

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION 10: Southeast

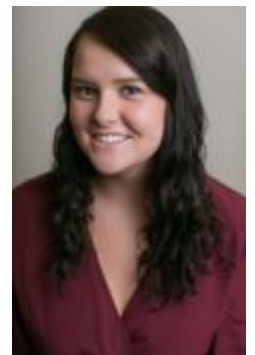
Covering the following counties:

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue,
Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele,
Wabasha and Winona Counties

2022 REGIONAL PROFILE

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DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION CHANGE

Economic Development Region 10 - Southeast is an 11-county region located in southeastern corner of the state, bordering Iowa and Wisconsin. Southeast’s population was the second largest of the 13 economic development regions (EDRs) and fourth largest of the 6 planning regions in the state, accounting for 9.1% of the state’s total population. The regional population increased by 24,361 residents from 2010 to 2021, a 4.9% increase, barely slower than the 7.6% statewide rise (Table 1).

Seven of the 11 counties in EDR 10 added population over the past decade, with Freeborn, Houston, Wabasha and Winona being the exceptions. Olmsted was the largest county in the region, accounting for 31.5% of the regional population in 2021, and also saw the largest increase since 2010, making it the 6th fastest growing county (of 87) in the state. Rice and Dodge saw population increases over 4%, making them the 25th and 26th fastest growing counties. In contrast, Winona County saw the largest loss, dropping 1,831 residents.

Table 1. Population Change 2010-2021

	2010 Population	2021 Estimates	2010-2021 Change	
			Number	Percent
Dodge Co.	20,087	20,935	+848	+4.2%
Fillmore Co.	20,866	21,271	+405	+1.9%
Freeborn Co.	31,255	30,749	-506	-1.6%
Goodhue Co.	46,183	47,968	+1,785	+3.9%
Houston Co.	19,027	18,778	-249	-1.3%
Mower Co.	39,163	40,158	+995	+2.5%
Olmsted Co.	144,248	163,436	+19,188	+13.3%
Rice Co.	64,142	67,262	+3,120	+4.9%
Steele Co.	36,576	37,349	+773	+2.1%
Wabasha Co.	21,676	21,509	-167	-0.8%
Winona Co.	51,461	49,630	-1,831	-3.6%
Region 10 - Southeast	494,684	519,045	+24,361	+4.9%
State of Minnesota	5,303,925	5,707,390	+403,465	+7.6%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates](#)

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

The recent population growth in Southeast was fueled primarily by a natural increase – more births than deaths – but also due to positive in-migration. This included a small amount of domestic in-migration – more people moving in from other parts of the state or the U.S. – and more rapid international in-migration. However, the growth in foreign-born residents slowed in 2020 due to the pandemic and other factors, after being a much larger component of population growth in the previous decade (Table 2).

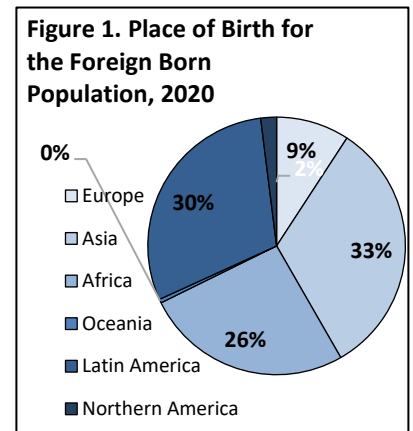
Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2021

	Total Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	Inter- national	Domestic
Southeast	+1,193	+685	7,023	6,338	+442	+431	+11
Minnesota	+896	+12,512	79,493	66,981	-11,734	+4,213	-15,947

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program](#)

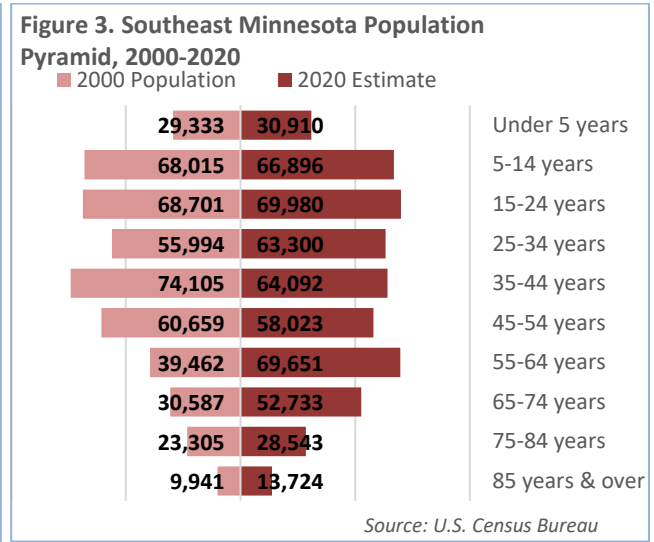
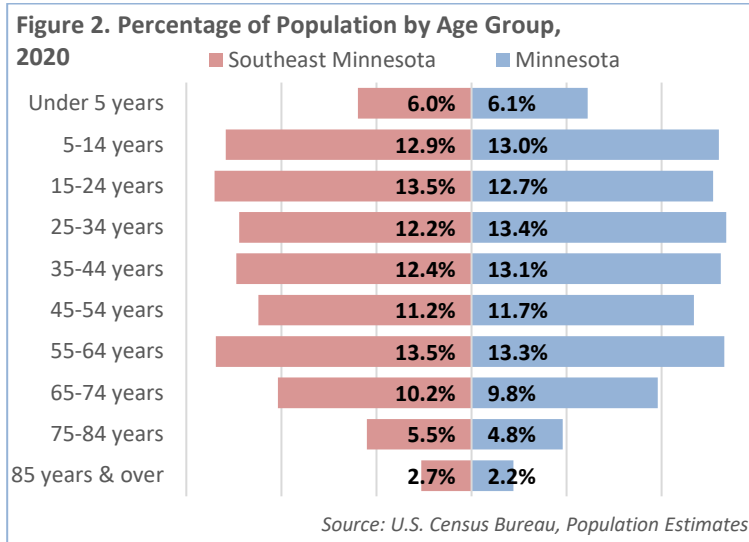
With the international in-migration, EDR 10 was now home to just over 34,000 foreign born residents, or 6.6% of the total population. The largest number of immigrants in the region came from Asia, Latin America, and Africa, with a smaller number from Europe (Figure 1). However, the fastest increase in immigrants over the past decade came from Africa, which saw an 131% increase since 2010. In sum, the number of immigrants in the region increased by 31.4% from 2010 to 2020, which was higher than the statewide growth rate of 28.3%.

Based on year of entry, EDR 10’s foreign born population was “newer” than the rest of the state. 35.3% of the region’s immigrants entered the U.S. since 2010 and another 27.8% entered between 2000 and 2009, compared to 28.5% and 30.0% statewide. Foreign-born residents have a younger age profile than the native born population, with 61.7% being between 25 and 54 years of age, compared to 35.8% overall. Educational attainment is varied among immigrants. While a higher percentage of foreign-born residents had an advanced degree than native born residents, immigrants were also much more likely to have less than a high school diploma.



POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

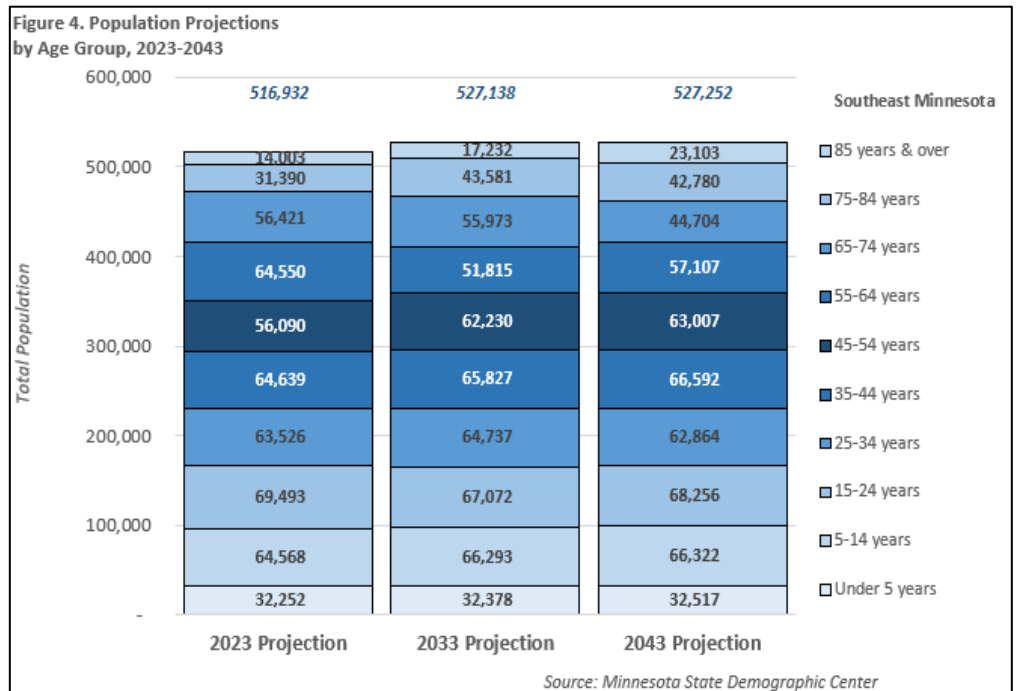
Southeast Minnesota has both a younger *and* older population than the state – nearly one-third (31.8%) of the region’s population was 55 or older, compared to 30.1% statewide, and another one-third (32.4%) of the population was also under 25 years, compared to 31.8% in the state. This leaves Southeast with a smaller percentage of people in the 25 to 54 year age group - typically considered the “prime working years.” A large portion of the area’s population is a part of the Baby Boom generation, which is creating a significant shift in regional demographics over time. Between 2000 and 2020, over 61,000 more residents were in the 55 years or older groups (Figures 2 and 3).



POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP

Southeast is projected to continue its population increase over the next decade, then experience stabilization in the following decade. Population projections from the [Minnesota State Demographic Center](#) show that the area is expected to see a gain of just over 10,000 people from 2023 to 2043, a 2.0% increase (Figure 4). In comparison, the state of Minnesota is projected to grow 9.4% from 2020 to 2040, closing in on 6.2 million residents.

Like the recent shift, projections for growth vary widely by age. The region is expected to add residents between the ages of 35 and 54 in the next 20 years and see a corresponding increase in the youngest population. Conversely, the major losses are expected to occur in the age groups from 15 to 24 and 55 to 74, as the Baby Boom generation ages out of those cohorts. However, this will also lead to over 20,000 more residents aged 75 years and over, a more than 50% expansion from 2023 to 2043.



POPULATION BY RACE

The population in Southeast Minnesota has had some significant changes since the turn of the century, however it remains less racially diverse than the state as a whole. In 2020, just under 84% of the region’s residents reported White alone as their race, compared to 77.5% of residents statewide. Every other race increased faster than the white population, which actually declined from 2010 to 2020. In fact, the number of residents who were Black or African American nearly doubled, and the number of people of Some Other Race or Two or More Races more than tripled, and the American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino population also saw a notable increase since 2000 (Table 3).

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2020	Southeast Minnesota				Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2010-2020	Percent Change 2010-2020	Percent	Percent Change 2010-2020
Total	517,852	100.0%	+27,835	+5.7%	100%	+8.9%
White	433,189	83.7%	-21,183	-4.7%	77.5%	-2.6%
Black or African American	21,053	4.1%	+9,766	+86.5%	7.0%	+54.9%
American Indian & Alaska Native	2,436	0.5%	+932	+62.0%	1.2%	+24.0%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	17,485	3.4%	+6,102	+53.6%	5.3%	+46.4%
Some Other Race	15,913	3.1%	+11,186	+236.6%	3.0%	+122.8%
Two or More Races	27,776	5.4%	+21,032	+311.9%	6.1%	+221.3%
Hispanic or Latino	33,418	6.5%	+10,603	+46.5%	6.1%	+47.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

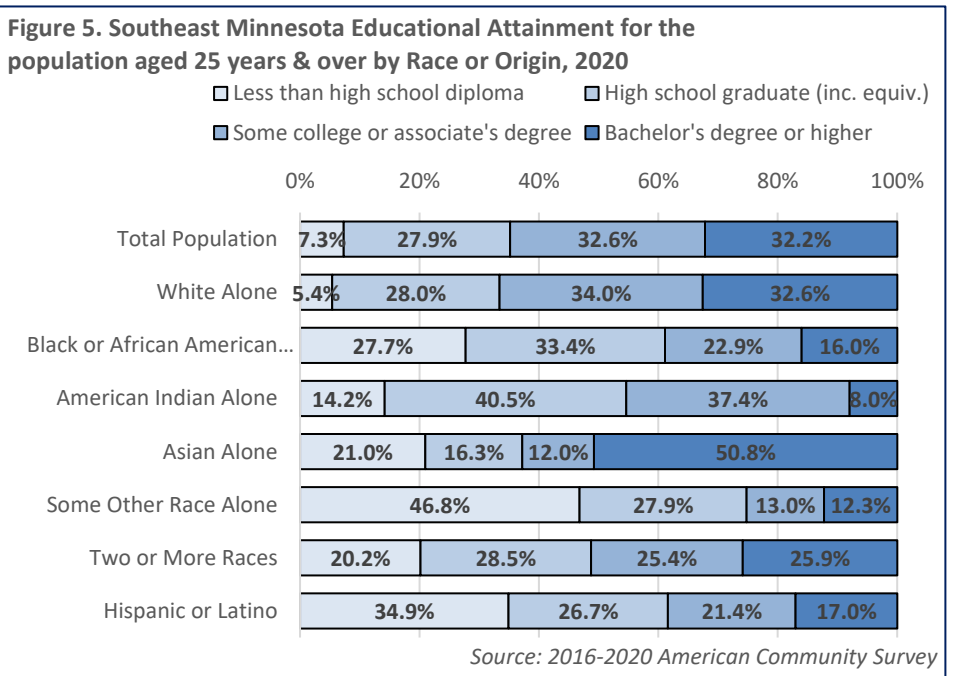
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

With 41.7% of adults aged 18 years and over holding a college degree, Southeast had lower educational attainment than the state in 2020, where 45.2% of adults have an associate, bachelor’s, or advanced degree. However, Southeast had a similar percentage of people with some college but no degree and a higher percentage with a high school diploma or less. Regional educational attainment for post-secondary degree holders only exceeded the state in associate’s degrees (Table 4).

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Population Aged 18 years & Over	Southeast		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 18 years & over	391,755	100.0%	100.0%
Less than high school	30,613	7.8%	7.2%
High school graduate (incl. equiv.)	109,141	27.9%	24.7%
Some college, no degree	88,599	22.6%	22.8%
Associate's degree	47,281	12.1%	11.0%
Bachelor's degree	74,451	19.0%	23.0%
Advanced degree	41,670	10.6%	11.2%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Like the rest of the state, educational attainment varies significantly by race and ethnicity in Southeast. Over 60% of Black or African American residents have a high school diploma or less, as does 61.6% of Hispanics or Latinos and 74.7% of those of Some Other Race, compared to 33.4% of whites. At just 8.0%, American Indians had the lowest percent of adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher, followed by 12.3% of those of Some Other Race, 16% of Blacks or African Americans, and 17% of Hispanics or Latinos. In comparison, 32.6% of Whites and 50.8% of Asians had this level of education (Figure 5).

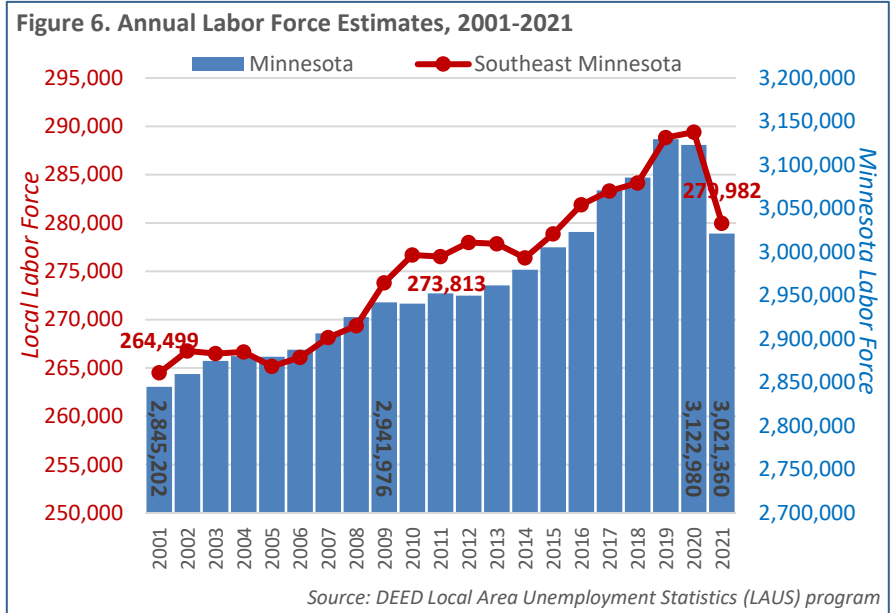


LABOR FORCE

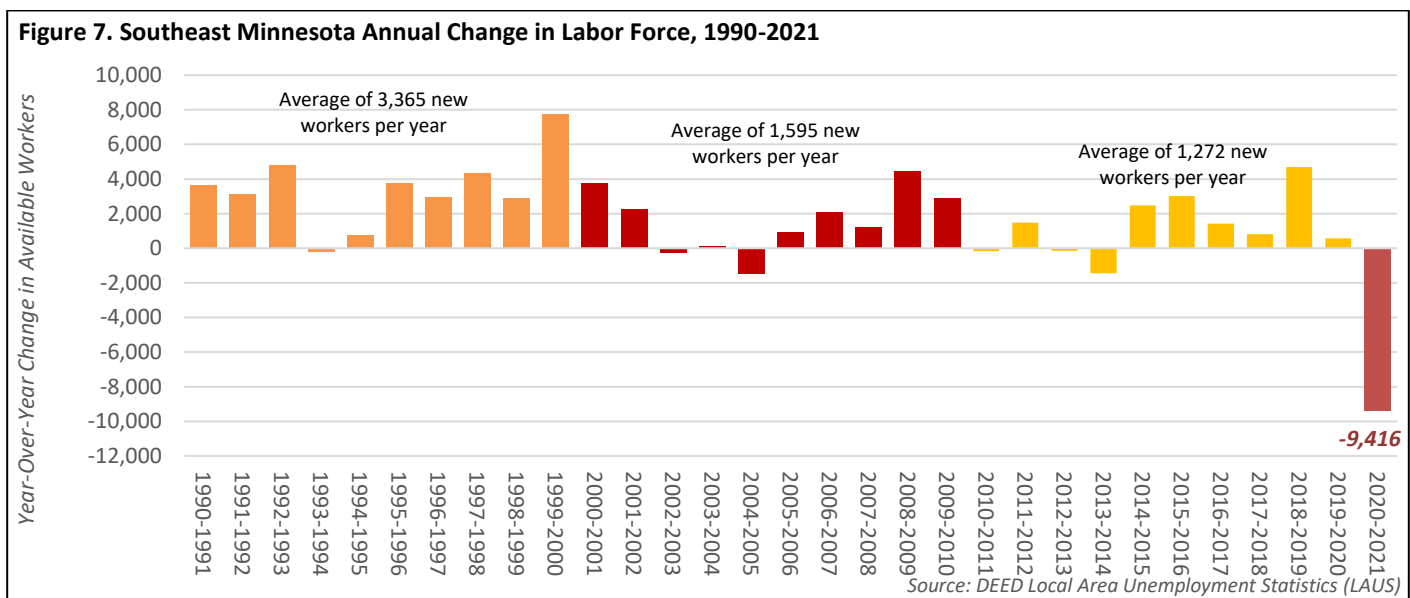
LABOR FORCE CHANGE

According to data from DEED’s [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, Southeast had an annual average labor force count of just under 280,000 workers in 2021. That was the lowest number since 2015, as the region’s labor force had been growing up until the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused significant changes in the labor force and economy (Figure 6).

Over time, the size of the region’s labor force fluctuated, rising from 264,500 workers in 2001 to a peak of 289,400 workers in 2020, then dropping by almost 9,500 workers from 2020 to 2021. With shrinking numbers, the labor market in Southeast continues to tighten, with fewer unemployed workers available.



Averaging a net gain of 3,365 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2000, employers in Southeast were able to tap into a large and growing pool of talented workers. Although the regional labor force and economy continue to grow, the rate of labor force growth is slowing down considerably, demonstrated by Southeast adding an average of only 1,272 workers per year from 2010 to 2020 (Figure 7). Increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers is now recognized as one of the most significant barriers to future economic growth in Southeast Minnesota. In the face of these constraints, it has become evident that a more diverse workforce in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, and immigration has been and will continue to be a vital source of the workers that employers need to succeed. As the white, native-born workforce continues to age, younger workers of different races or from different countries will comprise the fastest growing segment of the labor force.



LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS

Despite the projected population increase in Southeast Minnesota from 2023 to 2033 (shown in Figure 4), the regional labor force is expected to contract during this time frame. Applying current labor force participation rates to future population projections by age group creates labor force projections for the region, which show a 0.9% drop in workforce numbers, a loss of 2,355 workers, as the Baby Boom generation ages and drops out of the labor force. The projected decline includes a huge loss in the number of workers aged 55 to 64 supplemented by notable losses in those between the ages 16 to 24 by 2033. The number of workers aged 25 to 54 years is expected to swell by 7,500 workers. Still, the anticipated overall contraction may lead employers to adapt their management and hiring practices in order to compete for workers (Table 5).

	2023 Labor Force Estimate	2033 Labor Force Projection	2023-2033 Change	
			Numeric	Percent
16 to 19 years	15,873	15,020	-854	-5.4%
20 to 24 years	28,200	27,774	-426	-1.5%
25 to 44 years	113,467	115,590	+2,124	+1.9%
45 to 54 years	49,409	54,818	+5,409	+10.9%
55 to 64 years	48,422	38,869	-9,553	-19.7%
65 to 74 years	16,833	16,699	-134	-0.8%
75 years & over	3,175	4,254	+1,079	+34.0%
Total Labor Force	275,379	273,024	-2,355	-0.9%

Source: calculated from Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

With 68.4% of the population over 16 years of age in the labor force, Southeast had a lower overall labor force participation rate than the state. However, only two age groups (20 to 24 and 25-44) had lower labor force participation rates than those statewide (Table 6).

Labor force participation rates varied by race and ethnicity in Southeast, but also lagged behind state averages. The lowest labor force participation rates by race were seen by American Indian and Alaska Natives and Black or African Americans. In addition, those between the ages of 16 and 19, those with a disability, and those with less than a high school diploma also had low labor force participation rates. Unemployment rates were also higher for all race and ethnicity groups compared to the state as a whole. Black or African

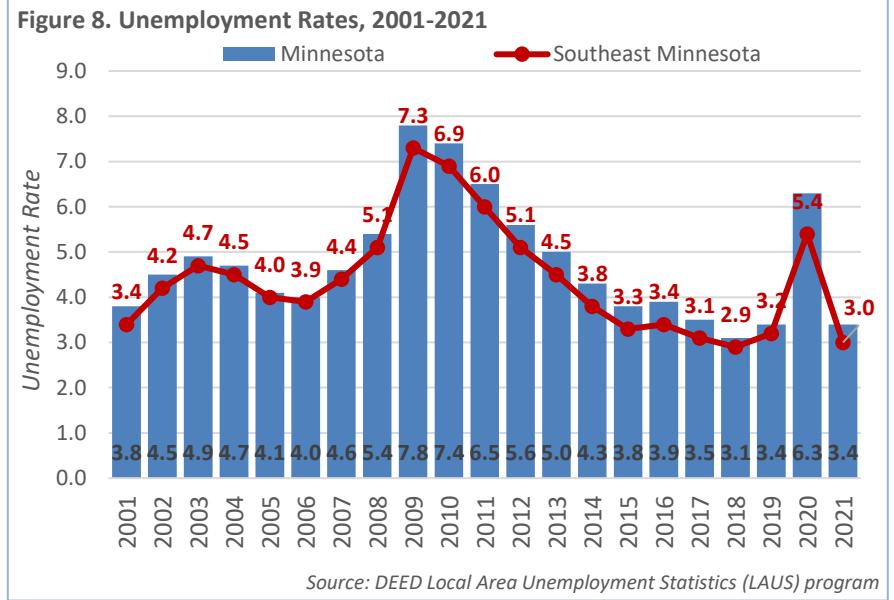
	Southeast Minnesota - Region 10			Minnesota	
	In Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	276,692	68.4%	3.5%	69.3%	3.8%
Male	143,682	71.7%	4.0%	73.0%	4.2%
Female	132,986	65.0%	2.9%	65.6%	3.4%
16 to 19 years	15,078	56.0%	10.5%	52.0%	11.0%
20 to 24 years	28,708	82.9%	5.3%	83.8%	6.2%
25 to 44 years	110,128	88.5%	3.1%	88.7%	3.4%
45 to 54 years	53,304	88.1%	2.9%	87.6%	2.8%
55 to 64 years	52,111	75.0%	2.8%	73.0%	3.1%
65 to 74 years	14,538	29.8%	1.9%	28.4%	2.5%
75 years & over	2,803	7.0%	1.3%	6.8%	2.4%
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin					
White alone	247,778	68.0%	3.1%	68.9%	3.2%
Black or African American	8,189	66.7%	11.5%	71.3%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	805	57.8%	8.9%	57.9%	12.7%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	8,987	71.3%	4.4%	72.0%	4.0%
Some Other Race	4,752	74.9%	7.2%	72.7%	6.2%
Two or More Races	6,142	76.6%	6.3%	73.3%	7.1%
Hispanic or Latino	14,281	74.8%	6.6%	76.5%	6.3%
Employment Characteristics by Disability					
With Any Disability	12,369	56.0%	7.5%	52.9%	8.9%
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment					
Population, 25 to 64 years	215,533	84.7%	2.9%	84.4%	3.2%
Less than H.S. Diploma	11,935	71.2%	4.6%	66.3%	4.5%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	49,969	79.6%	2.1%	77.9%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	76,580	86.4%	2.4%	85.2%	3.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	77,025	89.4%	1.7%	90.0%	1.9%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Americans saw the largest discrepancy in unemployment rate, with a regional rate of 11.5% compared to 3.1% for whites and compared to 8.7% for Blacks statewide. In addition, workers between the ages of 16 to 19 and those with a disability also had much higher unemployment rates.

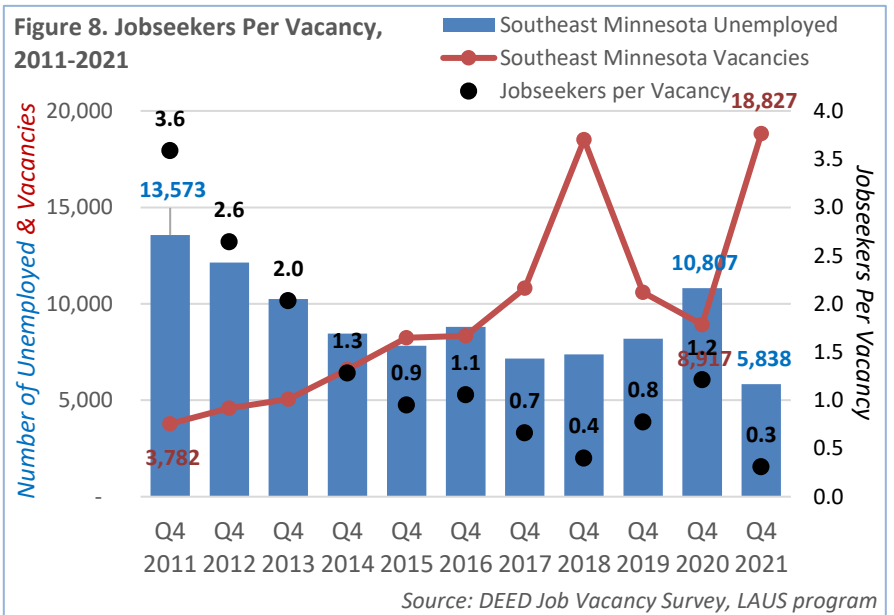
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Regardless of the state of the economy, Southeast has consistently reported lower unemployment rates than Minnesota overall since 2001. According to the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, the unemployment rate in Southeast typically hovered about 0.1 to 0.5 points below the statewide rate, shifting in sync to economic fluctuation. During the recession, it rose as high as 7.3% in 2009, but fell back to pre-recession rates by 2014. Since then, the regional rate increased slightly in 2016 before dropping to 2.9% in 2018. Needless to say, the pandemic of 2020 caused a significant jump in the unemployment rate, up to 5.4%, before it dropped back to an annual average of 3.0% in 2021 (Figure 8).



JOBSEEKERS PER VACANCY

As the economy continues to recover and the number of available workers declines, the regional labor market has been tightening. A clear demonstration of this is the ratio of unemployed jobseekers per vacancy, which was the lowest in the state at 0.3-to-1. According to recent Job Vacancy Survey results, there were 18,827 openings reported by employers compared to 5,838 unemployed jobseekers in the region. Due to high unemployment rates, the ratio climbed as high as 3.6 jobseekers per vacancy in the fourth quarter of 2011, but was below 1 jobseeker for every vacancy from 2017 to 2019, before the pandemic (Figure 9).



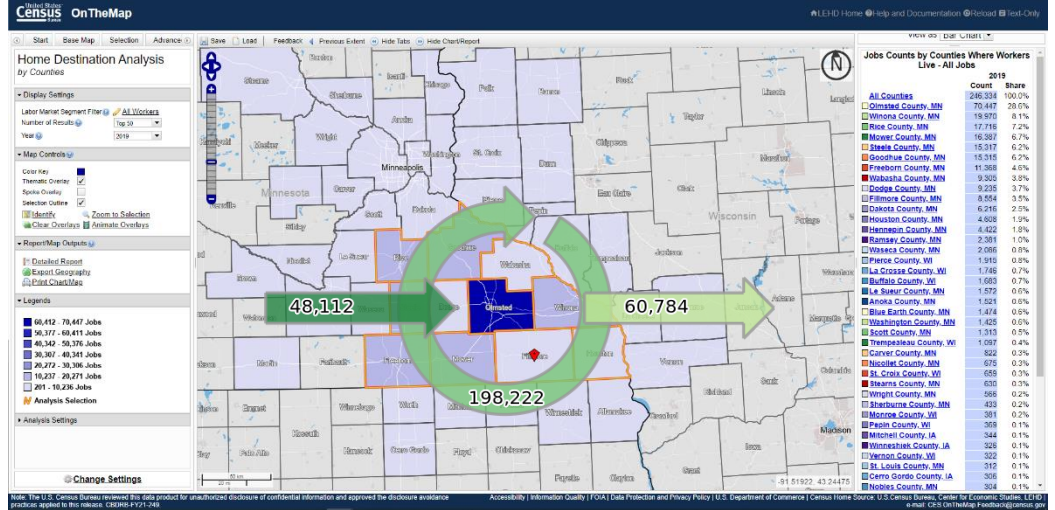
COMMUTE SHED AND LABOR SHED

Over three quarters of residents in Southeast also work in the region. However, Southeast is a net exporter of labor, having fewer jobs than available workers. In 2019, 198,222 workers both lived and worked in Southeast, while another 48,112 workers drove into the region for work. This is compared to 60,784 workers who lived in the region but drove to outside areas for work (Table 7 and Figure 10).

	2019	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	246,334	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	48,112	19.5%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	198,222	80.5%
Living in the Selection Area	259,006	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	60,784	23.5%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	198,222	76.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap

Figure 10. Southeast Minnesota Labor and Commute Shed, 2019

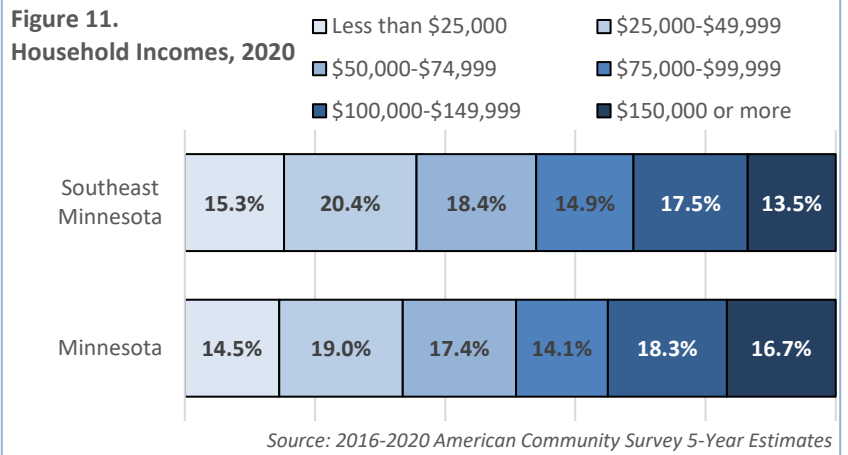


Home to Rochester, Olmsted County is the largest employment center in the region and the biggest draw for workers, followed by Winona and Rice counties. Employers in the region draw workers from surrounding counties like Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties as well as Wisconsin counties like Pierce, Buffalo and La Crosse. Workers also travel to these same counties for work, as well as surrounding western counties like Blue Earth and Waseca County (Figure 10). The average commute time for workers in Southeast was 21.9 minutes, compared to 23.8 minutes for workers statewide. Just under 60% of workers commuted less than 20 minutes each way, compared to 45.8% statewide. About 8% percent of workers worked at home, which jumped more than 2% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

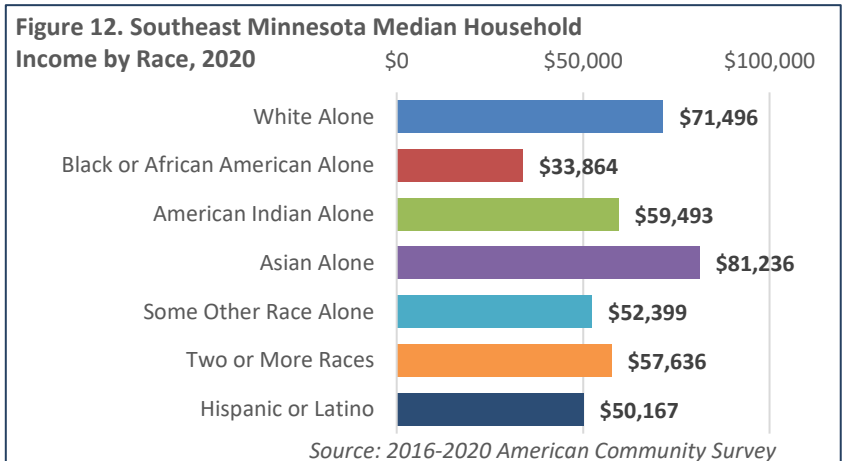
INCOMES, WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Household incomes were lower in Southeast than in the state overall. At \$69,636 Southeast had the fourth highest median household income of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Over one-third (35.7%) of the households in the region had incomes below \$50,000 in 2020, compared to just 33.5% statewide. Another one-third of households earned between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in EDR 10, while 31% of households earned over \$100,000 per year compared to 35% of households statewide (Figure 11).



Incomes varied widely by race in Southeast, with the highest incomes reported by Asian households, followed by those of Whites. The lowest household incomes reported were among Black or African American, Some Other Race, and Hispanic or Latino households. The household income for Whites is over double that of Black or African American households, and is also just over \$20,000 higher than the median income for Hispanic or Latino households (Figure 12).



COST OF LIVING

According to DEED’s [Cost of Living tool](#), the basic needs budget for an average Minnesota family (which consists of 2 adults and 1 child, with 1 full-time and 1 part-time worker) was \$60,540 in 2022. The cost of living for a similar family in Southeast was \$51,576 – which was the third highest of the 6 planning regions and fourth highest of the 13 economic development regions in the state. The highest monthly costs were for housing, transportation, and food; though the region’s housing, child care, and taxes were significantly lower than the state as a whole. In order to meet the basic needs cost of living for the region, the two workers in the family scenario described would need to earn \$16.53 per hour working a combined 60 hours per week (Table 8).

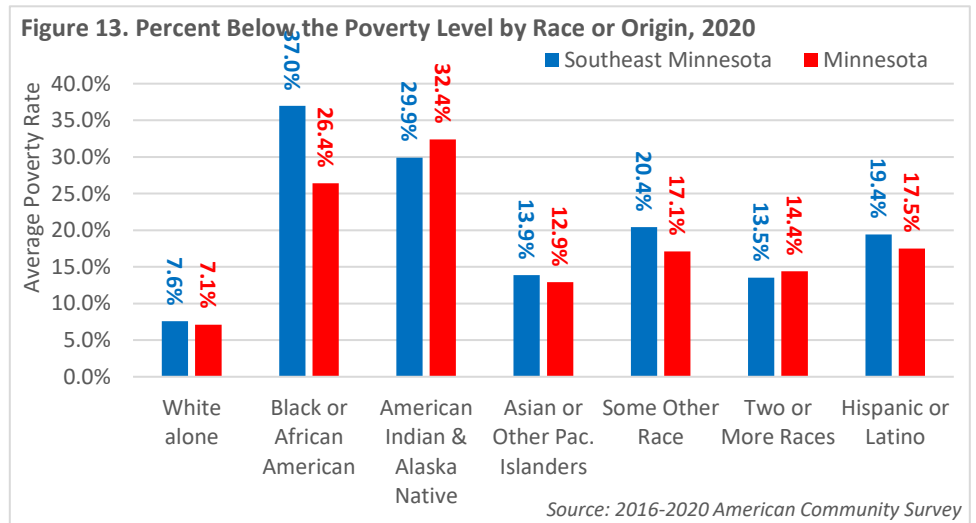
DEED’s Cost of Living tool provides different estimates for household compositions including single people, partnered couples, and up to 4 children. For a single person living alone and working full-time, the estimated yearly cost in Southeast would be \$29,724, which would require an hourly wage of \$14.29 to meet the basic needs cost of living. However, if that same single person who is working full-time were to have one child the yearly cost of living would jump to \$48,816 or an hourly wage requirement of \$23.47.

Table 8. Family Yearly Cost, Worker Hourly Wage, and Family Monthly Costs, 2022

Family Composition	Number of Workers	Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Southeast – Region 10										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	\$29,724	\$14.29	\$0	\$354	\$152	\$685	\$676	\$285	\$325
Single, 1 child	1 FT	\$48,816	\$23.47	\$729	\$524	\$482	\$895	\$680	\$388	\$370
2 parents, 1 child	1 FT, 1 PT	\$51,576	\$16.53	\$364	\$810	\$538	\$895	\$788	\$467	\$436
2 parents, 2 children	2 FT	\$75,480	\$18.14	\$1,236	\$1,057	\$549	\$1,247	\$831	\$631	\$739
Minnesota										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	\$33,708	\$16.21	\$0	\$359	\$157	\$903	\$663	\$345	\$382
2 parents, 1 child	1 FT, 1 PT	\$60,540	\$19.40	\$579	\$822	\$561	\$1,151	\$772	\$540	\$620

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Overall, Southeast Minnesota’s poverty rate was 9.3%, which was identical to the statewide rate of 9.3%. Like incomes, poverty levels varied widely by race and origin. It was estimated that 37% of the region’s Black or African American population was below the poverty level in 2020, compared to just 7.6% of the white population. Likewise, poverty levels were also higher among every other race or ethnic group when compared to that of Whites. Several of the remaining groups also had higher percentages below poverty than the state as a whole (Figure 13).



WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

The median hourly wage for all occupations in Southeast was \$23.32 in the first quarter of 2022 (Table 9). As such, the region has the second highest median wage level of the 6 planning regions and 13 economic development regions in the state. However, the median wage in Southeast was about \$0.50 less than the statewide median, and \$1.15 less than the median wage in the Twin Cities metro area. Compared to the other two economic development regions in Southern Minnesota, the Southeast region’s median wage was \$1.40 more than the South Central region and \$4.22 higher than that in the Southwest region (Table 9).

Not surprisingly, the lowest-paying jobs are in food prep, serving, personal care occupations, and sales, which tend to have lower educational and training requirements. For the most part, the pay gap between Southeast and the state is much lower in the lower-paying jobs. Regional wages are competitive with the state’s in Community and Social Service, Healthcare, Personal Care and Service, Protective Service, Education, Training and Library, Farming, Fishing and Forestry, and Transportation and Material Moving. Compared to the state as a whole, Southeast has stronger concentrations of employment in Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, as well as Production, Education, Training & Library, and Life, Physical & Social Science occupations (Table 10).

	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment
EDR 1 - Northwest	\$22.41	34,150
EDR 2 - Headwaters	\$19.15	30,150
EDR 3 - Arrowhead	\$22.54	131,110
EDR 4 - West Central	\$19.40	83,490
EDR 5 - North Central	\$18.83	59,090
EDR 6E - Southwest Central	\$18.94	47,920
EDR 6W - Upper MN Valley	\$18.94	15,790
EDR 7E - East Central	\$21.95	45,770
EDR 7W - Central	\$22.94	165,010
EDR 8 - Southwest	\$19.10	50,230
EDR 9 - South Central	\$21.92	96,160
EDR 10 - Southeast	\$23.32	231,930
EDR 11 - 7-County Twin Cities	\$24.47	1,642,620
State of Minnesota	\$23.81	2,695,450

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics

Table 10. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2022

Occupational Group	Southeast Minnesota - Region 10				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment	Share of Total Employment	Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Share of Total Employment
Total, All Occupations	\$23.32	231,930	100.0%	1.0	\$23.81	2,695,450	100.0%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$39.89	31,770	13.7%	1.9	\$38.73	190,180	7.1%
Office & Administrative Support	\$21.25	27,750	12.0%	1.0	\$23.12	334,550	12.4%
Production	\$18.97	23,260	10.0%	1.4	\$19.59	198,940	7.4%
Sales & Related	\$14.78	19,090	8.2%	0.9	\$17.25	245,390	9.1%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$13.89	17,660	7.6%	1.0	\$14.65	198,800	7.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$18.91	17,080	7.4%	0.9	\$19.30	209,780	7.8%
Education, Training & Library	\$24.05	14,120	6.1%	1.1	\$24.48	149,990	5.6%
Healthcare Support	\$16.13	13,730	5.9%	1.0	\$15.37	162,530	6.0%
Management	\$46.87	11,930	5.1%	0.8	\$50.51	181,090	6.7%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.95	9,080	3.9%	0.5	\$38.08	192,700	7.1%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$23.71	8,220	3.5%	1.0	\$25.34	96,660	3.6%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.24	7,310	3.2%	0.8	\$30.09	107,180	4.0%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$16.23	6,060	2.6%	0.9	\$17.98	75,850	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$14.88	4,260	1.8%	0.9	\$15.24	56,580	2.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$40.00	4,090	1.8%	0.5	\$48.34	101,560	3.8%
Community & Social Service	\$28.63	4,050	1.7%	0.9	\$24.68	53,670	2.0%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.00	3,430	1.5%	0.8	\$39.39	51,970	1.9%
Protective Service	\$25.88	3,400	1.5%	1.0	\$25.07	40,580	1.5%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$37.26	2,510	1.1%	1.1	\$37.30	26,140	1.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.48	1,960	0.8%	0.6	\$26.08	36,710	1.4%
Legal	\$37.71	810	0.3%	0.5	\$40.08	19,860	0.7%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$18.28	370	0.2%	1.0	\$18.55	4,350	0.2%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Qtr. 1 2022

The highest paying jobs in the region are found in Management, Computer and Mathematical, Healthcare Practitioners and Technical, Architecture and Engineering, Legal, Life Physical and Social Science, and Business and Financial Operations, all of which have median wages over \$30 per hour. These occupations generally require higher levels of education and experience, including many that require bachelor's degrees or higher. However, some have significant gaps in pay between the region and the state.

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Employers in Southeast reported 18,827 job vacancies in the fourth quarter of 2021, the highest number ever recorded. Demand for workers was high across many occupational groups, with the largest number of openings in Food Preparation & Serving Related (2,887 vacancies), Production (1,635 vacancies), Healthcare Support (1,585 vacancies), Healthcare Practitioners & Technical (1,406 vacancies), and Sales & Related (1,403 vacancies) occupations. Together, these top five groups accounted for 44.2% of the total vacancies in the region (Table 11).

Rising demand has led to rising wages, with the median hourly wage offer from the current survey jumping to \$17.39 per hour, which was the highest on record and was \$0.90 higher than the median wage offers in the fourth quarter of last year, equaling a jump of 5.5%. Median hourly wage offers ranged from just over \$13 in Food Prep & Serving Related, Personal Care & Service, and Protective Services, to over \$30 per hour in Legal, Architecture & Engineering, Computer & Mathematical, and Management occupations.

Table 11. Southeast Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 4 2021

Region 10 Occupational Groups	Number of Total Vacancies	Percent Part-Time	Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Requiring 1 or More Years of Work Exp.	Requiring Certificate or License	Median Hourly Wage Offer	Job Vacancy Rate
Total, All Occupations	18,827	29%	30%	46%	50%	\$17.39	8.2
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,887	52%	2%	25%	6%	\$13.19	16.4
Production	1,635	11%	5%	31%	12%	\$18.19	7.1
Healthcare Support	1,585	38%	28%	15%	50%	\$15.47	11.6
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,406	39%	95%	57%	85%	\$29.93	4.4
Transportation & Material Moving	1,403	51%	3%	42%	71%	\$17.73	8.3
Sales & Related	1,254	44%	2%	23%	19%	\$15.09	6.7
Office & Administrative Support	1,067	14%	4%	56%	63%	\$17.50	3.9
Business & Financial Operations	1,041	29%	82%	76%	79%	\$23.57	12.0
Construction & Extraction	833	0%	0%	55%	89%	\$23.45	11.4
Architecture & Engineering	776	0%	98%	99%	86%	\$34.70	22.6
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	684	6%	53%	78%	87%	\$24.62	8.4
Education, Training & Library	631	12%	64%	62%	73%	\$17.60	4.5
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	525	1%	39%	97%	84%	\$16.53	20.9
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	504	67%	1%	19%	7%	\$16.32	8.3
Management	447	16%	62%	80%	52%	\$30.44	3.8
Personal Care & Service	312	48%	9%	44%	28%	\$13.35	7.3
Community & Social Service	293	13%	85%	80%	76%	\$24.80	7.2
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	272	1%	0%	N/A	4%	\$15.34	73.5
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	270	18%	13%	74%	33%	\$16.62	13.9
Computer & Mathematical	208	3%	82%	95%	58%	\$34.41	5.1
Protective Service	175	63%	12%	38%	56%	\$13.73	5.1
Legal	12	0%	99%	98%	92%	\$47.74	1.5

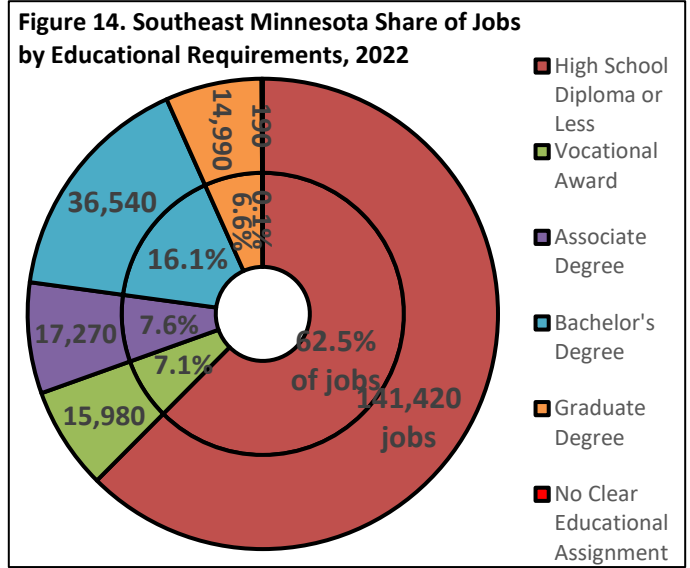
Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

Overall, 29% of the openings were part-time, which is historically low as employers struggle to find workers. Because of the high concentration of jobs in Food Prep & Serving Related, Healthcare Support, Sales & Related, and Production, only about 30% of postings required postsecondary education. However, in many cases one or more years of experience was just as, if not more, important.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Similar to the recent job vacancy data, DEED’s Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics program shows that only about 37.5% of current jobs held in the region require post-secondary education to enter. The other 62.5% require no more than a high school diploma, and sometimes less. However, some on-the-job training is often needed (Figure 14).

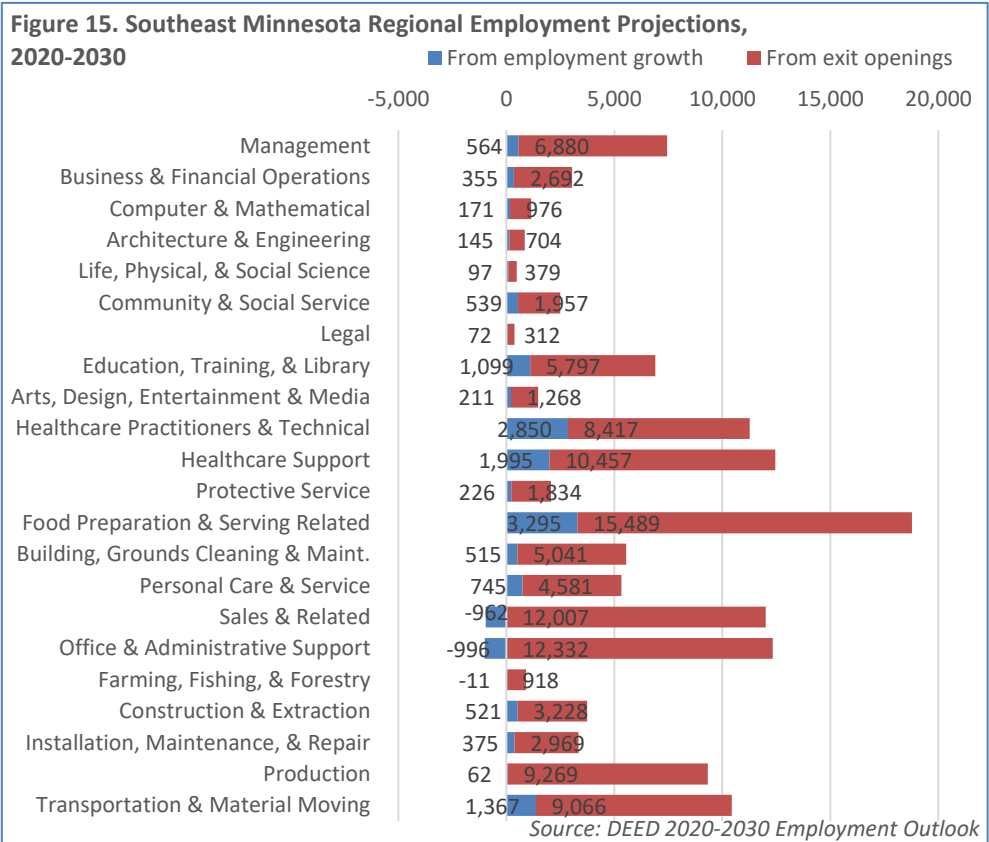
Certain careers – such as dentists, lawyers, and teachers – require a college education, while other jobs – including cost estimators, sales representatives, and correctional officers – do not. College is an excellent way to move up career ladders and open opportunities to fields that would otherwise be closed, such as nursing or engineering. Many of these occupations offer high wages and are in high demand in the marketplace. While education is typically a worthwhile investment, college can be expensive – with average annual expenses ranging between \$14,500 and almost \$50,000 per year in Minnesota. For those who go to college, choice of major matters – different programs lead to different jobs and different earnings. However, not all great paying jobs require college education, and not all college graduates end up in great paying jobs.



EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Overall, the Southeast region is projected to grow 5.1% percent from 2020 to 2030, a gain of 13,235 new jobs. In addition, the region is also expected to see 116,573 replacement openings due to jobs left vacant by retirements and other career changers. This includes some recovery from the pandemic recession, before additional growth is projected to resume.

As such, Food Preparation & Serving Related is projected to see the most growth, followed by Healthcare Practitioners and Technical, Healthcare Support, Transportation & Warehousing, and Education, Training & Library occupations. In contrast, the largest declines are expected for Office & Administrative Support and Sales & Related occupations (Figure 15).



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

DEED's [Occupations in Demand](#) tool, shows that there are over 450 occupations in demand (OID) in EDR 10, and almost 275 of those show moderate to high demand. Training and education requirements of these occupations range from short-term on-the-job training to postsecondary education and advanced degrees. Over half (55.4%) of the OID require a high school diploma or less, and 30% require a bachelor's degree or higher. While OID exist in every sector, the region's major industries are well represented. For example, 15 of the top 50 occupations in demand are health care-related (Table 12).

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Fast Food & Counter Workers \$25,149/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$50,465/yr	Registered Nurses \$73,454/yr	Physicians, All Other; and Ophthalmologists > \$200,000/yr
Retail Salespersons \$29,983/yr	Nursing Assistants \$36,726/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$68,607/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$34,556/yr
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$30,258/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$42,120/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$59,453/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$68,278/yr
Cashiers \$27,335/yr	Medical Assistants \$43,492/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$77,029/yr	General & Operations Managers \$87,770/yr
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand \$35,841/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics \$40,728/yr	Dental Hygienists \$78,787/yr	Financial Managers \$103,648/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Prep & Serving \$38,398/yr	Machinists \$46,173/yr	Surgical Technologists \$61,421/yr	Nurse Practitioners \$120,693/yr
Stockers & Order Fillers \$32,156/yr	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists \$27,425/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$69,161/yr	Industrial Engineers \$83,033/yr
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$51,382/yr	Electricians \$67,763/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$47,020/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$58,527/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$43,475/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$53,529/yr	Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians \$66,613/yr	Software Developers \$103,725/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$35,451/yr	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other \$49,999/yr	Respiratory Therapists \$72,344/yr	Business Operations Specialists, All Other \$63,201/yr

Source: [DEED Occupations in Demand](#)

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

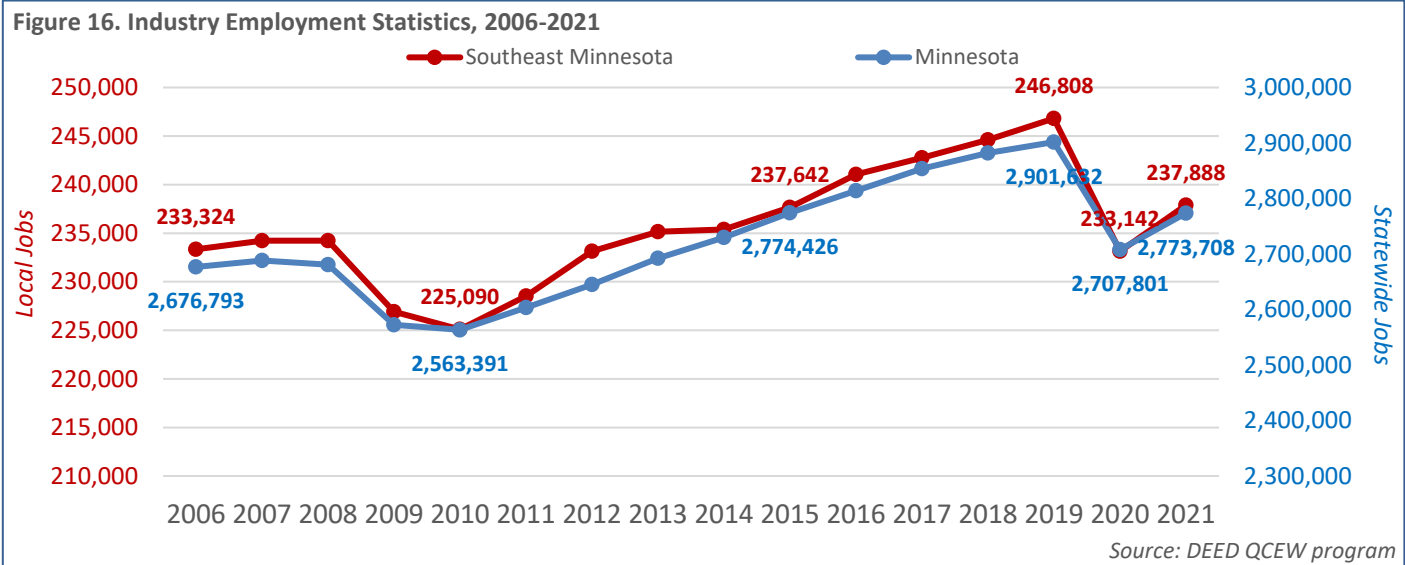
According to DEED's [Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\) program](#), Southeast Minnesota was home to 12,922 business establishments providing 237,888 covered jobs through 2021, with a total payroll of almost \$14 billion. That was about 8.6% of total employment in the state of Minnesota. Average annual wages were \$58,847 in the region, which was the 2nd highest in the state, but was over \$8,000 lower than the average annual wage statewide. After significant declines suffered in 2020 due to the pandemic recession, the region saw strong job growth in 2021 as most industries and counties recovered. From 2020 to 2021, the region regained 4,746 jobs, a 2.0% increase. All but one county, Dodge, added jobs in the past year. However, the region is still down 8,920 jobs compared to 2019, with all but one county, Fillmore, still behind pre-pandemic employment levels.

Geography	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll	Average Annual Wage	2020-2021		2019-2021	
					Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Southeast – Region 10	12,922	237,888	\$13,999,081,555	\$58,847	+4,746	+2.0%	-8,920	-3.6%
Dodge Co.	457	5,705	\$309,975,088	\$54,334	-63	-1.1%	-341	-5.6%
Fillmore Co.	733	6,194	\$239,711,728	\$38,701	+266	+4.5%	+84	+1.4%
Freeborn Co.	816	11,416	\$528,110,013	\$46,261	+13	+0.1%	-672	-5.6%
Goodhue Co.	1,305	20,286	\$1,099,997,889	\$54,224	+661	+3.4%	-1,372	-6.3%
Houston Co.	436	5,067	\$202,960,560	\$40,055	+65	+1.3%	-127	-2.4%
Mower Co.	866	15,920	\$857,179,219	\$53,843	+185	+1.2%	-401	-2.5%
Olmsted Co.	3,810	99,088	\$7,037,309,989	\$71,021	+2,518	+2.6%	-1,637	-1.6%
Rice Co.	1,666	24,613	\$1,269,559,578	\$51,581	+425	+1.8%	-968	-3.8%
Steele Co.	1,070	20,094	\$1,056,749,222	\$52,590	+273	+1.4%	-1,685	-7.7%
Wabasha Co.	573	6,554	\$279,743,326	\$42,683	+124	+1.9%	-233	-3.4%
Winona Co.	1,191	22,949	\$1,117,784,943	\$48,707	+278	+1.2%	-1,568	-6.4%
State of Minnesota	185,788	2,773,708	\$185,969,067,414	\$67,047	+65,907	+2.4%	-127,924	-4.4%

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

In terms of employment, Olmsted County is the largest economic center in Southeast with 99,088 jobs at 3,810 firms, and is the closest to recovering all the jobs lost in 2020. Houston County has the smallest economy with 5,067 jobs at 436 firms, and was second closest to recovery. Dodge, Fillmore, and Wabasha County are also relatively small economies that have not fully recovered. Rice, Winona, Goodhue, and Steele all have over 20,000 jobs, and saw steady growth in the past year but are still down compared to 2019.

Southeast Minnesota gained employment over the past 15 years overall, but experienced some ups and downs in employment during the Great Recession and an unprecedented loss from 2019 to 2020 due to the pandemic. Overall, the region’s job trends mirrored that of the state, however the losses during the recession were less severe and the recovery after was slower than the state. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region lost almost 13,700 jobs over the last year, a drop of 5.5% (Figure 16).



Southeast Minnesota is well known for its strong concentration of health care employment, with 66,087 jobs at 1,753 establishments, accounting for 27.8% of total employment. That is the highest reliance on health care of any region in the state. This industry added jobs rapidly over the last 15 years, however due to the pandemic it lost jobs but is almost fully recovered. Ambulatory Health Care Services is the largest subsector, with 33,222 jobs at 486 establishments; followed by Hospitals (15,355 jobs at 23 establishments), Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (10,978 jobs at 280 institutions), and Social Assistance (6,537 jobs at 967 firms).

The next largest industry in Southeast is Manufacturing, with 35,936 jobs at 659 establishments. This industry sector is down almost 2,800 jobs from 2019, though declines slowed in the past year. Food Manufacturing is the most dominant sub-sector with 9,957 jobs in 109 firms, followed by Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (4,457 jobs in 28 establishments), Machinery Manufacturing (4,156 jobs in 68 firms), and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (3,999 jobs in 118 institutions).

Other important industries in Southeast include Retail Trade, Educational Services, and Accommodation & Food Services, which all had well over 15,000 jobs each. While these industries saw a strong recovery in the past year, they are all still down compared to 2019 prior to the pandemic recession. Retail Trade is almost back to normal; while Accommodation & Food Services is still down more than 2,400 jobs from 2019. Thirteen of the 20 sectors gained jobs from 2020 to 2021, but only 4 of the 20 sectors are up compared to 2019. The significant change from Finance & Insurance to Management of Companies appears to be a classification change rather than actual industry-specific job loss or gain (Table 14).

NAICS Industry Sector	2021 Annual Data				2020-2021		2019-2021	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll (\$1,000s)	Avg. Annual Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	12,922	237,888	\$13,999,082	\$58,847	+4,746	+2.0%	-8,920	-3.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,753	66,087	\$5,076,042	\$76,808	+967	+1.5%	-171	-0.3%
Manufacturing	659	35,936	\$2,398,772	\$66,751	-524	-1.4%	-2,798	-7.2%
Retail Trade	1,595	26,117	\$838,505	\$32,106	+891	+3.5%	-20	-0.1%
Educational Services	263	18,756	\$965,405	\$51,472	+212	+1.1%	-940	-4.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,105	17,642	\$356,942	\$20,232	+1,679	+10.5%	-2,428	-12.1%
Public Administration	367	10,817	\$653,824	\$60,444	+86	+0.8%	-375	-3.4%
Construction	1,465	9,831	\$631,674	\$64,253	+52	+0.5%	-154	-1.5%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	514	8,255	\$400,335	\$48,496	+518	+6.7%	-10	-0.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	599	7,755	\$396,166	\$51,085	+200	+2.6%	-3	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	486	6,458	\$479,675	\$74,276	-50	-0.8%	-234	-3.5%
Other Services	1,321	6,184	\$199,053	\$32,188	+421	+7.3%	-378	-5.8%
Finance & Insurance	679	4,279	\$322,893	\$75,460	-16	-0.4%	-1,524	-26.3%
Management of Companies	53	4,052	\$453,954	\$112,032	-90	-2.2%	+1,136	+39.0%
Professional & Technical Services	761	3,540	\$210,939	\$59,587	+287	+8.8%	+164	+4.9%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	260	3,515	\$98,117	\$27,914	+394	+12.6%	-584	-14.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	391	3,245	\$129,618	\$39,944	+2	+0.1%	+62	+1.9%
Information	200	2,564	\$151,907	\$59,246	-248	-8.8%	-570	-18.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	384	1,372	\$58,371	\$42,544	-32	-2.3%	-85	-5.8%
Utilities	47	1,301	\$166,780	\$128,194	-8	-0.6%	-24	-1.8%
Mining	21	177	\$10,111	\$57,126	+3	+1.7%	+16	+9.9%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

According to DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program, the workforce in the region was aging over the past 10 years. Nearly one-quarter (24.0%) of workers in the region were 55 years or older, compared to 22% percent statewide and just 19.1% in the region one decade earlier. In contrast, the percentage of teenaged workers was falling. However, both wages and the number of hours worked were going up for younger workers. Wages and hours worked increased across almost every age group over the past 10 years (Table 15).

Wages were climbing across the board for all workers due to rising demand and a tight labor market. While wages were still lowest for the youngest and oldest workers who tend to fill lower-skilled, less-than-full-time jobs in industries like retail trade and accommodation and food services, these age groups enjoyed the fastest percentage increase in wages from 2010 to 2020. Wages were highest for workers between 45 and 54 years of age, and males worked more hours and earned more than females, though the gap was narrowing.

Table 15. Workforce Demographics by Age Group and Gender, Total of All Industries, 2010-2020

Southeast Minnesota Region 10	Percentage of Workers		Percent of Workers, Minnesota		Median Hourly Wage		Median Hours Worked (Per Qtr.)	
	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010
Total, all ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.63	\$16.07	437	448
19 years & under	6.5%	6.8%	6.0%	6.5%	\$11.61	\$7.78	123	109
20 to 24 years	9.3%	10.5%	10.1%	11.1%	\$15.90	\$10.39	290	264
25 to 44 years	41.6%	40.4%	43.2%	42.7%	\$24.04	\$17.91	472	480
45 to 54 years	18.7%	23.2%	18.7%	23.0%	\$27.22	\$20.01	480	480
55 to 64 years	18.3%	14.9%	16.9%	13.5%	\$25.44	\$19.07	480	480
65 years & over	5.7%	4.2%	5.1%	3.3%	\$17.98	\$12.15	237	200
Male	47.5%	46.9%	49.1%	49.0%	\$23.47	\$17.62	480	480
Female	52.5%	53.1%	50.9%	51.0%	\$21.16	\$15.18	408	402

Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics

While people of different races make up 16.3% of the overall population in 2020, they held only 9.4% of the total jobs in Southeast Minnesota. Based on annual averages for 2020, that equaled 22,266 jobs held by people of other races, compared to 214,406 White workers. While still a small portion, workers of other races held just 4.4% of the total jobs in 2000, meaning their employment presence more than doubled from 2000 to 2020 (Figure 17).

In sum, workers of other races have filled an additional 12,645 jobs in the region since 2000, accounting for 74.8% of the 16,899 new jobs added.

With 9,164 jobs, Blacks or African Americans were the largest race group in the regional economy after adding 6,003 jobs since 2000, a 190% increase. The next largest group was Asians, who held 8,671 jobs in 2020 after rising 93.5% from 2000. Workers of Hispanic or Latino origin filled 12,920 jobs in the region, up by 7,083 (121.3%) jobs since 2000.

Most industry sectors in Southeast Minnesota are relatively non-diverse, but there are a couple that rely more heavily on workers of other races. The largest number of BIPOC workers were employed in Health Care & Social Assistance, though 88.7% of the jobs in the industry were held by White workers. Workers of other races were also employed in larger numbers in Manufacturing, Accommodation & Food Services, and Retail Trade. The most diverse industry was Administrative Support & Waste Management Services, which includes temp help, where 14.5% were non-white (Figure 18).

Figure 17. Southeast Minnesota Employment by Race - All Industries

Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

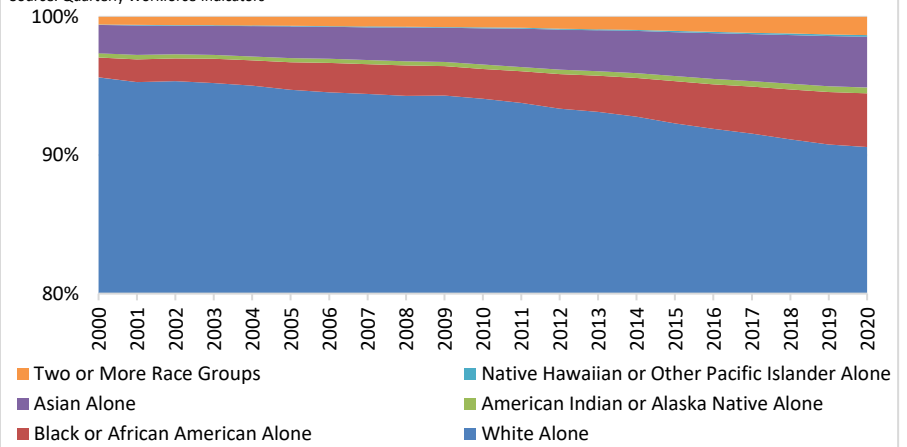
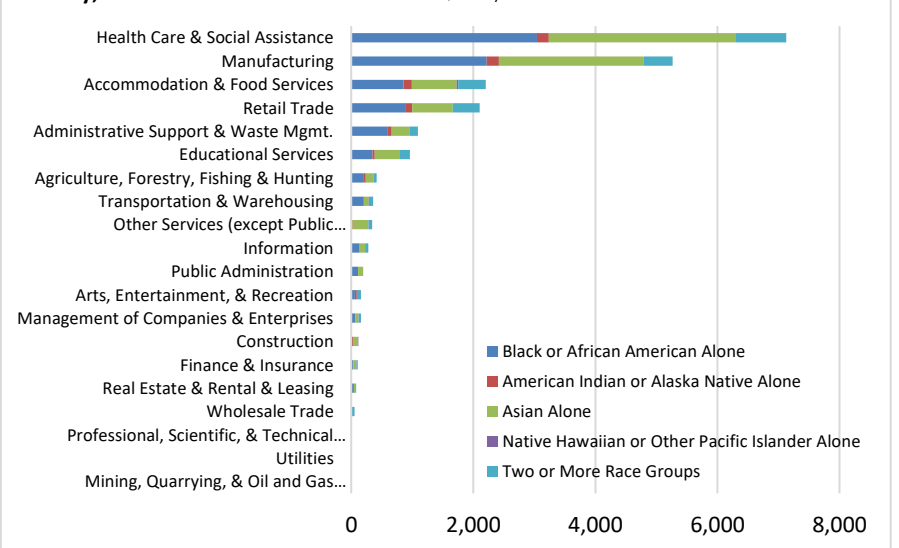


Figure 18. Southeast Minnesota Employment by Other Races by Industry, 2020

Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators



INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

Southeast is projected to grow 5.1% percent from 2020 to 2030, a gain of 13,235 new jobs. As in past decades, the largest growing industry is expected to be Health Care & Social Assistance, which may account for almost half (44%) of the total projected growth in the region by 2030. The region is also expected to see significant job recovery in Accommodation & Food Services, which is still below pre-pandemic employment levels. Other industries projected to experience job recovery and growth include Educational Services, Other Services, and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, all of which were also hit hard in the pandemic recession. In contrast, Retail Trade is expected to cut more than 1,200 jobs as consumer demand and behaviors continue to shift (Table 16).

Table 16. Southeast Region Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030

Industry Sector	Estimated Jobs 2020	Projected Jobs 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030
Total, All Industries	261,589	274,824	+5.1%	+13,235
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,850	70,687	+9.0%	+5,837
Manufacturing	36,536	36,636	+0.3%	+100
Retail Trade	25,379	24,160	-4.8%	-1,219
Educational Services	19,447	20,396	+4.9%	+949
Accommodation & Food Services	15,942	19,375	+21.5%	+3,433
Public Administration	13,990	14,748	+5.4%	+758
Construction	9,396	9,891	+5.3%	+495
Other Services	8,287	9,159	+10.5%	+872
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	8,158	8,815	+8.1%	+657
Transportation & Warehousing	7,801	8,311	+6.5%	+510
Wholesale Trade	7,047	7,342	+4.2%	+295
Finance & Insurance	4,632	4,741	+2.4%	+109
Management of Companies	4,208	4,241	+0.8%	+33
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	3,187	3,991	+25.2%	+804
Professional & Technical Services	3,434	3,725	+8.5%	+291
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	3,270	3,288	+0.6%	+18
Information	2,943	2,941	-0.1%	-2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,393	1,392	-0.1%	-1
Utilities	1,160	1,150	-0.9%	-10

NONEMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

Southeast Minnesota was home to 32,752 self-employed businesses or “nonemployers” in 2019, which are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as “businesses without paid employees that are subject to federal income tax, originating from tax return information of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).” Like covered employment, Southeast saw a general increase in nonemployers over the past decade, largely fueled by a gain of 1,443 nonemployers in Olmsted County. In sum, the region gained 1,263 nonemployers from 2009 to 2019, an increase of 4.0%, despite 6 of the 11 counties in the region seeing losses. These nonemployers generated sales receipts of over \$1.5 billion in 2019 (Table 17).

Nonemployer Statistics, 2019	2019		2009-2019	
	Number of Firms	Receipts (\$1,000s)	Change in Firms	Percent Change
Region 10	32,752	\$1,570,955	+1,263	+4.0%
Dodge Co.	1,370	\$75,091	+45	+3.4%
Fillmore Co.	1,680	\$85,747	-15	-0.9%
Freeborn Co.	1,833	\$85,655	-119	-6.1%
Goodhue Co.	3,101	\$155,322	+34	+1.1%
Houston Co.	1,385	\$73,015	-128	-8.5%
Mower Co.	1,797	\$90,628	-223	-11.0%
Olmsted Co.	10,470	\$498,094	+1,443	+16.0%
Rice Co.	4,271	\$188,415	+175	+4.3%
Steele Co.	2,366	\$107,666	-11	-0.5%
Wabasha Co.	1,559	\$78,970	-84	-5.1%
Winona Co.	2,920	\$132,352	+146	+5.3%
Minnesota	418,080	\$20,377,253	+39,926	+10.6%

Source: [U.S. Census, Nonemployer Statistics program](#)

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

There are 11,478 farms producing over \$2.8 billion in the market value of products sold in 2017 according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Most counties rank in the top half of the state for market value, with the exception of Houston and Wabasha Counties, and with Mower (10th), Freeborn (15th), and Goodhue (17th) all ranked in the top 20 for market value of products sold. Goodhue, Fillmore, and Rice have the largest number of farms, though the number of farms was declining across the region and state over time (Table 18).

Table 18. Census of Agriculture, 2017			
Source: USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture	Number of Farms	Market Value of Products Sold	State Rank
Southeast - Region 10	11,478	\$2,857,846,000	3
Dodge Co.	611	238,403,000	36
Fillmore Co.	1,401	291,747,000	25
Freeborn Co.	1,076	363,999,000	15
Goodhue Co.	1,461	348,588,000	17
Houston Co.	891	116,174,000	57
Mower Co.	1,068	413,225,000	10
Olmsted Co.	1,139	214,415,000	40
Rice Co.	1,242	204,982,000	43
Steele Co.	746	251,839,000	34
Wabasha Co.	809	186,309,000	47
Winona Co.	1,034	228,165,000	38
Minnesota	68,822	\$18,395,390,000	

Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting Amanda O'Connell at amanda.oconnell@state.mn.us