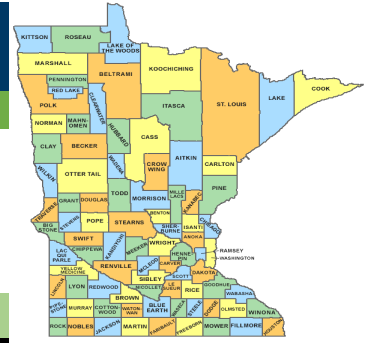


**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Polk Co.**

Polk Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 1, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	<b>30,412 people</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	-780 people -2.5% decline

Median Age:	<b>39.3 years</b>
state:	38.5 years

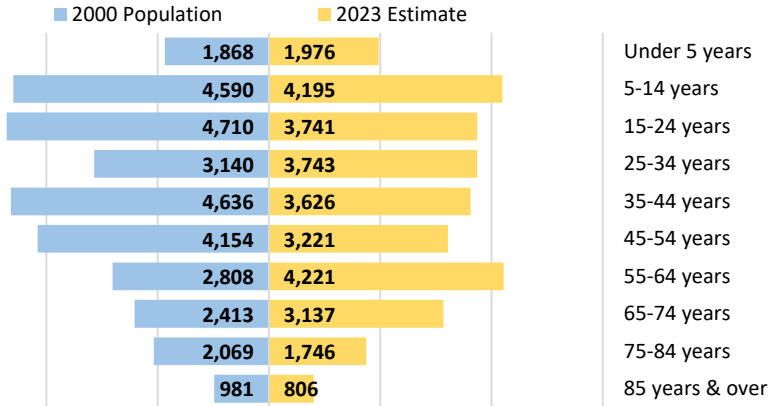
Polk Co. is the 34th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 78th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Polk Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population 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	1,976	6.5%
5-14 years	4,195	13.8%
15-24 years	3,741	12.3%
25-34 years	3,743	12.3%
35-44 years	3,626	11.9%
45-54 years	3,221	10.6%
55-64 years	4,221	13.9%
65-74 years	3,137	10.3%
75-84 years	1,746	5.7%
85 years & over	806	2.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>30,412</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2018-2022 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023**



Polk Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Polk Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2023**

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Polk Co.	-773	-148	1,104	1,252	-612	130	-742
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

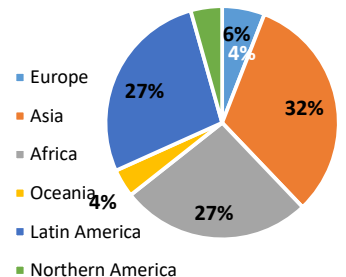
Compared to the state, Polk Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Polk Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

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

	Polk Co.		Change 2010-2022		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Europe	53	5.9%	-35	-39.8%	9.3%	-0.6%
Asia	286	32.0%	14	5.1%	36.7%	30.2%
Africa	237	26.5%	210	77.8%	28.1%	93.1%
Oceania	35	3.9%	25	250.0%	0.4%	20.4%
Americas:	284	31.7%	-38	-11.8%	25.4%	7.5%
Latin America	245	27.4%	23	10.4%	22.9%	9.0%
Northern America	39	4.4%	-61	-61.0%	2.5%	-4.6%

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

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



## COUNTY PROFILE

Polk Co.

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

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

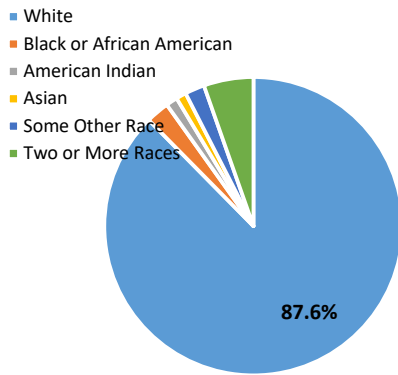


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Polk Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022	Percent	Change from 2011-2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
White	27,271	87.6%	-7.0%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	787	2.5%	239.2%	6.7%	44.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	389	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	342	1.1%	44.3%	5.1%	37.1%
Some Other Race	660	2.1%	-2.4%	2.3%	84.7%
Two or More Races	1,679	5.4%	207.5%	5.3%	159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,118	6.8%	23.7%	5.7%	34.6%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

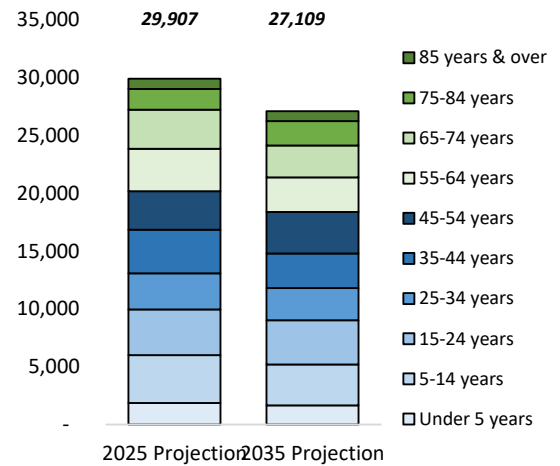
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Polk Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to decrease over the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

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

Polk Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,878	1,662	-216	-11.5%
5-14 years	4,138	3,540	-598	-14.5%
15-24 years	3,934	3,815	-119	-3.0%
25-34 years	3,126	2,799	-327	-10.5%
35-44 years	3,788	2,992	-796	-21.0%
45-54 years	3,322	3,583	261	7.9%
55-64 years	3,658	2,997	-661	-18.1%
65-74 years	3,391	2,747	-644	-19.0%
75-84 years	1,799	2,116	317	17.6%
85 years & over	873	858	-15	-1.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>29,907</b>	<b>27,109</b>	<b>-2,798</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

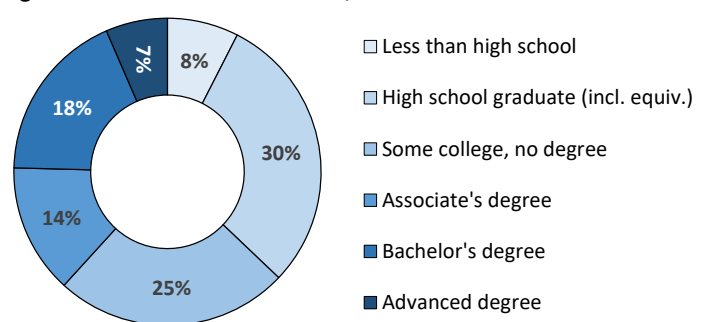


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Polk 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. Polk 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.

<b>Percentage of the adult population (18 years &amp; over) with at least a high school diploma:</b>	<b>92.5%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>62.9%</b>
state:	68.5%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>18.1%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2022**



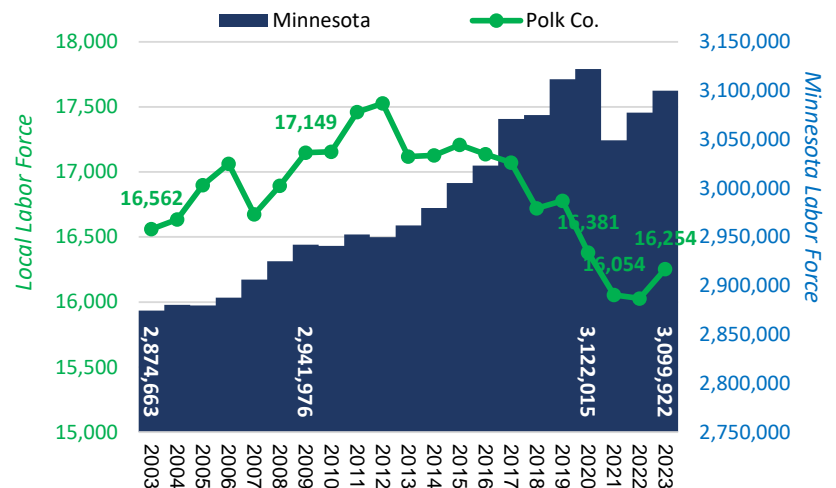
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.9%, Polk Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Polk Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Polk Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>16,254</b> available workers	
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	-639 workers -3.8% decline
<b>2.9%</b> unemployment rate	2.8% state
<b>471</b> unemployed workers	

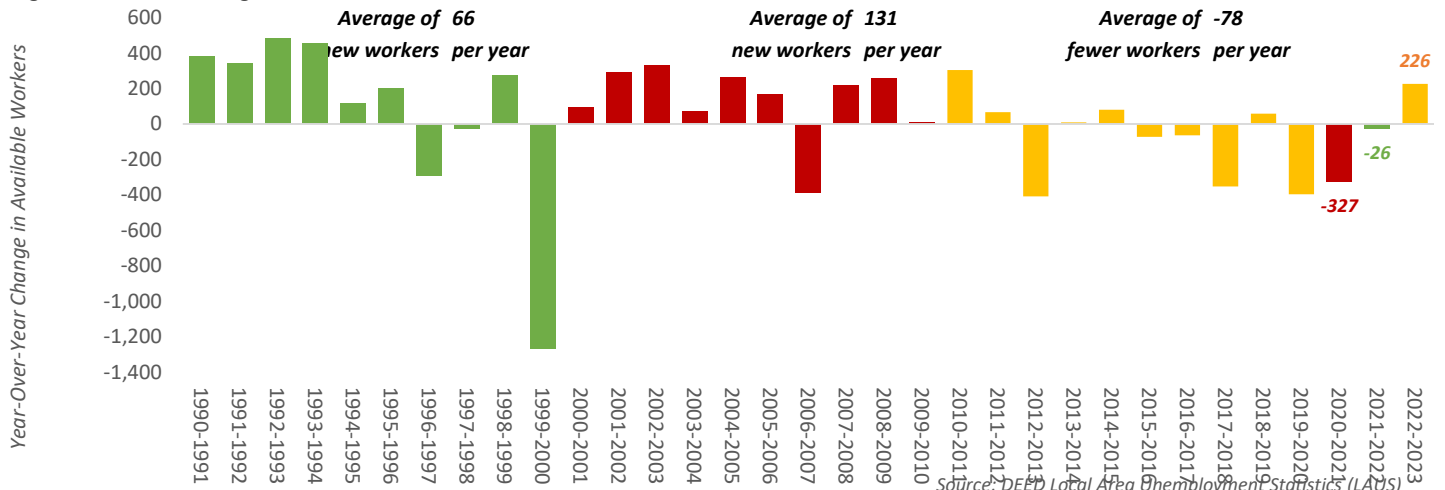
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Polk Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Polk Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



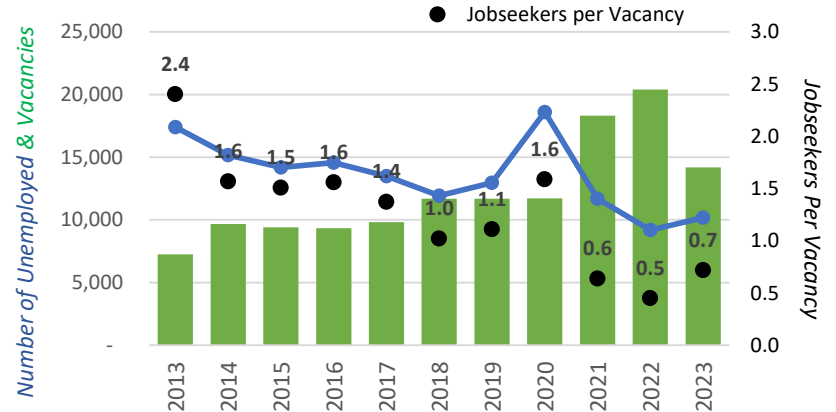
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,492	2,441
25 to 54 years	8,870	8,117
55 to 64 years	2,667	2,185
65 years & over	927	788
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>14,956</b>	<b>13,531</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

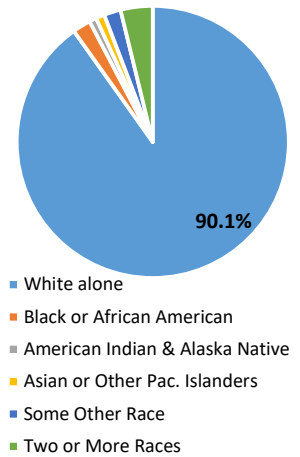
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

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

	Polk 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>15,869</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>7,196</b>
16 to 19 years	1,003	57.9%	1.9%	53.0%	9.8%	526	477
20 to 24 years	1,439	82.9%	1.9%	83.1%	6.7%	834	605
25 to 44 years	6,563	87.0%	5.2%	88.8%	3.5%	3,452	3,109
45 to 54 years	2,832	85.9%	3.5%	87.8%	2.9%	1,554	1,278
55 to 64 years	3,150	72.9%	1.0%	72.8%	3.1%	1,736	1,413
65 to 74 years	764	23.8%	2.2%	27.6%	3.3%	483	281
75 years & over	118	4.5%	3.4%	6.6%	3.2%	85	33
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	14,303	65.0%	2.5%	67.8%	3.4%		
Black or African American	342	60.1%	4.1%	71.5%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	136	47.7%	35.3%	57.6%	11.9%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	163	65.4%	0.0%	73.9%	3.6%		
Some Other Race	316	64.5%	0.6%	76.1%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	605	70.8%	18.5%	74.3%	6.6%		
Hispanic or Latino	962	72.2%	15.5%	77.0%	6.3%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	888	46.3%	8.2%	54.4%	10.2%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	12,536	82.7%	3.8%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	666	72.0%	5.6%	67.2%	4.6%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,926	77.5%	2.5%	76.8%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	5,034	82.1%	1.7%	85.1%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3,916	90.5%	2.1%	90.3%	2.0%		

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



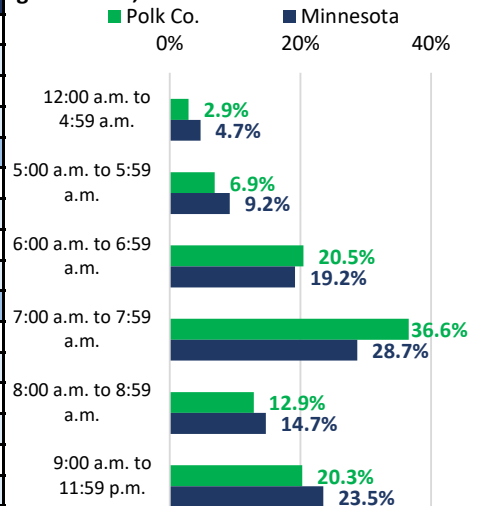
Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Polk Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	10,493	70.1%	2,867,086	97.7%
Worked in county of residence	9,416	62.9%	1,957,366	66.7%
Worked out of county of residence	1,078	7.2%	909,720	31.0%
Worked outside state of residence	4,476	29.9%	67,495	2.3%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	12,903	86.2%	2,338,861	79.7%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	120	0.8%	73,365	2.5%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,063	7.1%	120,318	4.1%
Worked at home	883	5.9%	399,103	13.6%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	4,595	30.7%	475,402	16.2%
10 to 19 minutes	5,074	33.9%	906,786	30.9%
20 to 29 minutes	2,171	14.5%	651,477	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,632	10.9%	563,440	19.2%
45 to 59 minutes	913	6.1%	181,944	6.2%
60 or more minutes	569	3.8%	155,533	5.3%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>18.3 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

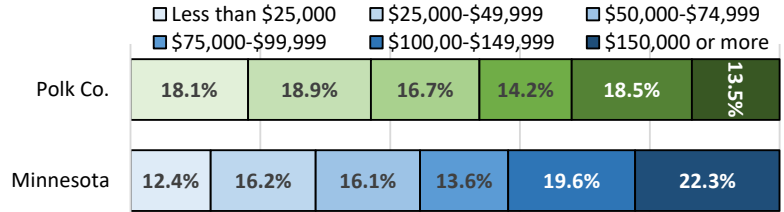
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Polk Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Polk Co. had the 43rd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$69,540</b>
state	\$84,313
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$91,213</b>
state	\$107,072
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$34,273</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. Polk Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.72 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$17.32 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									
Polk Co.	\$28,533	\$13.72	\$0	\$415	\$161	\$723	\$518	\$272	\$289
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									
Polk Co.	\$54,045	\$17.32	\$302	\$946	\$576	\$919	\$844	\$446	\$471
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

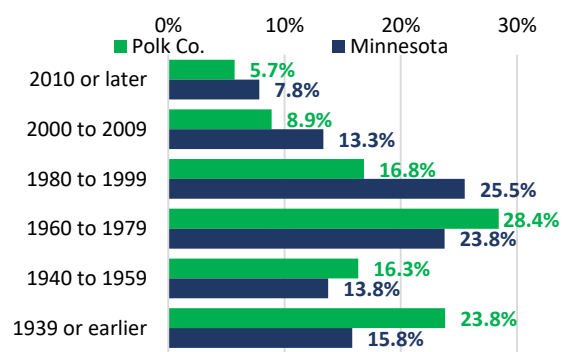
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Polk Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 42nd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Polk Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Polk Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,925</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	710	8.0%	4.1%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,003	11.2%	4.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,208	13.5%	7.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,391	15.6%	10.7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,779	31.1%	27.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,422	15.9%	31.7%
\$500,000 or more	412	4.6%	14.7%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$204,600</b>		<b>\$286,800</b>

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2022



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,527</b>
state	\$1,818

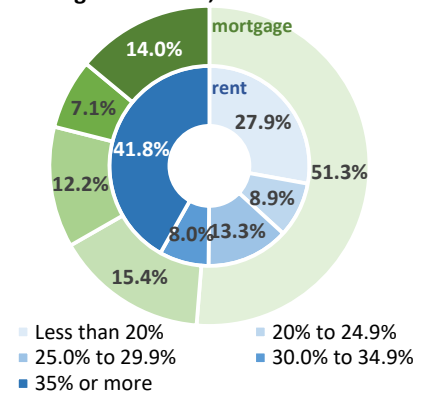
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
state	22.0%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$822</b>
state	\$1,178

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>49.9%</b>
state	46.7%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.51 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 1 than the state. Overall, Region 1 had the 4th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$46.27) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.65) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 1				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>\$23.51</b>	<b>35,370</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$25.22</b>	<b>2,881,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$46.27	1,950	5.5%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$31.06	1,570	4.4%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$42.17	570	1.6%	0.5	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$36.26	530	1.5%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$31.52	260	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$29.08	650	1.8%	0.9	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$39.81	80	0.2%	0.3	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$24.78	2,520	7.1%	1.3	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$24.62	230	0.7%	0.5	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$36.52	1,810	5.1%	0.8	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.62	1,510	4.3%	0.7	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$27.66	590	1.7%	1.0	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.65	2,710	7.7%	1.0	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.27	1,000	2.8%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.05	580	1.6%	0.8	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.49	3,060	8.7%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$24.10	4,490	12.7%	1.0	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.67	180	0.5%	4.2	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$28.25	1,110	3.1%	0.8	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$27.19	1,410	4.0%	1.1	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$21.48	4,140	11.7%	1.7	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$23.73	4,440	12.6%	1.6	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

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

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Polk 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

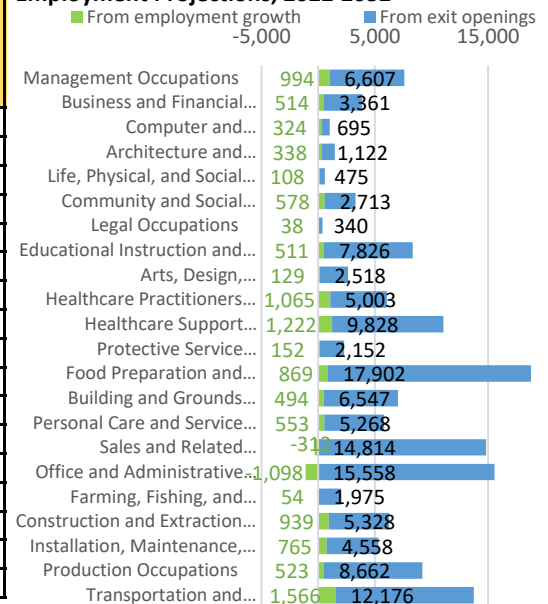
Polk Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

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



**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Polk Co. had the 34th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Polk Co. was the 8th fastest growing in the past year and the 42nd fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Polk Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

**1,022** business establishments

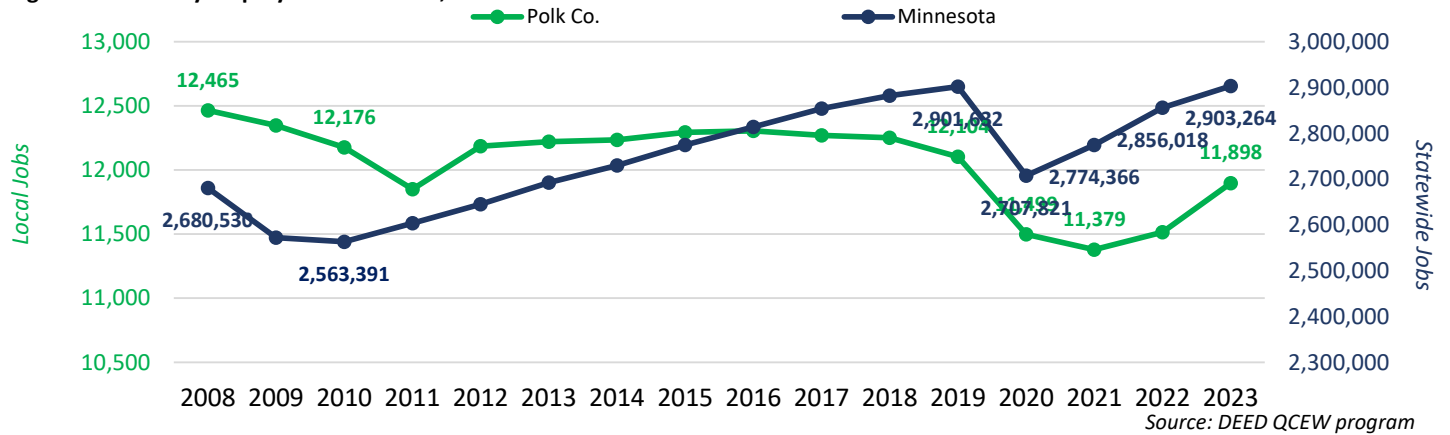
**\$52,487** annual average wage

**11,898** jobs

**\$624,484,616** total industry payroll

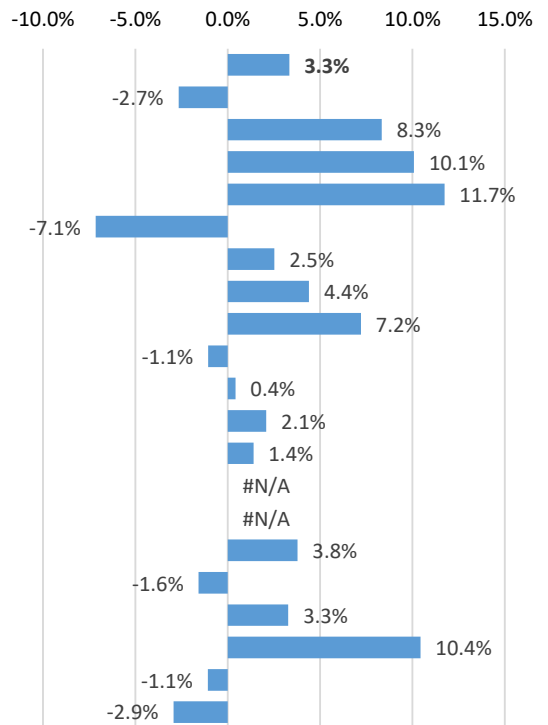
Job change, 2019-2023: -206 jobs, -1.7% decline

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023



Industry	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>11,898</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$52,487</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	622	5.2%	\$52,565
Mining	22	0.2%	\$57,623
Construction	535	4.5%	\$80,209
Manufacturing	1,733	14.6%	\$71,261
Utilities	26	0.2%	\$124,125
Wholesale Trade	446	3.7%	\$71,583
Retail Trade	1,280	10.8%	\$30,153
Transportation & Warehousing	476	4.0%	\$55,809
Information	188	1.6%	\$73,061
Finance & Insurance	237	2.0%	\$71,235
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	49	0.4%	\$39,824
Professional & Technical Services	218	1.8%	\$68,342
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	1,537	12.9%	\$50,991
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,189	18.4%	\$52,563
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	63	0.5%	\$17,858
Accommodation & Food Services	878	7.4%	\$20,417
Other Services	366	3.1%	\$19,408
Public Administration	859	7.2%	\$56,324

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Waages (QCEW)

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

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Data updated: October 21, 2024