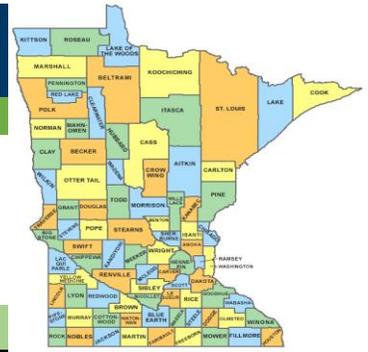


COUNTY PROFILE

Becker Co.

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



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2024 population:	35,444 people	Median Age:	43.2 years
Population change, 2020-2024	261 people 0.7% increase	state:	38.6 years

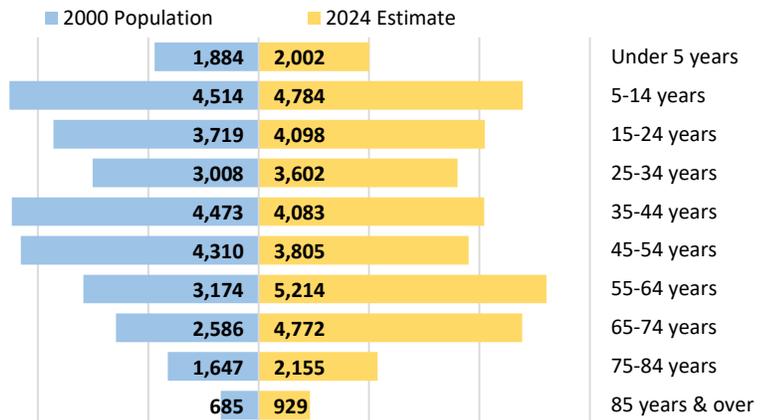
Becker Co. is the 31st largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 44th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Becker Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The 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	2,002	5.6%
5-14 years	4,784	13.5%
15-24 years	4,098	11.6%
25-34 years	3,602	10.2%
35-44 years	4,083	11.5%
45-54 years	3,805	10.7%
55-64 years	5,214	14.7%
65-74 years	4,772	13.5%
75-84 years	2,155	6.1%
85 years & over	929	2.6%
Total Population	35,444	100.0%

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Becker Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Becker 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
Becker Co.	262	-212	1,484	1,696	471	65	406
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

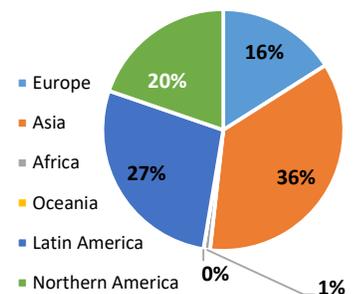
Compared to the state, Becker Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Becker Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

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

	Becker Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	456	1.3%	-17	-3.6%	8.6%	24.7%
Europe	73	16.0%	-73	-50.0%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	163	35.7%	32	24.4%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	4	0.9%	0	0.0%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	0	0.0%	-1	-100.0%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	216	47.4%	25	13.1%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	126	27.6%	76	152.0%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	90	19.7%	-51	-36.2%	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

Becker Co.

Becker 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

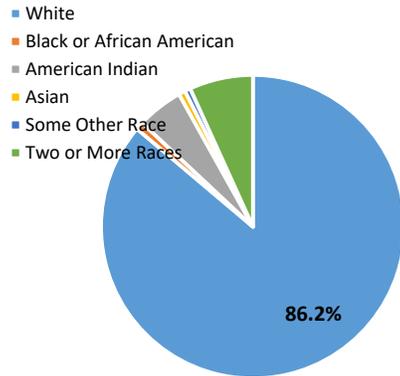


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Becker Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
Total	35,260	100.0%	7.5%	100.0%	6.8%
White	30,380	86.2%	5.2%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	293	0.8%	154.8%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,732	4.9%	-25.0%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	251	0.7%	65.1%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	214	0.6%	109.8%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,390	6.8%	92.0%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	665	1.9%	39.7%	6.2%	37.5%

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

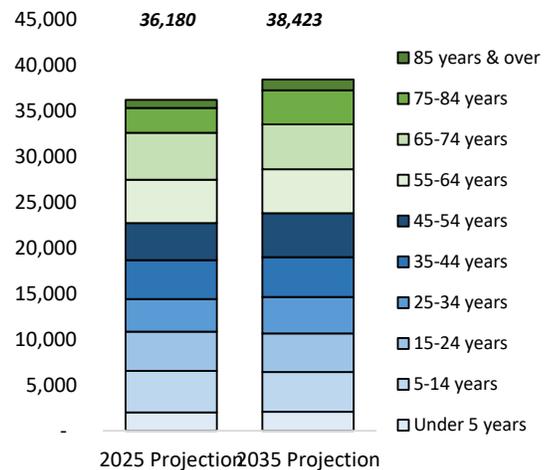
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Becker 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				
Becker Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,999	2,075	76	3.8%
5-14 years	4,567	4,367	-200	-4.4%
15-24 years	4,286	4,204	-82	-1.9%
25-34 years	3,556	3,980	424	11.9%
35-44 years	4,242	4,358	116	2.7%
45-54 years	4,069	4,812	743	18.3%
55-64 years	4,728	4,790	62	1.3%
65-74 years	5,146	4,913	-233	-4.5%
75-84 years	2,699	3,750	1,051	38.9%
85 years & over	888	1,174	286	32.2%
Total Population	36,180	38,423	2,243	6.2%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

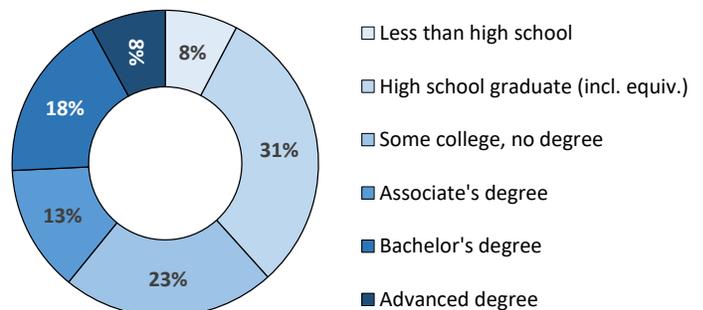


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Becker 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. Becker 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:	92.3%
College-educated:	61.7%
state:	68.8%
Associate's Degree:	13.4%
Bachelor's Degree:	17.8%
Advanced Degree:	8.0%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023



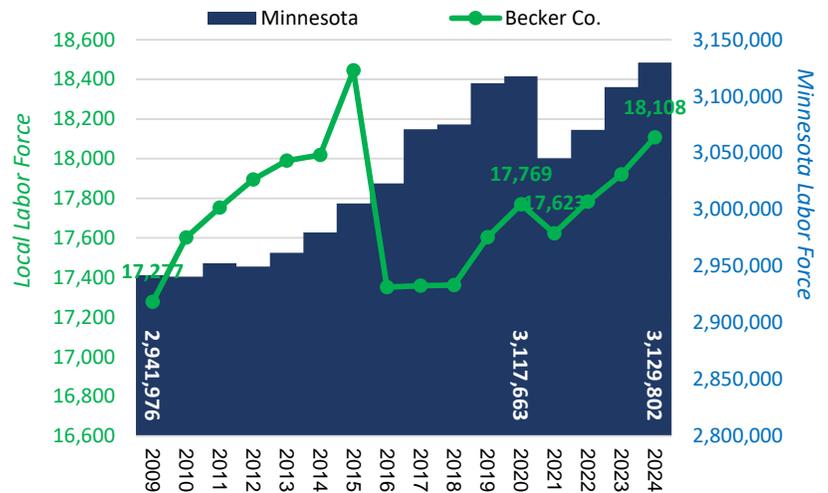
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.3%, Becker Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Becker Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.3% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Becker Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

18,108	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	831 workers 4.8% increase
3.5%	unemployment rate
3.0%	state
634	unemployed workers

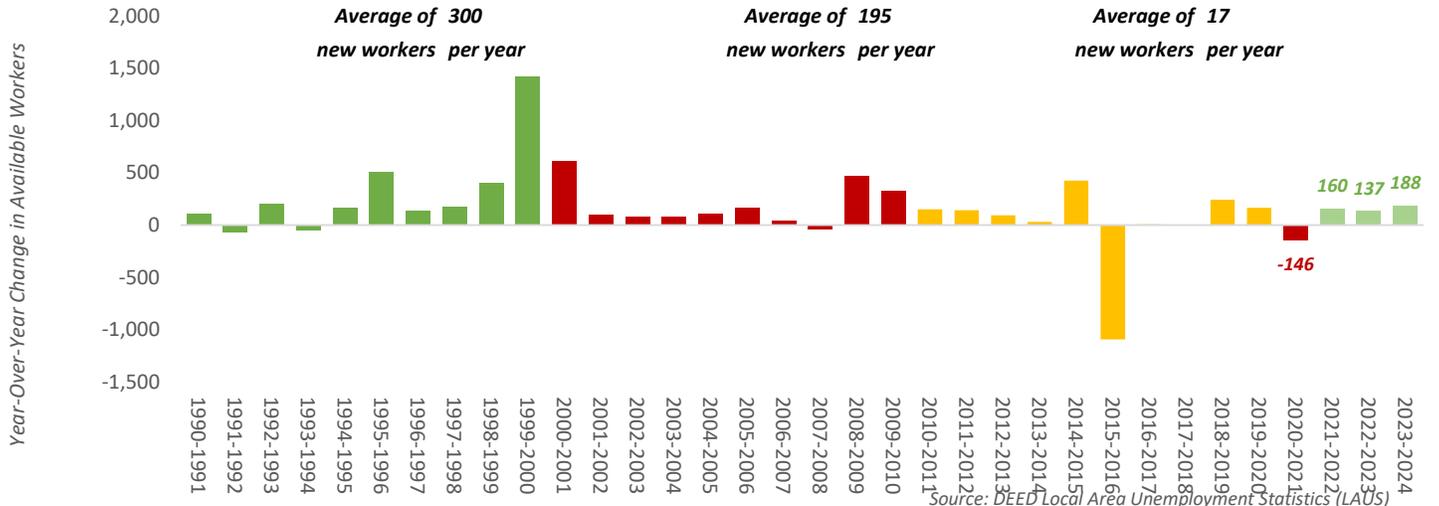
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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

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



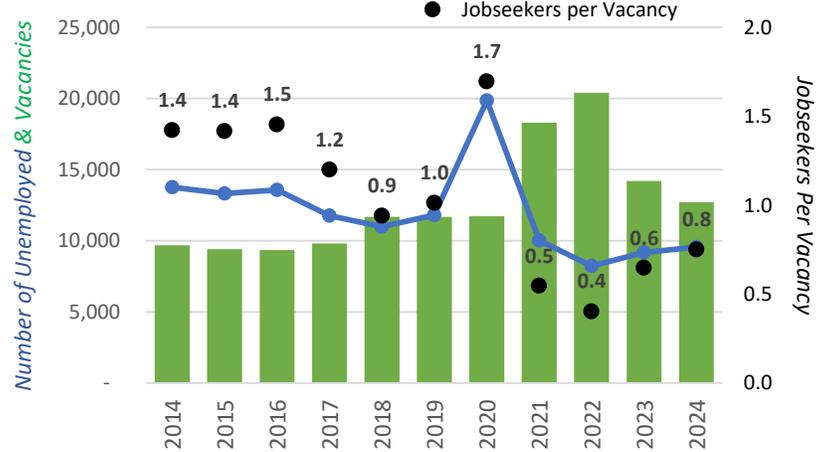
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,609	2,594
25 to 54 years	10,225	11,324
55 to 64 years	3,110	3,150
65 years & over	1,577	1,612
Total Labor Force	17,521	18,681

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2024, job vacancies in Northwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024

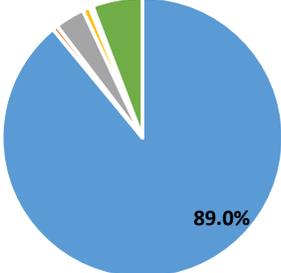


Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Becker 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	17,113	61.1%	4.0%	68.5%	3.9%	9,127	7,996
16 to 19 years	1,109	59.1%	8.0%	52.7%	9.9%	509	600
20 to 24 years	1,311	77.1%	9.5%	83.4%	6.5%	680	631
25 to 44 years	6,637	86.8%	3.7%	88.7%	3.5%	3,572	3,067
45 to 54 years	3,213	84.9%	2.8%	87.8%	2.9%	1,780	1,433
55 to 64 years	3,412	65.8%	2.8%	72.8%	3.0%	1,857	1,556
65 to 74 years	1,220	25.7%	2.3%	27.8%	3.4%	581	639
75 years & over	218	7.1%	1.8%	6.6%	3.1%	148	70
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin						Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White alone Black or African American American Indian & Alaska Native Asian or Other Pac. Islanders Some Other Race Two or More Races 	
White alone	15,233	61.5%	3.4%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	103	72.5%	1.0%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	585	46.8%	9.2%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	142	75.2%	11.2%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	63	33.0%	0.0%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	987	67.3%	8.8%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	256	66.8%	9.4%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,244	54.3%	13.5%	55.3%	9.5%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	13,260	79.8%	3.3%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	775	72.9%	3.4%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,319	73.7%	1.0%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	5,352	81.0%	4.2%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3,817	85.9%	1.1%	90.5%	2.0%		

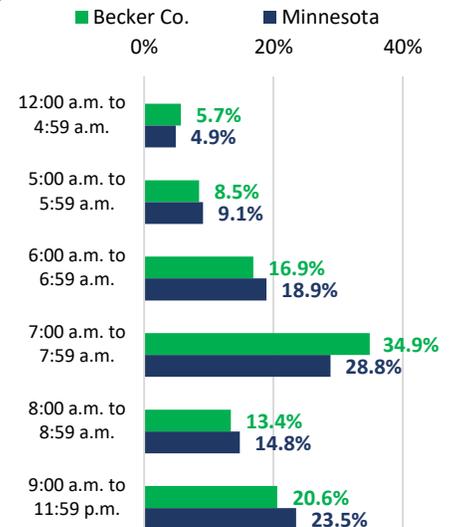
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Becker Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	15,198	93.9%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	12,382	76.5%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	2,816	17.4%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	987	6.1%	64,576	2.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	13,660	84.4%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	113	0.7%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	728	4.5%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	1,667	10.3%	463,770	15.8%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	3,674	22.7%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	5,632	34.8%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	2,849	17.6%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,958	12.1%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	1,036	6.4%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	1,052	6.5%	149,698	5.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.8 minutes		23.1 minutes	

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



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

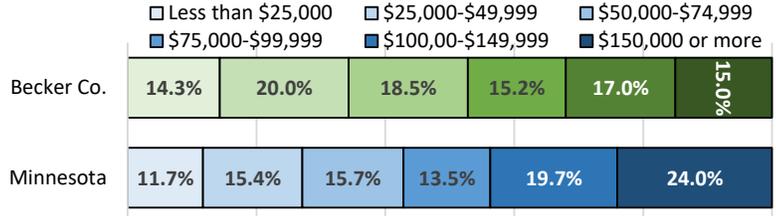
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Becker Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Becker Co. had the 49th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$71,117
state	\$87,556
Median Family Income	\$90,218
state	\$111,492
Per Capita Income	\$40,834
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. Becker Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.95 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.49 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	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Becker Co.	\$31,106	\$14.95	\$0	\$413	\$150	\$809	\$621	\$283	\$316
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	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Becker Co.	\$60,804	\$19.49	\$355	\$941	\$530	\$1,043	\$1,151	\$459	\$588
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

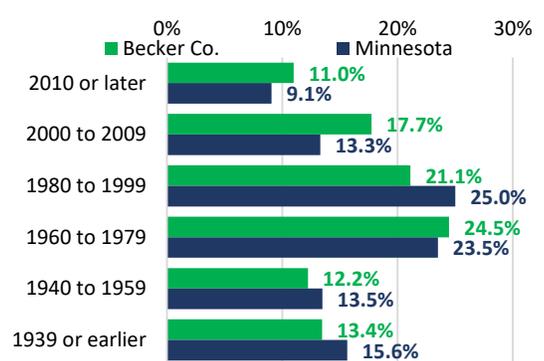
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Becker Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 20th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Becker 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	Becker Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	11,207	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	697	6.2%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	680	6.1%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,008	9.0%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,436	12.8%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,552	22.8%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	2,866	25.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	1,968	17.6%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$266,900		\$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	\$1,651
state	\$1,890

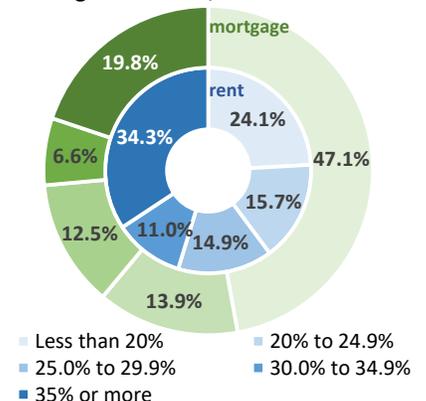
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	26.4%
state	22.5%

Median monthly rent costs	\$899
state	\$1,235

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	45.3%
state	47.2%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$34,731/yr	Nursing Assistants \$42,735/yr	Registered Nurses \$87,175/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$62,671/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,192/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$57,658/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$77,799/yr	General and Operations Managers \$77,911/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,264/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,256/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,629/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$62,998/yr
Cashiers \$29,907/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$60,780/yr	Dental Hygienists \$93,217/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,558/yr
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners \$34,874/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$50,072/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$76,366/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$68,758/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$23,459/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,015/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$60,312/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$44,046/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,176/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$56,834/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$61,026/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$66,942/yr
Cooks, Restaurant \$36,688/yr	Machinists \$51,108/yr	Surgical Technologists \$67,653/yr	Civil Engineers \$95,647/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$41,330/yr	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$59,711/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$48,247/yr	Business Operations Specialists, All Other \$65,312/yr
Food Preparation Workers \$33,374/yr	Electricians \$73,544/yr	Architectural and Civil Drafters \$64,617/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$67,419/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

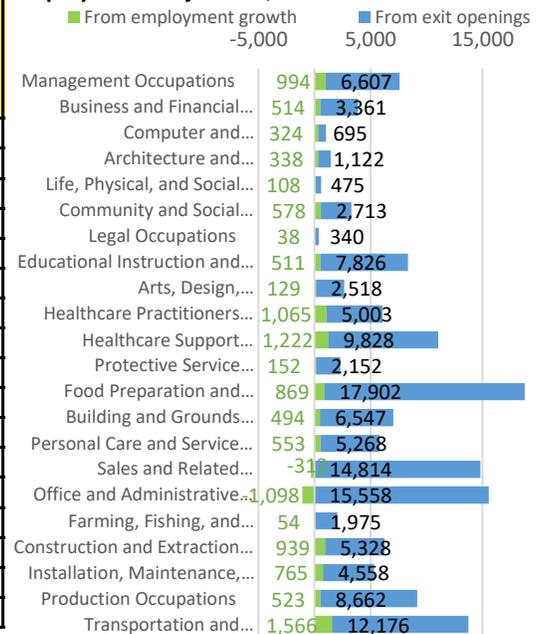
Becker Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

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

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Becker Co. had the 29th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Becker Co. was the 35th fastest growing in the past year and the 18th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2024, employment in Becker Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,139 business establishments

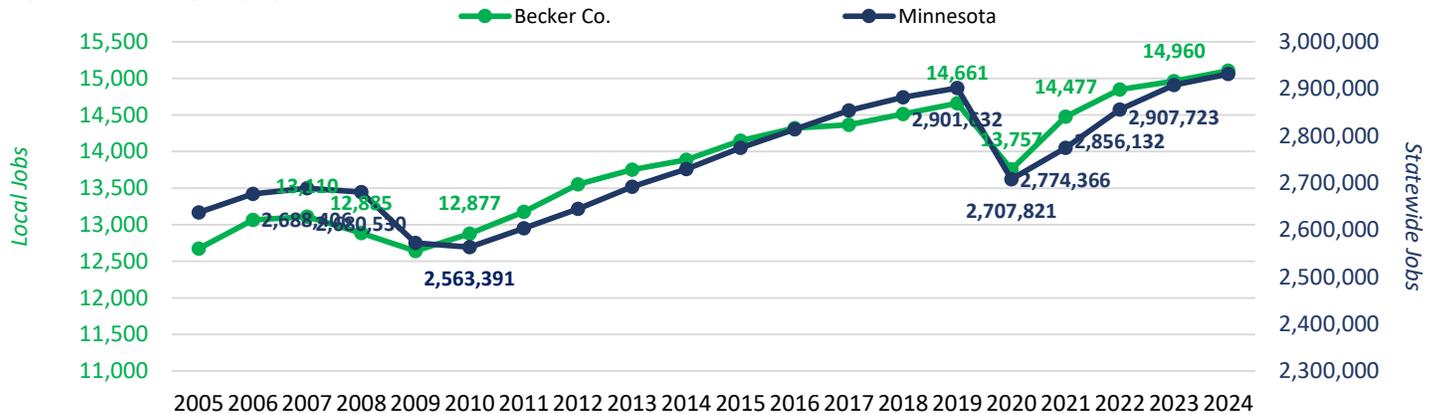
\$53,279 annual average wage

15,104 jobs

\$804,722,517 total industry payroll

Job change, 2020-2024: 1,347 jobs, 9.8% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024



Source: DEED QCEW program

	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
Total, All Industries	1,139	15,104	100.0%	\$53,279
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	43	329	2.2%	\$49,940
Mining	4	54	0.4%	\$83,349
Construction	185	998	6.6%	\$73,677
Manufacturing	53	2,428	16.1%	\$58,241
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	139	1,878	12.4%	\$36,111
Transportation & Warehousing	62	552	3.7%	\$52,682
Information	13	94	0.6%	\$46,536
Finance & Insurance	61	284	1.9%	\$77,895
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	40	86	0.6%	\$47,161
Professional & Technical Services	63	393	2.6%	\$76,811
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	24	1,056	7.0%	\$50,039
Health Care & Social Assistance	97	3,461	22.9%	\$64,472
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	22	326	2.2%	\$17,275
Accommodation & Food Services	96	1,473	9.8%	\$22,274
Other Services	111	451	3.0%	\$34,816
Public Administration	37	744	4.9%	\$70,860

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024

