

Northeast Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 7-county Northeast Minnesota region was home to 346 manufacturing establishments providing 8,906 jobs through the third quarter of 2019. That was just 2.7% of total manufacturing employment in the state, easily the smallest concentration of the 6 regions in the state. Manufacturing accounted for 6.2% of total employment within the region, making it the sixth largest industry behind health care and social assistance (34,612 jobs), retail trade (17,172 jobs), accommodation and food services (16,542 jobs), public administration (11,559 jobs), and educational services (9,751 jobs).

Manufacturing firms provided about \$133 million in payroll, about 8.0% of total payroll in the third quarter of 2019, making it the third largest industry payroll in the region. Average weekly wages in manufacturing were \$1,153 in 2019, which was 29.8% higher than the average wage for all industries.

Table 1. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, Quarter 3 2019

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms, Q3 2019	Number of Jobs, Q3 2019	Quarterly Payroll, Q3 2019	Avg. Weekly Wages, Q3 2019
0	Total, All Industries	8,914	144,664	\$1,670,039,423	\$888
31	Manufacturing	346	8,906	\$133,514,361	\$1,153
322	Paper Manufacturing	7	1,664	\$36,327,306	\$1,679
333	Machinery Manufacturing	25	1,474	\$23,172,296	\$1,209
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	17	1,007	\$14,631,850	\$1,117
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	55	785	\$10,231,579	\$1,002
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	32	586	\$8,027,950	\$1,053
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	20	578	\$10,334,669	\$1,375
334	Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	12	417	\$5,314,806	\$980
326	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	16	362	\$3,541,426	\$752
311	Food Manufacturing	23	311	\$3,538,427	\$875
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	13	297	\$2,231,136	\$577
314	Textile Product Mills	15	232	\$1,870,363	\$620
323	Printing and Related Support Activities	26	213	\$1,706,435	\$616
325	Chemical Manufacturing	9	211	\$4,051,715	\$1,477
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	41	191	\$1,806,487	\$727
315	Apparel Manufacturing	5	156	\$1,001,466	\$493
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	17	96	\$1,059,113	\$848

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

In 2019, Paper Manufacturing was the largest sector in Northeast Minnesota, with 1,664 jobs at 7 establishments, followed by Machinery Manufacturing, which had 1,474 jobs. Combined, those two sectors accounted for over one-third (35.2%) of the region’s manufacturing employment.

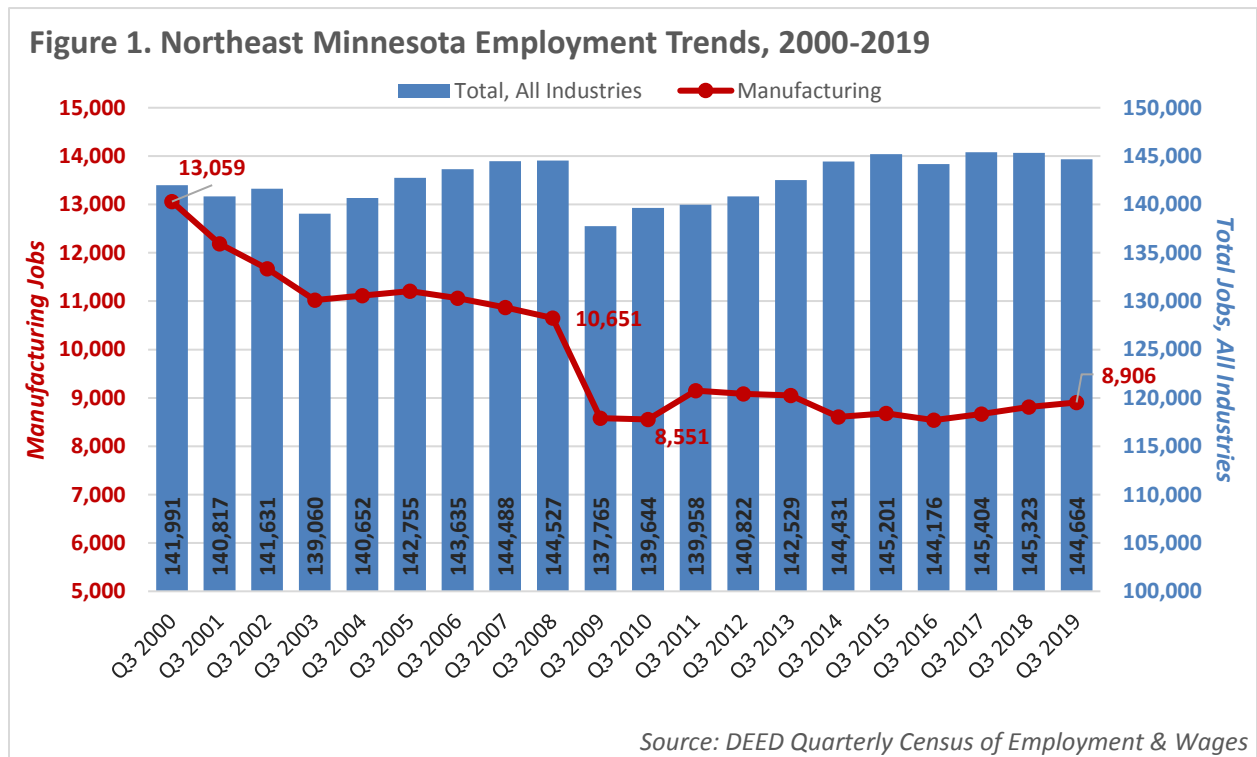
The region also had notable numbers of jobs in Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (1,007 jobs), which includes Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing and Ship and Boat Building; Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (785 jobs), Wood Product Manufacturing (586 jobs), and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (578 jobs). Those four sectors combined for another one-third (33.2%) of manufacturing employment in the region.

Northeast Minnesota has smaller employment in the Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (417 jobs), Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing (362 jobs), Food Manufacturing (311 jobs), Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing (297 jobs), Textile Product Mills (232 jobs), Printing and Related Support Activities (213 jobs), and Chemical Manufacturing (211 jobs) sectors.

Average weekly wages in manufacturing (\$1,153) were 29.8% higher than the total of all industries (\$888), led by very high average weekly wages in Paper Manufacturing (\$1,679), Chemical Manufacturing (\$1,477), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (\$1,375), Machinery Manufacturing (\$1,209), Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (\$1,117), Wood Product Manufacturing (\$1,053), Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (\$1,002), and Computer and Electronic Product manufacturing (\$980).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Northeast Minnesota cut huge numbers of jobs during the 2001 recession, losing about 2,000 jobs over the first three years of the decade, then mostly held steady from 2003 to 2008. The region’s manufacturers suffered even more significant job losses during the recession from 2008 to 2010, dropping over 2,000 jobs in one year, to a low of 8,551 jobs through the third quarter of 2010. However, since 2010 manufacturing employment in the region again steadied out, gaining 355 net new jobs over that time period. The last three years, from 2016 to the third quarter of 2019, have come with continued modest employment growth (4.3%) in manufacturing (see Figure 1).



Despite the recent stability, manufacturers in Northeast Minnesota still have 1,745 fewer jobs now than before the recession, in 2008. From 2005 to 2010, manufacturing employment fell 23.7%. Since the low point of manufacturing employment in 2010, the industry added 355 jobs, a 4.2% increase in employment. While the general trend of the past decade was one of slight growth, significant decreases in employment occurred in some sectors.

The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Paper Manufacturing, which lost 769 jobs from 2009 to 2019, nearly one third of the sector’s previous employment level. The losses were heaviest in Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Mills, which cut 702 jobs from 2009 to 2019. Wood product Manufacturing also experienced a significant decline in employment, cutting 364 jobs in the past decade. Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, Food Manufacturing, Printing and related Support Activities, and Apparel Manufacturing also saw decreases to employment numbers.

Of those sectors in which employment expanded over the past decade, Machinery Manufacturing added the most jobs at 620. A large portion of the gains were in the Other General Purpose Machinery Manufacturing sector, with 420 additional jobs. Transportation Equipment Manufacturing also added 377 jobs. Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing saw experienced the largest relative growth, expanding more than 750% from 2009 to 2019.

In sum, 10 of the 16 manufacturing sectors had more jobs in 2019 than in 2009, including four that increased employment by more than 50 percent. At the same time, some traditionally strong sectors such as Paper Manufacturing and Wood Manufacturing continued their long-term trends of employment decline (see Table 2).

Table 2. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Trends, 2009-2019

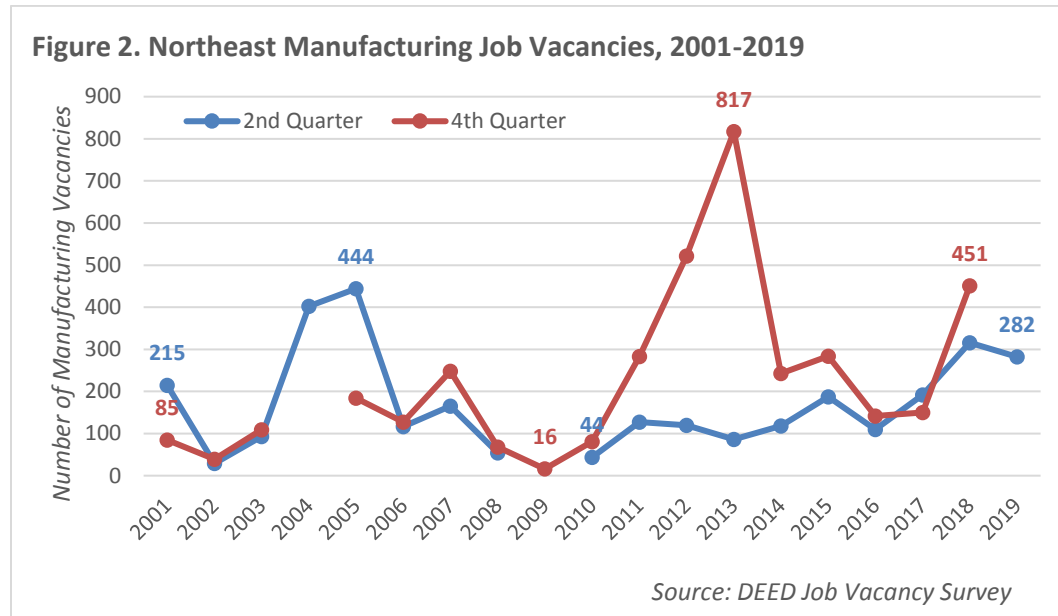
NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs, Q3 2019	1-Year Trend, Q3 2018-Q3 2019		5-Year Trend, Q3 2014-Q3 2019		10-Year Trend, Q3 2009-Q3 2019	
		Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	144,664	-659	-0.5%	+233	+0.2%	+6,899	+5.0%
Manufacturing	8,906	+95	+1.1%	+296	+3.4%	+327	+3.8%
Paper Manufacturing	1,664	-91	-5.2%	-405	-19.6%	-769	-31.6%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,474	+58	+4.1%	+320	+27.7%	+620	+72.6%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,007	+58	+6.1%	+502	+99.4%	+377	+59.8%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	785	-28	-3.4%	-48	-5.8%	+18	+2.3%
Wood Product Manufacturing	586	-19	-3.1%	-134	-18.6%	-364	-38.3%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	578	-13	-2.2%	-85	-12.8%	-42	-6.8%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	417	+1	+0.2%	+41	+10.9%	+174	+71.6%
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	362	+90	+33.1%	+56	+18.3%	+107	+42.0%
Food Manufacturing	311	-10	-3.1%	+58	+22.9%	-14	-4.3%
Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	297	+33	+12.5%	ND	ND	+263	+773.5%
Textile Product Mills	232	+6	+2.7%	+10	+4.5%	+29	+14.3%
Printing & Related Support Activities	213	+4	+1.9%	+3	+1.4%	-24	-10.1%
Chemical Manufacturing	211	-20	-8.7%	-103	-32.8%	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	191	+14	+7.9%	+92	+92.9%	+30	+18.6%
Apparel Manufacturing	156	+14	+9.9%	+15	+10.6%	-60	-27.8%
Furniture & Related Product Mfg.	96	ND	ND	ND	ND	+6	+6.7%

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

Note: Some data are suppressed to prevent identification of individual businesses.

Industry Demand

The recent slight increase in manufacturing employment had a corresponding increase in the number of job vacancies throughout the Northeast region. After a spike in 2013, vacancies declined through 2016 before beginning on a rebound. The 282 vacancies reported in the second quarter of 2019 were down from the 451 reported in the fourth quarter of 2018 but were still six times more openings than in the second quarter of 2010 as the recovery from the recession began (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for vacancies dropped to \$14.93 per hour in the second quarter of 2019, down from \$17.09 in the second quarter of 2018. The 2019 median offering was the lowest reported in a second quarter since 2010. By comparison, the median wage offer for all industries in the Northeast region was \$1.80 lower at \$13.13 and the statewide Manufacturing wage in the second quarter of 2019 was \$3.25 higher. About half of the Northeast manufacturing vacancies required at least 1 year of experience, 32% required postsecondary education, and 6% required some form of certificate or license. Twenty percent of the manufacturing openings were part-time, an increase from previous years but less than the 47 percent of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd Quarter 2019

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Industries	7,885	\$13.13	47%	23%	39%
Manufacturing	282	\$14.93	20%	32%	49%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

The largest number of manufacturing vacancies were in production occupations, assemblers and fabricators, food processing workers, metal and plastic workers, textile, apparel, and furnishing workers, and other production occupations. The median wage offer for these positions was \$14.71 and ranged between \$11 and \$16.67 per hour. Manufacturers in Northeast Minnesota were also looking to hire sales and office, transportation and material moving, engineering, management, and installation, maintenance, and repair workers (see Table 4).

Table 4. Northeast Minnesota Production Occupations Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd Quarter 2019

SOC Occupational Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Occupations	7,885	\$13.13	47%	23%	39%
Production Occupations	211	\$14.71	12%	18%	41%
Assemblers and Fabricators	14	\$16.67	0%	34%	69%
Food Processing Workers	13	\$12.27	0%	0%	47%
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	37	\$11.00	63%	11%	31%
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishings Workers	61	\$14.70	0%	39%	78%
Other Production Occupations	75	\$13.84	3%	3%	7%
Office & Administrative Support	574	\$11.82	47%	3%	33%
Transportation & Material Moving	238	\$15.01	56%	34%	38%
Architecture & Engineering	28	\$31.68	8%	85%	83%
Management	41	\$27.98	0%	81%	97%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	246	\$14.88	2%	71%	78%
Sales & Related	1,494	\$10.81	59%	6%	15%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

Industry Occupational Employment

DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program provides detailed employment and wage data for a wide range of occupations involved in manufacturing. In sum, there were an estimated 7,390 people working in production occupations in Northeast Minnesota, accounting for about 5.1 percent of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$21.70 in the first quarter of 2019, but ranged from \$12.36 at the low end in sales and related to \$40.64 at the high end in management occupations.

As noted above, in addition to production occupations, manufacturers also require the services of workers in several other occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, architecture and engineering, management, and installation, maintenance and repair. Wages tended to be higher for the occupational groups with more management or technical focuses (see Table 5).

Table 5. Northeast Minnesota Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2019

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Regional Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	144,430	\$18.57	2,867,700	\$20.95
Production Occupations	7,390	\$21.70	214,230	\$18.68
Office & Administrative Support	20,430	\$17.20	403,970	\$19.10
Transportation & Material Moving	7,210	\$18.06	177,580	\$18.48
Architecture & Engineering	2,200	\$35.23	56,070	\$37.53
Management	7,270	\$40.64	171,250	\$51.26
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	6,760	\$22.97	100,030	\$23.13
Sales & Related	13,640	\$12.36	277,070	\$14.97
Business & Financial Operations	5,000	\$28.53	164,510	\$33.03
Computer & Mathematical	1,820	\$32.63	96,020	\$40.96

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program

Machinists, first-line supervisors, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, and others are the most common jobs found at manufacturing firms in Minnesota, according to DEED’s Occupational Staffing Matrix data. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of less than \$11.05 per hour for packers & packagers, hand to a high of \$34.44 per hour for paper goods machine setters, operators, & tenders. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be entered with a high school diploma and learned through on-the-job training, though some also benefit from vocational training or associate degrees (see Table 6).

Table 6. Northeast Minnesota Top 30 Production-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2019 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
512098	Team & All Other Assemblers	450	\$14.41	High School or equiv.
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers	520	\$30.17	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	230	\$22.92	Vocational training
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	50	\$13.63	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	680	\$23.56	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	350	\$18.37	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	1,290	\$15.77	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters	60	\$17.98	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	120	\$19.52	High School or equiv.
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	570	\$29.32	Vocational training
512028	Electrical & Electro-mechanical Assemblers	100	\$16.96	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	450	\$27.77	High School or equiv.
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	20	\$18.49	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	210	\$18.46	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	210	\$17.32	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,930	\$18.82	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	220	\$11.05	High School or equiv.
513099	All other food processing workers	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters	80	\$18.15	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1,720	\$22.20	High School or equiv.
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters	70	\$23.30	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	50	\$13.25	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators	360	\$34.44	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	20	\$21.75	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	50	\$20.14	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	N/A	N/A	Vocational training
514033	Grinding, Lapping, Buffing Machine Tool Setters	40	\$18.49	High School or equiv.
514021	Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters,	40	\$17.68	High School or equiv.

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

In addition to the production-related occupations, manufacturers also rely heavily on sales and office workers including manufacturing sales representatives, customer service representatives, and production, planning, shipping, and traffic clerks; transportation and material moving workers such as truck drivers and packers and packagers; engineering occupations like industrial, mechanical, and electrical engineers; management positions such as industrial production and general managers; and business and financial operations occupations like accountants and auditors.

Many of these occupations require higher education, but also offer higher wages. For example, all of the engineering positions have median wages above \$35 per hour in Northeast Minnesota, with median wages topping \$58 per hour for engineering managers, but also require bachelor’s degrees at the minimum. Likewise, software developers, industrial production managers, and general and operations managers all earn over \$35 per hour, and all require bachelor’s degrees. In contrast, sales representatives required just a high school diploma, but also offered relatively high wages. Some of the largest occupational groups, such as customer service representatives and office clerks, generally pay much lower median wages (see Table 7).

Table 7. Northeast Minnesota Top 20 Office-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2016 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing	800	\$28.10	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	1,970	\$15.91	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	210	\$43.59	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	2,230	\$36.92	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	430	\$16.22	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	220	\$45.66	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	310	\$35.54	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	1,560	\$17.73	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	40	\$24.37	Associate degree
131023	Purchasing Agents, exc. Wholesale, Retail & Farm	N/A	N/A	Bachelor's degree
439061	Office Clerks, General	3,120	\$16.81	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical	30	\$38.32	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	220	\$26.58	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	840	\$29.69	Bachelor's degree
435081	Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	1,540	\$12.38	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	120	\$58.52	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	N/A	\$43.92	Bachelor's degree
151133	Software Developers, Systems Software	20	\$41.45	Bachelor's degree
151132	Software Developers, Applications	320	\$36.78	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	N/A	\$35.93	Associate degree

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2016 to 2026 Employment Outlook data, the Northeast Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to lose another 748 jobs over the next decade, an 8.8% decline. That is in contrast to overall growth of 1.1% across the total of all industries in Northeast Minnesota, but aligns with the direction of the statewide manufacturing trend. The state of Minnesota is projected to lose 5,393 manufacturing jobs from 2016 to 2026, a 1.7% decline. Though it is home to about 2.7% of total manufacturing employment in the state, the employment projections would mean that Northeast Minnesota would account for almost 14% of the state’s manufacturing losses over the next decade.

Twelve of the 18 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Paper Manufacturing, Wood Product Manufacturing, and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing. Those three sectors are expected to lose 803 jobs combined. Seven of the 12 job-cutting sectors are projected to decline more than 20 percent through 2026, with Wood Product Manufacturing (-44.7%) and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (-42.6%) showing the greatest relative losses.

In contrast, six of the 18 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by a huge uptick in Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 193 net new jobs, a 101.6% expansion. Employment in Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing is projected to have the next largest positive percent change with 20.3%. The region may also see job growth in Machinery Manufacturing and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, which are both projected to expand more than 7 percent (see Table 8).

Table 8. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Projections, 2016-2026

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employment 2026	Percent Change 2016-2026	Numeric Change 2016-2026
0	Total, All Industries	160,337	162,062	+1.1%	+1,725
31	Manufacturing	8,473	7,725	-8.8%	-748
322	Paper Manufacturing	2,003	1,648	-17.7%	-355
333	Machinery Manufacturing	1,081	1,163	+7.6%	+82
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	756	788	+4.2%	+32
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	717	770	+7.4%	+53
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	587	458	-22.0%	-129
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	713	394	-44.7%	-319
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	190	383	+101.6%	+193
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	401	366	-8.7%	-35
325	Chemical Manufacturing	318	342	+7.5%	+24
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	246	296	+20.3%	+50
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	273	199	-27.1%	-74
311	Food Manufacturing	261	197	-24.5%	-64
314	Textile Product Mills	228	196	-14.0%	-32
315	Apparel Manufacturing	185	134	-27.6%	-51
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	100	119	+19.0%	+19
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	189	118	-37.6%	-71
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	136	78	-42.6%	-58

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

Occupational Outlook

The projected job losses in the manufacturing industry are expected to be seen in production occupations as well, leading to a projected 7.9% decline from 2016 to 2026 in Northeast Minnesota. However, the region is still expected to have significant demand for production workers over the next ten years due to many openings from labor market exits. There are also projected to be over 3,000 additional openings from 2016-2026 from labor market exits which are primarily attributable to retirements.

Overall, just 7 of the 32 production occupations are expected to see new job growth from 2016 to 2026, led by welders, cutter, solderers, and brazers which is projected to grow by slightly more than 10%. Computer-controlled machine operators, cutting punching, and press machine setters and operators, and painters, transportation equipment are also projected to grow, but all have low employment estimates meaning projected numerical gains are small.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for helpers-production workers, paper goods machine setters and operators, and sewing machine operators. Nine of the 32 production occupations are expected to lose more than 20% of their jobs, with tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners seeing the most rapid drop-off.

Regardless of projected employment growth or decline, every occupation is expected to have labor market exit openings from 2016 to 2026. The largest number of total openings are projected for helpers-production workers, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, team assemblers, and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, which are all expected to have hundreds of openings in the region (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 25 Northeast Minnesota Production Occupation Projections, 2016-2026

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employment 2026	Percent Change 2016-2026	Numeric Change 2016-2026	* Labor Market Exit Openings 2016-2026
0	Total, All Occupations	160,337	162,062	+1.1%	+1,725	+78,155
510000	Production Occupations	7,874	7,251	-7.9%	623	+3,091
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	547	603	+10.2%	+56	+153
512092	Team Assemblers	560	517	-7.7%	43	+230
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	568	478	-15.8%	90	+280
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers	482	456	-5.4%	26	+150
514041	Machinists	374	366	-2.1%	8	+129
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers	293	297	+1.4%	+4	+123
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters & Operators	357	290	-18.8%	67	+117
519051	Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, & Kettle Operators	259	275	+6.2%	+16	+112
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	257	261	+1.6%	+4	+174
516031	Sewing Machine Operators	281	235	-16.4%	46	+147
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	247	234	-5.3%	13	+108
518031	Water Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators	233	209	-10.3%	24	+63
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	142	142	+0.0%	0	+67
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	155	120	-22.6%	35	+59
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters	120	107	-10.8%	13	+32
517042	Woodworking Machine Setters & Operators	133	104	-21.8%	29	+46
519199	Production Workers, All Other	118	103	-12.7%	15	+43
513011	Bakers	126	100	-20.6%	26	+73
515112	Printing Press Operators	133	97	-27.1%	36	+45
518021	Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	88	92	+4.5%	+4	+29
519021	Crushing, Grinding & Polishing Machine Setters	90	82	-8.9%	8	+31
512022	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	109	74	-32.1%	35	+46
519023	Mixing & Blending Machine Setters & Operators	74	73	-1.4%	1	+26
517041	Sawing Machine Setters & Operators	87	67	-23.0%	20	+31
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters	57	62	+8.8%	+5	+22

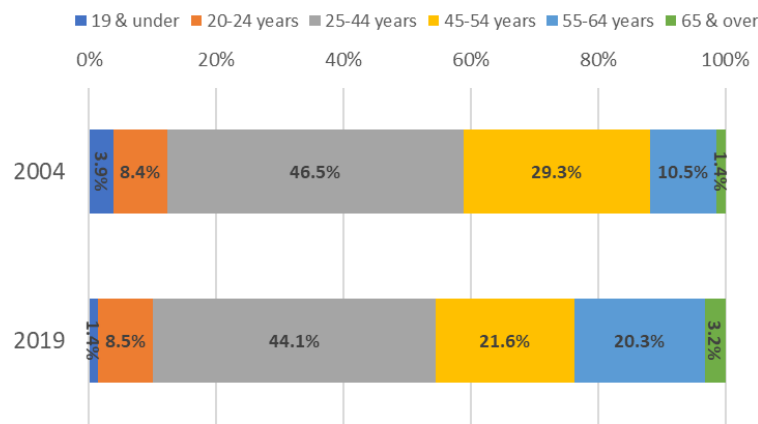
* Labor Market Exit Openings are the projected number of workers leaving an occupation and exiting the labor market entirely (most labor force exits are related to workers retiring). Occupational transfers are the projected number of workers permanently leaving an occupation and transferring to a different occupation

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

Workforce Demographics

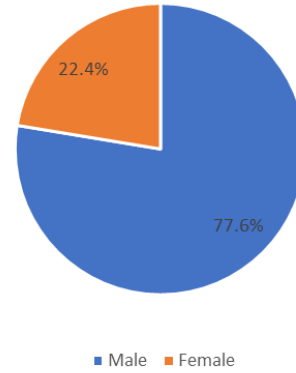
As the workforce in Northeast Minnesota ages, new graduates and other jobseekers will become increasingly important sources of workers, particularly for the manufacturing industry. The Manufacturing workforce is a relatively old one and continued to age over the past fifteen years. Data from DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) tool shows that in 2019, 23.5% of workers were 55 years of age or older, almost double the share in 2004. In contrast, the share of workers under the age of 25 fell from 12.3% in 2004 to 9.4% in 2019. The proportion of workers aged 25 to 44 years old also dropped, from 46.5% to 44.1% (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Workforce Demographics, 2004-2019



Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics

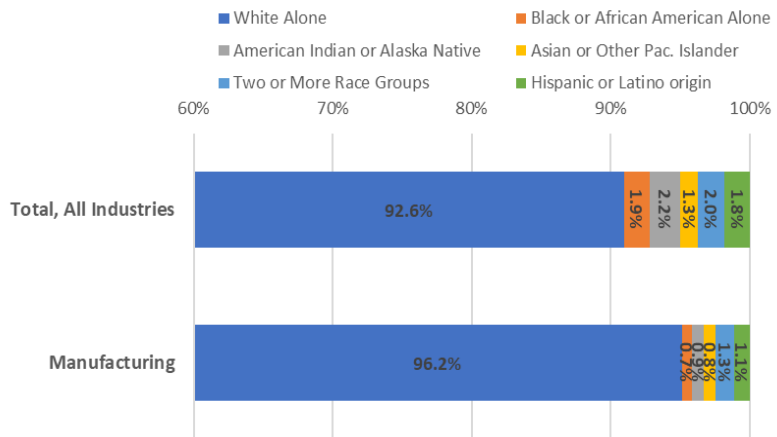
Figure 4. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Workforce Demographics, 2019



Additional information from the QED program shows that the manufacturing workforce in the Northeast region is relatively non-diverse. In 2019, over three quarters of the workforce was male (see Figure 4) and more than 96 percent reported as white alone (see Figure 5). Demographic data from the U.S. Census' Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) program show us that the non-white share of the Northeast manufacturing workforce was 3.8% in 2019, compared to 7.4% non-white workers for all industries combined. Despite this disparity, the manufacturing workforce is becoming more diverse. The share of non-white workers grew 6.0 percent and the share of Hispanic or Latino workers in manufacturing grew more than 40% from 2004 to 2019.

In the face of tight labor markets, manufacturers may need to tap into new labor pools in order to attract the talent they need to grow and replace existing workers in the future.

Figure 5. Northeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Workforce Demographics by Race or Origin, 2019



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

For more information about Manufacturing in Northeast Minnesota, contact:

Carson Gorecki | Northeast Minnesota Regional Analyst

218-302-8413 | carson.gorecki@state.mn.us

<http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/northeast-lmi.jsp>

published: March 2020