

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA 4 CITY OF DULUTH

*Covers:
City of Duluth*

2024 REGIONAL PROFILE

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DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION CHANGE

Local Workforce Development Area 4 (WDB 4) consists of the city of Duluth. According to population data from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), Duluth was home to 87,680 people in 2023, accounting for 1.5% of the state’s total population. The City of Duluth has gained 1,415 (+1.6%) residents since 2010 and added 959 people over the last three years. Meanwhile, the state of Minnesota has grown by 8.2% since 2010 with an increase of 433,990 people (Table 1).

	2010 Population	2023 Population	2010-2023 Change	
			Number	Percent
WDB 4 - Duluth	86,265	87,680	+1,415	+1.6%
Aitkin Co.	16,202	16,102	-100	-0.6%
Carlton Co.	35,386	36,825	+1,439	+4.1%
Cook Co.	5,176	5,639	+463	+8.9%
Itasca Co.	45,058	45,365	+307	+0.7%
Koochiching Co.	13,311	11,751	-1,560	-11.7%
Lake Co.	10,866	10,855	-11	-0.1%
St. Louis Co.	200,226	200,514	+288	+0.1%
State of Minnesota	5,303,925	5,737,915	+433,990	+8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, 2023 Pop. Estimates

Still, the city of Duluth is the 5th largest city in the state, behind Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Rochester, and Bloomington, according to the State Demographic Center. It is the principal city in the Duluth-Superior MN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes St. Louis and Carlton County in Minnesota and Douglas County in Wisconsin¹. Duluth and St. Louis County are the largest city and county in the region, and the city accounts for 26.8% of the Northeast planning region’s population.

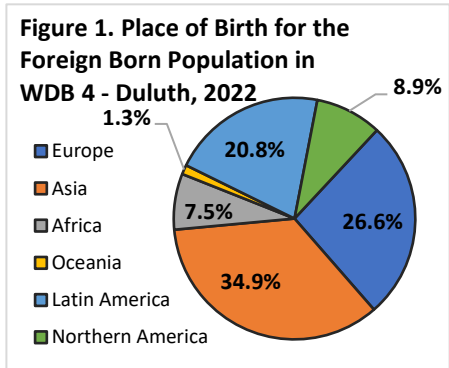
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

The recent population increase in Local Area 4 – Duluth was fueled primarily by positive domestic net migration into the city. Most people moving into Duluth were from elsewhere in the state or country. Positive migration was enough to offset the natural decrease created by more deaths than births over the 2020-2023 period. By contrast, Minnesota had a net migration deficit of 11,734, despite net-positive international migration of nearly 35,000 (Table 2).

	Total Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	Inter-national	Domestic
WDB 4-Duluth	+356	-1,060	2,511	3,570	+1,372	+81	+1,291
Minnesota	+31,111	+40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	+34,624	-45,976

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

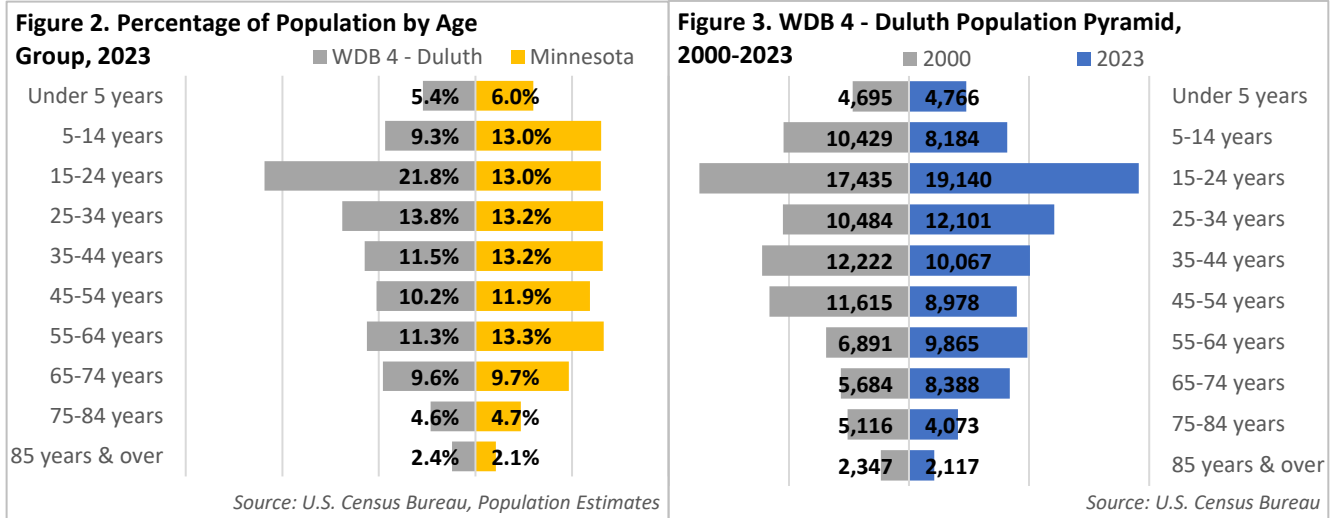
With in-migration, the City of Duluth was home to 2,538 foreign-born residents, or 2.9% of the total population. The largest number of immigrants in the area were born in Latin America, South and East Asia, and Eastern Europe (Figure 1). From 2010-2022 the fastest growing foreign-born groups were from Western Europe, Mexico, and Eastern Africa. Based on year of entry, Duluth’s foreign-born population had a larger share of older immigration. About 30% of the region’s immigrants entered the U.S. before 1990, compared to just 18.4% statewide. However, the city also had an even larger percentage of foreign-born residents who have entered since 2010 (31.1%), but slightly below the statewide share. Foreign-born residents in Duluth were more concentrated in the 15-to-44-year-old age groups than the general population, by more than 10 percentage points. A higher percentage of foreign-born residents (31.2%) had advanced degrees than native born residents (16.4%), yet immigrants were also almost twice as likely to have less than a high school diploma.



¹ The U.S. Census Bureau [added Lake County](#) in 2018, but the Bureau of Labor Statistics has not as of publication. For consistency we use the 3 counties.

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

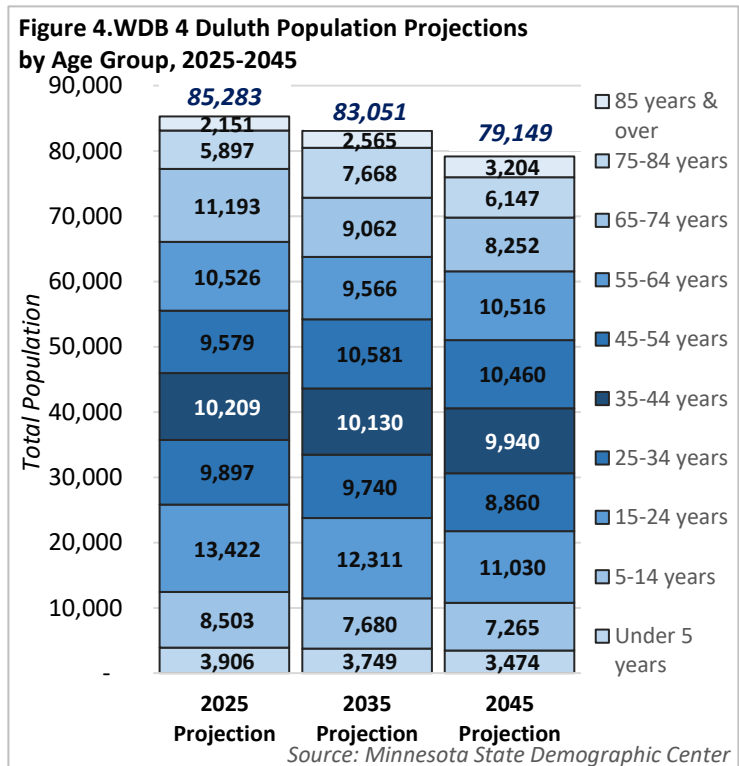
Due to the large college-aged population, Local Area 4 has a much different demographic composition than the rest of Northeast Minnesota and the state. Only 27.9% of the population in Duluth is 55 years of age or older, which is less than the 36.9% of the population in the rest of Northeast Minnesota and the state share (29.8%). In contrast, Local Area 4 has 21.8% of its population between the ages of 15 and 24, reflecting the presence of colleges in the city. However, compared to the state, Duluth had relatively fewer people in the 25 to 54-year-old age group, considered the “prime working ages”. While the number of 35-to-54 year-old residents was declining, the number of residents aged 15-34 grew 10% and the 55-74 age group increased rapidly (+43%) over 23 years. From 2000 to 2023, Duluth saw an increase of 5,700 residents aged 55-74 with a corresponding loss of 4,800 in the 35-54 age group (Figure 2 & 3).



POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP

Local Area 4 is projected to see population decline in the next 20 years. According to population projections from the [State Demographic Center](#), the city is expected to lose 6,135 residents from 2025 to 2045, a -7.2% decline (Figure 4). In comparison, the state of Minnesota is projected to grow 5.5% from 2025 to 2045, surpassing 6.1 million residents.

The projected population decline is expected to be driven by large losses in the 65-74 and under 35 age groups, which are expected to decline by 2,900 and 5,100 respectively. However, Duluth is expected to add nearly 1,300 people aged 75 years and over, a 16% jump. The city is also projected to see a smaller gain of 9% in the 45-to-54-year-old age group. The city is expected to have fewer school-aged children and young adults, as the generations move through the population pyramid and are not replenished.



POPULATION BY RACE

Local Area 4’s population is less diverse than the state’s, but is becoming more diverse over time. In 2022, 88.3% of the city’s residents reported White alone as their race, compared to 79.7% of residents statewide. Compared to the state, the city had smaller shares of Black or African American residents, Asian or Other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics or Latinos, and residents of Some Other Race. However, at 1.8%, Duluth had higher shares of people reporting as American Indian or Alaska Native and a similar Two or More Races share (Table 3).

In Duluth, the population of Two or More Races grew by 2,146 people since 2011, while the number of Hispanic or Latino residents grew by 1,067, and the Some Other Race population grew by 301. These three groups were also the fastest growing in the city. The White, Asian, and Indigenous populations declined over 11 years (Table 3).

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	WDB 4 - Duluth			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	86,772	100.0%	+0.7%	100.0%	+7.9%
White	76,602	88.3%	-1.9%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	2,169	2.5%	+9.9%	6.7%	+44.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	1,545	1.8%	-24.6%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	1,434	1.7%	-3.4%	5.1%	+37.1%
Some Other Race	695	0.8%	+76.4%	2.3%	+84.7%
Two or More Races	4,327	5.0%	+98.4%	5.3%	+159.6%
Hispanic or Latino	2,376	2.7%	+81.5%	5.7%	+34.6%

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

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

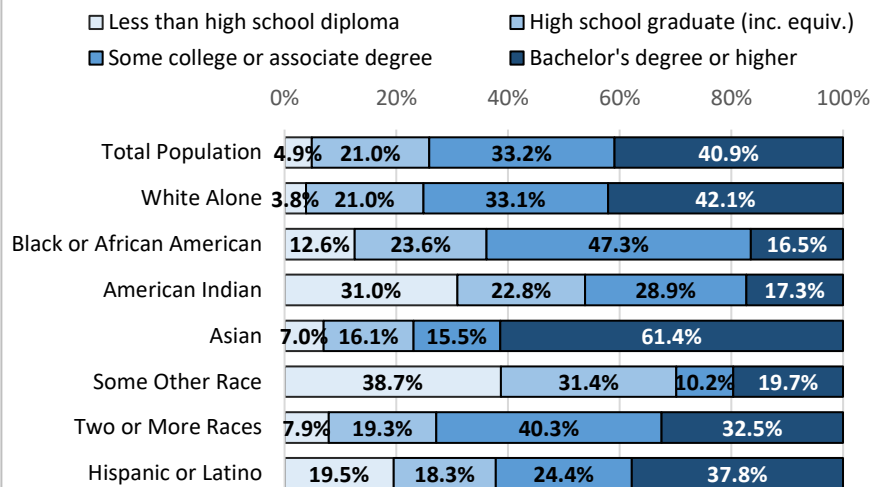
With 44% of adults aged 18 years and over holding a college degree, Local Area 4 had slightly lower educational attainment than the state in 2022, where 46.6% of adults have an associate, bachelor’s, or advanced degree. The area had a higher percentage of people with some college but no degree – reflecting the large college population – and a lower percentage of people with a high school diploma or less compared to the state (Table 4).

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Adult Population, 2022	WDB 4 - Duluth		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 18 years & over	71,841	100.0%	100.0%
Less than high school	3,487	4.9%	7.0%
High school grad. (incl. equiv.)	15,990	22.3%	24.5%
Some college, no degree	20,766	28.9%	22.0%
Associate degree	6,532	9.1%	11.1%
Bachelor's degree	15,906	22.1%	23.7%
Advanced degree	9,160	12.8%	11.8%

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

Educational attainment varies significantly by race and ethnicity in Local Area 4. Excepting Asians, every group of color had at least twice the share of their populations with less than a high school diploma, compared to Whites. Around 47% of Black or African Americans, 40% of people of Two or More Races attended some college or earned an associate degree, and 61% of Asian residents had a bachelor’s degree or higher, which was the greatest share of any group and the only group of color to have a higher share than Whites (Figure 5).

Figure 5. WDB 4 - Duluth Educational Attainment for the population aged 25 years & over by Race or Origin, 2022

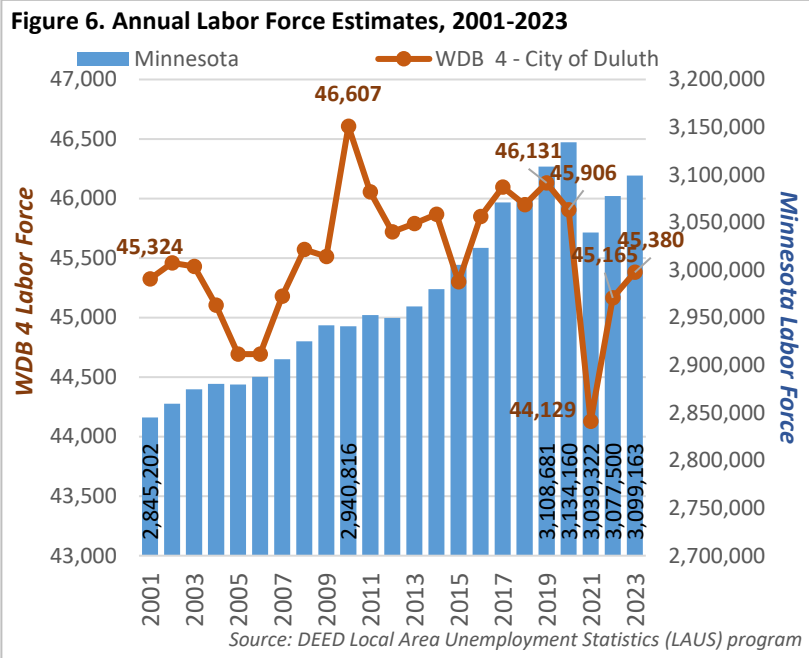


Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE

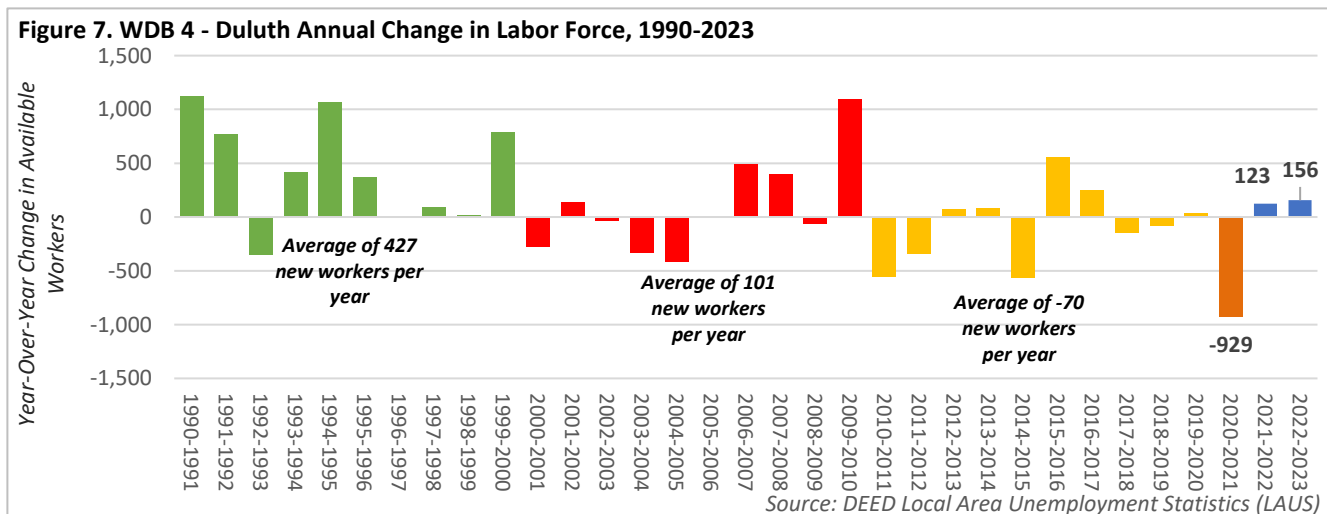
LABOR FORCE CHANGE

According to data from DEED’s [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, Local Area 4 had 45,380 workers in 2023, an increase of 215 since 2022, but a decline of 751 from 2019. The city’s labor force reached its peak at 46,607 in 2010 during the Great Recession before declining to a range of 45,500-46,000 from 2012 to 2018. Until the COVID-19-induced recession, stability in the labor force tracked with the city’s population. The labor force then declined by 3.9% from 2020 into 2021, the largest percent loss on record. In contrast, the state was steadily gaining workers over the past two decades and saw a smaller 3.0% decline over the year into 2021 (Figure 6).



After averaging a net gain of about 264 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2010, Local Area 4 employers were able to tap into a large and growing pool of talented workers. However, from 2010 to 2019, the city’s labor force started to shrink, averaging a loss of about 70 workers per year. That trend accelerated significantly in 2021 when 929 people stopped looking for work, largely driven by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, 279 people have joined or rejoined the workforce as the labor force recovery continues (Figure 7).

Increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers has been recognized for several years as one of Local Area 4’s most significant barriers to future economic growth. In the face of these constraints, it has become evident that a more diverse workforce in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, and immigration has been and will continue to be vital sources of the workers that employers need to succeed. As the White, native-born workforce continues to age, younger workers of different races or from different countries will comprise the fastest growing segment of the labor force.



LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS

If Local Area 4’s population changes at the projected rates shown in Figure 4 above, the area would also be expected to see a decline in the labor force over the next decade. Applying current labor force participation rates to future population projections by age group creates labor force projections for the city, which show a 2.2% drop in workforce numbers. In addition to the overall decline, the labor force will also see a significant age shift over time, with gains in the number of workers aged 45-54 and 75+ paired with large declines in the number of workers aged 55 to 74 years. The region is also expected to lose teenaged workers and entry-level workers in the next decade. The projected long-term declines indicate a loss of a lot of new as well as experienced workers, potentially exacerbating an already tight labor market (Table 5).

Age Group	2025 Labor Force Projection	2035 Labor Force Projection	2025-2035 Change	
			Numeric	Percent
16 to 19 years	2,273	2,008	-265	-11.7%
20 to 24 years	6,141	5,784	-357	-5.8%
25 to 44 years	17,425	17,220	-205	-1.2%
45 to 54 years	7,989	8,825	+836	+10.5%
55 to 64 years	6,751	6,134	-616	-9.1%
65 to 74 years	2,406	1,948	-458	-19.0%
75 years & over	435	553	+118	+27.1%
Total Labor Force	43,419	42,472	-947	-2.2%

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

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

With 64.9% of the population over 16 years of age in the labor force, Local Area 4 had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. In addition, every age group had lower labor force participation rates than their statewide counterparts. The participation gap was the largest for the oldest age groups (Table 6).

The region also had lower participation rates than the state for most racial and ethnic groups; and had large unemployment rate disparities for people of color. Unemployment rates for Black or African American and Indigenous workers were at least 3.5 times higher than the White rate. The average unemployment rate for all workers of color was 8.3% - four points higher than for White workers.

The city also had 1,473 veterans and 3,075 workers with disabilities in the labor force, with both having lower participation rates than the state. Participation was lowest for teens and oldest workers, workers of color, the least educated, and workers with disabilities (Table 6).

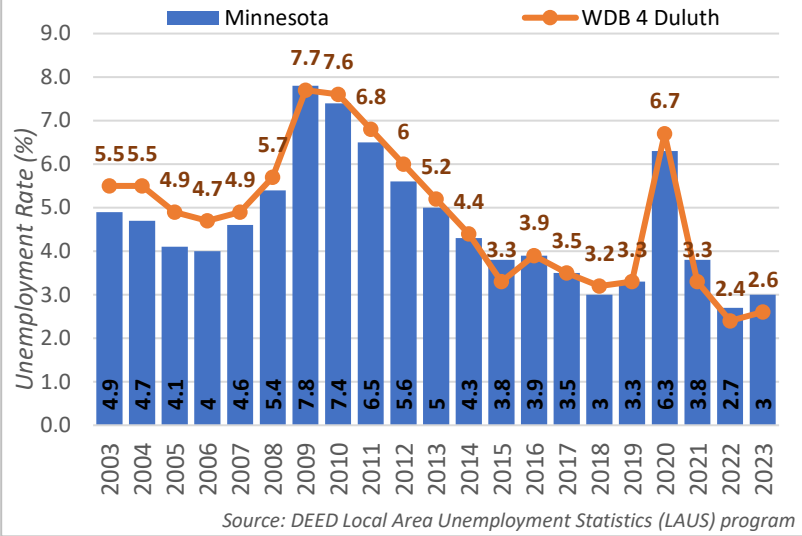
Age Group	WDB 4 - Duluth			Minnesota	
	Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	47,503	64.9%	4.9%	68.7%	4.0%
16 to 19 years	2,903	50.3%	9.3%	53.0%	9.8%
20 to 24 years	9,803	79.0%	4.9%	83.1%	6.7%
25 to 44 years	19,013	86.7%	4.9%	88.8%	3.5%
45 to 54 years	7,410	83.4%	3.7%	87.8%	2.9%
55 to 64 years	6,261	64.1%	2.7%	72.8%	3.1%
65 to 74 years	1,785	21.5%	7.9%	27.6%	3.3%
75 years & over	331	5.4%	14.8%	6.6%	3.2%
Employment Characteristics by Gender					
Male	24,271	68.0%	5.8%	72.4%	4.3%
Female	23,230	61.9%	3.8%	65.0%	3.6%
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin					
White alone	42,817	65.1%	4.4%	67.8%	3.4%
Black or African American	922	56.0%	24.0%	71.5%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	630	49.5%	15.4%	57.6%	11.9%
Asian or Other Pacific Islanders	891	70.3%	3.4%	73.9%	3.6%
Some Other Race	410	82.3%	n/a	76.1%	6.1%
Two or More Races	1,826	66.7%	4.9%	74.3%	6.6%
Hispanic or Latino	1,183	71.3%	1.3%	77.0%	6.3%
Employment Characteristics by Veteran Status					
Veterans, 18 to 64 years	1,473	72.7%	3.3%	81.1%	4.0%
Employment Characteristics by Disability					
With Any Disability	3,075	47.3%	12.4%	54.4%	10.2%
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment					
Population 25 to 64 years	32,673	80.5%	4.2%	84.4%	3.3%
Less than H.S. Diploma	985	53.8%	6.0%	67.2%	4.6%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,906	67.7%	0.6%	76.8%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	11,337	79.5%	4.4%	85.1%	3.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	15,454	89.6%	2.4%	90.3%	2.0%

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Local Area 3 has similar unemployment rates to Minnesota, and much lower rates than the Northeast region as a whole. According to [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#), Duluth’s unemployment rate reached its peak in 2009 at 7.7%, then steadily declined to an annual rate of 3.2% in 2018. Since then, the unemployment ticked up to 3.3% in 2019 before the massive expansion in 2020 under pandemic conditions. The increase in 2020 was the largest on record back to 1990 followed immediately by the largest over-the-year decrease as the unemployment rate fell to a record low 2.4% in 2022, rising slightly to 2.6% in 2023 (Figure 8).

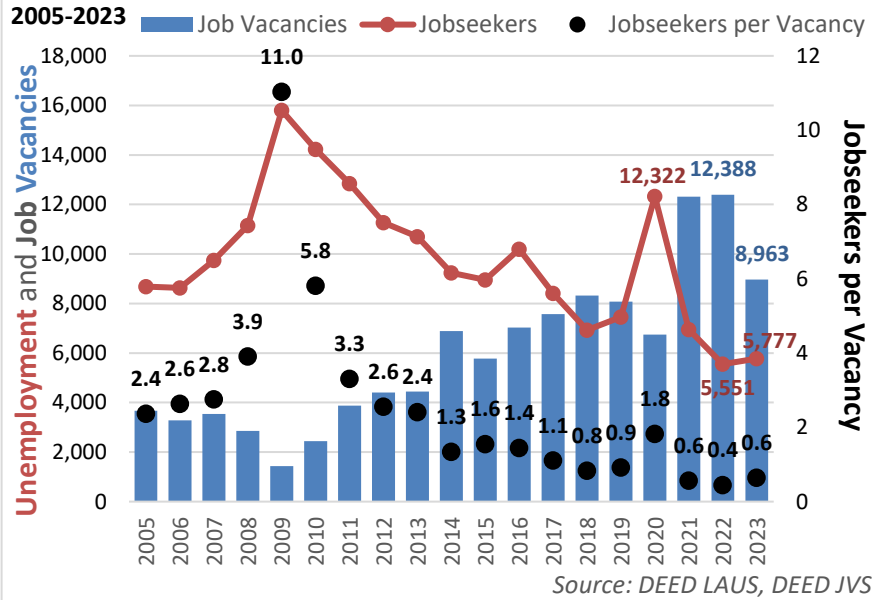
Figure 8. Unemployment Rates, 2003-2023



JOBSEEKERS PER VACANCY

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, the labor market had already been tightening. One clear demonstration of this is the ratio of unemployed jobseekers per vacancy, which in 2019 stood at 0.9-to-1 in Northeast Minnesota; meaning there were slightly fewer people looking for work than there were open jobs. After briefly rising to 1.8 in 2020, the ratio declined to an all-time low of 0.4 jobseekers per vacancy before ticking up slightly in 2023. According to the most recent job vacancy survey results, there were 8,963 openings reported by employers compared to 5,777 (2nd lowest on record) unemployed jobseekers in the region. By comparison, the ratio climbed as high as 11.0 during the recession in 2009 (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Jobseekers per Vacancy in Northeast Minnesota, 2005-2023



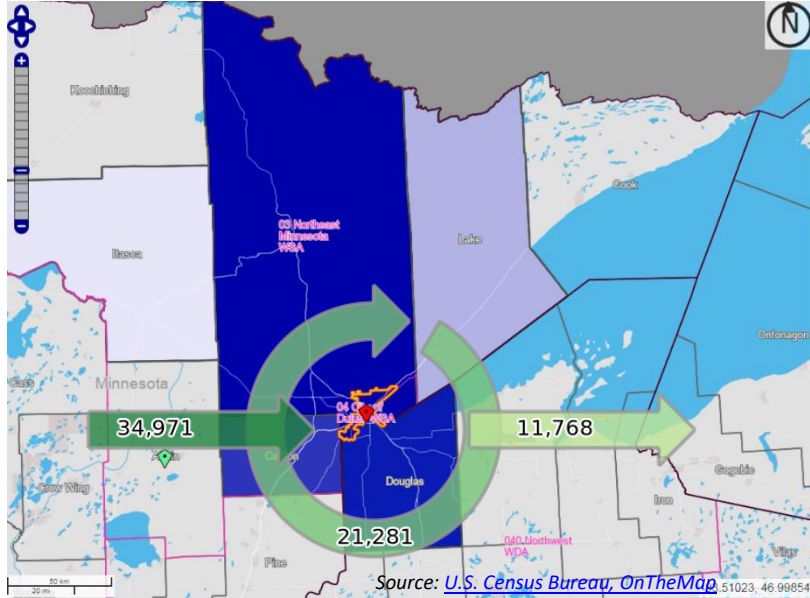
COMMUTE SHED AND LABOR SHED

According to commuting data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the city of Duluth is a net importer of labor, having more jobs than available resident workers, drawing in workers from surrounding cities and counties. In sum, 21,281 workers both lived and worked in the city, while another 34,971 workers commuted or telecommuted into the city for work, compared to 11,768 who live in the city but commuted to other cities or counties for work (Table 7, Figure 10).

Table 7. WDB 4 – City of Duluth Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (Primary Jobs), 2021	2021	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	56,252	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	34,971	62.2%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	21,281	37.8%
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Living in the Selection Area	33,049	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	11,768	35.6%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	21,281	64.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap

Figure 10. WDB 4-City of Duluth Labor and Commute Shed, 2021



In the Northeast region, Duluth and St. Louis County are the largest employment providers in the area and are the biggest draw for workers, followed by Itasca, Carlton, Koochiching, Lake, and Cook counties. Employers in the city draw workers from the rest of St. Louis County, Douglas County in Wisconsin, Carlton County, and more than 11% of workers lived in the Twin Cities Metro (Figure 10). The area also sends workers to the elsewhere in St. Louis, Douglas, Hennepin, and Carlton counties. The average commute time for workers the region was 16.8 minutes, compared to 23.3 minutes for workers statewide. More than 71% of workers commuted

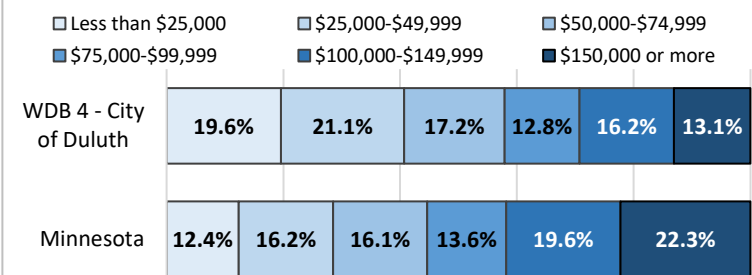
less than 20 minutes each way, compared to 47.1% statewide. About 9.4% of workers worked at home, a sizeable increase from 3.8% in 2017. About 5.5% were also able to walk or bike to work and half (47%) of workers left home between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

INCOMES, WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Household incomes were significantly lower in Local Area 4 than the rest of the state. The median household income was \$63,545 in 2022, compared to \$84,313 in Minnesota. Just over 40% of the households in the city had incomes below \$50,000 in 2022, compared to 29% of households statewide. Conversely, 13.2% of households had incomes greater than \$150,000 in the region compared to 22.3% in Minnesota (Figure 11).

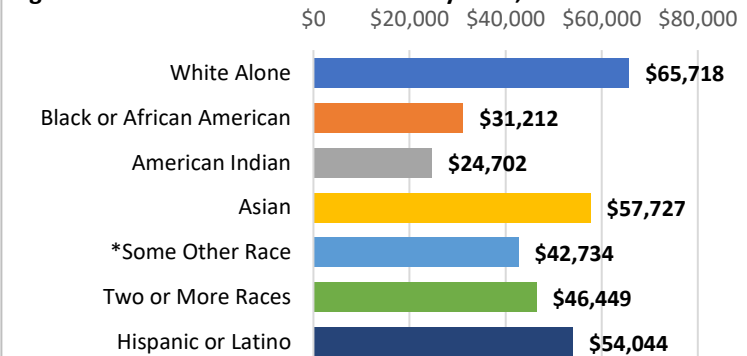
Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2022



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

Disparities in economic outcomes extended to income as well. Median incomes for households of color were universally lower than for White households. American Indian households reported the lowest incomes in Local Area 4, with a median income that was more than \$40,000 lower than White households. Black or African American Households had incomes about half those of Whites. Asian and Hispanic or Latino households reported median incomes nearer to that of White households. Sample sizes were small for Some Other Race leading to large margins of error and big swings compared to previous years (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Median Household Income by Race, 2022



*Some Other Race from 2021. Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey

COST OF LIVING

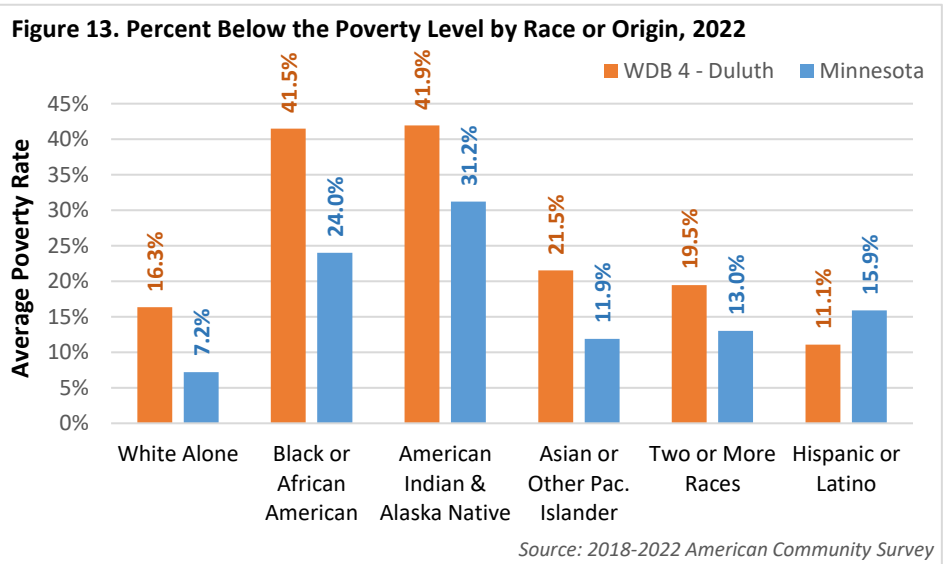
According to DEED’s [Cost of Living tool](#), the basic needs budget for an average Minnesota family (which consists of 2 adults and 1 child, with 1 full-time and 1 part-time worker) was \$67,320 in 2023. The cost of living for a similar family in St. Louis County was \$59,980. The highest monthly costs were for housing, food, and transportation; though the region’s housing, childcare, and taxes were significantly lower than the rest of the state. To meet the basic needs cost of living for the region, the two workers in the family scenario described would need to earn \$19.22 per hour working a combined 60 hours per week.

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 St. Louis County would be \$31,083, which would require an hourly wage of \$14.94 to meet the basic needs standard of living (Table 8).

Table 8. Family Yearly Cost, Worker Hourly Wage, and Family Monthly Costs, 2023										
Family Composition	Number of Workers	Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
St. Louis County										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	\$31,083	\$14.94	\$0	\$409	\$161	\$857	\$536	\$303	\$324
Single, 1 child	1 FT	\$51,550	\$24.78	\$783	\$603	\$415	\$1,122	\$540	\$413	\$420
2 parents, 1 child	1 FT, 1 PT	\$59,980	\$19.22	\$391	\$933	\$576	\$1,122	\$890	\$492	\$594
2 parents, 2 children	2 FT	\$82,514	\$19.84	\$1,170	\$1,215	\$585	\$1,482	\$923	\$645	\$856
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](#)

Overall, Local Area 4’s poverty rate was 16.3%, which was well above the statewide rate of 7.2%. Like incomes, there were disparities between Whites and people of color by poverty rate. It was estimated that more than 40% of the city’s American Indians and Black or African Americans were below the poverty level in 2022. These poverty levels were about 2.5 times the White rate. Likewise, poverty levels sat near 22% for Asians or Other Pacific Islanders and 20% for people of Two or More Races. Just over 11% of people of Hispanic or Latino origin were also below the poverty level in 2022, the only group with a rate lower than Whites. Except for Hispanic or Latinos, each racial or ethnic group’s poverty rate was higher than the corresponding state poverty rate (Figure 13).



Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey

WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

According to DEED’s [Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#) program, the median hourly wage for all occupations in the Duluth Metro Area was \$23.68 in the first quarter of 2024, which was the fourth-highest wage level of the eight metros in the state. The Duluth Metro’s median wage was \$0.57 below the state’s median hourly wage, equaling 97.6% of the statewide wage rate, and \$3.51 below the median hourly wage in the Twin Cities metro area, which would amount to \$7,300 per year for a full-time worker (Table 9).

Table 9. Occupational Employment Statistics by Region, 1 st Qtr. 2024	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Employment
Duluth, MN-WI MSA	\$23.68	123,730
Fargo, ND-MN MSA	\$23.85	145,680
Grand Forks, ND-MN MSA	\$23.19	50,500
La Crosse, WI-MN MSA	\$23.43	74,700
Mankato-N. Mankato, MN MSA	\$23.17	55,170
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	\$27.19	1,911,030
Rochester, MN MSA	\$27.74	119,430
St. Cloud, MN MSA	\$23.65	101,720
State of Minnesota	\$24.25	2,827,310

Source: [DEED Occupational Employment Statistics](#)

Based on a measure of employment concentration called the location quotient, the Duluth Metro stands out for having higher concentrations of Community & Social Service, Construction & Extraction, Protective Service, Installation, Maintenance, & Repair, and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical workers than the state. The largest occupations in the area include Office & Administrative Support, Food Preparation & Serving, Sales & Related, and Healthcare Practitioner positions. Those positions combined to account for almost two out of every five jobs in the metro.

The lowest-paying jobs are concentrated in Food Prep and Serving, Personal Care & Service, Sales & Related, Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance, and Healthcare Support. Each of these occupational groups pay at least \$5.50 less than the all-occupations median, account for 30.1% of all jobs, and tend to have lower educational requirements. These occupations also pay lower in the Duluth area than across the state (Table 10).

Table 10. Duluth-Superior Metro Occupational Employment Statistics, 2024							
Occupational Group	Duluth-Superior Metro Area				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment	Share of Total Employment	Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Share of Total Employment
Total, All Occupations	\$23.68	123,730	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Office and Administrative Support	\$22.62	15,000	12.1%	1.0	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	\$14.41	12,410	10.0%	1.2	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Sales and Related	\$17.12	10,470	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	\$39.02	10,060	8.1%	1.3	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Transportation and Material Moving	\$22.19	8,730	7.1%	0.9	\$22.86	225,820	7.8%
Healthcare Support	\$17.97	8,080	6.5%	1.1	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Educational Instruction and Library	\$26.72	7,550	6.1%	1.1	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Construction and Extraction	\$34.67	6,950	5.6%	1.5	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Management	\$46.77	6,650	5.4%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	\$30.05	6,030	4.9%	1.3	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$24.43	5,960	4.8%	0.7	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Business and Financial Operations	\$34.95	5,590	4.5%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Community and Social Service	\$25.24	3,740	3.0%	1.5	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$17.59	3,580	2.9%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care and Service	\$17.07	2,740	2.2%	1.1	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Protective Service	\$26.06	2,740	2.2%	1.4	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Architecture and Engineering	\$39.74	2,110	1.7%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Computer and Mathematical	\$42.19	2,020	1.6%	0.5	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	\$35.83	1,480	1.2%	1.2	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Arts, Design, Entert., Sports, &Media	\$23.68	1,180	1.0%	0.8	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Legal	\$38.95	540	0.4%	0.7	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	\$22.96	110	0.1%	0.7	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%

Source: [DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024](#)

The highest paying jobs in the Duluth Metro are found in Management, Computer and Mathematical, Architecture and Engineering, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical, and Legal, occupational groups which all have wages \$15 higher than the all-occupation median wage. These occupations account for 17.3% of area jobs. The occupational groups that pay more than their statewide counterparts tend to be in the middle of the wage distribution and include Construction and Extraction, Installation, Maintenance & Repair, Production, and Farming, Fishing, & Forestry.

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Employers in Northeast Minnesota reported 8,963 job vacancies in 2023, down more than 3,400 from the year before, but higher than all but one survey period before 2021. The sectors with the largest number of openings were Healthcare & Social Assistance (3,288 vacancies), Accommodation & Food Services (1,185), Retail Trade (1,160), and Educational Services (653). More than 70% of regional vacancies were in these industries.

The rising demand of the past several years has translated to rising wage offers, with the 2023 median hourly wage offer jumping to \$18.49 per hour, which was the highest offer on record, and the fourth-highest among the six planning regions. Wage offers ranged from under \$15/hr for Food Prep & Serving and Personal Care & Service to over \$35/hr for Management, Architecture & Engineering, and Computer & Mathematical positions.

The largest number of vacancies by occupation were in Healthcare Practitioners & Technical, Food Preparation & Serving Related, Healthcare Support, Sales & Related, and Installation, Maintenance & Repair occupations. More than 54% of regional vacancies were in these occupational groups. Job vacancy rates, a measure of turnover and demand, were the highest for Installation, Maintenance & Repair, Legal, Personal Care & Service, Healthcare Practitioners & Technical, and Healthcare Support. Overall, 30% of the openings were part-time, 37% required post-secondary education, and 41% required 1 or more years of experience (Table 11).

Table 11. Northeast Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Northeast Minnesota	Number of Total Vacancies	Percent Part-time	Percent Temporary or Seasonal	Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Requiring 1 or More Years of Work Exp.	Requiring Certificate or License	Median Hourly Wage Offer	Job Vacancy Rate
Total, All Occupations	8,963	\$18.49	30%	10%	37%	41%	45%	6.6%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,244	\$34.84	27%	1%	97%	56%	99%	10.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,043	\$14.24	50%	18%	6%	32%	3%	7.7%
Healthcare Support	982	\$15.95	34%	3%	39%	3%	54%	10.7%
Sales & Related	826	\$16.06	41%	5%	5%	31%	10%	7.2%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	760	\$20.03	4%	4%	37%	47%	40%	11.9%
Office & Administrative Support	594	\$16.61	36%	3%	11%	45%	13%	3.7%
Transportation & Material Moving	499	\$17.36	59%	19%	1%	9%	63%	5.3%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	436	\$16.13	34%	45%	2%	22%	23%	9.6%
Education, Training & Library	426	\$17.76	27%	26%	59%	32%	64%	5.0%
Production	420	\$21.97	7%	0%	26%	72%	30%	6.3%
Personal Care & Service	346	\$14.10	24%	23%	39%	56%	24%	11.1%
Community & Social Service	333	\$21.88	24%	0%	60%	75%	91%	7.7%
Business & Financial Operations	246	\$23.69	4%	0%	44%	77%	25%	4.2%
Architecture & Engineering	195	\$36.71	1%	1%	85%	77%	80%	8.3%
Management	144	\$39.89	3%	0%	82%	88%	54%	1.9%
Protective Service	129	\$19.03	48%	6%	19%	49%	90%	4.3%
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	70	\$33.94	13.0%	3.0%	62.0%	54.0%	55%	4.1%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	70	\$16.85	74%	62%	33%	35%	50%	5.5%
Legal	62	\$30.09	0%	0%	100%	46%	100%	11.6%
Construction & Extraction	59	\$23.67	0%	14%	23%	74%	57%	0.8%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

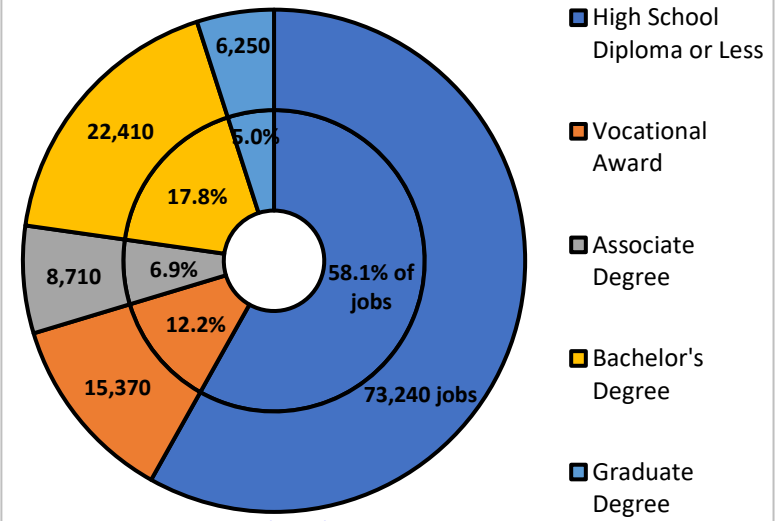
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Reflecting the recent job vacancy data, DEED’s Occupational Employment Statistics program shows that about 42% of current jobs held in the region typically require post-secondary education to enter. The other 58% require no more than a high school diploma, and sometimes less. However, some amount of on-the-job training is often needed (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 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 \$20,600 and more than \$53,600 per year in Minnesota². For those who go to college, choice of major matters – different programs lead to different jobs that earn different amounts of money.

Figure 14. Share of Jobs by Educational Requirements in Northeast Minnesota, 2023

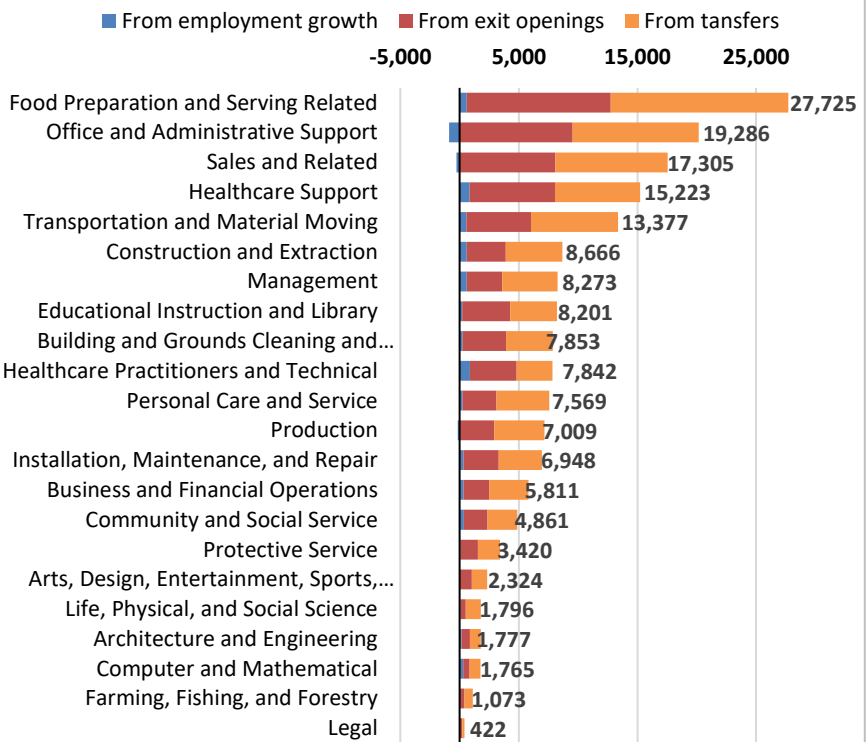


Source: [DEED Occupational Employment Statistics](#)

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Overall, the Northeast planning area is projected to grow 3.3% from 2022 to 2032, a gain of 5,157 new jobs. In addition, the region is also expected to need 178,526 replacement openings to fill jobs left vacant by retirements and career changers. Employment growth is expected to slow from the initial pandemic recovery, more in line with pre-2020 employment growth. Accordingly, Food Prep. & Serving is the occupational group expected to add the most jobs, followed by Office & Admin. Support, and Sales & Related occupations (Figure 15). The largest percent growth is expected for Computer & Mathematical (+12.6%), Healthcare Support (+8.9%), Architecture & Engineering (+7.5%), and Healthcare Practitioners & Technical (+7.3%).

Figure 15. Northeast Minnesota Regional Employment Projections, 2022-2032



Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

² <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=94>

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

According to DEED's [Occupations in Demand](#) tool, there are over 426 occupations in demand (OID) in Northeast Minnesota, and 253 occupations are showing relatively high demand. Training and education requirements of these occupations range from short-term on-the-job training to postsecondary education and advanced degrees. Most OID require a high school diploma or less, and just under one-third require a bachelor's degree or higher. While OID exist in every sector, the region's major industries are well represented as many of the jobs are concentrated in Health Care, Accommodation & Food Service, Education, Retail, Other Services, and other related industries (Table 12).

Table 12. 2023 Occupations in Demand by Education Level, Northeast Minnesota			
High School or Less	Vocational Training	Some College or Assoc. Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$34,948/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,605/yr	Registered Nurses \$81,894/yr	General and Operations Managers \$76,245/yr
Retail Salespersons \$33,663/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$54,185/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$76,015/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$71,413/yr
Cashiers \$29,976/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$61,962/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$71,154/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$65,973/yr
Cooks, Restaurant \$37,144/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$47,607/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$48,119/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$63,522/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,037/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$54,132/yr	Dental Hygienists \$84,405/yr	Physician Assistants \$120,821/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,927/yr	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers \$66,247/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$73,049/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education \$65,592/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$22,936/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,373/yr	Community Health Workers \$43,268/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$69,154/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners \$36,904/yr	Machinists \$62,131/yr	Surgical Technologists \$65,008/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$100,366/yr
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners \$33,611/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$39,523/yr	Forest and Conservation Technicians \$53,442/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$41,313/yr
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General \$50,367/yr	Medical Assistants \$47,014/yr	Respiratory Therapists \$80,721/yr	Nurse Practitioners \$132,823/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

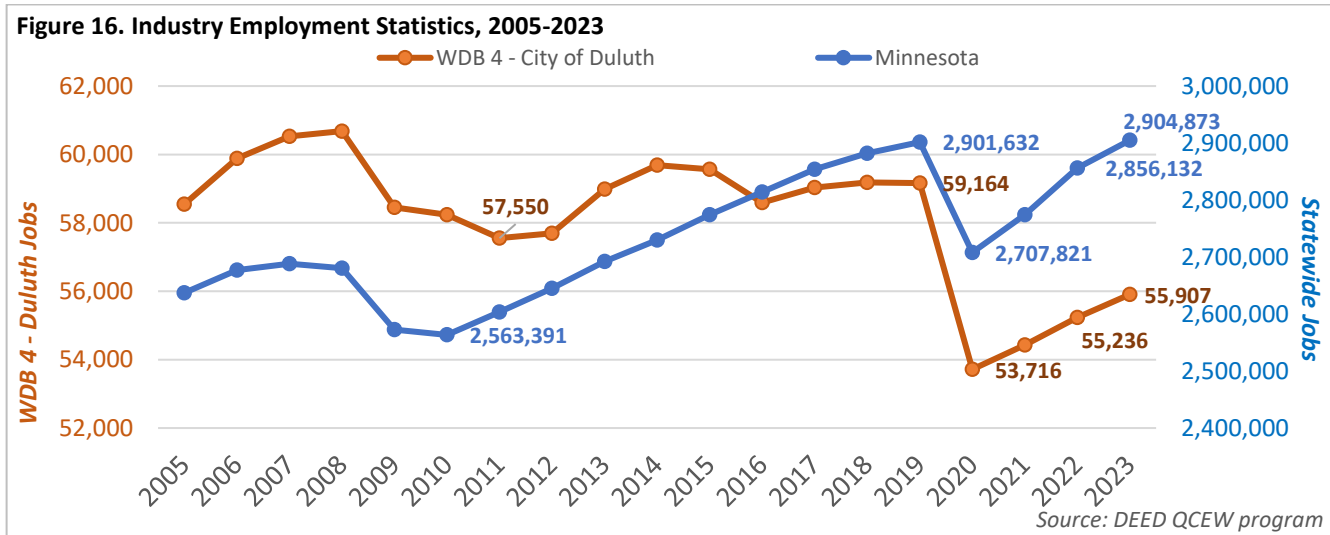
According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\) program](#), Duluth was home to 2,568 business establishments providing 55,907 covered jobs through 2023, with a total payroll that exceeded \$3.4 billion. That was about 1.9% of total employment in the state of Minnesota. Average annual wages were \$60,944 in the city, which was up 3.5% from \$58,864 but \$10,600 lower than the statewide average wage (Table 13).

Geography	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll (\$1,000s)	Average Annual Wage	2022-2023		2019-2023	
					Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
WDB 4 - City of Duluth	2,568	55,907	\$3,408,297	\$60,944	+671	+1.2%	-3,257	-5.5%
Northeast Minnesota	9,308	138,508	\$7,774,858	\$56,133	+2,003	+1.5%	-5,175	-3.6%
State of Minnesota	208,123	2,904,873	\$207,757,410	\$71,552	48,741	1.7%	3,241	+0.1%

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

Including the city of Duluth, St. Louis County is the largest employment center in the region with 94,650 jobs at 5,579 establishments; followed by Itasca County and Carlton County with 15,831 and 12,944 jobs, respectively. The city of Duluth lost 3,257 jobs since 2019, a 5.5% decrease. This relatively significant decline was due almost entirely to the loss of 5,448 jobs (9.2%) in 2020, early in the pandemic. Since 2020, the city added 2,191 jobs, leaving it at 94.5% of pre pandemic levels. (Table 13).

In the longer term, Local Area 4 saw a period of recovery following the Great Recession and had regained about half of the jobs that were lost since 2009, but employment growth slowed in recent years before falling precipitously in 2020. In sum, the city lost 3,100 jobs due to the Great Recession of which about half had returned by 2019. Duluth’s employment growth was slower than the state’s, which gained jobs at a 11.4% clip from 2011 to 2019, compared to a 2.8% increase in the city (Figure 16).



With 17,896 jobs at 354 establishments, Health Care & Social Assistance is the largest employing sector in Local Area 4, accounting for 32% of total jobs in the city. That is about 14 percentage points higher than the state’s share of employment in the Health Care sector. Employment in the sector has decreased 6.4% since 2019, mostly attributable to almost 1,500 jobs lost between 2019 and 2022. More recently, the sector returned to growth, adding 254 jobs from 2022 to 2023. At \$72,124 in 2023, average annual wage was over \$11,000 higher in Health Care & Social Assistance than the average of all industries (Table 14).

The next largest sectors in Duluth were Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Services which combined to make up nearly a fifth of all the jobs in the city. Though both sectors saw employment declines since 2019, Accommodation & Food Services saw larger than average declines and continued to shed jobs over the last year while Retail added the most jobs of any sector since 2022. (Table 14).

As the county seat and home to several colleges and universities, Educational Services and Public Administration employment is also concentrated in the city of Duluth, accounting for 14.4% of total jobs compared to 12.6% statewide. Since 2019, Public Administration fared better than most while Educational Services continued to see losses over the last year. Manufacturing, the 6th-largest sector in the city, was one of only three sectors to have more jobs in 2023 than in 2019, growing 7.5% over that period. Utilities and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation were the other sectors to see growth over four years.

The industries that saw the largest relative employment losses over the last four years were Information, Administrative Support and Waste Management, Management, and Finance and Insurance. From 2022 to 2023, eight sectors lost jobs, led by Professional and Technical Services, which had otherwise added jobs over the pandemic period. Wholesale Trade and Management also had relatively large over-the-year declines. By Contrast, the largest gains were seen in Retail, Health Care, Manufacturing, and Finance & Insurance.

In response to a tightening labor market and rising prices, many Duluth employers raised their wages. Since 2019, the average annual wage grew 19.5%. Much of that wage growth occurred early in the pandemic. Wages grew 7.2% from 2019-2020 and then tapered to between 3.5% and 4.5% per year since. Since 2019 the highest wage growth largely happened in several low-paying sectors such as Accommodation & Food Services (+31%) and Retail (+26%), but also in Finance & Insurance (+27%) and Construction (+26%). Utilities, the highest-paying sector, was the only one to see average wages decrease over four years.

WDB 4 - Duluth	2023 Annual Data				2022-2023		2019-2023	
	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll (\$1,000s)	Avg. Annual Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	2,568	55,907	\$3,408,297	\$60,944	+671	+1.2%	-3,257	-5.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	354	17,896	\$1,290,842	\$72,124	+254	+1.4%	-1,215	-6.4%
Retail Trade	369	5,682	\$192,378	\$33,852	+320	+6.0%	-173	-3.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	252	5,391	\$127,771	\$23,660	-62	-1.1%	-742	-12.1%
Educational Services	75	4,514	\$259,265	\$57,616	-71	-1.5%	-318	-6.6%
Public Administration	65	3,532	\$265,687	\$75,244	+74	+2.1%	-118	-3.2%
Manufacturing	81	3,509	\$248,465	\$70,824	+179	+5.4%	+246	+7.5%
Professional & Technical Services	240	2,808	\$236,825	\$84,448	-123	-4.2%	-30	-1.1%
Other Services	328	2,131	\$72,655	\$34,060	+105	+5.2%	-23	-1.1%
Construction	157	1,947	\$154,605	\$79,404	N/A	N/A	-140	-6.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	61	1,520	\$113,493	\$74,724	-24	-1.6%	-34	-2.2%
Finance & Insurance	151	1,424	\$126,553	\$88,816	+173	+13.8%	-232	-14.0%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	82	1,090	\$38,186	\$34,996	+36	+3.4%	-189	-14.8%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	90	1,075	\$27,137	\$25,272	-42	-3.8%	+22	+2.1%
Wholesale Trade	76	899	\$60,259	\$67,028	-78	-8.0%	-114	-11.3%
Utilities	7	757	\$85,602	\$113,152	+49	+6.9%	+97	+14.7%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	101	713	\$32,904	\$46,124	+23	+3.3%	-43	-5.7%
Information	50	563	\$34,439	\$61,204	-5	-0.9%	-213	-27.4%
Management of Companies	25	407	\$37,524	\$92,248	-30	-6.9%	-69	-14.5%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

According to DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program, the workforce in St. Louis County was aging over the past 10 years. In 2022, 22.1% of workers in the county were 55 years or older, the same as the statewide share and above the 19.7% share from a decade earlier. In contrast, the percentage of workers under 25 fell from 19.9% in 2012 to 17.6%. The prime working-age group of 25 to 54 retained a share of just over 60% (Table 15).

Since 2012, wages climbed across the board for all workers in large part due to inflation and rising demand in a tight labor market. Wages were lowest in 2022 for workers under 25. At \$29.47 an hour, the highest wages were earned by workers in the 45 to 54-year age group. Since 2012, wages grew 45.6% for all workers, but grew the fastest for workers under 25, with growth exceeding 78%. In 2012, women made a median wage equal to 77.4% that of men. That gender pay gap narrowed slightly to 81% in 2022.

Quarterly Workforce Demographics also tracks the number of hours worked by age and gender. Teens worked the fewest hours in 2022, followed by those in their early 20s and workers 65 years and older. A full-time schedule of 35 hours per week would equal 455 hours per quarter. The only age group to exceed that mark was 45 to 64-year-olds. The median hours worked for 25–44-year-olds was 443. Men worked more hours on average than women, with a median of 449 to 356. The largest change in hours worked occurred for the youngest and oldest workers. Teen workers saw median hours decline 8.4% as workers over 65 saw hours increase 7%. Males worked more hours than females, though that gap narrowed as well over the past decade (Table 15).

St. Louis Co.	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%	\$22.87	\$15.71	390	408
19 years & under	6.4%	6.1%	6.6%	6.3%	\$14.67	\$7.99	124	135
20 to 24 years	11.2%	13.8%	9.2%	11.3%	\$17.76	\$9.99	243	241
25 to 44 years	42.3%	38.6%	43.6%	42.3%	\$25.71	\$17.07	443	450
45 to 54 years	18.0%	21.8%	18.4%	21.9%	\$29.47	\$20.70	468	475
55 to 64 years	16.8%	16.6%	16.7%	14.7%	\$26.43	\$21.13	459	470
65 years & over	5.3%	3.1%	5.4%	3.5%	\$18.74	\$12.66	234	219
Male	50.8%	49.4%	49.1%	49.1%	\$26.15	\$18.36	449	457
Female	49.2%	50.6%	50.9%	50.9%	\$21.16	\$14.21	356	367

Source: [DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics](#)

EMPLOYMENT DIVERSITY

People of color make up 11.7% of the population and held 11.1% of total jobs in Duluth, according to data from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) program. In 2023, that equaled an average of 6,577 workers of color, compared to 52,843 white workers. However, workers of color held only 5.5% of total jobs in the city in 2003, meaning the people of color employment share almost doubled in the last 20 years (Figures 17 and 18).

Workers of color have filled 44% of new jobs added since 2003. With 1,633 jobs, Black or African Americans were the largest workers of color group in the city’s economy, tripling since 2003. The next largest group was Hispanic or Latinos, who held 1,578 jobs in 2023, more than double the 2003 level. The number of Asian workers grew 123% to 1,141 in 2023. Indigenous workers held 822 jobs in 2023, a 29% increase from 2003. Under the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, workers of color employment fell less than white employment from 2019-2021, -5.7% vs. -9.3% (Figure 17 and 18).

Most sectors in Duluth are non-diverse, but there are a couple of industries that rely more on workers of color. For example, 18.4% of Transportation & Warehousing workers are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Similarly, 17.8% of Accommodation & Food Services, 16.7% of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting, and 15.8% of Real Estate Rental & Leasing, were held by workers of color. The largest number of BIPOC workers were employed in Health Care & Social Assistance, Transportation and Warehousing, and Educational Services (see Figure 19).

Figure 17. Employment by Race and Ethnicity, All Industries, Duluth, 2003-2023

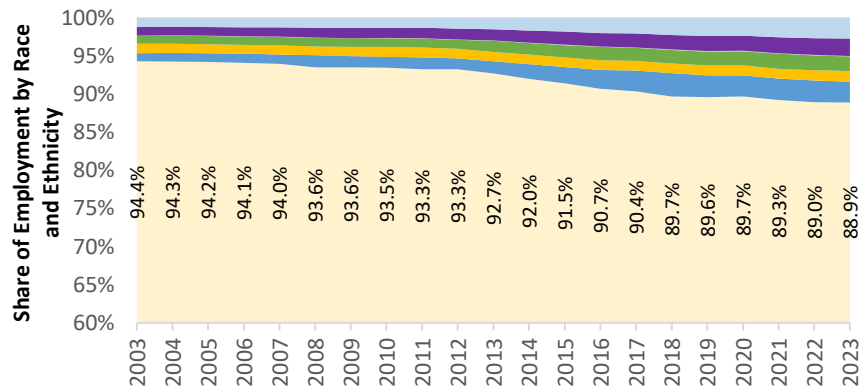


Figure 18. Employment of People of Color, All Industries, Duluth, 2003-2023

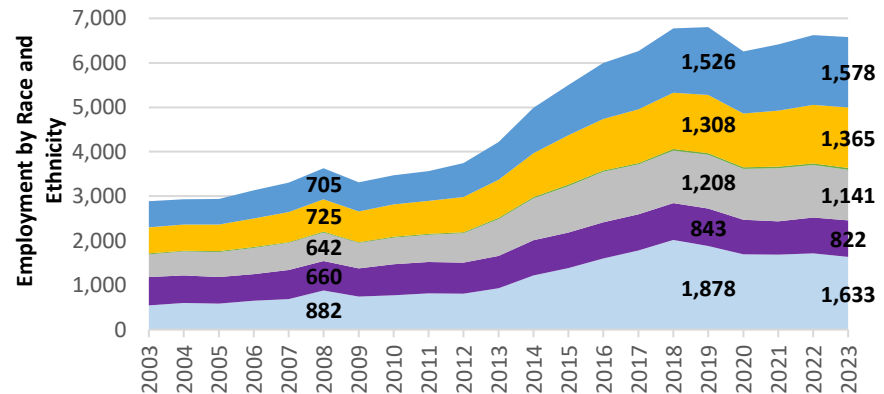
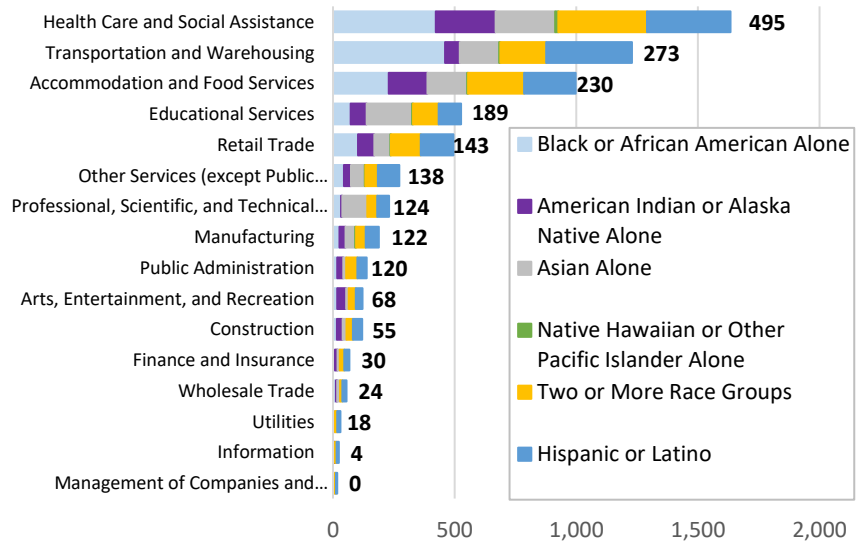


Figure 19. People of Color Employment by Industry, Duluth, Minnesota, 2023



Sources: DEED, Census
Source: DEED, Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators

INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

The Northeast Minnesota planning region is projected to grow 3.3% from 2022 to 2032, a gain of 5,157 new jobs. By comparison, the state is projected to grow 4.6% over the same period. The sectors expected to grow the fastest are diverse, and include high and low-paying industries such as Management and Arts, Entertainment, & Rec. The most new jobs are expected to be added in Health Care & Social Assistance, Accommodation & Food Svcs., and Construction. By contrast, Retail, Utilities, Information, and Finance & Insurance are projected to see employment declines as the way we work continues to evolve under the implementation of new technology and structural changes to the economy (Table 16).

Table 16. Northeast Minnesota Industry Projections, 2022-2032

Industry	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032	Numeric Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	153,945	159,102	3.3%	+5,157
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,799	33,864	6.5%	+2,065
Retail Trade	16,565	16,360	-1.2%	-205
Public Administration	15,176	15,440	1.7%	+264
Accommodation & Food Services	14,034	14,860	5.9%	+826
Educational Services	12,004	12,056	0.4%	+52
Total, Self-Employed	9,619	9,506	-1.2%	-113
Manufacturing	8,777	9,016	2.7%	+239
Construction	7,006	7,544	7.7%	+538
Other Services	5,953	6,118	2.8%	+165
Professional and Technical Svcs.	5,055	5,444	7.7%	+389
Finance & Insurance	4,592	4,578	-0.3%	-14
Transportation & Warehousing	4,151	4,437	6.9%	+286
Mining	4,006	4,134	3.2%	+128
Wholesale Trade	3,202	3,359	4.9%	+157
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,125	3,383	8.3%	+258
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	3,097	3,231	4.3%	+134
Utilities	1,352	1,342	-0.7%	-10
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,235	1,268	2.7%	+33
Information	1,222	1,208	-1.1%	-14
Agriculture Forestry, Fish & Hunt	1,222	1,134	-7.2%	-88
Management of Companies	753	820	8.9%	+67

Source: [DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook](#)

NONEMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

Local Area 4 was home to 5,774 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).” Duluth saw an increase in nonemployers over the past decade, including the pandemic. In sum, the city gained 207 nonemployers from 2012 to 2021, a 3.7% increase. In Northeast Minnesota, there were about 20,441 nonemployers in 2021, an increase of 280 self-employed people since 2012. These non-employers generated sales receipts of over \$889 million for the region and more than \$242 million for the city in 2021 (Table 17).

Table 17. Nonemployer Statistics, 2021

	2021		2012-2021	
	Number of Firms	Receipts (\$1,000s)	Change in Firms	Percent Change
WDB 4 - City of Duluth	5,774	\$242,395	+207	+3.7%
St. Louis Co.	11,951	\$501,729	+429	+3.7%
Northeast MN	20,514	\$889,985	+280	+1.4%
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 Northeast Minnesota, but there are 2,406 farms producing just over \$90 million in the market value of products sold in 2022 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. St. Louis County was among the counties with the smallest market value of products sold. All of the counties in the planning region rank near the bottom in Minnesota in terms of market value of products sold (Table 18).

Table 18. Census of Agriculture, 2022

	Number of Farms	Market Value of Products Sold	State Rank
St. Louis Co.	821	\$29,054,000	79/87
Northeast MN	2,406	\$90,006,000	6/6
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 Carson Gorecki at (218) 302-8413 or at carson.gorecki@state.mn.us.