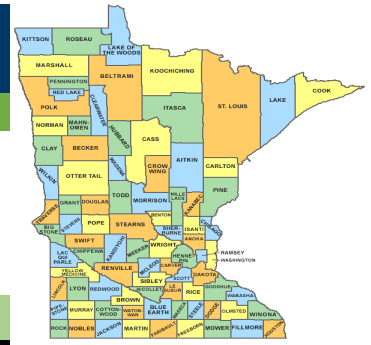


**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Lincoln Co.**

Lincoln Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 8, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	<b>5,521 people</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	-119 people -2.1% decline

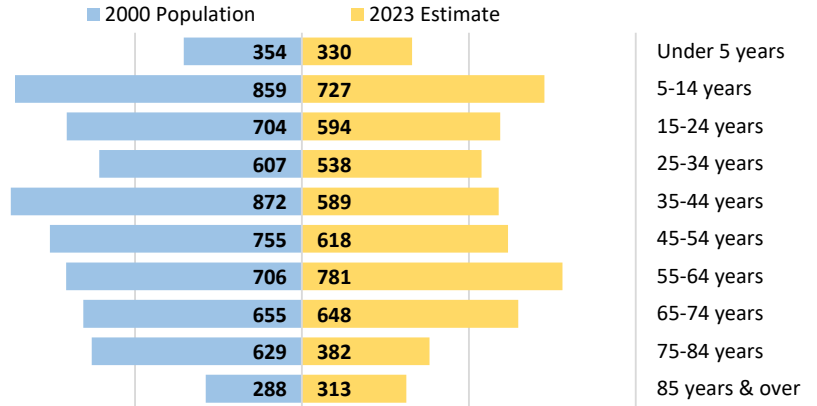
Median Age:	<b>44.6 years</b>
state:	38.5 years

Lincoln Co. is the 80th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 76th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Lincoln Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	330	6.0%
5-14 years	727	13.2%
15-24 years	594	10.8%
25-34 years	538	9.8%
35-44 years	589	10.7%
45-54 years	618	11.2%
55-64 years	781	14.1%
65-74 years	648	11.7%
75-84 years	382	6.9%
85 years & over	313	5.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>5,521</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Lincoln Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Lincoln 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
Lincoln Co.	-120	-114	195	309	-6	9	-15
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

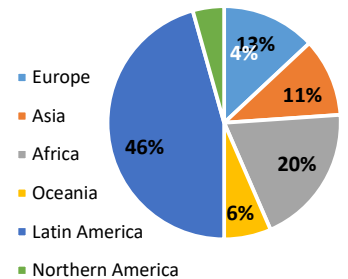
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Lincoln Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Lincoln Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

	Lincoln Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-51.1%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Europe	6	13.0%	-29	-82.9%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	5	10.9%	2	66.7%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	9	19.6%	7	350.0%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	3	6.5%	-1	-25.0%	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	23	50.0%	-27	-54.0%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	21	45.7%	-29	-58.0%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	2	4.3%	2	#DIV/0!	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



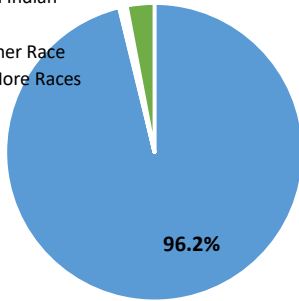
## COUNTY PROFILE

Lincoln Co.

Lincoln 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



	Lincoln Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
White	5,415	96.2%	-6.5%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	9	0.2%	-30.8%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	0.1%	-85.7%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	22	0.4%	37.5%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	10	0.2%	11.1%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	168	3.0%	600.0%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	125	2.2%	155.1%	5.7%	34.6%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

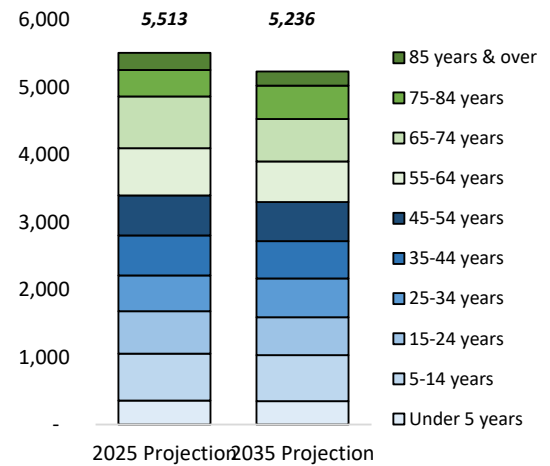
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Lincoln Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to decrease over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

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

Lincoln Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	357	346	-11	-3.1%
5-14 years	696	681	-15	-2.2%
15-24 years	626	563	-63	-10.1%
25-34 years	534	577	43	8.1%
35-44 years	592	555	-37	-6.3%
45-54 years	594	580	-14	-2.4%
55-64 years	701	602	-99	-14.1%
65-74 years	766	629	-137	-17.9%
75-84 years	394	495	101	25.6%
85 years & over	253	208	-45	-17.8%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>5,513</b>	<b>5,236</b>	<b>-277</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

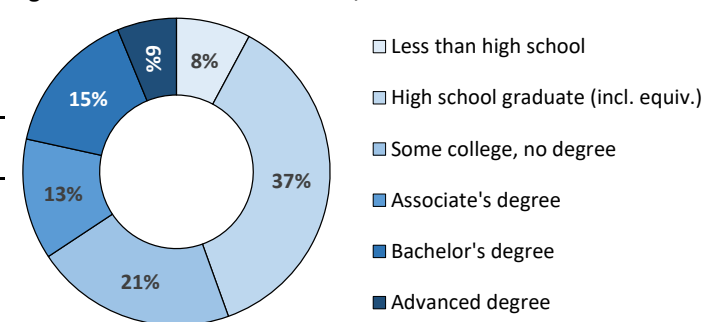
**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022**



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

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

**92.2%**

**College-educated: 55.5%**  
state: 68.5%

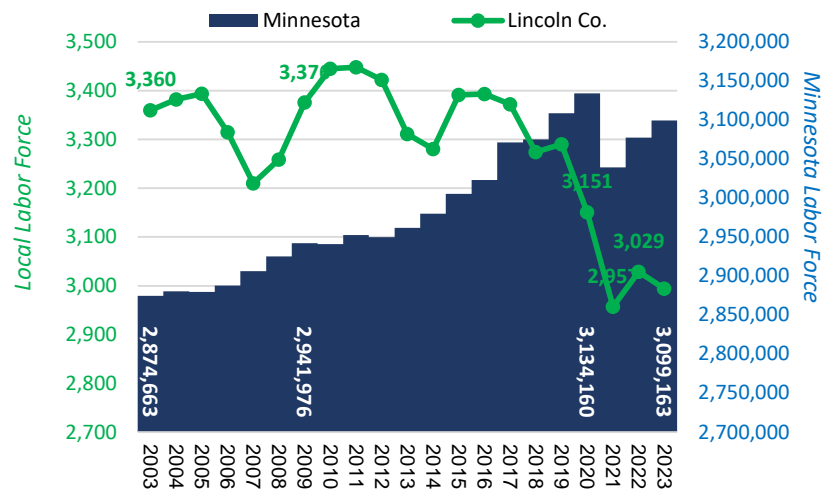
**Associate's Degree: 12.7%**  
**Bachelor's Degree: 15.3%**  
**Advanced Degree: 6.2%**

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.9%, Lincoln Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Lincoln Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Lincoln Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>3,029</b> available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	-265 workers -8.1% decline
<b>2.9%</b> unemployment rate	2.7% state
<b>88</b> unemployed workers	

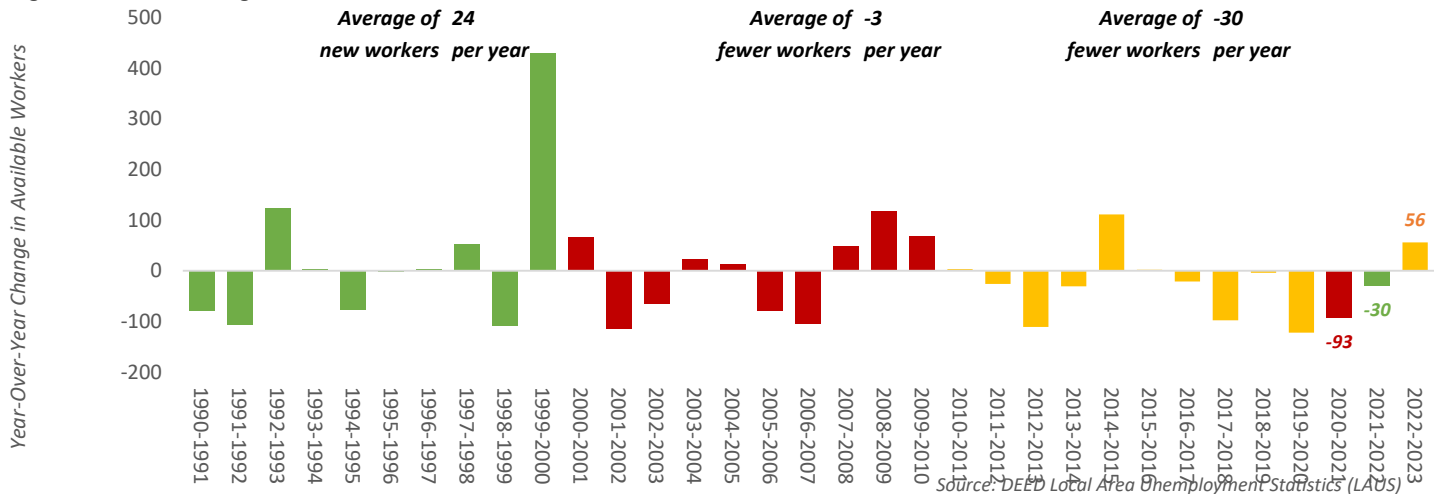
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Lincoln Co. averaged an annual loss of fewer workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Lincoln Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



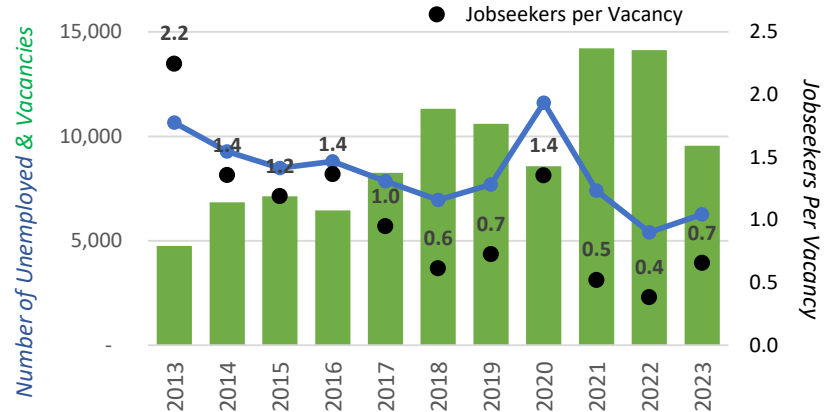
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	359	334
25 to 54 years	1,532	1,525
55 to 64 years	581	499
65 years & over	309	267
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,624</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 Southwest 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

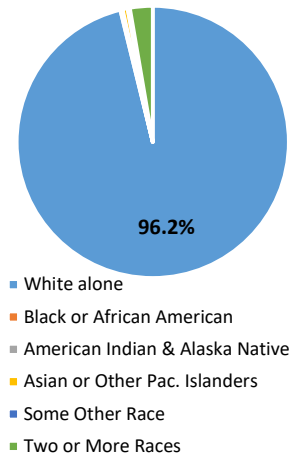
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Lincoln Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Lincoln 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**

	Lincoln 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>2,890</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>1,310</b>
16 to 19 years	122	45.2%	15.6%	53.0%	9.8%	69	53
20 to 24 years	243	87.4%	4.1%	83.1%	6.7%	110	133
25 to 44 years	1,028	89.4%	1.6%	88.8%	3.5%	566	462
45 to 54 years	557	88.4%	1.8%	87.8%	2.9%	319	238
55 to 64 years	660	82.9%	2.3%	72.8%	3.1%	353	307
65 to 74 years	224	33.9%	3.1%	27.6%	3.3%	123	101
75 years & over	54	7.6%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	38	16
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	2,779	64.0%	2.7%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	4	66.7%	0.0%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	4	66.7%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	17	85.0%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	8	80.0%	0.0%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	78	70.9%	5.1%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	78	72.9%	5.1%	77.0%	6.3%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	156	54.2%	9.0%	54.4%	10.2%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	2,246	87.2%	1.9%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	126	79.7%	2.5%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	591	79.4%	0.8%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	889	90.7%	2.2%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	639	92.1%	1.1%	90.3%	2.0%		

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



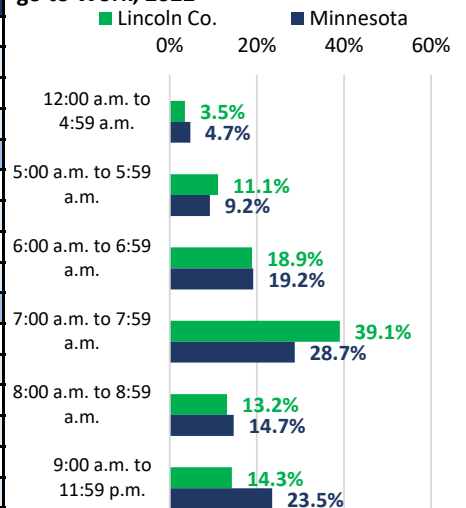
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Lincoln Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	2,430	88.0%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	1,494	54.1%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	933	33.8%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	331	12.0%	67,495	2.3%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	2,201	79.7%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	11	0.4%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	108	3.9%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	442	16.0%	333,556	11.4%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	737	26.7%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	588	21.3%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	398	14.4%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	762	27.6%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	163	5.9%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	113	4.1%	158,000	5.4%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>22.8 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

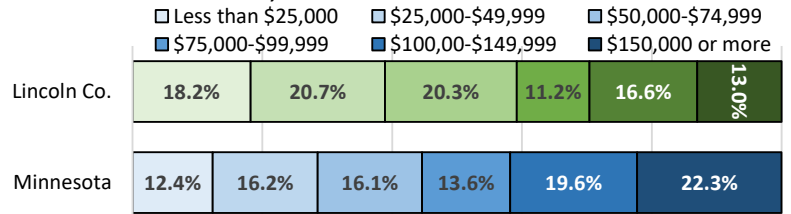
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Lincoln Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Lincoln Co. had the 69th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$64,750</b>
state	\$84,313
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$79,821</b>
state	\$107,072
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$35,638</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. Lincoln Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.11 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.32 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023

Category	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Single Adult, 0 children									
Lincoln Co.	\$29,350	\$14.11	\$0	\$420	\$161	\$670	\$625	\$261	\$309
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									
Lincoln Co.	\$57,167	\$18.32	\$281	\$958	\$576	\$853	\$1,114	\$433	\$549
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

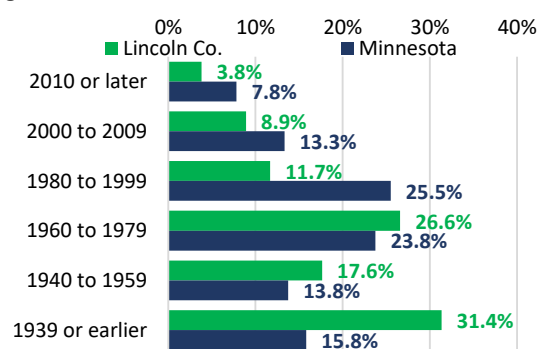
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Lincoln Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 73rd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Lincoln Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Lincoln Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	287	14.4%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	466	23.3%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	294	14.7%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	244	12.2%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	355	17.8%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	252	12.6%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	98	4.9%	14.7%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$139,500</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** **\$1,206**

state \$1,818

**Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs** **22.0%**

state 22.0%

**Median monthly rent costs** **\$677**

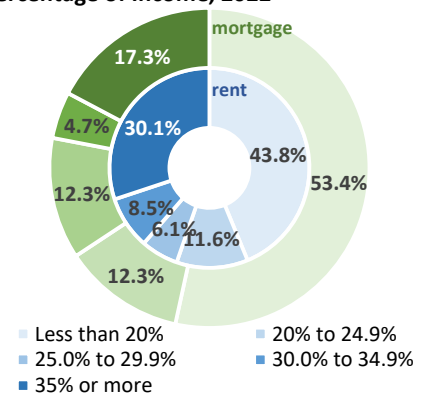
state \$1,178

**Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent** **38.6%**

state 46.7%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$22.81 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 8 than the state. Overall, Region 8 had the 9th 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 (\$14.46) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 8				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>\$22.81</b>	<b>52,080</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	2,680	5.1%	0.7	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$32.67	2,190	4.2%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.94	540	1.0%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.82	730	1.4%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.31	390	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.33	920	1.8%	0.9	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$37.81	110	0.2%	0.3	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$24.94	3,840	7.4%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.27	380	0.7%	0.6	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.34	2,720	5.2%	0.8	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.03	3,060	5.9%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$29.14	660	1.3%	0.8	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.46	3,920	7.5%	0.9	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.02	1,610	3.1%	1.1	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.30	690	1.3%	0.6	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.09	4,450	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.23	5,920	11.4%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$21.24	240	0.5%	3.8	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$26.91	2,220	4.3%	1.1	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.09	2,410	4.6%	1.3	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$21.77	7,330	14.1%	2.0	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.79	5,060	9.7%	1.2	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

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

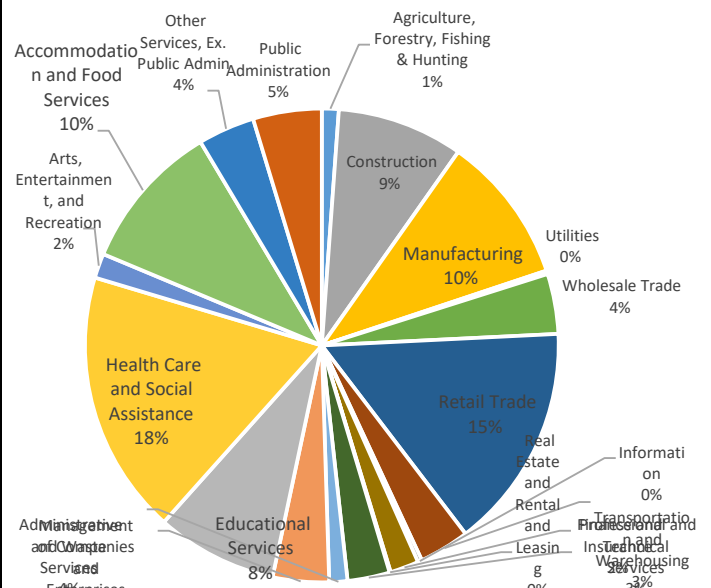
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Lincoln Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9546 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. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>9,546</b>	<b>\$19.74</b>
Management	202	\$32.04
Business & Financial Operations	520	\$25.88
Computer & Mathematical	100	\$37.50
Architecture & Engineering	96	\$28.56
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	69	\$24.18
Community & Social Service	258	\$23.46
Education, Training & Library	453	\$18.35
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	738	\$31.97
Healthcare Support	508	\$16.76
Protective Service	177	\$22.52
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,180	\$15.32
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	432	\$16.90
Personal Care & Service	188	\$14.60
Sales & Related	1,164	\$15.93
Office & Administrative Support	563	\$19.27
Construction & Extraction	431	\$25.04
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	653	\$22.92
Production	540	\$18.93
Transportation & Material Moving	773	\$21.15

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southwest 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 \$32,800/yr	Nursing Assistants \$38,146/yr	Registered Nurses \$80,694/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$46,668/yr
Retail Salespersons \$30,660/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$52,242/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$66,050/yr	General & Operations Managers \$78,383/yr
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$51,299/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$49,362/yr	Dental Hygienists \$82,983/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$63,391/yr
Cashiers \$29,092/yr	Dental Assistants \$54,422/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$61,801/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$64,067/yr
Fast Food & Counter Workers \$29,393/yr	Machinists \$49,288/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$49,646/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$66,142/yr
Waiters & Waitresses \$24,271/yr	Electricians \$63,396/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$66,703/yr	Preschool Teachers \$35,451/yr
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand \$39,654/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$57,870/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$72,682/yr	Medical & Health Services Managers \$95,320/yr
Office Clerks, General \$41,160/yr	Medical Assistants \$46,233/yr	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$66,192/yr	Industrial Production Managers \$99,559/yr
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General \$49,219/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$59,803/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians \$71,840/yr	Lawyers \$103,321/yr
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary \$36,756/yr	Farm Equipment Mechanics & Service Technicians \$51,684/yr	Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, Including \$39,218/yr	Personal Financial Advisors \$78,180/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Lincoln Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% 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>Southwest Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>195,812</b>	<b>203,504</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	5,931	6,026	1.6%
Utilities	713	735	3.1%
Construction	7,573	8,082	6.7%
Manufacturing	30,107	30,719	2.0%
Wholesale Trade	8,045	8,118	0.9%
Retail Trade	18,569	17,653	-4.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,385	7,817	5.8%
Information	2,152	2,001	-7.0%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,098	8,232	1.7%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,283	5,512	4.3%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	3,421	3,636	6.3%
Educational Services	15,564	16,274	4.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,352	32,081	9.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	11,744	14,382	22.5%
Other Services	6,756	7,462	10.4%
Public Administration	13,193	13,517	2.5%

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2020-2030

