

September 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 4.5% in September 2026 since last month. The U.S. unemployment rate also ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 4.2%.
- Minnesota's labor force increased by 843 people over the month to 3,125,305 people, a rate of 0.03%. The number of employed decreased by 3,268 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 4,111 people. The labor force participation rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 66.7% over the month. Nationally, the labor force increased by 485,000 people, or 0.3%, and labor force participation rate ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.8% since the prior month.
- Minnesota lost 4,600 nonfarm jobs over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis, or 0.1%. Minnesota's private sector lost 5,000 jobs, or 0.2%. The U.S. total nonfarm employment increased by 29,000 jobs, or 0.0%. The U.S. private sector gained 46,000 jobs, also 0.0%.
- Five supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis since the prior month:
 - Manufacturing gained 1,600 jobs, up 0.5%
 - Construction gained 1,100 jobs, up 0.7%
 - Leisure and Hospitality gained 1,000 jobs, up 0.4%
 - Government gained 400 jobs, up 0.1%
 - Financial Activities gained 300 jobs, up 0.2%
- One supersector did not change over the month: Mining and Logging
- Five supersectors lost jobs over the month:
 - Educational and Health Services lost 5,700 jobs, down 0.9%
 - Professional & Business Services lost 2,100 jobs, down 0.6%
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 800 jobs, down 0.2%
 - Other Services lost 300 jobs, down 0.2%
 - Information lost 100 jobs, down 0.3%
- Calculating seasonally adjusted 2-month job change:
 - Minnesota gained 11,400 jobs in May-July, up 0.37%; the U.S. grew 0.03%.
 - Minnesota gained 4,100 jobs in June-August, up 0.13%; the U.S. grew 0.08%.
 - Minnesota lost 2,100 jobs in July-September, down 0.07%; the U.S. grew 0.10%.

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

September 2026, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry Supersector	MN OTY Job Change	MN OTY Growth Rate (%)	US OTY Growth Rate (%)
Total	35,167	1.2	0.3
Private	32,846	1.3	0.5
Mining & Logging	344	5.5	0.3
Construction	8,015	5.2	1.2
Manufacturing	12,437	3.9	0.4
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	-3,988	-0.8	0.2
Information	-1,553	-3.8	-4.0
Financial Activities	-5,146	-2.8	-1.2
Prof. & Business Services	4,327	1.2	0.5
Ed. & Health Services	10,268	1.7	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	5,381	1.9	0.4
Other Services	2,761	2.4	0.5
Government	2,321	0.5	-0.9

- Minnesota gained 35,167 payroll jobs, up 1.2%, over the year. The private sector gained 32,846 jobs, up 1.3% 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%. Eight supersectors gained jobs and three lost jobs.
- Eight supersectors posted positive annual growth in Minnesota:
 - Manufacturing led with 12,437 jobs gained in Minnesota, up 3.9%. Growth was driven by both the bigger Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector, which grew 4.9%, and the smaller Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing subsector, which grew 2.2%. The U.S. Manufacturing supersector grew 0.4%.
 - Education and Health Services gained 10,268 jobs, up 1.7% for Minnesota. Growth in the very large Health Care & Social Assistance subsector was 1.6%. The much smaller Educational Services subsector grew 2.3%. Across the U.S., the Education and Health Services supersector grew 1.8%.
 - Construction gained 8,015 jobs, up 5.2% over the year. The largest subsector, Specialty Trade Contractors, grew 5.4%. The subsector Construction of Buildings grew 1.8% over the year. The smallest subsector, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, grew the fastest at 9.4%. The U.S. Construction supersector grew 1.2%.
 - Leisure and Hospitality gained 5,381 jobs, up 1.9%. The large Accommodation and Food Services subsector grew 1.2%. The smaller Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation subsector grew 5.1%. At the national level, Leisure and Hospitality supersector grew by 0.4%.
 - The Professional and Business Services supersector gained 4,327 jobs in Minnesota over the year, or 1.2%. The largest subsector Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services declined 0.5%. The second largest subsector Administrative and Support and Waste Management and

Remediation Services grew 3.7%. The smallest subsector Management of Companies and Enterprises grew 0.7%. Across the U.S., Professional and Business Services supersector grew 0.5%.

- Other Services gained 2,761 jobs, up 2.4% in Minnesota. The largest subsector Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations grew 3.9%. The Personal and Laundry Services subsector grew 0.3%. The Repair and Maintenance subsector grew 0.4%. Nationally, this supersector grew by 0.5%.
- The Government supersector gained 2,321 jobs, or 0.5%. The Local Government subsector, biggest in size, grew 1.1%. The State Government subsector grew 0.5%. The Federal Government subsector, smallest in size, declined 4.5%. Across the U.S., the Government supersector declined 0.9%.
- Mining and Logging gained 344 jobs, up 5.5% in Minnesota. This supersector grew 0.3% on the national level over the year.
- Three supersectors lost jobs over the year in Minnesota:
 - Financial Activities lost 5,146 jobs over the year, down 2.8%. The bigger Finance and Insurance subsector declined 2.8%. The smaller subsector Real Estate and Rental Leasing declined 2.5%. Nationally, this supersector declined 1.2%.
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 3,988 jobs, down 0.8%. The biggest subsector, Retail Trade, declined 0.4%. The Wholesale Trade subsector declined 1.1%. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities subsector declined 1.2%. Nationally, this supersector grew 0.2% over the year.
 - The Information supersector lost 1,553 jobs, down 3.8%. The U.S. Information supersector declined 4.0% over the year.

Wage and Hour Data

- Over the month, average hourly wages for all private sector workers increased 30 cents to \$39.78 in September 2026. Over the year average hourly earnings did not change.
 - For the U.S., private sector wages decreased 10 cents over the month and grew 2.9% over the year.
 - The CPI inflation index for all urban consumers was 3.7% over the year in September.
- At 32.3 hours per week, Minnesota's September average work week decreased seven-tenths of an hour over the month and decreased half an hour over the year.
 - Nationally, the average work week decreased six-tenths of an hour over the month to 34.2 hours. Over the year, it did not change.

Unemployment Data

- Over the month, Minnesota's unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.5% on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of employed decreased by 3,268 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 4,111. The employment to population ratio ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 63.7% over the month.

- The labor force increased 843 people over the month, totaling 3,125,305 people in September. The labor force participation rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 66.7%. Minnesota's labor force is now 1,436 people more than in February 2020 when the participation rate was at 70%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2% over the month. The employment to population ratio ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 59.2%. The labor force participation rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.8%.

Industry Details

Mining and Logging: Employment growth in Mining and Logging was flat over the month (OTM) in September on a seasonally adjusted basis, holding at 6,500 jobs for the sixth consecutive month. The supersector added 200 jobs since the beginning of 2026. Employment in Mining and Logging was up by 344 jobs, or 5.5%, over the year (OTY) in September. This was higher than the national growth of 0.3%, and better than Minnesota's 5% annual growth in August. It was the largest proportional annual growth of any supersector in the state.

Construction: Construction employment was up by 1,100 jobs, or 0.7%, OTM in September on a seasonally adjusted basis. It was the second consecutive month of growth for the supersector, after two previous months of job losses. Over the year, employment in Construction was up by 8,015 jobs, or 5.2%. Specialty Trade Contractors added 5,150 jobs (5.4%), Heavy and Civil Engineering added 2,283 jobs (9.4%) and Construction of Buildings added 582 jobs (1.8%). Nationally, employment in Construction was up by 1.2%.

Manufacturing: Employment in Manufacturing was up by 1,600 jobs, or 0.8%, on a seasonally adjusted basis in September. The monthly growth came entirely from Durable Goods Manufacturing, which was up by 0.8% (1,600 jobs), while employment in Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was flat, holding at 114,800 jobs. Annually, employment in Manufacturing was up by 12,437 jobs, or 3.9%. This was the largest real job growth of any supersector in the state, and outpaced the national growth of 0.4%. Every published component sector added jobs on the year. Durable Goods Manufacturing was up by 9,961 jobs, or 4.9%, with component Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing adding 2,421 jobs, or 5.7%. Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing employment was up by 2,476 jobs, or 2.2%.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: Trade, Transportation and Utilities employment was down by 800 jobs, or 0.2%, OTM in September. The decline was due entirely to the loss of 1,900 jobs, or 1.4%, in Wholesale Trade. Retail Trade added 200 jobs (0.1%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities added 900 jobs (0.8%). On an annual basis, employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was down by 3,988 jobs, or 0.8%. All three component sectors lost jobs on the year. Wholesale Trade was down by 1,429 jobs (1.1%), Retail Trade was down by 1,141 jobs (0.4%) and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities was down by 1,419 jobs (1.2%). Nationally, employment in the supersector was up by 0.2%.

Information: Employment in Information was down by 100 jobs (0.3%) OTM in September. It was the fourth consecutive month of seasonally adjusted declines for the supersector. On an annual basis, Information employment was down by 1,553 jobs, or 3.8%, which was the largest proportional decline of any supersector in the state. It was better than the national decline of 4%. The only published component sector, Publishing Industries, shed 1,211 jobs, or 7%.

Financial Activities: Financial Activities employers added 300, or 0.2%, OTM in September. It was the first month of seasonally adjusted growth for the supersector since April. Finance and Insurance added 100 jobs (0.3%) and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added 100 jobs (0.3%). Over the year, employment in Financial Activities was down by 5,146 jobs, or 2.8%. Finance and Insurance shed 4,241 jobs (2.8%) with declines in all published component sectors. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing lost 905 jobs, or 2.5%. Nationally, employment in Financial Activities was down by 1.2%.

Professional and Business Services: Employment in Professional and Business Services was down by 2,100 jobs, or 0.8%, OTM in September. All three published component sectors lost jobs on the month. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services was off by 300 jobs (0.2%), Management of Companies and Enterprises lost 600 jobs (0.7%) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services lost 1,200 jobs (1%). Over the year, employment in Professional and Business Services added 4,327 jobs, or 1.2%, while nationally employment in the supersector was up by 0.5%. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 4,490 jobs (3.7%) and Management of Companies and Enterprises added 596 jobs (0.7%) while Professional, Scientific and Technical Services lost 759 jobs, or 0.5%.

Education and Health Services: Education and Health Services Employers lost 5,700 jobs, or 0.9%, OTM in September. This was the largest proportional decline of any supersector in the state. Educational Services drove the decline, shedding 3,800 jobs (4.8%). The sector posted strong seasonally adjusted growth early in the summer, which suggests there may be some changes to seasonality at play in the industry. Health Care and Social Assistance was down by 1,900 jobs (0.3%) OTM. On an annual basis, employment in Education and Health Services was up by 10,268 jobs, or 1.7%. This closely mirrors the national annual growth of 1.8%. Educational Services added 1,683 jobs (2.3%) while Health Care and Social Assistance added 8,585 jobs (1.6%).

Leisure and Hospitality: Employment in Leisure and Hospitality was up by 1,000 jobs, or 0.4%, OTM in September. The growth came entirely in Accommodation and Food Services, which added 1,100 jobs, or 0.5%, while Arts, Entertainment and Recreation lost 100 jobs, or 0.2%. Over the year, employment in the supersector was up by 5,381 jobs, or 1.9%, outpacing the national growth of 0.4%. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation added 2,693 jobs or 5.1%, and Accommodation and Food Services added 2,688 jobs, or 1.2%. The only component sector to lose jobs on the year was Limited-Service Restaurants and Other Eating Places, which shed 158 jobs, or 0.2%.

Other Services: Other Services employers lost 300 jobs, or 0.2%, OTM in September. It was the first seasonally adjusted decline in the supersector since March. Over the year, Other Services employment was up by 2,761 jobs, or 2.4%, with growth in all published component sectors. The driving force of the growth was Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Organizations, which added 2,579 jobs, or 3.9%. Nationally, employment in Other Services was up by 0.5%.

Government: Employment in Government was up by 400 jobs, or 0.1%, OTM in September. Local Government added 300 jobs (0.1%) and State Government added 200 jobs (0.2%), while Federal Government employers lost 100 jobs (0.3%). Annually, employment in the supersector was up by 2,321 jobs, or 0.5%, while nationally employment was down by 0.9%. Local Government employers in Minnesota added 3,250 jobs (1.1%) due to the addition of 3,250 jobs among non-education employers as Local Government Educational Services lost 1,390 jobs, or 1%. State Government employers added 546 jobs (0.5%). Federal Government employers in the state lost 1,485 jobs, or 4.5%.

Over-the-Year Job Change by MSAs

September 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	22,404	1.1
Duluth-Superior MN-WI MSA	-1,244	-0.9
Rochester MSA	-731	-0.6
St. Cloud MSA	-1,148	-1
Mankato MSA	-318	-0.5
Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN MSA (August)	1,200	0.8
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks ND-MN MSA (August)	600	1.1
La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN (August)	1,500	1.7

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

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metropolitan statistical area was down by 4,730 jobs, or 0.2%, over the month (OTM), on a not-seasonally adjusted basis. The metro area has not posted positive monthly growth since June. Nine of ten published supersectors posted job losses in September. The only positive growth was in Government employment, which was up by 16,064 jobs, or 6.6%, the largest real and proportional movement in either direction for any supersector in the area. The growth was driven by the beginning of the school year, as Local Government Educational Services added 13,325 jobs (18.4%) and State Government Educational Services added 6,651 jobs (18.3%). The largest real and proportional job loss was in Leisure and Hospitality, which was off by 6,353 jobs, or 3.2%, with declines in every published component sector. Education and Health Services shed 4,289 jobs, or 1.1%, due the loss of 6,407 jobs (1.8%) in Health Care and Social Assistance.

Over the year, employment in the metro area was up by 22,404 jobs, or 1.1%. Seven supersectors added jobs and three lost jobs on the year. Mining, Logging and Construction added 7,519 jobs, or 7.5%, the largest proportional increase of any supersector in the area. The largest real job increase was in Manufacturing, which was up by 7,861 jobs, or 4%. Durable Good Manufacturing was up by 6,792 jobs (5%) and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing was up by 1,069 jobs (1.8%). Trade,

Transportation and Utilities posted the largest real job loss, off by 4,128 (1.2%) with declines in all three component sectors. The largest proportional job loss was in Information, off by 5.8%, or 1,149 jobs. Financial Activities was down by 2,459 jobs, or 2.7%, with declines in every published component.

Duluth-Superior MSA

Employment in the Duluth-Superior MSA was down slightly OTM in September, on a not-seasonally adjusted basis, shedding 100 jobs (0.1%). Nine of ten published supersectors lost jobs, with the lone positive growth coming in Government employment, which was up by 1,523 jobs, or 6.3%, likely due in large part to the beginning of the school year. The largest job loss, in real and proportional terms, was in Leisure and Hospitality (down 1,004 jobs, or 6.4%). Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 189 jobs (0.8%), with Retail Trade down 181 jobs (1.3%) and Wholesale Trade down 42 jobs (1.5%). Professional and Business Services shed 104 jobs, or 1.5%.

On an annual basis, employment in the Duluth-Superior MSA was down by 1,244 jobs, or 0.9%. The largest declines on a proportional and real-job basis were in Trade, Transportation and Utilities, which was off by 957 jobs or 4%. Losses were driven by Retail Trade, which shed 783 jobs or 5.3%, but all published components posted negative growth. Leisure and Hospitality lost 425 jobs, or 2.8%. The largest proportional positive growth was in Mining, Logging and Construction, which was up by 1.5% or 140 jobs. The largest real job growth was in Government, which added 319 jobs, or 1.2%, with growth at the State and Local Government levels.

Rochester MSA

Employment in the Rochester MSA was down by 2,397 jobs, or 1.8%, OTM in September. This was the largest proportional decline of any MSA primarily located in Minnesota. Every published supersector lost jobs on the month. The largest proportional loss was in Leisure and Hospitality, which was down by 649 jobs or 5.6%. Education and Health Services was down 672 jobs, or 1.2%, the largest real job loss in the region. Government employers shed 573 jobs (0.7%) with Local Government down by 571 jobs or 5.1%.

Over the year, employers in the Rochester MSA lost 731 jobs, or 0.6%. The largest real job loss was in Leisure and Hospitality, which shed 415 jobs, or 3.6%. The largest proportional decline was in Information, off by 6.8%, or 40 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 395 jobs, or 2.3%, with the Retail Trade component losing 313 jobs, or 2.6%. Three supersectors posted positive annual growth, led by Education and Health Services (up 123 jobs, or 0.2%) and Government (up 91 jobs, or 0.7%).

St. Cloud MSA

The St. Cloud MSA added 969 jobs, or 0.9%, OTM in September. This was the highest proportional monthly growth of any MSA primarily in Minnesota. Growth was driven by Government employment, which was up by 1,816 jobs, or 14.1%. Local Government was up by 887 jobs (33.1%) and State Government was up by 919 jobs (11.6%). The largest real and proportional job loss was in Leisure and Hospitality, which was off by 422 jobs or 4.9% as summer recreation drew down. Trade, Transportation and Utilities was off by 171 jobs, or 0.8%.

Over the year, employers in the St. Cloud MSA lost 1,148 jobs, or 1%. This was the largest proportional job loss of any MSA primarily in Minnesota. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 419 jobs (1.9%) with declines in all three component sectors. Leisure and Hospitality was down by 375 jobs (4.4%) and Government employment was down by 276 jobs (1.8%) with losses at all three levels of government.

Mankato MSA

Employment in the Mankato MSA was off by 314 jobs, or 0.5%, OTM in September. Private sector employers lost 280 jobs or 0.6%, and public sector employers lost 34 jobs or 0.4%. Goods producers shed 50 jobs (0.5%) and service providers lost 264 jobs (0.5%).

Over the year, employers in Mankato lost 318 jobs, or 0.5%. This was a steep decline from August's 3.7% positive growth. The decline was driven by employment among service providers, which shed 819 jobs or 1.7%, while goods producers added 501 jobs or 5%. Private sector employers added 37 jobs (0.1%) while public sector employers lost 355 jobs, or 3.6%.

Labor Market Information Office

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

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