

March 2026 Employment Analysis

(Embargoed until 9:30 am Thursday, April 30, 2026)

Over-the-Month Job Change Overview

- Minnesota's unemployment rate stayed at 4.5% in March 2026. Nationally the unemployment rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3% over the month.
- Minnesota's labor force decreased by 12,784 people over the month to 3,156,405 people. The number of employed decreased by 13,731 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 947 people. The labor force participation rate ticked down three-tenths of a percentage point to 67.6% over the month. Nationally, labor force participation rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.9%.
- Minnesota gained 800 nonfarm jobs over-the-month, on a seasonally adjusted basis, translating to 0.0%. Minnesota's private sector gained 600 jobs, also 0.0%. The U.S. total nonfarm employment increased by 178,000 jobs, or 0.1%. The U.S. private sector gained 186,000 jobs, or 0.1%.
- Five supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis since the prior month:
 - Professional & Business Services gained 1,600 jobs, up 0.4%
 - Manufacturing gained 1,500 jobs, up 0.5%
 - Construction gained 1,100 jobs, up 0.8%
 - Other Services gained 300 jobs, up 0.3%
 - Government gained 200 jobs, or 0.0%
- Mining and Logging did not change over-the-month, retaining 6,400 jobs
- Five supersectors lost jobs over the month:
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 1,900 jobs, down 0.4%
 - Leisure and Hospitality lost 800 jobs, down 0.3%
 - Financial Activities lost 500 jobs, down 0.3%
 - Information lost 400 jobs, down 1.0%
 - Educational and Health Services lost 300 jobs, or 0.0%
- Calculating seasonally adjusted 2-month job change:
 - Minnesota lost 900 jobs in November-January, down 0.03%; the U.S. grew 0.09%.
 - Minnesota lost 8,500 jobs in December-February, down 0.28%; the U.S. grew 0.02%.
 - Minnesota lost 6,100 jobs in January-March, down 0.20%; the U.S. grew 0.03%.

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

Industry Supersector	MN OTY Job Change	MN OTY Growth Rate (%)	US OTY Growth Rate (%)
Total	9,246	0.3	0.1
Private	8,104	0.3	0.4
Mining & Logging	90	1.5	-2.6
Construction	5,257	4.3	0.7
Manufacturing	-172	-0.1	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-7,614	-1.5	-0.5
Information	-1,962	-4.7	-2.9
Financial Activities	-3,503	-1.9	-0.8
Professional & Business Services	22	0.0	-0.1
Education & Health Services	19,230	3.2	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	-4,714	-1.8	1.0
Other Services	1,470	1.3	0.6
Government	1,142	0.3	-1.0

- Minnesota gained 9,246 payroll jobs, up 0.3%, over the year. The private sector gained 8,104 jobs, also up 0.3% over the year. Five supersectors gained jobs, one supersector did not change, and six supersectors lost jobs.
- U.S. employment grew 0.1% over the year with the private sector up 0.1%. Four supersectors gained jobs and seven lost jobs.
- Five supersectors posted positive annual growth in Minnesota:
 - Education and Health Services led with 19,230 jobs gained, up 3.2% for Minnesota. Growth was propelled by the Health Care & Social Assistance subsector (3.6%). The Educational Services subsector grew 0.1%. Education and Health Services supersector grew 2.4% across the U.S.
 - Construction gained 5,257 jobs, up 4.3% over the year. The subsector Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction led at 17.6%. The subsector Specialty Trade Contractors grew 4.8%. The subsector Construction of Buildings declined 2.7%. The U.S. Construction supersector grew 0.7%.
 - Other Services gained 1,470 jobs, up 1.3% in Minnesota. Growth was spread across all subsectors. Nationally, this supersector grew by 0.6%
 - The Government supersector gained 1,142 jobs, or 0.3%. The Federal Government subsector declined 6.4%. The State Government subsector grew 0.7%. The Local Government subsector grew 0.9%. Across the U.S., the Government supersector declined 1%.
 - Mining and Logging gained 90 jobs, up 1.5% in Minnesota. This supersector declined 2.6% on the national level over-the-year.

- The Professional & Business services supersector gained 22 jobs in Minnesota, a small change translating to 0.0%. This supersector declined 0.1% over-the-year across the U.S.
- Five supersectors lost jobs over the year in Minnesota:
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 7,614 jobs, or 1.5%. The biggest subsector, Wholesale Trade, declined 1.7%. The second biggest subsector, Retail Trade, declined 0.4%. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities subsector, the smallest subsector, declined 3.7%. Nationally, this supersector declined 0.5%.
 - Leisure and Hospitality lost 4,714 jobs, down 1.8%. The bigger Accommodation and Food Services subsector declined 0.6%. The smaller Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation subsector declined 7.6%. At the national level, Leisure and Hospitality supersector grew by 1%.
 - Financial Activities lost 3,503 jobs over the year, down 1.9%. The bigger Finance and Insurance subsector declined 2.3%. The smaller subsector Real Estate and Rental Leasing grew 0.1%. Nationally, this supersector declined 0.8%
 - The Information supersector lost 1,962 jobs, down 4.7%. The U.S. Information supersector declined 2.9% over the year.
 - Manufacturing lost 172 jobs in Minnesota, down 0.1%. The decline was driven by Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector, which dropped 1.2%. The bigger Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector grew 0.6%. The U.S. Manufacturing supersector declined 0.6%.

Wage and Hour Data

- Over the month, average hourly wages for all private sector workers decreased 25 cents to \$39.16 in March 2026. Over the year average hourly earnings increased 21 cents, up 0.5%.
 - For the U.S., private sector wages decreased one cent over the month and grew 3.5% over the year.
 - The CPI inflation index for all urban consumers rose 3.3% over the year in March.
- At 32.9 hours per week, Minnesota's March average work week decreased one-tenth of an hour over-the-month and over-the-year.
 - Nationally, the average work week increased one-tenth of an hour to 34.5 hours over-the-month. Over-the-year, it did not change.

Unemployment Data

- Over the month, the unemployment rate remained at 4.5% on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of employed decreased by 13,731 workers, and the number of unemployed increased 947. The employment to population ratio ticked down three-tenths of a percentage point to 64.6% since the prior month.
- The labor force decreased 12,784 people over the month, totaling 3,156,405 people in March. The labor force participation rate ticked down three-tenths of a percentage point to 67.6%. Minnesota's labor force is now 32,536 people more than in February 2020 when the participation rate was at 70%.

- Nationally, the unemployment rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3% over the month. The employment to population ratio ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 59.2%. The labor force participation rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.9%.

Industry Details

Mining and Logging: Employment growth in Mining and Logging was flat in March on a seasonally adjusted basis, holding at 6,400 jobs after being at 6,300 jobs in January. On an annual basis, the supersector added 90 jobs, or 1.5%. This was better than the national loss of 2.6%, though it was a decline from Minnesota's statewide 1.6% annual growth in February. Mining and Logging has been posting positive over the year (OTY) growth for all of 2026, after posting negative growth for the last seven months of 2025.

Construction: Construction employers added 1,100 jobs (0.8%) OTM in March, on a seasonally adjusted basis after losing 1,600 jobs in February. Over the year, employment in Construction was up by 5,257 jobs, or 4.3%. It was the largest proportional growth of any supersector in Minnesota, and well outpaced the national growth of 0.7%. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction drove the growth, up by 17.6%, or 2,252 jobs, and Specialty Trade Contractors added 3,806 jobs (4.8%). Construction of Buildings was down by 801 jobs, or 2.7%.

Manufacturing: Manufacturing employment was up by 1,500 jobs (0.5%) OTM in March. The growth came entirely among Non-Durable Goods Manufacturers, which added 1,500 jobs, or 1.4%. Employment in Durable Goods Manufacturing was flat, holding at 203,100 jobs. On an annual basis, Manufacturing employers lost 172 jobs, or 0.1%, which was an improvement over February's loss of 0.4%. Durable Goods Manufacturing was up 1,218 jobs (0.6%) with positive growth in all published component sectors. Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was down by 1,390 jobs (1.2%) despite the addition of 195 jobs in Food Manufacturing, it's only published component sector.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was down by 1,900 (0.4%) OTM in March. It was the third consecutive month of seasonally adjusted declines for the supersector. Retail Trade lost 1,800 jobs (0.6%) and Wholesale Trade lost 300 jobs (0.2%), while Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities added 200 jobs (0.2%). Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities employers lost 7,614 jobs, or 1.5%, which was worse than the national decline of 0.5%. All three published component sectors lost jobs on the year. Wholesale Trade was down 2,268 jobs (1.7%), Retail Trade was down 1,098 jobs (0.4%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities lost 4,248 jobs (3.7%).

Information: Information employment was down by 400 jobs (1%) OTM in March, following a gain of 100 jobs in February. It was the largest proportional monthly decline of any supersector in the state. Over the year, Information employers lost 1,962 jobs, or 4.7%, which was also the largest proportional annual decline of any supersector in Minnesota. Nationally, employment in Information was off by 2.9%.

Financial Activities: Financial Activities employers shed 500 jobs, or 0.3%, OTM in March. Finance and Insurance employment was down by 300 jobs (0.2%) while Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was off by 200 jobs (0.6%). Over the year, employment in Financial Activities was down by

3,503 jobs, or 1.9%. The losses came primarily from the Finance and Insurance component sector, which shed 3,521 jobs (2.3%) due in large part to the loss of 2,251 jobs (3%) in Insurance Carriers and Related Activities. The Real Estate and Rental and Leasing component sector added 18 jobs, or 0.1%.

Professional and Business Services: Employment in Professional and Business Services was up by 1,600 (0.4%) OTM in March. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 1,200 jobs (1%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services added 700 jobs (0.4%), while Management of Companies and Enterprises lost 300 jobs (0.4%). On an annual basis, employment in the supersector was mostly flat, adding 22 jobs, or 0.0%, which was better than the national loss of 0.1%. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services added 394 jobs (0.2%) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 717 jobs (0.6%), while Management of Companies and Enterprises lost 1,089 jobs (1.3%).

Education and Health Services: Education and Health Services employment was off by 300 (0.0%) OTM in March, after adding a combined 8,300 jobs in January and February. Educational Services lost 600 jobs (0.3%) and Health Care and Social Assistance added 300 jobs (0.1%). Over the year, employment in Education and Health Services was up by 19,230 jobs, or 3.2%, outpacing the national growth of 2.4%. Health Care and Social Assistance drove the growth, adding 19,146 jobs, or 3.6%, with growth in all published component sectors. Employment in Educational Services was up by 84 jobs (0.1%).

Leisure and Hospitality: Employment in Leisure and Hospitality was down by 800 (0.3%) OTM in March. The loss came entirely in Accommodation and Food Services, which was down by 0.4% (800 jobs). Arts, Entertainment and Recreation employment held at a seasonally adjusted 75,300 jobs. Annually, employment in Leisure and Hospitality was down by 4,714 jobs, or 1.8%, while nationally employment in the supersector was up by 1%. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation lost 3,424 jobs (7.6%) and Accommodation and Food Services lost 1,290 jobs (0.6%). The only published component to add jobs on the year was Accommodation, which was up by 344, or 1.5%.

Other Services: Other Services employment was up by 300 (0.3%) OTM in March, following a loss of 1,700 jobs in February. On an annual basis, employment in Other Services was up by 1,470 jobs, or 1.3%, outpacing the national growth of 0.6%. All three components added jobs. Repair and Maintenance was up 244 (1%), Personal and Laundry Services was up 675 (2.5%) and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Organizations added 551 jobs (0.8%).

Government: Employment in Government was mostly flat in March, adding 200 jobs or 0.0%. State and Local Governments both added 300 jobs (up 0.3% and 0.1%, respectively), while Federal Government employment was down by 400 jobs (1.3%). Over the year, Government employers added 1,142 jobs, or 0.3%, better than the national loss of 1%. Federal Government employment in Minnesota was down by 2,142 jobs (6.4%), but that was more than offset by the gain of 2,532 jobs (0.9%) in Local Government, and 752 jobs (0.7%) in State Government.

Over-the-Year Job Change by MSAs

March 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	-1,777	-0.1
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	-1,566	-1.2
Rochester MSA	-95	-0.1
St. Cloud MSA	-985	-0.9
Mankato MSA	-226	-0.4
Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN MSA (Feb)	-1,800	-1.2
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks ND-MN MSA (Feb)	100	0.2
La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN (Feb)	300	0.3

Labor Market Information Office
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development
April 30, 2026