

COUNTY PROFILE

Big Stone Co.

Big Stone Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 6W, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2024 population: | 5,067 people | Median Age: | 47.4 years |
| Population change, 2020-2024 | -99 people -1.9% decline | state: | 38.6 years |

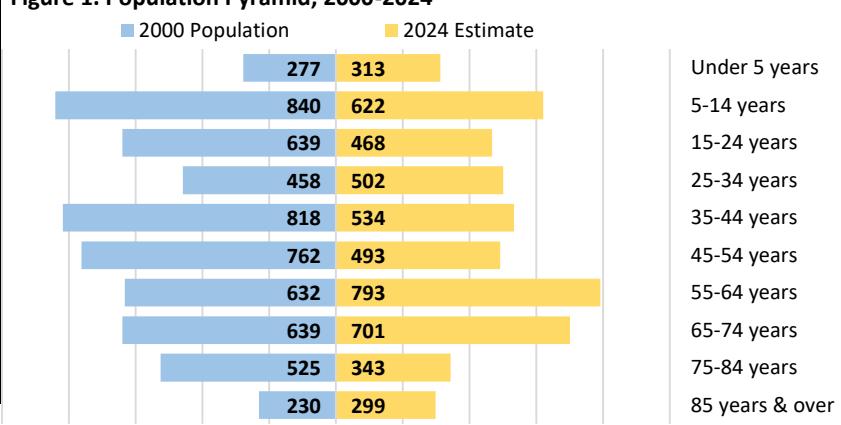
Big Stone Co. is the 83rd largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 74th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Big Stone Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. 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 | 313 | 6.2% |
| 5-14 years | 622 | 12.3% |
| 15-24 years | 468 | 9.2% |
| 25-34 years | 502 | 9.9% |
| 35-44 years | 534 | 10.5% |
| 45-54 years | 493 | 9.7% |
| 55-64 years | 793 | 15.6% |
| 65-74 years | 701 | 13.8% |
| 75-84 years | 343 | 6.8% |
| 85 years & over | 299 | 5.9% |
| Total Population | 5,067 | 100.0% |

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Big Stone Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also had neutral migration patterns. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Big Stone 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 | |
| Big Stone Co. | -102 | -102 | 250 | 352 | 0 | 6 | -6 |
| 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

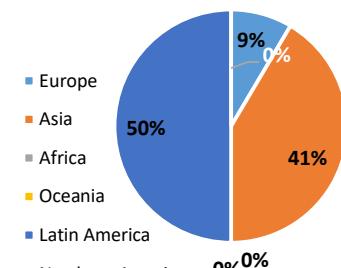
Compared to the state, Big Stone Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Big Stone Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

| | Big Stone Co. | | Change 2013-2023 | | Minnesota | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent | Change |
| Foreign-born Population | 94 | 1.8% | 41 | 77.4% | 8.6% | 24.7% |
| Europe | 8 | 8.5% | 1 | 14.3% | 8.8% | -3.4% |
| Asia | 39 | 41.5% | 31 | 387.5% | 35.7% | 18.1% |
| Africa | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | #DIV/0! | 28.3% | 78.8% |
| Oceania | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | #DIV/0! | 0.4% | 5.4% |
| Americas: | 47 | 50.0% | 9 | 23.7% | 26.7% | 8.7% |
| Latin America | 47 | 50.0% | 29 | 161.1% | 24.2% | 9.7% |
| Northern America | 0 | 0.0% | -20 | -100.0% | 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



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Big Stone Co.

Big Stone 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

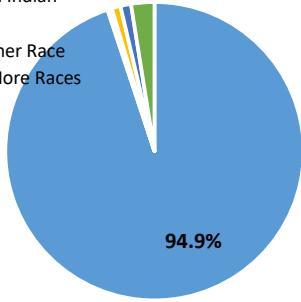


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023

| | Number | Percent | Change from 2013-2023 | Percent | Change from 2013-2023 |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Total | 5,152 | 100.0% | -1.1% | 100.0% | 6.8% |
| White | 4,889 | 94.9% | -4.4% | 78.4% | -2.2% |
| Black or African American | 9 | 0.2% | -47.1% | 6.8% | 38.9% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 16 | 0.3% | 60.0% | 0.9% | -11.6% |
| Asian or Other Pac. Islanders | 49 | 1.0% | 2350.0% | 5.1% | 29.6% |
| Some Other Race | 59 | 1.1% | 490.0% | 2.7% | 96.1% |
| Two or More Races | 130 | 2.5% | 124.1% | 6.2% | 168.3% |
| Hispanic or Latino origin | 130 | 2.5% | 140.7% | 6.2% | 37.5% |

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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

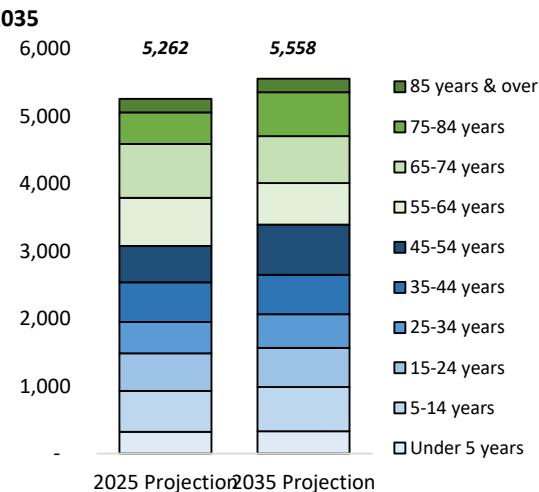
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Big Stone Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

| Big Stone Co. | 2025 Projection | 2035 Projection | Numeric Change | Percent Change |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Under 5 years | 321 | 331 | 10 | 3.1% |
| 5-14 years | 608 | 657 | 49 | 8.1% |
| 15-24 years | 559 | 580 | 21 | 3.8% |
| 25-34 years | 463 | 496 | 33 | 7.1% |
| 35-44 years | 586 | 586 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 45-54 years | 543 | 747 | 204 | 37.6% |
| 55-64 years | 711 | 616 | -95 | -13.4% |
| 65-74 years | 801 | 693 | -108 | -13.5% |
| 75-84 years | 466 | 653 | 187 | 40.1% |
| 85 years & over | 204 | 199 | -5 | -2.5% |
| Total Population | 5,262 | 5,558 | 296 | 5.6% |

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

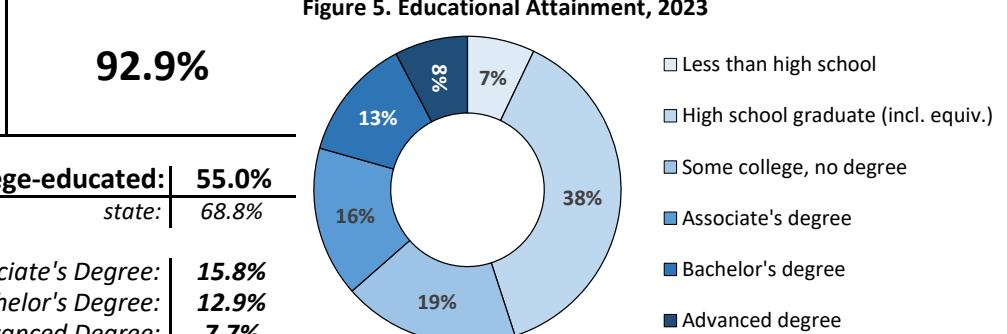


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Big Stone 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. Big Stone 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:

92.9%



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

COUNTY PROFILE

Big Stone Co.

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.4%, Big Stone Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Big Stone 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 Big Stone Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

2,455 available workers

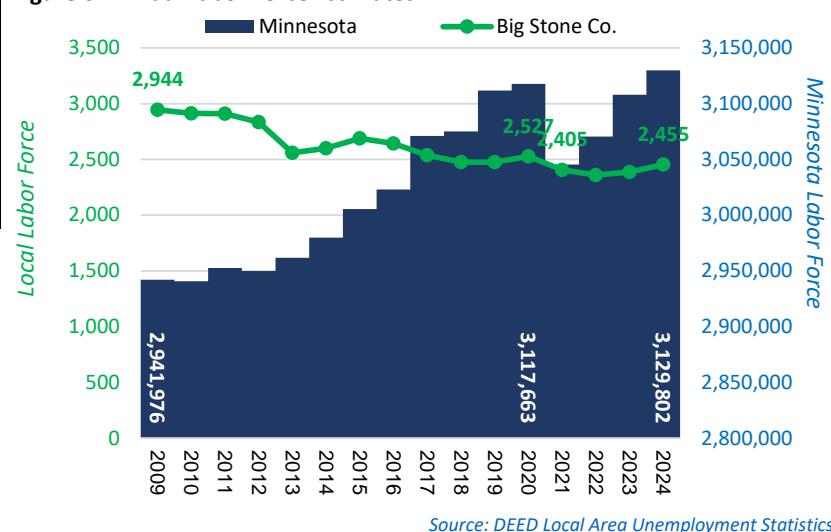
Labor Force change, 2009-2024
-489 workers
-16.6% decline

3.4% unemployment rate

2.8% state

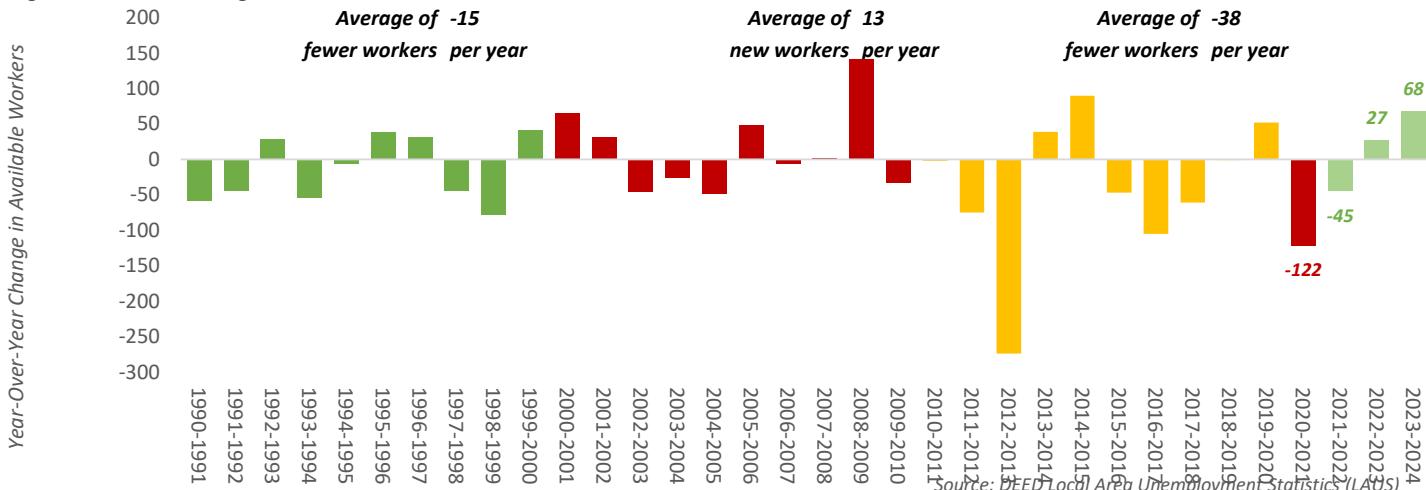
83 unemployed workers

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net loss of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Big Stone 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, Big Stone Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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

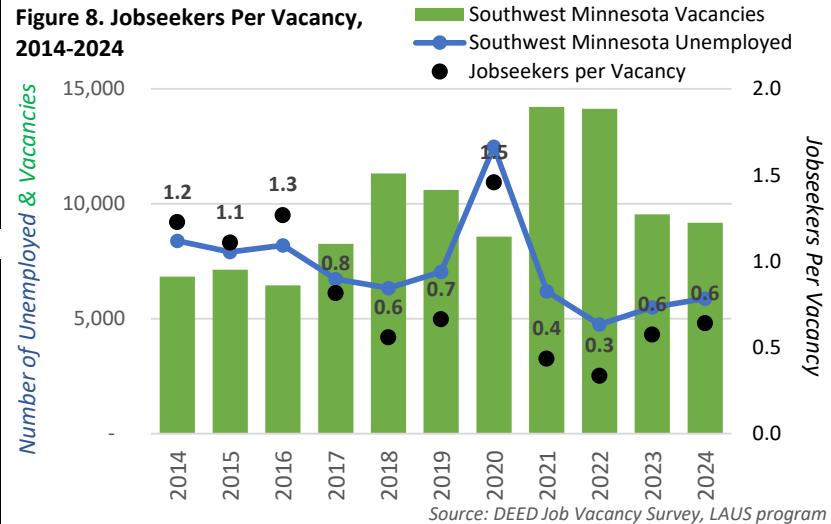


| Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035 | Labor Force Projection | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| | 2025 | 2035 |
| 16 to 24 years | 374 | 390 |
| 25 to 54 years | 1,346 | 1,545 |
| 55 to 64 years | 473 | 409 |
| 65 years & over | 228 | 216 |
| Total Labor Force | 2,421 | 2,561 |

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 Southwest 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

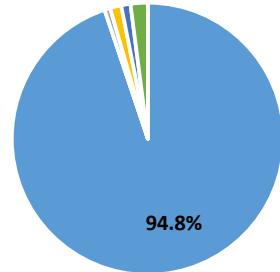
Big Stone Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Big Stone Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

| | Big Stone 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 | 2,349 | 57.1% | 3.0% | 68.5% | 3.9% | 1,285 | 1,064 |
| 16 to 19 years | 92 | 50.3% | 8.7% | 52.7% | 9.9% | 45 | 47 |
| 20 to 24 years | 199 | 97.1% | 0.0% | 83.4% | 6.5% | 100 | 99 |
| 25 to 44 years | 896 | 85.1% | 4.4% | 88.7% | 3.5% | 476 | 420 |
| 45 to 54 years | 419 | 83.6% | 3.8% | 87.8% | 2.9% | 209 | 210 |
| 55 to 64 years | 536 | 66.5% | 1.0% | 72.8% | 3.0% | 314 | 222 |
| 65 to 74 years | 162 | 22.7% | 1.2% | 27.8% | 3.4% | 105 | 57 |
| 75 years & over | 45 | 6.9% | 0.0% | 6.6% | 3.1% | 36 | 9 |
| Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin | | | | | | | |
| White alone | 2,226 | 56.5% | 2.3% | 67.5% | 3.4% | | |
| Black or African American | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 71.0% | 8.4% | | |
| American Indian & Alaska Native | 16 | 100.0% | 0.0% | 57.7% | 11.4% | | |
| Asian or Other Pac. Islanders | 31 | 75.6% | 0.0% | 74.6% | 3.5% | | |
| Some Other Race | 26 | 56.5% | 0.0% | 75.9% | 5.6% | | |
| Two or More Races | 48 | 73.8% | 39.6% | 74.2% | 6.1% | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 59 | 72.0% | 10.2% | 77.1% | 5.9% | | |
| Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years | | | | | | | |
| With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years | 127 | 44.4% | 7.1% | 55.3% | 9.5% | | |
| Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years | | | | | | | |
| Population, 25 to 64 years | 1,850 | 78.4% | 3.2% | 84.4% | 3.3% | | |
| Less than H.S. Diploma | 53 | 50.0% | 3.4% | 67.1% | 4.7% | | |
| H.S. Diploma or Equivalent | 508 | 67.1% | 0.0% | 76.5% | 2.6% | | |
| Some College or Assoc. Degree | 853 | 86.1% | 4.7% | 85.0% | 3.6% | | |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 437 | 86.4% | 0.0% | 90.5% | 2.0% | | |

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

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023



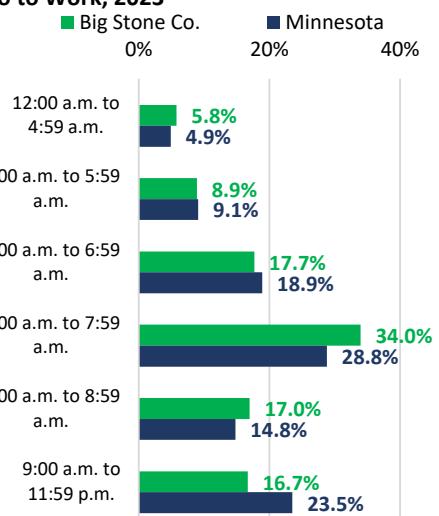
- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

| | Big Stone Co. | | Minnesota | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Worked in state of residence | 1,848 | 85.0% | 2,870,678 | 97.8% |
| Worked in county of residence | 1,500 | 69.0% | 1,984,232 | 67.6% |
| Worked out of county of residence | 348 | 16.0% | 886,447 | 30.2% |
| Worked outside state of residence | 326 | 15.0% | 64,576 | 2.2% |
| MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK | | | | |
| Car, truck, or van | 1,824 | 83.9% | 2,286,563 | 77.9% |
| Public transportation (excl. taxicab) | 28 | 1.3% | 61,640 | 2.1% |
| Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.) | 143 | 6.6% | 120,345 | 4.1% |
| Worked at home | 176 | 8.1% | 463,770 | 15.8% |
| TRAVEL TIME TO WORK | | | | |
| Less than 10 minutes | 791 | 36.3% | 478,446 | 16.3% |
| 10 to 19 minutes | 602 | 27.6% | 924,605 | 31.5% |
| 20 to 29 minutes | 317 | 14.6% | 651,626 | 22.2% |
| 30 to 44 minutes | 228 | 10.5% | 551,828 | 18.8% |
| 45 to 59 minutes | 87 | 4.0% | 176,115 | 6.0% |
| 60 or more minutes | 152 | 7.0% | 149,698 | 5.1% |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes) | 19.4 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

Big Stone Co.

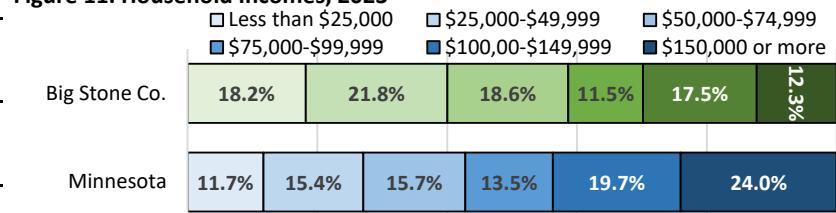
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Big Stone Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Big Stone Co. had the 78th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Median Household Income | \$65,475 |
| state | \$87,556 |
| Median Family Income | \$82,794 |
| state | \$111,492 |
| Per Capita Income | \$36,923 |
| 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. Big Stone Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.46 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$17.93 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 |
| Big Stone Co. | \$30,074 | \$14.46 | \$0 | \$421 | \$150 | \$776 | \$582 | \$277 | \$300 |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| Family Yearly Cost of Living | Hourly Wage Required | Monthly Costs | | | | | | | |
| | | Child Care | Food | Health Care | Housing | Trans- portation | Other | Taxes | |
| Big Stone Co. | \$55,930 | \$17.93 | \$284 | \$958 | \$530 | \$931 | \$1,053 | \$437 | \$468 |
| State of Minnesota | \$70,308 | \$22.53 | \$545 | \$964 | \$556 | \$1,446 | \$1,028 | \$557 | \$763 |

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

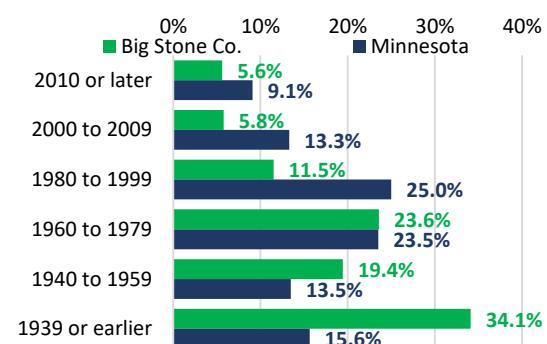
Big Stone Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 82nd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Big Stone Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

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

| | Big Stone Co. | | Minnesota | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|--|
| | Total | Percent | Percent | |
| Total | 1,730 | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Less than \$50,000 | 187 | 10.8% | 4.0% | |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 470 | 27.2% | 4.0% | |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 256 | 14.8% | 6.2% | |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 192 | 11.1% | 8.9% | |
| \$200,000 to \$299,999 | 354 | 20.5% | 25.7% | |
| \$300,000 to \$499,999 | 191 | 11.0% | 33.6% | |
| \$500,000 or more | 80 | 4.6% | 17.5% | |
| Median (dollars) | \$135,700 | | \$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 | \$1,296 |
| state | \$1,890 |

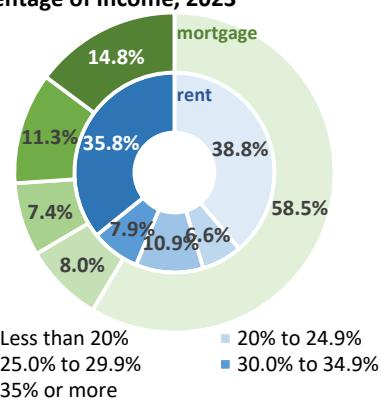
| | |
|--|-------|
| Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs | 26.1% |
| state | 22.5% |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Median monthly rent costs | \$718 |
| state | \$1,235 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent | 43.7% |
| state | 47.2% |

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.1 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 6W than the state. Overall, Region 6W had the 9th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$45.57) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.69) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

| Occupational Group | Region 6W | | | | 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 | \$23.10 | 16,330 | 100.0% | 1.0 | \$26.22 | 2,920,470 | 100.0% |
| Management | \$45.57 | 960 | 5.9% | 0.9 | \$59.38 | 200,060 | 6.9% |
| Business & Financial Operations | \$34.43 | 490 | 3.0% | 0.4 | \$39.95 | 208,210 | 7.1% |
| Computer & Mathematical | \$35.12 | 100 | 0.6% | 0.2 | \$50.02 | 97,460 | 3.3% |
| Architecture & Engineering | \$40.95 | 130 | 0.8% | 0.4 | \$45.03 | 57,950 | 2.0% |
| Life, Physical & Social Science | \$27.58 | 140 | 0.9% | 0.8 | \$38.33 | 32,150 | 1.1% |
| Community & Social Service | \$27.97 | 350 | 2.1% | 1.1 | \$29.82 | 59,290 | 2.0% |
| Legal | \$36.51 | 50 | 0.3% | 0.4 | \$49.52 | 20,750 | 0.7% |
| Education, Training & Library | \$23.52 | 1,390 | 8.5% | 1.5 | \$27.84 | 170,270 | 5.8% |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media | \$21.71 | 130 | 0.8% | 0.6 | \$28.84 | 36,030 | 1.2% |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | \$39.19 | 1,070 | 6.6% | 1.0 | \$46.51 | 187,480 | 6.4% |
| Healthcare Support | \$18.85 | 1,020 | 6.2% | 1.0 | \$18.67 | 176,750 | 6.1% |
| Protective Service | \$27.13 | 290 | 1.8% | 1.1 | \$29.37 | 46,960 | 1.6% |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | \$14.69 | 1,420 | 8.7% | 1.1 | \$16.05 | 240,830 | 8.2% |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | \$18.45 | 560 | 3.4% | 1.2 | \$19.16 | 81,700 | 2.8% |
| Personal Care & Service | \$17.24 | 320 | 2.0% | 0.9 | \$17.54 | 63,300 | 2.2% |
| Sales & Related | \$16.83 | 1,330 | 8.1% | 1.0 | \$18.66 | 244,780 | 8.4% |
| Office & Administrative Support | \$22.55 | 1,810 | 11.1% | 1.0 | \$24.07 | 340,040 | 11.6% |
| Farming, Fishing & Forestry | \$23.31 | 60 | 0.4% | 3.3 | \$23.48 | 3,300 | 0.1% |
| Construction & Extraction | \$29.56 | 870 | 5.3% | 1.4 | \$34.20 | 114,050 | 3.9% |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | \$28.57 | 800 | 4.9% | 1.4 | \$30.40 | 105,650 | 3.6% |
| Production | \$22.89 | 1,360 | 8.3% | 1.2 | \$23.56 | 205,220 | 7.0% |
| Transportation & Material Moving | \$23.05 | 1,700 | 10.4% | 1.3 | \$19.80 | 228,260 | 7.8% |

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

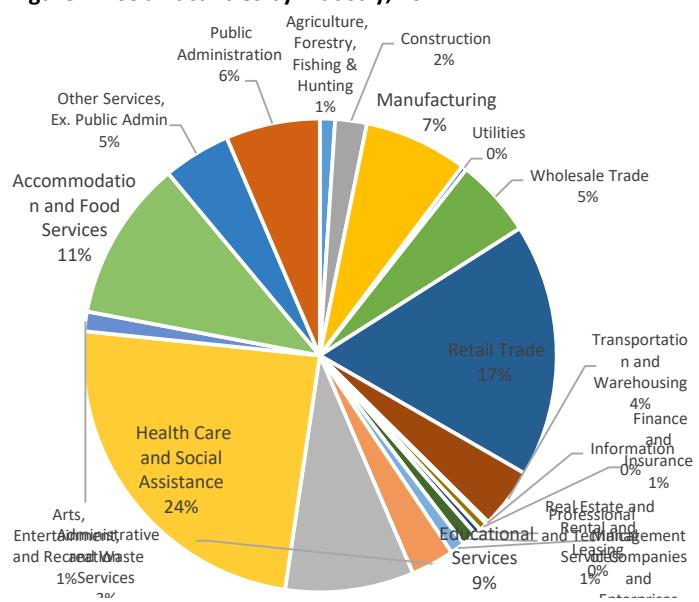
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Big Stone Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9168 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. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

| Occupational Group | Number of Vacancies | Wage Offer |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Total, All Occupations | 9,168 | \$19.48 |
| Management | 176 | \$37.03 |
| Business & Financial Operations | 189 | \$27.48 |
| Computer & Mathematical | 40 | \$36.13 |
| Architecture & Engineering | 115 | \$27.92 |
| Life, Physical & Social Sciences | 88 | \$38.63 |
| Community & Social Service | 409 | \$24.68 |
| Education, Training & Library | 548 | \$21.55 |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | 738 | \$30.27 |
| Healthcare Support | 984 | \$14.95 |
| Protective Service | 222 | \$28.05 |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | 1,188 | \$15.62 |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | 395 | \$15.71 |
| Personal Care & Service | 114 | \$15.42 |
| Sales & Related | 1,026 | \$15.96 |
| Office & Administrative Support | 388 | \$20.28 |
| Construction & Extraction | 132 | \$23.65 |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | 645 | \$23.30 |
| Production | 457 | \$18.67 |
| Transportation & Material Moving | 1,033 | \$21.37 |

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southwest 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 \$34,798/yr | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$54,491/yr | Registered Nurses \$85,138/yr | Accountants and Auditors \$69,245/yr |
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,495/yr | Nursing Assistants \$39,764/yr | Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$74,684/yr | General and Operations Managers \$82,482/yr |
| Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,228/yr | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,499/yr | Dental Hygienists \$84,870/yr | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,364/yr |
| Cashiers \$30,595/yr | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers \$64,265/yr | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,049/yr | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,349/yr |
| Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,031/yr | Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$59,444/yr | Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,236/yr | Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$52,112/yr |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$45,427/yr | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$47,963/yr | Agricultural Technicians \$50,274/yr | Financial Managers \$119,560/yr |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,379/yr | Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters \$61,794/yr | Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,828/yr | Industrial Engineers \$90,455/yr |
| Construction Laborers \$49,744/yr | Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,947/yr | Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$71,227/yr | Computer Systems Analysts \$96,291/yr |
| Bus Drivers, School \$49,228/yr | Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,024/yr | Physical Therapist Assistants \$62,988/yr | Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,534/yr |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$43,003/yr | Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$60,689/yr | Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$40,453/yr | Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$37,747/yr |

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

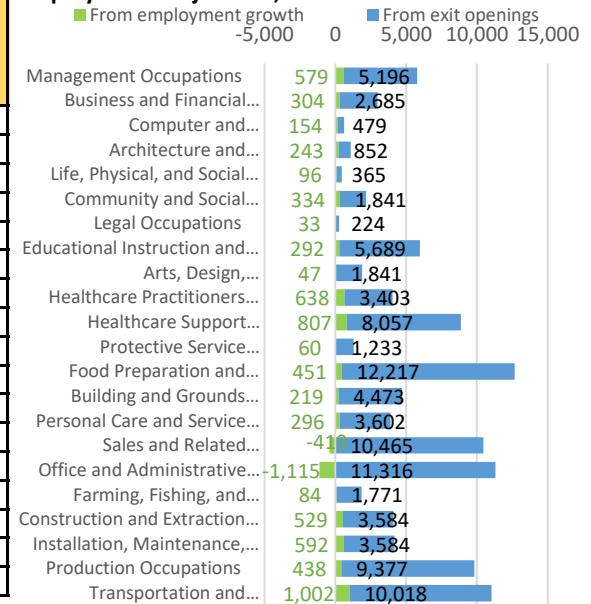
Big Stone Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

| Southwest Planning Region | Estimated Employment 2022 | Projected Employment 2032 | Percent Change 2022-2032 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 202,214 | 207,878 | 2.8% |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 5,523 | 5,777 | 4.6% |
| Utilities | 690 | 690 | 0.0% |
| Construction | 7,679 | 8,252 | 7.5% |
| Manufacturing | 32,192 | 33,537 | 4.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 8,001 | 8,116 | 1.4% |
| Retail Trade | 19,409 | 19,084 | -1.7% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 6,297 | 6,810 | 8.1% |
| Information | 2,093 | 2,046 | -2.2% |
| Finance & Insurance, Real Estate | 8,227 | 8,375 | 1.8% |
| Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies | 5,544 | 5,985 | 8.0% |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. | 4,127 | 4,331 | 4.9% |
| Educational Services | 16,065 | 16,116 | 0.3% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 28,786 | 30,498 | 5.9% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 13,625 | 14,377 | 5.5% |
| Other Services | 7,097 | 7,281 | 2.6% |
| Public Administration | 14,117 | 14,370 | 1.8% |

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

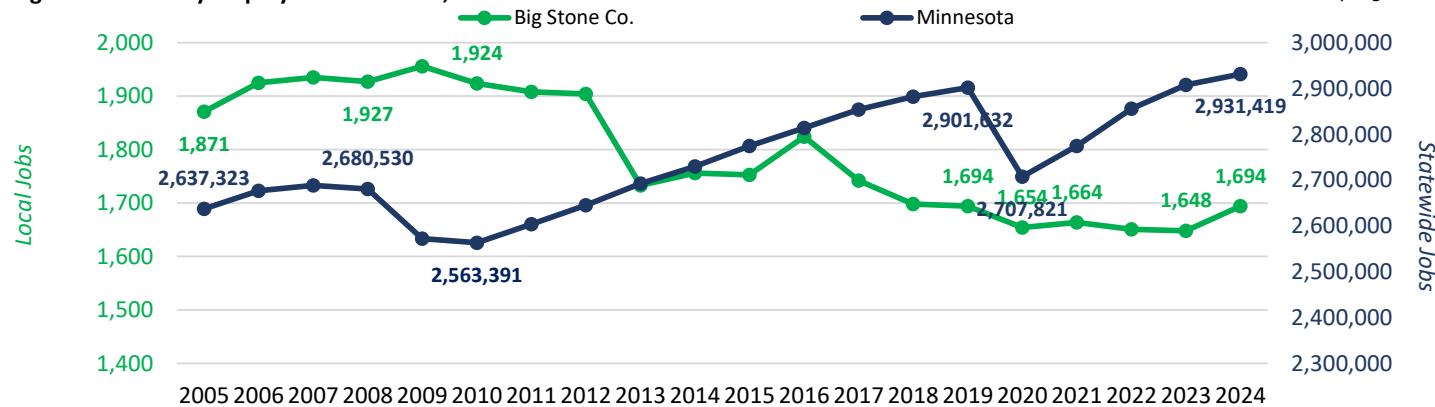
Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



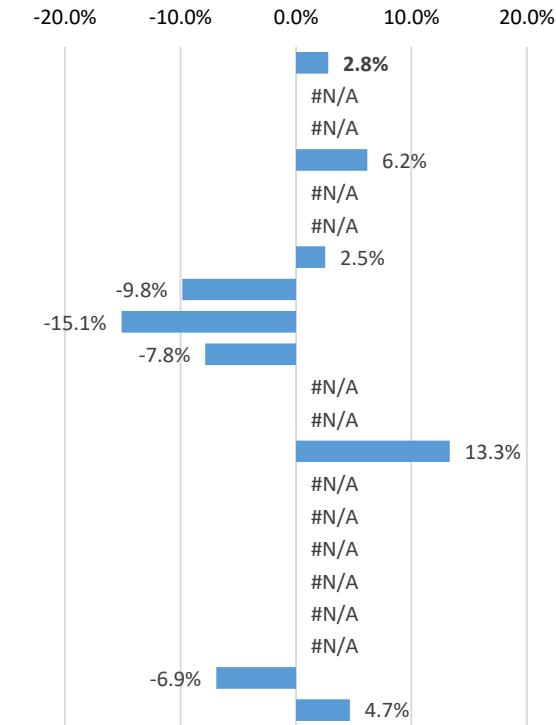
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Big Stone Co. had the 81st largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Big Stone Co. was the 12th fastest growing in the past year and the 67th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Big Stone Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 220 | business establishments | \$53,384 | annual average wage |
| 1,694 | jobs | \$90,431,847 | total industry payroll |
| Job change, 2019-2024 | 40 jobs 2.4% increase | | |

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

| | Number of Jobs | Percent of Total Jobs | Average Annual Wage |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 1,694 | 100.0% | \$53,384 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Mining | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Construction | 189 | 11.2% | \$103,350 |
| Manufacturing | 21 | 1.2% | \$13,386 |
| Utilities | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Wholesale Trade | 81 | 4.8% | \$73,210 |
| Retail Trade | 156 | 9.2% | \$30,030 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 45 | 2.7% | \$59,013 |
| Information | 16 | 0.9% | \$27,208 |
| Finance & Insurance | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Professional & Technical Services | 17 | 1.0% | \$51,205 |
| Management of Companies | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Educational Services | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | #N/A | #N/A | #N/A |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 21 | 1.2% | \$5,809 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 117 | 6.9% | \$6,250 |
| Other Services | 54 | 3.2% | \$24,321 |
| Public Administration | 157 | 9.3% | \$60,174 |

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024

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

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

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Data updated: May 23, 2025