

Northwest Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 26-county Northwest Minnesota region was home to 826 manufacturing establishments providing 30,203 jobs in 2023. Manufacturing accounted for 13.4% of total employment in the region, making it the second largest industry behind Health Care & Social Assistance (39,089 jobs) and having slightly more jobs than Retail Trade (28,114 jobs).

These manufacturers provided about \$1.95 billion in total payroll in 2023, making it the second largest industry in terms of payroll as well. Average annual wages in manufacturing were \$64,428 in 2023, which was over \$13,000 and 25.4% higher than the total of all industries (see Table 1).

Table 1. Northwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs	Number of Firms	Total Payroll	Avg. Annual Wages
	Total, All Industries	224,866	18,193	\$11,557,693,792	\$51,376
31	Manufacturing	30,203	826	\$1,946,351,324	\$64,428
311	Food Manufacturing	6,547	99	\$415,125,753	\$63,388
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	4,407	28	\$296,386,107	\$67,444
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,256	94	\$322,153,762	\$75,712
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,182	155	\$251,382,503	\$60,112
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	3,180	76	\$226,851,830	\$71,396
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,333	57	\$59,434,328	\$44,512
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,050	33	\$56,546,946	\$53,872
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	906	49	\$66,670,668	\$73,684
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	888	17	\$65,499,166	\$73,788
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	765	85	\$38,574,260	\$50,544
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	673	60	\$33,908,390	\$50,544
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	582	7	\$36,617,062	\$63,180
325	Chemical Manufacturing	373	10	\$33,563,223	\$89,960
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	349	25	\$8,003,812	\$22,828
314	Textile Product Mills	266	16	\$9,883,268	\$37,180
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component Mfg.	182	7	\$10,504,649	\$57,616
315	Apparel Manufacturing	14	4	\$274,129	\$19,188

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Food Manufacturing was easily the largest sector in Northwest Minnesota, with 6,547 jobs at 99 establishments, and \$415 million in annual payroll. The largest subsectors in Food Manufacturing include Animal Slaughtering & Processing (2,117 jobs), Sugar & Confectionary Product Manufacturing (1,296 jobs), and Animal Food Manufacturing (826 jobs). The Northwest region also had notable employment in Other Food Manufacturing with 791 jobs in 2023. The second largest – but most well-known – sector in the region is Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, which had 4,407 jobs at 28 firms in 2023. Jobs in the sector were 4.5 times more concentrated in Northwest Minnesota than the rest of the state, with the region providing over 35% of statewide employment in the sector. Combined, those two sectors accounted for over one-third (36.3%) of the region’s manufacturing jobs.

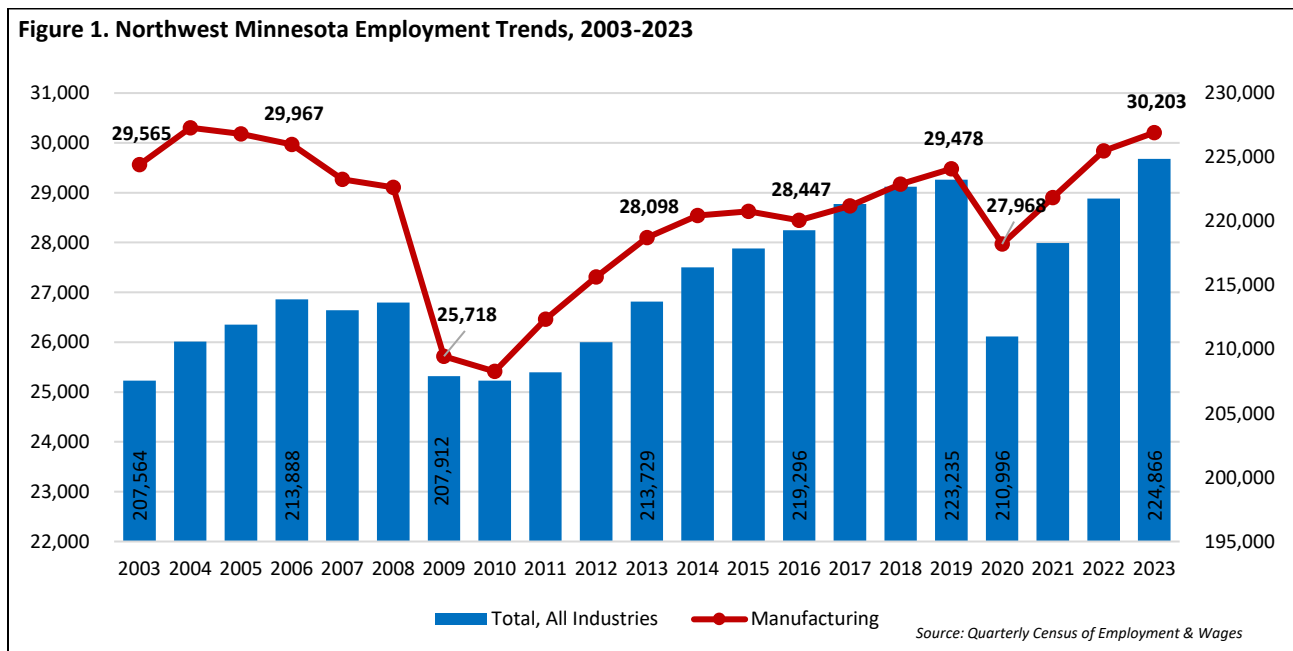
Northwest Minnesota also had notable numbers of jobs in Machinery Manufacturing (4,256 jobs), Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (4,182 jobs), and Wood Product Manufacturing (3,180 jobs), which was also more than three times more concentrated in the region than the rest of the state. Those three sectors also combined for more than one-third (38.5%) of total manufacturing employment in the region.

Northwest Minnesota also has smaller employment numbers in the Printing & Related Support Activities (1,333 jobs), Plastics & Rubber Product Manufacturing (1,050 jobs), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (906 jobs), Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing (888 jobs), Miscellaneous Manufacturing (765 jobs), Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing (673 jobs), and Primary Metal Manufacturing (582 jobs) sectors. The region also has a small number, but a relatively high concentration, of employment in the Textile Product Mills sector (266 jobs).

Average annual wages in manufacturing (\$64,428) were 25.4% higher than the total of all industries (\$51,376), led by high average annual wages in Chemical Manufacturing (\$89,960), Machinery Manufacturing (\$75,712), Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$73,788), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (\$73,684), and Wood Product Manufacturing (\$71,396).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Northwest Minnesota saw steady employment in the early 2000s before the 2008 recession. The region’s manufacturers suffered even more significant job losses during the recession from 2008 to 2010, dropping nearly 3,700 jobs, to a low of 25,413 jobs in 2010. However, manufacturers in the region have again enjoyed a slow but steady recovery from 2010 to 2019, regaining about 4,065 net new jobs over that time period (see Figure 1). About 1,500 jobs were lost between 2019 and 2020 due to the pandemic. Since then, employment has increased, and Northwest Minnesota has seen its highest employment numbers in manufacturing in the past 20 years.



Manufacturers in Northwest Minnesota now have about 2,100 more jobs than ten years ago, in 2013. Manufacturing employment was up 7.5% from 2013 to 2023, while the total of all industries is up about 11,130 jobs since 2013, a 5.2% increase in jobs.

In sum, 11 of the 17 manufacturing sectors had gained jobs between 2013 to 2023, including 8 that increased employment by more than 12%. The largest job gains occurred in Machinery Manufacturing, which added 930 jobs, based on expansions in Other General Purpose Manufacturing and Agriculture, Construction, & Mining Machinery Manufacturing.

The other large growth was in Food Manufacturing, which expanded by 786 jobs. Northwest Minnesota also saw important job gains in Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing, Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, and Miscellaneous Manufacturing.

The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, which sliced 350 jobs from 2013 to 2023, -7.4% of its previous employment level. The losses were heaviest in Other Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, which cut over 300 jobs from 2013 to 2023. The other large decline in the region occurred in Wood Product Manufacturing, which eliminated 219 jobs over the last 10 years.

Coming out of the Pandemic Recession, in the past year 6 out of the 16 sectors added jobs, while 10 out of the 16 sectors experienced job losses. The most notable job gains in the past year occurred in Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Food Manufacturing, and Machinery Manufacturing. The greatest job losses were found in Wood Product Manufacturing, Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing, and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (see Table 2).

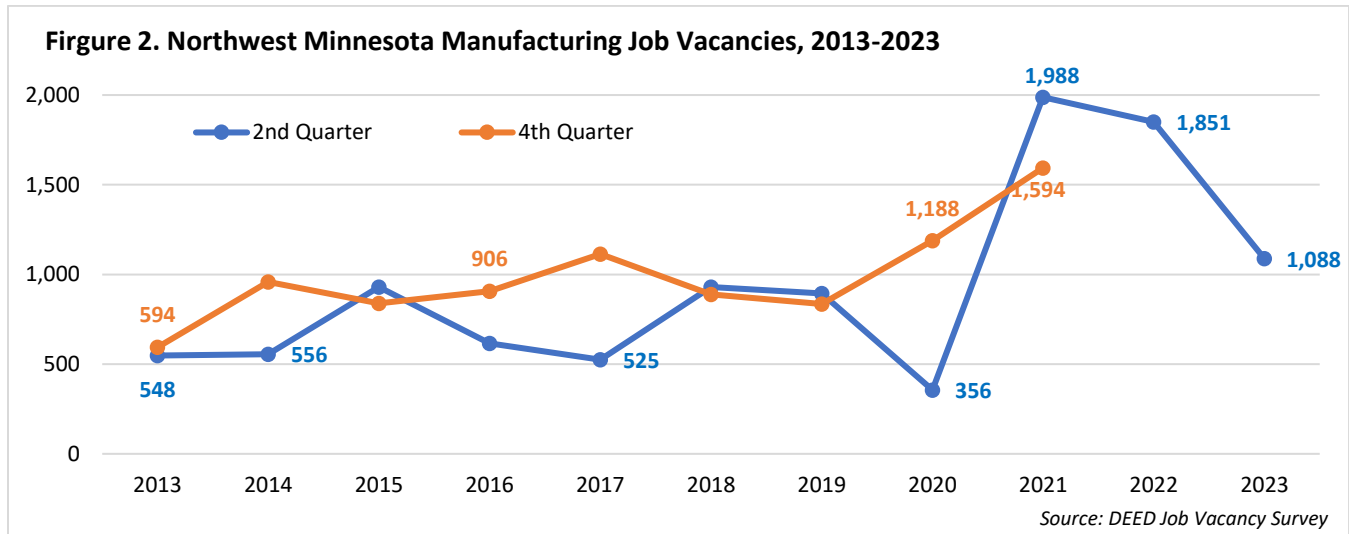
Table 2. Northwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs	1-Year Trend 2022-2023		5-Year Trend 2018-2022		10-Year Trend 2013-2023	
			Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
0	Total, All Industries	224,866	+3,093	+1.4%	+2,173	+1.0%	+11,137	+5.2%
31	Manufacturing	30,203	+363	+1.2%	+1,033	+3.5%	+2,105	+7.5%
311	Food Manufacturing	6,547	+237	+3.8%	+605	+10.2%	+786	+13.6%
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	4,407	+397	+9.9%	+321	+7.9%	-350	-7.4%
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,256	+73	+1.7%	+375	+9.7%	+930	+28.0%
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,182	-13	-0.3%	+141	+3.5%	+209	+5.3%
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	3,180	-79	-2.4%	-342	-9.7%	-219	-6.4%
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,333	-23	-1.7%	+25	+1.9%	-89	-6.3%
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,050	-12	-1.1%	+123	+13.3%	+224	+27.1%
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	906	+20	+2.3%	-84	-8.5%	+36	+4.1%
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	888	-76	-7.9%	-59	-6.2%	+48	+5.7%
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	765	-62	-7.5%	-52	-6.4%	+187	+32.4%
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	673	-40	-5.6%	+24	+3.7%	+75	+12.5%
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	582	-40	-6.4%	-77	-11.7%	-90	-13.4%
325	Chemical Manufacturing	373	-13	-3.4%	-31	-7.7%	+136	+57.4%
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	349	+8	+2.3%	+126	+56.5%	+293	+523.2%
314	Textile Product Mills	266	-21	-7.3%	-144	-35.1%	-155	-36.8%
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component Mfg.	182	+4	+2.2%	+56	+44.4%	+124	+213.8%
315	Apparel Manufacturing	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-21	-60.0%

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 Northwest Minnesota region as well, with demand reaching levels not seen since the early 2000s. The 1,088 job vacancies reported by manufacturing employers in the second quarter of 2023 was the sixth highest number posted in the past 10 years, matching pre-pandemic levels. Job vacancies were twice as high in 2023 compared to the 548 vacancies posted in 2013 (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for these vacancies held steady at \$21.95 per hour in 2023 and 26% of the manufacturing vacancies required at least 1 year of experience. In addition, 14% manufacturing vacancies required postsecondary education, which was similar to past years. Only 3% of posted manufacturing openings were part-time, as compared to 32% of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Northwest Minnesota Manufacturing Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

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	14,193	\$17.77	32%	27%	27%
Manufacturing	1,088	\$21.95	3%	14%	26%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

Production occupations, encompassing roles such as metal and plastic workers, food processing workers, assemblers and fabricators, supervisors of production workers, textile and furnishing workers, and other production-related jobs, had the third highest number of vacancies, totaling 668. The median wage offer for these positions was \$20.44, but ranged between \$13.60 and \$29.50 per hour (see Table 4).

Manufacturers in Northwest Minnesota were also looking to hire sales and office, installation, maintenance, and repair workers, management, and engineering occupations. At the occupational level, outside of production occupations, the largest number of manufacturing-related vacancies were for sales and related occupations, with 1,918 vacancies with a median wage offer of \$15.87. Next was transportation and material moving occupations with 1,263 vacancies.

Table 4. Northwest Minnesota Production Occupations Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd Quarter 2023

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	14,193	\$17.77	32%	27%	27%
Production Occupations	668	\$20.44	8%	4%	24%
Supervisors of Production Workers	23	\$29.44	0%	58%	87%
Assemblers & Fabricators	130	\$20.25	0%	1%	19%
Food Processing Workers	47	\$16.21	22%	4%	21%
Metal Workers & Plastic Workers	152	\$21.66	0%	3%	54%
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishings Workers	14	\$14.30	23%	15%	7%
Woodworkers	9	\$19.35	0%	0%	0%
Plant & System Operators	32	\$28.18	0%	3%	8%
Other Production Occupations	245	\$19.93	15%	2%	7%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	508	\$17.18	26%	10%	46%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	1,263	\$20.23	19%	6%	34%
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	110	\$30.65	0%	75%	63%
Management Occupations	180	\$31.08	1%	67%	97%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair Occupations	609	\$20.26	20%	30%	58%
Sales & Related Occupations	1,918	\$15.97	21%	8%	20%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

Industry Occupational Employment

DEED’s Occupational Employment and 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 18,670 people working in production occupations in Northwest Minnesota, accounting for about 8.5% of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$22.21 in 2024, but ranged from \$16.90 at the low end to \$31.20 at the high end.

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).

Table 5. Northwest Minnesota Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Regional Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	219,910	\$22.77	2,881,100	\$25.22
Production Occupations	18,670	\$22.21	203,810	\$23.05
Office & Administrative Support	26,270	\$22.30	352,250	\$23.86
Transportation & Material Moving	19,090	\$21.88	225,820	\$22.86
Architecture & Engineering	3,120	\$37.59	58,320	\$42.97
Management	12,050	\$44.17	201,710	\$57.75
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	9,840	\$25.62	104,530	\$29.54
Sales & Related	19,980	\$17.36	242,440	\$18.82
Business & Financial Operations	8,030	\$31.87	202,700	\$39.26
Computer & Mathematical	2,390	\$38.61	98,240	\$50.83

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) program

Team assemblers, first-line supervisors, machinists, and more are the most common jobs found at manufacturing firms in Minnesota, according to DEED’s Occupational Staffing Matrix data. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of less than \$18.60 per hour for computer numerically controlled tool operators to a high of \$32.63 per hour for first-line supervisors of production and operating workers. 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).

Table 6. Northwest Minnesota Top 30 Production-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2024 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,110	\$32.63	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	1,120	\$24.66	Vocational training
513023	Slaughtering & Meat Packers	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	720	\$19.27	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,130	\$24.57	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	770	\$24.50	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	3,770	\$20.25	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Metal/Plastic	560	\$23.43	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	360	\$20.82	High School or equiv.
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	480	\$29.70	Vocational training
512028	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	250	\$22.01	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	360	\$19.57	High School or equiv.
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	760	\$18.60	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	390	\$22.62	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	290	\$20.12	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	3,050	\$24.14	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	1,250	\$19.05	High School or equiv.
513099	All other food processing workers	450	\$18.71	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters & Operators	250	\$20.63	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	3,660	\$26.20	High School or equiv.
512028	Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	250	\$22.01	High School or equiv.
519124	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Operators	380	\$23.62	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	460	\$18.62	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	100	\$21.74	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	220	\$23.17	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	120	\$27.54	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	190	\$30.47	Vocational training

Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics (OEWS) program, 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 \$37 per hour in Northwest Minnesota, with median wages topping \$60 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 \$35 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).

Table 7. Northwest Minnesota Top 20 Office-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2024 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, exc. Tech. Products	2,240	\$30.61	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	3,510	\$21.39	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	590	\$40.70	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	5,720	\$37.27	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	1,250	\$22.35	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	340	\$48.43	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	440	\$37.63	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,400	\$23.14	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	180	\$29.23	Associate degree
439061	Office Clerks, General	4,270	\$20.54	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical Products	60	\$44.62	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	490	\$27.91	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	1,520	\$31.20	Bachelor's degree
537065	Stockers and Order Fillers	4,290	\$19.57	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	120	\$60.71	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	230	\$46.37	Bachelor's degree
151252	Software Developers	560	\$50.86	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	150	\$32.88	Associate degree

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) program, Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2020 to 2030 Employment Outlook data, the Northwest Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to gain 619 jobs over the next decade, a 2.2% increase. This is less than the overall growth of 5.1% across the total of all industries in Northwest Minnesota, but similar with 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.

Fourteen of the 19 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by continued strong growth in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 315 net new jobs, a 2.2% expansion. The region may also see notable job growth in Wood Product Manufacturing, Food Manufacturing, Machinery Manufacturing, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, and Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing.

In contrast, 5 of the 19 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Printing & Related Support Activities, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Textile Product Mills, and Paper Manufacturing. Those three sectors are expected to lose almost 400 jobs combined, with most seeing more than a 10% decline (see Table 8).

Table 8. Northwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Projections, 2020-2030

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2020	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030
0	Total, All Industries	250,722	263,441	+5.1%	+12,719
31	Manufacturing	27,999	28,618	+2.2%	+619
311	Food Manufacturing	5,968	6,114	+2.4%	+146
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	255	277	+8.6%	+22
313	Textile Mills	42	58	+38.1%	+16
314	Textile Product Mills	348	302	-13.2%	-46
315	Apparel Manufacturing	15	13	-13.3%	-2
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	3,179	3,352	+5.4%	+173
322	Paper Manufacturing	133	117	-12.0%	-16
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,073	885	-17.5%	-188
325	Chemical Manufacturing	420	459	+9.3%	+39
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	949	951	+0.2%	+2
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	916	954	+4.1%	+38
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	571	588	+3.0%	+17
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,939	4,254	+8.0%	+315
333	Machinery Manufacturing	3,816	3,924	+2.8%	+108
334	Computer & Electronic Product Mfg	946	955	+1.0%	+9
335	Electrical Equipment & Appliances	141	147	+4.3%	+6
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,852	3,706	-3.8%	-146
337	Furniture & Related Product Mfg	612	672	+9.8%	+60
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	813	878	+8.0%	+65

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 1.1% increase from 2020 to 2030 in Northwest Minnesota. 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 21,809 total openings for production occupations in the region due to these retirements and exit openings.

Overall, 22 of the 38 production occupations are expected to see new job growth from 2020 to 2030, led by Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers; Machinists, and First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers, which are expected to gain a combined 255 jobs.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers, Printing and Binding and Finishing Workers, and Printing Press Operators. Fourteen of the 57 production occupations are expected to lose jobs.

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 Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators, Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers, and Machinists. Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers, Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders, and First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers will also remain in high demand over the next decade due to new hires and labor force exit openings (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 38 Northwest Minnesota Production Occupation Projections, 2020-2030

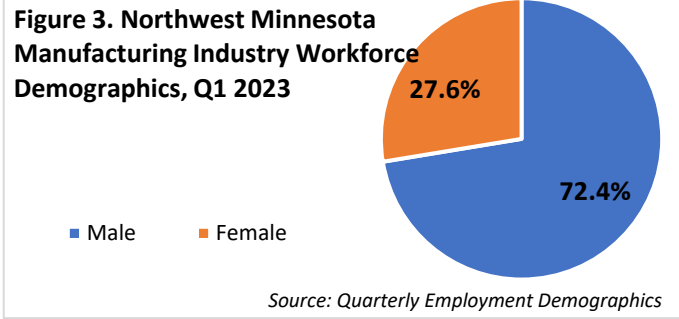
SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	* Labor Force Exit Openings 2020-2030
0	Total, All Occupations	250,722	263,441	5.1%	12,719	115,886
510000	Production Occupations	19,886	20,107	1.1%	221	7,368
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	970	1,022	5.4%	52	299
512028	Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers	356	383	7.6%	27	149
512041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	103	92	-10.7%	-11	22
513011	Bakers	199	202	1.5%	3	112
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	234	222	-5.1%	-12	93
513022	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	586	611	4.3%	25	244
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	837	874	4.4%	37	348
513091	Food & Tobacco Roasting, Baking, & Drying Machinists	103	103	0.0%	0	40
513092	Food Batchmakers	153	155	1.3%	2	72
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Operators	407	408	0.2%	1	129
514033	Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, & Buffing Machine Setters	243	228	-6.2%	-15	106
514041	Machinists	1,037	1,123	8.3%	86	361
514072	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters,	253	247	-2.4%	-6	81
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,240	1,357	9.4%	117	342
514122	Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Setters, Op.	110	116	5.5%	6	30
515111	Prepress Technicians & Workers	41	32	-22.0%	-9	14
515112	Printing Press Operators	499	474	-5.0%	-25	177
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	161	130	-19.3%	-31	72
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	388	418	7.7%	30	261
516021	Pressers, Textile, Garment, & Related Materials	23	21	-8.7%	-2	10
516031	Sewing Machine Operators	209	186	-11.0%	-23	119
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	337	378	12.2%	41	134
517021	Furniture Finishers	37	42	13.5%	5	23
517041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	61	66	8.2%	5	22
518021	Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	164	172	4.9%	8	81
518031	Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant & System Op.	432	411	-4.9%	-21	118
519012	Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating Setters	206	202	-1.9%	-4	45
519021	Crushing, Grinding, & Polishing Machine Setters	81	81	0.0%	0	27
519023	Mixing & Blending Machine Setters & Operators	99	102	3.0%	3	34
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators	176	179	1.7%	3	79
519041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, & Compacting Setters	203	215	5.9%	12	57
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	967	910	-5.9%	-57	361
519071	Jewelers & Precious Stone & Metal Workers	33	31	-6.1%	-2	17
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	935	947	1.3%	12	388
519124	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Op.	494	520	5.3%	26	140
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	796	806	1.3%	10	274
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	239	227	-5.0%	-12	109
519199	Production Workers, All Other	273	293	7.3%	20	97

Source: Employment Outlook

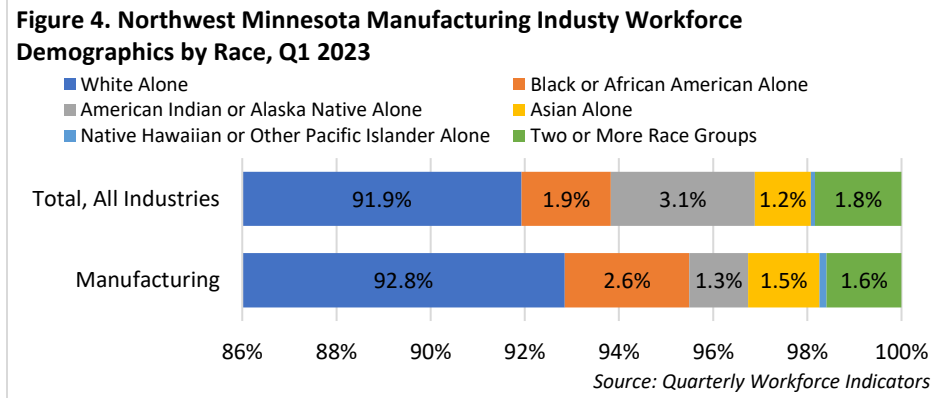
Workforce Demographics

Data from DEED’s Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program shows that the manufacturing workforce in the Northwest region is relatively non-diverse. In quarter 1 of 2023, nearly three-quarters (72.4%) of manufacturing workers are male, compared to 27.6% that are female (see Figure 3). In comparison, the workforce is much more evenly split between genders across the total of all industries, with about 52.7% of workers in the region being female, and the other 47.3% percent being male.

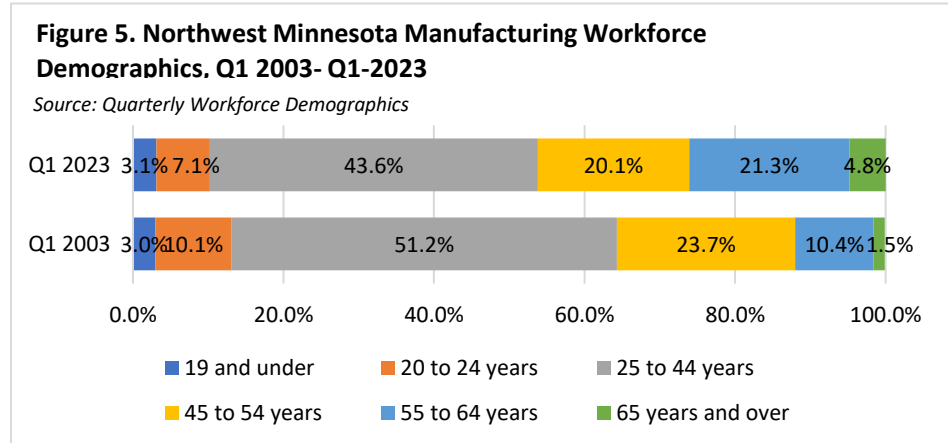
Additional demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) program show that the manufacturing workforce is also not very racially diverse. More than 92% of manufacturing workers in the region were white alone, while just 2.6% were Black or African American. In addition, 8.1% were Hispanic or Latino origin, making it the largest minority group of workers in the industry (see Figure 4).



Despite the low numbers, the manufacturing workforce is becoming more diverse. The number of white workers increased by 0.2% from quarter 1 of 2003 to quarter 1 of 2023, while every other racial group increased by more than 17%. Black or African Americans increased by over 300%, while Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders increased by 230%. The number of Hispanic or Latino workers in manufacturing jumped by 276%.



As the workforce in Northwest Minnesota ages, new graduates and other jobseekers will become increasingly important sources of workers, particularly for the manufacturing industry. The Manufacturing workforce is relatively old and continued to age over the past 20 years. QED data shows that in quarter 1 of 2023, 26.1% of workers were 55 years of age or older, more than double the share in 2003. In contrast, the share of workers under the age of 25 fell from 13.1% in 2003 to 10.2% in 2023. The share of workers aged 25 to 44 years old also dropped from 51.2% to 43.6% (see Figure 5).



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 in the future. For more information about Manufacturing in Northwest Minnesota, contact:

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

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