

COUNTY PROFILE

# Freeborn Co.

Freeborn Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 10, which is located in the Southeast Planning Region.



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

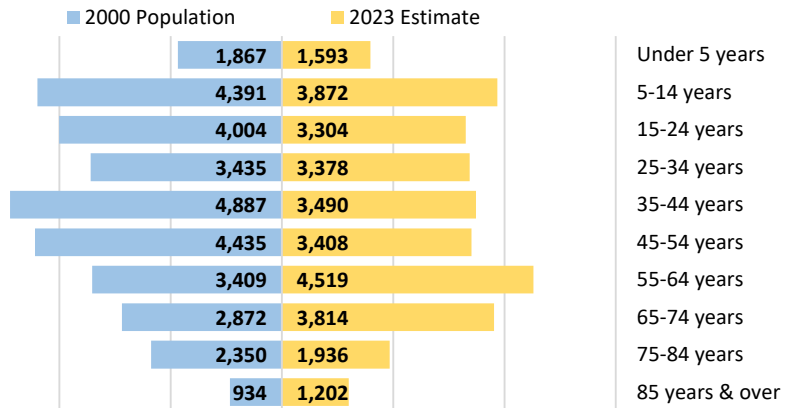
2023 population:	<b>30,515 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>43.9 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	-380 people -1.2% decline	state:	38.6 years

Freeborn Co. is the 35th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 64th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Freeborn 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).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,593	5.2%
5-14 years	3,872	12.7%
15-24 years	3,304	10.8%
25-34 years	3,378	11.1%
35-44 years	3,490	11.4%
45-54 years	3,408	11.2%
55-64 years	4,519	14.8%
65-74 years	3,814	12.5%
75-84 years	1,936	6.3%
85 years & over	1,202	3.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>30,515</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023



Freeborn Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Freeborn 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 Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Freeborn Co.	-378	-278	1,021	1,299	-110	58	-168
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

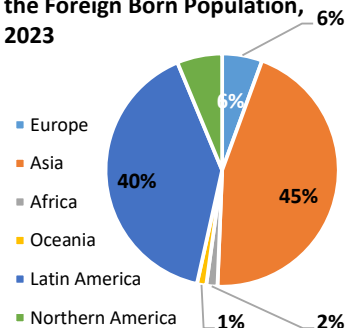
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Freeborn Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	65	5.6%	-38	-36.9%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	525	45.1%	336	177.8%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	18	1.5%	-68	-79.1%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	15	1.3%	13	650.0%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	542	46.5%	72	15.3%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	469	40.3%	17	3.8%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	73	6.3%	55	305.6%	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

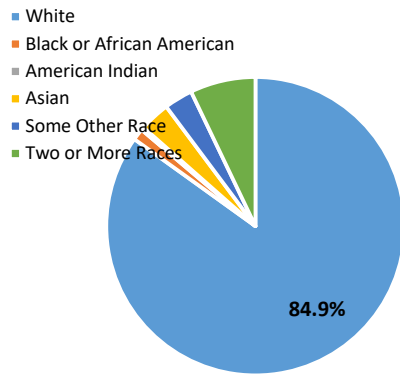


## COUNTY PROFILE

## Freeborn Co.

Freeborn 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**



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

	Freeborn Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,752</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	26,115	84.9%	-11.7%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	387	1.3%	35.8%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	99	0.3%	-16.1%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,013	3.3%	273.8%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	953	3.1%	87.2%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,185	7.1%	515.5%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,249	10.6%	16.5%	6.2%	37.5%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

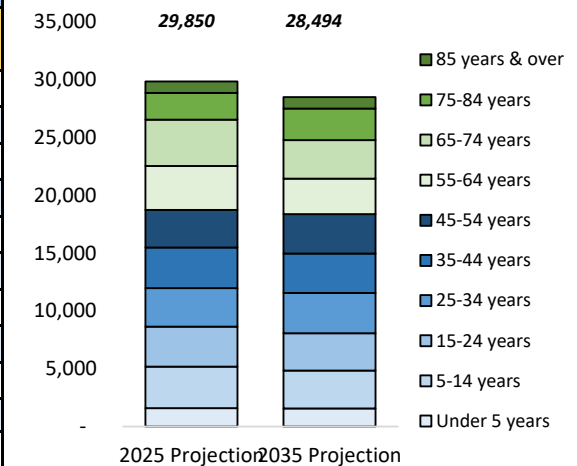
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Freeborn Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to decrease over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

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

Freeborn Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,585	1,559	-26	-1.6%
5-14 years	3,603	3,282	-321	-8.9%
15-24 years	3,466	3,225	-241	-7.0%
25-34 years	3,327	3,505	178	5.4%
35-44 years	3,515	3,409	-106	-3.0%
45-54 years	3,237	3,409	172	5.3%
55-64 years	3,819	3,066	-753	-19.7%
65-74 years	3,992	3,333	-659	-16.5%
75-84 years	2,324	2,735	411	17.7%
85 years & over	982	971	-11	-1.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>29,850</b>	<b>28,494</b>	<b>-1,356</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Freeborn 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. Freeborn 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.

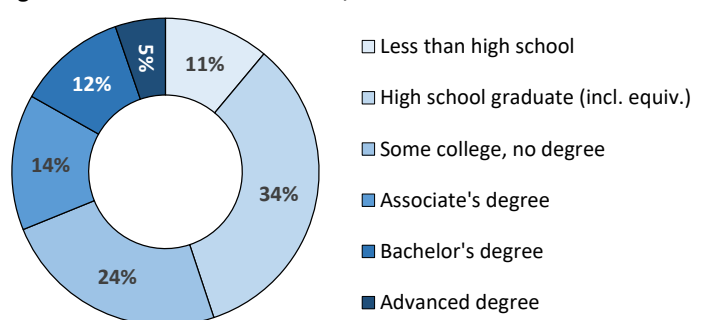
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**88.9%**

**College-educated:** 55.1%  
state: 68.8%

**Associate's Degree:** 14.3%  
**Bachelor's Degree:** 11.5%  
**Advanced Degree:** 5.3%

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



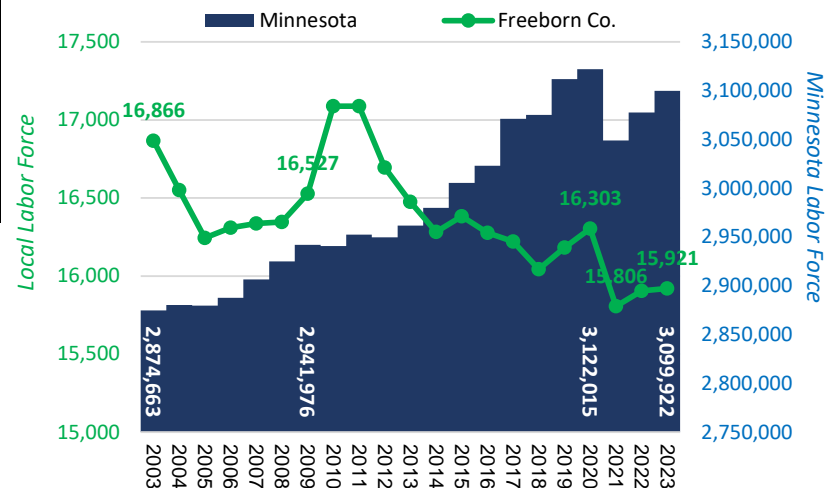
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

# LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.7%, Freeborn Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Freeborn 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 Freeborn Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>15,921</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2008-2023	-426 workers -2.6% decline
<b>2.7%</b>	unemployment rate
2.8%	state
<b>430</b>	unemployed workers

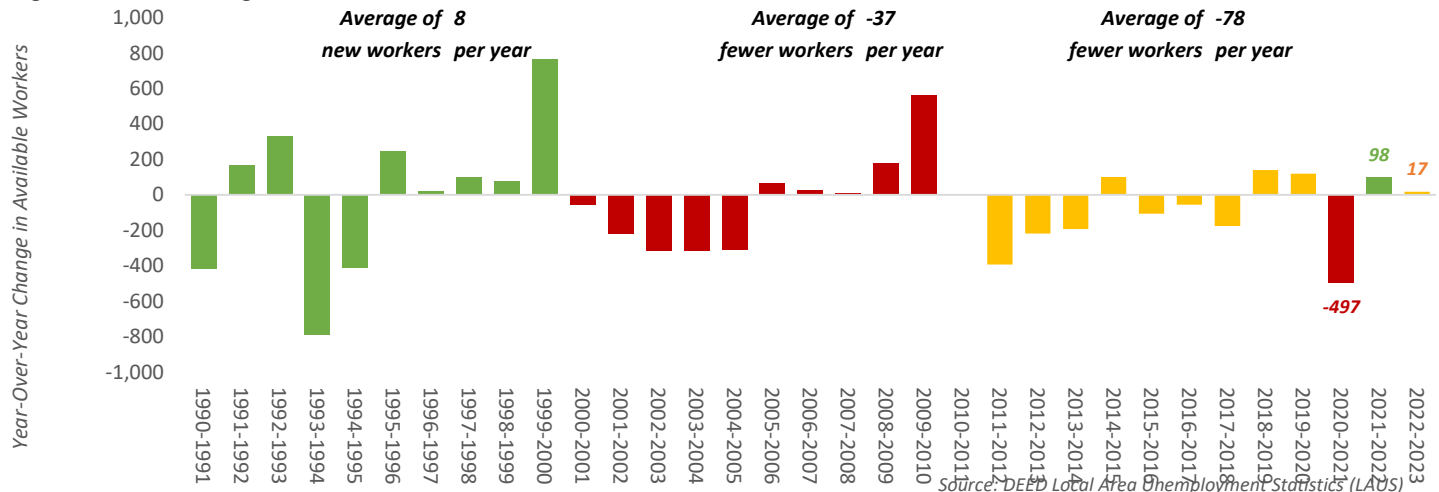
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Freeborn Co. averaged an annual loss of fewer workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Freeborn Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023



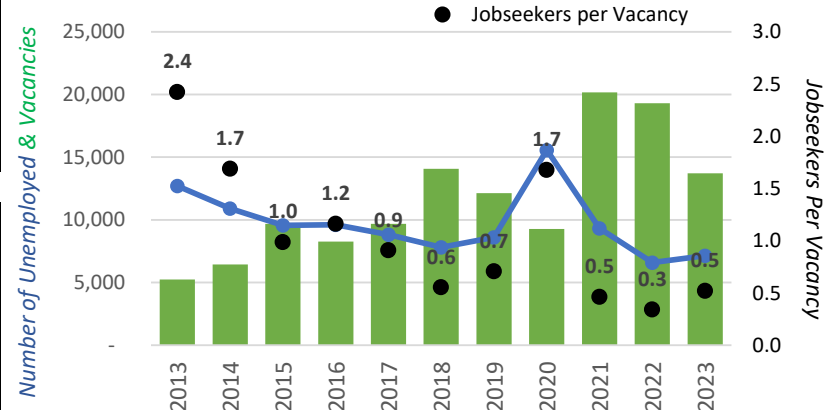
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,139	2,023
25 to 54 years	8,623	8,830
55 to 64 years	2,818	2,262
65 years & over	1,257	1,100
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>14,837</b>	<b>14,215</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 2023, job vacancies in Southeast 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, 2013-2023

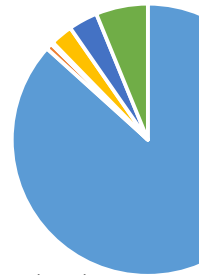
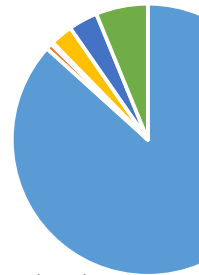


Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Freeborn Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Freeborn 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

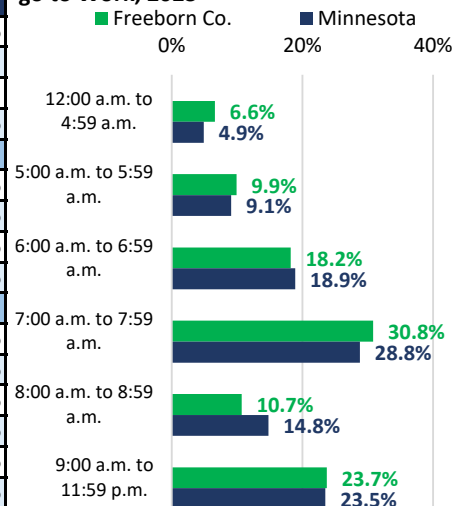
	Freeborn Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	15,360	62.1%	3.8%	68.5%	3.9%	8,001	7,366
16 to 19 years	655	49.5%	8.9%	52.7%	9.9%	294	361
20 to 24 years	1,284	85.8%	7.1%	83.4%	6.5%	615	669
25 to 44 years	5,966	86.2%	4.3%	88.7%	3.5%	3,098	2,868
45 to 54 years	2,891	84.2%	2.4%	87.8%	2.9%	1,495	1,395
55 to 64 years	3,360	73.8%	2.2%	72.8%	3.0%	1,760	1,601
65 to 74 years	1,042	27.1%	2.7%	27.8%	3.4%	653	389
75 years & over	168	5.3%	0.0%	6.6%	3.1%	86	83
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin						<b>Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023</b> 	
White alone	13,315	61.7%	3.0%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	112	37.5%	46.4%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	41	56.2%	0.0%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	408	61.9%	0.0%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	533	76.0%	1.5%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	950	66.8%	12.2%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,550	72.7%	9.0%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	913	51.0%	4.8%	55.3%	9.5%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	12,210	81.9%	3.3%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	904	62.4%	2.7%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,506	78.2%	4.7%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	5,310	85.0%	3.3%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2,501	91.6%	2.6%	90.5%	2.0%		

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

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Freeborn Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	13,866	95.4%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	10,858	74.7%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	3,009	20.7%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	669	4.6%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	12,849	88.4%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	15	0.1%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	581	4.0%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	1,090	7.5%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	3,823	26.3%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	5,102	35.1%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	2,355	16.2%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,890	13.0%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	465	3.2%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	887	6.1%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>20.5 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

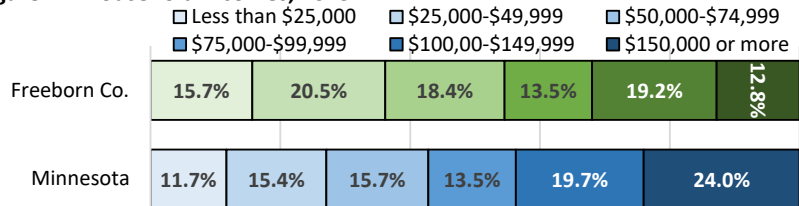
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Freeborn Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Freeborn Co. had the 67th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$69,012</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$87,236</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$38,696</b>
state	\$46,957

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



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

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Freeborn Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.8 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.98 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Freeborn Co.	\$28,703	\$13.80	\$0	\$411	\$161	\$675	\$588	\$260	\$297
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375
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	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Freeborn Co.	\$59,220	\$18.98	\$469	\$937	\$576	\$902	\$1,022	\$440	\$589
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

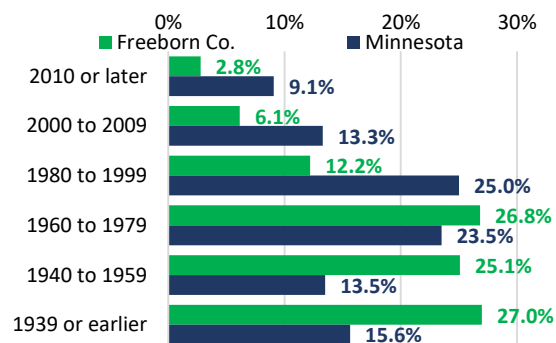
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Freeborn Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 66th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Freeborn 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	Freeborn Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,221</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	725	7.1%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,786	17.5%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,981	19.4%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,907	18.7%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,004	19.6%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,387	13.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	431	4.2%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$164,900</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

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

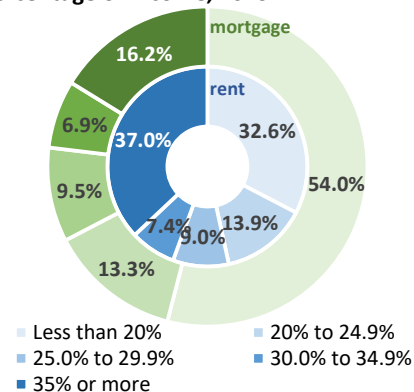
Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,305</b>
state	\$1,890
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
state	22.5%
<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$837</b>
state	\$1,235
<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>44.4%</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 \$24.26 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 10 than the state. Overall, Region 10 had the 2nd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$51.51) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.57) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 10				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>\$24.26</b>	<b>240,340</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$25.22</b>	<b>2,881,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$51.51	13,250	5.5%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$37.97	9,740	4.1%	0.6	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$50.87	5,270	2.2%	0.6	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.43	3,540	1.5%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$38.64	2,120	0.9%	0.9	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$30.48	4,670	1.9%	1.0	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$43.12	690	0.3%	0.4	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.42	14,670	6.1%	1.1	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$26.08	1,990	0.8%	0.7	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$48.05	29,150	12.1%	1.9	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.85	14,270	5.9%	1.0	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$28.97	3,950	1.6%	1.0	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.57	20,590	8.6%	1.1	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.08	6,760	2.8%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.17	4,830	2.0%	1.0	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.36	18,280	7.6%	0.9	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.45	27,760	11.6%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$20.01	320	0.1%	1.1	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.88	8,370	3.5%	0.9	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.53	8,550	3.6%	1.0	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$22.72	22,500	9.4%	1.3	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.01	19,080	7.9%	1.0	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

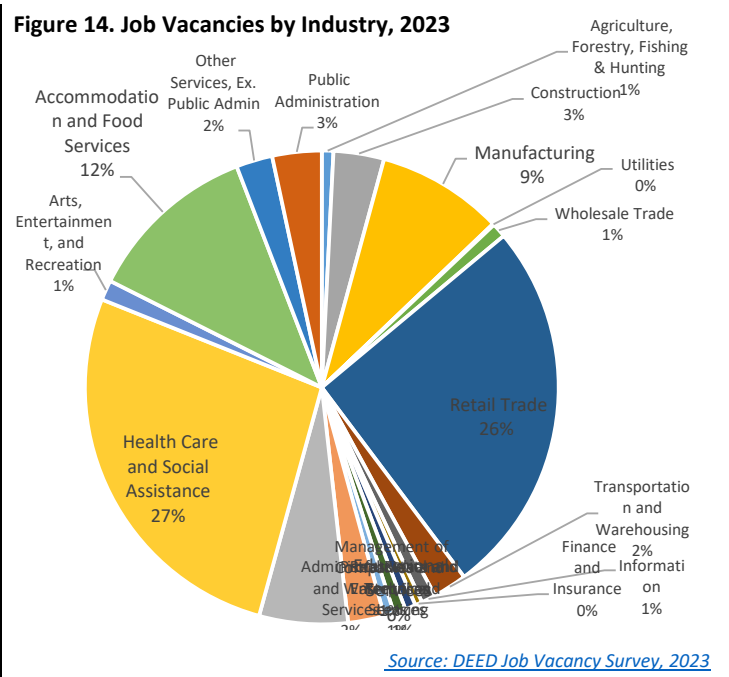
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Freeborn Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region. There were 13711 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. Southeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>13,711</b>	<b>\$18.22</b>
Management	212	\$37.73
Business & Financial Operations	467	\$25.49
Computer & Mathematical	97	\$37.67
Architecture & Engineering	297	\$27.42
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	171	\$30.13
Community & Social Service	608	\$21.43
Education, Training & Library	418	\$19.67
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	964	\$33.92
Healthcare Support	1,534	\$16.49
Protective Service	192	\$16.29
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,856	\$14.91
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	314	\$19.06
Personal Care & Service	455	\$14.98
Sales & Related	2,426	\$13.96
Office & Administrative Support	548	\$18.66
Construction & Extraction	160	\$23.33
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	732	\$21.35
Production	690	\$19.95
Transportation & Material Moving	1,108	\$20.14



## OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southeast Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2023

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$35,784/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$60,838/yr	Registered Nurses \$100,239/yr	General and Operations Managers \$83,723/yr
Retail Salespersons \$34,625/yr	Nursing Assistants \$39,647/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$79,616/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$64,771/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,144/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$61,677/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$80,540/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$67,707/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$40,675/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,472/yr	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers \$102,982/yr	Software Developers \$130,807/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,875/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,912/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$78,124/yr	Training and Development Specialists \$78,978/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,170/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,598/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$61,057/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$77,799/yr
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$44,636/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$52,564/yr	Surgical Technologists \$78,775/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$125,558/yr
Light Truck Drivers \$45,790/yr	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists \$37,408/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$73,049/yr	Industrial Engineers \$86,149/yr
Cashiers \$31,365/yr	Electricians \$74,834/yr	Dental Hygienists \$85,161/yr	Physician Assistants \$134,877/yr
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators \$43,860/yr	Machinists \$59,112/yr	Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$58,074/yr	Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists \$85,432/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Freeborn Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region, which is projected to see a 4.5% 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

	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Southeast Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>270,975</b>	<b>283,255</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	3,474	3,657	5.3%
Utilities	1,211	1,212	0.1%
Construction	9,574	10,360	8.2%
Manufacturing	36,161	37,414	3.5%
Wholesale Trade	7,317	7,736	5.7%
Retail Trade	26,514	26,404	-0.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,187	7,827	8.9%
Information	2,802	2,782	-0.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	6,243	6,457	3.4%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	8,457	9,278	9.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	7,883	8,597	9.1%
Educational Services	20,296	20,531	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,729	71,175	8.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	22,983	24,366	6.0%
Other Services	8,780	9,078	3.4%
Public Administration	15,203	15,540	2.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032

