EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Minnesota Employment Review

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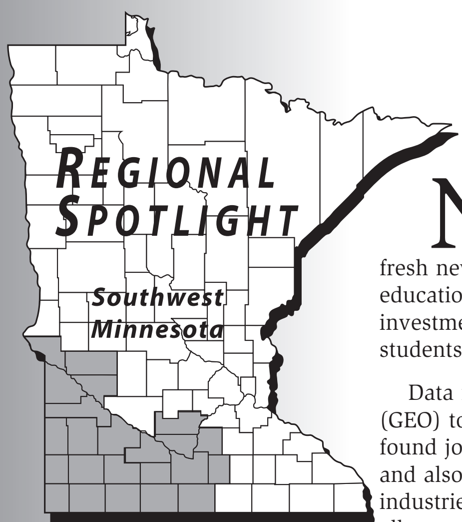


Features:

Feature: Job Vacancies are Way Up in 2017

County Snapshots: *Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn*

In this issue:

Skilled Manpower in the Making

Nearly 6,000 students successfully graduate from higher education institutions in Southwest Minnesota every year. Each fresh new wave of students embarking on the higher education pathway can learn what to expect from their investment by looking at the employment outcomes of students who have graduated before them.

Data from DEED's Graduate Employment Outcomes (GEO) tool show how many recent Minnesota graduates found jobs at employers in the state after graduation, and also shows the median wages earned and the top industries where graduates found jobs. The GEO tool allows users to search by year, location, award type, institution type, and instructional program.

These employment outcomes for previous graduates can provide clues and telltale signs that will likely predict the futures of each new graduating class at the colleges, universities, and trade schools in Southwest Minnesota. The data also help local businesses and workforce development agencies see what types of occupations local students are being prepared for.

Although more data are available for other educational programs at each of the 11 higher education institutions in the region, this article focuses solely on the programs with the largest number of graduates in 2014 – the most recent year with available data. Also because of a lack of GEO data availability, Rasmussen College in Mankato, Avalon School of Cosmetology in Worthington, and Martin Luther College in New Ulm are not included in the analysis for this article.

Most Popular

For all award types from all higher education institutions in the region, the most popular program was Registered Nursing (RN), graduating 429 students in 2014. Of those, 311 completed a Bachelor's version while 118 opted for the two-year Associate degree.

The second largest program in Southwest Minnesota was Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities. With 365 graduates, this two-year Associate degree program has become increasingly prominent in the region, with 61 percent more graduates in 2014 than in 2010. Not necessarily aligned with any specific career, the Liberal Arts and General Studies program is often thought of as a stepping stone for students to work towards a Bachelor's degree in the future.

Although the Liberal Arts and General Studies program was very popular, the path from completion to a degree or a career was less consistent than expected. GEO data show that by the third year after graduating from this program, the largest share end up working in the Health Care industry, possibly while continuing their education. However, according to a recent DEED

Table 1. List of Postsecondary Institutions in Southwest Minnesota

Name	Location	Number of Students
Minnesota State University, Mankato	Mankato	15,165
Southwest Minnesota State University	Marshall	7,495
Minnesota West Community and Technical College	Granite Falls (Canby, Jackson, Pipestone, Worthington)	3,050
South Central College	North Mankato	2,807
Gustavus Adolphus College	St. Peter	2,250
Martin Luther College	New Ulm	937
Bethany Lutheran College	Mankato	587
Avalon School of Cosmetology	Worthington	25
Presentation College	Fairmont	N/A
Rasmussen College	Mankato	N/A
Nova Academy of Cosmetology	Mankato	N/A

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, College Navigator article focusing on the employment outcomes of graduates who "stack credentials," most graduates in Liberal Arts and General Studies do not actually go on to complete a four-year degree.[1] Looking back at Southwestern Minnesota graduates from the Class of 2011, by the sixth year after graduating – which would have provided ample time to complete a subsequent Bachelor's degree – most graduates had not yet found jobs earning more than $18 per hour.

Finally with more than 350 graduates in 2014, Business Administration, Management, and Operations programs continued to play an important role in supplying the region with managers and business operations candidates. Other popular business-related programs include Communications and Media Studies, Accounting and Related Services, Marketing, and Finance and Financial Management Services.

Table 2. Top 20 Programs in Southwest Minnesota by Number of Graduates, Class of 2013-2014

Instructional Program	Graduates
Registered Nursing, Nursing Admin., Research, and Clinical Nursing	429
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities	365
Business Administration, Management, and Operations	355
Health and Physical Education/Fitness	220
Communication and Media Studies	197
Psychology, General	181
Accounting and Related Services	179
Criminal Justice and Corrections	179
Biology, General	176
Education, General	165
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Levels	153
Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing, and Nursing Assistants	130
Social Work	121
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Subject Areas	119
English Language and Literature, General	112
Marketing	101
Finance and Financial Management Services	88
Educational Administration and Supervision	86
Special Education and Teaching	85
Health and Medical Administrative Services	71

Source: DEED, Graduate Employment Outcomes

The College Experience

Closer examination of the most popular program at each educational institution in Southwest Minnesota illustrates the differences in outcomes after completion. This type of analysis could be done for many more programs to learn what happens to graduates when they apply their new skills to the labor market. Although the economy is constantly changing, students looking to plan their education, determine the best way to finance it, and figure out what to expect after graduating should take advantage of GEO data to inform their decision making.

Results from the Class of 2011 provide insight on how graduates have fared in the labor market over six years. As shown in Figure 1, median hourly wages earned by graduates are plotted by lines that indicate the leading industry of employment for graduates in their third year after graduating. Figure 1 includes only the lead employing industry, but the full version of the GEO tool provides the top seven employing industries and the median hourly wage earned by graduates in each industry. The top employment and wages earned in each region is available as well.

Although Manufacturing is the largest industry in Southwest Minnesota, the leading industry of employment for graduates of four of the largest programs in the region is Health Care. Unlike many other programs, Registered Nursing prepares graduates for a single occupation. Graduates from the Registered Nursing program at both Minnesota State University, Mankato and Presentation College in Fairmont are clearly finding employment in the nursing field, since Health Care is the top employing industry. Just two years after graduating from either school, most graduates are earning over $30 per hour, although many end up working in the Twin Cities. In contrast, graduates from two-year Registered Nursing programs were more likely to remain in the region and saw lower wages. Where they are employed is a major factor, including hospitals and ambulatory health care services versus nursing home care.

The largest graduating program at Gustavus Adolphus College was General Biology, with 52 graduates in 2014. While the leading employing industry for this program was also Health Care, graduates earn far less than those coming out of the Registered Nursing program. The median hourly wage for graduates from the Class of 2011 started at less than $14 per hour two years after graduating, but thanks to a steep wage trajectory, climbed to $23.63 by their sixth year at work.

Over 120 graduates successfully completed a Master's degree in Education at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in 2014, making it the largest program in terms of graduates. However, it's likely that many of these graduates are mid-career teachers with experience to bolster their education, leading to median hourly wages of $41.33 by their fifth year after completion.

The largest program for undergraduate degrees at SMSU was Business Administration, Management, and Operations, with 78 students graduating in 2014. Wages for graduates of this program from SMSU topped $26 per hour as recently as their second year after completion.

Bethany Lutheran College graduated 21 from their Business Administration, Management, and Operations Bachelor's degree program in 2014, making it their largest program. Since full data were not available for the Class of 2011, data from 2010 were used instead. These graduates were largely employed in the Finance and Insurance industry and by their fifth year after college were earning over $20 per hour at the median.

Much like Registered Nursing programs, the Nova Academy of Cosmetology prepares students for a specific set of personal care and service occupations. Although cosmetologists and hairdressers are in high demand in the region, wages for new graduates are low, and growth is somewhat stagnant. Of the 41 graduates from the academy in 2011, the median hourly wage by the sixth year after graduation had not topped $13 per hour, including tips unless they are not claimed. One factor some people try to use to explain

[1]Leibert, Alessia. "Stackable Credentials: Myths and Reality." Trends, March 2017. **https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/trends/march-2017/stackable-credentials.jsp**

the low wages is that self-employment is not included in the data. However, GEO data show that 87.8 percent of graduates from the Class of 2011 at this school were working for someone other than themselves by their second year after graduating. The lead employing industry and median wages accurately align with the typical wage shown for this occupation in other datasets, suggesting that most graduates are working in the field for which they are trained.

Although they also have a wide range of career programs, Liberal Arts and General Studies produced the largest number of graduates from both Minnesota West Community and Technical College and South Central College, with 122 and 168 respectively for the Class of 2014. This wasn't always the case – just four years earlier, the largest graduating program at South Central College was Registered Nursing, while Electrical and Power Transmission Installation led the way at Minnesota West.

The Liberal Arts and General Studies program is designed to help students earn an Associate's degree and then transition to a university to complete a Bachelor's degree. Unfortunately, most students do not successfully complete the transition or at least not in a timely manner. For example, if the plan is to earn a Bachelor's degree using a "2 + 2 method" (two years at a technical college + two years at a university), graduates with Associate's degree should have been able to complete a Bachelor's degree and find suitable employment within six years. But as indicated in Figure 1, median wages for graduates from the Liberal Arts and General Studies programs at both colleges remained low, and the leading employing industries were Retail Trade and Health Care for South Central and Minnesota West, respectively.

Meeting Demand

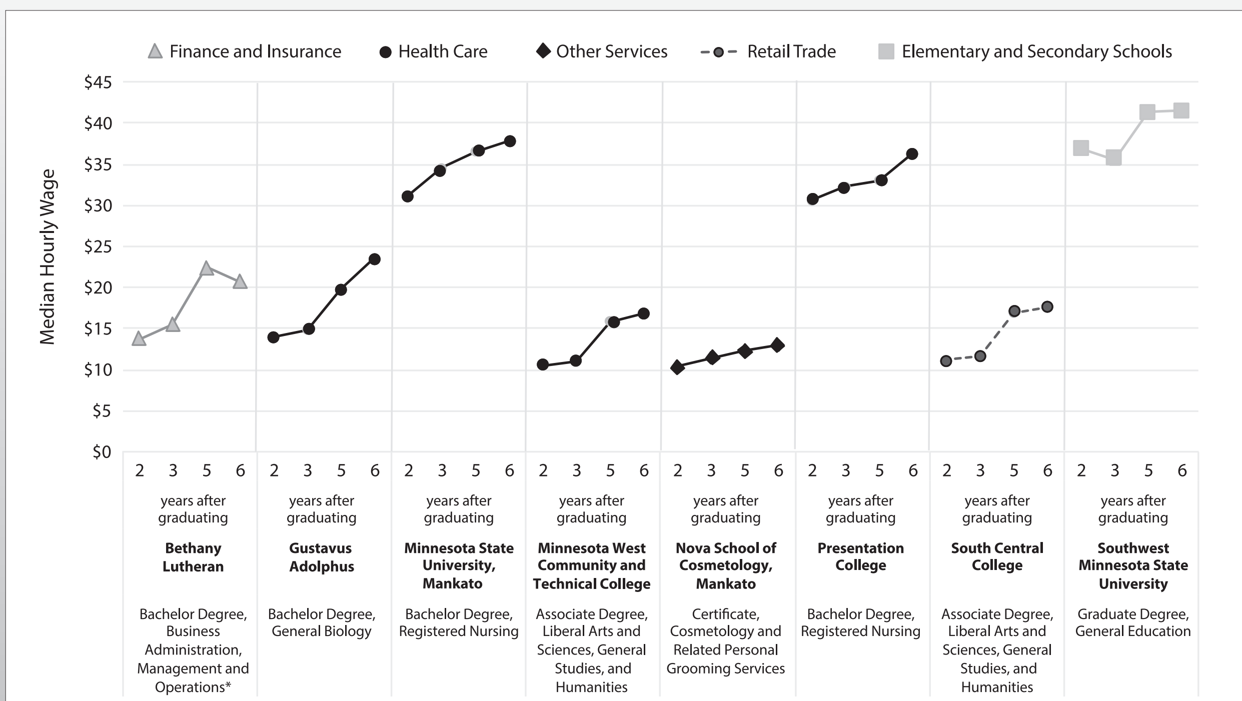
Outside of Liberal Arts and General Studies, most of the top graduating programs at institutions of higher learning in the region have specific occupations related to the program completed by graduated students. The National Center for Education Statistics publishes a crosswalk that matches educational programs with the most likely occupational outcomes for graduates.[2]

Many of the jobs that students in these programs are being trained for are in high demand, with just over half ranking near the top of DEED's Occupations in Demand list for Southwest Minnesota, having demand indicators of four and five stars. However, that also means that many other jobs related to the top programs of study are showing moderate to low demand in the region.

In addition to current demand, students also need to look at future employment projections. While having a high demand indicator is typically related to job growth, as with Operations Research Analysts, Fundraisers, and Natural Sciences Managers just to name a few, having a high demand indicator does not necessarily equate to job growth. For example, Sales Managers and Elementary, Middle School, and Secondary School Teachers all have a five-star demand indicator, yet are expected to see employment losses from 2014 to 2024.

Even for those occupations that have relatively low demand or projected employment declines, there is often still a need for trained replacements to fill existing jobs left vacant by individuals leaving the occupation for some reason, such as retiring or finding a new job. Students going into these programs can still find opportunities in the region, but may have to look at related occupations (see Table 3 on next page).

Figure 1. Median Hourly Wage and Top Employing Industry for Graduates of the Most Popular Programs in Southwest Minnesota, Class of 2011



*Class of 2010 was used to increase datapoints
Source: DEED, Graduate Employment Outcomes program

[2] Classification of Instructional Programs. National Center for Educational Statistics. Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/resources.aspx?y = 55

Table 3. Demand Rank, Growth Rate, and Projected Openings for Occupations Related to the Top Academic Program by Institution in Southwest Minnesota

Educational Institution, Program, and Award		Current Demand Indicator	Median Hourly Wage	Growth Rate, 2014-2024	Projected Openings, 2014-2024
Bethany Lutheran - Business Administration, Management and Operations - Bachelor's Degree					
11-2022	Sales Managers	★★★★★	$45.74	-0.9%	100
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	★★★★★	$47.23	3%	30
11-9021	Construction Managers	★★★★★	$40.24	2.4%	40
13-1051	Cost Estimators	★★★★★	$24.83	2.2%	80
13-1151	Training and Development Specialists	★★★★★	$25.41	-2.6%	30
13-1161	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	★★★★★	$24.88	8.1%	70
49-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics/Installers/Repairers	★★★★	$30.14	0.2%	120
11-3051	Industrial Production Managers	★★★★	$39.49	1.6%	110
13-1111	Management Analysts	★★★★	$36.20	4.6%	60
11-3061	Purchasing Managers	★★★★	$48.73	-3.2%	20
15-2031	Operations Research Analysts	★★★★	$48.68	15.0%	N/A
13-1081	Logisticians	★★★★	$30.68	-10.2%	NA
13-1141	Compensation, Benefits and Job Analysis Specialists	★★★	$31.80	-4.1%	10
11-3011	Administrative Services Managers	★★	$37.21	0.8%	50
11-9151	Social and Community Service Managers	★★	$32.58	8.3%	80
11-3071	Transportation, Storage and Distribution Managers	★★	$36.90	4.7%	20
Gustavus Adolphus - General Biology - Bachelor's Degree					
25-2031	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	★★★★★	$53,928	-4.1%	370
11-9121	Natural Sciences Managers	★★★★	$54.58	13.2%	10
19-4021	Biological Technicians	★★★★	$19.55	-4.4%	10
19-1011	Animal Scientists	★★★	$49.57	-8.3%	0
19-1012	Food Scientists and Technologists	★★	$31.33	-3.7%	10
19-2022	Microbiologists	★★	N/A	-14.3%	0
19-1021	Biochemists and Biophysicists	★	N/A	0.0%	0
19-1023	Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	★	$29.97	-6.2%	10
19-1013	Soil and Plant Scientists	★	$28.63	14.0%	20
Minnesota State University, Mankato and Presentation College - Registered Nursing - Bachelor's Degree					
29-1141	Registered Nurses	★★★★★	$27.92	5.0%	960
Southwest Minnesota State University - General Education - Graduate Degree					
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	★★★★★	$51,552	-4.4%	450
25-2031	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special Education	★★★★★	$53,928	-4.1%	370
25-2022	Middle School Teachers, Except Special Education	★★★★★	$52,382	-4.6%	100
25-2032	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School	★★★	$56,021	-4.3%	10
25-2023	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Middle School	★★	$39,503	0.0%	0
25-2012	Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	★	$45,511	-4.8%	60
Nova School of Cosmetology, Mankato - Cosmetology and Professional Grooming Services - Certificate					
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	★★★★	$11.70	2.6%	250
39-5092	Manicurists and Pedicurists	★★	N/A	3.4%	N/A

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand, Occupational Employment Statistics; Employment Outlook

by Luke Greiner and Mark Schultz

Regional Spotlight Southwest Minnesota

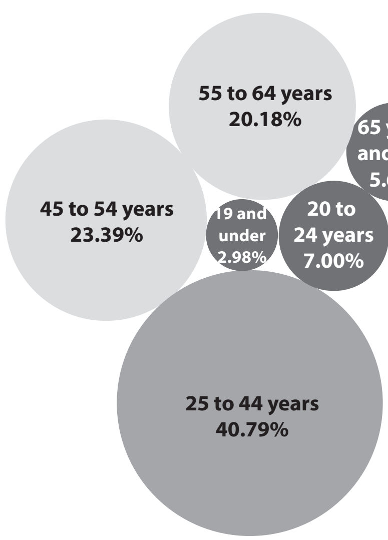
Fun With Statistics

This is a sample of what you can find with our new Quarterly Employment Demographics tool. We think you'll be pleased with the greater detail which we hope will answer even more of your questions. You can access it at https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/qed/

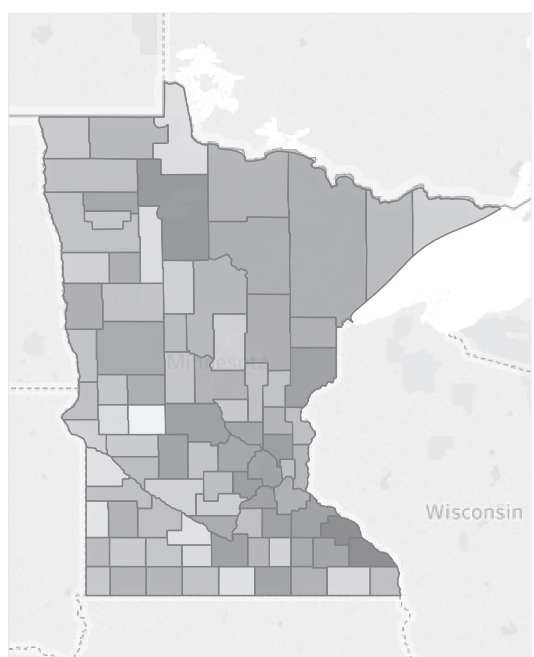
Detailed Industry	Demographic	Metric
61 Educational Services	Age	Median Wage

Median Wage by Age for Educational Services

Industry Employment Distribution by Age, 2015



Industry Median Wage by County, 2015



Click here to use the tool:
http://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/QED/Region

by Amanda Rohrer

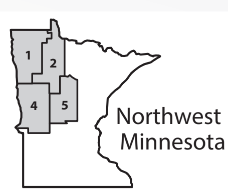
Labor Force Estimates

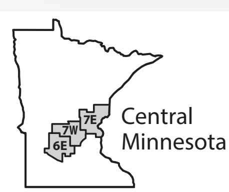
County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016
United States ('000s)												
(Seasonally adjusted)	160,571	160,494	160,571	153,439	153,513	153,439	7,132	6,981	7,132	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%
(Unadjusted)	160,863	161,911	160,863	153,576	154,470	153,576	7,287	7,441	7,287	4.5	4.6	4.5
Minnesota												
(Seasonally adjusted)	3,053,950	3,045,902	3,054,016	2,937,671	2,933,408	2,937,775	116,279	112,494	116,241	3.8	3.7	3.8
(Unadjusted)	3,082,329	3,093,153	3,082,486	2,972,389	2,987,031	2,972,649	109,940	106,122	109,837	3.6	3.4	3.6
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*												
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	2,009,767	2,014,179	1,959,254	1,940,573	1,947,227	1,888,984	69,194	66,952	70,270	3.4	3.3	3.6
Duluth-Superior MSA	144,585	144,687	141,620	137,849	138,247	133,833	6,736	6,440	7,787	4.7	4.5	5.5
Rochester MSA	121,685	122,602	120,549	118,113	119,050	116,733	3,572	3,552	3,816	2.9	2.9	3.2
St. Cloud MSA	110,858	110,708	109,339	107,122	107,063	105,368	3,736	3,645	3,971	3.4	3.3	3.6
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	58,668	58,481	57,692	56,926	56,723	55,865	1,742	1,758	1,827	3.0	3.0	3.2
Fargo-Moorhead MSA	139,851	140,043	137,055	137,012	137,274	133,840	2,839	2,769	3,215	2.0	2.0	2.3
Grand Forks MSA	55,687	56,017	56,302	54,109	54,451	54,653	1,578	1,566	1,649	2.8	2.8	2.9
Region One	**47,121**	**47,549**	**46,881**	**45,003**	**45,493**	**44,734**	**2,118**	**2,056**	**2,147**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**4.6**
Kittson	2,318	2,370	2,325	2,233	2,278	2,226	85	92	99	3.7	3.9	4.3
Marshall	5,438	5,516	5,356	5,167	5,261	5,049	271	255	307	5.0	4.6	5.7
Norman	3,359	3,441	3,319	3,206	3,279	3,171	153	162	148	4.6	4.7	4.5
Pennington	9,126	9,140	8,912	8,767	8,815	8,537	359	325	375	3.9	3.6	4.2
Polk	16,491	16,636	16,695	15,681	15,828	15,960	810	808	735	4.9	4.9	4.4
Red Lake	2,299	2,310	2,297	2,185	2,210	2,152	114	100	145	5.0	4.3	6.3
Roseau	8,090	8,136	7,977	7,764	7,822	7,639	326	314	338	4.0	3.9	4.2
Region Two												
Beltrami	**24,042**	**24,145**	**23,292**	**22,929**	**23,048**	**22,156**	**1,113**	**1,097**	**1,136**	**4.6**	**4.5**	**4.9**
Clearwater	4,630	4,683	4,516	4,348	4,391	4,180	282	292	336	6.1	6.2	7.4
Hubbard	10,379	10,435	10,129	9,926	9,992	9,578	453	443	551	4.4	4.2	5.4
Lake of the Woods	2,465	2,473	2,378	2,336	2,361	2,267	129	112	111	5.2	4.5	4.7
Mahnomen	2,372	2,402	2,359	2,258	2,278	2,223	114	124	136	4.8	5.2	5.8
Region Three	**164,587**	**164,814**	**162,374**	**156,433**	**156,965**	**152,774**	**8,154**	**7,849**	**9,600**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**5.9**
Aitkin	7,168	7,215	6,964	6,837	6,881	6,581	331	334	383	4.6	4.6	5.5
Carlton	17,624	17,632	17,265	16,858	16,917	16,419	766	715	846	4.3	4.1	4.9
Cook	3,242	3,272	3,403	3,164	3,192	3,293	78	80	110	2.4	2.4	3.2
Itasca	21,998	22,025	22,003	20,522	20,617	20,200	1,476	1,408	1,803	6.7	6.4	8.2
Koochiching	6,246	6,258	6,136	5,823	5,862	5,658	423	396	478	6.8	6.3	7.8
Lake	5,514	5,537	5,629	5,324	5,347	5,381	190	190	248	3.4	3.4	4.4
St. Louis	102,795	102,875	100,974	97,905	98,149	95,242	4,890	4,726	5,732	4.8	4.6	5.7
City of Duluth	46,080	46,138	44,980	44,255	44,365	43,051	1,825	1,773	1,929	4.0	3.8	4.3
Balance of St. Louis County	56,715	56,737	55,994	53,650	53,784	52,191	3,065	2,953	3,803	5.4	5.2	6.8
Region Four	**128,104**	**128,959**	**125,853**	**124,127**	**125,005**	**121,644**	**3,977**	**3,954**	**4,209**	**3.1**	**3.1**	**3.3**
Becker	18,559	18,709	18,201	17,888	18,035	17,493	671	674	708	3.6	3.6	3.9
Clay	35,875	35,849	35,145	34,723	34,711	34,023	1,152	1,138	1,122	3.2	3.2	3.2
Douglas	20,826	20,937	20,604	20,259	20,376	19,984	567	561	620	2.7	2.7	3.0
Grant	3,263	3,317	3,194	3,157	3,211	3,066	106	106	128	3.2	3.2	4.0
Otter Tail	32,280	32,552	31,577	31,272	31,555	30,452	1,008	997	1,125	3.1	3.1	3.6
Pope	6,346	6,433	6,248	6,186	6,262	6,069	160	171	179	2.5	2.7	2.9
Stevens	5,564	5,645	5,549	5,416	5,504	5,396	148	141	153	2.7	2.5	2.8
Traverse	1,775	1,821	1,754	1,726	1,774	1,703	49	47	51	2.8	2.6	2.9
Wilkin	3,616	3,696	3,581	3,500	3,577	3,458	116	119	123	3.2	3.2	3.4
Region Five	**85,679**	**86,132**	**84,127**	**82,383**	**82,963**	**80,388**	**3,296**	**3,169**	**3,739**	**3.8**	**3.7**	**4.4**
Cass	15,517	15,582	15,034	14,837	14,928	14,230	680	654	804	4.4	4.2	5.3
Crow Wing	33,390	33,466	32,850	32,222	32,318	31,495	1,168	1,148	1,355	3.5	3.4	4.1
Morrison	17,698	17,848	17,471	16,972	17,150	16,687	726	698	784	4.1	3.9	4.5
Todd	12,886	13,019	12,657	12,442	12,604	12,171	444	415	486	3.4	3.2	3.8
Wadena	6,188	6,217	6,115	5,910	5,963	5,805	278	254	310	4.5	4.1	5.1
Region Six East	**65,358**	**65,960**	**65,144**	**63,053**	**63,685**	**62,529**	**2,305**	**2,275**	**2,615**	**3.5**	**3.4**	**4.0**
Kandiyohi	24,475	24,662	24,011	23,755	23,970	23,195	720	692	816	2.9	2.8	3.4
McLeod	19,518	19,653	19,624	18,819	18,946	18,780	699	707	844	3.6	3.6	4.3
Meeker	13,242	13,351	13,152	12,744	12,874	12,629	498	477	523	3.8	3.6	4.0
Renville	8,123	8,294	8,357	7,735	7,895	7,925	388	399	432	4.8	4.8	5.2

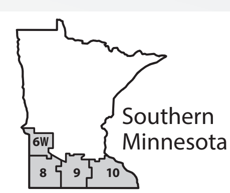
*Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) now includes Sherburne County in Minnesota and Pierce County in Wisconsin. St. Cloud MSA is now comprised of Benton and Stearns counties.

Numbers are unadjusted unless otherwise labeled.
Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2017.

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016
Region Six West	**23,759**	**24,096**	**23,152**	**22,889**	**23,283**	**22,219**	**870**	**813**	**933**	**3.7%**	**3.4%**	**4.0%**
Big Stone	2,715	2,769	2,694	2,623	2,675	2,588	92	94	106	3.4	3.4	3.9
Chippewa	7,018	7,079	6,761	6,745	6,830	6,497	273	249	264	3.9	3.5	3.9
Lac Qui Parle	3,559	3,632	3,399	3,446	3,525	3,263	113	107	136	3.2	2.9	4.0
Swift	5,085	5,162	5,049	4,889	4,976	4,813	196	186	236	3.9	3.6	4.7
Yellow Medicine	5,382	5,454	5,249	5,186	5,277	5,058	196	177	191	3.6	3.2	3.6
Region Seven East	**87,392**	**87,729**	**85,514**	**83,844**	**84,264**	**81,769**	**3,548**	**3,465**	**3,745**	**4.1**	**3.9**	**4.4**
Chisago	29,639	29,764	29,008	28,577	28,705	27,863	1,062	1,059	1,145	3.6	3.6	3.9
Isanti	20,880	20,958	20,420	20,054	20,135	19,554	826	823	866	4.0	3.9	4.2
Kanabec	9,056	9,077	8,817	8,653	8,704	8,390	403	373	427	4.5	4.1	4.8
Mille Lacs	12,870	12,914	12,619	12,296	12,361	12,008	574	553	611	4.5	4.3	4.8
Pine	14,947	15,016	14,650	14,264	14,359	13,954	683	657	696	4.6	4.4	4.8
Region Seven West	**236,441**	**236,646**	**231,947**	**228,355**	**228,789**	**223,574**	**8,086**	**7,857**	**8,373**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.6**
Benton	21,773	21,745	21,428	20,986	20,962	20,613	787	783	815	3.6	3.6	3.8
Sherburne	51,119	51,240	49,880	49,307	49,483	48,060	1,812	1,757	1,820	3.5	3.4	3.6
Stearns	89,085	88,963	87,911	86,136	86,101	84,755	2,949	2,862	3,156	3.3	3.2	3.6
Wright	74,464	74,698	72,728	71,926	72,243	70,146	2,538	2,455	2,582	3.4	3.3	3.6
Region Eight	**65,158**	**65,518**	**64,324**	**62,434**	**63,418**	**61,883**	**2,724**	**2,100**	**2,441**	**4.2**	**3.2**	**3.8**
Cottonwood	5,609	5,308	5,434	4,931	5,019	4,980	678	289	454	12.1	5.4	8.4
Jackson	6,073	6,075	6,004	5,782	5,882	5,759	291	193	245	4.8	3.2	4.1
Lincoln	3,263	3,341	3,331	3,175	3,256	3,228	88	85	103	2.7	2.5	3.1
Lyon	15,096	15,232	14,784	14,610	14,774	14,298	486	458	486	3.2	3.0	3.3
Murray	4,829	4,888	4,828	4,646	4,737	4,663	183	151	165	3.8	3.1	3.4
Nobles	11,128	11,235	11,105	10,730	10,891	10,707	398	344	398	3.6	3.1	3.6
Pipestone	4,849	4,933	4,848	4,713	4,792	4,704	136	141	144	2.8	2.9	3.0
Redwood	8,455	8,557	8,203	8,120	8,249	7,882	335	308	321	4.0	3.6	3.9
Rock	5,856	5,949	5,787	5,727	5,818	5,662	129	131	125	2.2	2.2	2.2
Region Nine	**131,343**	**131,863**	**130,097**	**126,934**	**127,561**	**125,446**	**4,409**	**4,302**	**4,651**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.6**
Blue Earth	38,744	38,586	38,072	37,541	37,382	36,819	1,203	1,204	1,253	3.1	3.1	3.3
Brown	14,861	15,018	14,914	14,394	14,542	14,355	467	476	559	3.1	3.2	3.7
Faribault	7,244	7,318	7,360	6,946	7,046	7,068	298	272	292	4.1	3.7	4.0
Le Sueur	15,791	15,894	15,491	15,201	15,314	14,900	590	580	591	3.7	3.6	3.8
Martin	10,473	10,582	10,464	10,071	10,215	10,070	402	367	394	3.8	3.5	3.8
Nicollet	19,924	19,895	19,620	19,385	19,341	19,046	539	554	574	2.7	2.8	2.9
Sibley	8,378	8,526	8,420	8,128	8,269	8,108	250	257	312	3.0	3.0	3.7
Waseca	9,396	9,468	9,512	9,053	9,139	9,134	343	329	378	3.7	3.5	4.0
Watonwan	6,532	6,576	6,244	6,215	6,313	5,946	317	263	298	4.9	4.0	4.8
Region Ten	**284,227**	**286,031**	**279,185**	**275,247**	**277,235**	**269,732**	**8,980**	**8,796**	**9,453**	**3.2**	**3.1**	**3.4**
Dodge	11,620	11,732	11,569	11,213	11,338	11,143	407	394	426	3.5	3.4	3.7
Fillmore	11,321	11,497	11,391	10,953	11,137	10,974	368	360	417	3.3	3.1	3.7
Freeborn	16,348	16,472	15,708	15,777	15,922	15,132	571	550	576	3.5	3.3	3.7
Goodhue	26,908	27,103	26,661	26,026	26,249	25,687	882	854	974	3.3	3.2	3.7
Houston	10,293	10,402	10,258	9,994	10,091	9,909	299	311	349	2.9	3.0	3.4
Mower	20,803	20,930	20,349	20,225	20,366	19,742	578	564	607	2.8	2.7	3.0
Olmsted	86,734	87,196	85,583	84,335	84,786	83,013	2,399	2,410	2,570	2.8	2.8	3.0
City of Rochester	63,602	63,962	62,814	61,899	62,230	60,929	1,703	1,732	1,885	2.7	2.7	3.0
Rice	37,594	37,682	35,648	36,284	36,454	34,372	1,310	1,228	1,276	3.5	3.3	3.6
Steele	21,359	21,425	21,030	20,579	20,673	20,241	780	752	789	3.7	3.5	3.8
Wabasha	12,010	12,177	12,006	11,612	11,789	11,603	398	388	403	3.3	3.2	3.4
Winona	29,237	29,415	28,982	28,249	28,430	27,916	988	985	1,066	3.4	3.3	3.7
Region Eleven	**1,719,425**	**1,722,493**	**1,675,527**	**1,660,147**	**1,665,268**	**1,615,902**	**59,278**	**57,225**	**59,625**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.6**
Anoka	197,393	197,793	192,595	190,376	190,953	185,355	7,017	6,840	7,240	3.6	3.5	3.8
Carver	57,138	57,317	55,888	55,352	55,608	54,019	1,786	1,709	1,869	3.1	3.0	3.3
Dakota	241,697	242,106	235,687	233,702	234,387	227,526	7,995	7,719	8,161	3.3	3.2	3.5
Hennepin	706,796	707,888	687,829	682,073	684,122	663,542	24,723	23,766	24,287	3.5	3.4	3.5
City of Bloomington	48,143	48,219	46,955	46,474	46,613	45,211	1,669	1,606	1,744	3.5	3.3	3.7
City of Minneapolis	241,928	242,326	235,255	233,039	233,739	226,708	8,889	8,587	8,547	3.7	3.5	3.6
Ramsey	291,452	291,997	284,081	280,834	281,696	273,315	10,618	10,301	10,766	3.6	3.5	3.8
City of St. Paul	159,898	160,170	155,930	153,856	154,329	149,737	6,042	5,841	6,193	3.8	3.6	4.0
Scott	82,299	82,479	80,225	79,766	80,016	77,669	2,533	2,463	2,556	3.1	3.0	3.2
Washington	142,650	142,913	139,222	138,044	138,486	134,476	4,606	4,427	4,746	3.2	3.1	3.4







Industrial Analysis

Monthly analysis is based on ***seasonally adjusted*** employment data; yearly analysis is based on ***unadjusted*** employment data.*

Overview

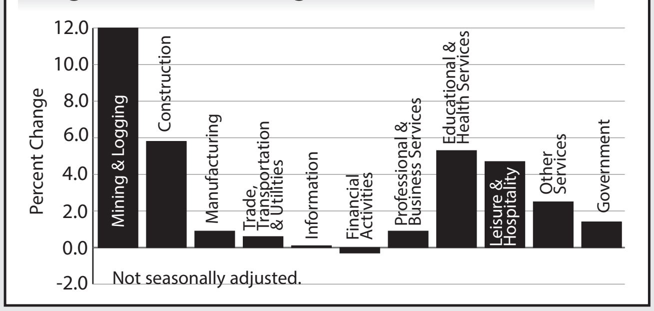
Minnesota lost 6,600 jobs (0.2 percent) in August on a seasonally adjusted basis. The decline gave back some of the nearly 12,000 jobs the state had gained in June and July. The losses were concentrated entirely among private service providing sectors which shed 7,800 jobs (0.4 percent) while good producers and the public sector both added employment. Over the year Minnesota added 49,695 jobs (1.7 percent). While this represented a decrease in over-the-year growth from the previous few months, it still compared favorably to growth rates in recent years. August's annual growth was shared among goods producers and service providers, as well as between the private and public sectors, as most industry groups saw job growth on the year, the exceptions being the Information and Financial Activities supersectors, which had combined annual losses of less than 1,000 jobs.

Mining and Logging

Employment in the Mining and Logging supersector was flat in August, holding at 6,900 seasonally adjusted jobs. This was the second straight month of flat growth in the supersector. Employment has been static in Mining and Logging since March, and it has not varied from its current level by more than 100 jobs since February's 6,600 job estimate. Over the year the supersector added 720 jobs (10.7 percent). This is a decline from July's 11.8 percent over-the-year growth, and we should expect the number to continue to drop in the coming months as the fallout from the closing and re-opening of large employers in the supersector in recent years begins to fade.

MN Employment Growth

August 2016 to August 2017



Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Construction

Employment in Construction was off slightly in August, losing 400 jobs (0.3 percent). The supersector lost 1,300 jobs, seasonally adjusted, over July and August. Annually Construction employment was up by 7,247 (5.6 percent). That growth remained concentrated primarily in Specialty Trade Contractors, which added 7,073 jobs (8.6 percent) on the strength of 5,213 jobs in the component Building Equipment Contractors sector. Construction of Buildings lost 495 jobs (1.8 percent) on the year, while Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction added 669 (3.3 percent). The last time the Construction supersector showed over-the-year job losses was in December.

Manufacturing

The Manufacturing supersector added 800 jobs (0.2 percent) on a seasonally adjusted basis in August. That marked three consecutive months of growth for the supersector. The August growth was split between the component sectors, as Durable Goods Manufacturing added 200 jobs (0.1 percent), and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing added 600 (0.5 percent). Over the year Manufacturers added 3,084 jobs (1 percent). Durable Goods Manufacturers added 259 jobs (0.1 percent) while Non-Durable Goods added 2,825 (2.4 percent).

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was up by 3,200 (0.6 percent) in August. It was the strongest month for the supersector since February, and helped halt a slide that had seen job losses of 1,500 in the previous two months and 4,500 since February's high-water mark. August's growth was broad-based, coming from Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (up 1,500 or 1.4 percent), Wholesale Trade (up 1,500, 1.1 percent) and, to a lesser extent, Retail Trade (up 200, 0.1 percent). Annually the supersector added 5,538 jobs (1 percent), with growth in all three component sectors.

Information

Employment in the Information supersector was up by 500 (1 percent) in August. It was the second straight month of growth. Annually Information employers lost 744 jobs (1.4 percent). Although it had shown over-the-year growth in recent months, the supersector returned to the job losses that have been common in recent year. Information employment peaked and began its current slow but steady decline near the turn of the century.

*Over-the-year data are not seasonally adjusted because of small changes in seasonal adjustment factors from year to year. Also, there is no seasonality in over-the-year changes.

Financial Activities

Financial Activities employment was up by 200 (0.1 percent) in August. It was only the second time in 2017 that the supersector posted employment gains. The growth came from Finance and Insurance, which added 300 jobs (0.2 percent) while Real Estate and Rental and Leasing lost 100 (0.3 percent). Annually the supersector lost 213 jobs (0.1 percent), making it only the second supersector, in addition to Information, to post over-the-year job losses. While Finance and Insurance employment was stronger, adding 1,468 jobs (1 percent), Real Estate and Rental and Leasing employment dropped sharply, losing 1,547 jobs (5.6 percent).

Professional and Business Services

Professional and Business Services added 800 jobs (0.2 percent) in August. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 1,700 jobs (1.2 percent), and Management of Companies and Enterprises added 900 (1.1 percent) while Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services lost 1,800 jobs (1.1 percent). Annually the supersector added 4,263 jobs (1.1 percent). That gain came primarily from Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, which added 5.492 jobs (3.9 percent), with component Employment Services chipping in 3,667 of that gain (a 6.1 percent over-the-year change).

Educational and Health Services

Educational and Health Services employment was down in August, off by 5,300 (1 percent) from July's estimate. Both Educational Services (down 2,200 or 3.2 percent) and Health Care and Social Assistance (down 3,100 or 0.7 percent) posted negative growth. Over the year the supersector added 17,280 jobs (3.3 percent). While it remained the single largest contributor of new jobs to the state, the proportional growth came down slightly from recent months, and may be settling into more modest growth after posting over-the-year changes of 4.3, 5.6, and 4.4 percent, respectively, in the prior three months.

Leisure and Hospitality

The Leisure and Hospitality supersector lost 6,400 jobs (2.3 percent) in August. While the decline was relatively large, it came on the heels of five consecutive months of seasonally adjusted growth, including the similarly large addition of 5,700 jobs (2.1 percent) in July. This suggests that the decline may have been something of a correction to earlier outsized growth. Annually the supersector added 5,628 jobs (2 percent). Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation added 1,911 jobs (3.8 percent), and Accommodation and Food Services added 3,717 (1.6 percent).

Other Services

Other Services employment was off by 800 (0.7 percent) in August. Annually the supersector added 2,852 jobs (2.4 percent). Most of the growth came from Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations, which added 1,955 jobs (3 percent), although all three component sectors contributed to the gains.

Government

Government employment was up by 800 (0.2 percent) in August. State Government added 1,100 jobs (1.1 percent), but both Federal and Local employers lost a small amount of employment. Annually Government employers added 4,040 jobs (1 percent) with growth in all three branches.

by Nick Dobbins

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	August 2017	July 2017	June 2017
Total Nonagricultural	**2,948.1**	**2,954.7**	**2,952.1**
Goods-Producing	**449.5**	**449.1**	**449.8**
Mining and Logging	6.9	6.9	6.9
Construction	121.7	122.1	123.0
Manufacturing	320.9	320.1	319.9
Service-Providing	**2,498.6**	**2,505.6**	**2,502.3**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	539.0	535.8	536.8
Information	51.4	50.9	50.7
Financial Activities	175.5	175.3	176.6
Professional and Business Services	376.2	375.4	377.8
Educational and Health Services	540.9	546.2	542.8
Leisure and Hospitality	267.6	274.0	271.5
Other Services	119.1	119.9	119.6
Government	428.9	428.1	426.5

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Regional Analysis

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Employment in the Minneapolis-St Paul MSA was down very slightly in August, off by 855 (0.0 percent) from July's estimate. It marked the first August employment decline in the metro since 2009. The drop was driven in large part by Leisure and Hospitality which shed 2,970 jobs (1.5 percent) following disproportionately large gains in May and June, roughly the same movement the state as a whole showed. The largest monthly job growth in the metro, both proportionally and in total jobs, came in Professional and Business Services (up 2,654 jobs or 0.8 percent). A large increase in Employment Services jobs (up 2,578 or 5 percent) accounted for most of the growth, after employment there had declined by 2.9 percent in July. Annually metro area employment was up by 44,846 (2.3 percent). Growth remained nearly universal among supersectors, with the lone negative growth coming in Information, which was off by 771 jobs (2 percent). Educational and Health Services remained the leading source of employment growth, adding 16,504 jobs (5.1 percent) with Health Care and Social Assistance accounting for most of that (up 15,732 or 5.6 percent). Professional and Business Services, with its strong August performance, moved up to a 2.8 percent over-the-year change (9,162 jobs). Goods producers showed broadly strong annual growth, with Manufacturing adding 4,746 jobs (2.4 percent) and Mining, Logging, and Construction adding 3,500 (4.1 percent).

Duluth-Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA lost 141 jobs (0.1 percent) in August with supersectors split evenly between negative and positive monthly job growth. Notable over-the-month growth occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (up 317 or 1.3 percent) and Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 138, 1.3 percent) while employment in Professional and Business Services was down 176 (2.1 percent). As was the case across Minnesota, Leisure and Hospitality also saw a steep monthly drop, off by 208 (1.3 percent). Over the year Duluth added 3,030 jobs (2.2 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction continued to lead the way in annual change, up 10.7 percent or 1,066 jobs. Educational and Health Services chipped in 1,071 jobs, an over-the-year change of 3.5 percent. The largest actual job loss came in Professional and Business Services, which shed 99 jobs (1.2 percent).

Rochester MSA

Employment in the Rochester MSA was down by 277 (0.2 percent) in August. The most notable declines came in Educational and Health Services (off by 347 jobs or 0.7 percent), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (down 140, 0.8 percent) and Leisure and Hospitality (down 41 or 0.4 percent). Notable gains were in Government (up 151 or 1.2 percent) and Mining, Logging, and Construction (72 or 1.4 percent). Annually Rochester added 1,444 jobs (1.2 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction added 319 jobs (6.5 percent), Professional and Business Services added 301 (5.4 percent), and Educational and Health Services added 542 (1.1 percent). The most notable decline was in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which shed 106 jobs (0.6 percent).

St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA was up in August as the area grew by 559 jobs (0.5 percent), while the state as a whole lost jobs. Leisure and Hospitality went in a dramatically opposite direction from the rest of the state, adding 286 jobs (3.2 percent), perhaps in part because the supersector did not see the same gains as the rest of the state earlier in the summer. The largest decline occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which was off by 169 (0.7 percent) caused in part by the loss of 114 jobs (0.8 percent) in Retail Trade. Annually St. Cloud added 1,752 jobs (1.6 percent). The largest increases came in Educational and Health Services (up 1,166 or 5.6 percent) and Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 841 or 11.6 percent).

Mankato-North Mankato MSA

The Mankato-North Mankato MSA added 558 jobs (1 percent) in August. That was the fastest proportional over-the-year growth of any MSA in Minnesota. All of the growth came from service providers (up 604 or 1.4 percent) as goods producers lost 46 jobs (0.4 percent). Among service providers, Government employers led the way with 583 new jobs, an increase of 7.2 percent over August of 2016. Annually the Mankato area added 1,111 jobs (2 percent). Every published component added employment, with goods producers adding 290 jobs (2.9 percent) and service providers adding 821 (1.8 percent).

Fargo-Moorhead MSA

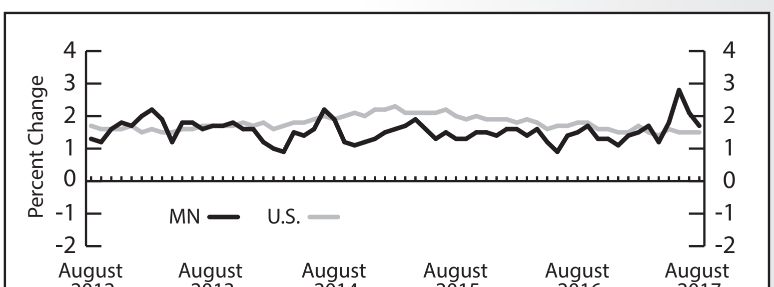
The Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 1,067 jobs (0.8 percent) in August. The largest increase, both proportionally and in actual jobs, was in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which added 451 jobs (1.5 percent) on the back of growth of 426 (2.8 percent) in Retail Trade. Annually Fargo-Moorhead added 3,143 jobs (2.3 percent). The only supersector with negative growth on the year was Information, off by 142 (4.3 percent).

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA added 144 jobs (0.3 percent) in August. No supersector saw movement of more than 100 jobs in either direction. The most dramatic proportional change came in the Financial Activities supersector, which added 43 jobs (2.4 percent). Annually the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA lost 726 jobs (1.3 percent). It remained the only MSA in the state to lose jobs over the year. Once again the steepest employment decline, by a large margin, came in Mining, Logging, and Construction which was down by 1,162 (23.6 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.



Total Nonfarm Jobs
U.S. and MN over-the-year percent change

Employer Survey of Minnesota Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted.

Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings: Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Jul 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2016	Jun 2017	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Jul 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**2,974.3**	**2,979.2**	**2,924.6**	**-0.2%**	**1.7%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**470.3**	**469.4**	**459.3**	**0.2**	**2.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**144.3**	**144.6**	**136.4**	**-0.2**	**5.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Logging	**7.4**	**7.4**	**6.7**	**0.8**	**10.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	**136.9**	**137.2**	**129.7**	**-0.2**	**5.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	89.3	89.8	82.2	-0.6	8.6	$1,352.56	$1,233.93	40.9	38.5	$33.07	$32.05
Manufacturing	**326.0**	**324.8**	**322.9**	**0.4**	**1.0**	**855.30**	**816.82**	**41.6**	**40.8**	**20.56**	**20.02**
Durable Goods	204.1	204.6	203.9	-0.2	0.1	883.96	827.75	41.0	39.7	21.56	20.85
Wood Product Manufacturing	11.8	11.7	11.5	0.4	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	42.1	42.2	42.6	-0.3	-1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	32.3	32.3	33.2	0.2	-2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	45.9	46.1	45.8	-0.5	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	26.8	26.8	26.4	-0.2	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	10.7	10.7	11.0	-0.4	-2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.4	16.4	16.1	-0.2	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	121.9	120.1	119.0	1.5	2.4	809.63	800.88	42.5	42.6	19.05	18.80
Food Manufacturing	49.3	48.2	48.4	2.2	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**2,503.9**	**2,509.9**	**2,465.3**	**-0.2**	**1.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**542.4**	**540.0**	**536.9**	**0.4**	**1.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	134.2	133.2	133.6	0.8	0.4	917.26	837.69	39.3	37.7	23.34	22.22
Retail Trade	305.7	305.6	303.2	0.0	0.8	430.39	429.17	29.1	28.9	14.79	14.85
Motor Vehicle and Parts	36.4	36.5	35.2	-0.4	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	27.3	28.1	27.4	-2.8	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	56.9	56.6	56.7	0.6	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	26.0	25.8	25.5	0.6	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	60.6	60.3	60.8	0.5	-0.4	398.14	351.64	30.3	29.5	13.14	11.92
Transportation,Warehouse, Utilities	102.6	101.2	100.0	1.3	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	90.2	88.8	87.4	1.5	3.2	723.73	695.91	34.3	34.9	21.10	19.94
Information	**51.3**	**50.8**	**52.0**	**0.8**	**-1.4**	**1,090.22**	**993.33**	**36.1**	**34.1**	**30.20**	**29.13**
Publishing Industries	18.6	18.7	19.4	-0.6	-4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	11.9	11.9	12.3	0.0	-2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**178.1**	**177.8**	**178.3**	**0.2**	**-0.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	143.9	143.7	142.4	0.1	1.0	1,109.30	1,007.64	37.2	36.0	29.82	27.99
Credit Intermediation	63.4	63.4	62.9	0.1	0.9	823.22	764.13	36.8	35.1	22.37	21.77
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	19.5	19.4	19.7	0.2	-1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	61.0	60.9	59.9	0.1	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	34.2	34.1	35.9	0.4	-4.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**383.3**	**381.4**	**379.1**	**0.5**	**1.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	156.1	157.3	159.9	-0.7	-2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.3	18.4	18.4	-0.5	-0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	16.2	16.5	16.1	-2.0	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	37.4	37.6	37.9	-0.4	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	81.9	81.4	79.4	0.6	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	145.3	142.7	139.8	1.8	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**537.2**	**539.9**	**519.9**	**-0.5**	**3.3**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	59.9	62.0	60.0	-3.5	-0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	477.3	477.8	459.9	-0.1	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	160.4	159.5	150.6	0.6	6.5	1,338.46	1,280.47	36.5	36.1	36.67	35.47
Offices of Physicians	74.2	74.1	71.9	0.1	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	108.5	108.7	109.1	-0.2	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	109.4	109.2	107.9	0.1	1.3	464.04	470.53	29.5	29.5	15.73	15.95
Social Assistance	99.1	100.4	92.3	-1.3	7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**289.7**	**295.3**	**284.1**	**-1.9**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	52.1	53.4	50.2	-2.3	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	237.6	241.9	233.9	-1.8	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	208.2	211.8	203.2	-1.7	2.5	279.83	287.53	20.5	21.7	13.65	13.25
Other Services	**119.9**	**119.7**	**117.1**	**0.2**	**2.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	67.1	66.9	65.2	0.3	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**401.9**	**405.0**	**397.9**	**-0.8**	**1.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Federal Government	32.3	32.5	32.1	-0.6	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government	93.6	93.6	92.1	0.0	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government Education	53.1	53.3	52.3	-0.2	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government	276.0	278.9	273.7	-1.0	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government Education	120.9	123.0	118.7	-1.7	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Employer Survey of Twin Cities Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted.

Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Aug 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**2,023.4**	**2,024.2**	**1,978.5**	**0.0%**	**2.3%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**292.7**	**293.2**	**284.4**	**-0.2**	**2.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**88.7**	**89.4**	**85.2**	**-0.7**	**4.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	18.0	17.9	17.8	0.5	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	60.2	60.6	56.5	-0.6	6.6	$1,367.10	$1,357.82	39.5	39.3	$34.61	$34.55
Manufacturing	**203.9**	**203.9**	**199.2**	**0.0**	**2.4**	**901.06**	**885.47**	**41.6**	**41.3**	**21.66**	**21.44**
Durable Goods	139.2	139.1	135.3	0.1	2.9	932.56	880.06	41.8	40.8	22.31	21.57
Fabricated Metal Production	29.7	29.8	29.7	-0.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	20.2	20.1	20.4	0.2	-1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	37.3	37.5	37.2	-0.5	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	25.1	25.2	24.7	-0.3	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	14.9	15.0	14.8	-0.3	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	64.8	64.8	63.9	0.0	1.3	839.63	896.34	41.3	42.3	20.33	21.19
Food Manufacturing	15.6	15.5	15.6	0.1	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	14.8	14.8	15.0	-0.3	-1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**1,730.7**	**1,731.0**	**1,694.1**	**0.0**	**2.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	363.9	362.1	359.5	0.5	1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	98.2	97.9	98.2	0.3	0.0	879.34	827.58	38.5	37.6	22.84	22.01
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	49.2	49.5	49.1	-0.6	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	28.4	28.4	28.3	0.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	193.9	193.0	192.2	0.5	0.9	446.99	450.81	29.7	29.6	15.05	15.23
Food and Beverage Stores	35.3	35.1	35.0	0.8	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	37.1	37.0	37.7	0.4	-1.5	382.83	354.25	30.7	30.2	12.47	11.73
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	71.8	71.3	69.1	0.7	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.5	7.5	7.6	0.1	-1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	64.3	63.8	61.4	0.8	4.6	740.26	712.80	35.9	36.0	20.62	19.80
Information	**38.4**	**38.3**	**39.2**	**0.4**	**-2.0**						
Publishing Industries	14.6	14.7	15.3	-0.7	-4.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	8.7	8.7	8.9	0.3	-1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**143.9**	**143.8**	**143.6**	**0.1**	**0.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	116.1	115.9	114.8	0.2	1.2	1,199.79	1,054.44	37.4	36.0	32.08	29.29
Credit Intermediation	47.2	47.3	46.8	-0.2	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	17.3	17.3	17.6	-0.1	-1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	51.6	51.3	50.3	0.6	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27.8	27.9	28.9	-0.3	-3.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**333.4**	**330.8**	**324.3**	**0.8**	**2.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	140.5	141.2	140.5	-0.5	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.6	15.7	15.7	-0.6	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	19.0	19.1	18.8	-0.5	1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	34.1	34.1	35.3	0.1	-3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	74.7	73.9	72.3	1.1	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	118.2	115.6	111.5	2.2	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	54.1	51.5	50.2	5.0	7.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**337.9**	**338.4**	**321.4**	**-0.2**	**5.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	41.5	41.8	40.8	-0.6	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	296.4	296.6	280.6	-0.1	5.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	97.2	96.4	89.7	0.9	8.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	64.0	64.0	63.9	0.0	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	62.1	61.7	60.3	0.7	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	73.0	74.5	66.9	-2.1	9.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**195.5**	**198.5**	**194.0**	**-1.5**	**0.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	41.4	41.8	38.6	-0.8	7.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	154.1	156.7	155.4	-1.7	-0.8	299.20	304.48	21.1	22.0	14.18	13.84
Food Services and Drinking Places	138.3	141.2	141.5	-2.0	-2.2	291.92	290.61	20.5	21.4	14.24	13.58
Other Services	81.6	82.3	80.4	-0.8	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	**15.2**	**15.4**	**14.9**	**-1.4**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	42.7	43.2	42.4	-1.0	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**236.0**	**236.8**	**231.7**	**-0.3**	**1.9**						
Federal Government	21.4	21.5	21.2	-0.5	0.6						
State Government	61.4	60.8	60.2	0.9	1.8						
State Government Education	34.9	34.6	33.9	1.0	2.8						
Local Government	153.3	154.4	150.2	-0.7	2.0						
Local Government Education	76.9	78.0	74.1	-1.4	3.7						

Note: Not all industry subgroups are shown for every major industry category.

* Totals may not add because of rounding.

** Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Employer Survey

Industry	Duluth-Superior MSA					Rochester MSA				
	Jobs			% Chg. From		Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**137,770**	**137,911**	**134,740**	**-0.1%**	**2.2%**	**122,172**	**122,449**	**120,728**	**-0.2%**	**1.2%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**18,488**	**18,393**	**17,439**	**0.5**	**6.0**	**16,339**	**16,233**	**15,906**	**0.7**	**2.7**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	11,036	10,898	9,970	1.3	10.7	5,227	5,155	4,908	1.4	6.5
Manufacturing	7,452	7,495	7,469	-0.6	-0.2	11,112	11,078	10,998	0.3	1.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**119,282**	**119,518**	**117,301**	**-0.2**	**1.7**	**105,833**	**106,216**	**104,822**	**-0.4**	**1.0**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,341	25,024	25,033	1.3	1.2	18,234	18,374	18,340	-0.8	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	3,312	3,313	3,244	0.0	2.1	2,825	2,765	2,843	2.2	-0.6
Retail Trade	15,700	15,515	15,512	1.2	1.2	12,666	12,912	12,764	-1.9	-0.8
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,329	6,196	6,277	2.1	0.8	2,743	2,697	2,733	1.7	0.4
Information	1,369	1,367	1,416	0.1	-3.3	1,902	1,909	1,910	-0.4	-0.4
Financial Activities	6,169	6,150	5,952	0.3	3.6	2,777	2,783	2,688	-0.2	3.3
Professional and Business Services	8,383	8,559	8,482	-2.1	-1.2	5,855	5,848	5,554	0.1	5.4
Educational and Health Services	31,819	31,988	30,748	-0.5	3.5	49,256	49,603	48,714	-0.7	1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	15,411	15,619	15,305	-1.3	0.7	11,125	11,166	11,115	-0.4	0.1
Other Services	6,415	6,463	6,227	-0.7	3.0	4,074	4,074	3,960	0.0	2.9
Government	24,375	24,348	24,138	0.1	1.0	12,610	12,459	12,541	1.2	0.6

Employer Survey

Industry	St. Cloud MSA					Mankato MSA				
	Jobs			% Chg. From		Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**110,244**	**109,685**	**108,492**	**0.5%**	**1.6%**	**54,116**	**55,902**	**53,598**	**-3.2**	**1.0%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**23,349**	**23,459**	**22,707**	**-0.5**	**2.8**	**10,337**	**10,383**	**10,047**	**-0.4**	**2.9**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,111	8,127	7,270	-0.2	11.6	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	15,238	15,332	15,437	-0.6	-1.3	--	--	--	--	--
						--	--	--	--	--
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**86,895**	**86,226**	**85,785**	**0.8**	**1.3**	**45,957**	**45,353**	**45,136**	**1.3**	**1.8**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	22,392	22,561	22,285	-0.7	0.5	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	4,938	4,945	4,698	-0.1	5.1	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	13,720	13,834	13,717	-0.8	0.0	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	3,734	3,782	3,870	-1.3	-3.5	--	--	--	--	--
Information	1,613	1,609	1,658	0.2	-2.7	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	5,016	5,012	5,268	0.1	-4.8	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	8,696	8,642	8,754	0.6	-0.7	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	22,103	21,888	20,937	1.0	5.6	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	9,273	8,987	9,292	3.2	-0.2	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	3,900	3,893	3,829	0.2	1.9	--	--	--	--	--
Government	13,902	13,634	13,762	2.0	1.0	8,713	8,130	8,436	7.2	3.3

Employer Survey

Industry	Fargo-Moorhead MSA					Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA				
	Jobs			% Chg. From		Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2016	Jul 2017	Aug 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**142,674**	**141,607**	**139,531**	**0.8%**	**2.3%**	**55,433**	**55,289**	**56,159**	**0.3%**	**-1.3%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**21,128**	**20,966**	**20,099**	**0.8**	**5.1**	**8,103**	**8,051**	**8,938**	**0.7**	**-9.3**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	11,005	10,962	10,503	0.4	4.8	3,764	3,793	4,926	-0.8	-23.6
Manufacturing	10,123	10,004	9,596	1.2	5.5	4,339	4,258	4,012	1.9	8.2
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**121,546**	**120,641**	**119,432**	**0.8**	**1.8**	**47,330**	**47,238**	**47,221**	**0.2**	**0.2**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	30,682	30,231	30,439	1.5	0.8	11,670	11,682	11,771	-0.1	-0.9
Wholesale Trade	9,234	9,239	9,108	-0.1	1.4	1,879	1,897	1,925	-1.0	-2.4
Retail Trade	15,804	15,378	15,920	2.8	-0.7	7,651	7,659	7,641	-0.1	0.1
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	5,644	5,614	5,411	0.5	4.3	2,140	2,126	2,205	0.7	-3.0
Information	3,139	3,148	3,281	-0.3	-4.3	574	571	590	0.5	-2.7
Financial Activities	11,572	11,535	11,168	0.3	3.6	1,874	1,831	1,825	2.4	2.7
Professional and Business Services	16,499	16,336	15,997	1.0	3.1	3,058	3,029	3,157	1.0	-3.1
Educational and Health Services	23,732	23,707	23,245	0.1	2.1	9,780	9,778	9,695	0.0	0.9
Leisure and Hospitality	14,294	14,252	13,857	0.3	3.2	6,148	6,168	5,942	-0.3	3.5
Other Services	5,441	5,476	5,362	-0.6	1.5	1,909	1,918	1,925	-0.5	-0.8
Government	16,187	15,956	16,083	1.5	0.7	12,317	12,261	12,316	0.5	0.0

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2017.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Highlights

The **Minnesota Index** dropped for the first time since May 2016 in August, retreating 0.1 percent. The decline can be traced to a drop in wage and salary employment and the unemployment rate's edging up. The U.S. index rose 0.2 percent. The Minnesota index, after accelerating in March and April, has downshifted, indicating that Minnesota's economy isn't expanding as fast as it was earlier in the year.

Minnesota's index is up 3.2 percent over the year while the U.S. index is 2.7 percent higher than a year ago. Since the index is designed to measure economic growth, the 3.2 percent gain by the Minnesota index over the last 12 months suggests that Minnesota's GDP has increased by 3.2 percent since August 2016.

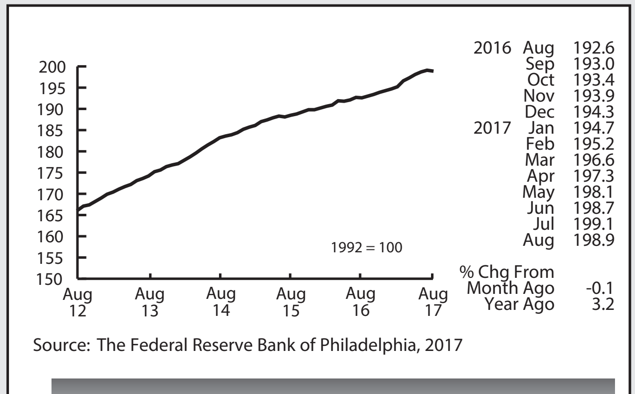
Minnesota's adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** decreased by 6,600 jobs in August. The 0.2 percent drop was the largest since last June and, combined with downward revisions to July's employment numbers, indicates that Minnesota's job market has cooled from its strong pace just a few months ago. All of the job loss was in the private sector as the public sector added 800 positions. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 3,200 jobs, but job cuts of 6,400 in Leisure and Hospitality and 5,300 in Educational and Health Services drove the overall decline.

Minnesota's unadjusted over-the-year job growth fell to 1.7 in August but was higher than the national 1.5 percent job growth. The state's over-the-year job growth has bettered the U.S. rate for the last four months. Minnesota's annual average job growth will likely top last year's average, while U.S. annual average job growth for 2017 looks likely to fall short of job growth in 2016.

Online Help-Wanted Ads slipped for the second consecutive month in August, tailing off by 2.7 percent, the same drop as nationwide. Minnesota's share of online job postings remained at 2.8 percent which is significantly higher than the state's 2.0 percent share of national wage and salary employment. Minnesota employers continue to rank "trouble finding qualified workers" as one of their top worries.

Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** dipped for the second month in a row, sliding to a still healthy 61.8. Over the 23-year history of the PMI the index has been above 60 only 21 percent of the time. So any reading above 60 suggests manufacturing activity in the state is expanding at a good clip. The corresponding national index rose to 58.8 while the Mid-American index advanced to 57.5. The employment component of Minnesota's index dropped below 60 for the first time since February, indicating that manufacturing hiring may be tailing off.

Adjusted **Manufacturing Hours** rose for the second straight month to 41.3. That's the longest factory workweek since February. Average weekly **Manufacturing Earnings**, however, inched down, dipping to $852.13. The rebound in manufacturing this year will push annual average adjusted manufacturing earnings in 2017 above the previous two years but still below factory paychecks in 2014 when inflation is accounted for.



Minnesota Index

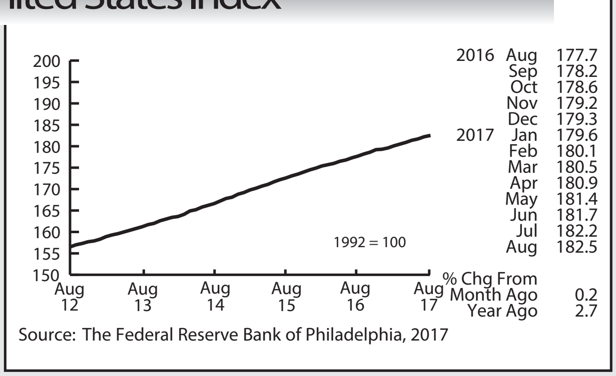
The **Minnesota Leading Index**, after hitting a six-year high in March, has been heading south, declining again in August for the fifth month in a row. August's 0.5 reading was the lowest since July 2015. The low reading suggests that Minnesota's economy will be slowing significantly over the next six months.

Adjusted **Residential Building Permits** rebounded partially in August but continued to fall short of the level experience during the first half of the year. August's 1,892 was well under the 2,204 monthly average over the first six months of the year. Adjusted building permits were lower than a year ago for the second month in a row after having been higher than a year ago for 12 straight months. Based on sliding home building permits, construction job growth is likely to be curbed over the next few months.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** were basically flat in August, coming in at 16,474. Initial claims through the first eight months of the year are down 9.0 percent from the same period last year. Minnesota's unadjusted average monthly over-the-year job growth through the first eight months of 2017 is 1.8 percent. That tops the U.S. rate of 1.5 percent and all of the neighboring states – Iowa (0.9 percent), North Dakota (0.7 percent), South Dakota (1.2 percent), and Wisconsin (1.0 percent).

by Dave Senf

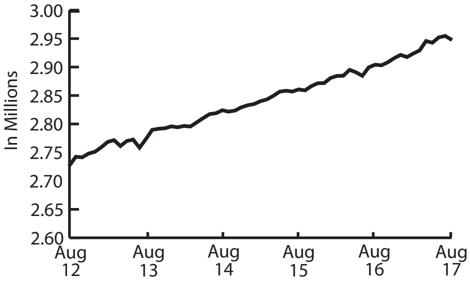
United States Index



Note: All data except for Minnesota's PMI have been seasonally adjusted. See the feature article in the Minnesota Employment Review, May 2010, for more information on the Minnesota Index.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Wage and Salary Employment



seasonally adjusted

2017	Mar	2.9293
	Apr	2.9457
	May	2.9428
	Jun	2.9521
	Jul	2.9547
	Aug	2.9481

% Chg From Month Ago -0.2

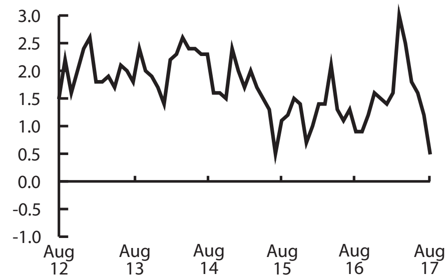
unadjusted

2016	Aug	2.9246
2017	Aug	2.9748

% Chg From Year Ago 1.7

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Minnesota Leading Index

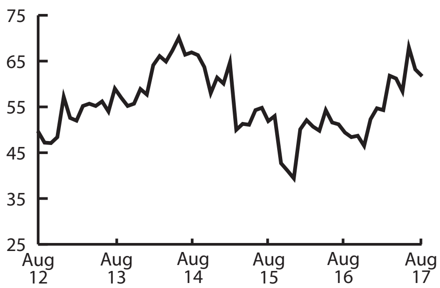


2016	Aug	0.9
	Sep	0.9
	Oct	1.2
	Nov	1.6
	Dec	1.5
2017	Jan	1.4
	Feb	1.6
	Mar	3.0
	Apr	2.5
	May	1.8
	Jun	1.6
	Jul	1.2
	Aug	0.5

% Chg From Month Ago -60.4
Year Ago -46.3

Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Purchasing Managers' Index

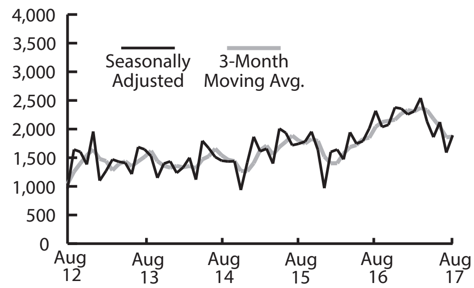


2016	Aug	49.4
	Sep	48.4
	Oct	48.7
	Nov	46.5
	Dec	52.3
2017	Jan	54.7
	Feb	54.3
	Mar	61.8
	Apr	61.2
	May	58.4
	Jun	68.0
	Jul	63.2
	Aug	61.8

% Chg From Month Ago -2.2
Year Ago 25.1

Source: Creighton University, Mid-America Survey of Business Conditions, 2017

Residential Building Permits



seasonally adjusted

2017	Mar	2,543
	Apr	2,132
	May	1,859
	Jun	2,123
	Jul	1,589
	Aug	1,892

% Chg From Month Ago 19.1

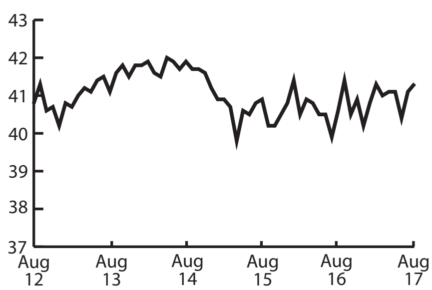
unadjusted

2016	Aug	2,795
2017	Aug	2,313

% Chg From Year Ago -17.2%

Source: Residential Building Permits, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2017

Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



seasonally adjusted

2017	Mar	41.0
	Apr	41.1
	May	41.1
	Jun	40.4
	Jul	41.1
	Aug	41.3

% Chg From Month Ago 0.4

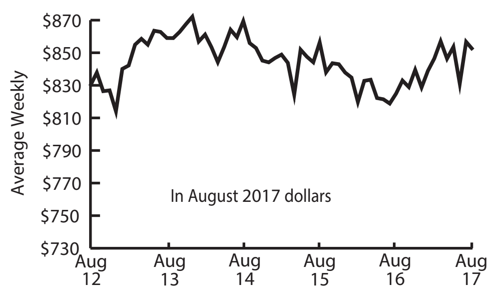
unadjusted

2016	Aug	40.8
2017	Aug	41.7

% Chg From Year Ago 2.2%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Manufacturing Earnings



seasonally adjusted

2017	Mar	857.05
	Apr	846.36
	May	853.58
	Jun	831.01
	Jul	856.70
	Aug	852.13

% Chg From Month Ago -0.5

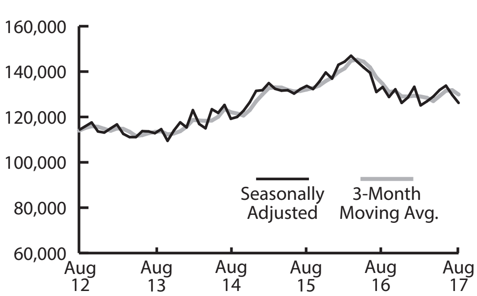
unadjusted

2016	Aug	828.50
2017	Aug	855.30

% Chg From Year Ago 3.2%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Online Help-Wanted Advertising

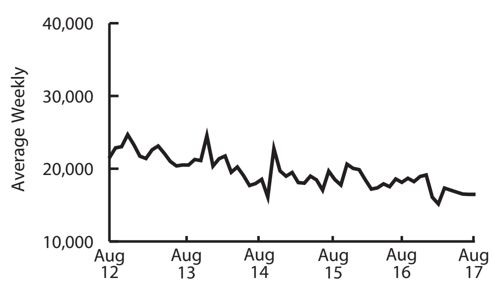


2016	Aug	133,200
	Sep	128,800
	Oct	132,200
	Nov	126,200
	Dec	128,600
2017	Jan	133,300
	Feb	125,100
	Mar	126,900
	Apr	129,000
	May	131,900
	Jun	133,800
	Jul	129,700
	Aug	126,200

% Chg From Month Ago -2.7
Year Ago -5.3

Source: The Conference Board Inc., 2017

Initial UB Claimants



seasonally adjusted

2017	Mar	17,338
	Apr	17,058
	May	16,782
	Jun	16,518
	Jul	16,472
	Aug	16,474

% Chg From Month Ago 0.0

unadjusted

2016	Aug	13,181
2017	Aug	11,898

% Chg From Year Ago -9.7%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Unemployment Insurance Program, 2017

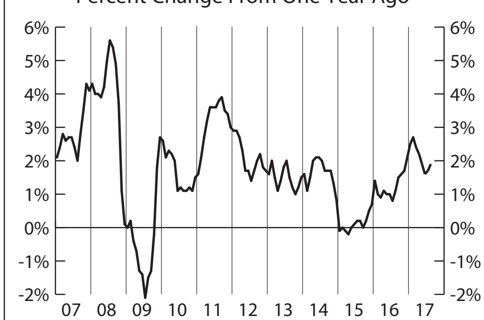
Minnesota Employment Review

DEED
Labor Market Information Office
1st National Bank Building
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
St. Paul, MN 55101-1351
651.259.7400 (voice)
1.888.234.1114 (toll free)
651.296.3900 (TTY)
1.800.657.3973 (TTY toll free)
e-mail :
DEED.lmi@state.mn.us
Internet :
mn.gov/deed/lmi

Labor Market Information Help Line:
651.259.7384

U.S. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.4 percent in August on a seasonally adjusted basis the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Increases in the indices for gasoline and shelter accounted for nearly all of the seasonally adjusted increase in the all items index. The energy index rose 2.8 percent in August as the gasoline index increased 6.3 percent.



The all items index rose 1.9 percent for the 12 months ending August, a larger increase than the 1.7 percent increase for the 12 months ending July. The energy index rose 6.4 percent over the past 12 months, and the food index increased 1.1 percent.

https://www.bls.gov/cpi/#news

For more information on the U.S. CPI or the semi-annual Minneapolis-St. Paul CPI, call: 651.259.7384 or toll free 1.888.234.1114.

The Last Wrod

It's now possible to get a jobs count in the state broken down by gender and age and available by industry and geography using a new LMI tool. The Quarterly Employment Demographics — QED — data tool offers job distribution statistics, median hourly wage, and median hours per quarter going back to 2003. QED will reveal important historical trends in industry, geographical, and employment patterns.

For more: **https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/qed/**

The employment and unemployment data in this publication were produced in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Job Vacancies are Way Up in 2017

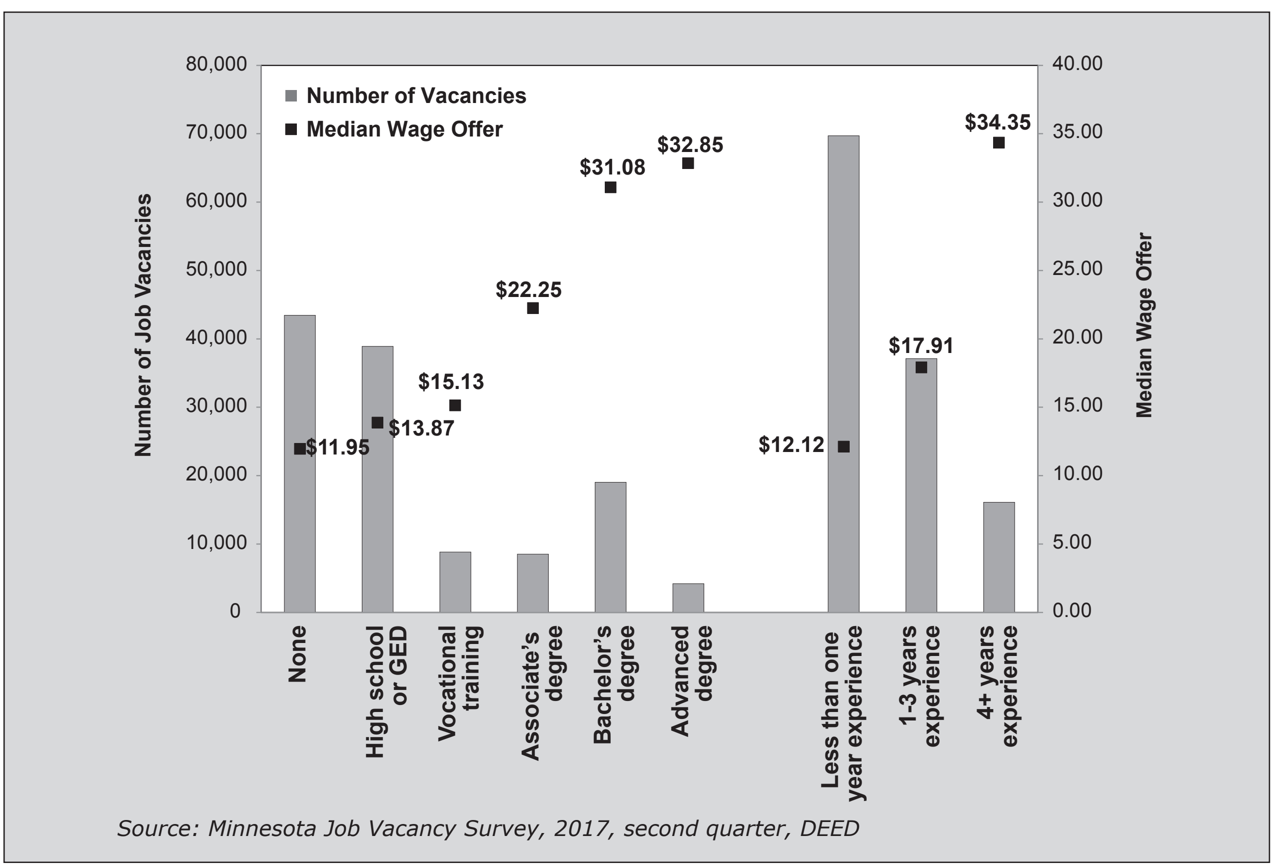
Overview

Minnesota saw the largest number of job vacancies on record during second quarter 2017. Last spring Minnesota employers were looking to fill 122,900 vacancies. This is up 26 percent from one year ago. Because the number of unemployed people has remained relatively steady over that period, Minnesota now has slightly more job vacancies than unemployed people statewide.

The increase in vacancies was distributed across the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota as was evidence of a very tight labor market. The Twin Cities, which had 73,900 vacancies or 60.1 percent of all statewide vacancies, saw a bump of 36.8 percent from one year ago. Greater Minnesota, with 49,100 vacancies, saw a bump of 12.6 percent from one year ago. The Twin Cities continues to have a ratio of less than one (0.8) unemployed persons to every one job vacancy, while the ratio in Greater Minnesota is 1.1 unemployed persons to each job vacancy.

The median wage offer across all vacancies, $14.39, was up 2.8 percent from one year ago. The

Figure 1. Number of Vacancies and Median Wage Offer by Educational Attainment and Experience, Minnesota, Second Quarter 2017



median wage offer was $15.35 in the Twin Cities and $13.00 in Greater Minnesota. Statewide, 55 percent of vacancies offered health care benefits. Also statewide, 20 percent of all vacancies were in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, followed by Accommodation and Food Service (17 percent), Retail Trade (15 percent), and Manufacturing (9 percent).

By occupational group Food Preparation and Serving, with a median wage offer of $11.31 per hour, and Sales and Related, with a median wage offer of $12.22 per hour, had the most job vacancies followed by Personal Care and Service, with a median wage offer of $11.50 per hour, and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical, with a median wage offer of $26.11 per hour.

Only 32 percent of vacancies required some level of post-secondary education or training beyond a high school diploma. More required experience, however. Forty-three percent required one or more years of work experience. Figure 1 demonstrates that wage is very dependent on skill level as measured by educational attainment and previous work experience.

The single occupation with the most job vacancies during second quarter 2017 was Personal Care Aides (PCA) with 6,595 openings. With a median wage offer of $11.53 per hour, this occupation also had the largest increase in openings, up 95 percent from one year ago. Most PCA vacancies require no education or experience, and 72 percent of them were for part time work. The top five occupations with the largest growth in vacancies from one year ago were all large

Table 1: Top Five Occupations with the Largest Increase in Vacancies from One Year Ago, Minnesota, Second Quarter 2017

Occupation	Q2 2017 Vacancies	Percent Increase	Number Increase	Median Wage	Wage Offer Increase
Total, All Occupations	**122,900**	**26.0%**	**25,349**	**$14.39**	**2.8%**
Personal Care Aides	6,595	94.7%	3,207	$11.53	5.1%
Retail Salespersons	6,492	87.8%	3,035	$11.54	4.1%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,744	143.3%	2,794	$12.98	30.1%
Combined Food Preparation and Serving	4,583	51.0%	1,547	$10.77	10.1%
Cashiers	3,613	57.1%	1,313	$10.81	7.7%

Source: Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey, 2017, second quarter, DEED occupations with median wage offers below the median wage offer for all occupations (Table 1).

Which Jobs are Seeing the Most Openings?

As Table 1 shows, although all of the top five occupations adding vacancies over the year were low wage occupations, they saw increases in wage offers in excess of the increase across all vacancies. Of the 84 occupations with over 100 more vacancies in second quarter 2017 compared to one year previous, the weighted average median wage offer was up 7.4 percent, showing very strong wage growth among many high demand occupations.

Within this category the largest occupations with increases in wage offers above 15 percent over the year included secretaries and administrative assistants, mechanical engineers, maids and housekeeping cleaners, substance abuse and behavioral disorders counselors, construction laborers, food prep workers, dishwashers, electrical equipment assemblers, food service supervisors, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and food servers, nonrestaurant, a combination of low, medium, and high paying occupations.

Table 2 looks at wage offers by educational and experience requirements of job vacancies. Overall, increases in wage offers over the year were strong at the low end of the wage/skill spectrum. This is probably a result of both increases in the minimum wage as well as a very tight labor market – think about all the "help wanted" signs you've been seeing around town. But increases in wage offers were also strong for jobs requiring an Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Table 2 also shows that by work experience requirements, the middle tier of jobs saw the largest increase, with wage offers up 9 percent over the year for jobs requiring some work experience.

Overall, only the highest skill/wage jobs saw an over-the-year decline in wage offers: wage offers for job openings requiring an advanced degree and those requiring work experience related to the position lost ground (see Table 2).

Table 2: Median Wage Offer and Wage Change by Educational and Experience Requirements, Minnesota, Second Quarter 2017

Education/Experience Requirement	Median Wage Offer 2Q2017	Change Over the Year (%)
Total All Vacancies	**$14.39**	**2.8**
No education required	$11.95	8.6
High school or GED	$13.87	14.1
Vocational training	$15.13	0.8
Associate's degree	$22.25	12.3
Bachelor's degree	$31.08	7.7
Advanced degree	$32.85	-8.0
No Work Experience Required	$12.12	4.1
Some Work Experience Required	$17.91	9.0
Related Work Experience Required	$34.35	-1.8

Source: Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey, 2017, second quarter, DEED

Job Quality

For the first time since we have been measuring job vacancies in Minnesota the number of vacancies exceeds the number of unemployed individuals during a quarter. With so many vacancies out there, how can employers successfully compete for workers?

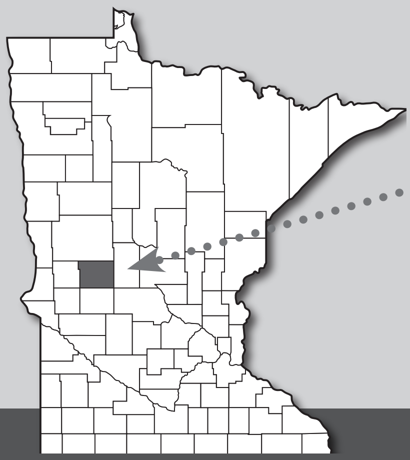
It is clear that employers are responding to the tightening labor market by increasing wages. However, not all employers can increase wages, and even those who do are finding it difficult to fill some jobs. What choices can employers make to increase job attractiveness that do not involve increasing wages?

One way to make vacancies more attractive and reduce turnover of existing positions is to increase hours per week and provide steady, reliable schedules. During second quarter 2017 over 66,000 Minnesotans working part-time wanted to work full-time but could not find full-time employment. While this number is shrinking, down 5.4 percent from one year earlier, it is still a large pool of underutilized workers.

There is some evidence that filling part-time jobs is becoming increasingly difficult, which makes sense given that the number of people who are working part-time but want to be working full-time is shrinking. During second quarter 2017, 44 percent of all openings were for part-time jobs. One year ago only 35 percent were, and two years ago the share was 41 percent. One possible explanation for this increase is that part-time positions are staying open longer this year compared to previous years.

As the labor market continues to tighten, employers will have to get more and more creative in recruiting workers. Hourly wages matter, but job quality also plays an important role. A good, steady job with full-time hours may be more valuable to a prospective employee than one that pays a few dollars more an hour but has unreliable or part-time hours. On the other hand, remaining flexible when an employee has family or health issues can pay off in terms of retention.

by Oriane Casale



CountySnapshot
Douglas

Established in 1858, the same year Minnesota was admitted to the Union as the 32nd state, Douglas County is currently home to an estimated 37,456 people. Well over one-third of the county's population, over 13,500 people, live in the county seat, Alexandria. Alexandria was also settled in 1858, apparently a wonderful year for establishing cities, counties, and states.

Growth was swift for Douglas County at first. Between 1870 and 1900, the county ballooned by 13,725 people or an average annual growth rate of 8.0 percent. Then things stalled. Between 1900 and 1970, the county added just 4,928 people, barely scratching 0.4 percent average annual growth. Luckily, the county has witnessed a resurgence, with over 14,500 people moving within its borders since 1970. In fact, the county has grown more rapidly than the state as a whole since 1970. Maybe this newfound growth has to do with the rediscovery of the county's 250-plus lakes. "The lakes of Douglas County are unsurpassed for the purity of their waters, the beauty of their scenery and general attractiveness. There is a large number of them…but it is not the number so much as it is their beauty and variety which impresses anyone who studies them in detail."[1]

Economy

2016 Estimates	Douglas County	Minnesota
Population	37,456	5,519,952
Labor Force	20,931	3,093,153
Average Unemployment	2.7% (562 people)	3.4% (106,122 people)
Median Annual Earnings	$29,898	$33,527
Cost of Living, Individual	$24,904 ($11.97 per hour)	$29,856 ($14.35 per hour)
Cost of Living, Average Family	$43,676 ($14.00 per hour)	$55,200 ($17.69 per hour)

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics July 2017; DEED Cost of Living in Minnesota 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey Estimates

With 1,323 establishments supplying 18,384 covered jobs, Douglas County comes in as Minnesota's 23rd largest-employing county. The county's total employment dipped by 4.4 percent during the great recession, before climbing like clock-work between 2010 and 2016. Overall, Douglas County is nearly 700 jobs above its pre-recessionary peak, which it hit in 2008. Douglas County beats out 55 other Minnesota counties when it comes to employment growth since 2008. In fact, 38 of those 55 counties are still below their 2008 levels of employment. Douglas County is in good company for growth in Minnesota.

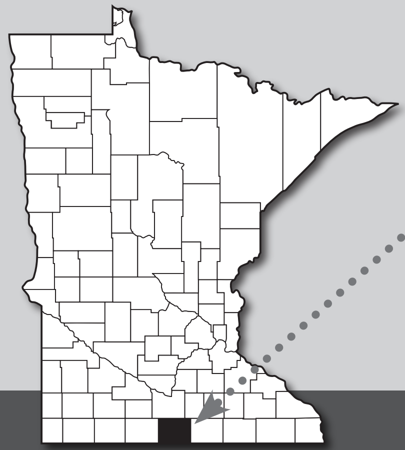
Those industries that promoted Douglas County's recent growth include Manufacturing (up by 677 jobs since 2010), Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 331 jobs), Other Services (up by 221 jobs), Construction (up by159 jobs), and Accommodation and Food Services (up by 108 jobs). At the other end of the spectrum, those industries experiencing weakness since 2010 include Information (down 145 jobs), Transportation and Warehousing (down 58 jobs), and Wholesale Trade (down 31 jobs).

Industry

	2016 Annual Data			2010 – 2016 Percent Change	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Employment	Average Wage
Total, All Industries	1,323	18,384	40,456	8.5%	21.6%
Education and Health Services	161	4,351	42,848	7.8%	22.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	314	4,086	35,360	-1.9%	19.3%
Manufacturing	82	3,279	55,848	26.0%	22.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	148	2,267	14,768	6.9%	25.7%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

[1]Larson, Constant, editor. History of Douglas and Grant Counties: Their Peoples, Industries and Institutions. Indianapolis, B.F. Bowen & Company, 1916, p. 59.



CountySnapshot

Faribault

Founded in 1855, Faribault County is the state's 60th most populous county. With just under 14,000 residents, Faribault's total population has gradually declined since the 1940s. These declines are not unique to Faribault County, however, as every Minnesota county bordering Iowa has seen little to no population growth in recent decades. The county seat, Blue Earth, is home to roughly one-quarter of the county's total population. Other Faribault County cities breaking 1,000 people include Wells (2,225 people) and Winnebago (1,367 people). All told, just over two-thirds of the county's population lives in its 11 cities, with the rest scattered across 20 townships. It should be noted that the City of Faribault is located in Rice County. Check with Employment Review in August, 2018, to hear more about Rice County.

Faribault County is the birthplace of the ice cream sandwich, is home to Minnesota's first stained-glass window, has the world's largest statue of the Jolly Green Giant, and includes a former hometown of Walter Mondale.[1]

Economy

2016 Estimates	Faribault County	Minnesota
Population	13,935	5,519,952
Labor Force	7,149	3,093,153
Average Unemployment	3.8% (273 people)	3.4% (106,122 people)
Median Annual Earnings	$27,692	$33,527
Cost of Living, Individual	$25,021 ($12.03 per hour)	$29,856 ($14.35 per hour)
Cost of Living, Average Family	$43,707 ($14.01 per hour)	$55,200 ($17.69 per hour)

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics July 2017; DEED Cost of Living in Minnesota 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey Estimates

Along with its population, Faribault County's total employment has also been in decline. Between 2006 and 2016 the county's total employment dropped by 13.9 percent or 754 jobs. Between 2015 and 2016 total employment dropped by 3.1 percent or 148 jobs. Comparatively, Minnesota's total employment increased by 5.1 percent between 2006 and 2016 and by 1.4 percent between 2015 and 2016. Recent employment losses are largely caused by weaknesses in Health Care and Social Assistance, Educational Services, and Manufacturing. There have been recent gains in Public Administration, Retail Trade, and Wholesale Trade.

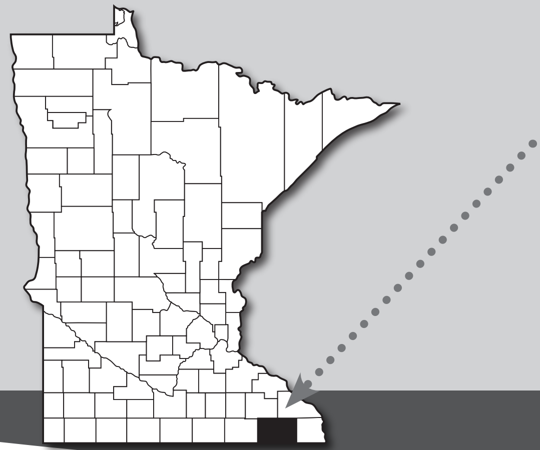
Agriculture is where Faribault County really shines. As of the United States Department of Agriculture's 2012 Census of Agriculture, Faribault County had 824 farms accounting for 390,139 acres. The total market value of products sold was $414.2 million, which was a 43 percent increase from 2007. Digging into the numbers, Faribault County ranks especially high for grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas (fifth among the state's 87 counties), corn for grain (seventh among the state's 87 counties), and hogs and pigs (10th among the state's 87 counties).[2]

Industry

	2016 Annual Data			2010 – 2016 Percent Change	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Employment	Average Wage
Total, All Industries	433	4,690	$37,232	-6.4%	26.3%
Education and Health Services	50	1,096	$34,164	-13.2%	10.6%
Manufacturing	23	1,092	$49,244	-2.2%	31.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	115	807	$29,744	-0.5%	14.2%
Public Administration	21	376	$27,924	5.3%	12.8%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

[1]Blue Earth Minnesota, www.becity.org/. Accessed 12 Sept. 2017.
[2]"2012 Census of Agriculture." Faribault County Profile, United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed 12 Sept. 2017.



CountySnapshot Fillmore

Fillmore County is located in the far southeastern part of Minnesota, along the border with neighboring Iowa and within the Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area. Main transportation arteries in the county include U.S. Highways 52 and 63, which both cut the county from north to south. Located along Highway 52 and nearly in the center of Fillmore County, is the county seat of Preston. Preston, with an estimated population of 1,305 people, accounts for less than one-tenth of the county's total population. Overall, just over 63 percent of the county's total population live within its 14 cities, the largest cities being Chatfield (2,804 people), Spring Valley (2,425 people), Rushford (1,717 people), Preston, and Harmony (998 people).

Established in 1853, Fillmore County originally included all or parts of Dodge, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona counties. As such, Fillmore County was Minnesota's most populous county through 1870.[1] Its population peaked in 1895 at 28,599 people, declined by 26.6 percent through the next century, and has since stabilized around 21,000 people. Much of Fillmore County's growth and decline can be linked to railroads which left in the late 1970s. Early development was also attributable to abundant water resources, sawmills, gristmills, feed mills, and woolen mills.[2]

Economy

2016 Estimates	Fillmore County	Minnesota
Population	21,003	5,519,952
Labor Force	11,556	3,093,153
Average Unemployment	3.1% (360 people)	3.4% (106,122 people)
Median Annual Earnings	$30,444	$33,527
Cost of Living, Individual	$27,293 ($13.12 per hour)	$29,856 ($14.35 per hour)
Cost of Living, Average Family	$47,122 ($15.10 per hour)	$55,200 ($17.69 per hour)

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics July 2017; DEED Cost of Living in Minnesota 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey Estimates

Agriculture played a large part in Fillmore County's past economy and still does today. Over time, smaller farms have been combined into much larger ones, especially with increasingly advanced farming technology and equipment. As of the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there were 1,553 farms in the county with the market value of products sold topping $342.2 million. Notably, Fillmore County ranks number one in the state for value of sales of sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk, and number two in the state for value of sales of horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys.[3] Top crops include oats for grain, corn for silage, and forage-land used for hay.

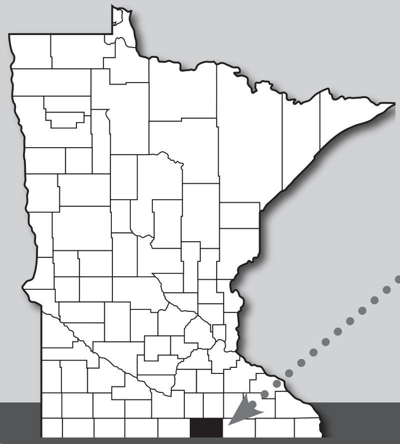
Industry

	2016 Annual Data			2010 – 2016 Percent Change	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Employment	Average Wage
Total, All Industries	632	6,134	$32,552	2.6%	17.4%
Education and Health Services	45	1,558	$28,444	6.3%	17.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	146	1,517	$36,764	21.7%	14.4%
Manufacturing	43	694	$43,056	-3.2%	14.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	82	650	$12,792	14.0%	43.9%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Similar to Houston County to the east, as well as Howard, Winneshiek, and Allamakee counties to the south in Iowa, Fillmore County has an older population. The median age in 2015 was 43.0 years, higher than Minnesota's median age of 37.9 years.

[1] *"About Fillmore County." Fillmore County, www.co.fillmore.mn.us/fillmore-county. Accessed 12 Sept. 2017.*
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *"2012 Census of Agriculture." Fillmore County Profile, United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed 12 Sept. 2017.*



CountySnapshot Freeborn

The last of this month's county spotlights tours Minnesota's southern border with Iowa once again. Founded in 1855, Freeborn County was originally settled by Norwegian, German, Danish, Irish, and Czech peoples who were attracted to the region's rich farmland and numerous lakes. Today Freeborn County's diversity has expanded to include those of Hispanic and Latino origins, which is helping to bolster the county's declining population. More specifically, where the county's total population contracted by 5.2 percent between 2000 and 2015, the Hispanic and Latino population spiked by 40.1 percent.

Fast Fact: In 1835 Lieutenant Albert Miller Lea explored and surveyed what is now Freeborn County with the First United States Dragoons. Lea's name was eventually given to one of the region's lakes as well as the city which was founded around it in 1855.[1] Today, with a population of 17,667 people, Albert Lea is Freeborn County's largest city and is also the county seat.

Economy

2016 Estimates	Freeborn County	Minnesota
Population	30,446	5,519,952
Labor Force	15,795	3,093,153
Average Unemployment	3.5% (551 people)	3.4% (106,122 people)
Median Annual Earnings	$27,777	$33,527
Cost of Living, Individual	$24,753 ($11.90 per hour)	$29,856 ($14.35 per hour)
Cost of Living, Average Family	$43,378 ($13.90 per hour)	$55,200 ($17.69 per hour)

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics July 2017; DEED Cost of Living in Minnesota 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey Estimates

Nearly 37 percent of Freeborn County's total employment is in Manufacturing and Retail Trade, with Manufacturing accounting for over 2,500 jobs and Retail Trade another 1,900 jobs. Roughly two-thirds of the county's manufacturing employment is in Food Manufacturing (1,243 jobs) and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (400 jobs). The majority of Retail Trade employment is in General Merchandise Stores (412 jobs), Food and Beverage Stores (372 jobs), Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers (319 jobs), and Gasoline Stations (299 jobs).

Education and Health Services accounts for over 2,800 jobs in Freeborn County, with 94.6 percent of such jobs in the city of Albert Lea alone. Such employment may take a substantial hit, however, as the Mayo Clinic has opted to consolidate some services at its Albert Lea Campus to Austin, Minnesota.[2]

Mention should also be made of Freeborn County's 1,122 farms. The market value of products sold at these farms equaled $416.0 million in 2012, up 63 percent from 2007. Zooming in, Freeborn County ranks 37th in the nation (of 2,889 counties) for inventory in hogs and pigs.

Industry

	2016 Annual Data			2010 – 2016 Percent Change	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Employment	Average Wage
Total, All Industries	774	12,061	$39,572	-0.6%	21.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	227	2,867	$34,632	8.9%	20.0%
Education and Health Services	61	2,813	$46,228	-9.7%	22.6%
Manufacturing	54	2,504	$45,864	3.5%	14.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	79	1,026	$14,144	-3.9%	27.7%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

[1]"The Information Bureau: Albert Miller Lea.", Minnesota Historical Society, collections.mnhs.org/MNHistoryMagazine/articles/5/v05i03p204-205.pdf. Accessed 12 Sept. 2017.
[2]Richert, Catharine. "AG Swanson won't sue Mayo over Albert Lea hospital shutdowns." MPR News, 11 Sept. 2017, https://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/09/11/ag-swanson-wont-sue-mayo-over-albert-lea-shutdowns. Accessed 13 Sept. 2017.

by Tim O'Neill