

MINNESOTA
star of the north[™]

EXPLORE MINNESOTA FOR BUSINESS

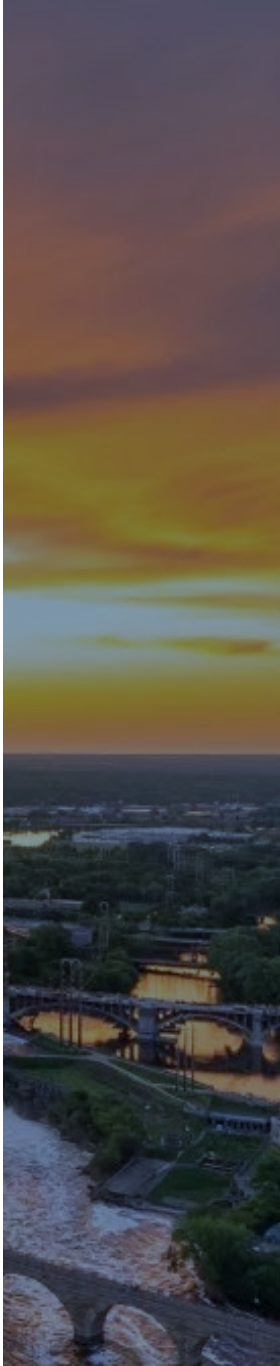


[MN.GOV/DEED/DOBUSINESS](https://mn.gov/deed/dobusiness)



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WHY MINNESOTA



WHY MINNESOTA?

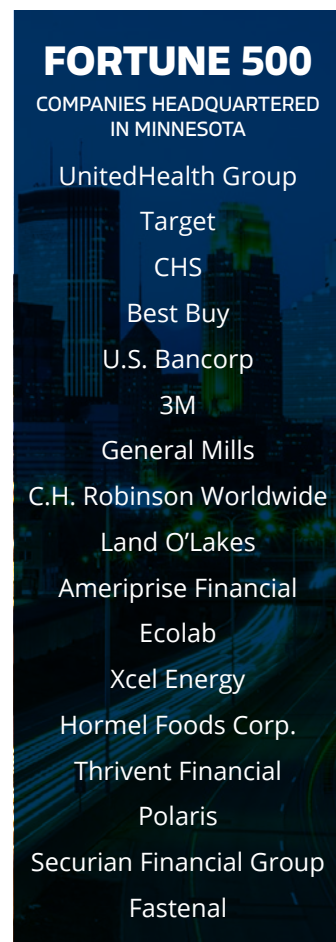
Minnesota offers the best mix of human resources, infrastructure and technology—critical variables for business productivity and success—ranking among the top five states in the U.S. for long-term competitiveness.

- **Minnesota is the 4th best state in the country, according to 2024 rankings by U.S. News and World Report.** Rankings include the 50 states across eight different categories: health care, education, economy, opportunity, infrastructure, crime & corrections, fiscal stability and natural environment.
- **Minnesota ranks as the 6th best state for business, according to 2024 rankings by CNBC.** The source scored all 50 states on 128 metrics in 10 broad categories of competitiveness.
- **Minnesota businesses benefit from easy access to new college graduates and customized training opportunities based on close proximity to nearby colleges.** State Colleges and Universities provide training to over 2,700 businesses and 130,000 individuals each year throughout the state.
- **A Minnesota location has logistical benefits, with easy access to ground, water and air transportation infrastructure.** The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport offers non-stop service to 165 destinations, including cities in North America, Europe, and Asia.
- **Xcel Energy—a Fortune 500 company based in Minnesota—was the first energy company in the nation to announce a vision to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.** Xcel offers assistance to industrial customers to help them save energy and money through rebates for purchasing energy-saving equipment; a variety of energy efficiency studies; energy programs for new construction; and building tune-ups of existing systems. Other energy providers in the state include Great River, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Connexus Energy.
- **The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area ranks 8th in corporate headquarters.**
(Business Facilities, 2024 Metro Rankings Report)
- **Minnesota ranks as the 4th best state for quality of life in 2024, according to CNBC,** based on metrics of crime, child care, health care, environmental quality, and inclusiveness.
- **Minneapolis has ranked as the second-best city for startups in the Midwest for seven consecutive years.**
(Best of The Midwest, 2018-2024)
- **Minneapolis-St. Paul ranks as the 5th most vibrant metro area for the arts nationally and 1st in the Midwest,** according to 2024 data from SMU DataArts. The Twin Cities are also among the most bikeable metro areas in country according to SmartAsset.

Supportive state and local partners assist businesses in securing the financial and workforce development resources for the project to be a success:

DEED's business development team – along with state, regional and local partners – supports businesses in their location decision process. This includes helping identify suitable site/building options for their operations; navigating the permitting process (via the Minnesota Business First Stop, MBFS); and engaging partners to address utility, infrastructure and other industry support needs. Additionally, DEED provides workforce recruitment, development and training services; and financial assistance.

The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) provides added support to foreign owned enterprises considering a location in Minnesota.



TARGET INDUSTRIES



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Minnesota’s manufacturing sector is the backbone of the state’s economy, representing 12% of the state’s GDP and nearly \$25 billion in manufactured exports annually (2023, latest data). Minnesota’s diverse, technology-driven advanced manufacturing sector is particularly strong in high-tech manufacturing, including computers and electronics, medical devices, and vehicles.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Companies in Minnesota:** 8,617
- **State GDP Contribution:** \$58.1 billion, or 12% (BEA, 2023, latest data)
- **Exported Goods:** \$24.6 billion (Census Bureau, Trade Data Monitor)
- **Sector Employment:** 332,419 workers

Source: Unless noted otherwise, all data from Lightcast (2024)



MINNESOTA: A LEADER IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING



\$58.1 billion statewide economic contribution



8 Fortune 500 companies in manufacturing



332,000 Jobs



Robust Clusters

- Primary Metal Products
- Machinery
- Electrical Equipment
- Semiconductors

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA



Donaldson
FILTRATION SOLUTIONS



POLAR
semiconductor

CLEAN TECH AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Minnesota ranks among the top states for environmental friendliness and sustainability practices and has thriving companies in a broad range of clean technology and renewable energy clusters, including biofuels, water technology, and wind and solar power. As the first state to mandate the use of biofuels in 2005, Minnesota has seen carbon emissions from the power sector decline by 40% in the last 10 years and 10% in the previous year alone.



Additionally, the state boasts a robust smart mobility infrastructure and industry leaders developing new technologies in sustainable transportation methods.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Companies in Minnesota:** 17,248
- **State GDP Contribution:** \$40.1 billion, or 8.3% (BEA, 2023, latest data)
- **Exported Goods:** \$4.7 billion (Census Bureau, Trade Data Monitor)
- **Sector Employment:** 201,275

Source: Unless noted otherwise, all data from Lightcast (2024)

MINNESOTA: COMMITTED TO CLEAN TECH INNOVATION



#1 in Midwest for energy efficiency



Member of the **Heartland Hydrogen Hub**, which will develop and deploy clean hydrogen projects



First state in the Midwest to set a **2040 net-zero carbon emissions target** for electricity generation



59,000 clean energy jobs: specializing in renewables, energy efficiency, and advanced transportation



\$950 million through 262 venture capital deals since 2003.



Home of BioMADE, the national biomanufacturing institute



Only state to offer refundable tax credits for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) usage and new SAF facilities



Education, R&D and government programs support clean tech R&D, electric vehicles, biofuels

LEADING CLEAN TECH COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA



FOOD PRODUCTION & AGRICULTURE

Minnesota is a food production and agricultural powerhouse. The state ranks fourth in the nation in the total value of crops and fourth in agricultural exports, making it one of the top producers of food in the country.

Not surprisingly, Minnesota is home to global leaders in agriculture food production and distribution, including the nation’s largest privately held company, Cargill.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Companies in Minnesota:** 5,202
- **State GDP Contribution:** \$20.2 billion, or 4.2% (BEA, 2023, latest data)
- **Exported Goods:** \$9.1 billion (USDA, 2022, latest data)
- **Sector Employment:** 124,932 workers

Source: Unless noted otherwise, all data from Lightcast (2024)



MINNESOTA: A POWERHOUSE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

-  **\$24.8 billion** in total agricultural sales
-  **#4 in exports of food & ag goods:** \$9.1 billion
-  **#2 in food patents per capita:** groundbreaking research and innovation
-  **48,500 jobs** in food manufacturing

-  **Home to #1 U.S. privately-held company:** Cargill
-  **Home to Fortune 500 food & ag giants:** CHS, General Mills, Hormel Foods, Land O’ Lakes
-  **Home of the Plant Protein Innovation Center,** whose 31 members span the supply chain

LEADING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA



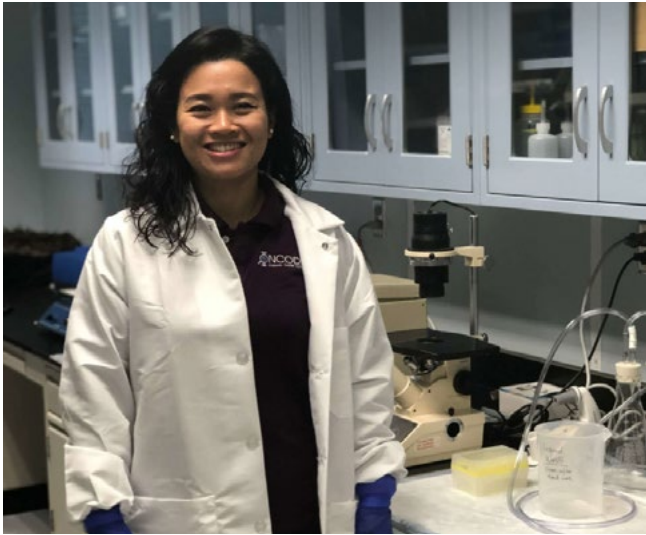
LIFE SCIENCES

Home to the country’s top-rated hospital (Mayo Clinic), largest health insurer (UnitedHealth Group), and the birthplace of the world’s largest medical device maker (Medtronic), Minnesota is committed to supporting the life sciences. In “Medical Alley,” businesses have access to an ecosystem of public, private, and non-profit partners focused on passionate collaboration and innovation for the greater good.


BY THE NUMBERS

- **Companies in Minnesota:** 7,546
- **State GDP Contribution:** \$48.7 billion, or 10.1%
(BEA, 2023, latest data)
- **Exported Goods:** \$3.9 billion (Census Bureau, Trade Data Monitor)
- **Sector Employment:** 330,467 workers


Source: Unless noted otherwise, all data from Lightcast (2024)




MINNESOTA: A RENOWNED LEADER IN LIFE SCIENCES




Home of Medical Alley, #1 HealthTech Cluster in the world




Home to **1,225 pharmaceutical and biotech R&D companies** – employing over 14,300 people




\$1.5 billion raised in private capital in 2023
(Medical Alley)



More than **1,000 healthcare technology companies**



#3 in medical device patents per capita: a hotspot for innovation



34,000+ employees across **500+ medical device businesses**

LEADING LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA







TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Minnesota has long been home to technology companies that transform the world for the better. Key to Minnesota’s success is our tech-savvy workforce and a thriving innovation ecosystem of higher education institutions, R&D, and public-private partnerships.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Companies in Minnesota:** 15,704
- **State GDP Contribution:** \$26.8 billion, or 5.5% (BEA, 2023, latest data)
- **Exported Goods:** \$4.9 billion (Census Bureau, Trade Data Monitor)
- **Sector Employment:** 127,287 workers

Source: Unless noted otherwise, all data from Lightcast (2024)



MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



\$26.8 billion statewide economic contribution



127,000 Jobs



Leading R&D

- Medtronic - \$2.7B
- University of Minnesota - \$1.3B
- 3M - \$1.1B
- Mayo Clinic - \$1.1B



Robust Clusters

- Telecommunications
- Computer Equipment
- Sensor Technologies
- Product Development

LEADING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA



WORKFORCE



WORKFORCE

Minnesota is home to one of the country's most talented workforces. That's no accident – it comes from years of investments by public and private sector leaders in education and training that have produced strong talent for a diverse economy.



- WalletHub ranks Minnesota **the 3rd best state for women**. To find 2025's best states for women, the source compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 25 metrics including median earnings.
- Minnesota had the **6th highest labor force participation rate** in the nation (68.2%) in 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national rate is 62.6%.
- Minnesota ranks **1st in states with the best Health Care Systems**, according to the 2025 WalletHub index, which included metrics on cost, access, and outcomes.
- Minnesota ranks as the **5th best state for working moms**, according to Wallethub. In 2024, the source looked at several metrics including quality and costs of childcare; the gender pay gap and median women's pay; the ratio of women working in executive roles compared to men; and the quality of parental leave policies in the state.
- **Minneapolis ranks as the 8th best city for young professionals** in America, according to 2024 rankings by NICHE. The metrics included the number of bars, restaurants, coffee shops and parks; the number of families and young professionals; and the quality of public schools in the area.
- The state provides a reliable pool of workers for businesses. Minnesota ranks **7th in labor force in the Midwest**, and 20th nationwide, with a **labor force of over 3 million**. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2024)
- Minnesota is one of the **top manufacturing states**, having a large pool of people working in production occupations.
 - About 50% of Minnesota's Fortune 500 companies are involved in manufacturing, including **3M, CHS, General Mills, Land O'Lakes, Ecolab, Hormel Foods, and Polaris**.
 - Minnesota's Fortune 500 companies headquartered outside of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area include Hormel Foods in Austin, MN and Fastenal in Winona, MN.
 - Other manufacturing companies headquartered, or with large operations, in the state include Medtronic, Andersen Windows, H.B. Fuller, and Toro, just to name a few.
- Overall, Minnesota **employs over 332,000 people in manufacturing** industries, 35% above the national average.



332,419

Jobs (2024)

35% **above** National average

+4%

**% Change in Employment
(2014-2024)**

Nation: +6%

\$99,164

Avg. Earnings Per Job (2024)

Nation: \$102,163

Source: Lightcast.

EDUCATION



EDUCATION

Minnesota values education. The state has more than 100 post-secondary degree institutions because Minnesotans understand that knowledge is what powers the world. Minnesota values its highly skilled workforce and invests in helping employers and workers grow their skills to meet ever-changing needs sparked by advances in automation, artificial intelligence and other technological progress.



- **The University of Minnesota serves nearly 68,000 students** and offers more than 500 undergraduate and graduate majors and programs. Campuses are located in the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Crookston and Rochester.
- **Minnesota State's Colleges and Universities** (formerly known as MnSCU) operate 54 campuses in 47 Minnesota communities and offer 3,885 academic programs.
- Minnesota's **29 private colleges and universities** offer over 160 degree programs, **serving over 59,000 undergraduate and graduate students**.
- Minnesota ranks 6th in the nation with 94.3% of residents achieving a high school degree or higher and ranks 12th in the nation with 40.0% achieving a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Minnesota ranks as the 9th most educated state**, according to 2025 rankings by WalletHub. WalletHub compared the 50 states across two key dimensions, Educational Attainment and Quality of Education.

POSTSECONDARY DEGREE INSTITUTIONS IN MINNESOTA

Institution Type	Number
Private, Associate Degrees	23
Private, Bachelor's Degrees & Above*	46
Public, Associate and Certification Degrees	49
Public, Bachelor's Degrees and Above**	12
Total	102

Notes: Institutions offering non-degree studies such as beauty and yoga schools were not included on the table. Institutions might have multiple campuses.

* Includes 2 online only universities: Capella and Walden.

** 5 University of Minnesota Campuses and 7 State University Campuses.

Number of institutions fluctuates from year to year.

Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education, February 2025.

INFRASTRUCTURE



INFRASTRUCTURE

An efficient and ever-growing freight system is essential for Minnesota businesses. The state is home to 17 Fortune 500 companies. Prominent companies such as 3M, General Mills, Land O'Lakes, Hormel Foods, Polaris Industries, Target, Cargill, C.H. Robinson and Toro are headquartered in the state and utilize Minnesota's robust infrastructure to thrive in business.

Minnesota is a global competitor that **exports goods and services to around 200 countries.**



MINNESOTA INFRASTRUCTURE

★ LAND

- 3 interstate highways (I-90, I-94, and I-35)
- 4 Class I freight rail lines
- 3,500 Class I rail miles

★ AIR

- 9 commercial airports
- 165 non-stop destinations, 130 domestic and 35 international markets

★ WATER

- 7 commercial ports
- 3 Foreign Trade Zones

★ UTILITIES

- 92% of Minnesotans are connected to the internet



BUSINESS LOGISTICS

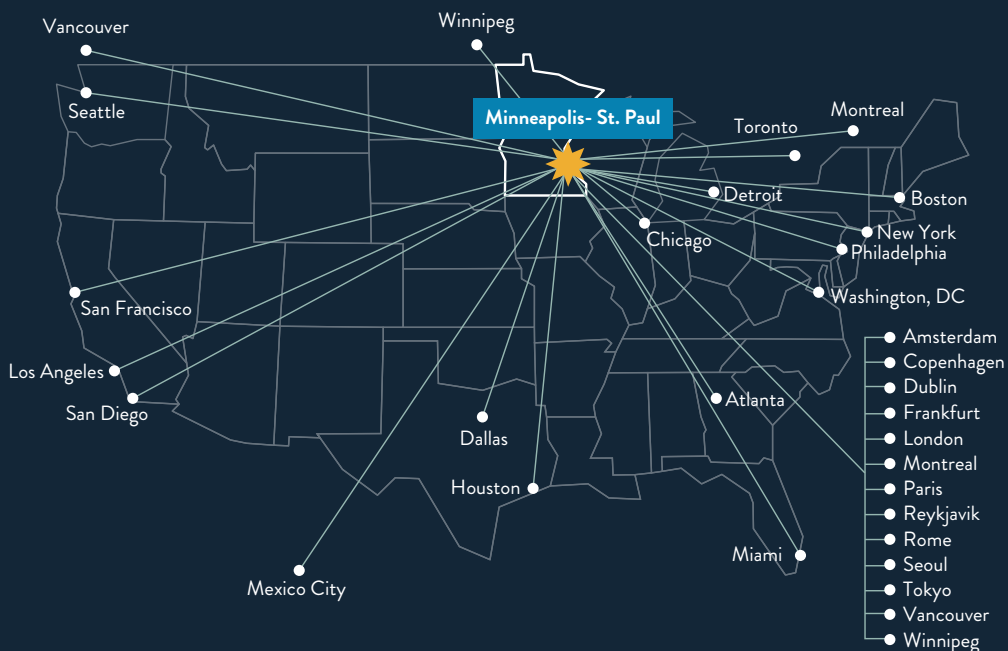
AIR TRANSPORTATION

Five international airports serve Minnesota markets: Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP), Rochester, Duluth, Fargo, and Grand Forks.

- **Eight out of the past nine years, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport has been recognized as the “Best Airport in North America.”** The award from the Airports Council International (ACI) is based on results from the organization’s global passenger survey program, which placed MSP in the top spot for airports in the 25 million to 40 million passengers category.
- **MSP serves 165 nonstop destinations**, including 130 domestic and 35 international markets. MSP offers **non-stop flights to London, Amsterdam, Dublin, Paris and Frankfurt.**
- In 2024, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport was **ranked the best for traveler satisfaction in North America** by J.D. Power.



More than 165 nonstop flights from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport



WATER TRANSPORTATION

- **Minnesota is also well connected to key waterways.** Minnesota has three ports on Lake Superior, including Silver Bay, Two Harbors and Duluth-Superior. Combined tonnage at Lake Superior ports in 2022 (most recent data) was 43.9 million net tons. The largest of these ports is the Port of Duluth-Superior, which connects Minnesota to the Atlantic Ocean via the Great Lakes. This port is a diversified multimodal shipping hub, offering global cargo transport through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, free-flowing major highways, and direct Class I rail service to the East, West, and Gulf Coast.
- **The Mississippi River System stretches over 222 miles in Minnesota and supports four port areas.** Combined, these four ports transported 7.7 million net tons.



Lake Superior Port Tonnage (millions)

Lake Port	Total
Duluth Superior	29.6
Two Harbors	12.5
Silver Bay	1.7
Total	43.9

Mississippi River Port Tonnage (millions)

River Port	Total
St. Paul	3.9
Savage	1.6
Red Wing	0.6
Winona	1.5
Total	7.7

Sources: Army Corps of Engineers (2022) for Duluth-Superior, Two Harbors, Silver Bay and St. Paul.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (2019) for Savage, Red Wing and Winona.

LAND TRANSPORTATION

- Minnesota has **three major interstate highways** (I-35, I-94 and I-90) and the **5th largest road system** in the nation to facilitate surface transportation.
- **The state has 4,420 miles of freight-railroad operated by 21 companies.** Four class I freight rail lines and 3,500 class I rail miles integrate Minnesota with the US and Canadian rail systems. BNSF, Canadian Pacific, Union Pacific and Canadian National Rail all operate intermodal facilities in Minnesota. Industry moves one-fourth of its freight by rail in Minnesota.

TAXES



TAXES

Minnesota uses its tax revenues to maintain its top-notch education and infrastructure systems – which benefit all businesses and residents.

At first glance, Minnesota appears to have high business taxes because of its corporate income tax rate of 9.8%. However, other favorable tax provisions produce competitive tax advantages for Minnesota:

- Minnesota exempts capital equipment used in the manufacturing process from the sales tax
- There are also several other major exemptions for businesses, including fees for equipment installation and repair; utilities, chemicals and gases used for industrial production; and most services
- Minnesota exempts personal property like machinery and inventory from the property tax, resulting in a lower effective tax rate for real and personal property
- As a result, businesses whose equipment and inventory values are high, relative to their real estate value, pay a lower effective tax rate than in states that impose such taxes

SALES TAXES

SALES AND USE TAXES	
Minnesota sales tax rate	6.875%
Local sales tax rates	Some cities and counties have local sales and use taxes. All sellers, regardless of location, must collect local taxes based on where the customer receives the taxable product or service.
Total sales tax rate	To figure the sales tax rate, combine the state general tax rate (6.875%) and all applicable local tax rates (local taxes, special local taxes, and special taxes). Apply the total rate to the taxable sales price.
Manufacturing equipment	Exempt
Fuel, water for manufacturing	The purchase of fuel, electricity, gas, steam, and water that is used or consumed directly in industrial production is not taxable.

Sources: U.S. Sales and Use Tax Guide, 2025, CCP® Publications.

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sales-and-use-tax>

CORPORATE INCOME TAX

Corporate Income Tax	
Corporate income tax rate	9.8%
Throwback rule	Under a throwback rule, sales are assigned to the seller's location. Minnesota has not adopted a throwback rule. This favors businesses making sales from Minnesota to the federal government or to states where they can't be taxed, since it reduces their Minnesota tax.
Corporate income tax apportionment (Sales/Property/Payroll)	100% Sales

PROPERTY TAXES

Property Taxes	
Real property (land, building, etc.)	Taxable based on Fair Market Value (FMV). Effective tax rates vary, depending on location.
Personal property	Commercial and industrial personal property and attached machinery is exempt.
Intangible property	Exempt
Inventory tax rate for the determination of the inventory tax rate or the value of inventory, if applicable.	Exempt

Source: State Tax Handbook, 2023, CCP® Publications.

Sources: State Tax Handbook, 2023, CCP® Publications. MN Department of Revenue.

UTILITIES



UTILITIES

Minnesota has reliable and affordable energy service. Xcel Energy – a Fortune 500 company based in Minnesota – is one of the main providers of energy in the state, offering programs and rebates to help companies save money. Other energy providers in the state include Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power and Connexus Energy.

- Minnesota’s largest energy provider is Xcel Energy. Xcel offers assistance to industrial customers to help them save energy and money through rebates for purchasing energy-saving equipment; a variety of energy efficiency studies; energy programs for new construction; and building tune-ups of existing systems.

COMMITTED TO CLEAN ENERGY

- Xcel Energy, the largest utility provider in the state, became the first energy company in the nation to announce a vision to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050 across the eight states it serves.
- For eleven years in a row, Xcel Energy has been honored as one of the World’s Most Admired Companies by Fortune magazine. The company ranked first in use of corporate assets, placing second overall among the most admired gas and electric companies in the country.
- Minnesota produces over 6,141 MW of electricity from clean energy, ranking 13th nationwide (American Clean Power Association, 2024).
- Minnesota’s clean energy can power 2 million homes in the state (American Clean Power Association, 2024).
- Minnesota ranks 13th nationwide in the share of electricity produced by wind, solar and energy storage power plants (American Clean Power Association, 2024).

CARBON-FREE RESOURCES BY 2040

On February 7, 2023, Governor Tim Walz signed into law new legislation requiring that 100 percent of electricity generated or procured for use in Minnesota must be from carbon-free resources by 2040. The new law requires all electric utilities, including investor-owned utilities, municipalities, and rural electric cooperatives, to generate or procure 100 percent of the electricity they provide to retail customers in Minnesota from carbon-free technologies.

MINNESOTA’S TOP UTILITIES

Utility	Description
Xcel Energy	Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It serves millions of customers across eight states, including Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. (Website: https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/about).
Great River Energy	Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative based in Maple Grove. It provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people. The company operates a diverse portfolio of energy resources, including coal, natural gas, and a growing share of renewable energy sources like wind and solar. (Website: https://greatriverenergy.com/).
Minnesota Power (an ALLETE company)	Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc., is an electric utility company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. It provides electricity to about 145,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in northeastern Minnesota. The company generates and supplies energy through a diverse mix of sources, including coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, wind, and solar power. (Website: https://www.mnpower.com/).
Otter Tail Power	Otter Tail Power Company, a subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation, is an electric utility headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. It serves approximately 132,500 customers across a service area that includes parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The company focuses on reliability, customer service, and sustainability, with initiatives aimed at increasing energy efficiency and incorporating more renewable energy into its generation portfolio. (Website: https://www.otpc.com).
Connexus Energy	Connexus Energy is the largest electric cooperative in Minnesota, headquartered in Ramsey. It serves over 140,000 residential and commercial members in portions of Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Sherburne, and Washington counties. Connexus Energy is known for its commitment to innovation, reliability, and sustainability, with a growing focus on renewable energy sources such as solar power. (Website: https://www.connexusenergy.com/).

Source: Energy Information Administration; companies’ websites.

REGULATION



REGULATION

The Minnesota Business First Stop (MBFS) is a resource for helping your business navigate the permitting and regulation process. Our interagency team offers permitting and regulatory expertise and assists complex business location and expansion projects by working closely with business leaders and their site selection, permitting and environmental consultants.

We help companies at any stage of development, from new ideas to business startups to established companies with products and services ready to market.

Use this form to contact the MBFS to get started:

- [Contact Minnesota Business First Stop \(MBFS\)](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Certain proposed projects — based on their nature, size, location, or other factors — must go through an environmental review before any required permits or approvals are issued. [Minnesota Rules parts 4410.4300](#) and [4410.4400](#) list the types of projects that require environmental review.

The [Environmental Quality Board \(EQB\)](#) oversees environmental review in Minnesota.

Environmental review is NOT an approval process; it's an information-gathering process intended to:

- help public agencies make informed permitting and approval decisions.
- give the public access to decision makers.
- ensure public awareness and meaningful input into decision making.

There are two levels of environmental review:

- Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) — The first step in environmental review and the only step, if the MPCA Commissioner decides further review is not required.
- Environmental impact statement (EIS) — A more in-depth review. The MPCA uses the EAW, written comments, permit applications, and other relevant documents to decide whether an EIS is needed.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) commissioner makes the final decision, documented in a Findings of Fact Conclusions of Law and Order.

The EAW and EIS describe a proposed project, its potential effects on air, land, and water resources, and ways to reduce negative environmental effects. When the review identifies unacceptable environmental impacts, the project's proposers can make changes. The information is also used to establish permit conditions that will protect our environment.



Learn more about environmental review and how to provide input on MPCA's processes:

- [Public participation guide](#)
- [Public comments](#)
- [Guidance for citizens \(EQB\)](#)

Does your project need environmental review?

Use this pre-screening form to determine if your project needs environmental review by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA):

- [Environmental Review pre-screening form \(p-ear1-08\)](#)
- [When is environmental review required for feedlots? \(wq-f1-10\)](#)

COORDINATED PROJECT PLAN

A coordinated project plan (CPP) is a plan and schedule to ensure environmental review and associated required state agency actions are completed efficiently by coordinating and establishing deadlines for all necessary state agency actions ([Minn. Session Law - 2024, Regular Session](#)).

A coordinated project plan includes:

1. a list of all state agencies known to have environmental review, permitting, or other regulatory authority over the eligible project and an explanation of each agency's specific role and responsibilities for actions under the coordinated project plan.
2. a schedule for formal public meetings.
3. a comprehensive schedule of deadlines by which all environmental reviews, permits, and other state agency actions must be completed. The deadlines established must include intermediate and final completion

deadlines for actions by each state agency and must be consistent with required deadlines, subject to modification in accordance with Minnesota Statute.

A project proposer may request the preparation of a coordinated project plan for any project requiring an EAW or EIS where MPCA is the RGU after the complete first draft EAW is submitted.

LAND AND WASTE PERMITS AND REGULATION

The goal of the MPCA's regulatory programs covering hazardous substances and solid waste is to prevent contamination of land, water, and air by facilities that handle or store these materials. The waste and any toxic substances in it can pose threats to the environment and human health.

Storage tanks

The MPCA regulates both underground and aboveground commercial storage tanks of a certain size that hold petroleum or hazardous liquids. Tanks must be built and installed to meet a set of technical standards and comply with state rules and permits. The agency assists tank owners and others in meeting requirements, performs inspections, and determines appropriate enforcement actions when it finds violations.

Learn more: [Storage tanks](#)

Solid waste facilities

MPCA permits are required for construction, modification, and operation of solid waste management facilities where waste is treated, stored, processed, transferred, or disposed. This includes municipal solid waste and specialty landfills, composting sites, recycling and material recovery facilities, waste incinerators, transfer stations, and more.

Learn more: [Solid waste facilities](#)

Hazardous waste

In Minnesota, commercial entities that produce any amount of hazardous waste are regulated as hazardous waste "generators." Treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste is regulated by state and federal rules. Hazardous-waste generators in Greater Minnesota are regulated by the MPCA. County programs regulate hazardous-waste generators in the Twin Cities area. We also provide training, technical assistance, and education and outreach.



Learn more: [Hazardous waste](#)

Electronics recycling

Putting devices with cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in mixed municipal solid waste is prohibited in Minnesota. The state also has recycling requirements for video display devices (VDD) including televisions, home security displays, and computer monitors. Each year, VDD manufacturers must register with the state and pay a registration fee, collect and recycle electronic devices in Minnesota, and report on their collection and recycling efforts.

VDD retailers can sell only brands registered in Minnesota to households in the state and must provide recycling information to their customers.

Learn more: [Electronics collection and recycling](#)

For more information, contact the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:

Call

651-296-6300

800-657-3864

Online

[Ask MPCA online form](#)

Info request

[Request data and information](#)

INCENTIVES (State and Local Assistance)





STATE BUSINESS LOANS & GRANTS

MINNESOTA INVESTMENT FUND (MIF)

This program provides financing to help add new workers and retain high-quality jobs. The program focuses on industrial, manufacturing and technology-related industries and aims to increase the local and state tax base and improve economic vitality.

Eligibility

Funds are awarded to local units of government that provide loans to assist expanding businesses. Cities, counties, townships, selected economic development organizations and recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible. Local government submits an application on behalf of the expanding business.

All projects must meet minimum criteria for private investment, number of jobs created or retained, and wages paid.

At least 50% of total project costs must be privately financed through owner equity and other lending sources.

The expenditures financed by Minnesota Investment Fund and match must not have been completed.

Terms and Interest

Terms are for a maximum of 20 years for real estate and a maximum of 10 years for machinery and equipment. Interest rates are negotiated.

Local Loan Funds

Over the years, many communities that participated in MIF have created local revolving loan funds that complement MIF loans. These loan programs are accessed directly through the local government.

For more information

mn.gov/deed/mif

MINNESOTA FORWARD FUND

Created during the 2023 legislative session, the Minnesota Forward Fund (MFF) increases the state's competitiveness by providing a flexible incentive program to better compete with other states for business retention, expansion, and attraction projects. MFF provides loans and grants to businesses that are making large-scale economic development projects in existing, new, and emerging industries. A one-time, \$50 million appropriation has been made through June of 2027 for providing businesses with matching funds required by federal programs. Individual business expansion projects are limited to no more than \$15 million in grants or loans combined.

MINNESOTA JOB CREATION FUND (JCF)

This program provides financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets.

Companies deemed eligible to participate may receive up to \$2 million for creating or retaining high-paying jobs and for constructing or renovating facilities or making other property improvements. Award amounts depend on job creation and investment levels.

Eligibility

The program is available to businesses engaged in manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, technology-related industries, and other eligible activities. Companies must work with the local government (city, county or township) where a project is located to apply to DEED to receive designation as a Job Creation Fund business.

To be designated as a Job Creation Fund business, a business must, at minimum:

- Be engaged in an eligible business activity
- Obtain local government support for their project via council resolution
- Invest at least \$500,000 (\$250,000 for Targeted Populations*) in real property improvements within one year of becoming a designated Job Creation Fund business
- Create at least 10 (5 for Targeted Populations*) new full-time permanent jobs within two years of becoming a Job Creation Fund business while maintaining existing employment numbers
- Pay at least \$16.50 in wages and benefits in 2025
- Have other location options outside of Minnesota.
- Cause no undue harm to Minnesota business competitors
- Certify that the project would not occur without Job Creation Fund assistance.

Projects that begin prior to becoming designated by DEED are not eligible for the Job Creation Fund.

Prevailing Wage Requirements

Projects that receive \$200,000 or more in Job Creation Fund assistance are subject to prevailing wage requirements. Learn more regarding Prevailing Wage Requirements by reviewing the Prevailing Wage Guide or visiting the Department of Labor and Industry website regarding Prevailing Wage Requirements.



Benefits

Companies that meet eligibility requirements must sign a business subsidy agreement with DEED to meet job retention, creation, wage, and capital investment requirements. The following benefits may be available once a business meets the conditions of its agreement and provides proof of performance:

- \$1000 (\$2000 for Targeted Populations*) per year per job created for jobs paying at least \$35,322 in cash wages
- \$2000 (\$3000 for Targeted Populations*) per year per job created for jobs paying at least \$47,542 in cash wages
- \$3000 (\$4000 for Targeted Populations*) per year per job created for jobs paying at least \$61,124 in cash wages
- \$4000 (\$5000 for Targeted Populations*) per year per job created for jobs paying at least \$74,707 in cash wages
- Up to a 5% rebate for real property improvements for businesses located in the Twin Cities Metro
- Up to a 7.5% rebate for real property improvements for businesses located in Greater Minnesota.

*A Targeted Population is defined as a business being located in Greater Minnesota, or being at least 51% cumulatively owned by people who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), veterans, women, or people with disabilities.

For more information

mn.gov/deed/jobcreation

TAX CREDITS & BENEFITS

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

A business that pays certain research and development (R&D) expenses in Minnesota may qualify for the Credit for Increasing Research Activities.

The R&D credit is equal to 10% of qualifying expenses up to \$2 million, and 4% for expenses above that level. Qualifying expenses are the same as for the federal R&D credit — defined in Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code — but must be for research done in Minnesota.

Examples include R&D-related wages, supplies and research contracted outside your business. Contributions to qualified nonprofit organizations that make grants to early-stage technology businesses in Minnesota also may qualify.

S corporations, partnerships and C corporations are eligible to claim the credit.

SINGLE SALES FACTOR APPORTIONMENT

Apportionment formulas determine how much business income is taxable in a state. Many states apportion corporate income using the in-state proportions of the corporation's sales, payroll and property to determine corporate franchise tax. Minnesota uses only in-state sales to apportion corporate income.

Single sales apportionment is beneficial to Minnesota businesses whose Minnesota sales factor is lower than the average of their Minnesota property and payroll factors.

All other things being equal, increasing non-Minnesota sales will reduce the amount of Minnesota taxable income, since more income will be attributed to, or apportioned outside of, Minnesota.

THROWBACK

Over half of the states with corporate taxes also use throwback rules in defining the sales factor. Throwback rules treat sales to out-of-state buyers as in-state sales, if the buyer's state cannot tax the business/seller or if the purchaser is a federal government agency. Throwback sales increase the in-state sales factor and corporate tax, decreasing the benefits to the taxpayer of single sales apportionment. Minnesota does not have a throwback rule.



TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Cities, counties and development authorities often use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to help finance project costs. TIF is used to encourage private development and to pay for public improvements, such as streets, sidewalks, sewer and water, and similar public infrastructure improvements that are related to the development.

TAX ABATEMENT

Local governments may use property tax abatement to help finance certain economically beneficial projects. Property taxes are forgiven for a period of time; or are captured for a period of time and an up-front payment is made to help with project costs.

PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION

In Minnesota, only real property such as land and buildings, is taxable. Personal property is exempt from the property tax. Anything that is not real property is personal property. The main characteristic of personal property is that it is movable without causing damage to itself or the real estate.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT EXEMPTION

Businesses that buy or lease qualifying capital equipment (machinery and equipment used in manufacturing) for use in Minnesota are eligible for an up-front exemption from Minnesota state and local sales or use.

GREATER MINNESOTA JOB EXPANSION PROGRAM

The Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program provides tax benefits to businesses located in Greater Minnesota that increase employment. Qualifying businesses that meet job-growth goals may receive sales tax refunds for purchases made during a seven-year certification period.

Eligibility

Businesses must meet program requirements including:

- Increase employment at the business's facility by a minimum of two full time equivalent (FTE) employees or 10% of the current number of employees, whichever is greater, within three years
- Pay compensation, which includes wages and benefits not mandated by law, which on an annualized basis equals at least 120% of the federal poverty level for a family of four, to all employees at the business facility. For 2024, these amounts are \$37,440 per year or \$18.00 per hour.
- Be in operation for at least one year within a city, or a county if an agricultural processing facility, in Greater Minnesota, which generally excludes the seven-county metropolitan area (the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington)
- Meet prevailing wage guidelines at the business facility if a construction or improvement project is undertaken and if the business is awarded a sales tax refund. See more about [prevailing wage requirements](#).
- Having sales and customers primarily outside Minnesota (be in a traded sector).
- Not being engaged primarily in retail sales, gambling, entertainment, and other select industries
- Demonstrate that the expansion would not occur without assistance.

Benefits

- Purchases and use of tangible personal property and taxable services made by a qualified business are eligible for a sales tax refund. The purchase must be made, and the property or service must be delivered, during the certification period.
- The purchase and use of construction materials and supplies for property improvements by a qualified business in Greater Minnesota are also eligible for a sales tax refund. This refund applies whether the purchases are made directly by the business or by a contractor.



- The maximum sales tax refund amount for each qualifying business is based on the application material submitted to DEED, subject to a maximum of \$2 million annually and \$10 million over the seven-year certification period.

For more information

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/tax-credits/greater-mn-job-expansion/>

COMMUNITY FINANCING

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

This program focuses on job creation and retention through the growth of new innovative businesses and organizations.

The program provides grants to local governmental units on a competitive basis statewide for up to 50% of the capital cost of the public infrastructure necessary to expand or retain jobs.

Eligibility

Local governmental units (cities, counties, townships, special districts, or other political subdivisions or public corporations) are eligible to apply for a grant.

A local match may be required depending on the cost of the project.

Projects must involve publicly owned infrastructure related to a development project or research park development that would be used by an innovative business that is engaged in proprietary technology.

Funds from this program can also be used for land acquisition and preparation, telecommunications, bridges, parking ramps, demolition, hazard remediation, predesign, construction, equipment and furnishings.

For more information

mn.gov/deed/bdpi

GREATER MINNESOTA PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Grant Program helps stimulate new economic development, create new jobs and retains existing jobs through investments in public infrastructure.

It provides grants to cities of up to 50% of the capital costs of the public infrastructure necessary to expand or retain jobs in the area, increase the tax base, or expand or create new economic development.



Eligibility

Eligible applicants are counties outside of the seven-county metropolitan area or statutory or home rule cities outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.

Eligible projects include publicly owned infrastructure that supports economic development projects, including wastewater collection and treatment, drinking water, storm sewers, utility extensions, and streets.

Economic development projects include manufacturing, technology, warehousing and distribution, research and development, agricultural processing, and industrial park development.

Retail developments and office space development other than incidental office space are NOT eligible for this grant.

Minimum Requirements

Cities must provide a match of at least 50% of the project capital costs. The city receiving the grant must provide for the remainder of the capital costs of the project, either in cash or in-kind contributions, which may include the value of the capital costs of site preparation other than the public infrastructure needed for the project.

Award Amounts

Applicants will be awarded 50% of eligible, capital costs for eligible projects, pending availability of funds. Applicants may receive no more than \$2,000,000 in two years for one or more projects. If after five years the project has not proceeded in a timely manner and is unlikely to be completed, the grant will be cancelled and grant money awarded to the city must be returned.

Application Process

Applications are accepted on an open basis.

For more information

<https://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/business-funding/infrastructure/>

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

MINNESOTA JOB SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) program works with businesses and educational institutions to train or retrain workers, expand work opportunities and keep high-quality jobs in the state. The goal is to target short-term training for full-time employment in the growth sectors of the state's economy. MJSP offers grants through a variety of programs to offset training-related expenses incurred by business, industry and educational institutions to meet current and future workforce needs. Other training options include the Pathways Program and the Low-Income Worker Training Program. In addition to its flagship program, MJSP offers assistance to businesses for training low-income individuals.

Eligibility

Training projects pair at least one public or private accredited Minnesota educational institution and one business, with the exception of the Low-Income Worker Training Program option. That program provides grants to Minnesota public, private or nonprofit entities that provide employment services to low-income individuals. Additional eligibility and project requirements apply.

Benefits

The main grant option, the Partnership Program, provides up to \$400,000 for training new workers and existing employees of participating businesses.

For more information

mn.gov/deed/mjsp

JOB TRAINING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Grant funds may be used for direct training costs for training provided in-house; by institutions of higher education; by federal, state, or local agencies; or private training or educational providers.

Eligibility

The business must be located in Greater Minnesota. The new jobs must pay wages at least equal to the median hourly wage for the county in which the jobs are located, plus benefits. The new jobs must also provide at least 32 hours of work per week, for a minimum of nine months per year. The business must be able to demonstrate that its training needs cannot be met through a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant.



Additional eligibility and project requirements apply.

Benefits

This program provides grants of up to \$200,000 to new or expanding businesses for the purpose of training new workers as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For more information

mn.gov/deed/mjsp

DUAL TRAINING COMPETENCY GRANTS

The Dual Training Program is a collaborative of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), The Office of Higher Education (OHE) and DEED. The Program will provide grants to employers or organizations representing the employer to train employees in achieving the competency standard for an occupation identified by the Commissioner of DLI.

Dual training intends to build on the PIPELINE Project at DLI which convened four industry councils with representatives from higher education, industry, labor and employers. The councils develop competency standards and identify models Minnesota's education providers can use to develop the training needed to meet the competency standards. To date, the four industries councils include advanced manufacturing, information technology, agriculture and healthcare services.

Eligibility

Employers, or organizations representing employers, invest to train employees in a competency standard identified by the DLI. The maximum grant is \$150,000 per application based on a maximum of \$6,000 per trainee. Matching funds may be required.

For more information

www.dli.mn.gov/pipeline

MINNESOTA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM



The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED)'s [Business Development team](#) offers the expertise, resources, and connections to help turn business location and expansion plans into reality. Whether your plans involve expanding an existing business, relocating from another state, or consolidating or establishing a new operation in Minnesota, MN DEED can help make it happen.

The Minnesota Business Development team assists companies at any point in the location decision-making process by orchestrating solutions, aligning resources, and matching them with the best tools the state has to offer. We do this by working in concert with stakeholders across the state to leverage workforce development & training solutions, business & community finance programs, and partnerships.

The Minnesota Business Development team serves as your single point of contact to help you:

IDENTIFY YOUR BEST SITE IN MINNESOTA

Finding suitable sites or buildings that meet the must criteria for your project can be a daunting task. The Minnesota Business Development team helps facilitate this process by helping you find sites and buildings across the state that meet your project needs. The team also convenes and engages needed partners and players to assist you with addressing technical site due diligence items that can help you assess the suitability of our industrial and commercial real estate offering for your project.

The Minnesota Business Development team has strong partnerships and working relationships with stakeholders across the state that are critical sources of information in your location-decision-making process. These stakeholders include but are not limited to local governments (cities,

counties, townships), utilities, logistics and transportation service providers (e.g., rail, port), permitting authorities, real estate brokers, developers, industry associations, economic development organizations, and workforce development partners.

NAVIGATE PERMITTING IN MINNESOTA

Licensing, permitting and regulatory matters. [Minnesota Business First Stop \(MBFS\)](#) cuts through the thicket of state bureaucracy, programs, and services to find the right information and resources to help meet your development goals. The MBFS offers an interagency team with permitting and regulatory expertise to assist complex business location and expansion projects.

This team, which consists of representatives from numerous state agencies (e.g., Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Labor and Industry, and Agriculture), works with business leaders and their site selection, permitting, and environmental consultants to answer and direct companies through the licensing, regulatory and permitting process.

Use this form to contact the MBFS to get started:

- [Contact Minnesota Business First Stop \(MBFS\)](#)

RECRUIT, TRAIN AND DEVELOP THE WORKFORCE YOU NEED FOR YOUR LOCATION & EXPANSION PLANS

Minnesota offers a variety of workforce training and development resources for expanding businesses.

The [Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership \(MJSP\)](#) provides grants to businesses looking to offer training for new and existing employees. Through the partnership, companies work with accredited Minnesota educational institutions to develop and implement the training programs. Since 2019, the MJSP has awarded over \$32.2 million to train more than 34,000 workers.

Additionally, MN DEED's [Workforce Strategy Consultants](#), who design tools and resources to support businesses with workforce solutions, are your partners for training and development needs.

LOCAL INCENTIVES

Minnesota offers a wide array of incentives on a state, county and city level depending on where you locate your business.

COUNTY AND CITY INCENTIVES

Many counties and cities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region offer a variety of incentives for business expanding or relocating into the region. Oftentimes, communities are creative in their approach to incentives and support; therefore, city and county incentives are specific to each local municipality, as well as to each project. The types of incentives you can expect to be under consideration may include:

- Tax incentives
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Workforce Development and Training Programs/Partnerships

UTILITY INCENTIVES

The region is made up of multiple public, private and municipal utility companies. Each utility offers their own incentives, which are location and site specific. Some examples include:

- Competitive Economic Development Rates for large commercial and industrial companies
- Energy efficiency rebates
- Energy design assistance for new construction
- Loan and Grant Programs
- Demand Response Programs

EXPORTS

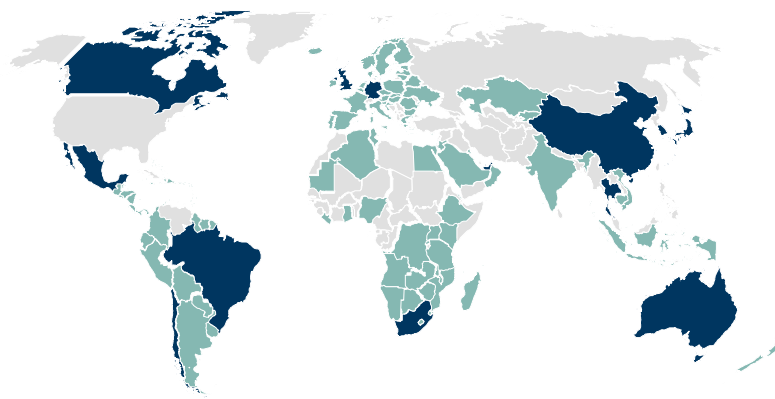


EXPORTS

MTO ASSISTANCE

The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) is the state agency that provides export assistance to Minnesota companies, attracts foreign direct investment, and serves as the Office of Protocol for Minnesota. The MTO has a comprehensive, global network of Foreign Office Representatives who provide in-market export assistance to Minnesota companies, as well as technical assistance to foreign companies with an interest in expanding in or relocating to Minnesota. The MTO organizes trade missions, trade show participation and training events within the Minnesota's international business community and hosts international delegations visiting Minnesota.

Our foreign office network extends around the globe in over 130 countries.



Dark Blue: Regional office headquarters

Sky blue: Countries covered by a regional office

OVERVIEW OF MINNESOTA EXPORTS OF GOODS

Total Exports, 2024: **\$27 billion** (up 44% since 2018, adjusted for inflation)

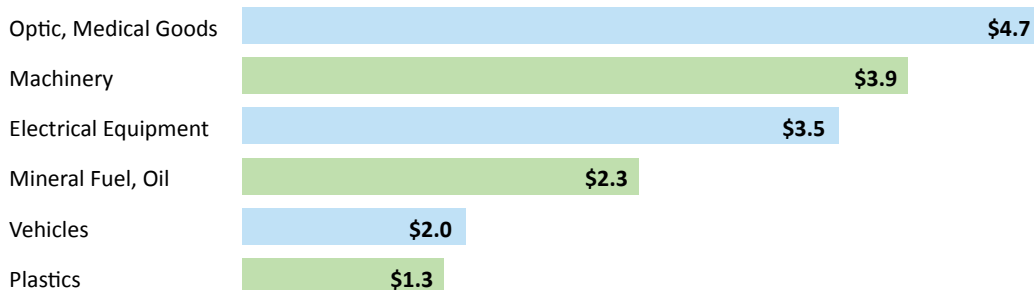
Total Exporters, 2022: **8,100 exporters** (86% are small and medium-sized businesses)

Jobs supported by exports of goods and services, 2022: **118,100 jobs in Minnesota**



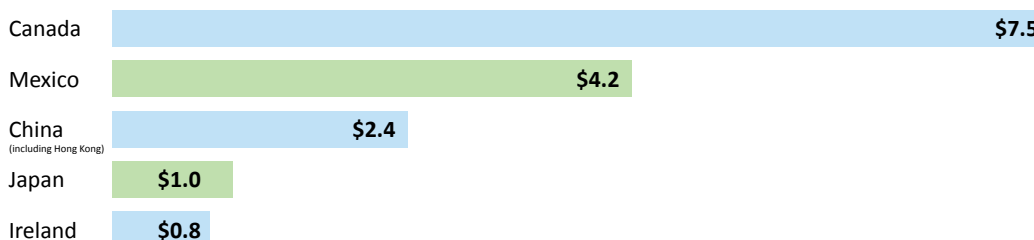
Top Exported Products, 2024

Exports, 2024 (Billions)



Top Export Markets, 2024

Exports, 2024 (Billions)

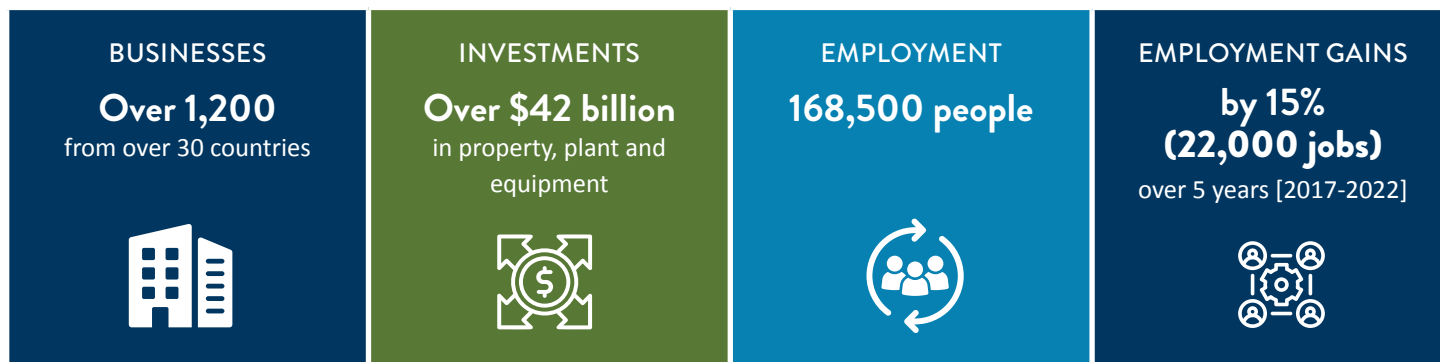


FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

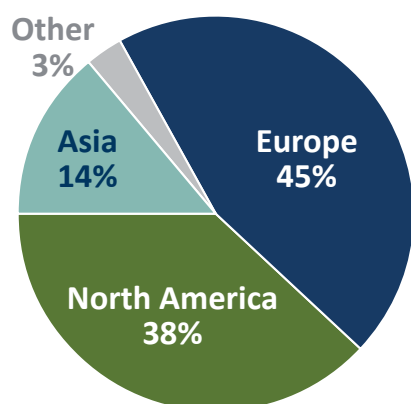


FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESSES WITH OPERATIONS IN MINNESOTA



DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN MINNESOTA, BY WORLD REGION OF PARENT COUNTRY, 2024



LEADING INDUSTRIES BY NUMBER OF JOBS, INVESTMENT:

Industry	Number of Jobs	Investment
Manufacturing	63,200	\$13.8B
Retail trade	15,100	\$1.8B
Professional, technical services	11,100	\$0.7B
Wholesale trade	10,200	\$7.1B
Information	9,100	\$1.9B

Sources: Uniworld, BEA, DEED research. Regions assigned by DEED. 2022 most recent data, unless otherwise noted.

SELECT COMPANIES IN MINNESOTA OWNED BY FOREIGN-BASED PARENT COMPANIES:

- **Agropur** (Canada): dairy products
- **BAE Systems** (U.K.): aerospace and defense products
- **Doosan** (Korea): industrial machinery
- **JBS** (Brazil): meat processing
- **Philips** (the Netherlands): medical imaging products
- **SageGlass** (France): electrochromic glass
- **Sofidel** (Italy): paper products
- **Takeda** (Japan): pharmaceuticals



QUALITY OF LIFE



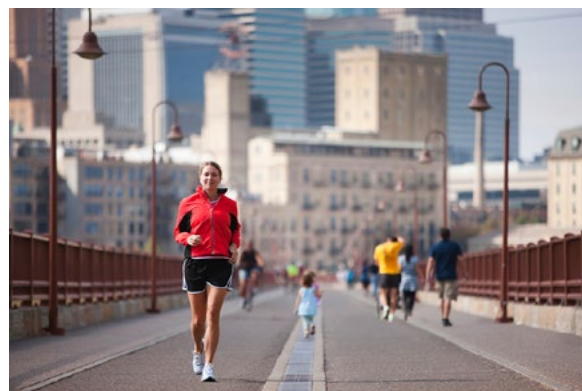
QUALITY OF LIFE

Minnesota has **over 20 recent top ten national rankings for Quality of Life**. Together, they spell out one business-friendly conclusion: Attracting and retaining talent is easier when you have this much to offer.

PLENTIFUL CAREER GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

We rank as the 4th best state in the country due to our diversity of appeal across multiple categories such as health care, opportunity, infrastructure, and natural environment. Our top rankings for millennials, women in the workforce, working moms and dads, and those who retire here make Minnesota a great place for employees to spend their whole careers.

- 1st Best State for Millennials (CNBC, 2023, most recent data)
- 3rd Best State for Women (WalletHub, 2025)
- 5th Best State for Working Moms and Dads (WalletHub, 2025)
- 2nd Best State to Retire (WalletHub, 2025)



AFFORDABLE COST OF LIVING

People who move here from other places are often surprised by how affordable it is – and how many people own their own homes. Many of our top quality of life rankings consider affordability, home ownership and various income equity measures. The median sales price for an existing single-family home in Minneapolis-St. Paul was \$389,400 in the fourth quarter of 2024. That's lower than many other cities, including Portland (\$597,500), Austin (\$479,500), Raleigh (\$465,200), Phoenix (\$474,400), Denver (\$657,300) and Seattle (\$797,500). (National Association of REALTORS, 2024)

A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY

When it comes to child care, health and safety, education and other child-raising factors, Minnesota has much to offer. Here are a few recent rankings:

- Least stressed state (WalletHub, 2025)
- 2nd best place to raise a family (WalletHub, 2025)
- 5th in Child Well-Being (Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Report, 2024)

TOP-NOTCH SCHOOLS

From pre-K through college, **education is a high priority**. Minnesota ranked **1st in ACT test scores** among the 20 states that had 65% or more of graduating high school students take the college entrance exam. In higher ed, we have leading-edge research institutions like the **University of Minnesota, ranked 13th among public universities in research spending**, a respected network of private colleges, and **Minnesota State, the nation's third largest state university and community college system** with 54 campuses statewide.



HEALTH CARE TO DEPEND ON

Minnesota has the 3rd highest life expectancy (79.1 years) nationwide, according to World Population, 2024. One factor is the excellent medical care that the state offers. In Rochester, Minn., **Mayo Clinic has been named for nine consecutive years as a top hospital in the United States** by U.S. News & World Report. It's one of many highly ranked medical facilities in the state.

ROBUST ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Minnesota has a **rich and diverse cultural landscape**. Our residents have each made a mark on our state – from the Dakota and Ojibwe who first settled here, to the European immigrants of the 19th century, and more recently to the Hmong and Somalis. From renowned orchestras and world-class museums to popular jazz venues and fringe theater festivals, Minnesota’s arts and entertainment scene is broad and deep. After all, this is the birthplace of **Prince, Bob Dylan and the Coen brothers**, among many other notables. In recent years, Minnesota has become a top destination for foodies and craft brewery aficionados. **Minneapolis-St. Paul is a Top-5 Most Arts-Vibrant Community in the U.S.**, according to SMU DataArts.



A HAVEN FOR SPORTS FANS

Minnesota is one of just a handful of states that have teams in seven major sports leagues: **Vikings** (National Football League); **Twins** (Major League Baseball); **Timberwolves** (National Basketball Association); **Lynx** (Women’s National Basketball Association); **Wild** (National Hockey League); **Frost** (Professional Women’s Hockey League) and **Minnesota United** (Major League Soccer).

Along with our teams, we have some **world-class sports venues** – including U.S. Bank Stadium which hosted the 2018 Super Bowl, Allianz Stadium (soccer) and Target Field (baseball). What’s more, we have the National Sports Center in Blaine – the world’s largest amateur sports facility – because we don’t just watch sports, we play them, too.

ABUNDANT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Do Minnesotans ever spend time indoors? Not if we can be outside enjoying our **73 state parks, nearly 500 golf courses; over 1,300 miles of state trails and 10,000+ lakes**.

We’re always out and about, savoring our state’s beauty by camping. **Minneapolis and St. Paul have each been ranked among the five Best Park Systems in U.S for the past eight years** (Land Trust, 2017-2024).

FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS

Our **weather is always changing** – it makes for a great conversation starter – but the natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires that sadly threaten other parts of the country **are extremely rare or non-existent here**. And, while winters can be wintry, we’re experts at getting out and enjoying ourselves – and at staying cozy inside. Instead of snow, **think sunshine**: Minnesota has an average of 2,711 hours of sunshine annually, not significantly different from other states perceived as sunnier like Mississippi (2,720 hours) and Florida (2,927 hours).



BEST CITIES FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Minneapolis ranks third and St. Paul ranks fourth among the 10 best smaller U.S. cities for outdoor enthusiasts (500,000 inhabitants or less).

With an abundance of recreation areas, Minneapolis and St. Paul shine as exceptional cities for both residents and visitors. Nature lovers thrive here with year-round outdoor activities such as neighborhood parks, urban hikes, and ski trails. (CommercialSearch, 2024).

MINNESOTA

star of the north[™]



mn EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

651-259-7432 | Economic.Development@state.mn.us

mn.gov/deed/dobusiness