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Department of Employment and Economic Development

Review ONLINE

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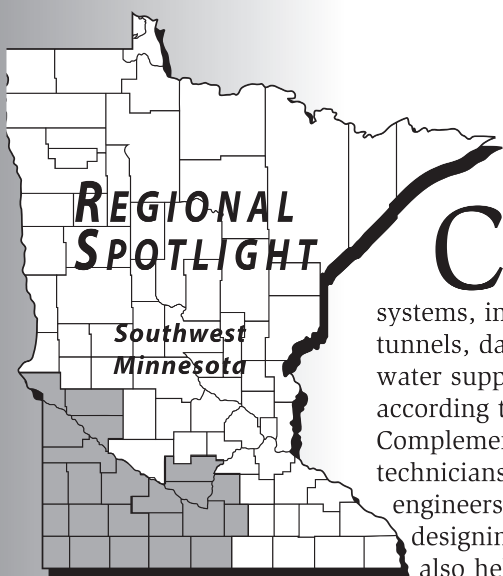
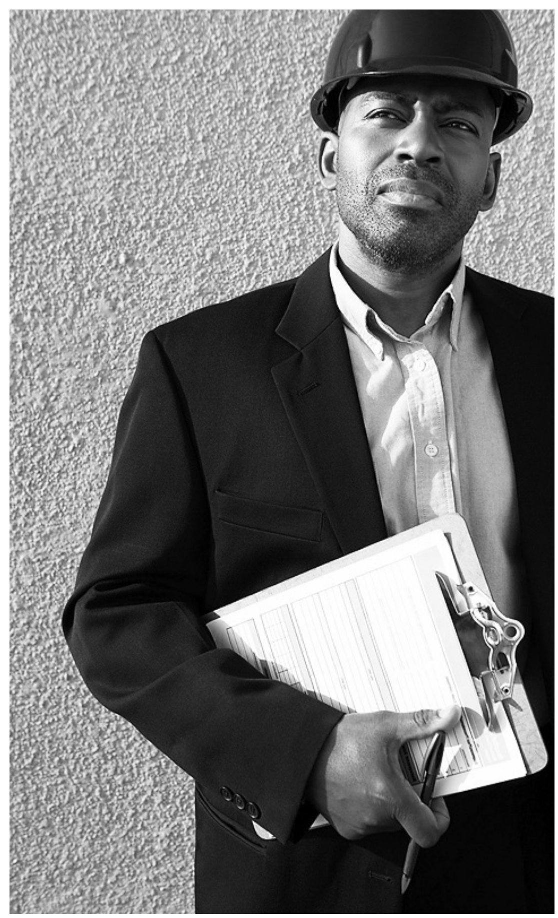


Isn't This a Civil-ized Career!

Civil engineers "design, construct, supervise, operate, and maintain large construction projects and systems, including roads, buildings, airports, tunnels, dams, bridges, and systems for water supply and sewage treatment," according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Complementing them are civil engineer technicians who work with licensed civil engineers and help with the planning and designing of infrastructure projects and also help with commercial, residential, and land development. Given the scope of these occupations and the skills and knowledge required of advanced tools and technology (see O*Net for further details) education beyond high school is clearly required. In Southwest Minnesota 99 percent of engineering vacancies, including Civil Engineers, and 100 percent of Engineering Technician vacancies require post-secondary education according to DEED's Job Vacancy Survey (JVS). Traditional Civil Engineers are required to have at least a bachelor's degree while technicians need at least an associate degree.

Many of the courses in civil engineering and civil engineering technician programs in educational institutions located in the Southwest Planning Region are technical and advanced. The four-year plan for a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Minnesota State University, Mankato, includes many courses in calculus, chemistry, and physics, in addition to a multitude of civil and mechanical engineering classes in computer-aided drafting, statics, thermal analysis, fluid mechanics, and structural analysis. Civil engineering technicians can also expect to enroll in difficult and technical courses in surveying, GPS/GIS, and inspection/design and mathematics, according to the diploma/certificate program at South Central College. It may be advantageous for individuals



Feature:

Micropolitan Statistical Areas

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to prepare for their college-level experience in high school, junior high school, and even elementary school. This illustrates the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs.

Data from DEED's Occupation Employment Statistics (OES) tool show that education pays off, with median wages in Southwest Minnesota for civil engineers over twice as high as those across all industries and over one and one-half times higher for civil engineering technicians (Table 1).

DEED's Graduate Employment Outcomes (GEO) tool tracks graduates in educational programs after graduation. Table 2 shows that graduates in civil engineering and civil engineering technician programs are consistently earning higher median hourly wages regardless of the number of hours they worked. Table 3 shows annual wages for full-time, year-round employment in these two fields.

These higher-than-normal wages are a direct result of the relatively high demand for workers with civil engineering skills and knowledge. DEED's Occupations In Demand program assigns demand categories based on a variety of metrics including job vacancies, unemployment insurance claims, seasonality in the occupation, and total employment. Civil engineers and civil engineering technicians are ranked a three out of five star demand rating in Southwest Minnesota. This demand translates to a more robust job market for recent graduates seeking employment.

As shown in Table 3, the percent of individuals working full-time year-round varies based on educational program and level of degree earned. While the lower percentages for some programs/degrees may be startling, the GEO data tool does not track individuals who leave the state. For Civil Engineers with a bachelor's degree, 4 percent continued their education and did not have wage records while another 32 percent had unknown employment outcomes. Those Civil Engineers with a graduate degree saw 13 percent continuing education, and 33 percent had unknown employment outcomes. No technicians with a certificate went on to further their education, and 14 percent were unknown. Fourteen percent of technicians with an associate degree continued their schooling, and the status of 11 percent was unknown. It can reasonably be assumed there are more individuals working full-time year-round that are not reported in the GEO tool.

Table 1: Median Hourly Wages in Southwest Minnesota - 2009-2010 cohort

Occupation	Employment	Median Wage
Total, All Industries	177,030	$15.48
Civil Engineering	150	$36.53
Civil Engineering Technicians	180	$26.54

Source: DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics

Designed for Success

Knowing what industries are employing graduates from specific programs provides insight on wages, job opportunity, and employment stability for graduates. Until the release of the Graduate Employment Outcomes tool last year it was impossible for current and prospective students to know what industry is actually employing graduates of their selected program.

We know that about 55 percent of civil engineering graduates with either a bachelor's or graduate degree are employed in the Professional and Technical Services industry, followed by 12 percent in Construction. After two years, graduates who become employed in the Professional and Technical Services industry have median wages of $25.48 per hour, while graduates working in Construction make $24.09 per hour.

The graduates of the civil engineering technology programs are also employed mainly by the Professional and Technical Services industry, but by a much smaller margin of 35 percent. Public Administration employs 29 percent while Construction employs 16 percent of graduates. Civil engineering technicians employed for two years earn median hourly wages of $19.88 in the Professional and Technical Services industry, $25.12 in Public Administration, and $20.99 in Construction.

After students graduate and start their career journey, they will find the civil engineering-related industries to be relatively stable in Southwest Minnesota. The most common industries for employment of recent graduates can be broken down into two categories:

• The *Professional and Technical Services industry* covers a broad swath of smaller industries ranging from law offices and graphic design to advertising and research and development, but it also includes NAICS 5413, **Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services**. The Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services subsector is most certainly responsible for hiring nearly all of the graduates employed in the Professional and Technical Services industry.

• The *Construction industry* is also a one of the main employing industries of civil engineering

Table 2. Median Wages One, Two, and Four Years After Graduation - 2009-2010 cohort

	One Year After Graduation		Two Years	Four Years
Instructional Program	Graduates	Median Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage
Civil Engineering – Bachelor's	115	$20.09	$23.08	$26.49
Civil Engineering – Graduate	52	$26.12	$29.44	$34.59
Civil Engineering Technician – Certificate	29	$16.74	$21.49	$24.38
Civil Engineering Technician – Associate's	37	$18.13	$19.68	$22.38

Source: DEED's Graduate Employment Outcomes (GEO) Tool

Table 3: Percent Working Full-Time and Annual Median Wages

	Second Year After Graduation				Third Year After Graduation		Fourth Year After Graduation	
Instructional Program	Graduates with Reported Wages in MN During the Year	Annual Median Wage	Percent of Employed Grads Working Full-Time Year-Round	Full-Time Year-Round Median Wage	Percent of Employed Grads Working Full-Time Year-Round	Full-Time Year-Round Median Wage	Percent of Employed Grads Working Full-Time Year-Round	Full-Time Year-Round Median Wage
Civil Engineering – Bachelor's	73	$39,357	56%	$46,012	68%	$51,125	82%	$54,778
Civil Engineering – Graduate	28	$49,854	46%	$61,693	68%	$61,908	60%	$68,661
Civil Engineering Technicians – Certificate	25	$34,308	40%	$57,630	52%	$53,105	67%	$52,286
Civil Engineering Technicians – Associate's	28	$34,381	54%	$40,997	75%	$45,650	77%	$51,141

Source: DEED's Graduate Employment Outcomes (GEO) Tool program graduates, with the most relevant subsector of Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction consists of four industry subsectors: **Utility System Construction, Land Subdivision, Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction, and Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction**. In Southwest Minnesota data are not disclosed for land subdivision and other heavy and civil engineering construction subsectors because of confidentiality laws.

Figure 1 illustrates employment trends in the three main industry subsectors that provide employment for recent graduates.

The Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services industry provides the most relevant insight for graduates of civil engineering programs because of the high percentage of graduates who are employed in the industry and relatively focused scope of the industry in civil engineering. With 11 more jobs in 2014 than in 2007 this industry has fully recovered from the recession and has grown by 1.5 percent.

The Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services industry has enjoyed faster than normal growth during the recovery and continues to expand employment, adding 18 new jobs in Southwest Minnesota in the last year alone.

After shedding more than 360 jobs during the recession the Heavy and Civil Engineering industry has lost another 74 jobs since the recovery but in the last year has begun adding jobs again. Every subsector of Heavy and Civil Engineering with disclosed data has added employment in the last year, including 41 new jobs in Highway, Street, and Bridge construction and 19 new jobs in Utility Construction.

A projected 7.4 percent increase in civil engineering jobs is expected through 2022. As mentioned, many individuals who obtain their education in civil engineering find work in a variety of other employment sectors. The architecture and engineering sector as a whole is projected to see 560 openings during this time frame, and construction is predicted to add an additional 2,070 openings. These industries will provide many opportunities to gain employment and experience for civil engineers and technicians.

by Luke Greiner
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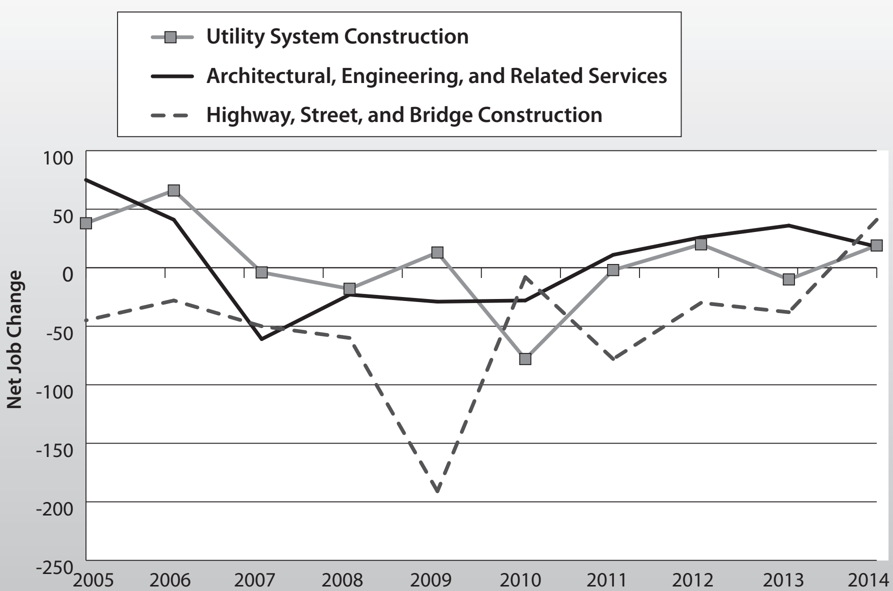
Figure 1: Southwest Minnesota Net Job Change for Engineering Related Subsectors, 2004-2014



Source: DEED, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) prgram

Regional Spotlight Southwest Minnesota

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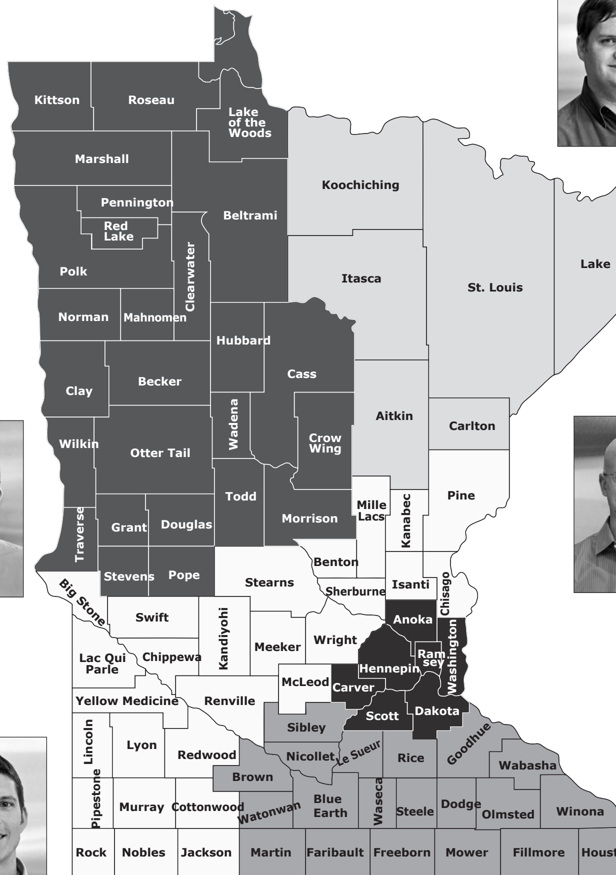

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DEED's Regional Analysts are the state's experts on the latest economic conditions, workforce trends, and labor market intelligence. We provide regional stakeholders with accessible expertise and analysis services, as well as training and presentations.

Wherever you are located across the state, if you need to know about the regional economy and labor market, we've got you covered!

Contact us for information on:

- Industry Employment Statistics and Trends
- Regional Wage and Salary Information
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics
- Unemployment Insurance Claims
- Cost of Living Analysis
- Hiring Difficulties and Skills Gap Surveys
- Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI)
- DEED's Regional Profiles & Data Tool
- Economic Trends and Employment Review
- Occupations in Demand (OID)
- Employment Outlook Projections
- Graduate Employment Outcomes
- Career Profile Tool and Career Exploration
- Job Skills Transfer Assessment Tool (JobSTAT)
- Job Vacancy Survey data
- Affirmative Action Statistics
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data
- U.S. Census data

Labor Force Estimates

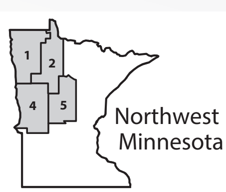
County/ Area	Labor Force Aug 2015	Labor Force July 2015	Labor Force Aug 2014	Employment Aug 2015	Employment June 2015	Employment Aug 2014	Unemployment Aug 2015	Unemployment June 2015	Unemployment Aug 2014	Rate of Unemployment Aug 2015	Rate of Unemployment June 2015	Rate of Unemployment Aug 2014
United States ('000s)												
(Seasonally adjusted)	157,065	157,106	155,959	149,036	148,840	146,368	8,029	8,266	9,591	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%
(Unadjusted)	157,390	158,527	156,434	149,228	149,722	146,647	8,162	8,805	9,787	5.2	5.6	6.3
Minnesota												
(Seasonally adjusted)	3,003,833	3,016,694	2,973,790	2,885,118	2,896,559	2,863,471	118,715	120,135	110,318	4.0	4.0	3.7
(Unadjusted)	3,017,314	3,043,332	2,986,320	2,913,064	2,926,989	2,877,887	104,250	116,343	108,433	3.5	3.8	3.6
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*												
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	1,945,261	1,963,336	1,925,115	1,880,313	1,891,323	1,855,590	64,948	72,013	69,525	3.3	3.7	3.6
Duluth-Superior MSA	142,787	144,532	142,157	136,360	137,184	135,640	6,427	7,348	6,517	4.5	5.1	4.6
Rochester MSA	118,197	119,214	118,982	114,720	115,262	115,253	3,477	3,952	3,729	2.9	3.3	3.1
St. Cloud MSA	108,047	109,022	107,969	104,398	104,936	104,175	3,649	4,086	3,794	3.4	3.7	3.5
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	57,574	57,920	57,082	55,935	56,056	55,317	1,639	1,864	1,765	2.8	3.2	3.1
Fargo-Moorhead MSA												
Grand Forks MSA												
Region One	**49,317**	**49,757**	**48,188**	**47,355**	**47,559**	**46,391**	**1,962**	**2,198**	**1,797**	**4.0**	**4.4**	**3.7**
Kittson	2,524	2,481	2,404	2,337	2,358	2,306	187	123	98	7.4	5.0	4.1
Marshall	5,826	5,912	5,534	5,542	5,591	5,299	284	321	235	4.9	5.4	4.2
Norman	3,507	3,610	3,353	3,369	3,444	3,225	138	166	128	3.9	4.6	3.8
Pennington	9,282	9,220	8,975	8,969	8,856	8,686	313	364	289	3.4	3.9	3.2
Polk	17,125	17,425	16,848	16,458	16,625	16,152	667	800	696	3.9	4.6	4.1
Red Lake	2,328	2,327	2,298	2,236	2,221	2,212	92	106	86	4.0	4.6	3.7
Roseau	8,725	8,782	8,776	8,444	8,464	8,511	281	318	265	3.2	3.6	3.0
Region Two	**43,117**	**43,504**	**42,283**	**41,103**	**41,257**	**40,253**	**2,014**	**2,247**	**2,030**	**4.7**	**5.2**	**4.8**
Beltrami	23,871	24,077	23,222	22,871	22,937	22,189	1,000	1,140	1,033	4.2	4.7	4.4
Clearwater	4,528	4,550	4,467	4,208	4,215	4,153	320	335	314	7.1	7.4	7.0
Hubbard	9,960	10,080	9,819	9,490	9,555	9,364	470	525	455	4.7	5.2	4.6
Lake of the Woods	2,433	2,473	2,424	2,330	2,362	2,310	103	111	114	4.2	4.5	4.7
Mahnomen	2,325	2,324	2,351	2,204	2,188	2,237	121	136	114	5.2	5.9	4.8
Region Three	**164,353**	**166,181**	**163,350**	**156,423**	**157,250**	**155,821**	**7,930**	**8,931**	**7,529**	**4.8**	**5.4**	**4.6**
Aitkin	6,714	6,740	6,796	6,406	6,384	6,462	308	356	334	4.6	5.3	4.9
Carlton	17,446	17,660	17,336	16,690	16,817	16,597	756	843	739	4.3	4.8	4.3
Cook	3,469	3,435	3,452	3,375	3,321	3,332	94	114	120	2.7	3.3	3.5
Itasca	22,641	22,671	22,268	21,261	21,252	21,099	1,380	1,419	1,169	6.1	6.3	5.2
Koochiching	6,291	6,348	6,393	5,849	5,843	5,923	442	505	470	7.0	8.0	7.4
Lake	5,924	6,010	5,954	5,691	5,725	5,750	233	285	204	3.9	4.7	3.4
St. Louis	101,868	103,317	101,151	97,151	97,908	96,658	4,717	5,409	4,493	4.6	5.2	4.4
City of Duluth	45,506	46,008	45,525	43,899	44,241	43,676	1,607	1,767	1,849	3.5	3.8	4.1
Balance of St. Louis County	56,362	57,309	55,626	53,252	53,667	52,982	3,110	3,642	2,644	5.5	6.4	4.8
Region Four	**130,175**	**130,354**	**127,521**	**126,294**	**125,866**	**123,590**	**3,881**	**4,488**	**3,931**	**3.0**	**3.4**	**3.1**
Becker	19,492	18,241	19,403	18,831	17,470	18,761	661	771	642	3.4	4.2	3.3
Clay	35,726	36,125	35,226	34,728	34,964	34,213	998	1,161	1,013	2.8	3.2	2.9
Douglas	20,796	20,944	20,602	20,208	20,298	20,002	588	646	600	2.8	3.1	2.9
Grant	3,451	3,501	3,293	3,324	3,357	3,178	127	144	115	3.7	4.1	3.5
Otter Tail	32,410	32,967	31,757	31,379	31,782	30,686	1,031	1,185	1,071	3.2	3.6	3.4
Pope	6,569	6,696	6,261	6,397	6,482	6,083	172	214	178	2.6	3.2	2.8
Stevens	6,238	6,270	5,731	6,107	6,109	5,590	131	161	141	2.1	2.6	2.5
Traverse	1,795	1,811	1,682	1,735	1,743	1,622	60	68	60	3.3	3.8	3.6
Wilkin	3,698	3,799	3,566	3,585	3,661	3,455	113	138	111	3.1	3.6	3.1
Region Five	**83,445**	**83,979**	**83,298**	**79,870**	**80,068**	**79,694**	**3,575**	**3,911**	**3,604**	**4.3**	**4.7**	**4.3**
Cass	15,105	15,262	14,771	14,327	14,436	14,035	778	826	736	5.2	5.4	5.0
Crow Wing	31,538	31,610	32,195	30,214	30,155	30,828	1,324	1,455	1,367	4.2	4.6	4.2
Morrison	17,265	17,449	17,388	16,552	16,663	16,632	713	786	756	4.1	4.5	4.3
Todd	13,360	13,396	12,822	12,903	12,890	12,365	457	506	457	3.4	3.8	3.6
Wadena	6,177	6,262	6,122	5,874	5,924	5,834	303	338	288	4.9	5.4	4.7
Region Six East	**68,072**	**68,450**	**65,494**	**65,800**	**65,868**	**63,116**	**2,272**	**2,582**	**2,378**	**3.3**	**3.8**	**3.6**
Kandiyohi	24,825	25,111	23,889	24,074	24,245	23,095	751	866	794	3.0	3.4	3.3
McLeod	20,522	20,458	20,333	19,806	19,660	19,569	716	798	764	3.5	3.9	3.8
Meeker	13,508	13,565	12,978	13,042	13,051	12,532	466	514	446	3.4	3.8	3.4
Renville	9,217	9,316	8,294	8,878	8,912	7,920	339	404	374	3.7	4.3	4.5

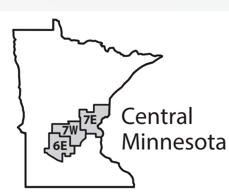
*Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) now includes Sherburne County in Minnesota and Pierce County in Wisconsin. St. Cloud MSA is now comprised of Benton and Stearns counties.

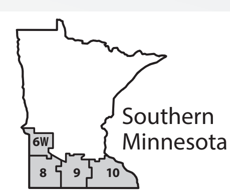
Labor Force Estimates

Numbers are unadjusted unless otherwise labeled.
Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2015.

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Aug 2015	June 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	June 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	June 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	June 2015	Aug 2014
Region Six West	**23,899**	**24,394**	**23,455**	**22,974**	**23,230**	**22,604**	**925**	**1,164**	**851**	**3.9%**	**4.8%**	**3.6%**
Big Stone	2,722	2,776	2,679	2,616	2,664	2,596	106	112	83	3.9	4.0	3.1
Chippewa	7,067	7,138	6,874	6,805	6,833	6,617	262	305	257	3.7	4.3	3.7
Lac Qui Parle	3,604	3,643	3,592	3,458	3,499	3,459	146	144	133	4.1	4.0	3.7
Swift	5,048	5,252	4,929	4,823	4,857	4,736	225	395	193	4.5	7.5	3.9
Yellow Medicine	5,458	5,585	5,381	5,272	5,377	5,196	186	208	185	3.4	3.7	3.4
Region Seven East	**85,792**	**86,692**	**84,984**	**82,274**	**82,797**	**81,313**	**3,518**	**3,895**	**3,671**	**4.1**	**4.5**	**4.3**
Chisago	29,088	29,354	28,725	28,004	28,171	27,626	1,084	1,183	1,099	3.7	4.0	3.8
Isanti	20,481	20,699	20,288	19,735	19,863	19,470	746	836	818	3.6	4.0	4.0
Kanabec	8,870	8,958	8,812	8,401	8,464	8,344	469	494	468	5.3	5.5	5.3
Mille Lacs	12,807	12,959	12,680	12,214	12,293	12,044	593	666	636	4.6	5.1	5.0
Pine	14,546	14,722	14,479	13,920	14,006	13,829	626	716	650	4.3	4.9	4.5
Region Seven West	**229,738**	**231,953**	**228,311**	**222,026**	**223,314**	**220,226**	**7,712**	**8,639**	**8,085**	**3.4**	**3.7**	**3.5**
Benton	21,297	21,477	21,283	20,490	20,583	20,453	807	894	830	3.8	4.2	3.9
Sherburne	49,699	50,243	49,154	47,961	48,279	47,327	1,738	1,964	1,827	3.5	3.9	3.7
Stearns	86,750	87,545	86,686	83,908	84,353	83,722	2,842	3,192	2,964	3.3	3.6	3.4
Wright	71,992	72,688	71,188	69,667	70,099	68,724	2,325	2,589	2,464	3.2	3.6	3.5
Region Eight	**66,694**	**67,503**	**65,362**	**64,752**	**65,301**	**63,379**	**1,942**	**2,202**	**1,983**	**2.9**	**3.3**	**3.0**
Cottonwood	5,804	5,866	5,636	5,535	5,598	5,421	269	268	215	4.6	4.6	3.8
Jackson	6,563	6,659	6,357	6,352	6,434	6,134	211	225	223	3.2	3.4	3.5
Lincoln	3,459	3,514	3,381	3,375	3,413	3,275	84	101	106	2.4	2.9	3.1
Lyon	15,263	15,393	15,208	14,862	14,931	14,772	401	462	436	2.6	3.0	2.9
Murray	4,998	5,068	4,879	4,844	4,894	4,735	154	174	144	3.1	3.4	3.0
Nobles	11,463	11,558	11,197	11,149	11,187	10,883	314	371	314	2.7	3.2	2.8
Pipestone	5,239	5,280	4,875	5,114	5,132	4,740	125	148	135	2.4	2.8	2.8
Redwood	8,124	8,299	8,137	7,853	7,978	7,852	271	321	285	3.3	3.9	3.5
Rock	5,781	5,866	5,692	5,668	5,734	5,567	113	132	125	2.0	2.3	2.2
Region Nine	**130,488**	**131,336**	**129,564**	**126,120**	**126,391**	**125,021**	**4,368**	**4,945**	**4,543**	**3.3**	**3.8**	**3.5**
Blue Earth	38,050	38,294	37,757	36,927	37,009	36,529	1,123	1,285	1,228	3.0	3.4	3.3
Brown	14,720	14,809	14,361	14,211	14,213	13,865	509	596	496	3.5	4.0	3.5
Faribault	7,592	7,599	7,613	7,302	7,253	7,312	290	346	301	3.8	4.6	4.0
Le Sueur	15,809	15,975	15,600	15,222	15,331	14,995	587	644	605	3.7	4.0	3.9
Martin	10,365	10,395	10,464	9,960	9,972	10,048	405	423	416	3.9	4.1	4.0
Nicollet	19,524	19,626	19,325	19,008	19,047	18,788	516	579	537	2.6	3.0	2.8
Sibley	8,686	8,810	8,522	8,377	8,472	8,218	309	338	304	3.6	3.8	3.6
Waseca	9,639	9,610	9,857	9,261	9,174	9,450	378	436	407	3.9	4.5	4.1
Watonwan	6,103	6,218	6,065	5,852	5,920	5,816	251	298	249	4.1	4.8	4.1
Region Ten	**279,358**	**280,880**	**278,974**	**270,501**	**270,870**	**269,735**	**8,857**	**10,010**	**9,239**	**3.2**	**3.6**	**3.3**
Dodge	11,448	11,563	11,483	11,070	11,138	11,098	378	425	385	3.3	3.7	3.4
Fillmore	11,348	11,482	11,323	10,949	11,035	10,935	399	447	388	3.5	3.9	3.4
Freeborn	16,260	16,342	16,257	15,695	15,696	15,670	565	646	587	3.5	4.0	3.6
Goodhue	27,157	27,222	27,013	26,280	26,255	26,118	877	967	895	3.2	3.6	3.3
Houston	10,339	10,433	10,299	9,989	10,035	9,942	350	398	357	3.4	3.8	3.5
Mower	20,471	20,592	20,455	19,883	19,903	19,772	588	689	683	2.9	3.3	3.3
Olmsted	83,335	83,957	84,094	81,025	81,332	81,549	2,310	2,625	2,545	2.8	3.1	3.0
City of Rochester	61,275	61,762	61,864	59,552	59,778	59,938	1,723	1,984	1,926	2.8	3.2	3.1
Rice	35,751	36,147	35,028	34,459	34,701	33,734	1,292	1,446	1,294	3.6	4.0	3.7
Steele	21,442	21,065	21,731	20,744	20,293	21,024	698	772	707	3.3	3.7	3.3
Wabasha	12,066	12,212	12,082	11,676	11,757	11,671	390	455	411	3.2	3.7	3.4
Winona	29,741	29,865	29,209	28,731	28,725	28,222	1,010	1,140	987	3.4	3.8	3.4
Region Eleven	**1,662,858**	**1,678,345**	**1,645,537**	**1,607,569**	**1,617,218**	**1,586,744**	**55,289**	**61,127**	**58,793**	**3.3**	**3.6**	**3.6**
Anoka	192,240	194,109	190,181	185,581	186,749	183,176	6,659	7,360	7,005	3.5	3.8	3.7
Carver	54,721	55,261	54,132	53,080	53,427	52,356	1,641	1,834	1,776	3.0	3.3	3.3
Dakota	234,996	237,294	232,639	227,460	228,904	224,521	7,536	8,390	8,118	3.2	3.5	3.5
Hennepin	682,570	688,632	675,592	659,853	663,579	651,345	22,717	25,053	24,247	3.3	3.6	3.6
City of Bloomington	47,394	47,869	46,948	45,812	46,070	45,221	1,582	1,799	1,727	3.3	3.8	3.7
City of Minneapolis	231,964	234,102	229,516	223,946	225,211	221,059	8,018	8,891	8,457	3.5	3.8	3.7
Ramsey	281,554	284,238	278,570	271,460	273,067	267,949	10,094	11,171	10,621	3.6	3.9	3.8
City of St. Paul	154,846	156,396	153,103	148,925	149,807	146,999	5,921	6,589	6,104	3.8	4.2	4.0
Scott	78,725	79,457	77,839	76,357	76,835	75,365	2,368	2,622	2,474	3.0	3.3	3.2
Washington	138,052	139,354	136,584	133,778	134,657	132,032	4,274	4,697	4,552	3.1	3.4	3.3







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

Overview

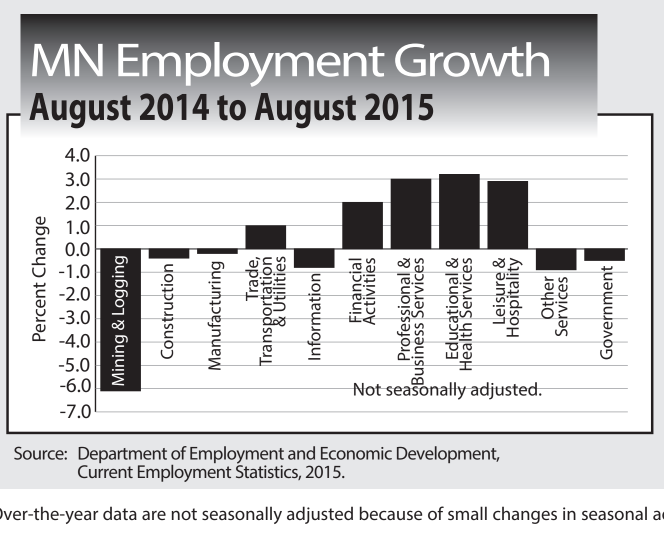
Minnesota added 7,300 jobs (0.3 percent), seasonally adjusted, for a strong August performance. At the same time, July's employment estimates were revised upward from a loss of 3,900 to a loss of just 1,100. The growth was in large part from employment increases in Professional and Business Services and Leisure and Hospitality, each of which added 4,600 jobs (1.3 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively). While many other supersectors also saw employment growth, the expansions were tempered by job losses in a couple of key industries led by Government employment, which was down by 5,000 (1.2 percent). For the year Minnesota added 38,037 jobs (1.3 percent). Service providers (up 39,611 or 1.7 percent) accounted for all of that growth, as goods producers lost 1,574 jobs (0.4 percent). The supersector with the most growth was Educational and Health Services, which added 15,721 jobs (3.2 percent). The steepest losses came in Government employment, which was down 1,985 jobs (0.5 percent).

Mining and Logging

Employment in Mining and Logging was up by 200 jobs (3.1 percent) in August. It was the supersector's second straight month of growth, following a difficult year during which it had added jobs in only one of the previous 12 months. Employment remains down on an annual basis. It has shown some improvement, however, as it was down 466 jobs (6.1 percent) in August, after being off by 887 (11.7 percent) in July.

Construction

Employment in Construction was down in August, off by 200 jobs (0.2 percent) from July estimates. Combined with July's loss of 2,000 jobs, the previous two months have given back nearly all of the 2,500 jobs added in June. August also represents the first time since March that the supersector lost jobs over the year, as it was down by 525 (0.4 percent) from August of 2014. The addition of 121 jobs (1.0 percent) in Residential Building Construction was not enough to overcome significant losses in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (down 946, 4.7 percent) and Specialty Trade Contractors (down 1,199, 1.6 percent).



Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2015.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment was down last month as the supersector shed 1,000 jobs (0.3 percent). A loss of 2,200 jobs (2.0 percent) in Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing more than erased the gain of 1,200 (0.6 percent) in its Durable Goods counterpart. August marked the fourth straight month of job losses in Manufacturing. As in Construction, the poor performance was enough to push the supersector into negative over-the-year growth as well, as Manufacturing employment was down 583 (0.2 percent) from August of 2014. These were the first such job losses in the industry since the tail end of the recession in 2010, putting the cap on what ended up being a rough month for Minnesota's goods producers.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Employment growth in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was essentially flat in August as the supersector lost 200 jobs (0.0 percent). Retail Trade lost 1,400 jobs (0.5 percent) while Wholesale Trade added 900 (0.7 percent), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities added 300 (0.3 percent). Employment in the supersector remained up on the year, adding 5,098 jobs (1 percent) since August of 2014. The large majority of those jobs came in Retail Trade, which was up 5,315 jobs (1.8 percent). Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities added just 130 jobs (0.1 percent) on the year, while Wholesale Trade actually lost 347 jobs (0.3 percent).

Information

Employment in the Information supersector was up by 200 (0.4 percent) in August. That marked the second straight month of growth in Information employment, the first time that has happened since 2014. Over the year, Information employment remained down, off 414 jobs (0.8 percent) from August 2014. Both published component sectors lost jobs, with Publishing Industries (except Internet) losing 661 jobs (3.2 percent) and Telecommunications losing 231 (1.7 percent).

*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 Financial Activities showed strong growth in August, adding 1,600 jobs (0.9 percent). Both component sectors grew, with Finance and Insurance adding 700 jobs (0.5 percent) and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing adding 900 (2.3 percent). For the year, the supersector added 3,590 jobs (2 percent). Finance and Insurance added 2,613 jobs (1.9 percent), with most of that growth coming from Insurance Carriers and Related Activities (up 2,389 or 3.6 percent). Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added 977 jobs (2.4 percent).

Professional and Business Services

Professional and Business Services added 4,600 jobs (1.3 percent) in August as two of its three component sectors had a strong month of growth. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services added 2,100 jobs (1.5 percent) while Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 3,200 jobs (2.3 percent). Management of Companies and Enterprises lost 700 jobs (0.9 percent). Employment in the supersector remains very strong over the year, up 10,817 (3 percent) from August 2014.

Educational and Health Services

Educational and Health Services added 2,900 jobs (0.6 percent) in August. Growth of 5,000 jobs (1.1 percent) in Health Care and Social Assistance was more than enough to overcome losses of 2,100 jobs (2.9 percent) in Educational Services. Over the year, the supersector added 15,721, with both component sectors maintaining strong annual growth of better than 2 percent.

Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and Hospitality employment was up by 4,600 (1.8 percent) in August. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation added 3,100 jobs (7.3 percent) while Accommodation and Food Services added 1,500. The job growth in this supersector is notable in part because it employs a large proportion of minimum wage earners. A mandated $.50 increase to the minimum wage went into effect at the beginning of August, a move which some speculate may work to drive down employment in the state. (Hourly earnings estimates did indeed increase by $.50 in the supersector last month as well.) Annual employment remains up in the supersector as well, with 7,871 (2.9 percent) more jobs than in August of 2014.

Other Services

Other Services employment was down slightly in August, shedding 400 jobs (0.3 percent) on the month. Employment remains down on the year as well, off 1,087 jobs (0.9 percent) from August 2014. Most of that loss comes from the Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations sector, which lost 1,294 jobs (2 percent) from August 2014 estimates.

Government

Government employers had a rough August, losing 5,000 jobs (1.2 percent). The large loss came almost entirely from Local Government, which was down 5,100 (1.8 percent), likely caused by a change in the staffing pattern for local schools between summer 2014 and 2015. Annual employment returned to the red as well in August, with Government employers losing 1,985 jobs (0.5 percent) from August 2014, after briefly reaching positive annual growth in July.

by Nick Dobbins

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	August 2015	July 2015	June 2015
Total Nonagricultural	**2,863.4**	**2,856.1**	**2,857.2**
Goods-Producing	**428.0**	**429.0**	**431.0**
Mining and Logging	6.7	6.5	6.2
Construction	108.2	108.4	110.4
Manufacturing	313.1	314.1	314.4
Service-Providing	**2,435.4**	**2,427.1**	**2,426.2**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	524.7	524.9	526.6
Information	53.0	52.8	52.6
Financial Activities	182.7	181.1	180.4
Professional and Business Services	364.9	360.3	358.4
Educational and Health Services	516.3	513.4	514.4
Leisure and Hospitality	262.5	257.9	261.7
Other Services	114.0	114.4	114.4
Government	417.3	422.3	417.7

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development Current Employment Statistics, 2015.

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

Regional Analysis

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

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA was up slightly in August, adding 1,425 jobs (0.1 percent). There were significant gains in industries like Leisure and Hospitality (up 2,792 or 1.4 percent), Educational and Health Services (up 1,952 or 0.6 percent) from an increase of 2,830 jobs in Health Care and Social Assistance, and Professional and Business Services (up 1,470 jobs, 0.5 percent), among others. However, this growth was balanced by a loss of 5,452 jobs (2.3 percent) in Government employment, which was driven in large part by late summer losses in Local and State Government Educational Services (down 2,958 or 4.2 percent and 994 or 2.6 percent, respectively). Over the year, employment remained up in the metro, with 36,171 (1.9 percent) more jobs than in August of 2014. Once again, the only losses in the area were in Information (down 445, 1.1 percent) and Government employment (down 1,719, 0.7 percent).

Duluth -Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA lost 120 jobs (-0.1 percent) in August. Losses were widely distributed, as Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 362 jobs (1.4 percent), Government lost 141 (0.6 percent), Professional and Business Services lost 66 (0.8 percent), and other supersectors lost smaller amounts of employment. The only supersector to grow by more than 20 was Mining, Logging, and Construction, which added 494 jobs (5.3 percent). Employment growth remained healthier on an annual basis, however, as Duluth added 1,555 jobs (1.2 percent) over 2014 estimates. The most significant job growth by far was in the Educational and Health Services supersector, which added 1,228 jobs (4.1 percent). A number of supersectors lost jobs on the year, including Mining, Logging, and Construction (down 501 or 4.8 percent) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which lost 38 jobs (0.1 percent) primarily caused by a loss of 257 (1.7 percent) in Retail Trade employment.

Rochester MSA

The Rochester MSA added 415 jobs (0.4 percent) in August. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 102 jobs (0.6 percent), Educational and Health Services added 183 jobs (0.4 percent), and Government added 47 jobs (0.4 percent). The only job losses were in Other Services (down 36 jobs or 1 percent) and Leisure and Hospitality and Financial Activities, which each lost 8 jobs (0.1 and 0.3 percent, respectively). Annually, Rochester lost 317 jobs, making it the only MSA in Minnesota to lose employment on the year. Professional and Business Service remains the biggest job loser, down 309 (5.1 percent) from August 2014. Other supersectors to see declines included Mining, Logging, and Construction (down 126, 2.6 percent), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (down 99, 0.6 percent), Financial Activities (down 58, 2.1 percent), and Government (down 97, 0.8 percent).

St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA was up by 392 (0.4 percent) in August. The most significant growth came in Leisure and Hospitality (up 164 jobs or 1.8 percent) and Professional and Business Services (up 139, 1.8 percent). Small losses occurred in Government, Other Services, and Manufacturing. For the year, employment in St. Cloud was up by 545 (0.5 percent). Educational and Health Services led the way with 1,421 more jobs (7.1 percent). Significant annual losses occurred in Professional and Business Services (down 355, 4.2 percent), Mining, Logging, and Construction (down 329, 4.9 percent), Information (down 67 or 4 percent), and Government (down 99, 0.7 percent).

Mankato-North Mankato MSA

Employment in the Mankato-North Mankato MSA was up by 377 (0.7 percent) in August. Service Providers added 493 jobs (1.1 percent) while Goods Producers lost 116 (also 1.1 percent). Bucking the larger statewide trend, Government employers added 149 jobs (1.9 percent), while Private employers contributed 228 jobs (0.5 percent) to the gains. Over the year, Mankato added 785 jobs (1.5 percent) with all reported industry groups showing growth of over 1 percent, save Goods Producers, who added only 25 jobs (0.2 percent) on the year.

Fargo-Moorhead MSA

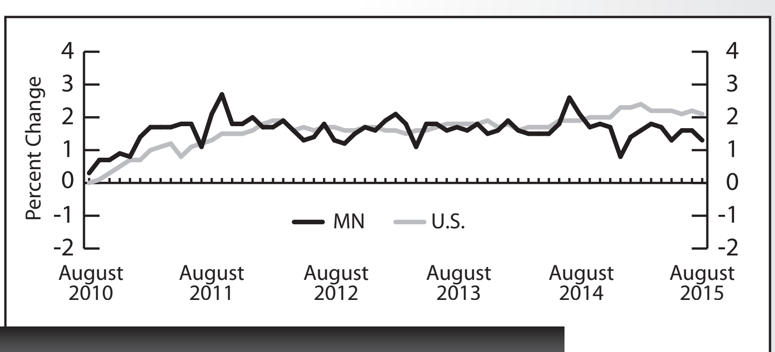
The Fargo-Moorhead MSA added 213 jobs (0.2 percent) in August, although the relatively modest change concealed a lot of movement in specific industry groups. Among the job losers were Manufacturing (down 183, 1.8 percent), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (252, 0.8 percent), and Leisure and Hospitality (down 221, 1.4 percent). Expansions occurred in Educational and Health Services (up 210, 1 percent), Government (356, 2.3 percent), and Other Services (149, 2.8 percent). Over the year the MSA added 2,390 jobs (1.8 percent), with the most significant of those gains coming in Leisure and Hospitality (up 1,243 or 8.9 percent).

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

Employment in the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA was down 31 jobs (0.1 percent) in August. By far the biggest declines were in Government (down 188, 1.6 percent) and Professional and Business Services (down 55, 1.7 percent). Over the year, the MSA added 1,065 jobs (1.9 percent). The supersectors to lose jobs were Government (down 93 or 0.7 percent), Educational and Health Services (down 129 or 1.3 percent) and Leisure and Hospitality (down 8 jobs or 0.1 percent). The most significant job growth came in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which was up 819 or 6.5 percent on the strength of 586 new jobs in Retail Trade and 205 in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities, and Mining, Logging, and Construction, which added 288 jobs (7.9 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2015; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics, 2015.



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	
	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**2,883.1**	**2,881.5**	**2,845.1**	**0.1%**	**1.3%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**447.6**	**449.1**	**449.1**	**-0.3**	**-0.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Logging	**7.1**	**6.7**	**7.6**	**6.8**	**-6.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	**122.8**	**122.8**	**123.3**	**0.0**	**-0.4**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	75.5	76.3	76.7	-1.1	-1.6	$1,235.25	$1,148.00	40.5	39.6	$30.50	$28.99
Manufacturing	**317.6**	**319.6**	**318.2**	**-0.6**	**-0.2**	**828.65**	**847.38**	**40.7**	**42.2**	**20.36**	**20.08**
Durable Goods	204.7	205.6	201.8	-0.5	1.4	816.86	839.65	40.2	42.6	20.32	19.71
Wood Product Manufacturing	11.1	11.1	11.2	-0.2	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	44.3	44.6	43.0	-0.8	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	33.1	33.1	33.0	-0.2	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	46.1	46.2	45.4	-0.2	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	25.7	25.8	25.5	-0.3	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	11.6	11.7	11.7	-0.5	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.1	15.8	15.5	1.7	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	112.9	114.0	116.4	-0.9	-3.0	849.47	857.81	41.6	41.5	20.42	20.67
Food Manufacturing	46.1	46.4	47.6	-0.5	-3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Manufacturing	31.7	32.0	33.6	-0.8	-5.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	22.9	23.0	24.2	-0.4	-5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**2,435.5**	**2,432.5**	**2,395.9**	**0.1**	**1.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**526.6**	**527.0**	**521.5**	**-0.1**	**1.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	133.5	133.3	133.9	0.2	-0.3	953.57	935.27	39.6	39.1	24.08	23.92
Retail Trade	299.4	299.6	294.1	-0.1	1.8	430.42	406.13	29.4	28.5	14.64	14.25
Motor Vehicle and Parts	35.0	34.9	33.6	0.3	4.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	27.0	27.7	26.9	-2.6	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	52.4	52.5	52.5	-0.2	-0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	24.8	24.6	24.5	0.8	1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	61.3	61.1	61.1	0.2	0.3	335.71	308.65	29.5	28.9	11.38	10.68
Transportation,Warehouse, Utilities	93.7	94.1	93.5	-0.4	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	80.5	80.8	80.5	-0.4	0.0	746.92	638.97	35.5	35.4	21.04	18.05
Information	**52.8**	**52.7**	**53.2**	**0.1**	**-0.8**	**892.12**	**769.03**	**35.9**	**33.7**	**24.85**	**22.82**
Publishing Industries	20.1	20.2	20.8	-0.2	-3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	13.4	13.3	13.6	0.2	-1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**184.4**	**183.7**	**180.8**	**0.4**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	143.3	143.2	140.7	0.0	1.9	877.86	893.52	35.7	36.0	24.59	24.82
Credit Intermediation	55.9	55.8	55.1	0.1	1.5	714.00	743.30	35.0	36.1	20.40	20.59
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	18.7	18.8	18.8	-0.4	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	67.9	67.6	65.5	0.4	3.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	41.1	40.5	40.2	1.7	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**372.4**	**369.0**	**361.6**	**0.9**	**3.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	144.9	143.4	142.4	1.1	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.1	18.1	18.2	-0.1	-0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	16.7	16.8	15.4	-0.3	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	38.0	37.9	34.2	0.3	11.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	77.8	78.6	78.6	-0.9	-0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	149.7	147.1	140.7	1.8	6.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**509.9**	**506.5**	**494.2**	**0.7**	**3.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	61.5	62.6	57.3	-1.8	7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	448.4	443.9	436.9	1.0	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	144.2	143.1	140.2	0.8	2.8	1,253.97	1,198.89	36.2	34.6	34.64	34.65
Offices of Physicians	68.1	67.8	66.6	0.5	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	106.9	106.3	104.9	0.6	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	107.8	107.4	106.7	0.4	1.0	442.14	430.35	29.3	29.7	15.09	14.49
Social Assistance	89.5	87.2	85.0	2.7	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**283.8**	**281.1**	**276.0**	**1.0**	**2.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	53.7	51.4	47.5	4.6	13.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	230.1	229.8	228.5	0.2	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	200.4	199.6	197.1	0.4	1.7	281.50	270.37	22.2	22.4	12.68	12.07
Other Services	**114.0**	**114.0**	**115.1**	**0.0**	**-0.9**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	62.8	62.6	64.1	0.4	-2.0						
Government	**391.6**	**398.5**	**393.6**	**-1.7**	**-0.5**						
Federal Government	31.6	31.7	31.3	-0.3	1.0						
State Government	93.5	95.9	95.5	-2.4	-2.0						
State Government Education	54.3	56.3	56.3	-3.7	-3.5						
Local Government	266.4	270.9	266.8	-1.7	-0.1						
Local Government Education	110.3	114.7	113.5	-3.8	-2.8						

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, 2015.

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	
	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	Aug 2014
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**1,947.9**	**1,946.5**	**1,911.7**	**0.1%**	**1.9%**	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOODS-PRODUCING	**277.1**	**277.5**	**273.1**	**-0.1**	**1.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, Logging, and Construction	**81.6**	**80.8**	**79.4**	**1.0**	**2.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	17.8	17.4	17.0	2.3	5.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	53.8	54.2	51.8	-0.9	3.9	$1,320.31	$1,292.03	40.7	40.2	$32.44	$32.14
Manufacturing	**195.5**	**196.7**	**193.7**	**-0.6**	**0.9**	**884.15**	**866.00**	**41.2**	**42.1**	**21.46**	**20.57**
Durable Goods	133.7	134.6	131.8	-0.7	1.5	838.83	846.08	40.7	42	20.61	20.14
Fabricated Metal Production	30.2	30.3	29.3	-0.5	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	20.4	20.4	20.2	-0.3	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	36.8	37.0	36.3	-0.3	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	23.9	24.0	23.8	-0.4	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	14.8	14.5	14.1	2.1	5.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	61.8	62.1	61.9	-0.5	-0.2	975.44	932.57	42.3	42.7	23.06	21.84
Food Manufacturing	14.9	14.8	15.4	0.8	-3.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	15.2	15.1	15.8	0.5	-3.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**1,670.8**	**1,668.9**	**1,638.6**	**0.1**	**2.0**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**347.3**	**346.4**	**346.2**	**0.3**	**0.3**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	96.1	95.4	97.7	0.7	-1.6	955.55	903.86	39.6	39.2	24.13	23.04
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	48.7	47.9	48.1	1.6	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	28.0	28.0	28.1	-0.2	-0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	186.0	185.8	184.2	0.1	0.9	456.92	428.51	30.3	29.2	15.08	14.69
Food and Beverage Stores	31.2	31.3	31.1	-0.3	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	38.9	38.8	37.9	0.3	2.6	345.65	321.65	30.4	29.7	11.37	10.83
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	65.2	65.2	64.3	0.1	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.9	8.0	7.8	-0.2	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	57.3	57.2	56.6	0.1	1.2	845.54	833.28	39.2	42.2	21.57	19.76
Information	**39.6**	**39.7**	**40.1**	**-0.2**	**-1.1**						
Publishing Industries	16.4	16.4	16.5	0.0	-0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	9.7	9.7	9.9	0.1	-2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial Activities	**150.7**	**150.4**	**146.7**	**0.2**	**2.7**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	117.4	117.3	113.7	0.1	3.2	891.30	956.33	34.4	34.9	25.91	27.41
Credit Intermediation	40.5	40.5	39.5	-0.2	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	16.7	16.8	17.0	-0.5	-2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	57.5	57.4	56.0	0.2	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	33.2	33.1	33.0	0.4	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	**316.7**	**315.3**	**304.0**	**0.5**	**4.2**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	128.0	128.2	123.0	-0.2	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.4	15.4	15.5	0.0	-0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	17.2	17.0	17.0	1.3	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	33.3	33.3	31.5	-0.2	5.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	70.3	70.8	71.4	-0.6	-1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	118.4	116.3	109.6	1.8	8.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	57.0	54.6	52.0	4.4	9.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	**313.9**	**311.9**	**304.3**	**0.6**	**3.1**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	37.7	38.5	38.3	-2.3	-1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	276.2	273.4	266.0	1.0	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	87.8	87.0	84.8	0.9	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	63.7	63.2	62.0	0.8	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	60.6	60.1	59.0	1.0	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	64.1	63.2	60.1	1.5	6.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	**195.8**	**193.0**	**186.8**	**1.4**	**4.8**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	39.2	38.4	35.8	1.9	9.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	156.6	154.6	151.0	1.3	3.7	304.38	307.20	22.8	24	13.35	12.80
Food Services and Drinking Places	142.0	140.4	136.6	1.1	3.9	284.93	302.25	21.8	23.4	13.07	12.90
Other Services	**79.2**	**79.2**	**81.2**	**0.0**	**-2.5**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	14.3	14.4	14.5	-0.3	-1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	42.8	42.8	43.9	0.0	-2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government	**227.7**	**233.1**	**229.4**	**-2.3**	**-0.7**						
Federal Government	20.5	20.6	20.3	-0.2	1.1						
State Government	64.3	65.4	64.8	-1.7	-0.8						
State Government Education	37.8	38.8	38.5	-2.6	-1.8						
Local Government	142.9	147.2	144.3	-2.9	-1.0						
Local Government Education	67.8	70.8	69.8	-4.2	-2.8						

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, 2015.

Employer Survey

Industry	Duluth-Superior MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014	Rochester MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**135,959**	**136,079**	**134,404**	**-0.1%**	**1.2%**	**116,781**	**116,366**	**117,098**	**0.4%**	**-0.3%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**17,239**	**16,776**	**17,733**	**2.8**	**-2.8**	**16,109**	**16,040**	**16,198**	**0.4**	**-0.5**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	9,867	9,373	10,368	5.3	-4.8	4,645	4,631	4,771	0.3	-2.6
Manufacturing	7,372	7,403	7,365	-0.4	0.1	11,464	11,409	11,427	0.5	0.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**118,720**	**119,303**	**116,671**	**-0.5**	**1.8**	**100,672**	**100,326**	**100,900**	**0.3**	**-0.2**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,408	25,770	25,446	-1.4	-0.1	17,735	17,633	17,834	0.6	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	3,362	3,372	3,416	-0.3	-1.6	2,621	2,642	2,621	-0.8	0.0
Retail Trade	15,307	15,568	15,564	-1.7	-1.7	12,260	12,161	12,527	0.8	-2.1
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,739	6,830	6,466	-1.3	4.2	2,854	2,830	2,686	0.8	6.3
Information	1,387	1,370	1,411	1.2	-1.7	2,142	2,130	2,028	0.6	5.6
Financial Activities	5,497	5,491	5,512	0.1	-0.3	2,766	2,774	2,824	-0.3	-2.1
Professional and Business Services	8,683	8,749	8,535	-0.8	1.7	5,791	5,737	6,100	0.9	-5.1
Educational and Health Services	31,485	31,518	30,257	-0.1	4.1	45,611	45,428	45,305	0.4	0.7
Leisure and Hospitality	15,799	15,796	15,370	0.0	2.8	10,655	10,663	10,706	-0.1	-0.5
Other Services	6,379	6,386	6,013	-0.1	6.1	3,640	3,676	3,674	-1.0	-0.9
Government	24,082	24,223	24,127	-0.6	-0.2	12,332	12,285	12,429	0.4	-0.8

Employer Survey

Industry	St. Cloud MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014	Mankato MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**106,013**	**105,621**	**105,468**	**0.4%**	**0.5%**	**54,488**	**54,111**	**53,703**	**0.7%**	**1.5%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**22,037**	**22,074**	**22,384**	**-0.2**	**-1.6**	**10,334**	**10,450**	**10,309**	**-1.1**	**0.2**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,381	6,373	6,710	0.1	-4.9	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	15,656	15,701	15,674	-0.3	-0.1	--	--	--	--	--
						--	--	--	--	--
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**83,976**	**83,547**	**83,084**	**0.5**	**1.1**	**44,154**	**43,661**	**43,394**	**1.1**	**1.8**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	21,622	21,547	21,639	0.3	-0.1	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	4,785	4,801	4,511	-0.3	6.1	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	12,996	12,868	13,426	1.0	-3.2	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	3,841	3,878	3,702	-1.0	3.8	--	--	--	--	--
Information	1,594	1,588	1,661	0.4	-4.0	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	4,903	4,895	4,955	0.2	-1.0	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	8,031	7,892	8,386	1.8	-4.2	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	21,577	21,498	20,156	0.4	7.1	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	9,071	8,907	9,024	1.8	0.5	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	3,723	3,744	3,709	-0.6	0.4	--	--	--	--	--
Government	13,455	13,476	13,554	-0.2	-0.7	8,076	7,927	7,936	1.9	1.8

Employer Survey

Industry	Fargo-Moorhead MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014	Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA Jobs Aug 2015	Jobs July 2015	Jobs Aug 2014	% Chg. From July 2015	% Chg. From Aug 2014
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY	**138,475**	**138,262**	**136,085**	**0.2%**	**1.8%**	**56,122**	**56,153**	**55,057**	**-0.1%**	**1.9%**
GOODS-PRODUCING	**19,582**	**19,756**	**20,388**	**-0.9**	**-4.0**	**7,795**	**7,737**	**7,456**	**0.8**	**4.6**
Mining, Logging, and Construction	9,678	9,669	9,984	0.1	-3.1	3,953	3,941	3,665	0.3	7.9
Manufacturing	9,904	10,087	10,404	-1.8	-4.8	3,842	3,796	3,791	1.2	1.4
SERVICE-PROVIDING	**118,893**	**118,506**	**115,697**	**0.3**	**2.8**	**48,327**	**48,416**	**47,601**	**-0.2**	**1.5**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	30,566	30,818	29,843	-0.8	2.4	13,354	13,261	12,535	0.7	6.5
Wholesale Trade	9,390	9,362	9,183	0.3	2.3	2,035	2,031	2,007	0.2	1.4
Retail Trade	16,184	16,519	15,572	-2.0	3.9	9,041	9,031	8,455	0.1	6.9
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	4,992	4,937	5,088	1.1	-1.9	2,278	2,199	2,073	3.6	9.9
Information	3,234	3,223	3,339	0.3	-3.1	616	614	616	0.3	0.0
Financial Activities	10,957	10,950	10,574	0.1	3.6	1,791	1,777	1,779	0.8	0.7
Professional and Business Services	16,045	15,918	16,202	0.8	-1.0	3,144	3,199	3,065	-1.7	2.6
Educational and Health Services	21,511	21,301	21,341	1.0	0.8	9,466	9,474	9,595	-0.1	-1.3
Leisure and Hospitality	15,168	15,389	13,925	-1.4	8.9	5,934	5,864	5,942	1.2	-0.1
Other Services	5,418	5,269	5,181	2.8	4.6	2,083	2,100	2,037	-0.8	2.3
Government	15,994	15,638	15,292	2.3	4.6	11,939	12,127	12,032	-1.6	-0.8

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2015.

Minnesota Economic Indicators

Highlights

The **Minnesota Index** advanced 0.2 percent for the fourth month in a row in August as wage and salary employment climbed and the state's unemployment rate held steady at 4.0 percent. The U.S. index advanced 0.3 percent for the third straight month. Minnesota's index, which had been advancing slightly faster than the U.S. index earlier in the year, has been running slightly behind the national increase during the last few months. Minnesota's index is up 2.9 percent over the year compared to a 3.4 gain by the U.S. index.

Adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** increased by 7,300 jobs in August with all of the job growth occurring in the private sector. Private sector payrolls jumped by 12,300 jobs, while public sector payrolls dipped by 5,000. The 12,300 private sector job gain was the largest monthly increase since October 2014 and the third largest monthly gain since the job rebound commenced in late 2009. Payroll numbers expanded sharply in Professional and Business Services, Leisure and Hospitality, Educational and Health Services, and Financial Activities.

Manufacturing, which cut 1,000 jobs in August, has seen employment decline for four straight months. The manufacturing workforce hasn't been this low since September 2014. Exports for Minnesota manufacturers, like many U.S. manufacturers, are being hurt by the slowing global economy and a strong dollar. Most of the public sector employment drop occurred in local government as July's 5,400 job gain was reversed with August's 5,100 job decline. This is mainly a bookkeeping event related to seasonal hiring by public schools.

Minnesota's unadjusted over-the-year job growth was 1.3 percent in August, trailing the U.S. annual rate, 2.1 in August, for the eighth consecutive month. Minnesota's annual job growth for 2015 looks likely to lag well behind the U.S. rate for the second year in a row.

Minnesota's adjusted online **Help-Wanted Ads** ticked up 1.1 percent in August, topping the 0.6 percent gain in U.S. online help-wanted ads. Minnesota's 2.5 percent share of nationwide advertising continues to outpace the state's 2.0 percent share of national employment. This suggests that hiring demand is strong in Minnesota and that hiring is probably being slowed by the relative tight labor market.

After inching upwards over the previous two months, Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** slipped in August, sliding to 51.9. Minnesota's PMI index remains higher than the U.S. (51.1) and Mid-American (49.6) indices both of which also tailed off last month. Manufacturing activity is slowing across the U.S., but Minnesota's manufacturers are coping slightly better than national manufacturers. Minnesota's index is pointing towards continue economic expansion for the rest of the year despite slowing growth in manufacturing.

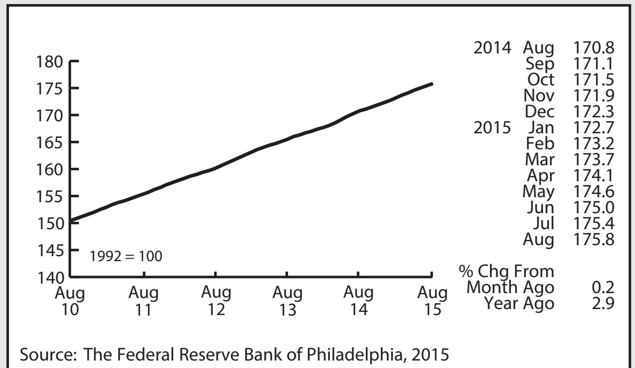
Adjusted **Manufacturing Hours** lost ground in August stumbling to 40.4. The factory workweek has declined sustainably over the last 12 months, reflecting a slowing manufacturing sector. **Manufacturing Earnings** reversed two months of decline in August, increasing to $828.00, but remain lower than a year ago in real terms.

The **Minnesota Leading Index** zigzagged up in August to 1.72. The reading translates into a prediction of 1.72 percent GDP growth for the state over the next six months. The U.S. reading was 1.64 in August, suggesting that Minnesota's economy will expand slightly faster than the national economy through the rest of the year.

Adjusted **Residential Building Permits** headed up in August to 1,721, making up for about half of July's drop. Residential permits are running roughly 25 percent higher than last year through August, yet employment in Residential Building Construction and Specialty Trade Contractors has barely increased over 2014's levels. Annual average employment in these two industries jumped 6.2 and 6.4 percent in 2014 but so far this year have increase by less than 1.0 percent. This inconsistency suggest that 2015 Construction employment will likely see significant upwards revision when job numbers are benchmarked in March.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** rose sharply in August, reaching their highest level since February. Claims were significantly higher for Manufacturing and Mining workers compared to a year ago. Claims in all other sectors were roughly the same as last year. The slowing global economy and stronger dollar can be blamed for the bump in layoffs in Manufacturing and Mining. Initial claims, however, remain low by historical standards, implying that Minnesota's job growth will remain solid over the rest of the year. Minnesota's average annual over-the-year job growth as of August is 1.5 percent which is an improvement over the 1.3 percent achieved in 2014.

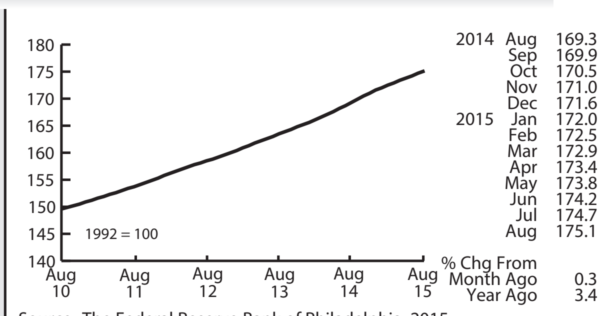
by Dave Senf



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2015

Minnesota Index

United States Index

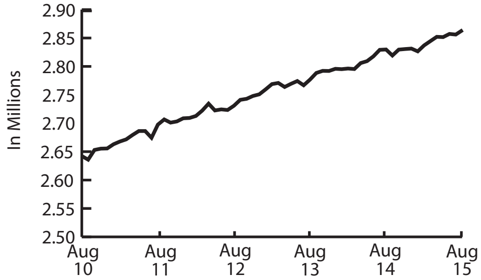


Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2015

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

2015 Mar		2.8446
Apr		2.8521
May		2.8516
Jun		2.8572
Jul		2.8561
Aug		2.8634

% Chg From Month Ago 0.3

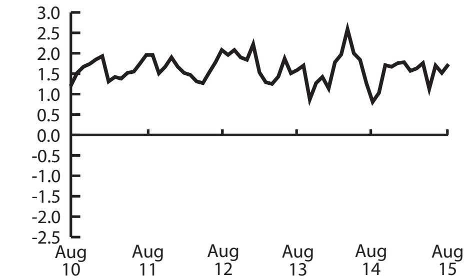
unadjusted

2014	Aug	2.8451
2015	Aug	2.8831

% Chg From Year Ago 1.3%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2015

Minnesota Leading Index

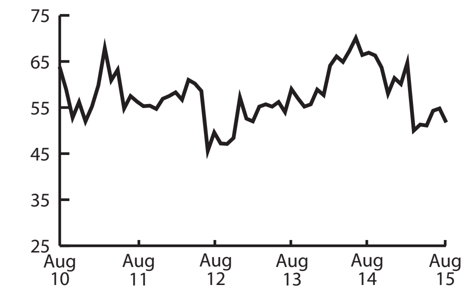


2014	Aug	0.81
	Sep	1.03
	Oct	1.71
	Nov	1.67
	Dec	1.76
2015	Jan	1.78
	Feb	1.57
	Mar	1.63
	Apr	1.76
	May	1.13
	Jun	1.70
	Jul	1.52
	Aug	1.72

% Chg From Month Ago 13.1
Year Ago 112.2

Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2015

Purchasing Managers' Index

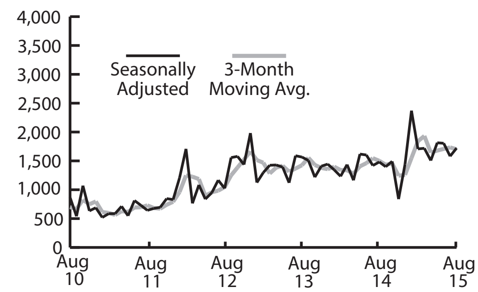


2014	Mar	66.9
	Apr	66.3
	May	63.7
	Jun	58.0
	Jul	61.4
	Aug	60.1
	Sep	64.7
	Oct	50.0
	Nov	51.3
	Dec	51.1
2015	Jan	54.3
	Feb	54.8
	Mar	51.9

% Chg From Month Ago -5.3
Year Ago -22.4

Source: Creighton University, Mid-America Survey of Business Conditions, 2015

Residential Building Permits



seasonally adjusted

2015	Mar	1,718
	Apr	1,506
	May	1,814
	Jun	1,805
	Jul	1,581
	Aug	1,721

% Chg From Month Ago 8.9

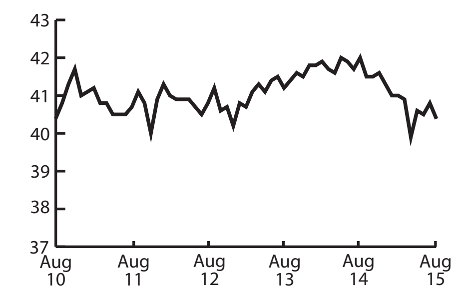
unadjusted

2014	Aug	1,664
2015	Aug	2,004

% Chg From Year Ago 20.4%

Source: Residential Building Permits, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015

Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



seasonally adjusted

2015	Mar	40.9
	Apr	39.9
	May	40.6
	Jun	40.5
	Jul	40.8
	Aug	40.4

% Chg From Month Ago -0.9

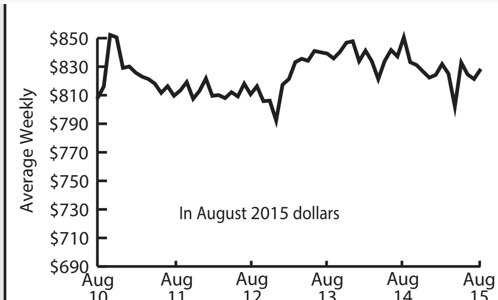
unadjusted

2014	Aug	42.2
2015	Aug	40.7

% Chg From Year Ago -3.6%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2015

Manufacturing Earnings



seasonally adjusted

2015	Mar	825.07
	Apr	802.10
	May	832.86
	Jun	824.53
	Jul	821.36
	Aug	828.00

% Chg From Month Ago 0.8

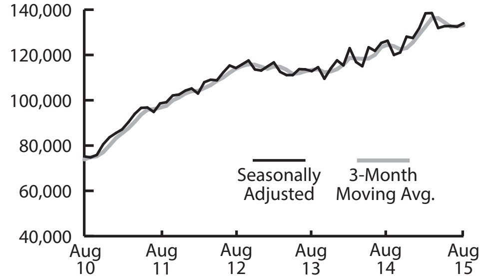
unadjusted

2014	Aug	850.21
2015	Aug	828.65

% Chg From Year Ago -2.5%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics Program, 2015

Online Help-Wanted Advertising

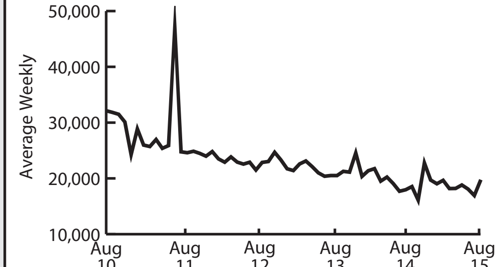


2014	Aug	126,300
	Sep	120,000
	Oct	121,100
	Nov	128,100
	Dec	127,500
2015	Jan	131,800
	Feb	138,400
	Mar	138,500
	Apr	131,900
	May	132,700
	Jun	132,800
	Jul	132,500
	Aug	134,000

% Chg From Month Ago 1.1
Year Ago 6.1

Source: The Conference Board Inc., 2015

Initial UB Claimants



seasonally adjusted

2015	Mar	18,176
	Apr	18,199
	May	18,817
	Jun	18,082
	Jul	16,932
	Aug	19,652

% Chg From Month Ago 16.1

unadjusted

2014	Aug	11,873
2015	Aug	13,166

% Chg From Year Ago 10.9%

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Unemployment Insurance Program, 2015

Minnesota Employment Review

MINNESOTA WORKFORCE CENTER

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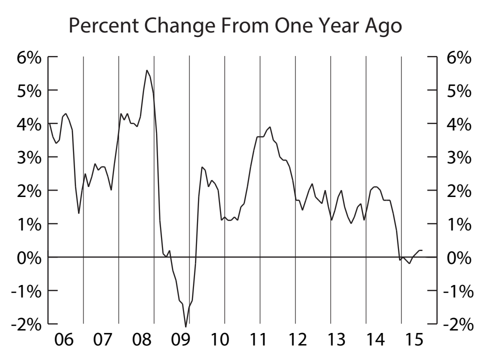
U.S. Consumer Price Index
for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 0.1 percent in August on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The gasoline index declined sharply in August and was the main cause of the all items decrease. The food index rose 0.2 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent, the same increase as in July.



The all items index increased 0.2 percent for the 12 months ending August, the same increase as for the 12 months ending July. The 12-month change in the index for all items less food and energy also remained the same, at 1.8 percent for the 12 months ending August. The food index rose 1.6 percent over the last 12 months, while the energy index declined 15.0 percent.

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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What's Going On?

SSB begins Aging Eyes Initiative

State Services for the Blind's new Aging Eyes initiative will expand the reach of low-vision services for Minnesota seniors by working with community partners. SSB will provide training and low-vision kits to partners able to provide simple, introductory low-vision services to seniors.

SSB provides:

- Knowledge about typical diagnoses and their impact on vision
- A simple assessment tool to identify early vision loss
- Technical support and problem solving
- Free low-vision aids and devices for seniors
- Resources for more extensive vision loss support

For more information, contact SSB at 651- 539-2300 or toll-free at 1-800-652-9000.

Minnesota
Department of Employment and Economic Development

Micropolitan Statistical Areas

To analyze labor market information, one of the first things we must determine is geography. For example, the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) tool has nine different options for geography. Nearly all of these options are expected and understood, including counties, large cities, metropolitan areas, and, of course, the state of Minnesota. Among these options, however, are micropolitan statistical areas. Often overlooked for their more commonly-known geographic cousins, micropolitan statistical areas will finally be given the limelight in this issue of Employment Review.

Defining the Geography

On a broad scale micropolitan statistical areas are "labor market areas." According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), a labor market area is an economically integrated area in which individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance or can readily change jobs without changing their place of residence.[1] The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for delineating metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Overall, such areas consist of a substantial population nucleus, with strong economic and social integration of surrounding communities. Data is supplied by the U.S. Census Bureau to determine such areas.

Since 2000 the "core based statistical area" (CBSA) has referred to both metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. According to OMB standards from 2010, CBSAs must contain at least one urban area of 10,000 or more residents. Further breakdowns differentiate metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas as:

- Metropolitan statistical area: Must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more residents.

- Micropolitan statistical area: Must have at least one urbanized area of at least 10,000 or more residents, but less than 50,000 residents.

Under the current definitions, the central county for micropolitan statistical areas must have at

[1]Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 3 Aug. 2015. Web. 7 Oct. 2015. <http://www.bls.gov/lau/laufaq.htm#Q06 >.

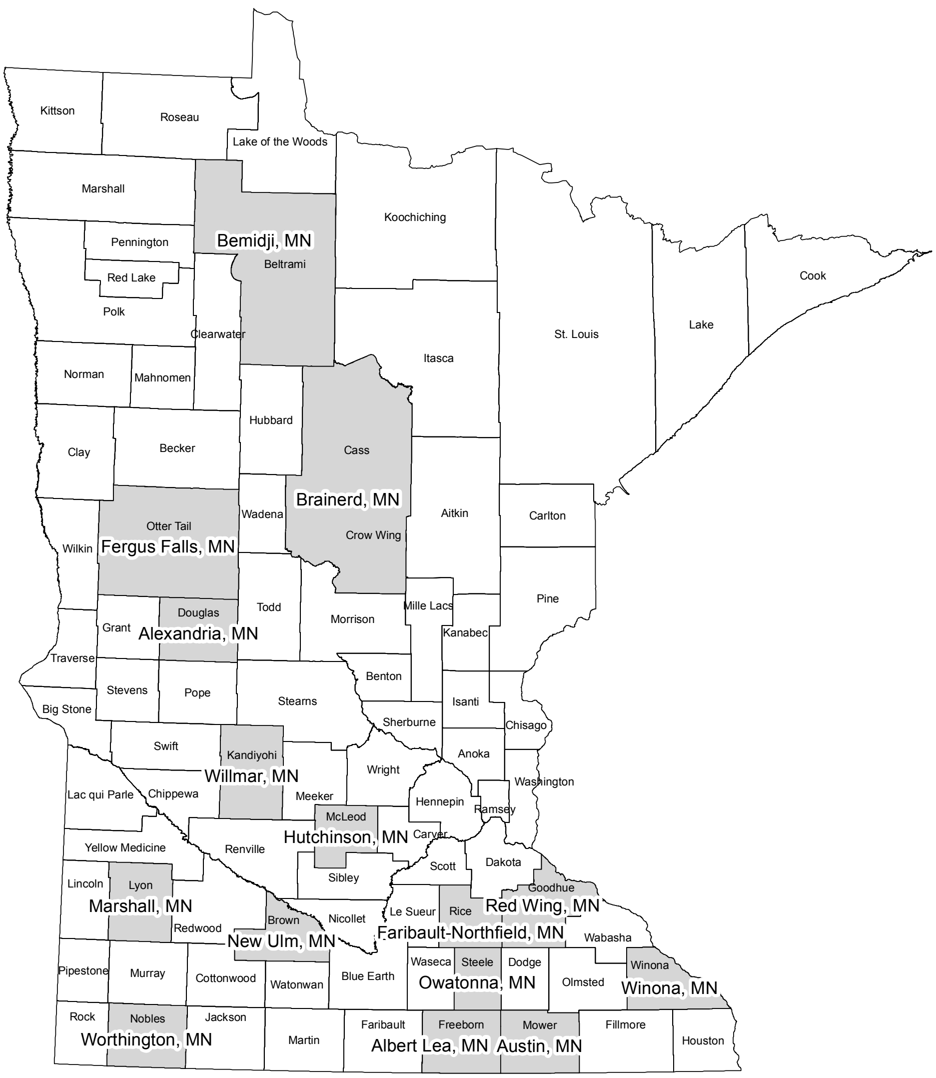
least 50 percent of the urbanized area of 10,000 or more residents. Additional "outlying counties" may also be included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements for commuting to or from the central county.[2]

Minnesota's Micropolitan Statistical Areas

First established in 2003, micropolitan statistical areas were last reconfigured by OMB in February, 2013. At that time Minnesota had 15 micropolitan statistical areas.[3] These 15 areas largely span southern and northwestern Minnesota, beyond the Twin Cities Metro Area (see Map).

In terms of population Minnesota's micropolitan statistical areas range from Worthington's 21,590 people of which the city's share is 12,764 to Brainerd's 91,824 people of which the city's share is 13,590. The average population for all 15 micropolitan areas equaled approximately 43,500 in 2014. With a grand total of approximately 652,000 people, the micropolitan statistical areas accounted for nearly 12.0 percent of the state's population.

In terms of population growth, the micropolitan statistical areas have lagged behind state growth. While Bemidji, Alexandria, and Faribault-Northfield each witnessed growth rates over 1.0 percent between 2010 and 2014, the combined total of all micropolitan areas only increased by 0.3 percent. This growth rate is far out-paced by the state's 2.8 percent growth during that time. Note also that the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan statistical area (MSA) witnessed 4.4 percent population growth during this period (see Table 1).



Employment Trends

Employment and unemployment statistics available through DEED's Local Area Unemployment Statistics tool can shed further light on current realities and trends in the state's micropolitan statistical areas. For instance, if we analyze trends since 2000, we see strong employment gains in Bemidji, Faribault-Northfield, Fergus Falls, and Red Wing, also with promising gains in Marshall, Willmar, and Owatonna. Bemidji has lead the pack recently, with its share of residents holding jobs increasing by 11.9 percent or 2,365 persons between 2009 and 2014. Overall, employment in the combined micropolitan areas increased by 4.2 percent between 2009 and 2014 or about 13,550 (see Figure 1). For reference, employment growth during that time was 5.1 percent and 6.6 percent in Minnesota and the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA, respectively.

For a more detailed look at industry employment, DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) tool comes in handy.[4] In the annual 2014 data there were 295,309 jobs in the state's micropolitan statistical areas. One quarter (24.9 percent) of these jobs were in Educational and Health Services, with another one-fifth (20.1 percent) in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. When comparing industry shares with the state, these top two industry super-sectors are nearly identical.

[2]State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17 Mar. 2015. Web. 7 Oct. 2015. <http://www.bls.gov/sae/790over.htm>.
[3]For the purposes of this article, the Wahpeton, ND-MN micropolitan statistical area will not be included in the analysis.
[4]Note that employment in LAUS counts people by where they live as determined by the Current Population Survey, Current Employment Statistics, and Unemployment Insurance Statistics. QCEW data counts jobs covered by the Unemployment Insurance Program and reports them where the employees work, not where they live.

Table 1: Minnesota Micropolitan Statistical Areas

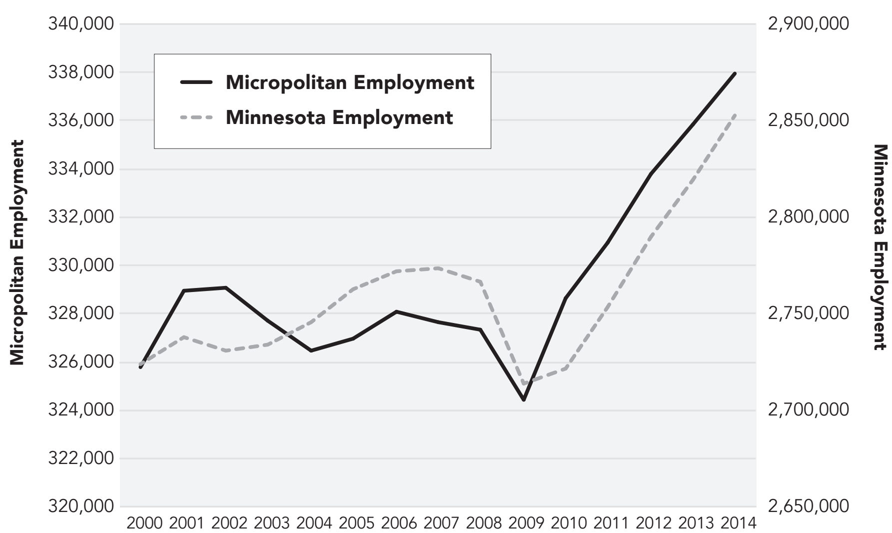
Area	2010 Population	2014 Population	2010-2014 Population Change	
			Numeric	Percent
Minnesota	5,310,418	5,457,173	146,755	2.8%
Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA	3,348,857	3,495,176	146,319	4.4%
Albert Lea	31,211	30,840	-371	-1.2%
Alexandria	36,008	36,790	782	2.2%
Austin	39,219	39,323	104	0.3%
Bemidji	44,585	45,664	1,079	2.4%
Brainerd	91,249	91,824	575	0.6%
Faribault-Northfield	64,297	65,151	854	1.3%
Fergus Falls	57,260	57,635	375	0.7%
Hutchinson	36,608	35,882	-726	-2.0%
Marshall	25,856	25,665	-191	-0.7%
New Ulm	25,875	25,292	-583	-2.3%
Owatonna	36,506	36,573	67	0.2%
Red Wing	46,184	46,423	239	0.5%
Willmar	42,245	42,285	40	0.1%
Winona	51,393	51,097	-296	-0.6%
Worthington	21,378	21,590	212	1.0%
Micropolitan Total	649,874	652,034	2,160	0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

The largest discrepancy between the micropolitan and state industry shares comes with Manufacturing. Where approximately 11 percent of the state's total employment is attributable to Manufacturing, over 18 percent of the micropolitan's share is. Further, while total micropolitan employment accounted for about 11 percent of the state's total employment in 2014, it accounted for over 17 percent of the state's total Manufacturing employment. The micropolitan statistical areas also had over 17 percent of the state's Natural Resources and Mining employment.

At the other end of the spectrum, employment in Professional and

Figure 1: Micropolitan Statistical Area Employment, 2000-2014



Source: DEED, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 2: Total Micropolitan Statistical Area Employment Growth, 2010-2014

Industry	2014 Employment	2010 Employment	2010-2014 Employment Change		
			Numeric	Percent	MN Percent
Total, All Industries	**295,309**	**284,039**	**11,270**	**4.0%**	**6.5%**
Educational and Health Services	73,471	71,842	1,629	2.3%	6.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	59,285	58,058	1,227	2.1%	4.5%
Manufacturing	53,365	49,113	4,252	8.7%	6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,111	30,125	986	3.3%	6.7%
Professional and Business Services	20,921	17,925	2,996	16.7%	11.7%
Public Administration	15,853	15,666	187	1.2%	0.8%
Construction	12,597	12,075	522	4.3%	20.1%
Financial Activities	11,420	11,813	-393	-3.3%	3.0%
Other Services	8,424	8,391	33	0.4%	5.2%
Natural Resources and Mining	4,616	4,431	185	4.2%	13.4%
Information	4,217	4,575	-358	-7.8%	-2.7%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Business Services accounted for only about 7 percent of the micropolitan's total employment, although it accounted for 13 percent of the state's total employment. The micropolitan areas also had smaller shares of employment in Financial Activities (6.5 percent of the state's total) and Information (7.5 percent of the state's total).

With Manufacturing making up such a significant portion of the micropolitans' employment shares, it's encouraging to see that industry sector lead all other sectors with numeric growth between 2010 and 2014. Manufacturing's 8.7 percent growth rate for the micropolitans also surpasses state Manufacturing growth during that period (6.7 percent). Two other super sectors, Professional and Business Services and Public Administration, also surpassed state growth rates in the micropolitan areas.

Overall, industry employment in the micropolitan statistical areas increased by 11,270 jobs between 2010 and 2014, with its 4.0 percent growth rate slightly behind the state's 6.5 percent growth rate (see Table 2). 58.1 percent of this growth was in the Bemidji, Winona, Owatonna, Brainerd, and Alexandria micropolitan areas. Only the Bemidji and Owatonna micropolitan areas witnessed faster growth rates than the state.

Conclusion

While population growth in the micropolitan statistical areas has been limited in recent years, and total industry growth has fallen behind that of the state's, the 652,000 people and 295,300 jobs in the state's 15 micropolitan statistical areas account for a very significant part of Minnesota's population and labor market. Exploring current statistics and historical trends raises further questions, however. For instance, what does the micropolitans' limited population growth mean for workforce supply? With Manufacturing so prominent, what subsectors are claiming the most growth? What are possible explanations for higher employment strength in Bemidji, Winona, and Owatonna? Future articles will explore these questions.

by Tim O'Neill
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and Economic Development

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