

September 2024 Employment Analysis

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Over-the-Month Overview

- Minnesota's unemployment rate increased to 3.4% in September 2024, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the prior month. Nationally, over the month, the unemployment rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1%.
- Minnesota's labor force increased by 620 people over the month to 3,094,317 people. The number of employed decreased by 1,712 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 2,332 people. The labor force participation rate remained at 67.7% over the month.
- Minnesota gained 6,300 jobs in the last month on a seasonally adjusted basis, translating to 0.2% growth. The private sector gained 2,700 jobs, up 0.1%. The U.S. total nonfarm employment increased by 254,000 jobs, or 0.2%. The U.S. private sector gained 223,000 jobs, also up 0.2%.
- Four supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis since the prior month:
 - Government gained 3,600 jobs, up 0.8%
 - Professional & Business Services gained 2,300 jobs, up 0.6%
 - Education and Health Services gained 1,600 jobs, up 0.3%
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 1,200 jobs, up 0.2%
- Three supersectors did not change over the month:
 - Mining & Logging
 - Construction
 - Leisure and Hospitality
- Four supersectors lost jobs over the month:
 - Financial Activities lost 700 jobs, down 0.4%
 - Information lost 600 jobs, down 1.4%
 - Other Services lost 600 jobs, down 0.5%
 - Manufacturing lost 500 jobs, down 0.2%
- Minnesota lost 414,500 jobs from February through April 2020 and has since recovered 453,100 jobs as of September 2024, which brings Minnesota to 101.3% of the number of jobs prior to the Pandemic Recession on a seasonally adjusted basis. The private sector lost 384,100 jobs from February through April 2020 and has regained 405,200 jobs as of September, or 100.8% recovered.
- Calculating seasonally adjusted 2-month job change, Minnesota lost 5,000 jobs in May-July, down 0.17%; gained 14,500 jobs in June-August, up 0.48%.; and gained 18,300 jobs in July-September, up 0.61%. Nationally, the U.S. grew 0.2% in May-July, grew 0.2% in June-August, and grew 0.3% in July-September.

Over-the-Year Job Growth

- Minnesota gained 37,566 payroll jobs, up 1.3%, over the year. The private sector gained 16,068 jobs, up 0.6% over the year.
- Five supersectors posted positive annual growth in Minnesota:
 - Education and Health Services gained 35,351 jobs, up 6.2% for Minnesota, outpacing the national rate of 3.8%. Growth was especially strong in Health Care and Social Assistance subsector (7.0%) and was incremental in Educational Services subsector (0.5%).
 - Government gained 21,498 jobs, up 5.1%, more than twice outpacing the U.S. growth rate of 2.1%. Growth was healthy across almost all subsectors except US Postal Service (-0.6%) and was strongest in Local Government excluding Education (8.5%).
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities gained 3,932 jobs, up 0.7%, which is a similar growth rate as the U.S. (0.6%). Retail Trade grew 1.3%, Wholesale Trade declined 0.7%, while Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities grew 1.1%.
 - Leisure and Hospitality gained 1,882 jobs, up 0.7%. Most subsectors grew except Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (-7.3%).
 - Other Services gained 1,178 jobs, up 1.0%. All subsectors posted growth in Minnesota. Nationally, this supersector grew at a similar rate, 1.1%.
- Six supersectors lost jobs over the year in Minnesota:
 - Professional & Business Services lost 10,856 jobs, down 2.8%, while the U.S. grew 0.4%. Notable declines were in Management of Companies and Enterprises (-3.8%), Employment Services (-8.6%), and Computer Systems Design and Related Services (-2.3%).
 - Manufacturing lost 8,493 jobs, down 2.6%. Decline was driven by Durable Goods Manufacturing (-4.2%), while Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing saw slight growth (0.2%). The U.S. Manufacturing supersector also declined (-0.2%).
 - Financial Activities lost 4,156 jobs over the year, down 2.2%. Losses happened in all subsectors. Nationally, this supersector grew 0.4%.
 - Information lost 2,516 jobs, down 5.7%. All subsectors saw decline in Minnesota. The U.S. Information supersector saw a slight decline (-0.2%).
 - Construction lost 133 jobs, down 0.1%. The decline was in Specialty Trade Contractors (-1.0%). The U.S. Construction supersector grew 2.8%.
 - Mining and Logging lost 121 jobs, down 1.8% in Minnesota. The U.S. also declined in this supersector, down 0.6%.
- Overall U.S. employment grew 1.5% over the year with the private sector up 1.4%. All supersectors grew except Manufacturing, Information, and Mining & Logging.

September Over the Year (OTY) Employment Growth by Industry Sector Not Seasonally Adjusted			
Industry Supersector	MN OTY Job Change	MN OTY Growth Rate (%)	US OTY Growth Rate (%)
Total	37,566	1.3	1.5
Private	16,068	0.6	1.4
Mining & Logging	-121	-1.8	-0.6
Construction	-133	-0.1	2.8
Manufacturing	-8,493	-2.6	-0.2
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	3,932	0.7	0.6
Information	-2,516	-5.7	-0.2
Financial Activities	-4,156	-2.2	0.4
Professional & Business Services	-10,856	-2.8	0.4
Education & Health Services	35,351	6.2	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	1,882	0.7	2.0
Other Services	1,178	1.0	1.1
Government	21,498	5.1	2.1

Wage and Hour Data

- Average hourly wages for all private sector workers increased 21 cents to \$38.00 in September 2024 over the month. Over the year average hourly earnings increased \$1.79, up 4.9%.
 - For the U.S., private sector wages increased 49 cents over the month and grew 4.6% over the year.
 - The CPI inflation index for all urban consumers rose 2.4% over the year in September.
- At 33.3 hours per week, Minnesota’s September average work week grew longer over the month, up one-tenth of an hour. Over-the-year it decreased three-tenths of an hour.
 - Nationally, the average work week increased three-tenths of an hour over the month to 34.6 hours. Over-the-year, it also increased three-tenths of an hour.

Unemployment Data

- Over the month, the unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.4% in September on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of employed decreased by 1,712 workers, and the number of unemployed increased 2,332. The employment to population ratio remained at 65.4% since the prior month.
- The labor force increased 620 people over the month, totaling 3,094,317 people in September. The labor force participation rate remained at 67.7% for the third month in a row. Minnesota’s labor force was 37,251 people fewer than in February 2020 when the participation rate was at 70%.
- Nationally, over the month, the unemployment rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1% and the employment to population ratio ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point to 60.2%. The labor force participation stayed constant at 62.7% for the third month in a row.

Industry Details

Mining and Logging: Employment in Mining and Logging was flat in September as the supersector held at 6,500 seasonally adjusted jobs for the third consecutive month. Over the year (OTY), employers in Mining and Logging 121 jobs or 1.8%, which was an improvement over the loss of 2.2% in August, which was the lowest annual growth for the supersector since March of 2023.

Construction: There was no over the month (OTM) movement in Construction employment in September on a seasonally adjusted basis, as the supersector held at 133,900 jobs. The flat growth comes on the heels of two consecutive months of job losses in Construction. Over the year, Construction employers lost 133 jobs (0.1%). The loss was driven entirely by Specialty Trade Contractors, which shed 901 jobs (1%). The other two major component sectors each added jobs, as Construction of Buildings was up 609 jobs (1.9%) and Heavy and Civil Engineering was up 159 jobs (0.7%).

Manufacturing: Manufacturing employment was off by 500 (0.2%) OTM in September. It was the fifth consecutive month of job losses for the supersector. Durable Goods Manufacturing was down 1,200 jobs (0.6%) while their counterparts in Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing added 700 jobs (0.6%). Over the year, employment in Manufacturing was down by 8,493 (2.6%). That loss came entirely among Durable Goods manufacturers, which lost 8,775 jobs (4.2%), with declines in every published component sector. Non-Durable Goods manufacturing was up 282 jobs (0.2%) thanks to the addition of 1,319 jobs (2.7%) in Food Manufacturing.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was up by 1,200 (0.2%) OTM in September, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Retail Trade added 2,500 jobs (0.9%) and Wholesale Trade added 100 (0.1%), while Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities lost 1,400 jobs (1.2%). Over the year, employment in the supersector was up 3,932 jobs, or 0.7%, slightly outpacing the national growth of 0.6%. Retail Trade employment was up 3,636 (1.3%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities was up 1,278 (1.1%). Wholesale Trade was the only major component sector to lose jobs, off by 982 or 0.7%.

Information: Information employment was down 600 (1.4%) OTM in September after being up 300 in August. On an annual basis, Information employers lost 2,516 jobs (5.7%). This was the largest annual decline of any supersector in the state. OTY growth in the supersector has been at -5% or worse in all but one month of 2024. Telecommunications was off by 621 jobs (7%) while Publishing Industries employment was down 506 (2.7%).

Financial Activities: Employment in Financial Activities was down by 700 (0.5%) OTM in September. The monthly loss came entirely in Finance and Insurance, which was down 0.5% (600 jobs). Real Estate and Rental and Leasing employment held at 34,800 jobs. Over the year, employment in Financial Activities was down by 4,156 (2.2%) with losses in every published component series. Finance and Insurance was down 3,795 (2.5%) and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was down 361, or 1%.

Professional and Business Services: Professional and Business Services employers added 2,300 jobs (0.6%) OTM in September, after adding 3,400 jobs in August, making two consecutive months of growth after five months of declines. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was up 1,500 (1.3%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services was up 800 (0.5%). Over the year, Professional and Business Services was off by 10,856 jobs (or 2.8%). It was the largest real job loss of any supersector, but the best OTY performance for the supersector in 2024. Declines were driven by Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, which was down 7,841 jobs, or 6%.

Education and Health Services: Employment in Education and Health Services was up 1,600, or 0.3%, OTM in September. The supersector has posted positive seasonally adjusted growth in 23 consecutive months dating back to November 2022. September's growth came entirely in Health Care and Social Assistance, which was up 2,400 (0.5%), while Educational Services was down 800 jobs (1.1%). Over the year, the supersector added 35,351 jobs, or 6.2%. It was the largest real and proportional growth of any supersector in the state. Health Care and Social Assistance drove the growth, adding 34,954 jobs, or 7%, while Educational Services added 397 jobs (0.5%).

Leisure and Hospitality: Employment in Leisure and Hospitality was flat in September, holding at 273,800 jobs. Accommodation and Food Services added 1,200 jobs (0.5%), which was offset by a loss of 1,200 (2.6%) in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality employers added 1,882 jobs (0.7%). The supersector still has not lost jobs on an annual basis since March of 2021. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation was down 3,618 (7.3%), but their counterparts in Accommodation and Food Services added 5,500 jobs (2.4%).

Other Services: Other Services employers lost 600 jobs (0.5%) OTM in September. It was the first monthly job loss for the supersector since June. Over the year, Other Services added 1,178 jobs, or 1%. All three published components added jobs. Repair and Maintenance was up 365 (1.5%), Personal and Laundry Services added 212 (0.8%) and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic and Professional Organizations added 601 jobs (1%).

Government: Government employers added 3,600 jobs (0.8%) OTM in September. The growth was driven primarily by Local Government employment, which was up 3,200 (1.1%). State employers added 400 jobs (0.4%) and Federal employment was flat at 33,300. Over the year, Government employers added 21,498 jobs, or 5.1%. Local Government was up 16,589 (5.8%), State Government was up 4,401 (4.4%) and Federal Government was up 508 (1.5%). The only published component to lose jobs was the U.S. Postal Service, which was off by 73, or 0.6%.

Over-the-Year Job Growth by MSAs

September data released by DEED, not seasonally adjusted

Metropolitan Statistical Area	OTY Employment Change (#, NSA)	OTY Employment Change (% , NSA)
Minneapolis-St. Paul MN-WI MSA	-6,920	-0.3
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	-1769	-1.3
Rochester MSA	7,859	6.3
St. Cloud MSA	978	0.9
Mankato MSA	920	1.6
Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN MSA (August)	3,000	2.0
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks ND-MN MSA (August)	900	1.7
La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN (August)	1,200	1.5

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