

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Otter Tail Co.**

Otter Tail Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 4, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2025 population:	<b>61,041 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>46.2 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2025	947 people 1.6% increase	state:	38.8 years

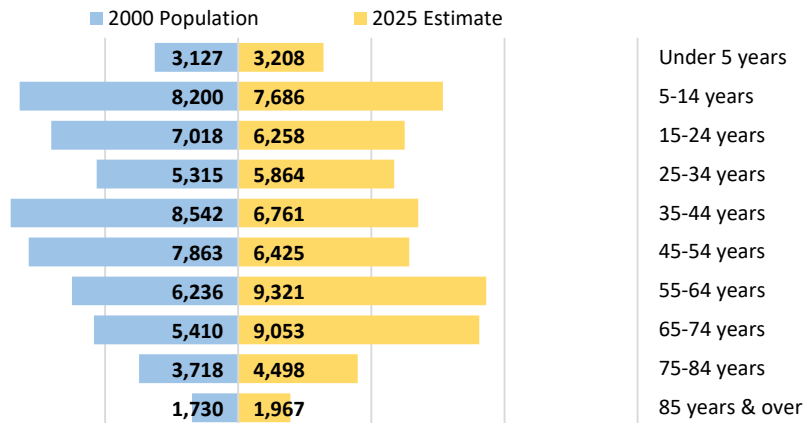
Otter Tail Co. is the 17th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 34th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Otter Tail Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. 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	3,208	5.3%
5-14 years	7,686	12.6%
15-24 years	6,258	10.3%
25-34 years	5,864	9.6%
35-44 years	6,761	11.1%
45-54 years	6,425	10.5%
55-64 years	9,321	15.3%
65-74 years	9,053	14.8%
75-84 years	4,498	7.4%
85 years & over	1,967	3.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>61,041</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2025**



Otter Tail Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2025, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Otter Tail 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
Otter Tail Co.	933	-961	3,102	4,063	1,894	522	1,372
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

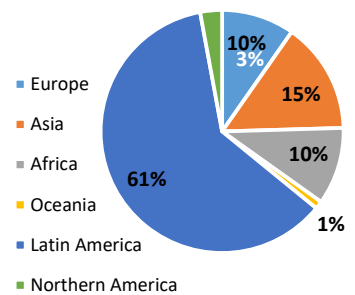
Compared to the state, Otter Tail Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2014 to 2024, Otter Tail Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

	Otter Tail Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
Europe	177	9.7%	-50	-22.0%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	270	14.8%	27	11.1%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	188	10.3%	-25	-11.7%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	19	1.0%	8	72.7%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	1,168	64.1%	472	67.8%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	1,115	61.2%	512	84.9%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	53	2.9%	-40	-43.0%	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

Otter Tail Co.

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

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2024**

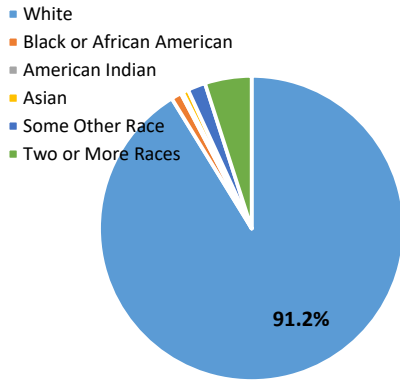


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Otter Tail Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,475</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
White	55,169	91.2%	0.1%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	658	1.1%	5.3%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	140	0.2%	-39.4%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	368	0.6%	11.9%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	1,144	1.9%	197.9%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	2,996	5.0%	302.7%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,397	4.0%	45.9%	6.4%	38.4%

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

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

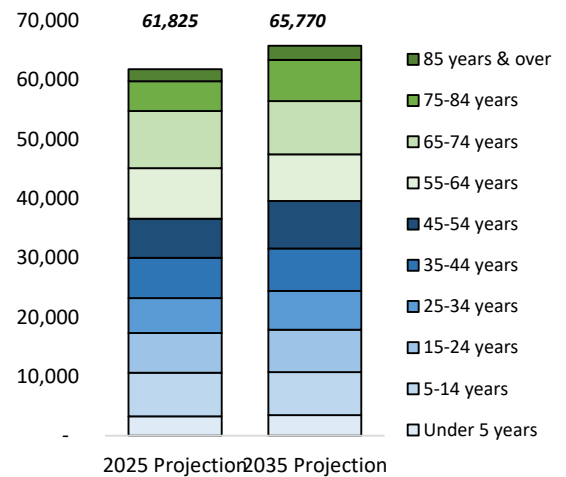
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Otter Tail Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to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

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Otter Tail Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	3,246	3,490	244	7.5%
5-14 years	7,356	7,222	-134	-1.8%
15-24 years	6,709	7,147	438	6.5%
25-34 years	5,903	6,560	657	11.1%
35-44 years	6,766	7,134	368	5.4%
45-54 years	6,601	8,027	1,426	21.6%
55-64 years	8,538	7,867	-671	-7.9%
65-74 years	9,656	8,998	-658	-6.8%
75-84 years	5,018	6,944	1,926	38.4%
85 years & over	2,032	2,381	349	17.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>61,825</b>	<b>65,770</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

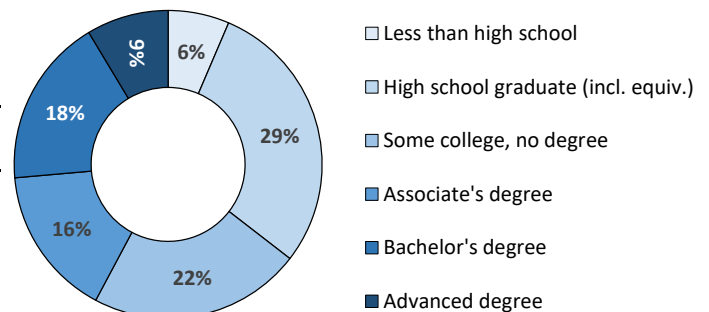


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Otter Tail Co. has a higher 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. Otter Tail 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.

<b>Percentage of the adult population (18 years &amp; over) with at least a high school diploma:</b>	<b>93.6%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>64.5%</b>
state:	68.9%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>8.6%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024**



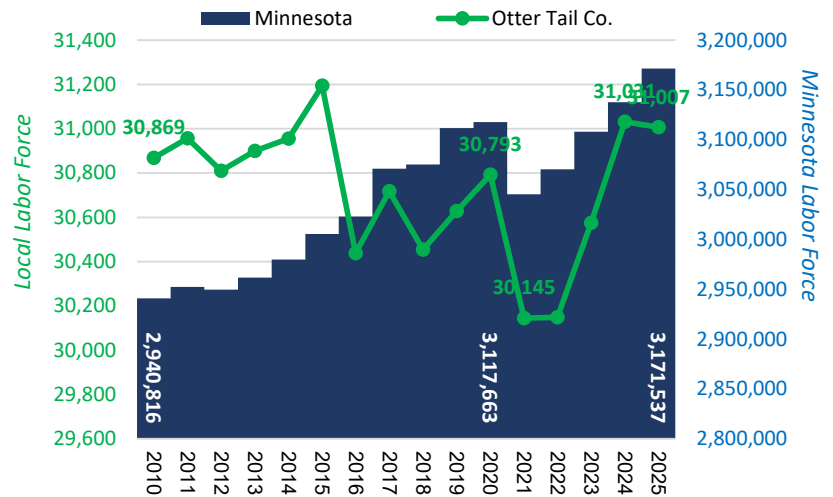
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.6%, Otter Tail Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Otter Tail Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.6% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Otter Tail Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

<b>31,007</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	138 workers 0.4% increase
<b>4.6%</b>	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
<b>1,426</b>	unemployed workers

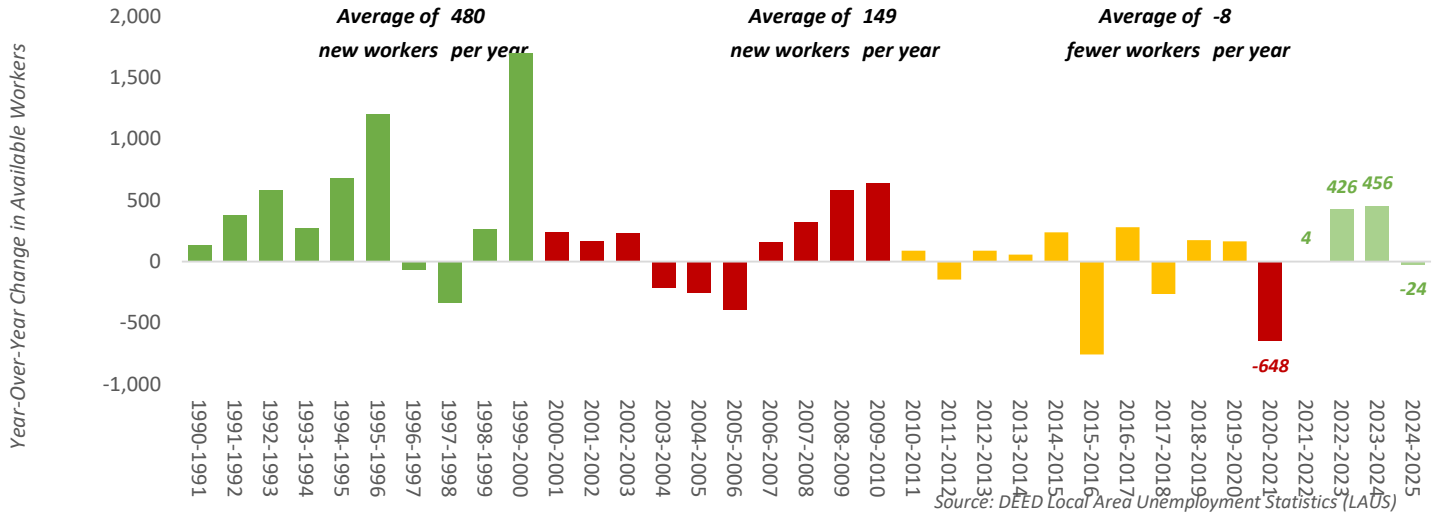
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Otter Tail 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, Otter Tail Co. is expected to add workers 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	4,250	4,627
25 to 54 years	16,975	19,137
55 to 64 years	6,065	5,588
65 years & over	2,929	2,961
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>30,219</b>	<b>32,313</b>

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 Northwest 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**

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

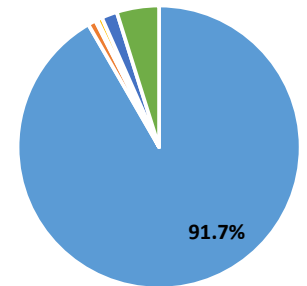
**Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2024**

	Otter Tail 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
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>29,700</b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>15,907</b>	<b>13,794</b>
16 to 19 years	1,539	56.9%	5.7%	52.6%	10.3%	787	751
20 to 24 years	2,267	85.2%	9.2%	83.3%	6.6%	1,143	1,124
25 to 44 years	10,998	87.9%	5.3%	88.7%	3.7%	5,927	5,075
45 to 54 years	5,627	88.4%	3.4%	87.8%	3.0%	2,926	2,699
55 to 64 years	6,560	71.0%	4.4%	72.7%	3.2%	3,485	3,074
65 to 74 years	2,170	24.2%	1.8%	27.7%	3.6%	1,290	880
75 years & over	538	8.4%	4.3%	6.7%	3.2%	349	191

**Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin**

White alone	27,239	60.0%	4.1%	67.0%	3.5%
Black or African American	268	67.2%	4.5%	70.8%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	67	57.3%	4.5%	58.0%	10.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	171	60.4%	1.2%	75.2%	3.5%
Some Other Race	532	70.0%	2.4%	75.4%	5.8%
Two or More Races	1,437	76.0%	18.8%	74.0%	5.7%
Hispanic or Latino	1,196	76.8%	13.6%	76.6%	5.8%

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2024**



- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

**Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years**

With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,164	56.8%	11.2%	56.1%	9.4%
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**Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years**

Population, 25 to 64 years	23,189	82.5%	4.6%	84.5%	3.4%
Less than H.S. Diploma	1,107	71.4%	4.7%	66.2%	4.9%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	5,575	76.9%	0.5%	76.6%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,345	84.2%	5.3%	85.0%	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7,157	87.2%	2.6%	90.5%	2.2%

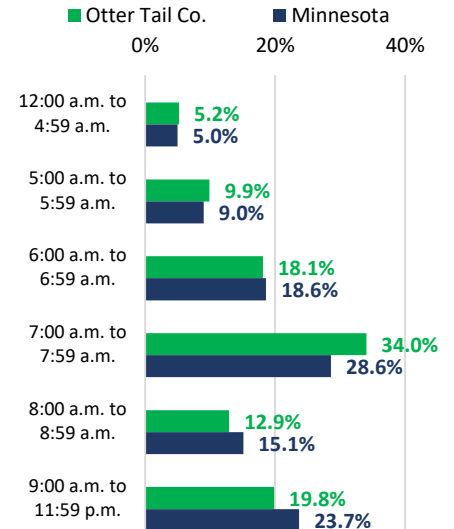
Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024**

	Otter Tail Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	26,587	95.4%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	21,598	77.5%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	4,961	17.8%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	1,282	4.6%	64,678	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	23,466	84.2%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	223	0.8%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,254	4.5%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	2,898	10.4%	517,420	17.6%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	7,887	28.3%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	8,639	31.0%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	4,431	15.9%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	3,846	13.8%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	1,366	4.9%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	1,700	6.1%	144,055	4.9%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>20.7 minutes</b>		<b>22.7 minutes</b>	

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



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

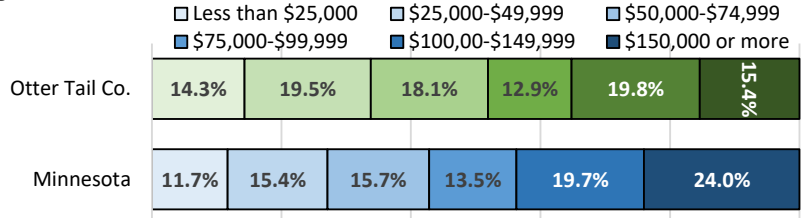
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Otter Tail Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Otter Tail Co. had the 55th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$72,255</b>
state	\$89,062
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$94,539</b>
state	\$113,993
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$39,580</b>
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. Otter Tail Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.38 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$19.52 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
Otter Tail Co.	\$29,920	\$14.38	\$0	\$423	\$183	\$736	\$595	\$256	\$300
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
Otter Tail Co.	\$60,914	\$19.52	\$361	\$962	\$639	\$977	\$1,116	\$428	\$593
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

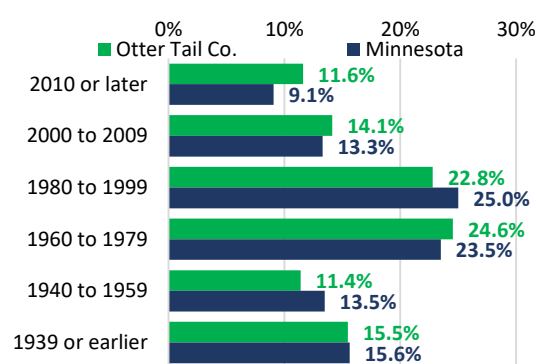
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Otter Tail Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 24th highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Otter Tail Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2024	Otter Tail Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	967	4.8%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,322	6.6%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,888	9.4%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,568	12.8%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	4,452	22.3%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	5,400	27.0%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	3,399	17.0%	19.6%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$273,000</b>		<b>\$329,300</b>

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2024



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,594</b>
state	\$1,947

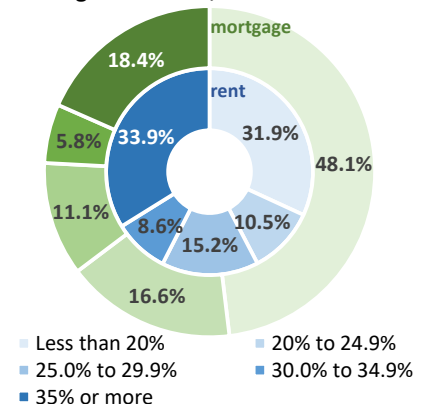
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
state	23.2%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$868</b>
state	\$1,280

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

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.2 in 2025, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.94) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.54) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 4				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
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.20</b>	<b>89,640</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$47.94	4,960	5.5%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.66	3,480	3.9%	0.5	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.75	1,070	1.2%	0.4	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.29	1,510	1.7%	0.8	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.22	620	0.7%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$28.65	2,020	2.3%	1.1	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$35.38	370	0.4%	0.6	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$26.95	6,740	7.5%	1.3	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.37	850	0.9%	0.8	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$38.26	5,470	6.1%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.66	5,250	5.9%	1.0	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$28.32	1,510	1.7%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.54	8,480	9.5%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$19.25	3,200	3.6%	1.3	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.72	2,040	2.3%	1.0	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.42	8,040	9.0%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.80	9,940	11.1%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.72	250	0.3%	2.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.11	4,720	5.3%	1.3	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.12	3,910	4.4%	1.2	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.41	7,440	8.3%	1.2	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.59	7,770	8.7%	1.1	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

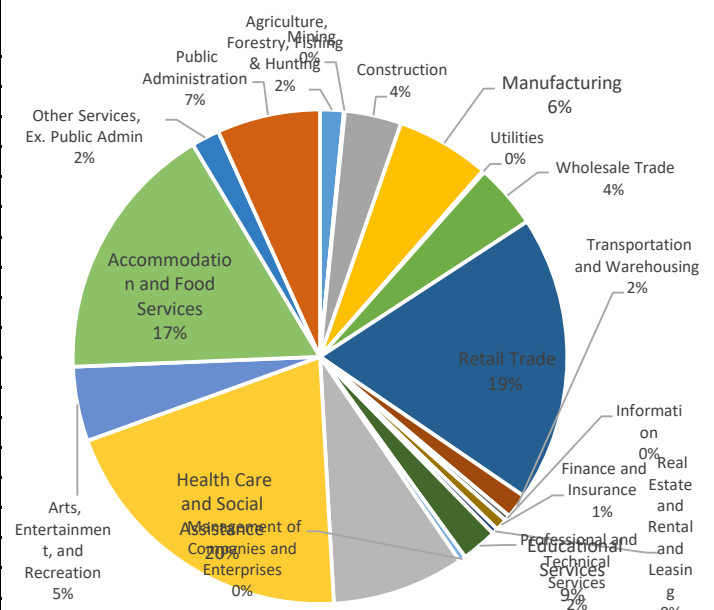
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Otter Tail Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region. There were 12718 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. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>12,718</b>	<b>\$18.57</b>
Management	171	\$30.60
Business & Financial Operations	215	\$21.51
Computer & Mathematical	63	\$19.52
Architecture & Engineering	322	\$34.28
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	57	\$25.42
Community & Social Service	386	\$21.69
Education, Training & Library	638	\$20.64
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,009	\$31.22
Healthcare Support	1,082	\$18.32
Protective Service	188	\$23.57
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,330	\$15.00
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	625	\$17.65
Personal Care & Service	327	\$18.14
Sales & Related	1,850	\$15.63
Office & Administrative Support	525	\$18.77
Construction & Extraction	441	\$23.70
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	751	\$20.05
Production	604	\$19.93
Transportation & Material Moving	662	\$18.81

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$34,731/yr	Nursing Assistants \$42,735/yr	Registered Nurses \$87,175/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$62,671/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,192/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$57,658/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$77,799/yr	General and Operations Managers \$77,911/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,264/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,256/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,629/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$62,998/yr
Cashiers \$29,907/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$60,780/yr	Dental Hygienists \$93,217/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,558/yr
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners \$34,874/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$50,072/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$76,366/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$68,758/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$23,459/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,015/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$60,312/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$44,046/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,176/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$56,834/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$61,026/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$66,942/yr
Cooks, Restaurant \$36,688/yr	Machinists \$51,108/yr	Surgical Technologists \$67,653/yr	Civil Engineers \$95,647/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$41,330/yr	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$59,711/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$48,247/yr	Business Operations Specialists, All Other \$65,312/yr
Food Preparation Workers \$33,374/yr	Electricians \$73,544/yr	Architectural and Civil Drafters \$64,617/yr	Human Resources Specialists \$67,419/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

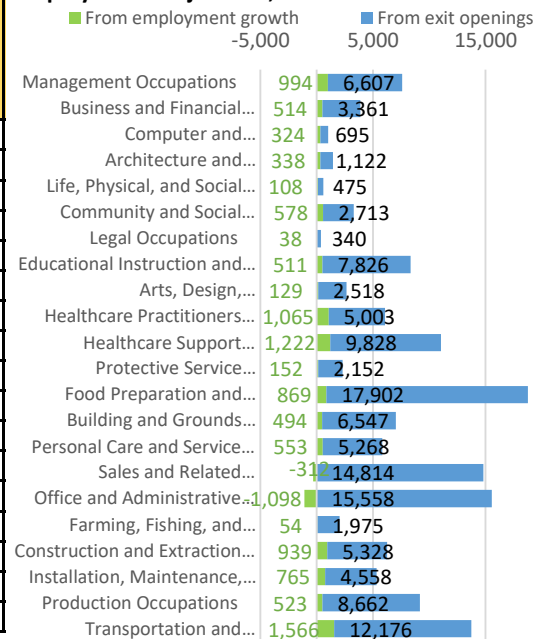
Otter Tail Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Northwest Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>265,321</b>	<b>275,647</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6,095	6,335	3.9%
Utilities	1,126	1,125	-0.1%
Construction	11,719	12,715	8.5%
Manufacturing	29,871	31,429	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	12,936	14,034	8.5%
Retail Trade	27,705	27,590	-0.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,579	5,997	7.5%
Information	2,451	2,470	0.8%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,067	8,366	3.7%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,609	6,152	9.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,192	4,460	6.4%
Educational Services	22,849	22,989	0.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,421	38,978	7.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	24,958	26,706	7.0%
Other Services	9,824	10,129	3.1%
Public Administration	24,161	24,869	2.9%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

After losing jobs over the past year, Otter Tail Co. had the 18th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Otter Tail Co. was the 64th fastest growing in the past year and the 49th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2025, employment in Otter Tail Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,883 business establishments

\$54,392 annual average wage

22,564 jobs

\$1,226,641,322 total industry payroll

Job change, 2020-2025  
902 jobs  
4.2% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2025

Source: DEED QCEW program

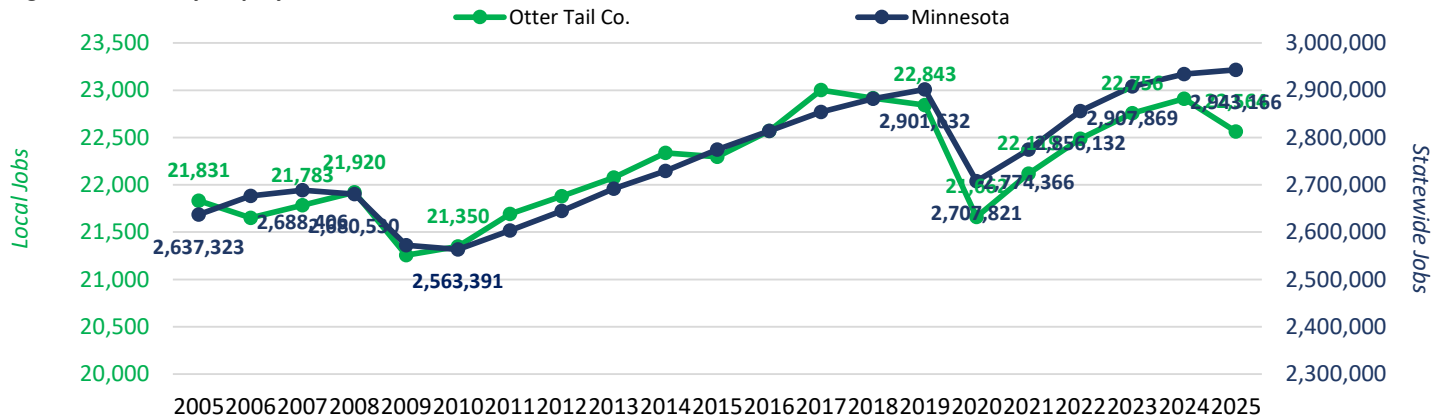
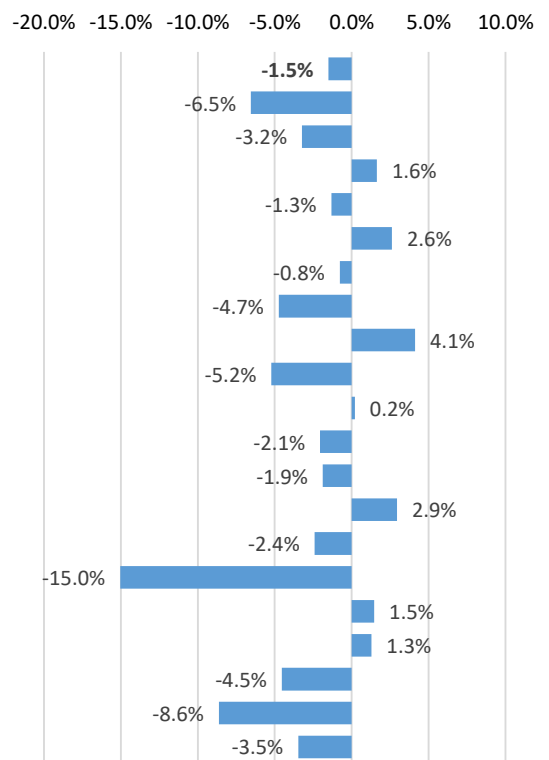


Table 15. Otter Tail Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2025	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>22,564</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$54,392</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	414	1.8%	\$48,048
Mining	30	0.1%	\$49,556
Construction	1,296	5.7%	\$63,388
Manufacturing	3,827	17.0%	\$65,052
Utilities	508	2.3%	\$114,504
Wholesale Trade	642	2.8%	\$65,000
Retail Trade	2,517	11.2%	\$34,268
Transportation & Warehousing	505	2.2%	\$50,648
Information	418	1.9%	\$76,388
Finance & Insurance	493	2.2%	\$77,168
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	143	0.6%	\$34,580
Professional & Technical Services	472	2.1%	\$63,960
Management of Companies	70	0.3%	\$241,956
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	770	3.4%	\$51,012
Educational Services	1,584	7.0%	\$53,066
Health Care & Social Assistance	4,537	20.1%	\$57,564
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	314	1.4%	\$18,460
Accommodation & Food Services	1,894	8.4%	\$20,956
Other Services	688	3.0%	\$36,400
Public Administration	1,335	5.9%	\$67,652

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2024-2025



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)

For more information on Otter Tail Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

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Data updated: May 15, 2026