# EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **COUNTY PROFILE**

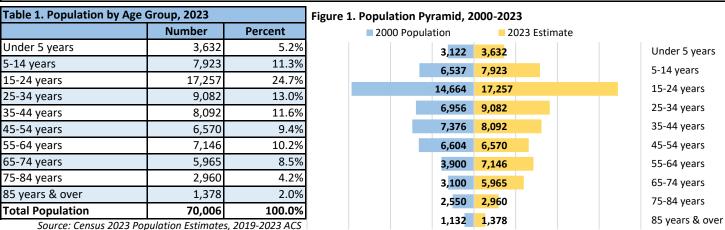
# **Blue Earth Co.**

Blue Earth Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 9, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.

### **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	70,006 people		
Population change,	894 people	Median Age:	<b>31.5</b> years
2020-2023	1.3% increase	state:	38.6 years

Blue Earth Co. is the 13th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 27th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Blue Earth 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).



Blue Earth Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Blue Earth 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, 2020-2023   Total April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023											
	Population	Natural	Vital E	vents	Net Migration						
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic				
Blue Earth Co.	892	411	2,313	1,902	452	597	-145				
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352 34,624 -45,976						

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

Figure 2. Place of Birth for

Compared to the state, Blue Earth Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Blue Earth 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	Blue Ea	arth Co.	Change 2	013-2023	Minnesota			
Population, 2023	Number	Percent <b>Number Percent</b>				Change		
Foreign-born Population	4,049	5.8%	1,522	60.2%	8.6%	24.7%		
Europe	339	8.4%	5	1.5%	8.8%	-3.4%		
Asia	1,407	34.7%	249	21.5%	35.7%	18.1%		
Africa	1,563	38.6%	834	114.4%	28.3%	78.8%		
Oceania	3	0.1%	-21	-87.5%	0.4%	5.4%		
Americas:	737	18.2%	455	161.3%	26.7%	8.7%		
Latin America	608	15.0%	361	146.2%	24.2%	9.7%		
Northern America	129	3.2%	94	268.6%	2.5%	0.4%		



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

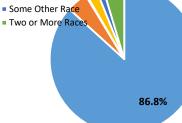


### **COUNTY PROFILE**

#### Blue Earth Co.

Blue Earth Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population increased and 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



	В	lue Earth (	Co.	Minr	nesota
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
Total	69,386	100.0%	7.6%	100.0%	6.8%
White	60,199	86.8%	0.8%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	3,177	4.6%	62.8%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	144	0.2%	-24.2%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,636	2.4%	31.8%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	1,018	1.5%	317.2%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	3,212	4.6%	181.8%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,252	4.7%	89.4%	6.2%	37.5%

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

# POPULATION PROJECTIONS

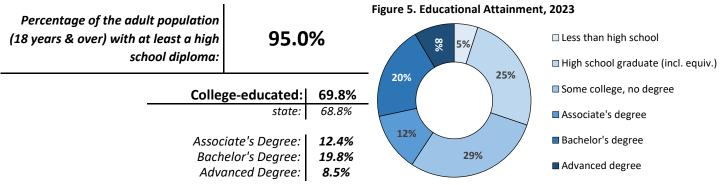
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Blue Earth Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to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

					Figure 4. P	ojections by	y Age Group,	2025-
Table 5. Population Project	tions by Age Gro	up, 2025-2035			2035			
	2025	2035	Numeric	Percent	90,000	72,082	77,777	
Blue Earth Co.	Projection	Projection	Change	Change	80,000			85 years & over
Under 5 years	3,709	3,934	225	6.1%	,			■ 75-84 years
5-14 years	7,562	7,665	103	1.4%	70,000			□ 65-74 years
15-24 years	18,552	19,930	1,378	7.4%	60,000			
25-34 years	8,879	9,962	1,083	12.2%	50,000			□ 55-64 years
35-44 years	8,224	7,927	-297	-3.6%	40,000			45-54 years
45-54 years	6,952	8,425	1,473	21.2%	,			■ 35-44 years
55-64 years	6,729	6,963	234	3.5%	30,000			25-34 years
65-74 years	6,356	5,966	-390	-6.1%	20,000			15-24 years
75-84 years	3,580	4,983	1,403	39.2%	10,000			□ 5-14 years
85 years & over	1,539	2,022	483	31.4%	1			Under 5 years
Total Population	72,082	77,777	5,695	7.9%	2	025 Projectio	n2035 Projectio	on

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

# **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Blue Earth 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. Blue Earth 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.



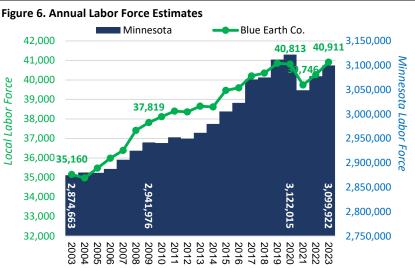
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

### **COUNTY PROFILE**

# LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.3%, Blue Earth Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Blue Earth Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 2.8% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Blue Earth Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.





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

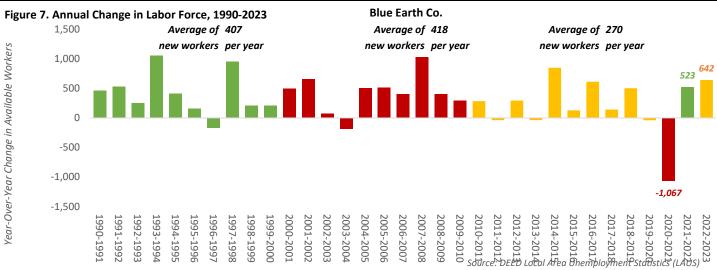
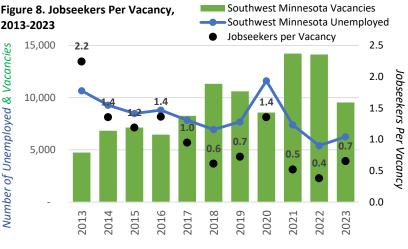


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection					
Projections, 2025-2035	ns, 2025-2035 2025					
16 to 24 years	12,694	13,811				
25 to 54 years	21,232	23,204				
55 to 64 years	5,022	5,196				
65 years & over	2,058	2,081				
Total Labor Force	41,006	44,293				

#### 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 2023, job vacancies in Southwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

### LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Blu	e Earth Co.		Minne	esota	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	39,790	69.7%	4.2%	68.5%	3.9%	20,800	18,977
16 to 19 years	3,426	59.8%	10.3%	52.7%	9.9%	1,410	2,014
20 to 24 years	8,403	79.8%	4.2%	83.4%	6.5%	4,168	4,240
25 to 44 years	15,153	89.0%	4.4%	88.7%	3.5%	8,296	6,854
45 to 54 years	5,626	86.4%	2.5%	87.8%	2.9%	2,926	2,698
55 to 64 years	5,286	74.6%	2.3%	72.8%	3.0%	2,775	2,512
65 to 74 years	1,590	26.9%	1.6%	27.8%	3.4%	1,013	578
75 years & over	292	6.8%	3.1%	6.6%	3.1%	212	81
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					Figure 9. La	bor Force by
White alone	34,946	69.4%	4.0%	67.5%	3.4%	Race, 2023	,
Black or African American	1,594	70.4%	5.0%	71.0%	8.4%	,	
American Indian & Alaska Native	67	72.0%	0.0%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	989	66.7%	11.8%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	748	86.6%	1.2%	75.9%	5.6%		
Гwo or More Races	1,435	70.7%	5.4%	74.2%	6.1%		<u> </u>
Hispanic or Latino	1,917	79.5%	7.5%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disabili	ity, 20 to 64 years						
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,985	54.4%	12.6%	55.3%	9.5%		87.8
Employment Characteristics by Educati	ional Attainment, 25	to 64 years					
Population, 25 to 64 years	26,055	85.1%	3.6%	84.4%	3.3%	White ald	
Less than H.S. Diploma	973	64.2%	2.8%	67.1%	4.7%		African American
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	5,267	77.7%	2.5%	76.5%	2.6%		n Indian & Alaska N
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,939	86.8%	4.7%	85.0%	3.6%	Asian or	Other Pac. Islande
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	9,873	90.8%	2.4%	90.5%	2.0%	Some Ot	her Race

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

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

	Blue Eart	h Co.	Minne	esota	Figure 10. Time	e Leaving Ho	me to
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	go to Work, 20		
Worked in state of residence	36,857	99.7%	2,870,678	97.8%	Blue Ea		■ Minnesota 0% 40%
Worked in county of residence	28,576	77.3%	1,984,232	67.6%	0	70 20	J70 4070
Worked out of county of residence	8,281	22.4%	886,447	30.2%	12:00 a.m. to		
Worked outside state of residence	111	0.3%	64,576	2.2%	4:59 a.m.	4.7%	
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				-		-11370	
Car, truck, or van	31,719	85.8%	2,286,563	77.9%	5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	8.3%	
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	665	1.8%	61,640	2.1%	a.m.	9.1%	
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,479	4.0%	120,345	4.1%	6:00 a.m. to 6:59	1	5.3%
Worked at home	3,068	8.3%	463,770	15.8%	a.m.		18.9%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				-	7:00 a.m. to 7:59		
Less than 10 minutes	8,798	23.8%	478,446	16.3%			33.9%
10 to 19 minutes	17,745	48.0%	924,605	31.5%			20.0%
20 to 29 minutes	5,360	14.5%	651,626	22.2%		12.	9%
30 to 44 minutes	2,847	7.7%	551,828	18.8%	a.m.	1	4.8%
45 to 59 minutes	887	2.4%	176,115	6.0%	9:00 a.m. to		
60 or more minutes	1,331	3.6%	149,698	5.1%	11:59 p.m.		25.0% 23.5%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	17.1	minutes	23.1	minutes	I		

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

# **INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Blue Earth Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Blue Earth Co. had the 37th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	<b>\$72,623</b> \$87,556				hold Incomes, 2023 □ Less than \$25,000 □ \$75,000-\$99,999			0 🛛 \$25,000-\$49,9						
Median Family Income	\$95,459	Blue Earth Co.	15.8%		18.6%		<b>16.8%</b>				■ \$150,000 or mor 17.9% 5 %			
state	\$111,492											~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		
Per Capita Income	. ,	Minnesota	11.7%	15.49	% 1!	5.7%	13.5	%	19.	7%	2	24.0%		
state Source: 2019-2023 American C	\$46,957 ommunity Survey			Sou	ırce: 201	9-2023	Americo	n Com	nmuni	ty Survey	∕ 5-Ye	ar Estimates		

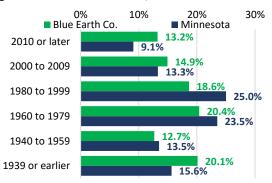
The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Blue Earth Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.81 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.41 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost o	f Living Estimate	es, <b>2023</b>									
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage	Monthly Costs								
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living	, 0	Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes		
Blue Earth Co.	\$30,805	\$14.81	\$0	\$407	\$161	\$870	\$505	\$306	\$318		
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375		
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1	Family Yearly	Hourly Wage	Monthly Costs								
working full-time, 1 part- time), 1 child	Cost of Living	, 0	Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes		
Blue Earth Co.	\$57,454	\$18.41	\$354	\$929	\$576	\$1,090	\$813	\$483	\$543		
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739		
	Source: DEED Cost of Living tool										

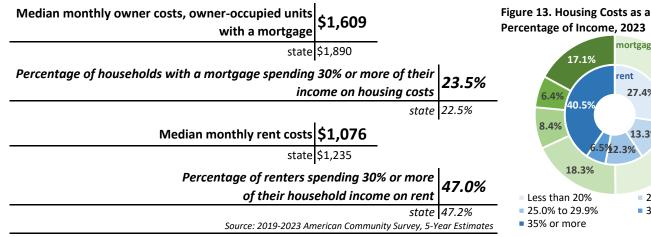
Blue Earth Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 26th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Blue Earth Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

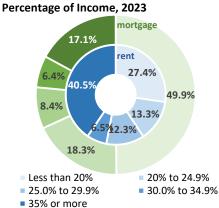
Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-	Blue Eart	h Co.	Minnesota
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	16,787	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	1,019	6.1%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	557	3.3%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,576	9.4%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,377	14.2%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,374	32.0%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,236	25.2%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	1,648	9.8%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$252,8	800	\$305,500

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



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





### **OCCUPATIONS**

At \$23.24 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 9 than the state. Overall, Region 9 had the 6th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.87) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.69) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 20	24						
		Regio	n 9		Stat	e of Minnes	sota
Occupational Group	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	\$23.24	100,990	100.0%	1.0	\$25.22	2,881,100	100.0%
Management	\$47.87	5,590	5.5%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.68	4,130	4.1%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$38.68	1,130	1.1%	0.3	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.82	1,690	1.7%	0.8	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$33.51	810	0.8%	0.8	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$27.25	2,620	2.6%	1.3	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$38.07	380	0.4%	0.6	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$30.13	6,690	6.6%	1.2	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.48	1,050	1.0%	0.8	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$40.45	5,790	5.7%	0.9	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.45	6,120	6.1%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$29.43	1,430	1.4%	0.9	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.69	9,050	9.0%	1.1	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.19	2,980	3.0%	1.1	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.51	2,150	2.1%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.55	8,630	8.5%	1.0	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.79	11,510	11.4%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.13	240	0.2%	1.9	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.78	4,050	4.0%	1.0	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.11	4,660	4.6%	1.3	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.68	10,680	10.6%	1.5	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.90	9,640	9.5%	1.2	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

#### Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

### **JOB VACANCY SURVEY**

Blue Earth Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9546 job vacancies posted by employers in 2023, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023			Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023				
	Number of	Wage	Other Agriculture,				
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer	Accommodatio Services, Ex. Public - Forestry, Fishing				
Total, All Occupations	9,546	\$19.74	n and Food				
Management	202	\$32.04	Services 5%				
Business & Financial Operations	520	\$25.88	10%				
Computer & Mathematical	100	\$37.50	Arts,				
Architecture & Engineering	96	\$28.56	Entertainmen t, and				
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	69	\$24.18	Recreation				
Community & Social Service	258	\$23.46	2% Utilities				
Education, Training & Library	453	\$18.35	10% Wholesale Trade				
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	738	\$31.97	4%				
Healthcare Support	508	\$16.76					
Protective Service	177	\$22.52	Health Care				
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,180	\$15.32	and Social Retail Trade				
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	432	\$16.90	Assistance 15%				
Personal Care & Service	188	\$14.60	18% Real Bstate Informati				
Sales & Related	1,164	\$15.93	and on				
Office & Administrative Support	563	\$19.27	Rental 0%				
Construction & Extraction	431	\$25.04	AdMinistgetivent Educational and From Robert Standard Brokers Leasin Instructional Ins				
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	653	\$22.92	Servised g Warehousing				
Production	540	\$18.93	F_MU/i				
Transportation & Material Moving	773	\$21.15	Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023				

# **OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

Table 13. Southwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2023								
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher					
Retail Salespersons	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	Accountants and Auditors					
\$34,798/yr	\$54,491/yr	\$85,138/yr	\$69,245/yr					
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	Nursing Assistants	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	General and Operations Managers					
\$36,495/yr	\$39,764/yr	\$74,684/yr	\$82,482/yr					
Fast Food and Counter Workers	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Dental Hygienists	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education					
\$30,228/yr	\$58,499/yr	\$84,870/yr	\$65,364/yr					
Cashiers	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical					
\$30,595/yr	\$64,265/yr	\$60,049/yr	\$66,349/yr					
Teaching Assistants, Except	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Radiologic Technologists and		Substitute Teachers, Short-Term					
Postsecondary \$38,031/yr	Engine Specialists \$59,444/yr	Technicians \$78,236/yr	\$52,112/yr					
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	Agricultural Technicians	Financial Managers					
\$45,427/yr	\$47,963/yr	\$50,274/yr	\$119,560/yr					
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping	Industrial Engineers					
\$37,379/yr	\$61,794/yr	\$49,828/yr	\$90,455/yr					
Construction Laborers	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Computer Systems Analysts					
\$49,744/yr	\$49,947/yr	\$71,227/yr	\$96,291/yr					
Bus Drivers, School	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Physical Therapist Assistants	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical					
\$49,228/yr	\$50,024/yr	\$62,988/yr	\$66,534/yr					
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education					
\$43,003/yr	\$60,689/yr	\$40,453/yr	\$37,747/yr					
			Source: DEED Occupations in Demand					

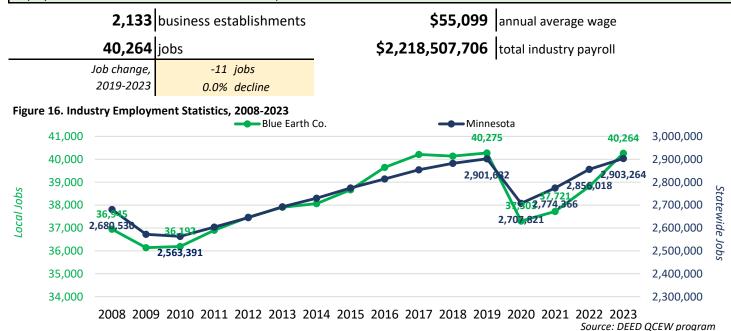
Blue Earth Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment P	Figure 15. Regional Occupational						
	Estimated	Projected	Percent	Employment Projections, 2022-2032 From employment growth -5,000 0 5,000 10,000 15,00			
	Employment	Employ-	Change	Management Occupations	579	, ,	5,000
Southwest Planning Region	2022		2022-2032	Business and Financial	304	2,685	
Total, All Industries	202,214	207,878	2.8%	Computer and	154	479	
Natural Resources & Mining	5,523	5,777	4.6%	Architecture and	243	852	
Utilities	690	690	0.0%	Life, Physical, and Social	96	365	
Construction	7,679	8,252	7.5%	Community and Social		1,841	
Manufacturing	32,192	33,537	4.2%	Legal Occupations	33	224	
Wholesale Trade	8,001	8,116	1.4%	Educational Instruction and	292	5,689	
Retail Trade	19,409	19,084	-1.7%	Arts, Design, Healthcare Practitioners	47 638	1,841 3,403	
Transportation & Warehousing	6,297	6,810	8.1%	Healthcare Support		8,057	
Information	2,093	2,046	-2.2%	Protective Service	60	1,233	
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,227	8,375	1.8%	Food Preparation and	451	12,217	
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani		5,985	8.0%	Building and Grounds		4,473	
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,127	4,331	4.9%	Personal Care and Service		3,602	
Educational Services	16,065	16,116	0.3%	Sales and Related Office and Administrative		9 10,465 11,316	
Health Care & Social Assistance	28,786	30,498	5.9%	Farming, Fishing, and	/	1.771	
Leisure & Hospitality	13,625	14,377	5.5%	Construction and Extraction	529	3,584	
Other Services	7,097	7,281	2.6%	Installation, Maintenance,	592	3,584	
Public Administration	14,117	14,370	1.8%	Production Occupations	438	9,377	
<u>So</u>	urce: DEED 2022-2	2032 Employm	nent Outlook	Transportation and	1,002	10,018	

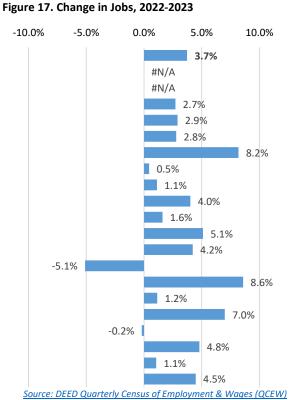
#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

# **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Blue Earth Co. had the 12th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Blue Earth Co. was the 3rd fastest growing in the past year and the 36th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Blue Earth Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.



Average Number of Table 15. Blue Earth Co. Industry Percent of Annual **Employment Statistics**, 2023 Jobs Total Jobs Wage 40.264 100.0% \$55,099 **Total, All Industries** Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt 422 1.0% \$23,320 90 Mining 0.2% \$41,269 1.924 Construction 4.8% \$74,140 4,357 10.8% \$72,840 Manufacturing Utilities 184 0.5% \$109,872 Wholesale Trade 1.149 2.9% \$85.842 **Retail Trade** 5,521 13.7% \$33,880 Transportation & Warehousing 1,624 4.0% \$53,452 Information 544 1.4% \$65,799 Finance & Insurance 1,204 3.0% \$89,727 Real Estate & Rental & Leasing 842 2.1% \$39,479 Professional & Technical Services 1,208 3.0% \$87,556 Management of Companies 149 0.4% \$109,159 Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. 1,037 2.6% \$41,673 3,754 **Educational Services** 9.3% \$59,880 Health Care & Social Assistance \$59,799 8.994 22.3% Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation 516 1.3% \$17,426 Accommodation & Food Services 3,994 9.9% \$20,231 Other Services 1,430 3.6% \$37,432 1,350 3.4% Public Administration \$69,163



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

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