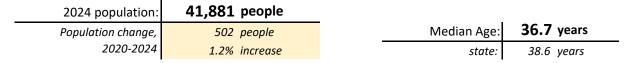
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY PROFILE

Benton Co.

Benton Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7W, which is located in the Central Planning Region.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



Benton Co. is the 25th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 38th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Benton 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).

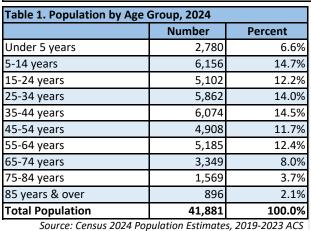
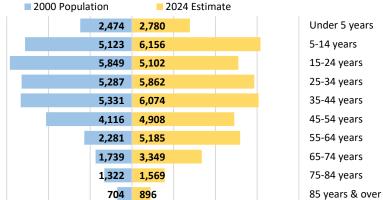


Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Benton 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. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Benton 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		April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
	Population	Natural	Vital Events		Net Migration			
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic	
Benton Co.	504	371	2,106	1,735	111	362	-251	
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930	

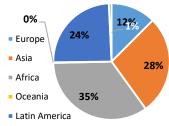
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Benton Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Benton 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	Benton Co.		Change 2	013-2023	Minnesota				
Population, 2023	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change			
Foreign-born Population	1,064	2.6%	274	34.7%	8.6%	24.7%			
Europe	133	12.5%	21	18.8%	8.8%	-3.4%			
Asia	293	27.5%	-76	-20.6%	35.7%	18.1%			
Africa	368	34.6%	210	132.9%	28.3%	78.8%			
Oceania	2	0.2%	2	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%			
Americas:	268	25.2%	117	77.5%	26.7%	8.7%			
Latin America	260	24.4%	127	95.5%	24.2%	9.7%			
Northern America	8	0.8%	-10	-55.6%	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



Northern America

Benton 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



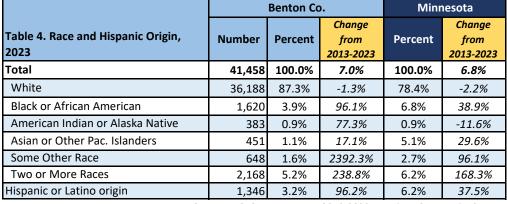
Black or African American

Asian

American Indian







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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

87.3%

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Benton 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 2025 2035 Numeric Percent Benton Co. Projection Projection Change Change Under 5 years 2,581 2,681 100 3.9% 5-14 years 5,844 5.407 -437 -7.5% 5,633 5.4% 15-24 years 5,935 302 25-34 years 5,738 6,507 769 13.4% 35-44 years 6,149 5,759 -390 -6.3% 5,925 45-54 years 5,089 836 16.4% 55-64 years 4,935 4,873 -62 -1.3% 65-74 years 3,765 4,043 278 7.4% 75-84 years 1,855 2.452 597 32.2% 728 731 85 years & over 0.4% **Total Population** 42,317 44,313 1,996 4.7%

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035 50,000 44,313 42,317 ■ 85 years & over 45,000 ■ 75-84 years 40,000 **□** 65-74 years 35,000 **□** 55-64 years 30,000 ■ 45-54 years 25,000 ■ 35-44 years 20,000 15,000 ■ 25-34 years ■ 15-24 years 10,000 ■ 5-14 years 5,000 □ Under 5 years 2025 Projection 2035 Projection

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Benton 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. Benton 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:

91.3%

61.3% 68.8%

14%

17% 9%

24%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023

☐ Less than high school

☐ High school graduate (incl. equiv.)

■ Some college, no degree

■ Associate's degree

■ Bachelor's degree
■ Advanced degree

Associate's Degree: 14.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 16.7%
Advanced Degree: 6.5%

state:

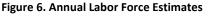
College-educated:

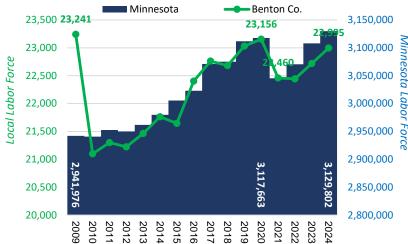
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.5%, Benton Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Benton Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.8% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Benton Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.







Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

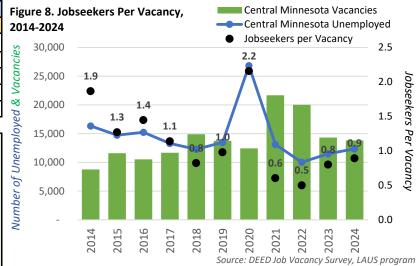
Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Benton Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Benton Co. is expected to add workers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

Benton Co. Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2024 1,500 Average of 368 Average of 49 Average of 206 new workers per vear new workers per year new workers per year Year-Over-Year Change in Available Workers 1,000 275 277 500 -500 -1,000 -696 -1,500 -2,000 -2,500 2011-2012 2020-2021stistis 2010-2011 2000-2001 2002-2003 2004-2005 2006-2007 2007-2008 2008-2009 2009-2010 1999-2000 2001-2002 2003-2004 2005-2006 1991-1992 1995-1996 .992-1993 .993-1994 .994-1995 .996-1997 .997-1998 .998-1999

Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection			
Projections, 2025-2035	2025	2035		
16 to 24 years	3,811	4,108		
25 to 54 years	15,032	16,111		
55 to 64 years	3,693	3,646		
65 years & over	1,148	1,281		
Total Labor Force	23,684	25,147		

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 Central returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

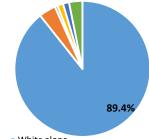


LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Benton Co. had a higher labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Benton 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	3						
	В	enton 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	22,969	71.8%	4.0%	68.5%	3.9%	11,981	10,998
16 to 19 years	1,151	57.5%	5.2%	52.7%	9.9%	467	683
20 to 24 years	2,194	90.4%	5.0%	83.4%	6.5%	1,092	1,103
25 to 44 years	10,440	88.4%	3.7%	88.7%	3.5%	5,479	4,960
45 to 54 years	4,324	89.0%	1.8%	87.8%	2.9%	2,354	1,969
55 to 64 years	3,841	74.8%	7.3%	72.8%	3.0%	2,010	1,831
65 to 74 years	743	22.4%	1.6%	27.8%	3.4%	432	311
75 years & over	288	11.8%	0.7%	6.6%	3.1%	147	141
Employment Characteristics by Race & His	panic Origin					Figure 9. La	bor Force k
White alone	20,533	71.5%	3.7%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	925	89.7%	3.4%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	150	78.1%	28.7%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	315	80.8%	17.2%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	331	76.1%	0.0%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	729	59.5%	5.2%	74.2%	6.1%		V
Hispanic or Latino	675	75.3%	9.9%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability,	20 to 64 years						
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,415	52.2%	15.8%	55.3%	9.5%		8
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	18,601	85.3%	4.0%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	1,171	75.4%	6.5%	67.1%	4.7%		African Americ
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,110	76.5%	4.6%	76.5%	2.6%	J	n Indian & Alas
Some College or Assoc. Degree	7,891	87.6%	4.0%	85.0%	3.6%		Other Pac. Isla
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,433	92.5%	1.4%	90.5%	2.0%	Some Ot	her Race

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023



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

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

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

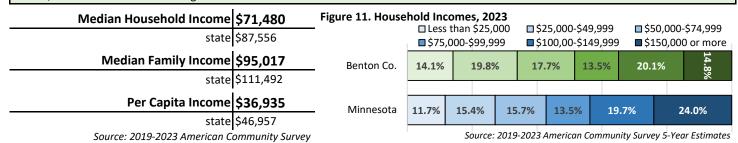
	Benton	Co.	Minn	esota	ı			
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	٤			
Worked in state of residence	21,686	99.8%	2,870,678	97.8%	ĺ			
Worked in county of residence	7,996	36.8%	1,984,232	67.6%	ĺ			
Worked out of county of residence	13,689	63.0%	886,447	30.2%	ĺ			
Worked outside state of residence	43	0.2%	64,576	2.2%	ĺ			
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK					Ĺ			
Car, truck, or van	19,078	87.8%	2,286,563	77.9%	5			
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	87	0.4%	61,640	2.1%	İ			
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	934	4.3%	120,345	4.1%	6			
Worked at home	1,630	7.5%	463,770	15.8%	İ			
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK					7			
Less than 10 minutes	3,520	16.2%	478,446	16.3%	ĺ			
10 to 19 minutes	7,888	36.3%	924,605	31.5%	İ			
20 to 29 minutes	4,715	21.7%	651,626	22.2%	8			
30 to 44 minutes	3,107	14.3%	551,828	18.8%	ĺ			
45 to 59 minutes	1,130	5.2%	176,115	6.0%	İ			
60 or more minutes	1,369	6.3%	149,698	5.1%	ĺ			
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	22.7	minutes	23.1	minutes	ĺ			

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023 ■ Benton Co. ■ Minnesota 0% 20% 40% 12:00 a.m. to 6.2% 4:59 a.m. 4.9% 5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m. 9.1% 6:00 a.m. to 6:59 21.8% 18.9% 7:00 a.m. to 7:59 28.9% a.m. 28.8% 8:00 a.m. to 8:59 9.8% a.m. 14.8% 9:00 a.m. to 21.7% 11:59 p.m. 23.5%

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

INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Benton Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Benton Co. had the 46th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.



The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Benton Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$15.48 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$20.05 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2024										
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage		Monthly Costs						
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living	, ,	Child Care	Food	Health	Housing	Trans-	Other	Taxes	
	cost of Living	nequired	Cilia Carc	1000	Care	Housing	portation	Other	Taxes	
Benton Co.	\$32,199	\$15.48	\$0	\$405	\$150	\$928	\$570	\$308	\$322	
State of Minnesota	\$36,768	\$17.68	\$0	\$424	\$156	\$1,154	\$573	\$365	\$392	
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1	Family Yearly	Hourly Wage			N	Ionthly Co	sts			
working full-time, 1 part-	Cost of Living	, ,	Child Care	Food	Health	Housing	Trans-	Other	Taxes	
time), 1 child	Cost of Living	Required	Cilia Care	Food	Care	nousing	portation	Other	Taxes	
Benton Co.	\$62,564	\$20.05	\$449	\$922	\$530	\$1,188	\$1,023	\$488	\$614	
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763	

Benton Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 28th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Benton 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-	Benton Co.		Minnesota
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	11,192	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	728	6.5%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	410	3.7%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	915	8.2%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,371	12.2%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	4,103	36.7%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	2,833	25.3%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	832	7.4%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$247,1	.00	\$305,500

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

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% ■ Benton Co Minnesota 2010 or later 18.9% 2000 to 2009 30.4% 1980 to 1999 25.0% 24.4% 1960 to 1979 7.4% 1940 to 1959 13.5% 10.5% 1939 or earlier

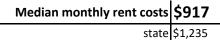
Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage

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

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a

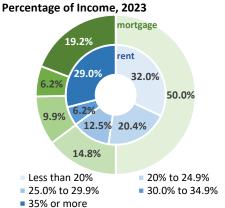




Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent

state 47.2%

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$24.27 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 7W than the state. Overall, Region 7W had the 3rd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$50.18) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$15.41) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025							
Region 7W							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	\$24.27	179,570	100.0%	1.0	\$26.22	2,920,470	100.0%
Management	\$50.18	10,110	5.6%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$37.66	7,840	4.4%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.67	2,370	1.3%	0.4	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.64	2,240	1.2%	0.6	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$41.66	1,030	0.6%	0.5	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.55	3,070	1.7%	0.8	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$42.95	660	0.4%	0.5	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.39	12,170	6.8%	1.2	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.62	1,470	0.8%	0.7	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$44.48	11,280	6.3%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.83	9,780	5.4%	0.9	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$32.60	2,720	1.5%	0.9	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$15.41	15,880	8.8%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.65	5,480	3.1%	1.1	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.40	3,560	2.0%	0.9	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$18.00	17,080	9.5%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.58	19,480	10.8%	0.9	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.37	210	0.1%	1.0	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$33.11	11,100	6.2%	1.6	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$30.00	7,680	4.3%	1.2	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.66	17,720	9.9%	1.4	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.56	16,640	9.3%	1.2	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

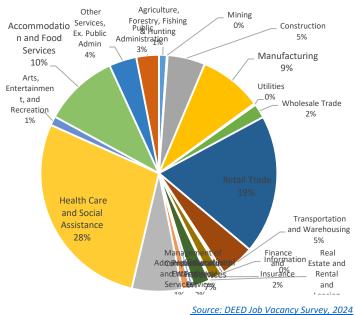
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Benton Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 13827 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. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024						
	Number of Wag					
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer				
Total, All Occupations	13,827	\$19.81				
Management	319					
Business & Financial Operations	394					
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$26.02				
Architecture & Engineering	197					
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	122					
Community & Social Service	283					
Education, Training & Library	735					
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,450					
Healthcare Support	1,363					
Protective Service	189					
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,814	•				
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	260					
Personal Care & Service	417					
Sales & Related	1,861					
Office & Administrative Support	911					
Construction & Extraction	693					
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	695	•				
Production	598					
Transportation & Material Moving	1,128	\$20.98				

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning F	Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024						
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher				
Retail Salespersons	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	General and Operations Managers				
\$35,817/yr	\$60,953/yr	\$97,279/yr	\$82,833/yr				
Home Health and Personal	Nursing Assistants	Radiologic Technologists and	Elementary School Teachers,				
Care Aides	Nuising Assistants	Technicians	Except Special Education				
\$35,952/yr	\$40,289/yr	\$79,926/yr	\$65,116/yr				
Fast Food and Counter	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational	Police and Sheriff's Patrol	Secondary School Teachers, Except				
Workers	Nurses	Officers	Special and Career/Technical				
\$30,548/yr	\$58,035/yr	\$78,056/yr	\$66,539/yr				
Cashiers	Automotive Service Technicians and	Industrial Engineering	Medical and Health Services				
Casillers	Mechanics	Technologists and Technicians	Managers				
\$31,985/yr	\$49,872/yr	\$64,316/yr	\$108,690/yr				
Stockers and Order Fillers	Machinists	Calibration Technologists and	Preschool Teachers, Except Special				
Stockers and Order Fillers	Widefillises	Technicians	Education				
\$38,723/yr	\$61,397/yr	\$51,876/yr	\$38,309/yr				
Janitors and Cleaners,	Emergency Medical Technicians	Dental Hygienists	Accountants and Auditors				
Except Maids and	Emergency Wiedical Teemileans	Dental Hygiemsts	Accountants and Additors				
\$37,511/yr	\$43,830/yr	\$95,926/yr	\$73,436/yr				
Waiters and Waitresses	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing	Detectives and Criminal	Child, Family, and School Social				
Waiters and Waitresses	Clerks	Investigators	Workers				
\$24,272/yr	\$49,071/yr	\$77,932/yr	\$65,914/yr				
Childcare Workers	Electricians	Surgical Technologists	Industrial Engineers				
\$32,303/yr	\$79,223/yr	\$66,288/yr	\$97,918/yr				
First-Line Supervisors of	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and	Human Resources Assistants,	Project Management Specialists				
Retail Sales Workers	mental health counselors	Except Payroll and Timekeeping	Project Management Specialists				
\$47,389/yr	\$54,808/yr	\$49,531/yr	\$85,453/yr				
Customer Service	Medical Assistants	Veterinary Technologists and	Special Education Teachers,				
Representatives	Wieulcal Assistants	Technicians	Secondary School				
\$44,527/yr	\$48,462/yr	\$46,438/yr	\$69,045/yr				

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Benton Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% 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	Projected Employ-	Percent Change				
315,929	332,231	5.2%				
5,649	5,809	2.8%				
1,986	1,998	0.6%				
20,532	22,780	10.9%				
41,539	44,543	7.2%				
11,219	12,105	7.9%				
35,711	35,808	0.3%				
9,287	10,143	9.2%				
3,002	3,214	7.1%				
10,142	10,528	3.8%				
9,040	9,979	10.4%				
10,369	11,004	6.1%				
24,622	24,913	1.2%				
45,668	49,836	9.1%				
26,046	27,642	6.1%				
10,880	11,311	4.0%				
20,424	21,077	3.2%				
	Estimated Employment 2022 315,929 5,649 1,986 20,532 41,539 11,219 35,711 9,287 3,002 10,142 9,040 10,369 24,622 45,668 26,046 10,880 20,424	Estimated Employment 2022 ment 2032 315,929 332,231 5,649 5,809 1,986 1,998 20,532 22,780 41,539 44,543 11,219 12,105 35,711 35,808 9,287 10,143 3,002 3,214 10,142 10,528 9,040 9,979 10,369 11,004 24,622 24,913 45,668 49,836 26,046 27,642 10,880 11,311				

Figure 15. Regional Occupational

Employment Projections, 20	22-2032		
From employment growth		exit open	
-5,000	5,000	15,000	25,000
Management Occupations 1.450	7.406		
Business and Financial 856	4,284		
Computer and 413	822		
Architecture and 484			
	1,290		
Life, Physical, and Social 157	461		
Community and Social 590	2 ,724		
Legal Occupations 63	374		
Educational Instruction and 678	8,450		
Arts, Design, 168	2 ,404		
Healthcare Practitioners 1,676	5,97 5		
Healthcare Support 1,880	13,047		
Protective Service 172	2 ,405		
Food Preparation and1,029	20,705		
Building and Grounds 577	6,626		
Personal Care and Service 651	6,031		
Sales and Related1	2 18,082		
Office and Administrative1, 105	17,777		
Farming, Fishing, and 15	1 ,773		
Construction and Extraction 1,780	,		
Installation, Maintenance,1,085	5.176		
Production Occupations 1,384	- /		
Transportation and 2.311			
Transportation and 2,31.	14,500		

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Benton Co. had the 24th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Benton Co. was the 79th fastest growing in the past year and the 65th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Benton Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,061 business establishments \$55,958 annual average wage
17,381 jobs \$972,608,440 total industry payroll

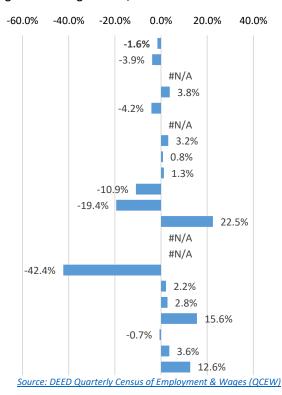
Job change, 2019-2024 2.8% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024 Source: DEED QCEW program Benton Co. Minnesota 18.000 17.662 3.000.000 17,417 17,381 2,900,000 17,500 2,931,419 17,000 2,800,000 2,680,530 2,700,000 16,500 2,63 2,707,821 16,000 2,600,000 16.189 16,145 15,500 2,500,000 2.563.391 15,000 2,400,000 14,500 2,300,000

 $2005\ 2006\ 2007\ 2008\ 2009\ 2010\ 2011\ 2012\ 2013\ 2014\ 2015\ 2016\ 2017\ 2018\ 2019\ 2020\ 2021\ 2022\ 2023\ 2024$

			Average
Table 15. Benton Co. Industry	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Employment Statistics, 2024	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	17,381	100.0%	\$55,958
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	323	1.9%	\$57,739
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	2,569	14.8%	\$84,078
Manufacturing	3,397	19.5%	\$62,200
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	1,275	7.3%	\$72,148
Retail Trade	1,822	10.5%	\$37,430
Transportation & Warehousing	720	4.1%	\$55,753
Information	82	0.5%	\$68,611
Finance & Insurance	303	1.7%	\$62,436
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	147	0.8%	\$47,889
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	502	2.9%	\$49,955
Educational Services	1,186	6.8%	\$53,395
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,334	13.4%	\$37,534
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	193	1.1%	\$26,648
Accommodation & Food Services	1,038	6.0%	\$19,663
Other Services	403	2.3%	\$32,503
Public Administration	526	3.0%	\$58,396

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

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