

7-County Twin Cities Metro Area Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 7-county Twin Cities metro area was home to 4,090 manufacturing establishments providing 174,402 jobs through the third quarter of 2019. That was just over half (53.2%) of total manufacturing employment in the state. Manufacturing accounted for 9.7% of total employment in the region, making it the second largest industry behind health care and social assistance (275,202 jobs), and just ahead of retail trade (167,804 jobs).

These manufacturers provided over \$3.4 billion in total payroll through the third quarter of 2019, again making it the second largest industry behind only health care and social assistance. Average annual wages in manufacturing were \$78,624 in 2019, which was nearly 25% higher than the total of all industries.

Table 1. Twin Cities Metro 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. Annual Wages, Q3 2019
0	Total, All Industries	85,507	1,777,813	\$28,125,473,326	\$63,232
31	Manufacturing	4,090	174,402	\$3,429,501,101	\$78,624
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	325	36,364	\$1,084,933,696	\$119,340
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	812	25,427	\$412,544,735	\$64,896
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	637	20,853	\$354,210,860	\$67,912
333	Machinery Manufacturing	380	16,760	\$319,187,059	\$76,128
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	407	13,229	\$216,114,970	\$65,312
311	Food Manufacturing	272	10,976	\$152,532,979	\$55,536
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	187	10,140	\$151,136,708	\$59,592
325	Chemical Manufacturing	138	8,781	\$205,315,288	\$93,496
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	106	5,117	\$71,372,893	\$55,744
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Comp. Mfg.	88	4,993	\$88,114,253	\$70,564
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	234	4,149	\$69,434,482	\$66,924
322	Paper Manufacturing	69	4,129	\$72,569,046	\$70,252
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	42	3,316	\$59,650,657	\$71,916
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	90	2,550	\$26,908,855	\$42,172
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	96	2,517	\$46,347,454	\$73,632
324	Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing	17	1,967	\$58,192,809	\$118,300
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	81	1,667	\$26,016,302	\$62,400
314	Textile Product Mills	56	738	\$6,964,010	\$37,700
315	Apparel Manufacturing	39	345	\$3,305,278	\$38,272
313	Textile Mills	6	195	\$2,121,427	\$43,472
316	Leather & Allied Product Manufacturing	8	183	\$2,527,340	\$55,224

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

Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing was easily the largest sector in the Twin Cities, with 36,364 jobs, followed by Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which had 25,427 jobs through the third quarter of 2019. Combined, those two sectors accounted for over one-third (35.4%) of the region’s manufacturing employment.

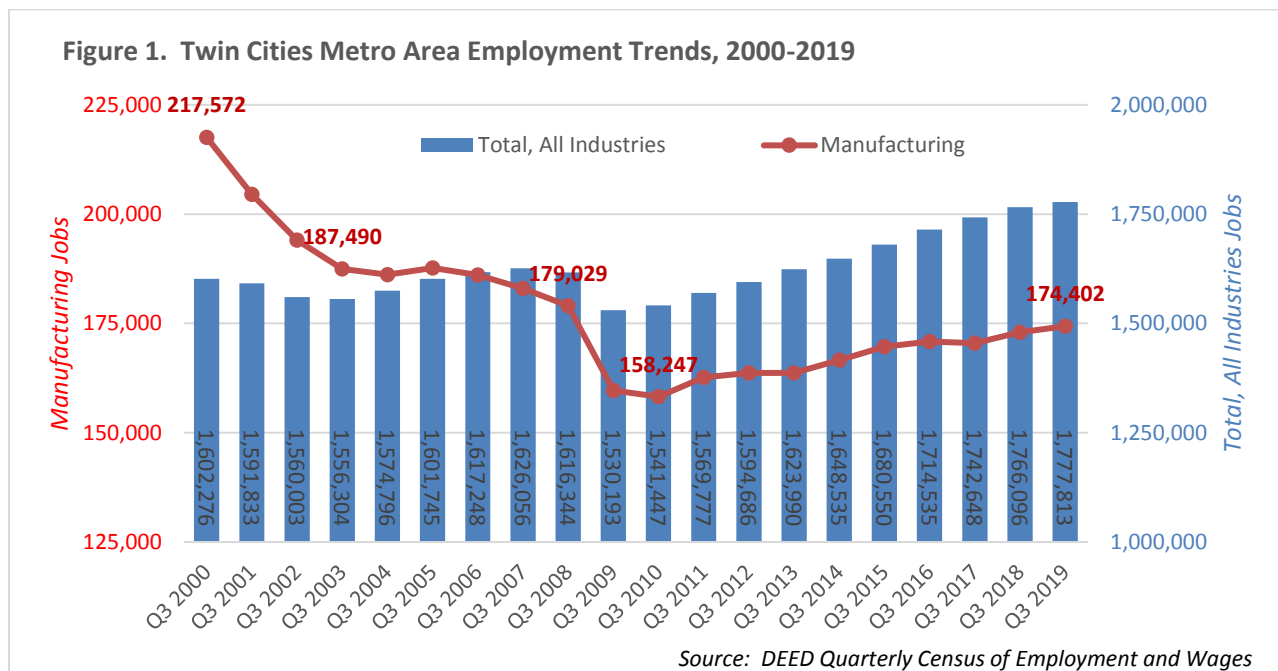
The region also had large numbers of jobs in Miscellaneous Manufacturing (20,853 jobs), which includes medical devices and equipment; Machinery Manufacturing (16,760 jobs), Printing and Related Support Activities (13,229 jobs), and Food Manufacturing (10,976 jobs). Those four sectors combined for another 35.4% of total manufacturing employment in the region.

The Twin Cities also has notable employment in the Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing (10,140 jobs), Chemical Manufacturing (8,781 jobs), Wood Product Manufacturing (5,117 jobs), Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing (4,993 jobs), Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing (4,149 jobs), Paper Manufacturing (4,129 jobs) and Primary Metal Manufacturing (3,316 jobs) sectors.

Average annual wages in manufacturing (\$78,624) were about 25% higher than the total of all industries (\$63,232), led by extremely high average weekly wages in Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$119,340), Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing (\$118,300), Chemical Manufacturing (\$93,496), Machinery Manufacturing (\$76,128), Nonmetallic Mineral Manufacturing (\$73,632), Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing (\$70,564), and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (\$67,912),

Industry Trends

Between 2000 and 2010, the manufacturing industry experienced employment declines in the Twin Cities. Manufacturers cut huge numbers of jobs during the 2001 recession, then mostly held steady from 2003 to 2007. The region’s manufacturers then suffered even more significant job losses during the recession from 2008 to 2010, dropping to a low of 158,247 jobs through the third quarter of 2010. However, manufacturers in the region have regained almost 16,200 jobs from 2010 to 2019, a 10.2% increase (see Figure 1).



Due to recent gains, Twin Cities manufacturers have 14,761 more jobs now than in 2009, the start of the recession. Manufacturing employment was down about 8% from 2006 to 2016, while the total of all industries surpassed its pre-recession peak in 2014 and is now up over 160,565 jobs since 2009, a 9.9% increase in jobs.

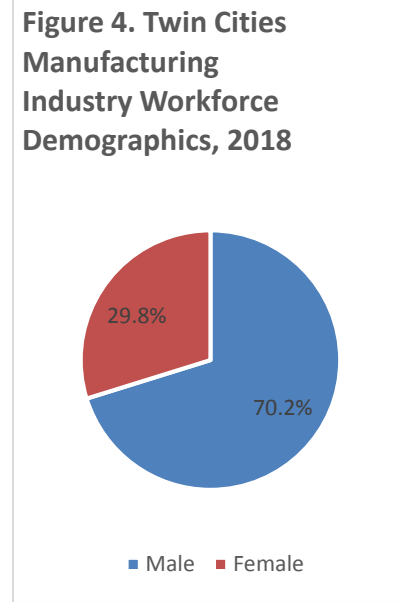
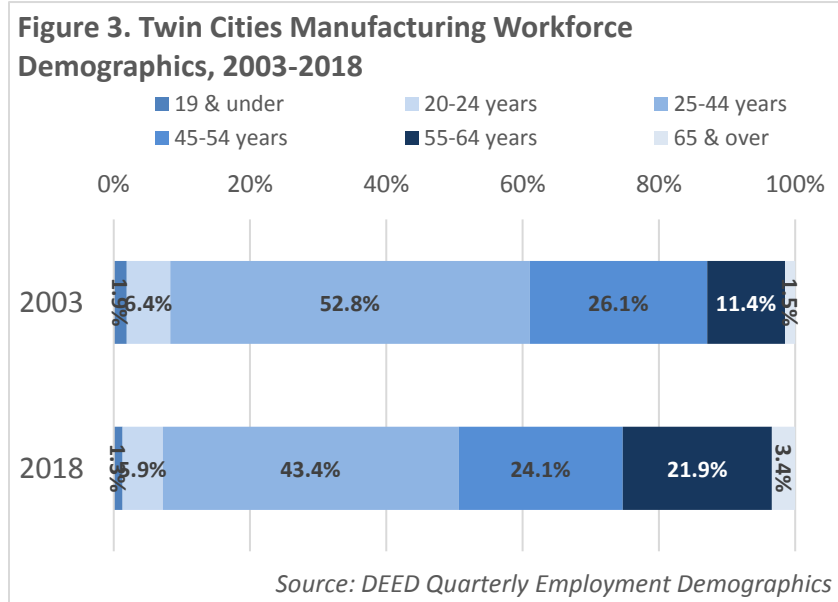
The biggest job declines from 2009 to 2019 occurred in Printing and Related Support Activities, which sliced 2,211 jobs and Paper Manufacturing decreased by 960 jobs, an 18.9% decrease. In sum, 15 of the 21 manufacturing sectors had more jobs in 2019 than in 2009, including ten that added more than 15 percent of their employment with the largest job gains occurring in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which added 3,499 jobs. The Twin Cities also saw big gains in Miscellaneous Manufacturing, Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing, and Chemical Manufacturing.

Eleven of the 21 sectors added jobs in the past year, and 13 of the 21 sectors were up since the third quarter of 2014, showing a widespread and relatively strong recovery from the Great Recession (see Table 2).

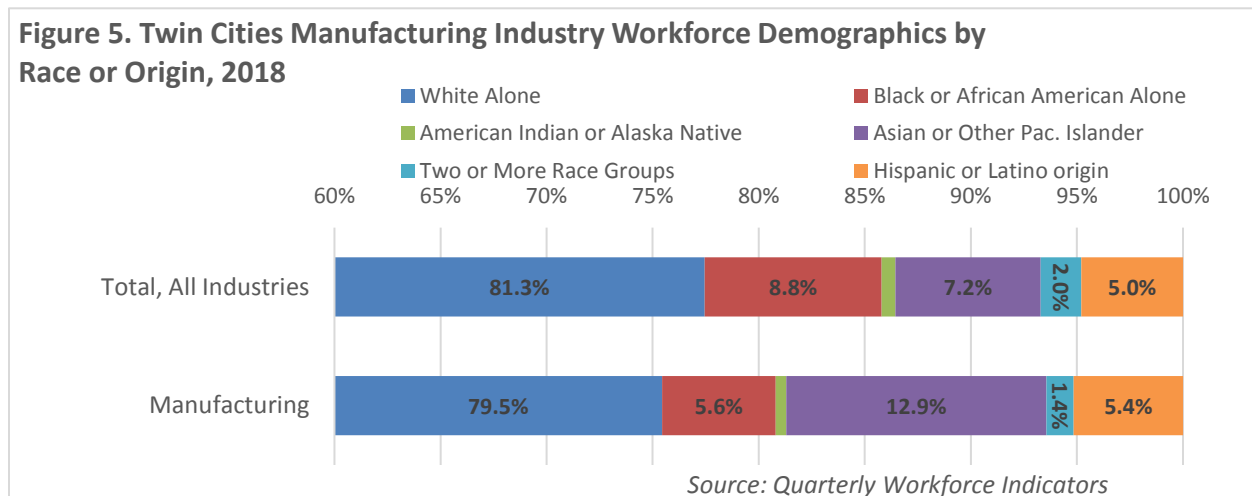
NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs, Q3 2019	1-Year Trend, Q3 2018-Q3 2019		5-Year Trend, Q3 2014-Q3 2019		10-Year Trend, Q3 2009-Q3 2019	
		Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	1,777,813	+11,717	+0.7%	+129,278	+7.8%	+247,620	+16.2%
Manufacturing	174,402	+1,389	+0.8%	+7,779	+4.7%	+14,761	+9.2%
Computer and Electronic Prod. Mfg.	36,364	+28	+0.1%	+938	+2.6%	+905	+2.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	25,427	+226	+0.9%	+1,174	+4.8%	+3,499	+16.0%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	20,853	+1,685	+8.8%	+3,531	+20.4%	+3,422	+19.6%
Machinery Manufacturing	16,760	-552	-3.2%	-399	-2.3%	+1,450	+9.5%
Printing and Related Support Activities	13,229	-234	-1.7%	-1,737	-11.6%	-2,211	-14.3%
Food Manufacturing	10,976	-90	-0.8%	-479	-4.2%	+883	+8.7%
Plastics and Rubber Prod. Mfg.	10,140	-177	-1.7%	+1,189	+13.3%	+2,236	+28.3%
Chemical Manufacturing	8,781	+72	+0.8%	+1,804	+25.9%	+1,247	+16.6%
Wood Product Manufacturing	5,117	+157	+3.2%	+1,032	+25.3%	+996	+24.2%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance Mfg.	4,993	+560	+12.6%	+315	+6.7%	+1,003	+25.1%
Furniture and Related Product Mfg.	4,149	-28	-0.7%	-126	-2.9%	+459	+12.4%
Paper Manufacturing	4,129	-34	-0.8%	-589	-12.5%	-960	-18.9%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	3,316	+21	+0.6%	-195	-5.6%	+424	+14.7%
Beverage and Tobacco Mfg.	2,550	+175	+7.4%	+874	+52.1%	+1,079	+73.4%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	2,517	+123	+5.1%	+395	+18.6%	+349	+16.1%
Petroleum and Coal Products Mfg.	1,967	-68	-3.3%	-376	-16.0%	-81	-4.0%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,667	+53	+3.3%	+261	+18.6%	-143	-7.9%
Textile Product Mills	738	-510	-40.9%	+140	+23.4%	+141	+23.6%
Apparel Manufacturing	345	+1	+0.3%	+42	+13.9%	+89	+34.8%
Textile Mills	195	-10	-4.9%	+10	+5.4%	-7	-3.5%
Leather and Allied Product Mfg.	183	-10	-5.2%	-24	-11.6%	-18	-9.0%

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

New graduates and other jobseekers will be important in filling the workforce pipeline in the manufacturing industry, which relies on a relatively old workforce. In 2018, one-fourth (25.3%) of workers in the industry were 55 years or older, up from just 12.9% of the workforce back in 2003. In contrast, less than 7.5% of workers in the industry were under 25 years of age, down from almost 8.3% in 2003. Likewise, the percent of workers from 25 to 44 years of age dropped from 52.8% of the total in 2003 to just 43.4% in 2018 (see Figure 3).

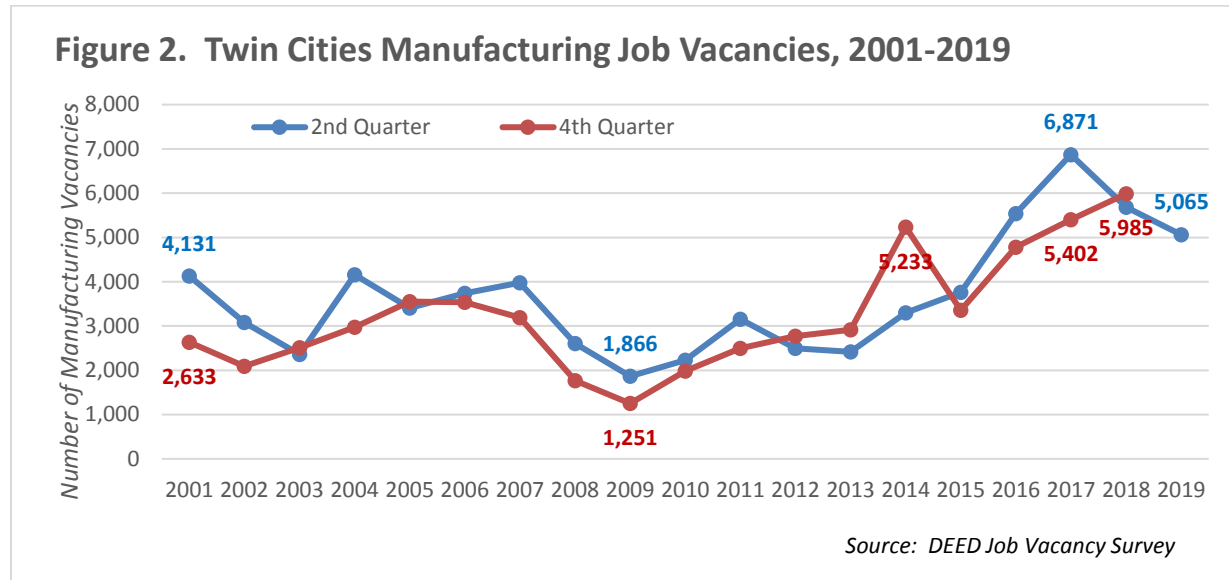


Further demographic data from DEED’s Quarterly Employment Demographics program shows that the manufacturing industry is relatively non-diverse, with males accounting for 70% of workers (see Figure 4), and about 80% reporting white as their race (see Figure 5). However, the racial diversity of the workforce has changed over time, with the number of manufacturing workers identifying as white alone declining by 18% from 2003 to 2018, compared to a 36.2% increase in the number of jobholders of other race groups. Likewise, the number of Hispanic or Latino workers in manufacturing jumped by 36% from 2003 to 2018. 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.



Industry Demand

The recent growth in manufacturing employment has led to an increased number of [job vacancies](#) across the Twin Cities metro area. The 5,065 job vacancies reported by manufacturing employers in the second quarter of 2019 was the fourth highest number ever recorded in the 2nd Quarter, only 1,800 less than the peak in 2017. Likewise, the 5,985 job vacancies posted in the fourth quarter of 2018 was the highest number reported in a fourth quarter, about 600 more than the fourth quarter of 2018, and nearly four times higher than the lowest number reported in 2009 (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for these vacancies increased to \$22.07 per hour in the second quarter of 2019, up about \$3.50 compared to the same survey in the second quarter of 2018 and up nearly \$11.50 from the second quarter of 2001. Nearly three-fourths of the manufacturing vacancies required at least 1 year of experience, and 55% required postsecondary education. Manufacturing employers continue to place a high premium on related work experience, especially in comparison to other industries. Manufacturing vacancies were almost twice as likely to require one or more years of work experience as postsecondary education. Just 2% of the openings were part-time, as compared to 31% of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Twin Cities 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	86,044	\$15.88	31%	34%	51%
Manufacturing	5,065	\$22.07	2%	55%	74%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

The largest number of manufacturing vacancies were production occupations, including metal and plastic workers, textile and furnishing workers, food processing workers, assemblers and fabricators, printing workers, supervisors of production workers, and other production occupations. The median wage offer for these positions was \$16.39, but ranged between \$12 and \$29 per hour. Manufacturers in the Twin Cities 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. Twin Cities 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	86,044	\$15.88	31%	34%	51%
Production Occupations	2,876	\$16.39	6%	23%	52%
Supervisors of Production Workers	167	\$29.07	0%	42%	94%
Assemblers & Fabricators	456	\$14.97	6%	7%	49%
Food Processing Workers	400	\$12.27	10%	0%	17%
Metal Workers & Plastic Workers	807	\$18.34	0%	50%	67%
Printing Workers	350	\$14.95	2%	22%	45%
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishings Workers	144	\$12.98	38%	0%	13%
Woodworkers	26	\$16.58	20%	65%	70%
Plant & System Operators	18	\$25.18	6%	52%	78%
Other Production Occupations	510	\$16.99	9%	12%	60%
Office & Administrative Support	5,711	\$15.22	41%	3%	34%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,881	\$30.24	0%	93%	92%
Architecture & Engineering	3,612	\$42.84	2%	88%	98%
Management	3,145	\$17.81	8%	20%	56%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	11,108	\$13.58	32%	12%	50%
Sales & Related	2,876	\$16.39	6%	23%	52%

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 114,080 people working in production occupations in the Twin Cities, accounting for about 6% of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$19.06 in 2019, but ranged from \$12 at the low end to \$44 at the high end.

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. Not surprisingly, wages were higher for the higher level positions (see Table 5).

Table 5. Twin Cities 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	1,793,870	\$22.78	2,867,700	\$20.95
Production Occupations	114,080	\$19.06	214,230	\$18.68
Office & Administrative Support	258,840	\$20.18	405,970	\$19.10
Transportation & Material Moving	105,080	\$18.69	177,580	\$18.48
Architecture & Engineering	41,330	\$39.03	56,070	\$37.53
Management	122,530	\$56.09	171,250	\$51.26
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	53,480	\$24.30	100,030	\$23.13
Sales & Related	173,930	\$16.28	277,070	\$14.97
Business & Financial Operations	130,070	\$34.34	164,510	\$33.03
Computer & Mathematical	80,660	\$42.40	96,020	\$40.96

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

Team assemblers, first-line supervisors, machinists, and more 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 about \$14 for production helpers and packers and packagers to a high of about \$30 per hour for first-line supervisors and tool and die makers. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be gained 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. Twin Cities 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
512092	Team Assemblers	18,270	\$16.07	High School or equiv.
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	5,950	\$32.26	High School or equiv.
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	18,270	\$16.07	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	7,580	\$26.26	Vocational training
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	240	\$13.50	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	5,140	\$16.34	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	3,350	\$22.77	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	5,890	\$21.06	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	29,050	\$16.86	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Metal/Plastic	3,280	\$22.42	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	4,310	\$22.35	High School or equiv.
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	3,510	\$28.29	Vocational training
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	6,950	\$17.85	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	4,870	\$14.34	High School or equiv.
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal/Plastic	1,890	\$23.65	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	3,260	\$19.91	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	2,450	\$16.86	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	13,250	\$22.21	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	6,690	\$13.45	High School or equiv.
513099	All other food processing workers	250	\$12.93	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters & Operators	2,210	\$17.72	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	15,830	\$25.17	High School or equiv.
512023	Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	6,950	\$17.85	High School or equiv.
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Operators	1,490	\$20.41	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	2,740	\$16.30	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	1,030	\$18.84	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	1,610	\$17.88	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	1,690	\$20.82	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	840	\$19.31	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	1,210	\$28.98	Vocational training

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 (see Table 7).

Table 7. Twin Cities Top 20 Office-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2019 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, exc. Technical Products	22,620	\$32.92	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	42,490	\$19.37	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	7,200	\$43.97	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	31,030	\$50.99	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	10,360	\$17.94	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	3,230	\$52.80	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	6,220	\$42.24	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	18,930	\$22.65	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	2,400	\$25.76	Associate degree
131023	Purchasing Agents, exc. Wholesale, Retail & Farm Products	#N/A	#N/A	Bachelor's degree
439061	Office Clerks, General	32,840	\$18.53	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical Products	4,560	\$37.92	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	3,630	\$24.88	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	17,240	\$33.47	Bachelor's degree
435081	Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	21,480	\$14.40	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	3,290	\$70.34	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	2,940	\$47.63	Bachelor's degree
151133	Software Developers, Systems Software	4,940	\$55.69	Bachelor's degree
151132	Software Developers, Applications	17,590	\$47.32	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	1,140	\$31.31	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 Twin Cities manufacturing industry is projected to lose another 9,500 jobs over the next decade, a 5.5% decline. That is in contrast to overall growth of 6.8% in the total of all industries in the Twin Cities, but is in line with the state of Minnesota as a whole, which is projected to lose about 5,400 manufacturing jobs from 2016 to 2026, a 1.7% decline.

Though it is home to about 53% of total manufacturing employment in the state, the employment projections would mean that the Twin Cities would account for about 70% of the state’s manufacturing losses over the next decade.

Sixteen of the 20 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Printing and Related Support Activities, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, and Machinery Manufacturing. Those three industries are expected to account for over half (58.5%) of the region’s total job decline.

Likewise, the region is expected to see big job declines in Paper Manufacturing and Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, as well as huge percentage losses in Textile Product Mills, Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing, and Apparel Manufacturing. In contrast, the only sector that is projected to have significant job growth is Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (see Table 8).

Table 8. Twin Cities 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	1,878,351	2,006,300	+6.8%	+127,949
31	Manufacturing	169,852	160,446	-5.5%	-9,406
334	Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	36,078	35,187	-2.5%	-891
332	Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	24,465	22,744	-7.0%	-1,721
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	18,164	18,311	+0.8%	+147
333	Machinery Manufacturing	17,163	15,539	-9.5%	-1,624
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	14,315	12,155	-15.1%	-2,160
311	Food Manufacturing	11,633	11,269	-3.1%	-364
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	9,372	9,192	-1.9%	-180
325	Chemical Manufacturing	7,944	7,841	-1.3%	-103
335	Electrical Equipment & Appliances	4,387	4,685	+6.8%	+298
337	Furniture & Related Product Mfg.	4,138	3,984	-3.7%	-154
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	4,575	4,672	+2.1%	+97
322	Paper Manufacturing	4,525	3,558	-21.4%	-967
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	3,393	2,914	-14.1%	-479
324	Petroleum & Coal Products Mfg.	2,258	1,998	-11.5%	-260
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	2,350	2,084	-11.3%	-266
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	2,210	2,280	+3.2%	+70
336	Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,474	1,163	-21.1%	-311
314	Textile Product Mills	586	315	-46.2%	-271
316	Leather & Allied Product Mfg.	205	130	-36.6%	-75
315	Apparel Manufacturing	444	304	-31.5%	-140

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

Occupational Outlook

The projected job losses in the manufacturing industry are expected to carry over into production occupations as well, leading to a projected 5.0% decline from 2016 to 2026 in the Twin Cities. However, the region is still expected to have significant demand for production workers over the next ten years due to a large number of labor force exit openings – jobs that become available because the existing worker retires out of the labor force. There may be as many as 125,871 total openings for production occupations in the region, including occupation transfer openings, or jobs that open up due to a worker changing careers.

However, 26 of the 78 production occupations are expected to see new job growth from 2016 to 2026, led by Helpers – Production Workers, Bakers, Butchers, and Meat Cutters, Dental Laboratory Technicians, Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians, Food Processing Workers, All Others, Computer Numerical Controlled Machine Tool Programmer, and Medical Appliance Technicians, which are all projected to grow more than 5 percent.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for Team Assemblers, Electrical Equipment Assemblers, Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other, Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers, Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Printing Press Operators, Print Binding and Finishing Workers, and Paper Goods Machine Setters, which are all expected to lose more than 200 jobs in the next 10 years.

Regardless of growth or decline, every occupation is expected to at least have some total openings from 2016 to 2026 due to labor force exits and occupations transfers. The largest number of total openings are projected for Team Assemblers, Production Helpers, Machinists, Packaging and Filling Machine

Operators, and Assemblers and Fabricators, which are all expected to have at least 6,000 total openings in the region (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 25 Twin Cities 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 Force Exit Openings 2016-2026
0	Total, All Occupations	1,878,351	2,006,300	+6.8%	+127,949	+881,956
510000	Production Occupations	119,335	113,345	-5.0%	-5,990	+49,591
512092	Team Assemblers	13,372	11,444	-14.4%	-1,928	+5,299
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	6,241	7,300	+17.0%	+1,059	+3,630
514041	Machinists	7,588	7,641	+0.7%	+53	+2,645
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	4,998	4,167	-16.6%	-831	+1,957
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers	6,130	6,109	-0.3%	-21	+1,951
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	5,548	5,491	-1.0%	-57	+2,609
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	6,838	5,663	-17.2%	-1,175	+3,168
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters & Weighers	5,290	4,575	-13.5%	-715	+2,050
519199	Production Workers, All Other	3,090	3,145	+1.8%	+55	+1,225
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters	4,456	4,041	-9.3%	-415	+1,537
515112	Printing Press Operators	4,281	3,992	-6.8%	-289	+1,610
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	2,715	2,631	-3.1%	-84	+738
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	3,383	3,342	-1.2%	-41	+895
513011	Bakers	2,218	2,396	+8.0%	+178	+1,481
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	1,777	1,800	+1.3%	+23	+1,198
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	651	717	+10.1%	+66	+294
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine	1,432	1,263	-11.8%	-169	+493
518031	Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Oper.	924	923	-0.1%	-1	+263
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	2,626	2,410	-8.2%	-216	+1,910
516031	Sewing Machine Operators	1,228	1,141	-7.1%	-87	+673
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters	1,352	1,334	-1.3%	-18	+383
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	1,351	1,463	+8.3%	+112	+632
513092	Food Batchmakers	2,211	2,286	+3.4%	+75	+1,235
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	1,241	1,257	+1.3%	+16	+583
512041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	499	398	-20.2%	-101	+155

* Labor Force 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)

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

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

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