

COUNTY PROFILE

# Pennington Co.

Pennington Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 1, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

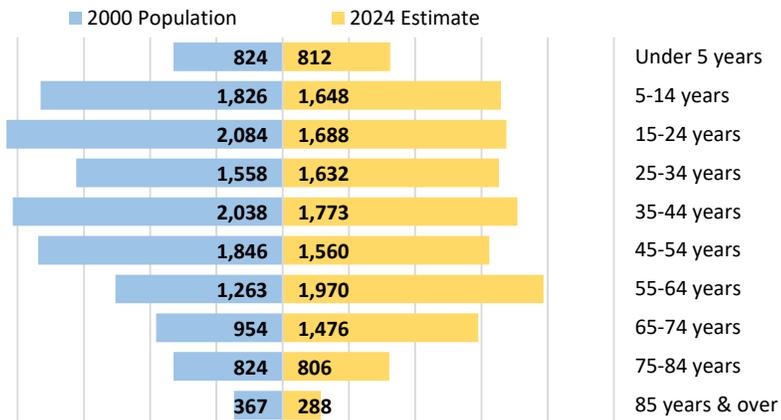
2024 population:	<b>13,652 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>40.2 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	-340 people -2.4% decline	state:	38.6 years

Pennington Co. is the 60th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 78th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Pennington Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	812	5.9%
5-14 years	1,648	12.1%
15-24 years	1,688	12.4%
25-34 years	1,632	12.0%
35-44 years	1,773	13.0%
45-54 years	1,560	11.4%
55-64 years	1,970	14.4%
65-74 years	1,476	10.8%
75-84 years	806	5.9%
85 years & over	288	2.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Pennington Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Pennington Co. welcomed net international immigration - 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
Pennington Co.	-342	-64	622	686	-270	54	-324
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

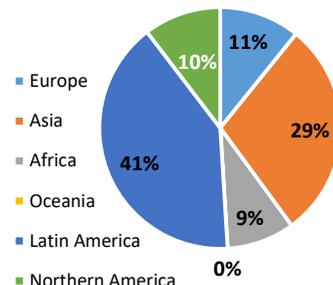
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Pennington Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	50	10.8%	8	19.0%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	135	29.2%	76	128.8%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	42	9.1%	-77	-64.7%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	236	51.0%	162	218.9%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	188	40.6%	156	487.5%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	48	10.4%	6	14.3%	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

Pennington Co.

Pennington 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**

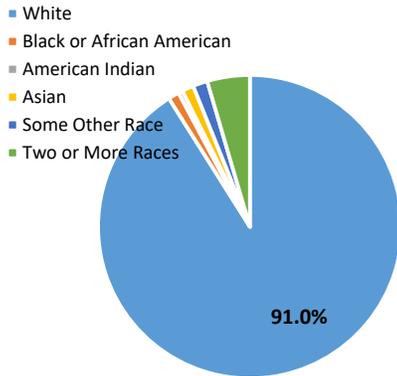


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Pennington Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	12,634	91.0%	-3.7%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	161	1.2%	-29.4%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	64	0.5%	-61.2%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	172	1.2%	63.8%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	216	1.6%	184.2%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	630	4.5%	98.7%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	663	4.8%	58.6%	6.2%	37.5%

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

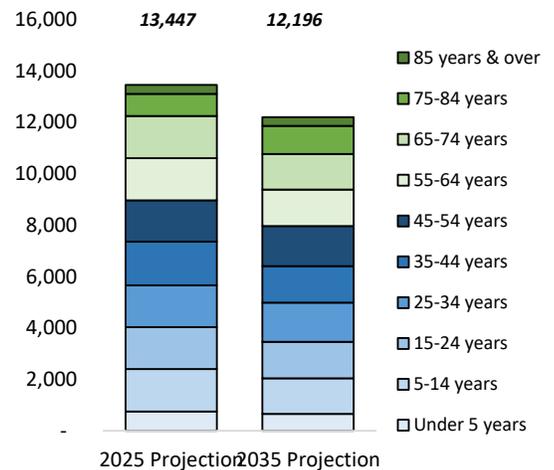
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Pennington Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to decrease over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Pennington Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	748	659	-89	-11.9%
5-14 years	1,650	1,381	-269	-16.3%
15-24 years	1,632	1,423	-209	-12.8%
25-34 years	1,631	1,515	-116	-7.1%
35-44 years	1,697	1,419	-278	-16.4%
45-54 years	1,600	1,561	-39	-2.4%
55-64 years	1,639	1,415	-224	-13.7%
65-74 years	1,643	1,387	-256	-15.6%
75-84 years	854	1,095	241	28.2%
85 years & over	353	341	-12	-3.4%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>13,447</b>	<b>12,196</b>	<b>-1,251</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

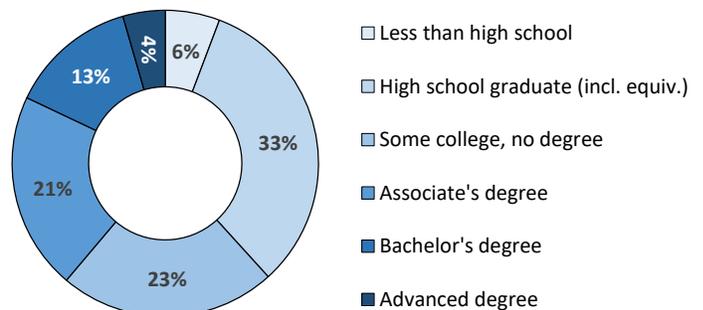


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Pennington Co. has a higher 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. Pennington 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>94.2%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>61.7%</b>
state:	68.8%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



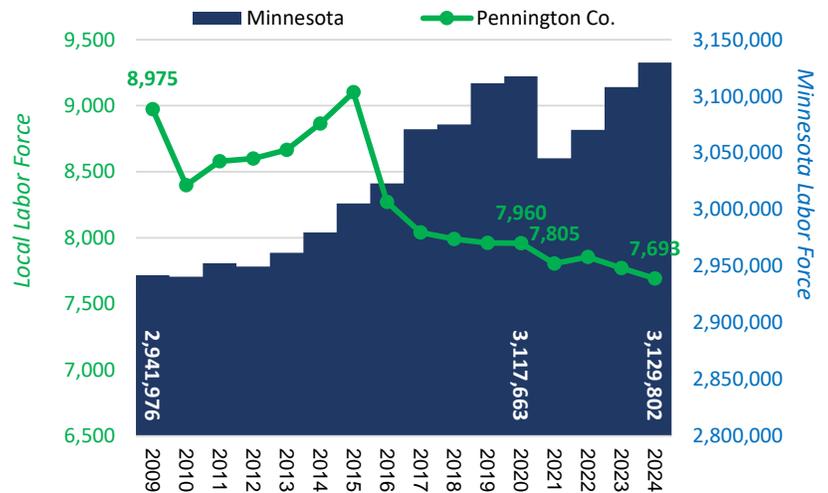
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.7%, Pennington Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Pennington Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.1% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Pennington Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>7,693</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	-1,282 workers -14.3% decline
<b>4.5%</b>	unemployment rate
3.0%	state
<b>346</b>	unemployed workers

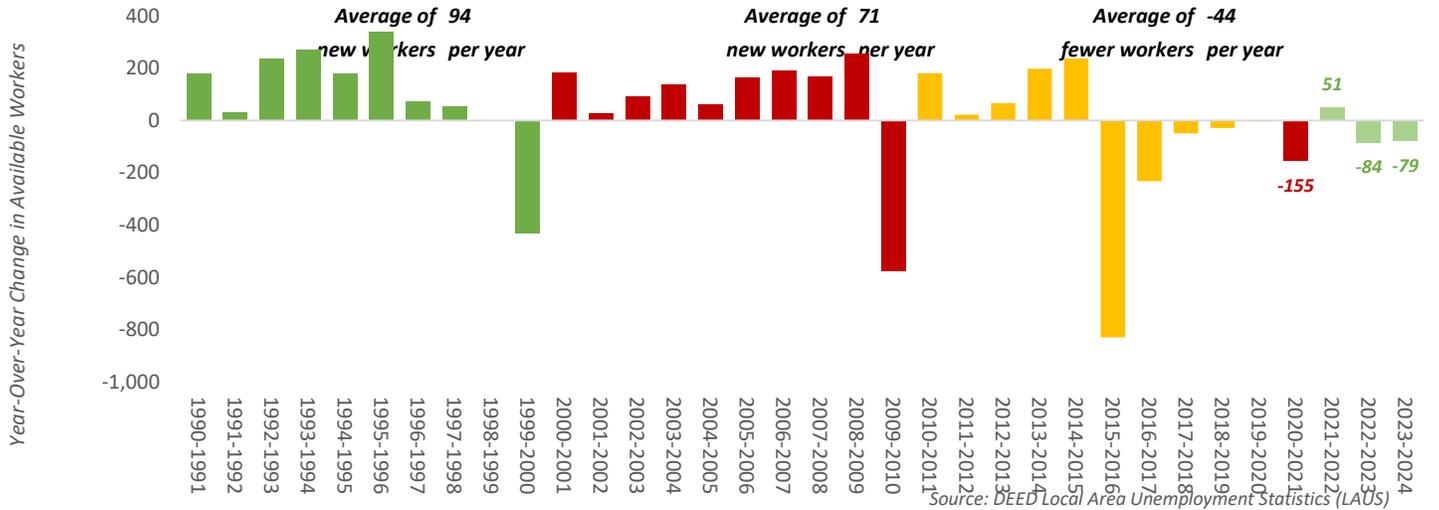
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Pennington Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Pennington Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



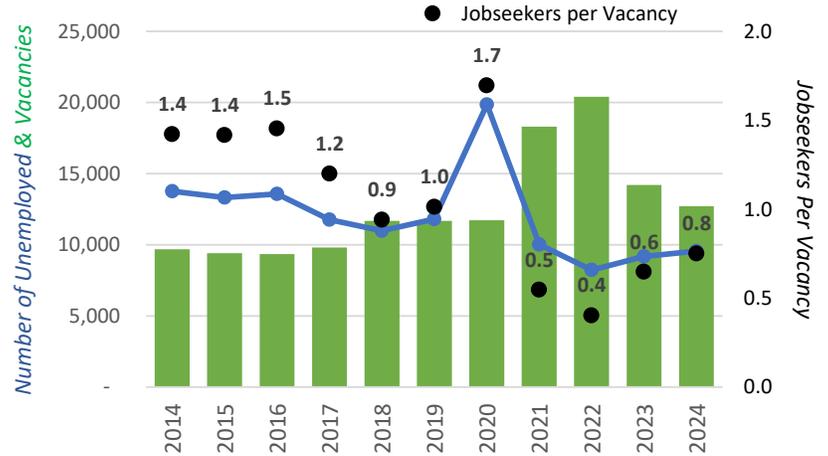
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	1,152	1,019
25 to 54 years	4,504	4,113
55 to 64 years	1,110	958
65 years & over	511	452
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>7,277</b>	<b>6,542</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 Northwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

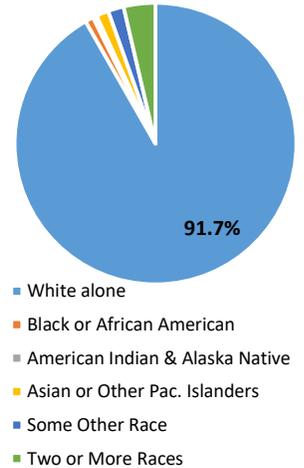
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

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

	Pennington 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>7,617</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>4,069</b>	<b>3,548</b>
16 to 19 years	388	58.8%	1.5%	52.7%	9.9%	177	211
20 to 24 years	796	94.0%	7.8%	83.4%	6.5%	384	412
25 to 44 years	3,106	89.7%	2.1%	88.7%	3.5%	1,663	1,444
45 to 54 years	1,504	94.8%	2.4%	87.8%	2.9%	799	704
55 to 64 years	1,356	67.7%	1.3%	72.8%	3.0%	786	570
65 to 74 years	413	27.5%	6.1%	27.8%	3.4%	221	192
75 years & over	54	4.9%	0.0%	6.6%	3.1%	39	15
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	6,986	68.3%	2.4%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	73	45.9%	0.0%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	34	53.1%	2.9%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	108	87.8%	23.1%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	137	72.5%	14.6%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	278	68.6%	0.0%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	366	80.8%	5.5%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	675	68.7%	2.8%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	5,963	84.6%	2.0%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	261	71.7%	2.3%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,597	82.3%	2.7%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	2,956	86.1%	1.9%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,152	87.8%	0.5%	90.5%	2.0%		

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023**



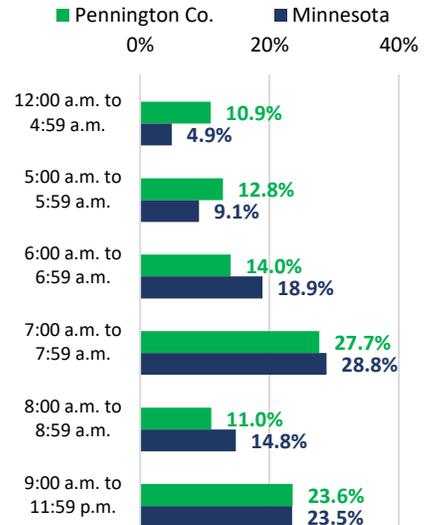
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Pennington Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	7,120	98.8%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	6,680	92.7%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	440	6.1%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	86	1.2%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	6,003	83.3%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	29	0.4%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	476	6.6%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	699	9.7%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	3,149	43.7%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	2,745	38.1%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	540	7.5%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	375	5.2%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	187	2.6%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	209	2.9%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>13.6 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

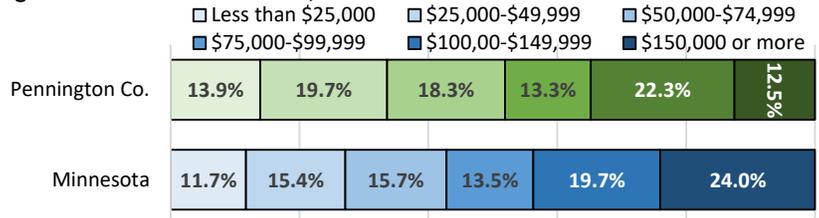
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Pennington Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Pennington Co. had the 38th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$72,561</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$99,464</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$39,863</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. Pennington Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.37 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.28 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
Pennington Co.	\$29,887	\$14.37	\$0	\$419	\$150	\$849	\$492	\$293	\$288
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
Pennington Co.	\$57,039	\$18.28	\$345	\$953	\$530	\$1,132	\$826	\$482	\$485
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

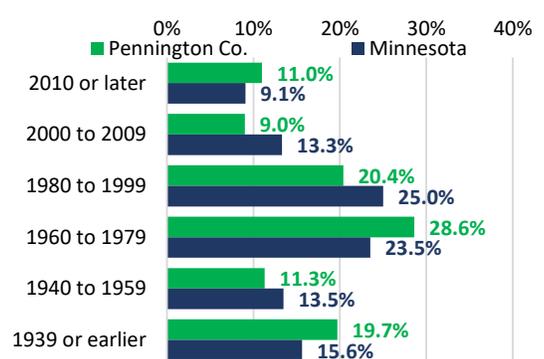
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Pennington Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 54th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Pennington Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Pennington Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,402</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	359	8.2%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	315	7.2%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	883	20.1%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	818	18.6%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,295	29.4%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	599	13.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	133	3.0%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$188,900</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>\$1,467</b>
state	\$1,890

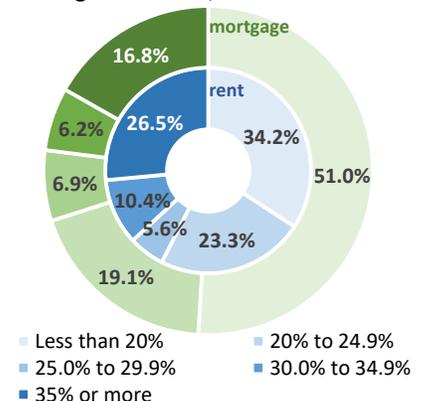
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$900</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>36.9%</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 \$23.94 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 1 than the state. Overall, Region 1 had the 4th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$48.45) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.98) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 1				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>\$23.94</b>	<b>35,860</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$48.45	1,900	5.3%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$31.40	1,640	4.6%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$42.33	540	1.5%	0.5	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.90	530	1.5%	0.7	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$31.72	250	0.7%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.59	630	1.8%	0.9	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$31.56	90	0.3%	0.4	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.09	2,590	7.2%	1.2	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.60	250	0.7%	0.6	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.79	1,740	4.9%	0.8	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.94	1,480	4.1%	0.7	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$29.41	590	1.6%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.98	2,870	8.0%	1.0	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.40	1,010	2.8%	1.0	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.52	590	1.6%	0.8	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.02	3,030	8.4%	1.0	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$24.49	4,450	12.4%	1.1	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.74	140	0.4%	3.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.61	1,210	3.4%	0.9	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.90	1,430	4.0%	1.1	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$22.30	4,590	12.8%	1.8	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$23.93	4,290	12.0%	1.5	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

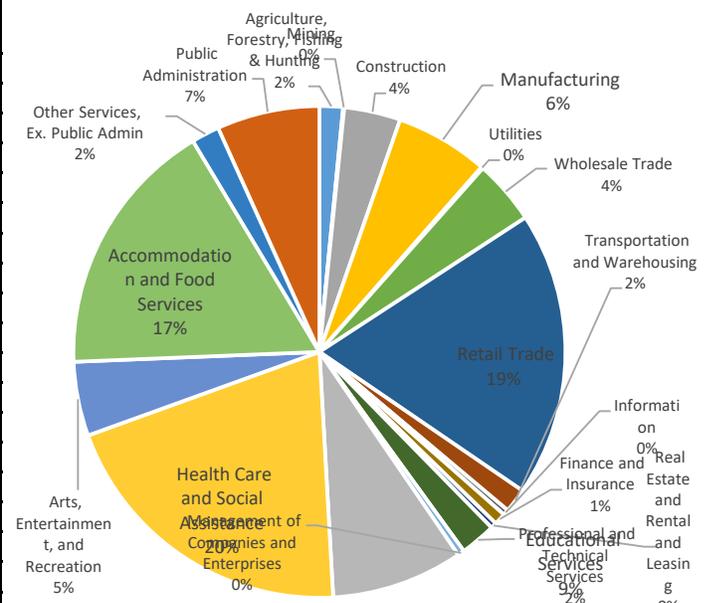
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Pennington 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 Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>12,718</b>	<b>\$18.57</b>
Management	171	\$30.60
Business & Financial Operations	215	\$21.51
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
Construction & Extraction	441	\$23.70
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	751	\$20.05
Production	604	\$19.93
Transportation & Material Moving	662	\$18.81

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

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

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

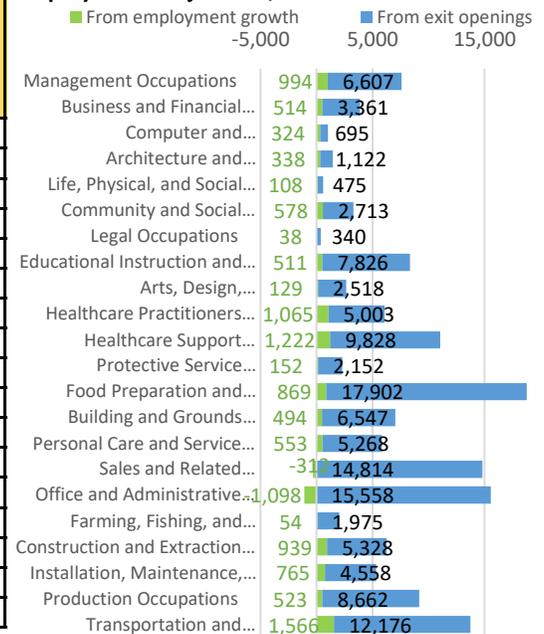
Pennington Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

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

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Pennington Co. had the 40th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Pennington Co. was the 81st fastest growing in the past year and the 71st fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2024, employment in Pennington Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

**422** business establishments

**\$56,005** annual average wage

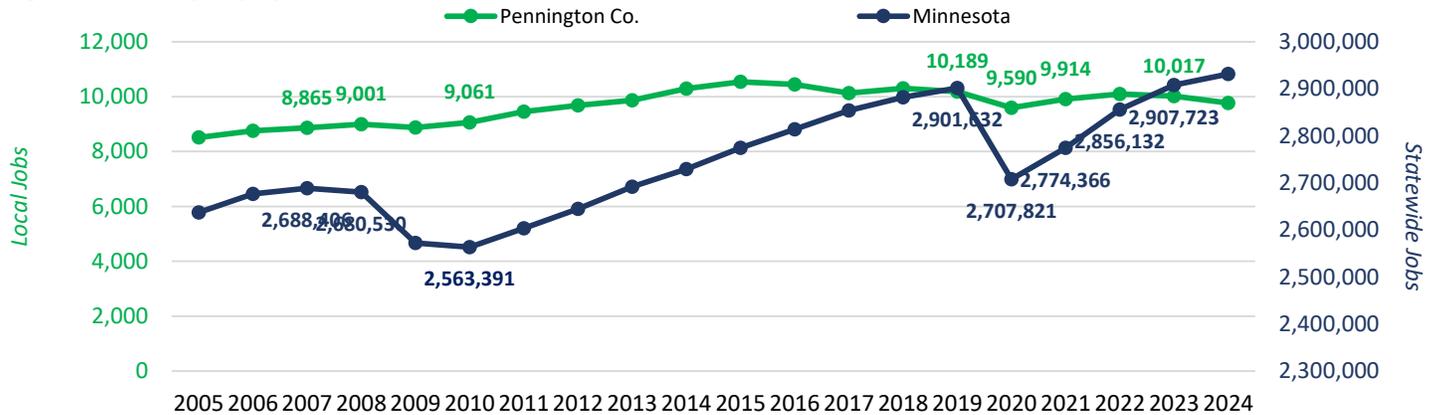
**9,773** jobs

**\$547,339,820** total industry payroll

Job change, 2020-2024: **183 jobs** (1.9% increase)

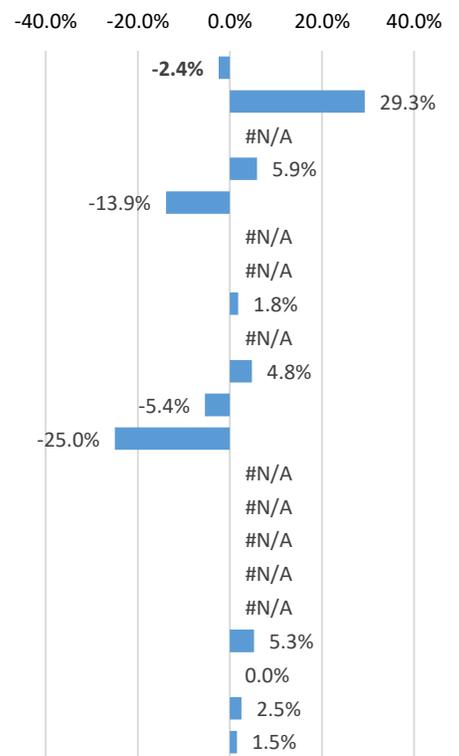
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

Source: DEED QCEW program



Industry	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>9,773</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$56,005</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	18	53	0.5%	\$49,572
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	32	198	2.0%	\$65,175
Manufacturing	18	933	9.5%	\$61,786
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	66	1,013	10.4%	\$27,906
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	5	88	0.9%	\$40,097
Finance & Insurance	24	157	1.6%	\$69,854
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14	15	0.2%	\$24,014
Professional & Technical Services	18	77	0.8%	\$65,376
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Health Care & Social Assistance	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13	421	4.3%	\$26,118
Accommodation & Food Services	31	513	5.2%	\$17,791
Other Services	42	246	2.5%	\$20,866
Public Administration	16	338	3.5%	\$65,008

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

For more information on Pennington 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/](http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/)

Data updated: May 23, 2025