

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Clay Co.**

Clay Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 4, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	<b>66,258 people</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	940 people 1.4% increase

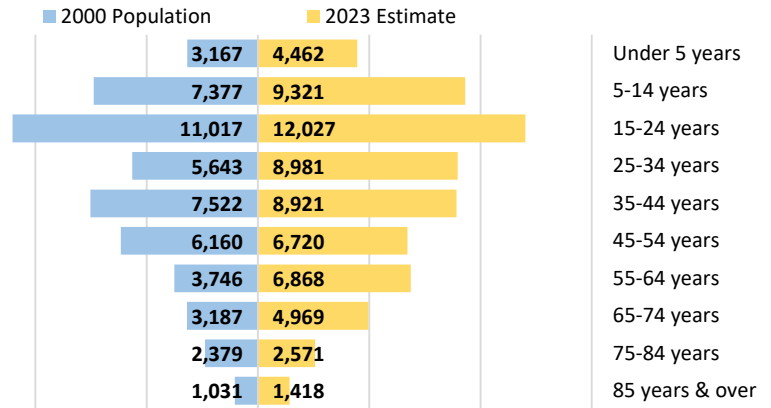
Median Age:	<b>32.8 years</b>
state:	38.5 years

Clay Co. is the 16th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 23rd fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Clay Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller 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).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	4,462	6.7%
5-14 years	9,321	14.1%
15-24 years	12,027	18.2%
25-34 years	8,981	13.6%
35-44 years	8,921	13.5%
45-54 years	6,720	10.1%
55-64 years	6,868	10.4%
65-74 years	4,969	7.5%
75-84 years	2,571	3.9%
85 years & over	1,418	2.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>66,258</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Clay Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Clay Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Clay Co.	942	510	2,327	1,817	412	344	68
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

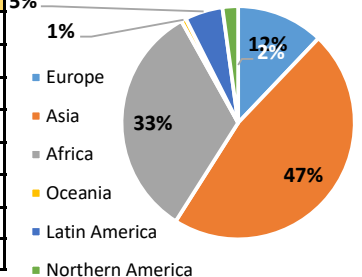
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Clay Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Europe	387	12.1%	146	60.6%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	1,499	46.9%	590	64.9%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	1,052	32.9%	723	219.8%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	22	0.7%	18	450.0%	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	237	7.4%	-172	-42.1%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	168	5.3%	-146	-46.5%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	69	2.2%	-26	-27.4%	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

Clay Co.

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

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

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

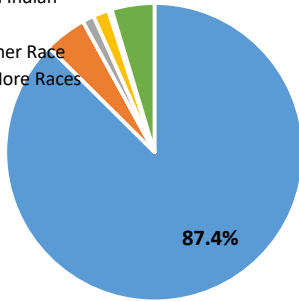


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Clay Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,307</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
White	57,105	87.4%	5.9%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	2,993	4.6%	241.7%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	828	1.3%	-17.6%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,102	1.7%	39.5%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	248	0.4%	-45.6%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	3,031	4.6%	205.2%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,176	4.9%	50.7%	5.7%	34.6%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

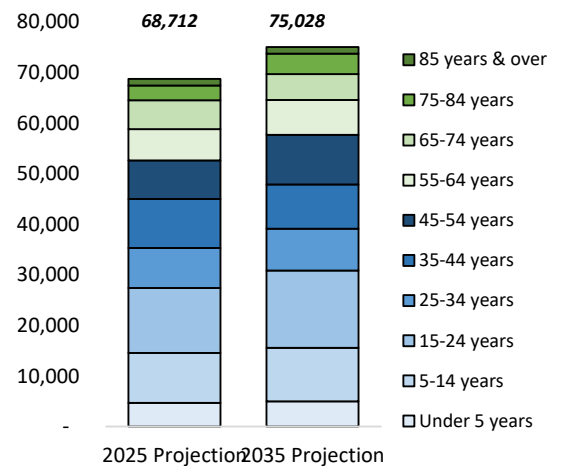
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Clay Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

Clay Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	4,690	4,962	272	5.8%
5-14 years	9,836	10,605	769	7.8%
15-24 years	12,893	15,274	2,381	18.5%
25-34 years	7,919	8,299	380	4.8%
35-44 years	9,686	8,752	-934	-9.6%
45-54 years	7,576	9,810	2,234	29.5%
55-64 years	6,207	6,899	692	11.1%
65-74 years	5,719	5,067	-652	-11.4%
75-84 years	2,904	4,050	1,146	39.5%
85 years & over	1,282	1,310	28	2.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>68,712</b>	<b>75,028</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>9.2%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Clay Co. has a higher percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.0%), and a higher percentage of people with at least some college experience. Clay 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.

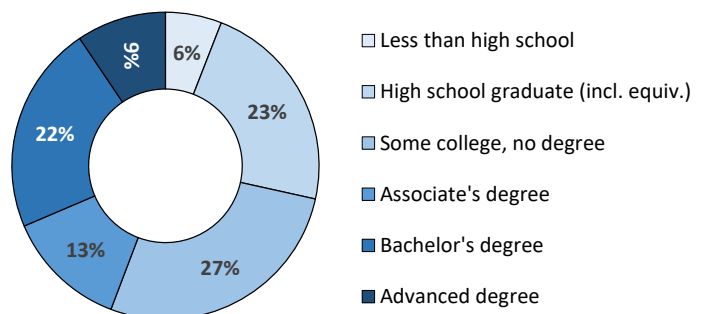
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**94.1%**

**College-educated: 71.5%**  
state: 68.5%

**Associate's Degree: 12.8%**  
**Bachelor's Degree: 22.0%**  
**Advanced Degree: 9.4%**

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022**



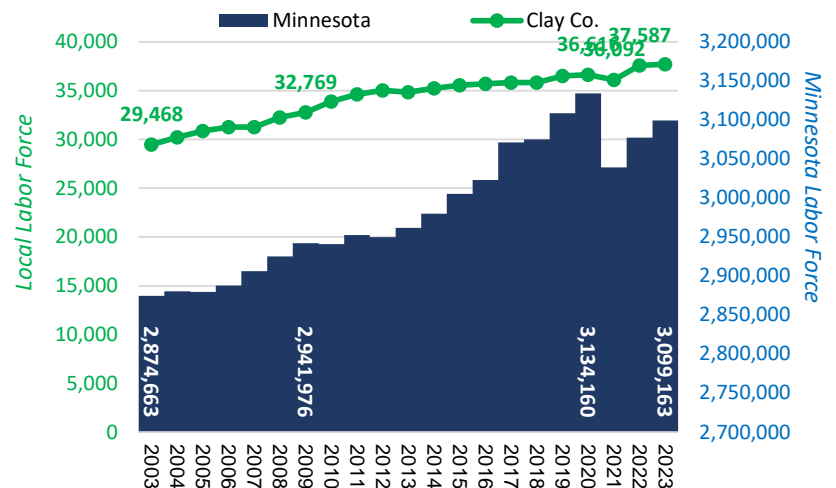
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.2%, Clay Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Clay Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.2% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Clay Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>37,587</b> available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	5,460 workers 16.9% increase
<b>2.2%</b> unemployment rate	
2.7% state	
<b>827</b> unemployed workers	

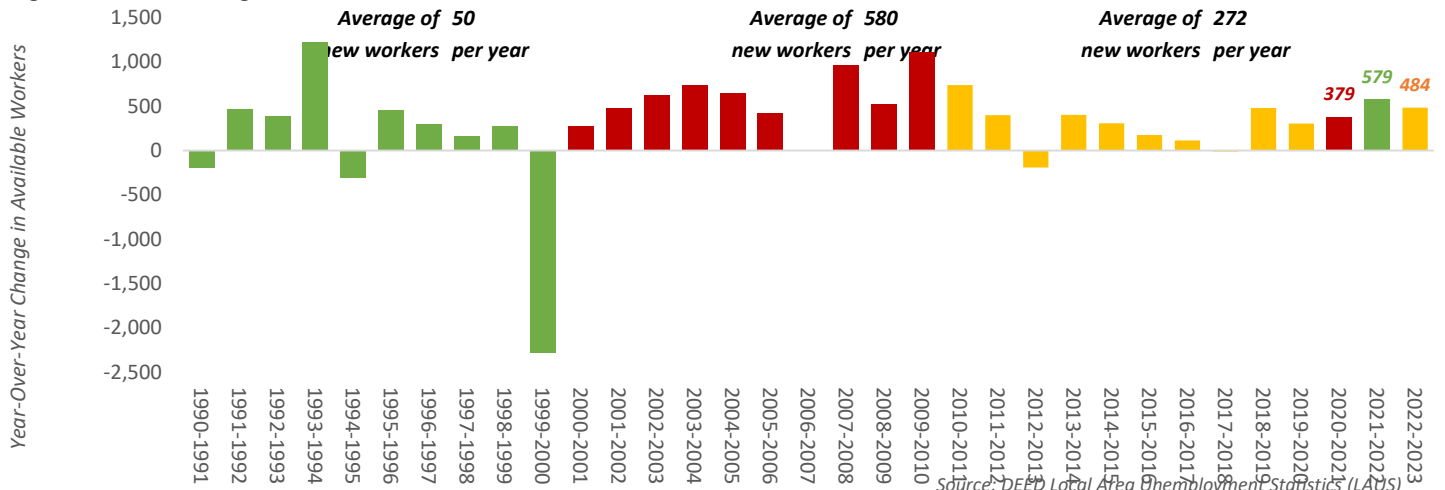
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Clay 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, Clay Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



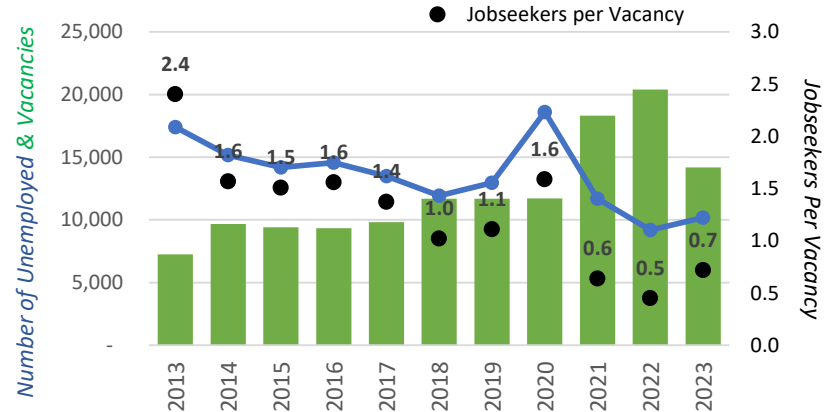
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	7,968	9,607
25 to 54 years	22,231	23,637
55 to 64 years	4,710	5,235
65 years & over	2,107	1,987
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>37,016</b>	<b>40,467</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. In 2023, job vacancies in Northwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2013-2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

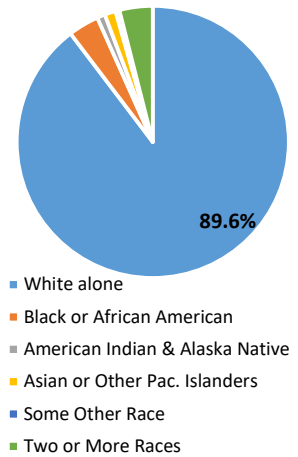
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Clay Co. had a higher labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Clay 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**

	Clay 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>35,953</b>	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>18,417</b>	<b>17,526</b>
16 to 19 years	2,607	59.3%	9.9%	53.0%	9.8%	1,137	1,471
20 to 24 years	4,910	76.2%	6.1%	83.1%	6.7%	2,292	2,619
25 to 44 years	15,812	89.6%	3.8%	88.8%	3.5%	8,252	7,561
45 to 54 years	5,644	85.2%	1.5%	87.8%	2.9%	3,148	2,498
55 to 64 years	5,136	75.9%	2.0%	72.8%	3.1%	2,671	2,466
65 to 74 years	1,543	31.5%	4.6%	27.6%	3.3%	823	719
75 years & over	287	7.3%	3.5%	6.6%	3.2%	94	192
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	32,221	71.0%	3.5%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	1,312	75.9%	7.8%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	341	55.3%	50.3%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	473	55.6%	0.2%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	167	87.0%	12.0%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	1,419	73.2%	1.2%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,473	79.1%	3.6%	77.0%	6.3%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,517	61.5%	17.8%	54.4%	10.2%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	26,600	85.7%	3.0%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	893	59.7%	3.5%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,688	76.2%	2.2%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,793	86.3%	2.6%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11,224	93.2%	1.3%	90.3%	2.0%		

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



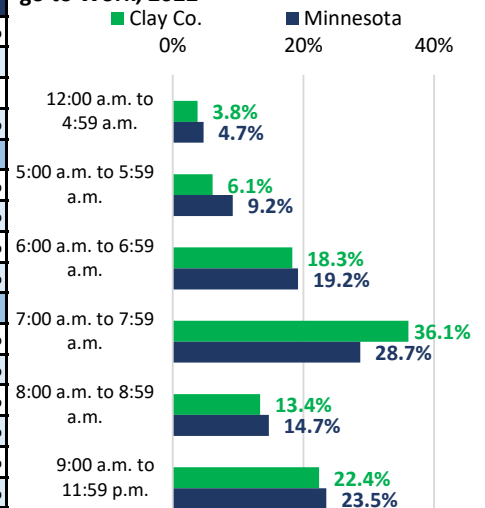
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Clay Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	15,905	47.4%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	14,831	44.2%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	1,074	3.2%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	17,649	52.6%	67,495	2.3%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	28,622	85.3%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	336	1.0%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,409	4.2%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	3,221	9.6%	333,556	11.4%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	5,604	16.7%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	15,099	45.0%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	6,811	20.3%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	3,624	10.8%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	1,007	3.0%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	1,376	4.1%	158,000	5.4%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>20.0 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

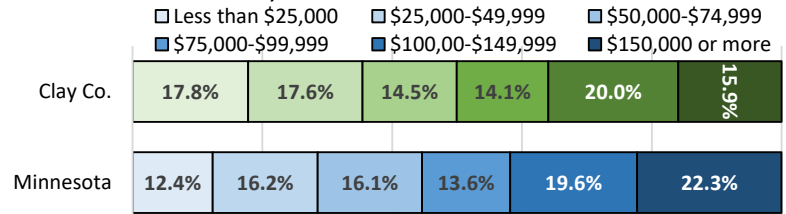
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Clay Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Clay Co. had the 22nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$75,006</b>
state	\$84,313
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$103,513</b>
state	\$107,072
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$36,586</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. Clay Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.13 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.01 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Clay Co.	\$29,387	\$14.13	\$0	\$411	\$161	\$758	\$539	\$280	\$300
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375
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
Clay Co.	\$56,188	\$18.01	\$358	\$937	\$576	\$941	\$898	\$449	\$523
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

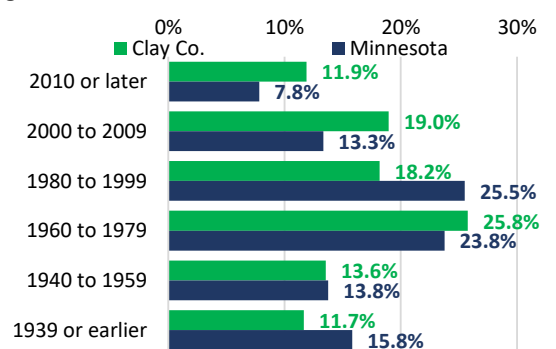
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Clay Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 22nd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Clay 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	Clay Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,854</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	542	3.2%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	529	3.1%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,493	8.9%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3,049	18.1%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,620	33.3%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,562	27.1%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	1,059	6.3%	14.7%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$241,400</b>		<b>\$286,800</b>

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022



**Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage** **\$1,712**

state \$1,818

**Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs** **22.4%**

state 22.0%

**Median monthly rent costs** **\$972**

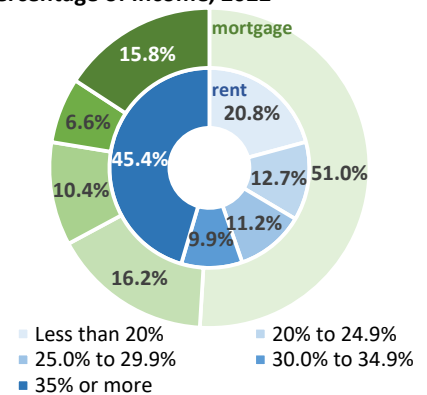
state \$1,178

**Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent** **55.3%**

state 46.7%

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

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





**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Clay Co.**

**OCCUPATIONS**

At \$23.04 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$46.14) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.43) (see Table 11).

**Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024**

Occupational Group	Region 4				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>\$23.04</b>	<b>89,340</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$25.22</b>	<b>2,881,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$46.14	4,990	5.6%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$32.67	3,240	3.6%	0.5	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.23	1,020	1.1%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.82	1,530	1.7%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.31	560	0.6%	0.6	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.42	2,080	2.3%	1.2	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$39.47	350	0.4%	0.6	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.33	6,470	7.2%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.86	850	1.0%	0.8	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$38.15	5,640	6.3%	1.0	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.29	5,150	5.8%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$28.64	1,500	1.7%	1.1	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.43	8,410	9.4%	1.2	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.65	3,040	3.4%	1.2	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.73	1,810	2.0%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.63	8,050	9.0%	1.1	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.22	10,350	11.6%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$21.66	240	0.3%	2.2	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.67	4,640	5.2%	1.3	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.01	3,990	4.5%	1.2	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.80	7,860	8.8%	1.2	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.36	7,580	8.5%	1.1	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

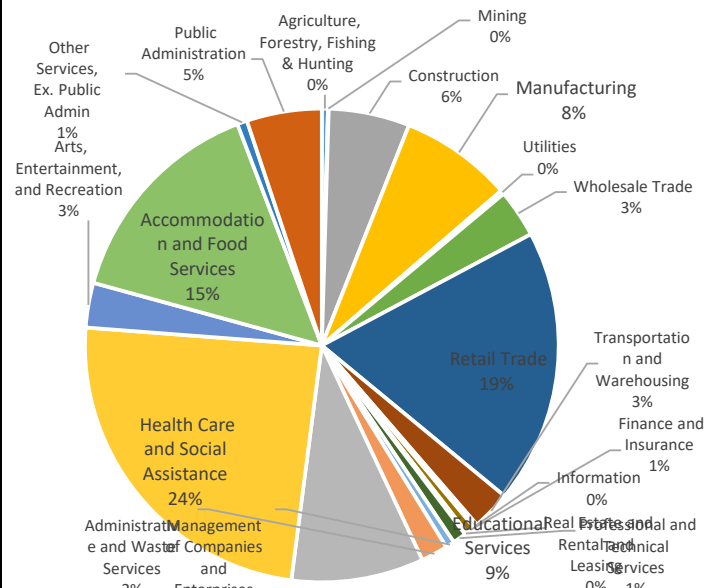
**JOB VACANCY SURVEY**

Clay Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region. There were 14193 job vacancies posted by employers in 2023, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

**Table 12. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023**

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>14,193</b>	<b>\$17.77</b>
Management	180	\$31.08
Business & Financial Operations	162	\$23.79
Computer & Mathematical	49	\$30.06
Architecture & Engineering	110	\$30.65
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	105	\$26.90
Community & Social Service	326	\$22.39
Education, Training & Library	668	\$18.97
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,478	\$28.94
Healthcare Support	1,168	\$15.09
Protective Service	277	\$23.55
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,518	\$14.63
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	594	\$16.01
Personal Care & Service	223	\$15.86
Sales & Related	1,918	\$15.97
Office & Administrative Support	508	\$17.18
Construction & Extraction	727	N/A
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	609	\$20.26
Production	668	\$20.44
Transportation & Material Moving	1,263	\$20.23

**Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023**



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

**OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

**Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022**

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$51,692/yr	Nursing Assistants \$37,961/yr	Registered Nurses \$81,165/yr	General & Operations Managers \$67,488/yr
Cashiers \$28,802/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$51,229/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$64,102/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$62,210/yr
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$32,976/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$47,005/yr	Dental Hygienists \$84,508/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$63,580/yr
Retail Salespersons \$31,063/yr	Machinists \$48,430/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$61,816/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$39,171/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$44,044/yr	Electricians \$62,857/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$68,070/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$64,490/yr
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General \$48,600/yr	Medical Assistants \$46,584/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$71,089/yr	Preschool Teachers \$36,501/yr
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary \$37,015/yr	Dental Assistants \$51,999/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$53,775/yr	Special Education Teachers, Kindergarten & Elementary School \$63,611/yr
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping \$37,767/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$56,923/yr	Forest & Conservation Technicians \$51,299/yr	Child, Family, & School Social Workers \$62,810/yr
Stockers & Order Fillers \$39,215/yr	Farm Equipment Mechanics & Service Technicians \$52,147/yr	Paralegals & Legal Assistants \$53,542/yr	Business Operations Specialists, All Other \$60,668/yr
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand \$39,548/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$39,707/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$71,840/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral & mental health counselors \$47,988/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

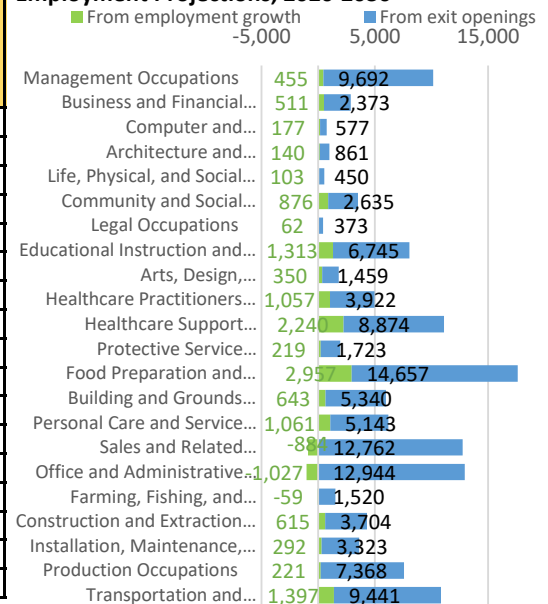
Clay Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 5.1% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

**Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030**

	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030
<b>Northwest Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>250,722</b>	<b>263,441</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	5,790	5,740	-0.9%
Utilities	1,135	970	-14.5%
Construction	10,693	11,157	4.3%
Manufacturing	27,999	28,618	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,829	12,347	4.4%
Retail Trade	26,846	25,467	-5.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,436	6,741	4.7%
Information	2,276	2,229	-2.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	7,478	7,641	2.2%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,587	6,025	7.8%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	3,889	4,139	6.4%
Educational Services	22,015	23,101	4.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,901	41,390	12.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	20,446	24,818	21.4%
Other Services	9,052	10,144	12.1%
Public Administration	22,824	23,240	1.8%

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, Clay Co. had the 21st largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Clay Co. was the 45th fastest growing in the past year and the 28th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Clay Co. grew despite the pandemic recession.

1,502 business establishments

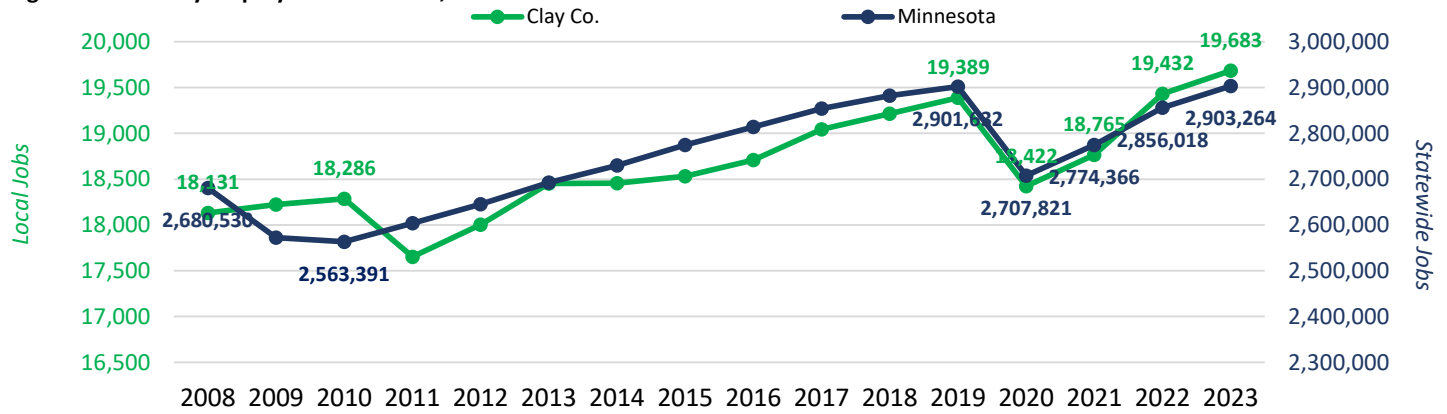
\$51,711 annual average wage

19,683 jobs

\$1,017,830,258 total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2023: 294 jobs, 1.5% increase

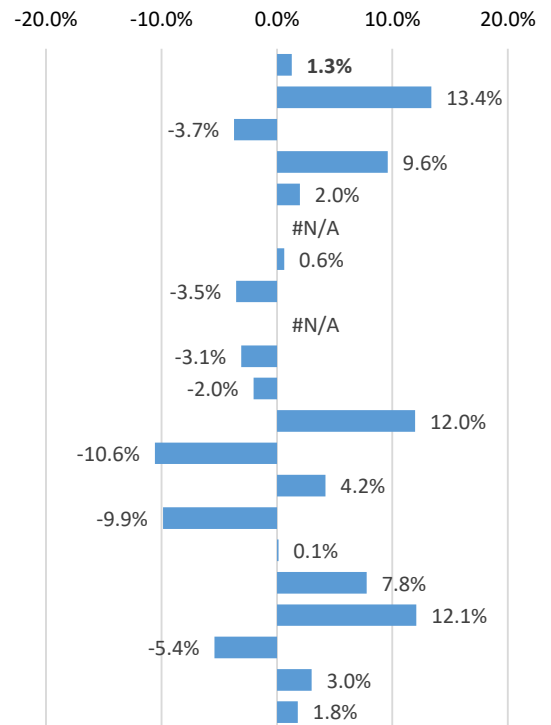
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023



Source: DEED QCEW program

Table 15. Clay Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2023	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>19,683</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$51,711</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	305	1.5%	\$63,359
Mining	26	0.1%	\$70,067
Construction	1,129	5.7%	\$64,697
Manufacturing	1,176	6.0%	\$66,525
Utilities	67	0.3%	\$65,786
Wholesale Trade	1,125	5.7%	\$86,216
Retail Trade	2,467	12.5%	\$33,552
Transportation & Warehousing	592	3.0%	\$44,881
Information	220	1.1%	\$47,379
Finance & Insurance	389	2.0%	\$71,387
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	159	0.8%	\$53,129
Professional & Technical Services	635	3.2%	\$76,118
Management of Companies	99	0.5%	\$182,207
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	274	1.4%	\$39,961
Educational Services	3,575	18.2%	\$53,167
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,495	17.8%	\$45,648
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	325	1.7%	\$21,014
Accommodation & Food Services	1,611	8.2%	\$20,697
Other Services	718	3.6%	\$41,233
Public Administration	1,289	6.5%	\$62,572

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

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

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Data updated: June 4, 2024