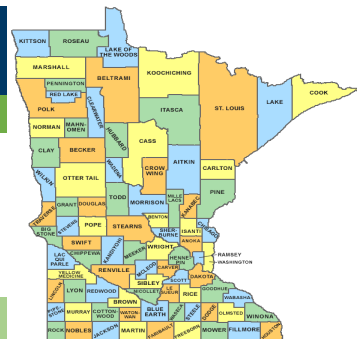


## Watonwan Co.

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



### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

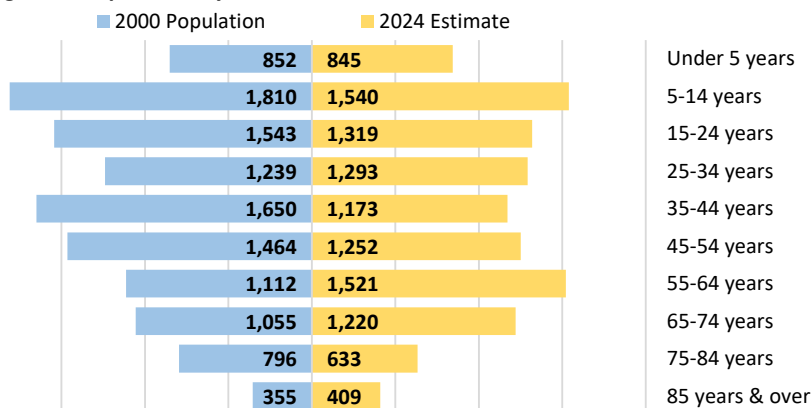
2024 population:	<b>11,204 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>40.6 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	-49 people -0.4% decline	state:	38.6 years

Watonwan Co. is the 65th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 54th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Watonwan 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	845	7.5%
5-14 years	1,540	13.7%
15-24 years	1,319	11.8%
25-34 years	1,293	11.5%
35-44 years	1,173	10.5%
45-54 years	1,252	11.2%
55-64 years	1,521	13.6%
65-74 years	1,220	10.9%
75-84 years	633	5.6%
85 years & over	409	3.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>11,204</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Watonwan Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Watonwan 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
Watonwan Co.	-50	184	750	566	-237	338	-575
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

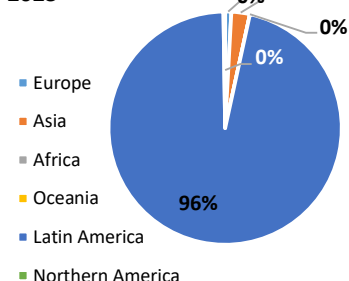
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Watonwan Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	11	0.9%	-23	-67.6%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	33	2.6%	-15	-31.3%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	0	0.0%	-3	-100.0%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	1,243	96.6%	47	3.9%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	1,240	96.3%	52	4.4%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	3	0.2%	-5	-62.5%	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

## Watonwan Co.

Watonwan 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**

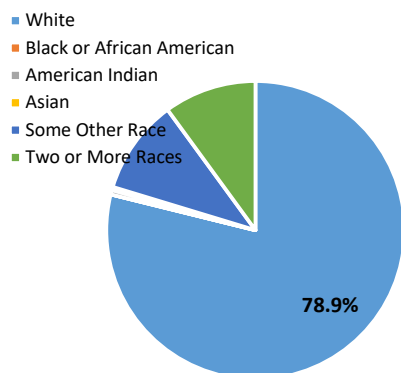


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Watonwan Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,169</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	8,808	78.9%	-14.7%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	1	0.0%	-98.8%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	53	0.5%	430.0%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	38	0.3%	-74.3%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	1,148	10.3%	174.6%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	1,121	10.0%	493.1%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,253	29.1%	36.3%	6.2%	37.5%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

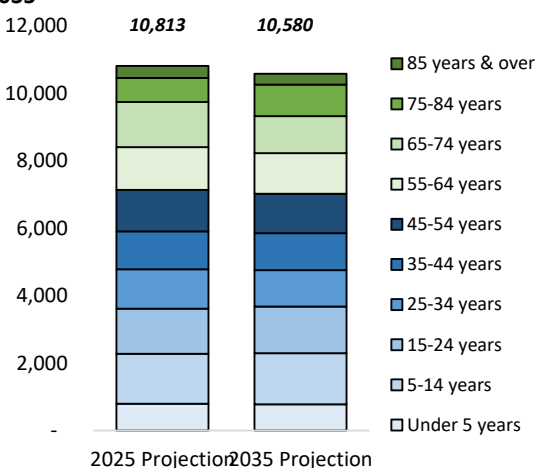
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Watonwan Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to decrease over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

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

Watonwan Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	794	780	-14	-1.8%
5-14 years	1,487	1,513	26	1.7%
15-24 years	1,336	1,386	50	3.7%
25-34 years	1,163	1,074	-89	-7.7%
35-44 years	1,126	1,102	-24	-2.1%
45-54 years	1,232	1,170	-62	-5.0%
55-64 years	1,266	1,199	-67	-5.3%
65-74 years	1,341	1,098	-243	-18.1%
75-84 years	716	940	224	31.3%
85 years & over	352	318	-34	-9.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>10,813</b>	<b>10,580</b>	<b>-233</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

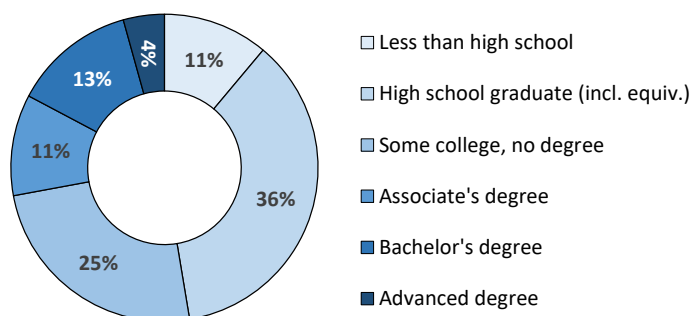


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Watonwan 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. Watonwan Co. also has a lower percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**

<b>Percentage of the adult population (18 years &amp; over) with at least a high school diploma:</b>	<b>88.9%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>52.6%</b>
state:	68.8%
Associate's Degree:	10.7%
Bachelor's Degree:	12.9%
Advanced Degree:	4.3%



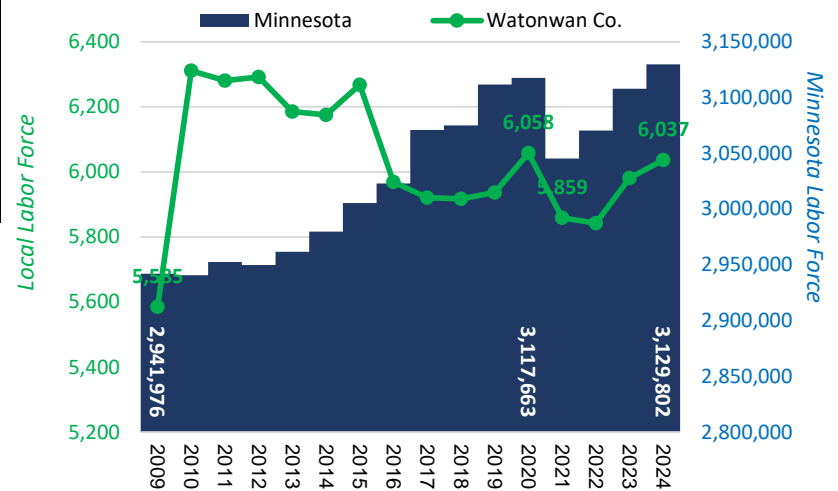
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.1%, Watonwan Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Watonwan Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.5% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Watonwan Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>6,037</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	452 workers 8.1% increase
<b>3.1%</b>	unemployment rate
2.8%	state
<b>187</b>	unemployed workers

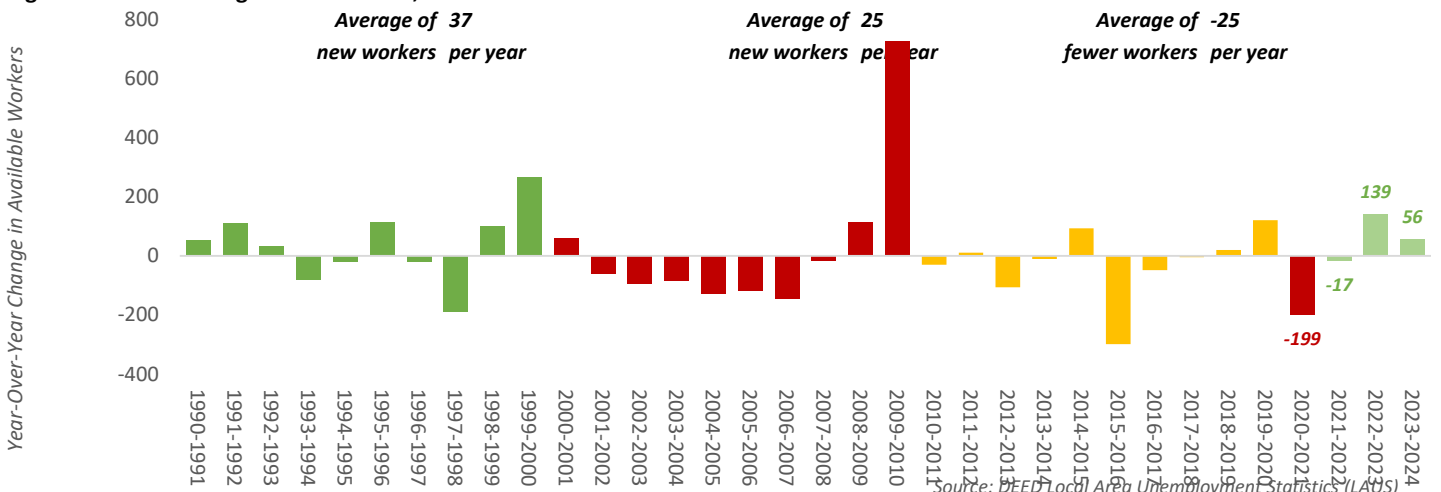
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Watonwan 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, Watonwan 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



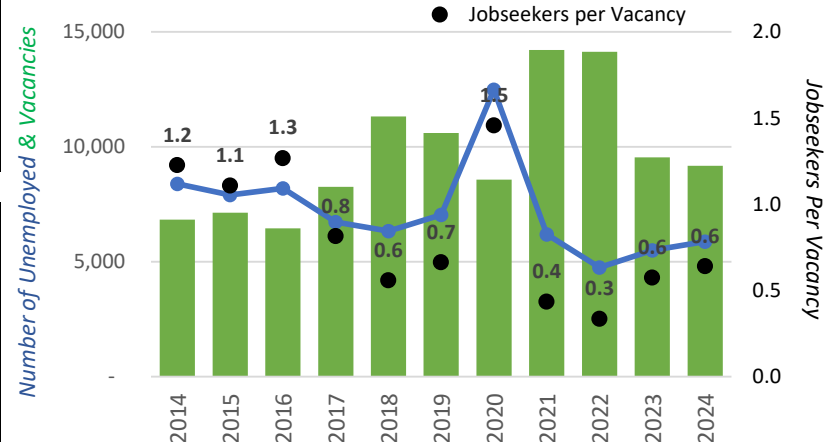
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	690	717
25 to 54 years	3,093	2,940
55 to 64 years	945	895
65 years & over	624	540
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>5,353</b>	<b>5,092</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

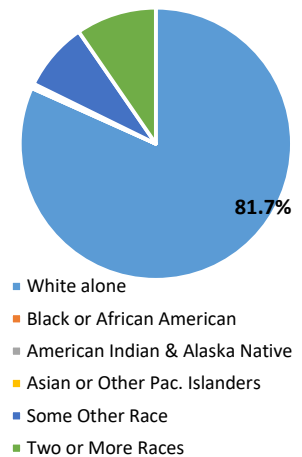
## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

	Watonwan 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>5,590</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>2,603</b>
16 to 19 years	210	42.3%	13.8%	52.7%	9.9%	108	102
20 to 24 years	422	73.5%	12.1%	83.4%	6.5%	278	144
25 to 44 years	2,122	86.3%	2.8%	88.7%	3.5%	1,107	1,015
45 to 54 years	1,132	90.7%	1.2%	87.8%	2.9%	618	514
55 to 64 years	1,132	74.7%	10.3%	72.8%	3.0%	642	490
65 to 74 years	492	40.5%	6.3%	27.8%	3.4%	202	291
75 years & over	79	7.6%	7.6%	6.6%	3.1%	32	47
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	4,566	64.9%	3.2%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	0	0.0%	0.0%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	14	66.7%	0.0%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	17	53.1%	0.0%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	455	61.2%	3.7%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	536	75.0%	26.7%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,408	69.1%	12.0%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	244	46.9%	2.0%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	4,386	84.0%	4.4%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	476	68.8%	2.7%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,166	83.3%	5.9%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	1,858	86.5%	5.9%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	887	90.3%	4.7%	90.5%	2.0%		

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023

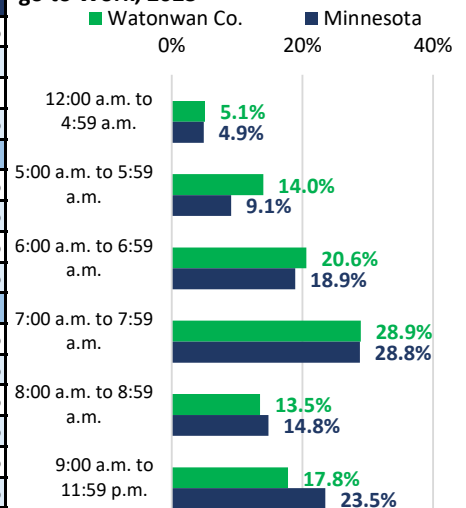


Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Watonwan Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	5,151	99.7%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	3,260	63.1%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	1,891	36.6%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	16	0.3%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	4,454	86.2%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	93	1.8%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	274	5.3%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	351	6.8%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	1,643	31.8%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	1,147	22.2%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	992	19.2%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	770	14.9%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	274	5.3%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	341	6.6%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>22.8 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

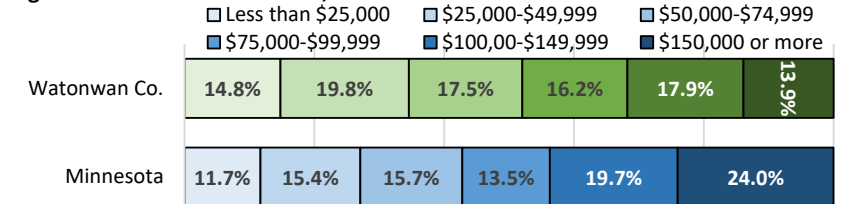
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Watonwan Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Watonwan Co. had the 54th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$70,593</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$85,403</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$35,659</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. Watonwan Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$15.04 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.04 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
Watonwan Co.	\$31,282	\$15.04	\$0	\$413	\$150	\$804	\$639	\$281	\$320
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
Watonwan Co.	\$59,390	\$19.04	\$361	\$940	\$530	\$931	\$1,197	\$433	\$557
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

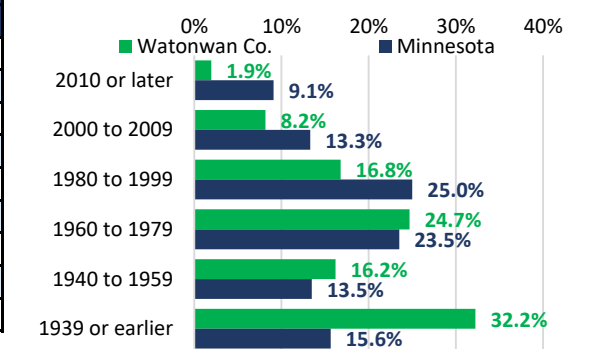
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Watonwan Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 73rd highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Watonwan 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	Watonwan Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,373</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	463	13.7%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	705	20.9%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	496	14.7%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	572	17.0%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	590	17.5%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	387	11.5%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	160	4.7%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$151,600</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

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

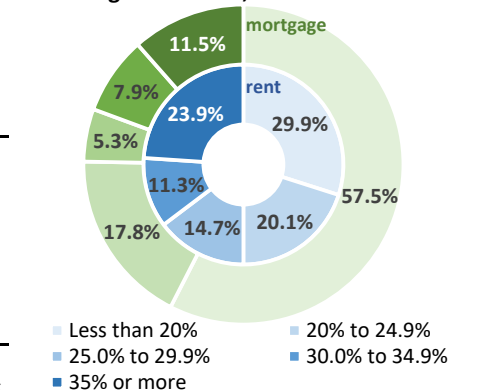
Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,317</b>
state	\$1,890
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
state	22.5%
<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$807</b>
state	\$1,235
<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>35.3%</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 & 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%

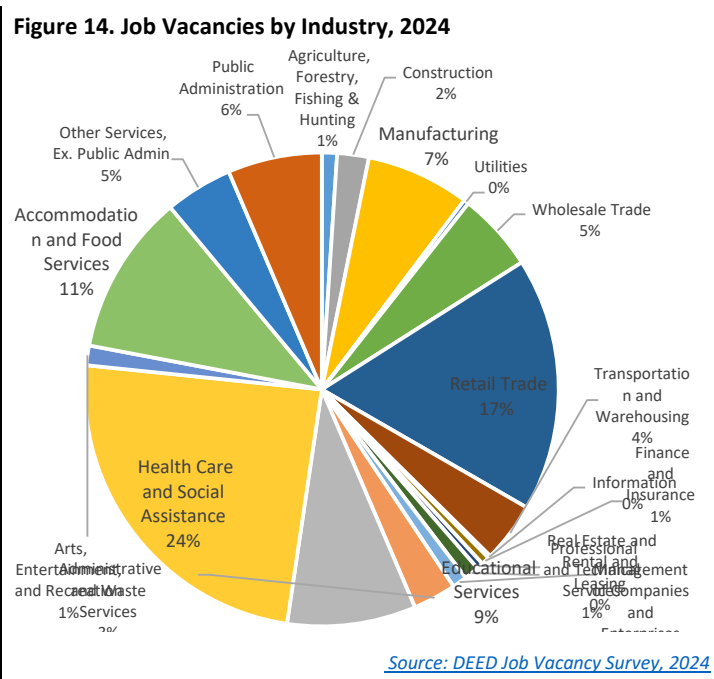
Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Watonwan 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



## 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

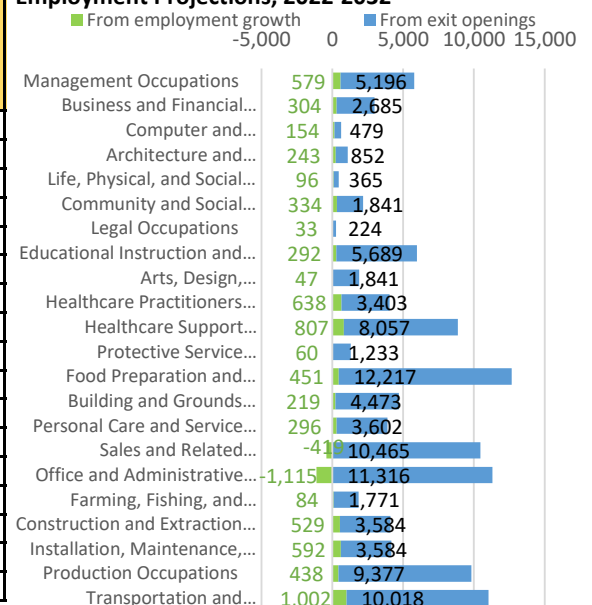
Watonwan Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

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, Watonwan Co. had the 62nd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Watonwan Co. was the 71st fastest growing in the past year and the 55th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Watonwan Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

**343** business establishments

**\$48,358** annual average wage

**4,505** jobs

**\$217,853,456** total industry payroll

Job change,  
2019-2024

197 jobs  
4.6% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

Source: DEED QCEW program

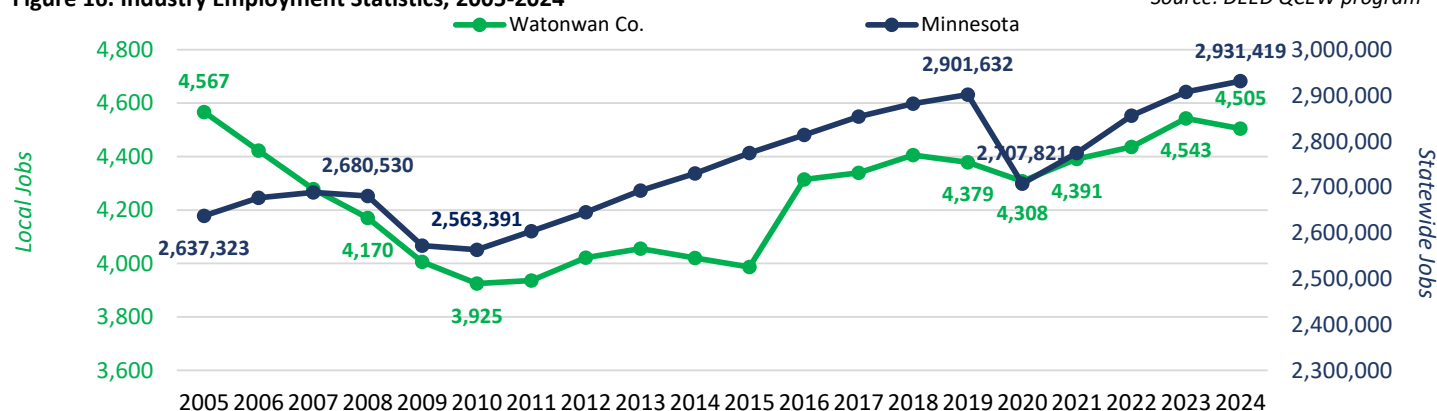
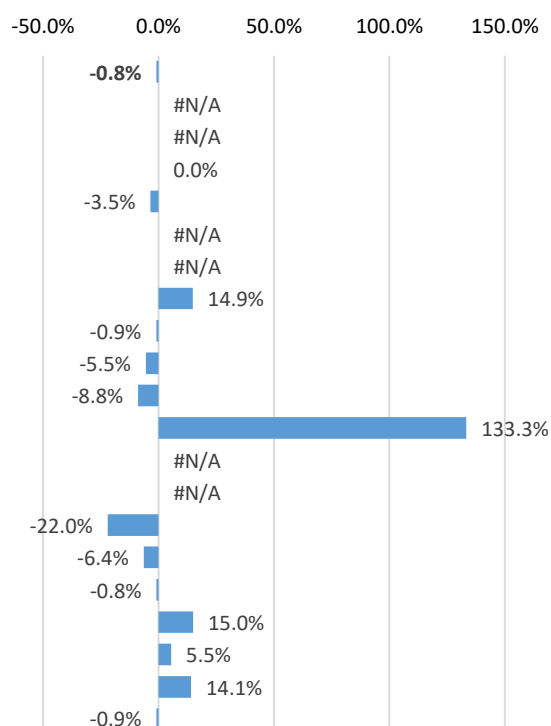


Table 15. Watonwan Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$48,358</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	274	6.1%	\$63,862
Manufacturing	1,419	31.5%	\$52,146
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	316	7.0%	\$28,102
Transportation & Warehousing	336	7.5%	\$41,599
Information	52	1.2%	\$38,953
Finance & Insurance	146	3.2%	\$58,369
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	21	0.5%	\$33,486
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	128	2.8%	\$47,339
Educational Services	352	7.8%	\$48,475
Health Care & Social Assistance	421	9.3%	\$60,733
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	69	1.5%	\$14,544
Accommodation & Food Services	191	4.2%	\$18,402
Other Services	113	2.5%	\$26,117
Public Administration	335	7.4%	\$46,058

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



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

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

**Amanda Blaschko** | Regional Analyst, Southeast & South Central  
 CareerForce Rochester | 2070 College View Rd. E | Rochester MN 55904  
 Office: 320-441-6571 | E-mail: amanda.blaschko@state.mn.us  
 web: [www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/](http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/)

Data updated: May 23, 2025