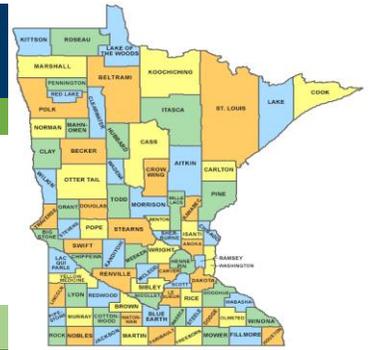


COUNTY PROFILE

Wright Co.

Wright Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7W, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2024 population:	154,593 people	Median Age:	37.4 years
Population change, 2020-2024	13,256 people 9.4% increase	state:	38.6 years

Wright Co. is the 10th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 1st fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Wright Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2024

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	10,331	6.7%
5-14 years	24,320	15.7%
15-24 years	18,890	12.2%
25-34 years	18,225	11.8%
35-44 years	22,622	14.6%
45-54 years	20,267	13.1%
55-64 years	19,357	12.5%
65-74 years	12,534	8.1%
75-84 years	6,192	4.0%
85 years & over	1,854	1.2%
Total Population	154,593	100.0%

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Wright Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Wright 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
Wright Co.	13,258	3,512	7,863	4,351	9,747	930	8,817
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

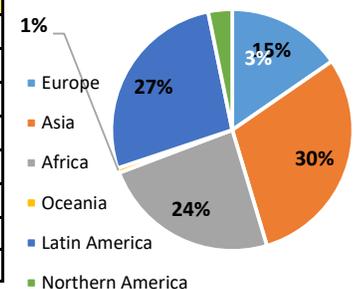
Compared to the state, Wright Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Wright Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

	Wright Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	5,631	3.9%	1,832	48.2%	8.6%	24.7%
Europe	866	15.4%	294	51.4%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	1,689	30.0%	540	47.0%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	1,344	23.9%	1,041	343.6%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	36	0.6%	13	56.5%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	1,696	30.1%	-56	-3.2%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	1,515	26.9%	-13	-0.9%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	181	3.2%	-43	-19.2%	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

Wright Co.

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

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023

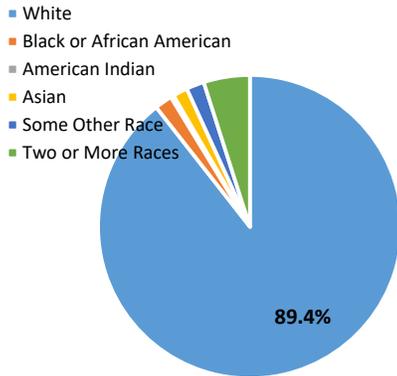


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Wright Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
Total	145,270	100.0%	15.2%	100.0%	6.8%
White	129,900	89.4%	9.0%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	2,707	1.9%	116.2%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	489	0.3%	-7.4%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	2,266	1.6%	60.3%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	2,757	1.9%	66.2%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	7,151	4.9%	241.3%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	5,077	3.5%	57.7%	6.2%	37.5%

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

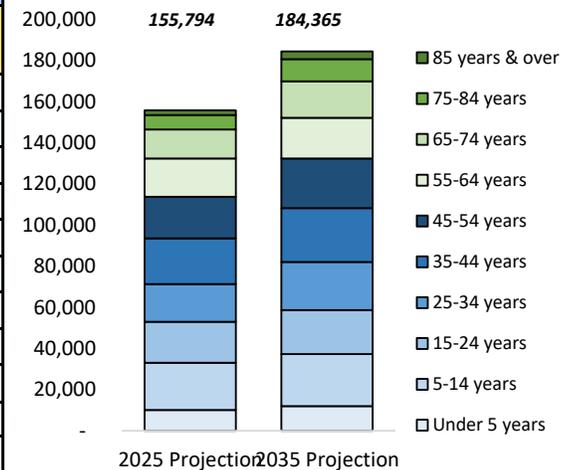
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Wright Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	10,157	11,922	1,765	17.4%
5-14 years	22,962	25,417	2,455	10.7%
15-24 years	19,859	21,349	1,490	7.5%
25-34 years	18,390	23,298	4,908	26.7%
35-44 years	22,154	26,250	4,096	18.5%
45-54 years	20,249	24,127	3,878	19.2%
55-64 years	18,593	19,813	1,220	6.6%
65-74 years	14,048	17,655	3,607	25.7%
75-84 years	7,011	10,841	3,830	54.6%
85 years & over	2,371	3,693	1,322	55.8%
Total Population	155,794	184,365	28,571	18.3%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

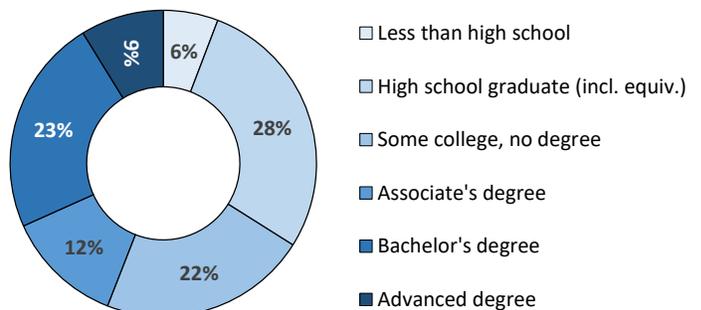


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Wright 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. Wright 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:	94.2%
College-educated:	66.1%
state:	68.8%
Associate's Degree:	12.4%
Bachelor's Degree:	22.9%
Advanced Degree:	8.8%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023

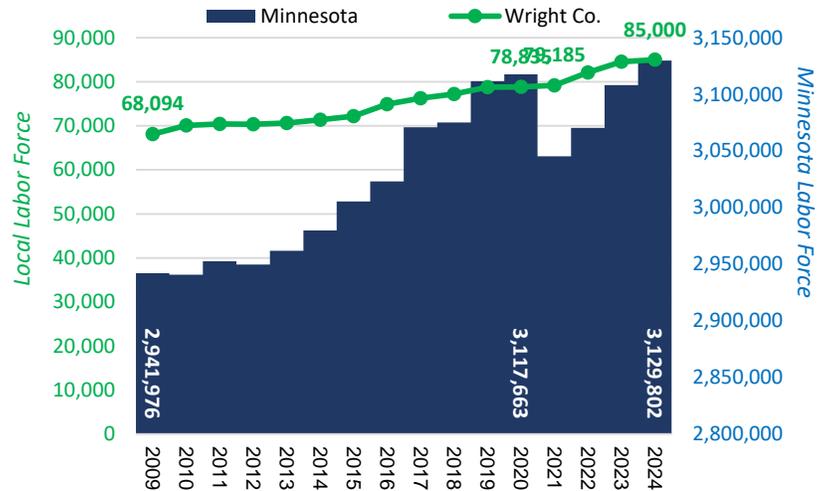


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 2.7%, Wright Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Wright Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.2% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Wright Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates

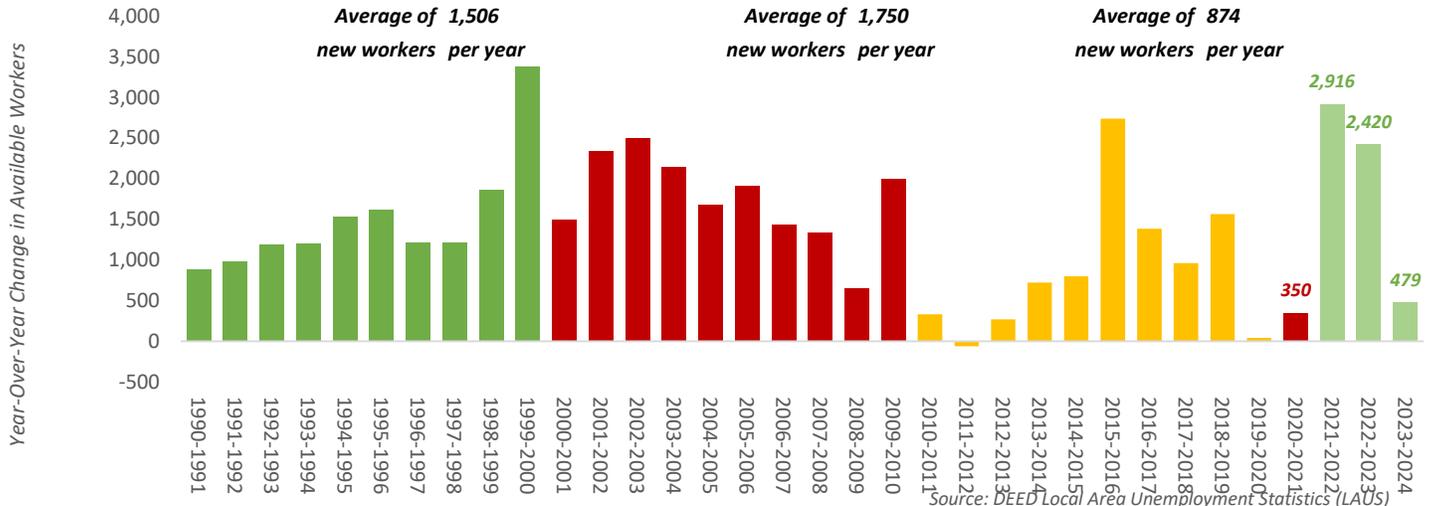


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

85,000	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	16,906 workers 24.8% increase
3.0%	unemployment rate
3.0%	state
2,550	unemployed workers

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Wright Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Wright Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



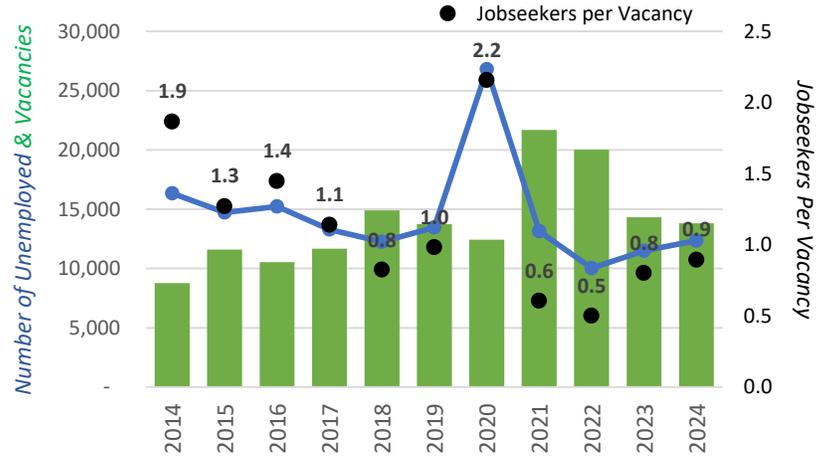
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	12,091	13,151
25 to 54 years	55,024	66,675
55 to 64 years	14,336	15,276
65 years & over	4,515	5,820
Total Labor Force	85,965	100,921

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 Central 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

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

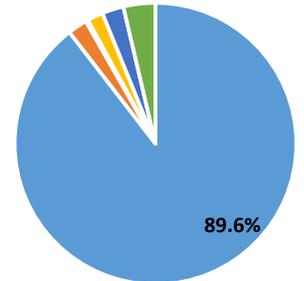
Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

	Wright 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
Total Labor Force	80,297	72.7%	2.1%	68.5%	3.9%	43,378	36,898
16 to 19 years	4,214	51.2%	4.6%	52.7%	9.9%	2,360	1,854
20 to 24 years	6,289	86.6%	2.9%	83.4%	6.5%	3,446	2,841
25 to 44 years	34,475	89.8%	2.0%	88.7%	3.5%	18,305	16,177
45 to 54 years	17,502	91.9%	1.6%	87.8%	2.9%	9,520	7,991
55 to 64 years	14,025	77.1%	2.2%	72.8%	3.0%	7,669	6,350
65 to 74 years	3,369	28.6%	2.3%	27.8%	3.4%	1,821	1,544
75 years & over	401	5.3%	0.0%	6.6%	3.1%	257	141

Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin

White alone	71,908	71.9%	2.2%	67.5%	3.4%
Black or African American	1,786	86.8%	4.3%	71.0%	8.4%
American Indian & Alaska Native	220	64.1%	10.9%	57.7%	11.4%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,459	82.5%	1.3%	74.6%	3.5%
Some Other Race	1,991	87.9%	0.6%	75.9%	5.6%
Two or More Races	2,947	73.6%	1.1%	74.2%	6.1%
Hispanic or Latino	2,675	79.6%	0.0%	77.1%	5.9%

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023



- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years

With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,969	56.7%	6.9%	55.3%	9.5%
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Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years

Population, 25 to 64 years	66,015	87.3%	1.9%	84.4%	3.3%
Less than H.S. Diploma	2,549	75.1%	2.4%	67.1%	4.7%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	14,330	80.5%	2.0%	76.5%	2.6%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	22,994	87.4%	2.2%	85.0%	3.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	26,119	92.9%	1.3%	90.5%	2.0%

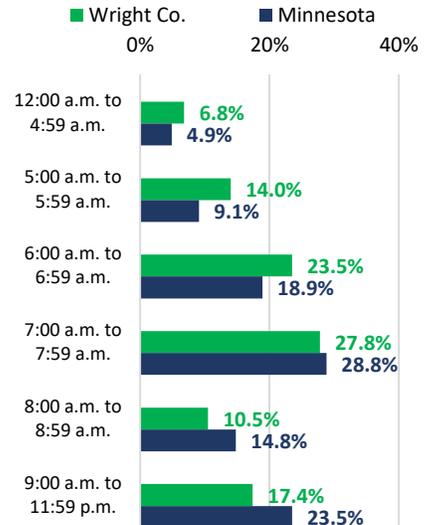
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022

	Wright Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	77,120	99.6%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	37,708	48.7%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	39,412	50.9%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	310	0.4%	64,576	2.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	65,893	85.1%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	310	0.4%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,239	1.6%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	10,066	13.0%	463,770	15.8%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	9,369	12.1%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	15,563	20.1%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	12,853	16.6%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	21,293	27.5%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	10,376	13.4%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	7,898	10.2%	149,698	5.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	30.3 minutes		23.1 minutes	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023



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

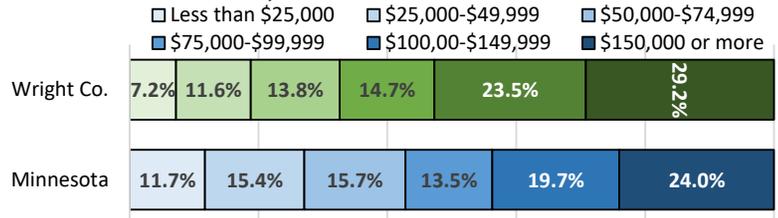
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Wright Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Wright Co. had the 4th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$106,666
state	\$87,556
Median Family Income	\$123,867
state	\$111,492
Per Capita Income	\$44,946
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. Wright Co. had a higher cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$19.61 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$24.00 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
Wright Co.	\$40,785	\$19.61	\$0	\$407	\$158	\$1,345	\$630	\$405	\$454
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
Wright Co.	\$75,122	\$24.08	\$462	\$926	\$567	\$1,669	\$1,174	\$600	\$862
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

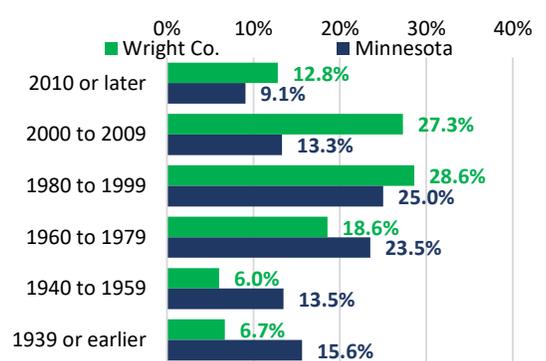
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Wright Co. had a higher median house value than the state, having the 6th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Wright Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Wright Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	44,451	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	1,637	3.7%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	671	1.5%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	641	1.4%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,425	5.5%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	12,897	29.0%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	18,957	42.6%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	7,223	16.2%	17.5%
Median (dollars)	\$332,800		\$305,500

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage	\$2,004
state	\$1,890

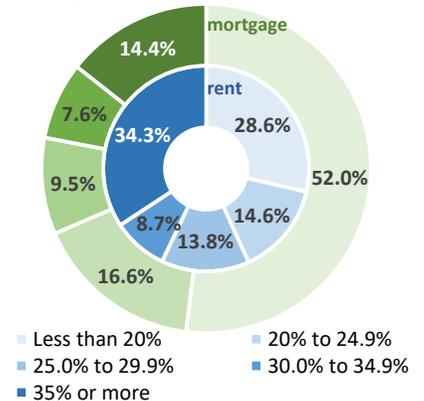
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	22.0%
state	22.5%

Median monthly rent costs	\$1,246
state	\$1,235

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	42.9%
state	47.2%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,520/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$61,513/yr	Registered Nurses \$101,788/yr	General and Operations Managers \$86,311/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,294/yr	Nursing Assistants \$45,077/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$80,894/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$63,707/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$31,729/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$60,654/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$84,540/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,803/yr
Cashiers \$32,454/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$51,037/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$49,370/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$109,085/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,670/yr	Psychiatric Technicians \$46,781/yr	Architectural and Civil Drafters \$63,877/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$76,798/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$45,691/yr	Machinists \$60,200/yr	Dental Hygienists \$99,124/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,622/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,072/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$64,200/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$81,545/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$44,131/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,056/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$52,077/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,951/yr	Project Management Specialists \$94,626/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$45,804/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$56,854/yr	Surgical Technologists \$70,461/yr	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,293/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,935/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,651/yr	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers \$97,765/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$69,904/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Wright Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% 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

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	315,929	332,231	5.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,649	5,809	2.8%
Utilities	1,986	1,998	0.6%
Construction	20,532	22,780	10.9%
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	7.9%
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	9.2%
Information	3,002	3,214	7.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	10,142	10,528	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	9,040	9,979	10.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	6.1%
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	9.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	26,046	27,642	6.1%
Other Services	10,880	11,311	4.0%
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	3.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



