

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Stearns Co.**

Stearns Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7W, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2022 population:	<b>160,405 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>34.9 years</b>
Population change, 2010-2022	9,763 people 6.5% increase	state:	38.5 years

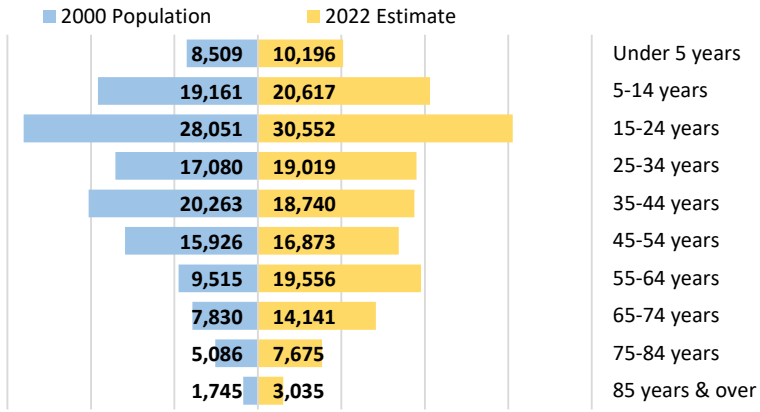
Stearns Co. is the 8th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased over the past decade, ranking as the 21st fastest growing in the state from 2010 to 2022. Stearns Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

**Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2022**

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	10,196	6.4%
5-14 years	20,617	12.9%
15-24 years	30,552	19.0%
25-34 years	19,019	11.9%
35-44 years	18,740	11.7%
45-54 years	16,873	10.5%
55-64 years	19,556	12.2%
65-74 years	14,141	8.8%
75-84 years	7,675	4.8%
85 years & over	3,035	1.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>160,405</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2022**



Stearns Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2022, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Stearns Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2022**

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Stearns Co.	2,108	1,496	4,483	2,987	562	1,191	-629
State of Minnesota	10,680	26,917	144,350	117,433	-17,365	20,012	-37,377

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

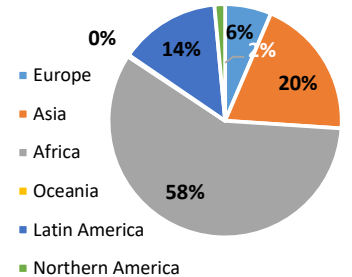
Compared to the state, Stearns Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Stearns Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

**Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022**

	Stearns Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Europe	705	6.4%	211	42.7%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	2,147	19.6%	37	1.8%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	6,380	58.3%	5,130	410.4%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	26	0.2%	25	2500.0%	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	1,693	15.5%	-262	-13.4%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	1,531	14.0%	-303	-16.5%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	162	1.5%	41	33.9%	2.5%	-4.6%

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

**Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022**



## COUNTY PROFILE

Stearns Co.

Stearns Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2011, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2022**

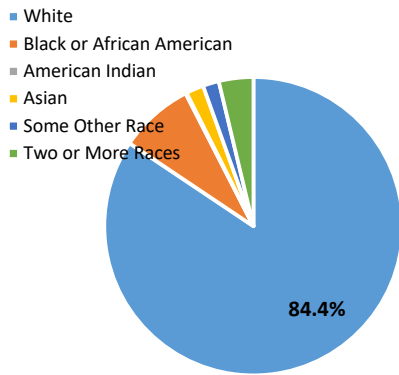


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Stearns Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>158,622</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
White	133,861	84.4%	-3.0%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	12,826	8.1%	198.1%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	202	0.1%	-59.8%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	3,028	1.9%	-0.4%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	2,766	1.7%	58.3%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	5,939	3.7%	232.7%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	5,978	3.8%	49.2%	5.7%	34.6%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

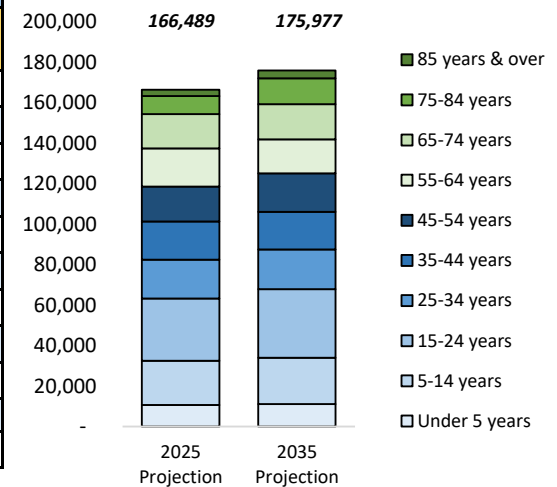
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Stearns Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Stearns Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	10,672	11,155	483	4.5%
5-14 years	21,815	22,891	1,076	4.9%
15-24 years	30,821	33,831	3,010	9.8%
25-34 years	19,151	19,671	520	2.7%
35-44 years	18,944	18,523	-421	-2.2%
45-54 years	17,146	19,042	1,896	11.1%
55-64 years	19,009	16,828	-2,181	-11.5%
65-74 years	16,935	17,349	414	2.4%
75-84 years	8,909	12,842	3,933	44.1%
85 years & over	3,087	3,845	758	24.6%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>166,489</b>	<b>175,977</b>	<b>9,488</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Stearns Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.0%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Stearns Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

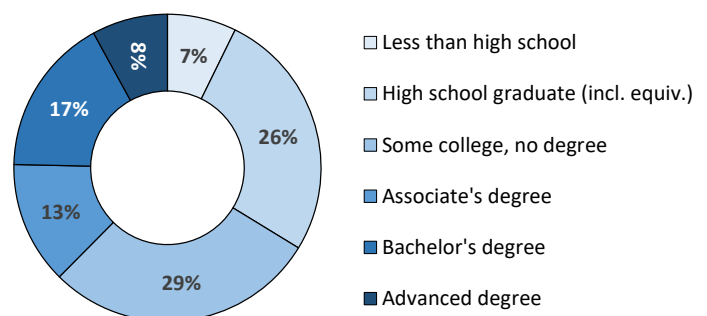
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**92.7%**

**College-educated: 66.3%**  
state: 68.5%

**Associate's Degree: 12.9%**  
**Bachelor's Degree: 16.7%**  
**Advanced Degree: 8.0%**

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022**



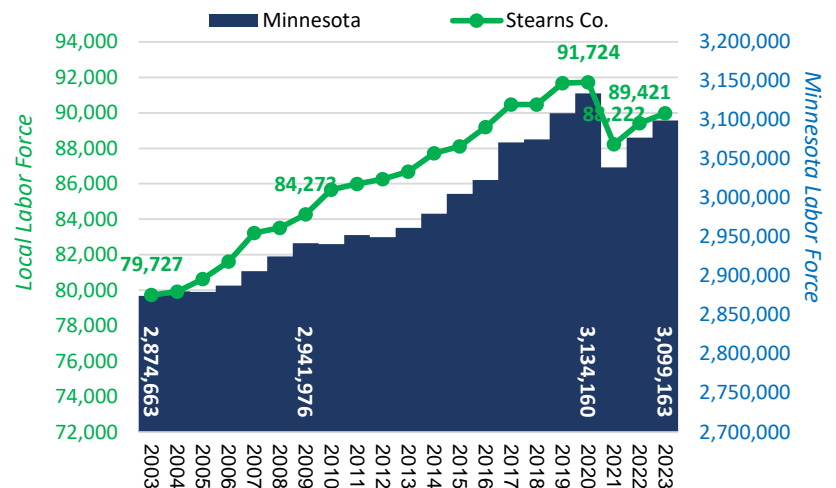
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.7%, Stearns Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Stearns Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Stearns Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>89,421</b> available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	6,461 workers 7.7% increase
<b>2.7%</b> unemployment rate	2.7% state
<b>2,414</b> unemployed workers	

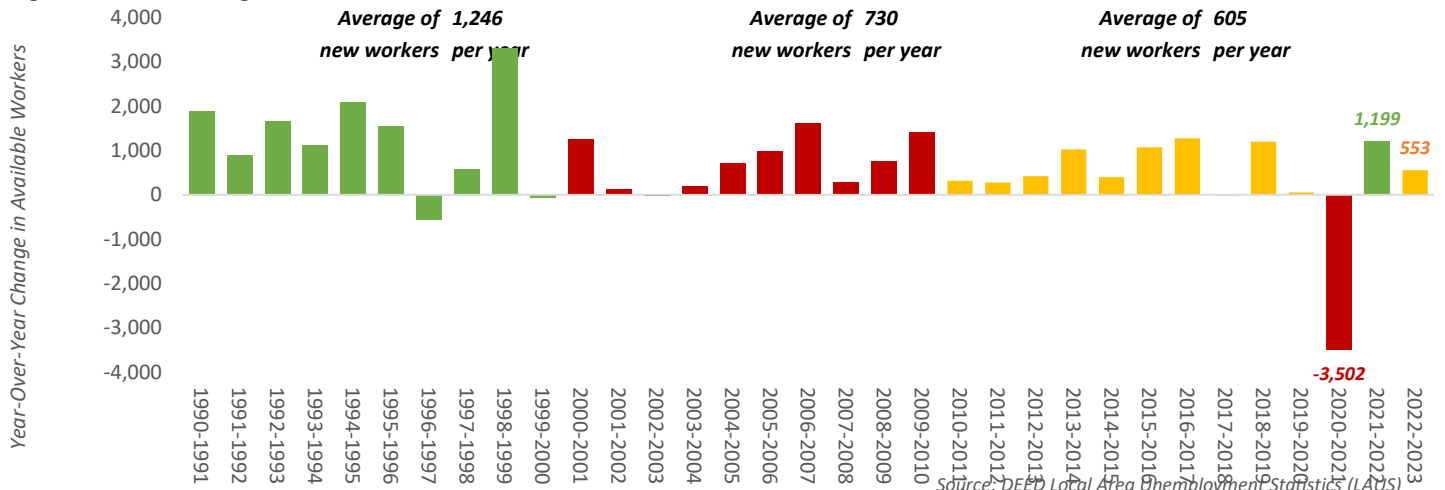
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Stearns Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Stearns Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023



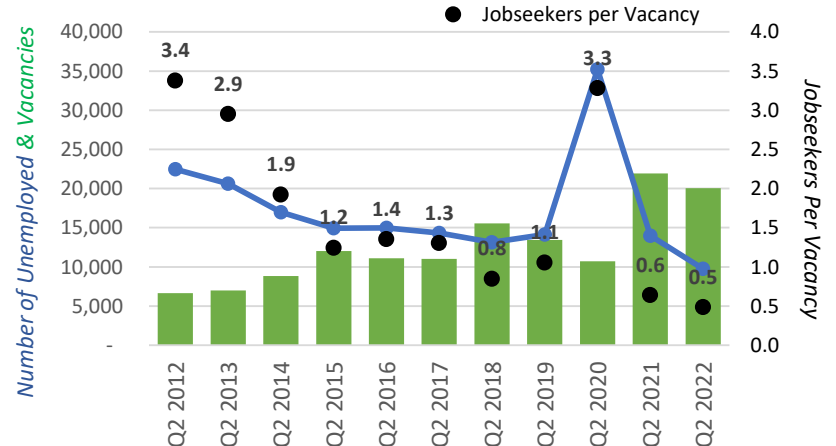
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	21,295	23,511
25 to 54 years	49,659	51,451
55 to 64 years	13,975	12,372
65 years & over	5,442	5,856
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>90,372</b>	<b>93,190</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2018-2022 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. Job vacancies in Central reached new highs in the 4th quarter of 2021, quickly bringing back challenges in finding new workers and 2022 showed the lowest jobseeker-per-vacancy ratio on record (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2012-2022



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

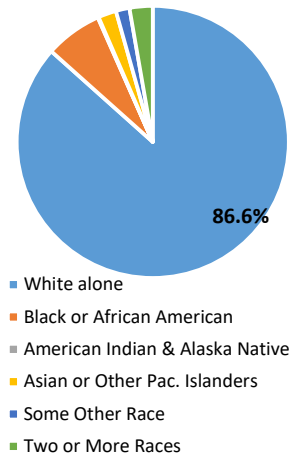
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Stearns Co. had a higher labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Stearns Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 81.3% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

**Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2022**

	Stearns Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>88,722</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>46,685</b>	<b>42,010</b>
16 to 19 years	7,033	63.3%	8.4%	53.0%	9.8%	3,164	3,864
20 to 24 years	14,344	84.5%	5.9%	83.1%	6.7%	7,051	7,287
25 to 44 years	33,583	89.9%	4.3%	88.8%	3.5%	18,404	15,184
45 to 54 years	14,983	89.8%	4.2%	87.8%	2.9%	7,791	7,189
55 to 64 years	14,218	73.5%	2.3%	72.8%	3.1%	7,521	6,697
65 to 74 years	3,860	27.6%	2.4%	27.6%	3.3%	2,367	1,493
75 years & over	678	6.4%	0.7%	6.6%	3.2%	387	296
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	76,812	70.0%	3.5%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	6,007	73.2%	16.8%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	91	45.0%	23.1%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,910	72.8%	2.4%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	1,437	80.3%	2.5%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	2,436	70.1%	6.7%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	3,093	80.1%	5.6%	77.0%	6.3%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	4,806	56.8%	10.6%	54.4%	10.2%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	62,800	85.6%	3.8%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	3,065	70.1%	4.1%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	14,105	79.4%	1.6%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	25,747	87.6%	4.8%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19,847	90.9%	1.4%	90.3%	2.0%		

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022**



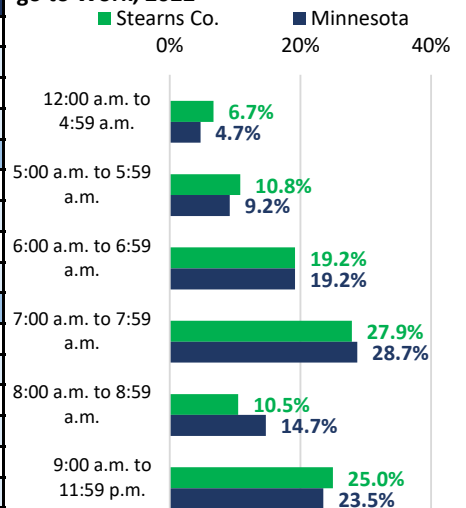
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

A larger percentage of workers in Stearns Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Stearns Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Stearns Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	82,131	99.4%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	66,597	80.6%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	15,451	18.7%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	496	0.6%	67,495	2.3%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	69,076	83.6%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	1,405	1.7%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	5,206	6.3%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	6,941	8.4%	333,556	11.4%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	17,600	21.3%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	30,985	37.5%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	14,212	17.2%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	10,989	13.3%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	3,553	4.3%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	5,288	6.4%	158,000	5.4%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>21.7 minutes</b>		<b>23.3 minutes</b>	

**Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022**



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

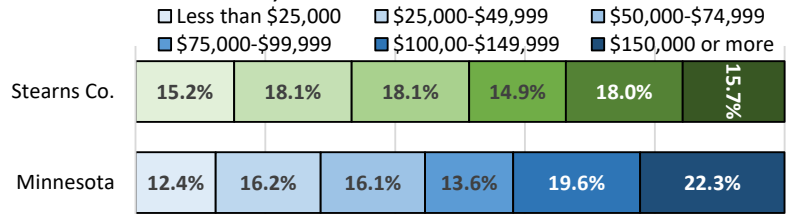
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Stearns Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Stearns Co. had the 30th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$73,105</b>
state	\$84,313
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$91,097</b>
state	\$107,072
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$36,087</b>
state	\$44,947

Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2022



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

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Stearns Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.89 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$16.5 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2022

Category	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Stearns Co.	\$30,981	\$14.89	\$0	\$393	\$163	\$753	\$753	\$277	\$243
State of Minnesota	\$34,992	\$16.82	\$0	\$403	\$159	\$961	\$760	\$330	\$303
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Stearns Co.	\$51,494	\$16.50	\$398	\$897	\$528	\$930	\$879	\$442	\$217
State of Minnesota	\$60,720	\$19.46	\$574	\$921	\$555	\$1,216	\$886	\$517	\$391

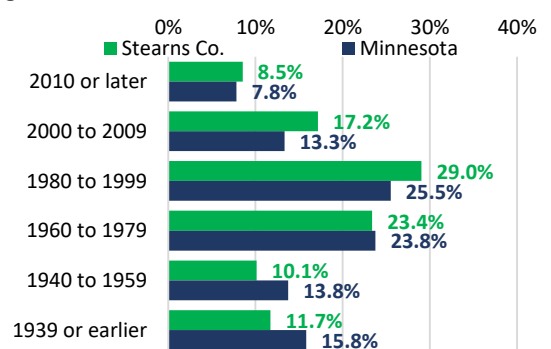
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Stearns Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 23rd highest value of the 87 counties in 2021. Stearns Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Stearns Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,819</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	1,546	3.8%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,489	3.6%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4,615	11.3%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6,912	16.9%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	12,849	31.5%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	9,620	23.6%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	3,788	9.3%	14.7%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$241,100</b>		<b>\$286,800</b>

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,599</b>
state	\$1,818

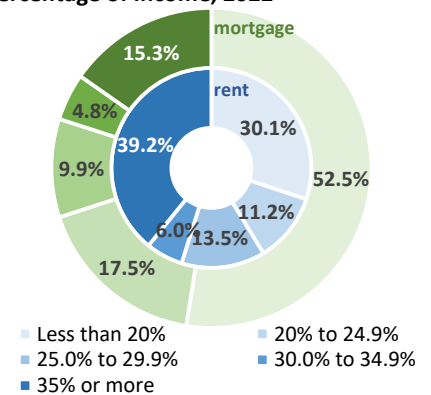
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>20.0%</b>
state	22.0%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$975</b>
state	\$1,178

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>45.2%</b>
state	46.7%

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

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2022





OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.1 in 2023, wages were lower in Region 7W than the state. Overall, Region 7W had the 3rd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.37) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.83) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2023

Occupational Group	Region 7W				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.10</b>	<b>172,540</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$24.25</b>	<b>2,827,310</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$47.37	9,400	5.4%	0.8	\$51.58	193,760	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.12	7,400	4.3%	0.6	\$38.19	201,940	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$38.55	2,180	1.3%	0.4	\$49.73	99,250	3.5%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.84	2,020	1.2%	0.6	\$40.60	53,100	1.9%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$35.92	1,060	0.6%	0.6	\$39.37	29,070	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$28.56	2,720	1.6%	0.8	\$25.82	54,820	1.9%
Legal	\$38.02	610	0.4%	0.5	\$47.87	18,730	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.15	11,490	6.7%	1.2	\$24.82	158,830	5.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$25.03	1,690	1.0%	0.7	\$28.80	37,630	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$41.37	11,000	6.4%	1.0	\$41.07	186,700	6.6%
Healthcare Support	\$17.60	8,540	4.9%	0.9	\$17.40	162,400	5.7%
Protective Service	\$29.24	2,330	1.4%	0.9	\$25.83	40,620	1.4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.83	14,560	8.4%	1.1	\$14.89	216,970	7.7%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.10	5,330	3.1%	1.1	\$18.26	76,210	2.7%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.34	3,220	1.9%	0.9	\$16.96	58,120	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.48	15,960	9.3%	1.1	\$18.14	239,500	8.5%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.21	19,860	11.5%	0.9	\$23.06	345,830	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$17.58	260	0.2%	1.0	\$19.84	4,060	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.45	11,080	6.4%	1.6	\$31.00	113,930	4.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$27.45	7,270	4.2%	1.2	\$27.95	98,670	3.5%
Production	\$21.81	17,830	10.3%	1.4	\$22.07	209,380	7.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$19.78	16,720	9.7%	1.2	\$19.80	227,780	8.1%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2023

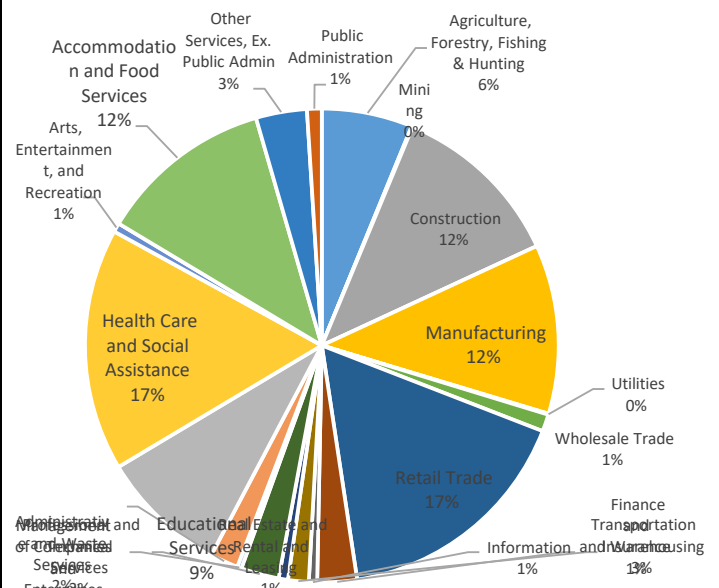
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Stearns Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 20029 job vacancies posted by employers in 2022, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2022

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>20,029</b>	<b>\$18.05</b>
Management	320	\$39.17
Business & Financial Operations	202	\$27.62
Computer & Mathematical	171	\$23.54
Architecture & Engineering	158	\$24.47
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	621	\$18.79
Community & Social Service	254	\$23.73
Education, Training & Library	1,003	\$22.10
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,788	\$32.69
Healthcare Support	1,330	\$15.48
Protective Service	133	\$17.93
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,629	\$13.43
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	669	\$15.07
Personal Care & Service	650	\$14.19
Sales & Related	2,437	\$15.93
Office & Administrative Support	1,264	\$15.74
Construction & Extraction	1,479	\$24.86
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	620	\$22.53
Production	1,690	\$17.91
Transportation & Material Moving	1,845	\$20.33

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2022



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2022

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Fast Food & Counter Workers \$30,214/yr	Nursing Assistants \$39,353/yr	Registered Nurses \$86,694/yr	General & Operations Managers \$79,121/yr
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$32,476/yr	Agricultural Technicians \$50,734/yr	Veterinary Technologists & Technicians \$40,013/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$64,300/yr
Cashiers \$29,935/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$52,954/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$74,178/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$64,602/yr
Retail Salespersons \$31,947/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$50,038/yr	Architectural & Civil Drafters \$60,894/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$69,793/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$45,819/yr	Machinists \$57,338/yr	Electro-Mechanical & Mechatronics Technologists & Technicians \$52,181/yr	Middle School Teachers \$65,007/yr
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand \$39,815/yr	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers \$64,161/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$62,998/yr	Preschool Teachers \$36,959/yr
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping \$36,758/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$63,521/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$76,318/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral & mental health counselors \$51,463/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving \$39,562/yr	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists \$35,910/yr	Dental Hygienists \$84,542/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$43,575/yr
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$57,479/yr	Electricians \$63,794/yr	Surgical Technologists \$64,849/yr	Financial Managers \$120,404/yr
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary \$38,154/yr	Medical Assistants \$46,901/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$72,592/yr	Medical & Health Services Managers \$100,201/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

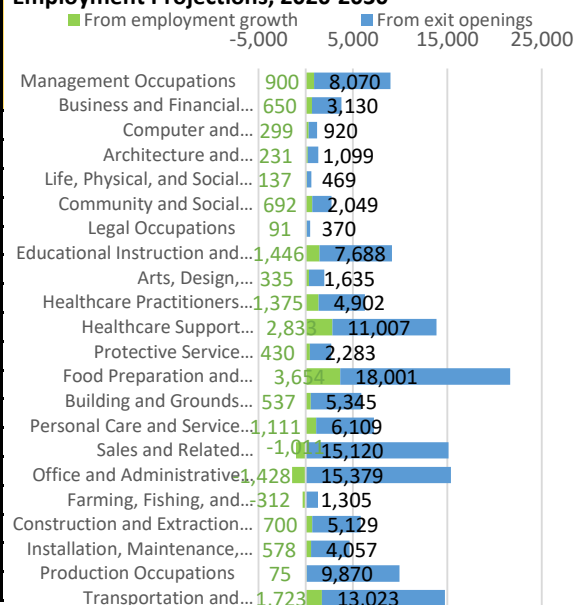
Stearns Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>301,170</b>	<b>316,216</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	5,416	4,879	-9.9%
Utilities	1,952	1,686	-13.6%
Construction	18,984	19,792	4.3%
Manufacturing	39,543	40,646	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	10,123	10,516	3.9%
Retail Trade	35,588	33,781	-5.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	10,098	10,685	5.8%
Information	2,639	2,842	7.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	9,550	9,649	1.0%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	8,562	9,119	6.5%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	9,545	10,066	5.5%
Educational Services	23,734	24,976	5.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,672	52,213	11.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	21,963	26,961	22.8%
Other Services	10,108	11,290	11.7%
Public Administration	19,239	20,198	5.0%

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2020-2030



**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Stearns Co. had the 8th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Stearns Co. was the 36th fastest growing in the past year and the 55th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2022, employment in Stearns Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

**4,593** business establishments

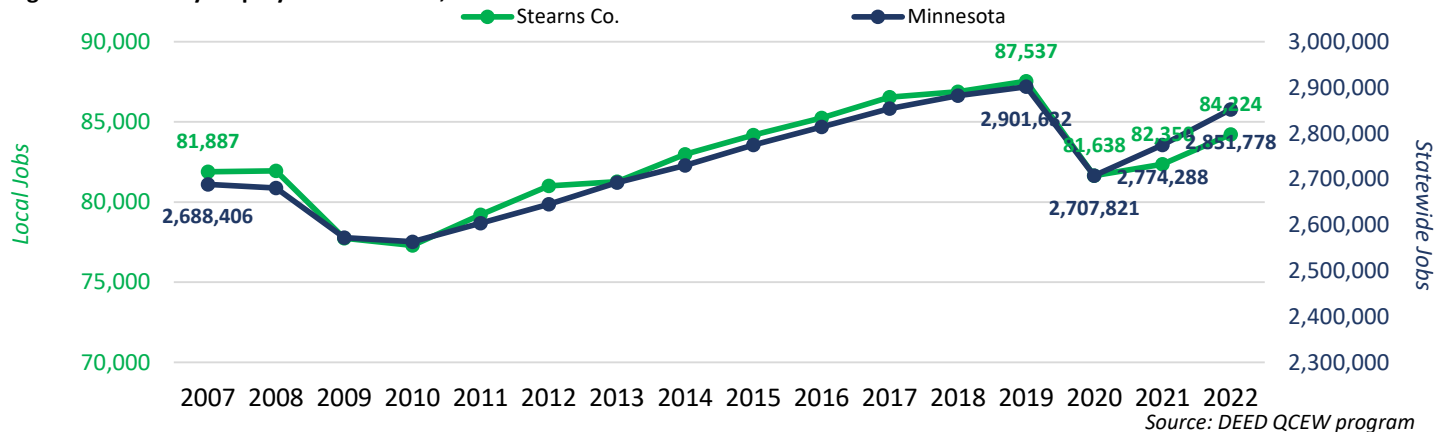
**\$58,901** annual average wage

**84,224** jobs

**\$4,960,890,051** total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2022: -3,313 jobs (-3.8% decline)

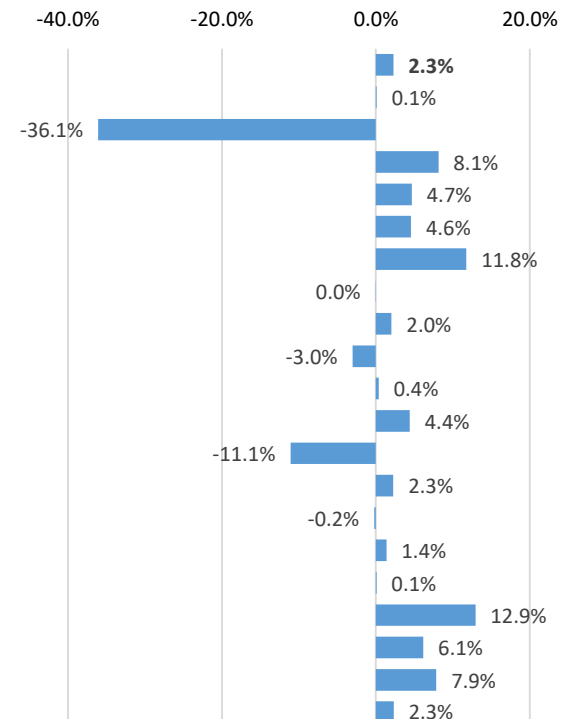
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2007-2022



Source: DEED QCEW program

Table 15. Stearns Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2022	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>84,224</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$58,901</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	1,006	1.2%	\$43,610
Mining	101	0.1%	\$70,764
Construction	5,132	6.1%	\$93,265
Manufacturing	11,440	13.6%	\$63,225
Utilities	206	0.2%	\$108,184
Wholesale Trade	3,726	4.4%	\$68,231
Retail Trade	10,939	13.0%	\$38,144
Transportation & Warehousing	3,369	4.0%	\$65,392
Information	1,371	1.6%	\$69,628
Finance & Insurance	3,524	4.2%	\$87,853
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	853	1.0%	\$37,291
Professional & Technical Services	2,045	2.4%	\$82,357
Management of Companies	856	1.0%	\$97,395
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	3,392	4.0%	\$38,221
Educational Services	7,032	8.3%	\$55,459
Health Care & Social Assistance	16,983	20.2%	\$68,313
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	803	1.0%	\$16,992
Accommodation & Food Services	5,872	7.0%	\$20,002
Other Services	2,746	3.3%	\$37,294
Public Administration	2,826	3.4%	\$67,911

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2021-2022



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

For more information on Stearns Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

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Data updated: February 13, 2024