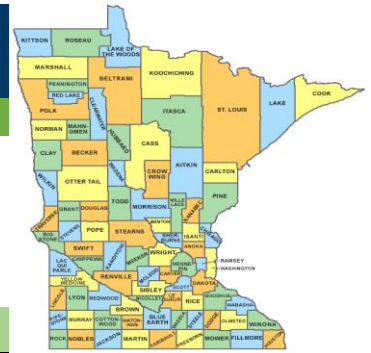


**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Steele Co.**

Steele Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 10, which is located in the Southeast Planning Region.



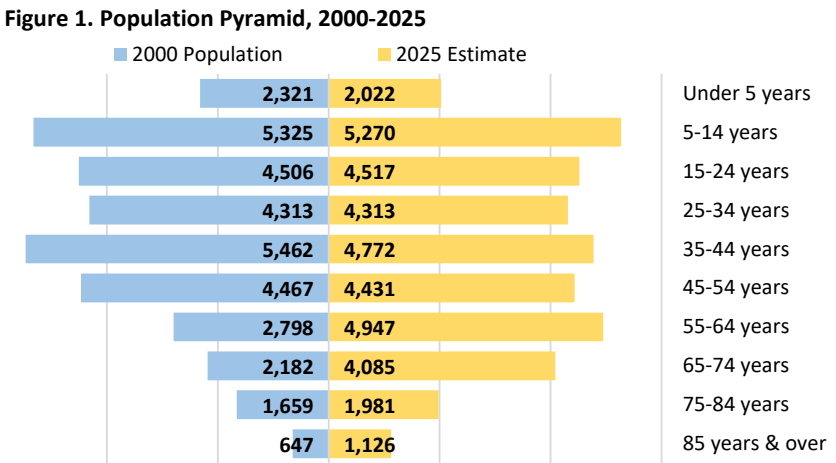
**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2025 population:	<b>37,464 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>40.5 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2025	55 people 0.1% increase	state:	38.8 years

Steele Co. is the 28th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 51st fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Steele 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	2,022	5.4%
5-14 years	5,270	14.1%
15-24 years	4,517	12.1%
25-34 years	4,313	11.5%
35-44 years	4,772	12.7%
45-54 years	4,431	11.8%
55-64 years	4,947	13.2%
65-74 years	4,085	10.9%
75-84 years	1,981	5.3%
85 years & over	1,126	3.0%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>37,464</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

Steele Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2025, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Steele 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
Steele Co.	48	169	2,092	1,923	-121	299	-420
State of Minnesota	122,685	63,075	330,813	267,738	59,610	96,812	-37,202

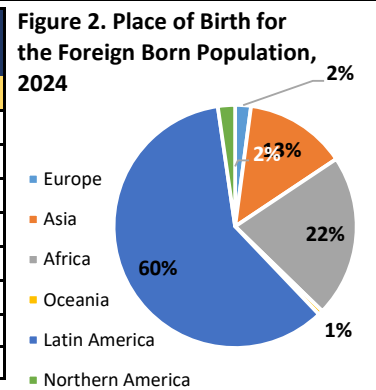
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

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

	Steele Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
Europe	34	2.1%	-110	-76.4%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	219	13.5%	33	17.7%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	350	21.6%	56	19.0%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	10	0.6%	10	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	1,005	62.1%	198	24.5%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	968	59.8%	210	27.7%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	37	2.3%	-12	-24.5%	2.4%	-2.8%

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



## COUNTY PROFILE

Steele Co.

Steele 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**

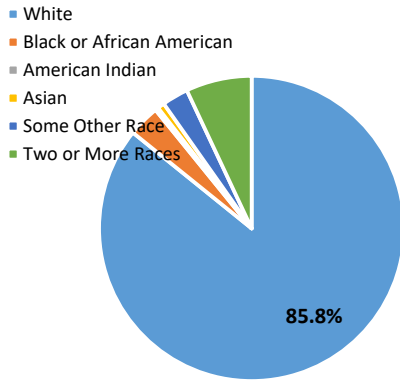


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Steele Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,439</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
White	32,125	85.8%	-4.4%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	1,253	3.3%	42.2%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	129	0.3%	330.0%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	275	0.7%	-13.8%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	1,043	2.8%	9.6%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	2,614	7.0%	290.1%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3,326	8.9%	32.6%	6.4%	38.4%

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

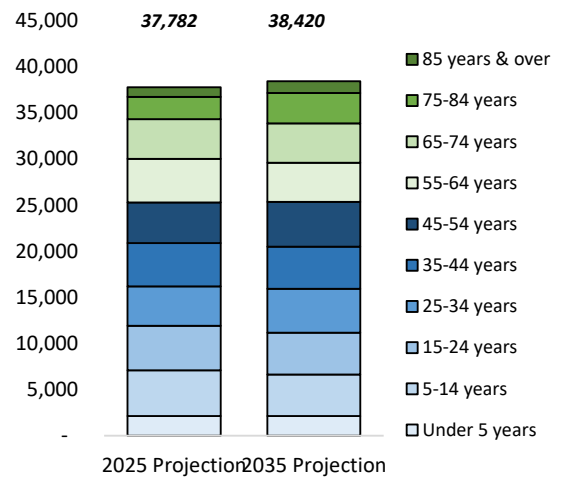
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Steele Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	2,114	2,122	8	0.4%
5-14 years	4,958	4,501	-457	-9.2%
15-24 years	4,838	4,547	-291	-6.0%
25-34 years	4,263	4,743	480	11.3%
35-44 years	4,709	4,564	-145	-3.1%
45-54 years	4,396	4,877	481	10.9%
55-64 years	4,736	4,250	-486	-10.3%
65-74 years	4,297	4,260	-37	-0.9%
75-84 years	2,410	3,291	881	36.6%
85 years & over	1,061	1,265	204	19.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>37,782</b>	<b>38,420</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

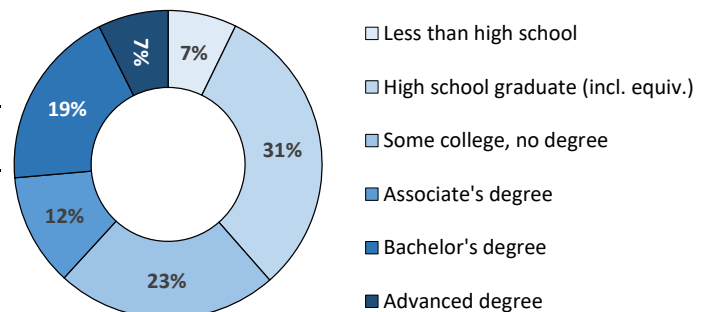


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Steele 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. Steele 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>61.5%</b>
state:	68.9%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024**



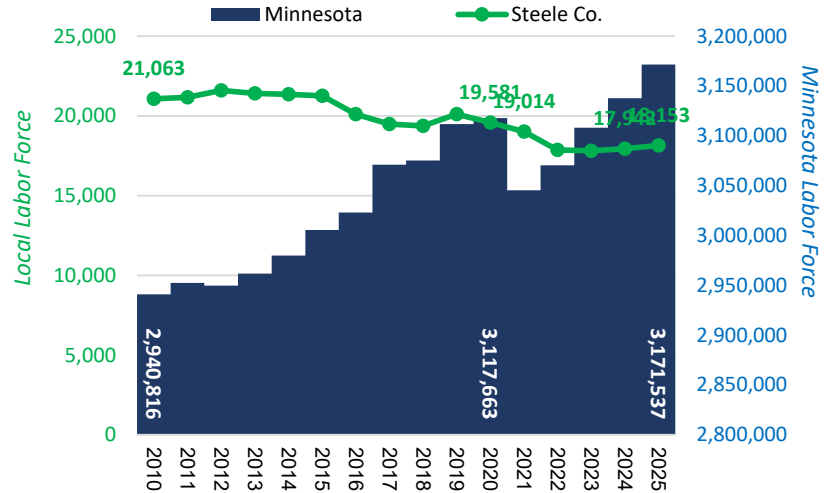
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.6%, Steele Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Steele Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.9% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Steele Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

<b>18,153</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	-2,910 workers -13.8% decline
<b>4.6%</b>	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
<b>835</b>	unemployed workers

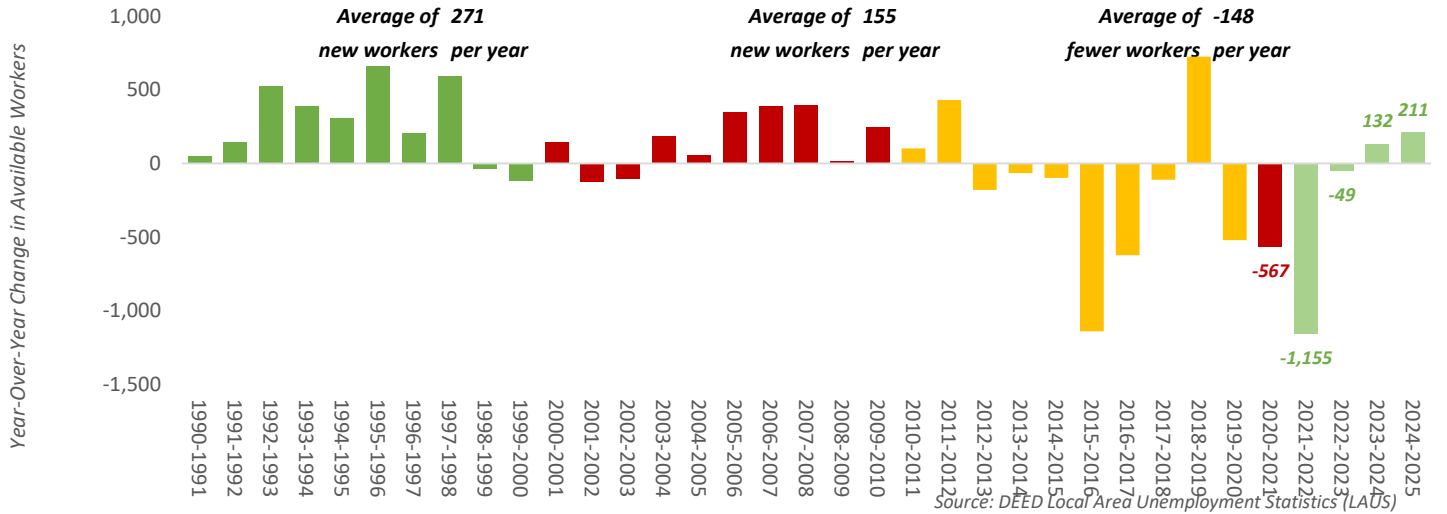
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Steele 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, Steele Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



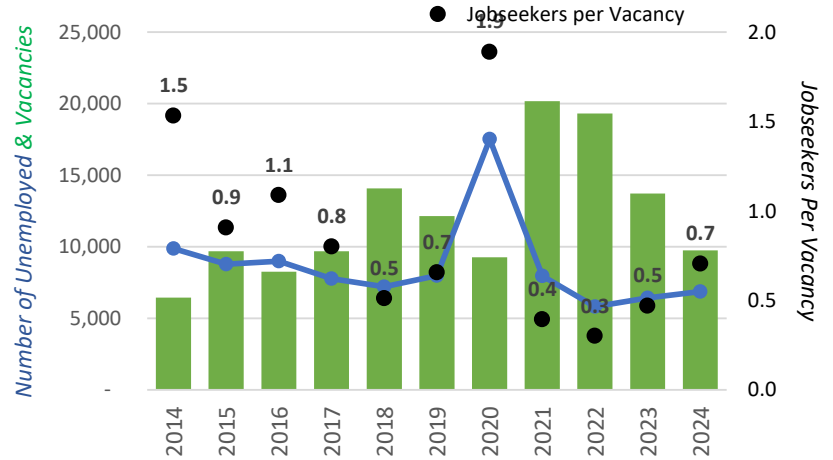
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	3,066	2,952
25 to 54 years	11,879	12,611
55 to 64 years	3,379	3,032
65 years & over	1,372	1,422
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>19,695</b>	<b>20,017</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 Southeast 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

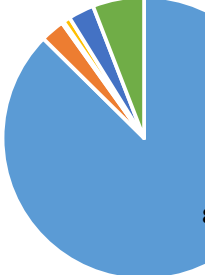


Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

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

	Steele 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>19,512</b>	<b>66.1%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>10,542</b>	<b>8,956</b>
16 to 19 years	1,042	51.0%	14.9%	52.6%	10.3%	575	467
20 to 24 years	1,635	89.0%	2.3%	83.3%	6.6%	872	763
25 to 44 years	7,972	87.8%	3.6%	88.7%	3.7%	4,279	3,694
45 to 54 years	4,029	91.0%	1.1%	87.8%	3.0%	2,175	1,853
55 to 64 years	3,527	71.3%	2.0%	72.7%	3.2%	1,944	1,583
65 to 74 years	1,118	27.4%	4.6%	27.7%	3.6%	591	527
75 years & over	174	5.6%	9.7%	6.7%	3.2%	106	69
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>						<b>Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2024</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ White alone</li> <li>■ Black or African American</li> <li>■ American Indian &amp; Alaska Native</li> <li>■ Asian or Other Pac. Islanders</li> <li>■ Some Other Race</li> <li>■ Two or More Races</li> </ul>	
White alone	17,038	65.3%	3.5%	67.0%	3.5%		
Black or African American	535	65.9%	4.5%	70.8%	8.7%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	45	43.3%	2.2%	58.0%	10.8%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	156	68.7%	0.0%	75.2%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	575	75.7%	4.0%	75.4%	5.8%		
Two or More Races	1,146	75.2%	2.2%	74.0%	5.7%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,717	77.8%	1.9%	76.6%	5.8%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	1,051	56.4%	4.7%	56.1%	9.4%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	15,536	84.2%	2.6%	84.5%	3.4%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	817	79.3%	4.6%	66.2%	4.9%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,565	75.3%	5.6%	76.6%	2.5%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	6,042	86.5%	2.5%	85.0%	3.7%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,102	89.5%	1.0%	90.5%	2.2%		

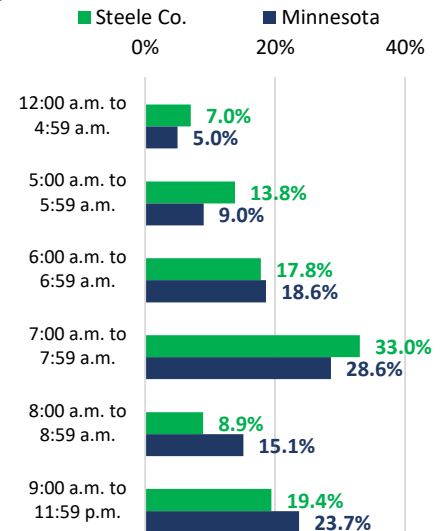
Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024**

	Steele Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	18,387	99.7%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	14,311	77.6%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	4,057	22.0%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	55	0.3%	64,678	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	16,045	87.0%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	166	0.9%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	645	3.5%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	1,604	8.7%	517,420	17.6%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	5,459	29.6%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	6,381	34.6%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	2,600	14.1%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	1,918	10.4%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	1,033	5.6%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	1,033	5.6%	144,055	4.9%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>19.1 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

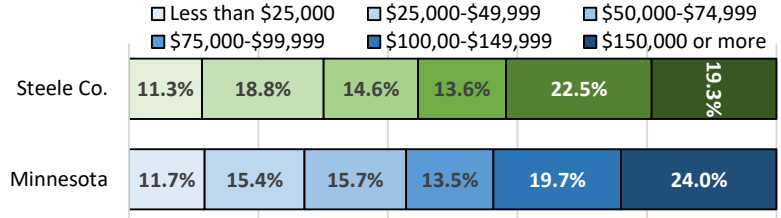
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Steele Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Steele Co. had the 14th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$84,196</b>
state	\$89,062
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$110,947</b>
state	\$113,993
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$41,674</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. Steele Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.84 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$20.45 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
Steele Co.	\$30,858	\$14.84	\$0	\$431	\$183	\$803	\$570	\$272	\$313
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
Steele Co.	\$63,811	\$20.45	\$489	\$979	\$639	\$1,059	\$1,053	\$450	\$649
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

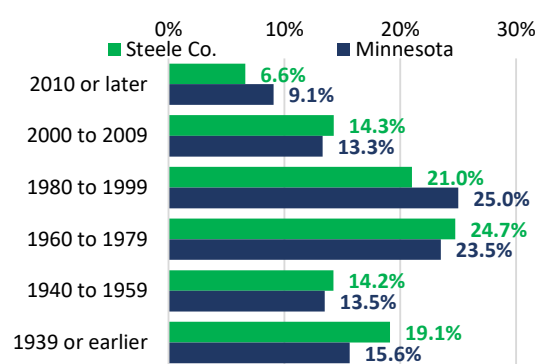
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Steele Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 36th highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Steele 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	Steele Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,020</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	647	5.4%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	421	3.5%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	946	7.9%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,018	16.8%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	3,897	32.4%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	3,228	26.9%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	863	7.2%	19.6%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$245,400</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>\$1,664</b>
state	\$1,947

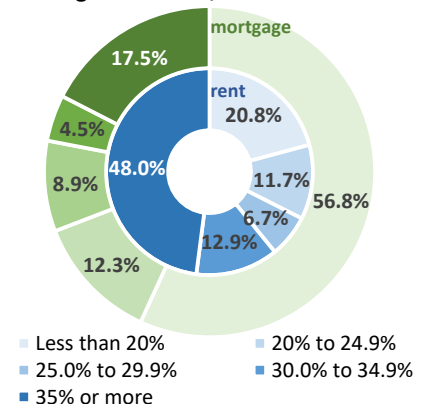
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>22.0%</b>
state	23.2%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$1,061</b>
state	\$1,280

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>60.9%</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 \$24.82 in 2025, wages were lower in Region 10 than the state. Overall, Region 10 had the 2nd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$53.29) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.99) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 10				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>\$24.82</b>	<b>244,290</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$53.29	13,010	5.3%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$38.96	10,780	4.4%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$51.70	5,900	2.4%	0.7	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$43.11	3,400	1.4%	0.7	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$38.18	5,540	2.3%	2.1	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.99	4,740	1.9%	1.0	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$39.41	770	0.3%	0.4	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$27.94	14,850	6.1%	1.0	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$26.54	2,200	0.9%	0.7	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$47.57	26,980	11.0%	1.7	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.96	12,930	5.3%	0.9	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$29.97	4,130	1.7%	1.1	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.99	21,890	9.0%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.41	7,160	2.9%	1.0	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.18	5,210	2.1%	1.0	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.30	18,530	7.6%	0.9	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.47	27,940	11.4%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$24.04	240	0.1%	0.9	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$32.20	8,560	3.5%	0.9	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$29.51	9,110	3.7%	1.0	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.22	21,360	8.7%	1.2	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.98	19,050	7.8%	1.0	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

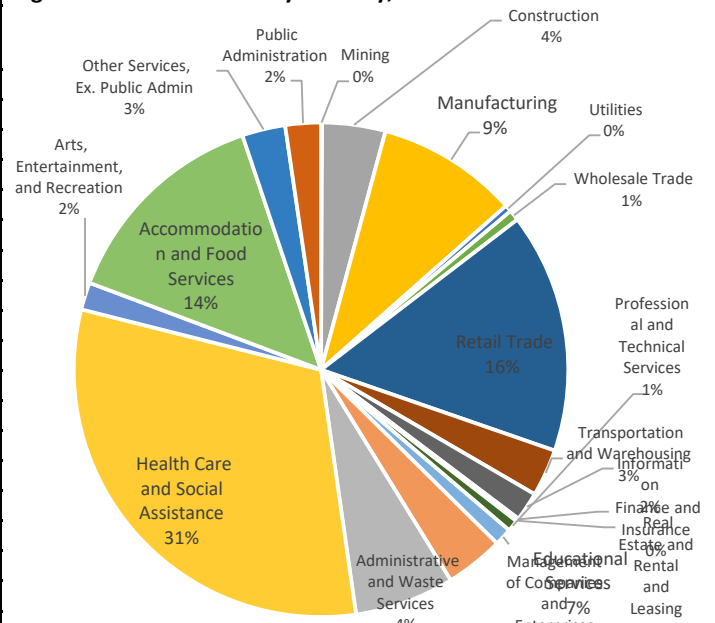
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Steele Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region. There were 9737 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. Southeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>9,737</b>	<b>\$20.20</b>
Management	389	\$36.87
Business & Financial Operations	272	\$27.57
Computer & Mathematical	135	\$39.56
Architecture & Engineering	143	\$36.14
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	174	\$31.85
Community & Social Service	187	\$25.98
Education, Training & Library	398	\$21.05
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,716	\$37.89
Healthcare Support	640	\$19.33
Protective Service	107	\$19.30
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,556	\$16.15
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	102	\$16.25
Personal Care & Service	329	\$12.98
Sales & Related	993	\$16.02
Office & Administrative Support	562	\$19.49
Construction & Extraction	73	\$31.11
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	431	\$20.38
Production	654	\$21.65
Transportation & Material Moving	624	\$18.33

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southeast Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,764/yr	Nursing Assistants \$45,256/yr	Registered Nurses \$104,037/yr	General and Operations Managers \$83,159/yr
Cashiers \$32,432/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$59,333/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,940/yr	Physical Therapists \$97,502/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$37,070/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$62,330/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$78,311/yr	Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians \$75,903/yr
Retail Salespersons \$34,818/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$51,098/yr	Biological Technicians \$46,075/yr	Software Developers \$132,339/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$44,719/yr	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers \$66,151/yr	Dental Hygienists \$96,675/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$63,226/yr
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants \$48,642/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$58,516/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$49,140/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$65,875/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$36,836/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$50,022/yr	Medical Equipment Repairers \$70,530/yr	Nurse Practitioners \$124,565/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$23,887/yr	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists \$42,305/yr	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians \$47,876/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$79,738/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,722/yr	Electricians \$81,994/yr	Mechanical Drafters \$66,044/yr	Physician Assistants \$134,893/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,361/yr	Machinists \$59,033/yr	Physical Therapist Assistants \$65,886/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$127,365/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

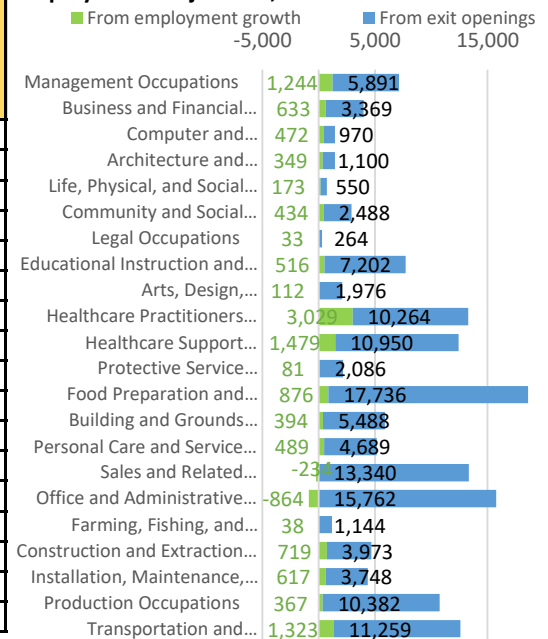
Steele Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region, which is projected to see a 4.5% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Southeast Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>270,975</b>	<b>283,255</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	3,474	3,657	5.3%
Utilities	1,211	1,212	0.1%
Construction	9,574	10,360	8.2%
Manufacturing	36,161	37,414	3.5%
Wholesale Trade	7,317	7,736	5.7%
Retail Trade	26,514	26,404	-0.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,187	7,827	8.9%
Information	2,802	2,782	-0.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	6,243	6,457	3.4%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	8,457	9,278	9.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	7,883	8,597	9.1%
Educational Services	20,296	20,531	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,729	71,175	8.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	22,983	24,366	6.0%
Other Services	8,780	9,078	3.4%
Public Administration	15,203	15,540	2.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

After gaining jobs over the past year, Steele Co. had the 23rd largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Steele Co. was the 18th fastest growing in the past year and the 80th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2025, employment in Steele Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

**1,152** business establishments

**\$63,232** annual average wage

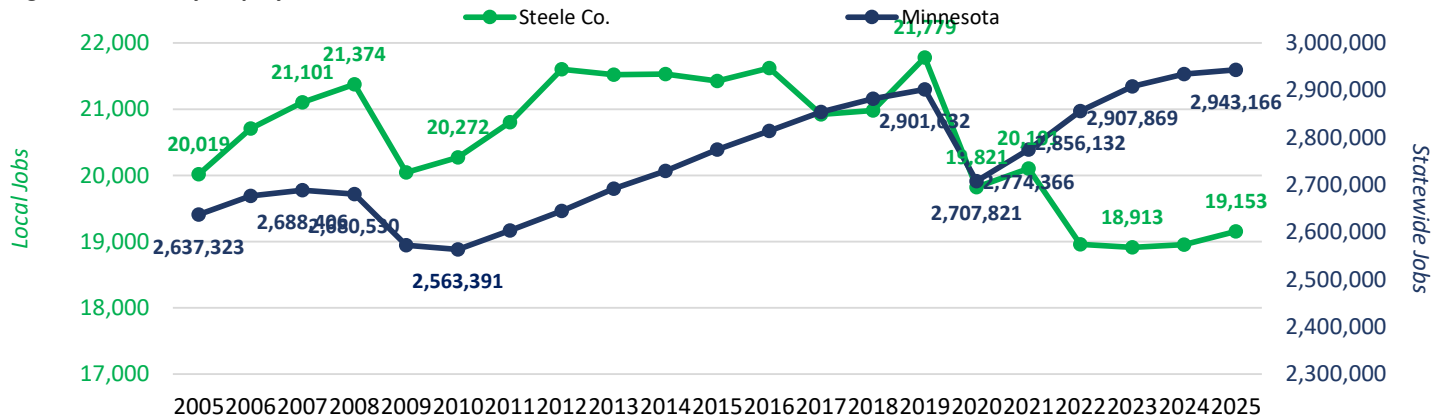
**19,153** jobs

**\$1,210,583,237** total industry payroll

Job change,  
2020-2025  
-668 jobs  
-3.4% decline

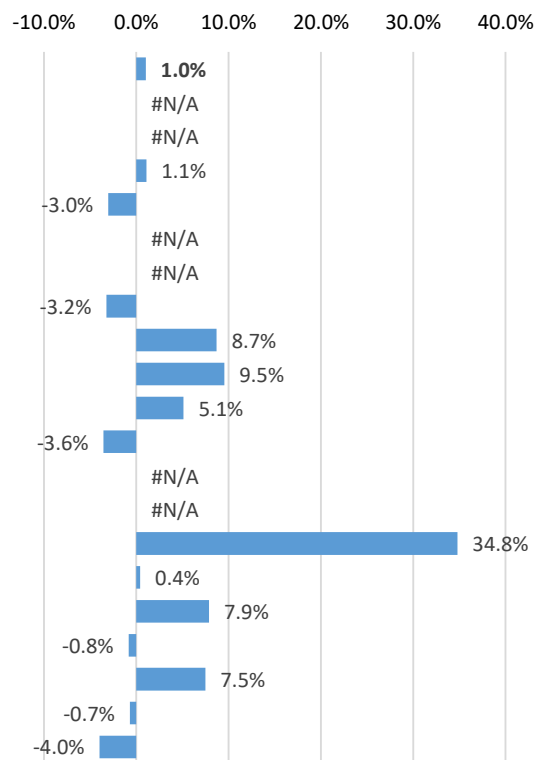
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2025

Source: DEED QCEW program



Industry	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>19,153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$63,232</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	647	3.4%	\$76,180
Manufacturing	4,515	23.6%	\$74,620
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Retail Trade	2,688	14.0%	\$37,024
Transportation & Warehousing	687	3.6%	\$67,288
Information	218	1.1%	\$72,904
Finance & Insurance	287	1.5%	\$71,344
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	163	0.9%	\$24,232
Professional & Technical Services	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	736	3.8%	\$52,468
Educational Services	1,172	6.1%	\$59,176
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,462	12.9%	\$59,644
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	241	1.3%	\$18,668
Accommodation & Food Services	1,392	7.3%	\$23,036
Other Services	568	3.0%	\$42,484
Public Administration	772	4.0%	\$60,528

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2024-2025



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

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

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