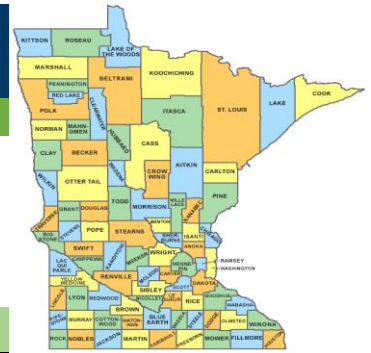


COUNTY PROFILE

Blue Earth Co.

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



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2024 population: | 70,700 people | Median Age: | 31.5 years |
| Population change, 2020-2024 | 1,588 people 2.3% increase | state: | 38.6 years |

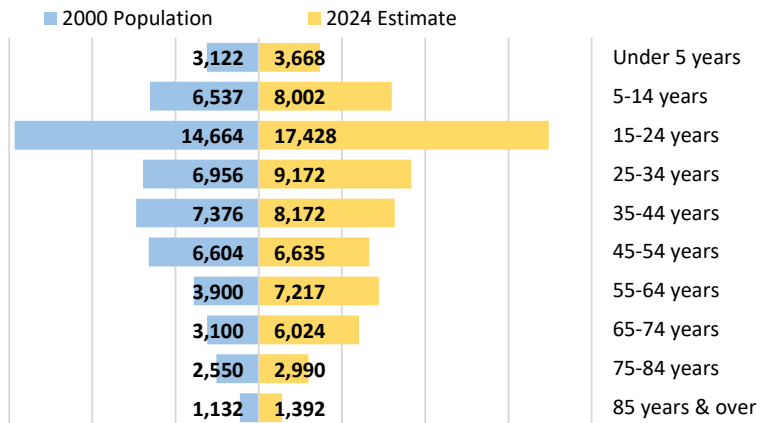
Blue Earth Co. is the 13th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 25th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Blue Earth Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2024

| | Number | Percent |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Under 5 years | 3,668 | 5.2% |
| 5-14 years | 8,002 | 11.3% |
| 15-24 years | 17,428 | 24.7% |
| 25-34 years | 9,172 | 13.0% |
| 35-44 years | 8,172 | 11.6% |
| 45-54 years | 6,635 | 9.4% |
| 55-64 years | 7,217 | 10.2% |
| 65-74 years | 6,024 | 8.5% |
| 75-84 years | 2,990 | 4.2% |
| 85 years & over | 1,392 | 2.0% |
| Total Population | 70,700 | 100.0% |

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Blue Earth 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, Blue Earth Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2024

| | Total Population Change | April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024 | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Natural Increase | Vital Events | | Net Migration | | |
| | | | Births | Deaths | Total | International | Domestic |
| Blue Earth Co. | 1,597 | 581 | 2,908 | 2,327 | 993 | 1,442 | -449 |
| 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

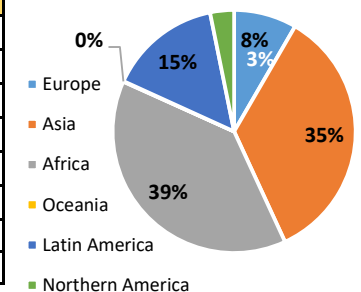
Compared to the state, Blue Earth Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Blue Earth Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

| | Blue Earth Co. | | Change 2013-2023 | | Minnesota | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent | Change |
| Foreign-born Population | 4,049 | 5.8% | 1,522 | 60.2% | 8.6% | 24.7% |
| Europe | 339 | 8.4% | 5 | 1.5% | 8.8% | -3.4% |
| Asia | 1,407 | 34.7% | 249 | 21.5% | 35.7% | 18.1% |
| Africa | 1,563 | 38.6% | 834 | 114.4% | 28.3% | 78.8% |
| Oceania | 3 | 0.1% | -21 | -87.5% | 0.4% | 5.4% |
| Americas: | 737 | 18.2% | 455 | 161.3% | 26.7% | 8.7% |
| Latin America | 608 | 15.0% | 361 | 146.2% | 24.2% | 9.7% |
| Northern America | 129 | 3.2% | 94 | 268.6% | 2.5% | 0.4% |

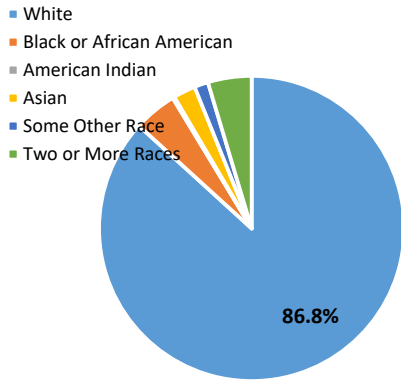
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023



Blue Earth Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023



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

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

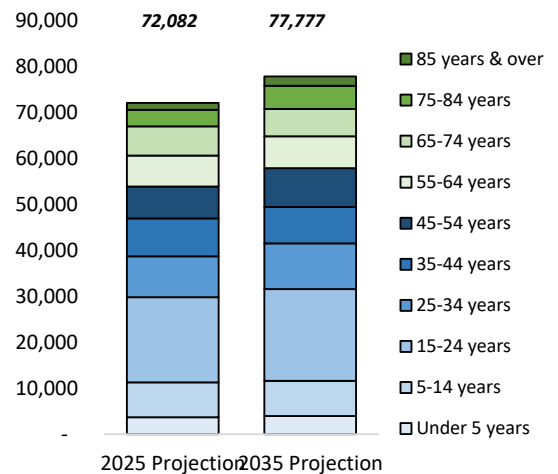
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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

| Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035 | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Blue Earth Co. | 2025 Projection | 2035 Projection | Numeric Change | Percent Change |
| Under 5 years | 3,709 | 3,934 | 225 | 6.1% |
| 5-14 years | 7,562 | 7,665 | 103 | 1.4% |
| 15-24 years | 18,552 | 19,930 | 1,378 | 7.4% |
| 25-34 years | 8,879 | 9,962 | 1,083 | 12.2% |
| 35-44 years | 8,224 | 7,927 | -297 | -3.6% |
| 45-54 years | 6,952 | 8,425 | 1,473 | 21.2% |
| 55-64 years | 6,729 | 6,963 | 234 | 3.5% |
| 65-74 years | 6,356 | 5,966 | -390 | -6.1% |
| 75-84 years | 3,580 | 4,983 | 1,403 | 39.2% |
| 85 years & over | 1,539 | 2,022 | 483 | 31.4% |
| Total Population | 72,082 | 77,777 | 5,695 | 7.9% |

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

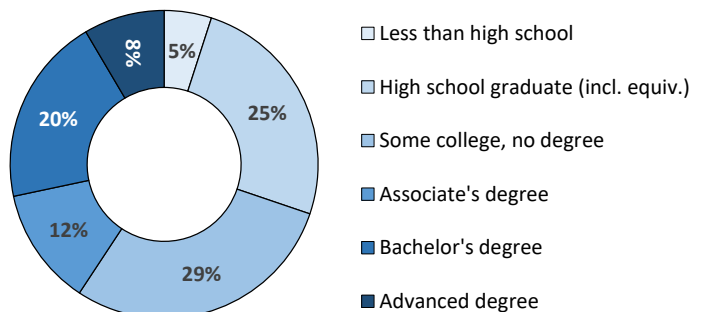


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Blue Earth Co. has a higher percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a higher percentage of people with at least some college experience. Blue Earth Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma: | 95.0% |
| College-educated: | 69.8% |
| state: | 68.8% |
| Associate's Degree: | 12.4% |
| Bachelor's Degree: | 19.8% |
| Advanced Degree: | 8.5% |

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023

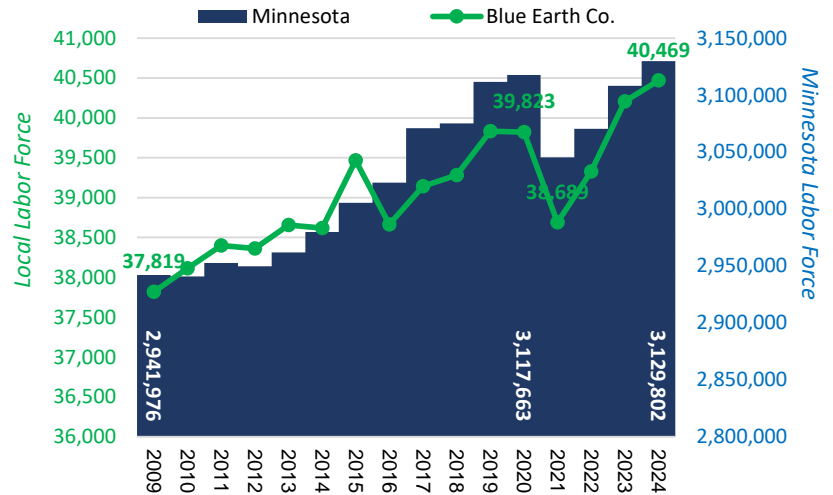


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.4%, Blue Earth Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Blue Earth Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 2.9% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Blue Earth Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates

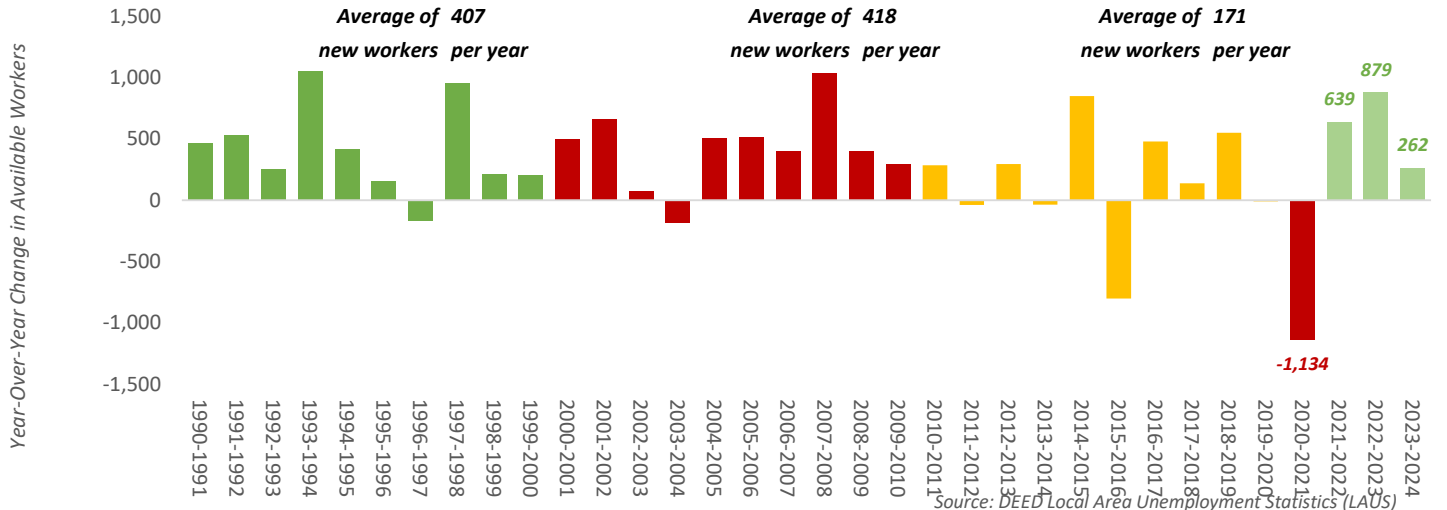


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 40,469 | available workers |
| Labor Force change, 2009-2024 | 2,650 workers 7.0% increase |
| 2.6% | unemployment rate |
| 3.0% | state |
| 1,052 | unemployed workers |

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

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 | 12,694 | 13,811 |
| 25 to 54 years | 21,232 | 23,204 |
| 55 to 64 years | 5,022 | 5,196 |
| 65 years & over | 2,058 | 2,081 |
| Total Labor Force | 41,006 | 44,293 |

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

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

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

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

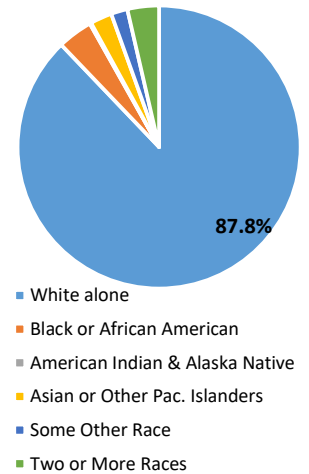
| | Blue Earth Co. | | | Minnesota | | Labor Force by Gender | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | In Labor Force (available workers) | Labor Force Partic. Rate | Unemp. Rate | Labor Force Partic. Rate | Unemp. Rate | Male | Female |
| Total Labor Force | 39,790 | 69.7% | 4.2% | 68.5% | 3.9% | 20,800 | 18,977 |
| 16 to 19 years | 3,426 | 59.8% | 10.3% | 52.7% | 9.9% | 1,410 | 2,014 |
| 20 to 24 years | 8,403 | 79.8% | 4.2% | 83.4% | 6.5% | 4,168 | 4,240 |
| 25 to 44 years | 15,153 | 89.0% | 4.4% | 88.7% | 3.5% | 8,296 | 6,854 |
| 45 to 54 years | 5,626 | 86.4% | 2.5% | 87.8% | 2.9% | 2,926 | 2,698 |
| 55 to 64 years | 5,286 | 74.6% | 2.3% | 72.8% | 3.0% | 2,775 | 2,512 |
| 65 to 74 years | 1,590 | 26.9% | 1.6% | 27.8% | 3.4% | 1,013 | 578 |
| 75 years & over | 292 | 6.8% | 3.1% | 6.6% | 3.1% | 212 | 81 |

| Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| White alone | 34,946 | 69.4% | 4.0% | 67.5% | 3.4% |
| Black or African American | 1,594 | 70.4% | 5.0% | 71.0% | 8.4% |
| American Indian & Alaska Native | 67 | 72.0% | 0.0% | 57.7% | 11.4% |
| Asian or Other Pac. Islanders | 989 | 66.7% | 11.8% | 74.6% | 3.5% |
| Some Other Race | 748 | 86.6% | 1.2% | 75.9% | 5.6% |
| Two or More Races | 1,435 | 70.7% | 5.4% | 74.2% | 6.1% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1,917 | 79.5% | 7.5% | 77.1% | 5.9% |

| Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years | 1,985 | 54.4% | 12.6% | 55.3% | 9.5% |

| Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Population, 25 to 64 years | 26,055 | 85.1% | 3.6% | 84.4% | 3.3% |
| Less than H.S. Diploma | 973 | 64.2% | 2.8% | 67.1% | 4.7% |
| H.S. Diploma or Equivalent | 5,267 | 77.7% | 2.5% | 76.5% | 2.6% |
| Some College or Assoc. Degree | 9,939 | 86.8% | 4.7% | 85.0% | 3.6% |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 9,873 | 90.8% | 2.4% | 90.5% | 2.0% |

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023



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

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

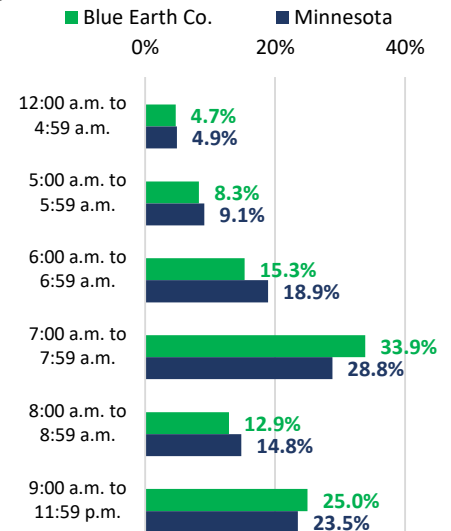
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

| | Blue Earth Co. | | Minnesota | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Worked in state of residence | 36,857 | 99.7% | 2,870,678 | 97.8% |
| Worked in county of residence | 28,576 | 77.3% | 1,984,232 | 67.6% |
| Worked out of county of residence | 8,281 | 22.4% | 886,447 | 30.2% |
| Worked outside state of residence | 111 | 0.3% | 64,576 | 2.2% |

| MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Car, truck, or van | 31,719 | 85.8% | 2,286,563 | 77.9% |
| Public transportation (excl. taxicab) | 665 | 1.8% | 61,640 | 2.1% |
| Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.) | 1,479 | 4.0% | 120,345 | 4.1% |
| Worked at home | 3,068 | 8.3% | 463,770 | 15.8% |

| TRAVEL TIME TO WORK | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Less than 10 minutes | 8,798 | 23.8% | 478,446 | 16.3% |
| 10 to 19 minutes | 17,745 | 48.0% | 924,605 | 31.5% |
| 20 to 29 minutes | 5,360 | 14.5% | 651,626 | 22.2% |
| 30 to 44 minutes | 2,847 | 7.7% | 551,828 | 18.8% |
| 45 to 59 minutes | 887 | 2.4% | 176,115 | 6.0% |
| 60 or more minutes | 1,331 | 3.6% | 149,698 | 5.1% |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes) | 17.1 minutes | | 23.1 minutes | |

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



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

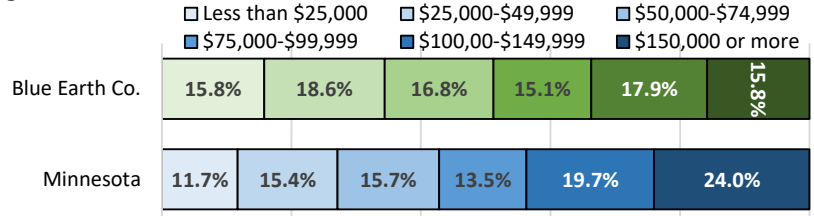
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Median Household Income | \$72,623 |
| state | \$87,556 |
| Median Family Income | \$95,459 |
| state | \$111,492 |
| Per Capita Income | \$36,299 |
| 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. Blue Earth Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$15.02 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.31 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 |
| Blue Earth Co. | \$31,244 | \$15.02 | \$0 | \$412 | \$150 | \$928 | \$498 | \$310 | \$306 |
| 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 |
| Blue Earth Co. | \$57,124 | \$18.31 | \$353 | \$937 | \$530 | \$1,133 | \$841 | \$479 | \$487 |
| State of Minnesota | \$70,308 | \$22.53 | \$545 | \$964 | \$556 | \$1,446 | \$1,028 | \$557 | \$763 |

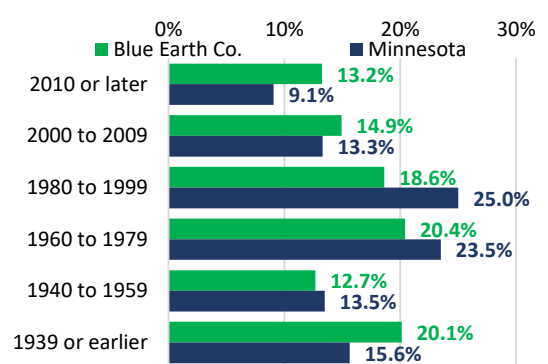
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

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

| Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022 | Blue Earth Co. | | Minnesota |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Total | Percent | Percent |
| Total | 16,787 | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Less than \$50,000 | 1,019 | 6.1% | 4.0% |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 557 | 3.3% | 4.0% |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 1,576 | 9.4% | 6.2% |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 2,377 | 14.2% | 8.9% |
| \$200,000 to \$299,999 | 5,374 | 32.0% | 25.7% |
| \$300,000 to \$499,999 | 4,236 | 25.2% | 33.6% |
| \$500,000 or more | 1,648 | 9.8% | 17.5% |
| Median (dollars) | \$252,800 | | \$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 | \$1,609 |
| state | \$1,890 |

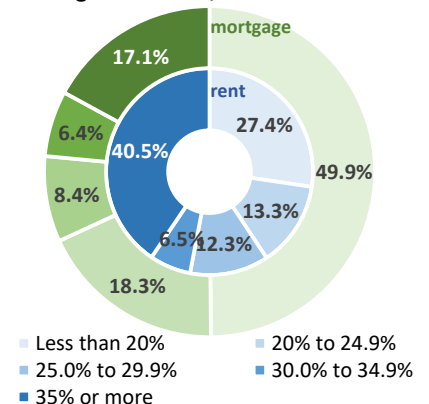
| | |
|---|--------------|
| Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs | 23.5% |
| state | 22.5% |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Median monthly rent costs | \$1,076 |
| state | \$1,235 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent | 47.0% |
| state | 47.2% |

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.5 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 9 than the state. Overall, Region 9 had the 6th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$48.78) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$15.01) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

| Occupational Group | Region 9 | | | | 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 |
| Total, All Occupations | \$23.50 | 102,130 | 100.0% | 1.0 | \$26.22 | 2,920,470 | 100.0% |
| Management | \$48.78 | 5,790 | 5.7% | 0.8 | \$59.38 | 200,060 | 6.9% |
| Business & Financial Operations | \$35.84 | 4,270 | 4.2% | 0.6 | \$39.95 | 208,210 | 7.1% |
| Computer & Mathematical | \$38.02 | 1,150 | 1.1% | 0.3 | \$50.02 | 97,460 | 3.3% |
| Architecture & Engineering | \$38.56 | 1,790 | 1.8% | 0.9 | \$45.03 | 57,950 | 2.0% |
| Life, Physical & Social Science | \$33.52 | 860 | 0.8% | 0.8 | \$38.33 | 32,150 | 1.1% |
| Community & Social Service | \$29.90 | 2,240 | 2.2% | 1.1 | \$29.82 | 59,290 | 2.0% |
| Legal | \$36.69 | 390 | 0.4% | 0.5 | \$49.52 | 20,750 | 0.7% |
| Education, Training & Library | \$28.30 | 6,550 | 6.4% | 1.1 | \$27.84 | 170,270 | 5.8% |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media | \$23.18 | 1,060 | 1.0% | 0.8 | \$28.84 | 36,030 | 1.2% |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | \$41.33 | 5,960 | 5.8% | 0.9 | \$46.51 | 187,480 | 6.4% |
| Healthcare Support | \$18.67 | 6,720 | 6.6% | 1.1 | \$18.67 | 176,750 | 6.1% |
| Protective Service | \$29.66 | 1,340 | 1.3% | 0.8 | \$29.37 | 46,960 | 1.6% |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | \$15.01 | 9,860 | 9.7% | 1.2 | \$16.05 | 240,830 | 8.2% |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | \$18.53 | 2,970 | 2.9% | 1.0 | \$19.16 | 81,700 | 2.8% |
| Personal Care & Service | \$16.90 | 2,240 | 2.2% | 1.0 | \$17.54 | 63,300 | 2.2% |
| Sales & Related | \$17.32 | 8,810 | 8.6% | 1.0 | \$18.66 | 244,780 | 8.4% |
| Office & Administrative Support | \$23.22 | 11,360 | 11.1% | 1.0 | \$24.07 | 340,040 | 11.6% |
| Farming, Fishing & Forestry | \$23.44 | 260 | 0.3% | 2.3 | \$23.48 | 3,300 | 0.1% |
| Construction & Extraction | \$30.81 | 4,190 | 4.1% | 1.1 | \$34.20 | 114,050 | 3.9% |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | \$29.17 | 4,650 | 4.6% | 1.3 | \$30.40 | 105,650 | 3.6% |
| Production | \$23.49 | 10,360 | 10.1% | 1.4 | \$23.56 | 205,220 | 7.0% |
| Transportation & Material Moving | \$22.63 | 9,340 | 9.1% | 1.2 | \$19.80 | 228,260 | 7.8% |

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

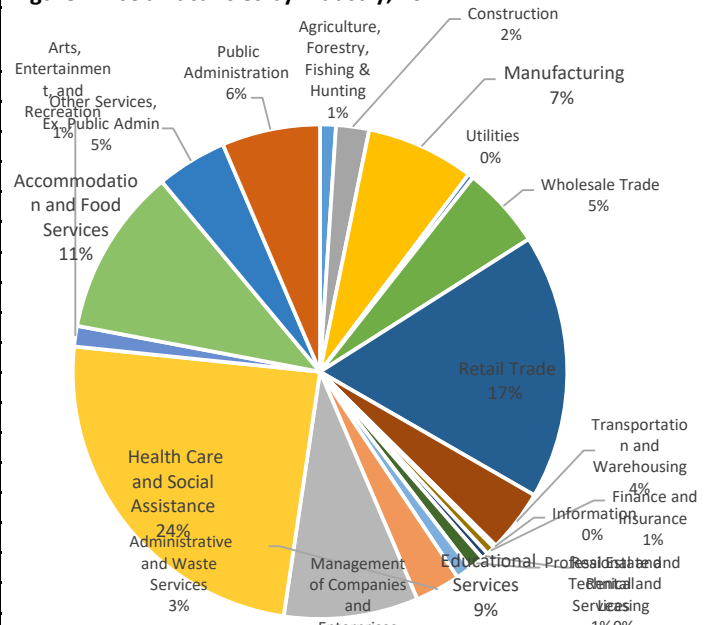
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Blue Earth Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9168 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. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

| Occupational Group | Number of Vacancies | Wage Offer |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Total, All Occupations | 9,168 | \$19.48 |
| Management | 176 | \$37.03 |
| Business & Financial Operations | 189 | \$27.48 |
| Computer & Mathematical | 40 | \$36.13 |
| Architecture & Engineering | 115 | \$27.92 |
| Life, Physical & Social Sciences | 88 | \$38.63 |
| Community & Social Service | 409 | \$24.68 |
| Education, Training & Library | 548 | \$21.55 |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical | 738 | \$30.27 |
| Healthcare Support | 984 | \$14.95 |
| Protective Service | 222 | \$28.05 |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | 1,188 | \$15.62 |
| Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | 395 | \$15.71 |
| Personal Care & Service | 114 | \$15.42 |
| Sales & Related | 1,026 | \$15.96 |
| Office & Administrative Support | 388 | \$20.28 |
| Construction & Extraction | 132 | \$23.65 |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | 645 | \$23.30 |
| Production | 457 | \$18.67 |
| Transportation & Material Moving | 1,033 | \$21.37 |

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

| Less than High School | High School or Equivalent | Some College or Assoc. Deg. | Bachelor's Degree or Higher |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cashiers \$29,957/yr | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$56,626/yr | Registered Nurses \$87,199/yr | General and Operations Managers \$83,095/yr |
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,313/yr | Nursing Assistants \$42,326/yr | Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$77,653/yr | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$62,582/yr |
| Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,720/yr | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$60,328/yr | Dental Hygienists \$96,312/yr | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$63,481/yr |
| Retail Salespersons \$34,590/yr | Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$60,377/yr | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,463/yr | Accountants and Auditors \$75,070/yr |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,684/yr | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,699/yr | Occupational Therapy Assistants \$61,484/yr | Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$42,191/yr |
| Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,463/yr | Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$62,197/yr | Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$83,721/yr | Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and \$106,848/yr |
| First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$44,165/yr | Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$62,029/yr | Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,581/yr | Financial Managers \$129,957/yr |
| Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$36,766/yr | Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,172/yr | Mechanical Drafters \$67,942/yr | Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$63,516/yr |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$45,638/yr | Emergency Medical Technicians \$41,569/yr | Agricultural Technicians \$63,397/yr | Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$63,878/yr |
| Food Preparation Workers \$32,590/yr | Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$61,914/yr | Physical Therapist Assistants \$63,751/yr | Physical Therapists \$99,992/yr |

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

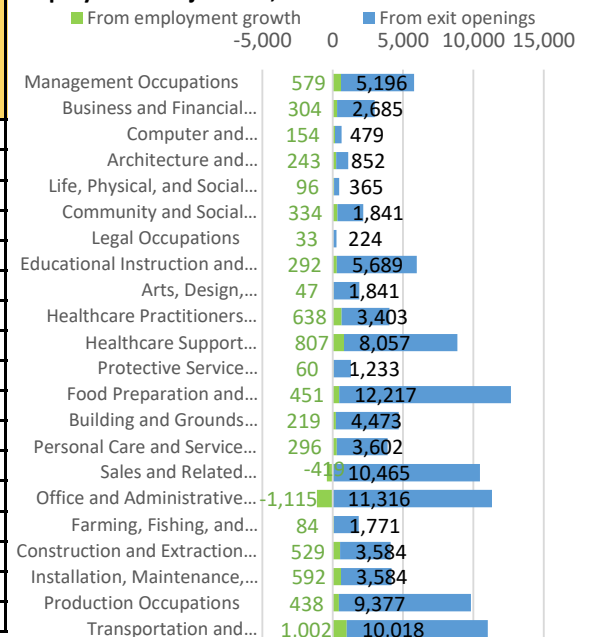
Blue Earth Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

| Southwest Planning Region | Estimated Employment 2022 | Projected Employment 2032 | Percent Change 2022-2032 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 202,214 | 207,878 | 2.8% |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 5,523 | 5,777 | 4.6% |
| Utilities | 690 | 690 | 0.0% |
| Construction | 7,679 | 8,252 | 7.5% |
| Manufacturing | 32,192 | 33,537 | 4.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 8,001 | 8,116 | 1.4% |
| Retail Trade | 19,409 | 19,084 | -1.7% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 6,297 | 6,810 | 8.1% |
| Information | 2,093 | 2,046 | -2.2% |
| Finance & Insurance, Real Estate | 8,227 | 8,375 | 1.8% |
| Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies | 5,544 | 5,985 | 8.0% |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. | 4,127 | 4,331 | 4.9% |
| Educational Services | 16,065 | 16,116 | 0.3% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 28,786 | 30,498 | 5.9% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 13,625 | 14,377 | 5.5% |
| Other Services | 7,097 | 7,281 | 2.6% |
| Public Administration | 14,117 | 14,370 | 1.8% |

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, Blue Earth Co. had the 11th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Blue Earth Co. was the 18th fastest growing in the past year and the 16th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2024, employment in Blue Earth Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

2,143 business establishments

\$57,012 annual average wage

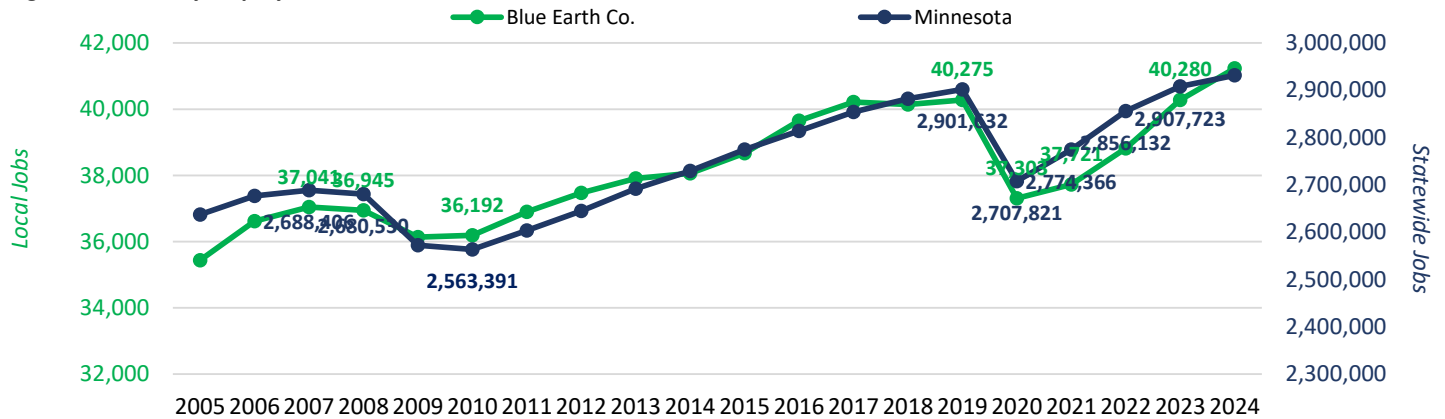
41,230 jobs

\$2,350,618,340 total industry payroll

Job change,
2020-2024 **3,927 jobs**
10.5% increase

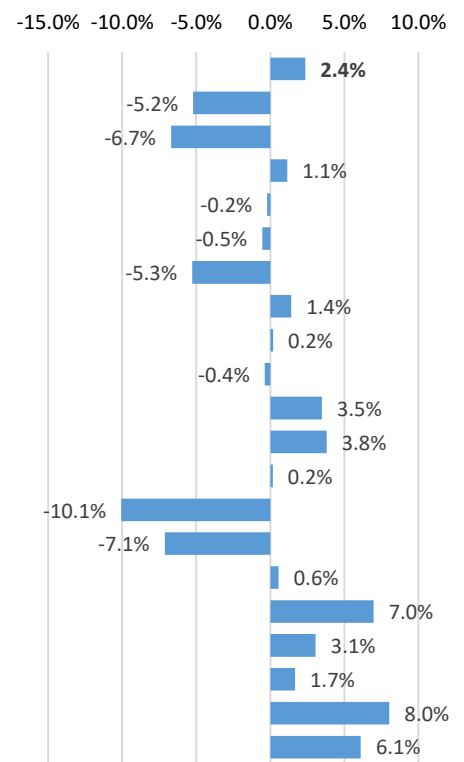
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

Source: DEED QCEW program



| Table 15. Blue Earth Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024 | Number of Establishments | Number of Jobs | Percent of Total Jobs | Average Annual Wage |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Total, All Industries | 2,143 | 41,230 | 100.0% | \$57,012 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt | 49 | 400 | 1.0% | \$23,004 |
| Mining | 3 | 84 | 0.2% | \$42,121 |
| Construction | 238 | 1,947 | 4.7% | \$78,276 |
| Manufacturing | 80 | 4,348 | 10.5% | \$75,937 |
| Utilities | 12 | 183 | 0.4% | \$116,049 |
| Wholesale Trade | 90 | 1,059 | 2.6% | \$76,763 |
| Retail Trade | 287 | 5,599 | 13.6% | \$34,146 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 86 | 1,629 | 4.0% | \$55,836 |
| Information | 29 | 542 | 1.3% | \$71,327 |
| Finance & Insurance | 125 | 1,247 | 3.0% | \$93,361 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 84 | 874 | 2.1% | \$42,428 |
| Professional & Technical Services | 120 | 1,211 | 2.9% | \$92,349 |
| Management of Companies | 11 | 134 | 0.3% | \$116,086 |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 69 | 964 | 2.3% | \$42,752 |
| Educational Services | 35 | 3,776 | 9.2% | \$62,482 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 356 | 9,625 | 23.3% | \$61,820 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 43 | 538 | 1.3% | \$18,916 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 181 | 4,081 | 9.9% | \$21,180 |
| Other Services | 183 | 1,546 | 3.7% | \$40,937 |
| Public Administration | 64 | 1,442 | 3.5% | \$72,918 |

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

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

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