

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Polk Co.**

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



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2024 population:	<b>30,413 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>39.5 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	-779 people -2.5% decline	state:	38.6 years

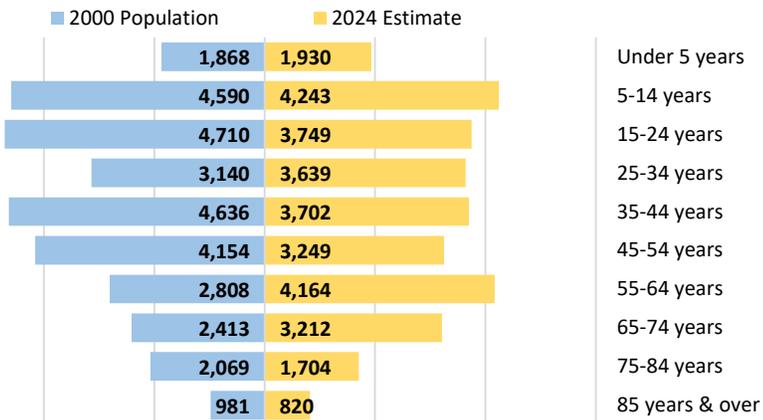
Polk Co. is the 35th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 80th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Polk Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

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

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,930	6.3%
5-14 years	4,243	14.0%
15-24 years	3,749	12.3%
25-34 years	3,639	12.0%
35-44 years	3,702	12.2%
45-54 years	3,249	10.7%
55-64 years	4,164	13.7%
65-74 years	3,212	10.6%
75-84 years	1,704	5.6%
85 years & over	820	2.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>30,413</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024**



Polk 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, Polk 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
Polk Co.	-775	-352	1,325	1,677	-411	283	-694
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

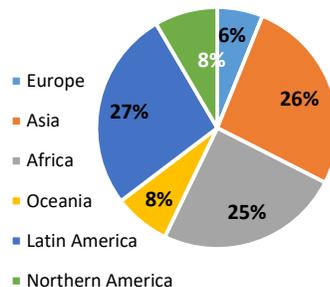
Compared to the state, Polk Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Polk Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

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

	Polk Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	47	6.1%	-75	-61.5%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	203	26.4%	-27	-11.7%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	190	24.7%	72	61.0%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	58	7.5%	54	1350.0%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	272	35.3%	-73	-21.2%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	207	26.9%	-57	-21.6%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	65	8.4%	-16	-19.8%	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

Polk Co.

Polk 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**

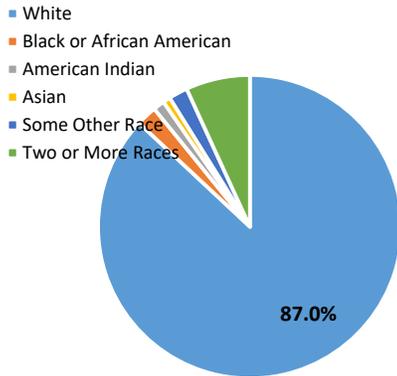


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Polk Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,905</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	26,877	87.0%	-8.1%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	677	2.2%	108.3%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	371	1.2%	8.2%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	244	0.8%	-15.6%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	622	2.0%	3.0%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,114	6.8%	198.6%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,074	6.7%	17.6%	6.2%	37.5%

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

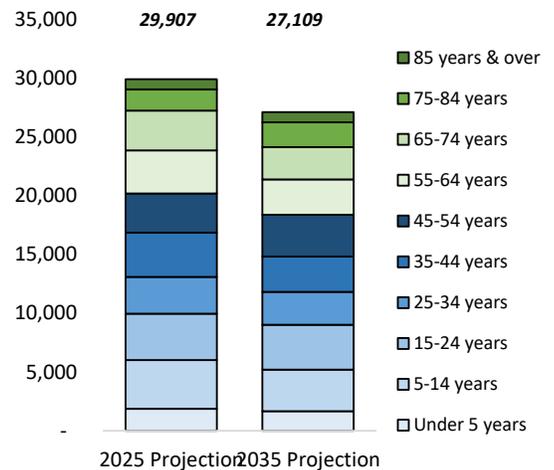
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Polk 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				
Polk Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,878	1,662	-216	-11.5%
5-14 years	4,138	3,540	-598	-14.5%
15-24 years	3,934	3,815	-119	-3.0%
25-34 years	3,126	2,799	-327	-10.5%
35-44 years	3,788	2,992	-796	-21.0%
45-54 years	3,322	3,583	261	7.9%
55-64 years	3,658	2,997	-661	-18.1%
65-74 years	3,391	2,747	-644	-19.0%
75-84 years	1,799	2,116	317	17.6%
85 years & over	873	858	-15	-1.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>29,907</b>	<b>27,109</b>	<b>-2,798</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

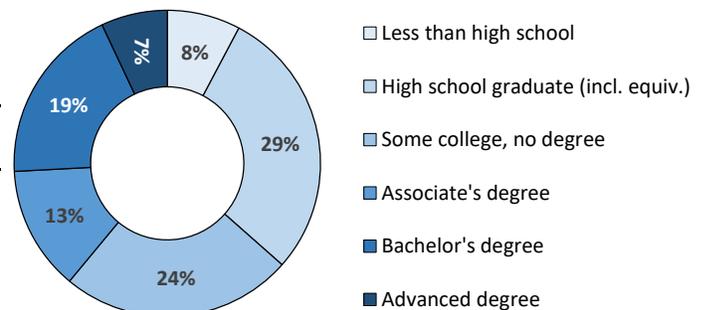


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Polk 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. Polk 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>92.3%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>63.5%</b>
state:	68.8%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>18.8%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



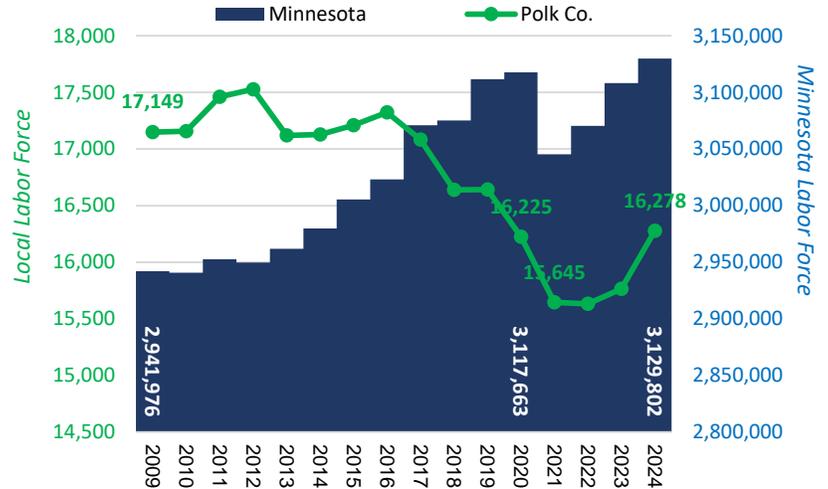
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3%, Polk Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Polk Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Polk Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>16,278</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	-871 workers -5.1% decline
<b>3.1%</b>	unemployment rate
3.0%	state
<b>505</b>	unemployed workers

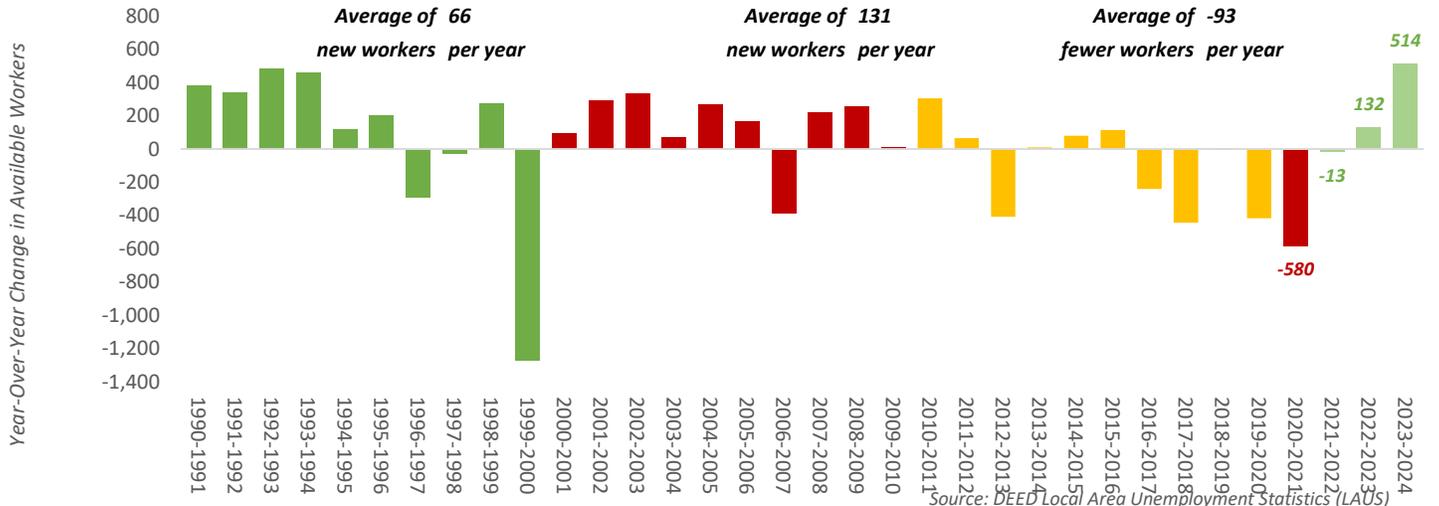
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Polk 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, Polk 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



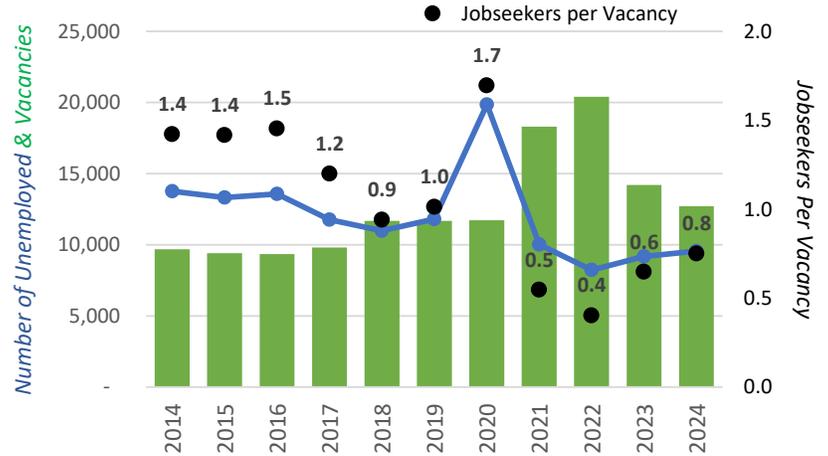
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,512	2,460
25 to 54 years	9,048	8,289
55 to 64 years	2,704	2,215
65 years & over	1,043	889
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>15,306</b>	<b>13,853</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

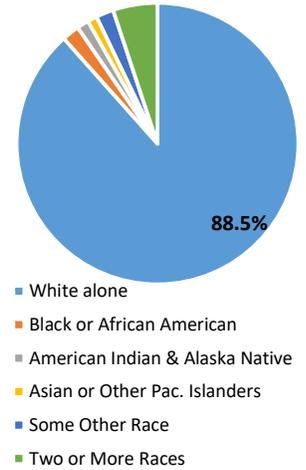
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

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

	Polk 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>16,038</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>7,377</b>
16 to 19 years	1,052	59.3%	6.6%	52.7%	9.9%	579	473
20 to 24 years	1,349	82.7%	3.0%	83.4%	6.5%	737	612
25 to 44 years	6,579	88.2%	4.9%	88.7%	3.5%	3,426	3,155
45 to 54 years	2,932	88.8%	2.9%	87.8%	2.9%	1,598	1,335
55 to 64 years	3,128	73.9%	0.6%	72.8%	3.0%	1,707	1,422
65 to 74 years	865	26.5%	3.4%	27.8%	3.4%	532	332
75 years & over	139	5.4%	2.9%	6.6%	3.1%	91	48
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	14,191	65.6%	2.5%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	321	68.7%	8.1%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	218	70.8%	18.3%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	176	91.2%	12.5%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	323	67.3%	0.0%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	820	71.5%	15.0%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	962	74.6%	17.2%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	750	44.0%	6.4%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	12,639	84.3%	3.4%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	636	66.7%	5.7%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,733	79.3%	1.9%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	5,072	84.0%	1.4%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4,200	92.2%	1.6%	90.5%	2.0%		

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



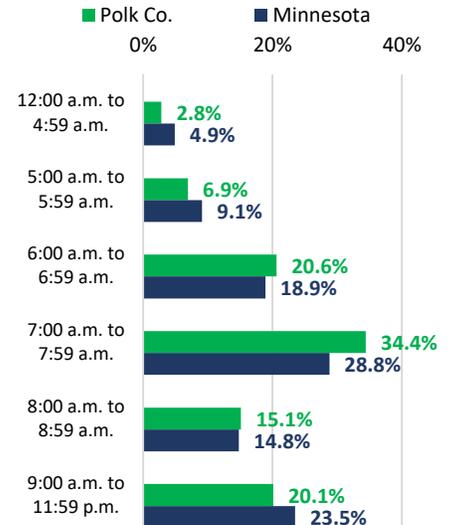
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Polk Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	10,686	70.9%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	9,586	63.6%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	1,100	7.3%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	4,386	29.1%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	12,917	85.7%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	106	0.7%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,145	7.6%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	904	6.0%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	4,597	30.5%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	5,155	34.2%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	2,185	14.5%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,522	10.1%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	874	5.8%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	739	4.9%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>18.7 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

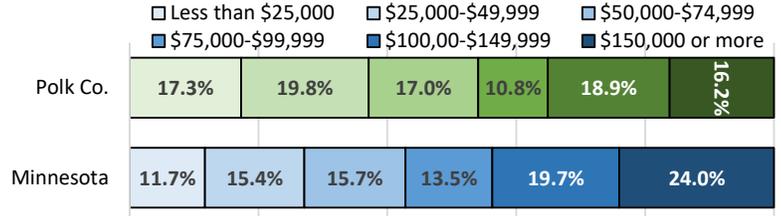
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Polk Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Polk Co. had the 64th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$69,136</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$96,684</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$36,332</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. Polk Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.81 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$17.53 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
Polk Co.	\$28,717	\$13.81	\$0	\$419	\$150	\$756	\$519	\$272	\$277
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
Polk Co.	\$54,694	\$17.53	\$352	\$954	\$530	\$956	\$894	\$442	\$430
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

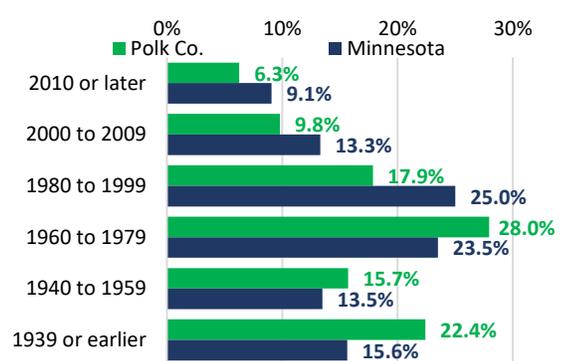
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Polk Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 49th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Polk 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	Polk Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,977</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	653	7.3%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	919	10.2%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,280	14.3%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,253	14.0%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,831	31.5%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,520	16.9%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	521	5.8%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$211,100</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>\$1,588</b>
state	\$1,890

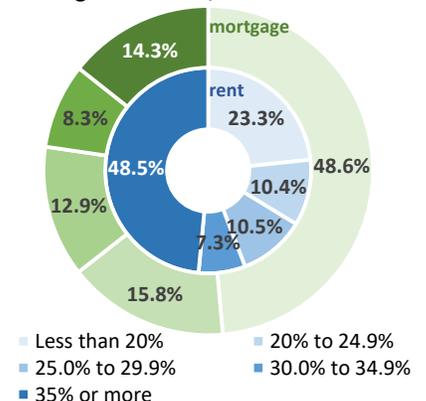
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>22.7%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$843</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>55.8%</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

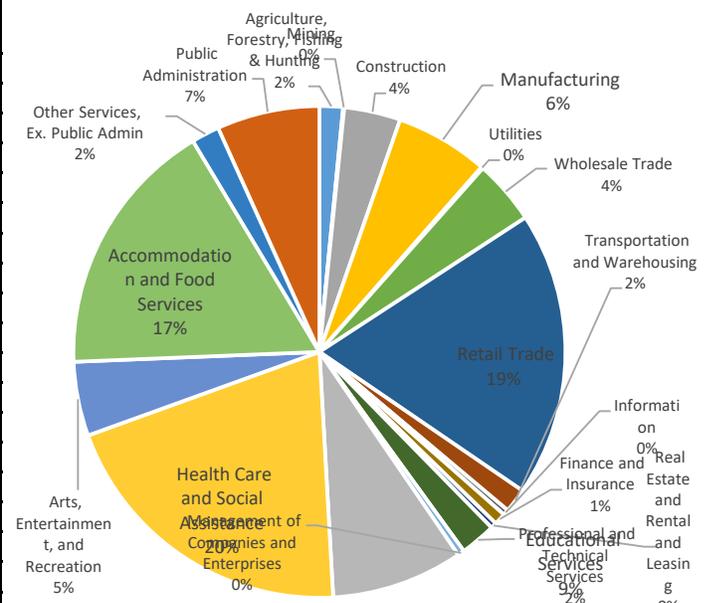
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Polk 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



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

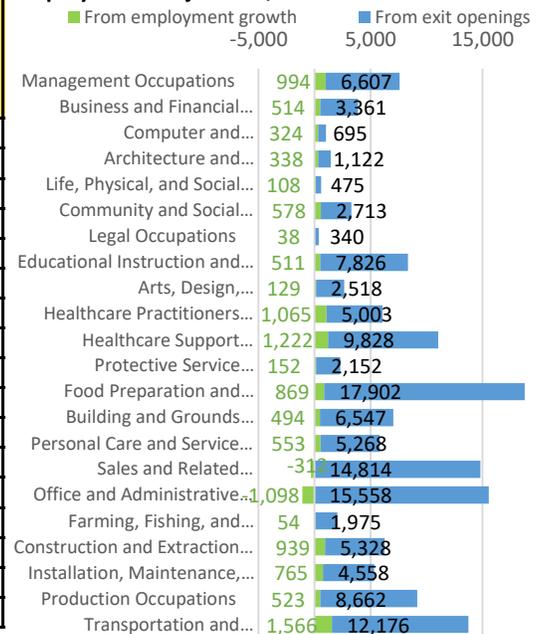
Polk Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

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 gaining jobs over the past year, Polk Co. had the 34th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Polk Co. was the 32nd fastest growing in the past year and the 54th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2024, employment in Polk Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

**1,029** business establishments

**\$54,733** annual average wage

**12,028** jobs

**\$658,328,834** total industry payroll

Job change,  
2020-2024 **529 jobs**  
4.6% increase

**Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024**

Source: DEED QCEW program

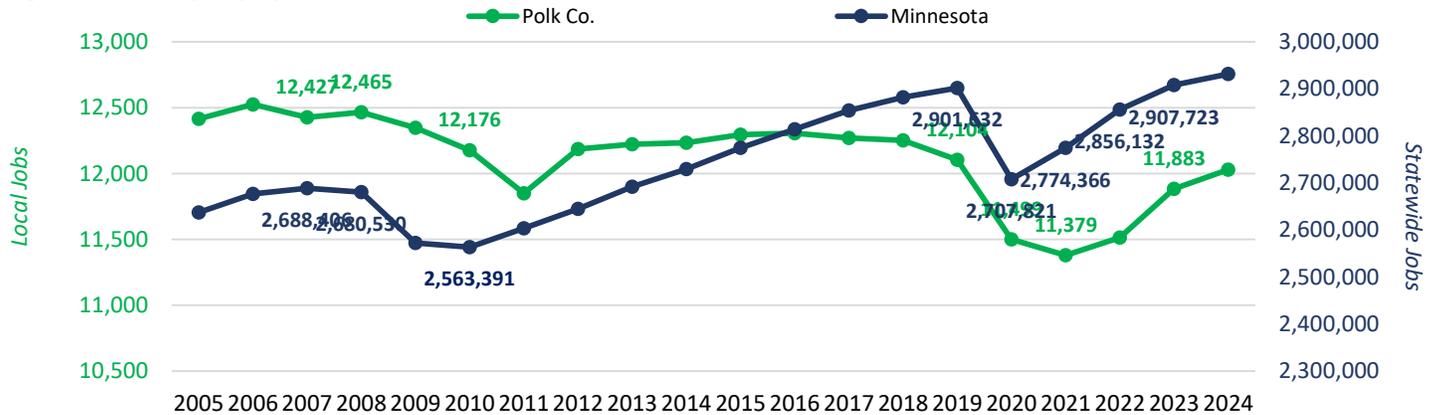
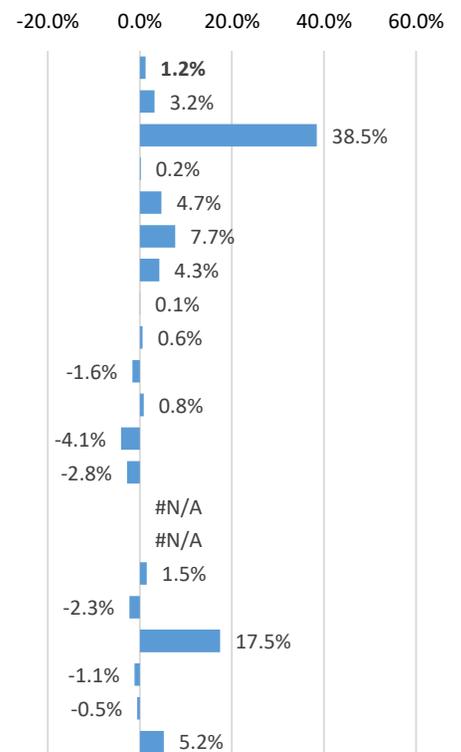


Table 15. Polk Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>12,028</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$54,733</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	167	615	5.1%	\$52,309
Mining	6	30	0.2%	\$57,173
Construction	107	538	4.5%	\$84,383
Manufacturing	42	1,843	15.3%	\$71,280
Utilities	3	28	0.2%	\$135,484
Wholesale Trade	46	465	3.9%	\$73,892
Retail Trade	96	1,282	10.7%	\$30,865
Transportation & Warehousing	61	479	4.0%	\$55,413
Information	15	185	1.5%	\$78,291
Finance & Insurance	51	240	2.0%	\$77,614
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15	47	0.4%	\$44,215
Professional & Technical Services	37	212	1.8%	\$71,446
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	27	1,560	13.0%	\$53,784
Health Care & Social Assistance	99	2,120	17.6%	\$56,809
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	18	74	0.6%	\$17,072
Accommodation & Food Services	67	869	7.2%	\$20,801
Other Services	95	365	3.0%	\$21,168
Public Administration	38	904	7.5%	\$57,513

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



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

**For more information on Polk 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](mailto: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