

## COUNTY PROFILE

# Waseca Co.

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



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2024 population: **18,684 people**

Population change,  
2020-2024 **-284 people**  
**-1.5% decline**

Median Age: **40.4 years**

state: **38.6 years**

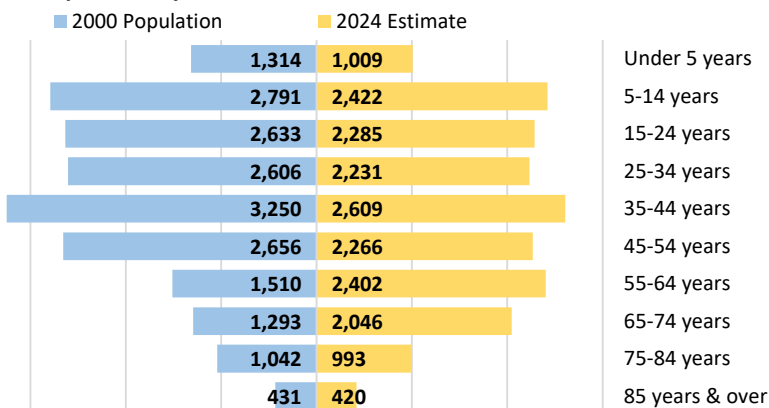
Waseca Co. is the 50th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 64th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Waseca Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The 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	1,009	5.4%
5-14 years	2,422	13.0%
15-24 years	2,285	12.2%
25-34 years	2,231	11.9%
35-44 years	2,609	14.0%
45-54 years	2,266	12.1%
55-64 years	2,402	12.9%
65-74 years	2,046	11.0%
75-84 years	993	5.3%
85 years & over	420	2.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>18,684</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

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



Waseca 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, Waseca 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
Waseca Co.	-270	-42	811	853	-232	51	-283
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

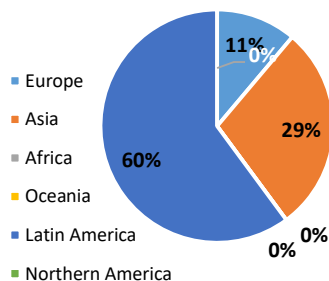
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Waseca Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Waseca 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	Waseca Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	59	11.2%	25	73.5%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	152	28.7%	27	21.6%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	0	0.0%	-4	-100.0%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	0	0.0%	-22	-100.0%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	318	60.1%	-81	-20.3%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	318	60.1%	-81	-20.3%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	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

Waseca Co.

Waseca 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**

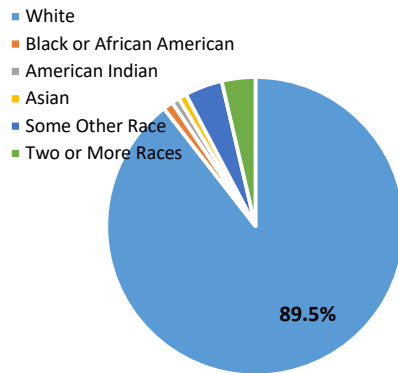


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Waseca Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,958</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	16,963	89.5%	-5.6%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	206	1.1%	-38.9%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	157	0.8%	65.3%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	169	0.9%	20.7%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	772	4.1%	1231.0%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	691	3.6%	56.0%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1,322	7.0%	29.7%	6.2%	37.5%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

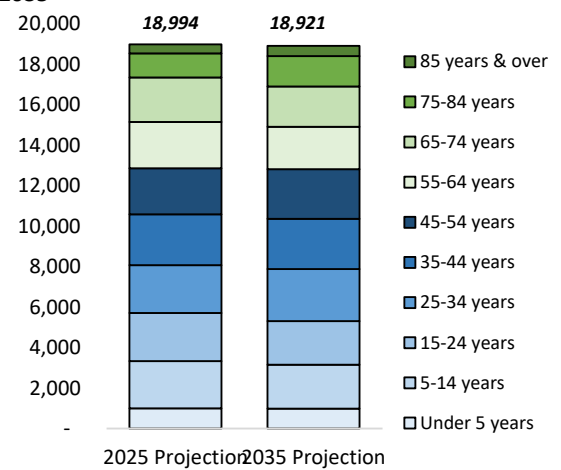
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Waseca Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the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

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Waseca Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	998	991	-7	-0.7%
5-14 years	2,332	2,161	-171	-7.3%
15-24 years	2,388	2,158	-230	-9.6%
25-34 years	2,353	2,569	216	9.2%
35-44 years	2,524	2,491	-33	-1.3%
45-54 years	2,270	2,447	177	7.8%
55-64 years	2,292	2,097	-195	-8.5%
65-74 years	2,206	1,996	-210	-9.5%
75-84 years	1,176	1,508	332	28.2%
85 years & over	455	503	48	10.5%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>18,994</b>	<b>18,921</b>	<b>-73</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Waseca 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. Waseca 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.

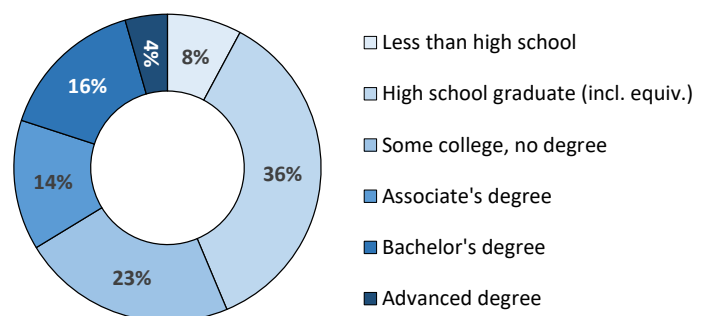
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**92.2%**

**College-educated:** 56.3%  
state: 68.8%

**Associate's Degree:** 13.7%  
**Bachelor's Degree:** 15.6%  
**Advanced Degree:** 4.4%

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



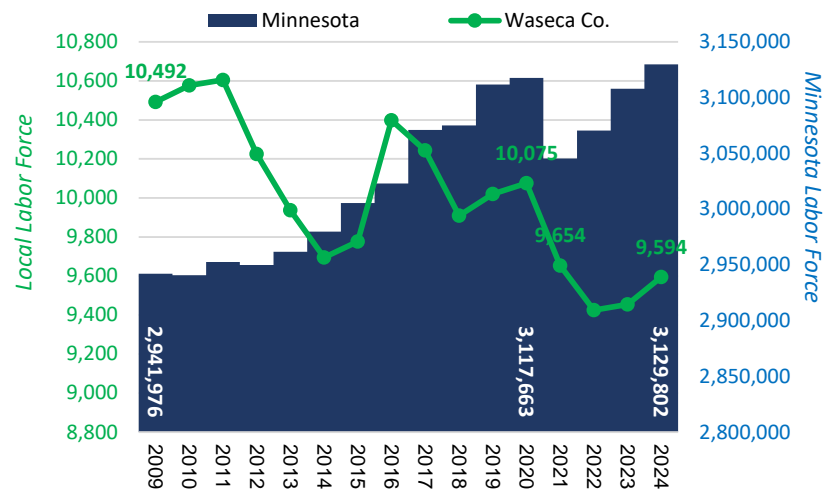
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.5%, Waseca Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Waseca Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.6% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Waseca Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>9,594</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	-898 workers -8.6% decline
<b>3.5%</b>	unemployment rate
2.8%	state
<b>336</b>	unemployed workers

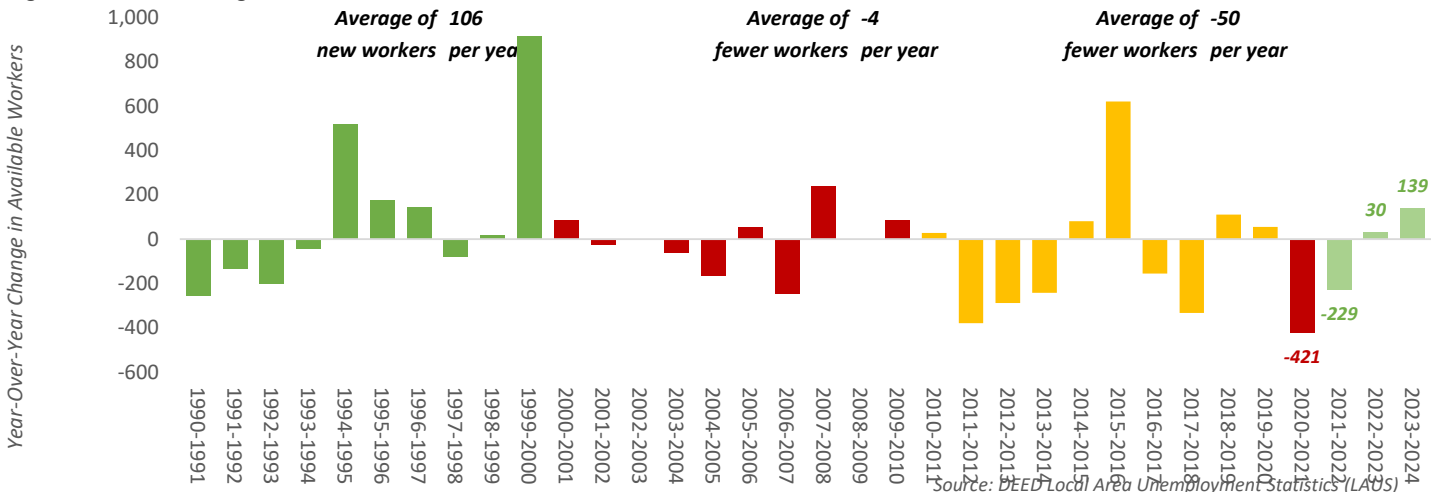
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Waseca Co. averaged an annual loss of fewer workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Waseca 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



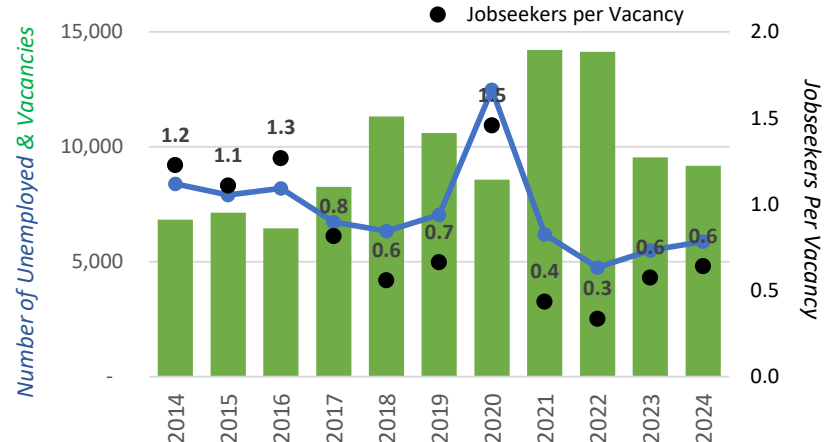
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	1,541	1,403
25 to 54 years	5,895	6,192
55 to 64 years	1,581	1,447
65 years & over	825	786
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>9,842</b>	<b>9,827</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 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

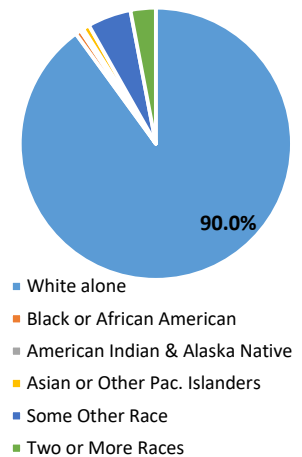
## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Waseca 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>9,784</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>4,958</b>	<b>4,827</b>
16 to 19 years	533	52.6%	19.1%	52.7%	9.9%	237	296
20 to 24 years	855	87.8%	4.9%	83.4%	6.5%	438	417
25 to 44 years	4,050	82.5%	3.9%	88.7%	3.5%	1,908	2,141
45 to 54 years	1,897	82.5%	3.6%	87.8%	2.9%	979	918
55 to 64 years	1,681	69.0%	0.8%	72.8%	3.0%	890	791
65 to 74 years	664	32.0%	0.3%	27.8%	3.4%	428	237
75 years & over	105	7.3%	0.0%	6.6%	3.1%	78	27
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	8,810	64.2%	2.5%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	65	39.4%	16.9%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	36	23.1%	0.0%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	77	67.0%	2.6%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	508	94.4%	19.7%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	294	65.5%	20.1%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	727	72.4%	20.9%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	409	49.5%	3.9%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	7,631	79.1%	3.2%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	418	57.9%	5.3%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,114	67.7%	3.5%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	3,054	84.7%	1.8%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2,041	92.9%	1.4%	90.5%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023

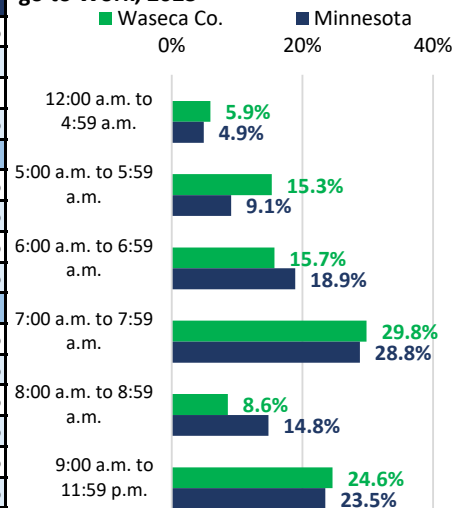


Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Waseca Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	9,216	98.9%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	4,920	52.8%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	4,296	46.1%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	102	1.1%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	8,349	89.6%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	19	0.2%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	354	3.8%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	606	6.5%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	2,199	23.6%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	2,236	24.0%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	2,320	24.9%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,705	18.3%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	280	3.0%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	578	6.2%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>22.3 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

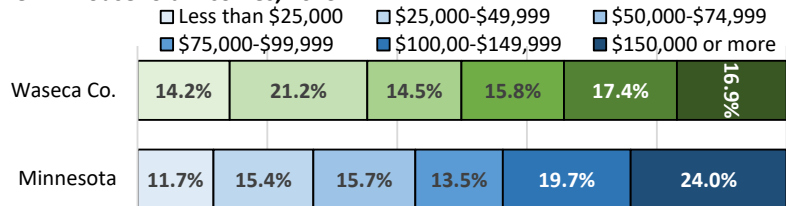
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Waseca Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Waseca Co. had the 31st highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$75,052</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$89,052</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$37,199</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. Waseca Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.23 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.01 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
Waseca Co.	\$29,602	\$14.23	\$0	\$420	\$150	\$708	\$630	\$261	\$298
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
Waseca Co.	\$59,304	\$19.01	\$360	\$956	\$530	\$931	\$1,174	\$436	\$555
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

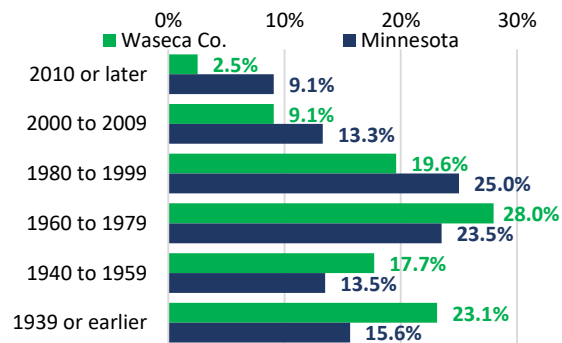
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Waseca Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 47th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Waseca 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	Waseca Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	127	2.1%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	483	8.1%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,157	19.4%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	947	15.9%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,822	30.6%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,109	18.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	305	5.1%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$213,200</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

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

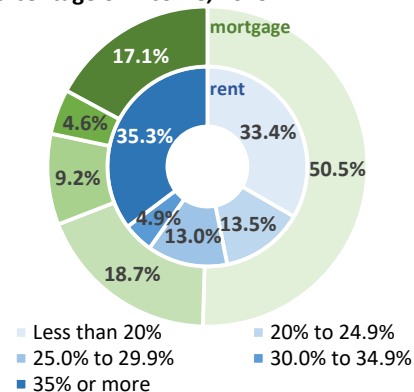
Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,486</b>
state	\$1,890
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
state	22.5%
<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$819</b>
state	\$1,235
<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>40.2%</b>
state	47.2%

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

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





## OCCUPATIONS

At \$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 &amp; 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
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.50</b>	<b>102,130</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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

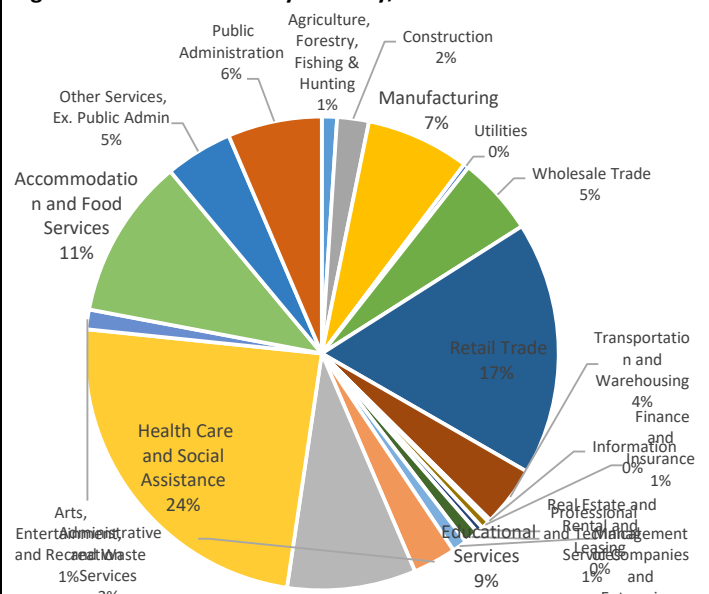
## JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Waseca 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
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>9,168</b>	<b>\$19.48</b>
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, 2024

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$34,798/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$54,491/yr	Registered Nurses \$85,138/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$69,245/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,495/yr	Nursing Assistants \$39,764/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$74,684/yr	General and Operations Managers \$82,482/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,228/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,499/yr	Dental Hygienists \$84,870/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,364/yr
Cashiers \$30,595/yr	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers \$64,265/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,049/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,349/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,031/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$59,444/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,236/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$52,112/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$45,427/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$47,963/yr	Agricultural Technicians \$50,274/yr	Financial Managers \$119,560/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,379/yr	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters \$61,794/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,828/yr	Industrial Engineers \$90,455/yr
Construction Laborers \$49,744/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,947/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$71,227/yr	Computer Systems Analysts \$96,291/yr
Bus Drivers, School \$49,228/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,024/yr	Physical Therapist Assistants \$62,988/yr	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,534/yr
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$43,003/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$60,689/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$40,453/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$37,747/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

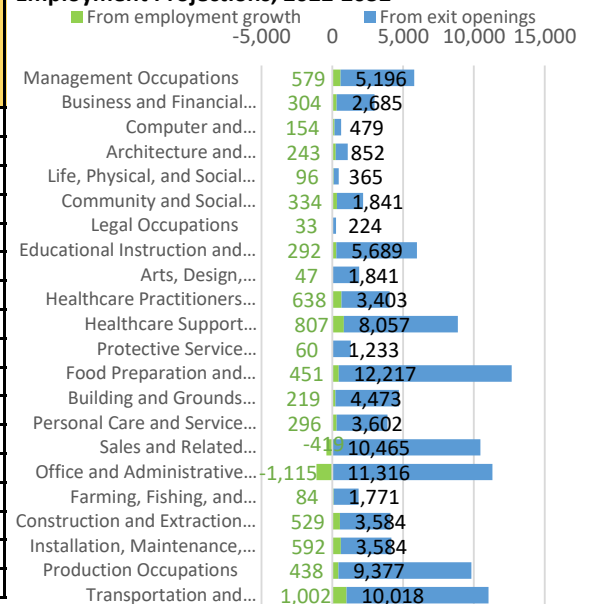
Waseca Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Southwest Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>202,214</b>	<b>207,878</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
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 losing jobs over the past year, Waseca Co. had the 55th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Waseca Co. was the 59th fastest growing in the past year and the 84th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Waseca Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

553 business establishments

\$54,095 annual average wage

5,527 jobs

\$298,983,436 total industry payroll

Job change,  
2019-2024

-266 jobs  
-4.6% decline

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

Source: DEED QCEW program

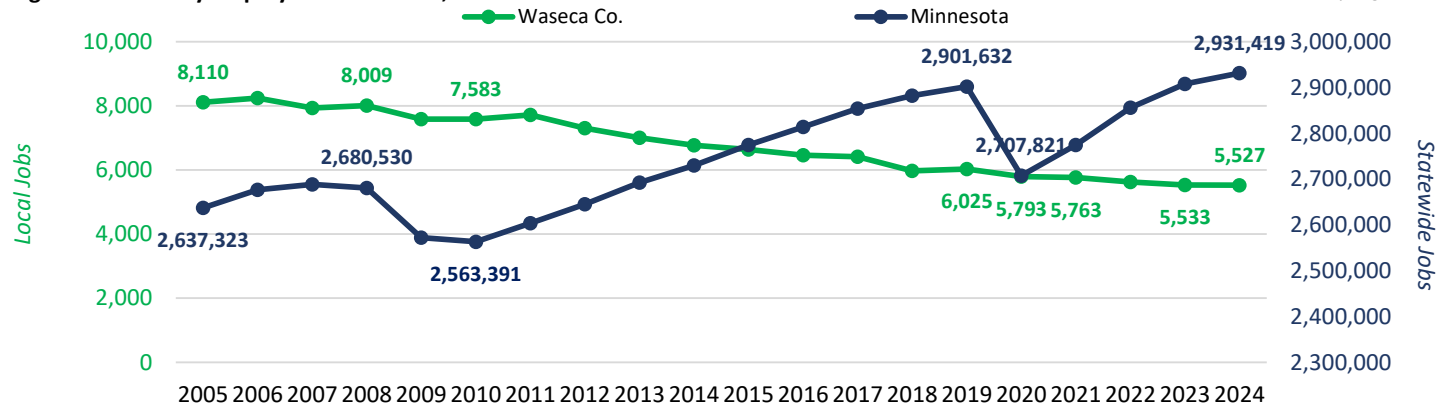
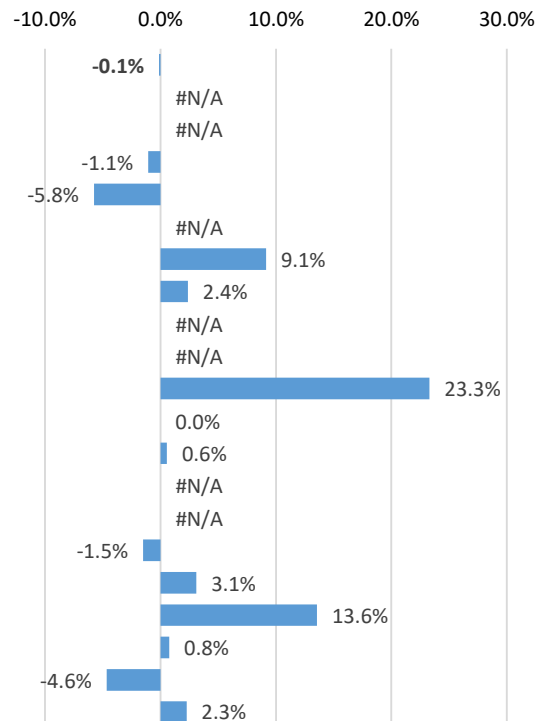


Table 15. Waseca Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$54,095</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	277	5.0%	\$62,631
Manufacturing	867	15.7%	\$76,996
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	191	3.5%	\$71,930
Retail Trade	561	10.2%	\$31,600
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	92	1.7%	\$26,540
Finance & Insurance	164	3.0%	\$72,266
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7	0.1%	\$10,120
Professional & Technical Services	177	3.2%	\$74,338
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	660	11.9%	\$47,846
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,028	18.6%	\$43,422
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	67	1.2%	\$18,008
Accommodation & Food Services	396	7.2%	\$15,586
Other Services	144	2.6%	\$26,996
Public Administration	542	9.8%	\$81,928

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

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

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Data updated: May 23, 2025