

**COUNTY PROFILE**

# Douglas Co.

Douglas Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 4, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2023 population:	<b>39,953 people</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	947 people 2.4% increase

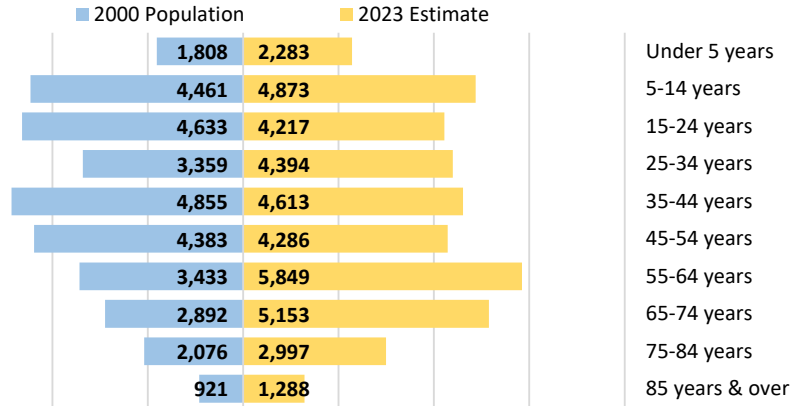
Median Age:	<b>44.2 years</b>
state:	38.5 years

Douglas Co. is the 27th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 15th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Douglas 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).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	2,283	5.7%
5-14 years	4,873	12.2%
15-24 years	4,217	10.6%
25-34 years	4,394	11.0%
35-44 years	4,613	11.5%
45-54 years	4,286	10.7%
55-64 years	5,849	14.6%
65-74 years	5,153	12.9%
75-84 years	2,997	7.5%
85 years & over	1,288	3.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>39,953</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



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

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Douglas Co.	957	-203	1,296	1,499	1,160	74	1,086
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

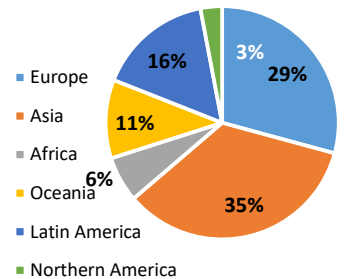
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Douglas Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Europe	166	29.2%	78	88.6%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	196	34.5%	105	115.4%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	36	6.3%	-85	-70.2%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	62	10.9%	62	#DIV/0!	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	108	19.0%	26	31.7%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	91	16.0%	32	54.2%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	17	3.0%	-6	-26.1%	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



## COUNTY PROFILE

Douglas Co.

Douglas 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).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2022**

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

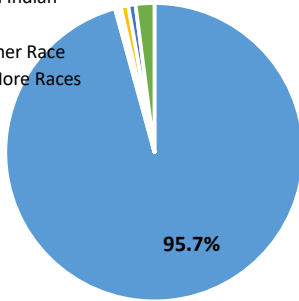


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Douglas Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,081</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
White	37,411	95.7%	6.0%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	149	0.4%	-19.5%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	101	0.3%	-31.3%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	316	0.8%	124.1%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	308	0.8%	1711.8%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	796	2.0%	198.1%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	767	2.0%	113.1%	5.7%	34.6%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

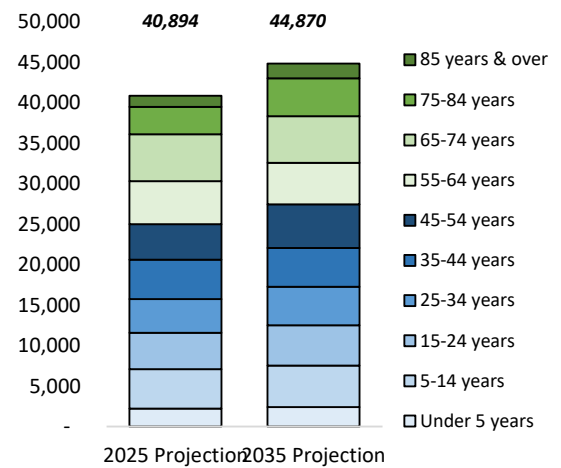
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Douglas Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

Douglas Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	2,235	2,395	160	7.2%
5-14 years	4,841	5,148	307	6.3%
15-24 years	4,516	4,985	469	10.4%
25-34 years	4,155	4,758	603	14.5%
35-44 years	4,882	4,778	-104	-2.1%
45-54 years	4,365	5,398	1,033	23.7%
55-64 years	5,327	5,113	-214	-4.0%
65-74 years	5,802	5,783	-19	-0.3%
75-84 years	3,370	4,663	1,293	38.4%
85 years & over	1,401	1,849	448	32.0%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>40,894</b>	<b>44,870</b>	<b>3,976</b>	<b>9.7%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

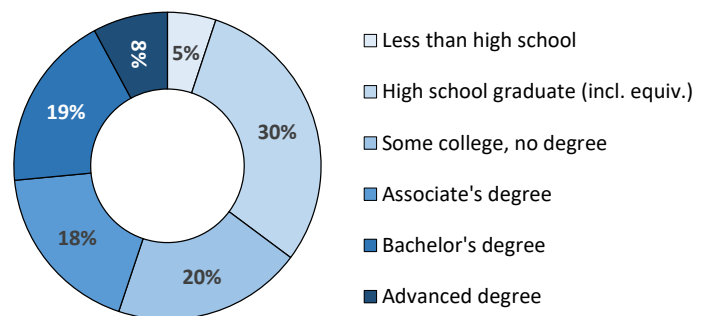


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Douglas 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. Douglas 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.

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022**

<b>Percentage of the adult population (18 years &amp; over) with at least a high school diploma:</b>	<b>94.9%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>64.8%</b>
state:	68.5%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>18.4%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>18.6%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>7.9%</b>



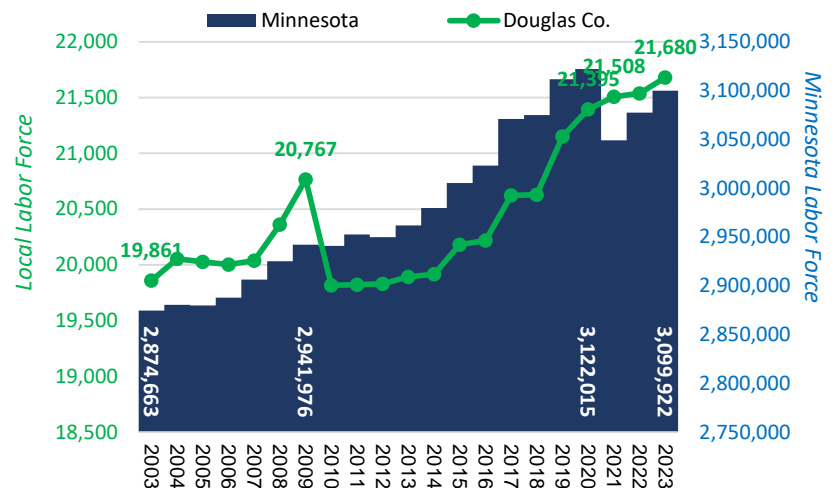
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.6%, Douglas Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Douglas Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.2% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Douglas Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>21,680</b> available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	1,317 workers 6.5% increase
<b>2.6%</b> unemployment rate	
2.8% state	
<b>564</b> unemployed workers	

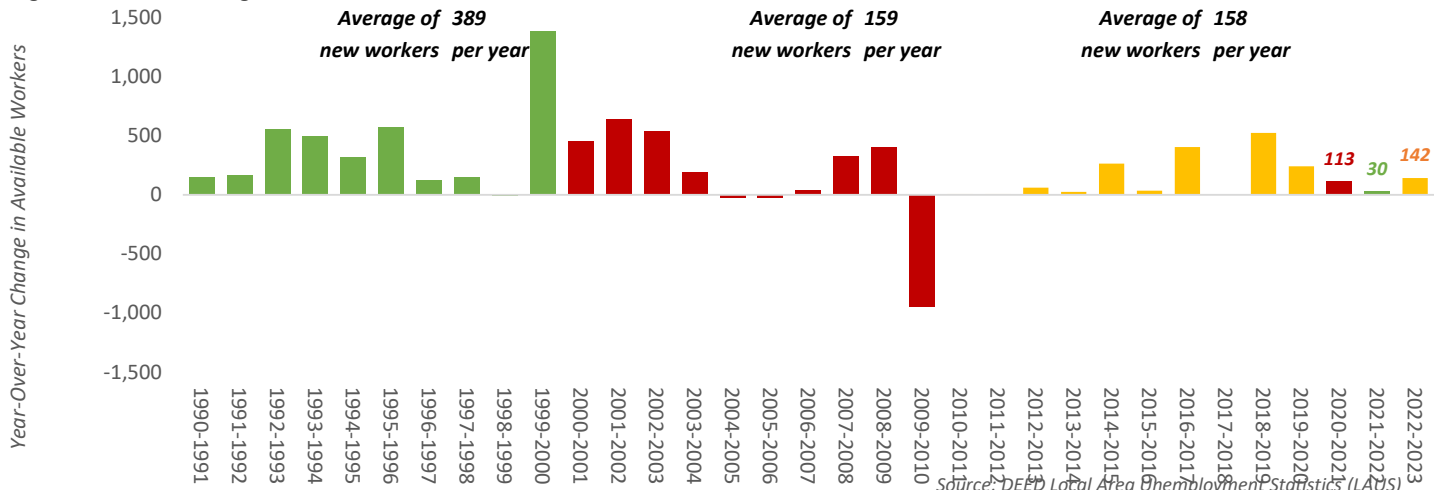
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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

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



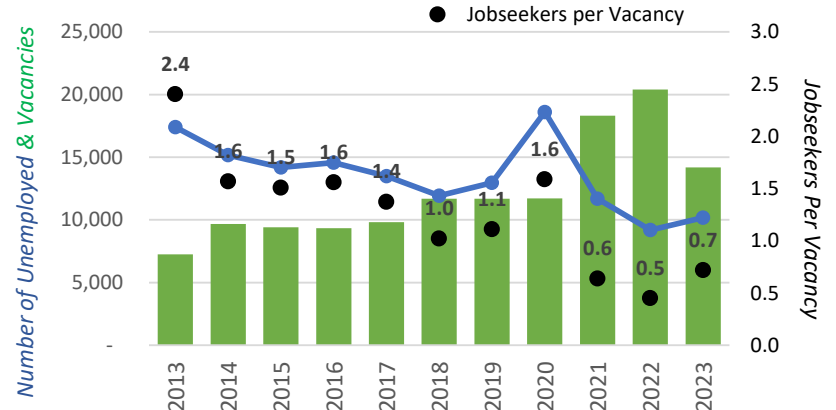
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	3,042	3,374
25 to 54 years	12,249	13,646
55 to 64 years	3,864	3,709
65 years & over	1,796	1,894
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>20,952</b>	<b>22,623</b>

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).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2013-2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

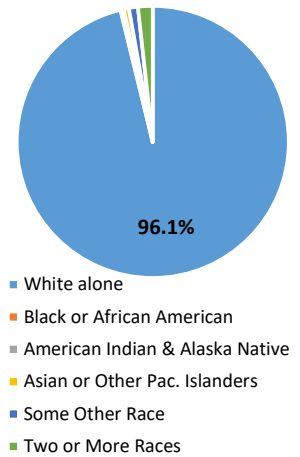
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Douglas Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Douglas 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**

	Douglas 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
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>20,314</b>	<b>64.4%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>9,452</b>
16 to 19 years	957	60.1%	12.9%	53.0%	9.8%	503	454
20 to 24 years	1,752	87.8%	5.0%	83.1%	6.7%	993	759
25 to 44 years	8,074	91.6%	1.9%	88.8%	3.5%	4,314	3,759
45 to 54 years	3,811	90.9%	4.6%	87.8%	2.9%	1,975	1,835
55 to 64 years	4,150	72.5%	1.6%	72.8%	3.1%	2,237	1,915
65 to 74 years	1,316	26.1%	1.4%	27.6%	3.3%	668	649
75 years & over	247	5.9%	0.0%	6.6%	3.2%	167	81
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	19,525	64.4%	2.6%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	60	54.1%	10.0%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	19	19.6%	0.0%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	124	51.2%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	218	77.6%	7.8%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	354	71.5%	25.4%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	396	83.9%	12.9%	77.0%	6.3%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	999	56.2%	4.6%	54.4%	10.2%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	16,027	85.6%	2.4%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	550	80.2%	4.4%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,610	76.6%	0.4%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	6,722	87.6%	2.3%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,154	91.2%	1.3%	90.3%	2.0%		

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2022**



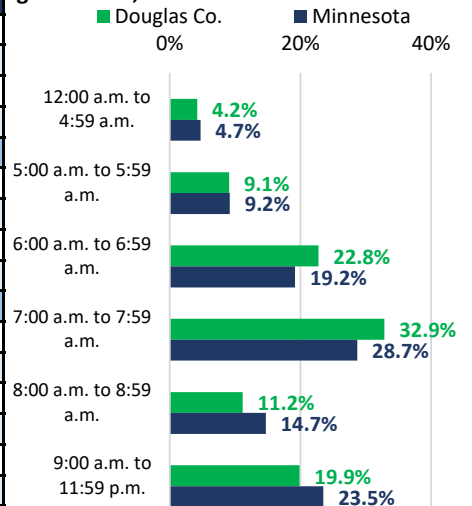
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Douglas Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	19,131	98.4%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	16,642	85.6%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	2,469	12.7%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	311	1.6%	67,495	2.3%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	16,856	86.7%	2,338,861	79.7%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	19	0.1%	73,365	2.5%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	642	3.3%	120,318	4.1%
Worked at home	1,925	9.9%	399,103	13.6%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	4,530	23.3%	475,402	16.2%
10 to 19 minutes	7,641	39.3%	906,786	30.9%
20 to 29 minutes	3,772	19.4%	651,477	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	2,022	10.4%	563,440	19.2%
45 to 59 minutes	525	2.7%	181,944	6.2%
60 or more minutes	972	5.0%	155,533	5.3%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>20.2 minutes</b>		<b>23.3 minutes</b>	

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



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

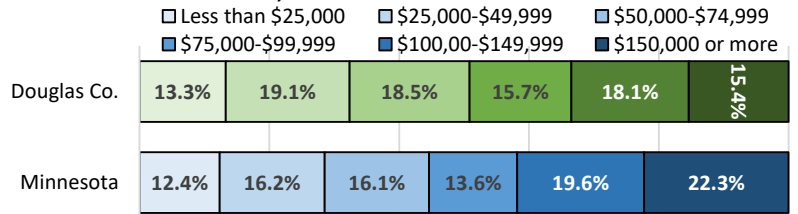
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Douglas Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Douglas Co. had the 31st highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$72,472</b>
state	\$84,313
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$91,413</b>
state	\$107,072
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$41,889</b>
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. Douglas Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.11 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.35 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023

Category	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Single Adult, 0 children									
Douglas Co.	\$29,350	\$14.11	\$0	\$408	\$161	\$716	\$588	\$269	\$304
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									
Douglas Co.	\$57,260	\$18.35	\$359	\$931	\$576	\$897	\$1,022	\$438	\$549
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

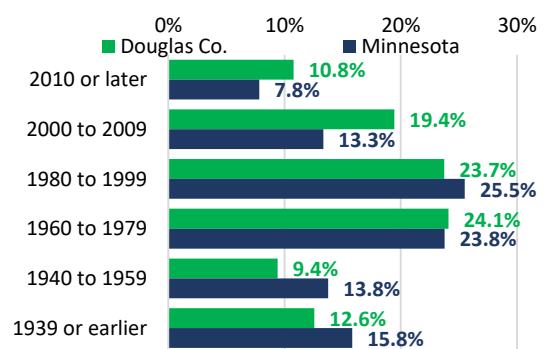
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Douglas Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 14th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Douglas 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-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Douglas Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,060</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	415	3.2%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	519	4.0%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,131	8.7%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,650	12.6%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	3,499	26.8%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,126	31.6%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	1,720	13.2%	14.7%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$277,800</b>		<b>\$286,800</b>

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** **\$1,625**

state \$1,818

**Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs** **23.6%**

state 22.0%

**Median monthly rent costs** **\$847**

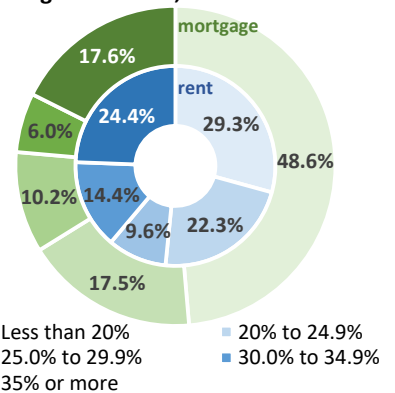
state \$1,178

**Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent** **38.8%**

state 46.7%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.04 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$46.14) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.43) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 4				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
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.04</b>	<b>89,340</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$25.22</b>	<b>2,881,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$46.14	4,990	5.6%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$32.67	3,240	3.6%	0.5	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.23	1,020	1.1%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.82	1,530	1.7%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.31	560	0.6%	0.6	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.42	2,080	2.3%	1.2	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$39.47	350	0.4%	0.6	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.33	6,470	7.2%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.86	850	1.0%	0.8	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$38.15	5,640	6.3%	1.0	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.29	5,150	5.8%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$28.64	1,500	1.7%	1.1	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.43	8,410	9.4%	1.2	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.65	3,040	3.4%	1.2	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.73	1,810	2.0%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.63	8,050	9.0%	1.1	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.22	10,350	11.6%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$21.66	240	0.3%	2.2	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.67	4,640	5.2%	1.3	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.01	3,990	4.5%	1.2	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.80	7,860	8.8%	1.2	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.36	7,580	8.5%	1.1	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

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

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Douglas 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

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>14,193</b>	<b>\$17.77</b>
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	\$18.97
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



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2023

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,108/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$54,491/yr	Registered Nurses \$84,785/yr	General and Operations Managers \$77,521/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,088/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,033/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$71,010/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$64,121/yr
Cashiers \$30,773/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$54,946/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,771/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,299/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,126/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$47,486/yr	Dental Hygienists \$85,989/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$64,893/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$40,709/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$48,131/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$71,227/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$46,162/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$38,122/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,479/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$59,200/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$102,974/yr
Cooks, Restaurant \$36,830/yr	Machinists \$51,295/yr	Occupational Therapy Assistants \$59,627/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$63,680/yr
Food Preparation Workers \$31,855/yr	Electricians \$65,524/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$70,049/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$37,999/yr
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators \$40,826/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$59,152/yr	Surgical Technologists \$64,809/yr	Pharmacists \$140,993/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,395/yr	Paramedics \$64,134/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,791/yr	Physical Therapists \$98,061/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Douglas Co. is a part of the Northwest 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, 2022-2032

	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Northwest Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>265,321</b>	<b>275,647</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6,095	6,335	3.9%
Utilities	1,126	1,125	-0.1%
Construction	11,719	12,715	8.5%
Manufacturing	29,871	31,429	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	12,936	14,034	8.5%
Retail Trade	27,705	27,590	-0.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,579	5,997	7.5%
Information	2,451	2,470	0.8%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,067	8,366	3.7%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,609	6,152	9.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,192	4,460	6.4%
Educational Services	22,849	22,989	0.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,421	38,978	7.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	24,958	26,706	7.0%
Other Services	9,824	10,129	3.1%
Public Administration	24,161	24,869	2.9%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032

