

COUNTY PROFILE

Koochiching Co.

Koochiching Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 3, which is located in the Northeast Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2022 population:	11,844 people	Median Age:	50.6 years
Population change, 2010-2022	-1,467 people -11.0% decline	state:	38.5 years

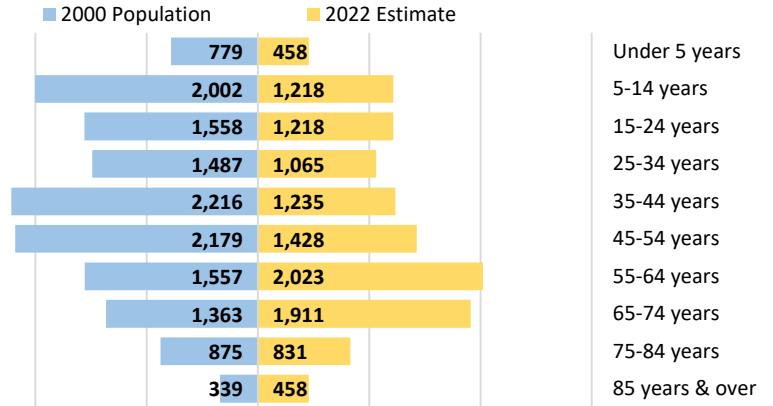
Koochiching Co. is the 62nd largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased over the past decade, ranking as the 87th fastest growing in the state from 2010 to 2022. Koochiching Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2022

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	458	3.9%
5-14 years	1,218	10.3%
15-24 years	1,218	10.3%
25-34 years	1,065	9.0%
35-44 years	1,235	10.4%
45-54 years	1,428	12.1%
55-64 years	2,023	17.1%
65-74 years	1,911	16.1%
75-84 years	831	7.0%
85 years & over	458	3.9%
Total Population	11,844	100.0%

Source: Census Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2022



Koochiching Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2022, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Koochiching Co. welcomed net international immigration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2022

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Koochiching Co.	-215	-193	208	401	-22	1	-23
State of Minnesota	10,680	26,917	144,350	117,433	-17,365	20,012	-37,377

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

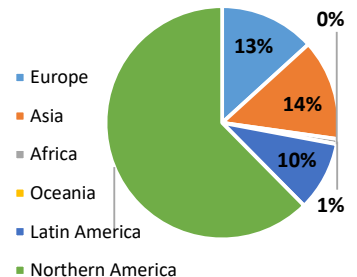
Compared to the state, Koochiching Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Koochiching Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022

Foreign-born Population	Koochiching Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	415	3.4%	-155	-27.2%	8.5%	31.3%
Europe	55	13.3%	-9	-14.1%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	58	14.0%	11	23.4%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	3	0.7%	3	#DIV/0!	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	299	72.0%	-160	-34.9%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	40	9.6%	28	233.3%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	259	62.4%	-188	-42.1%	2.5%	-4.6%

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

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022



COUNTY PROFILE

Koochiching Co.

Koochiching Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2011, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2022

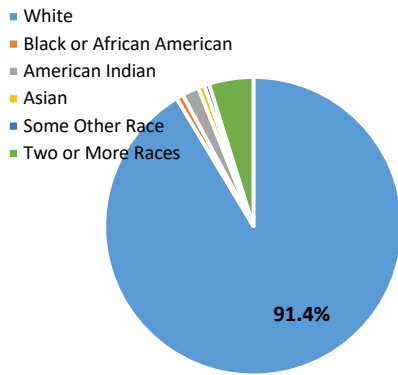


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Koochiching Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	12,072	100.0%	-9.7%	100.0%	7.9%
White	11,032	91.4%	-12.9%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	91	0.8%	184.4%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	220	1.8%	-43.6%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	83	0.7%	27.7%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	65	0.5%	242.1%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	581	4.8%	204.2%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	168	1.4%	-9.2%	5.7%	34.6%

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

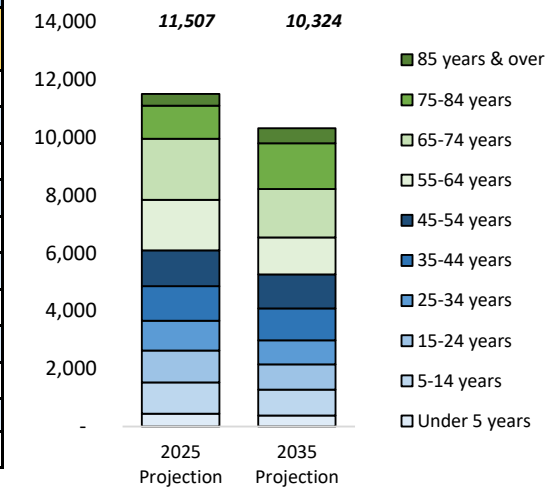
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Koochiching Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

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

Koochiching Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	449	377	-72	-16.0%
5-14 years	1,074	903	-171	-15.9%
15-24 years	1,105	871	-234	-21.2%
25-34 years	1,035	831	-204	-19.7%
35-44 years	1,193	1,106	-87	-7.3%
45-54 years	1,237	1,171	-66	-5.3%
55-64 years	1,753	1,290	-463	-26.4%
65-74 years	2,113	1,670	-443	-21.0%
75-84 years	1,142	1,583	441	38.6%
85 years & over	406	522	116	28.6%
Total Population	11,507	10,324	-1,183	-10.3%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Koochiching Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.0%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Koochiching 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.

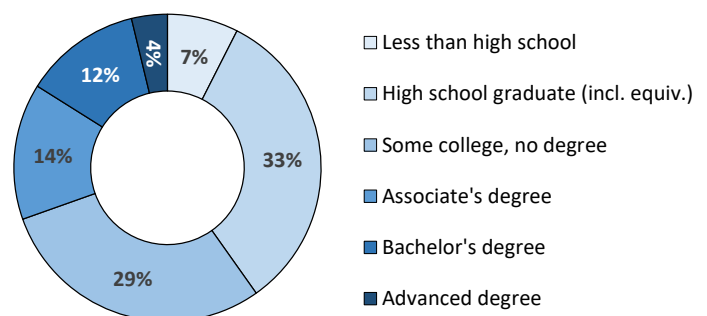
Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:

92.5%

College-educated: 59.8%
state: 68.5%

Associate's Degree: 14.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 12.3%
Advanced Degree: 3.8%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022



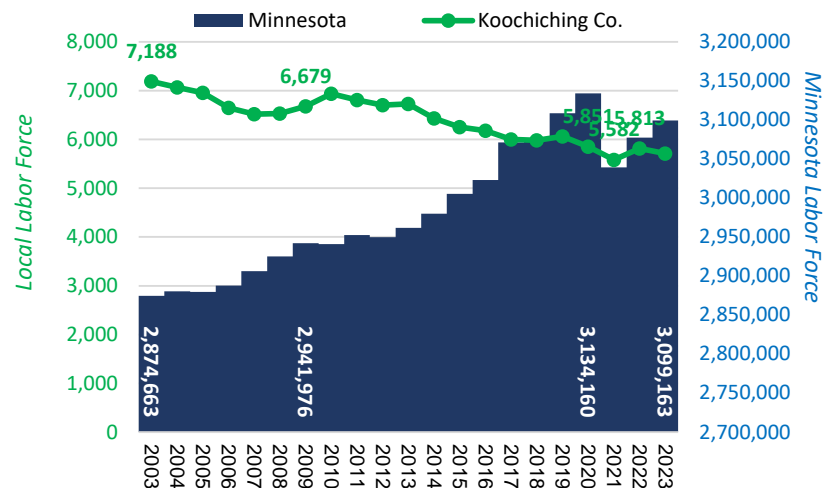
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4%, Koochiching Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Koochiching Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 6.7% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Koochiching Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

5,813 available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	-823 workers -12.6% decline
4.0% unemployment rate	2.7% state
233 unemployed workers	

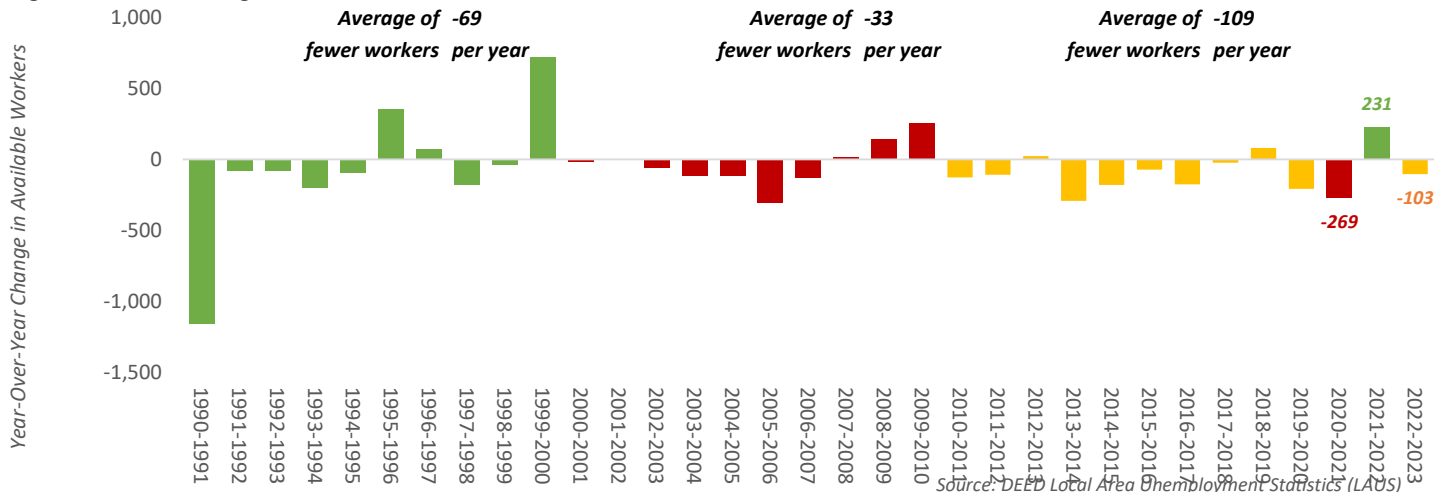
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023



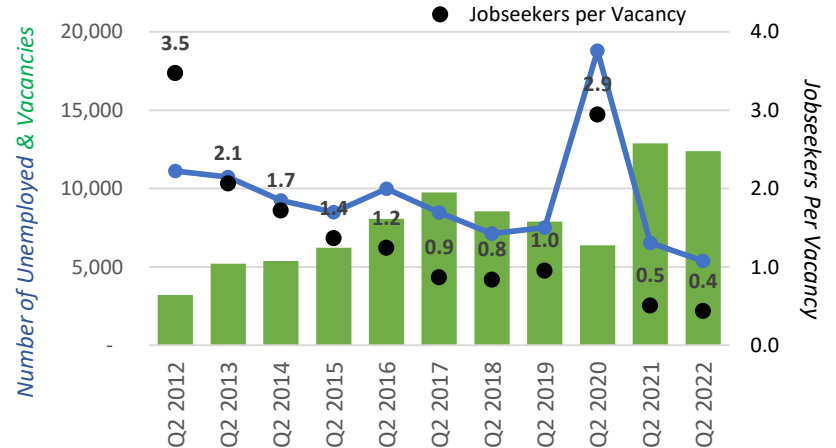
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	720	575
25 to 54 years	3,106	2,784
55 to 64 years	1,091	803
65 years & over	526	426
Total Labor Force	5,444	4,587

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2018-2022 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. Job vacancies in Northeast reached new highs in the 4th quarter of 2021, quickly bringing back challenges in finding new workers and 2022 showed the lowest jobseeker-per-vacancy ratio on record (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2012-2022



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

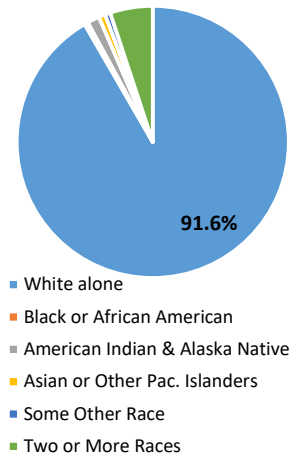
LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Koochiching Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Koochiching Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 81.3% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2022

	Koochiching 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	5,963	58.4%	5.1%	68.7%	4.0%	3,139	2,824
16 to 19 years	333	56.7%	23.1%	53.0%	9.8%	151	182
20 to 24 years	459	91.8%	0.9%	83.1%	6.7%	269	190
25 to 44 years	2,140	91.3%	6.2%	88.8%	3.5%	1,105	1,035
45 to 54 years	1,261	86.7%	4.4%	87.8%	2.9%	623	639
55 to 64 years	1,284	62.3%	1.5%	72.8%	3.1%	711	573
65 to 74 years	469	24.1%	3.2%	27.6%	3.3%	270	200
75 years & over	14	1.1%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	10	5
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin							
White alone	5,462	57.9%	5.2%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	26	40.0%	50.0%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	86	43.4%	2.3%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	46	74.2%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	38	58.5%	0.0%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	302	78.0%	1.0%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	102	60.7%	0.0%	77.0%	6.3%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	444	46.0%	14.0%	54.4%	10.2%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	4,689	80.0%	4.4%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	178	52.7%	3.3%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,298	71.3%	0.0%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	2,326	85.2%	6.1%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	884	90.9%	0.9%	90.3%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022



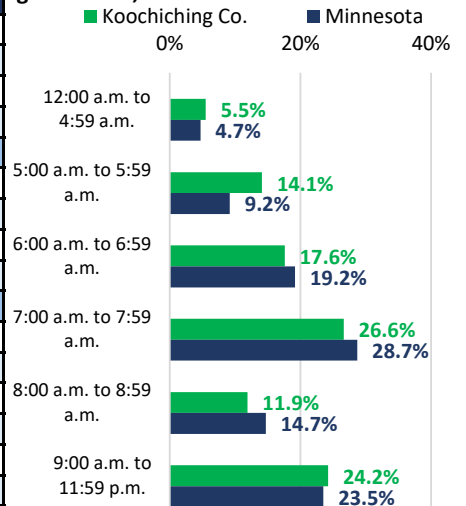
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Koochiching Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	5,495	99.2%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	5,129	92.6%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	371	6.7%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	44	0.8%	67,495	2.3%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	4,620	83.4%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	28	0.5%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	388	7.0%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	499	9.0%	333,556	11.4%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	2,531	45.7%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	1,584	28.6%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	576	10.4%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	299	5.4%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	194	3.5%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	354	6.4%	158,000	5.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	16.4 minutes		23.3 minutes	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022



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

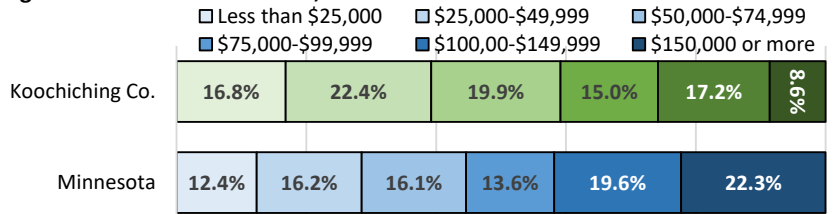
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Koochiching Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Koochiching Co. had the 83rd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$59,779
state	\$84,313
Median Family Income	\$77,000
state	\$107,072
Per Capita Income	\$36,515
state	\$44,947

Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2022



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

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Koochiching Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$12.87 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$14.67 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2022

Category	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Single Adult, 0 children									
Koochiching Co.	\$26,768	\$12.87	\$0	\$394	\$163	\$594	\$680	\$239	\$161
State of Minnesota	\$34,992	\$16.82	\$0	\$403	\$159	\$961	\$760	\$330	\$303
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child									
Koochiching Co.	\$45,769	\$14.67	\$316	\$900	\$528	\$794	\$788	\$410	\$78
State of Minnesota	\$60,720	\$19.46	\$574	\$921	\$555	\$1,216	\$886	\$517	\$391

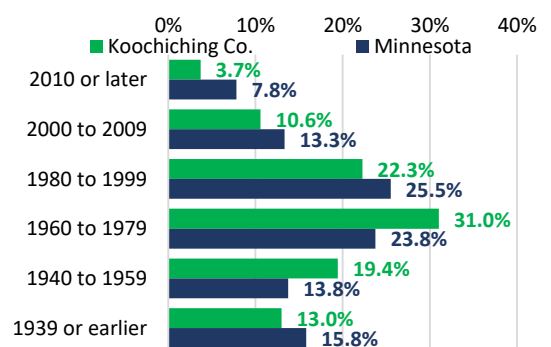
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Koochiching Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 79th highest value of the 87 counties in 2021. Koochiching Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Koochiching Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	4,601	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	669	14.5%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	908	19.7%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,046	22.7%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	756	16.4%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	632	13.7%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	467	10.1%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	123	2.7%	14.7%
Median (dollars)	\$132,200		\$286,800

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage **\$1,123**

state \$1,818

Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs **18.0%**

state 22.0%

Median monthly rent costs **\$686**

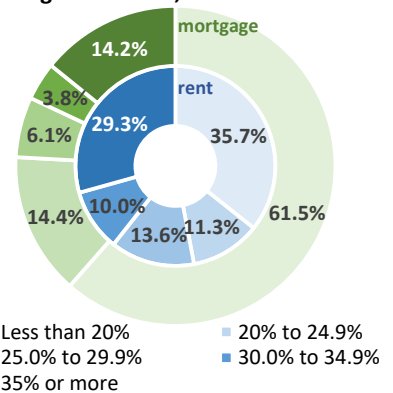
state \$1,178

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent **39.4%**

state 46.7%

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

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2022



OCCUPATIONS

At \$22.57 in 2023, wages were lower in Region 3 than the state. Overall, Region 3 had the 6th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$42.6) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.05) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2023

Occupational Group	Region 3				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	\$22.57	136,490	100.0%	1.0	\$24.25	2,827,310	100.0%
Management	\$42.60	7,720	5.7%	0.8	\$51.58	193,760	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$32.03	5,910	4.3%	0.6	\$38.19	201,940	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.38	2,150	1.6%	0.4	\$49.73	99,250	3.5%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.75	2,340	1.7%	0.9	\$40.60	53,100	1.9%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$32.18	1,680	1.2%	1.2	\$39.37	29,070	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$24.43	4,310	3.2%	1.6	\$25.82	54,820	1.9%
Legal	\$41.44	530	0.4%	0.6	\$47.87	18,730	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.02	8,450	6.2%	1.1	\$24.82	158,830	5.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.52	1,280	0.9%	0.7	\$28.80	37,630	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.53	11,460	8.4%	1.3	\$41.07	186,700	6.6%
Healthcare Support	\$17.05	9,180	6.7%	1.2	\$17.40	162,400	5.7%
Protective Service	\$25.66	3,020	2.2%	1.5	\$25.83	40,620	1.4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.05	13,630	10.0%	1.3	\$14.89	216,970	7.7%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$16.29	4,560	3.3%	1.2	\$18.26	76,210	2.7%
Personal Care & Service	\$15.33	3,110	2.3%	1.1	\$16.96	58,120	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$15.06	11,540	8.5%	1.0	\$18.14	239,500	8.5%
Office & Administrative Support	\$20.75	16,030	11.7%	1.0	\$23.06	345,830	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.49	240	0.2%	1.2	\$19.84	4,060	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.65	6,950	5.1%	1.3	\$31.00	113,930	4.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$29.17	6,400	4.7%	1.3	\$27.95	98,670	3.5%
Production	\$22.97	6,640	4.9%	0.7	\$22.07	209,380	7.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$19.53	9,370	6.9%	0.9	\$19.80	227,780	8.1%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2023

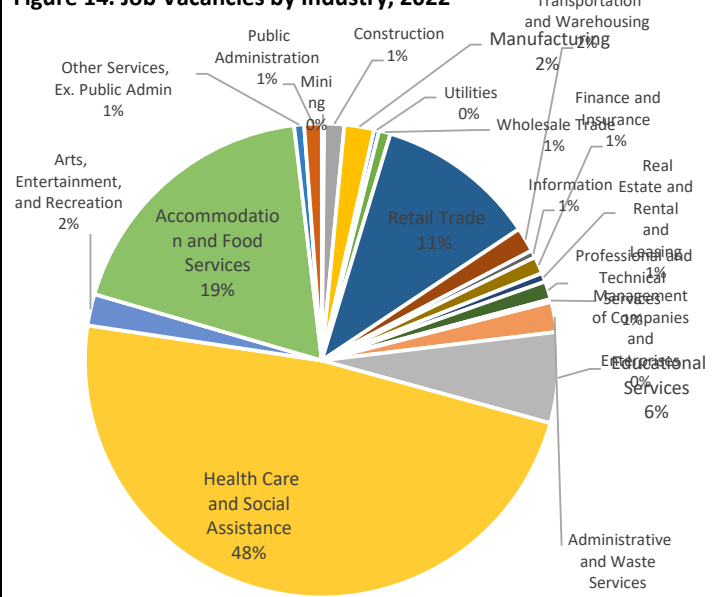
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Koochiching Co. is a part of the Northeast planning region. There were 12388 job vacancies posted by employers in 2022, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Northeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2022

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	12,388	\$17.36
Management	422	\$24.15
Business & Financial Operations	273	\$24.50
Computer & Mathematical	65	\$31.98
Architecture & Engineering	139	\$31.37
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	26	\$30.85
Community & Social Service	862	\$23.99
Education, Training & Library	507	\$17.89
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,703	\$27.35
Healthcare Support	1,920	\$14.98
Protective Service	165	\$16.15
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,974	\$13.44
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	509	\$15.29
Personal Care & Service	371	\$14.87
Sales & Related	776	\$20.46
Office & Administrative Support	591	\$17.71
Construction & Extraction	214	\$15.77
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	652	\$19.19
Production	300	\$16.14
Transportation & Material Moving	799	\$16.76

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2022



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2022

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northeast Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$32,409/yr	Nursing Assistants \$38,023/yr	Registered Nurses \$78,892/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral & mental health counselors \$47,421/yr
Retail Salespersons \$30,436/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$50,965/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$69,705/yr	General & Operations Managers \$74,719/yr
Cashiers \$28,649/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$48,638/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$62,998/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$64,162/yr
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General \$51,214/yr	Medical Assistants \$44,580/yr	Dental Hygienists \$80,434/yr	Social & Community Service Managers \$65,308/yr
Waiters & Waitresses \$23,385/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$67,655/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$67,078/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$62,554/yr
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping \$34,993/yr	Dental Assistants \$54,500/yr	Surgical Technologists \$62,349/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$66,865/yr
Driver/Sales Workers \$27,752/yr	Electricians \$77,859/yr	Forest & Conservation Technicians \$49,163/yr	Pharmacists \$137,104/yr
Fast Food & Counter Workers \$28,490/yr	First-Line Supervisors of Personal Service Workers \$41,164/yr	Respiratory Therapists \$75,469/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$63,477/yr
Stockers & Order Fillers \$32,400/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$56,023/yr	Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians \$79,749/yr	Preschool Teachers \$34,916/yr
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners \$30,367/yr	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, exc. Engines \$63,006/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$70,683/yr	Child, Family, & School Social Workers \$66,072/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Koochiching Co. is a part of the Northeast planning region, which is projected to see a 5.5% 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, 2020-2030

	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030
Northeast Planning Region			
Total, All Industries	148,527	156,642	5.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	4,938	5,018	1.6%
Utilities	1,295	1,097	-15.3%
Construction	6,111	6,368	4.2%
Manufacturing	8,329	8,166	-2.0%
Wholesale Trade	3,122	3,127	0.2%
Retail Trade	16,275	15,391	-5.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	4,783	4,977	4.1%
Information	1,145	1,210	5.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	5,760	5,883	2.1%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,359	5,695	6.3%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	2,916	3,095	6.1%
Educational Services	11,884	12,440	4.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	32,183	35,151	9.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	14,347	17,531	22.2%
Other Services	5,703	6,304	10.5%
Public Administration	14,780	15,572	5.4%

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2020-2030

