EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Review ONLINE

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Features:

Feature: Youth Summer Employment 2018

County Snapshots: *Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs*

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The Changing Faces of Southwest Minnesota

After experiencing a loss of just over 3,400 people since 2010, Southwest Minnesota is now home to about 392,000 residents. Although the 23-county planning region enjoyed a natural increase – more births than deaths – of 6,300 people, Southwest Minnesota suffered domestic out-migration of 13,750 people who left the region to live in other states. Lost in the shadow of that outflow, however, was the region's international net in-migration of nearly 4,000 additional foreign-born Minnesotans, which helped offset some of the domestic losses (see Table 1).

Southwest Minnesota is now home to 17,628 foreign-born residents or about 4.5 percent of the total population according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The number of immigrants in the region increased by 22.1 percent from 2010 to 2016, outpacing the statewide growth rate of 16.3 percent.

Over half (8,951 people) of the region's total foreign-born population is from Latin America, including 5,181 people from Mexico. Southwest Minnesota gained 1,456 additional residents from Latin America between 2010 and 2016, a 19.4 percent increase, which was also the largest numeric gain to what was already the region's largest immigrant population. More specifically, that included a gain of 237 additional people from Mexico, but also huge influxes from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

The second largest number of foreign-born residents in the region were from Asia, accounting for one in every four immigrants. Most of these immigrants (2,582 people) came from Southeast Asia, including more than 950 people from Laos and about 580 people from Thailand, while 975 people were from Eastern Asia, including China and Korea.

The fastest-growing wave of new immigrants to Southwest Minnesota came from Africa, rising by just over 1,000 people from 2010 to 2016, a 74 percent jump, pushing the region's African

Table 1. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change in Southwest Minnesota, 2010-2017

2017 Population Estimate	2010-2017 Estimated Population Change	April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017					
		Vital Events			Net Migration		
		Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
392,228	-3,415	6,319	34,048	-27,729	-9,774	3,968	-13,742

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program population to 2,366 people. The largest contingent is from Eastern Africa, primarily Somalia, which surpassed 1,725 people in 2016 after rising nearly 145 percent since 2010.

Another 1,364 foreign-born residents were from Europe, actually a slight decline compared to 2010. Southwest Minnesota also saw a drop in the number of immigrants from Canada from 2010 to 2016, now just 331 people (see Figure 1).

The Young and the Restless

Based on year of entry, Southwest Minnesota's foreign-born population was "newer" than the rest of the state and the nation. Just under 20 percent of the region's immigrants entered the U.S. since 2010 and another 36.7 percent entered since 2000, compared to 17.7 and 35.4 percent statewide, respectively. The remaining 43.6 percent of immigrants in the region settled in the U.S. prior to 2000.

Not surprisingly, immigrants have a much younger age profile than the native-born population in the region. In 2016 about 60 percent of the foreign-born population was between 25 and 54 years old, compared to just 35.3 percent of the total population. Almost one in every four (23.5 percent) immigrants in the region was between 25 and 34 years of age, nearly double the share in the region's total population. In contrast, less than 6 percent of the region's foreign-born population was 65 years or over, compared to 17.7 percent of the total population (see Figure 2).

With such a large percentage of the population in their prime working years, immigrants have become increasingly important contributors to the local economy. Statewide 72.1 percent of the foreign-born population aged 16 years and over was actively participating in the labor force, which was actually higher than the native-born population (69.6 percent). Applying the region's labor force participation rates by age group to the region's foreign-born population would equal just over 12,800 available immigrant workers, comprising about 6 percent of Southwest Minnesota's workforce.

Southwest Minnesota averaged a net gain of just under 2,400 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2001, and as a result employers were able to tap into a large and growing pool of workers. However, from 2001 to 2017 Southwest Minnesota's labor force began to shrink, losing almost 2,750 workers. The region peaked with 225,616 available workers in 2009, but dropped to 221,527 workers in 2017.

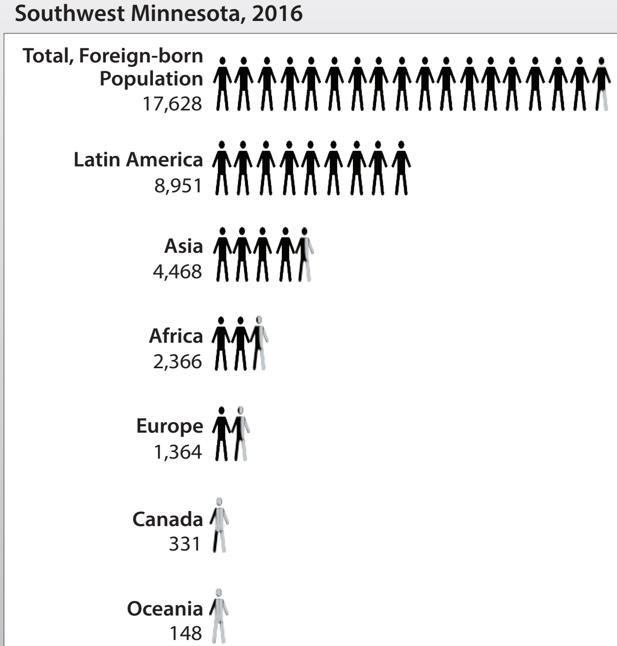
Recently released labor force projections from the Minnesota State Demographic Center suggest this trend will become even more apparent in the years ahead, with Southwest Minnesota expected to lose another 8,345 workers between 2020 and 2030. If the projections hold true, it will be even more challenging for employers to fill jobs and grow, but the situation will also shine a light on the importance of immigration to the economy.

While the region's overall labor force was shrinking, the number of immigrant workers in the region increased by more than 2,000 workers from 2010 to 2016. But Southwest Minnesota's native born workforce was aging and declining, creating an extremely tight labor market in the region. According to DEED's unemployment statistics and job vacancy data, there was now less than one available jobseeker per vacancy in the region, the lowest level recorded in the past 10 years.

Learning the Language

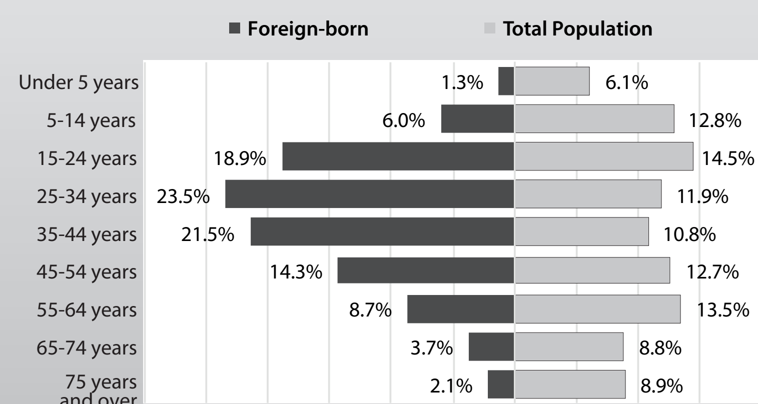
Although willing and able to work, some of this group of newly arrived workers may have to overcome some barriers to employment. About 85 percent of immigrants in Southwest Minnesota reported speaking another language, but many of them also had some ability to speak English. Two-thirds (65.5%) reported being able to speak English "well" or "very well", while the others spoke English "not well" or "not at all."

Figure 1. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, Southwest Minnesota, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey Estimates

Figure 2. Population by Age Group, Southwest Minnesota, 2016



Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

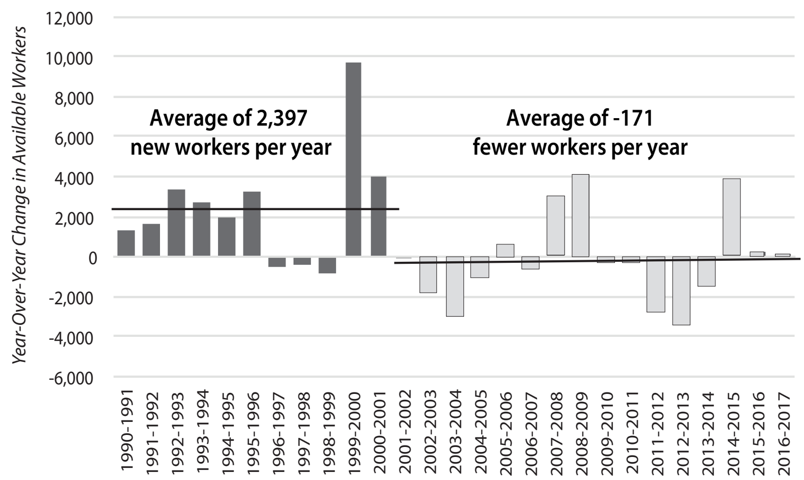
Depending on the demands of the jobs they are hiring for, employers may have a hard time integrating the more than 5,000 foreign-born residents in the region who don't speak English or don't speak it well. Several Southwest Minnesota companies, however, have developed successful strategies for recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining workers who speak another language, quickly deepening their potential pool of applicants.

Immigrants wanting to learn or improve their English can tap into the network of Adult Basic Education (ABE) services in the region, which teach English as a Second Language classes from the pre-literacy to advanced levels. These classes help students develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in order to communicate effectively and function successfully within their workplaces, communities, and families.

According to their website, "Southwest ABE prioritizes the goal of assisting students in gaining skills to obtain meaningful employment. Southwest ABE sees the priority of employment training as the most effective means of assisting our students in all areas of their lives." ABE also provides workforce preparation skills and a Transition Into Employment program, as well as citizenship and civics education.

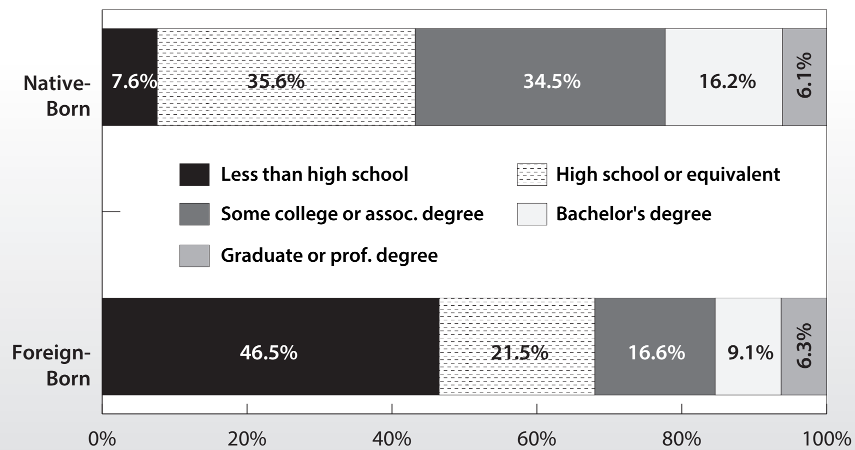
In addition to language barriers, Census data show that many foreign-born residents could benefit from ABE's adult diploma and GED programs, designed to provide students with the equivalency of a high school diploma. Over two-thirds (68.0%) of foreign-born residents aged 25 years and over in the region had a high school diploma or less (see Figure 4). Immigrants with less than a high school diploma may need access to education to be prepared for the workforce, where jobs for high school graduates are in high demand. However, it's also important to note that a slightly higher percentage of foreign born than native born adults in the region had graduate or professional degrees, helping to fill other high demand openings in health care and computer-related fields.

Figure 3. Annual Change in Southwest Minnesota's Labor Force



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Figure 4. Educational Attainment for Adults Aged 25 Years and Over, Southwest Minnesota, 2016



Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

Faces of Change

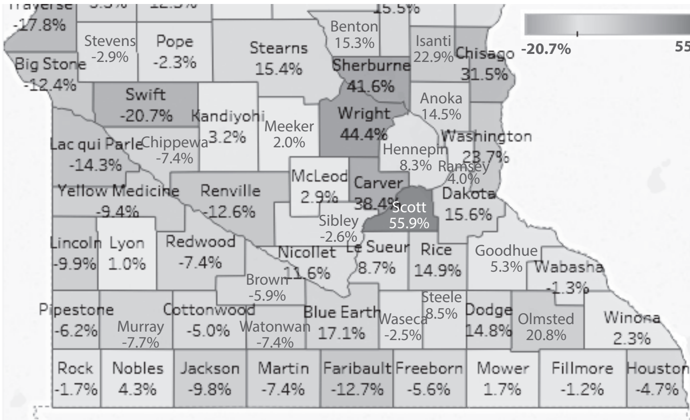
Beyond just the workforce, these demographic shifts are also changing the faces of the population in the region. Most counties in the region were home to an aging and declining population, though there were notable exceptions. Blue Earth County, where Mankato is located, was the 10th fastest growing county in the state from 2000-2016, and Nicollet County, the other portion of the Mankato-North Mankato metropolitan statistical area, ranked 23rd.

Likewise, Le Sueur, Nobles, and Lyon counties also saw population growth this century, while the remaining 18 counties in the region saw various amounts of population loss. Fifteen of the 26 fastest-declining counties in the state were found in Southwest Minnesota (see Map 1).

Despite the population declines overall, data from the Census Bureau show that Southwest Minnesota's population was growing more diverse, with the number of residents from different minority groups and ethnicities increasing rapidly since 2000. While the number of white residents dropped by 2.8 percent, representing a loss of 10,671 people, the number of people of immigrant groups rose significantly.

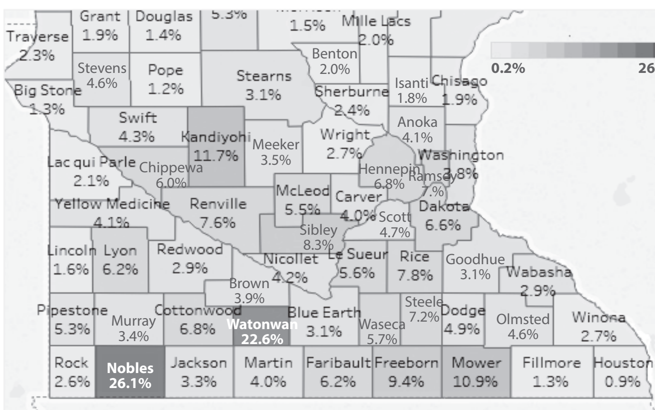
The number of black or African American residents more than doubled in Southwest Minnesota from 2000-2016, a gain of 3,870 people. The region also added 2,260 Asian residents, almost 2,000 more people of two or more races, and over 600 additional American Indian or Alaska Natives. The region saw a small decline in the number of people of some other race, although there were still about 6,325 people in that category, making it

Map 1. Population Change by County, 2000 to 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

Map 2. Share of Population that is Hispanic or Latino by County, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

about the same size as the region's black and Asian populations.

The region's Hispanic or Latino population nearly doubled to more than 24,000 people through 2016, accounting for about 6.1 percent of the region's total population. Southwest Minnesota has a higher share of Hispanic or Latino residents than the state (see Table 2).

Southwest Minnesota is home to the two counties with the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents in the state: Nobles (26.1%) and Watonwan (22.6%). In addition, the region has 10 of the 22 counties with the highest share of Hispanic or Latino residents in the state (see Map 2).

Wherever they live or work, these diverse populations are providing a new source of growth to Southwest Minnesota. The region's immigrants and residents of other races have shown themselves to be ready and willing contributors, with high and rising labor force participation rates. While some have educational and language barriers for certain jobs, a variety of occupations, including many that are already in critical need of workers, have immigrants already contributing in significant numbers.

by Cameron Macht

Table 2. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2016

	Southwest Minnesota			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent of Total	Change from 2000-2016	Percent of Total	Change from 2000-2016
Total	**392,479**	**100.0%**	**-0.5%**	**100.0%**	**10.8%**
White	365,148	93.0%	-2.8%	84.3%	4.5%
Black or African American	6,573	1.7%	143.2%	5.7%	81.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,593	0.7%	30.7%	1.0%	3.5%
Asian and Other Pacific Islander	6,567	1.7%	52.5%	4.6%	72.8%
Some Other Race	6,325	1.6%	-0.6%	1.6%	34.2%
Two or More Races	5,273	1.3%	57.7%	2.7%	79.5%
Hispanic or Latino origin	24,118	6.1%	93.7%	5.1%	92.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

Regional Spotlight Southwest Minnesota

Fun With Statistics

Income inequality has become a major topic over the past few decades as incomes have surged at the top end while wages for the middle class have stagnated. One measure of income inequality that has been around since 1912 is the Gini index or coefficient. A Gini coefficient, whether measuring the distribution of income or wealth, ranges from 0 to 1. A 0 coefficient denotes perfect equality while 1 represents perfect inequality.

The U.S. Census started to produce Gini coefficient estimates of household incomes for various geographies including state-level coefficient using American Community Survey (ACS) data in 2006. A state in which every household has the same income would have a Gini household income coefficient of 0, while a state where one household earned all the income would have a Gini household income coefficient of 1.

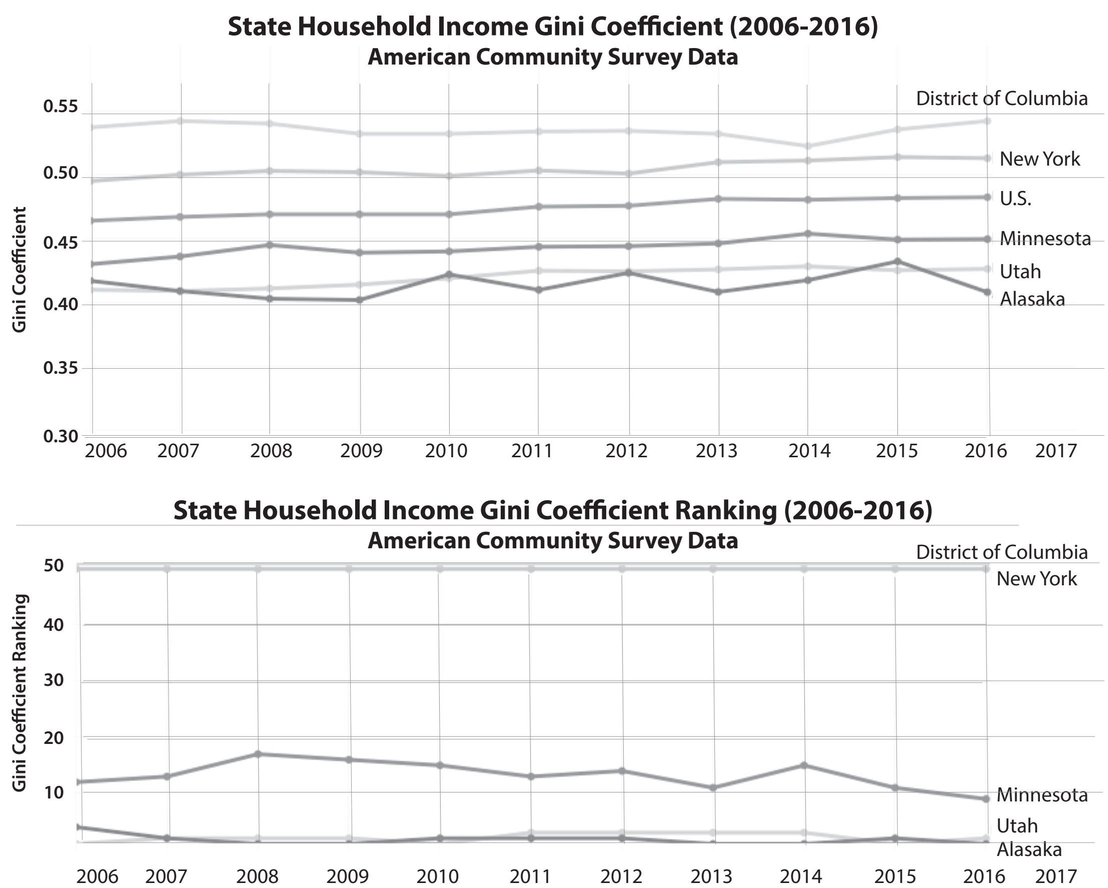
Below is a graph that shows the Gini coefficient for Minnesota and the U.S. and the two states with the lowest inequality in household income (Alaska and Utah) and the two states (D.C. and New York) with the highest inequality over the last decade. (Other states can be added to the graph by checking states in the Choose States option if viewing online). Income inequality as measured by the Gini coefficients has increased in all states except Alaska between 2006 and 2016.

Minnesota, which had the 9th lowest level of household income inequality in 2016, saw its Gini increase by .0196 over the decade to .4496. The increase implies that Minnesota's household income distribution became more inequitably distributed between 2006 and 2016. Minnesota's Gini coefficient increase was slightly higher than the 0.0184 increase in the national Gini coefficient. The state's 2006-2016 Gini coefficient increase was the 20th highest among states.

(Data is from the 2006-2016 ACS Table B19083 – Gini Index of Income Inequality)

Find Tableau at https://public.tableau.com/profile/magda.olson#!/vizhome/StatesHouseholdIncomeGiniCoefficient/Dashboard1?publish=yes

by Dave Senf



States With Low Gini Coefficient Rankings Are States With the Least Household Income Inequality

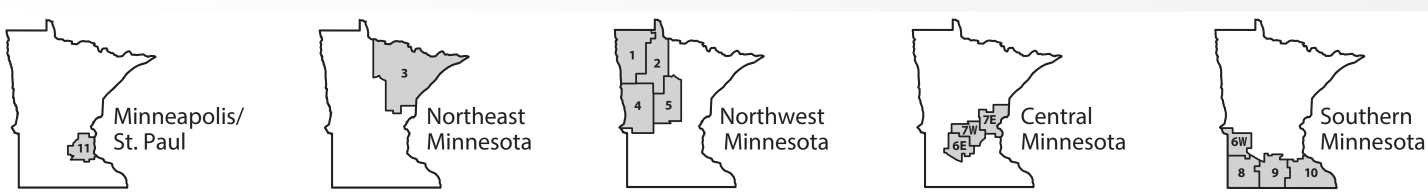
Labor Force Estimates

County/Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017
United States ('000s)												
(Seasonally adjusted)	161,921	161,115	159,997	155,215	154,430	152,511	6,706	6,684	7,486	4.1	4.1	4.7
(Unadjusted)	161,494	160,037	159,482	154,403	152,848	151,594	7,091	7,189	7,887	4.4	4.5	4.9
Minnesota												
(Seasonally adjusted)	3,086,058	3,076,674	3,054,729	2,986,232	2,975,997	2,941,922	99,826	100,677	112,807	3.2	3.3	3.7
(Unadjusted)	3,105,640	3,089,011	3,044,630	2,985,077	2,964,976	2,907,857	120,563	124,035	136,773	3.9	4.0	4.5
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*												
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	2,016,482	2,003,867	1,942,616	1,948,875	1,936,012	1,861,641	67,607	67,855	80,975	3.4	3.4	4.2
Duluth-Superior MSA	147,864	145,776	142,913	140,509	138,507	133,865	7,355	7,269	9,048	5.0	5.0	6.3
Rochester MSA	122,216	121,733	118,532	117,869	117,360	113,704	4,347	4,373	4,828	3.6	3.6	4.1
St. Cloud MSA	114,643	113,622	110,501	109,713	108,465	104,773	4,930	5,157	5,728	4.3	4.5	5.2
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	63,192	62,415	60,608	61,225	60,413	58,275	1,967	2,002	2,333	3.1	3.2	3.8
Fargo-Moorhead MSA	140,260	138,686	138,460	135,830	134,191	134,094	4,430	4,495	4,366	3.2	3.2	3.2
Grand Forks MSA	56,785	56,488	56,946	54,890	54,560	54,999	1,895	1,928	1,947	3.3	3.4	3.4
Region One	**47,808**	**47,855**	**48,430**	**44,903**	**44,653**	**44,697**	**2,905**	**3,202**	**3,733**	**6.1**	**6.7**	**7.7**
Kittson	2,343	2,343	2,327	2,243	2,232	2,194	100	111	133	4.3	4.7	5.7
Marshall	5,563	5,592	5,563	5,014	4,994	4,962	549	598	601	9.9	10.7	10.8
Norman	3,344	3,355	3,416	3,141	3,130	3,175	203	225	241	6.1	6.7	7.1
Pennington	9,011	9,047	9,156	8,351	8,306	8,323	660	741	833	7.3	8.2	9.1
Polk	17,293	17,187	17,269	16,438	16,323	16,306	855	864	963	4.9	5.0	5.6
Red Lake	2,257	2,268	2,356	2,083	2,076	2,094	174	192	262	7.7	8.5	11.1
Roseau	7,997	8,063	8,343	7,633	7,592	7,643	364	471	700	4.6	5.8	8.4
Region Two	**44,126**	**44,123**	**42,974**	**41,172**	**40,868**	**39,588**	**2,954**	**3,255**	**3,386**	**6.7**	**7.4**	**7.9**
Beltrami	24,188	24,075	23,717	22,830	22,582	22,122	1,358	1,493	1,595	5.6	6.2	6.7
Clearwater	4,864	4,946	4,827	4,256	4,255	4,160	608	691	667	12.5	14.0	13.8
Hubbard	10,243	10,266	9,573	9,504	9,468	8,737	739	798	836	7.2	7.8	8.7
Lake of the Woods	2,427	2,437	2,461	2,326	2,320	2,341	101	117	120	4.2	4.8	4.9
Mahnomen	2,404	2,399	2,396	2,256	2,243	2,228	148	156	168	6.2	6.5	7.0
Region Three	**168,397**	**166,744**	**161,132**	**159,055**	**157,169**	**149,826**	**9,342**	**9,575**	**11,306**	**5.5**	**5.7**	**7.0**
Aitkin	7,442	7,445	7,018	6,802	6,752	6,333	640	693	685	8.6	9.3	9.8
Carlton	18,408	18,207	17,593	17,356	17,124	16,385	1,052	1,083	1,208	5.7	5.9	6.9
Cook	3,370	3,381	2,816	3,197	3,204	2,633	173	177	183	5.1	5.2	6.5
Itasca	22,146	22,111	21,254	20,495	20,382	19,167	1,651	1,729	2,087	7.5	7.8	9.8
Koochiching	6,066	6,043	5,972	5,662	5,630	5,472	404	413	500	6.7	6.8	8.4
Lake	5,707	5,643	5,054	5,450	5,375	4,744	257	268	310	4.5	4.7	6.1
St. Louis	105,258	103,914	101,425	100,093	98,702	95,092	5,165	5,212	6,333	4.9	5.0	6.2
City of Duluth	47,095	46,420	45,066	45,442	44,811	42,983	1,653	1,609	2,083	3.5	3.5	4.6
Balance of St. Louis County	58,163	57,494	56,359	54,651	53,891	52,109	3,512	3,603	4,250	6.0	6.3	7.5
Region Four	**129,062**	**128,511**	**124,830**	**123,152**	**122,262**	**117,932**	**5,910**	**6,249**	**6,898**	**4.6**	**4.9**	**5.5**
Becker	19,102	19,040	18,123	18,094	17,941	16,965	1,008	1,099	1,158	5.3	5.8	6.4
Clay	36,550	36,125	35,951	35,091	34,637	34,258	1,459	1,488	1,693	4.0	4.1	4.7
Douglas	20,849	20,855	19,749	20,037	19,996	18,781	812	859	968	3.9	4.1	4.9
Grant	3,269	3,283	3,222	3,072	3,073	2,986	197	210	236	6.0	6.4	7.3
Otter Tail	32,065	32,067	30,715	30,308	30,175	28,681	1,757	1,892	2,034	5.5	5.9	6.6
Pope	6,371	6,365	6,154	6,120	6,092	5,840	251	273	314	3.9	4.3	5.1
Stevens	5,494	5,445	5,489	5,308	5,258	5,264	186	187	225	3.4	3.4	4.1
Traverse	1,803	1,818	1,777	1,714	1,721	1,675	89	97	102	4.9	5.3	5.7
Wilkin	3,559	3,513	3,650	3,408	3,369	3,482	151	144	168	4.2	4.1	4.6
Region Five	**86,363**	**86,641**	**82,066**	**80,684**	**80,416**	**75,649**	**5,679**	**6,225**	**6,417**	**6.6**	**7.2**	**7.8**
Cass	15,149	15,303	14,003	14,027	14,018	12,666	1,122	1,285	1,337	7.4	8.4	9.5
Crow Wing	33,352	33,482	31,005	31,417	31,389	28,803	1,935	2,093	2,202	5.8	6.3	7.1
Morrison	18,137	18,181	17,777	16,754	16,635	16,282	1,383	1,546	1,495	7.6	8.5	8.4
Todd	13,855	13,829	13,057	13,097	13,017	12,214	758	812	843	5.5	5.9	6.5
Wadena	5,870	5,846	6,224	5,389	5,357	5,684	481	489	540	8.2	8.4	8.7
Region Six East	**67,747**	**67,682**	**64,394**	**64,529**	**64,388**	**60,623**	**3,218**	**3,294**	**3,771**	**4.8**	**4.9**	**5.9**
Kandiyohi	25,202	25,223	23,836	24,105	24,091	22,581	1,097	1,132	1,255	4.4	4.5	5.3
McLeod	19,621	19,567	19,047	18,716	18,651	17,918	905	916	1,129	4.6	4.7	5.9
Meeker	13,466	13,429	13,091	12,759	12,710	12,258	707	719	833	5.3	5.4	6.4
Renville	9,458	9,463	8,420	8,949	8,936	7,866	509	527	554	5.4	5.6	6.6

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

Numbers are unadjusted unless otherwise labeled.
Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2018.

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017
Region Six West	**23,400**	**23,497**	**23,433**	**22,221**	**22,180**	**22,098**	**1,179**	**1,317**	**1,335**	**5.0**	**5.6**	**5.7**
Big Stone	2,660	2,684	2,637	2,501	2,506	2,459	159	178	178	6.0	6.6	6.8
Chippewa	6,896	6,902	6,916	6,580	6,537	6,522	316	365	394	4.6	5.3	5.7
Lac Qui Parle	3,504	3,520	3,546	3,317	3,316	3,358	187	204	188	5.3	5.8	5.3
Swift	5,072	5,100	5,018	4,785	4,786	4,711	287	314	307	5.7	6.2	6.1
Yellow Medicine	5,268	5,291	5,316	5,038	5,035	5,048	230	256	268	4.4	4.8	5.0
Region Seven East	**89,774**	**89,705**	**86,824**	**84,090**	**83,642**	**80,341**	**5,684**	**6,063**	**6,483**	**6.3**	**6.8**	**7.5**
Chisago	30,238	30,109	29,228	28,758	28,582	27,443	1,480	1,527	1,785	4.9	5.1	6.1
Isanti	21,541	21,467	20,601	20,342	20,204	19,271	1,199	1,263	1,330	5.6	5.9	6.5
Kanabec	9,340	9,391	9,110	8,519	8,476	8,185	821	915	925	8.8	9.7	10.2
Mille Lacs	13,347	13,349	12,959	12,327	12,249	11,830	1,020	1,100	1,129	7.6	8.2	8.7
Pine	15,308	15,389	14,926	14,144	14,131	13,612	1,164	1,258	1,314	7.6	8.2	8.8
Region Seven West	**242,977**	**241,369**	**233,538**	**232,443**	**230,375**	**221,251**	**10,534**	**10,994**	**12,287**	**4.3**	**4.6**	**5.3**
Benton	22,674	22,512	21,799	21,477	21,238	20,490	1,197	1,274	1,309	5.3	5.7	6.0
Sherburne	52,612	52,388	50,169	50,232	49,878	47,372	2,380	2,510	2,797	4.5	4.8	5.6
Stearns	91,969	91,110	88,702	88,236	87,227	84,283	3,733	3,883	4,419	4.1	4.3	5.0
Wright	75,722	75,359	72,868	72,498	72,032	69,106	3,224	3,327	3,762	4.3	4.4	5.2
Region Eight	**64,056**	**64,027**	**64,021**	**61,230**	**61,051**	**60,764**	**2,826**	**2,976**	**3,257**	**4.4**	**4.6**	**5.1**
Cottonwood	5,413	5,395	5,157	5,162	5,138	4,864	251	257	293	4.6	4.8	5.7
Jackson	5,687	5,707	5,968	5,475	5,477	5,698	212	230	270	3.7	4.0	4.5
Lincoln	3,322	3,327	3,304	3,155	3,151	3,116	167	176	188	5.0	5.3	5.7
Lyon	15,012	14,931	14,956	14,407	14,300	14,241	605	631	715	4.0	4.2	4.8
Murray	4,884	4,912	4,776	4,572	4,568	4,396	312	344	380	6.4	7.0	8.0
Nobles	11,370	11,400	11,169	10,966	10,941	10,690	404	459	479	3.6	4.0	4.3
Pipestone	4,955	4,982	4,708	4,701	4,729	4,409	254	253	299	5.1	5.1	6.4
Redwood	7,476	7,435	8,226	7,045	7,003	7,760	431	432	466	5.8	5.8	5.7
Rock	5,937	5,938	5,757	5,747	5,744	5,590	190	194	167	3.2	3.3	2.9
Region Nine	**136,529**	**135,856**	**132,693**	**130,615**	**129,565**	**125,965**	**5,914**	**6,291**	**6,728**	**4.3**	**4.6**	**5.1**
Blue Earth	41,779	41,265	40,027	40,434	39,885	38,435	1,345	1,380	1,592	3.2	3.3	4.0
Brown	14,722	14,723	14,644	13,979	13,925	13,818	743	798	826	5.0	5.4	5.6
Faribault	7,284	7,335	7,112	6,912	6,940	6,640	372	395	472	5.1	5.4	6.6
Le Sueur	16,300	16,358	15,881	15,199	15,106	14,681	1,101	1,252	1,200	6.8	7.7	7.6
Martin	10,355	10,309	10,222	9,936	9,884	9,753	419	425	469	4.0	4.1	4.6
Nicollet	21,413	21,150	20,581	20,791	20,528	19,840	622	622	741	2.9	2.9	3.6
Sibley	8,659	8,617	8,498	8,247	8,192	7,999	412	425	499	4.8	4.9	5.9
Waseca	9,615	9,659	9,275	9,045	9,022	8,737	570	637	538	5.9	6.6	5.8
Watonwan	6,402	6,440	6,453	6,072	6,083	6,062	330	357	391	5.2	5.5	6.1
Region Ten	**283,963**	**282,732**	**278,238**	**273,450**	**272,069**	**266,280**	**10,513**	**10,663**	**11,958**	**3.7**	**3.8**	**4.3**
Dodge	11,765	11,708	11,469	11,224	11,173	10,863	541	535	606	4.6	4.6	5.3
Fillmore	11,645	11,599	11,345	11,060	11,016	10,708	585	583	637	5.0	5.0	5.6
Freeborn	16,208	16,220	15,967	15,511	15,485	15,210	697	735	757	4.3	4.5	4.7
Goodhue	27,212	27,214	26,625	26,138	26,079	25,361	1,074	1,135	1,264	3.9	4.2	4.7
Houston	10,944	10,728	10,607	10,449	10,215	10,019	495	513	588	4.5	4.8	5.5
Mower	20,733	20,642	20,410	20,026	19,921	19,600	707	721	810	3.4	3.5	4.0
Olmsted	86,658	86,308	83,830	83,970	83,600	80,817	2,688	2,708	3,013	3.1	3.1	3.6
City of Rochester	63,814	63,572	61,390	61,930	61,658	59,317	1,884	1,914	2,073	3.0	3.0	3.4
Rice	37,355	37,155	36,274	35,991	35,772	34,690	1,364	1,383	1,584	3.7	3.7	4.4
Steele	19,920	19,968	20,718	19,077	19,093	19,801	843	875	917	4.2	4.4	4.4
Wabasha	12,148	12,118	11,888	11,615	11,571	11,316	533	547	572	4.4	4.5	4.8
Winona	29,375	29,072	29,105	28,389	28,144	27,895	986	928	1,210	3.4	3.2	4.2
Region Eleven	**1,721,441**	**1,710,270**	**1,657,051**	**1,667,533**	**1,656,341**	**1,592,141**	**53,908**	**53,929**	**64,910**	**3.1**	**3.2**	**3.9**
Anoka	198,074	196,784	191,266	190,964	189,634	182,671	7,110	7,150	8,595	3.6	3.6	4.5
Carver	58,021	57,619	55,445	56,172	55,798	53,231	1,849	1,821	2,214	3.2	3.2	4.0
Dakota	242,505	240,933	233,492	234,792	233,134	224,247	7,713	7,799	9,245	3.2	3.2	4.0
Hennepin	705,513	701,127	678,443	684,870	680,461	653,620	20,643	20,666	24,823	2.9	2.9	3.7
City of Bloomington	47,189	46,904	46,299	45,713	45,418	44,535	1,476	1,486	1,764	3.1	3.2	3.8
City of Minneapolis	240,825	239,331	231,871	233,755	232,250	223,318	7,070	7,081	8,553	2.9	3.0	3.7
Ramsey	290,674	288,677	280,641	281,329	279,460	269,280	9,345	9,217	11,361	3.2	3.2	4.0
City of St. Paul	159,391	158,302	153,874	154,198	153,174	147,526	5,193	5,128	6,348	3.3	3.2	4.1
Scott	83,431	82,847	79,652	80,729	80,171	76,540	2,702	2,676	3,112	3.2	3.2	3.9
Washington	143,223	142,283	138,112	138,677	137,683	132,552	4,546	4,600	5,560	3.2	3.2	4.0



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

Overview

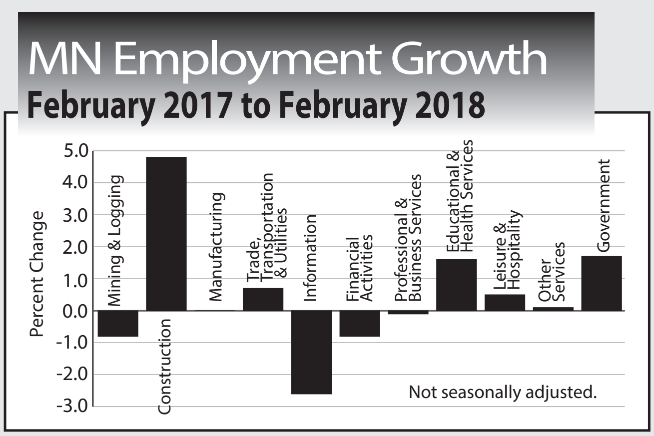
Minnesota lost 1,300 jobs (0.0 percent) in February on a seasonally adjusted basis. January's estimate was revised upward from a gain of 2,500 to a gain of 4,900. February's slight decline came primarily among service providers, which shed 2,400 jobs (0.1 percent), while goods producers added 1,100 jobs (0.2 percent). Private sector employment was off slightly, down 200 (0.0 percent), and public sector employers lost 1,100 jobs (0.3 percent). Annually the state added 22,626 jobs (0.8 percent). Goods producers added 4,954 jobs (1.2 percent), and service providers added 17,672 (0.7 percent). Private sector employment grew by 0.6 percent (15,266 jobs), while public sector employment grew by 1.7 (7,360 jobs).

Mining and Logging

Mining and Logging employment was up in February as the supersector added 100 jobs (1.5 percent) to sit at a seasonally-adjusted 6,600 jobs. The supersector did not fare as well on an over-the-year basis, off by 52 jobs (0.8 percent) from February of 2017. January's unadjusted estimate was also revised downward from 6,109 to 6,068. Mining and Logging has now had over-the-year losses for both months of 2018 after showing annual gains in every month of 2017, although the gains and losses are much more incremental now that the turbulence of 2015 and 2016 is more than a year behind us.

Construction

Employment in Construction was up by 300 (0.2 percent) in February. While small, that marked the sixth consecutive month of over-the-month increases in the supersector. Annually Construction employers added 4,867 jobs (4.8 percent). That growth came almost entirely from Specialty Trade Contractors, which added 4,616 jobs (6.9 percent). The component sector has had over-the-year growth of greater than 1 percent consistently since the beginning of 2017 and has not shown an over-the-year decline since an isolated dip in April of 2013. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction also added jobs, up by 561 or 6 percent.



Source: *Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.*

Manufacturing

Employment in the Manufacturing supersector was up by 700 (0.2 percent) in February. All of that growth came in Durable Goods Manufacturing, as Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing employment was unchanged from January. Annually Manufacturing employment was mostly flat, adding 139 jobs or 0.0 percent. Durable Goods manufacturers lost 218 jobs (0.1 percent), in large part from an over-the-year decline of 238 (2.3 percent) in Transportation Equipment Manufacturing. Non-Durable Goods manufacturers added 357 (0.3 percent) on the year, with Food Manufacturers adding 1,225 (2.7 percent).

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Employment in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was up slightly in February as the supersector added 400 jobs (0.1 percent). Employment in both trade sectors grew, with Retail adding 800 jobs (0.3 percent) and Wholesale adding 500 (0.4 percent). However, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities combined to lose 900 jobs (0.8 percent). Over the year the supersector added 3,627 jobs (0.7 percent). Wholesale Trade added 2,343 (1.8 percent), Retail added 1,343 (0.5 percent) and, as was the case in over-the-month growth, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities lagged behind, off by 59 (0.1 percent). That loss appeared to come entirely from Utilities (off by 85 or 0.7 percent) as Transportation and Warehousing employment was largely unchanged for the year.

Information

The Information supersector lost 500 jobs (1 percent) in February. January's estimate was also revised downward by 200. The February decline marks the fourth straight month of over-the-month job losses in the supersector. Annually Information employment was down by 1,319 (2.6 percent). It was the eighth consecutive month of over-the-year jobs losses for the supersector.

*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

Employment in the Financial Activities supersector was off by 400 (0.2 percent) in February. The component Finance and Insurance sector's employment was flat, while Real Estate and Rental and Leasing employment was down by 400 (1.2 percent). Over the year the supersector lost 1,365 jobs (0.8 percent). That's the second straight month of declines, following 36 consecutive months of over-the-year growth. February's losses were shared between components, as Finance and Insurance lost 824 jobs (0.6 percent), and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing lost 541 (1.6 percent).

Professional and Business Services

Professional and Business Services employment took a large fall in February, off by 4,600 jobs (1.2 percent). The declines were shared between two component sectors, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (down 2,400 or 1.5 percent) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (down 2,200 or 1.6 percent). Employment in Management of Companies was flat. Annually the supersector also dipped into the red for the first time since October, off by 338 jobs (0.1 percent). Management of Companies led the annual declines, off by 482 jobs or 0.6 percent. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 449 jobs (0.4 percent), although it did so without the help of Employment Services. The closely-watched component sector lost 1,859 jobs (3.3 percent), its 17th straight month of over-the-year declines.

Educational and Health Services

Educational and Health Services employment was up slightly in February, adding 500 jobs (0.1 percent). Health Care and Social Assistance added 2,500 jobs (0.5 percent), but that growth was largely erased by the loss of 2,000 (2.9 percent) in Educational Services. Employment growth in the supersector remained strong on an over-the-year basis, up by 8,451 (1.6 percent). Educational Services added 1,910 jobs (2.8 percent), while Health Care and Social Assistance added 6,541 (1.4 percent).

Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and Hospitality employment was up by 3,400 (1.3 percent) in February. Both component sectors added 1,700 jobs on the month, with Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation up 3.5 percent and Accommodation and Food Service up 0.8 percent. Annually Leisure and Hospitality added 1,193 jobs (0.5 percent). Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation employers added 3,762 jobs (9.6 percent). The other piece of the supersector, Accommodation and Food Services, lost 2,569 (1.2 percent).

Other Services

Other Services employment was down by 100 (0.1 percent) in February. Annually the supersector added 63 jobs (0.1 percent). Repair and Maintenance added 102 jobs (0.5 percent). Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations lost 50 jobs (0.1 percent).

Government

Government employers lost 1,100 jobs (0.3 percent) in February, with State Government employers driving the losses (down 1,200 or 1.2 percent). Annually Government employment was up by 7,360 (1.7 percent), outpacing the private sector's 0.6 percent growth. Local Governments added 4,000 jobs (1.4 percent), and State Government added 3,499 (3.4 percent). Federal Government employment was down by 139 (0.4 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	March 2018	February 2018	January 2018
Total Nonagricultural	**2,947.3**	**2,948.6**	**2,943.7**
Goods-Producing	**448.6**	**447.5**	**446.9**
Mining and Logging	6.6	6.5	6.5
Construction	123.0	122.7	122.5
Manufacturing	319.0	318.3	317.9
Service-Providing	**2,498.7**	**2,501.1**	**2,496.8**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	541.4	541.0	540.1
Information	48.8	49.3	49.6
Financial Activities	178.2	178.6	179.4
Professional and Business Services	372.4	377.0	376.1
Educational and Health Services	539.5	539.0	540.3
Leisure and Hospitality	274.4	271.0	269.2
Other Services	115.4	115.5	115.1
Government	428.6	429.7	427.0

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

Regional Analysis

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

Employment in the Minneapolis-St Paul MSA was up by 3,227 (0.2 percent) in February. Educational and Health Services added 3,991 (1.2 percent), with gains in both component sectors. Leisure and Hospitality added 2,283 (1.3 percent), and Government employers added 3,076 (1.2 percent). On the other side of the ledger Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 2,877 jobs (0.8 percent), with losses in two of the three components (Retail Trade and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities). Professional and Business Services lost 2,438 (0.8 percent), with all of that decline coming in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (off 2,885 or 2.8 percent). Over the year the metro area added 14,715 jobs (0.8 percent). Over-the-year change mirrored over-the-month change in many supersectors, as growth occurred in Educational and Health Services (up 6,466 or 2 percent), Leisure and Hospitality (up 1,034 or 0.6 percent), and Government (up 6,086, 2.4 percent), while losses came in Professional and Business Services (down 4,060 or 1.3 percent), Manufacturing (down 531 or 0.3 percent), and Information (down 898, 2.4 percent). One series of divergence was Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which was off in February but up by 3,232 (0.9 percent) on the year.

Duluth-Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA added 1,374 jobs (1 percent) in February. That 1 percent marked the highest over-the-month growth of any MSA in the state. The only two supersectors to lose jobs were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (down 276 or 1.1 percent) and Information (down 11, 0.8 percent). Government employers led the way with 767 more jobs (2.8 percent) and were joined by Manufacturing (up 119 or 1.6 percent) and Educational and Health Services (up 483, 1.5 percent), among others. Annually the Duluth area added 1,690 jobs (1.3 percent). Mining, Logging, and Construction had the biggest over-the-year growth, up 7.1 percent (553 jobs) over February 2017. Other notable gains came in Educational and Health Services (up 531 or 1.6 percent) and Manufacturing (up 153, 2.1 percent). The Information supersector had the largest total and proportional job losses on the year, off by 75 jobs or 5.4 percent.

Rochester MSA

The Rochester area added 164 jobs (0.1 percent) in February. It was the lowest over-the-month growth rate of any MSA in Minnesota. This low growth is in part because Rochester was the only MSA in the state to show negative growth in the large Educational and Health Services supersector (down 105 or 0.2 percent). However, that decline was countered by growth in other areas, including Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 163 jobs or 4.2 percent), Manufacturing (up 75 or 0.7 percent), and Leisure and Hospitality (up 55, 0.5 percent). Over the year Rochester has added 165 jobs (0.1 percent). Leisure and Hospitality employers added 479 jobs (4.8 percent), leading the way in both actual and proportional job growth. Government employers added 305 jobs (2.4 percent), and Mining, Logging, and Construction added 109 (2.8 percent). Educational and Health Services led all supersectors in negative growth, off by 855 jobs or 1.7 percent.

St. Cloud MSA

The Saint Cloud MSA added 819 jobs (0.8 percent) in February. Its state-worst 2.7 percent January decline was also revised upward and is now only a 2.3 percent decline. February's increase was spread among supersectors. Professional and Business Services added 201 (2.3 percent), and Educational and Health Services added 414 (1.9 percent). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the most prominent job shedder, off 232 (1.1 percent). The next largest total job loss came in Leisure and Hospitality, down 16 (0.2 percent). Annually the Saint Cloud MSA added 836 jobs (0.8 percent). All supersectors that gained jobs on the month also did so annually and vice-versa. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 636 jobs (2.9 percent), with nearly all of those losses coming in Retail Trade (off 747, 2.5 percent), while Leisure and Hospitality lost 316 jobs (3.6 percent). Manufacturing added 473 jobs (3.2 jobs).

Mankato-North Mankato MSA

The Mankato-North Mankato MSA added 576 jobs (1 percent) in February, matching Duluth for the highest over-the-month growth in the state. Service providers drove the expansion, adding 569 jobs (1.2 percent) while goods producers added 7 jobs (0.1 percent). No published industry group lost jobs on the month. Mankato also had the highest over-the-year growth, up 2.9 percent (1,641 jobs). Private sector employers added 1,483 jobs (3.1 percent) while the public sector added 158 (1.6 percent).

Fargo-Moorhead MSA

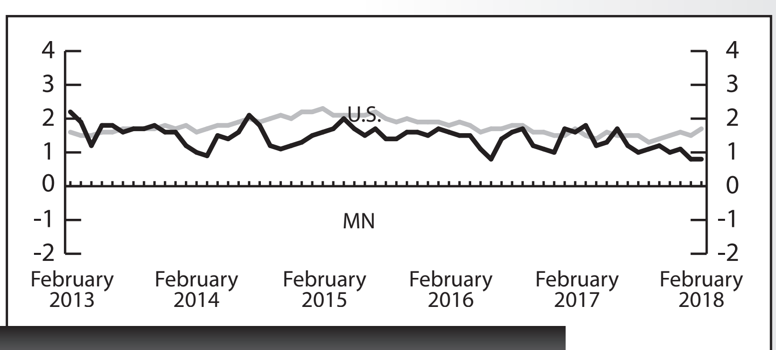
The Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 1,218 jobs (0.9 percent) in February, most of them among service providers (up 1,186 or 1 percent). Government employers added 712 jobs (3.7 percent), and Educational and Health Services added 373 (1.5 percent). Professional and Business Services was the only supersector to lose jobs, off 243 (1.6 percent). Annually, the Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 288 jobs (0.2 percent). Goods producers added 357 percent (2.1 percent) while service providers lost 69 (0.1 percent). The largest job addition came in Educational and Health Services, which added 770 jobs (3.3 percent).

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA added 261 jobs (0.5 percent) in February. However, the largest proportional move was a decline in Mining, Logging, and Construction, which was down by 1.7 percent on the month (43 jobs). Annually the MSA lost 661 jobs (1.2 percent). It was the only MSA on this list with negative over-the-year job growth. A large drop in Leisure and Hospitality employment spurred the decline, as the supersector was off by 769 jobs or 12.3 percent on the year.

by Nick Dobbins

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.



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	
	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**2,895.58**	**2,889.09**	**2,872.95**	**0.2%**	**0.8%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**425.96**	**425.19**	**421.01**	**0.2**	**1.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**111.89**	**111.10**	**107.07**	**0.7**	**4.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Logging	**6.19**	**6.07**	**6.24**	**2.0**	**-0.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	**105.69**	**105.03**	**100.83**	**0.6**	**4.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	71.56	70.18	66.94	2.0	6.9	$1,200.53	$1,243.63	37.8	38.9	$31.76	$31.97
Manufacturing	**314.07**	**314.09**	**313.94**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**866.98**	**841.72**	**40.4**	**41.2**	**21.46**	**20.43**
Durable Goods	198.49	197.95	198.71	0.3	-0.1	908.02	876.74	40.7	41.2	22.31	21.28
Wood Product Manufacturing	10.89	11.04	10.85	-1.3	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	42.06	42.11	42.12	-0.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	32.62	32.65	32.60	-0.1	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	45.00	45.19	44.96	-0.4	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	26.22	26.31	26.08	-0.4	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	10.30	10.22	10.54	0.9	-2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.21	16.02	16.05	1.2	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	115.59	116.14	115.23	-0.5	0.3	797.59	785.68	39.8	41.2	20.04	19.07
Food Manufacturing	47.35	47.94	46.12	-1.2	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**2,469.62**	**2,463.91**	**2,451.95**	**0.2**	**0.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**531.15**	**534.96**	**527.52**	**-0.7**	**0.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	132.58	132.10	130.23	0.4	1.8	902.16	876.66	37.7	37.4	23.93	23.44
Retail Trade	293.11	296.08	291.76	-1.0	0.5	433.12	403.43	27.8	27.5	15.58	14.67
Motor Vehicle and Parts	34.87	34.89	34.79	-0.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	24.79	24.71	24.55	0.4	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	56.18	57.78	55.01	-2.8	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	24.78	24.89	24.88	-0.4	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	59.97	61.99	59.19	-3.3	1.3	378.86	363.22	28.4	28.6	13.34	12.70
Transportation,Warehouse, Utilities	105.47	106.78	105.52	-1.2	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	93.25	94.60	93.23	-1.4	0.0	763.68	726.69	34.4	35.5	22.20	20.47
Information	**48.97**	**49.74**	**50.28**	**-1.6**	**-2.6**	**1,084.77**	**1,015.16**	**35.3**	**34.6**	**30.73**	**29.34**
Publishing Industries	18.83	18.93	19.22	-0.5	-2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	13.03	13.06	13.27	-0.2	-1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**177.10**	**177.39**	**178.47**	**-0.2**	**-0.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	143.66	143.43	144.48	0.2	-0.6	1,166.82	1,108.18	37.7	37.3	30.95	29.71
Credit Intermediation	62.50	62.68	63.87	-0.3	-2.1	840.80	780.62	36.7	35.1	22.91	22.24
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	19.58	19.39	19.50	1.0	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	61.58	61.36	61.11	0.4	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	33.44	33.96	33.98	-1.5	-1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**364.96**	**368.69**	**365.30**	**-1.0**	**-0.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	159.22	159.98	159.53	-0.5	-0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.11	18.11	18.13	0.0	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	17.90	17.03	17.75	5.1	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	34.66	35.35	36.82	-1.9	-5.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	78.93	78.83	79.41	0.1	-0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	126.81	129.88	126.36	-2.4	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**539.85**	**533.92**	**531.40**	**1.1**	**1.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	70.58	67.36	68.67	4.8	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	469.28	466.57	462.73	0.6	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	153.56	152.78	151.68	0.5	1.2	1,359.49	1,350.72	37.4	36.0	36.35	37.52
Offices of Physicians	74.42	74.34	72.98	0.1	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	111.95	111.53	111.01	0.4	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	107.98	107.54	107.31	0.4	0.6	478.70	462.18	29.1	28.6	16.45	16.16
Social Assistance	95.78	94.72	92.73	1.1	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**256.14**	**252.46**	**254.94**	**1.5**	**0.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	42.86	40.74	39.09	5.2	9.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	213.28	211.72	215.85	0.7	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	187.61	186.11	190.49	0.8	-1.5	273.10	274.57	19.3	20.1	14.15	13.66
Other Services	**115.05**	**114.63**	**114.98**	**0.4**	**0.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	64.28	64.31	64.33	-0.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**436.42**	**432.12**	**429.06**	**1.0**	**1.7**						
Federal Government	31.89	32.25	32.03	-1.1	-0.4						
State Government	105.78	103.67	102.28	2.0	3.4						
State Government Education	66.46	64.38	63.29	3.2	5.0						
Local Government	298.75	296.20	294.75	0.9	1.4						
Local Government Education	154.29	151.09	152.13	2.1	1.4						

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

* Totals may not add because of rounding.

** Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

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	
	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**1,966.3**	**1,963.0**	**1,951.6**	**0.2%**	**0.8%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**263.9**	**264.3**	**263.4**	**-0.1**	**0.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**70.4**	**69.7**	**69.3**	**1.0**	**1.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	16.4	16.7	16.7	-1.8	-2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	48.4	47.6	47.2	1.6	2.3	$1,259.45	$1,312.13	38.2	38.4	$32.97	$34.17
Manufacturing	**193.6**	**194.6**	**194.1**	**-0.5**	**-0.3**	**914.93**	**905.15**	**40.9**	**42.1**	**22.37**	**21.50**
Durable Goods	131.2	131.8	132.2	-0.5	-0.8	956.65	922.64	40.9	41.9	23.39	22.02
Fabricated Metal Production	29.3	29.3	29.4	-0.1	-0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	19.9	19.9	19.9	-0.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	36.6	36.9	36.5	-0.7	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	24.6	24.8	24.5	-0.7	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	15.4	15.0	14.9	3.0	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	62.4	62.7	61.9	-0.6	0.8	828.65	872.53	40.8	42.5	20.31	20.53
Food Manufacturing	15.1	15.2	14.4	-0.7	4.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	14.3	14.3	14.7	-0.2	-2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**1,702.3**	**1,698.8**	**1,688.2**	**0.2**	**0.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**358.3**	**361.1**	**355.0**	**-0.8**	**0.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	97.7	97.1	96.2	0.6	1.6	910.88	867.16	37.5	38.1	24.29	22.76
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	49.5	49.0	48.3	1.0	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	28.2	28.2	28.3	0.1	-0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	187.5	189.5	185.2	-1.1	1.3	457.91	419.47	29.0	28.4	15.79	14.77
Food and Beverage Stores	34.7	35.1	34.1	-1.2	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	38.2	39.0	36.3	-2.1	5.3	369.08	341.91	28.5	29.0	12.95	11.79
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	73.0	74.5	73.7	-2.0	-0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.4	7.3	7.4	0.3	-0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	65.6	67.1	66.2	-2.2	-0.9	782.38	680.58	35.1	34.6	22.29	19.67
Information	**37.1**	**37.4**	**38.0**	**-0.8**	**-2.4**						
Publishing Industries	15.0	15.1	15.2	-0.5	-1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	8.3	8.3	8.7	-0.3	-5.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**144.2**	**145.1**	**144.1**	**-0.6**	**0.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	116.4	117.1	116.7	-0.6	-0.3	1,235.38	1,194.93	38.0	37.4	32.51	31.95
Credit Intermediation	46.7	47.2	47.8	-1.1	-2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	17.5	17.4	17.5	0.6	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	52.2	52.5	51.5	-0.5	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27.8	28.0	27.3	-1.0	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**311.7**	**314.1**	**315.7**	**-0.8**	**-1.3**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	138.9	138.6	139.4	0.2	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.6	15.6	15.5	0.0	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	18.8	18.9	18.3	-0.3	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	32.7	32.9	33.9	-0.6	-3.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	71.2	71.0	72.7	0.2	-2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	101.6	104.5	103.6	-2.8	-1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	46.4	47.2	49.8	-1.6	-6.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**333.8**	**329.8**	**327.3**	**1.2**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	46.9	44.0	44.4	6.6	5.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	286.8	285.7	282.9	0.4	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	91.4	90.9	90.1	0.6	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	66.8	66.6	65.8	0.4	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	60.0	59.8	59.9	0.3	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	68.6	68.5	67.2	0.2	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**178.8**	**176.5**	**177.8**	**1.3**	**0.6**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	33.1	31.3	31.2	5.7	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	145.7	145.2	146.5	0.4	-0.6	298.08	300.89	20.7	21.1	14.40	14.26
Food Services and Drinking Places	133.3	132.9	132.8	0.3	0.4	292.09	291.49	20.2	20.6	14.46	14.15
Other Services	**81.4**	**80.6**	**79.1**	**0.9**	**2.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	14.8	14.6	14.5	1.4	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	43.4	43.1	42.1	0.7	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**257.3**	**254.2**	**251.2**	**1.2**	**2.4**						
Federal Government	21.3	21.5	21.4	-0.8	-0.4						
State Government	69.5	67.5	66.0	2.9	5.4						
State Government Education	43.0	41.1	39.9	4.7	7.8						
Local Government	166.4	165.2	163.8	0.8	1.6						
Local Government Education	96.3	94.8	94.5	1.5	1.9						

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, 2018.

Employer Survey

Industry	Duluth-Superior MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017	Rochester MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**136,806**	**135,432**	**135,116**	**1.0%**	**1.3%**	**117,486**	**117,322**	**117,321**	**0.1%**	**0.1%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**15,909**	**15,721**	**15,203**	**1.2**	**4.6**	**14,232**	**13,994**	**14,133**	**1.7**	**0.7**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,343	8,274	7,790	0.8	7.1	4,021	3,858	3,912	4.2	2.8
Manufacturing	7,566	7,447	7,413	1.6	2.1	10,211	10,136	10,221	0.7	-0.1
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**120,897**	**119,711**	**119,913**	**1.0**	**0.8**	**103,254**	**103,328**	**103,188**	**-0.1**	**0.1**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	24,618	24,894	24,607	-1.1	0.0	17,665	17,700	17,487	-0.2	1.0
Wholesale Trade	3,176	3,198	3,185	-0.7	-0.3	2,613	2,611	2,590	0.1	0.9
Retail Trade	15,208	15,368	15,254	-1.0	-0.3	12,204	12,249	12,121	-0.4	0.7
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,234	6,328	6,168	-1.5	1.1	2,848	2,840	2,776	0.3	2.6
Information	1,316	1,327	1,391	-0.8	-5.4	1,861	1,859	1,845	0.1	0.9
Financial Activities	5,903	5,884	5,865	0.3	0.6	2,765	2,766	2,773	0.0	-0.3
Professional and Business Services	7,857	7,740	7,899	1.5	-0.5	5,165	5,170	5,226	-0.1	-1.2
Educational and Health Services	33,009	32,526	32,478	1.5	1.6	48,127	48,232	48,982	-0.2	-1.7
Leisure and Hospitality	13,360	13,295	13,280	0.5	0.6	10,498	10,443	10,019	0.5	4.8
Other Services	6,582	6,560	6,589	0.3	-0.1	3,987	3,972	3,975	0.4	0.3
Government	28,252	27,485	27,804	2.8	1.6	13,186	13,186	12,881	0.0	2.4

Employer Survey

Industry	St. Cloud MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017	Mankato MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**109,063**	**108,244**	**108,227**	**0.8%**	**0.8%**	**58,711**	**58,135**	**57,070**	**1.0%**	**2.9%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**21,058**	**20,951**	**20,401**	**0.5**	**3.2**	**9,976**	**9,969**	**9,563**	**0.1**	**4.3**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	5,645	5,553	5,461	1.7	3.4	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	15,413	15,398	14,940	0.1	3.2	--	--	--	--	--
						--	--	--	--	--
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**88,005**	**87,293**	**87,826**	**0.8**	**0.2**	**48,735**	**48,166**	**47,507**	**1.2**	**2.6**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	21,584	21,816	22,220	-1.1	-2.9	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	4,661	4,662	4,548	0.0	2.5	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	12,936	13,170	13,683	-1.8	-5.5	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	3,987	3,984	3,989	0.1	-0.1	--	--	--	--	--
Information	1,510	1,518	1,568	-0.5	-3.7	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	5,264	5,261	5,230	0.1	0.7	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	8,797	8,596	8,647	2.3	1.7	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	22,623	22,209	22,028	1.9	2.7	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	8,580	8,596	8,896	-0.2	-3.6	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	3,913	3,882	3,819	0.8	2.5	--	--	--	--	--
Government	15,734	15,415	15,418	2.1	2.0	9,896	9,796	9,738	1.0	1.6

Employer Survey

Industry	Fargo-Moorhead MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017	Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA Jobs Feb 2018	Jobs Jan 2018	Jobs Feb 2017	% Chg. From Jan 2018	% Chg. From Feb 2017
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**140,025**	**138,807**	**139,737**	**0.9**	**0.2%**	**55,971**	**55,710**	**56,632**	**0.5%**	**-1.2%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**17,234**	**17,202**	**16,877**	**0.2**	**2.1**	**6,782**	**6,809**	**6,712**	**-0.4**	**1.0**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	7,471	7,465	7,410	0.1	0.8	2,459	2,502	2,460	-1.7	0.0
Manufacturing	9,763	9,737	9,467	0.3	3.1	4,323	4,307	4,252	0.4	1.7
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**122,791**	**121,605**	**122,860**	**1.0**	**-0.1**	**49,189**	**48,901**	**49,920**	**0.6**	**-1.5**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29,996	29,966	30,225	0.1	-0.8	11,598	11,490	11,641	0.9	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	8,864	8,852	8,931	0.1	-0.8	1,765	1,780	1,826	-0.8	-3.3
Retail Trade	15,471	15,468	15,755	0.0	-1.8	7,550	7,483	7,570	0.9	-0.3
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	5,661	5,646	5,539	0.3	2.2	2,283	2,227	2,245	2.5	1.7
Information	3,060	3,031	3,200	1.0	-4.4	570	575	597	-0.9	-4.5
Financial Activities	11,235	11,222	11,161	0.1	0.7	1,922	1,917	1,865	0.3	3.1
Professional and Business Services	15,044	15,287	15,361	-1.6	-2.1	3,301	3,334	2,976	-1.0	10.9
Educational and Health Services	24,779	24,406	24,009	1.5	3.2	9,840	9,715	9,702	1.3	1.4
Leisure and Hospitality	13,248	13,028	13,695	1.7	-3.3	5,490	5,548	6,259	-1.1	-12.3
Other Services	5,516	5,464	5,401	1.0	2.1	1,981	1,967	1,999	0.7	-0.9
Government	19,913	19,201	19,808	3.7	0.5	14,487	14,355	14,881	0.9	-2.7

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2018.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Highlights

The **Minnesota Index** advanced 0.4 percent in February, climbing to 134.4. The uptick indicates that Minnesota's economy accelerated in February. The U.S. economy also picked up speed in February, advancing 0.3 percent. The U.S. index was up 2.8 percent from last February while Minnesota's index is up 3.6 percent over the same period.

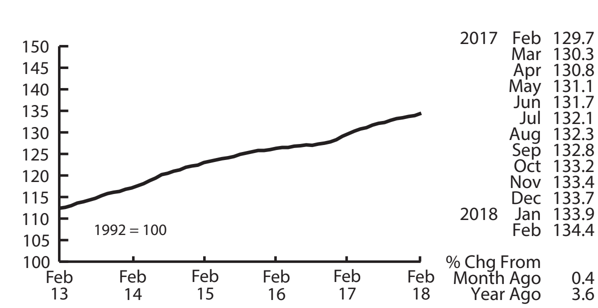
Minnesota's adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** declined by 1,300 jobs in February after a revised gain of 4,900 jobs in January. Most of February's job drop was in the public sector which cut payroll numbers by 1,100. Private sector jobs decreased by 200 positions with layoffs heaviest in Professional and Business Services. Hiring was strong in Leisure and Hospitality. Goods-producing employment rose for the sixth straight month which hasn't occurred since mid-2015. Construction employment expanded for the seventh month in a row. Service-providing employment, which includes government employment, was down 2,400, offsetting the 1,100 gain in goods-producing jobs.

Minnesota's unadjusted over-the-year job growth stayed at 0.8 percent for the second month in a row. Over-the-year U.S. job growth in February rose to 1.7 percent. The 0.8 to 1.7 percent monthly gap was the largest for the state since January 2007. Minnesota's annual average job growth for 2017 was revised significantly downward during annual benchmarking to 1.3 percent, the same rate as in 2016. Minnesota's annual average job growth lagged national job growth for the fourth straight year but by less than in previous years.

The recent tailing off in Minnesota's job growth may be more related to the state's tightening labor market than a decline in labor demand. Employers just can't find workers to fill their job openings. Minnesota's 1.3 percent annual average job growth in 2017 was more than double neighboring states. The annual average job growth rate in 2017 for Iowa was 0.1 percent, -0.9 percent in North Dakota, 0.5 percent in South Dakota, and 0.6 percent in Wisconsin. Annual average unemployment in 2017 was 3.1 in Iowa, 3.5 in Minnesota, 2.6 in North Dakota, 3.3 percent in South Dakota, and 3.3 percent in Wisconsin.

Online Help-Wanted Ads fell for the second straight month, slipping to 130,100 in February. That is the lowest level since last September but still high enough to be consistent with a robust level of demand for workers. Online job postings declined 4.5 percent in Minnesota while nationwide job postings dipped 3.8 percent in February. The Conference Board, in addition to compiling and publishing online help-wanted ads, also publishes a supply/demand ratio for each state comparing the number of unemployed workers to the number of online job postings. The national rate was 1.36 or 1.36 unemployed workers for each online help-wanted ad in February. Twelve states had a ratio below one including Minnesota with a supply/demand ratio of 0.66, the thirds lowest rate behind only Colorado and Hawaii.

Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** climbed for the first time in three months, increasing to 57.6. The index has been relatively flat over the last five months. suggesting that Minnesota's manufacturing sector is expanding at a steady rate. The corresponding national index increased to 60.8 in February while the Mid-American index, which includes Minnesota and eight other states, rose to 59.7.



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2018

Minnesota Index

Adjusted average weekly **Manufacturing Hours**, after hovering at 40.8 hours during the previous three months, retreated to 40.5 hours in February. Average weekly **Manufacturing Earnings** dipped for the second month in a row to $866.98. Factory paychecks, adjusted for inflation and seasonality, were up 3 percent from a year ago.

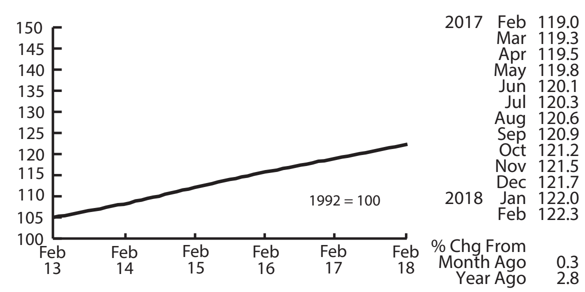
The **Minnesota Leading Index** spiked to 1.9 in February, its highest reading since 2.0 last September. The average reading over the 36 years of the series is 1.5, so the 1.9 suggests that Minnesota's economy will be growing at a faster than average rate during the first part of 2018.

Adjusted **Residential Building Permits** dropped slightly in February to 2,054. The level of home-building permits was strong during the first half of 2017 and then waned during the second half. Unadjusted permit numbers were up 12 percent in January from a year ago and down 15 percent in February.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** inched down in February after three months of increasing. Initial claims were above a year ago for the second straight month, but the claims level remains extremely low, reflecting how tight the labor market has become. Employers are reluctant to let workers go since finding qualified workers has become a major problem. Minnesota's unemployment rate fell to 3.2 in February, the lowest rate since March 2000. The 3.5 percent annual average unemployment rate recorded last year is the fifth lowest going back to 1976. Only the four year stretch from 1997 to 2000 had lower average annual unemployment rates.

by Dave Senf

United States Index

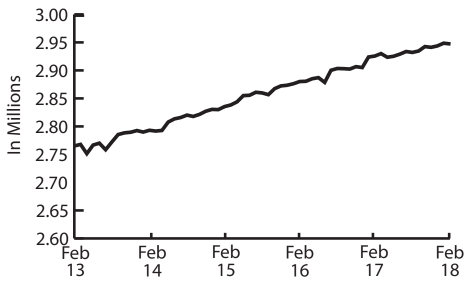


Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2018

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

2017	Sep	2.9346
	Oct	2.9425
	Nov	2.9412
	Dec	2.9437
2018	Jan	2.9486
	Feb	2.9473

% Chg From Month Ago 0.0

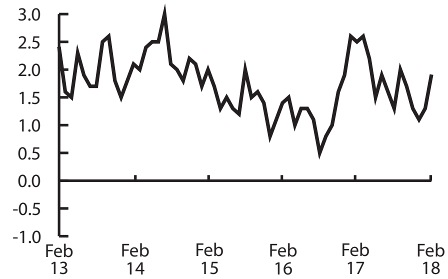
unadjusted

2017 Feb
2018 Feb

% Chg From Year Ago

Source: *Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2018*

Minnesota Leading Index

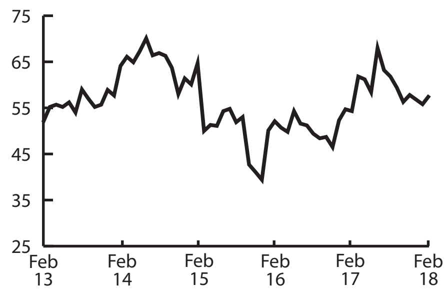


2017	Feb	2.5
	Mar	2.6
	Apr	2.2
	May	1.5
	Jun	1.9
	Jul	1.6
	Aug	1.3
	Sep	2.0
	Oct	1.7
	Nov	1.3
	Dec	1.1
2018	Jan	1.3
	Feb	1.9

% Chg From Month Ago 45.3
Year Ago -26.4

Source: *The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2018*

Purchasing Managers' Index

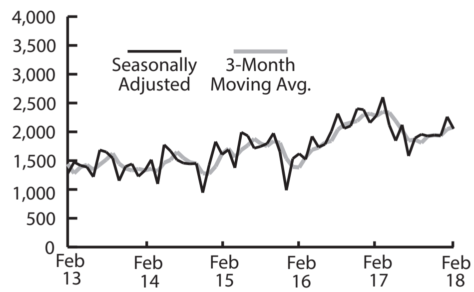


2017	Feb	54.3
	Mar	61.8
	Apr	61.2
	May	58.4
	Jun	68.0
	Jul	63.2
	Aug	61.8
	Sep	59.4
	Oct	56.3
	Nov	57.8
	Dec	56.8
2018	Jan	55.8
	Feb	57.6

% Chg From Month Ago 3.2
Year Ago 6.1

Source: *Creighton University, Mid-America Survey of Business Conditions, 2018*

Residential Building Permits



seasonally adjusted

2017	Sep	1,957
	Oct	1,927
	Nov	1,943
	Dec	1,934
2018	Jan	2,262
	Feb	2,054

% Chg From Month Ago -9.2

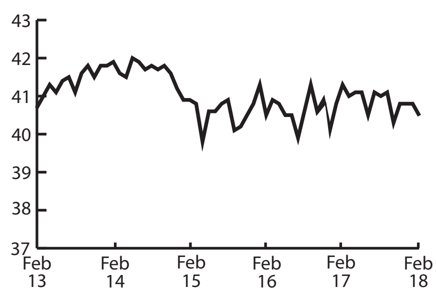
unadjusted

2017 Feb 1,433
2018 Feb 1,221

% Chg From Year Ago -14.8%

Source: *Residential Building Permits, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2018*

Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



seasonally adjusted

2017	Sep	41.1
	Oct	40.3
	Nov	40.8
	Dec	40.8
2018	Jan	40.8
	Feb	40.5

% Chg From Month Ago -0.7

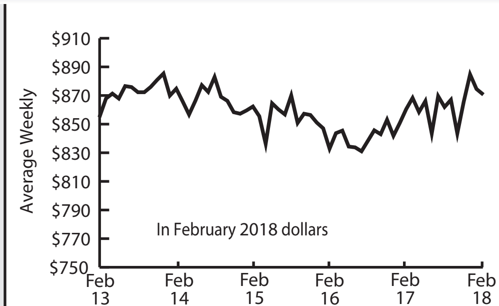
unadjusted

2017 Feb 41.2
2018 Feb 40.4

% Chg From Year Ago -1.9%

Source: *Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2018*

Manufacturing Earnings



seasonally adjusted

2017	Sep	867.00
	Oct	843.48
	Nov	865.54
	Dec	884.74
2018	Jan	874.57
	Feb	870.90

% Chg From Month Ago -0.4

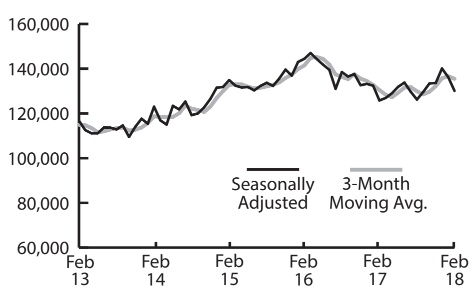
unadjusted

2017 Feb 841.72
2018 Feb 866.98

% Chg From Year Ago 3.0%

Source: *Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2018*

Online Help-Wanted Advertising

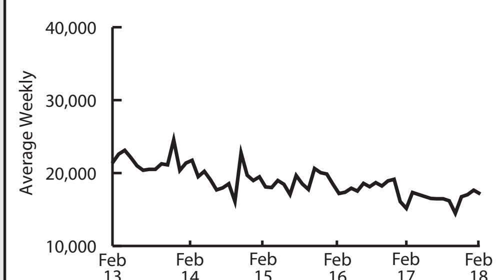


2017	Feb	125,800
	Mar	126,900
	Apr	129,000
	May	131,900
	Jun	133,800
	Jul	129,700
	Aug	126,200
	Sep	129,600
	Oct	133,400
	Nov	133,600
	Dec	140,100
2018	Jan	136,200
	Feb	130,100

% Chg From Month Ago -4.5
Year Ago 3.4

Source: *The Conference Board Inc., 2018*

Initial UB Claimants



seasonally adjusted

2017	Sep	16,197
	Oct	14,481
	Nov	16,753
	Dec	17,040
2018	Jan	17,651
	Feb	17,171

% Chg From Month Ago -2.7

unadjusted

2017 Feb 13,742
2018 Feb 15,399

% Chg From Year Ago 12.1%

Source: *Department of Employment and Economic Development, Unemployment Insurance Program, 2018*

Minnesota Employment Review

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

Labor Market Information
Help Line:
651.259.7384

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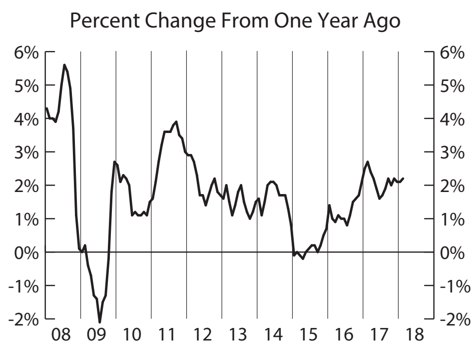
U.S. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in February on a seasonally adjusted basis after rising 0.5 percent in January the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The indices for shelter, apparel, and motor vehicle insurance all rose and contributed to the one-month seasonally adjusted increase in the all items index.



The all items index rose 2.2 percent for the 12 months ending February, a slightly larger increase than the 2.1 percent rise for the 12 months ending January. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent over the past year, while the energy index increased 7.7 percent, and the food index advanced 1.4 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.

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The Last Word

Get to Know Us

What's the career pathway for outdoor recreation occupations?
Do you have labor market information for jobs in equine science?

Look to DEED's regional labor market analysts for answers to these and many other questions about Minnesota's regional labor markets. Five analysts cover every corner of the state:

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Luke Greiner, 320-308-5378, *Central and Southwestern Minnesota*
Tim O'Neill, 651-259-7401, *Twin Cities*
Mark Schultz, 507-205-6068, *Southeastern Minnesota*
Erik White, 218-302-8413, *Northeastern Minnesota*
Cameron Macht, Regional Analysis and Outreach Manager, can be contacted at 320-441-6596.

Regional analysts also deliver presentations statewide. To schedule a speaker, please complete a presentation request form and email it to DEED.LMI@state.mn.us. Allow one week for your request to be considered. Speakers are provided free of charge for public events or those organized by partners in Minnesota's workforce development and education systems.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Youth Summer Employment 2018

Young people age 16 to 19 have been jumping back into Minnesota's labor force and finding jobs. This bodes well for employers who have positions to fill this summer and for teens who want to work.

Teen labor force participation in Minnesota steadily grew over the last five years, from 46.1 percent in 2013 to 52.3 percent in 2017. While the overall population age 16 to 19 has not grown, down 1,000 over the period, the number of teens in the labor force has grown by 16,600, and the number of employed teens has grown by 22,000. At the same time the number of unemployed teens has decreased by 5,300. As a result, a higher share of teens are employed, with the employment to population ratio up from only 39.4 percent in 2013 to 47.1 percent in 2017.

Despite these positive numbers, the teen unemployment rate was still quite high in 2017 at 9.8 percent. Since then it has come down to 7.7 percent in March 2018 with a continued positive trend in the employment to population ratio, which is now at 48.9 percent.

Where Do Teens Work?

Teens make up a significant portion of several industries including the Accommodations and Food Services, Art, Entertainment and Recreation, and Retail Trade industries, particularly during the summer months (see Table 1).

More specifically, teens make up over 28 percent of movie theater, 26 percent of clothing and accessories store, 25 percent of food services and drinking place, 22 percent of food and beverage store and 20 percent of gas station staffing.

Teens earned the most in the Construction industry, a median hourly wage of $13.61 per hour during third quarter 2016. Other industries that provided higher-than-average wages for teens were Health Care and Social Assistance ($11.12 per hour median wage), Management of Companies ($10.21 per hour median wage), and Manufacturing ($10.11 per hour median wage).

Teens tend to work part-time even in the summer but also tend to be hired into industries that hire few

Table1: Teen Share of Industry Workforce, Hourly Wage and Hours Worked, Minnesota, Third Quarter 2016

Industry	Share of Industry Employment (%)	Median Hourly Wage ($)	Number of Hours Worked
Accommodation and Food Services	24.2	9.55	127
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18.0	9.47	108
Retail Trade	16.6	9.87	149
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	13.0	10.10	128
Other Services	8.7	9.85	126

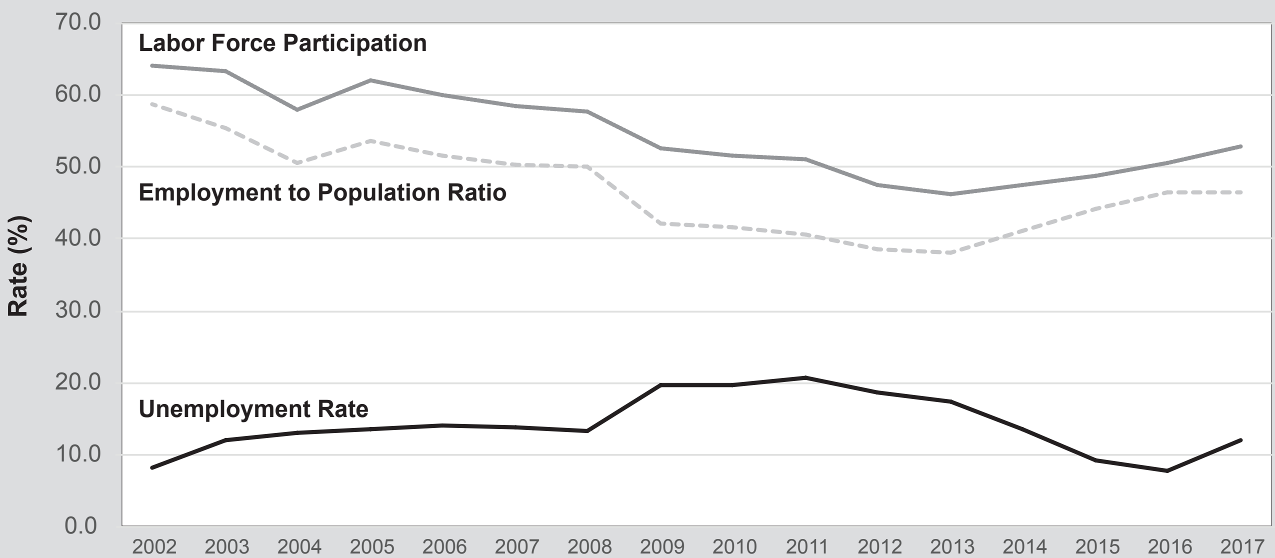
Source: Quarterly Employment Demographics, DEED (mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/qed)

full-time positions. For example, in Retail Trade teens worked a median of 149 hours during third quarter while the total workforce was working a median of only 289 hours (520 hours would be full-time). Median hours for the total workforce in Accommodation and Food Services, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, and Other Services were even lower.

Historical and Comparative Perspective

From a historical perspective teen labor force participation rates are still low, although they have been rising steadily since 2013. As Chart 1 shows, during the early 2000s the teen labor force participation rate was as high as 64 percent with the employment to population ratio at 58.8 percent. In 2017 the teen labor force participation rate was at 52.3 percent with the employment to population ratio at 47.1 percent.

Figure1: Teen Labor Market Indicators, Minnesota, 2001 to 2017



Source: Unpublished Demecon from Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics and DEED. All data used here are 12-month moving averages calculated from monthly estimates.

[1]Annual published 2017 data for Minnesota are not yet available. The data used here for Minnesota are based on unpublished monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) data called Demecon data. Each data point is a rollup of data for that month and the 11 months preceding it to create a 12-month moving average, so in this case the December data point is used throughout this article, representing an annual average (January to December). Unless otherwise specified, the Minnesota data in this article are a December 12-month moving average unpublished CPS data.

Compared to the United States, however, teens in Minnesota are very much engaged in the labor market. In 2017 the labor force participation rate for teens nationwide was only 35.2 percent, roughly compared to 52.3 percent in Minnesota and only 30.3 percent were employed, roughly compared to 47.1 percent in Minnesota[1].

Rising labor force participation in Minnesota is an excellent sign for employers who want to hire teens. With so many things competing for teens' time – school, extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, and friends - teens are likely to forgo job search in a slack labor market. If their friends are having a difficult time finding jobs, they might not even bother to look. But when their peers are finding jobs, or they see help wanted signs in their neighborhood and at locations they often go to, teens are much more likely to apply for jobs.

Minnesota's teen unemployment rate dropped to 8.0 percent in 2016 but ticked up in 2017. However, it seems to be on a downward trend again at 7.7 percent in March 2018. The low teen unemployment rate is no doubt a sign of the times, with overall low unemployment rates, high numbers of vacancies, and steady job growth over the past several years in Minnesota

Tips for Recruiting Teens

Teens can be extremely reliable, flexible workers who are quick to learn new skills. As a result many employers value them highly as workers. Here are some tips for recruiting teen workers:

- Teens have never known a world without the World Wide Web. The first place many will go to find a job is the internet so make sure that you have an attractive website, on-line job application or easy instructions on how to apply, or that you're posting jobs on job boards like MinnesotaWorks.net, US.jobs, or America's Job Exchange that teens are likely to find.

- Ask your teen workers to tell their friends that you're hiring. Teens are natural networkers and can help you get the word out about open positions.

- Make sure that you're adhering to child labor rules and keeping your teen workers safe. Rules vary for employees ages 14 to 17. You can find information on the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry website at **www.dli.mn.gov/LS/TeenWorkers.asp** .

Tips for Teens Who Want to Work

If you are new to the job application process, here are some tips for you:

- Mostly you'll be filling out applications but it can be helpful to put together a one page resume. A resume should include how to contact you, any jobs both paid and unpaid you've had, volunteer experience, helping a family member or friend like babysitting your sibling or neighbor, where you go to school or your school history. Then have someone read it and give you feedback. Make sure there are no spelling or punctuation errors and make it look nice. Having a resume will also help you fill out job applications.

- Have a list of one to three references that you can hand potential employers. The list should include someone you've worked for, even if you didn't get paid or you were one of many volunteers. It should have names and emails and/or phone numbers.

- Go to **www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/Toolkit/find-jobs.aspx?keyword=292061&persist=true&location=mn&ajax=0** to search for job openings, ask family and friends if they know of companies that are hiring, and look for help wanted signs in your neighborhood.

- In an interview let the employer know that you are reliable, show up to work on time every day, ready to work, and that you are eager to learn.

- Be persistent. Apply for lots of jobs. Almost no one gets the first, second, or third job they apply for. Keep trying. You can ask employers who turned you down to give you feedback. They may or may not, and it may be helpful or not.

What if you get multiple job offers? If you get multiple job offers here are a couple of things to think about: Does it seem like a good place to work? Will you learn anything new? Which will look best on your resume? Can you reliably get there on time for each shift? Which pays the most and is there any room for negotiating wage? It doesn't hurt to ask and the employer might say yes.

by Oriane Casale

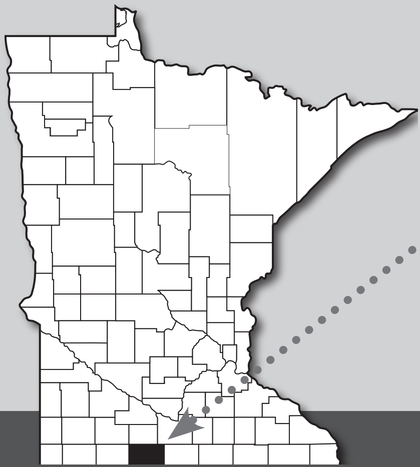
Resources for Teens Seeking Work

GetMyFuture website at **www.careeronestop.org/getmyfuture** is a great place for you to learn about finding a career, getting job experience, and getting a job.

Department of Employment and Economic Development website at **mn.gov/deed/job-seekers** is a good place to link to Minnesota's job bank, learn more about the job search process, learn about programs for teens who are blind and have a disability, explore careers, and find a Workforce Center near you.

Office of Youth Development website at **mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/find-a-job/targeted-services/youth-employment** provides resources to young adults who have dropped out of high school or are in danger of doing so or who have other barriers to employment. This website can help you connect to programs and people who can help you with your next step in life.

Use the **Youth Program Finder** to find free job, career and training assistance at a local youth program. Go to **www.careeronestop.org/youthprogramfinder**



CountySnapshot Martin

Trends

Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing sector in Martin County with 1,586 jobs at 66 establishments. The next largest sector is Retail Trade with 1,271 jobs at 85 stores, accounting for 14.3 percent of total employment in the county. The two biggest specialties include Food and Beverage stores and General Merchandise stores, accounting for over half of the county's retail employment. Although it has seen job cuts in recent years, Martin County also retained a prominent Manufacturing sector, with 1,211 jobs at 35 firms, accounting for 13.7 percent of total employment. Although also suffering declines, the related Wholesale Trade sector had extremely high wages in the county.

Martin County is located on the Iowa border in South Central Minnesota. Martin County has a long history of pioneer settlers. Although named for Henry Martin, an early pioneer, perhaps the county's most famous settler was William H. Budd. A carpenter, soldier, and community builder, Budd walked from Mankato to Martin County on foot and purchased a squatter's right for $50 to build his cabin in what would become Fairmont, which he helped name and select as the county seat. One of the county's first commissioners, he also compiled and published Martin County Before 1880, a book about the early history of Martin County.[1]

Martin County's population peaked at 26,986 residents in 1960 and had fallen to just under 20,000 people by 2016, making it the 49th largest county in the state. The county's median age tipped past 45 years, including 38.3 percent of the county's population that was 55 years and over, compared to 28.6 percent statewide. Projections from the State Demographic Center show continued population declines in the future, dropping to 17,886 people in 2040, similar to the county's population in 1910. Interstate 90 runs through Martin County, leading to a net labor export, with many residents driving west to Jackson County, east to Faribault County, or north to Blue Earth County for work.

Estimates	Martin County	Minnesota
Population, 2016	19,829	5,519,952
Labor Force, 2017	10,398	3,046,697
Average Unemployment, 2017	3.7%	3.6%
Median Household Income, 2016	$51,984	$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual, 2017	$24,248	$29,856
Cost of Living, Average Family, 2017	$42,291	$55,200

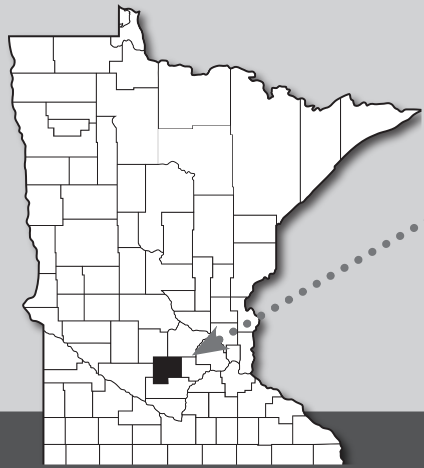
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics, American Community Survey, DEED Cost of Living Survey

Martin County Employment, Qtr. 3 2017

	Qtr. 3 2017 Data			Qtr. 3 2007 - Qtr. 3 2017	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Change in Wages
Total, All Industries	665	8,865	$40,612	-7.5%	31.3%
Education and Health Services	80	2,156	$42,380	-6.3%	28.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	157	2,042	$50,752	-7.4%	41.9%
Manufacturing	35	1,211	$47,268	-24.0%	26.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	56	925	$11,908	-6.8%	34.7%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

[1] William Hampton Budd. Martin County Historical Society. Retrieved from http://fairmont.org/mchs/people.htm



CountySnapshot McLeod

Created and organized in 1856, McLeod County was named for Martin McLeod, a Scotsman who was one of the first settlers in the area.[2] Although Hutchinson is the largest city in the county – and with about 14,000 residents it is classified as a Micropolitan Statistical Area – the county seat is located in Glencoe, with a population of about 5,500 people. Nestled just to the west of the Twin Cities metro area, McLeod County is also now considered a part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MN-WI combined statistical area.

McLeod County's population was still growing through the last Census in 2010, but has since seen small declines caused by economic changes. With Hutchinson operating as a regional center, McLeod draws just over 7,100 workers from surrounding counties for work. It also loses nearly 8,800 residents to work in other places, primarily to Hennepin, Carver, Wright, and Ramsey counties in the Twin Cities metro area. Another 9,505 residents both live and work in McLeod County.

With 4,981 jobs at 78 establishments, Manufacturing provided almost one-third (30.4%) of total employment in the county in 2017. At that level, McLeod County had the third highest concentration of Manufacturing jobs of the 87 counties in the state. However, several of the largest Manufacturing specialties in the county have sliced significant numbers of jobs over the last decade, including Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing and Food Manufacturing, while both Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing and Machinery Manufacturing have been expanding in recent years.

Estimates	McLeod County	Minnesota
Population, 2016	35,842	5,519,952
Labor Force, 2017	19,301	3,046,697
Average Unemployment, 2017	4.0%	3.6%
Median Household Income, 2016	$57,738	$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual, 2017	$26,892	$29,856
Cost of Living, Average Family, 2017	$46,290	$55,200

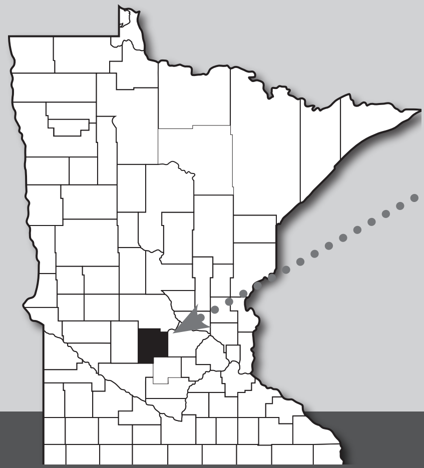
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics, American Community Survey, DEED Cost of Living Survey

McLeod County Employment, Qtr. 3 2017

	Qtr. 3 2017 Data			Qtr. 3 2007 - Qtr. 3 2017	
Top Industries of Employment	**Number of Firms**	**Number of Jobs**	**Average Wage**	**Change in Jobs**	**Change in Wages**
Total, All Industries	914	16,376	$43,108	-11.4%	23.2%
Manufacturing	78	4,981	$58,812	-29.1%	25.9%
Education and Health Services	108	3,681	$41,704	17.7%	24.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	209	3,067	$31,824	-10.9%	28.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	79	1,350	$14,820	-1.0%	50.8%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

[2]About McLeod County. McLeod County Minnesota. Retrieved from http://www.co.mcleod.mn.us/about_us/about_mcleod_county/index.php



CountySnapshot
Meeker

Inspired by such a strange vacation destination, Weird Al Yankovic once wrote a song about "The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota"[3] which was created by one man in Darwin, located in Meeker County. According to the story on RoadsideAmerica.com, Francis A. Johnson started rolling the ball in his basement in 1950, four hours a day every day, until 1979, when it was 12 feet wide and weighed almost 9 tons.[4] Visitors can see the twine ball enclosed in a Plexiglas and wood gazebo.

Geographically positioned in the middle of the state from east to west, Meeker County is also in the middle as the 43rd largest county with just over 23,000 people and was the 42nd fastest growing county from 2000 to 2016, gaining 2.1 percent. With nearly 7,000 residents who live in Meeker County but work elsewhere – primarily in other regional centers like St. Cloud, Hutchinson, Willmar, and the Twin Cities – Meeker County is a bit of a bedroom community. In comparison, 4,563 residents both lived and worked in Meeker County, and local employers welcomed an inflow of 2,900 commuters from other counties.

Strangely, Meeker County's labor force grew more than its population from 2000 to 2016 – the county added 828 more workers compared to 466 additional residents. The recent workforce growth has helped employers fill jobs – the county's economy added nearly 500 jobs over the past decade. Meeker County has higher-than-average labor force participation rates for workers aged 45 years and over and for people with lower educational attainment.

One in every five jobs in the county is in Manufacturing, spread most notably across the Machinery, Fabricated Metal Products, and Transportation Equipment manufacturing specialties. After adding almost 100 jobs over the past 10 years, Health Care and Social Assistance is the next largest industry, including 685 jobs at 17 nursing and residential care facilities and catering to the county's aging population. But almost two-thirds of the county's job growth since 2007 occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, primarily in Retail and Wholesale Trade, which added 223 and 97 jobs, respectively.

Estimates	Meeker County	Minnesota
Population, 2016	23,110	5,519,952
Labor Force, 2017	13,192	3,046,697
Average Unemployment, 2017	4.2%	3.6%
Median Household Income, 2016	$58,574	$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual, 2017	$28,787	$29,856
Cost of Living, Average Family, 2017	$48,244	$55,200

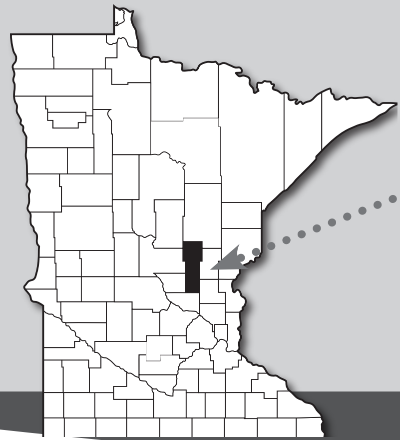
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics, American Community Survey, DEED Cost of Living Survey

Meeker County Employment, Qtr. 3 2017

	Qtr. 3 2017 Data			Qtr. 3 2007 - Qtr. 3 2017	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Change in Wages
Total, All Industries	603	7,418	$36,660	7.1%	19.5%
Education and Health Services	67	1,773	$33,696	10.4%	32.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	148	1,589	$33,748	26.1%	23.1%
Manufacturing	54	1,436	$47,112	4.0%	23.8%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

[3]"Weird Al Yankovic. The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota." Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yp9yqLbJ4Wk
[4]"World's Largest Twine Ball." RoadsideAmerica.com. Retrieved from https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/2128



CountySnapshot
Mille Lacs

Mille Lacs County consists of 685 square miles, of which 583 square miles is land and 102 square miles is water – with Lake Mille Lacs covering two-thirds of the northern boundary of the county.[5] Encompassing more than 132,500 acres and with a maximum depth of 42 feet[6], Mille Lacs Lake is the second largest inland lake in the state, surrounded by at least 27 lodging establishments.[7] But that's not all – the name "mille lacs" means "thousand lakes" in French. Other major lakes in the county include Ogechie, Shakopee, Onamia, Clear, Mud, Cranberry, Rice, Silver, and a portion of Whitefish Lake.

With more than 1,300 American Indian residents comprising 5.1 percent of the population, Mille Lacs County has the 7th highest concentration in the state. The number of American Indians increased more than twice as fast as the county's white population from 2000 to 2016, although whites still account for 91 percent of the total population. The county's second largest minority group was people of two or more races, which nearly tripled since 2000, up to 650 residents.

At 5.7 percent in 2017, Mille Lacs County continued to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, ranking 12th in 2017 after peaking at 12.5 percent and hovering as high as 3rd during the recession from 2008 to 2010. While unemployment rates have dropped to 5.5 percent for whites, they remain above 20 percent for the 500 American Indian workers in Mille Lacs County.

Mille Lacs County's economy is dependent on tourism, with nearly one-third of the county's jobs found in Leisure and Hospitality and in Retail Trade. These industries, however, have cut 375 jobs over the past decade, and they tend to offer relatively low wages. In contrast, Education and Health Services have seen steady growth in Mille Lacs County since 2007 and offered higher wages. Partially because American Indian tribal governance is classified as Local Government and also with 1,166 jobs, Public Administration – particularly Executive, Legislative, and Other Government Support – was a leading industry in Mille Lacs County, and offered average annual wages that were $10,000 higher than the total of all industries.

Estimates	Mille Lacs County	Minnesota
Population, 2016	25,866	5,519,952
Labor Force, 2017	12,901	3,046,697
Average Unemployment, 2017	5.7%	3.6%
Median Household Income, 2016	$51,232	$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual, 2017	$30,307	$29,856
Cost of Living, Average Family, 2017	$52,711	$55,200

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

Mille Lacs County Employment, Qtr. 3 2017

	Qtr. 3 2017 Data			Qtr. 3 2007 - Qtr. 3 2017	
Top Industries of Employment	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Change in Wages
Total, All Industries	684	9,618	$35,204	-3.4%	28.2%
Education and Health Services	77	2,551	$38,532	8.2%	29.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	86	2,107	$19,968	-12.5%	-1.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	152	1,369	$27,976	-8.9%	24.8%
Public Administration	26	1,166	$45,864	-12.5%	42.3%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

[5]"History of the County." Mille Lacs County. Retrieved from http://www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us/history
[6]"Lakes, rivers, and wetland facts." Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources. Retrieved from http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/faq/mnfacts/water.html
[7]"Where to Stay." Lake Mille Lacs. Retrieved from http://business.millelacs.com/list/ql/lodging-24

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