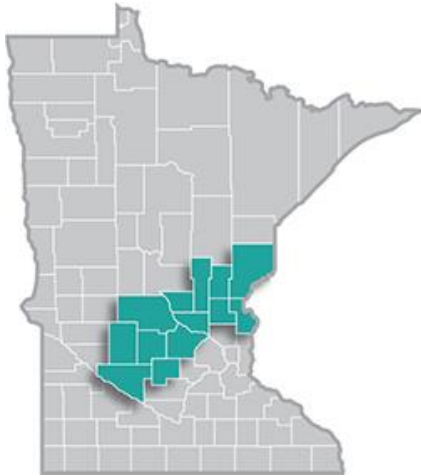


Central Minnesota Manufacturing Profile



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 13-county Central Minnesota region was home to 1,194 manufacturing establishments providing 41,741 jobs in 2023. Manufacturing accounted for 14.9% percent of total employment in the region, making it the second largest industry behind Health Care & Social Assistance (48,870 jobs) and having slightly more jobs than Retail Trade (36,167 jobs).

These manufacturers provided about \$15.3 billion in total payroll in 2023, making it the second largest industry in terms of payroll as well. Average annual wages in Manufacturing were \$65,576 in 2023, which was over \$11,200 and 20.5% higher than the total of all industries (see Table 1).

Table 1. Central Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs	Number of Firms	Total Payroll	Avg. Annual Wages
0	Total, All Industries	279,213	19,945	\$15,275,389,048	\$54,704
31	Manufacturing	41,741	1,194	\$2,753,775,112	\$65,936
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	8,032	315	\$558,922,695	\$69,576
311	Food Manufacturing	7,674	92	\$481,989,184	\$62,764
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,557	120	\$343,398,894	\$75,400
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	3,040	62	\$184,962,285	\$60,840
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,996	40	\$196,235,457	\$65,520
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	2,813	99	\$169,465,307	\$60,268
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2,285	117	\$140,376,875	\$61,412
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	2,015	77	\$138,696,081	\$68,744
332	Paper Manufacturing	1,819	9	\$137,953,776	\$75,920
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,237	66	\$72,119,179	\$58,292
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	1,094	66	\$62,907,728	\$57,512
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	1,075	33	\$62,377,739	\$58,084
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	963	25	\$64,169,775	\$66,768
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	864	7	\$61,395,188	\$71,084
325	Chemical Manufacturing	681	26	\$50,154,737	\$73,684
314	Textile Product Mills	431	22	\$19,469,624	\$45,136
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component Manufacturing	99	9	\$7,125,493	\$72,280
315	Apparel Manufacturing	32	6	\$1,068,463	\$33,644

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing was the largest sector in Central Minnesota, with 8,032 jobs at 315 establishments, and just under \$559 million in payroll. The largest subsectors in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing include Machine Shops (2,893 jobs), Architectural & Structural Metals Manufacturing (1,913 jobs), and Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (1,212 jobs). The Central region also had notable employment in Forging & Stamping, Boiler Tank & Shipping Container Manufacturing, and Coating, Engraving, Heat Treating & Allied Activities. The second largest Manufacturing sector in the region is Food Manufacturing with 7,674 jobs at 92 firms. The largest subsectors in Food Manufacturing include Animal Slaughtering & Processing (3,670 jobs), Animal Food Manufacturing (837 jobs), and Other Food Manufacturing (824 jobs).

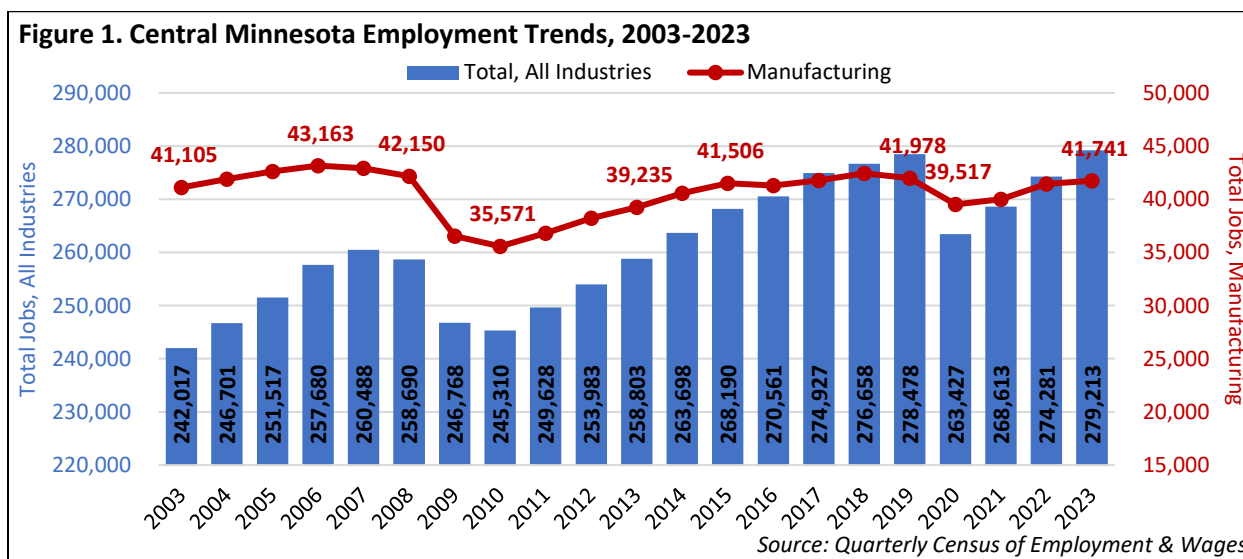
Combined, those two sectors accounted for over one-third (37.6%) of the region’s manufacturing jobs. Central Minnesota also had notable numbers of jobs in Machinery Manufacturing (4,557 jobs), Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing (3,040 jobs), and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (2,996 jobs). Those three sectors combined for a quarter (25.4%) of total manufacturing employment in the region.

Central Minnesota also has considerable employment numbers in Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing (2,813 jobs), Miscellaneous Manufacturing (2,285 jobs), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (2,015 jobs), Paper Manufacturing (1,819 jobs), Printing & Related Support Activities (1,237 jobs), Wood Product Manufacturing (1,094 jobs), and Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing (1,075 jobs).

Average annual wages in Manufacturing (\$65,936) were 20.5% higher than the total of all industries (\$54,704), led by high average annual wages in Paper Manufacturing (\$75,920), Machinery Manufacturing (\$75,400), Chemical Manufacturing (\$73,684), Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component Manufacturing (\$72,280), and Primary Metal Manufacturing (\$71,084).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Central Minnesota cut 5,600 jobs during the Great Recession, then regained almost all of them (5,456 jobs) from 2009 to 2019. Unfortunately, then the region’s manufacturers suffered more job losses during the Pandemic Recession from 2019 to 2020 dropping over 2,450 jobs in one year, to 39,500 jobs in 2020. Since then, manufacturers in the region have again enjoyed slow but steady growth in jobs, regaining over 2,220 net new jobs from 2020 to 2023 (see Figure 1).



Manufacturers in Central Minnesota have about 2,500 more jobs now than ten years ago, in 2013. Manufacturing employment was up 6.4% from 2013 to 2023, while the total of all industries increased 7.9% over the past 10 years, a gain of 20,410 jobs.

In sum, 11 of the 17 manufacturing sectors had more jobs in 2023 than in 2013, including six that increased employment more than 15%. The largest job gains occurred in Machinery Manufacturing, which added 1,122 jobs. The other large growth was in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which expanded by 1,111 jobs. Central Minnesota also saw important job gains in Miscellaneous Manufacturing gaining 776 jobs, Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing gaining 487 jobs, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing gaining 383 jobs, and Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing gaining 380 jobs.

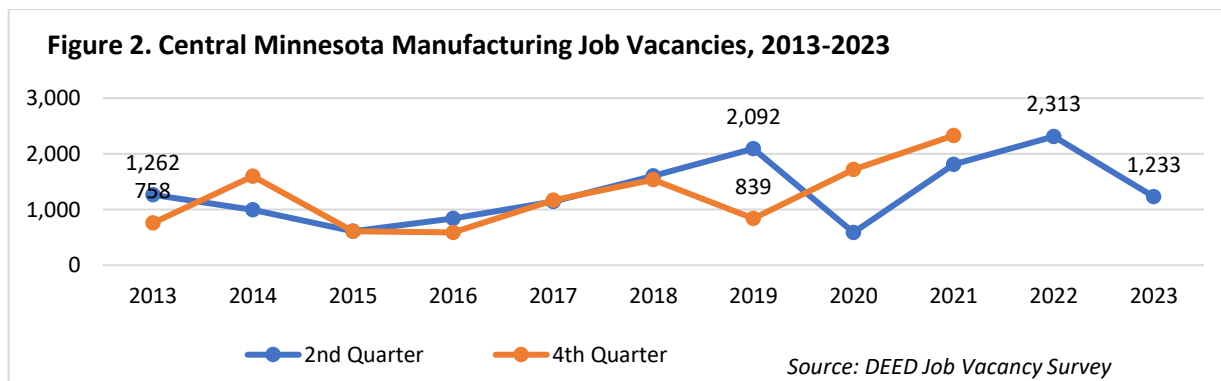
The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing which sliced 1,284 jobs from 2013 to 2023. The other large decline in the region occurred in the Printing and Related Support Activities sector, which eliminated 833 jobs over the last 10 years. Encouragingly, 9 of the 17 sectors added jobs since 2022. Similar to the ten-year trends, the most notable recoveries in the year occurred in Machinery Manufacturing, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, and Food Manufacturing (see Table 2).

Table 2. Central Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023			1-Year Trend 2022-2023		5-Year Trend 2018-2023		10-Year Trend 2013-2023	
NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
0	Total, All Industries	279,213	+4,932	+1.8%	+2,555	+0.9%	+20,410	+7.9%
31	Manufacturing	41,741	+311	+0.8%	-685	-1.6%	+2,506	+6.4%
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	8,032	+56	+0.7%	+383	+5.0%	+1,111	+16.1%
311	Food Manufacturing	7,674	+167	+2.2%	-909	-10.6%	+156	+2.1%
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,557	+191	+4.4%	+628	+16.0%	+1,122	+32.7%
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	3,040	-142	-4.5%	+90	+3.1%	+365	+13.6%
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,996	+178	+6.3%	+387	+14.8%	+383	+14.7%
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	2,813	-8	-0.3%	+49	+1.8%	+380	+15.6%
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2,285	+92	+4.2%	+359	+18.6%	+776	+51.4%
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	2,015	-97	-4.6%	-223	-10.0%	-215	-9.6%
332	Paper Manufacturing	1,819	-158	-8.0%	-376	-17.1%	-231	-11.3%
233	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,237	-38	-3.0%	-257	-17.2%	-833	-40.2%
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	1,094	-12	-1.1%	+165	+17.8%	-17	-1.5%
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	1,075	+72	+7.2%	+350	+48.3%	+487	+82.8%
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	963	-23	-2.3%	-496	-34.0%	-533	-35.6%
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	864	+5	+0.6%	+54	+6.7%	N/A	N/A
325	Chemical Manufacturing	681	+29	+4.4%	-47	-6.5%	+272	+66.5%
314	Textile Product Mills	431	-15	-3.4%	+123	+39.9%	+21	+5.1%
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component Mfg.	99	+9	+10.0%	-952	-90.6%	-1,284	-92.8%
315	Apparel Manufacturing	32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+24	+300.0%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Industry Demand

The steady recovery in Manufacturing employment in recent years has led to a steadily increasing number of [job vacancies](#) across the Central Minnesota region as well. The 2,313 job vacancies reported by Manufacturing employers in the second quarter of 2022 was the highest number ever posted. In 2023, job vacancies in the manufacturing industry decreased to 1,233 vacancies, which was still historically high, but down from the peak. There was a slight decline in second quarter of 2020 due to the Pandemic Recession, but demand returned immediately in fourth quarter 2020 and kept ratcheting upward in 2021 and 2022 (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for these vacancies jumped up to \$21.36 per hour in 2023, which was about \$2.50 higher than in 2022, and up almost \$4.50 compared to 2021 – reflecting rising wages due to a tight labor market. Nearly 60% of the Manufacturing vacancies required at least 1 year of experience and 33% required postsecondary education, which was up compared to past years, which also reflects how employers are being more selective in hiring. Only 3% of posted Manufacturing openings were part-time, as compared to 31% of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Industries	14,320	\$19.13	31%	33%	36%
Manufacturing	1,233	\$21.36	3%	31%	57%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

The largest number of Manufacturing vacancies were for Production occupations, with 993 vacancies with a median wage offer of \$20.14. The highest number of job vacancies were found in metal & plastic workers, other production occupations, assemblers & fabricators, and food processing workers. Wages for Production occupations ranged from \$13 and \$32 per hour. Manufacturers in Central Minnesota were also looking to hire sales and office, installation, maintenance & repair workers, management, and engineering occupations (see Table 4).

SOC Occupational Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Occupations	14,320	\$19.13	31%	33%	36%
Production Occupations	993	\$20.14	9%	18%	46%
Supervisors of Production Workers	20	\$24.96	0%	10%	95%
Assemblers and Fabricators	220	\$20.12	0%	0%	60%
Food Processing Workers	67	\$15.93	44%	0%	7%
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	319	\$22.97	14%	49%	41%
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers	14	\$17.45	29%	0%	0%
Woodworkers	36	\$20.48	6%	0%	3%
Plant and System Operators	7	\$30.42	0%	42%	71%
Other Production Occupations	273	\$19.64	3%	4%	51%
Office & Administrative Support	747	\$17.98	15%	11%	47%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,275	\$19.17	43%	4%	41%
Architecture & Engineering	230	\$30.57	3%	56%	74%
Management	281	\$28.24	3%	91%	97%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	589	\$24.92	4%	33%	51%
Sales & Related	1,632	\$17.55	29%	5%	22%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

Industry Occupational Employment

DEED’s Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) program provides detailed employment and wage data for a wide range of occupations involved in Manufacturing. In sum, there were an estimated 27,790 people working in Production occupations in Central Minnesota, accounting for about 10.1% of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for Production occupations were \$23.13 in 2024, which was just below the median across all occupations (\$23.55).

As noted above, in addition to production occupations, manufacturers also require the services of workers in several other occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, architecture and engineering, management, and installation, maintenance and repair. Not surprisingly, wages were higher for the higher-level positions (see Table 5).

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	274,190	\$23.55	2,881,100	\$25.22
Production Occupations	27,790	\$23.13	203,810	\$23.05
Office & Administrative Support	30,770	\$23.00	352,250	\$23.86
Transportation & Material Moving	24,710	\$22.02	225,820	\$22.86
Architecture & Engineering	3,870	\$40.35	58,320	\$42.97
Management	15,270	\$48.62	201,710	\$57.75
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	11,540	\$28.52	104,530	\$29.54
Sales & Related	25,810	\$17.92	242,440	\$18.82
Business & Financial Operations	10,780	\$35.84	202,700	\$39.26
Computer & Mathematical	2,910	\$39.07	98,240	\$50.83

[Source: DEED Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Team assemblers, machinists, first-line supervisors, and more are the most common jobs found at manufacturing firms in Minnesota, according to DEED’s occupational data. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of less than \$16.50 per hour for Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers to a high of \$54 per hour for Power Plant Operators. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be gained with a high school diploma and learned through on-the-job training, though some also benefit from vocational training or associate degrees (see Table 6).

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment	Median Wage	Educational Requirements for Occupations
512090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	4,770	\$21.23	High School or equiv.
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,820	\$35.89	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	1,940	\$29.51	Vocational training
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	280	\$19.62	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	810	\$19.53	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	2,000	\$28.26	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1,100	\$23.79	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,420	\$20.45	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Metal/Plastic	550	\$23.16	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	390	\$21.57	High School or equiv.

499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	550	\$31.64	Vocational training
512028	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	190	\$19.51	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	320	\$19.57	High School or equiv.
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	800	\$24.22	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	660	\$23.19	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	380	\$22.78	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	2,840	\$25.25	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	590	\$16.85	High School or equiv.
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	360	\$19.97	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters & Operators	400	\$23.23	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	5,460	\$29.30	High School or equiv.
512028	Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	190	\$19.51	High School or equiv.
519124	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Operators	630	\$26.38	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	830	\$18.68	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	220	\$23.93	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	100	\$23.15	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	1,040	\$23.53	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	350	\$26.61	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	130	\$32.49	Vocational training

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations

In addition to the production-related occupations, manufacturers also rely heavily on sales and office workers including manufacturing sales representatives, customer service representatives, and production, planning, shipping, and traffic clerks; transportation and material moving workers such as truck drivers and packers and packagers; engineering occupations like industrial, mechanical, and electrical engineers; management positions such as industrial production and general managers; and business and financial operations occupations like accountants and auditors.

Many of these occupations require higher education, but also offer higher wages. For example, all of the engineering positions have median wages above \$35 per hour in Central Minnesota, with median wages topping \$56 per hour for engineering managers, but also require bachelor’s degrees at the minimum. Likewise, software developers, industrial production managers, and general and operations managers all earn well over \$30 per hour, and all require bachelor’s degrees. In contrast, sales representatives required just a high school diploma, but also offered relatively high wages (see Table 7).

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, exc. Technical Products	2,680	\$35.44	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	4,200	\$21.41	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	1,180	\$47.08	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	6,870	\$39.83	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	1,500	\$21.96	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	570	\$48.80	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	400	\$45.28	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,590	\$23.59	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	280	\$30.92	Associate degree
131020	Buyers and Purchasing Agents	760	\$31.51	Bachelor's degree

439061	Office Clerks, General	5,100	\$22.11	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical Products	140	\$36.51	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	650	\$28.33	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	2,030	\$35.31	Bachelor's degree
537065	Stockers and Order Fillers	4,880	\$18.61	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	220	\$71.16	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	200	\$50.07	Bachelor's degree
151252	Software Developers, Systems Software	720	\$50.51	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	130	\$32.01	Associate degree

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wages Statistics, Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2020 to 2030 Employment Outlook data, the Central Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to gain 1,100 jobs over the next decade, a 2.8% increase. This is less than the overall growth of 5% across the total of all industries in Central Minnesota, but is much faster than the state of Minnesota as a whole, which is projected to gain about 3,990 manufacturing jobs from 2020 to 2030, a 1.3% increase.

Thirteen of the 19 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by continued strong growth in Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 330 net new jobs, a 15.3% expansion. The region may also see job growth in Food Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing, Machinery Manufacturing, and Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing.

In contrast, 6 of the 19 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Paper Manufacturing, Printing & Related Support Activities, and Textile Product Mills. Those three sectors are expected to lose almost 475 jobs combined (see Table 8).

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030
0	Total, All Industries	301,170	316,216	+5.0%	+15,046
31	Manufacturing	39,543	40,646	+2.8%	+1,103
311	Food Manufacturing	7,853	8,104	+3.2%	+251
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	876	1,092	+24.7%	+216
314	Textile Product Mills	393	341	-13.2%	-52
315	Apparel Manufacturing	20	17	-15.0%	-3
316	Leather & Allied Product Manufacturing	38	30	-21.1%	-8
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	933	964	+3.3%	+31
322	Paper Manufacturing	2,003	1,771	-11.6%	-232
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,259	1,069	-15.1%	-190
325	Chemical Manufacturing	665	727	+9.3%	+62
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	2,789	2,904	+4.1%	+115
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg	2,154	2,484	+15.3%	+330
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	813	826	+1.6%	+13
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	7,413	7,647	+3.2%	+234
333	Machinery Manufacturing	3,891	4,010	+3.1%	+119
334	Computer & Electronic Product Mfg	1,162	1,135	-2.3%	-27
335	Electrical Equipment & Appliances	290	302	+4.1%	+12
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,565	2,640	+2.9%	+75

337	Furniture & Related Product Mfg	2,635	2,706	+2.7%	+71
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	1,791	1,877	+4.8%	+86

Source: Employment Outlook

Occupational Outlook

The projected job gains in the manufacturing industry are expected to carry over into production occupations as well, leading to a projected 0.3% increase from 2020 to 2030 in Central Minnesota, the equivalent of around 75 net new jobs. Also, the region is expected to have significant demand for production workers over the next ten years due to a large number of labor force exit openings – jobs that become available because the existing worker retires out of the labor force. There may be as many as 9,870 total openings for production occupations in the region due to these retirements and exit openings.

Overall, 27 of the 53 production occupations are expected to see new job growth from 2020 to 2030, led by welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, machinists, and food batchmakers, which are all expected to grow by more than 6% each. In addition to those occupations, supervisors of production workers, slaughterers and meat packers, and computer numerically controlled tool programmers are expected to gain more than 40 workers each in the next 10 years.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers, printing press operators, helpers – production workers, molding, coremaking and casting machine setters, and sewing machine operators. Eight of the 62 production occupations are expected to lose more than 10% of employment from 2020 to 2030.

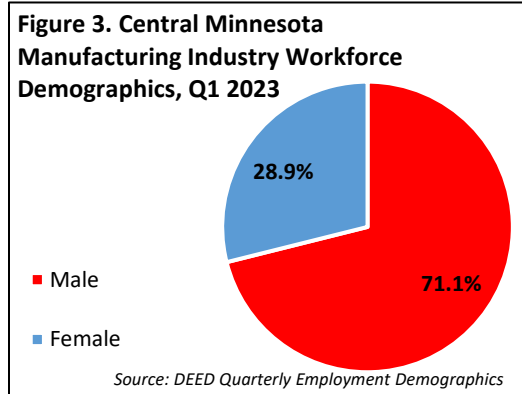
Regardless of growth or decline, every occupation is expected to at least have some openings from 2020 to 2030. The largest number of total openings are projected for slaughters and meat packers, machinists, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, first-line supervisors, inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers, and food batchmakers (see Table 9).

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	* Labor Force Exit Openings 2020-2030
0	Total, All Occupations	301,170	316,216	+5.0%	+15,046	+136,960
510000	Production Occupations	26,494	26,569	+0.3%	+75	+9,870
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,470	1,531	+4.1%	+61	+451
512028	Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers	197	209	+6.1%	+12	+82
512041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	155	138	-11.0%	-17	+33
513011	Bakers	460	479	+4.1%	+19	+262
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	319	316	-0.9%	-3	+129
513022	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	629	654	+4.0%	+25	+261
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	1,248	1,293	+3.6%	+45	+517
513091	Food & Tobacco Roasting, Baking, & Drying Operators	110	110	0.0%	0	+43
513092	Food Batchmakers	800	879	+9.9%	+79	+390
513093	Food Cooking Machine Operators & Tenders	61	64	+4.9%	+3	+44
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	163	161	-1.2%	-2	+58
514021	Extruding & Drawing Machine Setters, Operators,	324	315	-2.8%	-9	+111
514022	Forging Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	35	29	-17.1%	-6	+11
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Operators	500	492	-1.6%	-8	+157
514033	Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, & Buffing Machine Operators	298	288	-3.4%	-10	+132

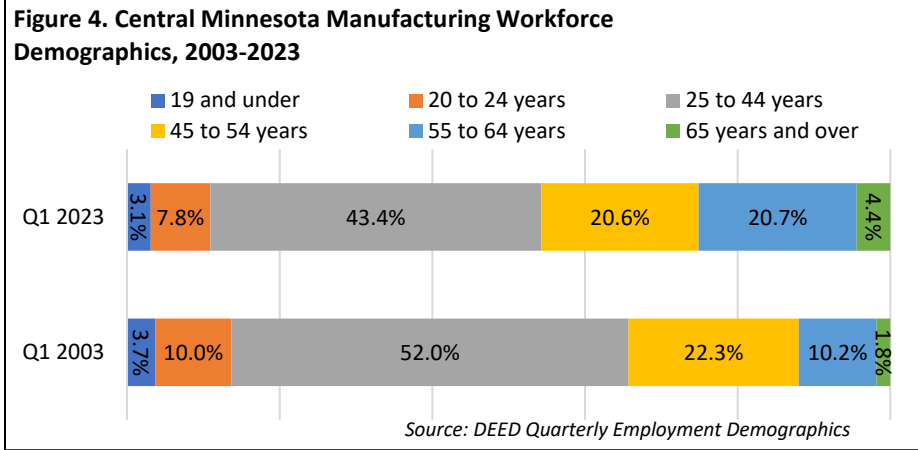
514035	Milling & Planing Machine Setters, Operators	25	23	-8.0%	-2	+8
514041	Machinists	1,427	1,511	+5.9%	+84	+491
514072	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters	706	670	-5.1%	-36	+224
514081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, & Tenders	334	357	+6.9%	+23	+112
514111	Tool & Die Makers	183	182	-0.5%	-1	+67
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,677	1,823	+8.7%	+146	+460
514122	Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Setters	164	162	-1.2%	-2	+43
514193	Plating Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	117	111	-5.1%	-6	+37
514194	Tool Grinders, Filers, & Sharpeners	26	27	+3.8%	+1	+9
514199	Metal Workers & Plastic Workers, All Other	50	48	-4.0%	-2	+16
515111	Prepress Technicians & Workers	98	83	-15.3%	-15	+34
515112	Printing Press Operators	584	535	-8.4%	-49	+203
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	131	111	-15.3%	-20	+60
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	483	490	+1.4%	+7	+315
516031	Sewing Machine Operators	273	248	-9.2%	-25	+158
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	540	573	+6.1%	+33	+209
518012	Power Distributors & Dispatchers	27	24	-11.1%	-3	+7
518013	Power Plant Operators	79	65	-17.7%	-14	+19
518021	Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	163	169	+3.7%	+6	+80
518031	Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant & System Operators	248	243	-2.0%	-5	+69
519012	Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating Operators	237	268	+13.1%	+31	+55
519021	Crushing, Grinding, & Polishing Machine Setters	189	200	+5.8%	+11	+66
519023	Mixing & Blending Machine Setters, Operators	242	249	+2.9%	+7	+83
519041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, & Compacting Machinists	91	100	+9.9%	+9	+26
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1,189	1,050	-11.7%	-139	+430
519071	Jewelers & Precious Stone & Metal Workers	37	37	0.0%	0	+20
519081	Dental Laboratory Technicians	20	22	+10.0%	+2	+9
519083	Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	350	386	+10.3%	+36	+165
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	867	898	+3.6%	+31	+364
519123	Painting, Coating, & Decorating Workers	38	41	+7.9%	+3	+11
519124	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters, Operators	868	877	+1.0%	+9	+241
519151	Photographic Process Workers & Processing Machinists	23	19	-17.4%	-4	+10
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	856	834	-2.6%	-22	+289
519162	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	157	199	+26.8%	+42	+61
519193	Cooling & Freezing Equipment Operators & Tenders	70	75	+7.1%	+5	+25
519195	Molders, Shapers, & Casters, Except Metal & Plastics	67	98	+46.3%	+31	+30
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	625	584	-6.6%	-41	+284
519199	Production Workers, All Other	903	957	+6.0%	+54	+318

* Labor Force Exit Openings are the projected number of workers leaving an occupation and exiting the labor market entirely (most labor force exits are related to workers retiring) *Source: Employment Outlook*

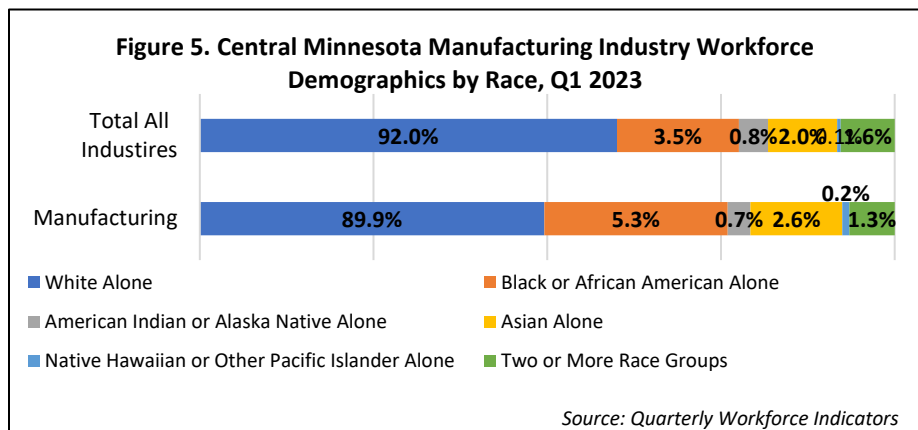
New workers will be important in filling the workforce pipeline in the Manufacturing industry moving forward, which relies on a relatively old workforce. Demographic data from DEED’s Quarterly Employment Demographics program shows that there is a gender imbalance in the Manufacturing industry, with males accounting for about 71% of workers (see Figure 3). That percentage has stayed high over time, even tipping more toward males. In 2003, the industry workforce was 66.7% male, but rose as high as 72.4% in 2019 before dropping back to 71.1% in 2023.



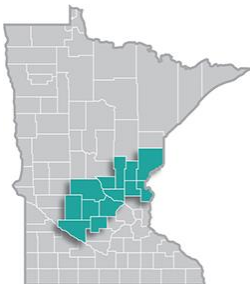
In quarter 1 of 2023, one-fourth of workers in the industry were 55 years or older, up from just 12% of the workforce back in 2003. In contrast, less than 10.9% of workers in the industry were under 25 years of age, down from 13.7% percent in 2003. Likewise, the percent of workers from 25 to 44 years of age dropped from 74.3% percent of the total in 2003 to just 64% in 2023 (see Figure 4).



Finally, about 90% of jobholders in Manufacturing reported white as their race (see Figure 5). It should be noted that the Manufacturing industry has a greater concentration of non-white workers than does the total of all industries in the region, with Black or African Americans making up 5.3% of the workforce and Asian or Other Pacific Islanders making up 2.8%.



In the face of tight labor markets, manufacturers may need to tap into new labor pools in order to attract the talent they need to grow and replace existing workers.



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<http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/central-lmi.jsp>

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