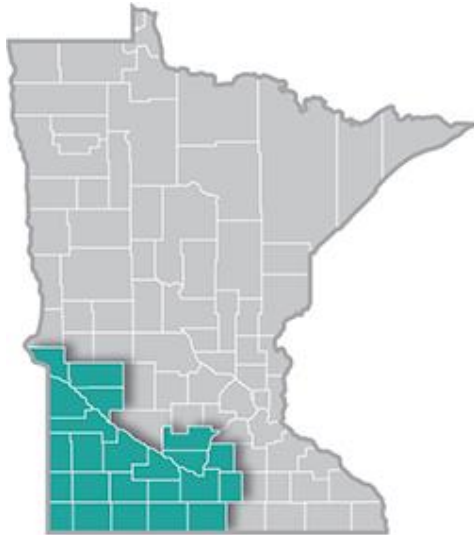


Southwest Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 23-county Southwest Minnesota region was home to 591 manufacturing establishments employing 32,304 jobs through the third quarter of 2019. Manufacturing provided 18.3 percent of total employment in the region, making it the largest industry in the region just ahead of health care and social assistance (31,859 jobs) and well ahead of retail trade (19,019 jobs). Southwest is the only region in the state where manufacturing is still the largest employing industry. The region accounted for 9.9 percent of total manufacturing employment in the state, compared to just 6.0 percent of total employment.

These manufacturers provided about \$420 million in total payroll in the third quarter of 2019, making it the largest industry in terms of payroll as well. Average annual wages in manufacturing were \$51,948 in 2019, which was nearly \$9,000 and 20.5 percent higher than the total of all industries (see Table 1).

Table 1. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, Qtr. 3 2019

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms, Q3 2019	Number of Jobs, Q3 2019	Quarterly Payroll, Q3 2019	Avg. Annual Wages, Q3 2019
0	Total, All Industries	12,404	176,503	\$1,902,853,528	\$43,108
31	Manufacturing	591	32,304	\$419,843,819	\$51,948
311	Food Manufacturing	104	12,016	\$160,441,373	\$53,404
333	Machinery Manufacturing	68	3,150	\$38,224,369	\$48,516
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	54	2,864	\$34,912,887	\$48,724
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component Mfg.	20	2,123	\$28,919,839	\$54,444
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	98	2,100	\$26,231,475	\$49,920
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	18	1,790	\$23,929,906	\$53,456
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	28	1,578	\$25,322,303	\$64,168
325	Chemical Manufacturing	26	1,096	\$17,350,472	\$63,284
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	31	1,094	\$12,709,575	\$46,436
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	20	1,041	\$12,499,497	\$47,996
326	Plastics & Rubber Product Manufacturing	22	1,010	\$11,961,103	\$47,320
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	42	954	\$10,968,206	\$45,968
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	6	567	\$8,468,950	\$59,696
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	15	479	\$4,062,078	\$33,904
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	21	289	\$2,783,946	\$38,532

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

Food Manufacturing was easily the largest sector, with 12,016 jobs at 104 establishments, and just over \$160 million in total quarterly payroll. Southwest Minnesota has 25 percent of statewide employment in Food Manufacturing, and had the largest number of food manufacturing jobs of the 6 planning regions in the state. The largest subsectors in Food Manufacturing include Animal Slaughtering and Processing (5,687 jobs), Dairy Product Manufacturing, Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing, Grain and Oilseed Milling, Animal Food Manufacturing, and Bakeries and Tortilla Manufacturing.

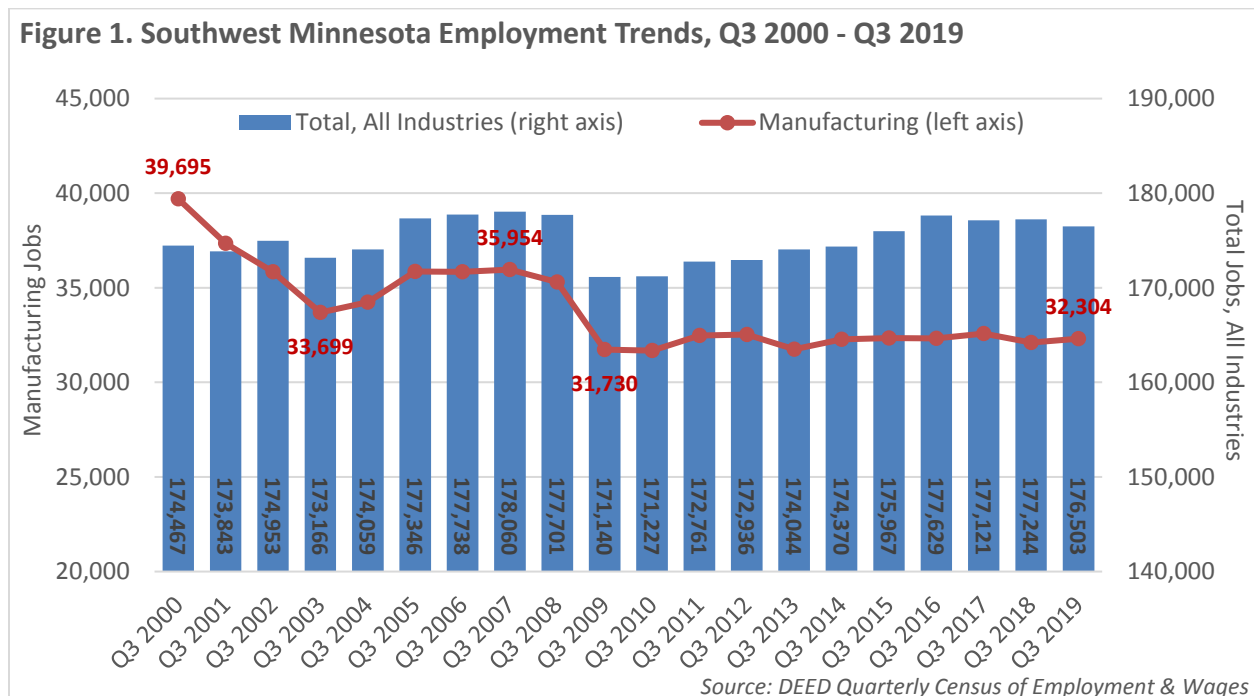
Machinery Manufacturing is the second largest sector, with 3,150 jobs at 68 establishments. That gave the region a location quotient of 1.5, exhibiting a much higher concentration than the state. With 2,345 jobs, the largest specialty in Southwest is Agriculture Machinery Manufacturing. The third largest manufacturing sector in the region is Printing and Related Support Activities, which had 2,864 jobs at 54 establishments through the third quarter of 2019, and was also much more strongly concentrated in Southwest Minnesota than the state, with a location quotient of 2.3. Combined, these three large sectors provided 56 percent of total manufacturing jobs in the region.

Southwest Minnesota also had large numbers of jobs in Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing (2,123 jobs), Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (2,100 jobs), Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (1,790 jobs), and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (1,578 jobs). The region also had smaller but notable employment in Chemical Manufacturing (1,096 jobs), Wood Product Manufacturing (1,094 jobs), Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (1,041 jobs), Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing (1,010 jobs), Miscellaneous Manufacturing (954 jobs), Primary Metal Manufacturing (567 jobs), Beverage Product Manufacturing (479 jobs), and Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing (543 jobs).

Average wages in manufacturing (\$51,948) were 20.5 percent higher than the total of all industries (\$43,108), led by high average wages in Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (\$64,168), Chemical Manufacturing (\$63,284), Primary Metal Manufacturing (\$59,696), and Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing (\$54,444).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota cut almost 6,000 jobs during the 2001 recession, then enjoyed a slight recovery and regained 2,000 jobs from 2003 to 2008. The region’s manufacturers suffered more job losses during the recession from 2008 to 2010, dropping over 4,000 jobs in two years, to a low of 31,677 jobs through 2010. Since then, manufacturers in the region have again enjoyed a slow but steady recovery, regaining over 600 net new jobs from 2010 through 2019 (see Figure 1).



Thanks to the ongoing recovery, manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota now have about 600 more jobs now than ten years ago, in 2009. Manufacturing employment was up 1.8 percent from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2019, while the total of all industries grew 3.1 percent over the past 10 years, a gain of 5,363 net new jobs.

The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Printing and Related Support Activities, which stamped out 1,733 jobs, Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, which sliced 411 jobs, and Machinery Manufacturing, which cut 362 jobs from 2007 to 2017. The region also suffered a large decline in the Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing subsector, which eliminated almost 50 percent of their employment since 2009.

In sum, 11 of the 15 manufacturing sectors had more jobs in 2019 than in 2009, with the largest job gains occurring in Food Manufacturing, which added 869 jobs, and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, which gained more than 500 jobs. Southwest Minnesota also saw important job gains in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, and Chemical Manufacturing.

Similarly, 9 of the 15 subsectors added jobs in the past year. Like the 10-year trends, the biggest gains were in Food Manufacturing, accounting for 188 net new jobs. Miscellaneous Manufacturing also saw a big increase since 2018, adding 134 jobs, a 16.3 percent rise. Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing also grew more than 10 percent in the past year. In contrast Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing and Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing suffered the biggest job losses since 2018 (see Table 2).

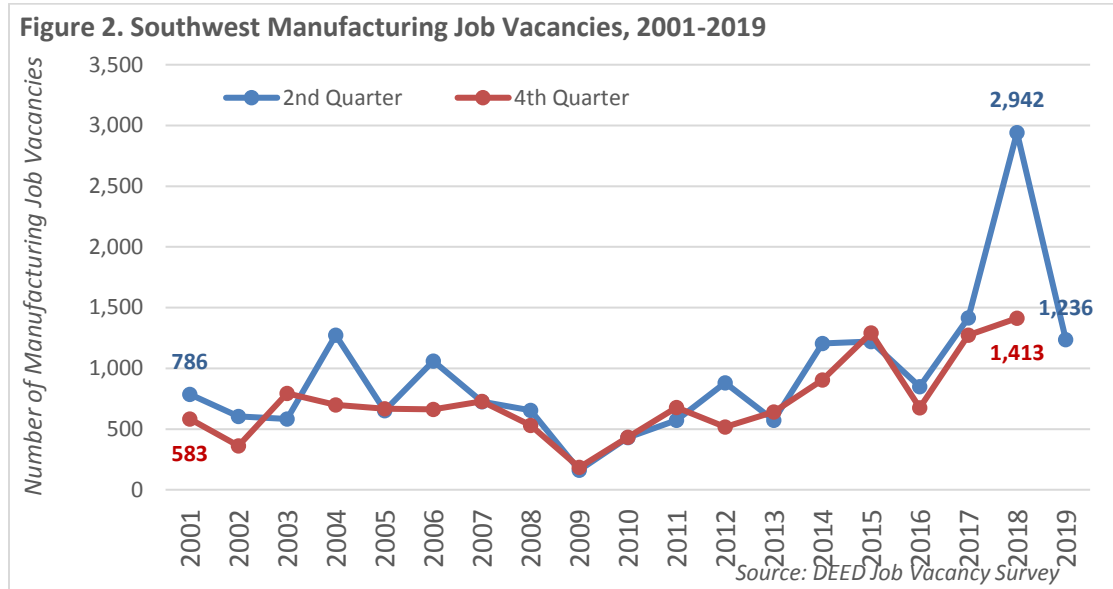
Table 2. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Trends, 2009-2019

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs, Q3 2019	1-Year Trend, Q3 2018-Q3 2019		5-Year Trend, Q3 2014-Q3 2019		10-Year Trend, Q3 2009-Q3 2019	
		Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	176,503	-741	-0.4%	+2,133	+1.2%	+5,363	+3.1%
Manufacturing	32,304	+205	+0.6%	+22	+0.1%	+574	+1.8%
Food Manufacturing	12,016	+188	+1.6%	+1,245	+11.6%	+869	+7.8%
Machinery Manufacturing	3,150	+13	+0.4%	-775	-19.7%	-362	-10.3%
Printing & Related Activities	2,864	-5	-0.2%	-793	-21.7%	-1,733	-37.7%
Electrical Equip., App. & Comp. Mfg.	2,123	+72	+3.5%	+97	+4.8%	+277	+15.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	2,100	+52	+2.5%	+95	+4.7%	+395	+23.2%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	1,790	+17	+1.0%	-129	-6.7%	-411	-18.7%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	1,578	-62	-3.8%	+112	+7.6%	+516	+48.6%
Chemical Manufacturing	1,096	+42	+4.0%	+197	+21.9%	+218	+24.8%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,094	-7	-0.6%	+80	+7.9%	+146	+15.4%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,041	+47	+4.7%	-1	-0.1%	+277	+36.3%
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	1,010	-107	-9.6%	-57	-5.3%	+71	+7.6%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	954	+134	+16.3%	+94	+10.9%	+392	+69.8%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	567	-20	-3.4%	-13	-2.2%	+1	+0.2%
Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	479	+53	+12.4%	+167	+53.5%	+209	+77.4%
Furniture & Related Product Mfg.	289	-218	-43.0%	-276	-48.8%	-269	-48.2%

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

Industry Demand

The steady recovery in manufacturing employment in recent years has led to a rising number of [job vacancies](#) across the Southwest Minnesota region. After setting a new record high of 2,942 job openings in the second quarter of 2018, manufacturers posted 1,236 vacancies in the second quarter of 2019, which was the fourth highest number ever recorded. Likewise, the 1,413 manufacturing openings in the fourth quarter of 2018 was the highest number posted in the 18 years the survey has been conducted (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for these vacancies climbed to \$15.54 per hour in the second quarter of 2019, about \$3.00 more than openings reported in the second quarter of 2014, and up about \$1.25 per hour compared to the second quarter of 2017. About 30 percent of the manufacturing vacancies required postsecondary education and nearly half (45%) required at least a year of prior work experience, which was also up in comparison with past years. Just 9 percent of the posted manufacturing openings were part-time, as compared to 34 percent of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd Quarter 2019

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Industries	12,458	\$13.85	34%	22%	37%
Manufacturing	1,236	\$15.54	9%	29%	45%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

The largest number of manufacturing vacancies were production occupations, including food processing workers, metal and plastics workers, first-line supervisors, printing workers, assemblers and fabricators, and other production occupations. The median wage offer for these positions was \$13.64, but ranged between \$10 and \$23 per hour depending on the occupations. Manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota were also looking to hire sales, office, transportation and material moving, management, and installation, maintenance, and repair workers (see Table 4).

Table 4. Southwest Minnesota Production Occupations Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd Quarter 2019

SOC Occupational Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Occupations	12,458	\$13.85	34%	22%	37%
Production Occupations	965	\$13.64	8%	15%	23%
Supervisors of Production Workers	52	\$22.39	0%	75%	92%
Assemblers & Fabricators	66	\$13.71	0%	3%	9%
Food Processing Workers	436	\$10.78	3%	0%	9%
Metal Workers & Plastics Workers	158	\$16.89	0%	48%	55%
Printing Workers	45	\$14.00	0%	32%	52%
Plant & Systems Operators	19	\$22.83	0%	54%	73%
Other Production Occupations	136	\$13.33	44%	0%	8%
Office & Administrative Support	639	\$12.18	29%	5%	55%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,099	\$14.53	30%	0%	19%
Architecture & Engineering	158	\$26.61	0%	93%	93%
Management	291	\$21.98	3%	41%	97%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	537	\$14.85	23%	17%	53%
Sales & Related	1,159	\$11.18	69%	1%	31%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

Industry Occupational Employment

DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program provides detailed employment and wage data for a wide range of occupations involved in manufacturing. In sum, there were an estimated 18,090 people working in production occupations in Southwest Minnesota, accounting for about 10.3 percent of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$17.67 in 2019, but ranged from \$12 at the low end (10th percentile) to \$27 at the high end (90th percentile).

As noted above, in addition to production occupations, manufacturers also require the services of workers in several other occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, architecture and engineering, management, and installation, maintenance and repair. Not surprisingly, wages were higher for the higher level positions (see Table 5).

Table 5. Southwest Minnesota Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2019

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Regional Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	176,430	\$18.02	2,867,700	\$20.95
Production Occupations	18,090	\$17.67	214,230	\$18.68
Office & Administrative Support	24,540	\$17.40	405,970	\$19.10
Transportation & Material Moving	14,210	\$18.02	177,580	\$18.48
Architecture & Engineering	2,400	\$31.43	56,070	\$37.53
Management	8,030	\$40.34	171,250	\$51.26
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	8,200	\$21.30	100,030	\$23.13
Sales & Related	16,490	\$13.75	277,070	\$14.97
Business & Financial Operations	5,220	\$28.58	164,510	\$33.03
Computer & Mathematical	2,000	\$30.61	\$96,020	\$40.96

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\) program](#)

Team assemblers, first-line supervisors, machinists, slaughterers and meat packers, and more are the most common jobs found at manufacturing firms in Minnesota, according to DEED’s Occupational Staffing Matrix data. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of \$13.74 per hour for packers and packagers to a high of nearly \$30 per hour for first-line supervisors of production and operating workers. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be gained with a high school diploma and learned through on-the-job training, though some also benefit from vocational training or associate degrees (see Table 6).

Table 6. Southwest Minnesota Top 30 Production-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2019 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
512092	Team Assemblers	2,560	\$17.05	High School or equiv.
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	870	\$29.14	High School or equiv.
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	2,560	\$17.05	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	700	\$19.92	Vocational training
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	1,090	\$14.74	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	1,040	\$16.96	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	890	\$20.00	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	760	\$17.15	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	2,840	\$16.41	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Metal/Plastic	270	\$19.46	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	730	\$18.16	High School or equiv.
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	740	\$22.98	Vocational training
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	310	\$16.08	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	480	\$15.21	High School or equiv.
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal/Plastic	280	\$20.76	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	650	\$19.33	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	670	\$17.90	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,920	\$19.58	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	800	\$13.74	High School or equiv.
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	110	\$16.14	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters & Operators	210	\$18.43	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	4,450	\$21.30	High School or equiv.
512023	Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	310	\$16.08	High School or equiv.
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Operators	100	\$18.73	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	180	\$18.12	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	470	\$16.61	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	300	\$17.99	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	200	\$18.32	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	50	\$26.61	Vocational training

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

In addition to the production-related occupations, manufacturers also rely heavily on sales and office workers including manufacturing sales representatives, customer service representatives, and production, planning, shipping, and traffic clerks; transportation and material moving workers such as truck drivers and packers and packagers; engineering occupations like industrial, mechanical, and electrical engineers; management positions such as industrial production and general managers; and business and financial operations occupations like accountants and auditors.

Many of these occupations require higher education, but also offer higher wages. For example, all of the engineering positions have median wages above \$30 per hour in Southwest Minnesota, with median wages topping \$50 per hour for engineering managers, but also require bachelor’s degrees at the minimum. Likewise, software developers, industrial production managers, and general and operations managers all earn well over \$30 per hour, and all require bachelor’s degrees. In contrast, sales representatives required just a high school diploma, but also offered relatively high wages (see Table 7).

Table 7. Southwest Minnesota Top 20 Office-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2019 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, exc. Technical Products	2,060	\$30.15	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	2,600	\$16.67	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	340	\$36.55	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	2,630	\$35.44	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	850	\$16.61	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	360	\$42.60	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	430	\$37.76	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,170	\$18.66	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	230	\$23.37	Associate degree
131023	Purchasing Agents, exc. Wholesale, Retail & Farm Products	N/A	N/A	Bachelor's degree
439061	Office Clerks, General	3,830	\$16.63	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical Products	110	\$34.93	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	340	\$22.20	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	930	\$29.65	Bachelor's degree
435081	Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	2,400	\$12.70	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	130	\$54.22	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	180	\$37.77	Bachelor's degree
151133	Software Developers, Systems Software	40	\$45.54	Bachelor's degree
151132	Software Developers, Applications	260	\$37.65	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	120	\$26.01	Associate degree

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2016 to 2026 Employment Outlook data, the Southwest Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to lose about 120 jobs over the next decade, a slight 0.4 percent decline. The state of Minnesota as a whole is projected to lose about 5,400 manufacturing jobs from 2016 to 2026, a 1.7 percent decline, which makes Southwest Minnesota’s projected stability more unique. Still, the small decline in Manufacturing is in contrast to overall growth of 0.9 percent across the total of all industries in Southwest Minnesota.

Eight of the 17 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by continued growth in Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 351 net new jobs, a 20 percent expansion, and Chemical Manufacturing, which may add 343 jobs, a 37 percent jump. The region may also see job growth in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, Wood Product Manufacturing, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, and Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing.

In contrast, 9 of the 17 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Printing and Related Support Activities, Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, Electrical Equipment Manufacturing, and Food Manufacturing (see Table 8).

Table 8. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Projections, 2016-2026

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employment 2026	Percent Change 2016-2026	Numeric Change 2016-2026
0	Total, All Industries	211,618	213,503	+0.9%	+1,885
31	Manufacturing	31,264	31,145	-0.4%	-119
311	Food Manufacturing	10,480	10,273	-2.0%	-207
333	Machinery Manufacturing	3,315	3,262	-1.6%	-53
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	3,533	3,073	-13.0%	-460
332	Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	1,931	2,168	+12.3%	+237
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	1,751	2,102	+20.0%	+351
335	Electrical Equipment & Appliances Mfg.	1,922	1,672	-13.0%	-250
334	Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	1,932	1,637	-15.3%	-295
325	Chemical Manufacturing	931	1,274	+36.8%	+343
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	943	1,079	+14.4%	+136
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	1,036	1,007	-2.8%	-29
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	874	958	+9.6%	+84
336	Transportation Equipment Mfg.	949	913	-3.8%	-36
337	Furniture and Related Product Mfg	603	682	+13.1%	+79
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	562	514	-8.5%	-48
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	342	378	+10.5%	+36
314	Textile Product Mills	89	112	+25.8%	+23
315	Apparel Manufacturing	52	37	-28.8%	-15

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

Occupational Outlook

The decline in Southwest Minnesota manufacturing employment is expected to carry over into production occupations as well, leading to a projected 2.7 percent job decline from 2016 to 2026. However, the region is still expected to have significant demand for production workers over the next ten years due to a large number of labor market exit openings – jobs that become available because the existing worker retires out of the labor force or changes careers. There may be as many as 7,800 total openings for production occupations in the region, primarily from replacement openings.

Overall, 15 of the 48 production occupations in the region are expected to see new job growth from 2016 to 2026, led by Machinists; Extruding, Forming, Pressing and Compacting Machine Setters; First-line Supervisors of Production Workers, Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators, and Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers, which are all projected to add more than 35 net new jobs.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for Team Assemblers; Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers; Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Printing Press Operators, and Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers. Just six of the 48 production occupations are expected to lose more than 20 percent of their jobs, with Multiple Machine Tool Setters; Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters; and Prepress Technicians seeing the most rapid drop-offs.

Regardless of growth or decline, every occupation is expected to at least have some replacement openings from 2016 to 2026. The largest number of total openings are projected for Slaughterers and Meat Packers, Team Assemblers, Packaging and Filling Machine Operators, Production Worker Helpers, and First-line Supervisors of Production Workers, which are all expected to have at least 350 labor market exit openings in the region (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 25 Southwest Minnesota Production Occupation Projections, 2016-2026

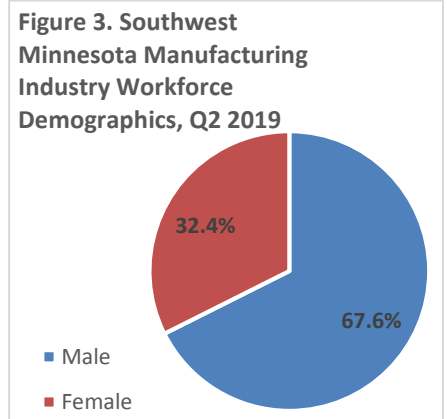
SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employment 2026	Percent Change 2016-2026	Numeric Change 2016-2026	* Labor Market Exit Openings 2016-2026
0	Total, All Occupations	211,618	213,503	+0.9%	+1,885	+103,553
510000	Production Occupations	19,287	18,761	-2.7%	-526	+7,829
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	2,253	2,201	-2.3%	-52	+1,000
512092	Team Assemblers	1,391	1,215	-12.7%	-176	+557
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers	1,069	1,114	+4.2%	+45	+348
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,065	1,102	+3.5%	+37	+289
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	1,017	979	-3.7%	-38	+472
514041	Machinists	727	820	+12.8%	+93	+269
513022	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	770	752	-2.3%	-18	+342
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	713	708	-0.7%	-5	+381
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	621	653	+5.2%	+32	+176
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers	737	649	-11.9%	-88	+288
515112	Printing Press Operators	722	648	-10.2%	-74	+267
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	639	610	-4.5%	-29	+267
519199	Production Workers, All Other	602	595	-1.2%	-7	+235
513092	Food Batchmakers	487	453	-7.0%	-34	+258
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	367	326	-11.2%	-41	+263
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	324	318	-1.9%	-6	+138
518031	Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators	315	294	-6.7%	-21	+87
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	356	284	-20.2%	-72	+162
514021	Extruding & Drawing Machine Operators	338	264	-21.9%	-74	+75
519041	Extruding, Forming, & Pressing Machine Setters	192	242	+26.0%	+50	+84
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters	272	239	-12.1%	-33	+92
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	207	231	+11.6%	+24	+102
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	248	215	-13.3%	-33	+155
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	230	208	-9.6%	-22	+98
518021	Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	168	208	+23.8%	+40	+60

Source: DEED 2016-2026 Employment Outlook program

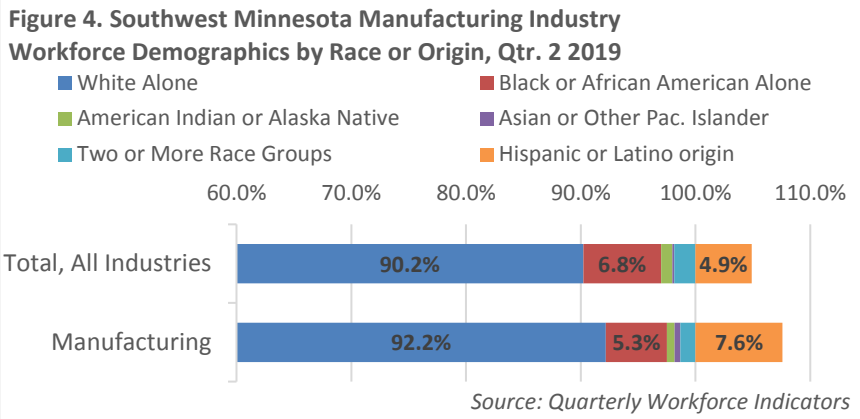
Workforce Demographics

Data from DEED’s Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program shows that the manufacturing workforce in the Southwest region is relatively non-diverse. Through the second quarter of 2019, more than two-thirds (67.6%) of manufacturing workers are male, compared to one-third that are female (see Figure 3). In comparison, the workforce is much more evenly split between genders across the total of all industries, with about 52 percent of workers in the region being female.

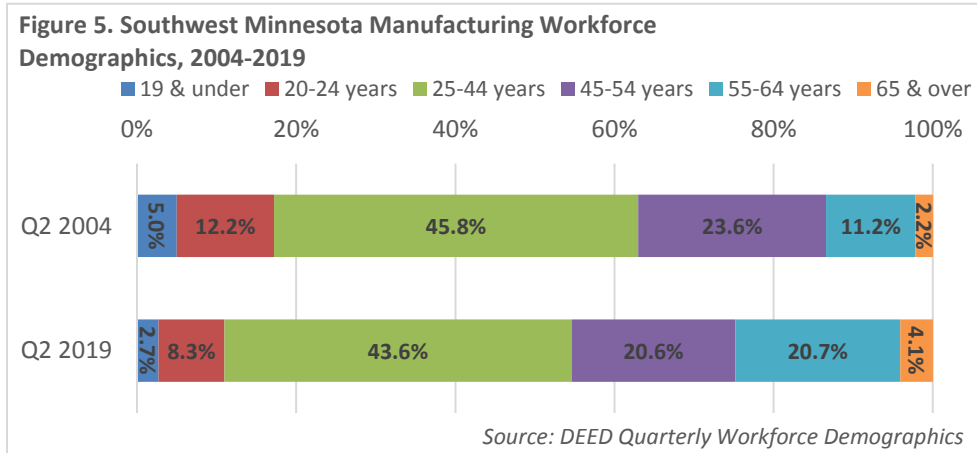
Additional demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) program show that the manufacturing workforce is also not very racially diverse. More than 92 percent of manufacturing workers in the region were white alone, while just over 5 percent were Black or African American. In addition, 7.6 percent were Hispanic or Latino origin, making it the largest minority group of workers in the industry (see Figure 4 – please note that the numbers add up to more than 100% because Hispanic or Latino is an ethnicity rather than a race).



Despite the low numbers, the manufacturing workforce is becoming more diverse. The number of workers of other races more than doubled from 1,548 workers in 2004 to 3,219 workers in 2019. Likewise, the number of Hispanic or Latino workers in manufacturing grew more than 36 percent from 2004 to 2019.



As the workforce in Southwest Minnesota ages, new graduates and other jobseekers will become increasingly important sources of workers, particularly for the manufacturing industry. The Manufacturing workforce is relatively old and continued to age over the past fifteen years. QED data shows that in the second quarter of 2019, 24.8 percent of workers were 55 years of age or older, almost double the share in 2004. In contrast, the share of workers under the age of 25 fell from 17.2 percent in 2004 to 11 percent in 2019. The proportion of workers aged 25 to 44 years old also dropped, from 45.8 to 43.6 percent (see Figure 5).



In the face of tight labor markets, manufacturers may need to tap into new labor pools in order to attract the talent they need to grow and replace existing workers in the future.

For more information about Manufacturing in Southwest Minnesota, contact:



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<http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/southwest-lmi.jsp>
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