EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Review ONLINE

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Minnesota Employment Review

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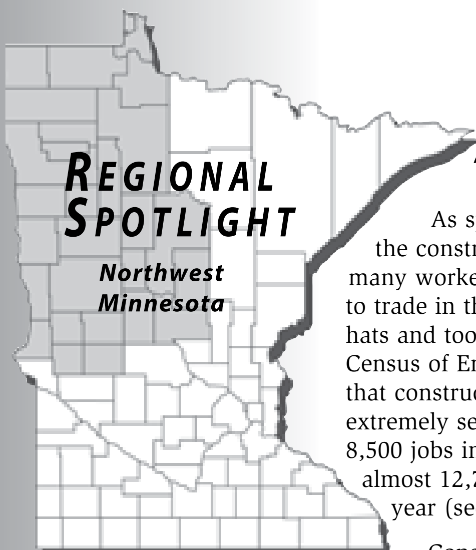


Building an Economy

'Tis the Season

As spring blooms in Minnesota, so does the construction industry across the state – and many workers in Northwest Minnesota are ready to trade in their winter hats and boots for hard hats and tool belts. Data from DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages program show that construction hiring in Northwest Minnesota is extremely seasonal, fluctuating between a low of 8,500 jobs in the first quarter to a recent peak of almost 12,700 jobs in the third quarter of the past year (see Chart 1).

Construction employment in the region regularly jumps by well over 4,000 jobs from the first quarter to the third quarter each year. These additional temporary and seasonal jobs are a positive boost, but the steady climb of first quarter employment year-over-year is also encouraging. Given the seasonal aspects of construction work, first quarter jobs are a good indicator of full-time, year-round employment. As shown in Chart 1, first quarter (January – March) construction employment increased every year from 2011 to 2016 – expanding 19.3 percent during that time – a strong sign that employers are staying busy and needing to keep a larger permanent workforce year-round.

Total wages paid by the construction industry in Northwest Minnesota also increased in the first quarter each year from 2011 to 2016 (see Chart 2). The difference in first quarter activity from 2015 to 2016 is exceptional, as Northwest Minnesota had 356 more construction jobs in the first quarter of 2016, and employers paid over $9 million more in wages.

Ebbs and Flows

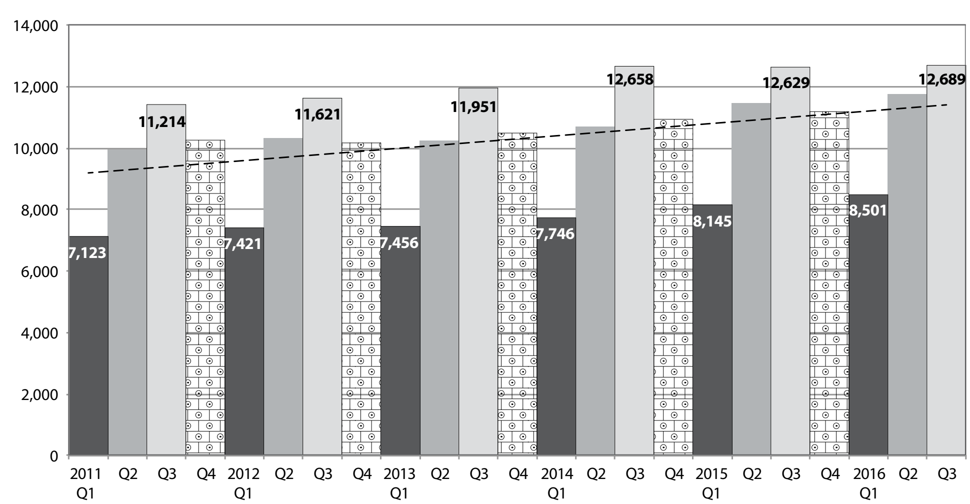
In addition to the seasonal ups and downs, the region's construction employers have also weathered some serious annual ebbs and flows over the past 15 years. Payrolls built up quickly

Feature:

County Snapshots:
Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami

In this issue:

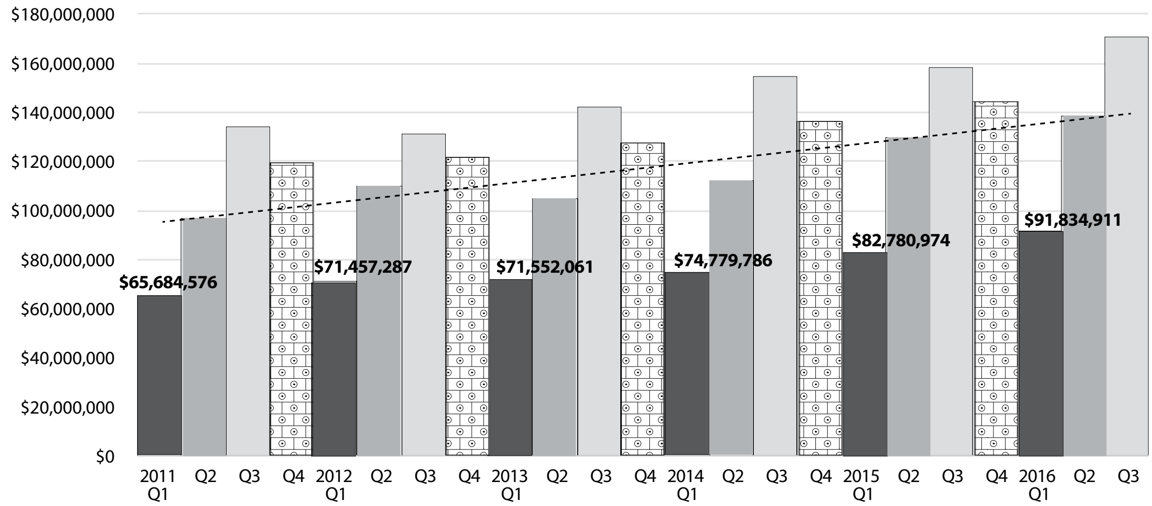
Chart 1. Quarterly Construction Employment
Northwest Minnesota, Q1 2011 - Q3 2016



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Regional Spotlight NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

Chart 2. Quarterly Construction Payroll
Northwest Minnesota, 2011-2016

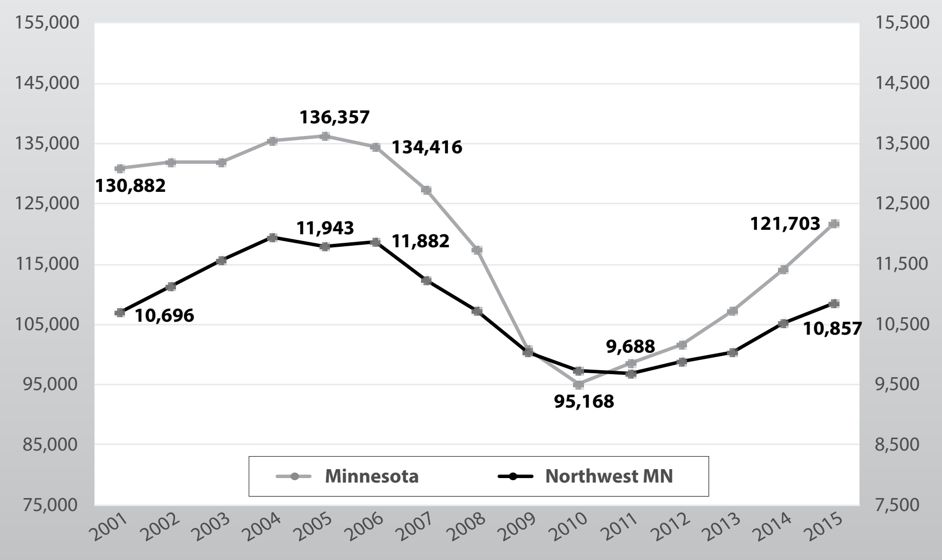


Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

from 2001 to 2004 as the regional building market was red hot, then started to decline with the housing bubble that burst in 2006. From 2006 to 2011 the construction industry in Northwest Minnesota shed nearly 2,200 jobs, which accounted for over one-third of the total job losses across all industries in the region during that time.

The region's construction employers cut nearly 18.5 percent of their jobs from 2006 to 2011, although that was less severe than statewide, where construction employment dropped 26.6 percent during the Great Recession. Fortunately, recent trends show that the construction industry appears to have stabilized in Northwest Minnesota, with steady year-over-year gains reported from 2011 to 2015. Interestingly, the 10,857 jobs posted in 2015 was nearly identical to the number of jobs recorded in 2001 before the housing bubble build-up (see Chart 3).

Chart 3. Construction Industry Employment Trends
2001-2015



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Site Work

The recent job growth and stabilization in the construction industry is a welcome sign, as it was one of the last major industries in Northwest Minnesota to recover from the Great Recession. However, the industry has changed compared to its pre-recession composition. Among the three major subsectors of construction, specialty trade contractors employ the most workers and lost the most during the recession. These contractors lost over 1,300 jobs through 2010, but over half of those losses have since returned (see Chart 4).

In contrast, the heavy and civil engineering construction subsector has over 150 more jobs now than before the recession. The industry was buoyed by highway infrastructure projects like roads and bridges and therefore did not experience the same losses that contractors and builders did from 2006 to 2010. The region's strength in heavy and civil engineering construction helped keep the industry afloat until the other subsectors were able to rebound and undoubtedly softened the economic blow for many living in the area. However, it has not contributed significantly to the construction industry's recovery since 2011, gaining just 40 jobs since then.

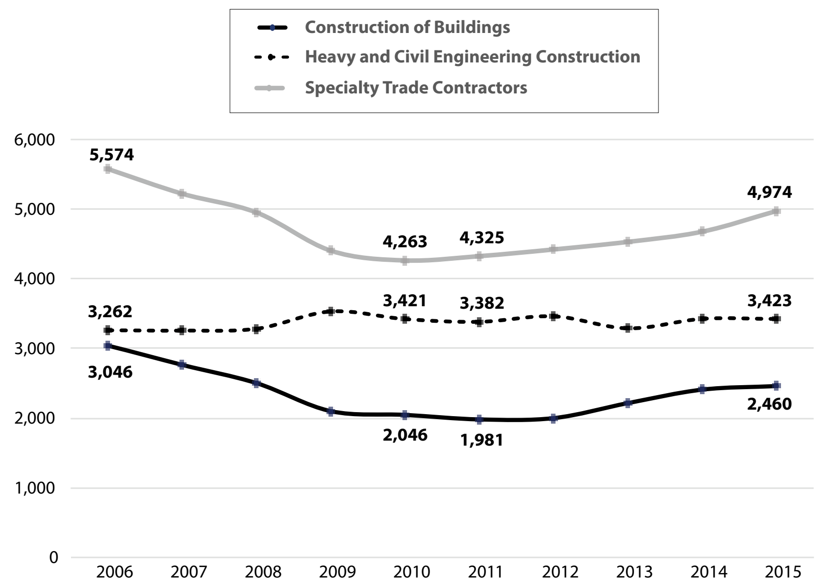
As shown in Chart 4, the number of jobs in heavy construction and civil engineering was similar to the number of jobs in construction of buildings prior to the recession, but now outnumbers those in building construction by nearly 1,000 jobs. The construction of buildings subsector has seen much greater growth since 2011, adding almost 500 net new jobs, but it is still nearly 600 jobs shy of the number posted in 2006.

The number of new construction firms – both employers and self-employed workers – starting up in Northwest Minnesota has decreased since 2011. Instead, a closer look at the employment data indicate that most recent job gains have come from business expansions, where existing firms in the region have been keeping and adding workers from one quarter to the next.

Building a Future

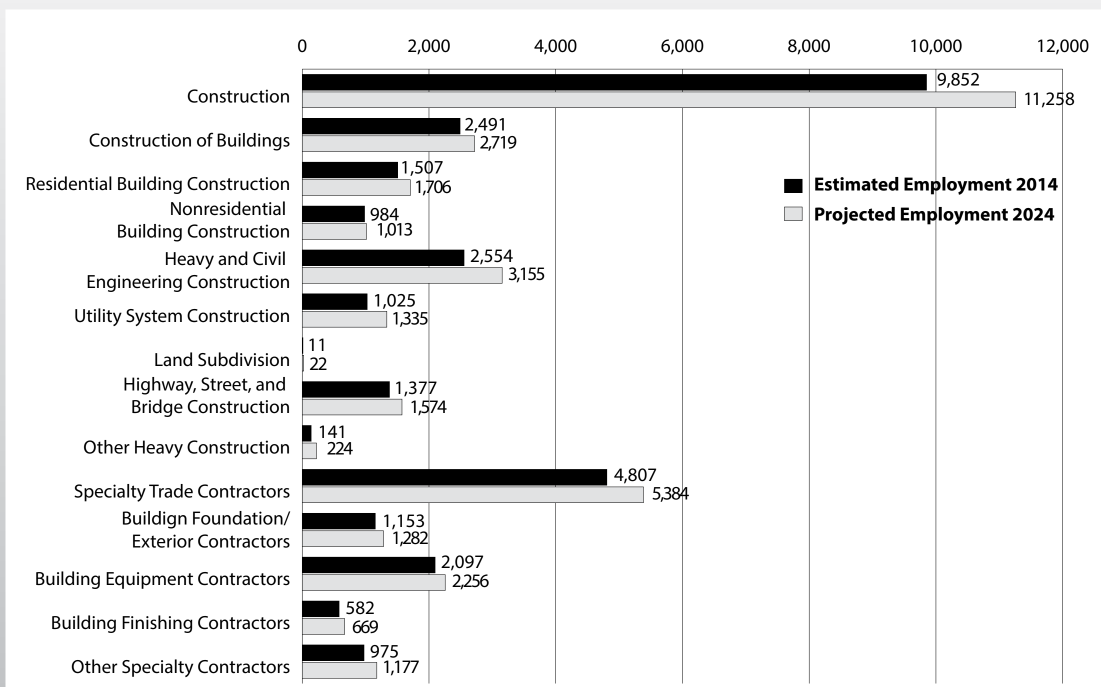
With an annual average of about 10,800 jobs at about 2,100 establishments in 2015, construction was the eighth largest employing industry in Northwest Minnesota, but also had the second largest number of establishments, behind only retail trade. Most construction employers are small businesses, averaging about five employees per establishment, compared to about 13 employees per business across all industries in the region.

Chart 4. Construction Employment by 3-digit NAICS codes
Northwest Minnesota, 2006-2015



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Chart 5. Northwest Minnesota Construction Industry Employment
2014 - 2024



Source: DEED 2014-2024 Employment Outlook

In addition, the region was home to 6,130 self-employed construction workers according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Nonemployer Statistics program. These nonemployers reported sales of nearly $360 million in 2014. However, like covered employment, the number of self-employed construction workers in the region also declined over the past decade, falling from 7,349 nonemployers in 2004.

Despite that, the region's recent economic recovery has led to positive projections for the construction industry in the future. Construction is projected to be both the third fastest and third largest growing sector in Northwest Minnesota over the next decade, with only health care and social assistance ranking ahead of it in both categories of growth. If these projections remain accurate, the construction industry may add just over 1,400 new jobs by 2024, a 14 percent growth rate that is more than three times faster than the regional projected growth rate across all industries.

The job gains are expected to be spread across the various construction subsectors, with the biggest expansion occurring in heavy and civil engineering construction, followed by specialty trade contractors, and the smallest gain logged in construction of buildings (see Chart 5).

Although the work will remain seasonal, projected growth should lead to steady demand for new construction workers in the next 10 years. According to DEED's Employment Outlook tool, all but one construction occupation is expected to see new job growth in the region during the decade, including six occupations that are projected to grow more than 10 percent (see Table 1).

While it has not added back all the jobs it lost during the recession, the construction industry has been rebuilt in Northwest Minnesota. Projections indicate the industry will continue to grow in a positive direction in the future. For current and prospective construction workers, the outlook is good. Seasonal employment is still high, but permanent jobs appear to be more available now as well.

Table 1. Employment Projections for Construction Occupations in Northwest Minnesota

SOC Code	Occupation	Estimated Employment 2014	Projected Employment 2024	Percent Change 2014-2024	Numeric Change 2014-2024	Replacement Openings 2014-2024	Total Openings 2014-2024
0	**Total, All Occupations**	**259,813**	**269,061**	**3.5%**	**9,248**	**61,000**	**74,670**
470000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	12,393	13,564	9.4%	1,171	1,940	3,110
471011	First-line Supervisors of Construction Workers	642	689	7.3%	47	50	90
472031	Carpenters	2,967	3,204	7.9%	237	340	570
472051	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	538	604	12.2%	66	60	130
472061	Construction Laborers	1,840	2,067	12.3%	227	360	590
472071	Paving, Surface and Tamping Equip. Operators	154	180	16.8%	26	30	60
472073	Operating Engineers and Equipment Operators	1,111	1,253	12.7%	142	180	320
472111	Electricians	1,029	1,108	7.6%	79	150	230
472151	Pipelayers	47	51	8.5%	4	0	10
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	732	773	5.6%	41	90	130
472181	Roofers	117	127	8.5%	10	10	20
472211	Sheet Metal Workers	223	218	-2.2%	-5	40	40
474011	Construction and Building Inspectors	128	138	7.8%	10	30	40
474051	Highway Maintenance Workers	939	978	4.1%	39	250	280
474071	Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	49	59	20.4%	10	10	20
475000	Extraction Workers, All Other	69	86	24.6%	17	10	30

Source: DEED Employment Outlook tool

by Chet Bodin and Cameron Macht
Department of Employment and Economic Development

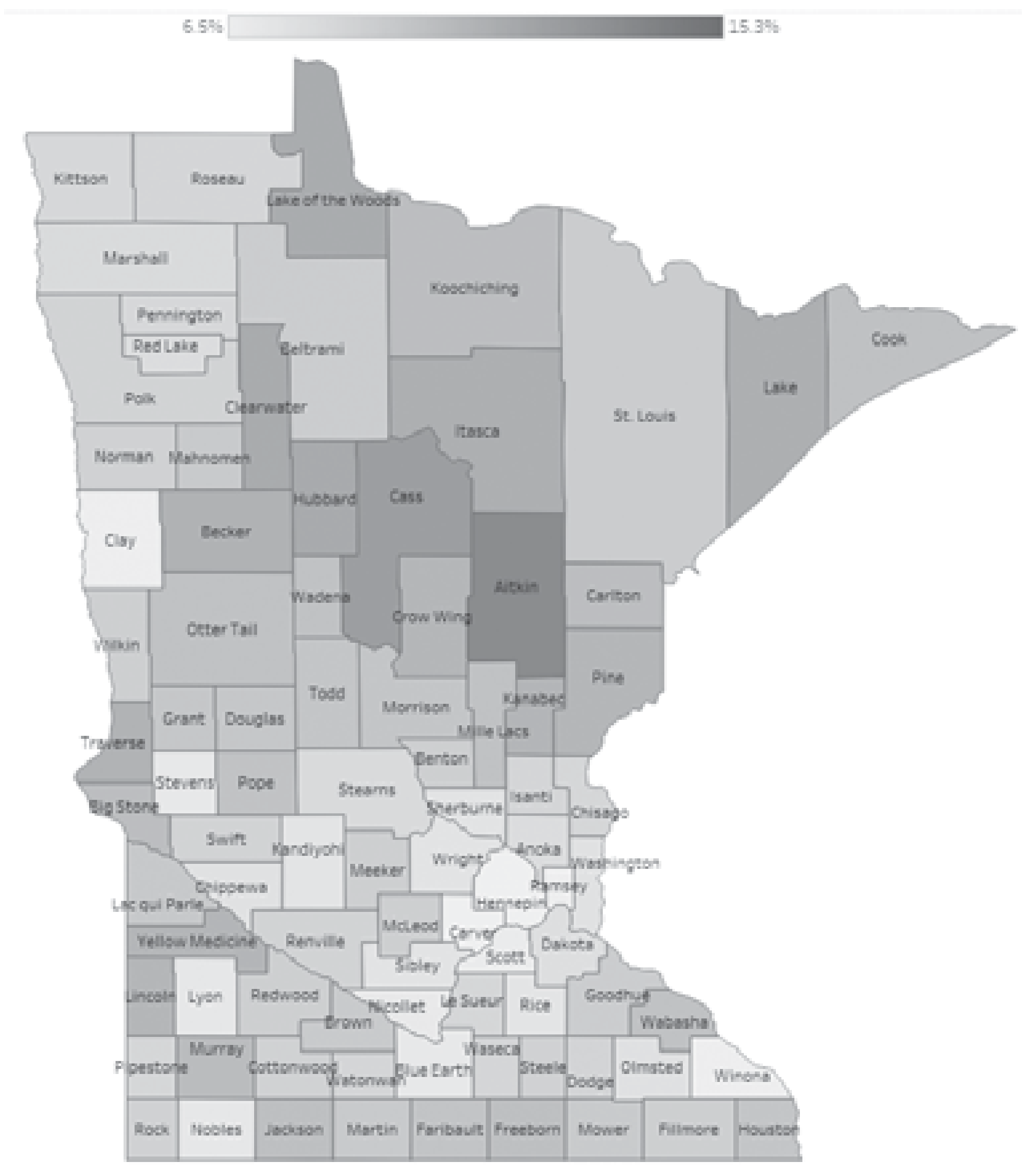
Land of the Free

Minnesota is home to an estimated 342,388 military veterans or about 8.3 percent of the total population and the same percentage found nationally. However, across Minnesota there are counties with significantly higher proportions of veterans. The highest density of veterans can be found in the northern counties of Aitkin (15.3 percent), Cass (13.8 percent), and Lake of the Woods (12.7 percent). Counties such as Hennepin and Ramsey have a slightly lower ratio than the statewide rate.

Military veterans offer employers a vast trove of unique experiences ranging from mechanic to management. Military experience provides veterans with many advantages for employers such as a clear understanding of organizational structure, determination, and the ability to work in teams with colleagues of different backgrounds. One result is that the median annual income for veterans is higher than non-veterans in all but Wabasha, Cottonwood, and Lake of the Woods counties. Veterans in nine counties have a median annual income more than $10,000 greater than non-veterans, with the highest wage difference in Blue Earth County where veterans earn a median income of $37,721, $15,222 more than non-veterans.

by Luke Greiner

Share of Residents 18 Years and Older who are Military Veterans, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015

Labor Force Estimates

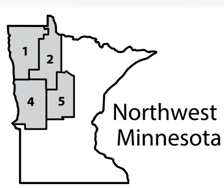
County/Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016
United States ('000s)												
(Seasonally adjusted)	160,201	160,056	159,286	153,000	152,528	151,320	7,202	7,528	7,966	4.5%	4.7%	5.0%
(Unadjusted)	159,912	159,482	158,854	152,628	151,594	150,738	7,284	7,887	8,116	4.6	4.9	5.1
Minnesota												
(Seasonally adjusted)	3,018,513	3,013,067	2,992,961	2,902,927	2,892,722	2,877,362	115,586	120,345	115,599	3.8	4.0	3.9
(Unadjusted)	3,011,903	2,999,620	2,997,397	2,880,371	2,857,153	2,858,882	131,532	142,467	138,515	4.4	4.7	4.6
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*												
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	1,950,636	1,942,616	1,926,448	1,876,803	1,861,641	1,849,161	73,833	80,975	77,287	3.8	4.2	4.0
Duluth-Superior MSA	142,892	142,913	143,899	134,462	133,865	133,875	8,430	9,048	10,024	5.9	6.3	7.0
Rochester MSA	119,056	118,532	119,717	114,643	113,704	115,068	4,413	4,828	4,649	3.7	4.1	3.9
St. Cloud MSA	110,320	110,501	110,304	105,109	104,773	104,914	5,211	5,728	5,390	4.7	5.2	4.9
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	60,481	60,608	61,182	58,413	58,275	59,016	2,068	2,333	2,166	3.4	3.8	3.5
Fargo-Moorhead MSA	139,682	139,438	134,815	135,385	134,849	130,364	4,297	4,589	4,451	3.1	3.3	3.3
Grand Forks MSA	57,554	57,982	56,542	55,589	55,938	54,462	1,965	2,044	2,080	3.4	3.5	3.7
Region One	**48,228**	**48,430**	**49,181**	**44,869**	**44,697**	**45,591**	**3,359**	**3,733**	**3,590**	**7.0**	**7.7**	**7.3**
Kittson	2,341	2,327	2,435	2,217	2,194	2,290	124	133	145	5.3	5.7	6.0
Marshall	5,618	5,563	5,773	5,030	4,962	5,150	588	601	623	10.5	10.8	10.8
Norman	3,443	3,416	3,527	3,217	3,175	3,309	226	241	218	6.6	7.1	6.2
Pennington	9,174	9,156	9,187	8,356	8,323	8,415	818	833	772	8.9	9.1	8.4
Polk	17,140	17,269	17,338	16,250	16,306	16,399	890	963	939	5.2	5.6	5.4
Red Lake	2,365	2,356	2,373	2,105	2,094	2,119	260	262	254	11.0	11.1	10.7
Roseau	8,147	8,343	8,548	7,694	7,643	7,909	453	700	639	5.6	8.4	7.5
Region Two	**43,088**	**42,974**	**43,069**	**39,928**	**39,588**	**39,669**	**3,160**	**3,386**	**3,400**	**7.3**	**7.9**	**7.9**
Beltrami	23,871	23,717	23,766	22,350	22,122	22,188	1,521	1,595	1,578	6.4	6.7	6.6
Clearwater	4,805	4,827	4,872	4,185	4,160	4,163	620	667	709	12.9	13.8	14.6
Hubbard	9,543	9,573	9,481	8,789	8,737	8,662	754	836	819	7.9	8.7	8.6
Lake of the Woods	2,455	2,461	2,509	2,343	2,341	2,399	112	120	110	4.6	4.9	4.4
Mahnomen	2,414	2,396	2,441	2,261	2,228	2,257	153	168	184	6.3	7.0	7.5
Region Three	**161,451**	**161,132**	**163,769**	**150,507**	**149,826**	**150,878**	**10,944**	**11,306**	**12,891**	**6.8**	**7.0**	**7.9**
Aitkin	7,031	7,018	7,056	6,364	6,333	6,362	667	685	694	9.5	9.8	9.8
Carlton	17,627	17,593	17,644	16,459	16,385	16,440	1,168	1,208	1,204	6.6	6.9	6.8
Cook	2,782	2,816	2,830	2,614	2,633	2,658	168	183	172	6.0	6.5	6.1
Itasca	21,366	21,254	22,082	19,252	19,167	19,738	2,114	2,087	2,344	9.9	9.8	10.6
Koochiching	6,062	5,972	6,265	5,510	5,472	5,674	552	500	591	9.1	8.4	9.4
Lake	5,031	5,054	5,280	4,753	4,744	4,683	278	310	597	5.5	6.1	11.3
St. Louis	101,552	101,425	102,612	95,555	95,092	95,323	5,997	6,333	7,289	5.9	6.2	7.1
City of Duluth	45,065	45,066	45,086	43,192	42,983	43,087	1,873	2,083	1,999	4.2	4.6	4.4
Balance of St. Louis County	56,487	56,359	57,526	52,363	52,109	52,236	4,124	4,250	5,290	7.3	7.5	9.2
Region Four	**125,428**	**124,830**	**126,018**	**119,126**	**117,932**	**119,485**	**6,302**	**6,898**	**6,533**	**5.0**	**5.5**	**5.2**
Becker	18,150	18,123	18,481	17,085	16,965	17,306	1,065	1,158	1,175	5.9	6.4	6.4
Clay	36,010	35,951	35,700	34,478	34,258	34,119	1,532	1,693	1,581	4.3	4.7	4.4
Douglas	19,874	19,749	20,119	18,963	18,781	19,226	911	968	893	4.6	4.9	4.4
Grant	3,235	3,222	3,302	3,018	2,986	3,079	217	236	223	6.7	7.3	6.8
Otter Tail	30,930	30,715	30,919	29,080	28,681	29,003	1,850	2,034	1,916	6.0	6.6	6.2
Pope	6,215	6,154	6,273	5,934	5,840	5,972	281	314	301	4.5	5.1	4.8
Stevens	5,525	5,489	5,675	5,327	5,264	5,482	198	225	193	3.6	4.1	3.4
Traverse	1,809	1,777	1,811	1,712	1,675	1,711	97	102	100	5.4	5.7	5.5
Wilkin	3,680	3,650	3,738	3,529	3,482	3,587	151	168	151	4.1	4.6	4.0
Region Five	**82,161**	**82,066**	**82,342**	**76,210**	**75,649**	**75,970**	**5,951**	**6,417**	**6,372**	**7.2**	**7.8**	**7.7**
Cass	13,955	14,003	13,773	12,717	12,666	12,439	1,238	1,337	1,334	8.9	9.5	9.7
Crow Wing	30,985	31,005	30,901	28,943	28,803	28,692	2,042	2,202	2,209	6.6	7.1	7.1
Morrison	17,897	17,777	18,029	16,447	16,282	16,564	1,450	1,495	1,465	8.1	8.4	8.1
Todd	13,093	13,057	13,165	12,334	12,214	12,341	759	843	824	5.8	6.5	6.3
Wadena	6,231	6,224	6,474	5,769	5,684	5,934	462	540	540	7.4	8.7	8.3
Region Six East	**64,799**	**64,394**	**65,945**	**61,307**	**60,623**	**62,272**	**3,492**	**3,771**	**3,673**	**5.4**	**5.9**	**5.6**
Kandiyohi	24,000	23,836	24,110	22,849	22,581	22,857	1,151	1,255	1,253	4.8	5.3	5.2
McLeod	19,115	19,047	19,785	18,084	17,918	18,735	1,031	1,129	1,050	5.4	5.9	5.3
Meeker	13,152	13,091	13,374	12,374	12,258	12,541	778	833	833	5.9	6.4	6.2
Renville	8,532	8,420	8,676	8,000	7,866	8,139	532	554	537	6.2	6.6	6.2

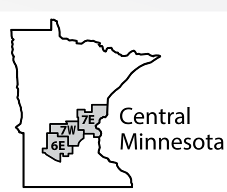
*Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) now includes Sherburne County in Minnesota and Pierce County in Wisconsin. St. Cloud MSA is now comprised of Benton and Stearns counties.

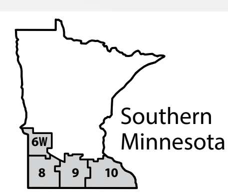
Labor Force Estimates

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

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016
Region Six West	**23,655**	**23,433**	**24,201**	**22,408**	**22,098**	**22,798**	**1,247**	**1,335**	**1,403**	**5.3%**	**5.7%**	**5.8%**
Big Stone	2,668	2,637	2,753	2,506	2,459	2,561	162	178	192	6.1	6.8	7.0
Chippewa	6,997	6,916	7,045	6,617	6,522	6,652	380	394	393	5.4	5.7	5.6
Lac Qui Parle	3,593	3,546	3,715	3,422	3,358	3,524	171	188	191	4.8	5.3	5.1
Swift	5,048	5,018	5,114	4,753	4,711	4,756	295	307	358	5.8	6.1	7.0
Yellow Medicine	5,349	5,316	5,574	5,110	5,048	5,305	239	268	269	4.5	5.0	4.8
Region Seven East	**87,159**	**86,824**	**86,327**	**81,009**	**80,341**	**80,278**	**6,150**	**6,483**	**6,049**	**7.1**	**7.5**	**7.0**
Chisago	29,303	29,228	28,898	27,651	27,443	27,309	1,652	1,785	1,589	5.6	6.1	5.5
Isanti	20,700	20,601	20,445	19,434	19,271	19,175	1,266	1,330	1,270	6.1	6.5	6.2
Kanabec	9,142	9,110	9,248	8,260	8,185	8,366	882	925	882	9.6	10.2	9.5
Mille Lacs	13,001	12,959	12,868	11,927	11,830	11,785	1,074	1,129	1,083	8.3	8.7	8.4
Pine	15,013	14,926	14,868	13,737	13,612	13,643	1,276	1,314	1,225	8.5	8.8	8.2
Region Seven West	**233,841**	**233,538**	**232,385**	**222,564**	**221,251**	**220,802**	**11,277**	**12,287**	**11,583**	**4.8**	**5.3**	**5.0**
Benton	21,785	21,799	21,785	20,541	20,490	20,498	1,244	1,309	1,287	5.7	6.0	5.9
Sherburne	50,389	50,169	49,716	47,794	47,372	47,115	2,595	2,797	2,601	5.1	5.6	5.2
Stearns	88,535	88,702	88,519	84,568	84,283	84,416	3,967	4,419	4,103	4.5	5.0	4.6
Wright	73,132	72,868	72,365	69,661	69,106	68,773	3,471	3,762	3,592	4.7	5.2	5.0
Region Eight	**64,718**	**64,021**	**66,050**	**61,654**	**60,764**	**62,813**	**3,064**	**3,257**	**3,237**	**4.7**	**5.1**	**4.9**
Cottonwood	5,244	5,157	5,616	4,963	4,864	5,277	281	293	339	5.4	5.7	6.0
Jackson	6,001	5,968	6,164	5,741	5,698	5,880	260	270	284	4.3	4.5	4.6
Lincoln	3,323	3,304	3,399	3,152	3,116	3,222	171	188	177	5.1	5.7	5.2
Lyon	15,067	14,956	15,027	14,418	14,241	14,337	649	715	690	4.3	4.8	4.6
Murray	4,848	4,776	5,078	4,489	4,396	4,715	359	380	363	7.4	8.0	7.1
Nobles	11,346	11,169	11,589	10,833	10,690	11,107	513	479	482	4.5	4.3	4.2
Pipestone	4,741	4,708	4,859	4,476	4,409	4,569	265	299	290	5.6	6.4	6.0
Redwood	8,328	8,226	8,372	7,904	7,760	7,921	424	466	451	5.1	5.7	5.4
Rock	5,820	5,757	5,946	5,678	5,590	5,785	142	167	161	2.4	2.9	2.7
Region Nine	**132,979**	**132,693**	**133,731**	**126,801**	**125,965**	**127,392**	**6,178**	**6,728**	**6,339**	**4.6**	**5.1**	**4.7**
Blue Earth	39,956	40,027	40,391	38,534	38,435	38,908	1,422	1,592	1,483	3.6	4.0	3.7
Brown	14,733	14,644	14,466	13,940	13,818	13,680	793	826	786	5.4	5.6	5.4
Faribault	7,152	7,112	7,369	6,736	6,640	6,976	416	472	393	5.8	6.6	5.3
Le Sueur	15,931	15,881	15,753	14,805	14,681	14,665	1,126	1,200	1,088	7.1	7.6	6.9
Martin	10,298	10,222	10,448	9,849	9,753	9,944	449	469	504	4.4	4.6	4.8
Nicollet	20,525	20,581	20,791	19,879	19,840	20,108	646	741	683	3.1	3.6	3.3
Sibley	8,544	8,498	8,579	8,094	7,999	8,089	450	499	490	5.3	5.9	5.7
Waseca	9,279	9,275	9,479	8,791	8,737	8,960	488	538	519	5.3	5.8	5.5
Watonwan	6,561	6,453	6,455	6,173	6,062	6,062	388	391	393	5.9	6.1	6.1
Region Ten	**279,412**	**278,238**	**280,226**	**268,463**	**266,280**	**268,851**	**10,949**	**11,958**	**11,375**	**3.9**	**4.3**	**4.1**
Dodge	11,507	11,469	11,630	10,964	10,863	11,032	543	606	598	4.7	5.3	5.1
Fillmore	11,401	11,345	11,546	10,813	10,708	10,935	588	637	611	5.2	5.6	5.3
Freeborn	16,112	15,967	16,399	15,405	15,210	15,688	707	757	711	4.4	4.7	4.3
Goodhue	26,734	26,625	26,916	25,604	25,361	25,717	1,130	1,264	1,199	4.2	4.7	4.5
Houston	10,529	10,607	10,628	9,999	10,019	10,083	530	588	545	5.0	5.5	5.1
Mower	20,576	20,410	20,549	19,811	19,600	19,761	765	810	788	3.7	4.0	3.8
Olmsted	84,192	83,830	84,439	81,449	80,817	81,566	2,743	3,013	2,873	3.3	3.6	3.4
City of Rochester	61,656	61,390	61,853	59,781	59,317	59,867	1,875	2,073	1,986	3.0	3.4	3.2
Rice	36,443	36,274	35,767	34,965	34,690	34,288	1,478	1,584	1,479	4.1	4.4	4.1
Steele	20,836	20,718	20,923	19,994	19,801	20,045	842	917	878	4.0	4.4	4.2
Wabasha	11,956	11,888	12,102	11,417	11,316	11,535	539	572	567	4.5	4.8	4.7
Winona	29,126	29,105	29,327	28,042	27,895	28,201	1,084	1,210	1,126	3.7	4.2	3.8
Region Eleven	**1,664,484**	**1,657,051**	**1,644,155**	**1,605,120**	**1,592,141**	**1,582,087**	**59,364**	**64,910**	**62,068**	**3.6**	**3.9**	**3.8**
Anoka	192,224	191,266	189,642	184,241	182,671	181,537	7,983	8,595	8,105	4.2	4.5	4.3
Carver	55,710	55,445	55,109	53,682	53,231	52,997	2,028	2,214	2,112	3.6	4.0	3.8
Dakota	234,585	233,492	231,718	226,200	224,247	222,840	8,385	9,245	8,878	3.6	4.0	3.8
Hennepin	681,430	678,443	673,387	658,622	653,620	649,305	22,808	24,823	24,082	3.3	3.7	3.6
City of Bloomington	46,535	46,299	46,012	44,876	44,535	44,241	1,659	1,764	1,771	3.6	3.8	3.8
City of Minneapolis	232,872	231,871	230,096	225,027	223,318	221,843	7,845	8,553	8,253	3.4	3.7	3.6
Ramsey	281,874	280,641	278,377	271,444	269,280	267,561	10,430	11,361	10,816	3.7	4.0	3.9
City of St. Paul	154,505	153,874	152,665	148,712	147,526	146,585	5,793	6,348	6,080	3.7	4.1	4.0
Scott	79,983	79,652	79,015	77,191	76,540	76,071	2,792	3,112	2,944	3.5	3.9	3.7
Washington	138,678	138,112	136,907	133,740	132,552	131,776	4,938	5,560	5,131	3.6	4.0	3.7







Industrial Analysis

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

Overview

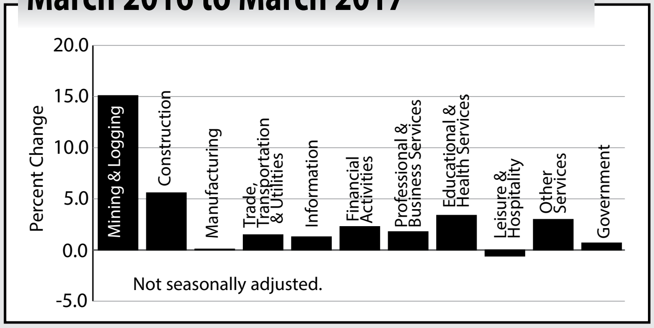
Minnesota added 5,300 jobs (0.2 percent) in March on a seasonally adjusted basis while February's estimate was revised upward by 2,400. The monthly gain was driven entirely by the private sector, which added 5,300 jobs (0.2 percent). The monthly growth pushed the private sector employment total above 2.5 million for the first time ever. Public sector employment was flat, following two consecutive months of 0.6 percent declines. Annually Minnesota added 48,162 jobs (1.7 percent). March marked the ninth straight month with over-the-year growth exceeding 1 percent, although nationwide growth has exceeded that mark in every month since May of 2011 and showed greater than 2 percent growth through much of 2015. Private sector employment in Minnesota is up by 45,116 (1.9 percent) on the year, while public sector employment is up 3,046 (0.7 percent).

Mining and Logging

The Mining and Logging supersector added 400 jobs (6.1 percent) in March, pushing employment to 7,000 for the first time since June of 2015 as Mining continues to rebound in the Iron Range. Over the year Mining and Logging added 861 jobs (15.1 percent). In spite of the large over-the-year increases, unadjusted employment levels in the supersector remained well below recent highs reached in mid-2015.

MN Employment Growth

March 2016 to March 2017



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

Construction

Employment in the Construction industry was off by 900 (0.7 percent) in March, giving back some of the 4,600 jobs gained in February. Annually the supersector added 5,567 jobs (5.6 percent). While Construction of Buildings was off by 1,119 jobs (4.7 percent), both Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (up 653 or 6.3 percent), and Specialty Trade Contractors (up 6,033 or 9.3 percent) added jobs on the year.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers in Minnesota added 700 jobs (0.2 percent) in March. For the second consecutive month Durable Goods manufacturers bucked their recent job-shedding trend to lead the growth, adding 700 jobs (0.3 percent). Employment in Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was flat. Annually Manufacturers added 424 jobs (0.1 percent). While small, this represented the first over-the-year growth in Manufacturing since October. Although Durable Goods manufacturers lost 1,418 jobs (0.7 percent), this actually represented a marked improvement over previous months, as the sector was down as much as 2,950 (1.5 percent) over the year in January.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was off by 2,500 (0.5 percent) in March in what was likely something of a correction from February's 5,700 job increase. The bulk of March's losses came from the Retail Trade sector, which lost 2,500 jobs after gaining 4,100 last month. Annually the supersector added 7,578 jobs (1.5 percent). Retail Trade led the growth both numerically and proportionally as it has for all of 2017, adding 5,649 jobs (2 percent) over the year. Food and Beverage Stores seemed to lead Retail Trade's growth, adding 2,159 jobs (4.2 percent) with 4.7 percent growth in component Grocery Stores.

Information

Information employment was up by 600 (1.2 percent) in March, bouncing back after four consecutive months with zero or negative growth during which time the supersector lost 1,000 jobs. Annually employment was up by 629 (1.3 percent), the fastest over-the-year growth rate for a single month since June of 2001. The first three months of 2017, all of which showed annual growth, were a welcome change for a supersector that has been bleeding jobs for more than a decade.

*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 added 1,100 jobs (0.6 percent) in March, with the entirety of those gains coming in the Finance and Insurance component sector (up 0.8 percent). Employment in the other component sector, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, was flat for the second straight month. Annually the supersector added 3,962 jobs (2.3 percent). Finance and Insurance, by far the larger of the two component sectors, once again drove the growth, adding 3,817 jobs (2.7 percent). This was the fourth straight month of greater than 2 percent over-the-year growth from Finance and Insurance.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and Business Services added 4,900 jobs (1.3 percent) in March. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services led the way with 3,500 jobs (2.6 percent). That growth breaks a job-loss streak for the sector which dates back to November. In fact, all three component sectors lost jobs in the first two months of 2017 before rebounding in March. The supersector added 6,582 jobs (1.8 percent) on an over-the-year basis. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services appeared to be the primary driver, adding 3,560 jobs (2.8 percent), although, as with the monthly estimates, all three sectors added jobs on the year.

Educational and Health Services

Educational and Health Services shed 1,400 jobs (0.3 percent) in March. Educational Services employment was flat, while Health Care and Social Assistance lost 1,400 jobs (0.3 percent). Over the year Educational and Health Services added 17,413 jobs (3.4 percent), making it not only the largest supersector in the state, but one of the fastest-growing as well. Educational Services added 3,697 (5.3 percent), and Health Care and Social Assistance added 13,716 (3.1 percent).

Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and Hospitality added 2,500 jobs (1 percent) in March, primarily in Accommodation and Food Services (up 2,400, 1.1 percent). The supersector gained back almost all of February's 2,600 lost jobs, which also came primarily from Accommodation and Food Services. Annually the supersector lost 1,387 jobs (0.6 percent), with Accommodation (down 1,619 or 6.7 percent) notably contributing to the decline.

Other Services

Other Services lost 100 jobs (0.1 percent) in March, after having gained 2,100 jobs over the previous two months. Annually employment is up by 3,487 (3 percent), with all three component sectors growing. Repair and Maintenance was up 4.4 percent, Personal and Laundry Services up 3.6 percent, and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, and Professional Organizations up 2.3 percent.

Government

Government employment was flat in March, as losses at the Federal and State levels were counterbalanced by a gain of 700 (0.2 percent) in Local Government. Government employers had lost 3,100 jobs over the previous two months. Over the year the government added 3,046 jobs (0.7 percent). Local and Federal Government employment continue to grow (up 0.7 and 1.5 percent on the year, respectively), while State Government sheds jobs (down 1.6 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	March 2017	February 2017	January 2017
Total Nonagricultural	**2,929.0**	**2,923.7**	**2,917.5**
Goods-Producing	**447.2**	**447.0**	**441.1**
Mining and Logging	7.0	6.6	6.5
Construction	121.3	122.2	117.6
Manufacturing	318.9	318.2	317.0
Service-Providing	**2,481.8**	**2,476.7**	**2,476.4**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	537.8	540.3	534.6
Information	50.7	50.1	50.4
Financial Activities	178.1	177.0	177.3
Professional and Business Services	374.6	369.7	371.9
Educational and Health Services	533.6	535.0	533.5
Leisure and Hospitality	264.5	262.0	264.6
Other Services	117.9	118.0	117.1
Government	424.6	424.6	427.0

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

Monthly analysis is based on ***unadjusted*** employment data.

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

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA increased by 8,573 (0.4 percent) in March. That matched the highest monthly growth rate for any MSA in Minnesota, and outpaced the state's monthly growth, which was at 0.3 percent. Mining, Logging, and Construction grew the fastest in March, up 2.5 percent (1,693 jobs), the highest growth rate in the state for that supersector. Specialty Trade Contractors drove that growth, adding 3,834 jobs (8.4 percent). Professional and Business Services added the most jobs, up 2,774 (0.9 percent). On an annual basis the metro area added 39,996 jobs (2.1 percent), which made it the fastest growing MSA in Minnesota on an over-the-year basis with 83 percent of Minnesota's 48,162 new jobs since March of 2016. Mining, Logging, and Construction had the fastest growth in this time period as well, up 4.4 percent (2.948). Other supersectors with notable annual growth included Other Services (up 3.6 percent, 2,840 jobs) and Educational and Health Services (up 3.5 percent, 11,289 jobs). One notable dark spot for the MSA was Leisure and Hospitality, which lost 2,816 jobs (1.6 percent) on the year. While Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation added 1,008 jobs (3.4 percent), Accommodation and Food Services lost 3,824 (2.7 percent).

Duluth -Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA added 88 jobs (0.1 percent) in March. While most supersectors lost jobs in March, the biggest gains in the area came from Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (up 376 or 1.5 percent), where growth was able to overcome the employment declines in other area. The biggest decline, both proportionally and in total jobs lost, was in Educational and Health Services (down 155 jobs, 0.5 percent). Annually Duluth added 1,108 jobs (0.8 percent), a markedly slower rate than the statewide growth of 1.7 percent. The Mining, Logging, and Construction supersector saw the most dramatic growth, up 11.1 percent (876 jobs). The steepest annual declines occurred in Leisure and Hospitality, off 4.3 percent (570 jobs) from March 2016.

Rochester MSA

Employment in the Rochester MSA was up by 0.4 percent (430 jobs) in March. Professional and Business Services grew by 1.9 percent (104 jobs), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 263 jobs (1.5 percent). Alternatively, Mining, Logging and Construction had the sharpest decline in the MSA, off by 1.8 percent (62 jobs). Rochester was one of only two MSAs in Minnesota to lose jobs in the supersector, which was the fastest-growing in the state overall. Annually Rochester added 558 jobs (0.5 percent). The fastest growth occurred in Financial Activities (up 111 jobs or 4.2 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction shed 386 jobs (10.1 percent), while the entirety of the state added 6,428 jobs (6.2 percent), and every other MSA saw over-the-year growth in the area.

St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA was down by 306 (0.3 percent) in March. Mining, Logging, and Construction was up 2.4 percent or 142 jobs, while Other Services was down 1.2 percent or 99 jobs. Other notable losses included Educational and Health Services (down 0.7 percent, 158 jobs) and Manufacturing (down 1.2 percent, 182 jobs). Annually St. Cloud added 1,097 jobs (1 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction added 800 jobs (15.2 percent), and Educational and Health Services added 949 (4.4 percent). Leisure and Hospitality lost 583 jobs (6.7 percent), and Financial Activities lost 118 (2.4 percent).

Mankato-North Mankato MSA

The Mankato-North Mankato MSA lost 212 jobs (0.4 percent) in March. It was the greatest proportional over-the-month decline of any MSA fully within the state. Service providers lost 224 jobs (0.5 percent) while goods producers added 12 (0.1 percent). Government employment was off by 0.1 percent (7 jobs), and private sector employment was off by 205 (0.4 percent). Annually Mankato lost 171 jobs (0.3 percent). It was the only MSA in Minnesota to lose jobs over the prior 12 months. Goods producers added 238 jobs (2.5 percent), but that gain was erased by a loss of 224 jobs (0.5 percent) among service providers, specifically private sector service providers, which lost 614 jobs (0.6 percent).

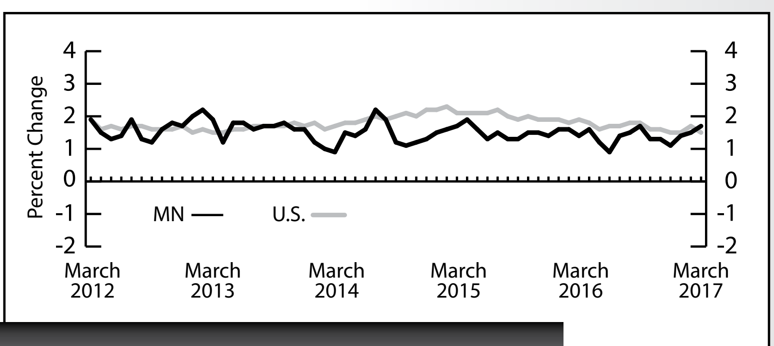
Fargo-Moorhead MSA

Employment in the Fargo-Moorhead MSA was up by 0.1 percent (168 jobs) in March. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 177 jobs (2.2 percent). Professional and Business Services lost 385 (2.5 percent). Annually the Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 2,753 jobs (2 percent). By far the largest movement, both in proportional growth and total jobs, came in Educational and Health Services, which was up by 1,365 jobs (6.1 percent). The only supersectors to lose jobs were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (down 95 or 0.3 percent) and Information (down 15, 0.5 percent).

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA lost 658 jobs (1.1 percent) in March. The losses were driven by the Mining, Logging, and Construction supersector, which shed 358 jobs (10.5 percent), although declines were widespread. Only two supersectors grew, Manufacturing (up 0.1 percent) and Other Services (0.3 percent), each of them adding just six jobs. Annually Grand Forks-East Grand Forks added 267 jobs (0.5 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction added 311 jobs (11.4 percent) while Leisure and Hospitality lost 396 (6.2 percent).

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	**2,879.8**	**2,870.0**	**2,831.7**	**0.3%**	**1.7%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**425.6**	**422.3**	**418.8**	**0.8**	**1.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**110.8**	**109.0**	**104.3**	**1.6**	**6.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Logging	**6.6**	**6.3**	**5.7**	**4.9**	**15.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	**104.2**	**102.7**	**98.6**	**1.4**	**5.6**						
Specialty Trade Contractors	70.7	70.3	64.6	0.6	9.3	$1,235.58	$1,163.57	38.1	38.2	$32.43	$30.46
Manufacturing	**314.9**	**313.4**	**314.4**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**850.72**	**808.30**	**40.9**	**40.7**	**20.80**	**19.86**
Durable Goods	199.1	197.8	200.5	0.6	-0.7	870.22	824.50	40.4	40.2	21.54	20.51
Wood Product Manufacturing	10.9	10.7	10.9	2.2	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	41.5	41.3	42.2	0.3	-1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	32.4	32.6	33.3	-0.5	-2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	45.6	45.7	45.7	-0.1	-0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	26.4	26.4	25.9	-0.1	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	10.8	10.9	11.0	-0.8	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.2	16.2	15.6	0.1	3.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	115.8	115.5	113.9	0.2	1.6	819.82	780.62	41.7	41.5	19.66	18.81
Food Manufacturing	45.6	45.3	45.1	0.6	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**2,454.2**	**2,447.6**	**2,412.9**	**0.3**	**1.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**526.7**	**527.3**	**519.1**	**-0.1**	**1.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	130.7	129.8	130.1	0.8	0.5	870.16	862.44	37.8	37.4	23.02	23.06
Retail Trade	294.9	296.1	289.3	-0.4	2.0	409.31	426.36	27.6	28.5	14.83	14.96
Motor Vehicle and Parts	35.4	35.3	34.3	0.2	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	25.1	24.5	25.0	2.4	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	54.1	54.3	51.9	-0.3	4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	24.6	24.7	24.2	-0.2	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	58.8	59.3	59.3	-0.8	-1.0	370.37	326.20	28.6	28.0	12.95	11.65
Transportation,Warehouse, Utilities	101.0	101.4	99.7	-0.4	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	88.7	89.2	87.2	-0.6	1.7	704.20	686.81	35.0	34.6	20.12	19.85
Information	**50.8**	**50.4**	**50.2**	**0.8**	**1.3**	**999.36**	**1,005.64**	**34.7**	**36.2**	**28.80**	**27.78**
Publishing Industries	18.7	18.7	19.2	0.1	-2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	11.9	11.9	12.1	0.0	-2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	176.9	176.2	172.9	0.4	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	143.6	143.0	139.8	0.4	2.7	1,131.46	992.75	37.0	36.1	30.58	27.50
Credit Intermediation	63.3	63.0	61.6	0.5	2.7	762.32	753.14	34.2	34.5	22.29	21.83
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	19.6	19.6	19.4	-0.2	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	60.7	60.3	58.8	0.6	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	33.3	33.3	33.2	0.1	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**366.5**	**363.4**	**359.9**	**0.8**	**1.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	158.1	158.0	156.4	0.0	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.0	18.0	18.0	0.2	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	19.7	19.6	19.1	0.5	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	37.8	37.6	36.4	0.5	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	78.8	78.5	77.5	0.4	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	129.6	127.0	126.1	2.1	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**535.9**	**535.8**	**518.5**	**0.0**	**3.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	73.4	73.4	69.7	0.0	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	462.5	462.4	448.8	0.0	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	152.7	152.7	146.8	0.0	4.0	1,374.33	1,279.31	36.1	36.2	38.07	35.34
Offices of Physicians	72.9	72.8	70.1	0.0	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	107.6	107.7	107.0	-0.1	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	108.1	108.6	106.2	-0.4	1.8	465.00	453.75	28.9	28.7	16.09	15.81
Social Assistance	94.1	93.5	88.8	0.6	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**249.0**	**246.4**	**250.4**	**1.1**	**-0.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	36.5	36.5	37.2	-0.1	-1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	212.5	209.9	213.2	1.3	-0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	189.9	187.2	188.9	1.4	0.5	280.14	270.48	20.3	20.6	13.80	13.13
Other Services	**118.0**	**117.3**	**114.5**	**0.6**	**3.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	65.7	65.3	64.2	0.6	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**430.6**	**430.8**	**427.5**	**-0.1**	**0.7**						
Federal Government	31.9	32.0	31.7	-0.4	0.7						
State Government	102.2	102.5	103.9	-0.3	-1.6						
State Government Education	63.0	63.6	65.4	-1.1	-3.7						
Local Government	296.5	296.3	292.0	0.1	1.5						
Local Government Education	153.6	152.6	149.7	0.6	2.6						

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	
	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	**1,954.9**	**1,946.3**	**1,914.9**	**0.4%**	**2.1%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**267.6**	**264.1**	**262.3**	**1.3**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**70.6**	**68.9**	**67.7**	**2.5**	**4.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	15.9	15.7	15.9	1.4	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	49.5	48.8	45.7	1.5	8.4	$1,305.10	$1,235.39	37.6	38.2	$34.71	$32.34
Manufacturing	**197.0**	**195.2**	**194.6**	**0.9**	**1.2**	**906.54**	**871.47**	**41.3**	**41.4**	**21.95**	**21.05**
Durable Goods	134.6	133.1	132.7	1.1	1.4	913.10	876.53	40.8	41.7	22.38	21.02
Fabricated Metal Production	29.0	28.8	29.3	0.7	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	20.1	20.2	20.3	-0.4	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	37.1	37.1	36.9	-0.2	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	24.8	24.8	24.2	-0.1	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	14.7	14.7	14.2	0.1	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	62.4	62.1	61.9	0.6	0.9	894.65	861.29	42.3	40.8	21.15	21.11
Food Manufacturing	14.9	14.8	14.8	0.9	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	14.7	14.8	15.0	-0.2	-1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**1,687.2**	**1,682.2**	**1,652.6**	**0.3**	**2.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**351.8**	**351.9**	**347.0**	**0.0**	**1.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	96.6	95.4	95.6	1.2	1.1	874.16	856.92	38.8	37.0	22.53	23.16
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	48.5	47.6	48.0	2.0	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	27.6	27.6	27.6	0.2	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	185.1	186.4	183.4	-0.7	0.9	426.20	455.19	28.7	29.5	14.85	15.43
Food and Beverage Stores	33.5	33.7	31.2	-0.6	7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	36.1	36.5	37.0	-1.3	-2.5	352.44	330.33	29.2	28.9	12.07	11.43
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	70.1	70.1	68.0	0.0	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.5	7.4	7.6	1.4	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	62.6	62.7	60.5	-0.1	3.5	664.85	724.10	34.2	35.9	19.44	20.17
Information	**37.9**	**37.8**	**37.6**	**0.4**	**0.9**						
Publishing Industries	14.8	14.8	15.1	0.3	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	8.7	8.7	8.7	0.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**143.1**	**142.6**	**139.4**	**0.3**	**2.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	115.6	114.9	112.4	0.5	2.8	1,227.38	990.45	37.5	35.5	32.73	27.90
Credit Intermediation	47.1	46.8	45.7	0.5	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	17.5	17.5	17.4	0.2	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	51.0	50.7	49.3	0.7	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27.6	27.7	27.0	-0.5	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**317.0**	**314.2**	**309.1**	**0.9**	**2.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	140.2	140.8	136.7	-0.4	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.4	15.4	15.3	0.3	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	18.3	18.2	17.7	0.1	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	34.2	34.5	33.9	-0.9	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	71.4	70.8	70.3	0.8	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	105.4	102.6	102.1	2.7	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	48.0	47.6	48.8	0.7	-1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**331.3**	**331.6**	**320.0**	**-0.1**	**3.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	48.5	48.7	46.6	-0.5	4.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	282.9	282.9	273.4	0.0	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	92.1	92.4	88.2	-0.3	4.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	62.8	62.6	62.5	0.4	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	60.1	60.3	58.9	-0.3	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	67.8	67.6	63.8	0.4	6.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**171.0**	**169.0**	**173.8**	**1.2**	**-1.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	30.7	30.0	29.7	2.2	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	140.3	139.0	144.2	1.0	-2.7	307.09	303.37	21.4	21.7	14.35	13.98
Food Services and Drinking Places	128.9	127.4	131.1	1.1	-1.7	298.87	288.65	20.9	21.1	14.30	13.68
Other Services	**81.2**	**80.4**	**78.3**	**1.0**	**3.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	15.2	15.1	14.8	1.0	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	42.4	42.0	41.3	1.0	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**254.0**	**254.8**	**247.4**	**-0.3**	**2.6**						
Federal Government	21.3	21.4	20.9	-0.2	2.0						
State Government	67.7	67.8	66.3	-0.2	2.1						
State Government Education	41.7	42.1	40.7	-0.9	2.4						
Local Government	165.0	165.6	160.2	-0.4	3.0						
Local Government Education	95.5	95.4	92.1	0.1	3.7						

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 Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016	Rochester MSA Jobs Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**134,500**	**134,412**	**133,392**	**0.1%**	**0.8%**	**117,650**	**117,220**	**117,092**	**0.4%**	**0.5%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**16,011**	**16,002**	**15,138**	**0.1**	**5.8**	**13,922**	**14,071**	**14,300**	**-1.1**	**-2.6**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,759	8,772	7,883	-0.1	11.1	3,447	3,509	3,833	-1.8	-10.1
Manufacturing	7,252	7,230	7,255	0.3	0.0	10,475	10,562	10,467	-0.8	0.1
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**118,489**	**118,410**	**118,254**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**103,728**	**103,149**	**102,792**	**0.6**	**0.9**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	24,793	24,417	24,406	1.5	1.6	18,165	17,902	17,981	1.5	1.0
Wholesale Trade	3,204	3,185	3,185	0.6	0.6	2,668	2,664	2,797	0.2	-4.6
Retail Trade	15,518	15,172	15,082	2.3	2.9	12,679	12,448	12,370	1.9	2.5
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,071	6,060	6,139	0.2	-1.1	2,818	2,790	2,814	1.0	0.1
Information	1,377	1,381	1,389	-0.3	-0.9	1,882	1,884	1,947	-0.1	-3.3
Financial Activities	5,964	5,965	5,737	0.0	4.0	2,733	2,742	2,622	-0.3	4.2
Professional and Business Services	8,084	8,115	8,041	-0.4	0.5	5,440	5,336	5,577	1.9	-2.5
Educational and Health Services	32,004	32,159	32,288	-0.5	-0.9	48,683	48,773	47,728	-0.2	2.0
Leisure and Hospitality	12,556	12,607	13,126	-0.4	-4.3	10,002	9,863	10,253	1.4	-2.4
Other Services	6,238	6,184	6,046	0.9	3.2	4,032	3,981	3,923	1.3	2.8
Government	27,473	27,582	27,221	-0.4	0.9	12,791	12,668	12,761	1.0	0.2

Employer Survey

Industry	St. Cloud MSA Jobs Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016	Mankato MSA Jobs Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**107,409**	**107,715**	**106,312**	**-0.3%**	**1.0%**	**57,571**	**57,783**	**57,742**	**-0.4%**	**-0.3%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**20,884**	**20,924**	**20,331**	**-0.2**	**2.7**	**9,615**	**9,603**	**9,377**	**0.1**	**2.5**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,065	5,923	5,265	2.4	15.2	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	14,819	15,001	15,066	-1.2	-1.6	--	--	--	--	--
						--	--	--	--	--
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**86,525**	**86,791**	**85,981**	**-0.3**	**0.6**	**47,956**	**48,180**	**48,365**	**-0.5**	**-0.8**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	21,584	21,702	21,654	-0.5	-0.3	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	4,762	4,728	4,591	0.7	3.7	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	13,115	13,177	13,064	-0.5	0.4	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	3,707	3,797	3,999	-2.4	-7.3	--	--	--	--	--
Information	1,599	1,595	1,621	0.3	-1.4	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	4,849	4,850	4,967	0.0	-2.4	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	8,487	8,417	8,361	0.8	1.5	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	22,418	22,576	21,469	-0.7	4.4	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	8,105	8,204	8,688	-1.2	-6.7	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	3,789	3,764	3,710	0.7	2.1	--	--	--	--	--
Government	15,694	15,683	15,511	0.1	1.2	10,716	10,723	10,511	-0.1	2.0

Employer Survey

Industry	Fargo-Moorhead MSA Jobs Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016	Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA Jobs Mar 2017	Jobs Feb 2017	Jobs Mar 2016	% Chg. From Feb 2017	% Chg. From Mar 2016
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**140,675**	**140,507**	**137,922**	**0.1%**	**2.0%**	**57,019**	**57,677**	**56,752**	**-1.1%**	**0.5%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**18,089**	**17,834**	**17,461**	**1.4**	**3.6**	**7,261**	**7,613**	**6,829**	**-4.6**	**6.3**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,105	7,928	7,853	2.2	3.2	3,048	3,406	2,737	-10.5	11.4
Manufacturing	9,984	9,906	9,608	0.8	3.9	4,213	4,207	4,092	0.1	3.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**122,586**	**122,673**	**120,461**	**-0.1**	**1.8**	***49,758***	***50,064***	***49,923***	***-0.6***	***-0.3***
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	30,243	30,294	30,338	-0.2	-0.3	11,820	11,885	12,050	-0.6	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	9,029	9,016	8,994	0.1	0.4	1,844	1,817	1,937	1.5	-4.8
Retail Trade	15,629	15,693	15,890	-0.4	-1.6	7,741	7,823	7,785	-1.1	-0.6
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	5,585	5,585	5,454	0.0	2.4	2,235	2,245	2,328	-0.5	-4.0
Information	3,234	3,222	3,249	0.4	-0.5	581	586	618	-0.9	-6.0
Financial Activities	11,274	11,228	10,867	0.4	3.8	1,829	1,833	1,816	-0.2	0.7
Professional and Business Services	15,177	15,562	15,173	-2.5	0.0	2,941	2,965	2,927	-0.8	0.5
Educational and Health Services	23,921	23,765	22,556	0.7	6.1	9,713	9,789	9,614	-0.8	1.0
Leisure and Hospitality	13,836	13,614	13,725	1.6	0.8	5,959	6,040	6,355	-1.3	-6.2
Other Services	5,581	5,518	5,431	1.1	2.8	1,952	1,946	1,984	0.3	-1.6
Government	19,320	19,470	19,122	-0.8	1.0	14,963	15,020	14,559	-0.4	2.8

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

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Highlights

The **Minnesota Index** surged 0.7 percent in March, the largest monthly gain in over six years. The index, estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, combines four state-level indicators to summarize current economic conditions into a single statistic. The components of the index are nonfarm wage and salary employment, average weekly manufacturing hours, the unemployment rate, and wage and salary disbursements adjusted for inflation. The index is designed to be a monthly proxy for the state's gross domestic product (GDP).

Methodology changes to improve the production process and accuracy of the index were recently implemented along with benchmarking updates to data revisions. The revised index shows Minnesota's economy recovered quicker and earlier from the Great Recession than previously thought. Minnesota bottomed out in June 2009 and has increase 37 percent since. The U.S. index bottomed out in December 2009 and has increased 23.9 percent since. Based on the indices, economic activity declined 6 percent and lasted 16 months in Minnesota during the Great Recession. The Great Recession lasted 18 months nationally, dropping 4.6 percent.

Minnesota's index is up 29.1 percent from its pre-recession peak while the U.S. index is 18.2 percent higher. North Dakota's index is up 33 percent from it's pre-recessionary peak, while Iowa's is up 20.5 percent, South Dakota's is up 26 percent, and Wisconsin, which suffered the deepest recession, is up 18.7 percent.

Minnesota's adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** was up 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month in March. Minnesota employers added 5,300 jobs in March after having added a revised 6,200 jobs in February. All jobs created in March were private sector jobs with most jobs created in service-providing sectors. Private sector hiring is off to its best start since 2013 through the first three months of the year. Professional and Business Services, Leisure and Hospitality, and Financial Actives added the most positions while Educational and Health Services and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities reported the largest cutbacks. Mining and Logging recorded its largest monthly gain since June 2010. Manufacturing combined employment for the last two months is the largest uptick in hiring over a two month period since December 2014. Construction employment, after adding a near record monthly high in February, declined slightly in March.

Minnesota's unadjusted over the year job growth was 1.7 percent in March, topping U.S. 1.5 percent gain. Minnesota's over-the-year job growth hasn't been higher than the U.S. growth since July 2014 or 31 months ago. The 1.7 percent over-the-year jump in employment in Minnesota translates into 48,100 more jobs than a year ago. Despite the 3.8 percent unemployment rate Minnesota employers were able to step up hiring in March.

Online Help-Wanted Ads zigzagged up in March, increasing to 126,900. Online job postings climbed by 1.4 percent in Minnesota and 2.2 percent nationally.

Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** rose sharply for the third time over the last four months. March's 61.8 reading was the highest level since February 2015. The corresponding national and Mid-American indices both fell in March with the U.S. index coming in at 57.2 while the MidAmerican index slipped to 60.5. The most promising number from Minnesota's PMI was the employment component which rose to 64.5. This suggest that the recent pickup in manufacturing hire is likely to continue over the next six months.

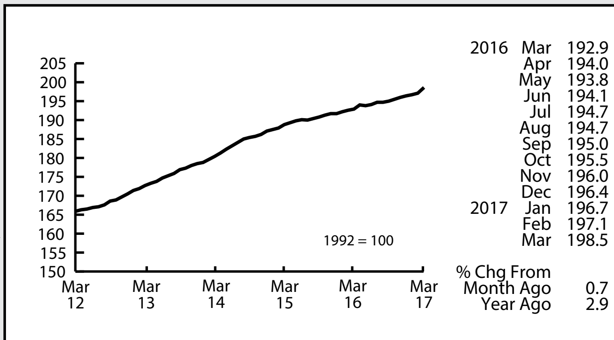
Adjusted **Manufacturing Hours,** however, slipped to 40.9 hours in March. A good indicator of a robust manufacturing sector is when weekly hours in the sector approach 42 hours. Average weekly **Manufacturing Earnings** climbed for the third straight month, increasing to $850.58. That was the fattest factory paycheck adjusted for inflation since May 2015 and up 5.2 percent from last year.

The revised **Minnesota Leading Index** skyrocketed in March to 2.88, the highest level since September 2011. The jump in the index suggests that Minnesota's economy will be gaining strength over the next six months.

Although adjusted **Residential Building Permits** inched down for the second straight month, permit levels remained elevated compared to recent years. Home-building permit numbers through the first three months of 2017 are the highest in over a decade.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** spiked 13.7 percent in March to 17,231. The jump was expected since February's claim level was the lowest in 17 years and was most likely related to warm weather in February which reduced the usual uptick in construction related initial claims.

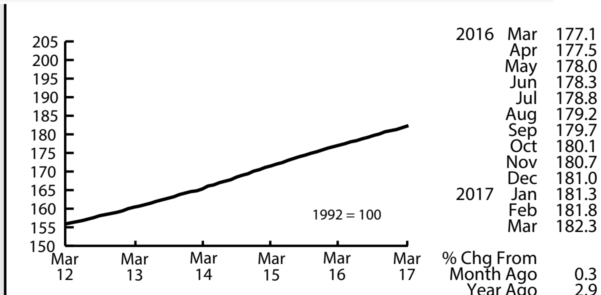
by Dave Senf



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Minnesota Index

United States Index

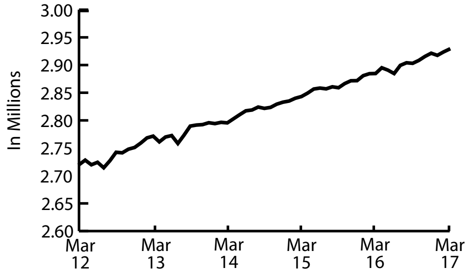


Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

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	Oct	2.9084
	Nov	2.9156
	Dec	2.9214
2017	Jan	2.9175
	Feb	2.9237
	Mar	2.9290

% Chg From Month Ago 0.2

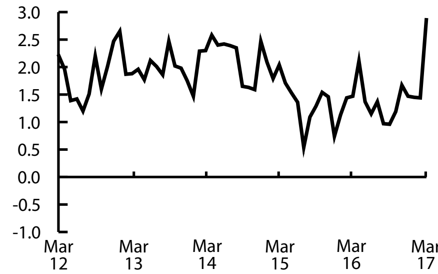
unadjusted

2016	Mar	2.8317
2017	Mar	2.8798

% Chg From Year Ago 1.7

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

Minnesota Leading Index

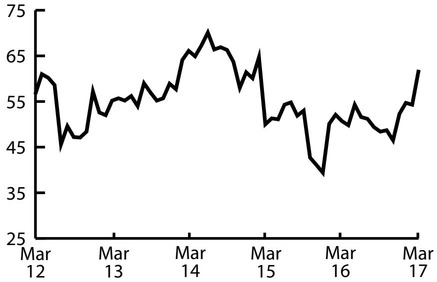


2016	Mar	1.47
	Apr	2.11
	May	1.37
	Jun	1.15
	Jul	1.37
	Aug	0.97
	Sep	0.96
	Oct	1.19
	Nov	1.67
	Dec	1.47
2017	Jan	1.45
	Feb	1.44
	Mar	2.88

% Chg From Month Ago 100.0
Year Ago 95.9

Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2017

Purchasing Managers' Index

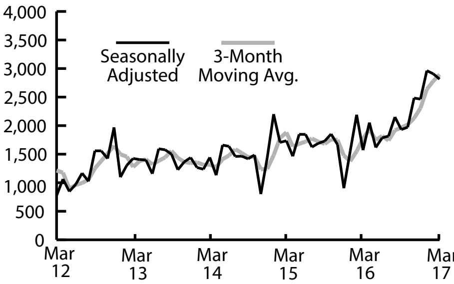


2016	Mar	50.7
	Apr	49.8
	May	54.3
	Jun	51.6
	Jul	51.2
	Aug	49.4
	Sep	48.4
	Oct	48.7
	Nov	46.5
	Dec	52.3
2017	Jan	54.7
	Feb	54.3
	Mar	61.8

% Chg From Month Ago 13.8
Year Ago 21.9

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

Residential Building Permits



seasonally adjusted

2016	Oct	1,973
	Nov	2,483
	Dec	2,465
2017	Jan	2,963
	Feb	2,908
	Mar	2,815

% Chg From Month Ago -3.2

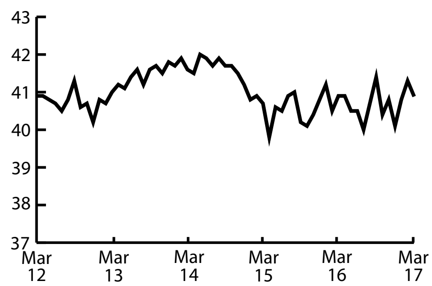
unadjusted

2016	Mar	1,357
2017	Mar	2,441

% Chg From Year Ago 79.9

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

Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



seasonally adjusted

2016	Oct	40.4
	Nov	40.8
	Dec	40.1
2017	Jan	40.8
	Feb	41.3
	Mar	40.9

% Chg From Month Ago -1.0

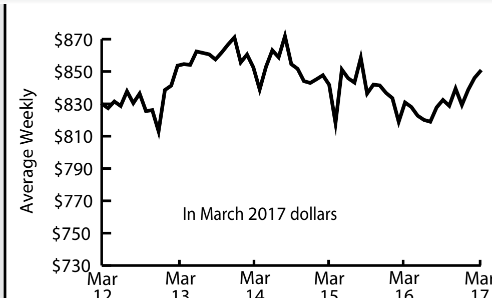
unadjusted

2016	Mar	40.7
2017	Mar	40.9

% Chg From Year Ago 0.5

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

Manufacturing Earnings



seasonally adjusted

2016	Oct	828.76
	Nov	839.45
	Dec	829.29
2017	Jan	838.72
	Feb	846.04
	Mar	850.58

% Chg From Month Ago 0.5

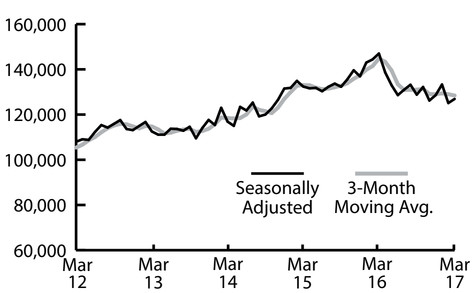
unadjusted

2016	Mar	808.30
2017	Mar	850.72

% Chg From Year Ago 5.2

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

Online Help-Wanted Advertising

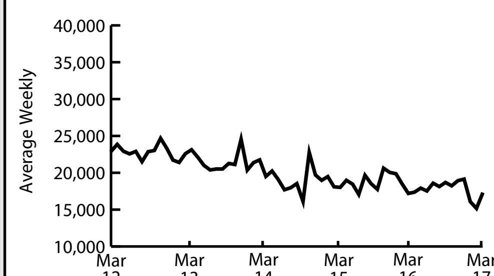


2016	Mar	147,000
	Apr	138,600
	May	133,000
	Jun	128,600
	Jul	131,000
	Aug	133,200
	Sep	128,800
	Oct	132,200
	Nov	126,200
	Dec	128,600
2017	Jan	133,300
	Feb	125,100
	Mar	126,900

% Chg From Month Ago 1.4
Year Ago -13.7

Source: The Conference Board Inc., 2017

Initial UB Claimants



seasonally adjusted

2016	Oct	18,226
	Nov	18,927
	Dec	19,142
2017	Jan	16,082
	Feb	15,159
	Mar	17,231

% Chg From Month Ago 13.7

unadjusted

2016	Mar	16,867
2017	Mar	16,161

% Chg From Year Ago -4.2

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

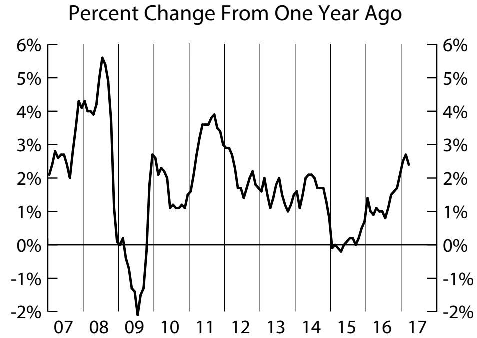
Minnesota Employment Review

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

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

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 0.3 percent in March on a seasonally adjusted basis the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The March decline was the first one-month decrease in the seasonally adjusted all items index since February 2016. A decline in the gasoline index was the largest factor, with a decrease in the index for wireless telephone services also contributing.



The all items index rose 2.4 percent for the 12 months ending March, a smaller increase than the 2.7-percent rise for the period ending February. The energy index rose 10.9 percent over the last year, while the food index increased 0.5 percent.

https://www.bls.gov/cpi/#news

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.

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

Economic Snapshot

How Employers Approach Workforce Diversity in Minnesota

Thousands of Minnesota employers were surveyed about diversity and a new section on the DEED website has the results. Check out helpful infographics, breaking down the results by employer size, industry and region: http://mn.gov/deed/diversity .

You can read more about the survey from the article Workforce Diversity in Minnesota in the March 2017 issue of Minnesota Economic Trends.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CountySnapshot Aitkin

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

by Derek Teed, Labor Market Information Office,
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Past

Aitkin County was established in 1857 from Ramsey County and named after the fur trader William Aitkin.[1] In 1871 the Northern Pacific Railroad line to Aitkin County had greatly expanded Aitkin's timber industry and commerce. Over time the tourism and agriculture industry expanded as well.

Future

Aitkin County will continue to be a destination for tourism as people are attracted to the fishing, biking, trails, wildlife, hunting, snowmobiling, golfing, lakes, rivers, and area parks.

Some high-grade copper has been found and exploration is ongoing. If copper prices rise, there is a possibility of mining project(s) coming to the Aitkin County in the distant future.[2]

Industries[3]

Aitkin	Top Industries of Employment	Total Employees in 2015 vs 2006		Annual Wages 2015 vs 2006	
	Total, All Industries	3,771	-12.4%	$33,020	28%
1	Education and Health Service	1,109	1.2%	$40,196	28%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	875	-15%	$29,328	22%
3	Leisure and Hospitality	514	-2.9%	$11,908	24%
4	Manufacturing	326	-20%	$42,848	49%

Note: Increase and decline percentages are comparisons between year 2015 and 2006

Trends

There is a national trend for manufacturing jobs to decrease while skills and wages for those jobs have increased as the sector is seeing a rise in productivity and automatization. This might explain the decrease in jobs but increase in wages for Aitkin's manufacturing sector.[5]

Health Services and the Education sector tend to have the highest employment in rural areas. In Aitkin County the government sector employs approximately 375 Elementary and Secondary school employees year-round.

As a tourist destination, Aitkin County has establish numerous resorts, restaurants, and hotels. However, the employment in Leisure and Hospitality is often part-time, thus the wages are lower on average. This brought down the average annual income of $33,943 for Aitkin County versus the Minnesota average of $54,457.

Economy[4]

	Aitkin County 2016	Minnesota 2016
Population	15,702	5,489,594
Labor Force	7,049	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	6.3%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$33,943	$54,457
Cost of Living, Single person	$27,947	$30,084
Cost of Living, Two working parents + Two children	$70,424	$80,976

[1]"History of Aitkin County." History of Aitkin County. Accessed March 15, 2017. https://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/visitor/history.html.
[2]Myers, John. "More exploratory drilling in Aitkin County." Duluth News Tribune. December 06, 2016. Accessed March 15, 2017. http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/4174294-more-exploratory-drilling-aitkin-county.
[3]https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/AreaSel.aspx
[4]http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/
[5]Kirby, Thomas H., Davenport, Julia. "Beyond Automation." Harvard Business Review. November 03, 2016. Accessed March 15, 2017. https://hbr.org/2015/06/beyond-automation.

CountySnapshot Anoka

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

Trends

The estimated immigrant population of Anoka Country grew from 3.6% in 2003 to 7.2% of the population in 2012. The highest immigrant population is in Hilltop, Columbia Heights, and Fridley.[4]

As the population ages, the immigrants are likely to integrate into the workforce to replace the aging residents. In 2030 the largest age groups are projected to be 60-64 and 65-69 years of age. This demographics shift will also bode well for the healthcare jobs in Anoka.

In 2015 the highest wages in Anoka County were in the manufacturing industry sector. The average wages were $79,560 in Anoka versus $63,336 for the state of Minnesota and $64,324 for the U.S.

Past

Anoka County was established in 1857. The first large industry to develop was the Timber industry. In the 1850s and 1860s timber was cut in Anoka County, which helped develop sawmills, woodworking plants, and barrel shops. After the main timberland was cut down, the timber would be cut north of Anoka and sent down the Mississippi River to be processed in Anoka.[1]

Future

The largest employers at the 6-digit industry level are Elementary and Secondary Schools, General Medical and Surgical Hospitals, Electromedical and Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Manufacturing, and Machine Shops Manufacturing. These industries will likely stay the top employers for the medium-term to meet the medical needs of the aging population.

Industries[2]

Anoka	Top Industries of Employment	Total Employees in 2015 vs 2006		Annual Wages 2015 vs 2006	
	Total, All Industries	118,622	2.4%	$50,024	23%
1	Education and Health Service	25,795	15%	$50,076	24%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,674	2%	$41,548	17%
3	Manufacturing	22,655	-4%	$79,560	29%
4	Leisure and Hospitality	12,640	12%	$16,796	31%

Note: Increase and decline percentages are comparisons between year 2015 and 2006

Economy[3]

	Anoka County 2016	Minnesota 2016
Population	344,151	5,489,594
Labor Force	189,652	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	3.7%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$51,012	$54,457
Cost of Living, Single person	$32,929	$30,084
Cost of Living, Two working parents + Two children	$90,974	$80,976

[1] Pratt, Anna. "Anoka's logging industry: Bygone but not forgotten." Star Tribune. January 6, 2015. Accessed March 21, 2017. http://www.startribune.com/anoka-s-logging-industry-bygone-but-not-forgotten/287678171/.
[2] https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/AreaSel.aspx
[3] http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/
[4] "Anoka County Community Health Data Book." Anoka County. September 2014. https://www.anokacounty.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/5629

CountySnapshot Becker

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

Past

Becker County was established in 1858. The first industry to arrive was a flour mill in 1871 along with a North Pacific Railroad line. The first major industry was the Fargo-Detroit Ice Company that bottled and sold pure spring water.[1]

Future

Becker County will likely continue to grow manufacturing jobs in the future.[2] In 2000 manufacturing jobs totaled 1,752 with the average wage of $29,952. In 2015 the total number of manufacturing jobs was 2,097 with wages of $45,864. Most of the manufacturing jobs are in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which currently employs over 1000 people and provides much higher wages than the average wages of $48,880 in Becker.

With a higher proportion of the population between ages 45-69, the health services jobs will likely stay in high demand. In 2015 Health Care and Social Assistance jobs accounted for 2,100 jobs, and Nursing and Residential Care Facilities account for almost 600 jobs.

Industries[3]

Becker	Top Industries of Employment	Total Employees in 2015 vs 2006		Annual Wages 2015 vs 2006	
	Total, All Industries	14,148	9%	$36,036	30%
1	Education and Health Service	3,205	3%	$37,076	19%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,990	9%	$33,384	34%
3	Manufacturing	2,097	0.1%	$45,864	31%
4	Leisure and Hospitality	1,617	16%	$13,676	40%

Note: Increase and decline percentages are comparisons between year 2015 and 2006

Trends

A national trend shows manufacturing jobs decreasing while skills and wages for those jobs have increased as the sector is seeing a rise in productivity and automatization.[3] However, Becker County seems to be growing both in wages and in manufacturing jobs.

The County has been active with their Comprehensive Plan in 2003 to promote the development of Rural and Shoreland Development, Economic Development, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Infrastructure.[5]

As a tourist destination, Becker County has used its wildlife attractions to help establish and grow the Leisure and Hospitality industry. The Countys shoreland and economic development should help this industry continue to prosper.[6]

Economy[4]

	Becker County 2016	Minnesota 2016
Population	33,386	5,489,594
Labor Force	18,281	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	4.6%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$36,959	$54,457
Cost of Living, Single person	$26,744	$30,084
Cost of Living, Two working parents + Two children	$63,839	$80,976

[1] "Becker County History." Becker County History. Accessed March 21, 2017. http://www.co.becker.mn.us/our_county/history.aspx.
[2] Comprehensive Plan for Becker County." Becker County. 2003. Accessed March 22, 2017. http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/planning_zoning/PDFs/CompPlan.pdf.
[3] https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/AreaSel.aspx
[4] http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/
[5] Kirby, Thomas H., Davenport, Julia. "Beyond Automation." Harvard Business Review. November 03, 2016. Accessed March 15, 2017. https://hbr.org/2015/06/beyond-automation.
[6] IBID

CountySnapshot Beltrami

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

Past

Beltrami County was created in 1866. Starting in the late 1890s the timber industry helped grow the population after railroad lines were built to Bemidji.[1] Many sawmills operated until the 1920s when the prime timberlands had been harvested.

Future

Healthcare and Social Assistance is likely to continue to grow in employment as the population in Beltrami ages and lives longer. This industry increased from 2,643 jobs in 2000 to 3,790 jobs in 2015.

Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools employed 490 people in 2000 and 532 people in 2015. Education is an important industry in Beltrami County with these post-secondary institutions: Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College, Red Lake Nation College, and Oak Hills Christian College. Employment in the universities may not grow, but it will remain an important part of the economy with higher average wages of $57,460 in 2015.

Trends

The following major industry sectors have decreased in employment from 2000 to 2015:

1. Manufacturing jobs: 1427 to 1066 (-25%)

2. Construction jobs: 1306 to 1265 (-3%)

3. Education Services jobs: 2260 to 2232 (-1%)

It has yet to be seen if these industries will recover.

As a tourist destination, Beltrami County will likely continue growing their Food Services and Traveler Accommodation sectors owing to the county's numerous lakes and wildlife attractions. However, the wages in these sectors are lower than average because of seasonality.

Industries[2]

Beltrami	Top Industries of Employment	Total Employees in 2015 vs 2006		Annual Wages 2015 vs 2006	
	Total, All Industries	19,004	6%	$38,220	31%
1	Education and Health Service	6,022	14%	$48,568	33%
2	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	4,043	0.6%	$31,980	36%
3	Leisure and Hospitality	2,427	17%	$14,300	27%
4	Public Administration	1,813	14%	$43,368	20%

Note: Increase and decline percentages are comparisons between year 2015 and 2006

Economy[3]

	Beltrami County 2016	Minnesota 2016
Population	45,672	5,489,594
Labor Force	23,636	2,990,254
Average Unemployment	5.1%	3.9%
Average Annual Income	$39,338	$54,457
Cost of Living, Single person	$26,733	$30,084
Cost of Living, Two working parents + Two children	$63,618	$80,976

[1]Young, Larry. "Bemidji Minnesota Area History." Bemidji Minnesota Area History. Accessed March 23, 2017. http://www.lakesnwoods.com/BemidjiHistory6.htm
[2]https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/qcew/AreaSel.aspx
[3]http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/