

COUNTY PROFILE

Lyon Co.

Lyon Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 8, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2025 population:	25,684 people	Median Age:	37.4 years
Population change, 2020-2025	161 people 0.6% increase	state:	38.8 years

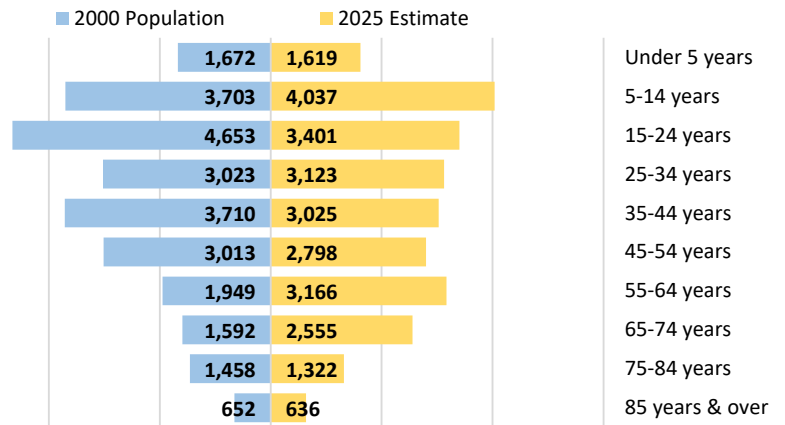
Lyon Co. is the 41st largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 46th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Lyon Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2025

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,619	6.3%
5-14 years	4,037	15.7%
15-24 years	3,401	13.2%
25-34 years	3,123	12.2%
35-44 years	3,025	11.8%
45-54 years	2,798	10.9%
55-64 years	3,166	12.3%
65-74 years	2,555	9.9%
75-84 years	1,322	5.1%
85 years & over	636	2.5%
Total Population	25,684	100.0%

Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2025



Lyon Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2025, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Lyon Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2025

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2025					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Lyon Co.	141	326	1,683	1,357	-185	593	-778
State of Minnesota	122,685	63,075	330,813	267,738	59,610	96,812	-37,202

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

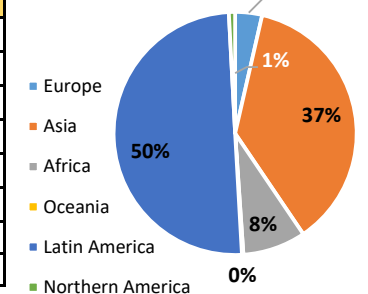
Compared to the state, Lyon Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2014 to 2024, Lyon Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2024

	Lyon Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	1,562	6.1%	129	9.0%	8.7%	23.3%
Europe	56	3.6%	-35	-38.5%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	577	36.9%	131	29.4%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	131	8.4%	-58	-30.7%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	3	0.2%	3	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	795	50.9%	88	12.4%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	782	50.1%	80	11.4%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	13	0.8%	8	160.0%	2.4%	-2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2024



COUNTY PROFILE

Lyon Co.

Lyon Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2014, the white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2024

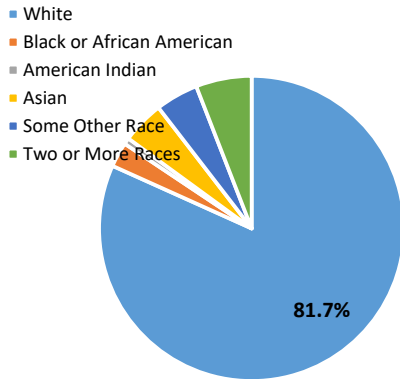


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Lyon Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
Total	25,503	100.0%	-0.9%	100.0%	6.6%
White	20,844	81.7%	-10.0%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	672	2.6%	-2.9%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	171	0.7%	23.9%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,150	4.5%	41.5%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	1,158	4.5%	53.2%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	1,508	5.9%	866.7%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,014	7.9%	26.3%	6.4%	38.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

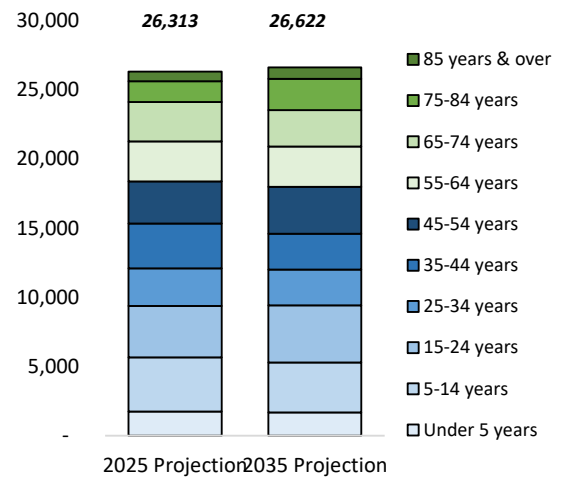
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Lyon Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Lyon Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,753	1,683	-70	-4.0%
5-14 years	3,903	3,616	-287	-7.4%
15-24 years	3,723	4,113	390	10.5%
25-34 years	2,726	2,595	-131	-4.8%
35-44 years	3,230	2,579	-651	-20.2%
45-54 years	3,046	3,410	364	12.0%
55-64 years	2,881	2,900	19	0.7%
65-74 years	2,845	2,626	-219	-7.7%
75-84 years	1,500	2,267	767	51.1%
85 years & over	706	833	127	18.0%
Total Population	26,313	26,622	309	1.2%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

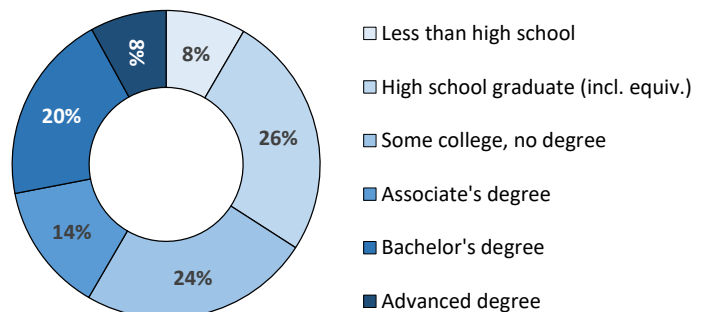


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Lyon Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.3%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Lyon Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:	91.6%
College-educated:	65.9%
state:	68.9%
Associate's Degree:	13.6%
Bachelor's Degree:	20.0%
Advanced Degree:	8.0%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024



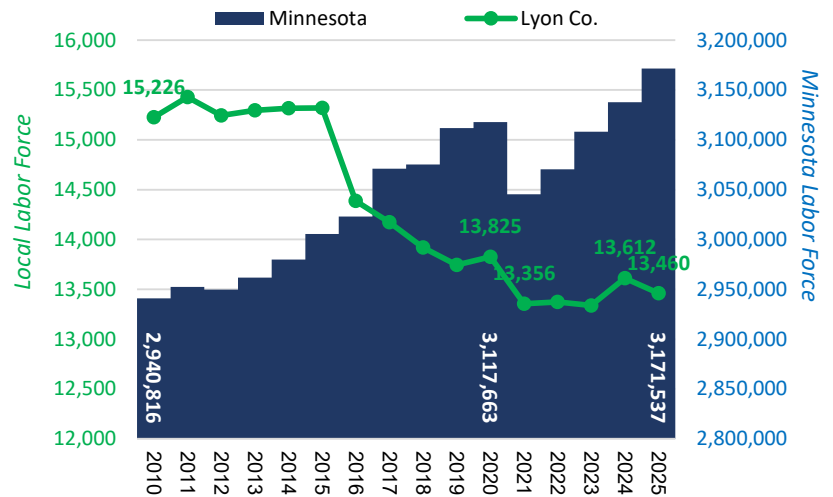
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.9%, Lyon Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Lyon Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.7% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Lyon Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

13,460	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	-1,766 workers -11.6% decline
3.9%	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
525	unemployed workers

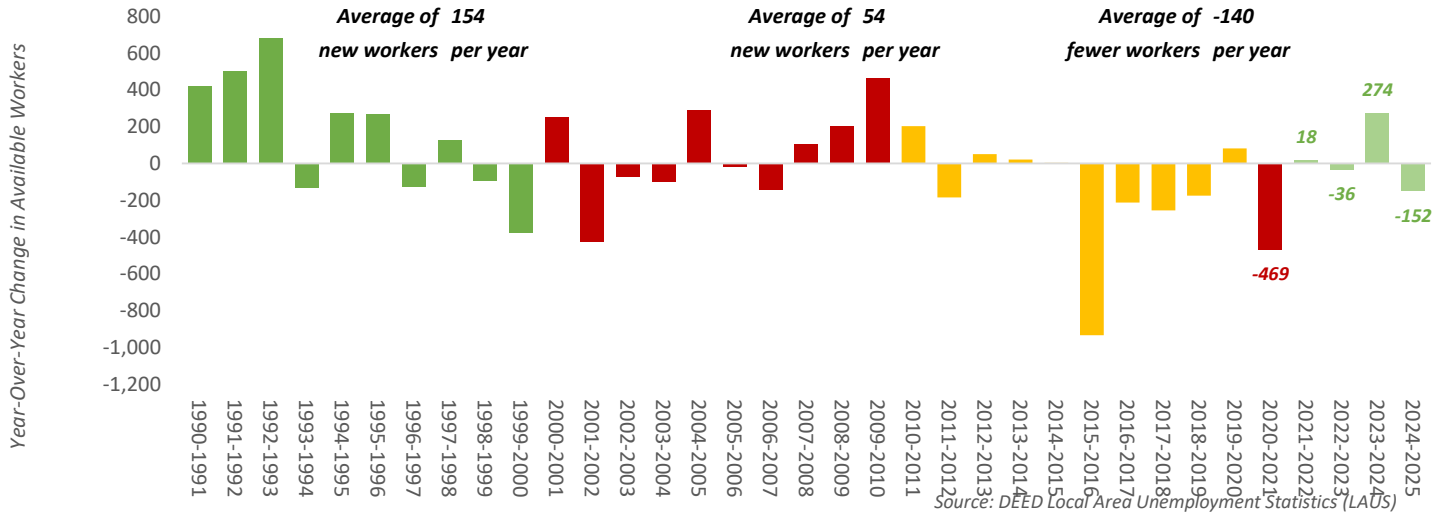
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Lyon Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Lyon Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2025



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,349	2,654
25 to 54 years	7,903	7,527
55 to 64 years	2,172	2,186
65 years & over	949	982
Total Labor Force	13,373	13,350

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2020-2024 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession. In 2024, job vacancies in Southwest returned to pre-pandemic levels and the number of unemployed workers was trending upward, but employers were still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Lyon Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Lyon Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 78.7% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

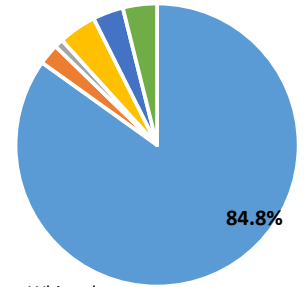
Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2024

	Lyon Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	13,194	67.5%	3.2%	68.1%	4.1%	6,985	6,200
16 to 19 years	795	52.8%	4.4%	52.6%	10.3%	366	429
20 to 24 years	1,371	89.5%	2.9%	83.3%	6.6%	707	664
25 to 44 years	5,397	88.4%	4.1%	88.7%	3.7%	2,827	2,571
45 to 54 years	2,406	86.6%	0.5%	87.8%	3.0%	1,297	1,110
55 to 64 years	2,370	75.4%	4.3%	72.7%	3.2%	1,257	1,114
65 to 74 years	649	25.6%	1.4%	27.7%	3.6%	368	281
75 years & over	195	10.0%	0.0%	6.7%	3.2%	163	31

Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin

White alone	11,194	66.9%	2.6%	67.0%	3.5%
Black or African American	313	67.7%	8.6%	70.8%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	132	97.8%	0.0%	58.0%	10.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	572	69.8%	4.2%	75.2%	3.5%
Some Other Race	461	64.9%	0.2%	75.4%	5.8%
Two or More Races	514	74.9%	14.6%	74.0%	5.7%
Hispanic or Latino	795	67.7%	2.1%	76.6%	5.8%

Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2024



Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years

With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	773	55.9%	7.0%	56.1%	9.4%
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Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years

Population, 25 to 64 years	10,175	84.6%	3.3%	84.5%	3.4%
Less than H.S. Diploma	416	53.5%	5.8%	66.2%	4.9%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	1,814	76.0%	1.1%	76.6%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	3,830	85.3%	3.2%	85.0%	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4,118	94.2%	1.7%	90.5%	2.2%

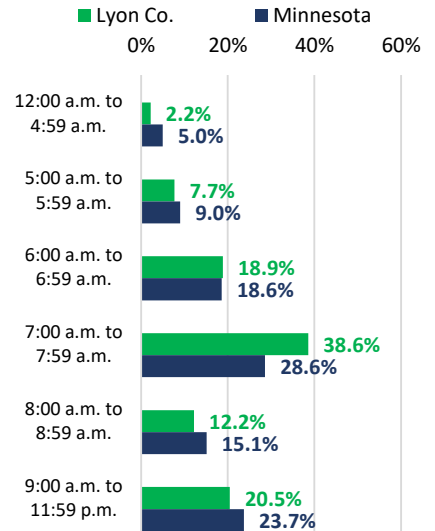
Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

A larger percentage of workers in Lyon Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Lyon Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024

	Lyon Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	12,512	99.0%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	11,589	91.7%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	910	7.2%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	126	1.0%	64,678	2.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	10,136	80.2%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	63	0.5%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	859	6.8%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	1,567	12.4%	517,420	17.6%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	5,864	46.4%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	3,526	27.9%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	1,542	12.2%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	1,112	8.8%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	215	1.7%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	379	3.0%	144,055	4.9%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	14.6 minutes		22.7 minutes	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2024



Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

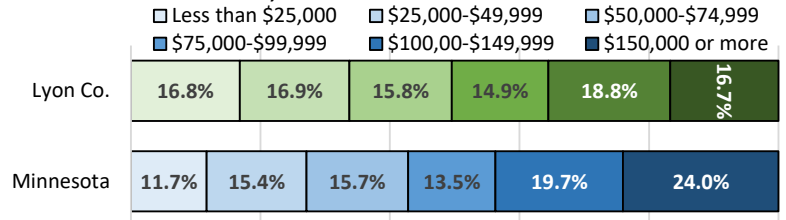
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Lyon Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Lyon Co. had the 39th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$75,303
state	\$89,062
Median Family Income	\$96,967
state	\$113,993
Per Capita Income	\$39,073
state	\$48,237

Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2024



Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The cost of living has increased in recent years with expenses up in many areas. Lyon Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.15 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$17.68 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2024

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Lyon Co.	\$29,426	\$14.15	\$0	\$431	\$183	\$788	\$495	\$269	\$286
State of Minnesota	\$38,376	\$18.45	\$0	\$452	\$202	\$1,199	\$561	\$365	\$419

Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Lyon Co.	\$55,172	\$17.68	\$273	\$980	\$639	\$964	\$865	\$429	\$448
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

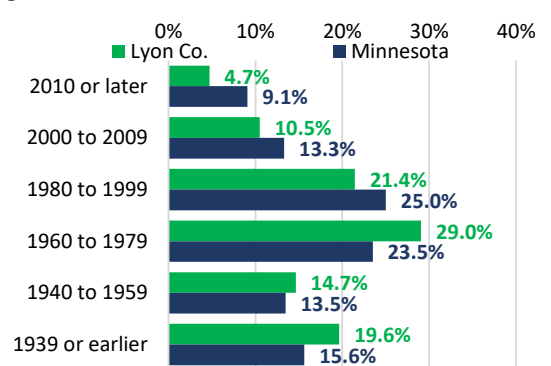
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Lyon Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 55th highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Lyon Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2024	Lyon Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	7,328	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	527	7.2%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	846	11.5%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	978	13.3%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,296	17.7%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,067	28.2%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,224	16.7%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	390	5.3%	19.6%
Median (dollars)	\$200,700		\$329,300

Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2024



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage	\$1,464
state	\$1,947

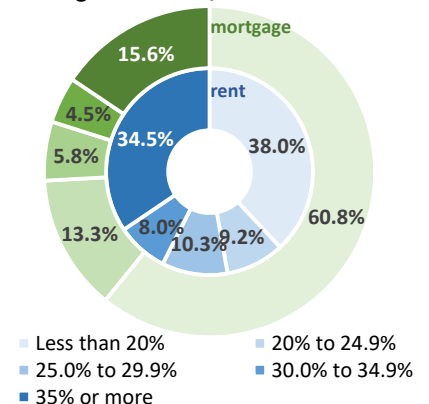
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	20.1%
state	23.2%

Median monthly rent costs	\$781
state	\$1,280

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	42.5%
state	48.1%

Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2024



OCCUPATIONS

At \$22.79 in 2025, wages were lower in Region 8 than the state. Overall, Region 8 had the 2nd lowest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.64) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.57) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 8				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
Total, All Occupations	\$22.79	51,430	100.0%	1.0	\$26.22	2,920,470	100.0%
Management	\$47.64	2,590	5.0%	0.7	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$35.16	2,110	4.1%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.37	460	0.9%	0.3	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$41.06	600	1.2%	0.6	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$31.96	500	1.0%	0.9	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$28.62	910	1.8%	0.9	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$36.43	120	0.2%	0.3	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$23.59	3,930	7.6%	1.3	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$21.73	380	0.7%	0.6	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.68	2,780	5.4%	0.8	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.46	3,170	6.2%	1.0	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$28.87	750	1.5%	0.9	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.57	3,910	7.6%	0.9	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.24	1,560	3.0%	1.1	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.87	780	1.5%	0.7	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.10	4,620	9.0%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.65	5,470	10.6%	0.9	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.00	240	0.5%	4.1	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$27.84	2,420	4.7%	1.2	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.54	2,470	4.8%	1.3	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$21.30	6,170	12.0%	1.7	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.15	5,460	10.6%	1.4	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025

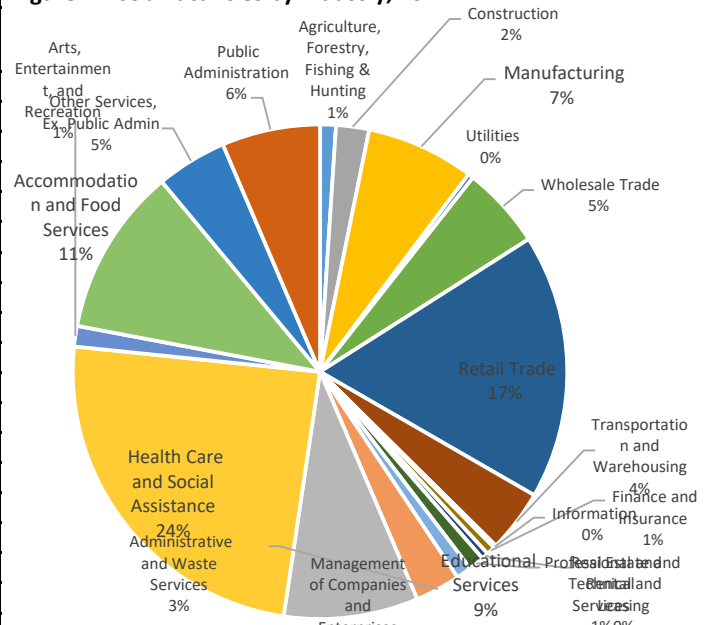
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Lyon Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 9168 job vacancies posted by employers in 2024, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	9,168	\$19.48
Management	176	\$37.03
Business & Financial Operations	189	\$27.48
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$36.13
Architecture & Engineering	115	\$27.92
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	88	\$38.63
Community & Social Service	409	\$24.68
Education, Training & Library	548	\$21.55
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	738	\$30.27
Healthcare Support	984	\$14.95
Protective Service	222	\$28.05
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,188	\$15.62
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	395	\$15.71
Personal Care & Service	114	\$15.42
Sales & Related	1,026	\$15.96
Office & Administrative Support	388	\$20.28
Construction & Extraction	132	\$23.65
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	645	\$23.30
Production	457	\$18.67
Transportation & Material Moving	1,033	\$21.37

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Cashiers \$29,957/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$56,626/yr	Registered Nurses \$87,199/yr	General and Operations Managers \$83,095/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,313/yr	Nursing Assistants \$42,326/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$77,653/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$62,582/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,720/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$60,328/yr	Dental Hygienists \$96,312/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$63,481/yr
Retail Salespersons \$34,590/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$60,377/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,463/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$75,070/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,684/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,699/yr	Occupational Therapy Assistants \$61,484/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$42,191/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,463/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$62,197/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$83,721/yr	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and \$106,848/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$44,165/yr	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$62,029/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,581/yr	Financial Managers \$129,957/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$36,766/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,172/yr	Mechanical Drafters \$67,942/yr	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$63,516/yr
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand \$45,638/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$41,569/yr	Agricultural Technicians \$63,397/yr	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$63,878/yr
Food Preparation Workers \$32,590/yr	Industrial Machinery Mechanics \$61,914/yr	Physical Therapist Assistants \$63,751/yr	Physical Therapists \$99,992/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Lyon Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region, which is projected to see a 2.8% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Southwest Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	202,214	207,878	2.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,523	5,777	4.6%
Utilities	690	690	0.0%
Construction	7,679	8,252	7.5%
Manufacturing	32,192	33,537	4.2%
Wholesale Trade	8,001	8,116	1.4%
Retail Trade	19,409	19,084	-1.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,297	6,810	8.1%
Information	2,093	2,046	-2.2%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,227	8,375	1.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,544	5,985	8.0%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,127	4,331	4.9%
Educational Services	16,065	16,116	0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	28,786	30,498	5.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	13,625	14,377	5.5%
Other Services	7,097	7,281	2.6%
Public Administration	14,117	14,370	1.8%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032

