

COUNTY PROFILE

Steele Co.

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

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



Steele Co. is the 28th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 51st fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Steele 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).

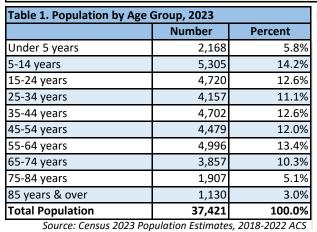
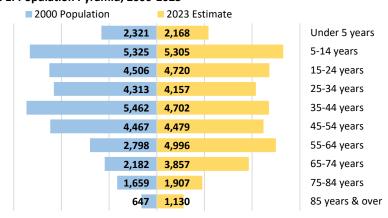


Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Steele 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, Steele Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2023								
	Total	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023						
	Population	Natural	Vital E	vents	Net Migration			
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic	
Steele Co.	15	143	1,366	1,223	-138	90	-228	
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976	

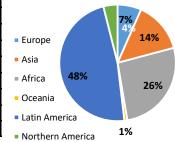
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Steele Co. Change 2010-2022 Minner Population, 2022 Number Percent Number Percent Foreign-born Population 1,708 4.6% 402 30.8% 8.5% Europe 113 6.6% -12 -9.6% 9.3% Asia 243 14.2% 66 37.3% 36.7% Africa 452 26.5% 174 62.6% 28.1% Oceania 14 0.8% -22 -61.1% 0.4%	
Foreign-born Population 1,708 4.6% 402 30.8% 8.5% Europe 113 6.6% -12 -9.6% 9.3% Asia 243 14.2% 66 37.3% 36.7% Africa 452 26.5% 174 62.6% 28.1%	
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Asia 243 14.2% 66 37.3% 36.7% Africa 452 26.5% 174 62.6% 28.1%	31.3%
Africa 452 26.5% 174 62.6% 28.1%	-0.6%
	30.2%
Oceania 14 0.8% -22 -61.1% 0.4%	93.1%
	20.4%
Americas: 886 51.9% 196 28.4% 25.4%	7.5%
Latin America 819 48.0% 181 28.4% 22.9%	9.0%
Northern America 67 3.9% 15 28.8% 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

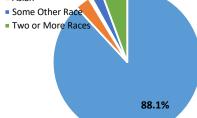


Steele Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2011, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2022

White





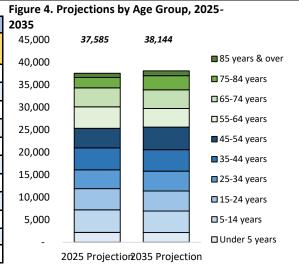
		Steele Co	Minnesota		
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	37,396	100.0%	2.4%	100.0%	7.9%
White	32,952	88.1%	-4.1%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	1,198	3.2%	27.3%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	58	0.2%	107.1%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	178	0.5%	-44.2%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	907	2.4%	186.1%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	2,103	5.6%	274.2%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,093	8.3%	40.0%	5.7%	34.6%

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Steele 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 2025 2035 Numeric Percent **Projection** Steele Co. Projection Change Change Under 5 years 2,212 2,178 -34 -1.5% 5-14 years 4,989 4,785 -204 -4.1% -6.2% 4,745 4,450 -295 15-24 years 25-34 years 4,165 4,416 251 6.0% 35-44 years 4,895 4,758 -137 -2.8% 5,046 713 45-54 years 4,333 16.5% 55-64 years 4,782 4,137 -645 -13.5% 65-74 years 4,233 4,162 -71 -1.7% 75-84 years 2.294 3.144 850 37.1% 937 85 years & over 1.068 131 14.0% **Total Population** 37,585 38,144 559 1.5%



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

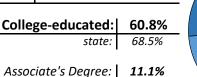
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Steele 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. Steele 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:

92.4%

Bachelor's Degree:



17.6%

Less than high school

High school graduate (incl. equiv.)

Some college, no degree

Associate's degree

Bachelor's degree

Advanced degree

Advanced Degree: 8.6%

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

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.8%, Steele Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Steele Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Steele Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.







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

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

1,000

Average of 271

New workers per year

See Table 6).

Steele Co.

Average of 155

Average of -41

new workers per year

See Table 6).

Steele Co.

Average of 155

Average of -41

new workers per year

See Table 6).

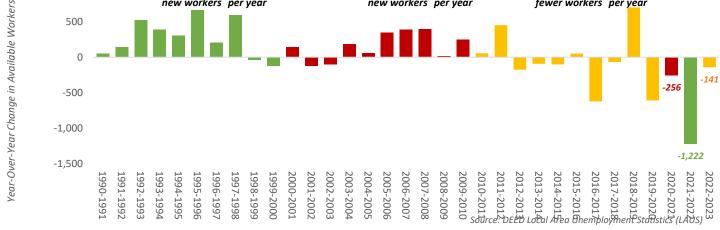
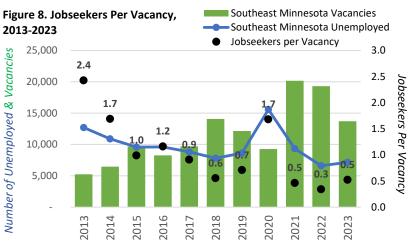


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection			
Projections, 2025-2035	2025	2035		
16 to 24 years	3,008	2,941		
25 to 54 years	11,964	12,716		
55 to 64 years	3,588	3,104		
65 years & over	1,407	1,443		
Total Labor Force	19,966	20,205		

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 Southeast returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Steele Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Steele Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 81.3% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

	S	teele Co.		Minne	esota	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	
Total Labor Force	19,801	67.8%	3.4%	68.7%	4.0%	
16 to 19 years	1,022	51.5%	12.5%	53.0%	9.8%	
20 to 24 years	1,850	92.1%	2.9%	83.1%	6.7%	
25 to 44 years	7,820	88.3%	4.4%	88.8%	3.5%	
45 to 54 years	4,091	91.4%	1.2%	87.8%	2.9%	
55 to 64 years	3,747	75.0%	1.4%	72.8%	3.1%	
65 to 74 years	1,110	28.8%	3.2%	27.6%	3.3%	
75 years & over	176	5.8%	6.8%	6.6%	3.2%	
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					
White alone	17,732	67.1%	3.4%	67.8%	3.4%	
Black or African American	508	60.7%	4.1%	71.5%	8.7%	
American Indian & Alaska Native	27	46.6%	3.7%	57.6%	11.9%	Ĺ
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	109	74.7%	1.8%	73.9%	3.6%	
Some Other Race	569	89.3%	5.8%	76.1%	6.1%	ĺ
Two or More Races	860	78.1%	2.2%	74.3%	6.6%	ľ
Hispanic or Latino	1,672	85.6%	3.2%	77.0%	6.3%	ĺ
Employment Characteristics by Disabili	ty, 20 to 64 years					ĺ
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,000	58.3%	2.6%	54.4%	10.2%	ĺ
Employment Characteristics by Educati	onal Attainment, 25	to 64 years				ĺ
Population, 25 to 64 years	15,665	85.5%	2.9%	84.4%	3.3%	ĺ
Less than H.S. Diploma	903	81.5%	3.9%	67.2%	4.6%	ĺ
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,729	77.2%	5.1%	76.8%	2.5%	ĺ
Some College or Assoc. Degree	5,835	87.7%	2.5%	85.1%	3.6%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,187	90.5%	1.1%	90.3%	2.0%	ĺ

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022

Labor Force by Gender

Female

9,070

468

875

3,550

1,899

1,750

441 87

Male

10,745

554

975

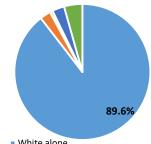
4,272

2,191

1,995

669

89



- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

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

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

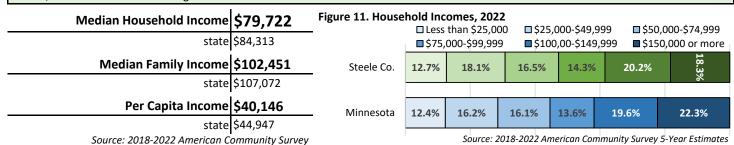
					_
	Steele	Co.	Minne	esota	
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Worked in state of residence	18,683	99.6%	2,867,086	97.7%	1
Worked in county of residence	14,688	78.3%	1,957,366	66.7%	ı
Worked out of county of residence	3,995	21.3%	909,720	31.0%	ı
Worked outside state of residence	75	0.4%	67,495	2.3%	ı
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK					
Car, truck, or van	16,563	88.3%	2,387,561	81.6%	5
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	169	0.9%	81,926	2.8%	ı
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	750	4.0%	122,889	4.2%	Е
Worked at home	1,294	6.9%	333,556	11.4%	ı
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK					. 7
Less than 10 minutes	5,646	30.1%	465,223	15.9%	,
10 to 19 minutes	6,997	37.3%	895,335	30.6%	ı
20 to 29 minutes	2,626	14.0%	649,557	22.2%	8
30 to 44 minutes	1,688	9.0%	567,631	19.4%	ı
45 to 59 minutes	1,013	5.4%	190,186	6.5%	ı
60 or more minutes	807	4.3%	158,000	5.4%	ı
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	18.1	minutes	23.3	minutes	i

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022 Steele Co. ■ Minnesota 0% 20% 40% 12:00 a.m. to 5.6% 4:59 a.m. 5:00 a.m. to 5:59 14.0% a.m. 9.2% 6:00 a.m. to 6:59 17.3% 19.2% 7:00 a.m. to 7:59 31.8% a.m. 28.7% 8:00 a.m. to 8:59 10.4% a.m. 14.7% 9:00 a.m. to 20.8% 11:59 p.m. 23.5%

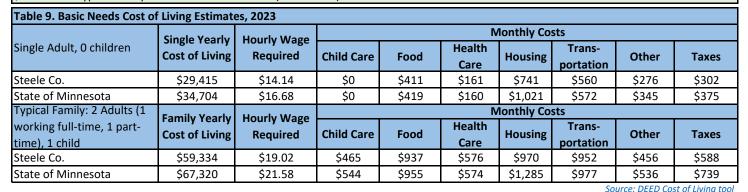
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Steele Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Steele Co. had the 14th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.



The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Steele Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.14 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.02 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).



Steele Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 35th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Steele Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Steele	Co.	Minnesota	Figure 12. Year St	ructure B	Built, 20	022
Total	Percent	Percent	0	%	10%	
11,624	100.0%	100.0%	■ Stee		004	■ N
454	3.9%	4.1%	2010 or later	4.	7.8%	
538	4.6%	4.6%	2000 to 2009			13.
1,643	14.1%	7.1%				13.
2,481	21.3%	10.7%	1980 to 1999			
3,785	32.6%	27.1%	1960 to 1979			
2,271	19.5%	31.7%				
452	3.9%	14.7%	1940 to 1959			14 13.
\$217,1	L 00	\$286,800	1030 or earlier			
	Total 11,624 454 538 1,643 2,481 3,785 2,271 452	Total Percent 11,624 100.0% 454 3.9% 538 4.6% 1,643 14.1% 2,481 21.3% 3,785 32.6% 2,271 19.5%	Total Percent Percent 11,624 100.0% 100.0% 454 3.9% 4.1% 538 4.6% 4.6% 1,643 14.1% 7.1% 2,481 21.3% 10.7% 3,785 32.6% 27.1% 2,271 19.5% 31.7% 452 3.9% 14.7%	Total Percent Percent 11,624 100.0% 100.0% 454 3.9% 4.1% 538 4.6% 4.6% 1,643 14.1% 7.1% 2,481 21.3% 10.7% 3,785 32.6% 27.1% 2,271 19.5% 31.7% 452 3.9% 14.7%	Total Percent O% 11,624 100.0% 100.0% 454 3.9% 4.1% 538 4.6% 4.6% 1,643 14.1% 7.1% 2,481 21.3% 10.7% 3,785 32.6% 27.1% 2,271 19.5% 31.7% 452 3.9% 14.7% 5217,100 \$286,800	Total Percent 0% 10% 11,624 100.0% 100.0% \$5teele Co. 454 3.9% 4.1% 2010 or later 7.8% 538 4.6% 4.6% 2000 to 2009 2000 to 2009 10% 1,643 14.1% 7.1% 1980 to 1999 1980 to 1999 1960 to 1979 1960 to 1979 1940 to 1959 1940 to 1959 \$217,100 \$286,800 \$

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

0% 10% 20% 30% ■ Steele Co ■ Minnesota 2010 or later 13.4% 2000 to 2009 20.9% 1980 to 1999 25.5% 25.6% 1960 to 1979 14.8% 1940 to 1959 13.8% 20.5% 1939 or earlier

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage

state \$1,818

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

19.0%

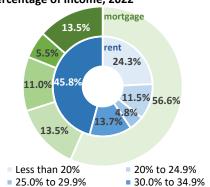
Median monthly rent costs

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

state 46.7%

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

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



35% or more

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).

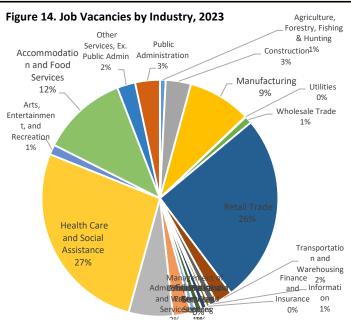
Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 20	24						
		Regior	า 10		Stat	e of Minnes	sota
Occupational Group	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
Total, All Occupations	\$24.26	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

Steele 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						
	Number of	Wage				
Occupational Group	Vacancies	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					
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,856	\$0.40				
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	314	\$0.12				
Personal Care & Service	455					
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				



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southeast Plannin	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	Automotive Service Technicians &	Registered Nurses	Elementary School Teachers			
Care Aides \$33,154/yr	Mechanics \$48,274/yr	\$86,697/yr	\$63,367/yr			
First-Line Supervisors of	Nursing Assistants	Clinical Laboratory Technologists	Pharmacists			
Retail Sales Workers	Ğ	& Technicians				
\$44,169/yr	\$38,287/yr	\$60,703/yr	\$143,081/yr			
Laborers & Freight, Stock, &	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, &	Radiologic Technologists &	Secondary School Teachers			
Material Movers, Hand	Cosmetologists	Technicians				
\$40,221/yr	\$36,972/yr	\$80,182/yr	\$65,242/yr			
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Accountants & Auditors			
\$55,244/yr	\$52,969/yr	\$71,226/yr	\$70,366/yr			
Retail Salespersons	Medical Assistants	Dental Hygienists	Software Developers			
\$31,528/yr	\$49,832/yr	\$84,003/yr	\$104,831/yr			
Stockers & Order Fillers	Electricians	Biological Technicians	Medical & Health Services Managers			
\$33,967/yr	\$66,736/yr	\$66,195/yr	\$101,144/yr			
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Surgical Technologists	Physician Assistants			
\$37,499/yr	\$52,730/yr	\$68,975/yr	\$129,221/yr			
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary	Computer User Support Specialists	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	Industrial Engineers			
\$37,835/yr	\$63,467/yr	\$63,872/yr	\$83,210/yr			
Bartenders	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration	Industrial Engineering	Physicians, All Other			
bartenders	Mechanics & Installers	Technologists & Technicians	Physicians, All Other			
\$25,042/yr	\$64,819/yr	\$62,105/yr	NA			
Customer Service	Dental Assistants	Computer Network Support	Nurse Practitioners			
Representatives	Delital Assistants	Specialists	Nuise Flactitioners			
\$41,637/yr	\$58,673/yr	\$73,341/yr	\$134,164/yr			

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Steele 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).

2020 261,589 3,447 1,160	Projected Employ- ment 2030 274,824 3,477	Percent Change 2020-2030 5.1%
261,589 3,447 1,160	274,824	
3,447 1,160		3.170
1,160	3,777	0.9%
	1,150	-0.9%
9,396	9,891	5.3%
36,536	36,636	0.3%
7,047	7,342	4.2%
25,379	24,160	-4.8%
7,801	8,311	6.5%
2,943	2,941	-0.1%
6,025	6,133	1.8%
7,642	7,966	4.2%
8,158	8,815	8.1%
19,447	20,396	4.9%
64,850	70,687	9.0%
19,129	23,366	22.1%
8,287	9,159	10.5%
13.990	14,748	5.4%
	8,158 19,447 64,850 19,129 8,287 13,990	8,158 8,815 19,447 20,396 64,850 70,687 19,129 23,366 8,287 9,159

Transportation and... 1,367 9,066

Figure 15. Regional Occupational

Employment Projections, 2020-2030

From employment growth

From exit openings

From employment growth -5,000 Management Occupations 564 6,880 Business and Financial... 355 2,692 Computer and... 171 976 Architecture and... 145 704 Life, Physical, and Social... 97 379 Community and Social... 539 1,957 Legal Occupations 72 312 Educational Instruction and... 1,099 5,797 Arts, Design,... 211 1,268 Healthcare Practitioners... 2,850 8,417 Healthcare Support... 1,995 10,457 Protective Service... 226 1,834 Food Preparation and... 3,295 15,489 Building and Grounds... 515 5,041 Personal Care and Service... 745 4,581 -9**62 12,007** Sales and Related... Office and Administrative... -996 12,332 Farming, Fishing, and... -11 918 Construction and Extraction... 521 3,228 Installation, Maintenance,... 375 2,969 Production Occupations 62 9,269

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

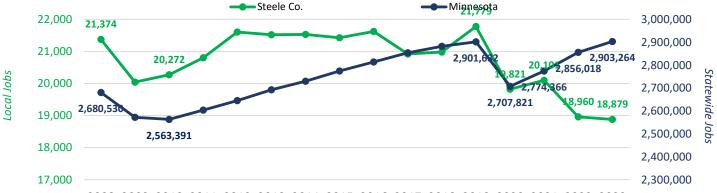
Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Steele Co. had the 23rd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Steele Co. was the 72nd fastest growing in the past year and the 87th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Steele Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

 1,135
 business establishments
 \$58,721
 annual average wage

 18,879
 jobs
 \$1,108,586,860
 total industry payroll

 Job change, 2019-2023
 -2,900 jobs -13.3% decline
 -13.3% decline

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023

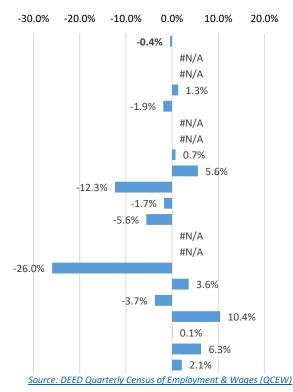


2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: DEED QCEW program

			Average
Table 15. Steele Co. Industry Employment	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Statistics, 2023	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	18,879	100.0%	\$58,721
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	614	3.3%	\$68,879
Manufacturing	4,783	25.3%	\$67,211
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	2,831	15.0%	\$35,230
Transportation & Warehousing	621	3.3%	\$61,824
Information	206	1.1%	\$52,780
Finance & Insurance	287	1.5%	\$71,224
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	170	0.9%	\$20,341
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	519	2.7%	\$41,958
Educational Services	1,116	5.9%	\$53,997
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,300	12.2%	\$56,996
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	212	1.1%	\$20,701
Accommodation & Food Services	1,274	6.7%	\$20,772
Other Services	540	2.9%	\$38,959
Public Administration	768	4.1%	\$54,753

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

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Data updated: June 4, 2024