

COUNTY PROFILE

Wright Co.

Wright Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7W, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2025 population:	157,559 people	Median Age:	37.6 years
Population change, 2020-2025	16,222 people 11.5% increase	state:	38.8 years

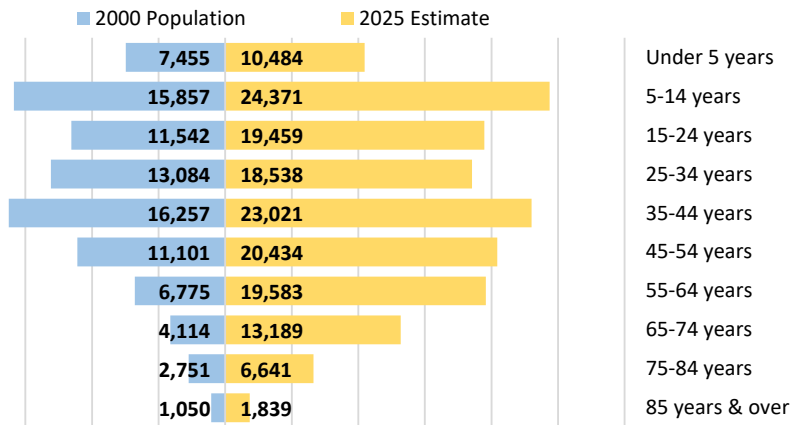
Wright Co. is the 10th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 1st fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2025. Wright Co.'s population has a younger median age than the state and a smaller percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The 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	10,484	6.7%
5-14 years	24,371	15.5%
15-24 years	19,459	12.4%
25-34 years	18,538	11.8%
35-44 years	23,021	14.6%
45-54 years	20,434	13.0%
55-64 years	19,583	12.4%
65-74 years	13,189	8.4%
75-84 years	6,641	4.2%
85 years & over	1,839	1.2%
Total Population	157,559	100.0%

Source: Census 2025 Population Estimates, 2020-2024 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2025



Wright 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, Wright 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
Wright Co.	16,221	4,440	9,883	5,443	11,781	1,126	10,655
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

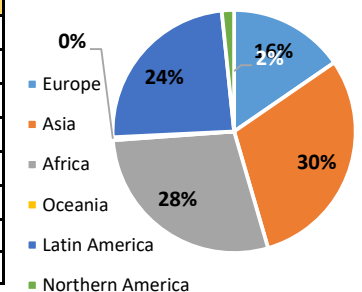
Compared to the state, Wright Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2014 to 2024, Wright Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

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

	Wright Co.		Change 2014-2024		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
Foreign-born Population	6,654	4.5%	3,211	93.3%	8.7%	23.3%
Europe	1,025	15.4%	540	111.3%	8.7%	-3.6%
Asia	2,002	30.1%	934	87.5%	34.8%	12.8%
Africa	1,887	28.4%	1,536	437.6%	28.6%	73.9%
Oceania	26	0.4%	-4	-13.3%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	1,714	25.8%	205	13.6%	27.4%	12.8%
Latin America	1,605	24.1%	325	25.4%	25.0%	14.5%
Northern America	109	1.6%	-120	-52.4%	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

Wright Co.

Wright 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

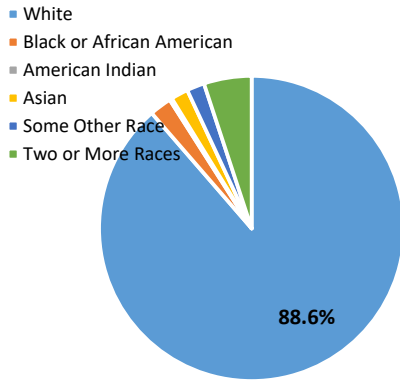


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2024	Wright Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2014-2024	Percent	Change from 2014-2024
Total	148,269	100.0%	16.4%	100.0%	6.6%
White	131,418	88.6%	9.0%	77.1%	-3.5%
Black or African American	3,463	2.3%	160.4%	7.0%	38.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	390	0.3%	-27.1%	0.9%	-8.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	2,720	1.8%	93.7%	5.2%	27.1%
Some Other Race	2,772	1.9%	95.5%	2.9%	107.8%
Two or More Races	7,506	5.1%	243.7%	7.0%	188.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	5,389	3.6%	60.0%	6.4%	38.4%

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

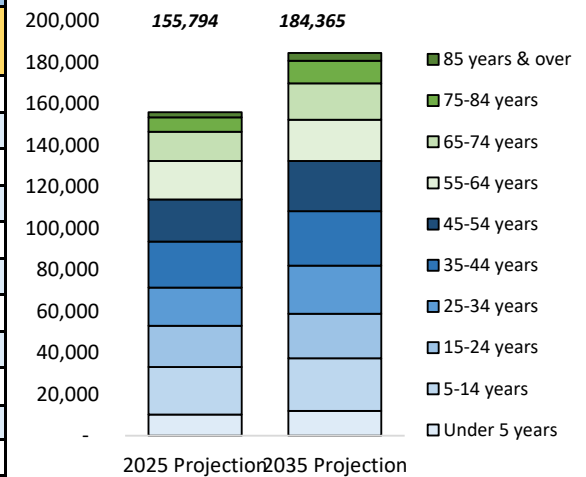
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Wright 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				
Wright Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	10,157	11,922	1,765	17.4%
5-14 years	22,962	25,417	2,455	10.7%
15-24 years	19,859	21,349	1,490	7.5%
25-34 years	18,390	23,298	4,908	26.7%
35-44 years	22,154	26,250	4,096	18.5%
45-54 years	20,249	24,127	3,878	19.2%
55-64 years	18,593	19,813	1,220	6.6%
65-74 years	14,048	17,655	3,607	25.7%
75-84 years	7,011	10,841	3,830	54.6%
85 years & over	2,371	3,693	1,322	55.8%
Total Population	155,794	184,365	28,571	18.3%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035

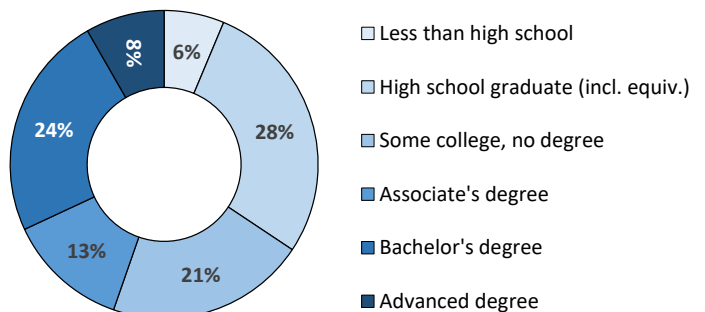


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Wright 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. Wright 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.

Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:	93.7%
College-educated:	65.7%
state:	68.9%
Associate's Degree:	12.7%
Bachelor's Degree:	23.6%
Advanced Degree:	8.3%

Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2024



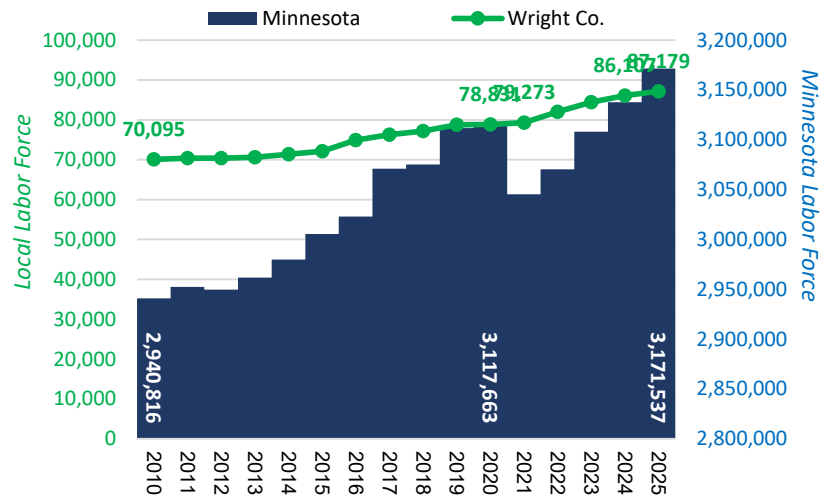
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.8%, Wright Co. had a identical unemployment rate than the state in 2025. Wright Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.5% pandemic rate posted in 2020. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Wright Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2020.

87,179	available workers
Labor Force change, 2010-2025	17,084 workers 24.4% increase
3.8%	unemployment rate
3.9%	state
3,313	unemployed workers

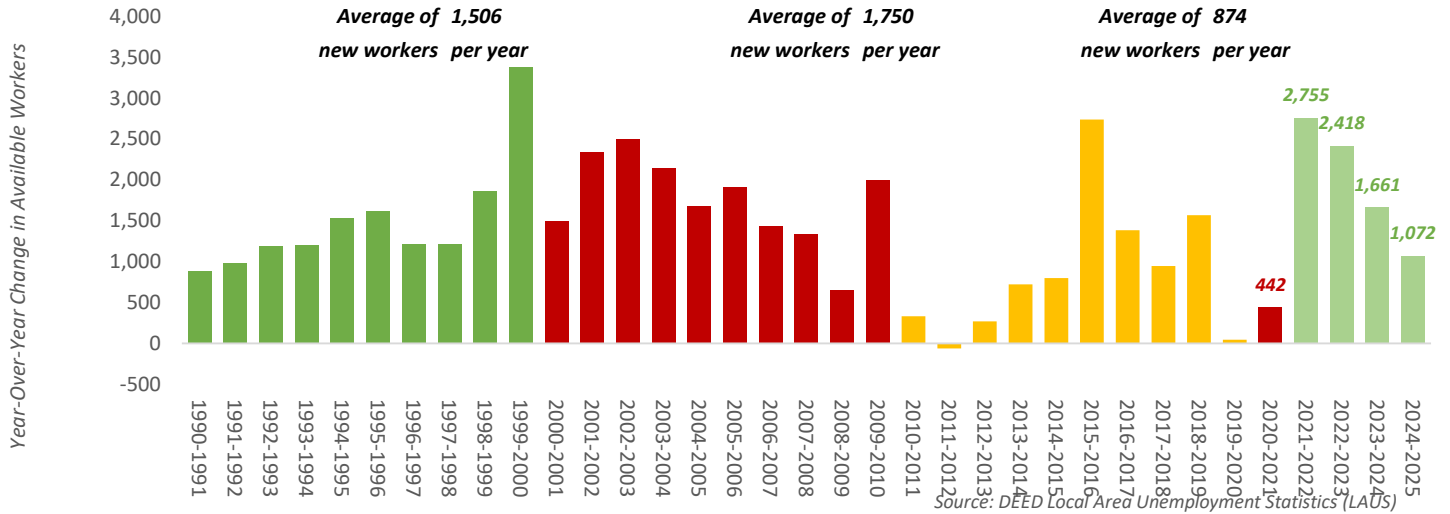
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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

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



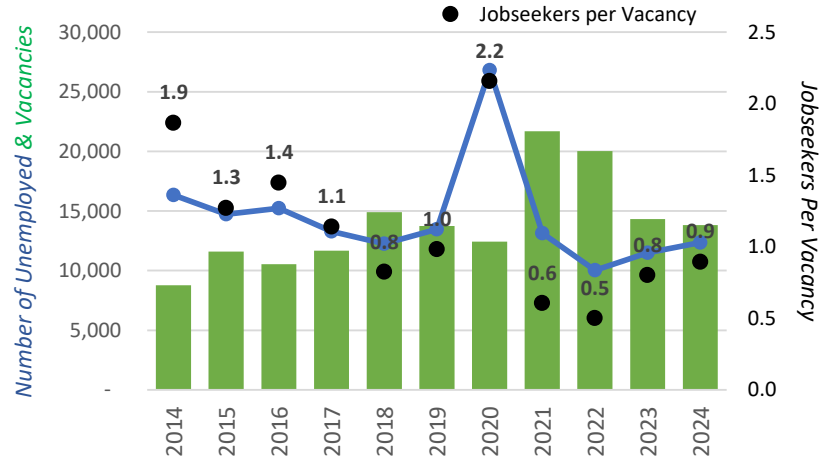
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	12,478	13,569
25 to 54 years	55,498	67,249
55 to 64 years	14,159	15,088
65 years & over	4,473	5,775
Total Labor Force	86,608	101,681

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 Central 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

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

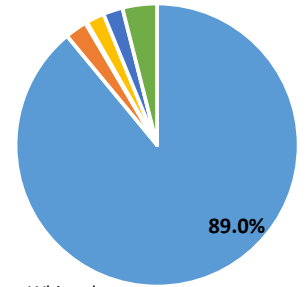
Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2024

	Wright 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	82,380	72.8%	2.7%	68.1%	4.1%	44,260	38,174
16 to 19 years	4,512	53.3%	6.5%	52.6%	10.3%	2,291	2,225
20 to 24 years	6,700	88.9%	3.7%	83.3%	6.6%	3,619	3,078
25 to 44 years	35,427	90.6%	2.4%	88.7%	3.7%	18,831	16,601
45 to 54 years	17,825	92.7%	2.4%	87.8%	3.0%	9,591	8,236
55 to 64 years	14,033	76.2%	2.5%	72.7%	3.2%	7,714	6,315
65 to 74 years	3,487	28.1%	2.5%	27.7%	3.6%	1,932	1,551
75 years & over	447	5.6%	0.0%	6.7%	3.2%	282	168

Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin

White alone	73,350	72.0%	2.8%	67.0%	3.5%
Black or African American	2,081	85.3%	3.0%	70.8%	8.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	170	59.9%	7.6%	58.0%	10.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,706	81.5%	1.6%	75.2%	3.5%
Some Other Race	1,842	84.6%	1.8%	75.4%	5.8%
Two or More Races	3,252	75.8%	1.0%	74.0%	5.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2,841	78.7%	1.6%	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	3,353	60.5%	9.8%	56.1%	9.4%
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Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years

Population, 25 to 64 years	67,324	87.7%	2.4%	84.5%	3.4%
Less than H.S. Diploma	2,838	76.1%	2.6%	66.2%	4.9%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	14,038	80.3%	3.7%	76.6%	2.5%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	23,370	88.8%	2.8%	85.0%	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27,044	92.5%	1.8%	90.5%	2.2%

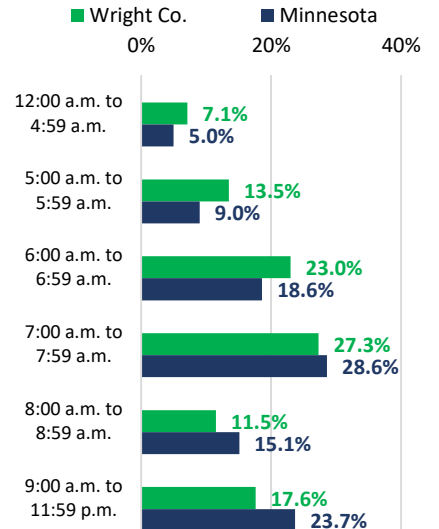
Source: 2020-2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2024

	Wright Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	78,674	99.6%	2,875,211	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	39,811	50.4%	2,013,824	68.5%
Worked out of county of residence	38,863	49.2%	864,327	29.4%
Worked outside state of residence	316	0.4%	64,678	2.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	65,246	82.6%	2,246,075	76.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	237	0.3%	52,918	1.8%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,659	2.1%	123,475	4.2%
Worked at home	11,849	15.0%	517,420	17.6%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	9,874	12.5%	490,961	16.7%
10 to 19 minutes	16,351	20.7%	943,704	32.1%
20 to 29 minutes	13,428	17.0%	658,535	22.4%
30 to 44 minutes	21,485	27.2%	538,000	18.3%
45 to 59 minutes	10,427	13.2%	164,634	5.6%
60 or more minutes	7,346	9.3%	144,055	4.9%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.4 minutes		22.7 minutes	

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



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

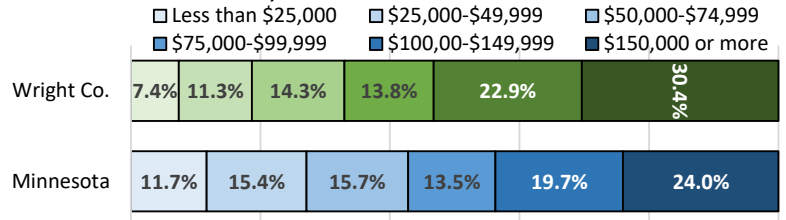
INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Wright Co. had a higher median household income than the state, and a lower percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Wright Co. had the 4th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

Median Household Income	\$107,209
state	\$89,062
Median Family Income	\$126,550
state	\$113,993
Per Capita Income	\$46,650
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. Wright Co. had a higher cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$20.46 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$25.5 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
Wright Co.	\$42,566	\$20.46	\$0	\$429	\$212	\$1,405	\$613	\$405	\$483
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
Wright Co.	\$79,551	\$25.50	\$472	\$975	\$727	\$1,741	\$1,161	\$600	\$953
State of Minnesota	\$74,616	\$23.92	\$558	\$1,028	\$697	\$1,498	\$1,026	\$558	\$853

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

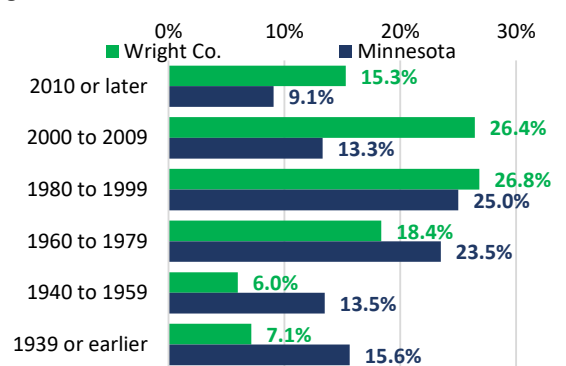
Wright Co. had a higher median house value than the state, having the 7th highest value of the 87 counties in 2024. Wright Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2024

	Wright Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	45,420	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	1,967	4.3%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	500	1.1%	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	486	1.1%	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,892	4.2%	8.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	10,294	22.7%	22.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	21,334	47.0%	36.9%
\$500,000 or more	8,947	19.7%	19.6%
Median (dollars)	\$358,900		\$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 **\$2,098**

state \$1,947

Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs **23.6%**

state 23.2%

Median monthly rent costs **\$1,288**

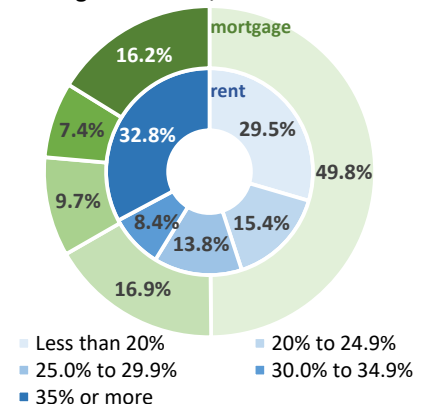
state \$1,280

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent **41.2%**

state 48.1%

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

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



OCCUPATIONS

At \$24.27 in 2025, wages were lower in Region 7W than the state. Overall, Region 7W had the 3rd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$50.18) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$15.41) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025

Occupational Group	Region 7W				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
Total, All Occupations	\$24.27	179,570	100.0%	1.0	\$26.22	2,920,470	100.0%
Management	\$50.18	10,110	5.6%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$37.66	7,840	4.4%	0.6	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.67	2,370	1.3%	0.4	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.64	2,240	1.2%	0.6	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$41.66	1,030	0.6%	0.5	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$30.55	3,070	1.7%	0.8	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$42.95	660	0.4%	0.5	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.39	12,170	6.8%	1.2	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$23.62	1,470	0.8%	0.7	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$44.48	11,280	6.3%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.83	9,780	5.4%	0.9	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$32.60	2,720	1.5%	0.9	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$15.41	15,880	8.8%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.65	5,480	3.1%	1.1	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.40	3,560	2.0%	0.9	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$18.00	17,080	9.5%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.58	19,480	10.8%	0.9	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$23.37	210	0.1%	1.0	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$33.11	11,100	6.2%	1.6	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$30.00	7,680	4.3%	1.2	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.66	17,720	9.9%	1.4	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$22.56	16,640	9.3%	1.2	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

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

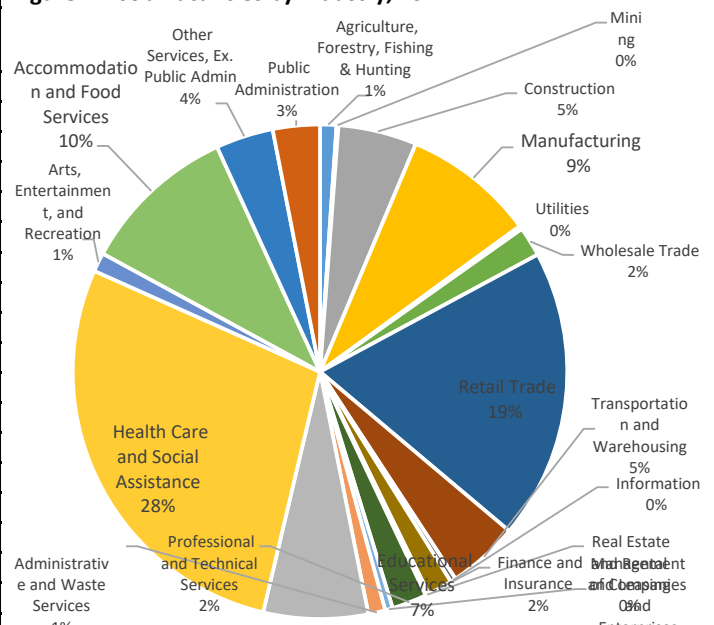
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Wright Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 13827 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. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	13,827	\$19.81
Management	319	\$29.45
Business & Financial Operations	394	\$33.36
Computer & Mathematical	40	\$26.02
Architecture & Engineering	197	\$30.87
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	122	\$33.52
Community & Social Service	283	\$23.80
Education, Training & Library	735	\$19.62
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,450	\$29.97
Healthcare Support	1,363	\$18.33
Protective Service	189	\$21.58
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,814	\$15.03
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	260	\$16.97
Personal Care & Service	417	\$14.99
Sales & Related	1,861	\$15.92
Office & Administrative Support	911	\$20.11
Construction & Extraction	693	\$22.04
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	695	\$23.62
Production	598	\$20.21
Transportation & Material Moving	1,128	\$20.98

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central 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 \$37,520/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$61,513/yr	Registered Nurses \$101,788/yr	General and Operations Managers \$86,311/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,294/yr	Nursing Assistants \$45,077/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$80,894/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$63,707/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$31,729/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$60,654/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$84,540/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,803/yr
Cashiers \$32,454/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$51,037/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$49,370/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$109,085/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$37,670/yr	Psychiatric Technicians \$46,781/yr	Architectural and Civil Drafters \$63,877/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$76,798/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and \$45,691/yr	Machinists \$60,200/yr	Dental Hygienists \$99,124/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,622/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,072/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$64,200/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$81,545/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$44,131/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,056/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$52,077/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,951/yr	Project Management Specialists \$94,626/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$45,804/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$56,854/yr	Surgical Technologists \$70,461/yr	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$64,293/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,935/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,651/yr	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers \$97,765/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$69,904/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Wright Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% 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

Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
Total, All Industries	315,929	332,231	5.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,649	5,809	2.8%
Utilities	1,986	1,998	0.6%
Construction	20,532	22,780	10.9%
Manufacturing	41,539	44,543	7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,219	12,105	7.9%
Retail Trade	35,711	35,808	0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,287	10,143	9.2%
Information	3,002	3,214	7.1%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	10,142	10,528	3.8%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	9,040	9,979	10.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	10,369	11,004	6.1%
Educational Services	24,622	24,913	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	45,668	49,836	9.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	26,046	27,642	6.1%
Other Services	10,880	11,311	4.0%
Public Administration	20,424	21,077	3.2%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



