

COUNTY PROFILE

St. Louis Co.

St. Louis Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 3, which is located in the Northeast Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2023 population:	200,514 people
Population change, 2020-2023	283 people 0.1% increase

Median Age:	41.2 years
state:	38.5 years

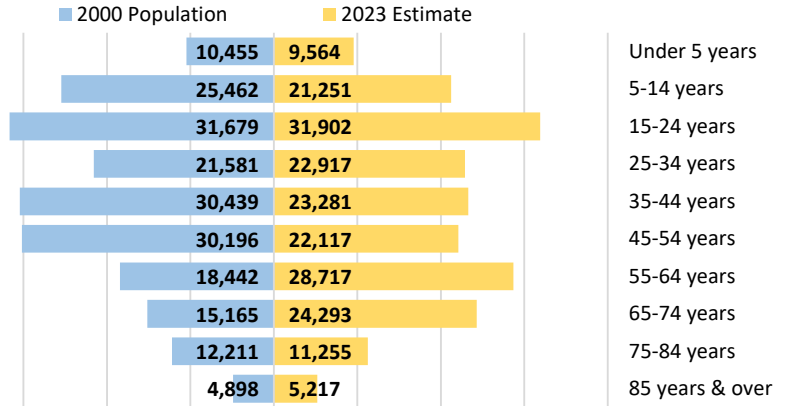
St. Louis Co. is the 6th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 47th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. St. Louis Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2023

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	9,564	4.8%
5-14 years	21,251	10.6%
15-24 years	31,902	15.9%
25-34 years	22,917	11.4%
35-44 years	23,281	11.6%
45-54 years	22,117	11.0%
55-64 years	28,717	14.3%
65-74 years	24,293	12.1%
75-84 years	11,255	5.6%
85 years & over	5,217	2.6%
Total Population	200,514	100.0%

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



St. Louis Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, St. Louis 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 Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
St. Louis Co.	281	-1,802	5,941	7,743	1,919	203	1,716
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

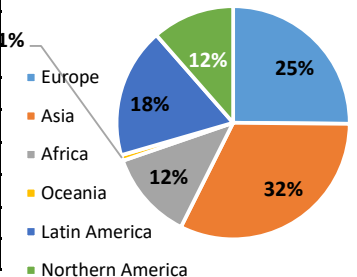
Compared to the state, St. Louis Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, St. Louis Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022

	St. Louis Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	4,053	2.0%	263	6.9%	8.5%	31.3%
Europe	1,019	25.1%	-74	-6.8%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	1,307	32.2%	72	5.8%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	500	12.3%	240	92.3%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	32	0.8%	5	18.5%	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	1,195	29.5%	20	1.7%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	731	18.0%	245	50.4%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	464	11.4%	-225	-32.7%	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



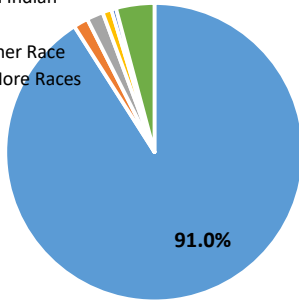
COUNTY PROFILE

St. Louis Co.

St. Louis 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



	St. Louis Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	200,122	100.0%	0.1%	100.0%	7.9%
White	182,059	91.0%	-2.3%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	3,170	1.6%	13.1%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3,576	1.8%	-23.2%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,960	1.0%	1.9%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	1,028	0.5%	91.8%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	8,329	4.2%	130.3%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,782	1.9%	52.1%	5.7%	34.6%

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

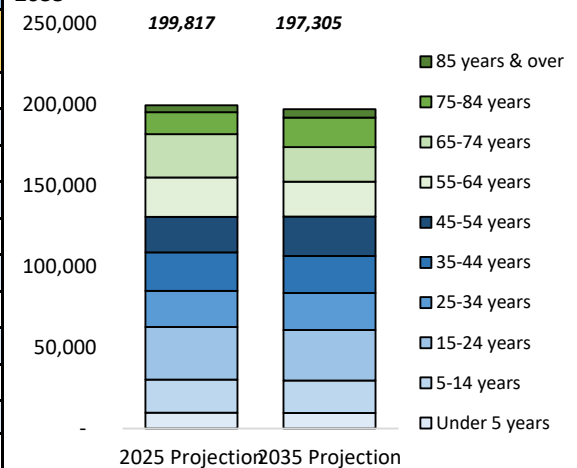
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, St. Louis Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over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

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

St. Louis Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	9,735	9,541	-194	-2.0%
5-14 years	20,510	20,090	-420	-2.0%
15-24 years	32,475	31,234	-1,241	-3.8%
25-34 years	22,436	22,962	526	2.3%
35-44 years	23,773	22,887	-886	-3.7%
45-54 years	21,819	24,283	2,464	11.3%
55-64 years	24,453	21,518	-2,935	-12.0%
65-74 years	26,754	21,340	-5,414	-20.2%
75-84 years	13,543	18,310	4,767	35.2%
85 years & over	4,319	5,140	821	19.0%
Total Population	199,817	197,305	-2,512	-1.3%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

St. Louis 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. St. Louis 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.

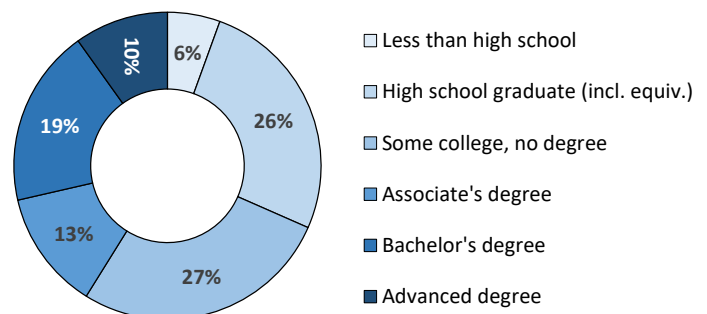
Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:

94.5%

College-educated: 68.4%
state: 68.5%

Associate's Degree: 12.5%
Bachelor's Degree: 18.7%
Advanced Degree: 9.9%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022



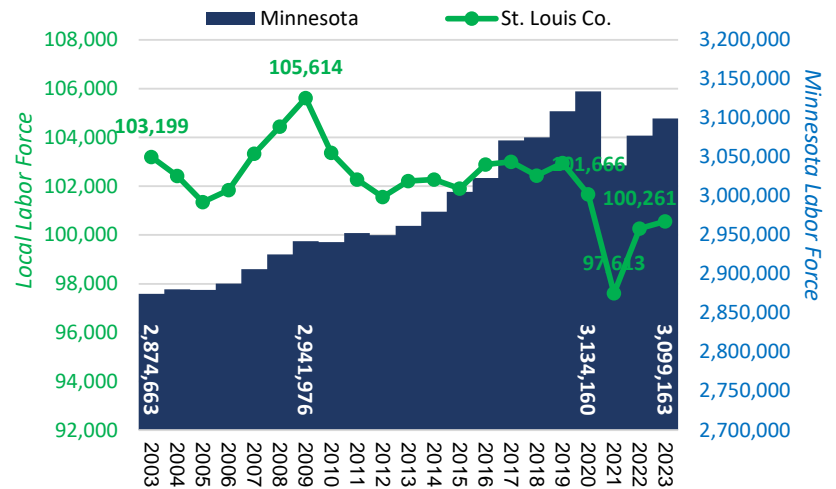
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.3%, St. Louis Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession St. Louis Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.3% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in St. Louis Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

100,261 available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	-3,882 workers -3.7% decline
3.3% unemployment rate	2.7% state
3,309 unemployed workers	

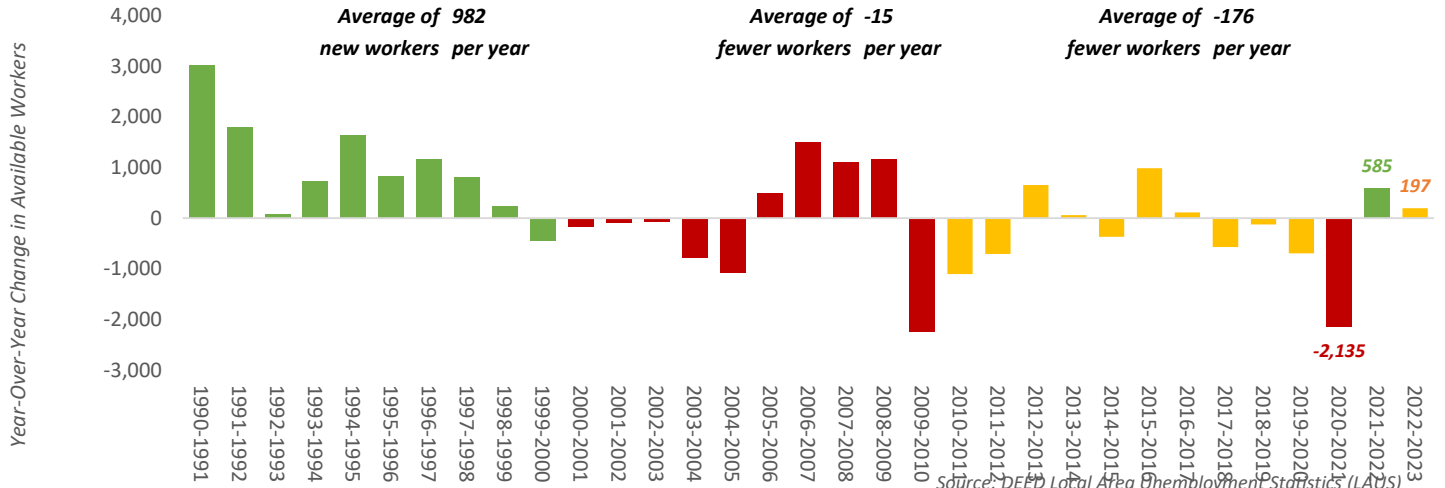
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, St. Louis 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, St. Louis 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



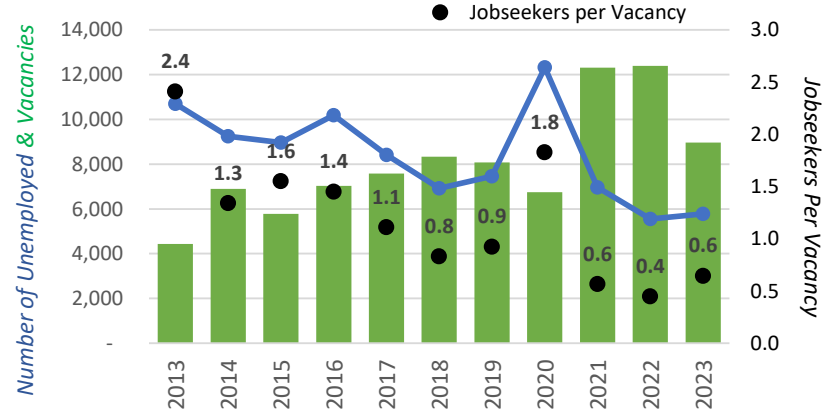
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	20,223	19,796
25 to 54 years	57,831	59,559
55 to 64 years	15,245	13,415
65 years & over	6,146	5,408
Total Labor Force	99,445	98,179

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 Northeast 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

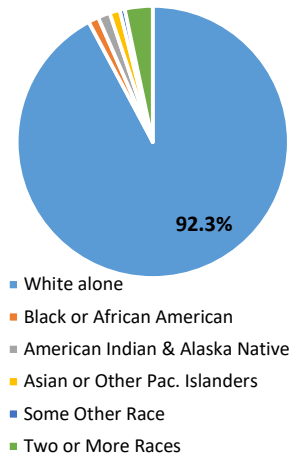
LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

St. Louis Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in St. Louis 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

	St. Louis 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	101,809	60.8%	4.6%	68.7%	4.0%	53,697	48,184
16 to 19 years	6,022	50.8%	7.0%	53.0%	9.8%	3,174	2,842
20 to 24 years	14,454	80.0%	6.8%	83.1%	6.7%	7,265	7,184
25 to 44 years	39,699	86.1%	4.7%	88.8%	3.5%	21,696	18,015
45 to 54 years	18,255	82.7%	3.2%	87.8%	2.9%	9,617	8,646
55 to 64 years	17,869	62.3%	3.2%	72.8%	3.1%	8,836	9,028
65 to 74 years	4,679	19.3%	4.6%	27.6%	3.3%	2,582	2,086
75 years & over	904	5.5%	7.1%	6.6%	3.2%	527	383
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin							
White alone	93,935	60.8%	4.2%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	1,261	53.6%	22.8%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	1,470	50.4%	12.1%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,239	71.5%	4.2%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	610	79.6%	0.8%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	3,374	65.1%	6.9%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,814	71.1%	4.7%	77.0%	6.3%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	6,833	46.8%	9.4%	54.4%	10.2%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	75,827	78.3%	4.0%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	2,380	51.9%	6.0%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	14,497	66.9%	2.5%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	30,831	79.5%	3.6%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	28,116	88.4%	2.0%	90.3%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022



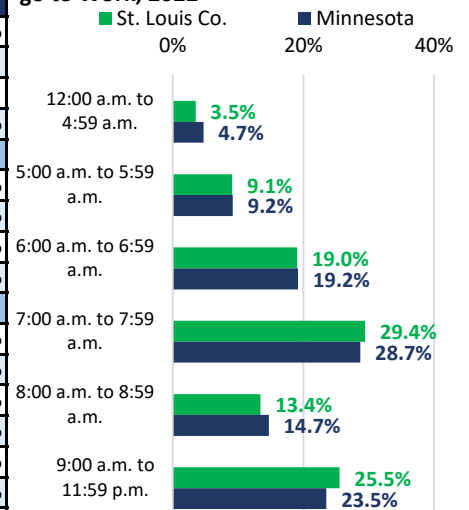
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	St. Louis Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	90,729	95.3%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	85,779	90.1%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	4,951	5.2%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	4,475	4.7%	67,495	2.3%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	80,638	84.7%	2,387,561	81.6%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	1,523	1.6%	81,926	2.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	5,046	5.3%	122,889	4.2%
Worked at home	7,902	8.3%	333,556	11.4%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	20,278	21.3%	465,223	15.9%
10 to 19 minutes	37,986	39.9%	895,335	30.6%
20 to 29 minutes	17,898	18.8%	649,557	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	11,996	12.6%	567,631	19.4%
45 to 59 minutes	3,047	3.2%	190,186	6.5%
60 or more minutes	3,999	4.2%	158,000	5.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.7 minutes		23.3 minutes	

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



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

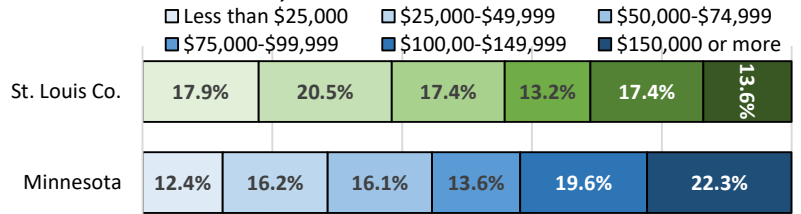
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

St. Louis Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, St. Louis Co. had the 58th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$66,491
state	\$84,313
Median Family Income	\$90,120
state	\$107,072
Per Capita Income	\$37,850
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. St. Louis Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.94 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.22 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
St. Louis Co.	\$31,083	\$14.94	\$0	\$409	\$161	\$857	\$536	\$303	\$324
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
St. Louis Co.	\$59,980	\$19.22	\$391	\$933	\$576	\$1,122	\$890	\$492	\$594
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

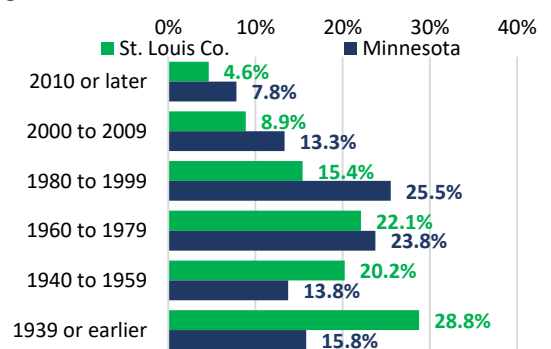
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

St. Louis Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 50th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. St. Louis 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	St. Louis Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	61,629	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	3,717	6.0%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	8,554	13.9%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	9,735	15.8%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	10,006	16.2%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	14,517	23.6%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	10,811	17.5%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	4,289	7.0%	14.7%
Median (dollars)	\$192,900		\$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	\$1,437
state	\$1,818

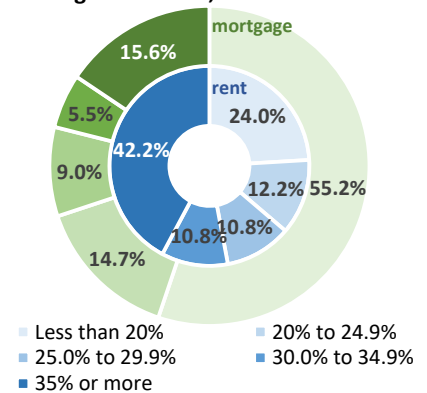
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	21.1%
state	22.0%

Median monthly rent costs	\$927
state	\$1,178

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	53.0%
state	46.7%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.41 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 3 than the state. Overall, Region 3 had the 5th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$45.28) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.4) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 3				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	\$23.41	138,010	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$45.28	7,740	5.6%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.89	5,970	4.3%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$42.37	2,090	1.5%	0.4	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.12	2,180	1.6%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$35.31	1,820	1.3%	1.3	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$25.46	4,280	3.1%	1.5	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$40.53	540	0.4%	0.6	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.65	8,350	6.1%	1.1	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.33	1,250	0.9%	0.7	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$39.02	11,510	8.3%	1.3	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$17.99	9,260	6.7%	1.1	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$26.04	3,070	2.2%	1.4	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.40	13,910	10.1%	1.3	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$17.48	4,560	3.3%	1.2	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.17	3,050	2.2%	1.1	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$16.96	11,740	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.44	16,760	12.1%	1.0	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.88	220	0.2%	1.3	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$32.73	7,590	5.5%	1.4	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$29.94	6,760	4.9%	1.4	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$24.87	6,550	4.7%	0.7	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.66	8,810	6.4%	0.8	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

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

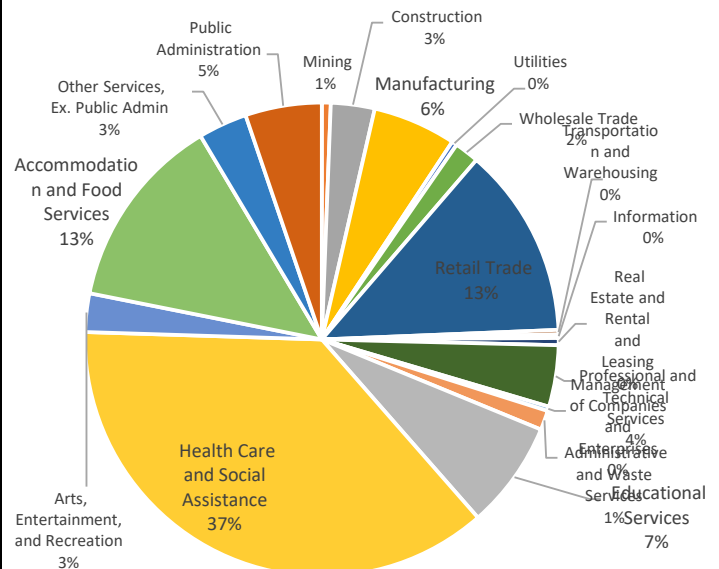
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

St. Louis Co. is a part of the Northeast planning region. There were 8963 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. Northeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	8,963	\$18.49
Management	144	\$39.89
Business & Financial Operations	246	\$23.69
Computer & Mathematical	35	\$35.32
Architecture & Engineering	195	\$36.71
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	70	\$33.94
Community & Social Service	333	\$21.88
Education, Training & Library	426	\$17.76
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,244	\$34.84
Healthcare Support	982	\$15.95
Protective Service	129	\$19.03
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,043	\$14.24
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	436	\$16.13
Personal Care & Service	346	\$14.10
Sales & Related	826	\$16.06
Office & Administrative Support	594	\$16.61
Construction & Extraction	59	\$23.67
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	760	\$20.03
Production	420	\$21.97
Transportation & Material Moving	499	\$17.36

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northeast 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 \$32,409/yr	Nursing Assistants \$38,023/yr	Registered Nurses \$78,892/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral & mental health counselors \$47,421/yr
Retail Salespersons \$30,436/yr	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses \$50,965/yr	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$69,705/yr	General & Operations Managers \$74,719/yr
Cashiers \$28,649/yr	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics \$48,638/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians \$62,998/yr	Secondary School Teachers \$64,162/yr
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General \$51,214/yr	Medical Assistants \$44,580/yr	Dental Hygienists \$80,434/yr	Social & Community Service Managers \$65,308/yr
Waiters & Waitresses \$23,385/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$67,655/yr	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians \$67,078/yr	Elementary School Teachers \$62,554/yr
Janitors & Cleaners, exc. Maids & Housekeeping \$34,993/yr	Dental Assistants \$54,500/yr	Surgical Technologists \$62,349/yr	Accountants & Auditors \$66,865/yr
Driver/Sales Workers \$27,752/yr	Electricians \$77,859/yr	Forest & Conservation Technicians \$49,163/yr	Pharmacists \$137,104/yr
Fast Food & Counter Workers \$28,490/yr	First-Line Supervisors of Personal Service Workers \$41,164/yr	Respiratory Therapists \$75,469/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$63,477/yr
Stockers & Order Fillers \$32,400/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$56,023/yr	Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians \$79,749/yr	Preschool Teachers \$34,916/yr
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners \$30,367/yr	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, exc. Engines \$63,006/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$70,683/yr	Child, Family, & School Social Workers \$66,072/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

St. Louis Co. is a part of the Northeast planning region, which is projected to see a 5.5% 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
Northeast Planning Region			
Total, All Industries	148,527	156,642	5.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	4,938	5,018	1.6%
Utilities	1,295	1,097	-15.3%
Construction	6,111	6,368	4.2%
Manufacturing	8,329	8,166	-2.0%
Wholesale Trade	3,122	3,127	0.2%
Retail Trade	16,275	15,391	-5.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	4,783	4,977	4.1%
Information	1,145	1,210	5.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	5,760	5,883	2.1%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,359	5,695	6.3%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	2,916	3,095	6.1%
Educational Services	11,884	12,440	4.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	32,183	35,151	9.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	14,347	17,531	22.2%
Other Services	5,703	6,304	10.5%
Public Administration	14,780	15,572	5.4%

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2020-2030

