52 Weeks - \$550 per week
- 104 Weeks - \$510 per week

Left Hand Read – Southbound Traffic Board 1002

- 13 Weeks - \$650 per week
- 26 Weeks - \$600 per week
- 52 Weeks - \$550 per week
- 104 Weeks - \$500 per week

Rates Quoted – January 2025



Digital Billboard - HW 35 and 11th Ave

Forest Lake, Minnesota

Investment Overview

Investment Recommendation:

- ½ Rotation position
- :08 second ad running every other minute
- Over 650 ads per day
- Weekly impact of over 4550 ads per week
- Creative flexibility – change creative often
- All investments are per week

Right Hand Read – Northbound Traffic Board 1001

- 13 Week - \$375 net per week
- 26 Week - \$350 net per week
- 52 Week - \$325 net per week
- 104 Week - \$300 net per week

Left Hand Read – Southbound Traffic Board 1002

- 13 Week - \$350 net per week
- 26 Week - \$325 net per week
- 52 Week - \$300 net per week
- 104 Week - \$275 net per week

Rates Quoted – January 2025



Forest Lake, MN #2
Highway 35 and Broadway
Back-to-Back Digital



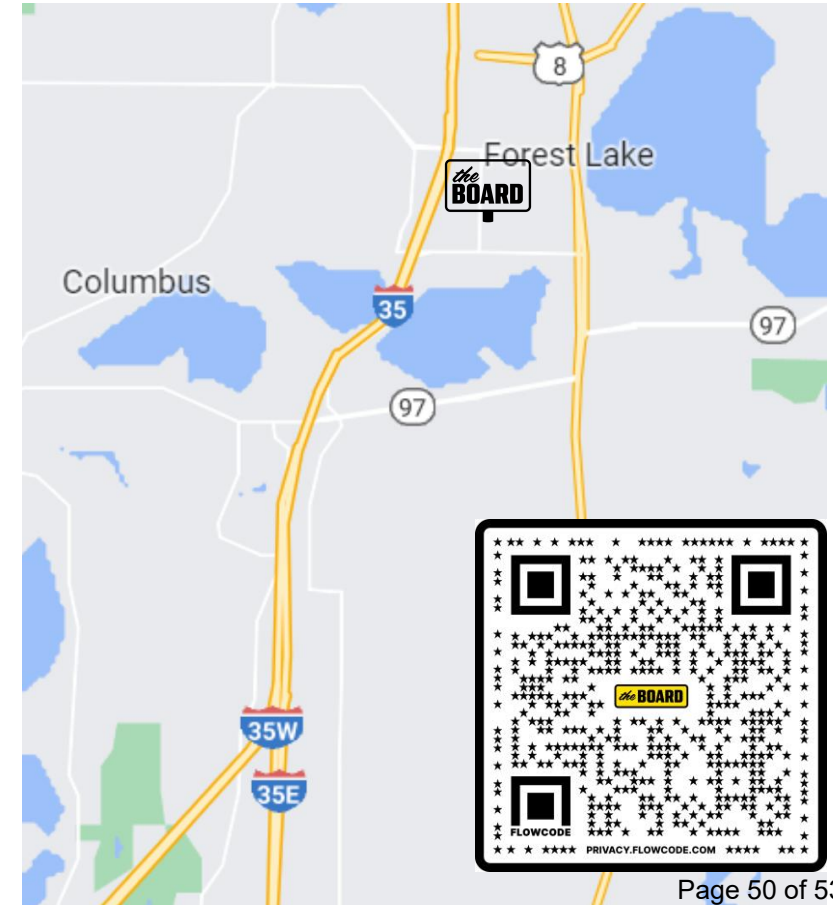


Forest Lake, MN HW35/Broadway Minneapolis/St. Paul – 1003 RHR



Location Overview: Dominating Northeast Twin Cities metro HW35 digital location targeting northbound traffic North of the Forest Lake Split combining significant traffic from both Minneapolis (35W) and St. Paul (35E). This RHR has strong dwell time and dominating position over Highway 35 and the Broadway Exit to Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Menards, dozens of retailers and Forest Lake. Reach Northbound regional travelers. Reach high indexing suburban commuters, locals and regional audiences.

Description: Hwy 35, 1.70 mi. N/O MN 97 at the Broadway Ave Exit & HW35; .5 mi S/O US HW 8		
Geopath ID: Pending	Media Type: Digital	MSP/St. Paul DM Weekly Impressions
Facing: South - RHR	Size: 14' x 48'	Total Persons – 191,487
City: Forest Lake	Zip: 55025	Persons 18+ - 154,112
Latitude: 45.2775534	Longitude: -93.0032776	



www.GetUpOnTheBoard.com



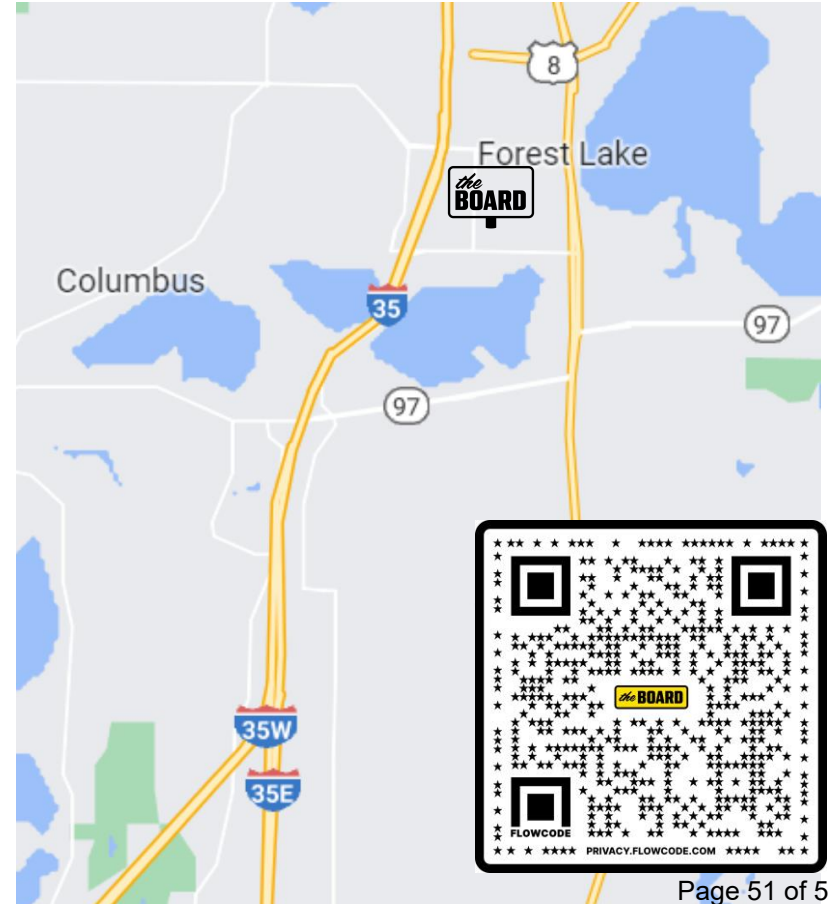
Forest Lake, MN HW35/Broadway Ave Minneapolis/St. Paul – 1004 LHR



NORTH STAR MEDIA PARTNERS

Location Overview: Dominating Northeast Twin Cities metro HW35 digital location delivering intense southbound audiences coming into the Twin Cities - North of the Forest Lake Split bringing significant traffic from both Minneapolis (35W) and St. Paul (35E). This LHR is the 1st Digital Billboard entering the metro from points north including all outer suburbs, Duluth and Western Wisconsin travelers. Significant dwell time and elevated, dominating position over the road in the flourishing Forest Lake, MN retail corridor.

Description: Hwy 35, 1.70 mi. N/O MN 97 at the Broadway Ave Exit & HW35; .5 mi S/O US HW 8		
Geopath ID: Pending	Media Type: Digital	MSP/St. Paul DMA/Weekly Impressions
Facing: North LHR	Size: 14' x 48'	Total Persons – 140,970
City: Forest Lake	Zip: 55025	Persons 18+ - 114,875
Latitude: 45.2775534	Longitude: -93.0032776	



www.GetUpOnTheBoard.com



Digital Billboard – HW35 & Broadway

Forest Lake, Minnesota

Investment Overview

Investment Recommendation:

- 1 full position – an :08 second ad running every 8th ad
- Over 1300 ads per day
- Weekly impact of over 9100 ads per week
- Creative flexibility – change creative often
- All investments are per week

Right Hand Read – Northbound Traffic Board 1003

- 13 Weeks - \$700 per week
- 26 Weeks - \$650 per week
- 52 Weeks - \$550 per week
- 104 Weeks - \$510 per week

Left Hand Read – Southbound Traffic Board 1004

- 13 Weeks - \$650 per week
- 26 Weeks - \$600 per week
- 52 Weeks - \$550 per week
- 104 Weeks - \$500 per week

Rates Quoted – June 2025



Digital Billboard – HW35 & Broadway Forest Lake, Minnesota Investment Overview

Investment Recommendation:

- ½ Rotation position
- :08 second ad running every other minute
- Over 650 ads per day
- Weekly impact of over 4550 ads per week
- Creative flexibility – change creative often
- All investments are per week

Right Hand Read – Northbound Traffic Board 1003

- 13 Week - \$375 net per week
- 26 Week - \$350 net per week
- 52 Week - \$325 net per week
- 104 Week - \$300 net per week

Left Hand Read – Southbound Traffic Board 1004

- 13 Week - \$350 net per week
- 26 Week - \$325 net per week
- 52 Week - \$300 net per week
- 104 Week - \$275 net per week

Rates Quoted – June 2025