

August 2026 Employment Analysis

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Over-the-Month Job Change Overview

- Minnesota's unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.4% in August 2026 since last month. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 4.1% over the month.
- Minnesota's labor force decreased by 2,521 people over the month to 3,124,525 people, a rate of 0.1%. The number of employed decreased by 3,840 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 1,319 people. The labor force participation rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 66.8% over the month. Nationally, labor force increased by 683,000 people, or 0.4%, and labor force participation rate ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.6% since the prior month.
- Minnesota gained 1,500 nonfarm jobs over-the-month, on a seasonally adjusted basis, or 0.0%. Minnesota's private sector gained 300 jobs, or 0.0%. The U.S. total nonfarm employment increased by 162,000 jobs, or 0.1%. The U.S. private sector gained 127,000 jobs, also 0.1%.
- Six supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis since the prior month:
 - Manufacturing gained 2,200 jobs, up 0.7%
 - Government gained 1,200 jobs, up 0.3%
 - Professional & Business Services gained 300 jobs, up 0.1%
 - Leisure and Hospitality gained 300 jobs, up 0.1%
 - Mining & Logging gained 100 jobs, up 1.5%
 - Construction gained 100 jobs, up 0.1%
- One supersector did not change over the month: Other Services
- Four supersectors lost jobs over the month:
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 1,400 jobs, down 0.3%
 - Educational and Health Services lost 800 jobs, down 0.1%
 - Information lost 300 jobs, down 0.8%
 - Financial Activities lost 200 jobs, down 0.1%
- Calculating seasonally adjusted 2-month job change:
 - Minnesota gained 20,000 jobs in April-June, up 0.66%; the U.S. grew 0.06%.
 - Minnesota gained 11,400 jobs in May-July, up 0.37%; the U.S. grew 0.03%.
 - Minnesota gained 3,100 jobs in June-August, up 0.10%; the U.S. grew 0.12%.

Over-the-Year (OTY) Employment Growth by Industry Sector

August 2026, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry Supersector	MN OTY Job Change	MN OTY Growth Rate (%)	US OTY Growth Rate (%)
Total	45,041	1.5	0.3
Private	38,374	1.5	0.5
Mining & Logging	327	5.2	-0.2
Construction	7,746	5.0	1.2
Manufacturing	9,917	3.1	0.3
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	-3,332	-0.6	0.2
Information	-2,058	-5.0	-4.2
Financial Activities	-6,307	-3.3	-1.1
Prof. & Business Services	7,667	2.1	0.6
Ed. & Health Services	18,007	3.0	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,173	1.1	0.3
Other Services	3,234	2.7	0.3
Government	6,667	1.7	-1.0

- Minnesota gained 45,041 payroll jobs, up 1.5%, over the year. The private sector gained 38,374 jobs, up 1.5% over the year. Eight supersectors gained jobs and three supersectors lost jobs.
- U.S. employment grew 0.3% over the year with the private sector up 0.5%. Seven supersectors gained jobs and four lost jobs.
- Eight supersectors posted positive annual growth in Minnesota:
 - Education and Health Services led with 18,007 jobs gained, up 3.0% for Minnesota. Growth in the very large Health Care & Social Assistance subsector was 1.6%. The much smaller Educational Services subsector grew 14.5%. Across the U.S., the Education and Health Services supersector grew 1.8%.
 - Manufacturing gained 9,917 jobs in Minnesota, up 3.1%. Growth was driven by the bigger Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector, which grew 4.0%. The smaller Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector grew 1.6%. The U.S. Manufacturing supersector grew 0.3%.
 - Construction gained 7,746 jobs, up 5.0% over the year. The largest subsector, Specialty Trade Contractors, grew 5.6%. The subsector Construction of Buildings grew 0.5% over-the-year. The smallest subsector, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, grew the fastest at 8.6%. The U.S. Construction supersector grew 1.2%.
 - The Professional and Business Services supersector gained 7,667 jobs in Minnesota over-the-year, or 2.1%. The largest subsector Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services grew 0.4%. The second largest subsector Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services grew 4.5%. The smallest subsector Management of Companies and Enterprises grew 1.8%. Across the U.S., Professional and Business Services supersector grew 0.6%.

- The Government supersector gained 6,667 jobs, or 1.7%. The Local Government subsector, biggest in size, grew 2.5%. The State Government subsector grew 1.1%. The Federal Government subsector, smallest in size, declined 4.1%. Across the U.S., the Government supersector declined 1.0%.
- Other Services gained 3,234 jobs, up 2.7% in Minnesota. The largest subsector Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations grew 3.6%. The Personal and Laundry Services subsector grew 1.4%. The Repair and Maintenance subsector grew 1.9%. Nationally, this supersector grew by 0.3%.
- Leisure and Hospitality gained 3,173 jobs, up 1.1%. The large Accommodation and Food Services subsector grew 0.2%. The smaller Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation subsector grew 4.6%. At the national level, Leisure and Hospitality supersector grew by 0.3%.
- Mining and Logging gained 327 jobs, up 5.2% in Minnesota. This supersector declined 0.2% on the national level over-the-year.
- Three supersectors lost jobs over the year in Minnesota:
 - Financial Activities lost 6,307 jobs over the year, down 3.3%. The bigger Finance and Insurance subsector declined 3.1%. The smaller subsector Real Estate and Rental Leasing declined 4.3%. Nationally, this supersector declined 1.1%.
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 3,332 jobs, down 0.6%. The biggest subsector, Retail Trade, declined 1.0%. The Wholesale Trade subsector grew 0.4%. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities subsector declined 0.9%. Nationally, this supersector grew 0.2% over the year.
 - The Information supersector lost 2,058 jobs, down 5.0%. The U.S. Information supersector declined 4.2% over the year.

Wage and Hour Data

- Over the month, average hourly wages for all private sector workers increased 28 cents to \$39.67 in August 2026. Over the year average hourly earnings increased 14 cents, up 0.4%.
 - For the U.S., private sector wages increased 33 cents over the month and grew 3.8% over the year.
 - The CPI inflation index for all urban consumers was 3.4% over the year in August.
- At 33.1 hours per week, Minnesota's August average work week increased four-tenths of an hour over-the-month and increased one-tenth of an hour over-the-year.
 - Nationally, the average work week increased half an hour over-the-month to 34.8 hours. Over-the-year, it also increased half an hour.

Unemployment Data

- Over the month, Minnesota's unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.4% on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of employed decreased by 3,840 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 1,319. The employment to population ratio ticked down two-tenths of a percentage point to 63.8% over the month.

- The labor force decreased 2,521 people over the month, totaling 3,124,525 people in August. The labor force participation rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 66.8%. Minnesota's labor force is now 656 people more than in February 2020 when the participation rate was at 70%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate stayed at 4.1% over the month. The employment to population ratio ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point to 59.1%. The labor force participation rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.6%.

Industry Details

Mining and Logging: Employment in Mining and Logging was up by 100 jobs, or 1.5%, over the month (OTM) in August, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The increase came after three consecutive months of flat employment growth in the supersector. Over the year (OTY), employment in Mining and Logging was up by 327 jobs, or 5.2%. It was the largest proportional annual growth of any supersector in the state. This was in contrast with the national loss of 0.2% OTY in the supersector. In July, statewide OTY growth in Mining and Logging was 5.7%.

Construction: Construction employers added 100 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in August on a seasonally adjusted basis. It was the first monthly growth for the supersector since May, as employers shed 3,000 jobs over the previous two months. On an annual basis, Construction employers added 7,746 jobs, or 4.9%, while national growth stood at 1.2% over the same time period. Specialty Trade Contractors in Minnesota added 5,496 jobs (5.6%), Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction added 2,097 jobs (8.6%) and Construction of Buildings employment was up by 153 jobs, or 0.5%.

Manufacturing: Employment in Manufacturing was up by 2,200, or 0.7%, OTY in August. This was the largest proportional annual growth of any supersector in the state. Durable Goods Manufacturing employment was up by 1,200 jobs, or 0.6%, and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was up by 1,000 jobs, or 0.9%. On an annual basis, Manufacturing employment was up by 9,917 jobs, or 3.1%, versus the national growth of 0.3%. Every published sector and component sector added jobs on the year. Durable Goods Manufacturing employment was up by 8,062 jobs, or 4%, and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was up by 1,855 jobs, or 1.6%.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was off by 1,400 jobs, or 0.3%, OTM in August. The losses were entirely in the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities sector, which shed 1,600 jobs, or 1.4%. Retail Trade was up by 200 jobs, or 0.1%, and Wholesale Trade employment was flat, holding at 133,400 jobs. This was the third consecutive month of seasonally adjusted job losses for the supersector. On an annual basis, employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was down by 3,332 jobs, or 0.6%. Retail Trade lost 2,834 jobs (1%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities lost 1,015 jobs (0.9%). Wholesale Trade employment was up by 517 jobs, or 0.4%. Nationally, the supersector posted positive growth of 0.2%.

Information: Employers in the Information supersectors shed 300 jobs, or 0.8%, OTM in August on a seasonally adjusted basis. Information employers have lost jobs in each of the last three months, and five of eight months in 2026. Over the year, Information employment was down by 2,058 jobs,

or 5%. This was worse than July's 4.5% annual decline. Nationally, employment in the supersector was down by 4.2%.

Financial Activities: Financial Activities employment was off by 200 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in August, after shedding 700 jobs in July and holding flat in June. The supersector hasn't posted positive monthly growth since April. Finance and Insurance drove the losses in August, shedding 200 jobs (0.1%) while employment in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was flat. On an annual basis, Financial Activities employment was down by 6,307 jobs, or 3.3%. Comparatively, employment in the supersector nationally was down by 1.1%. Both major component sectors shed jobs in Minnesota. Finance and Insurance was down by 4,744 jobs (3.1%) and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was down by 1,563 jobs (4.3%). Every published component sector lost jobs on the year.

Professional and Business Services: Employment in Professional and Business Services was up by 300 jobs, or 0.1%, on a seasonally adjusted basis in August. Management of Companies employers added 500 jobs (0.6%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services employers added 400 jobs (0.2%). Employment in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was down by 600 jobs (0.5%) on the month. Over the year, employers in Professional and Business Services added 7,667 jobs, or 2%. This outpaced the national growth of 0.6% in the supersector. All published components added jobs on the year. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services was up 596 jobs (0.4%), Management of Companies and Enterprises was up 1,500 jobs (1.8%) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 2,651 jobs (5.9%), due in part to the addition of 2,651 jobs added in the component Employment Services sector.

Education and Health Services: Education and Health Services employers lost 800 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in August, the first seasonally adjusted job loss for the supersector since March. The decline was driven by the loss of 1,300 jobs (0.2%) in Health Care and Social Assistance, as Educational Services added 500 jobs (0.6%) on the month. Over the year, employers in Education and Health Services added 18,007 jobs, or 3%, outpacing the national growth of 1.8%. Educational Services employment was up by 9201 jobs, or 14.5%, with both components posting growth of 10% or higher. Health Care and Social Assistance employment was up by 8,806 jobs, or 1.6%. While all published components added jobs, growth was driven by Nursing and Residential Care Facilities employment, which was up by 5,716 jobs, or 4.8%.

Leisure and Hospitality: Leisure and Hospitality employers added 300 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in August. The growth came entirely from Accommodation and Food Services employers (up 0.1%) as employment in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation was flat at 53,000 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality employment has posted positive seasonally adjusted growth in every month since March. On an annual basis, employment in Leisure and Hospitality was up by 3,173 jobs, or 1.1%, while nationally the supersector grew by 0.3%. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation employment in Minnesota was up by 2,691 jobs, or 4.6%. Accommodation and Food Services added 482 jobs, or 0.2%, as Accommodation shed 16 jobs (0.1%) and Food Services and Drinking Places was up by 498 jobs (0.2%).

Other Services: Employment growth in Other Services was flat in August on a seasonally adjusted basis, as employment in the supersector held at 120,500 jobs. Other Services employers have not posted negative monthly growth since March. During that time they have added 2,600 jobs. Over the year, employment in Other Services was up by 3,234 jobs, or 2.7%. All three components added jobs. Repair and Maintenance employment was up by 459 (1.9%); Personal and Laundry Services was up by 384 jobs (1.4%); and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Organizations was up by 2,319 jobs (3.6%). Nationally, Other Services employment was up by 0.3%.

Government: Government employment was up by 1,200 jobs, or 0.3%, OTM in August. It was the first positive monthly growth for the supersector since April. Local Government was up 800 (0.3%) and State Government was up 400 (0.4%). Federal Government employment growth was flat, holding at a seasonally-adjusted 31,400 jobs. On an annual basis, Government employers added 6,667 jobs, or 1.6%, while nationally, Government employment was off by 1%. Local Government employers added 6,905 jobs (2.5%) and State Government employers added 1,094 jobs (1.1%). Both educational and non-educational components added jobs at both levels. Federal Government employment in Minnesota was down by 1,332 jobs (4.1%) on the year.

Over-the-Year Job Change by MSAs

August 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	27,540	1.4
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	-77	-0.1
Rochester MSA	43	0.0
St. Cloud MSA	-876	-0.8
Mankato MSA	2,194	3.9
Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN MSA (July)	1,300	0.9
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks ND-MN MSA (July)	700	1.3
La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN (July)	600	0.7

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA was down by 2,306 jobs, or 0.1%, over the month (OTM) in August, on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis. This is roughly in line with movements over the previous five Augusts. Five of ten published supersectors added jobs and five lost jobs on the month. The largest real and proportional job loss was in Government, which was off by 1.2%, or 2,900 jobs, with declines at all three levels of Government. Trade, Transportation and Utilities employers shed 2,041 jobs, or 0.6%, with losses in Retail Trade (down 615 jobs or 0.4%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (down 1,558 jobs or 1.9%). The largest real and proportional growth on the month was in Professional and Business Services, which added 2,554 jobs, or 0.9%, with growth in every published component sector.

Over the year, employers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA added 27,540 jobs, or 1.4%. Seven published supersectors added jobs and three lost jobs on the year. The largest proportional annual growth came in Mining, Logging and Construction, which was up by 6.7% (6,822 jobs). The largest real job growth was in Education and Health Services, which added 11,025 jobs, or 2.8%. Educational Services was up by 2,810 jobs (6.6%) and Health Care and Social Assistance added 8,215 jobs (2.4%). The largest proportional job loss was in Information, which was down by 7.1%, or 1,796 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 3,827 jobs (1.1%) due in large part to the loss of 3,269 jobs (1.9%) in Retail Trade. Financial Activities employment was down by 3,570 jobs (2.5%) with job losses in every published component sector.

Duluth-Superior MSA

Employment in the Duluth-Superior MSA was down by 346, or 0.3%, OTM in August, which was the lowest proportional MSA growth of any MSA primarily in Minnesota (tied with St. Cloud) Eight of ten published supersectors lost jobs on the month. Leisure and Hospitality was down by 117 jobs, or 0.7%, Education and Health Services was down by 115 jobs (0.4%) and Professional and Business Services was down by 46 jobs (0.7%). The largest real and proportional growth came in Mining, Logging and Construction, which added 51 jobs, or 0.5%. Other Services added 2 jobs (0.0%).

Over the year, employers in the Duluth-Superior MSA lost 77 jobs, or 0.1%. Only two supersectors added jobs on the month, but both posted strong growth. Education and Health Services was up by 1,007 jobs (3.2%), the largest real job movement in either direction on the year, and Government employers added 817 jobs (3.4%) with growth at both the State and Local Government levels. The largest real job loss in the Duluth area came in Trade, Transportation and Utilities, which shed 826 jobs, or 3.5%, with declines in every published component. The largest proportional job loss was in Information, which was off by 7.8%, or 68 jobs.

Rochester MSA

Rochester-area employers added 66 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in August. The growth was driven primarily by Education and Health Services which added 244 jobs, or 0.4%, OTM. The only other supersector to add jobs was Other Services, which was up by 4 jobs or 0.1%. Seven supersectors lost jobs, led by Government (down 73 jobs, or 0.5%) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (down 67 jobs, or 0.4%). Mining, Logging and Construction employment was down by 0.7%, or 43 jobs. Employment in Leisure and Hospitality was unchanged in August.

On an annual basis, employers in Rochester added 43 jobs, or 0.0%. Three supersectors added jobs and seven lost jobs on the year. The largest real and proportional growth came in Government, which added 408 jobs, or 3.1%, State Government employment was up by 148 jobs or 9.7%, and Local Government was up by 257 jobs or 2.4%. The largest real job loss in the area came in Leisure and Hospitality, which lost 296 jobs, or 2.5%. The largest proportional job loss was in Information, which was off by 8.4%, or 50 jobs.

St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA was down by 346, or 0.3%, OTM in August. This was tied with Duluth-Superior for the largest proportional decline in the state. The largest real and proportional loss came in Government, which was off by 216 jobs or 1.6%. Local Government employers shed

174 jobs (2.1%) and State Government lost 44 jobs (1.6%). Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 184 jobs, or 0.8% with losses in all three component sectors. The largest real and proportional positive monthly growth was in Leisure and Hospitality, which added 38 jobs or 0.4%.

Over the year, employers in St. Cloud lost 876 jobs, or 0.8%. This was the largest proportional decline of any MSA primarily in Minnesota. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 585 jobs, or 2.6%, due in large part to the loss of 513 jobs (3.8%) in Retail Trade. Leisure and Hospitality lost 352 jobs, or 3.9%, and Information lost 58 jobs, or 5.2%. The only supersector in the MSA to post positive annual growth was Education and Health Services, which added 860 jobs, or 3.9%.

Mankato MSA

Employment in Mankato was up by 324 jobs, or 0.6%, OTM in August. This was the largest proportional growth of any MSA primarily in Minnesota. Service providers drove the growth, adding 399 jobs (0.8%), while goods producers lost 75 jobs, or 0.7%. Private sector employers added 157 jobs, or 0.3%, and public sector employers added 167 jobs, or 1.8%.

Over the year, employment in the Mankato MSA was up by 2,194 jobs, or 3.9%. This was the largest proportional annual growth of any MSA in the state. Goods producers added 525 jobs (5.3%) and service providers added 784 jobs (9%). Private sector employers added 1,410 jobs (2.9%) and public sector employers added 784 jobs (9%).

Labor Market Information Office

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

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