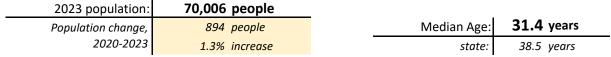


## **COUNTY PROFILE**

## Blue Earth Co.

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

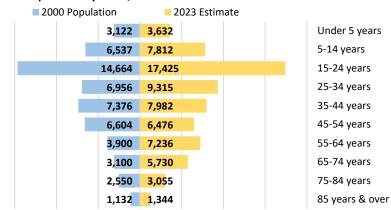
### **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**



Blue Earth Co. is the 13th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 27th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Blue Earth Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller 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 3,632 5.2% 7,812 11.2% 5-14 years 15-24 years 17,425 24.9% 25-34 years 9,315 13.3% 35-44 years 7,982 11.4% 9.3% 45-54 years 6,476 55-64 years 7,236 10.3% 65-74 years 5,730 8.2% 75-84 years 3,055 4.4% 1,344 1.9% 85 years & over **Total Population** 70,006 100.0% Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Blue Earth Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Blue Earth 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	ural Vital Events Net Migration					
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic	
Blue Earth Co.	892	411	2,313	1,902	452	597	-145	
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976	

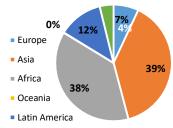
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Blue Earth Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Blue Earth Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

in the number of foreign both residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.							
Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born	Blue Earth Co. Change 2010-2022 Minnesota			Blue Earth Co. Change 2010-2022		esota	
Population, 2022	Number	Percent	Number Percent		Percent	Change	
Foreign-born Population	4,085	5.9%	1,581	63.1%	8.5%	31.3%	
Europe	285	7.0%	-45	-13.6%	9.3%	-0.6%	
Asia	1,589	38.9%	514	47.8%	36.7%	30.2%	
Africa	1,543	37.8%	864	127.2%	28.1%	93.1%	
Oceania	4	0.1%	-8	-66.7%	0.4%	20.4%	
Americas:	664	16.3%	256	62.7%	25.4%	7.5%	
Latin America	507	12.4%	171	50.9%	22.9%	9.0%	
Northern America	157	3.8%	85	118.1%	2.5%	-4.6%	

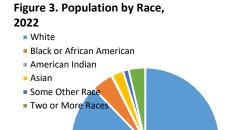
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2022



Northern America

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



	В	Blue Earth Co.			nesota
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
Total	69,022	100.0%	8.9%	100.0%	7.9%
White	60,623	87.8%	3.0%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	3,217	4.7%	100.6%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	109	0.2%	-27.8%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,752	2.5%	34.4%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	846	1.2%	172.0%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	2,475	3.6%	115.6%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,854	4.1%	77.8%	5.7%	34.6%

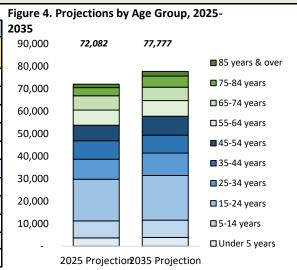
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

#### **POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

87.8%

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Blue Earth 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 Blue Earth Co. Projection Projection Change Change Under 5 years 3,709 3,934 225 6.1% 5-14 years 7,562 7.665 103 1.4% 18,552 19,930 7.4% 15-24 years 1,378 25-34 years 8,879 9,962 1,083 12.2% 35-44 years 8,224 7,927 -297 -3.6% 6,952 8,425 1,473 21.2% 45-54 years 55-64 years 6,729 6,963 234 3.5% 65-74 years 6,356 5,966 -390 -6.1% 75-84 years 3,580 4,983 1,403 39.2% 85 years & over 1,539 2.022 483 31.4% **Total Population** 72,082 77,777 5,695 7.9%



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

#### **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

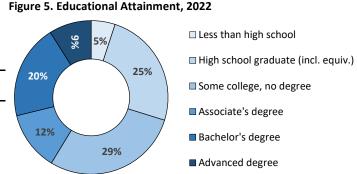
Blue Earth Co. has a higher percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.0%), and a higher percentage of people with at least some college experience. Blue Earth Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

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

95.0%

College-educated:70.2%state:68.5%Associate's Degree:12.5%

Associate's Degree: 12.5%
Bachelor's Degree: 19.9%
Advanced Degree: 8.9%

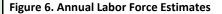


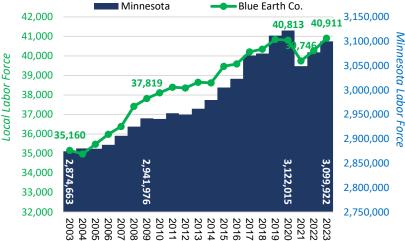
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

#### LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.3%, Blue Earth Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Blue Earth Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 2.8% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Blue Earth 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, Blue Earth 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, Blue Earth Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

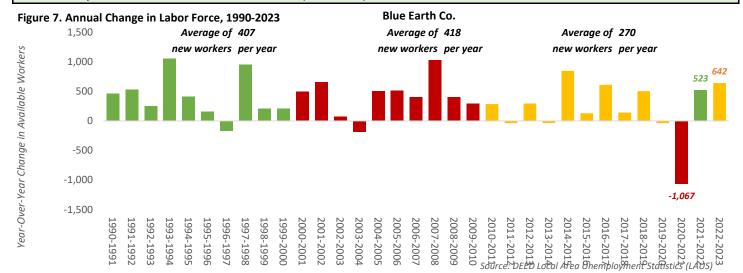
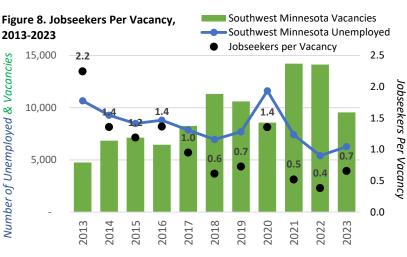


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection			
Projections, 2025-2035	2025	2035		
16 to 24 years	13,104	14,262		
25 to 54 years	21,350	23,325		
55 to 64 years	5,108	5,286		
65 years & over	2,029	2,049		
Total Labor Force	41,592	44,922		

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

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

	Blu	e Earth Co.		Minne	esota	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	
Total Labor Force	40,361	70.9%	3.7%	68.7%	4.0%	
16 to 19 years	3,362	61.0%	9.0%	53.0%	9.8%	
20 to 24 years	8,977	82.7%	4.3%	83.1%	6.7%	
25 to 44 years	15,320	89.8%	3.7%	88.8%	3.5%	
45 to 54 years	5,497	86.1%	2.0%	87.8%	2.9%	
55 to 64 years	5,416	75.9%	1.9%	72.8%	3.1%	
65 to 74 years	1,503	26.6%	1.8%	27.6%	3.3%	
75 years & over	286	6.6%	5.2%	6.6%	3.2%	
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp;</b>	Hispanic Origin					l
White alone	35,857	70.6%	3.5%	67.8%	3.4%	ľ
Black or African American	1,606	69.3%	4.2%	71.5%	8.7%	
American Indian & Alaska Native	77	77.0%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%	ļ
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,050	67.3%	11.5%	73.9%	3.6%	
Some Other Race	612	89.2%	1.5%	76.1%	6.1%	
Two or More Races	1,162	78.8%	5.9%	74.3%	6.6%	ľ
Hispanic or Latino	1,717	81.9%	7.6%	77.0%	6.3%	
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disabilit</b>	ty, 20 to 64 years					ĺ
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,182	58.3%	14.0%	54.4%	10.2%	
<b>Employment Characteristics by Education</b>	onal Attainment, 25	to 64 years				ĺ
Population, 25 to 64 years	26,232	85.8%	3.0%	84.4%	3.3%	
Less than H.S. Diploma	923	66.2%	1.8%	67.2%	4.6%	ĺ
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	5,279	79.1%	2.3%	76.8%	2.5%	
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,708	86.7%	3.9%	85.1%	3.6%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10,324	91.3%	2.3%	90.3%	2.0%	l

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022

Labor Force by Gender

**Female** 

19,197

1,946

4,462

6,887

2,603

2,662

553

84

Male

21,161

1,418

4,510

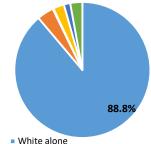
8,435

2,893

2,755

948

202



- 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 Blue Earth Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Blue Earth Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

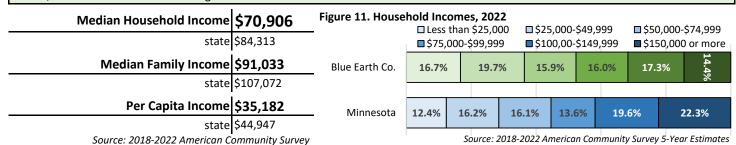
	Blue Earth Co.		Blue Earth Co.		Minne	esota
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Worked in state of residence	37,206	99.7%	2,867,086	97.7%		
Worked in county of residence	28,586	76.6%	1,957,366	66.7%		
Worked out of county of residence	8,658	23.2%	909,720	31.0%		
Worked outside state of residence	112	0.3%	67,495	2.3%		
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK						
Car, truck, or van	32,168	86.2%	2,338,861	79.7%		
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	634	1.7%	73,365	2.5%		
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,455	3.9%	120,318	4.1%		
Worked at home	3,097	8.3%	399,103	13.6%		
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK						
Less than 10 minutes	8,844	23.7%	475,402	16.2%		
10 to 19 minutes	17,539	47.0%	906,786	30.9%		
20 to 29 minutes	5,374	14.4%	651,477	22.2%		
30 to 44 minutes	3,247	8.7%	563,440	19.2%		
45 to 59 minutes	933	2.5%	181,944	6.2%		
60 or more minutes	1,381	3.7%	155,533	5.3%		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	17.4	minutes	23.3	minutes		

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2022 ■ Blue Earth Co. ■ Minnesota 0% 20% 40% 12:00 a.m. to 4.7% 4:59 a.m. 5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m. 9.2% 6:00 a.m. to 6:59 15.6% 19.2% 7:00 a.m. to 7:59 32.2% a.m. 28.7% 8:00 a.m. to 8:59 13.4% a.m. 14.7% 9:00 a.m. to 26.2% 11:59 p.m. 23.5%

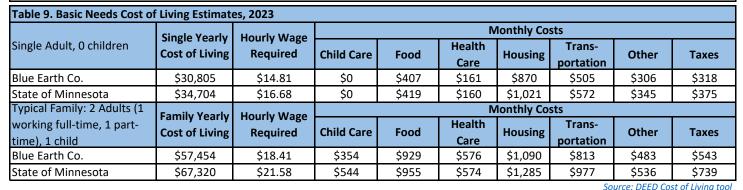
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Blue Earth Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Blue Earth Co. had the 38th 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. Blue Earth Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.81 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.41 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).



Blue Earth Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 26th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Blue Earth Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-	Blue Earth Co.		Minnesota	Figure 12. Year St	ructure l	Built, 2	022
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent	0	%	10%	
Total	16,635	100.0%	100.0%	■ Blue E	arth Co.		42.7
Less than \$50,000	983	5.9%	4.1%	2010 or later		7.8%	12.7
\$50,000 to \$99,999	717	4.3%	4.6%	2000 to 2009			1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,694	10.2%	7.1%				13.3
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,686	16.1%	10.7%	1980 to 1999			
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,648	34.0%	27.1%	1960 to 1979			
\$300,000 to \$499,999	3,576	21.5%	31.7%				
\$500,000 or more	1,331	8.0%	14.7%	1940 to 1959			12.4° 13.
Median (dollars)	\$239,2	200	\$286,800	1939 or earlier			

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

0% 20% 30% ■ Blue Earth Co. ■ Minnesota 12.7% 2010 or later 7.8% 15.2% 2000 to 2009 1980 to 1999 25.5% 20.2% 1960 to 1979 23.8% 12.4% 1940 to 1959 13.8% 20.1% 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

23.1%

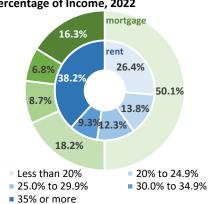
Median monthly rent costs \$1,007

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



#### **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%

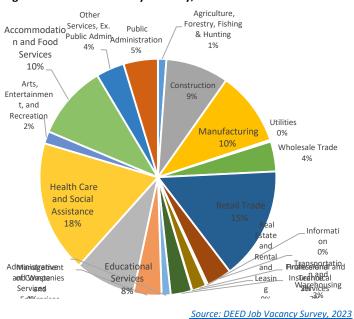
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

#### **JOB VACANCY SURVEY**

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

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



# **OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

Table 13. Southwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2023					
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher		
Retail Salespersons	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	Accountants and Auditors		
\$34,798/yr	\$54,491/yr	\$85,138/yr	\$69,245/yr		
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	Nursing Assistants	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	General and Operations Managers		
\$36,495/yr	\$39,764/yr	\$74,684/yr	\$82,482/yr		
Fast Food and Counter Workers	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Dental Hygienists	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education		
\$30,228/yr	\$58,499/yr	\$84,870/yr	\$65,364/yr		
Cashiers	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical		
\$30,595/yr	\$64,265/yr	\$60,049/yr	\$66,349/yr		
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term		
\$38,031/yr	\$59,444/yr	\$78,236/yr	\$52,112/yr		
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing  Clerks	Agricultural Technicians	Financial Managers		
\$45,427/yr	\$47,963/yr	\$50,274/yr	\$119,560/yr		
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping	Industrial Engineers		
\$37,379/yr	\$61,794/yr	\$49,828/yr	\$90,455/yr		
Construction Laborers	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Computer Systems Analysts		
\$49,744/yr	\$49,947/yr	\$71,227/yr	\$96,291/yr		
Bus Drivers, School	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Physical Therapist Assistants	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical		
\$49,228/yr	\$50,024/yr	\$62,988/yr	\$66,534/yr		
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education		
\$43,003/yr	\$60,689/yr	\$40,453/yr	\$37,747/yr		
			Source: DEED Occupations in Demand		

Blue Earth Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% 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).

rojections, zezz	-2032	Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032						
Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employ- ment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032						
202,214	207,878	2.8%						
5,523	5,777	4.6%						
690	690	0.0%						
7,679	8,252	7.5%						
32,192	33,537	4.2%						
8,001	8,116	1.4%						
19,409	19,084	-1.7%						
6,297	6,810	8.1%						
2,093	2,046	-2.2%						
8,227	8,375	1.8%						
5,544	5,985	8.0%						
4,127	4,331	4.9%						
16,065	16,116	0.3%						
28,786	30,498	5.9%						
13,625	14,377	5.5%						
7,097	7,281	2.6%						
14,117	14,370	1.8%						
	Employment 2022 202,214 5,523 690 7,679 32,192 8,001 19,409 6,297 2,093 8,227 5,544 4,127 16,065 28,786 13,625 7,097 14,117	Employment         Employment 2032           2022         ment 2032           202,214         207,878           5,523         5,777           690         690           7,679         8,252           32,192         33,537           8,001         8,116           19,409         19,084           6,297         6,810           2,093         2,046           8,227         8,375           5,544         5,985           4,127         4,331           16,065         16,116           28,786         30,498           13,625         14,377           7,097         7,281						

Figure 15. Regional Occupational

Employment Projections, 2022-2032							
■ From employment growth							
-5,0	000	5,000 10,	000 15,000				
Management Occupations	579	5,196					
Business and Financial	304	<b>2,6</b> 85					
Computer and	154	479					
Architecture and	243	<b>8</b> 52					
Life, Physical, and Social	96	365					
Community and Social	334	<b>1</b> ,841					
Legal Occupations	33	224					
Educational Instruction and	292	5,689					
Arts, Design,	47	<b>1</b> ,841					
Healthcare Practitioners	638	3,403					
Healthcare Support	807	8,057					
Protective Service	60	<b>1</b> ,233					
Food Preparation and	451	12,217					
Building and Grounds	219	4,473					
Personal Care and Service	296	3,602					
Sales and Related	-41	9 10,465					
Office and Administrative	-1,115	11,316					
Farming, Fishing, and	84	<b>1</b> ,771					
Construction and Extraction	529	3,584					
Installation, Maintenance,	592	3,584					
<b>Production Occupations</b>	438	9,377					
Transportation and	1,002	10,018					

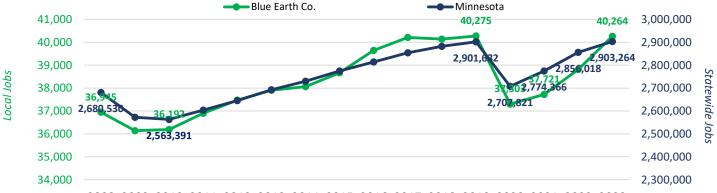
#### **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Blue Earth Co. had the 12th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Blue Earth Co. was the 3rd fastest growing in the past year and the 36th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Blue Earth Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

2,133 business establishments \$55,099 annual average wage
40,264 jobs \$2,218,507,706 total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2023 0.0% decline \$0.0% decline

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023

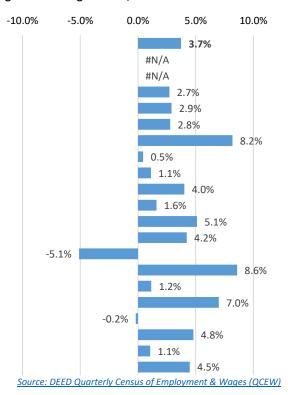


2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: DEED QCEW program

			Average
Table 15. Blue Earth Co. Industry	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Employment Statistics, 2023	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	40,264	100.0%	\$55,099
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	422	1.0%	\$23,320
Mining	90	0.2%	\$41,269
Construction	1,924	4.8%	\$74,140
Manufacturing	4,357	10.8%	\$72,840
Utilities	184	0.5%	\$109,872
Wholesale Trade	1,149	2.9%	\$85,842
Retail Trade	5,521	13.7%	\$33,880
Transportation & Warehousing	1,624	4.0%	\$53,452
Information	544	1.4%	\$65,799
Finance & Insurance	1,204	3.0%	\$89,727
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	842	2.1%	\$39,479
Professional & Technical Services	1,208	3.0%	\$87,556
Management of Companies	149	0.4%	\$109,159
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	1,037	2.6%	\$41,673
Educational Services	3,754	9.3%	\$59,880
Health Care & Social Assistance	8,994	22.3%	\$59,799
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	516	1.3%	\$17,426
Accommodation & Food Services	3,994	9.9%	\$20,231
Other Services	1,430	3.6%	\$37,432
Public Administration	1,350	3.4%	\$69,163

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

web: www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: October 21, 2024