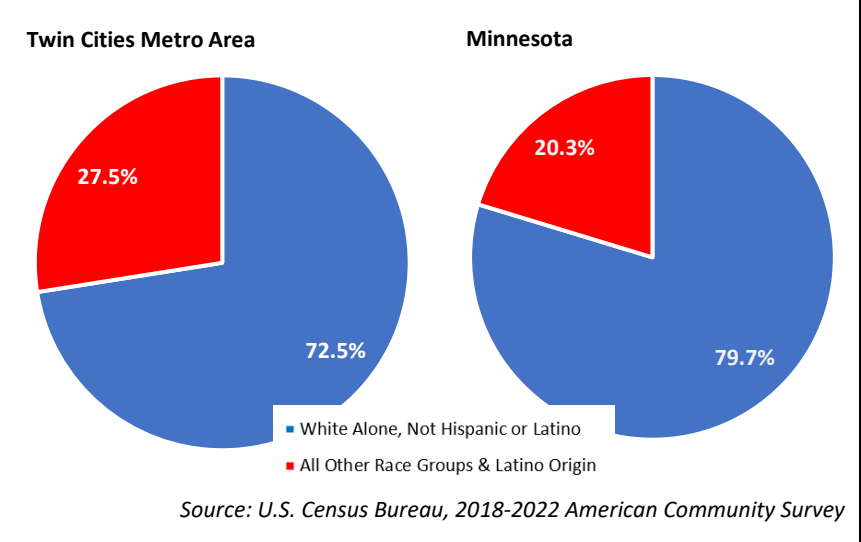


## Twin Cities Metro Regional Disparities by Race and Origin

The Twin Cities metro area’s population is the most racially diverse in the state, and is becoming more diverse over time. Through 2022, 72.5% of the region’s population reported being white alone, and not of Hispanic or Latino origin; while the other 27.5% of the population reported a different race – such as Black or African American, American Indian, Asian, Some Other Race, or Two or More Races – or Hispanic or Latino origin. That was about 7% higher than the population statewide, where 20.3% of residents reported a race or origin other than White alone (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Population by Race and Origin, 2022**



The 7-county Twin Cities metro area was home to about 3,150,000 people in 2022, an increase of about 315,000 residents since 2011. The region saw an increase of about 9,000 white residents from 2011 to 2022, accounting for only 2.8% of the recent population growth. In contrast, the region experienced much faster population growth from people of other races and origins, other than American Indian & Alaskan Natives.

With nearly 316,500 people, Black or African Americans comprised the next largest race group in the region, accounting for 10.1% of the total population. After gaining 86,734 new residents from 2011 to 2022, over 82.9% of the state’s Black or African American population resides in the Twin Cities (see Table 1).

Table 1. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Twin Cities Metro Area				Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2011-2022		Percent	Change from 2011-2022
			Numeric	Percent		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,148,367</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+315,217</b>	<b>+11.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+7.9%</b>
White	2,283,001	72.5%	+8,949	+0.4%	79.7%	-0.4%
Black or African American	316,468	10.1%	+86,734	+37.8%	6.7%	+44.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	15,906	0.5%	-3,163	-16.6%	0.9%	-10.2%
Asian & Other Pac. Islander	246,972	7.8%	+67,313	+37.5%	5.1%	+37.1%
Some Other Race	91,227	2.9%	+39,446	+76.2%	2.3%	+84.7%
Two or More Races	194,793	6.2%	+115,938	+147.0%	5.3%	+159.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	210,024	6.7%	+47,809	+29.5%	5.7%	+34.6%

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

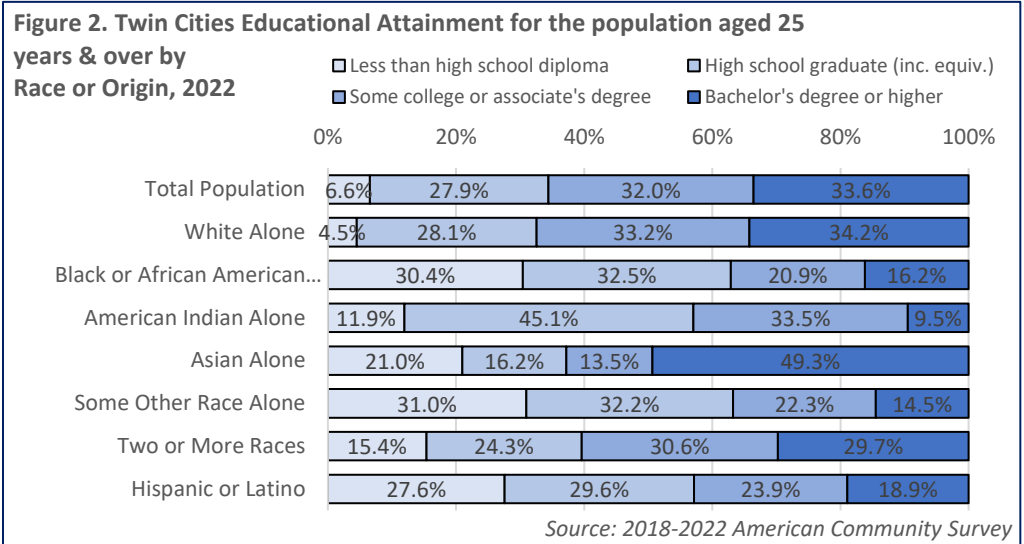
The next largest race group in the region was Asian and Other Pacific Islanders, with just under 250,000 residents, which was 85.6% of the total Asian population in the state. The region welcomed a 37.5% increase from 2011 to 2022, a gain of 67,313 net new residents. Likewise, people reporting Hispanic or Latino origin increased 29.5% in the Twin Cities since 2011, and now account for just over 210,000 people. That was 64.2% of the state’s total Hispanic or Latino population.

The Twin Cities has about 194,800 people of Two or More Races, after increasing by 115,938 residents since 2011. People of Some Other Race accounted for 2.9% of the region’s population, with 91,227 residents. Finally, the smallest race group in the region was American Indian & Alaska Natives, with just under 16,000 people, after declining by 3,163 people since 2011. The Twin Cities has just 30.9% of the state’s total American Indian population.

## Employment Characteristics

Comparing the economic status of people of other races with the region’s white residents reveals many disparities including educational attainment, labor force participation, unemployment, and income and poverty levels. Closing these gaps is crucial to keep the region’s economy moving forward.

People of other races exhibited lower educational attainment than their white counterparts, with a much higher percentage of people with less than a high school diploma. Over a quarter of Black adults, Hispanic or Latino residents, and people of Some Other Race did not graduate from high school. In contrast, Asian residents had the highest percentage of bachelor’s degrees or higher.



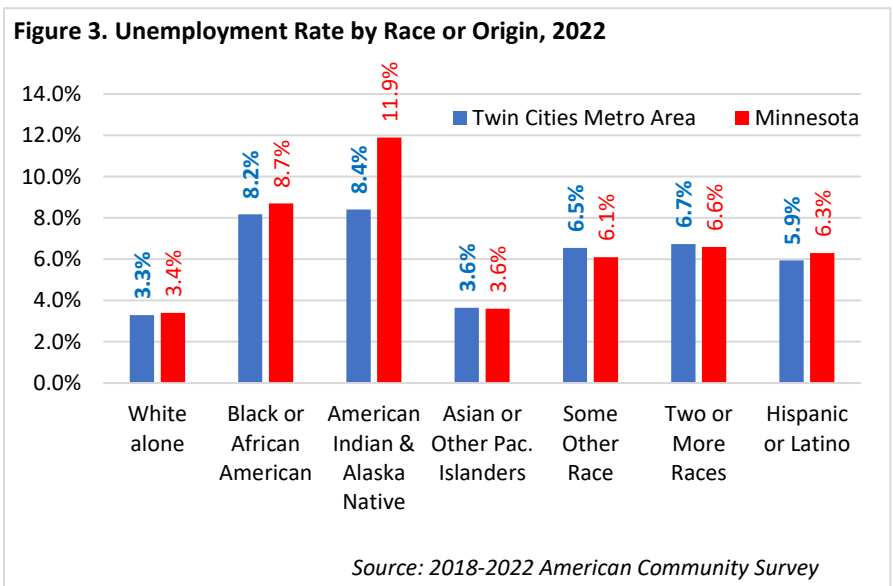
At 71%, labor force participation rates are higher in the Twin Cities than the state as a whole. People of Hispanic or Latino had the highest labor force participation rate in the region at 77.9%, and workers of Some Other Race also participated at a much higher rate than whites. American Indian workers had much lower participation rates (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Employment Characteristics by Race or Origin, 2022**

	Twin Cities Metro			Minnesota	
	In Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	1,778,729	71.0%	4.0%	68.7%	4.0%
White alone	1,335,828	70.2%	3.3%	67.8%	3.4%
Black or African American	160,952	72.2%	8.2%	71.5%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	7,538	60.0%	8.4%	57.6%	11.9%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	138,158	74.4%	3.6%	73.9%	3.6%
Some Other Race	50,174	76.6%	6.5%	76.1%	6.1%
Two or More Races	86,493	76.1%	6.7%	74.3%	6.6%
Hispanic or Latino	111,508	77.9%	5.9%	77.0%	6.3%

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

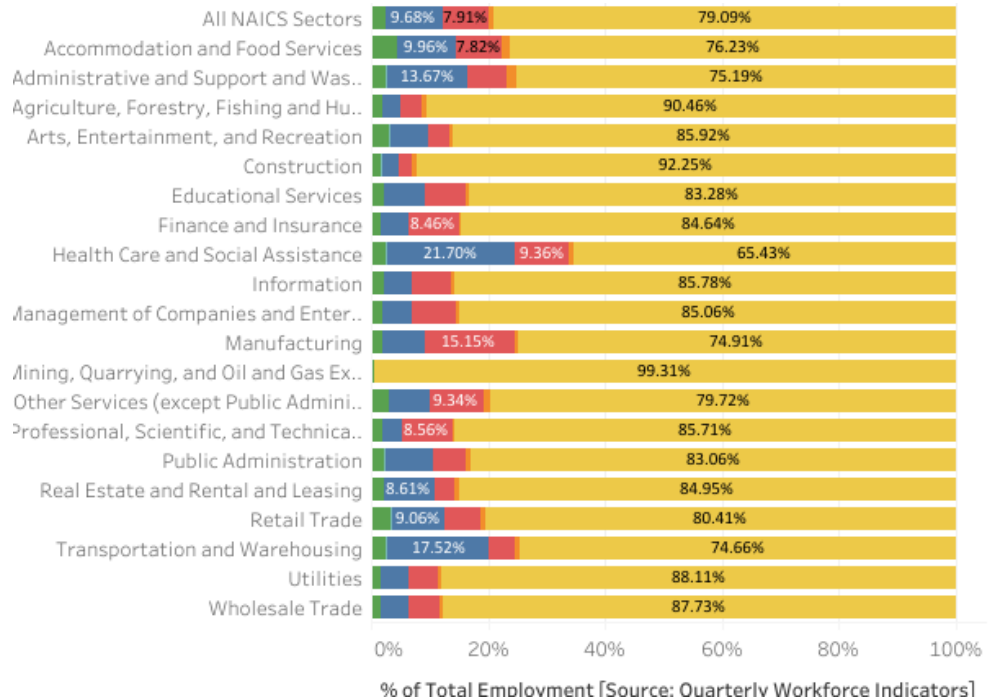
Despite the considerable job growth for workers of other races and origins over time, unemployment rate disparities continue to exist in the Twin Cities. Every race group had a higher unemployment rate than for whites, which was just 3.3% in 2022. At 8.4%, American Indians & Alaska Natives had the highest unemployment rate in the region, which was about 5 percentage points higher than whites. Likewise, rates were significantly higher for Black or African American and workers of Two or More Races or Some Other Race. Unemployment rates were around 6% for workers of Hispanic or Latino origin, and just 3.6% for Asian workers (see Figure 3).



## Employment Diversity

While people of different races make up 27.5% of the overall population, they held 20.9% of total jobs in the Twin Cities metro, according to data from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators program. In the second quarter of 2023, that equaled 371,247 jobs held by workers of other races, compared to 1,404,527 white workers (see Figure 4). While still a minor portion, workers of other races held 11.3% of total jobs in the region in 2002, meaning their employment presence nearly doubled from 2002 to 2023.

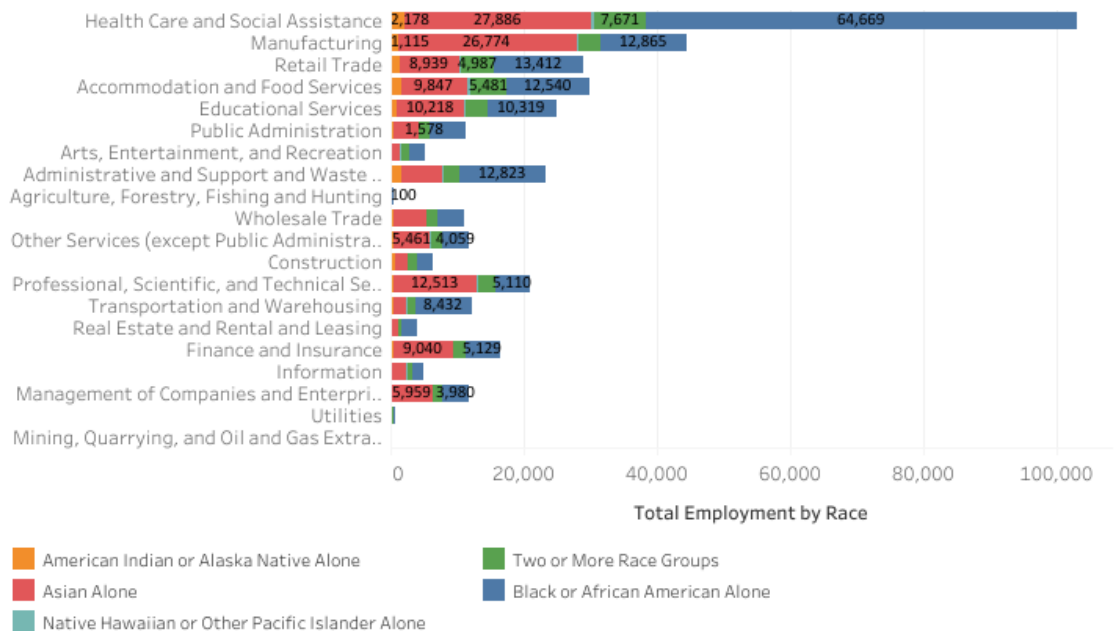
**Figure 4. Twin Cities Minnesota Employment by Race – All Industries, Q2 2023**



In sum, workers of other races have filled an additional 194,545 jobs in the region since 2002, accounting for 92.7% of the 209,825 new jobs added. With 171,910 jobs, Black or African Americans were the largest race group in the regional economy, after gaining 88,742 jobs since 2002, an 106.7% increase. The next largest group was Asian and Other Pacific Islanders, who held 140,420 jobs in 2023 after rising 118.3% from 2002. Workers of Hispanic or Latino origin filled 108,495 jobs in the region, up by 60,155 jobs since 2002.

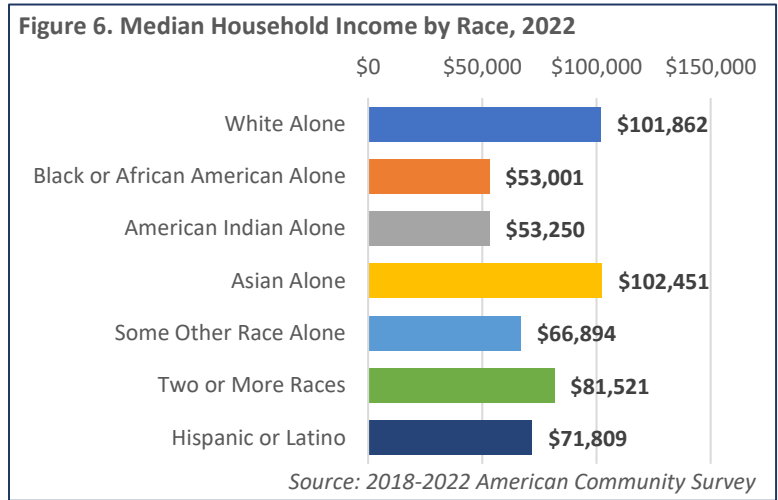
Several sectors in the Twin Cities are racially diverse, but there are a couple industries that rely more heavily on workers of other races than others. The largest number of workers of other races were employed in Health Care & Social Assistance, which had 34.6% of jobs held by workers of other races. Similarly, Manufacturing, Accommodation & Food Services, Retail Trade, and Administrative Support & Waste Management Services (which includes temp help) also had racially diverse workforces (see Figure 5). More than 16,000 Hispanic or Latino workers were employed in Accommodation & Food Services.

**Figure 5. Twin Cities Minnesota Employment by Other Races by Industry, 2023 Q2**

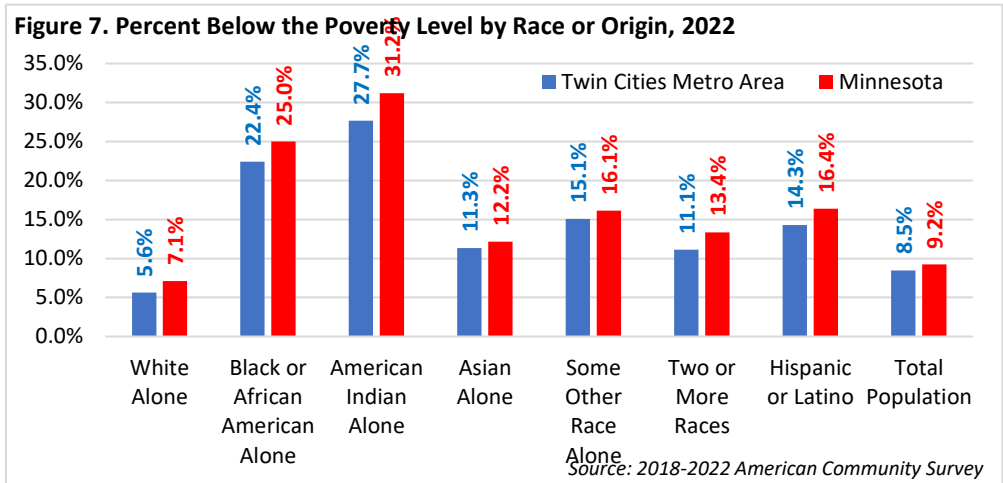


## Economic Disparities

Racial disparities exist in employment characteristics but they also are found in economic outcomes as measured by household income and poverty levels. The region’s median household income was \$94,934 in 2022, but varied by race groups. The median household income for both Black and American Indian households was around \$53,000, nearly \$50,000 less than for white households. Incomes were also relatively low for households of Some Other Race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Incomes in the Twin Cities were highest and most similar for whites and Asian households (see Figure 6).



Another measure of economic outcome is the percent of the population below the poverty level, and again there exists disparities between whites and people of other races in the Twin Cities. Overall, the region’s poverty rate was 8.5%, which was just below the statewide rate. However, in 2022 it was estimated that 22.4% of the region’s Black or African American population was below



the poverty level, compared to just 5.6% of the white population. Likewise, poverty levels hovered above 27% for American Indians and 15% for people of Some Other Race in the region. In almost all cases, the region’s poverty rate was slightly lower than the state’s poverty rate (see Figure 7).

These racial disparities exist and persist for a wide variety of reasons, but the economic challenges and opportunities the region will face over the next 15 years are so great that they will need to be tackled with a multi-pronged approach to attracting, retaining, and training workers of all demographic characteristics. Working on solutions to address these disparities between the white population and populations of other races is not only the right thing to do, it's the necessary thing to do if the region is going to provide employers with the workforce needed for success.



For more information about economic disparities by race in the Twin Cities metro, contact:

**DEED Regional Analysis & Outreach Unit**

**Tim O’Neill**

Twin Cities Regional Analyst

DEED Headquarters, St. Paul

Office: 651-259-7401

Email: [timothy.oneill@state.mn.us](mailto:timothy.oneill@state.mn.us)