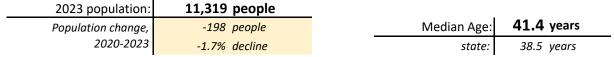


# **COUNTY PROFILE**

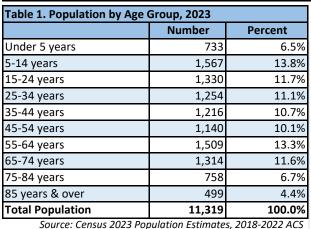
# Cottonwood Co.

Cottonwood Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 8, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.

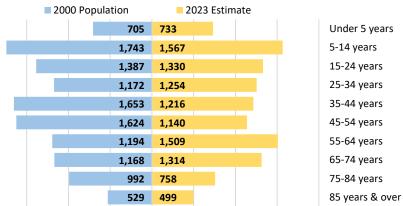
# **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**



Cottonwood Co. is the 63rd largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 70th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Cottonwood 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).







Cottonwood Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Cottonwood Co. welcomed net international inmigration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2023								
	Total		April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
	Population	Natural	Natural Vital Events Net Migration					
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic	
Cottonwood Co.	-194	-102	444	546	-100	17	-117	
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976	

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

Compared to the state, Cottonwood Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Cottonwood Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

mercuse in the number of foreign both residents, which was faster than the stateward mercuse.								
Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born	Cottonwood Co. Change 2010-2022		Minnesota					
Population, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change		
Foreign-born Population	678	5.9%	189	38.7%	8.5%	31.3%		
Europe	5	0.7%	-31	-86.1%	9.3%	-0.6%		
Asia	195	28.8%	35	21.9%	36.7%	30.2%		
Africa	69	10.2%	65	1625.0%	28.1%	93.1%		
Oceania	34	5.0%	34	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%		
Americas:	375	55.3%	86	29.8%	25.4%	7.5%		
Latin America	369	54.4%	90	32.3%	22.9%	9.0%		
Northern America	6	0.9%	-4	-40.0%	2.5%	-4.6%		

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

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 1% 2022



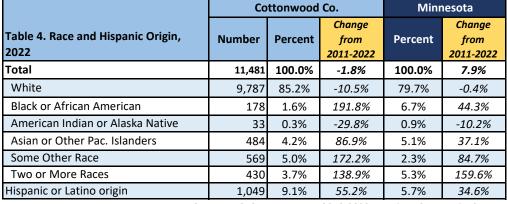
COUNTY PROFILE Cottonwood Co.

Cottonwood 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



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



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

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-

## **POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

85.2%

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Cottonwood 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 decrease over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035 2025 2035 Numeric Percent Cottonwood Co. Projection Projection Change Change Under 5 years 740 27 3.8% 5-14 years 1,610 1,528 -82 -5.1% 1,337 1,432 95 7.1% 15-24 years 25-34 years 1,161 1,143 -18 -1.6% 35-44 years 1,250 1,313 63 5.0% 1,140 1,207 67 5.9% 45-54 years 55-64 years 1,282 1,036 -246 -19.2% 65-74 years 1,293 999 -294 -22.7% 75-84 years 850 857 7 0.8% -30 85 years & over 434 404 -6.9%

11,070

2035 12,000 10,659 11,070 ■ 85 years & over 10,000 ■ 75-84 years **□** 65-74 years 8,000 **□** 55-64 years ■ 45-54 years 6,000 ■ 35-44 years 4,000 ■ 25-34 years ■ 15-24 years 2,000 ■ 5-14 years □ Under 5 years

2025 Projection 2035 Projection

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

-411

#### **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

**Total Population** 

Cottonwood 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. Cottonwood 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.

-3.7%

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

90.7%

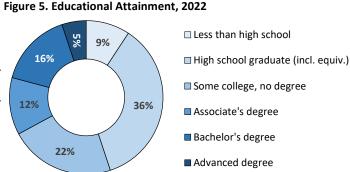
10,659

**55.1%**68.5%

Associate's Degree: 12.1%
Bachelor's Degree: 15.7%
Advanced Degree: 5.1%

state:

College-educated:



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

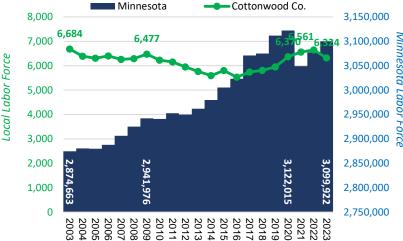
**COUNTY PROFILE Cottonwood Co** 

#### LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.6%, Cottonwood Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Cottonwood Co.'s unemployment rate increased compared to the 3.7% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Cottonwood Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.



**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, Cottonwood Co. averaged an annual loss of fewer workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Cottonwood Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Cottonwood Co. Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023 800 Average of 37 Average of -5 Average of 14

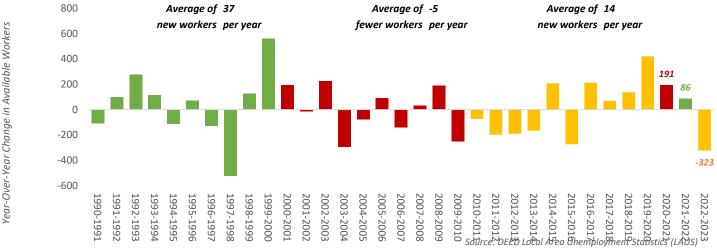
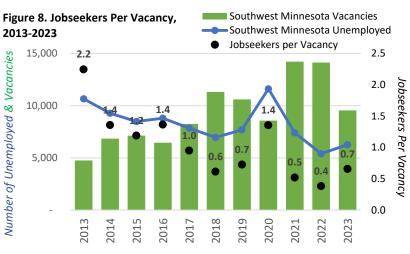


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection			
Projections, 2025-2035	2025 2035			
16 to 24 years	795	864		
25 to 54 years	3,004	3,100		
55 to 64 years	1,031	833		
65 years & over	491	397		
Total Labor Force	5,320	5,194		

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. In 2023, job vacancies in Southwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

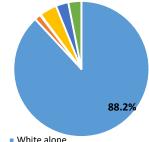
**COUNTY PROFILE** Cottonwood Co.

# LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

White alone	Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2022							
Total Labor Force		Cott	tonwood Co.		Minne	esota	Labor Force by Gender	
16 to 19 years		(available	Force Partic.	•	Force Partic.	•	Male	Female
20 to 24 years 533 87.8% 11.4% 83.1% 6.7% 342 191 25 to 44 years 2,081 83.1% 2.0% 88.8% 3.5% 1,118 963 45 to 54 years 1,015 87.8% 3.3% 87.8% 2.9% 531 484 55 to 64 years 1,231 80.4% 4.8% 72.8% 3.1% 675 556 65 to 74 years 419 31.4% 0.2% 27.6% 3.3% 252 167 75 years & over 84 6.6% 0.0% 6.6% 3.2% 50 34 Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin  White alone 4,953 62.5% 3.4% 67.8% 3.4% Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin  White alone 4,953 62.5% 3.4% 67.8% 3.4% Asian or Other Pac. Islanders 232 61.7% 9.5% 73.9% 3.6% Some Other Race 168 58.7% 9.5% 76.1% 6.1% Two or More Races 174 68.2% 8.6% 74.3% 6.6% Hispanic or Latino 404 68.5% 4.0% 77.0% 6.3% Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years Population, 25 to 64 years 4,325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Less than H.S. Diploma 216 51.6% 2.5% 67.2% 4.6% H.S. Diploma or Equivalent 1,299 81.0% 3.1% 76.8% 2.5% Some College or Assoc. Degree 1,705 88.1% 2.6% 85.1% 3.6%  Asian or Other Pac. Is	Total Labor Force	5,617	62.7%	3.9%	68.7%	4.0%	3,116	2,503
25 to 44 years 2,081 83.1% 2.0% 88.8% 3.5% 1,118 963 45 to 54 years 1,015 87.8% 3.3% 87.8% 2.9% 531 484 55 to 64 years 1,231 80.4% 4.8% 72.8% 3.1% 675 556 65 to 74 years 419 31.4% 0.2% 27.6% 3.3% 252 167 75 years & over 84 6.6% 0.0% 6.6% 3.2% 50 34  Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin  White alone 4,953 62.5% 3.4% 67.8% 3.4% Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin  White alone 4,953 62.5% 3.4% 67.8% 3.4% American Indian & Alaska Native 12 100.0% 0.0% 57.6% 11.9% Asian or Other Pac. Islanders 232 61.7% 9.5% 73.9% 3.6% Some Other Race 168 58.7% 9.5% 76.1% 6.1% Two or More Races 174 68.2% 8.6% 74.3% 6.6% Hispanic or Latino 404 68.5% 4.0% 77.0% 6.3%  Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years  With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2%  Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2%  Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2%  Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4,325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3%  Less than H.S. Diploma 216 51.6% 2.5% 67.2% 4.6% H.S. Diploma or Equivalent 1,299 81.0% 3.1% 76.8% 2.5%  Some College or Assoc. Degree 1,705 88.1% 2.6% 85.1% 3.6%  Asian or Other Pac. Is	16 to 19 years	256	46.4%	9.8%	53.0%	9.8%	148	108
## 1,015   87.8%   3.3%   87.8%   2.9%   531   484   485   55 to 64 years   1,231   80.4%   4.8%   72.8%   3.1%   675   556   65 to 74 years   419   31.4%   0.2%   27.6%   3.3%   252   167   75 years & over   84   6.6%   0.0%   6.6%   3.2%   50   34   Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin  White alone   4,953   62.5%   3.4%   67.8%   3.4%   67.8%   3.4%   American Indian & Alaska Native   12   100.0%   0.0%   57.6%   11.9%   Asian or Other Pac. Islanders   232   61.7%   9.5%   73.9%   3.6%   74.3%   6.6%   74.3%   74	20 to 24 years	533	87.8%	11.4%	83.1%	6.7%	342	191
1,231   80.4%   4.8%   72.8%   3.1%   675   556	25 to 44 years	2,081	83.1%	2.0%	88.8%	3.5%	1,118	963
Sto 74 years	45 to 54 years	1,015	87.8%	3.3%	87.8%	2.9%	531	484
To years & over   84   6.6%   0.0%   6.6%   3.2%   50   34	55 to 64 years	1,231	80.4%	4.8%	72.8%	3.1%	675	556
## Figure 9. Labor Force Race, 2022    White alone		419	31.4%	0.2%	27.6%	3.3%	252	167
White alone	75 years & over	84	6.6%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	50	34
Black or African American   83   78.3%   0.0%   71.5%   8.7%	Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin						Figure 9. La	abor Force l
American Indian & Alaska Native	White alone	4,953	62.5%	3.4%	67.8%	3.4%	Race, 2022	
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders 232 61.7% 9.5% 73.9% 3.6% Some Other Race 168 58.7% 9.5% 76.1% 6.1% Two or More Races 174 68.2% 8.6% 74.3% 6.6% Hispanic or Latino 404 68.5% 4.0% 77.0% 6.3% Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years Population, 25 to 64 years 4,325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Less than H.S. Diploma 216 51.6% 2.5% 67.2% 4.6% H.S. Diploma or Equivalent 1,299 81.0% 3.1% 76.8% 2.5% American Indian & Alexandra Ale	Black or African American	83	78.3%	0.0%	71.5%	8.7%		
Some Other Race	American Indian & Alaska Native	12	100.0%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%		
Two or More Races 174 68.2% 8.6% 74.3% 6.6% Hispanic or Latino 404 68.5% 4.0% 77.0% 6.3% Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years  With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years 335 57.7% 6.6% 54.4% 10.2% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4,325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4,325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years  Population, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1% 84.4% 3.3% Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years 4.325 83.3% 3.1%	Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	232	61.7%	9.5%	73.9%	3.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	Some Other Race	168	58.7%	9.5%	76.1%	6.1%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years           With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years         335         57.7%         6.6%         54.4%         10.2%           Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years         Population, 25 to 64 years         4,325         83.3%         3.1%         84.4%         3.3%         84.6%         86.6%         10.2%         White alone         86.6%         10.2%         86.6%         10.2%	Two or More Races	174	68.2%	8.6%	74.3%	6.6%		<u> </u>
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years       335       57.7%       6.6%       54.4%       10.2%         Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years       Population, 25 to 64 years       4,325       83.3%       3.1%       84.4%       3.3%       84.6%       84.6%       86.6%       54.4%       10.2%         Less than H.S. Diploma       216       51.6%       2.5%       67.2%       4.6%       81.0%       81.0%       3.1%       76.8%       2.5%       American Indian & Alamerican	Hispanic or Latino	404	68.5%	4.0%	77.0%	6.3%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years           Population, 25 to 64 years         4,325         83.3%         3.1%         84.4%         3.3%           Less than H.S. Diploma         216         51.6%         2.5%         67.2%         4.6%           H.S. Diploma or Equivalent         1,299         81.0%         3.1%         76.8%         2.5%           Some College or Assoc. Degree         1,705         88.1%         2.6%         85.1%         3.6%	<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability,</b>	20 to 64 years						
Population, 25 to 64 years       4,325       83.3%       3.1%       84.4%       3.3%       White alone         Less than H.S. Diploma       216       51.6%       2.5%       67.2%       4.6%       Black or African Amer         H.S. Diploma or Equivalent       1,299       81.0%       3.1%       76.8%       2.5%       American Indian & Ala         Some College or Assoc. Degree       1,705       88.1%       2.6%       85.1%       3.6%       Asian or Other Pac. Is	With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	335	57.7%	6.6%	54.4%	10.2%		
Population, 25 to 64 years       4,325       83.3%       3.1%       84.4%       3.3%         Less than H.S. Diploma       216       51.6%       2.5%       67.2%       4.6%         H.S. Diploma or Equivalent       1,299       81.0%       3.1%       76.8%       2.5%         Some College or Assoc. Degree       1,705       88.1%       2.6%       85.1%       3.6%     Asian or Other Pac. Is	<b>Employment Characteristics by Educationa</b>	al Attainment, 25	to 64 years					
Less than H.S. Diploma       216       51.6%       2.5%       67.2%       4.6%         H.S. Diploma or Equivalent       1,299       81.0%       3.1%       76.8%       2.5%       American Indian & Alamerican Ind	Population, 25 to 64 years	4,325	83.3%	3.1%	84.4%	3.3%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree 1,705 88.1% 2.6% 85.1% 3.6% Asian or Other Pac. Is	Less than H.S. Diploma	216	51.6%	2.5%	67.2%	4.6%		
3011e College of Associ. Degree 1,703 66.1% 2.0% 65.1% 5.0%	H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,299	81.0%	3.1%	76.8%	2.5%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher 1,108 89.8% 4.1% 90.3% 2.0% Some Other Race	Some College or Assoc. Degree	1,705	88.1%	2.6%	85.1%	3.6%		
	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,108	89.8%	4.1%	90.3%	2.0%	Some Ot	ther Race

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022



- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

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

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

	Cottonwo	od Co.	Minnesota	
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	5,126	98.0%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	4,132	79.0%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	994	19.0%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	105	2.0%	67,495	2.3%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	4,441	84.9%	2,338,861	79.7%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	0	0.0%	73,365	2.5%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	340	6.5%	120,318	4.1%
Worked at home	455	8.7%	399,103	13.6%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	2,228	42.6%	475,402	16.2%
10 to 19 minutes	1,611	30.8%	906,786	30.9%
20 to 29 minutes	486	9.3%	651,477	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	492	9.4%	563,440	19.2%
45 to 59 minutes	199	3.8%	181,944	6.2%
60 or more minutes	209	4.0%	155,533	5.3%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	16.1	minutes	23.3	minutes

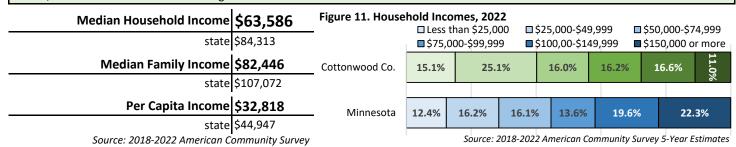
Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022 Cottonwood Co. ■ Minnesota 0% 20% 40% 12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m. 5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m. 9.2% 6:00 a.m. to 6:59 22.2% 19.2% 7:00 a.m. to 7:59 33.0% a.m. 28.7% 8:00 a.m. to 8:59 a.m. 14.7% 9:00 a.m. to 17.6% 11:59 p.m. 23.5%

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

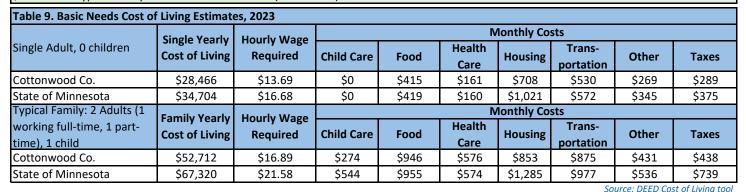
**COUNTY PROFILE Cottonwood Co** 

#### INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Cottonwood Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Cottonwood Co. had the 72nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.



The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Cottonwood Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.69 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$16.89 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).



Cottonwood Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 70th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Cottonwood 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-	Cottonwo	od Co.	Minnesota	Figure 12. Year St	tructure B	uilt, 2022
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent		% 109	6 20%
Total	3,537	100.0%	100.0%	■ Cottor	wood Co.	_
Less than \$50,000	316	8.9%	4.1%	2010 or later	3.8%	.8%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	834	23.6%	4.6%	2000 to 2009	4.1%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	734	20.8%	7.1%			13.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	730	20.6%	10.7%	1980 to 1999		11.5%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	499	14.1%	27.1%	1960 to 1979		
\$300,000 to \$499,999	343	9.7%	31.7%			
\$500,000 or more	81	2.3%	14.7%	1940 to 1959		13.8%
Median (dollars)	\$141,6	00	\$286,800	1939 or earlier		
				Taba or earlier		1E 00

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

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% Cottonwood Co. Minnesota 3.89 2010 or later 2000 to 2009 11.5% 1980 to 1999 25.5% 30.9% 1960 to 1979 23.8% 21.9% 1940 to 1959 13.8% 27.8% 1939 or earlier

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage

state \$1,818

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

18.0%

Median monthly rent costs

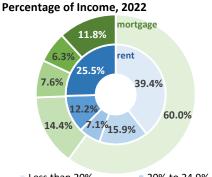
Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent

Less than 20% 25.0% to 29.9% state 46.7%

35% or more

20% to 24.9% 30.0% to 34.9%

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



COUNTY PROFILE Cottonwood Co.

#### **OCCUPATIONS**

At \$22.81 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 8 than the state. Overall, Region 8 had the 9th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$46.14) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.46) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024							
		Regio	n 8		Stat	e of Minnes	sota
Occupational Group	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	\$22.81	52,080	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$46.14	2,680	5.1%	0.7	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$32.67	2,190	4.2%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.94	540	1.0%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.82	730	1.4%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.31	390	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.33	920	1.8%	0.9	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$37.81	110	0.2%	0.3	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$24.94	3,840	7.4%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.27	380	0.7%	0.6	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.34	2,720	5.2%	0.8	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.03	3,060	5.9%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$29.14	660	1.3%	0.8	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.46	3,920	7.5%	0.9	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.02	1,610	3.1%	1.1	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.30	690	1.3%	0.6	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.09	4,450	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.23	5,920	11.4%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$21.24	240	0.5%	3.8	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$26.91	2,220	4.3%	1.1	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.09	2,410	4.6%	1.3	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$21.77	7,330	14.1%	2.0	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.79	5,060	9.7%	1.2	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

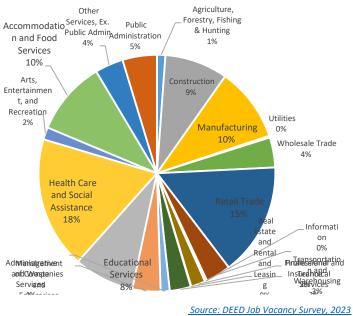
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

### **JOB VACANCY SURVEY**

Cottonwood Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9546 job vacancies posted by employers in 2023, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023						
	Number of	Wage				
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer				
Total, All Occupations	9,546					
Management	202	\$32.04				
Business & Financial Operations	520					
Computer & Mathematical	100					
Architecture & Engineering	96					
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	69	\$24.18				
Community & Social Service	258					
Education, Training & Library	453					
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	738	\$31.97				
Healthcare Support	508	\$16.76				
Protective Service	177	\$22.52				
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,180	\$15.32				
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	432	\$16.90				
Personal Care & Service	188	\$14.60				
Sales & Related	1,164	\$15.93				
Office & Administrative Support	563	\$19.27				
Construction & Extraction	431	\$25.04				
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	653	\$22.92				
Production	540	\$18.93				
Transportation & Material Moving	773	\$21.15				

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



**COUNTY PROFILE** Cottonwood Co.

# **OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

Table 13. Southwest Plannir	ng Region Occupations in Demand, 2023		
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	Accountants and Auditors
\$34,798/yr	\$54,491/yr	\$85,138/yr	\$69,245/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	Nursing Assistants	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	General and Operations Managers
\$36,495/yr	\$39,764/yr	\$74,684/yr	\$82,482/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Dental Hygienists	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education
\$30,228/yr	\$58,499/yr	\$84,870/yr	\$65,364/yr
Cashiers	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical
\$30,595/yr	\$64,265/yr	\$60,049/yr	\$66,349/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term
\$38,031/yr	\$59,444/yr	\$78,236/yr	\$52,112/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	Agricultural Technicians	Financial Managers
\$45,427/yr	\$47,963/yr	\$50,274/yr	\$119,560/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping	Industrial Engineers
\$37,379/yr	\$61,794/yr	\$49,828/yr	\$90,455/yr
Construction Laborers	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Computer Systems Analysts
\$49,744/yr	\$49,947/yr	\$71,227/yr	\$96,291/yr
Bus Drivers, School	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Physical Therapist Assistants	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical
\$49,228/yr	\$50,024/yr	\$62,988/yr	\$66,534/yr
Laborers and Freight, Stock,	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Veterinary Technologists and	Preschool Teachers, Except Special
and Material Movers, Hand \$43,003/yr	, \$60,689/yr	Technicians \$40,453/yr	Education \$37,747/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Cottonwood Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% 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 P	rojections, 2022	-2032	
Couthwest Plansing Paging	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employ- ment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Southwest Planning Region	_		2.8%
Total, All Industries	202,214	207,878	
Natural Resources & Mining	5,523	5,777	4.6%
Utilities	690	690	0.0%
Construction	7,679	8,252	7.5%
Manufacturing	32,192	33,537	4.2%
Wholesale Trade	8,001	8,116	1.4%
Retail Trade	19,409	19,084	-1.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,297	6,810	8.1%
Information	2,093	2,046	-2.2%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,227	8,375	1.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani	5,544	5,985	8.0%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,127	4,331	4.9%
Educational Services	16,065	16,116	0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	28,786	30,498	5.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	13,625	14,377	5.5%
Other Services	7,097	7,281	2.6%
Public Administration	14,117	14,370	1.8%

Figure 15. Regional Occupational

	Employment Projections, 2022-2032					
From employment gr -5.0		From exit o				
-5,0	J00 (	5,000 10,	,000 15,000			
Management Occupations	579	5,196				
Business and Financial	304	<b>2,6</b> 85				
Computer and	154	<b>479</b>				
Architecture and	243	<b>8</b> 52				
Life, Physical, and Social	96	365				
Community and Social	334	<b>1</b> ,841				
Legal Occupations	33	224				
Educational Instruction and	292	5,689				
Arts, Design,	47	<b>1</b> ,841				
Healthcare Practitioners	638	<b>3,4</b> 03				
Healthcare Support	807	8,057				
Protective Service	60	<b>1</b> ,233				
Food Preparation and	451	12,217				
Building and Grounds	219	4,473				
Personal Care and Service	296	3,602				
Sales and Related	-41	9 10,465				
Office and Administrative	-1,115	11,316				
Farming, Fishing, and	84	<b>1</b> ,771				
Construction and Extraction	529	3,584				
Installation, Maintenance,	592	3,584				
Production Occupations	438	9,377	l I			
Transportation and	1,002	10,018	-			

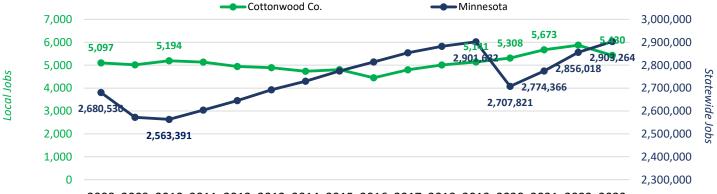
COUNTY PROFILE Cottonwood Co.

### **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Cottonwood Co. had the 57th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Cottonwood Co. was the 87th fastest growing in the past year and the 6th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Cottonwood Co. grew despite the pandemic recession.



Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023



2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: DEED QCEW program

			Average
Table 15. Cottonwood Co. Industry	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Employment Statistics, 2023	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Manufacturing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Finance & Insurance	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Health Care & Social Assistance	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Accommodation & Food Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Other Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Public Administration	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023

0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	60.0%	80.0%	100.0%
#N/A					
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
#N/	/A				
Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)					

## For more information on Cottonwood 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/