# EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**COUNTY PROFILE** 

# Clay Co.

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

# **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2024 population:	66,848 people		
Population change,	1,530 people	Median Age:	<b>33.5</b> years
2020-2024	2.3% increase	state:	38.6 years

Clay Co. is the 16th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 24th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Clay 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		Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2	2000-2024	
	Number	Percent	2000 Population	2024 Estimate	
Under 5 years	4,377	6.5%	3,167	4,377	Under 5 years
5-14 years	9,550	14.3%	7,377	9,550	5-14 years
15-24 years	11,991	17.9%			
25-34 years	8,831	13.2%	11,017	11,991	15-24 years
35-44 years	9,041	13.5%	5,643	8,831	25-34 years
45-54 years	6,956	10.4%	7,522	9,041	35-44 years
55-64 years	6,838	10.2%	6,160	6,956	45-54 years
65-74 years	5,211	7.8%	3,746	6,838	55-64 years
75-84 years	2,672	4.0%	3,187	5,211	65-74 years
85 years & over	1,381	2.1%			
Total Population	66,848	100.0%	2,379	2,672	75-84 years
Source: Census 2024 Po	oulation Estimates,	2019-2023 ACS	1,031	<mark>1,</mark> 381	85 years & over

Clay 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. In addition to domestic in-migration, Clay 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 E	vents	Net Migration				
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic		
Clay Co.	1,519	419	2,830	2,411	1,095	697	398		
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, Clay Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Clay 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	Clay	y Co.	Change 2	013-2023	Minnesota		
Population, 2023	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change	
Foreign-born Population	2,812	4.3%	843	42.8%	8.6%	24.7%	
Europe	201	7.1%	-19	-8.6%	8.8%	-3.4%	
Asia	1,224	43.5%	188	18.1%	35.7%	18.1%	
Africa	989	35.2%	670	210.0%	28.3%	78.8%	
Oceania	28	1.0%	25	833.3%	0.4%	5.4%	
Americas:	370	13.2%	-21	-5.4%	26.7%	8.7%	
Latin America	295	10.5%	-31	-9.5%	24.2%	9.7%	
Northern America	75	2.7%	10	15.4%	2.5%	0.4%	



Figure 2. Place of Birth for

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



Northern America

Latin America

#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

Clav

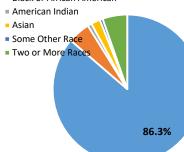
Clay Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

### Figure 3. Population by Race,



White





	Clay Co.	Minnesota		
Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
65,628	100.0%	10.0%	100.0%	6.8%
56,650	86.3%	2.3%	78.4%	-2.2%
3,174	4.8%	253.8%	6.8%	38.9%
566	0.9%	-36.3%	0.9%	-11.6%
1,301	2.0%	69.0%	5.1%	29.6%
419	0.6%	1.2%	2.7%	96.1%
3,518	5.4%	169.6%	6.2%	168.3%
3,186	4.9%	43.3%	6.2%	37.5%
	65,628 56,650 3,174 566 1,301 419 3,518	Number         Percent           65,628         100.0%           56,650         86.3%           3,174         4.8%           566         0.9%           1,301         2.0%           419         0.6%           3,518         5.4%	Number         Percent         Change from 2013-2023           65,628         100.0%         10.0%           56,650         86.3%         2.3%           3,174         4.8%         253.8%           566         0.9%         -36.3%           1,301         2.0%         69.0%           419         0.6%         1.2%           3,518         5.4%         169.6%	Number         Percent         Change from 2013-2023         Percent           65,628         100.0%         10.0%         100.0%           56,650         86.3%         2.3%         78.4%           3,174         4.8%         253.8%         6.8%           566         0.9%         -36.3%         0.9%           1,301         2.0%         69.0%         5.1%           419         0.6%         1.2%         2.7%           3,518         5.4%         169.6%         6.2%

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

# **POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

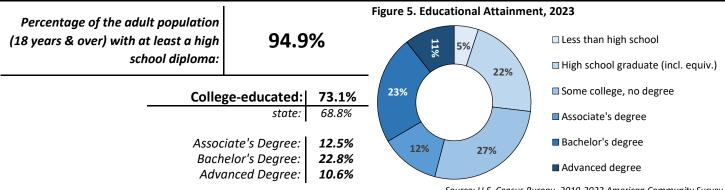
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Clay Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase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

					Figure 4. Pr	ojections by	Age Group,	2025-
<b>Table 5. Population Project</b>	ions by Age Gro	up, 2025-2035			2035			
	2025	2035	Numeric	Percent	80,000	67,099	70,685	
Clay Co.	Projection	Projection	Change	Change	70,000			85 years & over
Under 5 years	4,399	4,519	120	2.7%	70,000			■ 75-84 years
5-14 years	9,185	8,954	-231	-2.5%	60,000			, 65-74 years
15-24 years	12,450	13,537	1,087	8.7%	50,000			,
25-34 years	8,319	8,542	223	2.7%	,			□ 55-64 years
35-44 years	9,222	8,735	-487	-5.3%	40,000			■ 45-54 years
45-54 years	7,267	8,849	1,582	21.8%	30,000			35-44 years
55-64 years	6,225	6,528	303	4.9%	20.000			■ 25-34 years
65-74 years	5,607	5,214	-393	-7.0%	20,000			15-24 years
75-84 years	3,097	4,280	1,183	38.2%	10,000			□ 5-14 years
85 years & over	1,328	1,527	199	15.0%	]			Under 5 years
Total Population	67,099	70,685	3,586	5.3%	2	025 Projectio	n2035 Projectio	on

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

# **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

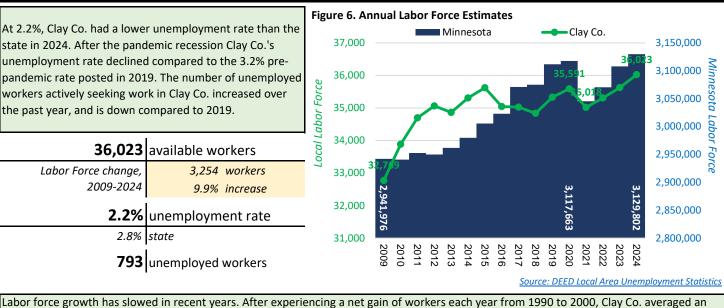
Clay Co. has a higher percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a higher percentage of people with at least some college experience. Clay Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people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



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

### **COUNTY PROFILE**

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS



annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Clay Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

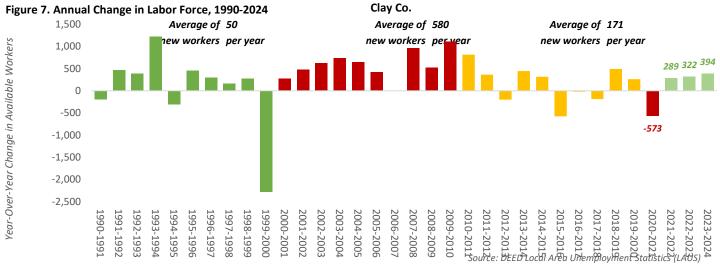
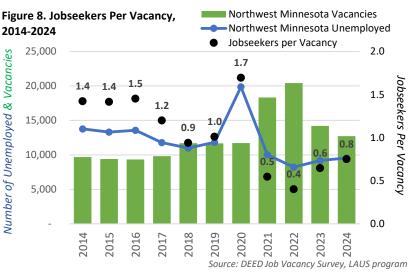


Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection					
Projections, 2025-2035	2025 2035					
16 to 24 years	7,800	8,573				
25 to 54 years	22,084	23,189				
55 to 64 years	4,644	4,870				
65 years & over	2,042	2,034				
Total Labor Force	36,569	38,666				

#### 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).



**Clay Co** 

# LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

		Clay 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	35,985	70.7%	3.9%	68.5%	3.9%	18,473	17,491
16 to 19 years	2,568	58.2%	11.2%	52.7%	9.9%	1,014	1,555
20 to 24 years	4,809	76.3%	5.3%	83.4%	6.5%	2,339	2,472
25 to 44 years	15,912	90.7%	3.8%	88.7%	3.5%	8,255	7,659
45 to 54 years	5,805	85.0%	1.7%	87.8%	2.9%	3,314	2,488
55 to 64 years	5,008	74.6%	1.7%	72.8%	3.0%	2,553	2,457
65 to 74 years	1,540	30.1%	4.2%	27.8%	3.4%	861	678
75 years & over	318	8.0%	3.8%	6.6%	3.1%	137	182
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					Figure 9. La	bor Force by
White alone	31,968	70.8%	3.4%	67.5%	3.4%		· · · · · <b>,</b>
Black or African American	1,437	73.3%	11.3%	71.0%	8.4%	,	
American Indian & Alaska Native	296	64.3%	37.8%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	503	54.1%	0.2%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	278	82.7%	3.2%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	1,486	72.1%	1.9%	74.2%	6.1%		N
Hispanic or Latino	1,450	77.4%	1.4%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disabili	ty, 20 to 64 years						
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,660	61.8%	16.8%	55.3%	9.5%		88.8
Employment Characteristics by Educati	onal Attainment, 25	5 to 64 years					
Population, 25 to 64 years	26,736	86.0%	2.9%	84.4%	3.3%	White ale	one
Less than H.S. Diploma	767	62.9%	4.1%	67.1%	4.7%		African American
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,626	77.3%	1.6%	76.5%	2.6%		n Indian & Alaska N
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,270	84.7%	3.4%	85.0%	3.6%	Asian or	Other Pac. Islande
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12,060	93.2%	1.4%	90.5%	2.0%	Some Ot	her Race

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

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

	Clay Co. Minnesota			Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to				
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	go to Work, 20			
Worked in state of residence	16,246	48.6%	2,870,678	97.8%	Clay 09		■Minnesota 20% 40%	2/
Worked in county of residence	15,410	46.1%	1,984,232	67.6%	0.	70 2	20% 40%	0
Worked out of county of residence	836	2.5%	886,447	30.2%	12:00 a.m. to	_		
Worked outside state of residence	17,181	51.4%	64,576	2.2%	4:59 a.m.	4.0%		
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK						4.370		
Car, truck, or van	27,711	82.9%	2,286,563	77.9%	5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	6.4%		
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	401	1.2%	61,640	2.1%		9.1%		
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,638	4.9%	120,345	4.1%	6:00 a.m. to 6:59		18.4%	
Worked at home	3,677	11.0%	463,770	15.8%	a.m.		18.9%	
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK					7:00 a.m. to 7:59			
Less than 10 minutes	5,515	16.5%	478,446	16.3%	a.m.		36.4 28.8%	4%
10 to 19 minutes	14,975	44.8%	924,605	31.5%			20.0%	
20 to 29 minutes	6,953	20.8%	651,626	22.2%	8:00 a.m. to 8:59	1	3.8%	
30 to 44 minutes	3,844	11.5%	551,828	18.8%	a.m.	1	L <b>4.8%</b>	
45 to 59 minutes	903	2.7%	176,115	6.0%	9:00 a.m. to		24.00/	
60 or more minutes	1,270	3.8%	149,698	5.1%	11:59 p.m.		21.0%	
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.5	minutes	23.1	minutes	ľ			

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

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

Clay Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Clay Co. had the 22nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$77,664	Figure 11. House		old Incomes, 2023 □ Less than \$25,000			□\$25,000-\$49,999			□ \$50,000-\$74,999	
state	\$87,556				\$99,999			)0,00-\$149,999		■ \$150,000 or more	
Median Family Income	\$105,824	Clay Co.	15.7%		17.9%	14.	9%	14.2%	19.59	17.8	
state	\$111,492									×8 ×	
Per Capita Income	\$38,791	Minnesota	11.7%	15.	4%	15.7%	13	.5%	19.7%	24.0%	
state	\$46,957		11.770	13.	470	13.770	13		19.770	24.070	
Source: 2019-2023 American Co	ommunity Survey			S	ource: 2	019-2023	Amer	rican Comr	nunity Surv	ey 5-Year Estimates	

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Clay Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.14 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$17.81 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost o	f Living Estimate	es, 2024							
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage			Ν	Ionthly Co	sts		
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes
Clay Co.	\$29,413	\$14.14	\$0	\$416	\$150	\$787	\$534	\$278	\$286
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	<b>Nonthly Co</b>	sts		
working full-time, 1 part- time), 1 child	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes
Clay Co.	\$55,561	\$17.81	\$352	\$945	\$530	\$971	\$932	\$443	\$457
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool									

Clay Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 24th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Clay 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-	Clay C	ò.	Minnesota
occupied Housing Units, 2022	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	17,285	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	591	3.4%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	381	2.2%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,289	7.5%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,578	14.9%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,903	34.2%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	5,121	29.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	1,422	8.2%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$256,0	\$305,500	

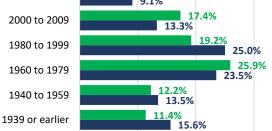
 0%
 10%
 20%

 ℃
 Clay Co.
 ■ Minnesota

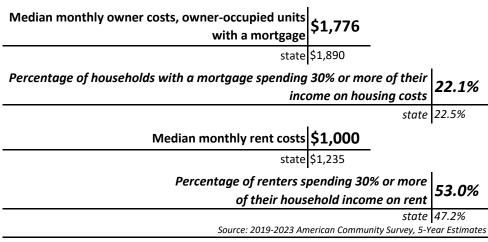
 %
 2010 or later
 13.9%

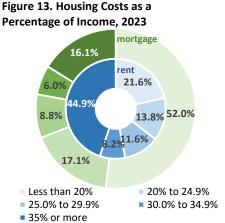
 9.1%
 9.1%

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



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





30%

### **OCCUPATIONS**

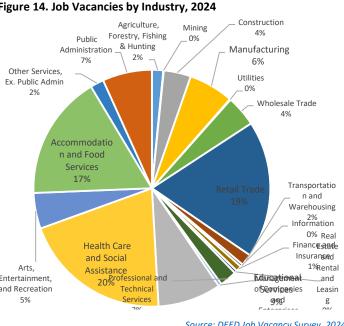
At \$23.2 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.94) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.54) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025								
		Region 4				State of Minnesota		
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	\$23.20	89,640	100.0%	1.0	\$26.22	2,920,470	100.0%	
Management	\$47.94	4,960	5.5%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%	
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.66	3,480	3.9%	0.5	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%	
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.75	1,070	1.2%	0.4	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%	
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.29	1,510	1.7%	0.8	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%	
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.22	620	0.7%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%	
Community & Social Service	\$28.65	2,020	2.3%	1.1	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%	
Legal	\$35.38	370	0.4%	0.6	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%	
Education, Training & Library	\$26.95	6,740	7.5%	1.3	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%	
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.37	850	0.9%	0.8	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$38.26	5,470	6.1%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%	
Healthcare Support	\$18.66	5,250	5.9%	1.0	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%	
Protective Service	\$28.32	1,510	1.7%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%	
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.54	8,480	9.5%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%	
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$19.25	3,200	3.6%	1.3	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%	
Personal Care & Service	\$16.72	2,040	2.3%	1.0	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%	
Sales & Related	\$17.42	8,040	9.0%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%	
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.80	9,940	11.1%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%	
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.72	250	0.3%	2.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%	
Construction & Extraction	\$30.11	4,720	5.3%	1.3	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%	
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.12	3,910	4.4%	1.2	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%	
Production	\$23.41	7,440	8.3%	1.2	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%	
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.59	7,770	8.7%	1.1	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%	

## **JOB VACANCY SURVEY**

Clay Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region. There were 12718 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. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey R	esults, 2024		Figure
	Number of	Wage	Ŭ
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Offer	
Total, All Occupations	12,718	\$18.57	
Management	171	\$30.60	Other
Business & Financial Operations	215	\$21.51	Ex. Pul
Computer & Mathematical	63	\$19.52	
Architecture & Engineering	322	\$34.28	
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	57	\$25.42	
Community & Social Service	386	\$21.69	
Education, Training & Library	638	\$20.64	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,009	\$31.22	
Healthcare Support	1,082	\$18.32	
Protective Service	188	\$23.57	
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,330	\$15.00	
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	625	\$17.65	
Personal Care & Service	327	\$18.14	
Sales & Related	1,850	\$15.63	
Office & Administrative Support	525	\$18.77	Art
Construction & Extraction	441	\$23.70	Entertai and Rec
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	751	\$20.05	5% and Rec
Production	604	\$19.93	
Transportation & Material Moving	662	\$18.81	



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

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

# **OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND**

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024						
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	General and Operations Managers			
\$36,108/yr	\$54,491/yr	\$84,785/yr	\$77,521/yr			
Retail Salespersons	Nursing Assistants	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education			
\$35,088/yr	\$40,033/yr	\$71,010/yr	\$64,121/yr			
Cashiers	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical			
\$30,773/yr	\$54,946/yr	\$78,771/yr	\$66,299/yr			
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Dental Hygienists	Accountants and Auditors			
\$38,126/yr	\$47,486/yr	\$85,989/yr	\$64,893/yr			
Stockers and Order Fillers	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term			
\$40,709/yr	\$48,131/yr	\$71,227/yr	\$46,162/yr			
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	Medical and Health Services Managers			
\$38,122/yr	\$49,479/yr	\$59,200/yr	\$102,974/yr			
Cooks, Restaurant	Machinists	Occupational Therapy Assistants	Child, Family, and School Social Workers			
\$36,830/yr	\$51,295/yr	\$59,627/yr	\$63,680/yr			
Food Preparation Workers	Electricians	Computer Network Support Specialists	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education			
\$31,855/yr	\$65,524/yr	\$70,049/yr	\$37,999/yr			
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	Surgical Technologists	Pharmacists			
\$40,826/yr	\$59,152/yr	\$64,809/yr	\$140,993/yr			
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Paramedics	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	Physical Therapists			
\$46,395/yr	\$64,134/yr	\$60,791/yr	\$98,061/yr			
			Source: DEED Occupations in Demana			

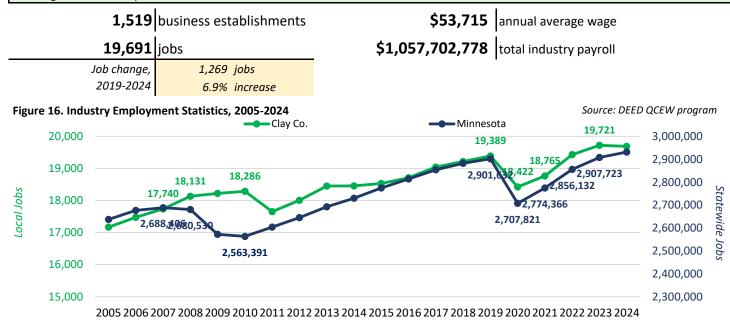
Clay Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Pr	Fable 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032						
				Employment Projections, 2022-2032			
	Estimated	Projected	Percent	From employment growth -5,000 5,000 15,000			
	Employment	Employ-	Change	-5,000 -5,000 -15,000			
Northwest Planning Region	2022	ment 2032	2022-2032	Management Occupations 994 6,607			
Total, All Industries	265,321	275,647	3.9%	Business and Financial 514 3,361			
	,	-		Computer and 324 695			
Natural Resources & Mining	6,095	6,335	3.9%	Architecture and 338 1,122			
Utilities	1,126	1,125	-0.1%	Life, Physical, and Social 108 475			
Construction	11,719	12,715	8.5%	Community and Social 578 2,713			
Manufacturing	29,871	31,429	5.2%	Legal Occupations 38 340 Educational Instruction and 511 7.826			
Wholesale Trade	12,936	14,034	8.5%	Educational Instruction and 511 7,826 Arts, Design, 129 2.518			
Retail Trade	27,705	27,590	-0.4%	Healthcare Practitioners 1.065 5.003			
Transportation & Warehousing	5,579	5,997	7.5%	Healthcare Support 1,222 9,828			
Information	2,451	2,470	0.8%	Protective Service 152 2,152			
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,067	8,366	3.7%	Food Preparation and 869 17,902			
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani	5,609	6,152	9.7%	Building and Grounds 494 6,547			
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,192	4,460	6.4%	Personal Care and Service 553 5,268 Sales and Related312 14,814			
Educational Services	22,849	22,989	0.6%	Sales and Related31214,814 Office and Administrative 1,098 15,558			
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,421	38,978	7.0%	Farming, Fishing, and 54 <b>1,975</b>			
Leisure & Hospitality	24,958	26,706	7.0%	Construction and Extraction 939 5,328			
Other Services	9,824	10,129	3.1%	Installation, Maintenance, 765 4,558			
Public Administration	24,161	24,869	2.9%	Production Occupations 523 8,662			
	urce: DEED 2022-2	,		Transportation and 1,566 12,176			

#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

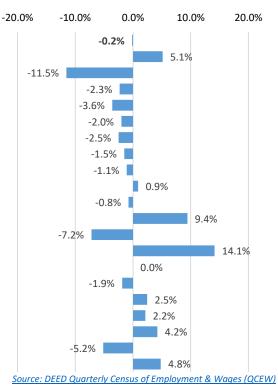
### **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Clay Co. had the 21st largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Clay Co. was the 61st fastest growing in the past year and the 35th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Clay Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.



			Average
Table 15. Clay Co. Industry Employment	Number of	Percent of	Annual
Statistics, 2024	Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
Total, All Industries	19,691	100.0%	\$53,715
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	327	1.7%	\$59 <i>,</i> 871
Mining	23	0.1%	\$81,588
Construction	1,104	5.6%	\$69,080
Manufacturing	1,134	5.8%	\$69,941
Utilities	66	0.3%	\$99,573
Wholesale Trade	1,103	5.6%	\$87,136
Retail Trade	2,429	12.3%	\$36,045
Transportation & Warehousing	586	3.0%	\$62,448
Information	222	1.1%	\$50,062
Finance & Insurance	386	2.0%	\$72,215
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	174	0.9%	\$61,219
Professional & Technical Services	594	3.0%	\$80,962
Management of Companies	113	0.6%	\$174,669
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	277	1.4%	\$48,319
Educational Services	3,509	17.8%	\$56,691
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,580	18.2%	\$46,456
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	332	1.7%	\$22,829
Accommodation & Food Services	1,696	8.6%	\$20,340
Other Services	681	3.5%	\$42,434
Public Administration	1,351	6.9%	\$64,227

#### Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

 Anthony Schaffhauser
 Regional Analyst, Northwest Minnesota

 CareerForce Bemidji
 616 America Avenue NW, Suite 210
 Bemidji, MN 56601

 Office:
 320-441-6594
 Email: anthony.schaffhauser@state.mn.us

 web:
 www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: May 23, 2025