# EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

# Watonwan Co.

Watonwan Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 9, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.

## **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	11,077 people		
Population change,	-176 people	Median Age:	<b>41.0</b> years
2020-2023	-1.6% decline	state:	38.5 years

Watonwan Co. is the 65th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 67th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Watonwan 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 A	Age Group, 2023		Figure 1. Population Pyrar	mia, 20	100-2023			
	Number	Percent	2000 Populatio	n	2023 Estimate			
Under 5 years	801	7.2%		852	801	Under 5 years		
5-14 years	1,483	13.4%	1	L,810	1,483	5-14 years		
15-24 years	1,315	11.9%						
25-34 years	1,276	11.5%	1	L,543	1,315	15-24 years		
35-44 years	1,153	10.4%	1	L,239	1,276	25-34 years		
45-54 years	1,239	11.2%	1	L,650	1,153	35-44 years		
55-64 years	1,560	14.1%	1	L,464	1,239	45-54 years		
65-74 years	1,162	10.5%	1	l,112	1,560	55-64 years		
75-84 years	670	6.1%	1	L,055	1,162	65-74 years		
85 years & over	419	3.8%		796	670	75-84 years		
Total Population	11,077	100.0%				,		
Source: Census 2023	3 Population Estimates	. 2018-2022 ACS		355	419	85 years & ov		

Watonwan 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, Watonwan 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		
Watonwan Co.	-185	115	555	440	-298	151	-449		
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, Watonwan Co. has a larger percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Watonwan 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	Waton	wan Co.	Change 2	010-2022	Minnesota		
Population, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change	
Foreign-born Population	1,454	13.0%	114	8.5%	8.5%	31.3%	
Europe	20	1.4%	14	233.3%	9.3%	-0.6%	
Asia	137	9.4%	-1	-0.7%	36.7%	30.2%	
Africa	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	28.1%	93.1%	
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%	
Americas:	1,297	89.2%	101	8.4%	25.4%	7.5%	
Latin America	1,294	89.0%	104	8.7%	22.9%	9.0%	
Northern America	3	0.2%	-3	-50.0%	2.5%	-4.6%	



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

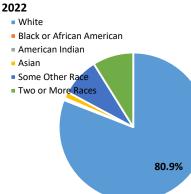


#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

#### Watonwan Co.

Watonwan 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,



	W	/atonwan	Co.	Minnesota		
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	
Total	11,205	100.0%	0.1%	100.0%	7.9%	
White	9,068	80.9%	-9.9%	79.7%	-0.4%	
Black or African American	45	0.4%	-68.3%	6.7%	44.3%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	10	0.1%	-70.6%	0.9%	-10.2%	
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	157	1.4%	25.6%	5.1%	37.1%	
Some Other Race	931	8.3%	83.6%	2.3%	84.7%	
Two or More Races	994	8.9%	215.6%	5.3%	159.6%	
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,044	27.2%	35.2%	5.7%	34.6%	

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

# **POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

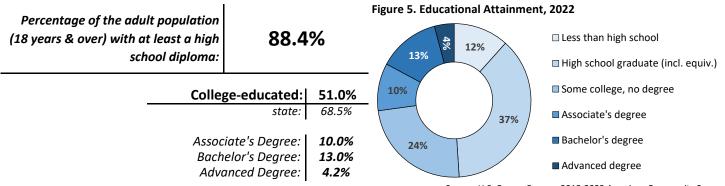
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Watonwan Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over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

					Figure 4. P	rojections by	Age Group,	2025-
Table 5. Population Project	ions by Age Gro	up, 2025-2035			2035			
	2025	2035	Numeric	Percent	12,000	11,038	10,896	
Watonwan Co.	Projection	Projection	Change	Change				85 years & over
Under 5 years	770	760	-10	-1.3%	10,000			75-84 years
5-14 years	1,545	1,505	-40	-2.6%				, 65-74 years
15-24 years	1,339	1,423	84	6.3%	8,000			
25-34 years	1,155	1,051	-104	-9.0%				□ 55-64 years
35-44 years	1,142	1,132	-10	-0.9%	6,000			■ 45-54 years
45-54 years	1,255	1,206	-49	-3.9%				35-44 years
55-64 years	1,393	1,305	-88	-6.3%	4,000			25-34 years
65-74 years	1,396	1,221	-175	-12.5%	2,000			□ 15-24 years
75-84 years	699	976	277	39.6%	2,000			□ 5-14 years
85 years & over	344	317	-27	-7.8%	_			Under 5 years
Total Population	11,038	10,896	-142	-1.3%		2025 Projectio	n2035 Projectio	on

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

# **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Watonwan 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. Watonwan Co. also has a lower percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.



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

#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

#### Watonwan Co

#### LABOR FORCE TRENDS **Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates** At 2.5%, Watonwan Co. had a identical unemployment Minnesota Watonwan Co. rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession 8,000 3,200,000 Watonwan Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to 6,697<u>65</u>20 3,150,000 Minnesota 7,000 the 4.3% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number 5.963 3,100,000 of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Local Labor Force 6,000 3,050,000 Watonwan Co. increased over the past year, and is down 5,000 compared to 2019. 3,000,000 Labor 2,950,000 4,000 6.520 available workers Force 2,900,000 3,000 1,151 workers Labor Force change, 2,850,000 2008-2023 21.0% increase 2,000 2,941,976 ,874, ,134,160 ,099,163 2,800,000 1,000 2.5% unemployment rate .663 2,750,000 2.7% state 0 2,700,000 163 unemployed workers 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, Watonwan Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Watonwan Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

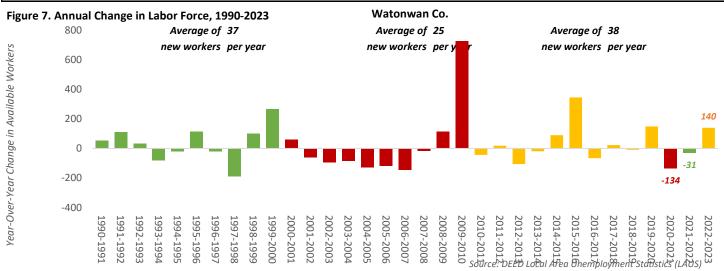
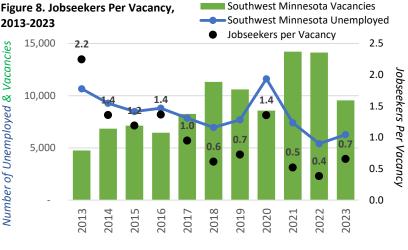


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force	e Projection	
Projections, 2025-2035	2025	2035	
16 to 24 years	728	778	
25 to 54 years	3,182	3,036	
55 to 64 years	939	879	
65 years & over	619	566	
Total Labor Force	5,467	5,260	

#### 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).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

#### LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Wa	tonwan Co.		Minne	esota	Labor Force	by Gender	l
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female	
Total Labor Force	5,619	64.7%	6.1%	68.7%	4.0%	3,051	2,570	
16 to 19 years	244	51.4%	17.2%	53.0%	9.8%	158	86	
20 to 24 years	457	70.9%	12.5%	83.1%	6.7%	271	186	]
25 to 44 years	2,176	88.6%	3.1%	88.8%	3.5%	1,170	1,006	]
45 to 54 years	1,145	91.4%	3.9%	87.8%	2.9%	608	537	
55 to 64 years	1,063	67.4%	10.5%	72.8%	3.1%	614	449	
65 to 74 years	462	39.3%	2.8%	27.6%	3.3%	200	262	
75 years & over	74	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%	3.2%	30	44	
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					Figure 9. La	bor Force b	y
White alone	4,579	63.4%	3.7%	67.8%	3.4%	Race, 2022		•
Black or African American	41	91.1%	0.0%	71.5%	8.7%	-		
American Indian & Alaska Native	3	30.0%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%			
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	87	65.9%	27.6%	73.9%	3.6%			
Some Other Race	469	73.7%	2.8%	76.1%	6.1%			
Two or More Races	445	69.6%	30.3%	74.3%	6.6%			
Hispanic or Latino	1,366	70.4%	12.7%	77.0%	6.3%			
Employment Characteristics by Disabilit	ty, 20 to 64 years							81
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	215	40.0%	15.3%	54.4%	10.2%			
Employment Characteristics by Education	onal Attainment, 25	to 64 years						
Population, 25 to 64 years	4,384	82.9%	5.1%	84.4%	3.3%	White ale		
Less than H.S. Diploma	471	69.4%	5.5%	67.2%	4.6%		African Americ	
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,280	82.4%	3.6%	76.8%	2.5%		n Indian & Alas	
Some College or Assoc. Degree	1,733	85.0%	5.8%	85.1%	3.6%	Asian or	Other Pac. Isla	nder
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	901	88.6%	5.7%	90.3%	2.0%	Some Ot	her Race	

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

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

	Watonwa	an Co.	Minn	esota	Figure 10. Tim	e Leaving H	ome to
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	go to Work, 20		- • •
Worked in state of residence	5,186	99.8%	2,867,086	97.7%	Waton		■ Minnesota 20% 40%
Worked in county of residence	3,357	64.6%	1,957,366	66.7%	· · ·	J/0 .	20/0 40/0
Worked out of county of residence	1,829	35.2%	909,720	31.0%	12:00 a.m. to		
Worked outside state of residence	10	0.2%	67,495	2.3%	4:59 a.m.	4.1%	
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				-			
Car, truck, or van	4,531	87.2%	2,387,561	81.6%	5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.		3.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	78	1.5%	81,926	2.8%	. a.m.	9.2%	6
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	369	7.1%	122,889	4.2%	6:00 a.m. to 6:59		19.6%
Worked at home	218	4.2%	333,556	11.4%	a.m.		19.2%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK					7:00 a.m. to 7:59		
Less than 10 minutes	1,819	35.0%	465,223	15.9%	a.m.		28.6%
10 to 19 minutes	1,143	22.0%	895,335	30.6%			20.1%
20 to 29 minutes	873	16.8%	649,557	22.2%	8:00 a.m. to 8:59	12	2.5%
30 to 44 minutes	785	15.1%	567,631	19.4%	a.m.		14.7%
45 to 59 minutes	286	5.5%	190,186	6.5%	9:00 a.m. to		24.49/
60 or more minutes	296	5.7%	158,000	5.4%	11:59 p.m.		21.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.5	minutes	23.3	minutes			

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

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

Watonwan Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Watonwan Co. had the 67th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income state	<b>\$65,197</b> \$84,313					00 🗖				□ \$50,000-\$74,999 ■ \$150,000 or more		
Median Family Income	<b>\$83,933</b> \$107,072	Watonwan Co.	18.8%	6	20	.5%	16.2%	15.4%	17	<b>7.0%</b>	12.1%	
Per Capita Income	\$34,363	Minnesota	12.4%	16	<b>.2%</b>	16.19	% 13.6%	19.6	5%	22	.3%	
State Source: 2018-2022 American Co	\$44,947 ommunity Survey			S	ource: 2	2018-202	2 American C	Community	Survey	5-Year l	Estimates	

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Watonwan Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.4 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.37 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost o	Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023										
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage			N	Ionthly Co	sts				
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes		
Watonwan Co.	\$29,947	\$14.40	\$0	\$409	\$161	\$731	\$609	\$273	\$313		
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375		
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1	Family Yearly	Hourly Wage			N	Ionthly Co	sts				
working full-time, 1 part- time), 1 child	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes		
Watonwan Co.	\$57,306	\$18.37	\$360	\$932	\$576	\$853	\$1,076	\$427	\$552		
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739		
	Source: DEED Cost of Living tool										

Watonwan Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 84th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Watonwan 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-	Watonwa	an Co.	Minnesota		
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent		
Total	3,439	100.0%	100.0%		
Less than \$50,000	556	16.2%	4.1%		
\$50,000 to \$99,999	869	25.3%	4.6%		
\$100,000 to \$149,999	575	16.7%	7.1%		
\$150,000 to \$199,999	479	13.9%	10.7%		
\$200,000 to \$299,999	539	15.7%	27.1%		
\$300,000 to \$499,999	335	9.7%	31.7%		
\$500,000 or more	86	2.5%	14.7%		
Median (dollars) \$119,200					
Source: 2018-20	122 American Commu	unity Survey, 5-	Year Estimates		

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units

ota Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022

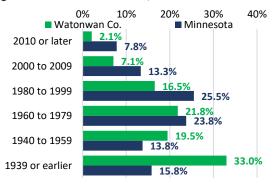
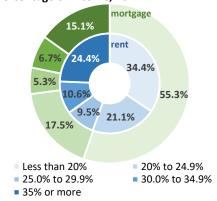


Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2022



 with a mortgage
 \$1,226

 state
 \$1,818

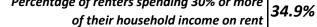
 Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs
 21.8%

 state
 \$22.0%

 Median monthly rent costs
 \$736

 state
 \$1,178

 Percentage of renters spending 30% or more
 24.0%



state 46.7% Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Watonwan Co.

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

#### **OCCUPATIONS**

At \$23.24 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 9 than the state. Overall, Region 9 had the 6th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.87) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.69) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024							
	Region 9				State of Minnesota		
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	\$23.24	100,990	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$47.87	5,590	5.5%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.68	4,130	4.1%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$38.68	1,130	1.1%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.82	1,690	1.7%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$33.51	810	0.8%	0.8	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.25	2,620	2.6%	1.3	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$38.07	380	0.4%	0.6	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$30.13	6,690	6.6%	1.2	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.48	1,050	1.0%	0.8	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$40.45	5,790	5.7%	0.9	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.45	6,120	6.1%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$29.43	1,430	1.4%	0.9	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.69	9,050	9.0%	1.1	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.19	2,980	3.0%	1.1	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.51	2,150	2.1%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.55	8,630	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.79	11,510	11.4%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.13	240	0.2%	1.9	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.78	4,050	4.0%	1.0	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.11	4,660	4.6%	1.3	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.68	10,680	10.6%	1.5	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.90	9,640	9.5%	1.2	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

#### JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Watonwan 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			Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023			
	Number of	Wage	Other Agriculture,			
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer	Accommodatio Services, Ex. Public Forestry, Fishing			
Total, All Occupations	9,546	\$19.74	n and Food			
Management	202	\$32.04	Services 5%			
Business & Financial Operations	520	\$25.88	10%			
Computer & Mathematical	100	\$37.50	Arts,			
Architecture & Engineering	96	\$28.56	Entertainmen t. and			
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	69	\$24.18	Recreation			
Community & Social Service	258	\$23.46	2% Utilities			
Education, Training & Library	453	\$18.35	10% Wholesale Trade			
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	738	\$31.97	4%			
Healthcare Support	508	\$16.76				
Protective Service	177	\$22.52	Health Care			
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,180	\$15.32	and Social Retail Trade			
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	432	\$16.90	Assistance 15%			
Personal Care & Service	188	\$14.60	18% Real Bstate Informati			
Sales & Related	1,164	\$15.93	and on			
Office & Administrative Support	563	\$19.27	Rental 0%			
Construction & Extraction	431	\$25.04	AdMinistgetivent Educational and Fratework Services Leasin Instructional Instructional			
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	653	\$22.92	Servized g Warehousing			
Production	540	\$18.93				
Transportation & Material Moving	773	\$21.15	Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023			

# **OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

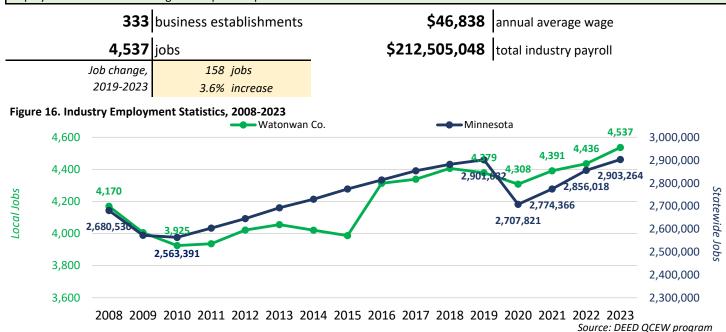
Table 13. Southwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2022							
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher				
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	Nursing Assistants	Registered Nurses	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term				
\$32,800/yr	\$38,146/yr	\$80,694/yr	\$46,668/yr				
Retail Salespersons	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	General & Operations Managers				
\$30,660/yr	\$52,242/yr	\$66,050/yr	\$78,383/yr				
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	Dental Hygienists	Elementary School Teachers				
\$51,299/yr	\$49,362/yr	\$82,983/yr	\$63,391/yr				
Cashiers	Dental Assistants	Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians	Secondary School Teachers				
\$29,092/yr	\$54,422/yr	\$61,801/yr	\$64,067/yr				
Fast Food & Counter Workers	Machinists	Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians	Accountants & Auditors				
\$29,393/yr	\$49,288/yr	\$49,646/yr	\$66,142/yr				
Waiters & Waitresses	Electricians	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	Preschool Teachers				
\$24,271/yr	\$63,396/yr	\$66,703/yr	\$35,451/yr				
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	Computer User Support Specialists	Computer Network Support Specialists	Medical & Health Services Managers				
\$39,654/yr	\$57,870/yr	\$72,682/yr	\$95,320/yr				
Office Clerks, General	Medical Assistants	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technologists &	Industrial Production Managers				
\$41,160/yr	\$46,233/yr	\$66,192/yr	\$99,559/yr				
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians	Lawyers				
\$49,219/yr	\$59,803/yr	\$71,840/yr	\$103,321/yr				
Teaching Assistants, exc. Postsecondary	Farm Equipment Mechanics & Service Technicians	Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, Including	Personal Financial Advisors				
\$36,756/yr	\$51,684/yr	\$39,218/yr	\$78,180/yr				
			Source: DEED Occupations in Demand				

Watonwan 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				Figure 15. Regional Occupational			
				Employment Projections, 2020-2030			
	Estimated	Projected	Percent	From employment gro −5,0			
	Employment	Employ-	Change	-5,0	00 0 3,000 10,000 13,000		
Southwest Planning Region	2020	ment 2030	2020-2030	Management Occupations	312 <b>8,590</b>		
Total, All Industries	195,812	203,504	3.9%	Business and Financial	301 1,897		
Natural Resources & Mining	5,931	6,026	1.6%	Computer and Architecture and	83 432 174 682		
Utilities	713	735	3.1%	Life, Physical, and Social	111 533		
Construction	7,573	8,082	6.7%	Community and Social	434 1,676		
Manufacturing	30,107	30,719	2.0%	Legal Occupations	47   194		
Wholesale Trade	8,045	8,118	0.9%	Educational Instruction and	855 4,608		
Retail Trade	18,569	17,653	-4.9%	Arts, Design, Healthcare Practitioners	196 1,129		
Transportation & Warehousing	7,385	7,817	5.8%	Healthcare Support	729 <b>2,738</b> 1.322 <b>7.049</b>		
Information	2,152	2,001	-7.0%	Protective Service	125 1,134		
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,098	8,232	1.7%	Food Preparation and	2,026 9,744		
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani	,	5,512	4.3%	Building and Grounds	414 3,715		
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	3,421	3,636	6.3%	Personal Care and Service	446 3,452		
Educational Services	15,564	16,274	4.6%	Sales and Related	-8 2 9,573		
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,352	32,081	9.3%	Office and Administrative Farming, Fishing, and	-999 <b>10,245</b> 63 <b>1,651</b>		
Leisure & Hospitality	11,744	14,382	22.5%	Construction and Extraction	433 2,623		
Other Services	6,756	7,462	10.4%	Installation, Maintenance,	515 2,660		
Public Administration	13,193	13,517	2.5%	Production Occupations	-49 7,349		
	ļ	,		Transportation and	986 <b>7,521</b>		
Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook							

### **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Watonwan Co. had the 62nd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Watonwan Co. was the 20th fastest growing in the past year and the 13th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Watonwan Co. grew despite the pandemic recession.



Average Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023 Number of Percent of Annual Table 15. Watonwan Co. Industry -40.0% -20.0% 0.0% 20.0% 40.0% **Employment Statistics, 2023** Jobs Total Jobs Wage 100.0% \$46,838 **Total, All Industries** 4,537 2.3% #N/A Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt #N/A #N/A #N/A Mining #N/A #N/A #N/A #N/A Construction 274 6.0% \$60,791 -9.3% 1,470 \$50,508 Manufacturing 32.4% 6.5% Utilities #N/A #N/A #N/A #N/A Wholesale Trade #N/A #N/A #N/A #N/A **Retail Trade** \$25,285 275 6.1% -3.8% Transportation & Warehousing 338 7.4% \$38,832 -0.9% Information 55 1.2% \$37,761 10.0% Finance & Insurance 160 3.5% \$61,127 3.9% Real Estate & Rental & Leasing 9 0.2% \$24,507 -35.7% #N/A #N/A Professional & Technical Services #N/A #N/A Management of Companies #N/A #N/A #N/A #N/A Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. 163 3.6% \$46,055 3.8% \$45,006 **Educational Services** 357 7.9% -0.8% Health Care & Social Assistance 424 9.3% \$57,640 0.2% Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation 60 1.3% \$12,204 22.4% Accommodation & Food Services 181 4.0% \$19,249 1.7% Other Services 99 2.2% \$26,414 -2.9% 338 7.4% Public Administration \$43,405 2.4% Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)

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

Amanda O'ConnellRegional Analyst, Southeast & South CentralCareerForce Rochester2070 College View Rd. E | Rochester MN 55904Office: 320-441-6571E-mail: amanda.oconnell@state.mn.usweb: www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: June 4, 2024