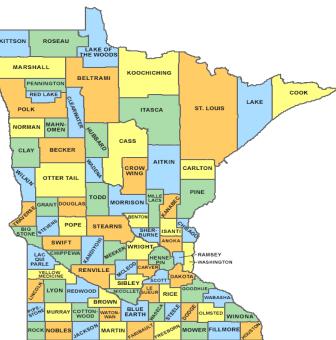


COUNTY PROFILE

## Dakota Co.

Dakota Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 11, which is located in the Twin Cities Planning Region.



### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2024 population: **453,156 people**

Population change,  
2020-2024  
13,274 people  
3.0% increase

Median Age: **38.4 years**  
state: 38.6 years

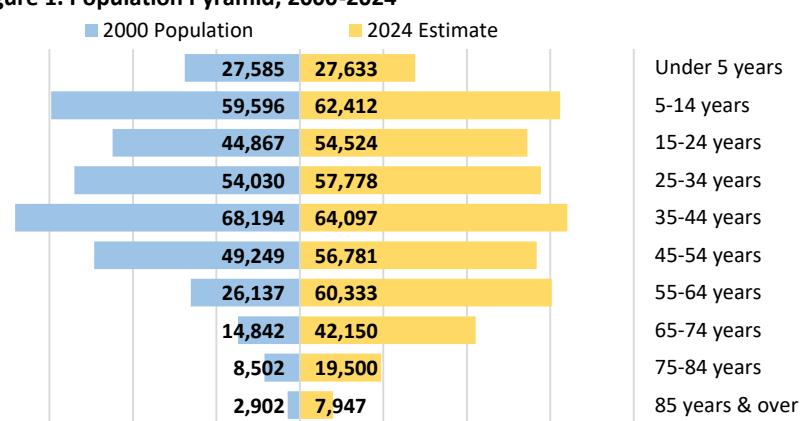
Dakota Co. is the 3rd largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 17th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Dakota Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The 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	27,633	6.1%
5-14 years	62,412	13.8%
15-24 years	54,524	12.0%
25-34 years	57,778	12.8%
35-44 years	64,097	14.1%
45-54 years	56,781	12.5%
55-64 years	60,333	13.3%
65-74 years	42,150	9.3%
75-84 years	19,500	4.3%
85 years & over	7,947	1.8%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>453,156</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Dakota Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Dakota 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	Domestic
Dakota Co.	13,276	7,219	20,951	13,732	5,766	5,704	62
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

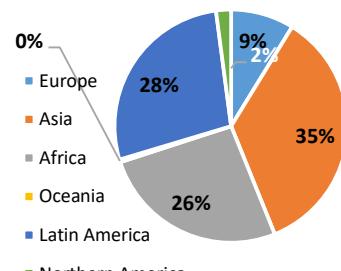
Compared to the state, Dakota Co. has a larger percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Dakota Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

	Dakota Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	43,046	9.7%	9,858	29.7%	8.6%	24.7%
Europe	3,775	8.8%	-263	-6.5%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	15,118	35.1%	2,981	24.6%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	11,237	26.1%	5,217	86.7%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	159	0.4%	87	120.8%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	12,757	29.6%	1,836	16.8%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	11,860	27.6%	2,458	26.1%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	897	2.1%	-622	-40.9%	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



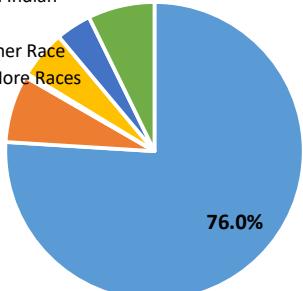
## COUNTY PROFILE

Dakota Co.

Dakota 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	442,204	100.0%	9.9%	100.0%	6.8%
White	335,999	76.0%	-2.1%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	32,429	7.3%	63.0%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,661	0.4%	5.5%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	23,128	5.2%	26.9%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	16,983	3.8%	91.3%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	32,004	7.2%	199.9%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	37,321	8.4%	50.3%	6.2%	37.5%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

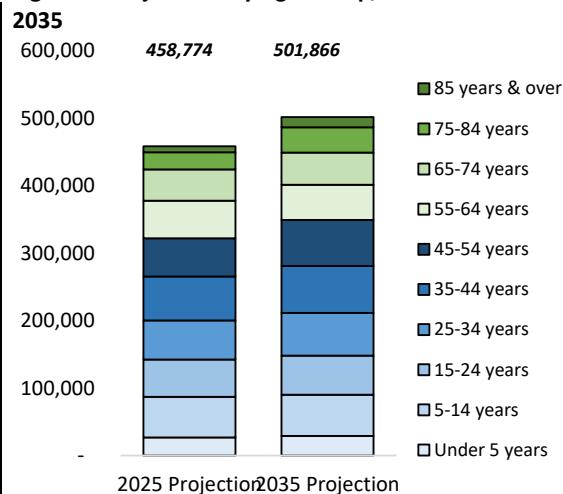
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Dakota Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

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

Dakota Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	27,043	28,954	1,911	7.1%
5-14 years	59,937	61,075	1,138	1.9%
15-24 years	55,558	57,949	2,391	4.3%
25-34 years	57,693	63,618	5,925	10.3%
35-44 years	65,229	69,527	4,298	6.6%
45-54 years	56,793	68,184	11,391	20.1%
55-64 years	55,873	52,414	-3,459	-6.2%
65-74 years	46,266	47,603	1,337	2.9%
75-84 years	25,330	37,611	12,281	48.5%
85 years & over	9,052	14,931	5,879	64.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>458,774</b>	<b>501,866</b>	<b>43,092</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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

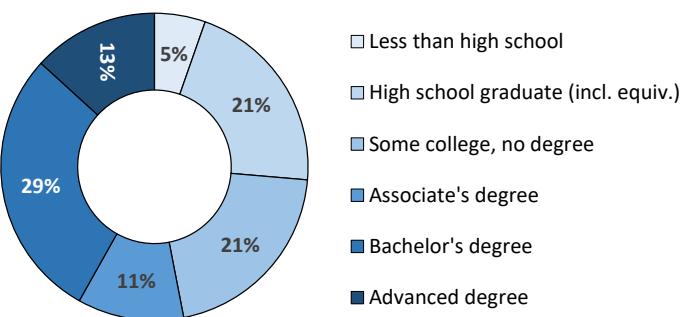
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**94.6%**

**College-educated:** **73.6%**  
state: 68.8%

**Associate's Degree:** **11.2%**  
**Bachelor's Degree:** **28.6%**  
**Advanced Degree:** **13.2%**

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



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

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.5%, Dakota Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Dakota Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 2.9% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Dakota Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

**249,927** available workers

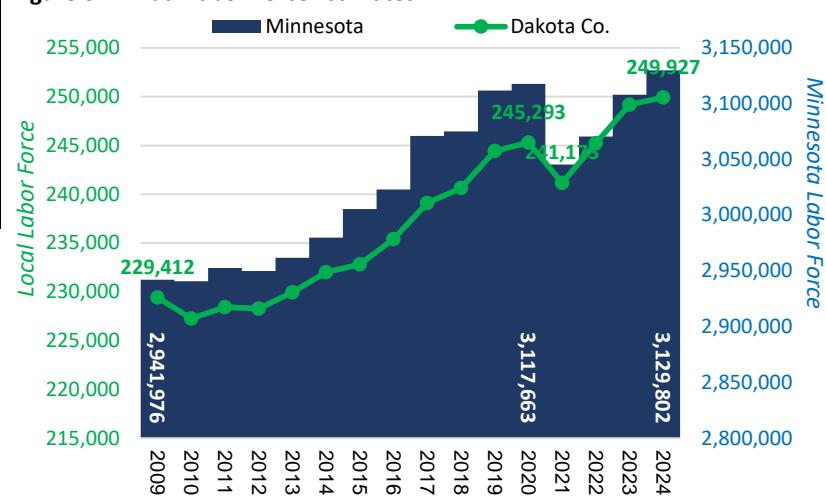
Labor Force change, 2009-2024  
20,515 workers  
8.9% increase

**2.5%** unemployment rate

2.8% state

**6,248** unemployed workers

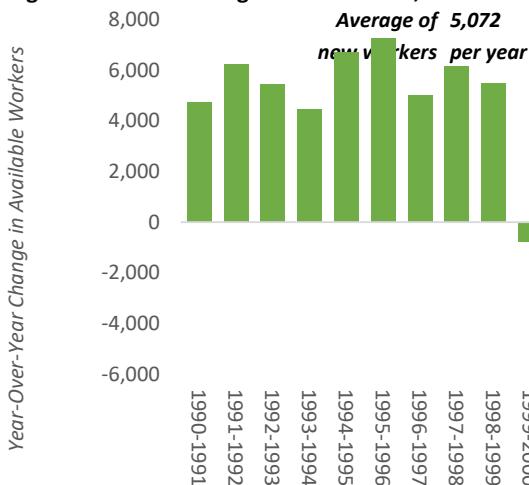
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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

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



Dakota Co.

Average of 1,008 new workers per year

Average of 1,803 new workers per year

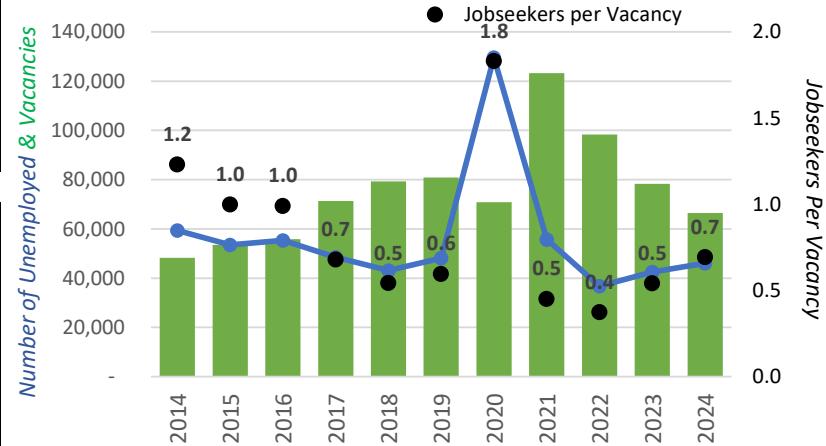
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	35,161	36,968
25 to 54 years	162,194	181,764
55 to 64 years	43,155	40,483
65 years & over	15,284	16,705
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>255,794</b>	<b>275,920</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 Twin Cities 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



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

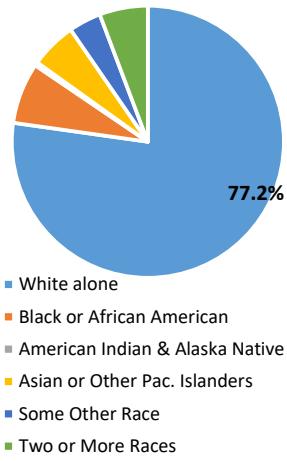
Dakota Co. had a higher labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Dakota Co. is more racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

	Dakota 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>248,919</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>129,474</b>	<b>119,277</b>
16 to 19 years	11,957	55.6%	8.8%	52.7%	9.9%	5,880	6,082
20 to 24 years	20,559	83.8%	6.2%	83.4%	6.5%	10,453	10,112
25 to 44 years	106,814	89.8%	3.4%	88.7%	3.5%	56,249	50,597
45 to 54 years	50,533	91.2%	1.9%	87.8%	2.9%	26,383	24,158
55 to 64 years	45,474	77.2%	3.6%	72.8%	3.0%	23,512	21,972
65 to 74 years	11,846	28.8%	3.4%	27.8%	3.4%	6,185	5,646
75 years & over	1,527	5.7%	1.2%	6.6%	3.1%	812	710
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	192,068	70.0%	3.1%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	18,059	79.4%	6.3%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	1,030	76.9%	4.8%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	13,666	76.4%	3.2%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	9,568	79.0%	4.6%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	14,306	76.5%	6.4%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	19,879	78.7%	6.1%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	13,625	60.4%	10.5%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	202,896	87.0%	3.1%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	7,660	76.4%	4.5%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	32,433	78.9%	2.5%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	63,915	87.7%	3.4%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	98,937	90.6%	2.0%	90.5%	2.0%		

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

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023

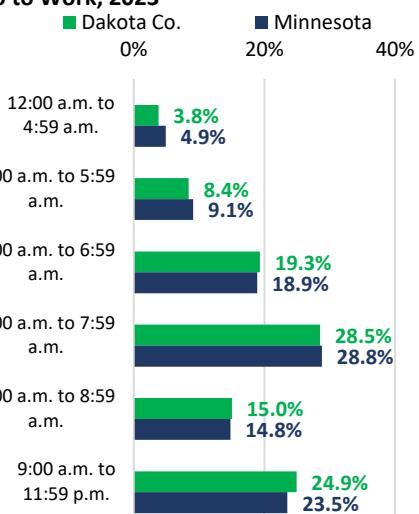


A smaller percentage of workers in Dakota Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Dakota Co. also had a longer average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Dakota Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	233,371	99.0%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	136,015	57.7%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	97,356	41.3%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	2,357	1.0%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	181,511	77.0%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	4,007	1.7%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	5,657	2.4%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	44,553	18.9%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	29,702	12.6%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	67,654	28.7%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	57,518	24.4%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	56,103	23.8%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	15,558	6.6%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	9,193	3.9%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>24.1 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

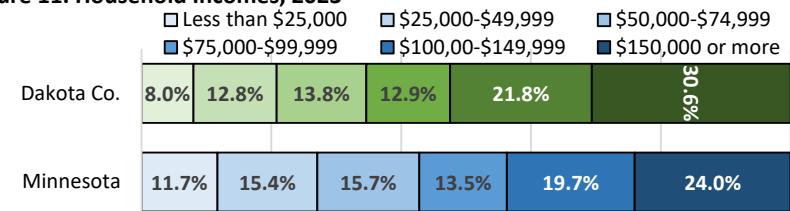
Dakota Co.

### INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Dakota Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Dakota Co. had the 5th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$105,212</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$130,111</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$50,901</b>
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. Dakota Co. had a higher cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$19.18 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$24.3 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
Dakota Co.	\$39,902	\$19.18	\$0	\$417	\$158	\$1,345	\$558	\$408	\$439
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	
Dakota Co.	\$75,803	\$24.30	\$658	\$949	\$567	\$1,669	\$992	\$606	\$876
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

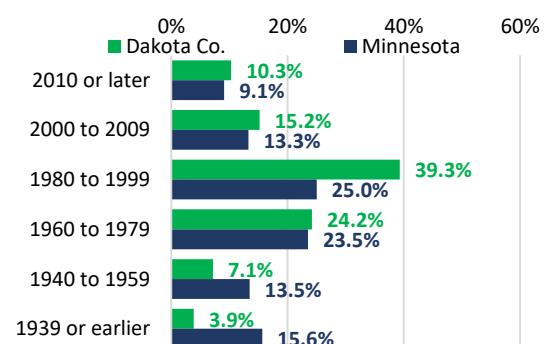
Dakota Co. had a higher median house value than the state, having the 5th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Dakota Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

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

	Dakota Co.		Minnesota	
	Total	Percent	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,327</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
Less than \$50,000	3,444	2.7%	4.0%	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,999	1.5%	4.0%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,170	1.7%	6.2%	
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5,313	4.1%	8.9%	
\$200,000 to \$299,999	30,579	23.6%	25.7%	
\$300,000 to \$499,999	58,620	45.3%	33.6%	
\$500,000 or more	27,202	21.0%	17.5%	
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$362,100</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>	

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$2,074</b>
state	\$1,890

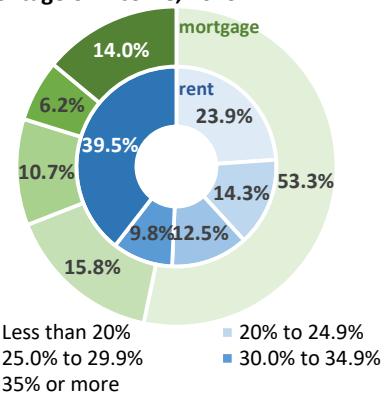
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>20.2%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$1,497</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>49.3%</b>
state	47.2%

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

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



## OCCUPATIONS

At \$28.48 in 2024, wages were higher in Region 11 than the state. Overall, Region 11 had the highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$63.62) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$16.93) (see Table 11).

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

Occupational Group	Region 11				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>\$28.48</b>	<b>1,762,280</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$63.62	130,080	7.4%	1.1	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$41.34	151,080	8.6%	1.2	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$51.35	71,750	4.1%	1.2	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$47.56	40,480	2.3%	1.2	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$40.63	18,450	1.0%	1.0	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.01	34,680	2.0%	1.0	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$53.02	16,390	0.9%	1.3	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.44	98,540	5.6%	1.0	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$30.28	24,600	1.4%	1.1	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$48.50	105,470	6.0%	0.9	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.64	110,250	6.3%	1.0	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$29.42	27,730	1.6%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$16.93	141,110	8.0%	1.0	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$19.44	46,640	2.6%	0.9	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.89	39,470	2.2%	1.0	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$21.11	143,270	8.1%	1.0	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$24.71	204,770	11.6%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.71	930	0.1%	0.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$38.33	59,580	3.4%	0.9	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$31.26	56,240	3.2%	0.9	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$24.01	110,390	6.3%	0.9	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$23.20	130,360	7.4%	0.9	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

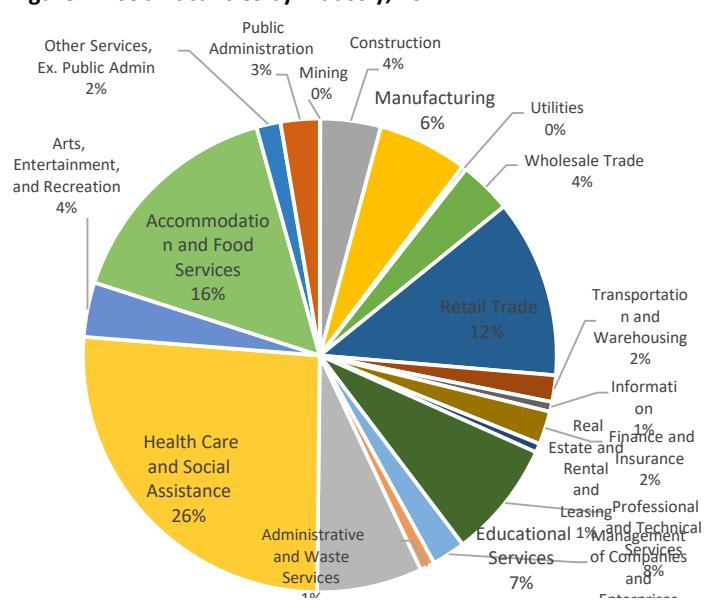
## JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Dakota Co. is a part of the Twin Cities planning region. There were 66411 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. Twin Cities Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024**

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>66,411</b>	<b>\$22.30</b>
Management	4,460	\$42.50
Business & Financial Operations	3,525	\$33.68
Computer & Mathematical	2,465	\$52.17
Architecture & Engineering	1,449	\$42.92
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	586	\$31.86
Community & Social Service	2,687	\$23.98
Education, Training & Library	3,109	\$23.24
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	7,696	\$35.69
Healthcare Support	4,904	\$18.91
Protective Service	769	\$17.16
Food Preparation & Serving Related	10,433	\$15.83
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,016	\$17.91
Personal Care & Service	2,189	\$17.36
Sales & Related	7,399	\$18.30
Office & Administrative Support	2,971	\$19.96
Construction & Extraction	779	\$25.58
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2,284	\$24.75
Production	2,014	\$23.61
Transportation & Material Moving	3,175	\$19.91

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



*Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024*

## OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Twin Cities 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 \$35,514/yr	Nursing Assistants \$46,080/yr	Registered Nurses \$103,847/yr	Software Developers \$131,741/yr
Retail Salespersons \$36,304/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$64,047/yr	Dental Hygienists \$97,477/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$81,809/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$49,374/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$53,952/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$69,564/yr	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists \$83,647/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$45,909/yr	Medical Assistants \$52,350/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$83,266/yr	Project Management Specialists \$101,522/yr
Cashiers \$34,855/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$61,708/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$66,277/yr	General and Operations Managers \$106,095/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$39,688/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$54,327/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$48,503/yr	Management Analysts \$100,289/yr
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$47,597/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$58,858/yr	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and \$74,713/yr	Financial Managers \$165,961/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$49,788/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$66,022/yr	Surgical Technologists \$80,249/yr	Industrial Engineers \$103,880/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$39,304/yr	Machinists \$63,126/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$95,455/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,327/yr
Office Clerks, General \$48,707/yr	Pharmacy Technicians \$49,721/yr	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers \$42,360/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$79,466/yr

*Source: DEED Occupations in Demand*

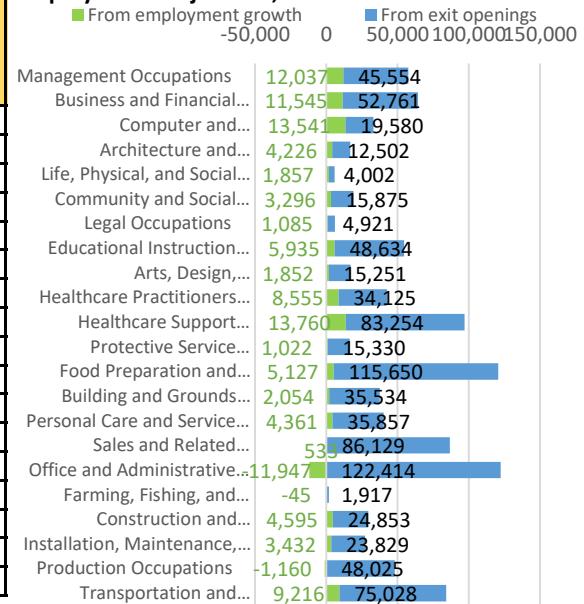
Dakota Co. is a part of the Twin Cities planning region, which is projected to see a 4.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Twin Cities Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	1,927,280	2,022,157	4.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	4,299	4,497	4.6%
Utilities	5,966	5,918	-0.8%
Construction	76,624	81,639	6.5%
Manufacturing	175,365	178,983	2.1%
Wholesale Trade	88,950	95,889	7.8%
Retail Trade	155,453	153,000	-1.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	69,046	74,385	7.7%
Information	33,947	36,573	7.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	152,950	158,767	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	219,218	239,258	9.1%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	103,764	106,039	2.2%
Educational Services	140,511	146,053	3.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	274,229	299,555	9.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	159,585	169,263	6.1%
Other Services	70,450	72,988	3.6%
Public Administration	107,703	109,441	1.6%

*Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook*

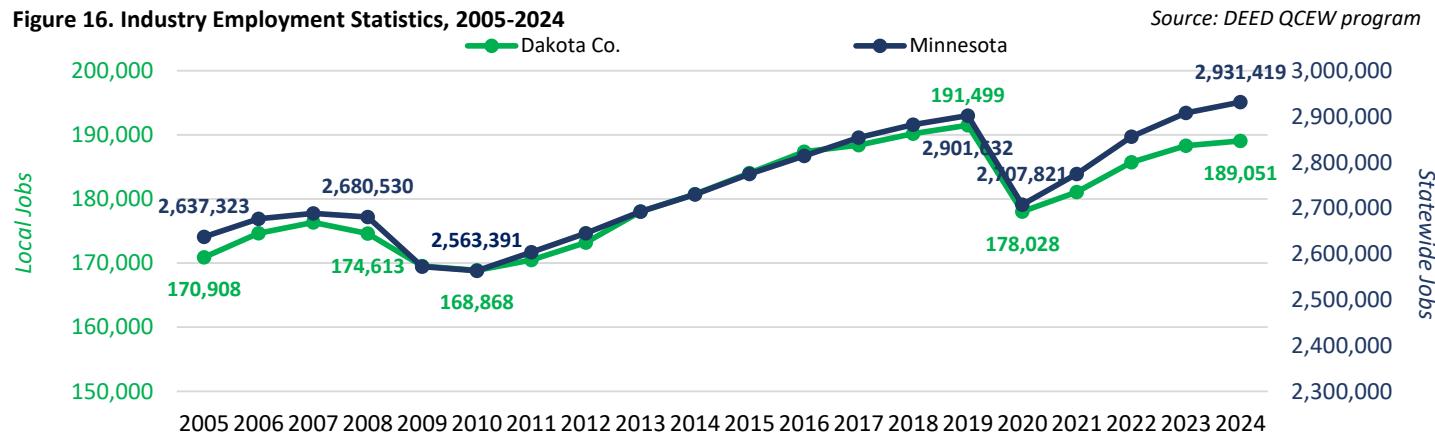
Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



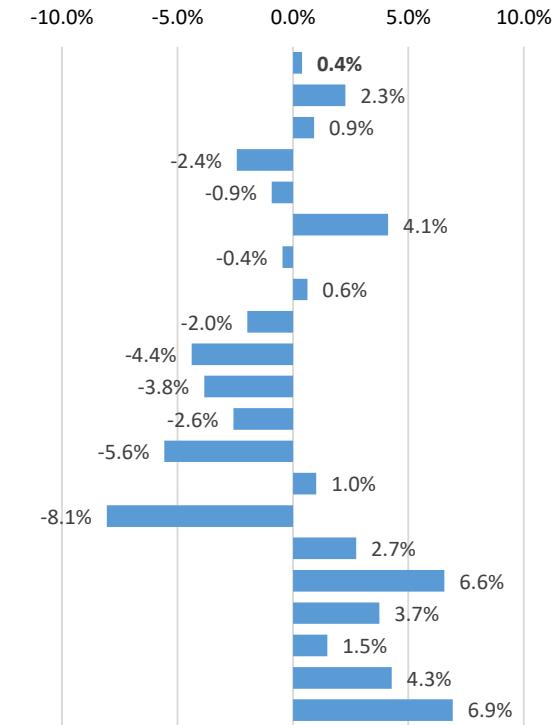
**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Dakota Co. had the 3rd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Dakota Co. was the 48th fastest growing in the past year and the 42nd fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Dakota Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

<b>11,921</b>	business establishments	<b>\$72,816</b>	annual average wage
<b>189,051</b>	jobs	<b>\$13,765,949,057</b>	total industry payroll
<i>Job change, 2019-2024</i>			<i>11,023 jobs 6.2% increase</i>

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

	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>189,051</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$72,816</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	1,125	0.6%	\$43,014
Mining	110	0.1%	\$119,820
Construction	10,526	5.6%	\$110,757
Manufacturing	19,590	10.4%	\$89,850
Utilities	555	0.3%	\$155,036
Wholesale Trade	8,910	4.7%	\$94,159
Retail Trade	24,004	12.7%	\$39,600
Transportation & Warehousing	14,478	7.7%	\$74,217
Information	5,054	2.7%	\$114,496
Finance & Insurance	9,220	4.9%	\$115,851
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,201	1.2%	\$69,426
Professional & Technical Services	7,684	4.1%	\$109,105
Management of Companies	4,484	2.4%	\$160,983
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	7,753	4.1%	\$52,153
Educational Services	14,250	7.5%	\$61,260
Health Care & Social Assistance	25,838	13.7%	\$57,205
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,990	2.1%	\$123,405
Accommodation & Food Services	15,550	8.2%	\$26,527
Other Services	7,424	3.9%	\$46,077
Public Administration	6,302	3.3%	\$73,970

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

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

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

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