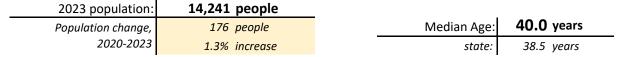
COUNTY PROFILE

Wadena Co.

Wadena Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 5, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.

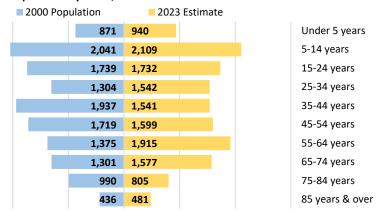
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



Wadena Co. is the 58th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 29th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Wadena 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 940 6.6% 2,109 14.8% 5-14 years 15-24 years 1,732 12.2% 25-34 years 1,542 10.8% 35-44 years 1,541 10.8% 11.2% 45-54 years 1,599 55-64 years 1,915 13.4% 65-74 years 1,577 11.1% 75-84 years 805 5.6% 481 85 years & over 3.4% **Total Population** 14,241 100.0% Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Wadena 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, Wadena 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 Events		Net Migration			
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic	
Wadena Co.	179	-91	613	704	262	51	211	
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, Wadena Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Wadena Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

the number of foreign both residence, which was faster than the statewide marease.									
Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born	Wadena Co.		Change 2	010-2022	Minnesota				
Population, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Number Percent		Change			
Foreign-born Population	251	1.8%	117	87.3%	8.5%	31.3%			
Europe	4	1.6%	-43	-91.5%	9.3%	-0.6%			
Asia	57	22.7%	21	58.3%	36.7%	30.2%			
Africa	123	49.0%	123	#DIV/0!	28.1%	93.1%			
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%			
Americas:	67	26.7%	16	31.4%	25.4%	7.5%			
Latin America	50	19.9%	19	61.3%	22.9%	9.0%			
Northern America	17	6.8%	-3	-15.0%	2.5%	-4.6%			

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

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 1%



Northern America

Wadena 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).



	Wadena Co.			Minnesota		
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	
Total	14,108	100.0%	2.1%	100.0%	7.9%	
White	12,999	92.1%	-2.7%	79.7%	-0.4%	
Black or African American	76	0.5%	-33.3%	6.7%	44.3%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	43	0.3%	-54.7%	0.9%	-10.2%	
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	71	0.5%	97.2%	5.1%	37.1%	
Some Other Race	67	0.5%	39.6%	2.3%	84.7%	
Two or More Races	852	6.0%	407.1%	5.3%	159.6%	
Hispanic or Latino origin	311	2.2%	71.8%	5.7%	34.6%	

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

92.1%

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Wadena 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 decrease over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035 2025 2035 Numeric Percent Wadena Co. Projection Projection Change Change 5.7% Under 5 years 1,019 1,077 58 5-14 years 2,105 2.254 149 7.1% 1,731 1,850 119 6.9% 15-24 years 25-34 years 1,476 1,556 80 5.4% 74 35-44 years 1,549 1,623 4.8% 1,603 65 4.2% 45-54 years 1,538 55-64 years 1,638 1,506 -132 -8.1% 65-74 years 1,697 1,442 -255 -15.0% 75-84 years 930 1.104 174 18.7% 419 -85 85 years & over 334 -20.3% **Total Population** 14,102 14,349 247 1.8%

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035 16,000 14,349 14,102 ■ 85 years & over 14,000 ■ 75-84 years 12,000 **□** 65-74 years 10,000 **□** 55-64 years ■ 45-54 years 8,000 ■ 35-44 years 6,000 ■ 25-34 years 4,000 ■ 15-24 years 2,000 ■ 5-14 years □ Under 5 years 2025 Projection 2035 Projection

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Wadena 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. Wadena 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.

13.3%

3.6%

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

92.0%

College-educated: 55.0%
state: 68.5%

Associate's Degree: 15.5%

Bachelor's Degree:

Advanced Degree:

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022

□ Less than high school
□ High school graduate (incl. equiv.)
□ Some college, no degree
□ Associate's degree
□ Bachelor's degree
□ Advanced degree

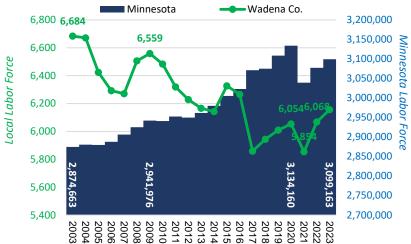
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.1%, Wadena Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Wadena Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 6.6% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Wadena Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.



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

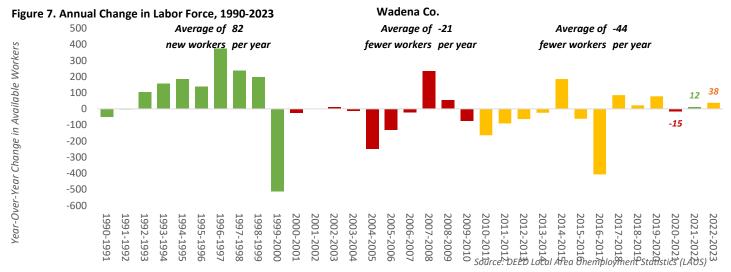
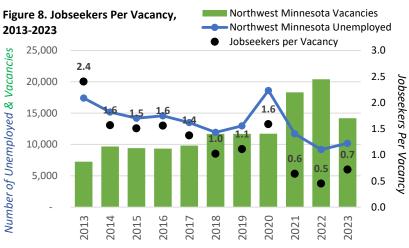


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection			
Projections, 2025-2035	2025	2035		
16 to 24 years	1,115	1,205		
25 to 54 years	3,848	4,033		
55 to 64 years	1,079	992		
65 years & over	512	445		
Total Labor Force	6,553	6,675		

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2018-2022 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2023, job vacancies in Northwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

shorter average commute time than the state.

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

	W	adena Co.		Minne	esota	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	
Total Labor Force	6,687	61.7%	6.1%	68.7%	4.0%	Γ
16 to 19 years	481	59.8%	1.2%	53.0%	9.8%	Ī
20 to 24 years	578	87.4%	8.7%	83.1%	6.7%	Ī
25 to 44 years	2,639	86.4%	3.9%	88.8%	3.5%	Ī
45 to 54 years	1,272	80.3%	9.7%	87.8%	2.9%	Γ
55 to 64 years	1,249	65.9%	7.9%	72.8%	3.1%	Ī
65 to 74 years	426	27.3%	6.3%	27.6%	3.3%	
75 years & over	46	3.6%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					
White alone	6,213	61.7%	6.4%	67.8%	3.4%	I
Black or African American	25	37.9%	0.0%	71.5%	8.7%	Ī
American Indian & Alaska Native	35	100.0%	22.9%	57.6%	11.9%	Ī.
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	26	50.0%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%	Ĭ.
Some Other Race	11	24.4%	0.0%	76.1%	6.1%	Ī
Two or More Races	377	66.1%	0.5%	74.3%	6.6%	ľ
Hispanic or Latino	170	77.3%	1.2%	77.0%	6.3%	Î
Employment Characteristics by Disabili	ty, 20 to 64 years					ĺ
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	481	49.5%	33.5%	54.4%	10.2%	Ī
Employment Characteristics by Educati	onal Attainment, 25	to 64 years				ĺ
Population, 25 to 64 years	5,157	78.9%	6.3%	84.4%	3.3%	Ī
Less than H.S. Diploma	264	67.9%	7.6%	67.2%	4.6%	Ī
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,499	74.0%	2.8%	76.8%	2.5%	ĺ
Some College or Assoc. Degree	2,407	82.2%	4.0%	85.1%	3.6%	I
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	989	82.9%	2.1%	90.3%	2.0%	Ĭ

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022

Labor Force by Gender

Female

3,317

321

271

1,297 583

619

202

24

Male

3,373

160

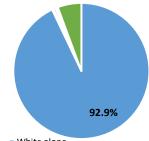
307

1,341

689 630

224

22



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

A smaller percentage of workers in Wadena Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Wadena Co. also had a

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

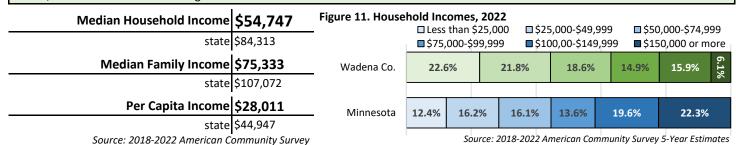
	Wadena	a Co.	Minne	esota	ı
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1
Worked in state of residence	6,055	99.2%	2,867,086	97.7%	ĺ
Worked in county of residence	3,888	63.7%	1,957,366	66.7%	ĺ
Worked out of county of residence	2,167	35.5%	909,720	31.0%	İ
Worked outside state of residence	49	0.8%	67,495	2.3%	İ
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK					Ĺ
Car, truck, or van	5,390	88.3%	2,387,561	81.6%	5
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	18	0.3%	81,926	2.8%	İ
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	183	3.0%	122,889	4.2%	6
Worked at home	513	8.4%	333,556	11.4%	İ
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK					7
Less than 10 minutes	1,605	26.3%	465,223	15.9%	ĺ
10 to 19 minutes	1,874	30.7%	895,335	30.6%	ĺ
20 to 29 minutes	1,019	16.7%	649,557	22.2%	8
30 to 44 minutes	916	15.0%	567,631	19.4%	İ
45 to 59 minutes	366	6.0%	190,186	6.5%	ĺ
60 or more minutes	317	5.2%	158,000	5.4%	ĺ
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.4	minutes	23.3	minutes	İ

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022 ■ Wadena Co. ■ Minnesota 0% 20% 40% 12:00 a.m. to 9.0% 4:59 a.m. 4.7% 5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m. 9.2% 6:00 a.m. to 6:59 21.3% 19.2% 7:00 a.m. to 7:59 26.1% a.m. 28.7% 8:00 a.m. to 8:59 a.m. 14.7% 9:00 a.m. to 21.7% 11:59 p.m. 23.5%

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

INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Wadena Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Wadena Co. had the 86th 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. Wadena Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.27 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.26 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023									
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage		Monthly Costs					
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living	, ,	Child Care	Food	Health	Housing	Trans-	Other	Taxes
			Cima Care		Care	riousing	portation	o tinei	Талез
Wadena Co.	\$29,677	\$14.27	\$0	\$410	\$161	\$720	\$603	\$270	\$309
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1	Family Yearly	Hourly Wage	Monthly Costs						
working full-time, 1 part-	Cost of Living	, ,	Child Care	Food	Health	Housing	Trans-	Other	Taxes
time), 1 child	Cost of Living	Required	Cilia Care	roou	Care	Housing	portation	Other	Taxes
Wadena Co.	\$56,973	\$18.26	\$338	\$934	\$576	\$864	\$1,060	\$431	\$545
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

Wadena Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 61st highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Wadena 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-	Wadena Co.		Minnesota
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	4,144	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	280	6.8%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	735	17.7%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	770	18.6%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	877	21.2%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	834	20.1%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	540	13.0%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	108	2.6%	14.7%
Median (dollars)	\$163,4	100	\$286,800

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

0% 10% 20% 30% ■ Wadena Co. ■ Minnesota 2010 or later 11.4% 2000 to 2009 1980 to 1999 25.5% 26.3% 1960 to 1979 14.1% 1940 to 1959 13.8% 19.0% 1939 or earlier

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

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

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

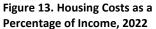
22.2%

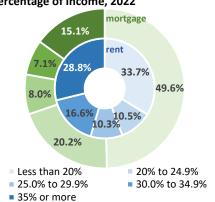
Median monthly rent costs

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





OCCUPATIONS

At \$21.89 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 5 than the state. Overall, Region 5 had the lowest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$40.32) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.34) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024								
		Regio	n 5		Stat	te of Minnes	ota	
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	\$21.89	62,970	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%	
Management	\$40.32	3,400	5.4%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%	
Business & Financial Operations	\$31.37	2,130	3.4%	0.5	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%	
Computer & Mathematical	\$36.83	570	0.9%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%	
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.81	600	1.0%	0.5	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%	
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$33.10	430	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%	
Community & Social Service	\$27.49	1,600	2.5%	1.3	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%	
Legal	\$38.07	200	0.3%	0.5	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%	
Education, Training & Library	\$24.35	4,510	7.2%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%	
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.41	470	0.7%	0.6	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$40.22	4,220	6.7%	1.0	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%	
Healthcare Support	\$18.33	3,780	6.0%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%	
Protective Service	\$26.44	1,030	1.6%	1.0	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%	
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.34	6,970	11.1%	1.4	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%	
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$17.84	2,500	4.0%	1.4	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%	
Personal Care & Service	\$16.28	1,570	2.5%	1.2	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%	
Sales & Related	\$16.99	5,760	9.1%	1.1	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%	
Office & Administrative Support	\$21.48	7,510	11.9%	1.0	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%	
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$20.82	140	0.2%	1.8	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%	
Construction & Extraction	\$28.50	3,060	4.9%	1.3	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%	
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$24.72	2,790	4.4%	1.2	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%	
Production	\$21.03	5,010	8.0%	1.1	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%	
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.10	4,720	7.5%	1.0	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%	

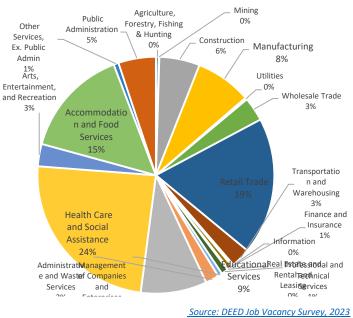
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

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

Table 12. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023					
	Number of V				
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer			
Total, All Occupations	14,193	\$17.77			
Management	180	\$31.08			
Business & Financial Operations	162	\$23.79			
Computer & Mathematical	49	\$30.06			
Architecture & Engineering	110	\$30.65			
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	105	\$26.90			
Community & Social Service	326	\$22.39			
Education, Training & Library	668				
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,478	\$28.94			
Healthcare Support	1,168	\$15.09			
Protective Service	277	\$23.55			
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,518	\$14.63			
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	594	\$16.01			
Personal Care & Service	223	\$15.86			
Sales & Related	1,918	\$15.97			
Office & Administrative Support	508	\$17.18			
Construction & Extraction	727	N/A			
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	609	\$20.26			
Production	668	\$20.44			
Transportation & Material Moving	1,263	\$20.23			

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Plannir	Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022							
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher					
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Nursing Assistants	Registered Nurses	General & Operations Managers					
\$51,692/yr	\$37,961/yr	\$81,165/yr	\$67,488/yr					
Cashiers	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Elementary School Teachers					
\$28,802/yr	\$51,229/yr	\$64,102/yr	\$62,210/yr					
Home Health & Personal	Automotive Service Technicians &	Dental Hygienists	Secondary School Teachers					
Care Aides	Mechanics	Dental Hygiemsts	Secondary School reachers					
\$32,976/yr	\$47,005/yr	\$84,508/yr	\$63,580/yr					
Retail Salespersons	Machinists	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term					
\$31,063/yr	\$48,430/yr	\$61,816/yr	\$39,171/yr					
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Electricians	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	Accountants & Auditors					
\$44,044/yr	\$62,857/yr	\$68,070/yr	\$64,490/yr					
Maintenance & Repair	Medical Assistants	Computer Network Support	Preschool Teachers					
Workers, General	Wedical Assistants	Specialists	Freschool reachers					
\$48,600/yr	\$46,584/yr	\$71,089/yr	\$36,501/yr					
Teaching Assistants, exc.	Dental Assistants	Industrial Engineering	Special Education Teachers,					
Postsecondary	Dental Assistants	Technologists & Technicians	Kindergarten & Elementary School					
\$37,015/yr	\$51,999/yr	\$53,775/yr	\$63,611/yr					
Janitors & Cleaners, exc.	Computer User Support Specialists	Forest & Conservation	Child, Family, & School Social					
Maids & Housekeeping	compater oser support specialists	Technicians	Workers					
\$37,767/yr	\$56,923/yr	\$51,299/yr	\$62,810/yr					
Stockers & Order Fillers	Farm Equipment Mechanics & Service	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	Business Operations Specialists, All					
	Technicians		Other					
\$39,215/yr	\$52,147/yr	\$53,542/yr	\$60,668/yr					
Laborers & Freight, Stock, &	Emergency Medical Technicians	Civil Engineering Technologists &	Substance abuse, behavioral &					
Material Movers, Hand		Technicians	mental health counselors					
\$39,548/yr	\$39,707/yr	\$71,840/yr	\$47,988/yr					

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

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

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment P	rojections, 2020	-2030	
	Estimated Employment	Projected Employ-	Percent Change
Northwest Planning Region	2020	ment 2030	
Total, All Industries	250,722	263,441	5.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,790	5,740	-0.9%
Utilities	1,135	970	-14.5%
Construction	10,693	11,157	4.3%
Manufacturing	27,999	28,618	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,829	12,347	4.4%
Retail Trade	26,846	25,467	-5.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,436	6,741	4.7%
Information	2,276	2,229	-2.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	7,478	7,641	2.2%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani	5,587	6,025	7.8%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	3,889	4,139	6.4%
Educational Services	22,015	23,101	4.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,901	41,390	12.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	20,446	24,818	21.4%
Other Services	9,052	10,144	12.1%
Public Administration	22,824	23,240	1.8%

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational

Employment Projections, 2020-2030								
From employment growth From exit openings								
-5,0	5,0	000	15,0	JUU				
Management Occupations	455	9,69	92					
Business and Financial	511	2,37						
Computer and	177	577						
Architecture and	140	861						
Life, Physical, and Social	103	450						
Community and Social	876	2.6	35					
Legal Occupations	62	373						
Educational Instruction and	1,313	6,7	45					
Arts, Design,	350	1 ,45	9					
Healthcare Practitioners	1,057	3,9	22					
Healthcare Support	2,24	0 8,	874					
Protective Service	219	1,72	3					
Food Preparation and	2,9	57	4,657					
Building and Grounds	643	5,34	10					
Personal Care and Service	1,061	5,1	4 3					
Sales and Related	-88	4 12,7	62					
Office and Administrative1								
Farming, Fishing, and	-59	1,52	0					
Construction and Extraction	615	3,70)4					
Installation, Maintenance,	292	3,32	3					
Production Occupations	221	7,36	8					
Transportation and	1,397	9,4	41					

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Wadena Co. had the 53rd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Wadena Co. was the 66th fastest growing in the past year and the 25th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Wadena Co. grew despite the pandemic recession.

452	business establishments	\$47,441	annual average wage
5,599	jobs	\$265,621,337	total industry payroll
Job change,	92 jobs		•
2019-2023	1.7% increase		

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023

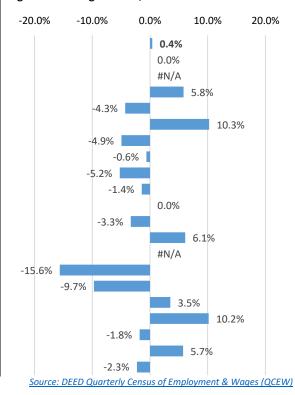


2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: DEED QCEW program

			Average
Table 15. Wadena Co. Industry	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Employment Statistics, 2023	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	5,599	100.0%	\$47,441
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	33	0.6%	\$40,079
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	273	4.9%	\$63,568
Manufacturing	492	8.8%	\$54,798
Utilities	43	0.8%	\$111,454
Wholesale Trade	482	8.6%	\$52,516
Retail Trade	636	11.4%	\$33,300
Transportation & Warehousing	236	4.2%	\$49,246
Information	69	1.2%	\$51,810
Finance & Insurance	104	1.9%	\$64,523
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	29	0.5%	\$33,018
Professional & Technical Services	87	1.6%	\$68,398
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	27	0.5%	\$23,943
Educational Services	804	14.4%	\$11,620
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,216	21.7%	\$14,458
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	65	1.2%	\$20,195
Accommodation & Food Services	330	5.9%	\$18,156
Other Services	166	3.0%	\$27,861
Public Administration	345	6.2%	\$50,460

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

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Data updated: June 4, 2024