

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Benton Co.**

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



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2024 population:	<b>41,881 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>36.7 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	502 people 1.2% increase	state:	38.6 years

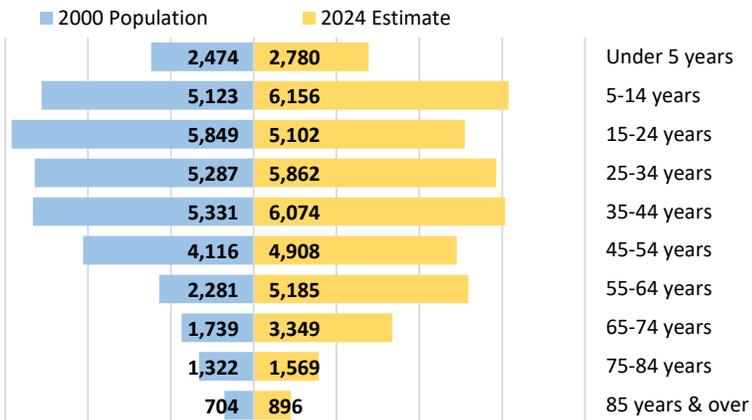
Benton Co. is the 25th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 38th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Benton Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

**Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2024**

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	2,780	6.6%
5-14 years	6,156	14.7%
15-24 years	5,102	12.2%
25-34 years	5,862	14.0%
35-44 years	6,074	14.5%
45-54 years	4,908	11.7%
55-64 years	5,185	12.4%
65-74 years	3,349	8.0%
75-84 years	1,569	3.7%
85 years & over	896	2.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>41,881</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

**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 Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			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

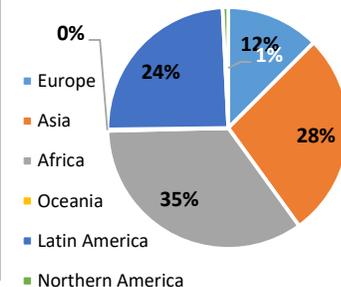
Compared to the state, Benton Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Benton Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

	Benton Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
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**



## COUNTY PROFILE

Benton Co.

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**

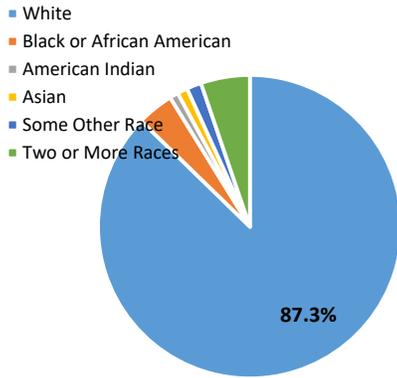


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Benton Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,458</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	36,188	87.3%	-1.3%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	1,620	3.9%	96.1%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	383	0.9%	77.3%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	451	1.1%	17.1%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	648	1.6%	2392.3%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,168	5.2%	238.8%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1,346	3.2%	96.2%	6.2%	37.5%

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

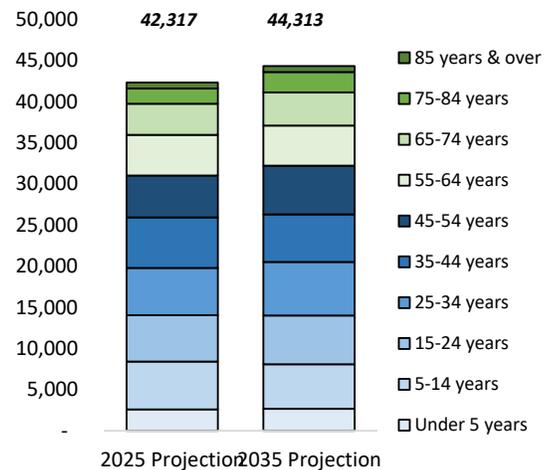
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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				
Benton Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	2,581	2,681	100	3.9%
5-14 years	5,844	5,407	-437	-7.5%
15-24 years	5,633	5,935	302	5.4%
25-34 years	5,738	6,507	769	13.4%
35-44 years	6,149	5,759	-390	-6.3%
45-54 years	5,089	5,925	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%
85 years & over	728	731	3	0.4%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>42,317</b>	<b>44,313</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

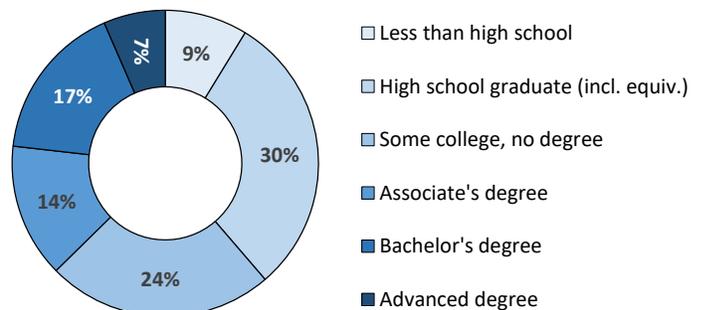


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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.

<b>Percentage of the adult population (18 years &amp; over) with at least a high school diploma:</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>61.3%</b>
state:	68.8%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



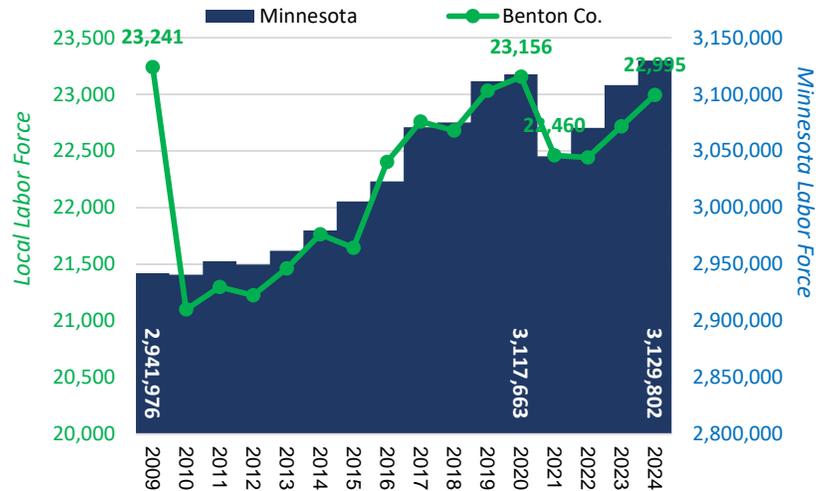
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

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.

<b>22,995</b>	available workers
<i>Labor Force change, 2009-2024</i>	-246 workers -1.1% decline
<b>3.6%</b>	unemployment rate
<i>3.0%</i>	state
<b>828</b>	unemployed workers

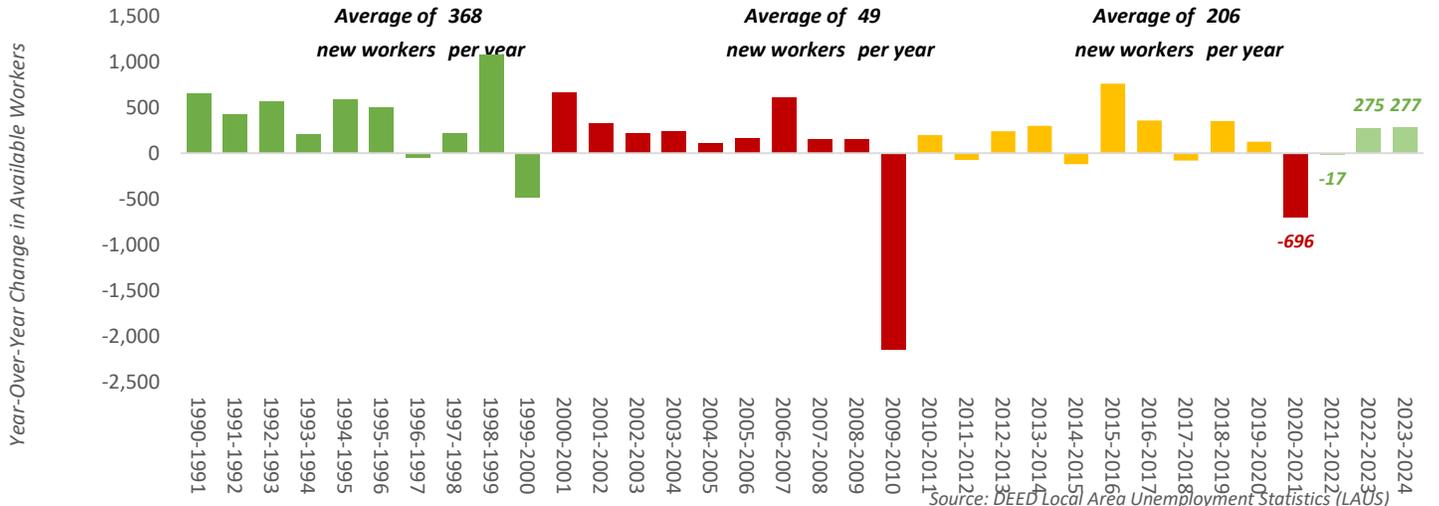
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, 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).

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



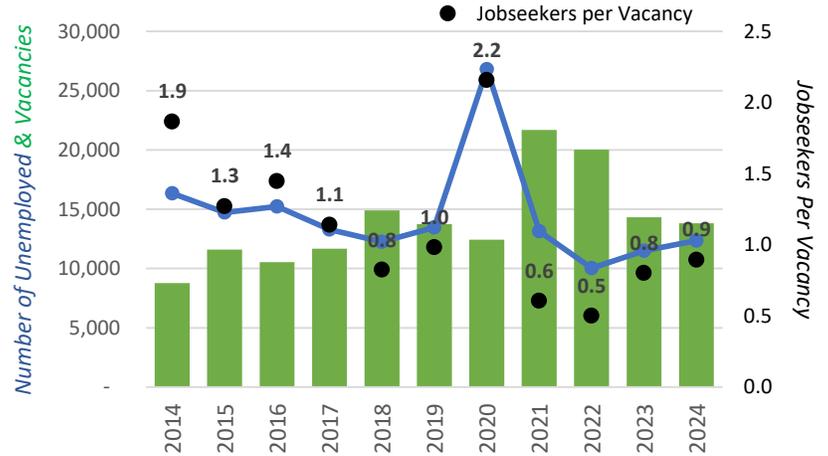
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	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
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>23,684</b>	<b>25,147</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2024, job vacancies in Central 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**

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.

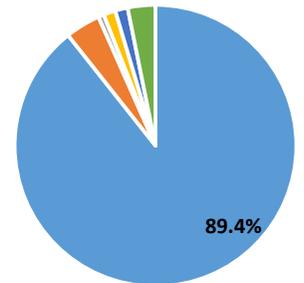
**Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023**

	Benton Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>22,969</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>10,998</b>
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 & Hispanic Origin**

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%
Hispanic or Latino	675	75.3%	9.9%	77.1%	5.9%

**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

**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%
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**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%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,110	76.5%	4.6%	76.5%	2.6%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	7,891	87.6%	4.0%	85.0%	3.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,433	92.5%	1.4%	90.5%	2.0%

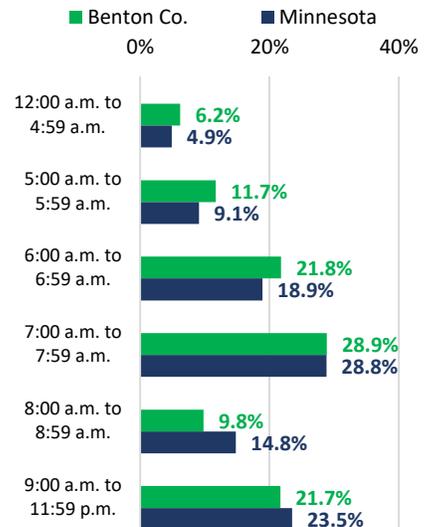
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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.

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

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

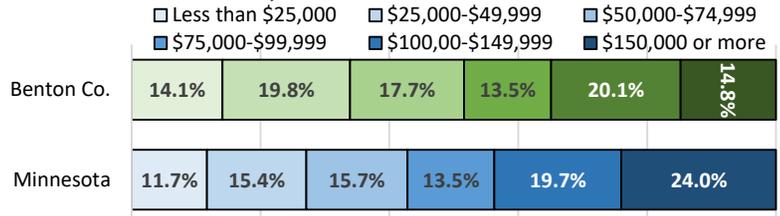
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

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.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$71,480</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$95,017</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$36,935</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. 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 Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	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 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
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

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

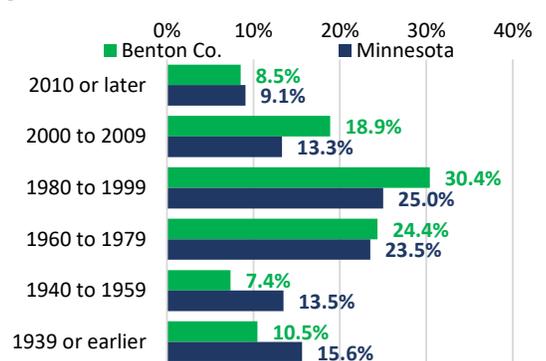
Benton Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 28th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Benton Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

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

	Benton Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,192</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$247,100</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,669</b>
state	\$1,890

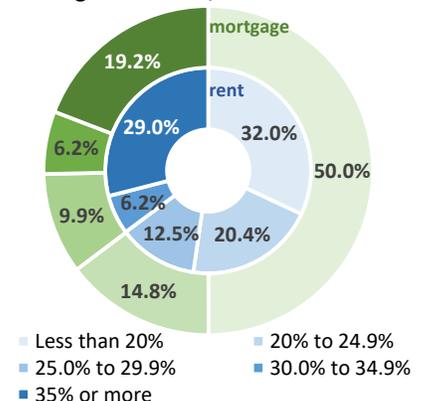
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>25.3%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$917</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>35.2%</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 \$24.27 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

Occupational Group	Region 7W				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>\$24.27</b>	<b>179,570</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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

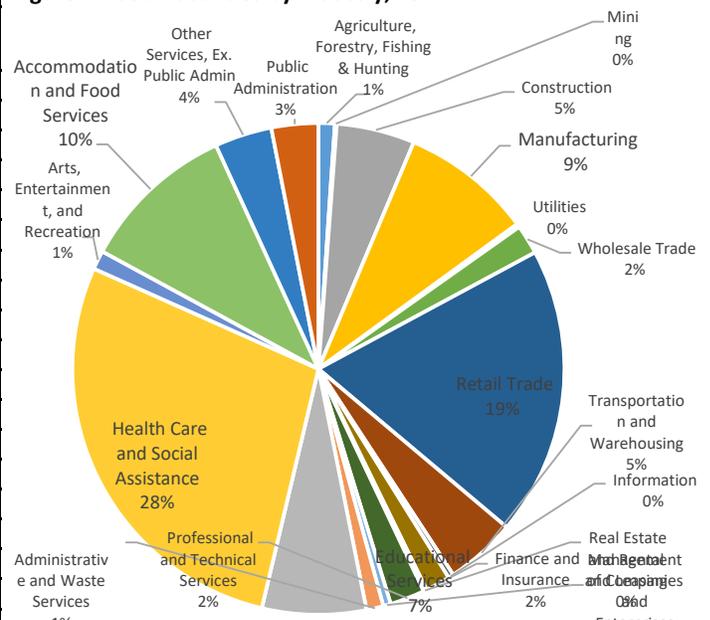
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

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

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>13,827</b>	<b>\$19.81</b>
Management	319	\$29.45
Business & Financial Operations	394	\$33.36
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$26.02
Architecture & Engineering	197	\$30.87
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	122	\$33.52
Community & Social Service	283	\$23.80
Education, Training & Library	735	\$19.62
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,450	\$29.97
Healthcare Support	1,363	\$18.33
Protective Service	189	\$21.58
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,814	\$15.03
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	260	\$16.97
Personal Care & Service	417	\$14.99
Sales & Related	1,861	\$15.92
Office & Administrative Support	911	\$20.11
Construction & Extraction	693	\$22.04
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	695	\$23.62
Production	598	\$20.21
Transportation & Material Moving	1,128	\$20.98

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,520/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$61,513/yr	Registered Nurses \$101,788/yr	General and Operations Managers \$86,311/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,294/yr	Nursing Assistants \$45,077/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$80,894/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$63,707/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$31,729/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$60,654/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$84,540/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,803/yr
Cashiers \$32,454/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$51,037/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$49,370/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$109,085/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,670/yr	Psychiatric Technicians \$46,781/yr	Architectural and Civil Drafters \$63,877/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$76,798/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$45,691/yr	Machinists \$60,200/yr	Dental Hygienists \$99,124/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,622/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,072/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$64,200/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$81,545/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$44,131/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,056/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$52,077/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,951/yr	Project Management Specialists \$94,626/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$45,804/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$56,854/yr	Surgical Technologists \$70,461/yr	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,293/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,935/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,651/yr	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers \$97,765/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$69,904/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

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>315,929</b>	<b>332,231</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	5,649	5,809	2.8%
Utilities	1,986	1,998	0.6%
Construction	20,532	22,780	10.9%
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	7.9%
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	9.2%
Information	3,002	3,214	7.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	10,142	10,528	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	9,040	9,979	10.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	6.1%
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	9.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	26,046	27,642	6.1%
Other Services	10,880	11,311	4.0%
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	3.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



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 2020. From 2020 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, 2020-2024: 468 jobs, 2.8% increase

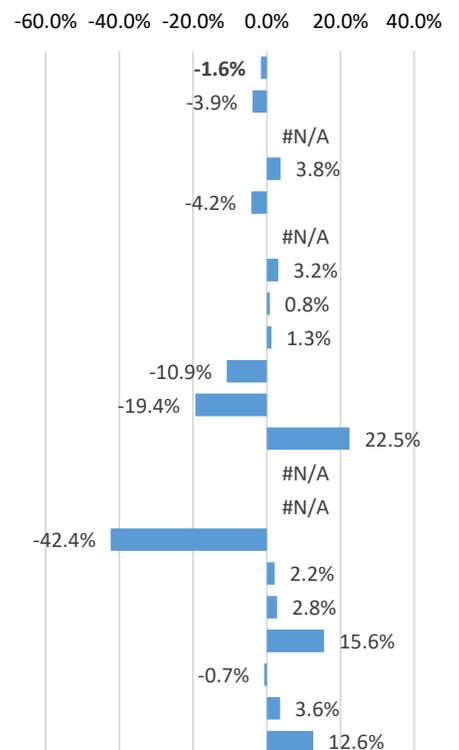
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024



Source: DEED QCEW program

	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>17,381</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$55,958</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	27	323	1.9%	\$57,739
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	195	2,569	14.8%	\$84,078
Manufacturing	69	3,397	19.5%	\$62,200
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	40	1,275	7.3%	\$72,148
Retail Trade	96	1,822	10.5%	\$37,430
Transportation & Warehousing	51	720	4.1%	\$55,753
Information	9	82	0.5%	\$68,611
Finance & Insurance	33	303	1.7%	\$62,436
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	43	147	0.8%	\$47,889
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	50	502	2.9%	\$49,955
Educational Services	22	1,186	6.8%	\$53,395
Health Care & Social Assistance	131	2,334	13.4%	\$37,534
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	23	193	1.1%	\$26,648
Accommodation & Food Services	58	1,038	6.0%	\$19,663
Other Services	156	403	2.3%	\$32,503
Public Administration	15	526	3.0%	\$58,396

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

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

**Luke Greiner** | Regional Analyst, Central & Southwest  
 CareerForce St. Cloud | 1542 Northway Dr. Door 2 | St. Cloud MN 56303  
 Office: 320-223-6992 | E-mail: luke.greiner@state.mn.us  
 web: [www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/](http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/)

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