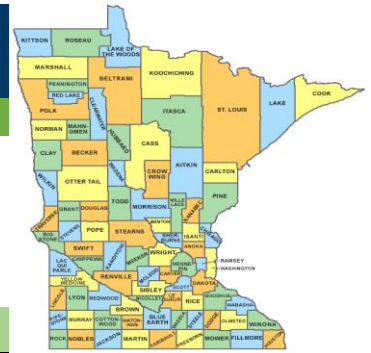


**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Polk Co.**

Polk Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 1, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2025 population:	<b>30,545 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>39.8 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2025	-658 people -2.1% decline	state:	38.8 years

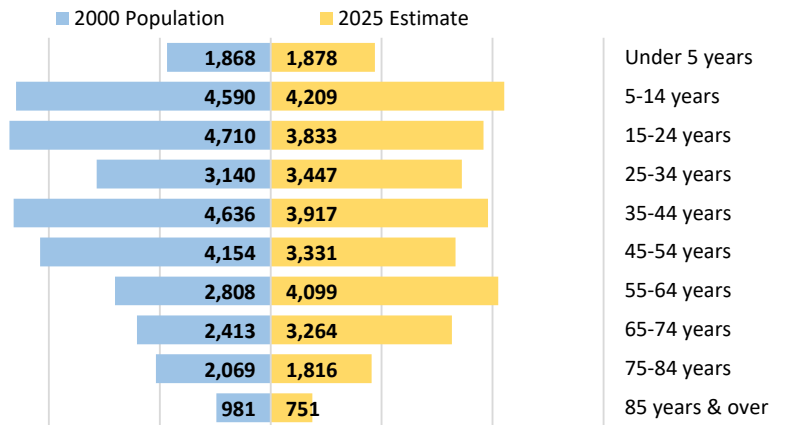
Polk Co. is the 35th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 75th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Polk Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population 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	1,878	6.1%
5-14 years	4,209	13.8%
15-24 years	3,833	12.5%
25-34 years	3,447	11.3%
35-44 years	3,917	12.8%
45-54 years	3,331	10.9%
55-64 years	4,099	13.4%
65-74 years	3,264	10.7%
75-84 years	1,816	5.9%
85 years & over	751	2.5%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>30,545</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

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



Polk Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2025, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Polk 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
Polk Co.	-639	-165	1,801	1,966	-474	232	-706
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

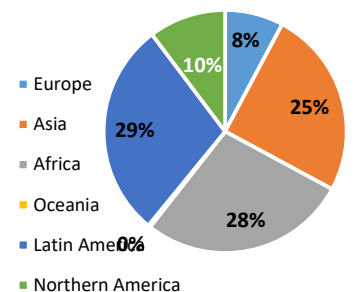
Compared to the state, Polk Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2014 to 2024, Polk Co. saw a decrease in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

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

	Polk Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-148</b>	<b>-18.7%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
Europe	50	7.8%	-42	-45.7%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	161	25.1%	-109	-40.4%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	178	27.7%	51	40.2%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	2	0.3%	-6	-75.0%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	251	39.1%	-42	-14.3%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	185	28.8%	-29	-13.6%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	66	10.3%	-13	-16.5%	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

Polk Co.

Polk 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**

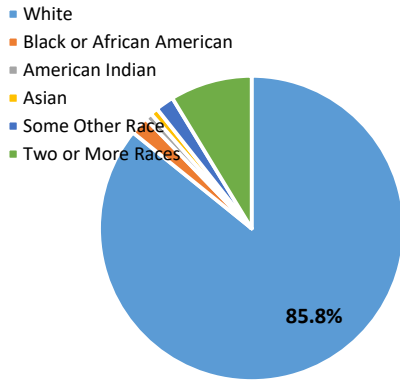


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Polk Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,705</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
White	26,349	85.8%	-10.0%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	604	2.0%	68.7%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	232	0.8%	-20.3%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	249	0.8%	0.0%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	600	2.0%	-5.7%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	2,671	8.7%	229.8%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,122	6.9%	17.3%	6.4%	38.4%

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

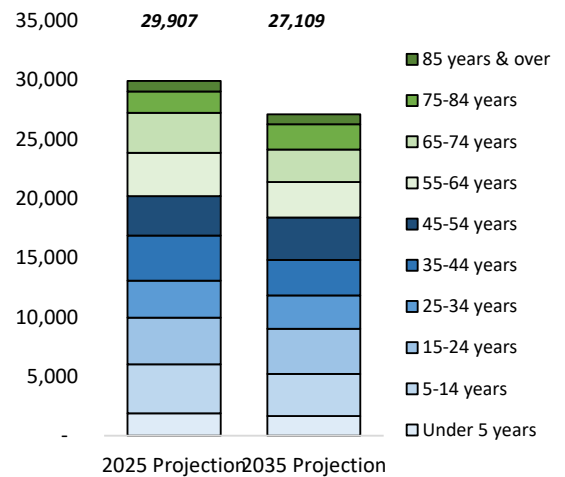
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Polk Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,878	1,662	-216	-11.5%
5-14 years	4,138	3,540	-598	-14.5%
15-24 years	3,934	3,815	-119	-3.0%
25-34 years	3,126	2,799	-327	-10.5%
35-44 years	3,788	2,992	-796	-21.0%
45-54 years	3,322	3,583	261	7.9%
55-64 years	3,658	2,997	-661	-18.1%
65-74 years	3,391	2,747	-644	-19.0%
75-84 years	1,799	2,116	317	17.6%
85 years & over	873	858	-15	-1.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>29,907</b>	<b>27,109</b>	<b>-2,798</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

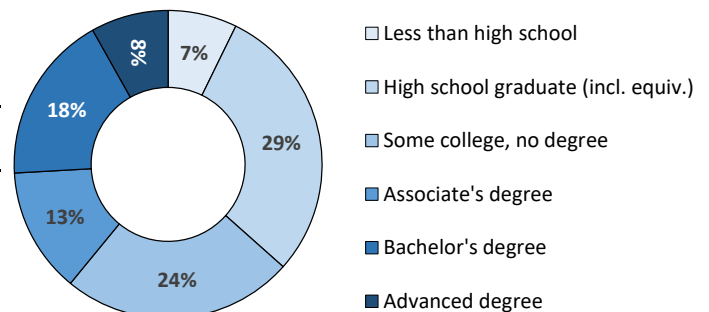


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Polk 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. Polk 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>92.8%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>63.4%</b>
state:	68.9%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>13.2%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024**



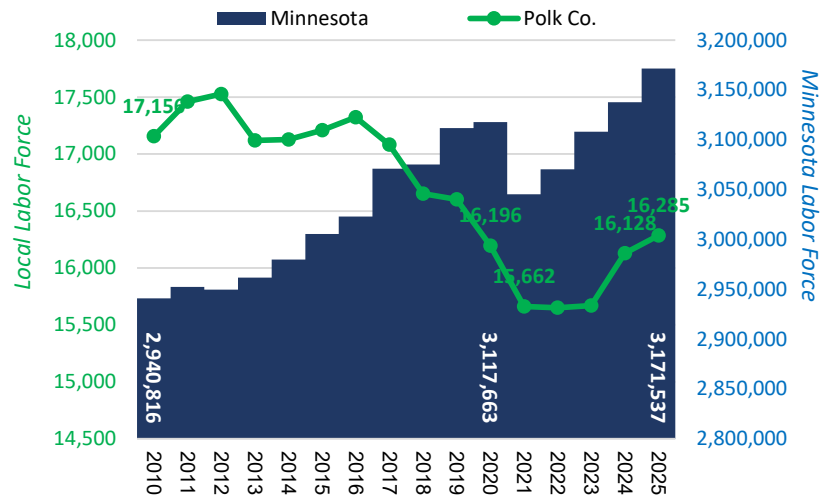
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.2%, Polk Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Polk Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.8% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Polk Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

<b>16,285</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	-871 workers -5.1% decline
<b>4.2%</b>	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
<b>684</b>	unemployed workers

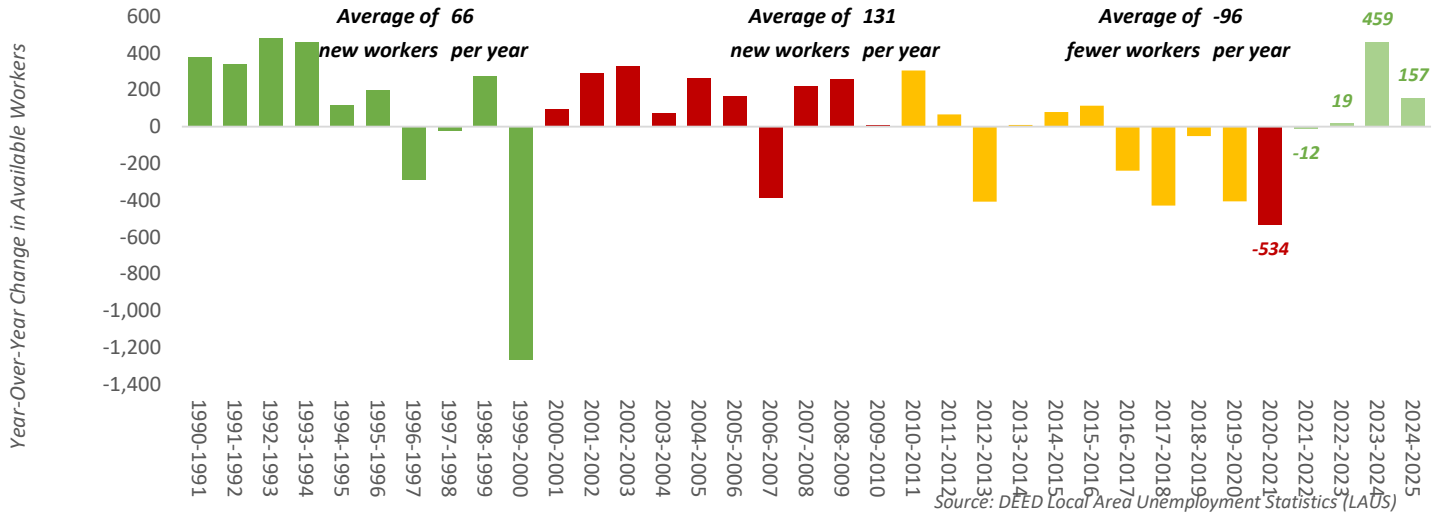
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Polk 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, Polk 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 Polk Co.



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,505	2,455
25 to 54 years	9,062	8,301
55 to 64 years	2,690	2,204
65 years & over	1,118	949
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>15,376</b>	<b>13,909</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

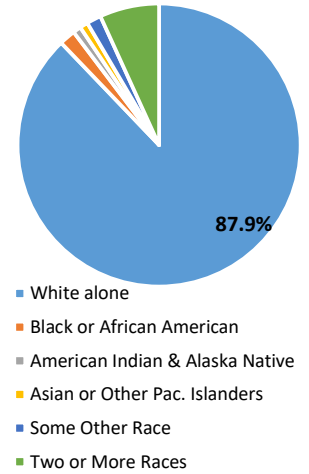
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Polk Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Polk 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**

	Polk 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>16,039</b>	<b>66.3%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>7,206</b>
16 to 19 years	1,073	57.5%	5.4%	52.6%	10.3%	612	461
20 to 24 years	1,338	84.0%	4.0%	83.3%	6.6%	712	626
25 to 44 years	6,548	88.5%	5.4%	88.7%	3.7%	3,514	3,035
45 to 54 years	2,970	88.7%	2.2%	87.8%	3.0%	1,647	1,322
55 to 64 years	3,030	73.6%	0.6%	72.7%	3.2%	1,665	1,365
65 to 74 years	945	28.8%	2.0%	27.7%	3.6%	601	344
75 years & over	137	5.3%	2.9%	6.7%	3.2%	83	53
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	14,092	66.0%	3.0%	67.0%	3.5%		
Black or African American	297	65.9%	7.1%	70.8%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	147	68.4%	0.7%	58.0%	10.8%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	150	78.9%	10.7%	75.2%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	265	61.5%	0.8%	75.4%	5.8%		
Two or More Races	1,092	70.3%	9.9%	74.0%	5.7%		
Hispanic or Latino	957	71.6%	13.8%	76.6%	5.8%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	790	46.2%	8.1%	56.1%	9.4%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	12,551	84.4%	3.5%	84.5%	3.4%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	580	63.5%	6.5%	66.2%	4.9%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,770	80.1%	2.1%	76.6%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	4,982	83.7%	1.9%	85.0%	3.7%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4,211	92.6%	1.5%	90.5%	2.2%		

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



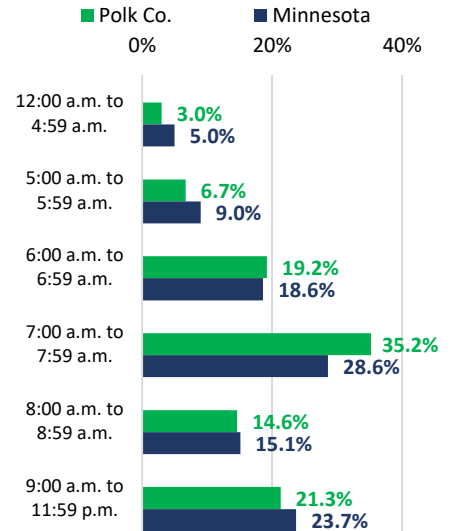
Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024**

	Polk Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	10,745	71.4%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	9,616	63.9%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	1,129	7.5%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	4,304	28.6%	64,678	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	12,792	85.0%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	241	1.6%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,144	7.6%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	873	5.8%	517,420	17.6%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	4,695	31.2%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	5,102	33.9%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	2,017	13.4%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	1,655	11.0%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	828	5.5%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	752	5.0%	144,055	4.9%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>18.6 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

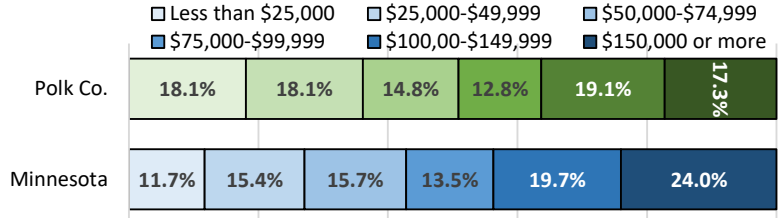
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Polk Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Polk Co. had the 47th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$73,107</b>
state	\$89,062
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$100,746</b>
state	\$113,993
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$37,371</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. Polk Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.36 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.32 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
Polk Co.	\$29,865	\$14.36	\$0	\$428	\$183	\$807	\$506	\$273	\$292
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
Polk Co.	\$57,156	\$18.32	\$310	\$972	\$639	\$1,017	\$891	\$439	\$495
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

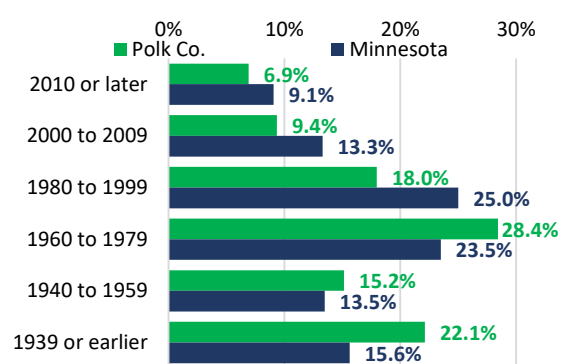
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Polk Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 48th highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Polk 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	Polk Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,809</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	592	6.7%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	818	9.3%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,095	12.4%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,216	13.8%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,498	28.4%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,947	22.1%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	643	7.3%	19.6%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$222,800</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>\$1,617</b>
state	\$1,947

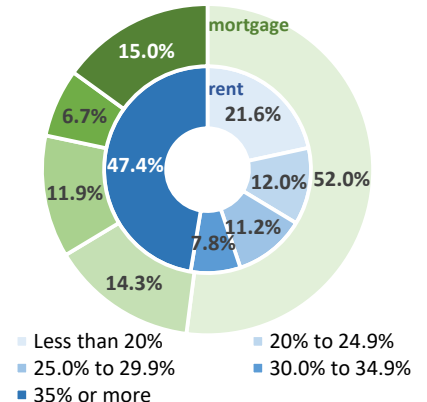
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
state	23.2%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$855</b>
state	\$1,280

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>55.1%</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 \$23.94 in 2025, wages were lower in Region 1 than the state. Overall, Region 1 had the 4th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$48.45) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.98) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 1				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>\$23.94</b>	<b>35,860</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$48.45	1,900	5.3%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$31.40	1,640	4.6%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$42.33	540	1.5%	0.5	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$37.90	530	1.5%	0.7	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$31.72	250	0.7%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.59	630	1.8%	0.9	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$31.56	90	0.3%	0.4	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$25.09	2,590	7.2%	1.2	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.60	250	0.7%	0.6	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$37.79	1,740	4.9%	0.8	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.94	1,480	4.1%	0.7	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$29.41	590	1.6%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.98	2,870	8.0%	1.0	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.40	1,010	2.8%	1.0	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.52	590	1.6%	0.8	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.02	3,030	8.4%	1.0	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$24.49	4,450	12.4%	1.1	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.74	140	0.4%	3.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$29.61	1,210	3.4%	0.9	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.90	1,430	4.0%	1.1	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$22.30	4,590	12.8%	1.8	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$23.93	4,290	12.0%	1.5	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

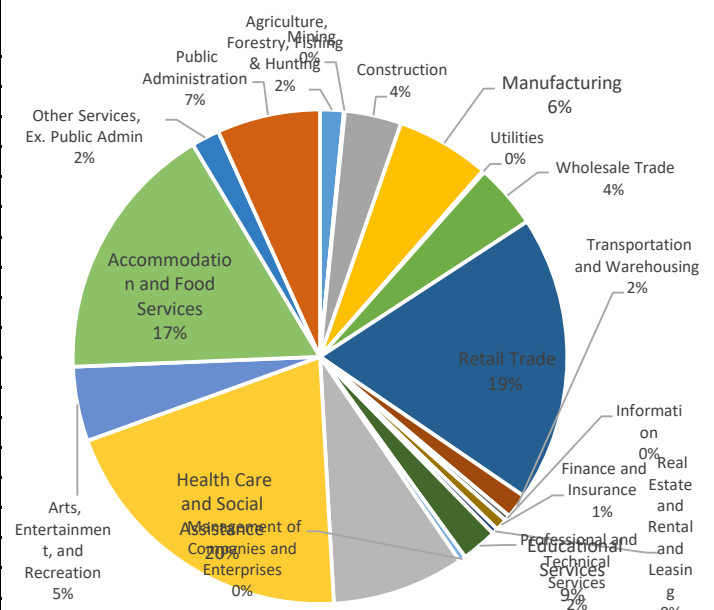
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Polk 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



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 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

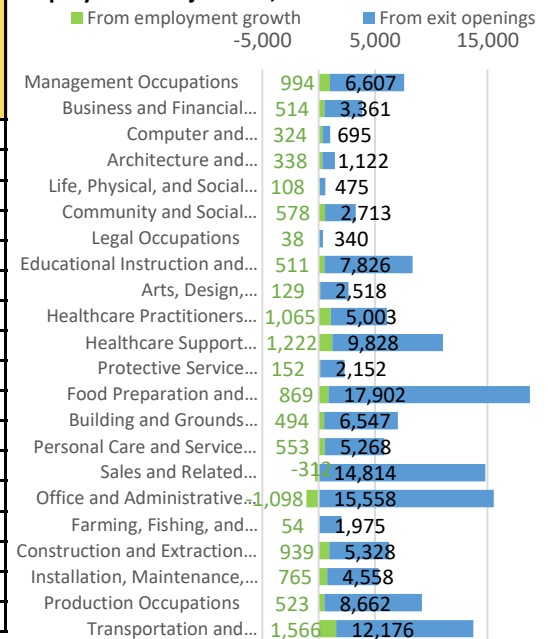
Polk Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

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, Polk Co. had the 34th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Polk Co. was the 53rd fastest growing in the past year and the 50th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2025, employment in Polk Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,037 business establishments

\$56,680 annual average wage

11,968 jobs

\$679,097,177 total industry payroll

Job change, 2020-2025  
469 jobs  
4.1% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2025

Source: DEED QCEW program

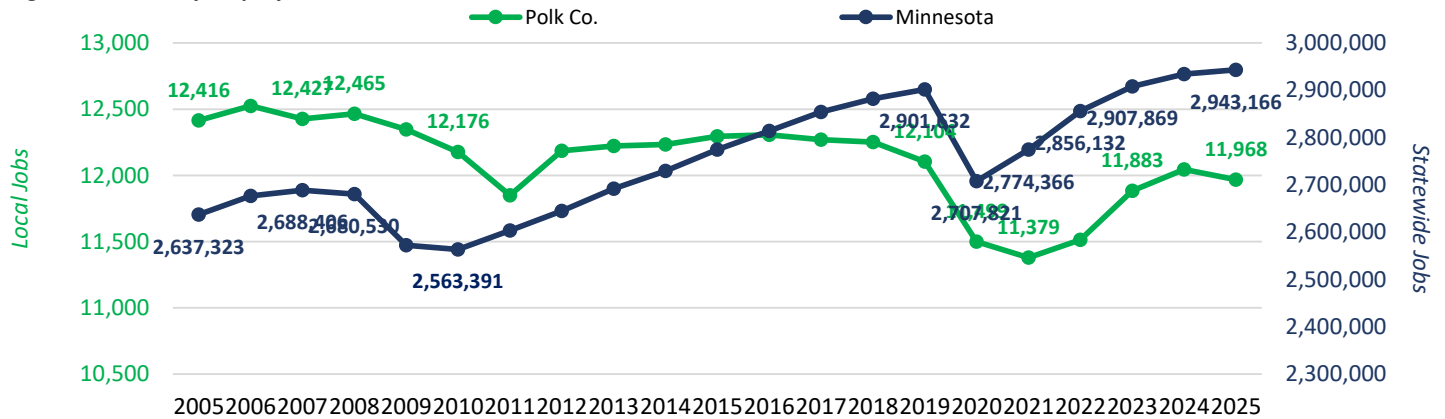
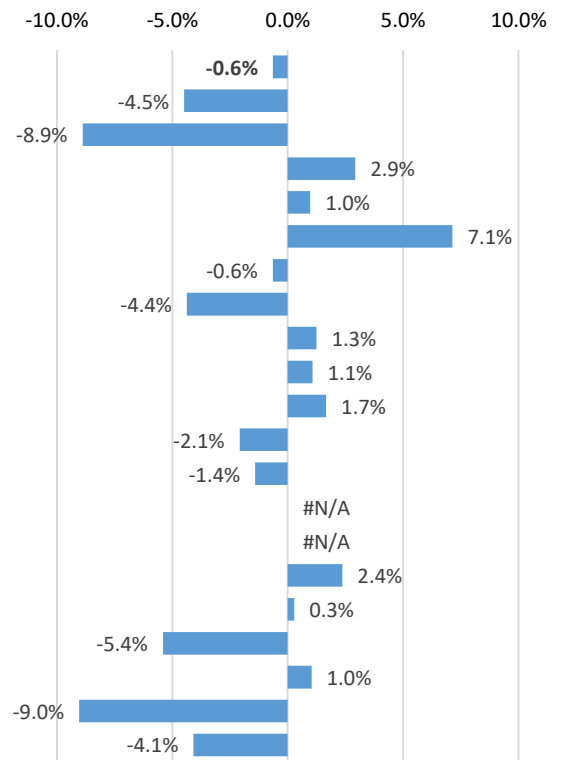


Table 15. Polk Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2025	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>11,968</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$56,680</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	596	5.0%	\$53,508
Mining	27	0.2%	\$98,245
Construction	562	4.7%	\$86,788
Manufacturing	1,861	15.5%	\$74,204
Utilities	30	0.3%	\$134,212
Wholesale Trade	462	3.9%	\$73,008
Retail Trade	1,226	10.2%	\$31,928
Transportation & Warehousing	485	4.1%	\$58,708
Information	187	1.6%	\$66,768
Finance & Insurance	244	2.0%	\$85,020
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	47	0.4%	\$50,024
Professional & Technical Services	209	1.7%	\$71,708
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Educational Services	1,597	13.3%	\$54,548
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,126	17.8%	\$58,084
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	70	0.6%	\$19,604
Accommodation & Food Services	876	7.3%	\$20,176
Other Services	332	2.8%	\$23,452
Public Administration	868	7.3%	\$63,024

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2024-2025



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

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

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Data updated: May 15, 2026