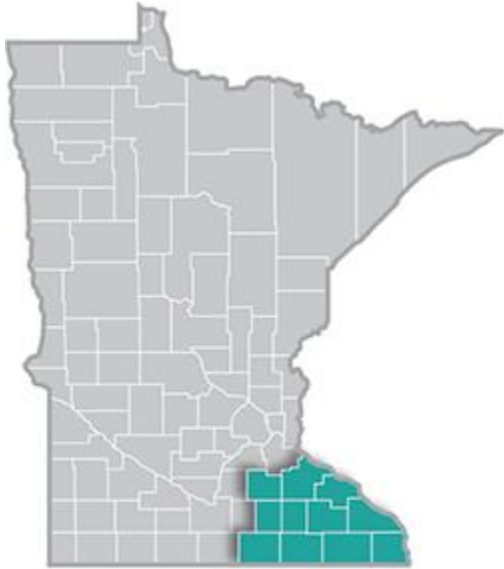


Southeast Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 11-county Southeast Minnesota region was home to 662 manufacturing establishments providing 36,380 jobs in 2023. At that level, manufacturing accounted for 14.9% of total employment in the region, making it the second largest industry in the region behind Health Care & Social Assistance (66,409 jobs) and well ahead of Retail Trade (26,347 jobs). Southeast has the third highest concentration of manufacturing employment of the 6 regions in the state, and accounted for 11.2% of total manufacturing employment in the state.

In sum, these manufacturers provided about \$2.63 billion payroll in 2023, making it the second largest industry in terms of payroll, behind health care and social assistance. Average annual wages in manufacturing were \$72,228 which was \$8,850 more than the total of all industries.

Table 1. Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs	Number of Firms	Total Payroll	Avg. Annual Wages
0	Total, All Industries	243,667	13,569	\$15,455,922,983	\$63,388
31	Manufacturing	36,380	662	\$2,627,236,225	\$72,228
311	Food Manufacturing	10,352	104	\$699,384,048	\$67,444
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,403	69	\$302,448,295	\$68,692
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	4,306	28	\$505,487,867	\$117,312
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,034	116	\$260,575,693	\$64,584
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	2,200	47	\$153,846,845	\$69,836
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,483	22	\$85,889,857	\$57,876
325	Chemical Manufacturing	1,431	26	\$128,433,948	\$89,700
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	1,408	45	\$86,144,796	\$61,152
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	1,375	59	\$72,395,661	\$52,624
331	Printing & Related Support Activities	1,156	43	\$60,687,019	\$52,468
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	590	26	\$30,615,714	\$51,896
314	Textile Product Mills	574	12	\$39,366,119	\$68,640
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	572	11	\$38,264,202	\$66,924
322	Paper Manufacturing	541	6	\$34,231,112	\$63,336
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	527	15	\$33,618,223	\$63,804
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component Mfg.	225	4	\$17,089,571	\$78,364
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	201	22	\$3,775,632	\$18,720
315	Apparel Manufacturing	143	4	\$5,825,868	\$40,976

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Food Manufacturing was easily the largest sector in Southeast Minnesota, with 10,352 jobs at 104 establishments, and almost \$700 million in payroll. The region had 21.9% of statewide employment in Food Manufacturing. The largest subsectors include Animal Slaughtering & Processing (5,139 jobs), Grain & Oilseed Milling (1,773 jobs), Dairy Product Manufacturing (1,264 jobs), and Fruit & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty Food Manufacturing (1,125 jobs).

The second largest sector in the region is Machinery Manufacturing, which had 4,406 jobs at 69 establishments in 2023, and was also more concentrated in Southeast Minnesota than the state. Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing (4,306 jobs) and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (4,034 jobs) are the third and fourth largest sectors. Combined, these four leading sectors provided nearly two-thirds (63.5%) of total manufacturing jobs in the region.

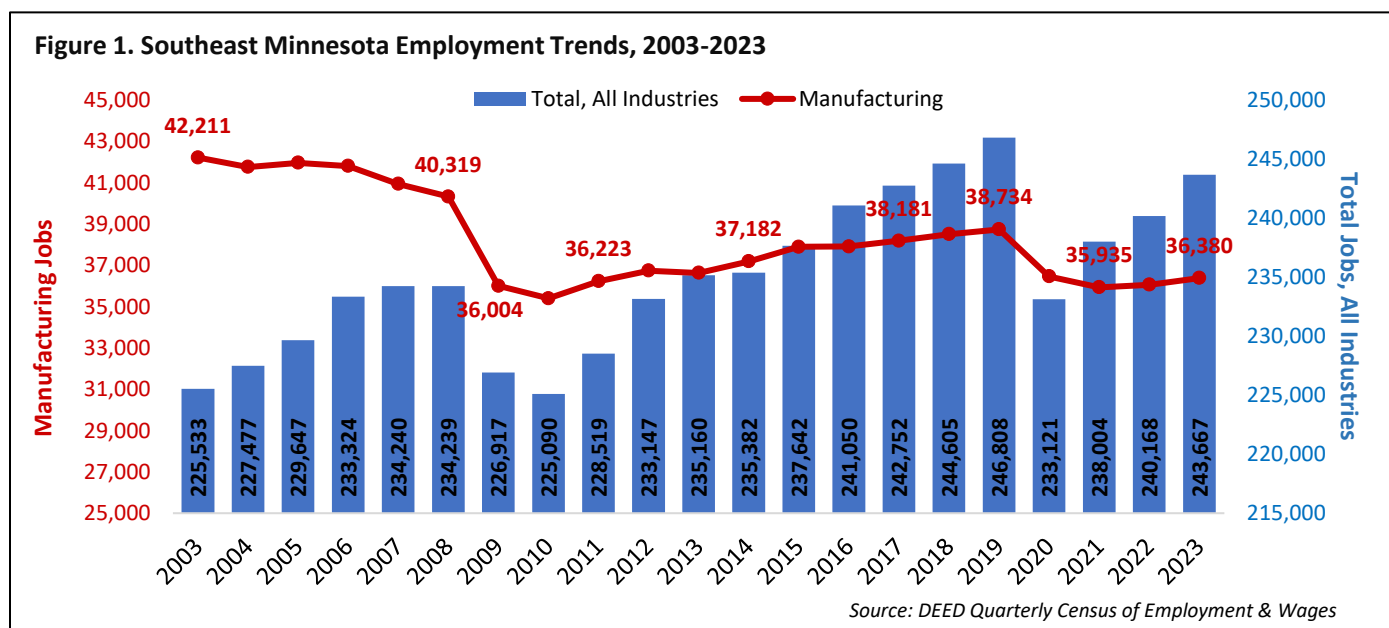
Southeast Minnesota also had large numbers of jobs in Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (2,200 jobs), Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing (1,483 jobs), Chemical Manufacturing (1,431 jobs), Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing (1,408 jobs), Miscellaneous Manufacturing (1,37 jobs), and Printing & Related Support Activities (1,156 jobs). These six sectors accounted for another 24.9% of total manufacturing employment in the region.

Southeast also had smaller but notable employment in Wood Product Manufacturing (590 jobs), Textile Product Mills (574 jobs), Primary Metal Manufacturing (572 jobs), Paper Manufacturing (541 jobs), Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (527 jobs), Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component Manufacturing (225 jobs), Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing (201 jobs), and Apparel Manufacturing (143 jobs).

Annual average wages in Manufacturing sat at \$72,228 in 2023, which was 13.9% higher than the average wage across all industries. These wages were led by high average annual wages in Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$117,312), Chemical Manufacturing (\$89,700), Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component Manufacturing (\$78,364), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (\$69,836), and Machinery Manufacturing (\$68,692).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Southeast Minnesota cut about 4,300 jobs during the 2009 recession, with the lowest number of manufacturing jobs (35,398) occurring in 2010. Since that time, manufacturing jobs in the Southeast region have gradually increased, though the pandemic led to a loss of 2,800 jobs between 2019 and 2021. Since 2021, the manufacturing industry has added 445 jobs, yet it has not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels (Figure 1).



The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing, which sliced 982 jobs 2013 to 2023, a 18.6% decline. The region also suffered large drops in Miscellaneous Manufacturing, which cut 685 jobs, and Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component Manufacturing, which cut 396 jobs since 2013. In sum, 6 subsectors had fewer jobs in 2023 than in 2013. Four of the six subsectors lost more than 18% of their employment while the remaining 2 subsectors lost 1% and 9.1% of their employment since 2013. In contrast, 9 subsectors saw employment growth since 2013, with the largest job gains occurring in Machinery Manufacturing, which added 865 jobs, and Printing and Related Support Activities, which gained 523 jobs. Southeast Minnesota also saw notable gains in Chemical Manufacturing, and Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing, each of which saw an increase of over 350 jobs.

Over the past year, 7 of the 18 manufacturing subsectors saw growth of jobs. (See Table 2). The largest gain of jobs was found in Food Manufacturing (449 jobs), Machinery Manufacturing (109 jobs), and Wood Product Manufacturing (107 jobs). The largest losses in jobs were found in Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing which cut 96 jobs, Miscellaneous Manufacturing with a cut of 95 jobs, and Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing with a loss of 67 jobs.

Table 2. Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, 2023

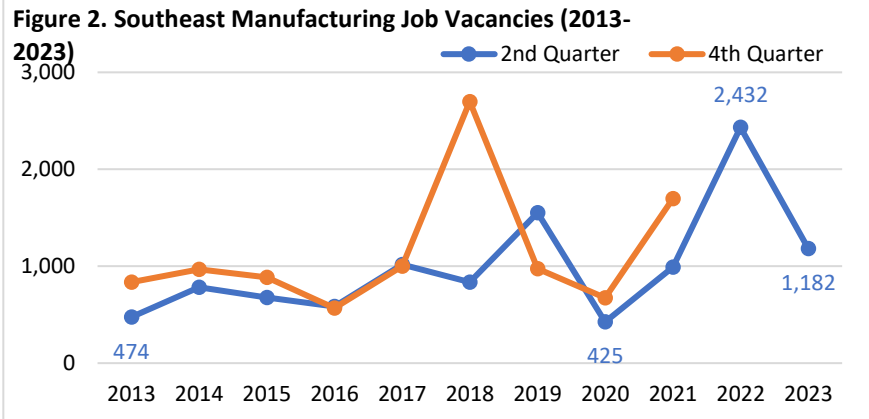
NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs, 2023	1-Year Trend 2022-2023		5-Year Trend 2018-2022		10-Year Trend 2013-2023	
			Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
0	Total, All Industries	243,667	+3,499	+1.5%	-938	-0.4%	+8,507	+3.6%
31	Manufacturing	36,380	+321	+0.9%	-2,119	-5.5%	-248	-0.7%
311	Food Manufacturing	10,352	+449	+4.5%	-242	-2.3%	+143	+1.4%
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,403	+109	+2.5%	+181	+4.3%	+865	+24.4%
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	4,306	-29	-0.7%	-498	-10.4%	-982	-18.6%
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,034	-52	-1.3%	-86	-2.1%	-40	-1.0%
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	2,200	-24	-1.1%	-517	-19.0%	+152	+7.4%
326	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,483	-67	-4.3%	+196	+15.2%	+369	+33.1%
325	Chemical Manufacturing	1,431	+38	+2.7%	+154	+12.1%	+439	+44.3%
337	Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing	1,408	-50	-3.4%	-42	-2.9%	+93	+7.1%
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	1,375	-95	-6.5%	-593	-30.1%	-685	-33.3%
331	Printing and Related Support Activities	1,156	-13	-1.1%	-200	-14.7%	+523	+82.6%
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	590	+107	+22.2%	-98	-14.2%	N/A	N/A
314	Textile Product Mills	574	-22	-3.7%	-75	-11.6%	-240	-29.5%
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	572	+101	+21.4%	+119	+26.3%	N/A	N/A
322	Paper Manufacturing	541	+33	+6.5%	+3	+0.6%	+148	+37.7%
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	527	-31	-5.6%	-95	-15.3%	-53	-9.1%
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component Mfg.	225	-96	-29.9%	-378	-62.7%	-396	-63.8%
312	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	201	+22	+12.3%	+47	+30.5%	+115	+133.7%
315	Apparel Manufacturing	143	-12	-7.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Industry Demand

Overall, the steady recovery in manufacturing employment in recent years has led to a rising number of [job vacancies](#) across the Southeast Minnesota region. The 2,699 job vacancies reported by manufacturing employers in the fourth quarter of 2018 was by far the record high and was 2.7 times higher than was seen in the fourth quarter of 2005. Most recent estimates however show that this number had dropped with 1,182 job vacancies in 2023 (Figure 2).

The median wage offer for these vacancies climbed to \$23.58 per hour in the second quarter of 2023, a little over \$6.50 than openings reported in the second quarter of 2022, a 39% increase. About 30% of the manufacturing vacancies required postsecondary education and 57% required at least a year of prior work experience, which was up slightly compared with the last couple of years. Just 5% of the posted manufacturing openings were part-time, as compared to 27% of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).



NAICS Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-Time	Percent Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Experience
Total, All Industries	13,711	\$18.22	27%	32%	36%
Manufacturing	1,182	\$23.58	5%	29%	57%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey

The largest number of manufacturing vacancies were production occupations, including food processing workers, assemblers and fabricators, metal and plastics workers, and other production occupations. The median wage offer for these positions was \$14.92 but ranged between \$14 and \$29 per hour. Manufacturers in Southeast Minnesota were also looking to hire sales and office, transportation and material moving, management, and installation, maintenance, and repair workers (see Table 4).

SOC Occupational Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-Time	Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Exp.
Total, All Industries	13,711	\$18.22	27%	32%	36%
Production Occupations	690	\$19.95	10%	10%	37%
Supervisors of Production Workers	40	\$24.73	0%	29%	88%
Assemblers & Fabricators	122	\$21.28	2%	3%	35%
Food Processing Workers	139	\$16.03	28%	0%	19%
Metal Workers & Plastic Workers	162	\$21.70	1%	11%	36%
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishings Workers	41	\$16.04	57%	11%	29%
Plant & System Operators	16	\$30.91	0%	81%	67%
Other Production Occupations	145	\$20.12	3%	11%	34%
Office & Administrative Support	548	\$18.66	18%	17%	46%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,108	\$20.14	15%	5%	40%
Architecture & Engineering	297	\$27.67	1%	58%	94%
Management	212	\$37.73	15%	89%	98%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	732	\$21.35	5%	32%	45%
Sales & Related	2,426	\$13.96	55%	12%	24%

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 22,500 people working in production occupations in Southeast Minnesota, accounting for about 9.4% of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$22.72 in 2024, but ranged from \$15.84 at the low end to \$48.25 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).

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Regional Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Wage
Total, All Occupations	240,340	\$24.26	2,881,100	\$25.22
Production Occupations	22,500	\$22.72	203,810	\$23.05
Office & Administrative Support	27,760	\$23.45	352,250	\$23.86
Transportation & Material Moving	19,080	\$22.01	225,820	\$22.86
Architecture & Engineering	3,540	\$40.43	58,320	\$42.97
Management	13,250	\$51.51	201,710	\$57.75
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	8,550	\$28.53	104,530	\$29.54
Sales & Related	18,280	\$17.36	242,440	\$18.82
Business & Financial Operations	9,740	\$37.97	202,700	\$39.26
Computer & Mathematical	5,270	\$50.87	98,240	\$50.83

Source: DEED Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

According to DEED’s Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics data, some of the most common production jobs at manufacturing firms in Southeast Minnesota include Maintenance and Repair Workers, First-Line Supervisors, Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders, and Welders, among others. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of \$15.84 for laundry and dry-cleaning workers to a high of \$48.25 per hour for power distributors and dispatchers. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be gained with a high school diploma and learned through on-the-job training, though some also benefit from vocational training or associate degrees (see Table 6).

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements
510000	Production Occupations	22,500	\$22.72	High School or Less
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	2,270	\$25.52	High School or Less
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,580	\$34.91	High School or Less
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	1,210	\$20.94	High School or Less
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,130	\$25.63	High School or Less
514041	Machinists	1,070	\$28.42	Vocational Training
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1,040	\$24.19	High School or Less
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	780	\$19.66	High School or Less
513092	Food Batchmakers	780	\$17.36	High School or Less
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	710	\$18.17	High School or Less
512028	Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers	700	\$22.25	High School or Less

513022	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	630	\$20.75	High School or Less
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Operators	630	\$23.60	High School or Less
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	630	\$29.72	Vocational Training
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	580	\$19.62	High School or Less
519124	Coating, Painting & Spraying Machine Operators	510	\$23.27	High School or Less
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Operators	390	\$19.30	High School or Less
513091	Food & Tobacco Roasting, Baking & Drying Machine Operators	350	\$28.96	High School or Less
515112	Printing Press Operators	350	\$22.86	High School or Less
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	350	\$22.93	Vocational Training
519199	Production Workers, All Other	330	\$22.71	High School or Less
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	310	\$15.84	High School or Less
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	280	\$24.31	High School or Less
519012	Separating, Filtering, & Still Machine Operators	270	\$27.72	High School or Less
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	260	\$23.15	High School or Less

Source: DEED Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics and 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 \$40 per hour in Southeast Minnesota, with median wages over \$60 per hour for engineering managers, but also require bachelor’s degrees at the minimum. Likewise, systems software developers and industrial production managers earn over \$49 per hour, and also 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. Southeast Minnesota Top 20 Office-Related Manufacturing Occupations (2024 Wage Data)

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements
414012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	100	\$36.71	High School or Equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	1,270	\$41.41	Bachelor's Degree
434051	Customer Service Representatives	3,620	\$22.31	High School or Equiv.
111021	General & Operations Managers	5,050	\$40.26	Bachelor's Degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	1,210	\$20.94	High School or Equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	430	\$49.49	Bachelor's Degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	390	\$41.73	High School or Equiv.
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,080	\$23.99	High School or Equiv.
439061	Office Clerks, General	4,110	\$22.28	High School or Equiv.
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	620	\$28.61	High School or Equiv.
436014	Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	2,500	\$23.62	High School or Equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	290	\$29.75	Associate's Degree
435081	Stockers & Order Fillers	3,660	\$18.20	High School or Equiv.
151252	Software Developers, Systems Software	1,960	\$62.88	Bachelor's Degree
132011	Accountants & Auditors	1,450	\$37.41	Bachelor's Degree
119041	Architectural & Engineering Managers	190	\$64.69	Bachelor's Degree
112022	Sales Managers	420	\$59.09	Bachelor's Degree

172071	Electrical Engineers	300	\$58.09	High School or Equiv.
431011	Supervisors of Office and Admin. Support Workers	18	\$35.10	High School or Equiv.

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

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2020 to 2030 Employment Outlook data, the Southeast Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to gain about 100 jobs over the next decade, a 0.3% increase. The state of Minnesota as a whole is projected to gain about 3,990 manufacturing jobs from 2020 to 2030, a 1.3% increase. The increase in Manufacturing is in tandem to overall growth of 5.1% across the total of all industries in Southeast Minnesota.

Ten of the 19 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, which is expected to lose 454 jobs from 2020 to 2030. Printing and Related Support Activities, Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing, and Textile Product Manufacturing are also projected to lose a combined 300 jobs.

In contrast, 9 of the 20 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by an increase of 136 Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing jobs and a strong resurgence in Chemical Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 127 net new jobs, a 9.8% expansion. The region may also see job growth in Miscellaneous Manufacturing, Machinery Manufacturing, and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing. Smaller jobs gains are projected in sectors like Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing, Wood Product Manufacturing, Primary Metal Manufacturing, and Electrical Equipment and Appliances (see Table 8).

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change 2020-2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030
0	Total, All Industries	261,589	274,824	5.1%	13,235
31	Manufacturing	36,536	36,636	0.3%	100
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	150	172	14.7%	22
313	Textile Mills	49	43	-12.2%	-6
314	Textile Product Mills	565	490	-13.3%	-75
315	Apparel Manufacturing	78	66	-15.4%	-12
316	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	768	692	-9.9%	-76
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	696	716	2.9%	20
322	Paper Manufacturing	488	430	-11.9%	-58
323	Printing and Related Support Activities	1,005	825	-17.9%	-180
325	Chemical Manufacturing	1,295	1,422	9.8%	127
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,278	1,214	-5.0%	-64
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg	2,579	2,715	5.3%	136
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	409	421	2.9%	12
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,912	4,019	2.7%	107
333	Machinery Manufacturing	4,353	4,477	2.8%	124
334	Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	4,791	4,337	-9.5%	-454
335	Electrical Equipment and Appliances	437	445	1.8%	8
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	542	538	-0.7%	-4
337	Furniture and Related Product Mfg	1,403	1,397	-0.4%	-6
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	1,403	1,529	9.0%	126

Source: Employment Outlook

Occupational Outlook

With the increase in Southeast Minnesota manufacturing employment, the number of production occupations is expected to increase slightly, leading to a projected 0.3% job increase from 2020 to 2030. In addition, the region is still 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 or changes careers. There may be almost 26,902 total openings for production occupations in the region, primarily from replacement openings.

Overall, 24 of the 44 production occupations in the region are expected to see new job growth from 2020 to 2030, led by Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers, First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers, and Packaging and Filling Machine Operators, which are all projected to add more than 250 new jobs combined. Slaughterers and Meat Packers, Electrical Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, and Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters, and Trimmers are also projected to have modest employment growth in the next decade.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers and Weighers, Printing Press Operators, Helpers—Production Workers, Sewing Machine Operators, and Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, and Operators, which between 6.5% and 10.2% of their employment.

Regardless of growth or decline, every occupation is expected to at least have some labor force exit openings from 2020 to 2030. The largest number of labor force exit openings are projected for Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders, Slaughterers and Meat Packers, and Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers each of which is anticipated to see over 600 labor force exit openings (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 25 Southeast Minnesota Production Occupation Projections, 2020-2030

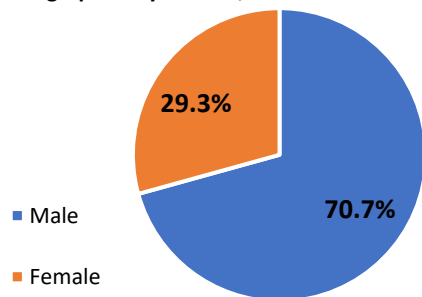
SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2020	Projected Employment 2030	Percent Change	Total Change	Labor Force Exit Openings
0	Total, All Occupations	261,589	274,824	5.1%	13,235	116,573
510000	Production Occupations	24,611	24,673	0.3%	62	9,269
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,612	1,700	5.5%	88	498
512028	Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers	772	828	7.3%	56	322
512041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	27	24	-11.1%	-3	6
513011	Bakers	186	188	1.1%	2	104
513021	Butchers and Meat Cutters	394	390	-1.0%	-4	160
513022	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters & Trimmers	1,475	1,529	3.7%	54	611
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	1,519	1,576	3.8%	57	630
513091	Food & Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Operators	108	106	-1.9%	-2	42
513092	Food Batchmakers	521	536	2.9%	15	246
514021	Extruding & Drawing Machine Setters, Operators,	198	192	-3.0%	-6	68
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Operators	513	498	-2.9%	-15	160
514033	Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, & Buffing Machine	56	55	-1.8%	-1	25
514041	Machinists	904	944	4.4%	40	309
514051	Metal-Refining Furnace Operators & Tenders	124	132	6.5%	8	28
514072	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters,	271	260	-4.1%	-11	86
514081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, & Tenders	315	334	6.0%	19	106
514111	Tool & Die Makers	183	180	-1.6%	-3	67
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,142	1,233	8.0%	91	312
514122	Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, O	161	158	-1.9%	-3	42

514193	Plating Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders,	149	142	-4.7%	-7	47
515111	Prepress Technicians and Workers	170	163	-4.1%	-7	63
515112	Printing Press Operators	404	372	-7.9%	-32	141
516011	Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	212	224	5.7%	12	141
516031	Sewing Machine Operators	338	316	-6.5%	-22	198
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	243	254	4.5%	11	93
517041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	53	55	3.8%	2	19
518013	Power Plant Operators	113	111	-1.8%	-2	29
518021	Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	201	209	4.0%	8	99
518031	Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant & System Op.	228	225	-1.3%	-3	64
519011	Chemical Equipment Operators & Tenders	109	113	3.7%	4	24
519012	Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating Setters	58	56	-3.4%	-2	13
519023	Mixing & Blending Machine Setters, Operators	154	159	3.2%	5	53
519041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, & Compacting Machine Setters	241	252	4.6%	11	68
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1,257	1,129	-10.2%	-128	458
519071	Jewelers & Precious Stone & Metal Workers	25	25	0.0%	0	13
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	1,630	1,709	4.8%	79	689
519124	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters	426	449	5.4%	23	121
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	300	295	-1.7%	-5	102
519162	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	29	36	24.1%	7	11
519192	Cleaning, Washing, & Metal Pickling Equipment Op	54	56	3.7%	2	19
519193	Cooling & Freezing Equipment Operators and Tenders	264	271	2.7%	7	92
519195	Molders, Shapers, & Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	110	151	37.3%	41	47
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	346	323	-6.6%	-23	157
519199	Production Workers, All Other	600	645	7.5%	45	213

Source: Employment Outlook

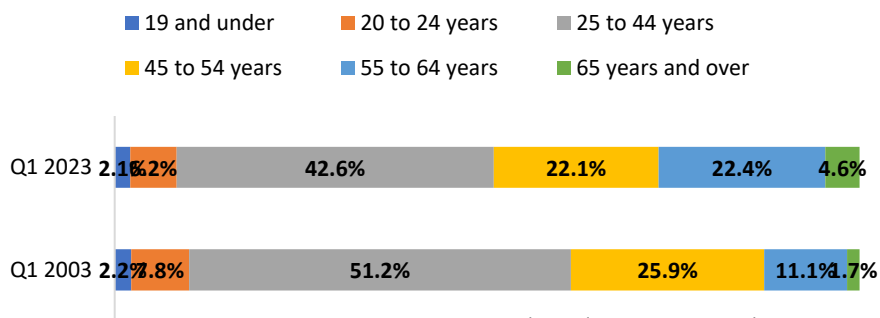
New graduates and other jobseekers will be important in filling the workforce pipeline in the manufacturing industry, which relies on a relatively old workforce. In quarter 1 of 2023, over one-fourth (27%) of workers in the industry were 55 years or older, up from just 12.8% of the workforce back in quarter 1 of 2003.

Figure 4. Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Workforce Demographics by Gender, Q1 2023



Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics

Figure 3. Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Workforce Demographics, 2003-2023



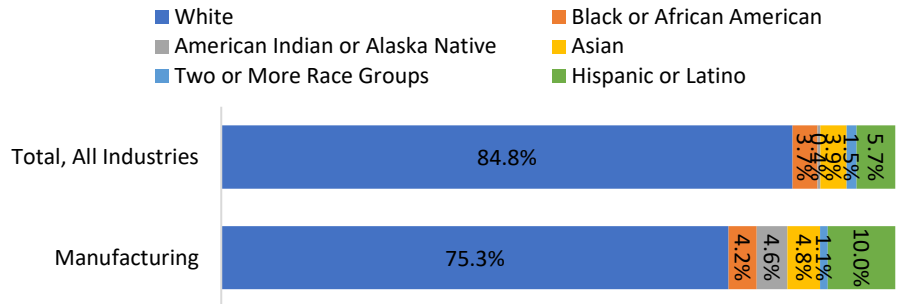
Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics

In contrast, 8.3% of workers in the industry were under 25 years of age, down from 10.7% in 2003. Likewise, the percent of workers from 25 to 44 years of age dropped from 51.2% of the total in quarter 1 of 2003 to just 42.6% in quarter 1 of 2023 (see Figure 3). Further demographic data from DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics program indicates that the manufacturing industry has limited gender diversity, with males comprising 70.7% of its workforce (Figure 4).

In terms of racial diversity, however, the manufacturing sector is comparatively more diverse, with 75.3% of its workers identifying as white, which is less than the 84.8% in all industries. Additionally, the manufacturing industry has higher representations of Black or African American (4.2% vs. 3.7%), American Indian or Alaska Native (4.6% vs. 0.4%), Asian (4.8% vs. 3.9%), and Hispanic or Latino (10.0% vs. 5.7%) workers than all industries (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.

Figure 5. Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Workforce Demographics by Race & Origin, Q1 2023



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

For more information about Manufacturing in Southeast Minnesota, contact:

Amanda O’Connell | Southeast Minnesota Regional Analyst

320-441-6571 | amanda.oconnell@state.mn.us

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

published: June 2024