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Generations of Generalizations:

What the Data Say About Generations in the Workforce

Countless meetings, conferences, and training sessions have been held across the state to address how different generations interact and behave in the workplace. Although the topic is popular, many times observations and perceptions are cited and applied to explain behaviors for generations comprising thousands of individuals.

But what do the data *really* tell us about how different generations interact with the labor market? Is Central Minnesota's economy utilizing workers of all ages to meet the demands of a tight labor market? Why are Millennials such feverish job hoppers? Do older workers who get new jobs earn less than their younger counterparts who get new jobs? These are just some of the questions that create interest, confusion, and anxiety about generations in the workforce.

Kids These Days…

Although Millennials are now the most populous generation, the youngest of them have significantly lower labor force participation rates. This means a lower share are actually in the labor force than Generation X, which currently has the highest labor force participation rates among generations.

In 2015 only 53 percent of all Minnesota teenagers were participating in the labor force, but by their early 20s the participation rates for Millennials jumped to 85 percent, 3.7 points higher than Baby Boomers aged 55 to 59 years. Rates drop to 63 percent for 60 to 64 year olds and to 27.5 percent for 65 to 74 year olds. Contrary to many colorful conversations,

Feature:

County Snapshots:
Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown

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young workers - especially those just out of high school - are working at higher rates than many of their older critics.

Moreover, the difference in the size between the three dominant generations - Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers - might be smaller than some believe. In Central Minnesota Millennials outnumber Generation X by 44,946 and Baby Boomers by just 17,622. Figure 1 provides some context to the population of each generation in Central Minnesota.

Job Hopping Millennials

A hot topic in conversations about the difficulty of employing Millennials is the perception of their hopeless rate of retention and lack of loyalty to the companies that employ them. Analyzing Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) from the U.S. Census Bureau helps provide data that allow a deeper understanding. Reliable and detailed employment data provided from Quarterly Workforce Indicators have slightly different age cohorts available for analysis as shown in Table 1.

With overall turnover at 9.2 percent in Central Minnesota, the region's turnover rate has leveled off after increasing from 7.7 percent during the recession in 2009. Retention problems might seem unprecedented today, but turnover rates are much lower than the 12.5 percent peak in 1999.

As expected, the data confirm a higher than normal turnover rate for Millennials. At 14.4 percent it's more than twice as high as the roughly 6.5 percent rate of turnover for Generation X and Baby Boomers in 2015. What's more interesting is the historical turnover trends for different age groups.

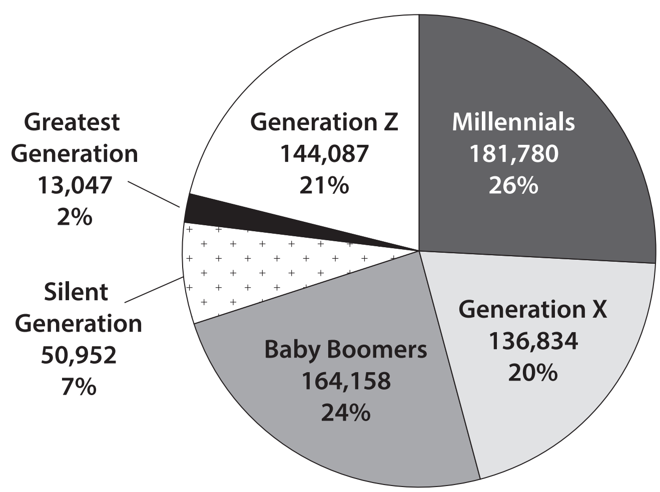
Millennials (workers currently between 14 and 34 years of age), have a lower turnover rate than workers who were 14 to 34 years old in the late 1990s. The rate of workers churning through jobs peaked for 14 to 34 year olds in 1999. A 19 year old in 1999 would be 35 years old in 2015, and a 34 year old in 1999 would be 50, which are both considered Generation X today. Workers in the 14 to 34 year old age group have had higher rates of turnover going back as far as the data go (1995).

Fewer conversations about the youngest workers focus on the advantages of turnover or how it relates to the labor market. Easily visible in Figure 2 is the adverse impact business cycles have on turnover rates, particularly for the youngest workers. In reality, turnover is much more a reflection of labor market conditions and less about generational personalities.

The last recession in 2007 impacted Millennial workers far more than Generation X and Baby Boomers in terms of turnover. Turnover rates plunged from 15 percent to 11.6 percent by the

Figure 1

Central Minnesota Population by Generation



Generation	Ages
Generation Z	Under 15
Millennials	15-34
Generation X	35-49
Baby Boomers	50-69
Silent Generation	70-84
Greatest Generation	85+

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011-2015

Table 1
Labor Force Cohorts

Generation	Ages
Millennials	14-34
Generation X	35-54
Baby Boomers	55+

time the recession ended in 2009. Meanwhile, workers in the Gen X and Baby Boomer age cohorts declined by a point or less. Turnover, as seen in Figure 2, is a function of prosperity and job mobility, typically procyclical.

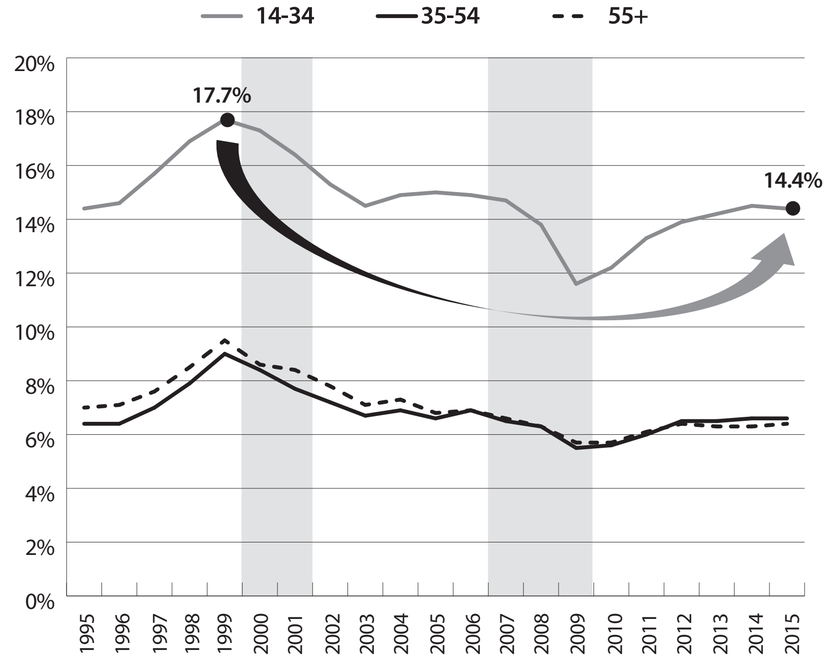
In fact, Baby Boomers were quite the job hoppers themselves. A longitudinal study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that individuals born between 1957 and 1964 (today they would be 53 to 60 years old) held 5.5 jobs between the ages of 18 to 24, and three jobs from 25 to 29 years. The new generation today might have the same stigma that every previous generation has had.

The bottom line is that young workers are new to the workforce and experimenting with different jobs, trying to find the right fit, while also looking for better opportunities. Workers under 30 typically experience higher wage growth than their older colleagues, most of this from changing jobs.

Out With the Old

Millennials aren't the only generation with negative perceptions. Thanks to the mass layoffs during the recession, many older workers were cut from the ranks of veteran positions and pushed into job seeking mode.

Figure 2
Turnover Rates by Age Cohort in Central Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, QWI

Facing a challenging labor market, some workers took lower paying jobs in order to rejoin the ranks of the gainfully employed.

Perceptions persist, however, that older workers who seek new employment opportunities are at a disadvantage, and the wages they are offered are lower. The data tell a slightly different story. The cohort of oldest workers, including Baby Boomers, actually find starting wages at their new positions to be higher than typical. In 2015 workers 55 and older who started a new job had average monthly earnings of $2,425, which was 11 percent higher than the wages earned by new hires of all ages in Central Minnesota.

New hires with the highest average wage were Generation X workers at nearly $2,900 per month, a full 32 percent higher than the average for all new hires. Millennial workers experienced the lowest monthly earnings at new jobs, averaging $1,118 less than Generation X workers and $652 less than Baby Boomer workers.

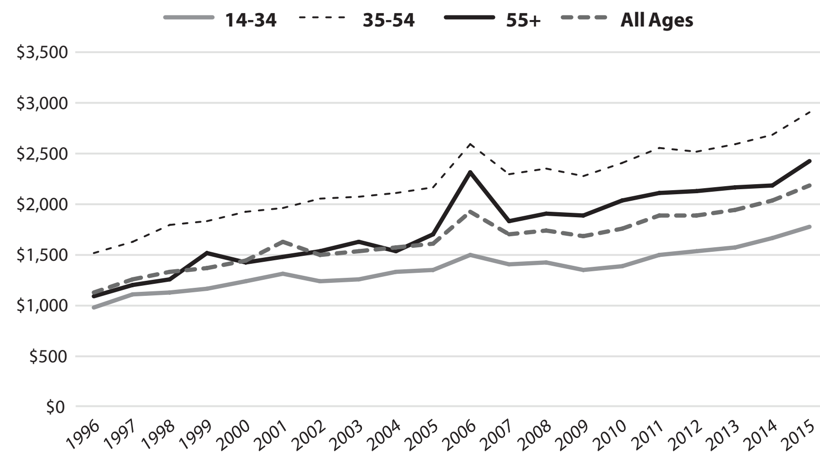
There are many reasons why workers get a new job, and the data include both voluntary and involuntary job changes, as well as second jobs. Regardless of the reason for getting a new job, older workers are getting higher-paying new jobs than Millennial workers and are bested only by Generation X workers. Even so, it appears that much of the difference between Generation X and Baby Boomer new job earnings is from the oldest workers (65 years and older) earning much less. It's possible that many of the workers 65 years and older are looking to reduce stress and responsibilities at work or even work part-time during retirement, resulting in lower average earnings (see Figure 3).

Newcomers

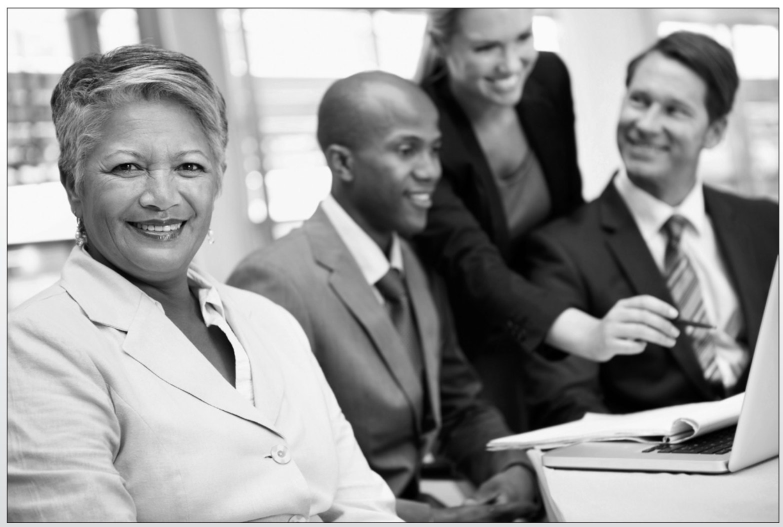
One very important clue the data provide are how each generation has been faced with different economic conditions as they age. For example, Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers all experienced the Great Recession, but at different ages. The recession is just one of the external factors. In the last 20 years, for example, employment in Central Minnesota has experienced overall growth, but not all industries have expanded. Manufacturing jobs are at nearly the same level in 2016 as they were in 1995, both Utilities and Mining have roughly half of the jobs they did in 1995, and Management of Companies has also declined.

The very idea of "generations" might be little more than a way for older populations to separate themselves from younger "inferior" people that are in the early learning stages of work and life. Popular culture has labeled every new generation as self-absorbed disasters for more than 100 years, yet each new generation grows older and makes vast contributions to better the welfare of the next generation of screw-ups. The point is that no matter how different each generation is or isn't, Central Minnesota's economy shapes the opportunities and challenges that all workers face. Despite stereotypes and commonly-held perceptions, most workers are simply reacting to the economic environment.

Figure 3
Average Monthly Earnings in Central Minnesota by Generation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, QWI



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NAICS Primer

23: Construction

The defining NAICS for this sector is 23. The Construction sector is made up of establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings or engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems) as well as establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction and establishments primarily engaged in subdividing land for sale as building sites. Construction work done may include new work, additions, alterations, or maintenance and repairs. Activities of these establishments generally are managed at a fixed place of business, but they usually perform construction activities at multiple project sites. In 2015 Minnesota had 15,549 establishments in this sector employing 121,703 people. Employment was highest in the Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction subsector. The subsector with the largest number of establishments was Residential Remodelers (see Table 1).

Table 1. Construction Employment and Wages - 2015

Subsector	Establishments	Employment
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction (237310)	488	14,346
Commercial and Institutional Building Construction (236220)	831	12,043
Nonresidential Electrical Contractors (238212)	554	10,077
Nonresidential Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors (238222)	418	9,416
New Single-Family Housing Construction (except For-Sale Builders) (236115)	1,583	5,152
Residential Remodelers (236118)	1,589	4,900

https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/ResultsDisp.aspx

31-33: Manufacturing

The two digit NAICS for this sector is a range from 31 to 33. The Manufacturing sector is composed of establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. In 2015 there were 7,795 establishments in this sector employing 317,210 people. Employment was highest in the Commercial Printing (except Screen and Books) subsector. The subsector with the greatest number of establishments was the Machine Shops subsector (see Table 2).

Table 2. Manufacturing Employment and Wages - 2015

Subsector	Establishments	Employment
Commercial Printing (except Screen and Books) (323111)	510	18,195
Electromedical and Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Manufacturing (334510)	76	13,445
Machine Shops (332710)	617	11,801
Surgical and Medical Instrument Manufacturing (339112)	118	10,168
All Other Plastics Product Manufacturing (326199)	221	9,693
Poultry Processing (311615)	21	6,209
All Other Miscellaneous Manufacturing (339999)	338	2,831

https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/ResultsDisp.aspx

More detailed information on NAICS sectors can be found at https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/ResultsDisp.aspx

by Chloe Campbell

Labor Force Estimates

County/Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016
United States ('000s)												
(Seasonally adjusted)	159,817	159,912	159,817	153,262	152,628	153,262	6,555	7,284	6,555	4.1%	4.6%	4.1%
(Unadjusted)	160,213	160,201	160,213	153,156	153,000	153,156	7,056	7,202	7,056	4.4	4.5	4.4
Minnesota												
(Seasonally adjusted)	3,019,047	3,011,903	3,020,462	2,907,659	2,880,371	2,908,125	111,388	131,532	112,337	3.7	4.4	3.7
(Unadjusted)	3,026,804	3,018,513	3,027,400	2,913,059	2,902,927	2,913,245	113,745	115,586	114,155	3.8	3.8	3.8
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*												
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	1,957,763	1,950,555	1,930,842	1,892,410	1,876,637	1,866,174	65,353	73,918	64,668	3.3	3.8	3.3
Duluth-Superior MSA	141,994	142,946	142,860	134,555	134,506	134,209	7,439	8,440	8,651	5.2	5.9	6.1
Rochester MSA	119,297	119,146	118,234	115,626	114,736	114,683	3,671	4,410	3,551	3.1	3.7	3.0
St. Cloud MSA	111,110	110,603	109,719	106,946	105,399	105,712	4,164	5,204	4,007	3.7	4.7	3.7
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	60,382	60,492	60,508	58,660	58,428	58,803	1,722	2,064	1,705	2.9	3.4	2.8
Fargo-Moorhead MSA	139,112	139,709	135,139	135,795	135,380	131,724	3,317	4,329	3,415	2.4	3.1	2.5
Grand Forks MSA	57,139	57,640	56,397	55,497	55,647	54,629	1,642	1,993	1,768	2.9	3.5	3.1
Region One	**48,164**	**48,274**	**48,109**	**45,135**	**44,891**	**45,253**	**3,029**	**3,383**	**2,856**	**6.3**	**7.0**	**5.9**
Kittson	2,364	2,343	2,409	2,260	2,217	2,296	104	126	113	4.4	5.4	4.7
Marshall	5,632	5,617	5,646	5,132	5,031	5,163	500	586	483	8.9	10.4	8.6
Norman	3,437	3,445	3,385	3,258	3,218	3,225	179	227	160	5.2	6.6	4.7
Pennington	9,278	9,183	9,050	8,418	8,357	8,334	860	826	716	9.3	9.0	7.9
Polk	17,006	17,166	17,081	16,235	16,268	16,296	771	898	785	4.5	5.2	4.6
Red Lake	2,367	2,367	2,320	2,150	2,105	2,137	217	262	183	9.2	11.1	7.9
Roseau	8,080	8,153	8,218	7,682	7,695	7,802	398	458	416	4.9	5.6	5.1
Region Two	**43,066**	**43,099**	**42,760**	**40,507**	**39,933**	**40,017**	**2,559**	**3,166**	**2,743**	**5.9**	**7.3**	**6.4**
Beltrami	23,935	23,880	23,682	22,697	22,353	22,376	1,238	1,527	1,306	5.2	6.4	5.5
Clearwater	4,696	4,808	4,738	4,221	4,186	4,186	475	622	552	10.1	12.9	11.7
Hubbard	9,695	9,542	9,640	9,124	8,790	9,022	571	752	618	5.9	7.9	6.4
Lake of the Woods	2,317	2,454	2,303	2,174	2,343	2,180	143	111	123	6.2	4.5	5.3
Mahnomen	2,423	2,415	2,397	2,291	2,261	2,253	132	154	144	5.4	6.4	6.0
Region Three	**160,779**	**161,513**	**162,501**	**150,947**	**150,554**	**151,461**	**9,832**	**10,959**	**11,040**	**6.1**	**6.8**	**6.8**
Aitkin	6,998	7,029	7,035	6,460	6,364	6,502	538	665	533	7.7	9.5	7.6
Carlton	17,446	17,632	17,479	16,475	16,465	16,473	971	1,167	1,006	5.6	6.6	5.8
Cook	2,874	2,784	2,930	2,722	2,615	2,758	152	169	172	5.3	6.1	5.9
Itasca	21,268	21,370	21,839	19,377	19,254	19,779	1,891	2,116	2,060	8.9	9.9	9.4
Koochiching	6,033	6,067	6,074	5,445	5,511	5,458	588	556	616	9.7	9.2	10.1
Lake	5,115	5,031	5,320	4,859	4,754	4,937	256	277	383	5.0	5.5	7.2
St. Louis	101,045	101,600	101,824	95,609	95,591	95,554	5,436	6,009	6,270	5.4	5.9	6.2
City of Duluth	44,945	45,075	45,029	43,217	43,209	43,192	1,728	1,866	1,837	3.8	4.1	4.1
Balance of St. Louis County	56,100	56,525	56,795	52,392	52,382	52,362	3,708	4,143	4,433	6.6	7.3	7.8
Region Four	**125,770**	**125,450**	**124,641**	**121,018**	**119,144**	**120,101**	**4,752**	**6,306**	**4,540**	**3.8**	**5.0**	**3.6**
Becker	18,107	18,157	18,143	17,304	17,087	17,330	803	1,070	813	4.4	5.9	4.5
Clay	35,924	36,019	35,379	34,709	34,485	34,231	1,215	1,534	1,148	3.4	4.3	3.2
Douglas	19,928	19,874	19,884	19,211	18,965	19,240	717	909	644	3.6	4.6	3.2
Grant	3,256	3,234	3,275	3,113	3,018	3,130	143	216	145	4.4	6.7	4.4
Otter Tail	31,139	30,935	30,718	29,785	29,084	29,432	1,354	1,851	1,286	4.3	6.0	4.2
Pope	6,281	6,215	6,208	6,077	5,934	6,019	204	281	189	3.2	4.5	3.0
Stevens	5,588	5,525	5,612	5,447	5,328	5,462	141	197	150	2.5	3.6	2.7
Traverse	1,822	1,809	1,768	1,755	1,713	1,708	67	96	60	3.7	5.3	3.4
Wilkin	3,725	3,682	3,654	3,617	3,530	3,549	108	152	105	2.9	4.1	2.9
Region Five	**82,511**	**82,168**	**81,979**	**78,207**	**76,235**	**77,469**	**4,304**	**5,933**	**4,510**	**5.2**	**7.2**	**5.5**
Cass	14,129	13,953	13,883	13,242	12,719	12,916	887	1,234	967	6.3	8.8	7.0
Crow Wing	31,360	30,983	31,228	29,885	28,946	29,639	1,475	2,037	1,589	4.7	6.6	5.1
Morrison	17,814	17,906	17,709	16,783	16,459	16,745	1,031	1,447	964	5.8	8.1	5.4
Todd	13,058	13,097	12,850	12,485	12,341	12,240	573	756	610	4.4	5.8	4.7
Wadena	6,150	6,229	6,309	5,812	5,770	5,929	338	459	380	5.5	7.4	6.0
Region Six East	**64,869**	**64,802**	**64,901**	**62,171**	**61,314**	**62,217**	**2,698**	**3,488**	**2,684**	**4.2**	**5.4**	**4.1**
Kandiyohi	24,094	24,002	23,800	23,225	22,852	22,939	869	1,150	861	3.6	4.8	3.6
McLeod	19,163	19,115	19,668	18,362	18,086	18,863	801	1,029	805	4.2	5.4	4.1
Meeker	13,186	13,149	13,203	12,586	12,375	12,617	600	774	586	4.6	5.9	4.4
Renville	8,426	8,536	8,230	7,998	8,001	7,798	428	535	432	5.1	6.3	5.2

*Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) now includes Sherburne County in Minnesota and Pierce County in Wisconsin. St. Cloud MSA is now comprised of Benton and Stearns counties.

Numbers are unadjusted unless otherwise labeled.
Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2017.

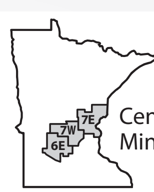
Labor Force Estimates

County/Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016
Region Six West	**23,774**	**23,657**	**23,663**	**22,756**	**22,409**	**22,639**	**1,018**	**1,248**	**1,024**	**4.3%**	**5.3%**	**4.3%**
Big Stone	2,680	2,671	2,702	2,554	2,506	2,579	126	165	123	4.7	6.2	4.6
Chippewa	7,016	6,997	6,908	6,687	6,617	6,620	329	380	288	4.7	5.4	4.2
Lac Qui Parle	3,624	3,592	3,632	3,487	3,422	3,489	137	170	143	3.8	4.7	3.9
Swift	5,083	5,047	5,022	4,838	4,753	4,755	245	294	267	4.8	5.8	5.3
Yellow Medicine	5,371	5,350	5,399	5,190	5,111	5,196	181	239	203	3.4	4.5	3.8
Region Seven East	**86,480**	**87,161**	**85,455**	**81,851**	**81,006**	**80,929**	**4,629**	**6,155**	**4,526**	**5.4**	**7.1**	**5.3**
Chisago	29,121	29,302	28,726	27,887	27,649	27,541	1,234	1,653	1,185	4.2	5.6	4.1
Isanti	20,559	20,702	20,304	19,601	19,434	19,338	958	1,268	966	4.7	6.1	4.8
Kanabec	9,007	9,143	9,094	8,352	8,260	8,426	655	883	668	7.3	9.7	7.3
Mille Lacs	12,813	12,997	12,666	12,033	11,926	11,878	780	1,071	788	6.1	8.2	6.2
Pine	14,980	15,017	14,665	13,978	13,737	13,746	1,002	1,280	919	6.7	8.5	6.3
Region Seven West	**234,336**	**234,113**	**231,322**	**225,401**	**222,846**	**222,592**	**8,935**	**11,267**	**8,730**	**3.8**	**4.8**	**3.8**
Benton	21,864	21,840	21,602	20,895	20,599	20,666	969	1,241	936	4.4	5.7	4.3
Sherburne	50,232	50,382	49,521	48,196	47,791	47,526	2,036	2,591	1,995	4.1	5.1	4.0
Stearns	89,246	88,763	88,117	86,051	84,800	85,046	3,195	3,963	3,071	3.6	4.5	3.5
Wright	72,994	73,128	72,082	70,259	69,656	69,354	2,735	3,472	2,728	3.7	4.7	3.8
Region Eight	**65,022**	**64,713**	**65,397**	**62,730**	**61,660**	**63,030**	**2,292**	**3,053**	**2,367**	**3.5**	**4.7**	**3.6**
Cottonwood	5,298	5,243	5,532	5,043	4,963	5,276	255	280	256	4.8	5.3	4.6
Jackson	5,966	6,001	6,032	5,769	5,742	5,819	197	259	213	3.3	4.3	3.5
Lincoln	3,359	3,323	3,348	3,237	3,152	3,226	122	171	122	3.6	5.1	3.6
Lyon	15,245	15,065	15,149	14,711	14,419	14,612	534	646	537	3.5	4.3	3.5
Murray	4,859	4,848	4,978	4,639	4,490	4,736	220	358	242	4.5	7.4	4.9
Nobles	11,284	11,345	11,364	10,930	10,834	11,001	354	511	363	3.1	4.5	3.2
Pipestone	4,841	4,741	4,923	4,653	4,477	4,721	188	264	202	3.9	5.6	4.1
Redwood	8,315	8,329	8,225	8,008	7,905	7,920	307	424	305	3.7	5.1	3.7
Rock	5,855	5,818	5,846	5,740	5,678	5,719	115	140	127	2.0	2.4	2.2
Region Nine	**132,861**	**133,014**	**132,655**	**127,905**	**126,820**	**127,775**	**4,956**	**6,194**	**4,880**	**3.7**	**4.7**	**3.7**
Blue Earth	39,891	39,962	39,953	38,690	38,544	38,775	1,201	1,418	1,178	3.0	3.5	2.9
Brown	14,817	14,745	14,876	14,189	13,941	14,279	628	804	597	4.2	5.5	4.0
Faribault	7,116	7,158	7,176	6,784	6,737	6,855	332	421	321	4.7	5.9	4.5
Le Sueur	15,816	15,929	15,564	14,951	14,804	14,758	865	1,125	806	5.5	7.1	5.2
Martin	10,347	10,297	10,372	9,975	9,850	9,985	372	447	387	3.6	4.3	3.7
Nicollet	20,491	20,530	20,555	19,970	19,884	20,028	521	646	527	2.5	3.1	2.6
Sibley	8,538	8,545	8,456	8,205	8,094	8,082	333	451	374	3.9	5.3	4.4
Waseca	9,305	9,285	9,379	8,912	8,792	8,993	393	493	386	4.2	5.3	4.1
Watonwan	6,540	6,563	6,324	6,229	6,174	6,020	311	389	304	4.8	5.9	4.8
Region Ten	**280,430**	**279,495**	**277,887**	**271,373**	**268,565**	**269,090**	**9,057**	**10,930**	**8,797**	**3.2**	**3.9**	**3.2**
Dodge	11,482	11,518	11,338	11,073	10,972	10,973	409	546	365	3.6	4.7	3.2
Fillmore	11,348	11,407	11,262	10,944	10,821	10,843	404	586	419	3.6	5.1	3.7
Freeborn	16,185	16,115	16,229	15,583	15,407	15,653	602	708	576	3.7	4.4	3.5
Goodhue	26,661	26,736	26,529	25,742	25,609	25,613	919	1,127	916	3.4	4.2	3.5
Houston	10,600	10,518	10,503	10,219	9,989	10,126	381	529	377	3.6	5.0	3.6
Mower	20,627	20,578	20,397	19,994	19,816	19,771	633	762	626	3.1	3.7	3.1
Olmsted	84,494	84,259	83,751	82,060	81,518	81,416	2,434	2,741	2,335	2.9	3.3	2.8
City of Rochester	36,624	36,441	35,698	35,435	34,967	34,538	1,189	1,474	1,160	3.2	4.0	3.2
Rice	20,935	20,836	20,862	20,207	19,996	20,187	728	840	675	3.5	4.0	3.2
Steele	11,973	11,962	11,883	11,549	11,425	11,451	424	537	432	3.5	4.5	3.6
Wabasha	29,501	29,125	29,435	28,567	28,045	28,519	934	1,080	916	3.2	3.7	3.1
Winona	61,937	61,708	61,413	60,229	59,831	59,757	1,708	1,877	1,656	2.8	3.0	2.7
Region Eleven	**1,672,400**	**1,664,447**	**1,649,854**	**1,618,125**	**1,604,993**	**1,596,828**	**54,275**	**59,454**	**53,026**	**3.2**	**3.6**	**3.2**
Anoka	192,574	192,221	189,897	185,742	184,226	183,214	6,832	7,995	6,683	3.5	4.2	3.5
Carver	55,897	55,711	55,173	54,151	53,677	53,430	1,746	2,034	1,743	3.1	3.7	3.2
Dakota	235,507	234,577	232,313	228,039	226,182	224,904	7,468	8,395	7,409	3.2	3.6	3.2
Hennepin	685,684	681,444	676,539	663,889	658,571	655,480	21,795	22,873	21,059	3.2	3.4	3.1
City of Bloomington	46,770	46,538	46,162	45,235	44,873	44,662	1,535	1,665	1,500	3.3	3.6	3.2
City of Minneapolis	234,505	232,901	231,282	226,826	225,009	223,953	7,679	7,892	7,329	3.3	3.4	3.2
Ramsey	283,233	281,847	279,493	273,635	271,422	270,066	9,598	10,425	9,427	3.4	3.7	3.4
City of St. Paul	155,297	154,494	153,276	149,912	148,700	147,957	5,385	5,794	5,319	3.5	3.8	3.5
Scott	80,282	79,983	79,170	77,823	77,185	76,771	2,459	2,798	2,399	3.1	3.5	3.0
Washington	139,223	138,664	137,269	134,846	133,730	132,963	4,377	4,934	4,306	3.1	3.6	3.1

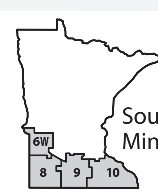
Minneapolis/ St. Paul

Northeast Minnesota

Northwest Minnesota



Central Minnesota



Southern Minnesota

Monthly analysis is based on ***seasonally adjusted*** employment data; yearly analysis is based on ***unadjusted*** employment data.*

Overview

Minnesota added 15,100 jobs (0.5 percent) in April on a seasonally adjusted basis. This was the largest single-month addition to Total Nonfarm employment since September of 2013. The state has added more than 10,000 jobs three times in the last 12 months, a mark that hadn't been reached since 2013 prior to that. Sizeable monthly losses have occurred during the same time period, however, suggesting that some of these changes may be influenced by changing seasonal patterns. Annually Minnesota added 34,715 jobs (1.2 percent), the 10th straight month with over-the-year growth of greater than 1 percent. Private sector employers added 32,030 jobs (1.3 percent) while the public sector added 2,685 (0.6 percent). Both service providers and goods producers grew on the year, adding 30,516 jobs (1.2 percent) and 4,199 jobs (1 percent) respectively.

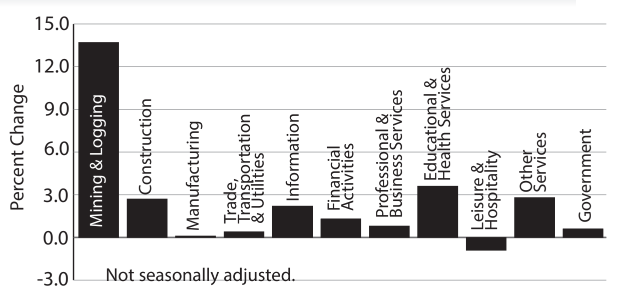
Mining and Logging

Mining and Logging lost 100 jobs (1.4 percent) in April, giving back some of the 6.1 percent gain the supersector had in March. Over the year Mining and Logging employment was up by 787 (13.7 percent). Although the over-the-year change may make the supersector's employment growth appear very strong, it largely reflects a recovery from an especially weak period last year.

Construction

Employment in the Construction industry was up by 3,600 (3.0 percent) in April, after having shed 1,000 jobs in March. The supersector has alternated gains and losses over the past five months, although generally speaking the gains have been larger. Annually Construction employment was up by 3, 021 (2.7 percent). Employment in Building Construction was off by 1,126 (4.5 percent), but that loss was overshadowed by a gain of 3,920 (5.4 percent) in Specialty Trade Contractors. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction added 227 jobs (1.5 percent).

MN Employment Growth
April 2016 to April 2017



Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers in Minnesota added 1,100 jobs (0.3 percent) in April as Durable Goods Manufacturers added 500 (0.2 percent), and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturers added 600 (0.5 percent). It marked the third straight month of growth for the supersector. Annually employment in the supersector was up slightly, adding 391 jobs (0.1 percent). Durable Goods Manufacturers lost 1,693 jobs (0.8 percent), the 12th straight month of annual losses in the sector. Alternately, Non-Durable Goods Manufacturers added 2,084 jobs (1.8 percent) and has added jobs on an over-the-year basis consistently since 2013.

Trade, Transportation , and Utilities

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was off by 700 (0.1 percent) in April. After seeing a dramatic 5,700 job increase in February, the supersector has lost 2,400 jobs over the previous two months. April's loss was split between Wholesale and Retail Trade (down 200 or 0.2 percent and 1,300 or 0.4 percent respectively). Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities added 800 jobs (0.8 percent). Annually the supersector added 1,899 jobs (0.4 percent). Retail Trade continued to drive the supersector's growth, adding 2,491 jobs (0.8 percent) on the strength of 1,951 jobs in Grocery Stores. Department Store employment, on the other hand, was off by 1,386 (5.5 percent).

Information

Information employment was up by 200 (0.4 percent) in April. That marks two straight months of growth for the supersector which previously hadn't seen a single month of added jobs since October. Annually, employment in the supersector was up by 1,107 (2.2 percent). However, since the growth is concentrated in smaller and newer industry groups, both published component sectors still showed over-the-year job losses, with Publishing Industries (except Internet) losing 395 jobs (2.1 percent) and Telecommunications losing 271 (2.2 percent).

*Over-the-year data are not seasonally adjusted because of small changes in seasonal adjustment factors from year to year. Also, there is no seasonality in over-the-year changes.

Financial Activities

The Financial Activities supersector lost 500 jobs (0.3 percent) in April. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing lost 900 jobs (2.7 percent), driving the decline. The component sector hasn't seen a monthly increase since October. Annually, the supersector added 2,263 jobs (1.3 percent). However, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing once again showed over-the-year job losses, off by 1,114 jobs (3.3 percent) from April of 2016.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and Business Services added 2,700 jobs (0.7 percent) in April. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services contributed 1,900 jobs to the gain, and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 900. Employment in Management of Companies was down by 100 (0.1 percent). Annually the supersector added 2,858 jobs (0.8 percent). Management of Companies and Enterprises added 1,418 jobs (1.8 percent), giving it the largest numerical and proportional growth of the component sectors, all three of which grew over the year.

Educational and Health Services

Educational and Health Services added 4,300 jobs (0.8 percent) in April. The gains came entirely from Health Care and Social Assistance, which added 4,400 jobs (0.9 percent). Over the year Educational and Health Services added 18,929 jobs (3.6 percent). The supersector has shown annual growth of greater than 3 percent consistently since November. Although Health Care and Social Assistance, by far the larger of the two component sectors, contributed more jobs, the growth has been thanks to strong expansion in both areas. Educational Services was up by 3,647 jobs (5.1 percent) over April of 2016 and has maintained over-the-year growth since late 2014.

Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and Hospitality added 500 jobs (0.2 percent) in April. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation added 1,300 jobs (3.1 percent), but Accommodation and Food Services lost 800 (0.4 percent). Annually the supersector lost 2,437 jobs (0.9 percent). Both component sectors lost jobs at a rate of around 1 percent. Leisure and Hospitality was the only supersector to show over-the-year job losses in Minnesota.

Other Services

Other Services added 100 jobs (0.9 percent) in April. Annually the supersector added 3,212 jobs (2.8 percent). All three component sectors added around 1,000 jobs, with Repair and Maintenance growing by 4.6 percent (999 jobs), the largest proportional change of any of the sectors.

Government

Government employment was up by 3,000 (0.7 percent) in April, with Local Government (up 2,300 or 0.8 percent) largely driving that increase. Annually Government employers added 2,685 jobs (0.6 percent). Local Government added 4,009 jobs (1.4 percent) thanks in large part to the Educational component, which added 3,599 jobs (2.4 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	April 2017	March 2017	February 2017
Total Nonagricultural	**2,944.4**	**2,929.3**	**2,923.7**
Goods-Producing	**451.3**	**446.7**	**447.0**
Mining and Logging	6.9	7.0	6.6
Construction	124.8	121.2	122.2
Manufacturing	319.6	318.5	318.2
Service-Providing	**2,493.1**	**2,482.6**	**2,476.7**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	537.9	538.6	540.3
Information	51.4	51.2	50.1
Financial Activities	177.5	178.0	177.0
Professional and Business Services	376.9	374.2	369.7
Educational and Health Services	538.8	534.5	535.0
Leisure and Hospitality	264.7	264.2	262.0
Other Services	118.3	117.3	118.0
Government	427.6	424.6	424.6

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Regional Analysis

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA increased by 27,024 (1.4 percent) in April. Significant over-the-month increases are very common in April as warm-weather employment has generally begun to ramp up, but schools have yet to let out for the summer. As would be expected, the two supersectors primarily responsible for driving this growth were Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 6,133 or 8.7 percent) and Leisure and Hospitality (up 5,920 or 3.5 percent), although every supersector save Information (down 23 jobs or 0.1 percent) grew on the month. On an annual basis the metro area added 29,104 jobs (1.5 percent). The net jobs added would represent roughly 84 percent of job growth in the state. However, April's increase is actually a decline from the 2.1 percent over-the-year growth the area saw in March, although that seems to have more to do with late-starting spring job growth last year than with any irregularities this year. As has been the case for some time, Educational and Health Services added the most jobs on the year, up 12,783 (4 percent). Leisure and Hospitality was the only supersector in the area to have negative growth on the year, off by 3,843 (2.1 percent), with Accommodation and Food Services shedding 5,034 jobs (3.4 percent) and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation adding 1,191 (3.7 percent).

Duluth -Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA added 829 jobs (0.6 percent) in April. The most dramatic growth came in Leisure and Hospitality, which added 682 jobs (5.4 percent). Significant growth in the supersector is common this time of year. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 241 jobs (1 percent) on the month, with the entirety of those losses coming in the Retail Trade component (down 262 or 1.7 percent). The other two component sectors saw small growth. Annually Duluth added 298 jobs (0.2 percent). By far the largest gains, in both absolute and proportional terms, came in Mining, Logging, and Construction, which added 881 jobs or 10.9 percent. This was the fourth consecutive month where the supersector had over 10 percent over-the-year growth on the heels of consistent losses through 2016 and late 2015.

Rochester MSA

Employment in the Rochester MSA was up by 1,243 (1.1 percent) in April. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 633 jobs (18 percent). While growth in the supersector is common this time of year, this was its fastest over-the-month growth since April of 2010. Professional and Business Services also showed strong growth, adding 226 jobs (4.2 percent), its largest over-the-month growth since 2012. Annually Rochester added just 911 jobs (0.8 percent). Although this is up from the 0.6 percent annual growth the MSA showed in March, it remains well below the statewide rate of 1.2 percent growth on the year. Financial Activities grew by 119 jobs (4.6 percent), the biggest proportional change, and Educational and Health Services added 1,117 jobs (2.3 percent), the largest addition of actual jobs in the MSA.

St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA was up by 2,299 (2.1 percent) in April, after having been flat in March. The 2.1 percent growth mark was by far the largest posted by any MSA in the state. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 545 jobs (9 percent), Professional and Business Services added 305 (3.6 percent), and Leisure and Hospitality added 684 (8.4 percent). Annually St. Cloud added 1,484 jobs (1.4 percent). The annual growth rate of the MSA outpaced the state's 1.2 percent growth. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 558 jobs (9.2 percent) on the year, and Educational and Health Services added 1,094 (5 percent).

Mankato-North Mankato MSA

The Mankato-North Mankato MSA added 503 jobs (0.9 percent) in April. Every published industry group saw gains, with goods producers adding 306 jobs (3.2 percent) and service providers adding 197 (0.4 percent). Government employment was largely flat, adding just six jobs (0.1 percent). Annually Mankato lost 142 jobs (0.2 percent). It joined Grand Forks-East Grand Forks as the only MSAs in the state to lose jobs over the year.

Fargo-Moorhead MSA

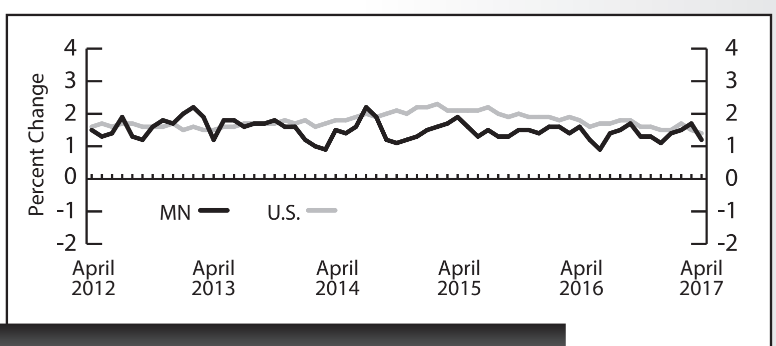
The Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 1,417 jobs (1 percent) in April. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 762 jobs (9.4 percent), and Professional and Business Services added 493 (3.3 percent). Annually the Fargo-Moorhead area added 2,012 jobs (1.4 percent), making it one of only three MSAs to match or exceed the state growth rate. The fastest growth occurred in Educational and Health Services, which added 1,181 jobs (5.2 percent).

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA added 118 jobs (0.2 percent) in April. This was the smallest monthly gain of any MSA in the state for the month. The uncharacteristic weakness may have been in part from the decline of 137 (4.5 percent) in Mining, Logging, and Construction. Not only was this the only MSA to lose jobs in the supersector, every other MSA grew by at least 2 percent on the month, and the state as a whole saw 10.1 percent more jobs in the supersector. Annually the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks area lost 55 jobs (0.1 percent). It joined Mankato as the only MSAs in the state to lose jobs over the year. Mining, Logging, and Construction was once again a notable culprit, shedding 317 jobs (9.8 percent) on the year.

by Nick Dobbins

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.



Total Nonfarm Jobs
U.S. and MN over-the-year percent change

Employer Survey of Minnesota Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted.

Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**2,920.6**	**2,880.3**	**2,885.9**	**1.4%**	**1.2%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**438.4**	**425.3**	**434.2**	**3.1**	**1.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**6.5**	**6.6**	**5.7**	**-0.7**	**13.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Logging	**122.0**	**110.8**	**118.2**	**10.1**	**3.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	**115.5**	**104.3**	**112.5**	**10.8**	**2.7**						
Specialty Trade Contractors	76.2	70.7	72.3	7.8	5.4	$1,210.15	$1,180.30	37.9	38.8	$31.93	$30.42
Manufacturing	**316.4**	**314.5**	**316.0**	**0.6**	**0.1**	**842.95**	**816.72**	**41.2**	**41.0**	**20.46**	**19.92**
Durable Goods	199.8	198.7	201.5	0.5	-0.8	866.02	821.60	41.2	40.0	21.02	20.54
Wood Product Manufacturing	11.1	10.9	11.1	2.3	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	41.5	41.5	42.4	0.1	-2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	32.3	32.4	33.2	-0.3	-2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	45.6	45.6	45.6	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	26.4	26.4	25.9	0.1	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	10.5	10.5	10.9	-0.4	-4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.2	16.2	15.7	0.1	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	116.6	115.8	114.6	0.7	1.8	806.70	811.49	41.2	42.8	19.58	18.96
Food Manufacturing	45.6	45.6	45.1	0.0	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**2,482.2**	**2,454.9**	**2,451.7**	**1.1**	**1.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**530.3**	**527.4**	**528.4**	**0.6**	**0.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	131.1	130.7	132.4	0.3	-1.0	999.10	883.50	39.9	38.0	25.04	23.25
Retail Trade	297.2	295.7	294.7	0.5	0.8	426.10	413.20	28.2	27.9	15.11	14.81
Motor Vehicle and Parts	35.0	35.4	34.9	-1.0	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	26.9	25.1	27.0	7.2	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	54.3	54.1	52.2	0.4	4.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	25.0	24.7	24.7	1.5	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	59.0	58.8	59.7	0.3	-1.2	381.19	333.74	29.3	28.5	13.01	11.71
Transportation,Warehouse, Utilities	102.1	101.0	101.3	1.1	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	89.7	88.7	88.7	1.2	1.1	735.92	702.45	35.5	34.4	20.73	20.42
Information	**51.3**	**51.3**	**50.2**	**0.0**	**2.2**	**987.17**	**1,020.83**	**33.6**	**36.8**	**29.38**	**27.74**
Publishing Industries	18.7	18.7	19.1	0.0	-2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	11.8	11.9	12.1	-0.3	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**176.6**	**176.8**	**174.4**	**-0.1**	**1.3**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	143.8	143.6	140.4	0.2	2.4	1,171.56	1,025.90	38.5	36.6	30.43	28.03
Credit Intermediation	63.3	63.3	61.9	0.1	2.3	817.91	767.99	36.4	35.1	22.47	21.88
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	19.7	19.6	19.5	0.5	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	60.8	60.7	59.0	0.1	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	32.8	33.2	34.0	-1.2	-3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**373.4**	**366.0**	**370.5**	**2.0**	**0.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	159.7	157.8	158.9	1.2	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.1	18.0	18.1	0.5	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	19.5	19.7	18.9	-0.6	3.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	36.5	37.3	37.5	-2.2	-2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	79.1	78.8	77.7	0.4	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	134.5	129.5	133.9	3.9	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**541.9**	**536.8**	**523.0**	**0.9**	**3.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	75.7	73.9	72.0	2.4	5.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	466.3	462.9	451.0	0.7	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	154.5	152.7	147.9	1.2	4.4	1,393.73	1,297.43	36.6	36.1	38.08	35.94
Offices of Physicians	73.1	72.8	70.4	0.4	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	107.7	107.6	106.2	0.0	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	108.7	108.4	106.7	0.3	1.8	489.16	461.36	29.9	29.2	16.36	15.80
Social Assistance	95.4	94.2	90.1	1.3	5.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**257.3**	**248.8**	**259.7**	**3.4**	**-0.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	39.8	36.2	40.2	10.1	-1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	217.5	212.6	219.5	2.3	-0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	193.3	189.9	194.0	1.8	-0.4	269.28	263.49	19.8	20.3	13.6	12.98
Other Services	**118.2**	**117.2**	**114.9**	**0.8**	**2.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	64.9	65.1	63.8	-0.2	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**433.2**	**430.6**	**430.5**	**0.6**	**0.6**						
Federal Government	32.1	31.9	31.5	0.6	1.8						
State Government	103.7	102.2	105.6	1.4	-1.8						
State Government Education	64.2	63.0	67.0	2.0	-4.1						
Local Government	297.4	296.5	293.4	0.3	1.4						
Local Government Education	152.9	153.6	149.4	-0.4	2.4						

Note: Not all industry subgroups are shown for every major industry category.

* Totals may not add because of rounding.

** Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Employer Survey of Twin Cities Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted. Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings: Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Apr 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**1,981.5**	**1,954.5**	**1,952.4**	**1.4%**	**1.5%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**274.6**	**267.3**	**271.3**	**2.7**	**1.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**76.7**	**70.6**	**76.0**	**8.7**	**0.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	16.4	15.9	16.5	3.5	-0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	53.6	49.5	50.7	8.3	5.7	$1,270.13	1$,269.84	37.6	39.0	$33.78	$32.56
Manufacturing	**197.9**	**196.7**	**195.3**	**0.6**	**1.3**	**898.22**	**868.60**	**41.7**	**41.5**	**21.54**	**20.93**
Durable Goods	134.7	134.3	133.1	0.3	1.2	903.04	860.26	41.5	41.2	21.76	20.88
Fabricated Metal Production	29.0	29.0	29.4	0.2	-1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	20.1	20.1	20.3	-0.1	-1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	37.1	37.1	36.8	0.1	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	24.8	24.8	24.2	0.1	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	14.7	14.7	14.3	0.4	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	63.2	62.4	62.2	1.2	1.6	887.88	887.04	42.0	42.2	21.14	21.02
Food Manufacturing	15.1	14.9	14.6	0.9	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	14.7	14.7	15.0	-0.3	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**1,706.9**	**1,687.2**	**1,681.1**	**1.2**	**1.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**354.4**	**352.2**	**352.3**	**0.6**	**0.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	96.8	96.5	96.7	0.4	0.1	1,002.10	874.31	40.1	37.8	24.99	23.13
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	48.4	48.4	48.5	0.0	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	27.9	27.6	28.0	1.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	186.1	185.8	186.3	0.1	-0.2	451.65	444.28	29.5	28.7	15.31	15.48
Food and Beverage Stores	33.5	33.5	31.2	0.1	7.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	36.1	36.1	37.0	0.2	-2.3	366.90	339.28	30.0	29.4	12.23	11.54
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	71.5	69.9	69.2	2.3	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.6	7.5	7.6	0.4	-0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	64.0	62.4	61.6	2.5	3.8	709.92	739.57	34.8	36.2	20.40	20.43
Information	**38.1**	**38.1**	**37.6**	**-0.1**	**1.4**						
Publishing Industries	14.7	14.8	15.0	-0.6	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	8.7	8.7	8.7	-0.2	-0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**143.2**	**143.0**	**140.6**	**0.1**	**1.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	116.0	115.5	112.9	0.4	2.7	1,262.94	1,027.82	38.8	35.9	32.55	28.63
Credit Intermediation	47.2	47.0	46.0	0.3	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	17.6	17.5	17.5	0.5	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	51.2	51.0	49.5	0.4	3.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27.2	27.5	27.7	-1.1	-1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**320.8**	**316.8**	**317.4**	**1.2**	**1.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	140.3	140.0	138.9	0.3	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.5	15.4	15.4	0.3	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	18.6	18.3	18.0	1.8	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	33.5	33.9	34.9	-1.2	-4.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	71.5	71.4	70.9	0.2	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	108.9	105.5	107.6	3.3	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	49.4	48.1	49.9	2.8	-1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**336.3**	**331.6**	**323.5**	**1.4**	**4.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	50.0	48.5	48.4	3.1	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	286.3	283.1	275.2	1.1	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	93.5	92.2	88.5	1.4	5.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	62.9	62.8	62.7	0.1	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	60.8	60.3	59.3	0.9	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	69.1	67.8	64.7	1.9	6.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**176.6**	**170.6**	**180.4**	**3.5**	**-2.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	33.3	30.6	32.1	8.8	3.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	143.3	140.1	148.3	2.3	-3.4	299.83	290.86	21.1	21.2	14.21	13.72
Food Services and Drinking Places	131.5	128.6	134.6	2.3	-2.3	291.90	274.29	20.6	20.5	14.17	13.38
Other Services	**81.0**	**80.8**	**78.8**	**0.4**	**2.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	15.2	15.2	14.8	0.1	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	41.9	42.1	41.1	-0.5	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**256.6**	**254.0**	**250.6**	**1.0**	**2.4**						
Federal Government	21.4	21.3	20.9	0.2	2.1						
State Government	68.7	67.7	67.3	1.5	2.1						
State Government Education	42.8	41.7	41.7	2.6	2.5						
Local Government	166.5	165.0	162.3	0.9	2.6						
Local Government Education	96.0	95.5	92.7	0.6	3.5						

Note: Not all industry subgroups are shown for every major industry category.

* Totals may not add because of rounding.

** Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2017.

Employer Survey

Industry	Duluth-Superior MSA Jobs			% Chg. From		Rochester MSA Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**135,367**	**134,538**	**135,069**	**0.6%**	**0.2%**	**118,985**	**117,742**	**118,074**	**1.1%**	**0.8%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**16,186**	**16,034**	**15,322**	**0.9**	**5.6**	**14,808**	**13,998**	**14,807**	**5.8**	**0.0**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,955	8,782	8,074	2.0	10.9	4,146	3,513	4,297	18.0	-3.5
Manufacturing	7,231	7,252	7,248	-0.3	-0.2	10,662	10,485	10,510	1.7	1.4
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**119,181**	**118,504**	**119,747**	**0.6**	**-0.5**	**104,177**	**103,744**	**103,267**	**0.4**	**0.9**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	24,548	24,789	24,770	-1.0	-0.9	18,185	18,159	18,268	0.1	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	3,213	3,204	3,202	0.3	0.3	2,742	2,669	2,887	2.7	-5.0
Retail Trade	15,253	15,515	15,287	-1.7	-0.2	12,599	12,673	12,523	-0.6	0.6
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,082	6,070	6,281	0.2	-3.2	2,844	2,817	2,858	1.0	-0.5
Information	1,361	1,377	1,426	-1.2	-4.6	1,899	1,882	1,943	0.9	-2.3
Financial Activities	5,886	5,965	5,799	-1.3	1.5	2,734	2,734	2,615	0.0	4.6
Professional and Business Services	8,015	8,080	8,287	-0.8	-3.3	5,622	5,396	5,752	4.2	-2.3
Educational and Health Services	32,250	32,010	32,366	0.7	-0.4	48,708	48,752	47,591	-0.1	2.3
Leisure and Hospitality	13,264	12,582	13,938	5.4	-4.8	10,292	10,006	10,552	2.9	-2.5
Other Services	6,238	6,228	6,049	0.2	3.1	4,018	4,024	3,862	-0.1	4.0
Government	27,619	27,473	27,112	0.5	1.9	12,719	12,791	12,684	-0.6	0.3

Employer Survey

Industry	St. Cloud MSA Jobs			% Chg. From		Mankato MSA Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**110,018**	**107,719**	**108,534**	**2.1%**	**1.4%**	**58,082**	**57,579**	**58,224**	**0.9**	**-0.2%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**21,548**	**20,874**	**21,274**	**3.2**	**1.3**	**9,950**	**9,644**	**9,672**	**3.2**	**2.9**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,600	6,055	6,042	9.0	9.2	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	14,948	14,819	15,232	0.9	-1.9	--	--	--	--	--
						--	--	--	--	--
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**88,470**	**86,845**	**87,260**	**1.9**	**1.4**	**48,132**	**47,935**	**48,552**	**0.4**	**-0.9**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	22,179	21,688	21,975	2.3	0.9	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	4,821	4,762	4,665	1.2	3.3	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	13,488	13,174	13,312	2.4	1.3	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	3,870	3,752	3,998	3.1	-3.2	--	--	--	--	--
Information	1,597	1,599	1,634	-0.1	-2.3	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	4,775	4,850	5,018	-1.5	-4.8	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	8,744	8,439	8,695	3.6	0.6	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	22,769	22,670	21,675	0.4	5.0	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	8,807	8,123	8,917	8.4	-1.2	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	3,820	3,782	3,752	1.0	1.8	--	--	--	--	--
Government	15,779	15,694	15,594	0.5	1.2	10,722	10,716	10,532	0.1	1.8

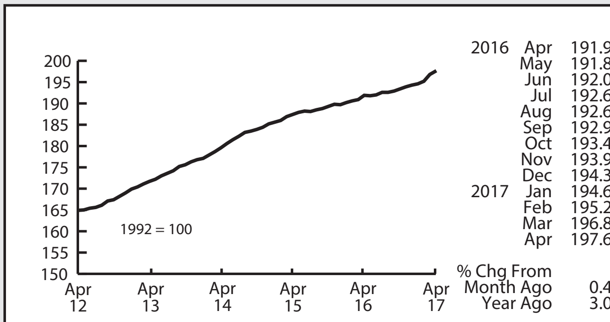
Employer Survey

Industry	Fargo-Moorhead MSA Jobs			% Chg. From		Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA Jobs			% Chg. From	
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**142,104**	**140,687**	**140,092**	**1.0%**	**1.4%**	**57,211**	**57,093**	**57,266**	**0.2%**	**-0.1%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**18,773**	**18,097**	**18,589**	**3.7**	**1.0**	**7,143**	**7,273**	**7,294**	**-1.8**	**-2.1**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,863	8,101	8,992	9.4	-1.4	2,928	3,065	3,245	-4.5	-9.8
Manufacturing	9,910	9,996	9,597	-0.9	3.3	4,215	4,208	4,049	0.2	4.1
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**123,331**	**122,590**	**121,503**	**0.6**	**1.5**	**50,068**	**49,820**	**49,972**	**0.5**	**0.2**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	30,265	30,251	30,511	0.1	-0.8	11,900	11,829	12,134	0.6	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	9,150	9,029	9,138	1.3	0.1	1,899	1,844	2,014	3.0	-5.7
Retail Trade	15,464	15,636	15,902	-1.1	-2.8	7,792	7,748	7,824	0.6	-0.4
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	5,651	5,586	5,471	1.2	3.3	2,209	2,237	2,296	-1.3	-3.8
Information	3,202	3,228	3,254	-0.8	-1.6	571	581	594	-1.7	-3.9
Financial Activities	11,374	11,270	10,916	0.9	4.2	1,788	1,832	1,794	-2.4	-0.3
Professional and Business Services	15,663	15,170	15,598	3.3	0.4	2,925	2,944	3,035	-0.7	-3.6
Educational and Health Services	23,989	23,878	22,808	0.5	5.2	9,799	9,742	9,640	0.6	1.7
Leisure and Hospitality	13,990	13,895	13,879	0.7	0.8	6,214	5,981	6,257	3.9	-0.7
Other Services	5,594	5,578	5,487	0.3	2.0	1,962	1,948	1,982	0.7	-1.0
Government	19,254	19,320	19,050	-0.3	1.1	14,909	14,963	14,536	-0.4	2.6

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2017.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Highlights



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Minnesota Index

The **Minnesota Index**, after surging by 0.8 percent in March, recorded another month of strong growth, climbing 0.4 percent in April. The two-month 1.2 percent advance was the largest since late 2011. The Minnesota Index has averaged 0.2 percent increase monthly since 1979. The index is designed to be a monthly proxy for the state's gross domestic product (GDP). Increasing nonfarm wage and salary employment and higher average weekly manufacturing hours fueled April's advance. The U.S. index moved 0.3 percent higher in April.

Minnesota's index is up 3.0 percent over the year, matching U.S. growth over the same period. The index has averaged 2.7 percent over-the-year growth during the last four decades, slightly higher than the 2.5 percent national average.

Minnesota's adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** was up 0.5 percent in April as the state's employers added 15,100 workers. The private sector added 12,100 jobs while the public sector increased payroll numbers by 3,000. Hiring was highest in Educational and Health Services, Construction, Government, and Professional and Business Services. Job loss was confined to Mining and Logging, Financial Actives, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. Job cutbacks were small in those supersectors.

Manufacturing recorded job growth for the third consecutive month, something the sector hasn't done since early 2015. Construction employment had its second robust hiring month over the last three months, adding 3,600 workers. Total construction employment is now only 5.4 percent below the all-time high reached in February 2006. Minnesota's unadjusted over-the-year job growth fell from 1.7 percent last month to 1.2 percent in April. The national rate also dropped, decreasing from 1.5 to 1.4 percent.

Online Help-Wanted Ads edged up for the second straight month to 129,000 in April. Minnesota's online job postings increased 1.7 percent while nationwide postings dipped 0.6 percent. Minnesota online job ads accounted for 2.7 percent of online U.S. job ads, the highest percent on record. Minnesota's job growth should keep pace with U.S. job growth if online help-wanted ads are a reliable proxy for labor demand and if Minnesota employers can find enough workers to hire.

Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** slipped slightly in April to a still robust 61.2. April's reading is the second highest over the last two years. The strong reading indicates that Minnesota's manufacturers will continue to ramp up production over the next few months. The corresponding national index dipped to 54.8 while the Mid-American index rose to 61.4. The employment component of the index continued to run positive, topping 60 for the second month in a row.

Adjusted **Manufacturing Hours**, however, zigzagged up to 41.2 hours in April. The factory workweek has been above 41 hours now for three straight months. This hasn't happened in two years. A longer factory workweek combined with the higher PMI is consistent with a manufacturing sector that is rebounding from a lackluster 2016. Average weekly **Manufacturing Earnings** tailed off for the first time in four months in April to $843.19. Inflation adjusted earnings, however, were higher than a year ago for the fourth consecutive month. That is a turnaround from 2015 and 2016 when inflation-adjusted earnings were lower when compared to the previous year.

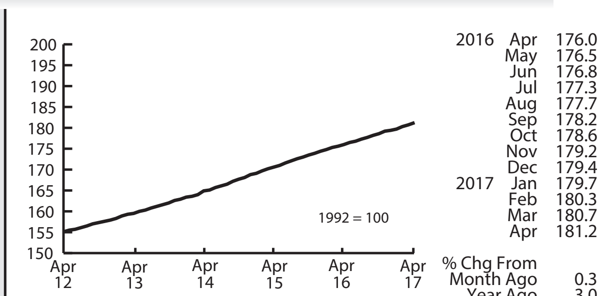
After reaching a seven-year high in March, the **Minnesota Leading Index** slipped slightly in April to 2.8. The robust reading indicates strong economic growth for Minnesota over the next six months. The leading index has averaged 1.5 since 1982 so the 2.8 reading suggest near term growth well above average.

As expected, adjusted **Residential Building Permits** declined significantly in April. Building permit levels were unusually high during the first few months of the year, most likely because of the mild winter. April's drop was probably just payback for the high numbers earlier in the year. Home-building permit numbers, however, have gotten off to the best start since 2006. Solid construction employment hiring will likely continue based on the elevated building permit level.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** inched down to 17,088 in April. Initial claims continue to run near record low levels when the size of the workforce is accounted for. Since 1970 Minnesota has averaged 10 initial claims per month for every 1,000 workers employed. That ratio was half the average this April with five initial claims for every 1,000 workers employed. Job growth will continue to be solid through at least the summer based on the low rate of initial claims.

by Dave Senf

United States Index

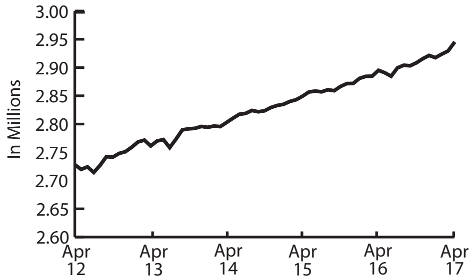


Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Note: All data except for Minnesota's PMI have been seasonally adjusted. See the feature article in the Minnesota Employment Review, May 2010, for more information on the Minnesota Index.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Wage and Salary Employment



seasonally adjusted

2016	Nov	2,915.6
	Dec	2,921.4
2017	Jan	2,917.5
	Feb	2,923.7
	Mar	2,929.3
	Apr	2,944.4

% Chg From Month Ago 0.5

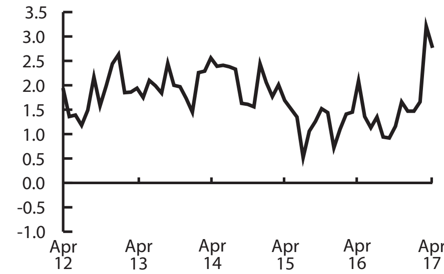
unadjusted

2016	Apr	2,885.9
2017	Apr	2,920.6

% Chg From Year Ago 1.2

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Minnesota Leading Index

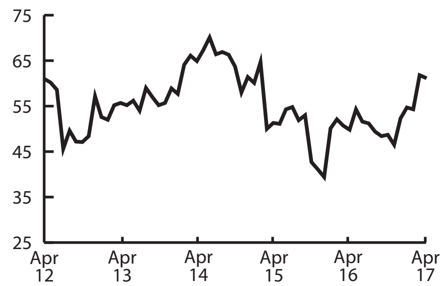


2016	Apr	2.09
	May	1.36
	Jun	1.13
	Jul	1.35
	Aug	0.94
	Sep	0.92
	Oct	1.16
	Nov	1.66
	Dec	1.47
2017	Jan	1.47
	Feb	1.66
	Mar	3.21
	Apr	2.78

% Chg From Month Ago -13.4
Year Ago 32.8

Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Purchasing Managers' Index

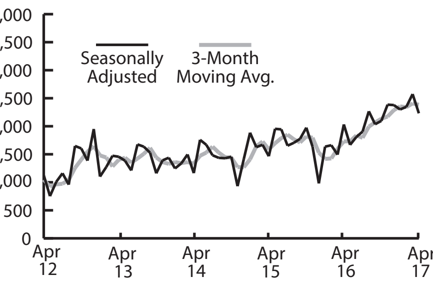


2016	Apr	49.8
	May	54.3
	Jun	51.6
	Jul	51.2
	Aug	49.4
	Sep	48.4
	Oct	48.7
	Nov	46.5
	Dec	52.3
2017	Jan	54.7
	Feb	54.3
	Mar	61.8
	Apr	61.2

% Chg From Month Ago -1.0
Year Ago 22.9

Source: Creighton University, Mid-America Survey of Business Conditions, 2017

Residential Building Permits



seasonally adjusted

2016	Nov	2,385
	Dec	2,378
2017	Jan	2,299
	Feb	2,347
	Mar	2,574
	Apr	2,231

% Chg From Month Ago -13.3

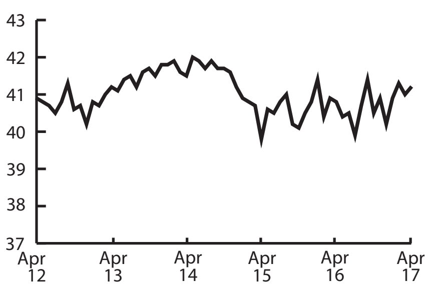
unadjusted

2016	Apr	1,855
2017	Apr	1,973

% Chg From Year Ago 6.4

Source: Residential Building Permits, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2017

Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



seasonally adjusted

2016	Nov	40.9
	Dec	40.2
2017	Jan	40.9
	Feb	41.3
	Mar	41.0
	Apr	41.2

% Chg From Month Ago 0.4

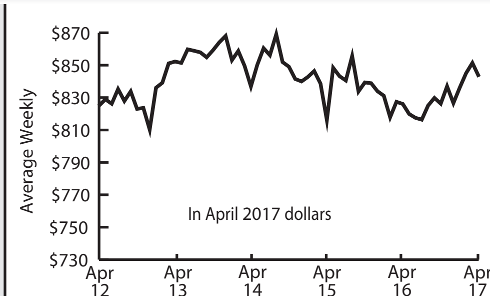
unadjusted

2016	Apr	41.0
2017	Apr	41.2

% Chg From Year Ago 0.5

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Manufacturing Earnings



seasonally adjusted

2016	Nov	836.96
	Dec	826.60
2017	Jan	836.13
	Feb	845.02
	Mar	851.39
	Apr	843.19

% Chg From Month Ago -1.0

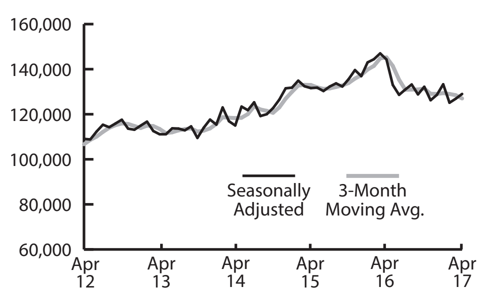
unadjusted

2016	Apr	829.89
2017	Apr	842.95

% Chg From Year Ago 1.6

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2017

Online Help-Wanted Advertising

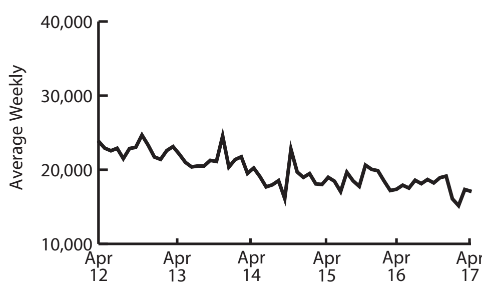


2016	Apr	144,300
	May	133,000
	Jun	128,600
	Jul	131,000
	Aug	133,200
	Sep	128,800
	Oct	132,200
	Nov	126,200
	Dec	128,600
2017	Jan	133,300
	Feb	125,100
	Mar	126,900
	Apr	129,000

% Chg From Month Ago 1.7
Year Ago -10.6

Source: The Conference Board Inc., 2017

Initial UB Claimants



seasonally adjusted

2016	Nov	18,927
	Dec	19,142
2017	Jan	16,082
	Feb	15,159
	Mar	17,338
	Apr	17,088

% Chg From Month Ago -1.4

unadjusted

2016	Apr	13,609
2017	Apr	12,516

% Chg From Year Ago -8.0

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Unemployment Insurance Program, 2017

Minnesota Employment Review

DEED
Labor Market Information Office
1st National Bank Building
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
St. Paul, MN 55101-1351
651.259.7400 (voice)
1.888.234.1114 (toll free)
651.296.3900 (TTY)
1.800.657.3973 (TTY toll free)
e-mail :
DEED.lmi@state.mn.us
Internet :
mn.gov/deed/lmi

Labor Market Information
Help Line:
651.259.7384

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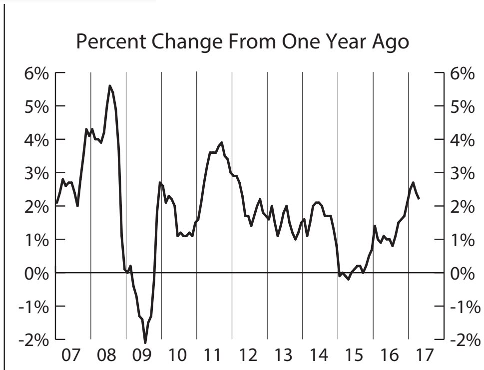
U.S. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in April on a seasonally adjusted basis the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Increases in indices for shelter, energy, tobacco, and food all contributed to the monthly increase in the all items index. Many indices declined in April, including those for wireless phone services, medical care, motor vehicle insurance, apparel, used cars and trucks, recreation, and new vehicles.



The all items index rose 2.2 percent for the 12 months ending April. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent over the last 12 months. The energy index rose 9.3 percent over the last year, while the food index increased 0.5 percent.

For more information on the U.S. CPI or the semi-annual Minneapolis-St. Paul CPI, call: 651.259.7384 or toll free 1.888.234.1114.

Economic Snapshot

Gender Differences in Career Choices

Minnesota is embarking on a unique public policy solution to occupational segregation: The Women in Nontraditional Jobs training program. The program provides training to women in high-wage jobs in which they are underrepresented.

Having served over 130 participants to date, it is one of DEED's smaller employment and training programs. But first results show that the women who are successfully trained in nontraditional jobs are finding employment in those sectors. Read how participant data compares with another training program, Pathways to Prosperity.

https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/social-media/deed-developments/?id=298492

The employment and unemployment data in this publication were produced in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CountySnapshot Benton

by Chet Bodin, Regional Analyst, Northwest Minnesota
Department of Employment and Economic Development

Past

Benton County was one of the original nine counties established by the territorial legislature in 1849 and was one of the three which were declared organized. The county was named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, a senator from Missouri, who worked diligently to have Congress enact the Homestead Act. It is one of nine counties named after Mr. Benton in the United States.

Future

In 2017 Benton County became one of the primary sites for the Industrial Hemp Pilot Project through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The average hemp grain yield in Minnesota in 2016 was 1,334 pounds of grain per acre[1], making the crop a potentially lucrative and environmentally friendly alternative for small land holders in rural parts of Benton County.

Economy

2016 Estimates	Benton	Minnesota
Population	39,992	5,489,594
Labor Force	21,540	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	4.5%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$39,818	$54,457
Cost of Living, Individual	$27,039	$30,084
Cost of Living, Average Family	$45,782	$80,976

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Cost of Living; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey

Industry

Benton	Top Industries of Employment	Total 2015 Employment	Percent Change 2006-2015	Average Annual Wages	Percent Change 2006-2015
	Total, All Industries	**16,861**	**1.2%**	**$38,605**	**20.9%**
1	Manufacturing	3,567	-28.4%	$45,994	8.9%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3,472	5.9%	$38,431	33.3%
3	Education and Health Services	3,306	19.2%	$30,665	21.9%
4	Construction	1,826	55.7%	$56,793	46.3%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2006-2015

Note: Until 4th quarter 2016 data are available, annual average data are 15/4 through 16/3.

Trends

Manufacturing remained the industry with the highest employment in Benton County, despite shedding nearly 1,500 jobs since 2006, a 28.4 percent decline since before the recession. However, other industries in Benton County are picking up the slack. Notable, Construction jobs increased by 55.7 percent (up 653) since 2006, led by a significant increase of 495 in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction jobs. In addition, average annual wages in Construction have surpassed those in Manufacturing, although wages in both industries increased since 2006. Like most of Minnesota, a large part of the Benton County population is entering retirement age and in need of more healthcare, leading to more jobs in Education and Healthcare Services, an increase of 533. Almost 400 of these jobs were added in Nursing and Residential Care Facilities.

[1] http://www.morrissuntribune.com/farm/agriculture/4244926-growing-future

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CountySnapshot Big Stone

Past

Big Stone County was founded in 1862, but remained unorganized until 1881. Big Stone is the English translation for the Dakota Indian word for outcrops of granite and gneiss found in nearby Minnesota Valley. So widespread are the granite deposits that Big Stone County has become one of the leading granite mining areas in the United States. The county's first known granite quarry, the Baxter Quarry, was in operation as early as 1886.[2]

Future

In 2015 the Federated Telephone Cooperative in Big Stone County raised $7.92 million to construct broadband infrastructure, in part from DEED's Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program. The ongoing project has brought broadband service to over 1,072 unserved areas in and around the cities of Ortonville, Barry, Beardsley, and Johnson. This investment has potential to bring more professional services to Big Stone County and provides the technological basis for future growth throughout the local economy.

Note: Until 4th quarter 2016 data are available, annual average data are 15/4 through 16/3.

Trends

Over 42 percent of employment in Big Stone County is found in Education and Health Services, although there has not been much change in the number of jobs in these fields since 2006. Wages, on the other hand, have increased dramatically across all the major industries in Big Stone County. This is likely an attempt to keep up with the competition for workers as the labor market tightens. Already, there are nearly 200 fewer jobs in Big Stone County than there were 10 years ago. Recent investments in broadband aim to spur growth and grab the attention of future job-seekers and entrepreneurs.

Economy

2016 Estimates	Big Stone County	Minnesota
Population	5,050	5,489,594
Labor Force	2,718	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	4.9%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$37,104	$54,457
Cost of Living, Individual	$25,162	$30,084
Cost of Living, Average Family	$42,309	$80,976

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Cost of Living; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey

Industry

Big Stone	Top Industries of Employment	Total 2015 Employment	Percent Change 2006-2015	Average Annual Wages	Percent Change 2006-2015
	Total, All Industries	**1,753**	**-8.9%**	**$36,528**	**50.9%**
1	Education and Health Services	739	-0.1%	$36,417	42.7%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	335	2.8%	$34,007	52.6%
3	Construction	193	8.4%	$59,771	58.5%
4	Public Administration	154	-16.8%	$40,649	39.5%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2006-2015

[2]http://prairiewaters.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Prairie-Waters-Visitors-Guide.pdf

CountySnapshot Blue Earth

Note: Until 4th quarter 2016 data are available, annual average data are 15/4 through 16/3.

Past

Blue Earth County saw great growth near the end of the 19th Century and has developed into a major part of Minnesota's economy. Originally a major railroad thoroughfare, some of the first industries included milling, transportation, and agriculture. Private and public post-secondary educational institutions have been established in Blue Earth County since then, adding a healthy dose of culture and social capital to the area. Consequently, the mix of industries and people in the county resulted in a population increase of 48 percent between 1950 and 2015.

Future

Over 86 acres of former quarry land near downtown Mankato are part of the city and county redevelopment plans for the coming years. The broader community of residents and business owners have discussed using the property for a high-tech business park, a mountain biking park, or even a drive-in movie theatre[3]. Regardless, the new development is sure to change the composition of Blue Earth County's largest city and has the potential to bring many new jobs to the area

Trends

Unsurprisingly, Education and Health Services is the leading industry in terms of employment in Blue Earth County, both of which account for a higher portion of jobs in the county than they do statewide. Growth in the combined sector was over 21 percent since 2006. Leisure and Hospitality also contributed to the economic recovery in Blue Earth County, growing by over 11 percent since its pre-recession level. Average annual wages grew in most industries throughout the county, led by Manufacturing where the average annual wage increased from $39,761 in 2010 to $54,028 in 2016 – a 35.9 percent hike. Often overshadowed by education institutions in the region, Manufacturing is not typically identified with Blue Earth County, but it continues to provide a sustainable income for many of its long-term residents.

Economy

2016 Estimates	Blue Earth County	Minnesota
Population	66,441	5,489,594
Labor Force	39,471	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	3.2%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$40,922	$54,457
Cost of Living, Individual	$26,827	$30,084
Cost of Living, Average Family	$45,080	$80,976

Source: DEED Local Area unemployment Statistics; Cost of Living; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey

Industry

Blue Earth	Top Industries of Employment	Total 2015 Employment	Percent Change 2006-2015	Average Annual Wages	Percent Change 2006-2015
	Total, All Industries	**38,666**	**5.6%**	**$40,036**	**22.0%**
1	Education and Health Services	12,011	21.9%	$44,913	22.9%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,735	1.4%	$31,117	23.4%
3	Leisure and Hospitality	4,114	11.5%	$13,344	37.7%
4	Manufacturing	3,703	-1.2%	$54,028	35.9%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2006-2015

[3]http://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/next-up-planning-for-quarry-redevelopment/article_6c510ca4-26d7-11e7-8117-87131d9f1dde.html

CountySnapshot Brown

Past

Much of Brown County was established in the mid-nineteenth century by German settlers to take advantage of the fertile Minnesota River Valley and burgeoning railroad economy. In additional to agriculture and stock, some of the first family breweries in the nation were started in Brown County's largest city, New Ulm. By 1916 the brewing industry in Brown County employed over 70 people in the New Ulm area and produced approximately 30,000 barrels per year.[4]

Future

Although it isn't one of the top industries in terms of employment, the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce notes that over 53 percent of the economy is still related to agriculture. Animal production in particular remains one of the most influential industries in Brown County. The New Ulm Economic Development Authority recently reported a new hog processing plant is expected to employ 1,100 people in the area by 2020.[5]

Note: Until 4th quarter 2016 data are available, annual average data are 15/4 through 16/3.

Trends

Currently (2016 Q3), employment in animal production was over 10 times more prevalent in Brown County than the rest of the state. Self-employed individuals in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting also increased between 2010 and 2014 in Brown County. Manufacturing has shed jobs in Brown County since 2006, but wages have increased by over 30 percent to an average of $51,308 annually for its employees. In fact, wages in all industries have increased by almost 30 percent across Brown County since 2006 while the cost of living for an average family in Brown County is almost half of what it costs in Minnesota on average.

Economy

2016 Estimates	Brown County	Minnesota
Population	25,331	5,489,594
Labor Force	14,755	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	4.1%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$39,618	$54,457
Cost of Living, Individual	$23,450	$30,084
Cost of Living, Average Family	$41,240	$80,976

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Cost of Living; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey

Industry

Brown	Top Industries of Employment	Total 2015 Employment	Percent Change 2006-2015	Average Annual Wages	Percent Change 2006-2015
	Total, All Industries	**13,828**	**-2.6%**	**$38,710**	**29.4%**
1	Education and Health Services	3,088	5.5%	$36,844	32.4%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,786	3.8%	$31,011	25.2%
3	Manufacturing	2,783	-24.0%	$51,308	30.8%
4	Leisure and Hospitality	1,158	-5.2%	$12,114	27.9%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2006-2015

[4]History of Brown County, Minnesota: Its People, Industries and Institutions; Fritsche, L.A. 1916. Walsworth. https://books.google.com/books?id=Nm8_AQAAMAAJ
[5]http://www.nujournal.com/news/local-news/2017/01/11/new-ulm-development-officials-work-to-recruit-prospects/