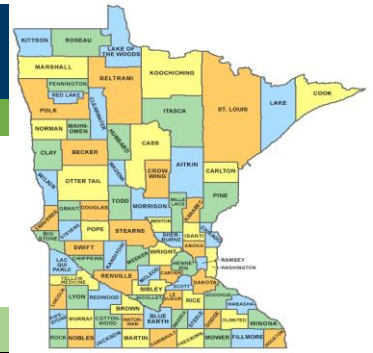


COUNTY PROFILE

Washington Co.

Washington Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 11, which is located in the Twin Cities Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

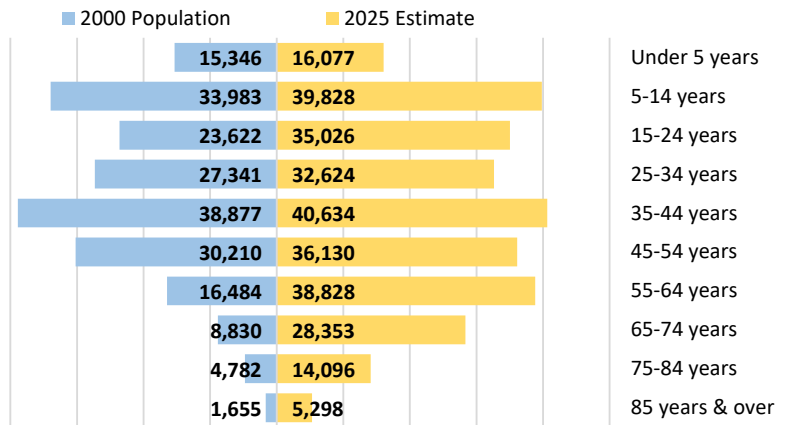
2025 population:	286,895 people	Median Age:	39.8 years
Population change, 2020-2025	19,330 people 7.2% increase	state:	38.8 years

Washington Co. is the 5th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 3rd fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Washington 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).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	16,077	5.6%
5-14 years	39,828	13.9%
15-24 years	35,026	12.2%
25-34 years	32,624	11.4%
35-44 years	40,634	14.2%
45-54 years	36,130	12.6%
55-64 years	38,828	13.5%
65-74 years	28,353	9.9%
75-84 years	14,096	4.9%
85 years & over	5,298	1.8%
Total Population	286,895	100.0%

Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2025



Washington Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2020 to 2025, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Washington 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
Washington Co.	19,431	3,484	14,372	10,888	15,947	2,275	13,672
State of Minnesota	122,685	63,075	330,813	267,738	59,610	96,812	-37,202

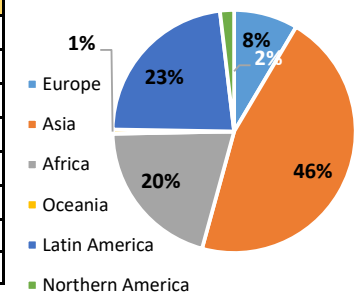
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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

	Washington Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	23,594	8.5%	8,675	58.1%	8.7%	23.3%
Europe	2,011	8.5%	64	3.3%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	10,791	45.7%	3,384	45.7%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	4,822	20.4%	2,616	118.6%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	133	0.6%	-2	-1.5%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	5,837	24.7%	2,613	81.0%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	5,395	22.9%	2,926	118.5%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	442	1.9%	-313	-41.5%	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

Washington Co.

Washington 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

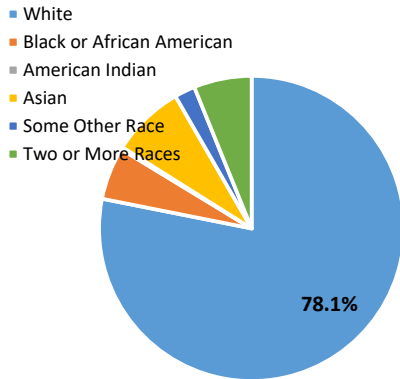


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Washington Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
Total	276,238	100.0%	13.2%	100.0%	6.6%
White	215,812	78.1%	1.1%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	15,355	5.6%	69.8%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	689	0.2%	-20.8%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	21,402	7.7%	68.7%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	6,035	2.2%	237.5%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	16,945	6.1%	173.3%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	14,552	5.3%	64.1%	6.4%	38.4%

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

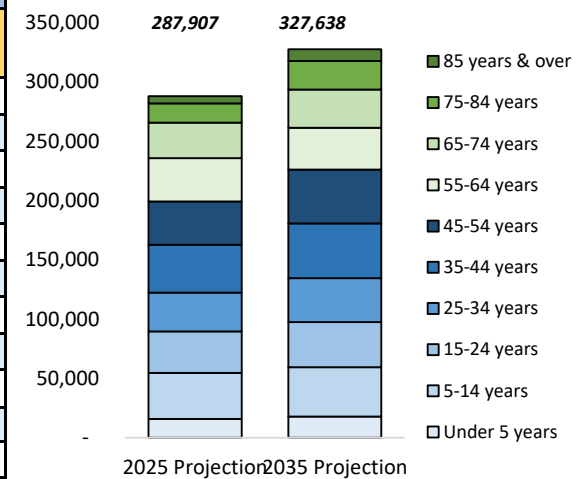
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Washington 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				
Washington Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	15,922	17,846	1,924	12.1%
5-14 years	38,660	41,535	2,875	7.4%
15-24 years	35,066	37,971	2,905	8.3%
25-34 years	32,741	37,191	4,450	13.6%
35-44 years	40,392	46,110	5,718	14.2%
45-54 years	36,500	45,313	8,813	24.1%
55-64 years	36,435	35,237	-1,198	-3.3%
65-74 years	29,873	32,313	2,440	8.2%
75-84 years	16,398	24,162	7,764	47.3%
85 years & over	5,920	9,960	4,040	68.2%
Total Population	287,907	327,638	39,731	13.8%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

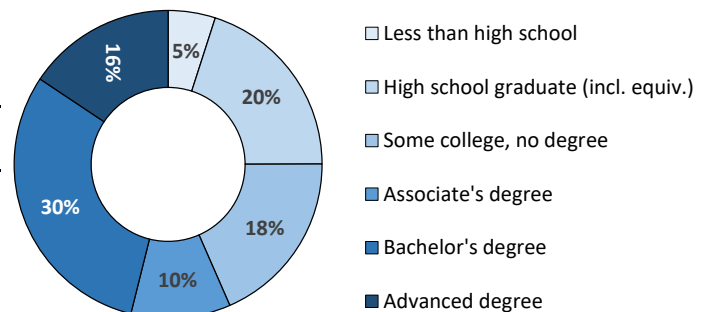


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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

Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:	95.0%
College-educated:	75.0%
state:	68.9%
Associate's Degree:	10.5%
Bachelor's Degree:	30.5%
Advanced Degree:	15.6%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024



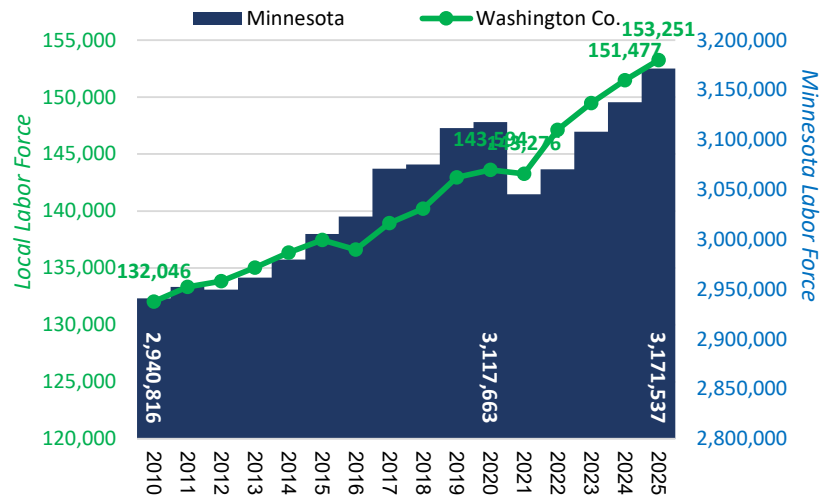
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.4%, Washington Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Washington Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.8% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Washington Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

153,251	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	21,205 workers 16.1% increase
3.4%	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
5,211	unemployed workers

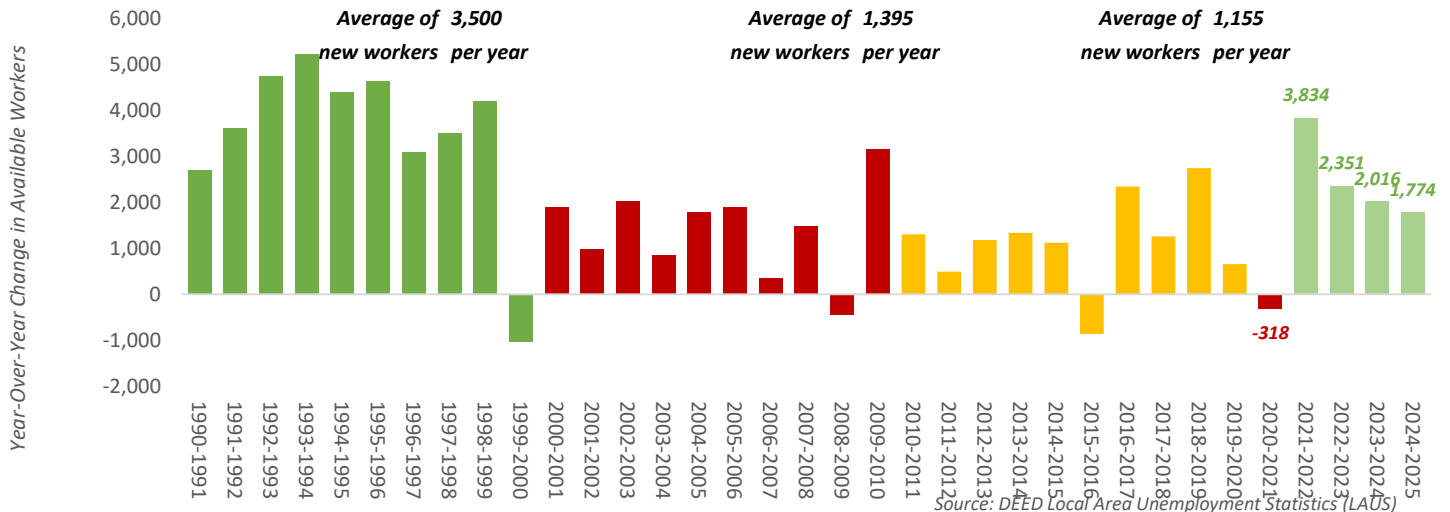
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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, Washington Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Washington Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

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



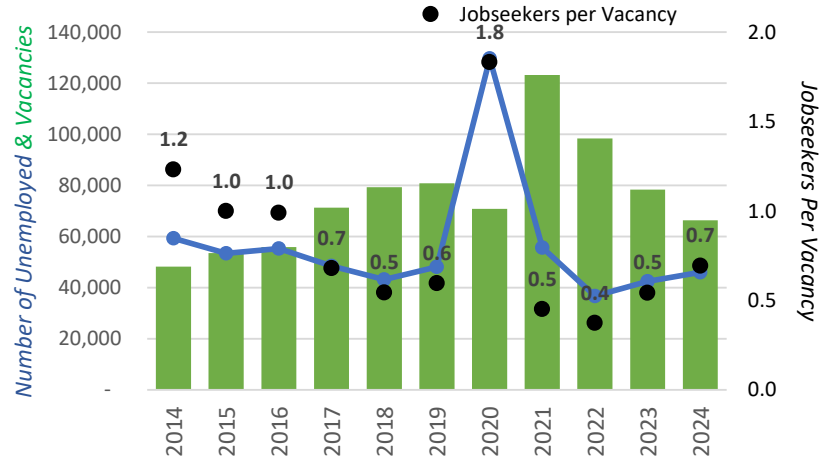
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	20,441	22,255
25 to 54 years	98,822	115,960
55 to 64 years	26,634	25,758
65 years & over	8,233	9,434
Total Labor Force	154,130	173,408

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 Twin Cities 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

Washington Co. had a higher labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Washington Co. is more 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

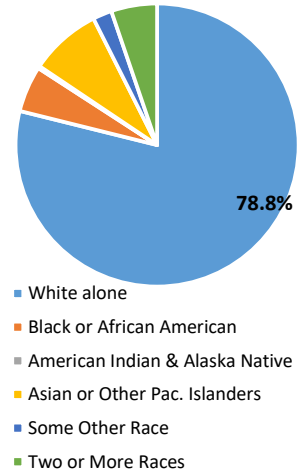
	Washington Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	149,100	68.3%	3.4%	68.1%	4.1%	76,764	72,252
16 to 19 years	6,854	47.9%	8.9%	52.6%	10.3%	3,529	3,326
20 to 24 years	12,446	81.3%	8.2%	83.3%	6.6%	6,099	6,352
25 to 44 years	63,314	89.8%	2.6%	88.7%	3.7%	32,558	30,777
45 to 54 years	31,622	90.9%	2.4%	87.8%	3.0%	16,404	15,203
55 to 64 years	27,329	73.1%	2.5%	72.7%	3.2%	14,191	13,137
65 to 74 years	6,443	23.6%	3.9%	27.7%	3.6%	3,359	3,087
75 years & over	990	5.3%	1.6%	6.7%	3.2%	624	370

Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin					
White alone	117,533	66.7%	3.2%	67.0%	3.5%
Black or African American	7,850	71.3%	4.7%	70.8%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	393	60.7%	1.5%	58.0%	10.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	12,183	77.8%	1.7%	75.2%	3.5%
Some Other Race	3,241	71.7%	2.3%	75.4%	5.8%
Two or More Races	7,810	76.2%	7.3%	74.0%	5.7%
Hispanic or Latino	8,026	78.2%	5.3%	76.6%	5.8%

Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years					
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	7,334	60.4%	9.3%	56.1%	9.4%

Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years					
Population, 25 to 64 years	122,303	85.7%	2.6%	84.5%	3.4%
Less than H.S. Diploma	4,009	71.8%	3.5%	66.2%	4.9%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	16,964	73.5%	1.6%	76.6%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	33,561	85.3%	3.4%	85.0%	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	67,756	90.7%	1.8%	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 Washington Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Washington Co. also had a longer average commute time than the state.

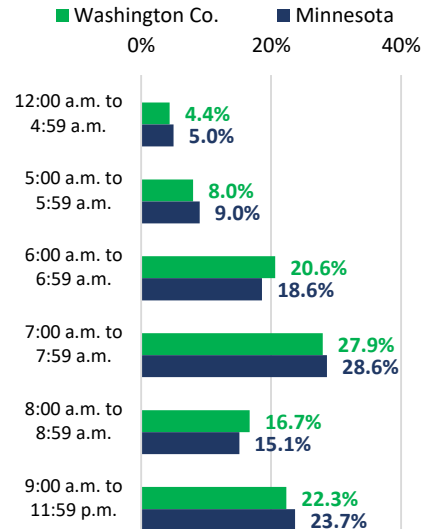
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024

	Washington Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	137,926	97.5%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	75,117	53.1%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	62,668	44.3%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	3,537	2.5%	64,678	2.2%

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	104,258	73.7%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	849	0.6%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	2,971	2.1%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	33,385	23.6%	517,420	17.6%

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	17,117	12.1%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	38,195	27.0%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	37,346	26.4%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	35,083	24.8%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	8,912	6.3%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	4,668	3.3%	144,055	4.9%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	24.0 minutes		22.7 minutes	

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



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

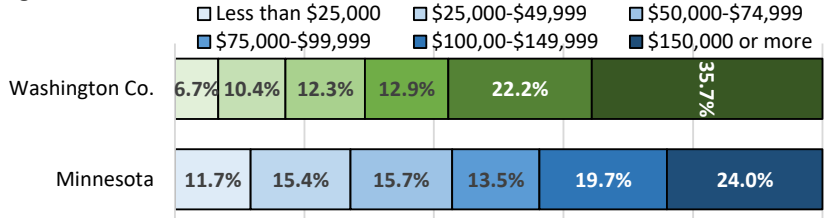
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Washington Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Washington Co. had the 3rd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$115,345
state	\$89,062
Median Family Income	\$135,522
state	\$113,993
Per Capita Income	\$56,954
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. Washington Co. had a higher cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$20.27 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$26.17 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
Washington Co.	\$42,165	\$20.27	\$0	\$461	\$212	\$1,405	\$549	\$412	\$475
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
Washington Co.	\$81,641	\$26.17	\$677	\$1,047	\$727	\$1,741	\$999	\$616	\$996
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

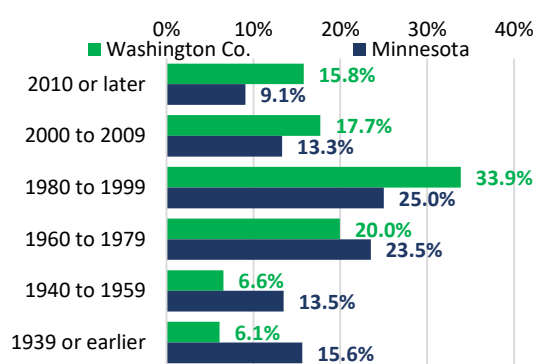
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Washington Co. had a higher median house value than the state, having the 2nd highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Washington 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	Washington Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	85,825	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	2,576	3.0%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	527	0.6%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	785	0.9%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,135	2.5%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	13,727	16.0%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	36,946	43.0%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	29,129	33.9%	19.6%
Median (dollars)	\$422,000		\$329,300

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

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2024



Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage	\$2,275
state	\$1,947

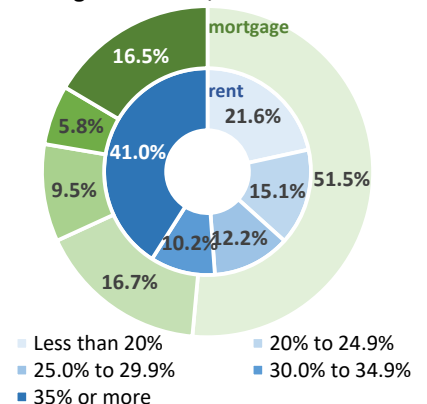
Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs	22.3%
state	23.2%

Median monthly rent costs	\$1,710
state	\$1,280

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent	51.1%
state	48.1%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Twin Cities Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2025

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,582/yr	Nursing Assistants \$47,793/yr	Registered Nurses \$103,822/yr	Software Developers \$131,485/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,954/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$64,167/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$84,258/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$84,154/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$35,247/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$63,105/yr	Dental Hygienists \$101,993/yr	General and Operations Managers \$103,708/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$47,416/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$63,327/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$55,999/yr	Financial Managers \$165,752/yr
Cashiers \$34,713/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$61,060/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$76,190/yr	Project Management Specialists \$100,639/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$26,043/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$56,981/yr	Surgical Technologists \$82,186/yr	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists \$88,321/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$48,692/yr	Computer User Support Specialists \$66,045/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$70,352/yr	Management Analysts \$98,434/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$49,741/yr	Machinists \$61,474/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$97,755/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$77,347/yr
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and \$78,785/yr	Medical Assistants \$51,095/yr	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists \$101,075/yr	Industrial Engineers \$104,053/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$38,547/yr	Psychiatric Technicians \$51,669/yr	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers \$44,774/yr	Marketing Managers \$171,914/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

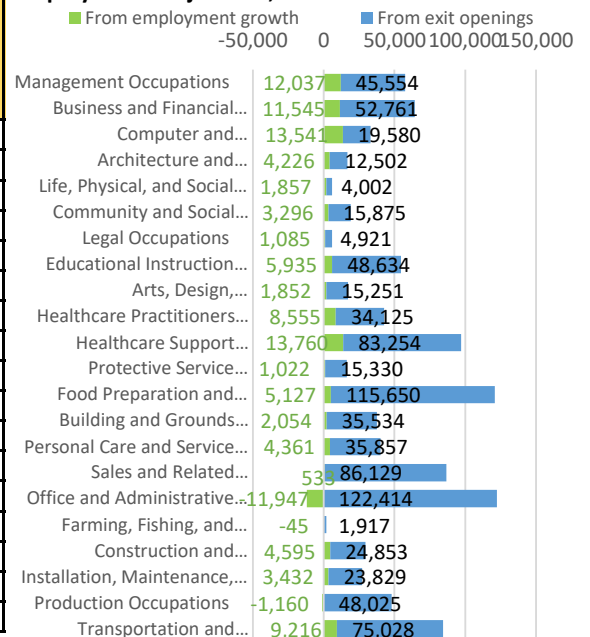
Washington Co. is a part of the Twin Cities planning region, which is projected to see a 4.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

Twin Cities Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	1,927,280	2,022,157	4.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	4,299	4,497	4.6%
Utilities	5,966	5,918	-0.8%
Construction	76,624	81,639	6.5%
Manufacturing	175,365	178,983	2.1%
Wholesale Trade	88,950	95,889	7.8%
Retail Trade	155,453	153,000	-1.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	69,046	74,385	7.7%
Information	33,947	36,573	7.7%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	152,950	158,767	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	219,218	239,258	9.1%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	103,764	106,039	2.2%
Educational Services	140,511	146,053	3.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	274,229	299,555	9.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	159,585	169,263	6.1%
Other Services	70,450	72,988	3.6%
Public Administration	107,703	109,441	1.6%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

After gaining jobs over the past year, Washington Co. had the 6th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Washington Co. was the 23rd fastest growing in the past year and the 5th fastest growing since 2020. From 2020 to 2025, employment in Washington Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

7,028 business establishments

\$63,388 annual average wage

96,453 jobs

\$6,112,365,295 total industry payroll

Job change,
2020-2025
12,448 jobs
14.8% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2025

Source: DEED QCEW program

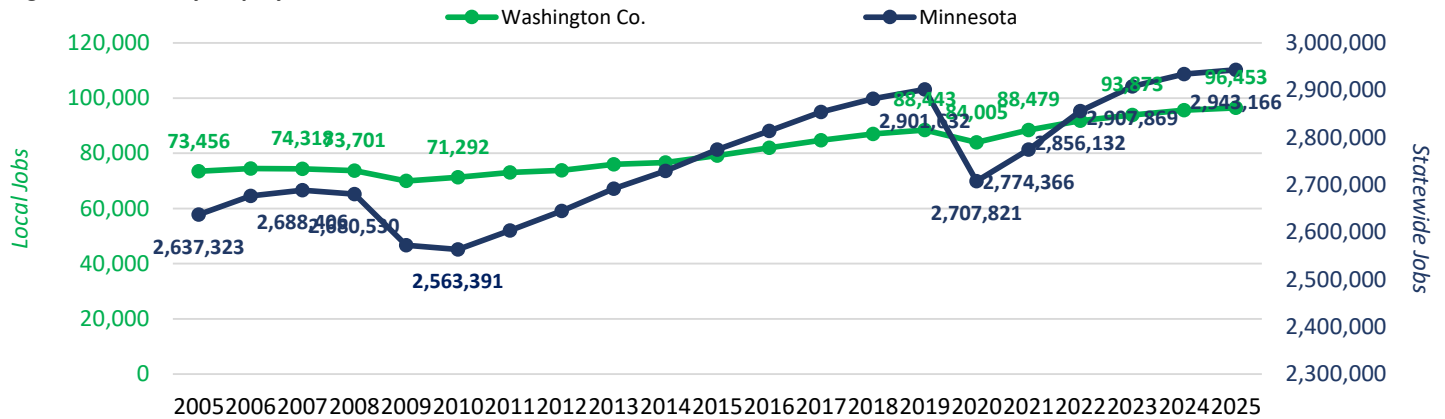
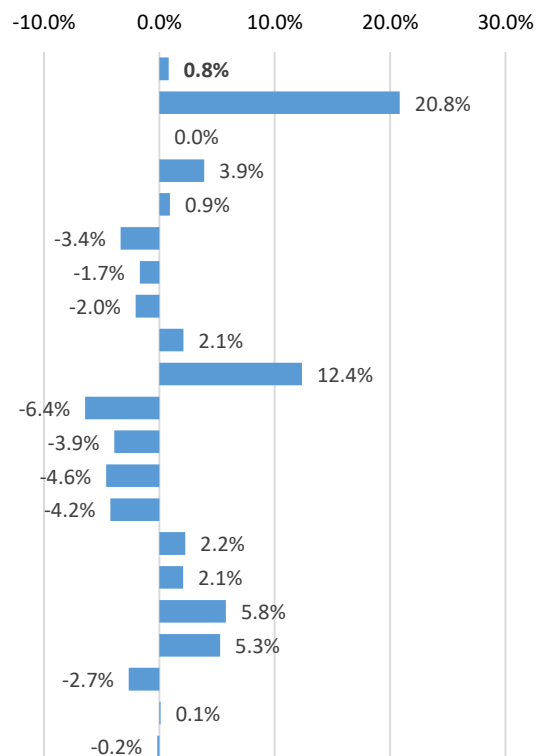


Table 15. Washington Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2025	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
Total, All Industries	96,453	100.0%	\$63,388
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,096	1.1%	\$45,656
Mining	54	0.1%	\$121,073
Construction	5,179	5.4%	\$91,832
Manufacturing	11,729	12.2%	\$85,852
Utilities	288	0.3%	\$151,372
Wholesale Trade	2,865	3.0%	\$103,272
Retail Trade	14,337	14.9%	\$37,596
Transportation & Warehousing	3,426	3.6%	\$53,976
Information	791	0.8%	\$71,500
Finance & Insurance	2,707	2.8%	\$115,284
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	886	0.9%	\$56,472
Professional & Technical Services	3,992	4.1%	\$91,936
Management of Companies	1,763	1.8%	\$130,468
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	2,825	2.9%	\$58,656
Educational Services	8,006	8.3%	\$58,864
Health Care & Social Assistance	16,610	17.2%	\$65,052
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,554	2.6%	\$24,128
Accommodation & Food Services	9,715	10.1%	\$25,428
Other Services	3,759	3.9%	\$39,676
Public Administration	3,873	4.0%	\$81,328

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2024-2025



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

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

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 web: www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: May 15, 2026