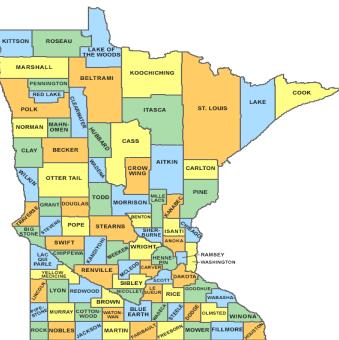


**COUNTY PROFILE**

## Meeker Co.

Meeker Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 6E, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

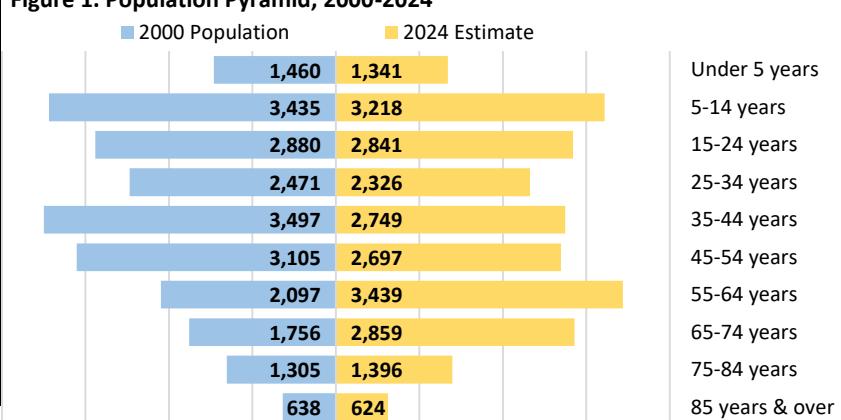
2024 population:	<b>23,491 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>42.3 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	91 people 0.4% increase	state:	38.6 years

Meeker Co. is the 43rd largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 47th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Meeker Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

**Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2024**

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,341	5.7%
5-14 years	3,218	13.7%
15-24 years	2,841	12.1%
25-34 years	2,326	9.9%
35-44 years	2,749	11.7%
45-54 years	2,697	11.5%
55-64 years	3,439	14.6%
65-74 years	2,859	12.2%
75-84 years	1,396	5.9%
85 years & over	624	2.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>23,491</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024**


Meeker Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Meeker Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2024**

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	
Meeker Co.	92	-19	1,017	1,036	111	80	31
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

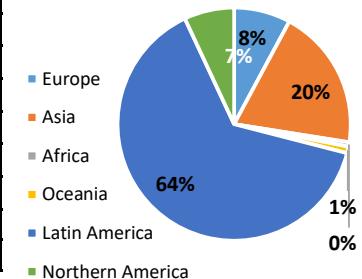
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Meeker Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Meeker Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

**Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023**

	Meeker Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	331	1.4%	-194	-37.0%	8.6%	24.7%
Europe	26	7.9%	2	8.3%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	65	19.6%	-24	-27.0%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	2	0.6%	-20	-90.9%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	3	0.9%	3	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	235	71.0%	-155	-39.7%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	212	64.0%	-128	-37.6%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	23	6.9%	-27	-54.0%	2.5%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

**Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023**


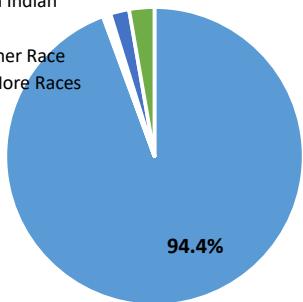
## COUNTY PROFILE

Meeker Co.

Meeker Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023**

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races



**Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023**

	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
Total	23,422	100.0%	1.0%	100.0%	6.8%
White	22,105	94.4%	-2.6%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	37	0.2%	-65.1%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	91	0.4%	44.4%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	68	0.3%	-26.1%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	480	2.0%	772.7%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	641	2.7%	242.8%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1,005	4.3%	31.0%	6.2%	37.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

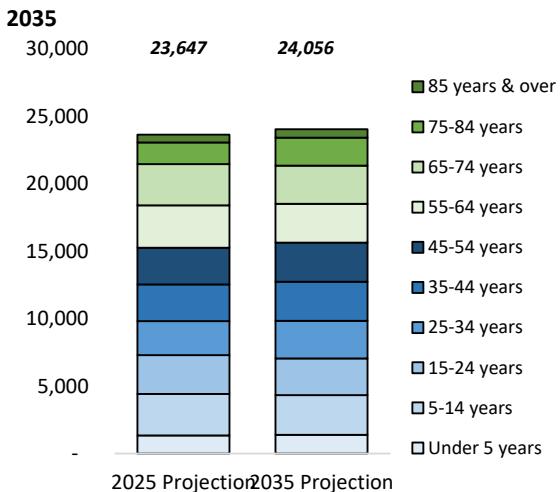
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Meeker Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Meeker Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,342	1,391	49	3.7%
5-14 years	3,083	2,940	-143	-4.6%
15-24 years	2,875	2,715	-160	-5.6%
25-34 years	2,517	2,796	279	11.1%
35-44 years	2,712	2,888	176	6.5%
45-54 years	2,723	2,899	176	6.5%
55-64 years	3,155	2,892	-263	-8.3%
65-74 years	3,058	2,820	-238	-7.8%
75-84 years	1,593	2,075	482	30.3%
85 years & over	589	640	51	8.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>23,647</b>	<b>24,056</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

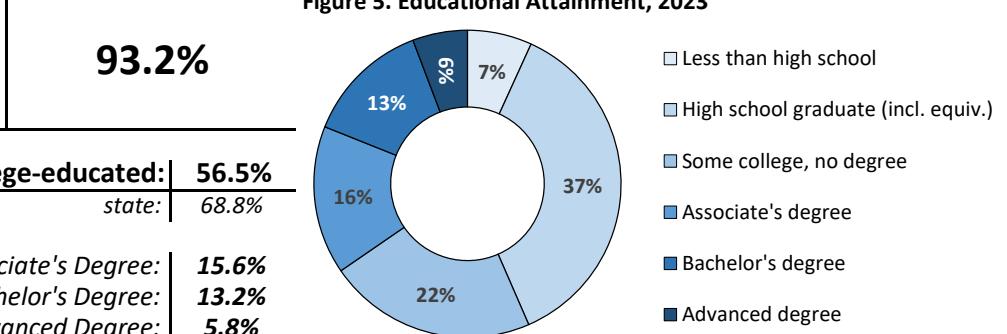


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Meeker Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Meeker Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**93.2%**



<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>56.5%</b>
state:	68.8%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>13.2%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

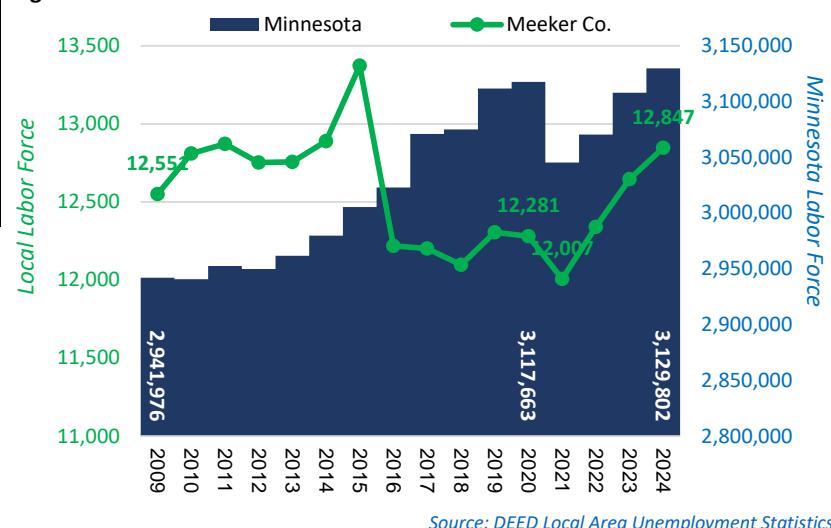
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.4%, Meeker Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Meeker Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.2% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Meeker Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>12,847</b>	available workers
<i>Labor Force change, 2009-2024</i>	<i>296 workers 2.4% increase</i>
<b>3.4%</b>	unemployment rate
2.8% state	
<b>437</b>	unemployed workers

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Meeker Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Meeker Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2024

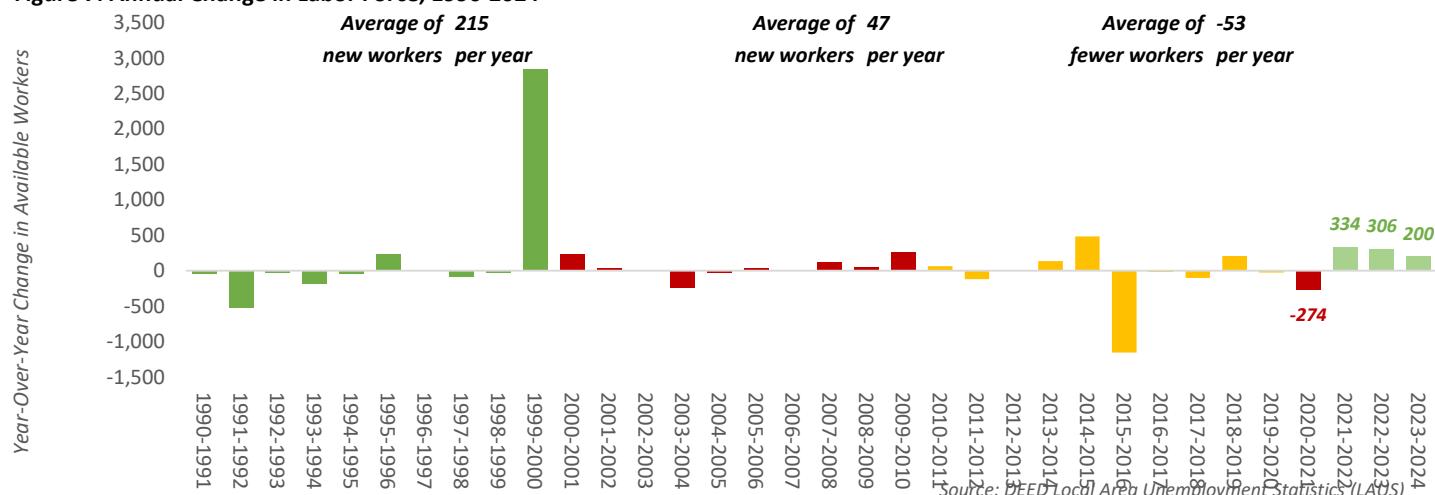
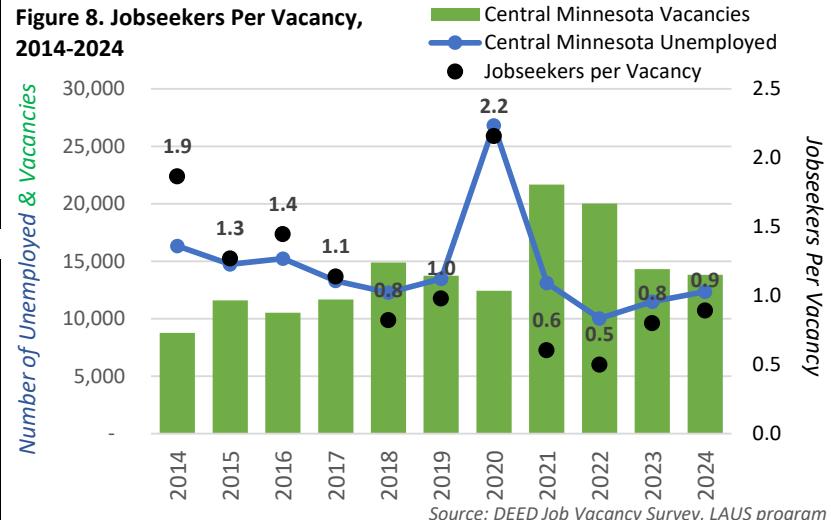


Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	1,904	1,824
25 to 54 years	6,962	7,515
55 to 64 years	2,365	2,168
65 years & over	967	933
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>12,198</b>	<b>12,439</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2024, job vacancies in Central returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024



## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

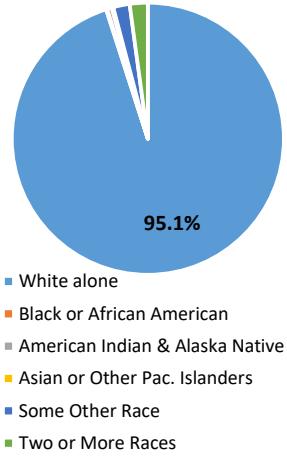
Meeker Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Meeker Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

	Meeker Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>12,090</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>6,573</b>	<b>5,524</b>
16 to 19 years	659	56.6%	3.6%	52.7%	9.9%	320	339
20 to 24 years	1,181	90.4%	4.3%	83.4%	6.5%	624	557
25 to 44 years	4,424	87.4%	2.8%	88.7%	3.5%	2,436	1,988
45 to 54 years	2,361	87.8%	3.3%	87.8%	2.9%	1,281	1,081
55 to 64 years	2,570	75.0%	0.7%	72.8%	3.0%	1,362	1,209
65 to 74 years	781	27.4%	1.3%	27.8%	3.4%	468	313
75 years & over	119	5.9%	1.7%	6.6%	3.1%	82	37
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	11,492	65.2%	2.5%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	15	42.9%	0.0%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	69	90.8%	8.7%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	21	31.3%	0.0%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	237	71.4%	6.3%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	259	68.3%	0.0%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	455	66.6%	2.4%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	743	58.7%	5.9%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	9,356	83.7%	2.4%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	444	68.0%	1.5%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,790	80.5%	1.5%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	3,929	84.7%	3.0%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2,193	90.6%	1.4%	90.5%	2.0%		

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023

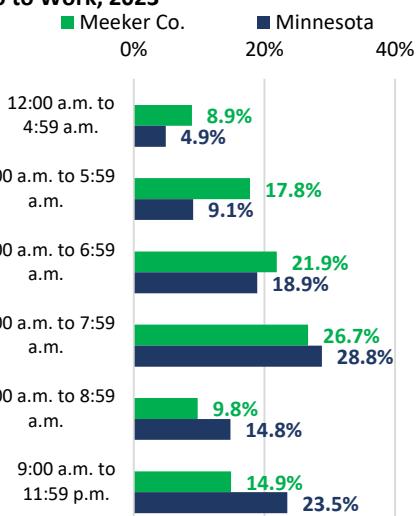


A smaller percentage of workers in Meeker Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Meeker Co. also had a longer average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Meeker Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	11,574	99.6%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	6,612	56.9%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	4,973	42.8%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	46	0.4%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	10,365	89.2%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	35	0.3%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	337	2.9%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	883	7.6%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	2,963	25.5%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	3,196	27.5%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	1,917	16.5%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,708	14.7%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	674	5.8%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	1,162	10.0%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>24.3 minutes</b>		<b>23.1 minutes</b>	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## COUNTY PROFILE

Meeker Co.

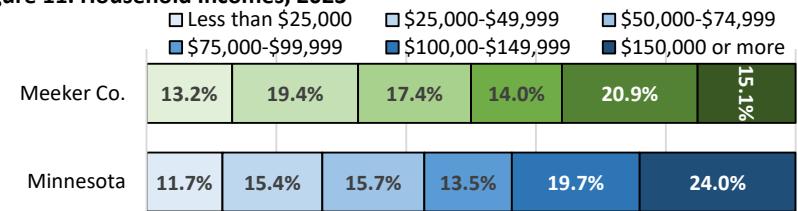
### INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Meeker Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Meeker Co. had the 32nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$75,037</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$95,693</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$37,014</b>
state	\$46,957

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Meeker Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.92 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.53 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2024

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes
Meeker Co.	\$31,031	\$14.92	\$0	\$411	\$150	\$772	\$660	\$274	\$319
State of Minnesota	\$36,768	\$17.68	\$0	\$424	\$156	\$1,154	\$573	\$365	\$392
<b>Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child</b>									
Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs							
		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes	
Meeker Co.	\$60,943	\$19.53	\$345	\$936	\$530	\$981	\$1,250	\$443	\$594
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Meeker Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 38th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Meeker Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022

	Meeker Co.		Minnesota	
	Total	Percent	Percent	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,404</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
Less than \$50,000	387	5.2%	4.0%	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	535	7.2%	4.0%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	930	12.6%	6.2%	
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,199	16.2%	8.9%	
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,012	27.2%	25.7%	
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,556	21.0%	33.6%	
\$500,000 or more	785	10.6%	17.5%	
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$228,900</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>	

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023

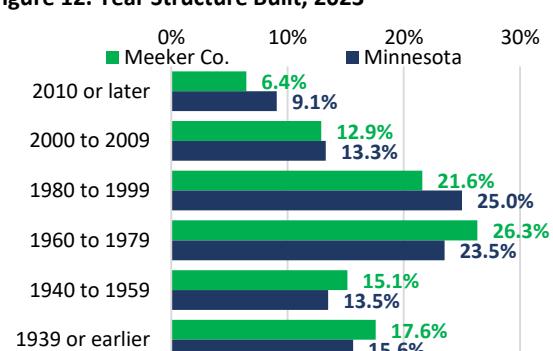
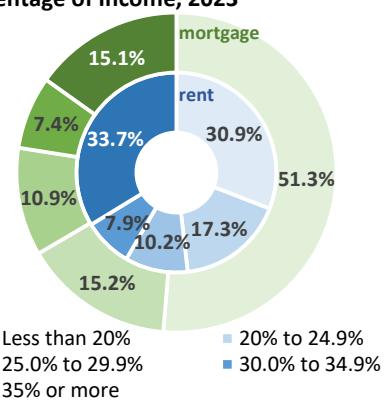


Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,562</b>
state	\$1,890

<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$894</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>41.6%</b>
state	47.2%

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## OCCUPATIONS

At \$23 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 6E than the state. Overall, Region 6E had the 4th lowest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$48.33) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.68) (see Table 11).

**Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025**

Occupational Group	Region 6E				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>	<b>50,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$48.33	2,620	5.1%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$35.60	1,890	3.7%	0.5	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.07	500	1.0%	0.3	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.96	910	1.8%	0.9	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$33.73	330	0.6%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$29.48	1,100	2.2%	1.1	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$39.15	130	0.3%	0.4	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$23.60	2,830	5.6%	1.0	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.14	330	0.6%	0.5	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$40.13	2,830	5.6%	0.9	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.05	4,400	8.6%	1.4	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$28.39	710	1.4%	0.9	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.68	4,240	8.3%	1.0	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.01	1,540	3.0%	1.1	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.93	850	1.7%	0.8	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$16.89	4,550	8.9%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.54	5,360	10.5%	0.9	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$24.58	320	0.6%	5.6	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.26	2,140	4.2%	1.1	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.64	2,340	4.6%	1.3	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.86	5,980	11.7%	1.7	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.52	5,000	9.8%	1.3	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

*Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025*

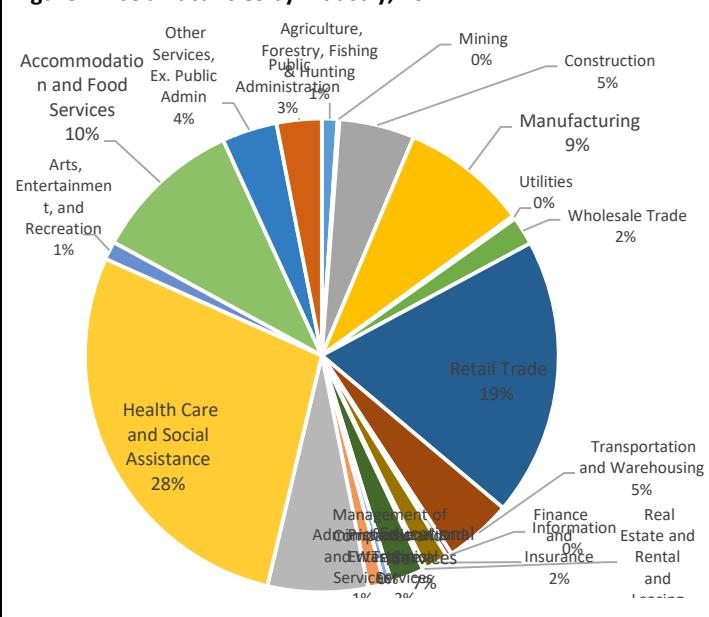
## JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Meeker Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 13827 job vacancies posted by employers in 2024, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

**Table 12. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024**

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>13,827</b>	<b>\$19.81</b>
Management	319	\$29.45
Business & Financial Operations	394	\$33.36
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$26.02
Architecture & Engineering	197	\$30.87
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	122	\$33.52
Community & Social Service	283	\$23.80
Education, Training & Library	735	\$19.62
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,450	\$29.97
Healthcare Support	1,363	\$18.33
Protective Service	189	\$21.58
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,814	\$15.03
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	260	\$16.97
Personal Care & Service	417	\$14.99
Sales & Related	1,861	\$15.92
Office & Administrative Support	911	\$20.11
Construction & Extraction	693	\$22.04
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	695	\$23.62
Production	598	\$20.21
Transportation & Material Moving	1,128	\$20.98

**Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024**



*Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024*

## OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$35,817/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$60,953/yr	Registered Nurses \$97,279/yr	General and Operations Managers \$82,833/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$35,952/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,289/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,926/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,116/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,548/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,035/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$78,056/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,539/yr
Cashiers \$31,985/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,872/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,316/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$108,690/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$38,723/yr	Machinists \$61,397/yr	Calibration Technologists and Technicians \$51,876/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,309/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,511/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$43,830/yr	Dental Hygienists \$95,926/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$73,436/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$24,272/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,071/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$77,932/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$65,914/yr
Childcare Workers \$32,303/yr	Electricians \$79,223/yr	Surgical Technologists \$66,288/yr	Industrial Engineers \$97,918/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,389/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$54,808/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,531/yr	Project Management Specialists \$85,453/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$44,527/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,462/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$46,438/yr	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$69,045/yr

*Source: DEED Occupations in Demand*

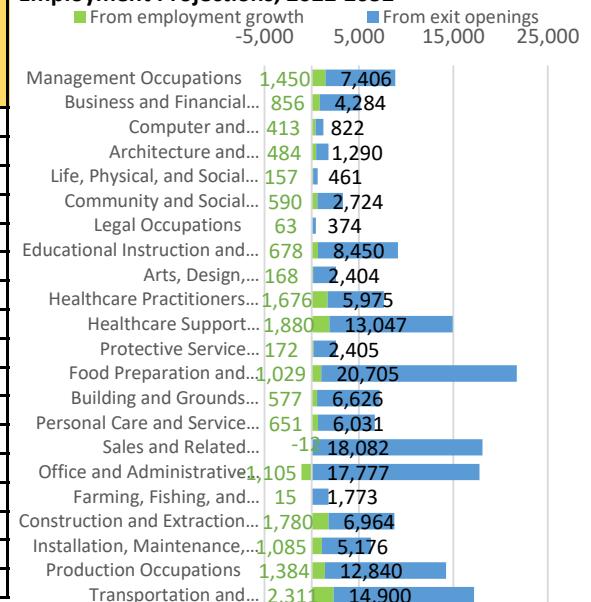
Meeker Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	315,929	332,231	5.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,649	5,809	2.8%
Utilities	1,986	1,998	0.6%
Construction	20,532	22,780	10.9%
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	7.9%
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	9.2%
Information	3,002	3,214	7.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	10,142	10,528	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	9,040	9,979	10.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	6.1%
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	9.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	26,046	27,642	6.1%
Other Services	10,880	11,311	4.0%
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	3.2%

*Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook*

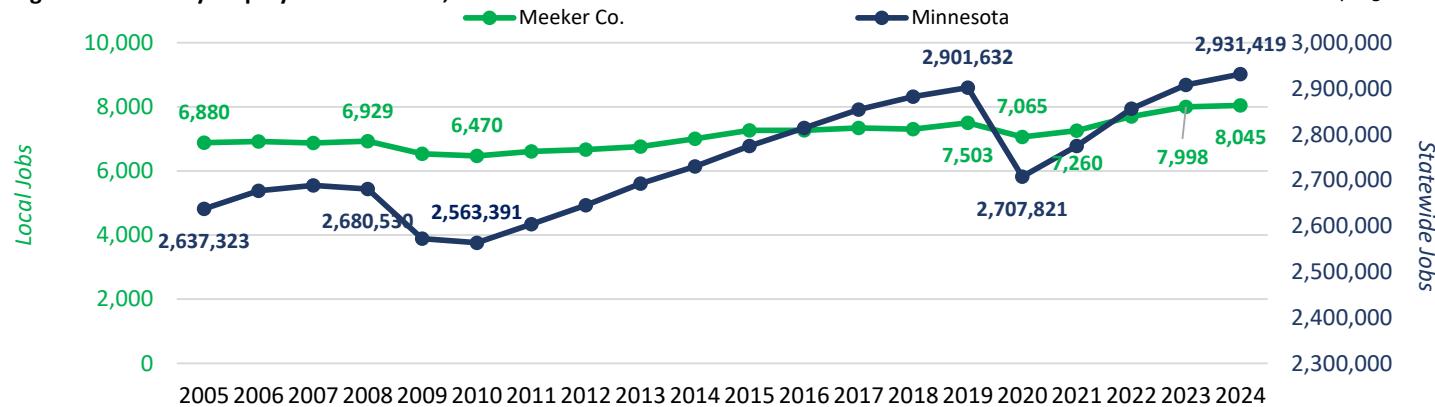
Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



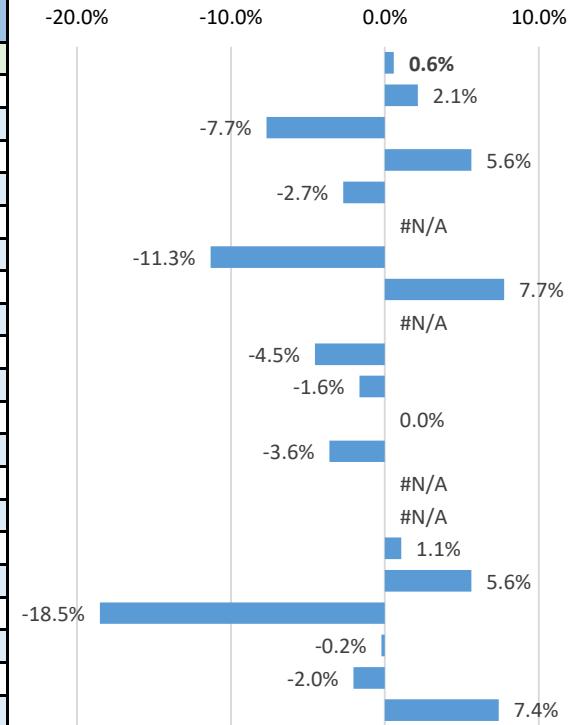
**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Meeker Co. had the 44th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Meeker Co. was the 40th fastest growing in the past year and the 3rd fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Meeker Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

<b>706</b>	business establishments	<b>\$53,834</b>	annual average wage
<b>8,045</b>	jobs	<b>\$433,093,583</b>	total industry payroll
Job change, 2019-2024	980 jobs 13.9% increase		

**Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024****Table 15. Meeker Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024**

	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>8,045</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$53,834</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	238	3.0%	\$57,661
Mining	12	0.1%	\$63,154
Construction	545	6.8%	\$68,316
Manufacturing	2,227	27.7%	\$65,456
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	384	4.8%	\$69,690
Retail Trade	849	10.6%	\$36,129
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	42	0.5%	\$44,834
Finance & Insurance	180	2.2%	\$74,269
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15	0.2%	\$15,864
Professional & Technical Services	241	3.0%	\$62,476
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	571	7.1%	\$23,488
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,177	14.6%	\$35,166
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	22	0.3%	\$17,999
Accommodation & Food Services	461	5.7%	\$17,874
Other Services	193	2.4%	\$32,507
Public Administration	479	6.0%	\$50,465

**Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024**

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment &amp; Wages (QCEW)

For more information on Meeker Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

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Data updated: May 23, 2025