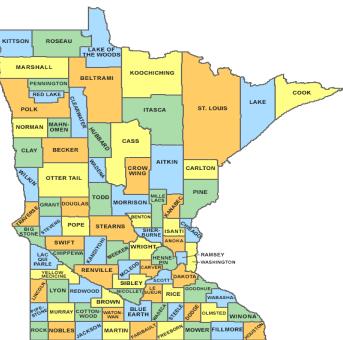


COUNTY PROFILE

Wilkin Co.

Wilkin Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 4, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

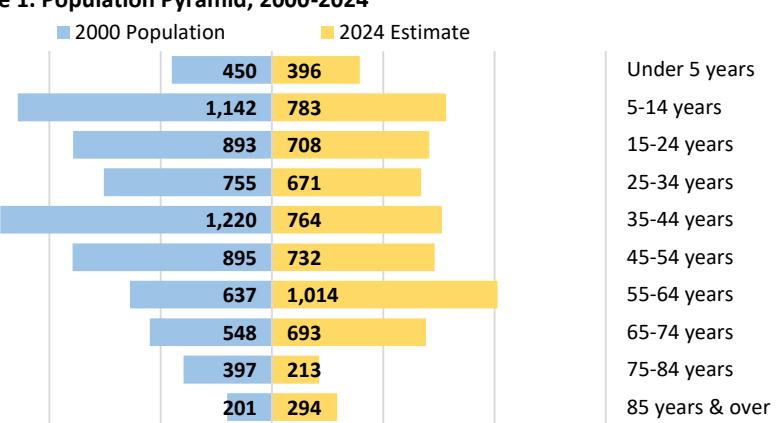
| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2024 population: | 6,268 people | Median Age: | 42.0 years |
| Population change, 2020-2024 | -238 people -3.7% decline | state: | 38.6 years |

Wilkin Co. is the 78th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 84th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Wilkin 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 | 396 | 6.3% |
| 5-14 years | 783 | 12.5% |
| 15-24 years | 708 | 11.3% |
| 25-34 years | 671 | 10.7% |
| 35-44 years | 764 | 12.2% |
| 45-54 years | 732 | 11.7% |
| 55-64 years | 1,014 | 16.2% |
| 65-74 years | 693 | 11.1% |
| 75-84 years | 213 | 3.4% |
| 85 years & over | 294 | 4.7% |
| Total Population | 6,268 | 100.0% |

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024


Wilkin Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Wilkin 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 | |
| Wilkin Co. | -240 | -158 | 220 | 378 | -81 | 33 | -114 |
| State of Minnesota | 86,459 | 51,570 | 268,689 | 217,119 | 33,161 | 81,091 | -47,930 |

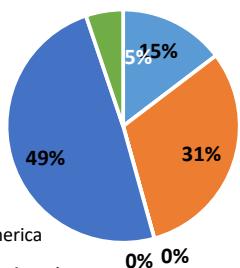
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Wilkin Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Wilkin Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

| | Wilkin Co. | | Change 2013-2023 | | Minnesota | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|------------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent | Change |
| Foreign-born Population | 116 | 1.8% | 85 | 274.2% | 8.6% | 24.7% |
| Europe | 17 | 14.7% | 12 | 240.0% | 8.8% | -3.4% |
| Asia | 36 | 31.0% | 22 | 157.1% | 35.7% | 18.1% |
| Africa | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | #DIV/0! | 28.3% | 78.8% |
| Oceania | 0 | 0.0% | -7 | -100.0% | 0.4% | 5.4% |
| Americas: | 63 | 54.3% | 58 | 1160.0% | 26.7% | 8.7% |
| Latin America | 57 | 49.1% | 54 | 1800.0% | 24.2% | 9.7% |
| Northern America | 6 | 5.2% | 4 | 200.0% | 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

Wilkin Co.

Wilkin 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

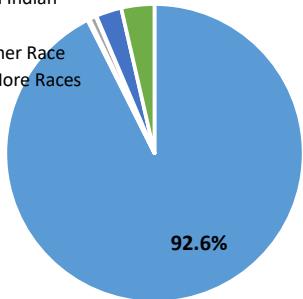


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023

| | Wilkin Co. | Minnesota | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Number | Percent | Change from 2013-2023 | Percent | Change from 2013-2023 |
| Total | 6,413 | 100.0% | -2.5% | 100.0% | 6.8% |
| White | 5,938 | 92.6% | -7.1% | 78.4% | -2.2% |
| Black or African American | 14 | 0.2% | -26.3% | 6.8% | 38.9% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 48 | 0.7% | -5.9% | 0.9% | -11.6% |
| Asian or Other Pac. Islanders | 4 | 0.1% | -81.0% | 5.1% | 29.6% |
| Some Other Race | 179 | 2.8% | 1690.0% | 2.7% | 96.1% |
| Two or More Races | 230 | 3.6% | 177.1% | 6.2% | 168.3% |
| Hispanic or Latino origin | 238 | 3.7% | 65.3% | 6.2% | 37.5% |

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

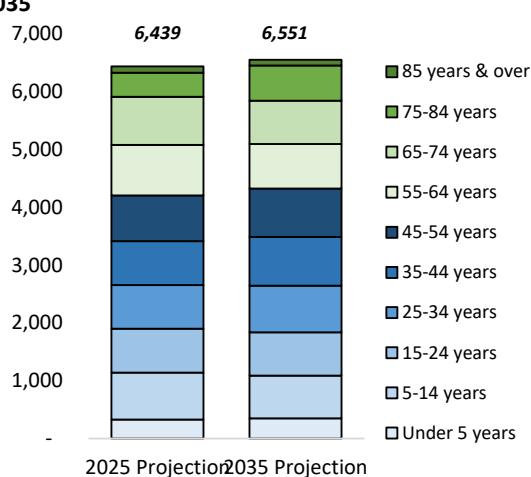
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Wilkin Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

| Wilkin Co. | 2025 Projection | 2035 Projection | Numeric Change | Percent Change |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Under 5 years | 328 | 347 | 19 | 5.8% |
| 5-14 years | 814 | 741 | -73 | -9.0% |
| 15-24 years | 760 | 751 | -9 | -1.2% |
| 25-34 years | 753 | 804 | 51 | 6.8% |
| 35-44 years | 760 | 844 | 84 | 11.1% |
| 45-54 years | 790 | 841 | 51 | 6.5% |
| 55-64 years | 876 | 766 | -110 | -12.6% |
| 65-74 years | 833 | 751 | -82 | -9.8% |
| 75-84 years | 415 | 609 | 194 | 46.7% |
| 85 years & over | 110 | 97 | -13 | -11.8% |
| Total Population | 6,439 | 6,551 | 112 | 1.7% |

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Wilkin 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. Wilkin 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:

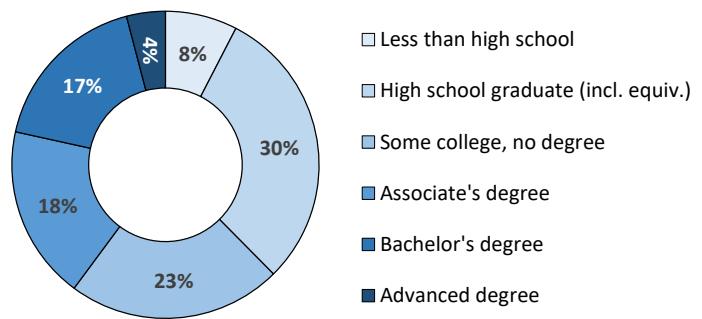
92.4%

College-educated: **62.4%**

state: 68.8%

Associate's Degree: **18.3%**
Bachelor's Degree: **17.5%**
Advanced Degree: **4.1%**

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023



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

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.5%, Wilkin Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Wilkin Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.5% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Wilkin Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

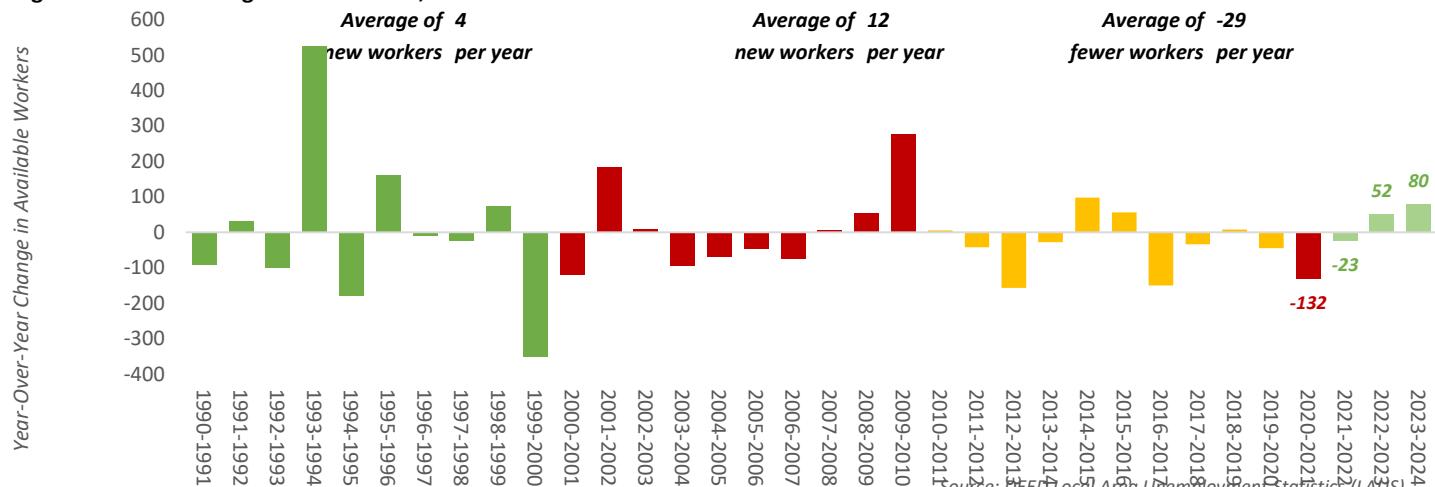
| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 3,510 | available workers |
| <i>Labor Force change, 2009-2024</i> | -34 workers -1.0% decline |
| 2.5% | unemployment rate |
| 2.8% state | |
| 88 | unemployed workers |

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, Wilkin 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, Wilkin Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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

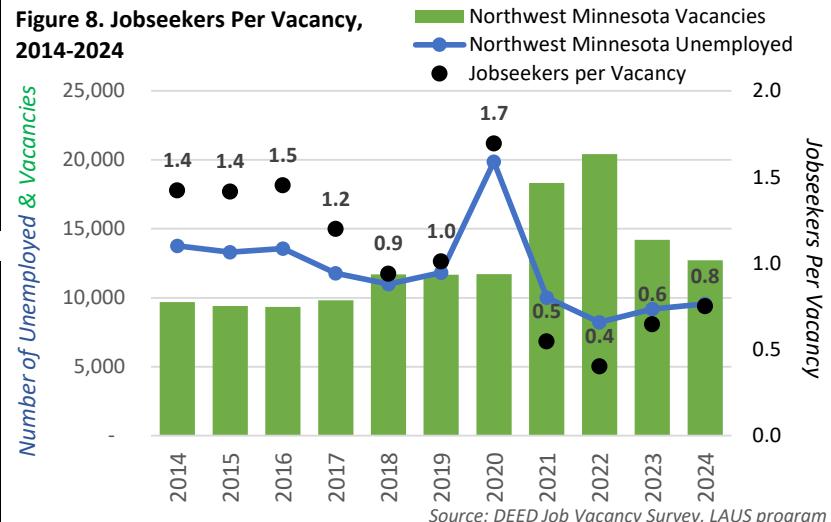


| Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035 | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| | Labor Force Projection | |
| | 2025 | 2035 |
| 16 to 24 years | 503 | 512 |
| 25 to 54 years | 1,897 | 2,049 |
| 55 to 64 years | 650 | 569 |
| 65 years & over | 182 | 175 |
| Total Labor Force | 3,232 | 3,305 |

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 Northwest 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

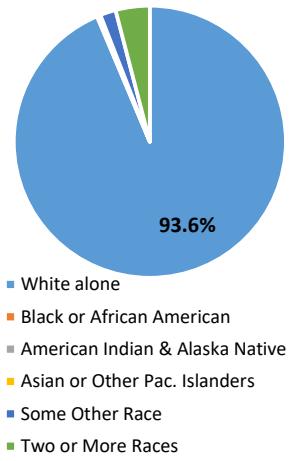
Wilkin Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Wilkin Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

| | Wilkin 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 |
| Total Labor Force | 3,228 | 63.4% | 4.7% | 68.5% | 3.9% | 1,854 | 1,375 |
| 16 to 19 years | 141 | 52.4% | 5.0% | 52.7% | 9.9% | 86 | 55 |
| 20 to 24 years | 334 | 98.2% | 26.0% | 83.4% | 6.5% | 202 | 132 |
| 25 to 44 years | 1,194 | 81.3% | 3.1% | 88.7% | 3.5% | 679 | 515 |
| 45 to 54 years | 632 | 84.4% | 0.9% | 87.8% | 2.9% | 344 | 288 |
| 55 to 64 years | 770 | 74.2% | 2.1% | 72.8% | 3.0% | 432 | 338 |
| 65 to 74 years | 133 | 18.8% | 0.0% | 27.8% | 3.4% | 99 | 34 |
| 75 years & over | 25 | 4.8% | 0.0% | 6.6% | 3.1% | 12 | 13 |
| Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin | | | | | | | |
| White alone | 3,023 | 63.4% | 4.8% | 67.5% | 3.4% | | |
| Black or African American | 4 | 33.3% | 0.0% | 71.0% | 8.4% | | |
| American Indian & Alaska Native | 10 | 27.8% | 70.0% | 57.7% | 11.4% | | |
| Asian or Other Pac. Islanders | 0 | 0.0% | #DIV/0! | 74.6% | 3.5% | | |
| Some Other Race | 60 | 64.5% | 0.0% | 75.9% | 5.6% | | |
| Two or More Races | 131 | 72.0% | 0.0% | 74.2% | 6.1% | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 75 | 52.1% | 33.3% | 77.1% | 5.9% | | |
| Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years | | | | | | | |
| With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years | 286 | 61.1% | 21.3% | 55.3% | 9.5% | | |
| Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years | | | | | | | |
| Population, 25 to 64 years | 2,597 | 79.8% | 2.3% | 84.4% | 3.3% | | |
| Less than H.S. Diploma | 111 | 70.7% | 5.1% | 67.1% | 4.7% | | |
| H.S. Diploma or Equivalent | 611 | 68.3% | 1.4% | 76.5% | 2.6% | | |
| Some College or Assoc. Degree | 1,190 | 85.0% | 1.0% | 85.0% | 3.6% | | |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 684 | 85.2% | 1.6% | 90.5% | 2.0% | | |

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

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023

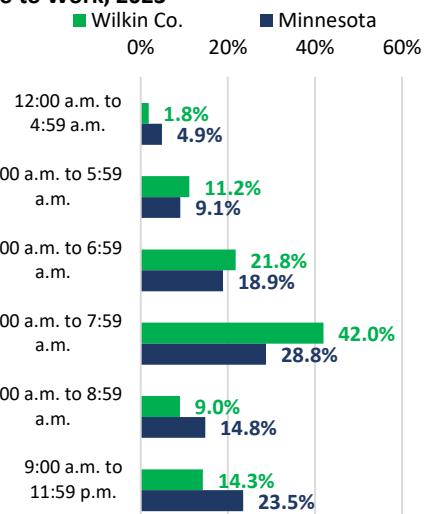


A smaller percentage of workers in Wilkin Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Wilkin Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

| | Wilkin Co. | | Minnesota | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Worked in state of residence | 1,561 | 51.3% | 2,870,678 | 97.8% |
| Worked in county of residence | 1,165 | 38.3% | 1,984,232 | 67.6% |
| Worked out of county of residence | 396 | 13.0% | 886,447 | 30.2% |
| Worked outside state of residence | 1,482 | 48.7% | 64,576 | 2.2% |
| MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK | | | | |
| Car, truck, or van | 2,559 | 84.1% | 2,286,563 | 77.9% |
| Public transportation (excl. taxicab) | 9 | 0.3% | 61,640 | 2.1% |
| Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.) | 225 | 7.4% | 120,345 | 4.1% |
| Worked at home | 250 | 8.2% | 463,770 | 15.8% |
| TRAVEL TIME TO WORK | | | | |
| Less than 10 minutes | 819 | 26.9% | 478,446 | 16.3% |
| 10 to 19 minutes | 1,016 | 33.4% | 924,605 | 31.5% |
| 20 to 29 minutes | 441 | 14.5% | 651,626 | 22.2% |
| 30 to 44 minutes | 441 | 14.5% | 551,828 | 18.8% |
| 45 to 59 minutes | 167 | 5.5% | 176,115 | 6.0% |
| 60 or more minutes | 158 | 5.2% | 149,698 | 5.1% |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes) | 20.5 minutes | | 23.1 minutes | |

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



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

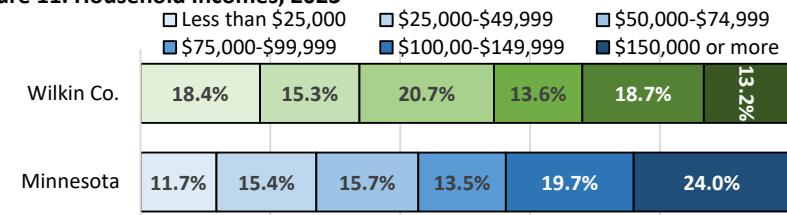
COUNTY PROFILE Wilkin Co.

INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Wilkin Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Wilkin Co. had the 60th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Median Household Income | \$69,635 |
| state | \$87,556 |
| Median Family Income | \$93,241 |
| state | \$111,492 |
| Per Capita Income | \$36,057 |
| state | \$46,957 |

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

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. Wilkin Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.87 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.43 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 |
| Wilkin Co. | \$28,855 | \$13.87 | \$0 | \$413 | \$150 | \$699 | \$600 | \$257 | \$286 |
| State of Minnesota | \$36,768 | \$17.68 | \$0 | \$424 | \$156 | \$1,154 | \$573 | \$365 | \$392 |
| Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilkin Co. | Family Yearly Cost of Living | Hourly Wage Required | Monthly Costs | | | | | | |
| | | | Child Care | Food | Health Care | Housing | Trans- portation | Other | Taxes |
| Wilkin Co. | \$57,488 | \$18.43 | \$353 | \$939 | \$530 | \$931 | \$1,098 | \$433 | \$507 |
| State of Minnesota | \$70,308 | \$22.53 | \$545 | \$964 | \$556 | \$1,446 | \$1,028 | \$557 | \$763 |

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

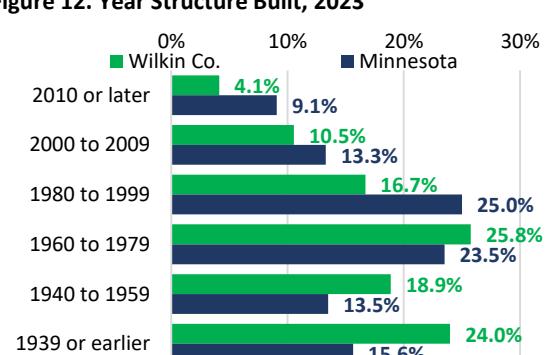
Wilkin Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 63rd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Wilkin Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

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

| | Wilkin Co. | | Minnesota | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| | Total | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Total | 2,144 | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Less than \$50,000 | 193 | 9.0% | 4.0% | |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 397 | 18.5% | 4.0% | |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 381 | 17.8% | 6.2% | |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 270 | 12.6% | 8.9% | |
| \$200,000 to \$299,999 | 487 | 22.7% | 25.7% | |
| \$300,000 to \$499,999 | 325 | 15.2% | 33.6% | |
| \$500,000 or more | 91 | 4.2% | 17.5% | |
| Median (dollars) | \$172,300 | | \$305,500 | |

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage **\$1,289**

state \$1,890

Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs **18.0%**

state 22.5%

Median monthly rent costs **\$561**

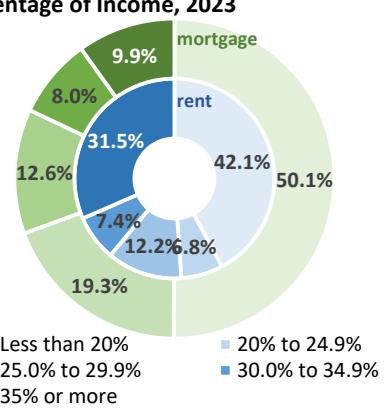
state \$1,235

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent **38.9%**

state 47.2%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.2 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.94) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.54) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

| Occupational Group | Region 4 | | | | 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 |
| Total, All Occupations | \$23.20 | 89,640 | 100.0% | 1.0 | \$26.22 | 2,920,470 | 100.0% |
| Management | \$47.94 | 4,960 | 5.5% | 0.8 | \$59.38 | 200,060 | 6.9% |
| Business & Financial Operations | \$34.66 | 3,480 | 3.9% | 0.5 | \$39.95 | 208,210 | 7.1% |
| Computer & Mathematical | \$37.75 | 1,070 | 1.2% | 0.4 | \$50.02 | 97,460 | 3.3% |
| Architecture & Engineering | \$38.29 | 1,510 | 1.7% | 0.8 | \$45.03 | 57,950 | 2.0% |
| Life, Physical & Social Science | \$34.22 | 620 | 0.7% | 0.6 | \$38.33 | 32,150 | 1.1% |
| Community & Social Service | \$28.65 | 2,020 | 2.3% | 1.1 | \$29.82 | 59,290 | 2.0% |
| Legal | \$35.38 | 370 | 0.4% | 0.6 | \$49.52 | 20,750 | 0.7% |
| Education, Training & Library | \$26.95 | 6,740 | 7.5% | 1.3 | \$27.84 | 170,270 | 5.8% |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media | \$22.37 | 850 | 0.9% | 0.8 | \$28.84 | 36,030 | 1.2% |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | \$38.26 | 5,470 | 6.1% | 1.0 | \$46.51 | 187,480 | 6.4% |
| Healthcare Support | \$18.66 | 5,250 | 5.9% | 1.0 | \$18.67 | 176,750 | 6.1% |
| Protective Service | \$28.32 | 1,510 | 1.7% | 1.0 | \$29.37 | 46,960 | 1.6% |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | \$14.54 | 8,480 | 9.5% | 1.1 | \$16.05 | 240,830 | 8.2% |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | \$19.25 | 3,200 | 3.6% | 1.3 | \$19.16 | 81,700 | 2.8% |
| Personal Care & Service | \$16.72 | 2,040 | 2.3% | 1.0 | \$17.54 | 63,300 | 2.2% |
| Sales & Related | \$17.42 | 8,040 | 9.0% | 1.1 | \$18.66 | 244,780 | 8.4% |
| Office & Administrative Support | \$22.80 | 9,940 | 11.1% | 1.0 | \$24.07 | 340,040 | 11.6% |
| Farming, Fishing & Forestry | \$22.72 | 250 | 0.3% | 2.5 | \$23.48 | 3,300 | 0.1% |
| Construction & Extraction | \$30.11 | 4,720 | 5.3% | 1.3 | \$34.20 | 114,050 | 3.9% |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | \$28.12 | 3,910 | 4.4% | 1.2 | \$30.40 | 105,650 | 3.6% |
| Production | \$23.41 | 7,440 | 8.3% | 1.2 | \$23.56 | 205,220 | 7.0% |
| Transportation & Material Moving | \$21.59 | 7,770 | 8.7% | 1.1 | \$19.80 | 228,260 | 7.8% |

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

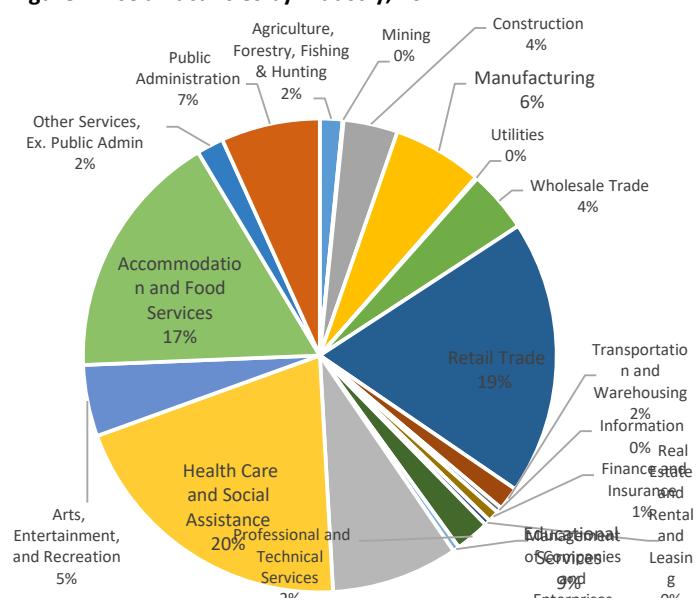
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Wilkin Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region. There were 12718 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. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

| Occupational Group | Number of Vacancies | Wage Offer |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Total, All Occupations | 12,718 | \$18.57 |
| Management | 171 | \$30.60 |
| Business & Financial Operations | 215 | \$21.51 |
| Computer & Mathematical | 63 | \$19.52 |
| Architecture & Engineering | 322 | \$34.28 |
| Life, Physical & Social Sciences | 57 | \$25.42 |
| Community & Social Service | 386 | \$21.69 |
| Education, Training & Library | 638 | \$20.64 |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | 1,009 | \$31.22 |
| Healthcare Support | 1,082 | \$18.32 |
| Protective Service | 188 | \$23.57 |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | 2,330 | \$15.00 |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | 625 | \$17.65 |
| Personal Care & Service | 327 | \$18.14 |
| Sales & Related | 1,850 | \$15.63 |
| Office & Administrative Support | 525 | \$18.77 |
| Construction & Extraction | 441 | \$23.70 |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | 751 | \$20.05 |
| Production | 604 | \$19.93 |
| Transportation & Material Moving | 662 | \$18.81 |

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024

| Less than High School | High School or Equivalent | Some College or Assoc. Deg. | Bachelor's Degree or Higher |
|---|---|---|---|
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,108/yr | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$54,491/yr | Registered Nurses \$84,785/yr | General and Operations Managers \$77,521/yr |
| Retail Salespersons \$35,088/yr | Nursing Assistants \$40,033/yr | Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$71,010/yr | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$64,121/yr |
| Cashiers \$30,773/yr | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$54,946/yr | Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,771/yr | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,299/yr |
| Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,126/yr | Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$47,486/yr | Dental Hygienists \$85,989/yr | Accountants and Auditors \$64,893/yr |
| Stockers and Order Fillers \$40,709/yr | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$48,131/yr | Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$71,227/yr | Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$46,162/yr |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$38,122/yr | Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,479/yr | Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$59,200/yr | Medical and Health Services Managers \$102,974/yr |
| Cooks, Restaurant \$36,830/yr | Machinists \$51,295/yr | Occupational Therapy Assistants \$59,627/yr | Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$63,680/yr |
| Food Preparation Workers \$31,855/yr | Electricians \$65,524/yr | Computer Network Support Specialists \$70,049/yr | Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$37,999/yr |
| Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators \$40,826/yr | Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$59,152/yr | Surgical Technologists \$64,809/yr | Pharmacists \$140,993/yr |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,395/yr | Paramedics \$64,134/yr | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,791/yr | Physical Therapists \$98,061/yr |

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

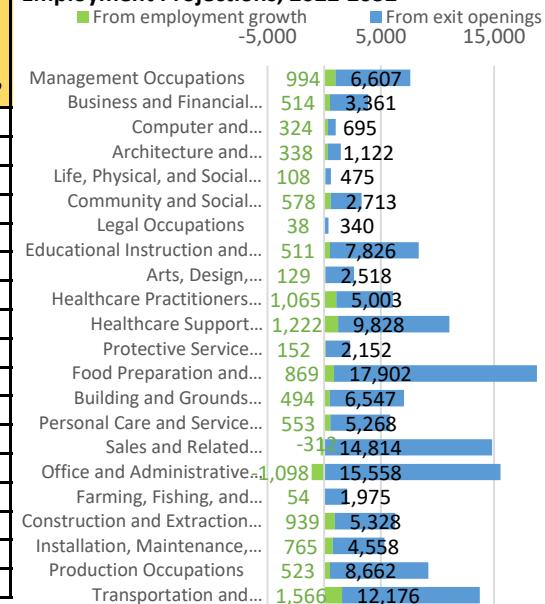
Wilkin Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

| Northwest Planning Region | Estimated Employment 2022 | Projected Employment 2032 | Percent Change 2022-2032 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 265,321 | 275,647 | 3.9% |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 6,095 | 6,335 | 3.9% |
| Utilities | 1,126 | 1,125 | -0.1% |
| Construction | 11,719 | 12,715 | 8.5% |
| Manufacturing | 29,871 | 31,429 | 5.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 12,936 | 14,034 | 8.5% |
| Retail Trade | 27,705 | 27,590 | -0.4% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 5,579 | 5,997 | 7.5% |
| Information | 2,451 | 2,470 | 0.8% |
| Finance & Insurance, Real Estate | 8,067 | 8,366 | 3.7% |
| Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies | 5,609 | 6,152 | 9.7% |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. | 4,192 | 4,460 | 6.4% |
| Educational Services | 22,849 | 22,989 | 0.6% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 36,421 | 38,978 | 7.0% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 24,958 | 26,706 | 7.0% |
| Other Services | 9,824 | 10,129 | 3.1% |
| Public Administration | 24,161 | 24,869 | 2.9% |

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

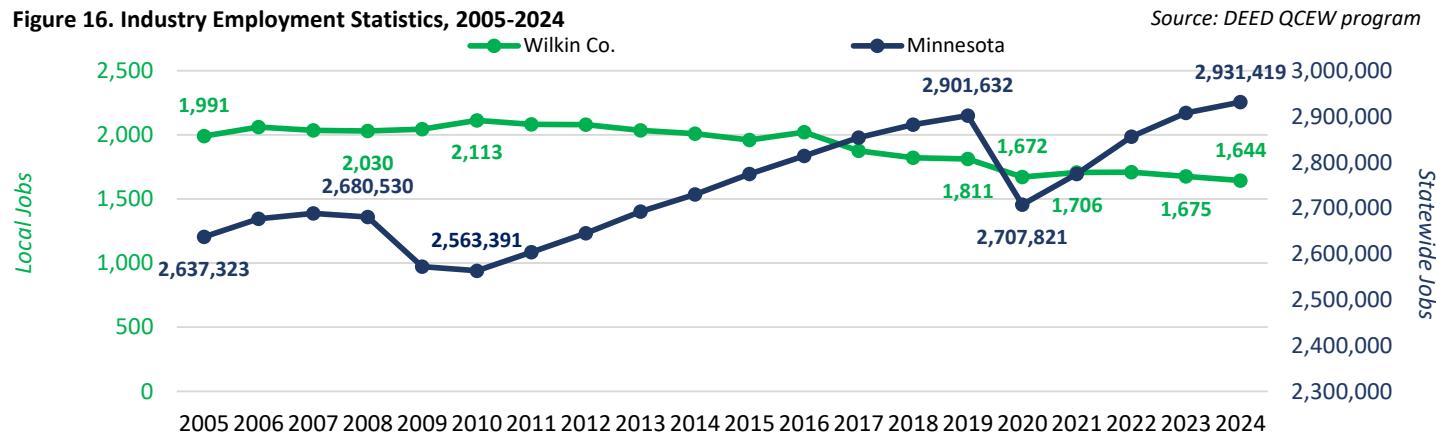
Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



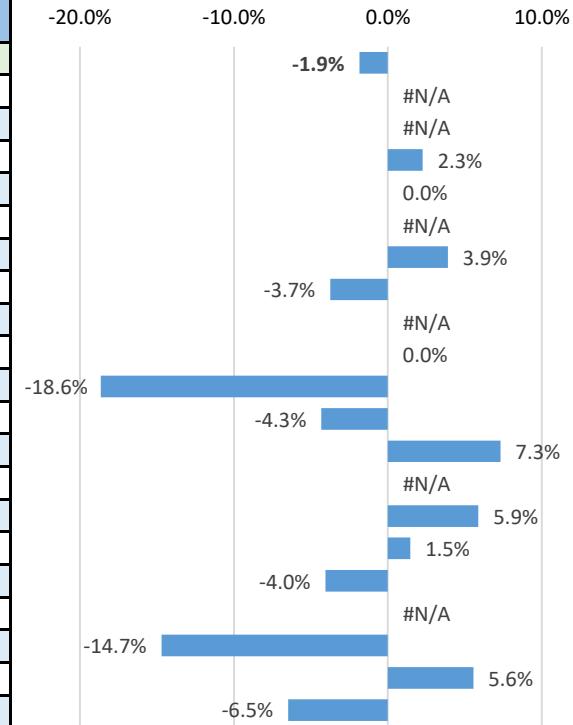
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Wilkin Co. had the 83rd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Wilkin Co. was the 80th fastest growing in the past year and the 79th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Wilkin Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 207 | business establishments | \$56,018 | annual average wage |
| 1,644 | jobs | \$92,093,850 | total industry payroll |
| Job change, 2019-2024 | -28 jobs -1.7% decline | | |

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

| | Number of Jobs | Percent of Total Jobs | Average Annual Wage |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 1,644 | 100.0% | \$56,018 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Mining | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Construction | 136 | 8.3% | \$54,844 |
| Manufacturing | 24 | 1.5% | \$44,302 |
| Utilities | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Wholesale Trade | 160 | 9.7% | \$95,698 |
| Retail Trade | 103 | 6.3% | \$32,288 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 115 | 7.0% | \$9,198 |
| Information | 3 | 0.2% | \$27,786 |
| Finance & Insurance | 48 | 2.9% | \$85,000 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 52 | 3.1% | \$79,295 |
| Professional & Technical Services | 44 | 2.7% | \$82,388 |
| Management of Companies | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 18 | 1.1% | \$45,181 |
| Educational Services | 209 | 12.7% | \$45,396 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 332 | 20.2% | \$49,845 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 58 | 3.5% | \$21,890 |
| Other Services | 57 | 3.5% | \$49,014 |
| Public Administration | 130 | 7.9% | \$54,891 |

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024

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

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

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Data updated: May 23, 2025