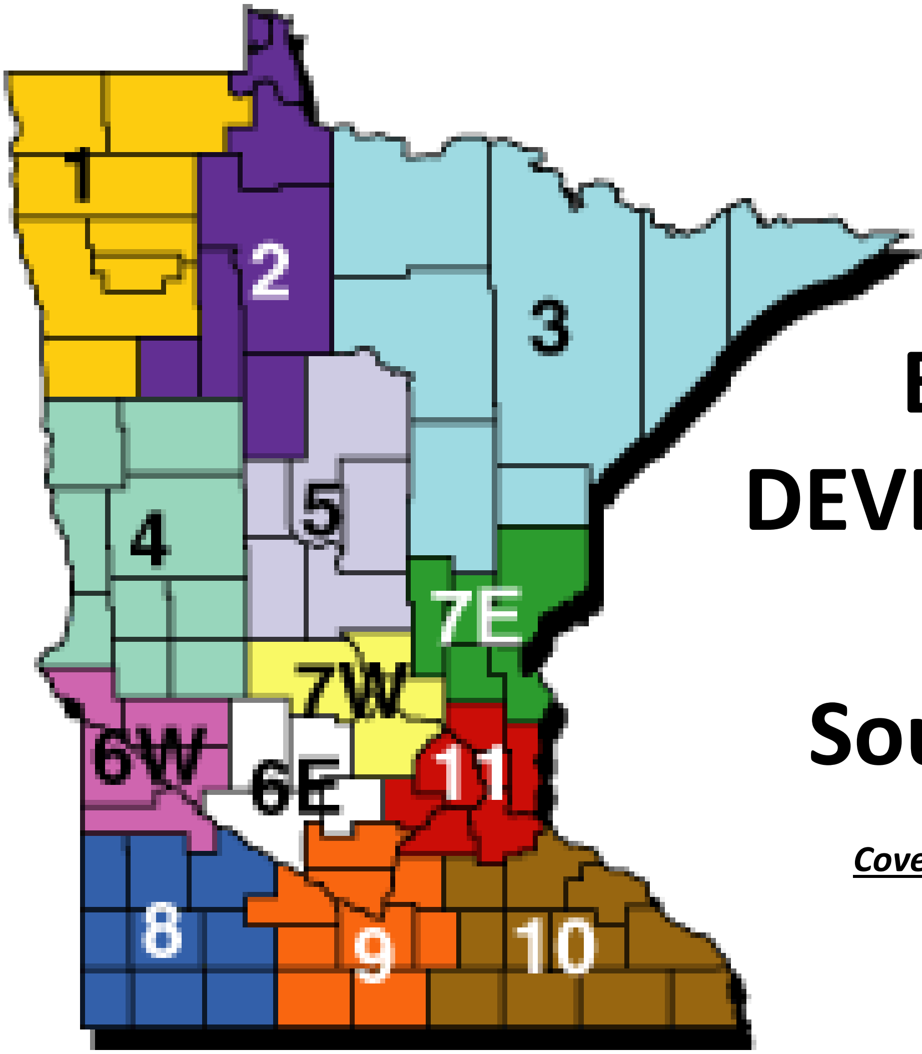

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION 9: South Central

Covering the following counties:

Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

2020 REGIONAL PROFILE

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DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION CHANGE

Economic Development Region 9 is a 9-county region located in the South Central portion of the state, bordering Iowa below. EDR 9 – South Central was the fifth largest of 13 economic development regions (EDRs) in the state, accounting for 4.1% of the state's total population. The regional population increased by 2,230 residents from 2010 to 2019, a 1% increase, slower than the 6.3% statewide rise (see Table 1).

Table 1. Population Change 2010-2019

	2010 Population	2019 Estimates	*2010-2019 Change* Number	Percent
Blue Earth Co.	64,013	67,653	*+3,640*	*+5.7%*
Brown Co.	25,893	25,008	*-885*	*-3.4%*
Faribault Co.	14,553	13,653	*-900*	*-6.2%*
Le Sueur Co.	27,703	28,887	*+1,184*	*+4.3%*
Martin Co.	20,840	19,683	*-1,157*	*-5.6%*
Nicollet Co.	32,727	34,274	*+1,547*	*+4.7%*
Sibley Co.	15,226	14,865	*-361*	*-2.4%*
Waseca Co.	19,136	18,612	*-524*	*-2.7%*
Watonwan Co.	11,211	10,897	*-314*	*-2.8%*
Region 9–South Central	**231,302**	**233,532**	***+2,230***	***+1.0%***
State of Minnesota	**5,303,925**	**5,639,632**	***+335,707***	***+6.3%***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Only 3 of the 9 counties added population so far this decade: Blue Earth, Le Sueur, and Nicollet. Blue Earth was the largest county in the region, accounting for 29% of the regional population in 2019, and also saw the largest increase since 2010, making it the 13th largest county and 18th fastest growing county (of 87) in the state. Of the remaining six counties that lost population, Martin County saw the largest decrease with a drop of 1,157, making it the 11th fastest declining county in the state. In addition, both Brown and Faribault Counties saw population declines of around 900 fewer people.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

The overall population growth in EDR 9 was fueled primarily by a natural increase – more births than deaths – of 5,025 people from 2010 to 2019. These additions were offset by out-migration during that time, when 2,776 more people left the region than moved in. This would have been a larger loss if not for a gain of 2,273 new foreign-born immigrants to the region since 2010 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2010-2019

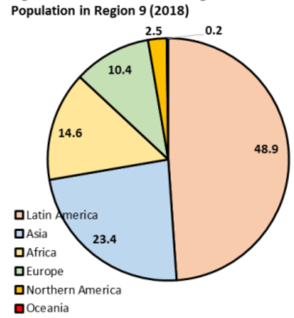
	Total Change	*Natural Increase*	Vital Events: Births	Deaths	Net Migration: *Total*	*Inter-national*	*Domestic*
Region 9	*+2,217*	*+5,025*	24,239	19,214	*-2,776*	*+2,273*	*-5,049*
Minnesota	*+335,705*	*+250,488*	637,356	386,868	*+88,161*	*+114,414*	*-26,253*

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

With the in-migration, EDR 9 was now home to 9,123 foreign born residents, or 3.9% of the total population. The largest number of immigrants in the region came from Latin America and Asia (see Figure 1). However, the fastest increase in immigrants from 2010 to 2018 was among those from Africa (+63.9%). In sum, the number of immigrants in the region increased by 22.4% from 2010 to 2018, which was below the statewide growth rate of 25.8%.

Based on year of entry, EDR 9's foreign born population was "newer" than the rest of the state. One-quarter of the region's immigrants entered the U.S. since 2010 and another 29.6% entered between 2000 and 2009, compared to 21.5% and 33.4% statewide. The remaining 43.9% of immigrants in the region settled in the U.S. prior to 2000. Foreign-born residents have a younger age profile than the native born population, with 62.6% being between 15 and 44 years of age, compared to 39.7% of the total population. A lower percentage of foreign-born residents aged 25 and over had a bachelor's degree or higher than native born residents, and immigrants were also much more likely to have less than a high school diploma.

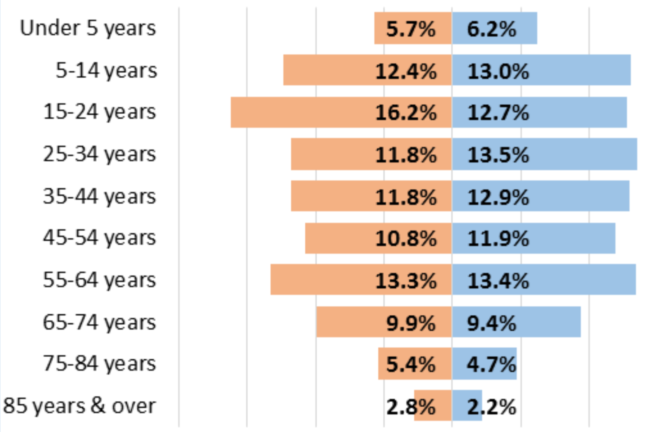
Figure 1. Place of Birth for Foreign Born Population in Region 9 (2018)



POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

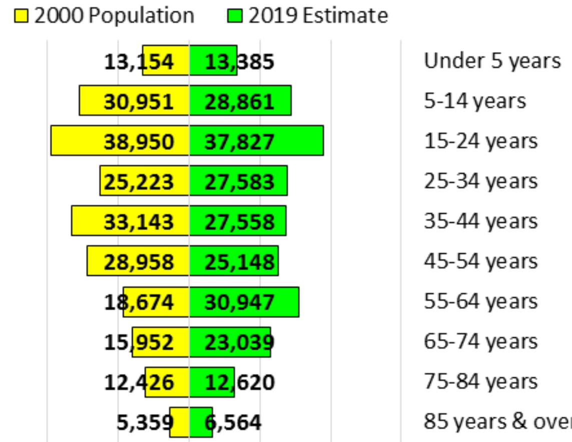
EDR 9 has both a younger *and* older population than the state – nearly one-third (31.3%) of the region's population was 55 or older, compared to 29.7% statewide, and another one-third (34.3%) of the population was also under 25 years, compared to 31.9% in the state. In contrast, EDR 9 had a smaller percentage of people in the 25 to 54 year age group - typically considered the "prime working years." A large portion of the area's population is a part of the Baby Boom generation, which is creating a significant shift in regional demographics over time. Between 2000 and 2019, almost 20,760 more residents were in the 55 years or older groups (see Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 2. Percentage of Population by Age Group, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Figure 3. Population Pyramid, 2000-2019



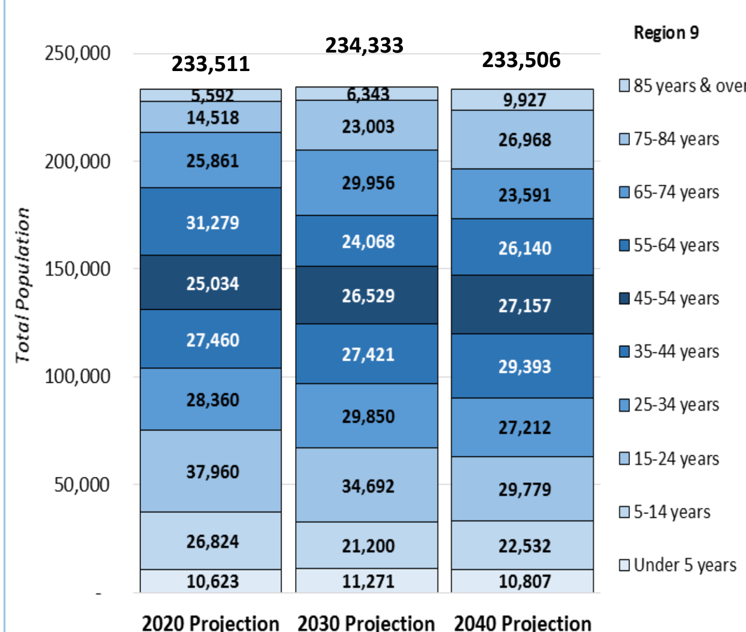
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP

EDR 9 is projected to continue its population increase over the next decade (2020 to 2030), but experience a decline in the following decade (2030 to 2040). Population projections from the Minnesota State Demographic Center show that the area is expected to add 822 new residents from 2020 to 2030, a 0.4% increase. However, the region is predicted to see a decline of 827 from 2030 to 2040, equaling a loss of 0.4%. Overall, the region expected to see a net loss of 5 from 2020 to 2040 (see Figure 4. In comparison, the state of Minnesota is projected to grow 8.8% from 2020 to 2040, closing in on 6.2 million residents.

Like the recent shift, projections for growth vary widely by age. The region is expected to add residents between the ages of 35 and 54 in the next 20 years, and also see an increase in the youngest population aged under 5 years and those ages 75 and over.

Figure 4. Population Projections by Age Group, 2020-2040



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Conversely, the major losses are expected to occur in the age groups from 5 to 34 and 55 to 74, as the Baby Boom generation ages into the oldest age cohorts. This will lead to 16,785 more residents aged 75 years and over, an 83.5% expansion.

POPULATION BY RACE

The population in EDR 9 has had some significant changes since the turn of the century, however it remains less racially diverse than the state as a whole. In 2018, 93.5% of the region's residents reported White alone as their race, compared to 83.3% of residents statewide. In addition, every other race increased faster in the region from 2000 to 2018 than the White population, with the exception of those identifying as Some Other Race which saw a decline. In fact, the number of residents who were Black or African American increased by 186% while those identifying as Two or More Races more than doubled. The Asian and Pacific Islander and Hispanic or Latino populations also saw a notable increase equaling 44.1% and 85.1%, respectively, since 2000 (see Table 3).

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2018	Region 9			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	*Change from 2000-2018*	Percent	*Change from 2000-2018*
Total	**231,853**	**100.0%**	***+4.1%***	**100.0%**	***+12.4%***
White	216,690	93.5%	*+1.6%*	83.3%	*+4.7%*
Black or African American	4,484	1.9%	*+186.0%*	6.2%	*+99.3%*
American Indian & Alaska Native	710	0.3%	*+25.9%*	1.1%	*+7.3%*
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	2,877	1.2%	*+44.1%*	4.8%	*+83.8%*
Some Other Race	3,254	1.4%	*-9.6%*	1.8%	*+48.7%*
Two or More Races	3,838	1.7%	*+114.3%*	2.9%	*+90.7%*
Hispanic or Latino	13,434	5.8%	*+85.1%*	5.3%	*+104.2%*

Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

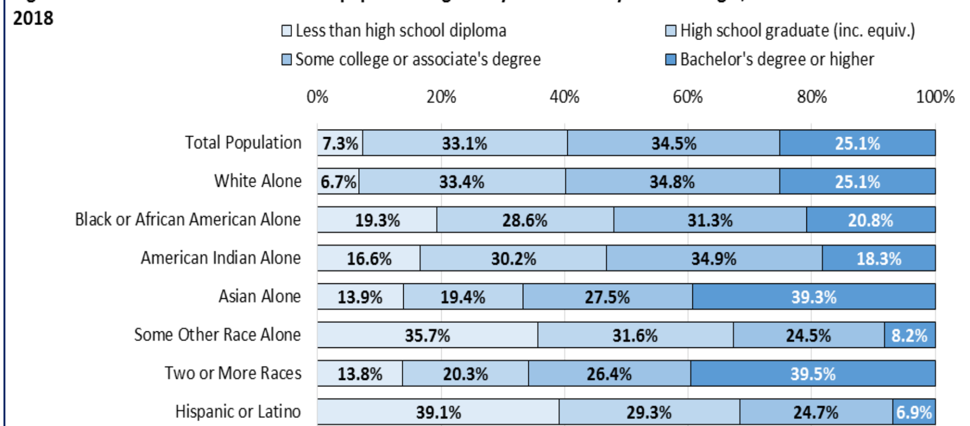
With 34% of adults aged 18 years and over holding a college degree, EDR 9 had lower educational attainment than the state in 2018, where 43.7% of adults have an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree. However, EDR 9 had a higher percentage of people with a high school diploma or some college but no degree while also having a slightly smaller percentage of residents with less than high school education (see Table 4).

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Population Aged 18 years & Over	Region 9		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 18 years & over	**181,048**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Less than high school	13,529	7.5%	7.6%
High school graduate (incl. equiv.)	56,920	31.4%	25.3%
Some college, no degree	49,073	27.1%	23.4%
Associate's degree	21,023	11.6%	10.8%
Bachelor's degree	29,044	16.0%	22.1%
Advanced degree	11,459	6.3%	10.7%

Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Educational attainment varies significantly by race and ethnicity in EDR 9. Almost 50% of Black or African Americans have a high school diploma or less while Hispanic or Latinos and people of Some Other Race see over 65% having a high school degree or less, compared to 40.1% of Whites. At just 6.9%, people identifying as Hispanic or Latino had the lowest percent of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 39.3% of Asian adults and 39.5% of those of Two or More Races (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Educational Attainment for the population aged 25 years & over by Race or Origin, 2018



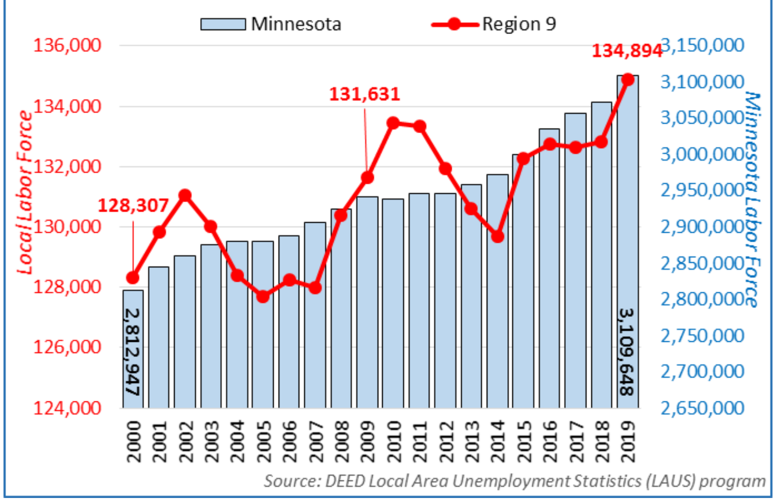
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE

LABOR FORCE CHANGE

According to data from DEED's Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, EDR 9 had an annual average labor force count of just under 134,900 workers in 2019, which is the highest on record. Despite some ups and downs around recessions, the regional labor force has increased since 2000, adding 6,587 new workers over the past 19 years (see Figure 6).

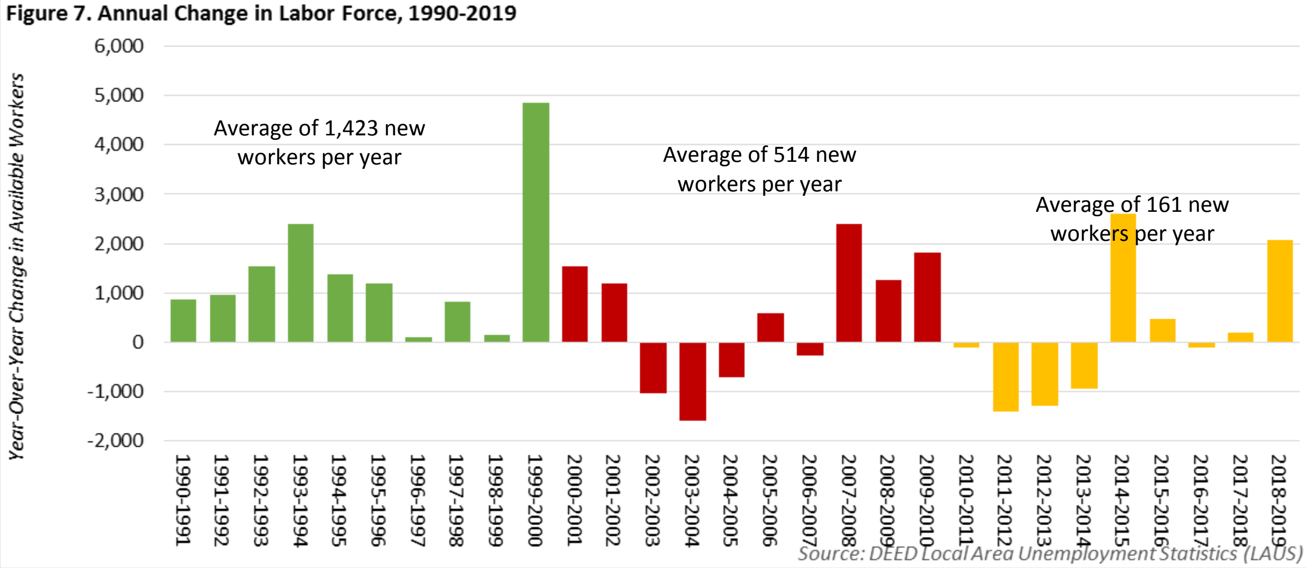
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates, 2000-2019



The region's labor force saw an increase from 2000 to 2002 before seeing a decline, culminating in a low of 127,688 workers in 2005. Since 2005, the region enjoyed a labor force gain adding just over 5,760 workers as the recession took hold in 2010. Despite the overall gain, the labor market in EDR 9 continues to tighten, with fewer unemployed workers available. There were just over 4,630 unemployed workers in 2019, down from a high of 9,935 in 2009. These labor force constraints will have a substantial impact on the regional economy.

Averaging a net gain of 1,423 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2000, employers in EDR 9 were able to tap into a large and growing pool of talented workers. Although the regional economy continue to grow, labor force growth has slowed dramatically, demonstrated by EDR 9 only gaining an average of 161 workers per year from 2010 to 2019 (see Figure 7). Increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers is now recognized as one of the most significant barriers to economic growth in EDR 9. In the face of these constraints, it has become evident that a more diverse workforce in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, and immigration has been and will continue to be a vital source of the workers that employers need to succeed. As the white, native-born workforce continues to age, younger workers of different races or from different countries will comprise the fastest growing segment of the labor force.

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2019



LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS

Despite the projected population increase in EDR 9 from 2020 to 2030 (shown in Figure 4), the regional labor force is expected to contract. Applying current labor force participation rates to future population projections by age group creates labor force projections for the region, which shows a 2.2% drop in workforce numbers, a loss of 2,945 workers, as the Baby Boom generation ages and drops out of the labor force. This decline includes a huge loss in the number of workers aged 55 to 64 supplemented by notable losses in those between the ages 16 to 24. However, the number of workers aged 25 to 54 years is expected to swell by just over 2,600 workers. Still, the anticipated contraction may lead employers to adapt their management and hiring practices in order to compete for workers (see Table 5).

Table 5. EDR 9 Labor Force Projections

	2020 Labor Force Projection	2030 Labor Force Projection	*2020-2030 Change*	
			Numeric	*Percent*
16 to 19 years	7,459	6,478	*-982*	*-13.2%*
20 to 24 years	18,571	17,566	*-1,005*	*-5.4%*
25 to 44 years	49,871	51,167	*+1,296*	*+2.6%*
45 to 54 years	21,917	23,226	*+1,309*	*+6.0%*
55 to 64 years	23,781	18,299	*-5,482*	*-23.1%*
65 to 74 years	8,071	9,349	*+1,278*	*+15.8%*
75 years & over	1,395	2,035	*+641*	*+45.9%*
Total Labor Force	**131,066**	**128,120**	***-2,945***	***-2.2%***

Source: calculated from Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

With 69.3% of the population over 16 years of age in the labor force, EDR 9 had a slightly lower participation rate than the state (see Table 6).

Participation rates varied by race in EDR 9, but also lagged behind state averages for the most part, with the exception of Two or More Races which saw a rate of 76.6% compared to the state's 73.1%. Of the remaining race groups that saw lower labor force participation rates than the state, Some Other Race saw the largest discrepancy with the state's rate being 6.3 percentage points higher than the region. Two other groups (Black or African American and Asian or Other Pacific Islander) saw rates that were 4 or more points lower than the state.

Table 6. EDR 9 Employment Characteristics, 2018

	Region 9			Minnesota	
	In Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	**129,516**	**69.3%**	**3.5%**	**69.7%**	**3.9%**
16 to 19 years	8,358	59.5%	12.3%	52.9%	11.7%
20 to 24 years	17,636	83.3%	4.3%	84.4%	6.4%
25 to 44 years	48,103	89.3%	2.9%	88.6%	3.5%
45 to 54 years	24,013	87.5%	2.5%	87.3%	2.8%
55 to 64 years	23,692	76.0%	2.3%	72.6%	3.0%
65 to 74 years	6,432	31.2%	1.6%	27.6%	2.4%
75 years & over	1,291	6.9%	2.7%	6.3%	2.6%
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin					
White alone	122,318	69.4%	3.2%	69.5%	3.3%
Black or African American	2,231	65.2%	16.0%	70.7%	9.9%
American Indian & Alaska Native	344	57.1%	9.0%	58.5%	12.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,589	67.2%	6.1%	71.3%	4.7%
Some Other Race	1,589	70.9%	1.7%	77.2%	6.2%
Two or More Races	1,472	76.6%	8.4%	73.1%	7.6%
Hispanic or Latino	6,488	73.6%	7.4%	76.3%	6.5%
Employment Characteristics by Veteran Status					
Veterans, 18 to 64 years	5,033	82.7%	2.9%	79.2%	4.2%
Employment Characteristics by Disability					
With Any Disability	6,272	53.4%	8.9%	52.5%	9.0%
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment					
Population, 25 to 64 years	95,813	85.2%	2.5%	84.2%	3.2%
Less than H.S. Diploma	4,339	67.7%	3.6%	65.4%	4.5%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	26,831	80.8%	1.8%	78.6%	2.6%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	37,584	88.0%	2.0%	85.2%	3.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27,032	89.9%	1.4%	89.8%	1.9%

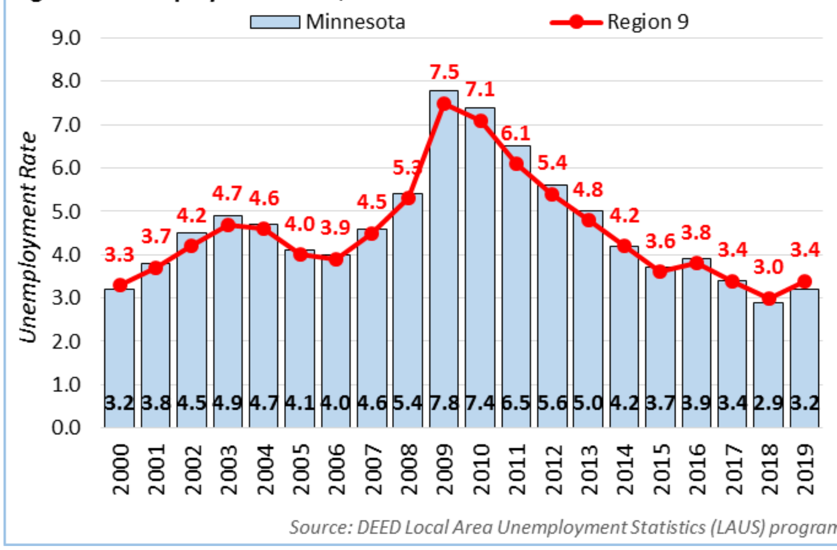
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

While veterans saw a rather high labor force participation rate, which sat at 82.7% with a 2.9% unemployment rate, residents with a disability had a very low participation rate coupled with a high unemployment rate. In addition, those with less than a high school diploma also saw lower participation rates, especially when compared to the total population aged 25 to 64 and higher educational attainment levels (see Table 6).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Regardless of the state of the economy, EDR 9 has mostly reported lower unemployment rates than Minnesota overall since 2000. According to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, the unemployment rate in EDR 9 consistently hovered just below the statewide rate, shifting in sync to economic fluctuation. During the recession, it rose as high as 7.5% in 2009, but fell back to prerecession rates by 2014. Since then, the regional rate increased slightly in 2016 before dropping to 3.0% in 2018, the lowest rate on record since 1999. Over the last year thought, the rate increased from 3.0% to 3.4% (see Figure 8).

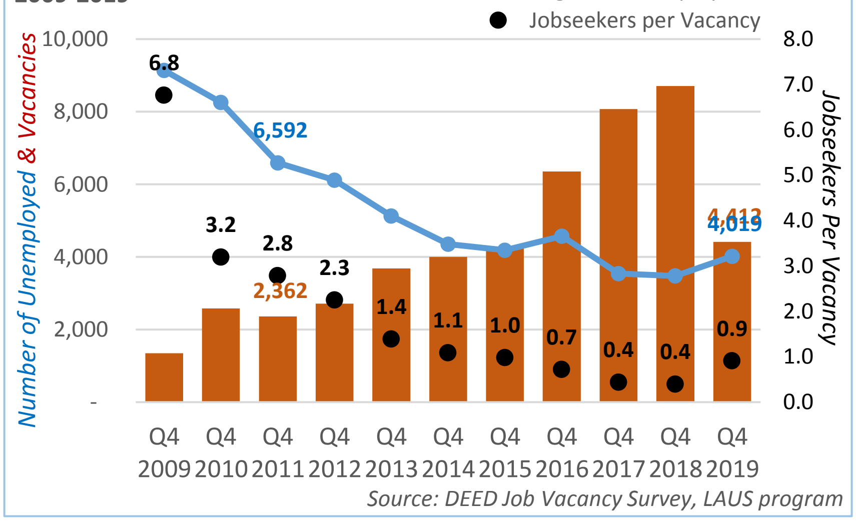
Figure 8. Unemployment Rates, 2000-2019



JOBSEEKERS PER VACANCY

As the economy continues to recover and the number of available jobseekers declines, the regional labor market has been tightening. A clear demonstration of this is the ratio of unemployed jobseekers per vacancy, which now stands at 0.9-to-1 in EDR 9. According to recent Job Vacancy Survey results, there were 4,412 openings reported by employers compared to 4,019 unemployed jobseekers in the region. The ratio climbed as high as 6.8 jobseekers per vacancy in the fourth quarter of 2009, during the Great Recession (see Figure 9).

Figure 9. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2009-2019



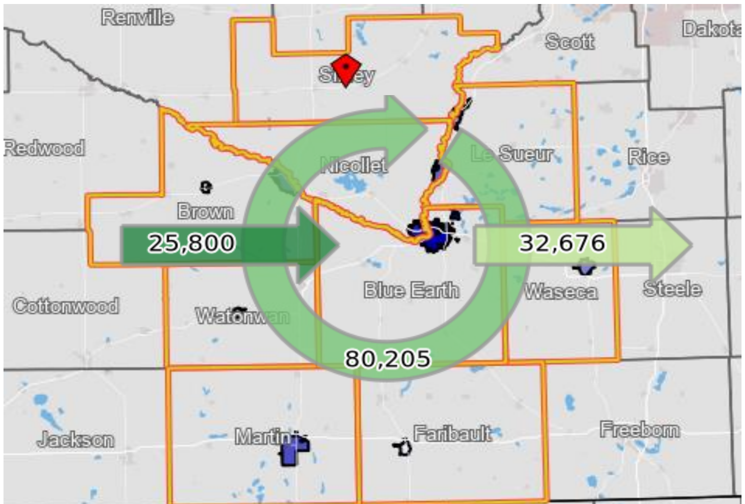
COMMUTE SHED AND LABOR SHED

Over three-quarters of residents in EDR 9 also work in the region. However, EDR 9 is a net exporter of labor, having fewer jobs than available workers. In 2017, 80,205 workers both lived and worked in EDR 9, while another 25,800 workers drove into the region for work. This is compared to 32,676 workers who lived in the region but drove to outside areas for work (see Table 7 and Figure 10).

Table 7. EDR 9 Inflow/ Outflow Job Counts (All Jobs), 2017	2017	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	106,005	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	25,800	24.3%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	80,205	75.7%
Living in the Selection Area	112,881	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	32,676	28.9%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	80,205	71.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap

Figure 10. EDR 9- South Central Minnesota Labor and Commute Shed, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap

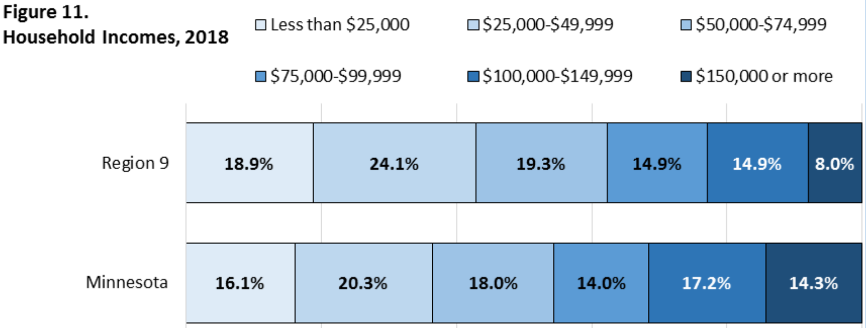
Home to Mankato, Blue Earth County is the largest employment center in the region and the biggest draw for workers, followed by Nicollet and Brown Counties. Employers in the region also draw workers from surrounding counties in the metro, like Hennepin, Dakota, and Scott and from the Southeast region, such as Rice and Steele Counties. Some residents also travel outside of the region for work, including commuting to jobs in Hennepin, Scott and Dakota Counties in the metro and Steele, Rice and Olmsted Counties in the Southeast region. The average commute time for workers in EDR 9 was 19.9 minutes, compared to 23.5 minutes for workers statewide. Just under 64% of workers commuted less than 20 minutes each way, compared to 52.4% statewide. About 6.6% of workers worked at home, and 3.4% were able to walk to work.

INCOMES, WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Household incomes were much lower in EDR 9 than in the state overall. At $58,487, EDR 9 had the 7th highest median household income of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Over 40% (42.9%) of the households in the region had incomes below $50,000 in 2018, compared to just 36.4% statewide. Another one-third (34.2%) of households earned between $50,000 and $100,000 in EDR 9, while 22.9% of households earned over $100,000 per year compared to 31.5% percent of households statewide (see Figure 11).

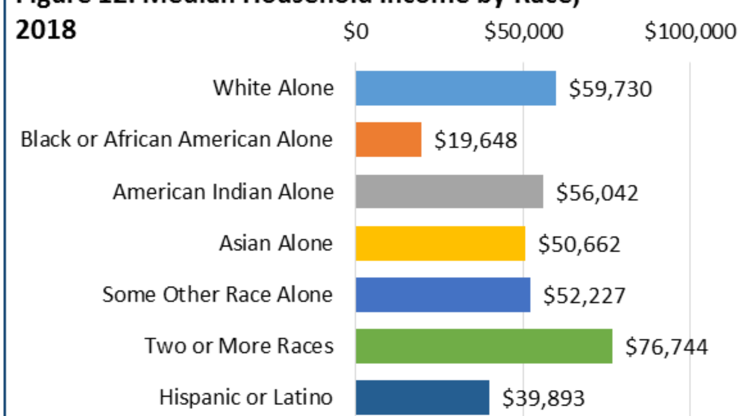
Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2018



Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Incomes varied widely by race in EDR 9, with the highest incomes reported by households of Two or More Races followed by White households, while the lowest incomes reported were among Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino households. The household income for Whites was over three times that of Black or African American households, equaling a $40,082 per year difference in median household incomes, and was also $19,837 higher than the median household income among Hispanic or Latino households (see Figure 12).

Figure 12. Median Household Income by Race, 2018



Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey

COST OF LIVING

According to DEED's Cost of Living tool, the basic needs budget for an average Minnesota family (which consists of 2 adults and 1 child, with 1 full-time and 1 part-time worker) was $56,772 in 2019. The cost of living for a similar family in EDR 9 was $48,012 – which was the fourth lowest of the 13 economic development regions in the state. The highest monthly costs were for transportation, food, and housing; though the region's housing, child care, and taxes were significantly lower than the rest of the state. In order to meet the basic needs cost of living for the region, the two workers in the family scenario described would need to earn $15.39 per hour working a combined 60 hours per week.

DEED's Cost of Living tool provides different estimates for household compositions including single people, partnered couples, and up to 4 children. For a single person living alone and working full-time, the estimated yearly cost in EDR 9 would be $27,756, which would require an hourly wage of $13.34 to meet the basic needs standard of living. If the same single person had one child the hourly wage needed jumps up to $19.38 per hour (see Table 8.

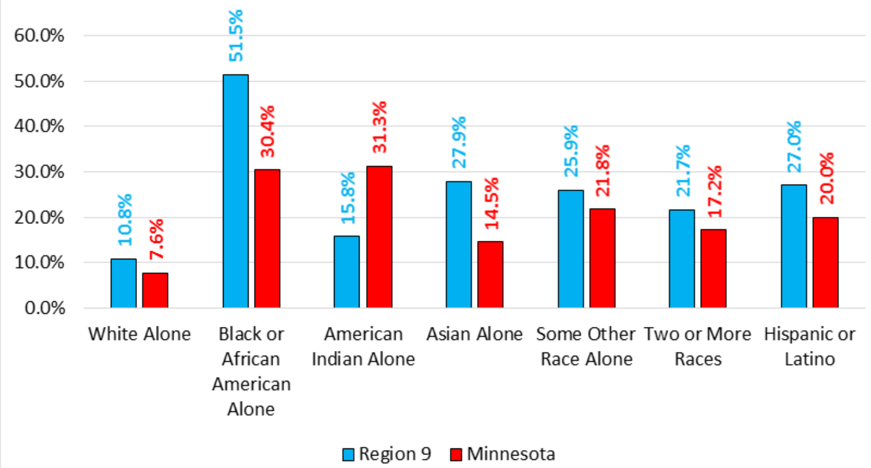
Table 8. Family Yearly Cost, Worker Hourly Wage, and Family Monthly Costs, 2019

Family Composition	Number of Workers	Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans-portation	Other	Taxes
EDR 9-South Central										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	$27,756	$13.34	$0	$332	$166	$629	$616	$269	$301
Single, 1 child	1 FT	$40,320	$19.38	$464	$491	$385	$825	$620	$369	$206
2 parents, 1 child	**1 FT, 1 PT**	**$48,012**	**$15.39**	**$232**	**$759**	**$659**	**$825**	**$709**	**$444**	**$373**
2 parents, 2 children	2 FT	$65,640	$15.78	$772	$992	$668	$1,148	$745	$600	$545
Minnesota										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	$31,392	$15.09	$0	$336	$157	$798	$653	$318	$354
2 parents, 1 child	**1 FT, 1 PT**	**$56,772**	**$18.20**	**$516**	**$769**	**$593**	**$1,033**	**$755**	**$505**	**$560**

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Overall, EDR 9's poverty rate was 12.1%, which was higher than the statewide rate of 10.1%. Like incomes, poverty levels varied widely by race and origin. It was estimated that 51.5% of the region's Black or African American population was below the poverty level in 2018, compared to just 10.8% of the white population. Likewise, poverty levels were also higher than Whites for American Indian (15.8%), Asian (27.9%), Some Other Race (25.9%), Two or More Races (21.7%) and Hispanic or Latino origin (27.0%). With one exception, American Indian Alone, all groups had higher percentages below poverty than the state as a whole (see Figure 13).

Figure 13. Percent Below Poverty Level by Race or Origin (2018)
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey



WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

The median hourly wage for all occupations in EDR 9 was $18.75 in the first quarter of 2020. As such, the region has the 8th highest median wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Also, the median wage in EDR 9 was $2.74 less than the statewide median wage, and $4.55 less than the median wage in the Twin Cities metro area. Compared to the other two economic development regions in Southern Minnesota, the South Central (EDR 9) region's median wage was $1.14 less than the Southeast region and $0.84 higher than in the Southwest region.

Occupational Employment Statistics by Region, 1st Qtr. 2020	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment
EDR 1 - Northwest	$19.11	38,810
EDR 2 - Headwaters	$18.57	32,750
EDR 3 - Arrowhead	$19.03	144,320
EDR 4 - West Central	$18.66	90,000
EDR 5 - North Central	$17.50	61,880
EDR 6E - Southwest Central	$18.41	49,370
EDR 6W - Upper MN Valley	$18.02	32,970
EDR 7E - East Central	$19.81	46,480
EDR 7W - Central	$19.46	182,890
EDR 8 - Southwest	$17.91	53,190
EDR 9 - South Central	**$18.75**	**99,570**
EDR 10 - Southeast	$19.89	242,490
EDR 11 - 7-County Twin Cities	$23.30	1,805,980
State of Minnesota	**$21.49**	**2,880,650**
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics		

Not surprisingly, the lowest-paying jobs in EDR 9 are in sales, food preparation and serving and personal care occupations, which tend to have lower educational and training requirements. The smallest pay differences compared to the state are in healthcare support, personal care and service, production, food preparation and serving and farming, fishing and forestry, which are all less than a dollar below the state's median wages, while median wages were actually slightly higher than the state's in community and social service and transportation and material moving occupations. In addition, EDR 9 has stronger concentrations of employment in farming, production, transportation and material moving, education, construction and extraction, and installation, maintenance and repair occupations (see Table 10).

Table 10. Occupational Employment Statistics, 2020

Occupational Group	Region 9				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employ-ment	Share of Total Employ-ment	Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employ-ment	Share of Total Employ-ment
Total, All Occupations	$18.75	99,570	100.0%	1.0	$21.49	2,880,650	100.0%
Production	$18.47	13,410	13.5%	1.8	$19.03	212,650	7.4%
Office & Administrative Support	$18.56	12,350	12.4%	1.0	$20.03	363,800	12.6%
Sales & Related	$14.28	9,610	9.7%	1.0	$15.37	277,000	9.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	$18.21	9,390	9.4%	1.3	$18.06	216,890	7.5%
Education, Training & Library	$22.63	6,840	6.9%	1.2	$24.38	165,310	5.7%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	$31.79	6,120	6.1%	0.9	$36.07	190,800	6.6%
Healthcare Support	$14.62	5,600	5.6%	1.0	$14.81	163,160	5.7%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	$11.75	5,410	5.4%	0.6	$12.43	244,300	8.5%
Management	$41.62	5,080	5.1%	0.9	$52.70	170,650	5.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	$22.51	3,930	3.9%	1.1	$24.31	100,060	3.5%
Construction & Extraction	$25.47	3,830	3.8%	1.1	$28.97	104,900	3.6%
Business & Financial Operations	$29.25	3,560	3.6%	0.6	$33.87	171,550	6.0%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	$14.21	2,690	2.7%	0.9	$15.23	83,860	2.9%
Architecture & Engineering	$32.36	1,970	2.0%	1.0	$38.00	55,520	1.9%
Computer & Mathematical	$29.96	1,520	1.5%	0.4	$42.71	97,960	3.4%
Protective Service	$19.37	1,420	1.4%	0.9	$22.45	45,030	1.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	$18.86	1,270	1.3%	1.0	$24.52	38,540	1.3%
Life, Physical & Social Science	$28.73	800	0.8%	0.9	$34.35	27,070	0.9%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	$16.73	270	0.3%	1.9	$17.72	4,060	0.1%
Legal	$28.69	190	0.2%	0.3	$37.35	20,050	0.7%
Community & Social Service	$24.14	NA	NA	NA	$23.34	57,200	2.0%
Personal Care & Service	$13.22	NA	NA	NA	$13.65	70,290	2.4%
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Qtr. 1 2020							

The highest paying jobs in the region are found in Management, Architecture and Engineering, and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations, all of which have median wages over $30 per hour. These occupations generally require higher levels of education and experience, including many that require bachelor's degrees or higher. Comparatively, the largest hourly pay gaps between the region and state occurred in Management and Legal occupations, which were both over $11 less than the state.

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Employers in EDR 9 reported 4,412 job vacancies in the fourth quarter of 2019. Demand for workers was high across most occupational groups, with the largest number of openings being in Food Preparation and Serving Related (774 vacancies), Healthcare Support (529 vacancies), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (471 vacancies), Personal Care and Service (365 vacancies) and Transportation and Material Moving (317 vacancies). These five occupational groups made up just under 55.7% of the total vacancies in the region (see Table 11.

Rising demand has led to rising wages, with the median hourly wage offer from the current survey jumping to $14.44 per hour, which was up $0.19 cents from the fourth quarter of last year and the highest on record. Wage offers ranged from just over $10.00 per hour for Arts, Design, Entertainment and Media occupations to $28.15 per hour for Architecture and Engineering occupations.

Table 11. Region 9 – South Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 4 2019

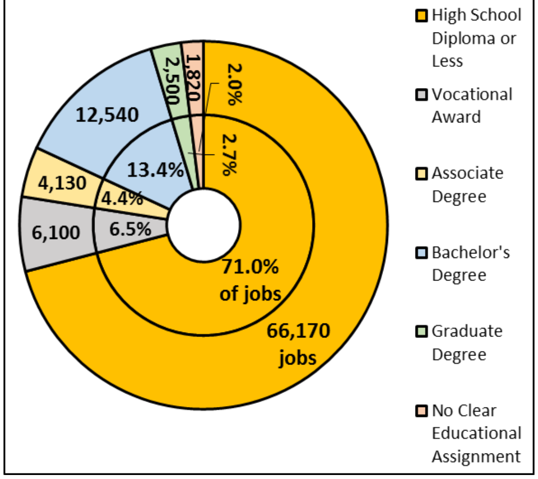
	Number of Total Vacancies	Percent Part-time	Percent Temporary or Seasonal	Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Requiring 1 or More Years of Work Exp.	Requiring Certificate or License	Median Hourly Wage Offer	Job Vacancy Rate
Total, All Occupations	4,412	46%	7%	32%	36%	45%	$14.44	4.1
Food Preparation & Serving Related	774	56%	2%	0%	18%	14%	$12.15	7.8
Healthcare Support	529	79%	1%	33%	1%	63%	$13.38	14.0
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	471	40%	3%	92%	41%	92%	$26.45	8.0
Personal Care & Service	365	64%	4%	13%	13%	56%	$12.90	7.2
Transportation & Material Moving	317	41%	4%	8%	35%	57%	$15.92	4.0
Sales & Related	247	34%	4%	11%	48%	31%	$14.64	2.5
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	223	18%	2%	46%	59%	56%	$18.98	5.1
Office & Administrative Support	214	35%	2%	7%	32%	5%	$14.60	1.5
Education, Training & Library	198	51%	68%	82%	89%	85%	$15.76	2.5
Production	192	2%	1%	24%	52%	12%	$16.43	2.1
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	108	92%	2%	3%	4%	2%	$10.00	11.2
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	104	43%	8%	2%	22%	31%	$13.06	3.6
Management	99	30%	2%	47%	75%	48%	$21.93	2.1
Protective Service	94	76%	20%	59%	28%	90%	$14.52	5.4
Community & Social Service	73	21%	4%	39%	55%	60%	$15.62	2.6
Business & Financial Operations	55	10%	0%	75%	83%	27%	$25.62	1.7
Architecture & Engineering	54	4%	0%	83%	88%	31%	$28.15	3.7
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	41	60%	64%	82%	22%	16%	$12.89	5.8
Construction & Extraction	29	3%	43%	29%	83%	51%	$23.48	0.7
Computer & Mathematical	27	0%	0%	68%	79%	27%	$23.54	1.9

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, Qtr. 4 2019

Overall, 46% of the openings were part-time. Because of the high concentration of jobs in Food Preparation and Serving, Transportation and Material Moving, Sales and Related, Personal Care and Service and Healthcare Support, only about one-third of postings required postsecondary education. In many cases one or more years of experience was just as, if not more, relevant. While only 36% of the total job openings required one or more years' experience, typically those occupations that required post-secondary education also required at least one year of experience. This also helped lead to the high wage offers, especially in those fields that required additional training (see Table 11).

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Figure 14. Share of Jobs by Educational Requirements, 2019



Similar to the recent job vacancy data, DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics program shows that less than 30% of current jobs held in the region require post-secondary education to enter. The remaining require no more than a high school diploma, and sometimes less. However, some on-the-job training is often needed (see Figure 14). Certain careers – such as dentists, lawyers, and teachers – require a college education, while other jobs – including cost estimators, sales representatives, and correctional officers – do not. College is an excellent way to move up career ladders and open opportunities to fields that would otherwise be closed, such as nursing or engineering. Many of these occupations offer high wages and are in high demand in the marketplace. While education is typically a worthwhile investment, college can be expensive – with average annual expenses ranging between $14,500 and almost $50,000 per year in Minnesota. For those who go to college, choice of major matters – different programs lead to different jobs and different earnings.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

EDR 9 is part of the larger 23-county Southwest planning region, which is expected to see job growth to the tune of 0.9% from 2016 to 2026, equaling 1,885 new jobs. The region is also expected to need to fill 103,553 jobs left vacant by retirements and other career changers. Farming, fishing and forestry, construction and extraction, and healthcare practitioners and technical are expected to see the most new growth. Despite some occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, production, food preparation and serving, and sales, predicted to lose jobs during this time frame, every occupational group will show some future demand either through new jobs and/or replacement openings (see Figure 15).

Figure 15. Southwest Minnesota Employment Projections (2016-2026)

Source: DEED Employment Outlook

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

According to DEED's Occupations in Demand tool, there are well over 200 occupations showing relatively high demand in the region, with training and education requirements ranging from short-term on-the-job training to postsecondary education to advanced degrees. These occupations are spread across different sectors but are also concentrated in the region's major industries. For example, nursing assistants, personal care aides, teachers, mechanics and repair workers, and heavy and tractor trailer truck drivers are among the top occupations in demand based on the consistent need for workers in these fields. Many of the jobs are concentrated in manufacturing, health care, transportation, and other related industries (see Table 12).

Table 12. Southwest Minnesota Occupations in Demand (with Median Annual Wage), 2019			
Less than High School	**High School or Equivalent**	**Some College, Vocational Training, or Assoc. Degree**	**Bachelor's Degree or Higher**
Personal Care Aides ($26,919)	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers ($44,307)	Registered Nurses ($65,723)	Elementary School Teachers ($49,919)
Combined Food Prep & Serving Workers ($23,754)	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers ($40,150)	Nursing Assistants ($30,046)	Secondary School Teachers ($51,607)
Cashiers ($23,665)	Childcare Workers ($23,494)	Machinists ($41,453)	Agriculture & Food Science Technicians ($42,140)
Janitors & Cleaners ($27,891)	Office Clerks, General ($34,602)	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses ($45,512)	Physician Assistants ($107,805)
Retail Salespersons ($25,408)	Maintenance & Repair Workers ($40,722)	Automotive Service Techs. & Mechanics ($36,107)	Industrial Engineers ($76,019)
Home Health Aides ($27,561)	Teacher Assistants ($28,683)	Industrial Machinery Mechanics ($47,807)	Accountants & Auditors ($62,792)
Waiters & Waitresses ($21,617)	Secretaries & Administrative Assistants ($38,419)	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers ($58,377)	Mental Health Counselors ($74,423)
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers ($31,014)	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Mfg. ($62,712)	Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics ($36,520)	Mechanical Engineers ($78,526)
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers ($26,428)	Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers ($41,595)	Industrial Engineering Technicians ($48,612)	Financial Managers ($102,734)
Cooks, Restaurant ($24,812)	First-Line Supervisors of Food Prep & Serving Workers ($33,357)	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrig. Mechanics ($47,753)	Human Resources Specialists ($53,909)
			Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

ECONOMY

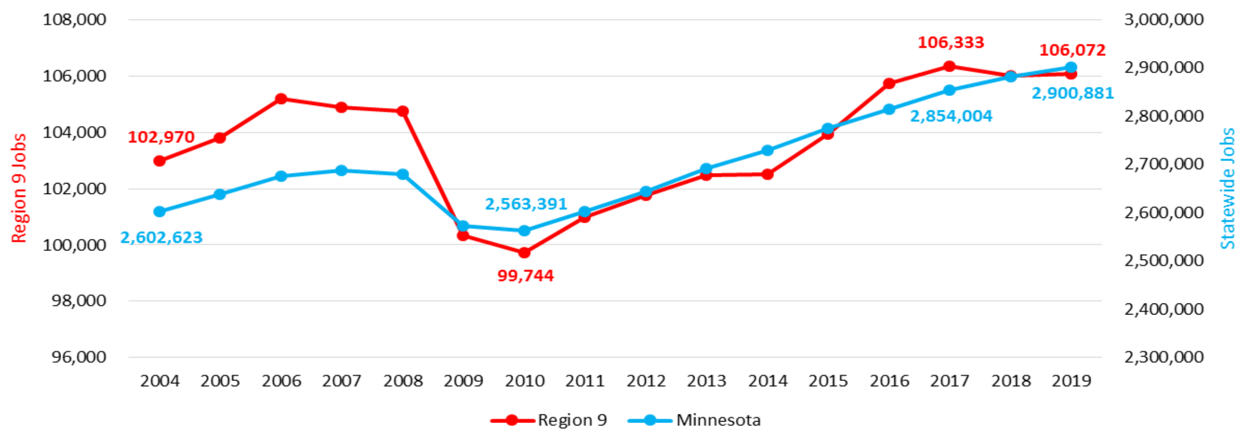
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

According to DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program, EDR 9 was home to 6,773 business establishments providing 106,072 covered jobs through 2019, with a total payroll that exceeded $4.68 billion. That was about 3.7% of total employment in the State of Minnesota, and the 5th largest of the 13 EDRs. Average annual wages were $44,148 in the region, which was the 5th highest of the EDR's in the state, but was $15,496 lower than the average annual wage statewide. The region experienced job growth over the last five years to the tune of 3,558 additional jobs, a 3.5% increase, and also saw a slight increase over the past year, adding 71 jobs for a growth of 0.1% (see Table 13.

Table 13. EDR 9 – South Central Industry Employment, 2019				Average Annual Wage	*2014-2019*		*2018-2019*	
Geography	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll		*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*	*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*
EDR 9 – South Central	**6,773**	**106,072**	**$4,684,718,522**	**$44,148**	***+3,558***	***+3.5%***	***+71***	***+0.1%***
Blue Earth Co.	2,070	40,284	$1,831,176,241	$45,448	*+2,220*	*+5.8%*	*+144*	*+0.4%*
Brown Co.	821	13,985	$607,933,268	$43,420	*+458*	*+3.4%*	*-120*	*-0.9%*
Faribault Co.	461	4,487	$185,591,936	$41,340	*-377*	*-7.8%*	*-4*	*-0.1%*
Le Sueur Co.	726	8,738	$393,131,275	$44,980	*+204*	*+2.4%*	*+200*	*+2.3%*
Martin Co.	680	8,487	$371,600,824	$43,784	*-94*	*-1.1%*	*-266*	*-3.0%*
Nicollet Co.	751	15,416	$696,567,466	$45,188	*+1,299*	*+9.2%*	*+171*	*+1.1%*
Sibley Co.	414	4,278	$177,604,003	$41,392	*+246*	*+6.1%*	*-67*	*-1.5%*
Waseca Co.	526	6,020	$258,344,458	$42,848	*-754*	*-11.1%*	*+43*	*+0.7%*
Watonwan Co.	325	4,374	$162,769,051	$37,180	*+353*	*+8.8%*	*-32*	*-0.7%*
State of Minnesota	**178,094**	**2,900,881**	**$172,989,740,202**	**$59,644**	***+171,268***	***+6.3%***	***+18,877***	***+0.7%***
								Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)

In terms of employment, Blue Earth County is the largest economic center in EDR 9 with 40,284 jobs at 2,070 firms, and was the largest growing in recent years. Sibley County has the smallest economy with 4,278 jobs, but had the 3rd highest growth rate since 2014. In addition to being the largest employing county, Blue Earth saw the highest annual wages of the nine counties in the South Central region, however was still well below the state average.

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics (2004-2019)
Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



EDR 9 gained employment over the past 15 years overall, but experienced some ups and downs in employment during the Great Recession. Overall, the region's job trends mirrored that of the state, however the losses during the recession were more severe and the recovery after was slower than the state. The region fully recovered all of the jobs lost during the recession by 2016. Between 2004 and 2019, the region added 3,102 jobs, a 3 percent increase, compared to 11.5 percent growth statewide (see Figure 16.

With 19,005 jobs at 338 establishments, the manufacturing industry employs the most people in EDR 9. After gaining 154 jobs in the last five years, the industry accounted for 17.9% of total jobs in the region in 2019. Gaining over 175 jobs in just the last year, this was the third largest job gain of the 20 industry sectors in the region from 2018 to 2019. Food manufacturing is the largest subsector, with 5,861 jobs at 54 establishments; followed by printing and related support activities (2,637 jobs at 37 establishments), electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing (1,972 jobs at 18 firms), and nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing (1,356 jobs at 16 establishments). Together these four manufacturing sectors account for 62.2% of all manufacturing jobs in the region (see Table 14.

The next largest industry in EDR 9 is healthcare and social assistance, with 18,808 jobs at 843 firms. This industry sector gained 1,213 jobs from 2014 to 2019 and 207 in just the last year. Nursing and residential care facilities is the most dominant sub-sector, making up over one-third (34.7 percent) of the total healthcare and social assistance jobs in the region (6,523 jobs in 159 firms). This is followed by hospitals (4,713 jobs at 12 establishments), ambulatory health care services (3,882 jobs at 268 firms), and 3,690 jobs at 404 social service establishments.

Other important industries in EDR 9 include retail trade, educational services, and accommodation and food services, which all had over 8,000 jobs, despite retail trade seeing a loss of 607 jobs from 2014 to 2019. The next largest industries include public administration, construction, and transportation and warehousing, which all had over 4,500 jobs. The region has a diverse mix of employment by industry, and experienced growth in 13 of the 20 main industries since 2014 (see Table 14).

Table 14. Industry Employment Statistics (2019)								
Region 9	2019 Annual Data				*2014-2019*		*2018-2019*	
NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll ($1,000s)	Avg. Annual Wage	*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*	*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*
Total, All Industries	**6,773**	**106,072**	**$4,684,718**	**$44,148**	***+3,558***	***+3.5%***	***+71***	***+0.1%***
Manufacturing	338	19,005	$1,024,455	$53,872	*+154*	*+0.8%*	*+177*	*+0.9%*
Health Care & Social Assistance	843	18,808	$858,892	$45,604	*+1,213*	*+6.9%*	*+207*	*+1.1%*
Retail Trade	820	11,791	$303,001	$25,688	*-607*	*-4.9%*	*-511*	*-4.2%*
Educational Services	130	9,597	$433,727	$45,500	*+377*	*+4.1%*	*-162*	*-1.7%*
Accommodation & Food Services	497	8,047	$117,460	$14,560	*+516*	*+6.9%*	*+83*	*+1.0%*
Public Administration	278	5,705	$274,493	$48,152	*+279*	*+5.1%*	*+22*	*+0.4%*
Construction	821	5,063	$289,301	$56,628	*+606*	*+13.6%*	*+194*	*+4.0%*
Transportation & Warehousing	388	4,564	$180,322	$39,468	*+1,212*	*+36.2%*	*+67*	*+1.5%*
Wholesale Trade	318	3,973	$269,683	$67,860	*+173*	*+4.6%*	*-55*	*-1.4%*
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	574	3,218	$92,642	$28,756	*+212*	*+7.1%*	*+95*	*+3.0%*
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	317	3,173	$148,649	$46,748	*+135*	*+4.4%*	*-15*	*-0.5%*
Finance & Insurance	375	2,849	$184,362	$64,688	*-91*	*-3.1%*	*+10*	*+0.4%*
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	361	2,572	$159,612	$62,140	*+147*	*+6.1%*	*-3*	*-0.1%*
Admin. Support & Waste. Mgmt. Svcs.	220	2,187	$71,842	$32,760	*-428*	*-16.4%*	*+41*	*+1.9%*
Information	110	1,884	$101,219	$53,716	*-358*	*-16.0%*	*-78*	*-4.0%*
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	131	1,114	$14,949	$13,364	*+69*	*+6.6%*	*+18*	*+1.6%*
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	179	1,016	$30,557	$30,056	*+218*	*+27.3%*	*+3*	*+0.3%*
Management of Companies & Enterprises	30	817	$67,959	$83,304	*-188*	*-18.7%*	*-7*	*-0.8%*
Utilities	36	476	$44,837	$94,328	*-32*	*-6.3%*	*+8*	*+1.7%*
Mining	10	210	$16,750	$79,508	*-49*	*-18.9%*	*-23*	*-9.9%*
Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages								

EMPLOYMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

According to DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program, the workforce in the region was aging over the past 10 years. Nearly one-quarter (24.1%) of workers in the region were 55 years or older, compared to 21.5% statewide and just 17.7% in the region one decade earlier. In contrast, the percentage of teenaged workers was falling. However wages were going up for younger workers and the number of hours worked was going down (see Table 15).

As noted above, wages were climbing across the board for all workers due to rising demand and a tight labor market. While wages were still lowest for the youngest and oldest workers who tend to fill lower-skilled, less-than-full-time jobs in industries like retail trade and accommodation and food services, these two age groups enjoyed the fastest percentage increase in wages from 2008 to 2018. Wages were highest for workers between 45 and 64 years of age, and males worked more hours than females, though the gap was narrowing.

Table 15. Workforce Demographics by Age Group and Gender, Total of All Industries, 2008-2018								
Region 9	Percentage of Workers		Percent of Workers, Minnesota		Median Hourly Wage		Median Hours Worked (Per Qtr.)	
	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008
Total, all ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	$16.93	$13.00	408	401
19 years & under	7.5%	9.4%	6.1%	7.5%	$10.31	$7.48	102	110
20 to 24 years	11.8%	13.4%	10.3%	11.6%	$13.11	$10.04	240	249
25 to 44 years	39.2%	37.6%	42.9%	42.7%	$19.48	$14.97	475	473
45 to 54 years	17.3%	21.9%	19.1%	22.5%	$21.19	$16.33	480	480
55 to 64 years	17.8%	13.4%	16.7%	12.6%	$19.83	$15.78	480	474
65 years & over	6.3%	4.3%	4.8%	3.1%	$14.56	$11.15	203	191
Male	48.9%	47.9%	49.1%	49.0%	$19.62	$14.99	477	474
Female	51.1%	52.1%	50.9%	51.0%	$15.62	$12.00	364	351
Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics								

While people of different races make up just over 6.5% of the overall population, they held just 5.9% of total jobs in South Central Minnesota, according to data from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators program. Based on annual averages for 2019, that equaled 6,187 jobs held by people of other races, compared to 98,522 White workers. While still a small portion, workers of other races held just 2.6% of the total jobs in 2000, meaning their employment presence more than doubled from 2000 to 2019 (see Figure 17).

In sum, workers of other races have filled an additional 3,642 jobs in the region since 2000, accounting for 67% of the 5,432 new jobs added. With 2,765 jobs, Black or African Americans were the largest race group in the regional economy, after gaining 1,972 jobs since 2000, an almost 250% increase. The next largest group was Asians, who held 1,751 jobs in 2019 after rising 70% from 2000 (see Figure 3. Workers of Hispanic or Latino origin filled 6,538 jobs in the region in 2019, up 3,262 (99.6%) jobs since 2000 (see Figure 18).

Most industry sectors in Southeast Minnesota are non-diverse, but there are a couple that rely more heavily on workers of other races. The largest number of minority workers were employed in Health Care and Social Assistance, though 92% of the jobs in the industry were held by White workers. Workers of other races were also employed in larger numbers in Manufacturing, Accommodation and Food Services, and Retail Trade (see Figure 4. The most diverse industry in the region was Accommodation and Food Services, where 11.6% were non-white (see Figure 19).

Figure 17. South Central Minnesota Employment by Race - All Industries
Source: DEED Quarterly Workforce Indicators

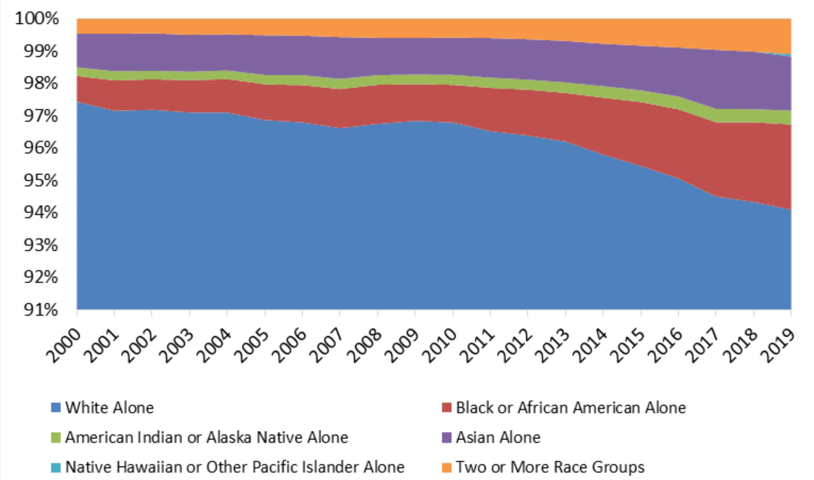


Figure 18. South Central Minnesota Employment by Other Races - All Industries
Source: DEED Quarterly Workforce Indicators

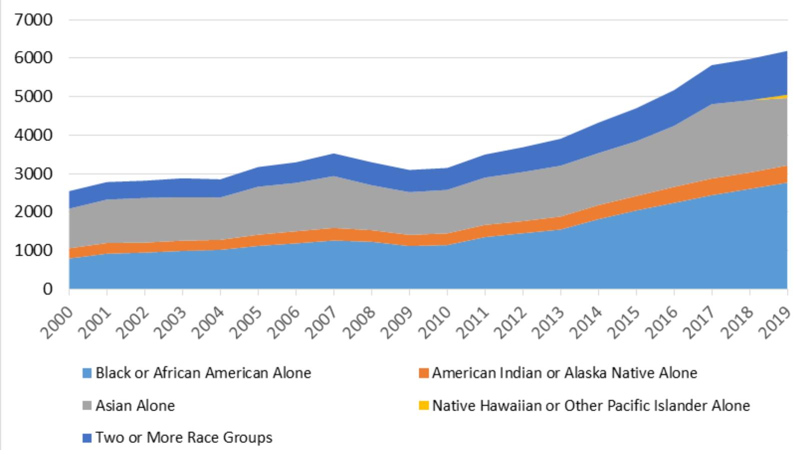
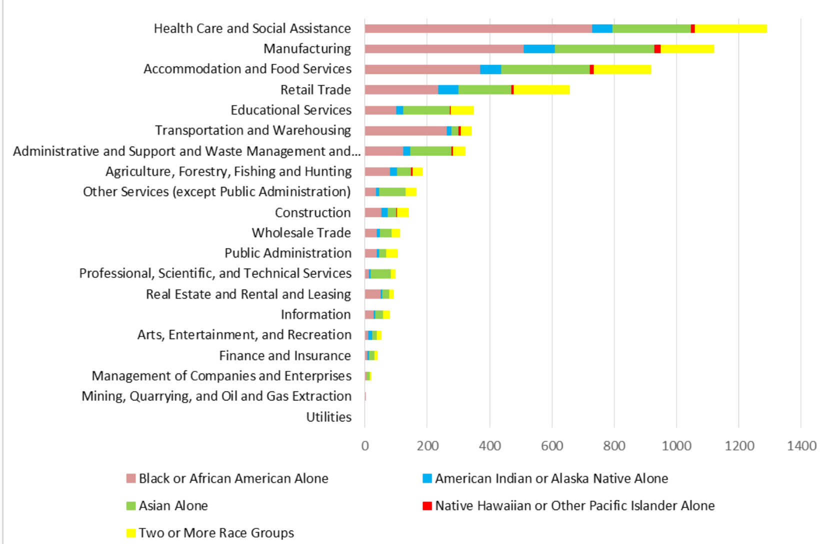


Figure 19. South Central Minnesota Employment by Other Races by Industry
Source: DEED Quarterly Workforce Indicators



INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

As noted above, Southwest Minnesota is projected to grow 0.9% from 2016 to 2026, a gain of 1,885 new jobs. The largest growing industry is expected to be agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. This industry is also projected to be the fastest growing industry in the region with an increase of 25.5%. The region is also expected to see significant employment growth in health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and construction. In contrast, retail trade is expected to cut nearly 900 jobs and other services is projected to decrease by 490 jobs in the next decade, while eight other industries are also expected to lose jobs (see Table 16).

Table 16. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2016-2026

Southwest	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employment 2026	*Percent Change 2016-2026*	*Numeric Change 2016-2026*
Total, All Industries	**211,618**	**213,503**	***+0.9%***	***+1,885***
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	5,599	7,026	*+25.5%*	*+1,427*
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,857	31,196	*+4.5%*	*+1,339*
Transportation & Warehousing	7,176	8,023	*+11.8%*	*+847*
Construction	7,995	8,408	*+5.2%*	*+413*
Professional & Technical Services	4,296	4,600	*+7.1%*	*+304*
Administrative & Waste Services	4,163	4,277	*+2.7%*	*+114*
Utilities	755	831	*+10.1%*	*+76*
Finance & Insurance	6,314	6,369	*+0.9%*	*+55*
Wholesale Trade	8,272	8,323	*+0.6%*	*+51*
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,232	1,269	*+3.0%*	*+37*
Educational Services	16,891	16,886	*0.0%*	*-5*
Public Administration	13,150	13,136	*-0.1%*	*-14*
Management of Companies	1,563	1,541	*-1.4%*	*-22*
Mining	349	312	*-10.6%*	*-37*
Manufacturing	31,264	31,145	*-0.4%*	*-119*
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,544	2,402	*-5.6%*	*-142*
Information	2,746	2,569	*-6.4%*	*-177*
Accommodation & Food Services	12,207	11,965	*-2.0%*	*-242*
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	7632	7,142	*-6.4%*	*-490*
Retail Trade	20,647	19,748	*-4.4%*	*-899*

Source: DEED 2016-2026 Employment Outlook

NONEMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

Region 9 was home to 15,580 self-employed businesses or "nonemployers" in 2018, which are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as "businesses without paid employees that are subject to federal income tax, originating from tax return information of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)." Region 9 saw a general decrease in nonemployers over the past decade, largely fueled by a loss of 233 nonemployers in Faribault County. In sum, the region lost 91 nonemployers from 2008 to 2018, a decrease of 0.6%, despite large gains in Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. These nonemployers generated sales receipts of almost $739 million in 2018 (see Table 17).

Table 17. Nonemployer Statistics, 2018

	2018		*2008-2018*	
	Number of Firms	Receipts ($1,000s)	*Change in Firms*	*Percent Change*
Region 9	**15,580**	**$738,826**	***-91***	***-0.6%***
Blue Earth Co.	4,189	$205,536	*+296*	*+7.6%*
Brown Co.	1,762	$74,735	*-63*	*-3.5%*
Faribault Co.	1,055	$54,509	*-233*	*-18.1%*
Le Sueur Co.	1,978	$90,345	*-69*	*-3.4%*
Martin Co.	1,520	$74,994	*-23*	*-1.5%*
Nicollet Co.	2,222	$108,241	*+150*	*+7.2%*
Sibley Co.	1,057	$46,051	*+4*	*+0.4%*
Waseca Co.	1,149	$56,845	*-63*	*-5.2%*
Watonwan Co.	648	$27,570	*-90*	*-12.2%*
Minnesota	**416,487**	**$19,994,802**	***+29,503***	***+7.6%***

Source: U.S. Census, Nonemployer Statistics program

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

There are 7,506 farms producing over $3.2 billion in the market value of products sold in 2017 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The state rank of each of the counties lie in the top half and range from 2nd (Martin County), to 51st (Le Sueur County) in regards to the market value of products sold (see Table 18).

Table 18. Census of Agriculture, 2017

	Number of Farms	Market Value of Products Sold	*State Rank*
Region 9	**7,506**	**$3,222,219,000**	-
Blue Earth Co.	983	$483,499,000	*5*
Brown Co.	1,040	$381,510,000	*14*
Faribault Co.	822	$337,734,000	*20*
Le Sueur Co.	937	$181,357,000	*51*
Martin Co.	911	$635,524,000	*2*
Nicollet Co.	689	$339,306,000	*18*
Sibley Co.	898	$318,722,000	*23*
Waseca Co.	729	$275,039,000	*28*
Watonwan Co.	497	$269,528,000	*29*
Minnesota	**68,822**	**$18,395,390,000**	

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture