

April 2026 Employment Analysis

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Over-the-Month Job Change Overview

- Minnesota's unemployment rate stayed at 4.5% in April 2026 for the third consecutive month. Nationally the unemployment rate stayed at 4.3% over the month.
- Minnesota's labor force decreased by 10,439 people over the month to 3,145,932 people. The number of employed decreased by 8,408 workers, and the number of unemployed decreased by 2,031 people. The labor force participation rate ticked down two-tenths of a percentage point to 67.4% over the month. Nationally, labor force participation rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.8%.
- Minnesota gained 15,900 nonfarm jobs over-the-month, on a seasonally adjusted basis, or 0.5%. Minnesota's private sector gained 11,900 jobs, also 0.5%. The U.S. total nonfarm employment increased by 115,000 jobs, or 0.1%. The U.S. private sector gained 123,000 jobs, also 0.1%.
- Seven supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis since the prior month:
 - Government gained 4,000 jobs, up 0.9%
 - Leisure and Hospitality gained 3,800 jobs, up 1.4%
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 3,100 jobs, up 0.6%
 - Construction gained 2,100 jobs, up 1.4%
 - Manufacturing gained 1,900 jobs, up 0.6%
 - Professional & Business Services gained 700 jobs, up 0.2%
 - Other Services gained 600 jobs, up 0.5%
- Two supersectors did not change over-the-month:
 - Mining and Logging
 - Financial Activities
- Two supersectors lost jobs over the month:
 - Educational and Health Services lost 200 jobs, or 0.0%
 - Information lost 100 jobs, down 0.3%
- Calculating seasonally adjusted 2-month job change:
 - Minnesota lost 8,500 jobs in December-February, down 0.28%; the U.S. grew 0.00%.
 - Minnesota lost 6,400 jobs in January-March, down 0.21%; the U.S. grew 0.02%.
 - Minnesota gained 16,400 jobs in February-April, up 0.54%; the U.S. grew 0.20%.

Over-the-Year (OTY) Employment Growth by Industry Sector April 2026, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry Supersector	MN OTY Job Change	MN OTY Growth Rate (%)	US OTY Growth Rate (%)
Total	4,067	0.1	0.2
Private	2,050	0.1	0.4
Mining & Logging	-59	-0.9	-2.3
Construction	4,778	3.6	0.7
Manufacturing	2,543	0.8	-0.6
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	-8,346	-1.6	-0.2
Information	-2,060	-5.0	-3.2
Financial Activities	-4,304	-2.3	-0.9
Prof. & Business Services	-164	0.0	0.1
Ed. & Health Services	14,299	2.3	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality	-5,424	-2.0	0.9
Other Services	787	0.7	0.8
Government	2,017	0.5	-1.1

- Minnesota gained 4,067 payroll jobs, up 0.1%, over the year. The private sector gained 2,050 jobs, also up 0.1% over the year. Five supersectors gained jobs and six supersectors lost jobs.
- U.S. employment grew 0.2% over the year with the private sector up 0.4%. Five supersectors gained jobs and six lost jobs.
- Five supersectors posted positive annual growth in Minnesota:
 - Education and Health Services led with 14,299 jobs gained, up 2.3% for Minnesota. Growth was propelled by the Health Care & Social Assistance subsector (2.4%). The Educational Services subsector grew 2.0%. Across the U.S., the Education and Health Services supersector grew 2.3%.
 - Construction gained 4,778 jobs, up 3.6% over the year. The subsector Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction led with 12.7%. The subsector Specialty Trade Contractors grew 3.4%. The subsector Construction of Buildings declined 1.0%. The U.S. Construction supersector grew 0.7%.
 - Manufacturing gained 2,543 jobs in Minnesota, up 0.8%. Growth was driven by the bigger Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector (2.0%). The smaller Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector declined 1.4%. The U.S. Manufacturing supersector declined 0.6%.
 - The Government supersector gained 2,017 jobs, or 0.5%. The Local Government subsector, biggest in size, led with 1.0% growth. The State Government subsector grew 0.8%. The Federal Government subsector declined 5.7%. Across the U.S., the Government supersector declined 1.1%.
 - Other Services gained 787 jobs, up 0.7% in Minnesota. The subsector Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations grew 1.9%, while the Personal

and Laundry Services subsector declined 0.3% and the Repair and Maintenance subsector declined 1.7%. Nationally, this supersector grew by 0.8%

- Six supersectors lost jobs over the year in Minnesota:
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 8,346 jobs, down 1.6%. The biggest subsector, Retail Trade, declined 0.6%. The Wholesale Trade subsector declined 2.8%. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities subsector declined 2.4%. Nationally, this supersector declined 0.2%.
 - Leisure and Hospitality lost 5,424 jobs, down 2.0%. The bigger Accommodation and Food Services subsector declined 0.7%. The smaller Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation subsector declined 7.8%. At the national level, Leisure and Hospitality supersector grew by 0.9%.
 - Financial Activities lost 4,304 jobs over the year, down 2.3%. The bigger Finance and Insurance subsector declined 2.6%. The smaller subsector Real Estate and Rental Leasing declined 1.2%. Nationally, this supersector declined 0.9%
 - The Information supersector lost 2,060 jobs, down 5.0%. The U.S. Information supersector declined 3.2% over the year.
 - The Professional and Business Services supersector lost 164 jobs in Minnesota over-the-year, or 0.0%. The subsector Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services declined 0.9%. The subsector Management of Companies and Enterprises declined 0.3%. The subsector Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services grew 1.3%. Across the U.S., Professional and Business Services supersector grew 0.1%.
 - Mining and Logging lost 59 jobs, down 0.9% in Minnesota. This supersector declined 2.3% on the national level over-the-year

Wage and Hour Data

- Over the month, average hourly wages for all private sector workers decreased 69 cents to \$38.53 in April 2026. Over the year average hourly earnings decreased 53 cents, down 1.4%.
 - For the U.S., private sector wages decreased three cents over the month and grew 3.5% over the year.
 - The CPI inflation index for all urban consumers was 3.8% over the year in April.
- At 32.7 hours per week, Minnesota's April average work week decreased two-tenths of an hour over-the-month and decreased one-tenth of an hour over-the-year.
 - Nationally, the average work week decreased four-tenths of an hour to 34.1 hours over-the-month. Over-the-year, it decreased one-tenth of an hour.

Unemployment Data

- Over the month, Minnesota's unemployment rate remained at 4.5% on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of employed decreased by 8,408 workers, and the number of unemployed decreased 2,031. The employment to population ratio ticked down half a percentage point to 64.4% over the month.
- The labor force decreased 10,439 people over the month, totaling 3,145,932 people in April. The labor force participation rate ticked down two-tenths of a percentage point to 67.4%.

Minnesota's labor force is now 22,536 people more than in February 2020 when the participation rate was at 70%.

- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained at 4.3% over the month. The employment to population ratio ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 59.1%. The labor force participation rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.8%.

Industry Details

Mining and Logging: Employment in Mining and Logging was flat in April, holding at a seasonally adjusted 6,400 jobs over the month (OTM). It was the supersector's third consecutive month of static employment, after starting the year with 6,300 jobs. On an annual basis, employment in Mining and Logging was down by 59 jobs, or 0.9%. This was better than the national decline of 2.3%, but worse than March's annual growth of 0.9%.

Construction: Employment in Construction was up by 2,100 jobs, or 1.4%, OTM in April. This was tied for the largest proportional monthly seasonally adjusted growth in the state, and came on the heels of growth of 1% in March. Over the year, employment in Construction was up by 4,778 jobs, or 3.6%, the highest proportional annual growth of any supersector in Minnesota. The growth was largely driven by Heavy and Civil Engineering, which was up by 12.7% (2,145 jobs). Construction of Buildings was down by 319 jobs, or 1%.

Manufacturing: Manufacturing employment was up by 1,900 jobs (0.6%) OTM in April. Both component sectors added jobs on the month, with Durable Goods Manufacturing up 1,400 jobs (0.7%) and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing up 500 jobs (0.4%). Over the year, the supersector added 2,543 jobs (0.8%), which was better than the national decline of 0.6%. Durable Goods Manufacturing added 4,072 jobs, or 2%, with growth in every published component sector. Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing lost 1,529 jobs, or 1.4%, despite the gain of 164 jobs (0.3%) in Food Manufacturing, the only published component sector.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was up by 3,100 jobs (0.6%) OTM in April. All three published component sectors added jobs. Wholesale Trade was up by 900 jobs (0.7%), Retail Trade was up by 300 jobs (0.1%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities added 1,300 jobs (1.7%). On an annual basis, employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was down by 8,346 jobs, or 1.6%. All three published component sectors lost jobs over the year. Wholesale Trade was down by 3,778 jobs (2.8%), Retail Trade was down by 1,809 jobs (0.6%), and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities lost 2,759 jobs (2.4%). Nationally, Trade, Transportation and Utilities employment was down by 1.1%.

Information: Information employers lost 100 jobs, or 0.3%, OTM in April. That came following the loss of 400 jobs in March. Over the year, employment in Information was down by 2,060 jobs, or 5%. This was the largest annual decline of any supersector in the state, and larger than the national loss of 3.2%.

Financial Activities: Employment growth in Financial Activities was flat on a seasonally adjusted basis in April, holding at 184,100 jobs. Finance and Insurance lost 100 jobs (0.1%), while Real

Estate and Rental and Leasing was up by 100 jobs (0.3%). On an annual basis, employment in the supersector was down by 4,304 jobs, or 2.3%. All published component sectors lost jobs on the year. Finance and Insurance employment was down by 3,890 jobs (2.6%) and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing lost 414 jobs, or 1.2%. Employment in Financial Activities was down by 0.9% OTY nationally.

Professional and Business Services: Employment in Professional and Business Services was up by 700 jobs (0.2%) OTM in April. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services shed 1,500 jobs (0.9%), but those losses were more than offset by gains of 2,000 jobs (1.7%) in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, and 200 jobs (0.2%) in Management of Companies and Enterprises. Over the year, employment in Professional and Business Services was mostly flat, losing 164 jobs, or 0.0%. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services lost 1,491 jobs (0.9%), Management of Companies lost 244 jobs (0.3%) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 1,571 jobs or 1.3%. Component Employment Services lost 704 jobs, or 1.5%.

Education and Health Services: Education and Health Services employment was mostly flat on a seasonally adjusted basis in April, losing 200 jobs or 0.0%. Educational Services added 100 jobs or 0.1%, while Health Care and Social Assistance lost 300 jobs, or 0.1%. Over the year, Education and Health Services employers added 14,299 jobs, or 2.3%, which mirrored the national growth in the supersector. Educational Services employers added 1,529 jobs, or 2%, with most of that growth coming in Elementary and Secondary Schools (up 1,221 jobs, or 4.4%). Health Care and Social Assistance employers added 12,770 jobs, or 2.4%, with positive growth in every published component sector.

Leisure and Hospitality: Employment in Leisure and Hospitality was up by 3,800, or 1.4%, OTM in April. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation added 700 jobs (1.5%) and Accommodation and Food Services added 3,100 jobs (1.4%). Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality employers lost 5,424 jobs, or 2%, while nationally this supersector was up by 0.9%. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation employment was down by 3,892 jobs (7.8%) while Accommodation and Food Services employment was down by 1,532 jobs, or 0.7%.

Other Services: Other Services employment was up by 600 jobs, or 0.5%, OTM in April, following two consecutive months of seasonally adjusted job losses in the supersector. Over the year, employment in Other Services was up by 787 jobs, or 0.7%. Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, and Professional Organizations added 1,274 jobs, or 1.9%. while Repair and Maintenance employment was down by 1.7% (400 jobs) and Personal and Laundry Services was down 0.3% (67 jobs). Nationally, employment in the Other Services supersector was up by 0.8%.

Government: Government employers added 4,000 jobs, or 0.9%, on a seasonally adjusted basis in April. All three levels of Government added jobs. Federal Government was up by 100 jobs (0.3%), State Government was up 2,500 (2.3%) and Local Government was up 1,400 jobs (0.5%). On an annual basis, employment in Government was up by 2,017 jobs, or 0.5%. Federal Government was down 1,887 jobs (5.7%), State was up 947 jobs (0.8%) and Local was up by 2,957 jobs (1%). Nationwide, employment in Government was down by 1.1%.

Over-the-Year Job Change by MSAs

April 2026 data released by DEED, not seasonally adjusted

Metropolitan Statistical Area	OTY Employment Change (#, NSA)	OTY Employment Change (% , NSA)
Minneapolis-St. Paul MN-WI MSA	-8,707	-0.4
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	-1,234	-0.9
Rochester MSA	-1,091	-0.9
St. Cloud MSA	-835	-0.8
Mankato MSA	-487	-0.8
Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN MSA (March)	-1,200	-0.8
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks ND- MN MSA (March)	500	0.9
La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN (March)	100	0.1

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