

COUNTY PROFILE

Dodge Co.

Dodge Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 10, which is located in the Southeast Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2023 population:	21,088 people
Population change, 2020-2023	221 people 1.1% increase

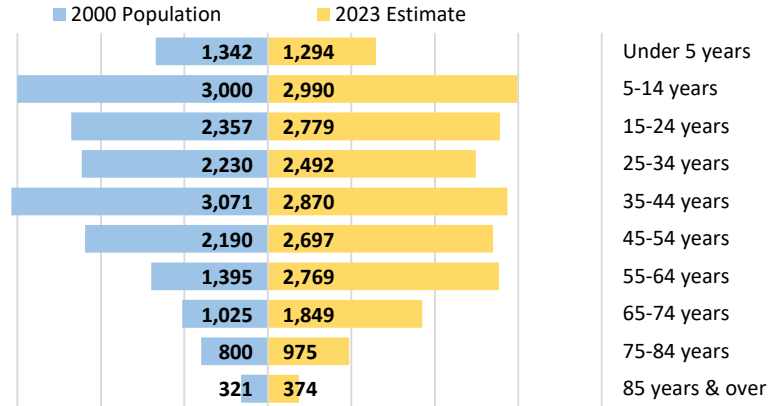
Median Age:	38.3 years
state:	38.5 years

Dodge Co. is the 48th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 33rd fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Dodge Co.'s population has an older 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	1,294	6.1%
5-14 years	2,990	14.2%
15-24 years	2,779	13.2%
25-34 years	2,492	11.8%
35-44 years	2,870	13.6%
45-54 years	2,697	12.8%
55-64 years	2,769	13.1%
65-74 years	1,849	8.8%
75-84 years	975	4.6%
85 years & over	374	1.8%
Total Population	21,088	100.0%

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Dodge Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Dodge 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
Dodge Co.	222	313	851	538	-104	46	-150
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

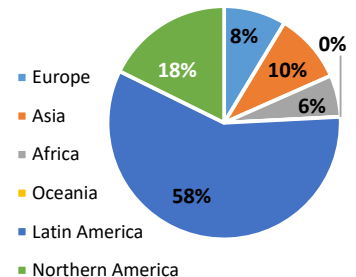
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Dodge Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	740	3.5%	270	57.4%	8.5%	31.3%
Europe	64	8.6%	-10	-13.5%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	72	9.7%	-34	-32.1%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	43	5.8%	37	616.7%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	561	75.8%	277	97.5%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	430	58.1%	164	61.7%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	131	17.7%	113	627.8%	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



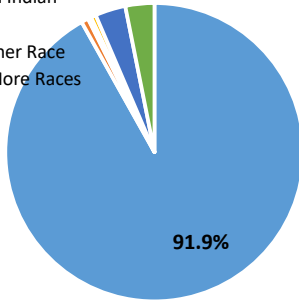
COUNTY PROFILE

Dodge Co.

Dodge 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

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



	Dodge Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	20,893	100.0%	4.7%	100.0%	7.9%
White	19,196	91.9%	-1.1%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	161	0.8%	130.0%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	75	0.4%	188.5%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	114	0.5%	4.6%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	690	3.3%	418.8%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	657	3.1%	198.6%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1,066	5.1%	21.0%	5.7%	34.6%

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

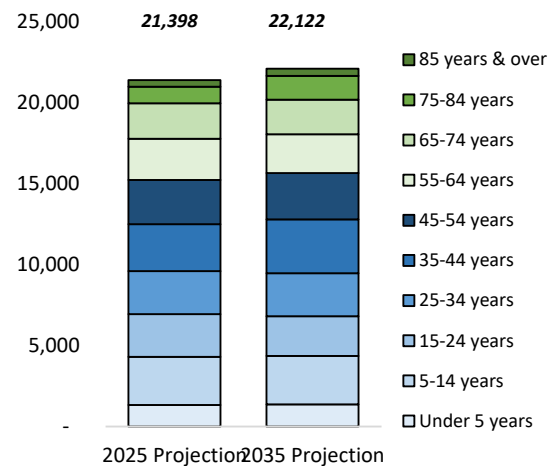
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Dodge Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

Dodge Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,326	1,364	38	2.9%
5-14 years	2,981	2,992	11	0.4%
15-24 years	2,644	2,459	-185	-7.0%
25-34 years	2,654	2,664	10	0.4%
35-44 years	2,896	3,315	419	14.5%
45-54 years	2,737	2,868	131	4.8%
55-64 years	2,537	2,400	-137	-5.4%
65-74 years	2,202	2,132	-70	-3.2%
75-84 years	1,014	1,465	451	44.5%
85 years & over	407	463	56	13.8%
Total Population	21,398	22,122	724	3.4%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Dodge Co. has a higher 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. Dodge 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.

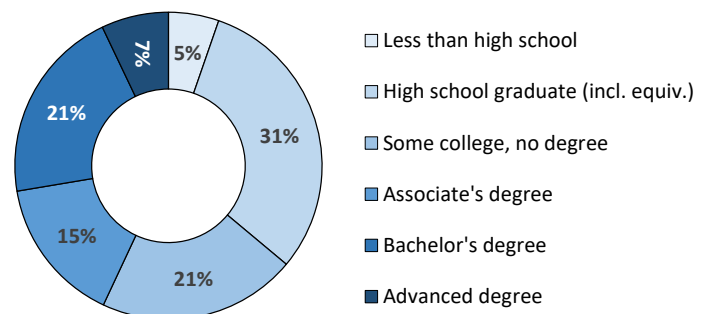
Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:

94.7%

College-educated: 63.9%
state: 68.5%

Associate's Degree: 15.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 20.6%
Advanced Degree: 7.1%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022



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

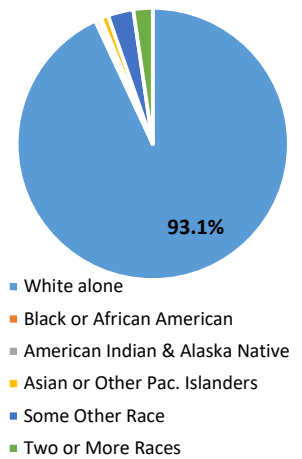
LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Dodge 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
Total Labor Force	11,785	72.1%	2.9%	68.7%	4.0%	6,109	5,684
16 to 19 years	554	43.5%	6.9%	53.0%	9.8%	282	272
20 to 24 years	1,080	91.8%	4.3%	83.1%	6.7%	509	570
25 to 44 years	4,915	92.5%	2.2%	88.8%	3.5%	2,532	2,382
45 to 54 years	2,480	92.8%	4.0%	87.8%	2.9%	1,338	1,141
55 to 64 years	2,169	79.1%	1.4%	72.8%	3.1%	1,062	1,107
65 to 74 years	506	27.6%	3.8%	27.6%	3.3%	333	172
75 years & over	94	7.0%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	53	40
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin							
White alone	10,973	72.7%	2.7%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	57	35.8%	0.0%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	31	56.4%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	104	91.2%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	357	70.1%	9.8%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	271	65.3%	3.0%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	456	66.4%	5.7%	77.0%	6.3%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	570	59.7%	10.7%	54.4%	10.2%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	9,558	89.1%	2.5%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	284	74.0%	4.1%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,389	83.4%	0.6%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	3,699	91.0%	1.6%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3,191	93.5%	2.0%	90.3%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022



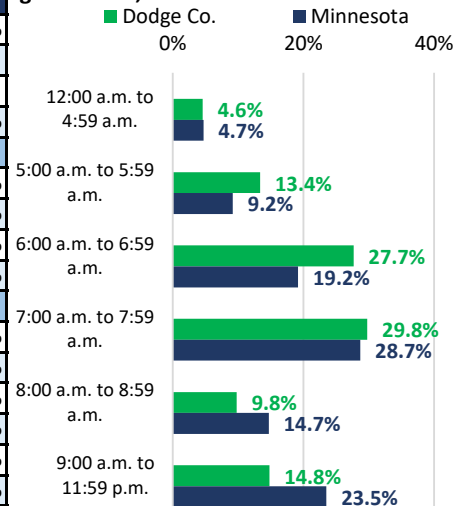
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Dodge Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	11,193	99.1%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	4,687	41.5%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	6,506	57.6%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	102	0.9%	67,495	2.3%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	9,872	87.4%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	79	0.7%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	237	2.1%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	1,107	9.8%	333,556	11.4%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	1,954	17.3%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	2,067	18.3%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	3,219	28.5%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	2,903	25.7%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	576	5.1%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	587	5.2%	158,000	5.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.3 minutes		23.3 minutes	

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



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

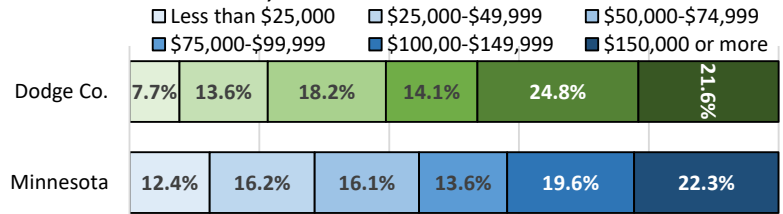
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Dodge Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Dodge Co. had the 9th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$92,890
state	\$84,313
Median Family Income	\$108,281
state	\$107,072
Per Capita Income	\$42,838
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. Dodge Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$16.6 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$21.28 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
Dodge Co.	\$34,525	\$16.60	\$0	\$406	\$161	\$999	\$597	\$336	\$378
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
Dodge Co.	\$66,393	\$21.28	\$478	\$926	\$576	\$1,264	\$1,045	\$524	\$720
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

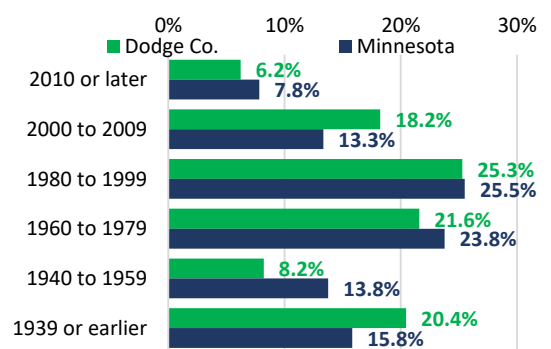
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Dodge Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 19th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Dodge 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	Dodge Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	6,823	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	323	4.7%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	332	4.9%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	678	9.9%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,081	15.8%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,062	30.2%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,746	25.6%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	601	8.8%	14.7%
Median (dollars)	\$245,800		\$286,800

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 **\$1,710**

state \$1,818

Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs **20.7%**

state 22.0%

Median monthly rent costs **\$901**

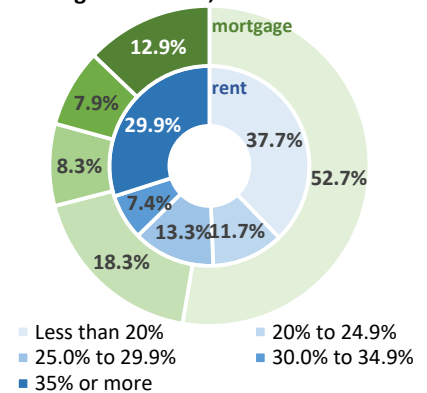
state \$1,178

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent **37.3%**

state 46.7%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$24.26 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 10 than the state. Overall, Region 10 had the 2nd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$51.51) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.57) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 10				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
Total, All Occupations	\$24.26	240,340	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$51.51	13,250	5.5%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$37.97	9,740	4.1%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$50.87	5,270	2.2%	0.6	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.43	3,540	1.5%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$38.64	2,120	0.9%	0.9	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$30.48	4,670	1.9%	1.0	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$43.12	690	0.3%	0.4	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.42	14,670	6.1%	1.1	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$26.08	1,990	0.8%	0.7	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$48.05	29,150	12.1%	1.9	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.85	14,270	5.9%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$28.97	3,950	1.6%	1.0	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.57	20,590	8.6%	1.1	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.08	6,760	2.8%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.17	4,830	2.0%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.36	18,280	7.6%	0.9	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.45	27,760	11.6%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$20.01	320	0.1%	1.1	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.88	8,370	3.5%	0.9	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.53	8,550	3.6%	1.0	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.72	22,500	9.4%	1.3	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.01	19,080	7.9%	1.0	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

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

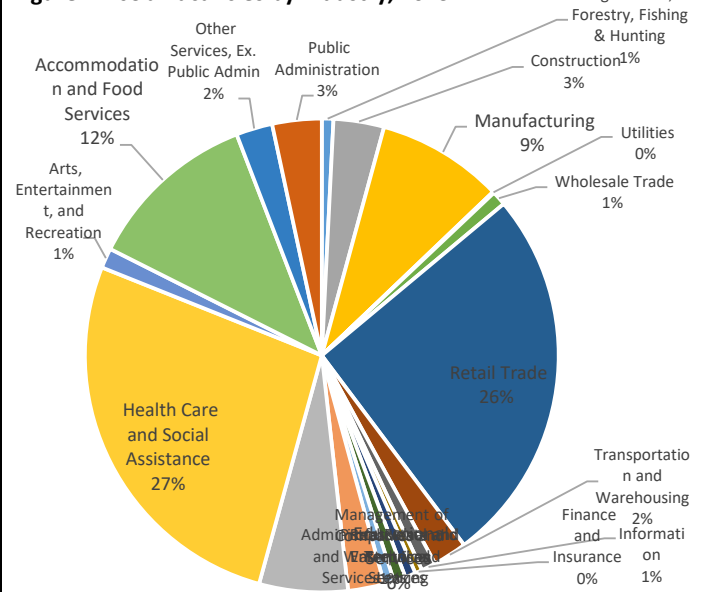
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Dodge Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region. There were 13711 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. Southeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	13,711	\$0.27
Management	212	\$0.15
Business & Financial Operations	467	\$0.02
Computer & Mathematical	97	\$0.04
Architecture & Engineering	297	\$0.01
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	171	\$0.01
Community & Social Service	608	\$0.08
Education, Training & Library	418	\$0.27
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	964	\$0.18
Healthcare Support	1,534	\$0.30
Protective Service	192	\$0.45
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,856	\$0.40
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	314	\$0.12
Personal Care & Service	455	\$0.24
Sales & Related	2,426	\$0.55
Office & Administrative Support	548	\$0.18
Construction & Extraction	160	\$0.00
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	732	\$0.05
Production	690	\$0.10
Transportation & Material Moving	1,108	\$0.15

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southeast Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health & Personal Care Aides \$33,154/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$48,274/yr	Registered Nurses \$86,697/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$63,367/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$44,169/yr	Nursing Assistants \$38,287/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$60,703/yr	Pharmacists \$143,081/yr
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand \$40,221/yr	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists \$36,972/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$80,182/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$65,242/yr
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$55,244/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$52,969/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$71,226/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$70,366/yr
Retail Salespersons \$31,528/yr	Medical Assistants \$49,832/yr	Dental Hygienists \$84,003/yr	Software Developers \$104,831/yr
Stockers & Order Fillers \$33,967/yr	Electricians \$66,736/yr	Biological Technicians \$66,195/yr	Medical & Health Services Managers \$101,144/yr
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping \$37,499/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$52,730/yr	Surgical Technologists \$68,975/yr	Physician Assistants \$129,221/yr
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary \$37,835/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$63,467/yr	Paralegals & Legal Assistants \$63,872/yr	Industrial Engineers \$83,210/yr
Bartenders \$25,042/yr	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers \$64,819/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$62,105/yr	Physicians, All Other NA
Customer Service Representatives \$41,637/yr	Dental Assistants \$58,673/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$73,341/yr	Nurse Practitioners \$134,164/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

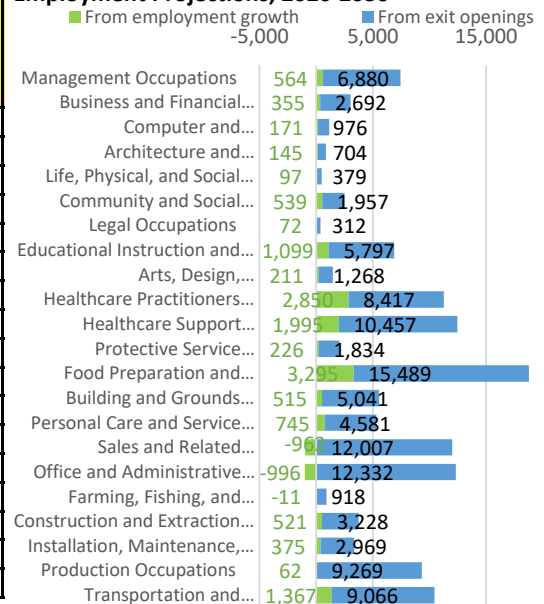
Dodge Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region, which is projected to see a 5.1% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030

	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030
Southeast Planning Region			
Total, All Industries	261,589	274,824	5.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	3,447	3,477	0.9%
Utilities	1,160	1,150	-0.9%
Construction	9,396	9,891	5.3%
Manufacturing	36,536	36,636	0.3%
Wholesale Trade	7,047	7,342	4.2%
Retail Trade	25,379	24,160	-4.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,801	8,311	6.5%
Information	2,943	2,941	-0.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	6,025	6,133	1.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	7,642	7,966	4.2%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	8,158	8,815	8.1%
Educational Services	19,447	20,396	4.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,850	70,687	9.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	19,129	23,366	22.1%
Other Services	8,287	9,159	10.5%
Public Administration	13,990	14,748	5.4%

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, Dodge Co. had the 52nd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Dodge Co. was the 48th fastest growing in the past year and the 64th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Dodge Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

495 business establishments

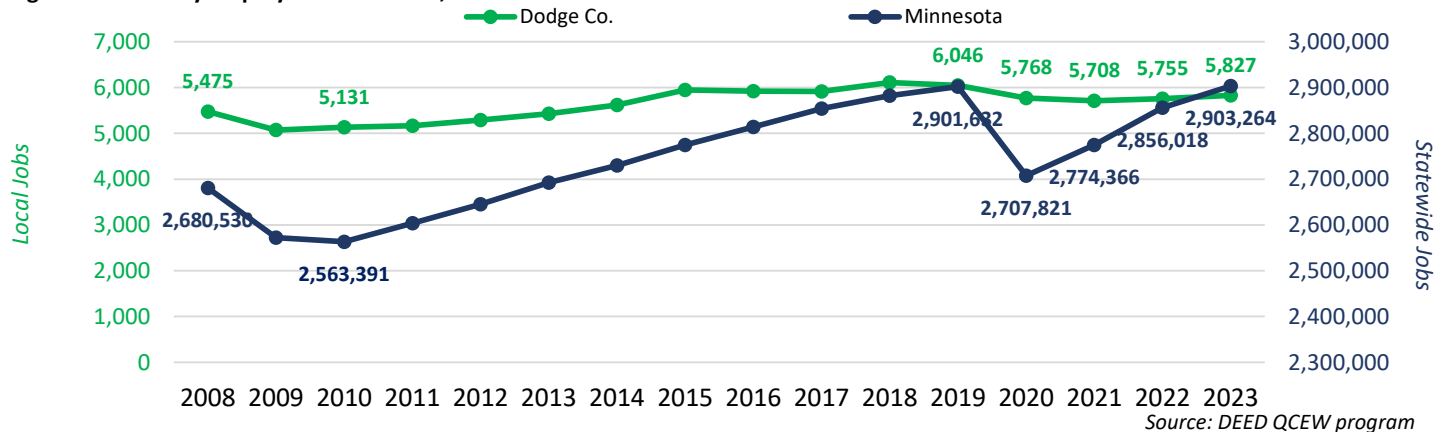
\$59,983 annual average wage

5,827 jobs

\$349,522,803 total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2023
-219 jobs
-3.6% decline

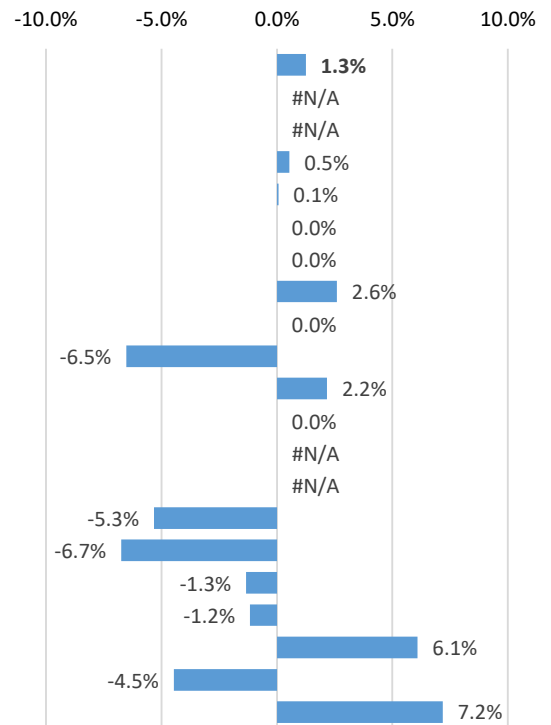
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023



Source: DEED QCEW program

Table 15. Dodge Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2023	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
Total, All Industries	5,827	100.0%	\$59,983
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	203	3.5%	\$46,838
Mining	28	0.5%	\$116,202
Construction	555	9.5%	\$79,019
Manufacturing	1,414	24.3%	\$73,856
Utilities	9	0.2%	\$90,333
Wholesale Trade	703	12.1%	\$101,883
Retail Trade	434	7.4%	\$26,812
Transportation & Warehousing	186	3.2%	\$56,281
Information	43	0.7%	\$80,876
Finance & Insurance	94	1.6%	\$53,678
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	5	0.1%	\$31,371
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	89	1.5%	\$47,650
Educational Services	636	10.9%	\$47,198
Health Care & Social Assistance	371	6.4%	\$38,224
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	85	1.5%	\$13,720
Accommodation & Food Services	366	6.3%	\$19,965
Other Services	150	2.6%	\$29,426
Public Administration	388	6.7%	\$48,423

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

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

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