Big Stone Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 6W, which is located in the Southwest Planning Region.

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

| 2021 population: | 5,145 people |

Big Stone Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2021, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Big Stone Co. did not see international in-migration (see Table 1).

Table 1. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population Change</th>
<th>Natural Increase</th>
<th>Vital Events</th>
<th>Net Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Births</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Minnesota</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>12,512</td>
<td>79,493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Population by Age Group, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 years</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 years</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years &amp; over</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big Stone Co.’s population decreased over the past decade, ranking as the 65th fastest growing of the 87 counties in the state from 2010 to 2020. It is now the 83rd largest in the state. Big Stone 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 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign-born Population</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Change 2010-2020</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas:</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to the state, Big Stone Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2020, Big Stone Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.
Big Stone Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2010, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Hispanic Origin</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4,832</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino origin</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big Stone Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2010, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Big Stone Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2023 to 2033, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (5.6%). 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, 2023-2033

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Big Stone Co. 2023 Projection</th>
<th>Big Stone Co. 2033 Projection</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 years</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>-83</td>
<td>-15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>-332</td>
<td>-47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>-110</td>
<td>-16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 years</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years &amp; over</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>-27</td>
<td>-10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>4,765</td>
<td>4,317</td>
<td>-448</td>
<td>-9.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big Stone Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (92.8%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Big Stone 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: 92.2%

College-educated: 52.2%
Associate's Degree: 12.5%
Bachelor's Degree: 12.6%
Advanced Degree: 6.3%

Educational Attainment: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey
At 3.7%, Big Stone Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2021. After the pandemic recession Big Stone Co.’s unemployment rate decreased compared to 4.5% in 2020, and declined compared to the 4.3% rate posted in 2019, pre-pandemic. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Big Stone Co. declined over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net loss of -14.6 workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Big Stone Co. averaged an annual gain of 12.9 new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of -48.9 fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7).

Moving forward, Big Stone Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2023 to 2033 (see Table 6).

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. Job vacancies in Southwest reached new highs in the 4th quarter of 2021, quickly bringing back challenges in finding new workers and the lowest jobseeker-per-vacancy ratio on record (see Figure 8).
Big Stone Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Big Stone Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 84.8% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

### Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
<th>Labor Force by Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Labor Force</strong></td>
<td>2,322</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 19 years</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 44 years</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years &amp; over</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
<th>Labor Force by Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>#VALUE!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian &amp; Alaska Native</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Other Pac. Islanders</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>#DIV/0!</td>
<td>#DIV/0!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Employment Characteristics by Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Status</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
<th>Labor Force by Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Any Disability</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
<th>Labor Force by Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, 25 to 64 years</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than H.S. Diploma</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. Diploma or Equivalent</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Assoc. Degree</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van</td>
<td>1,863</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation (excl. taxicab)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10 minutes</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 19 minutes</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 29 minutes</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 44 minutes</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 59 minutes</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 or more minutes</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mean travel time to work (minutes)                     | 18.4 minutes  | 23.8 minutes |

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
COUNTY PROFILE

INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Big Stone Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below $50,000. Overall, Big Stone Co. had the 63rd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

The cost of living has increased over the past year with costs up in many areas. Big Stone Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of $12.99 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of $14.61 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Big Stone Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 78th highest value of the 87 counties in 2020. Big Stone Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>State of Minnesota</th>
<th>Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Adult, 0 children</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly Costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Yearly Cost of Living</td>
<td>Hourly Wage Required</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>$27,015</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Minnesota</td>
<td>$33,708</td>
<td>$16.21</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical Family</td>
<td>Family Yearly Cost of Living</td>
<td>Hourly Wage Required</td>
<td>Monthly Costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$45,577</td>
<td>$14.61</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>$60,540</td>
<td>$19.40</td>
<td>$579</td>
<td>$822</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big Stone Co.</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $50,000</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 to $299,999</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000 to $499,999</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000 or more</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (dollars)</td>
<td>$108,900</td>
<td>$235,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage
$1,070

Median monthly rent costs
$606

FIGURE 11. Household Incomes, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$0 to $24,999</th>
<th>$25,000-$49,999</th>
<th>$50,000-$74,999</th>
<th>$75,000-$99,999</th>
<th>$100,000-$149,999</th>
<th>$150,000 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 12. Year Structure Built, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 or later</th>
<th>2000 to 2009</th>
<th>1980 to 1999</th>
<th>1960 to 1979</th>
<th>1940 to 1959</th>
<th>1939 or earlier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than 20%</th>
<th>20% to 24.9%</th>
<th>25.0% to 29.9%</th>
<th>30.0% to 34.9%</th>
<th>35% or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Co.</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COUNTY PROFILE
Big Stone Co.

OCCUPATIONS

At $18.94 in 2021, wages were lower in Region 6W than the state. Overall, Region 6W had the 2nd lowest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations ($38.43) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs ($12.28) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>Region 6W Median Hourly Wage</th>
<th>State of Minnesota Median Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Share of Regional Location Quotient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, All Occupations</td>
<td>$18.94</td>
<td>$23.81</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$38.43</td>
<td>$50.51</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Financial Operations</td>
<td>$29.90</td>
<td>$38.08</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Mathematical</td>
<td>$30.56</td>
<td>$48.34</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>$38.19</td>
<td>$39.39</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, Physical &amp; Social Science</td>
<td>$27.03</td>
<td>$37.30</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
<td>$22.76</td>
<td>$24.68</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>$29.94</td>
<td>$40.08</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Training &amp; Library</td>
<td>$23.62</td>
<td>$24.48</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Design, Entertainment &amp; Media</td>
<td>$18.09</td>
<td>$26.08</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners &amp; Technical</td>
<td>$30.27</td>
<td>$38.73</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support</td>
<td>$15.23</td>
<td>$15.37</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Service</td>
<td>$23.55</td>
<td>$25.07</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation &amp; Serving Related</td>
<td>$12.28</td>
<td>$14.65</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building, Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maint.</td>
<td>$15.62</td>
<td>$17.98</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care &amp; Service</td>
<td>$14.60</td>
<td>$15.24</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales &amp; Related</td>
<td>$14.59</td>
<td>$17.25</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Administrative Support</td>
<td>$18.89</td>
<td>$23.12</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming, Fishing &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>$18.34</td>
<td>$18.55</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction &amp; Extraction</td>
<td>$23.72</td>
<td>$30.09</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance &amp; Repair</td>
<td>$23.42</td>
<td>$25.34</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>$18.80</td>
<td>$19.59</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Material Moving</td>
<td>$19.12</td>
<td>$19.30</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2021

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Big Stone Co. is a part of the Southwest planning region. There were 12116 job vacancies posted by employers in the 4th Quarter of 2021, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Southwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 4 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>Number of Vacancies</th>
<th>Wage Offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, All Occupations</td>
<td>12,116</td>
<td>$15.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>$32.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Financial Operations</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>$33.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Mathematical</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$25.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>$24.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, Physical &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>$21.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Training &amp; Library</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>$23.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners &amp; Technical</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>$24.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support</td>
<td>1,618</td>
<td>$13.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Service</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>$13.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation &amp; Serving Related</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>$11.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building, Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maint.</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>$14.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care &amp; Service</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>$19.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales &amp; Related</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>$13.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Administrative Support</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>$13.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction &amp; Extraction</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>$21.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance &amp; Repair</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>$18.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>$15.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Material Moving</td>
<td>1,316</td>
<td>$17.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, Qtr. 4 2021

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, Qtr. 4 2021

Transportation and Warehousing 6%
Information 1%
Finance and Insurance 2%
Management of Companies and Technical Services 1%
Educational, Professional and Technical Services 4%
Management and Companies Administration 16%
Wholesale Trade 9%
Retail Trade 16%
Health Care and Social Assistance 17%
Public Administration, Ex. Public Admin 2%
Utilities 0%
Construction 2%
Manufacturing 10%
Retail and Ex. Public Admin 2%
Wholesale Trade 9%
Health Care and Social Assistance 17%
Public Administration, Ex. Public Admin 2%
Utilities 0%
Construction 2%
Manufacturing 10%
Retail Trade 16%
Health Care and Social Assistance 37%
Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, Qtr. 4 2021
### Table 13. Southwest Occupations in Demand, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than High School</th>
<th>High School or Equivalent</th>
<th>Some College or Assoc. Deg.</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Health and Personal Care Aides</td>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,145/yr</td>
<td>$33,957/yr</td>
<td>$76,734/yr</td>
<td>$53,146/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>General and Operations Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$28,923/yr</td>
<td>$48,351/yr</td>
<td>$55,177/yr</td>
<td>$79,034/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers</td>
<td>Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,982/yr</td>
<td>$41,596/yr</td>
<td>$59,965/yr</td>
<td>$57,121/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast Food and Counter Workers</td>
<td>Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics</td>
<td>Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists</td>
<td>Accountants and Auditors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24,598/yr</td>
<td>$37,127/yr</td>
<td>$79,803/yr</td>
<td>$64,075/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,543/yr</td>
<td>$57,423/yr</td>
<td>$51,741/yr</td>
<td>$51,967/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers</td>
<td>Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers</td>
<td>Surgical Technologists</td>
<td>Substitute Teachers, Short-Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$43,858/yr</td>
<td>$49,409/yr</td>
<td>$57,436/yr</td>
<td>$35,428/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters and Waitresses</td>
<td>Machinists</td>
<td>Radiologic Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>Project Management Specialists and Business Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,523/yr</td>
<td>$48,003/yr</td>
<td>$65,570/yr</td>
<td>$60,798/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockers and Order Fillers</td>
<td>Industrial Machinery Mechanics</td>
<td>Veterinary Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,099/yr</td>
<td>$52,667/yr</td>
<td>$37,547/yr</td>
<td>$134,918/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Representatives</td>
<td>Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists</td>
<td>Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and</td>
<td>Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37,334/yr</td>
<td>$29,742/yr</td>
<td>$58,234/yr</td>
<td>$60,938/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics</td>
<td>Forest and Conservation Technicians</td>
<td>Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$29,982/yr</td>
<td>$36,614/yr</td>
<td>$47,186/yr</td>
<td>$54,030/yr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

**Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southwest Planning Region</th>
<th>Estimated Employment 2020</th>
<th>Projected Employment 2030</th>
<th>Percent Change 2020-2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, All Industries</td>
<td>195,812</td>
<td>203,504</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</td>
<td>5,931</td>
<td>6,026</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>18,569</td>
<td>17,653</td>
<td>-4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</td>
<td>7,385</td>
<td>7,817</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>30,107</td>
<td>30,719</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>8,045</td>
<td>8,118</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DEED 2020-2030 Employment Outlook

Big Stone Co. is a part of the Southwest 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).
COUNTY PROFILE

Big Stone Co.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Big Stone Co. had the 80th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Big Stone Co. was the 72nd fastest growing in the past year and the 24th fastest growing since 2019, prior to the pandemic. From 2019 to 2021, employment in Big Stone Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
<th>% of Total Jobs</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,663</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>$45,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fish &amp; Hunt</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate &amp; Rental &amp; Leasing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; Technical Services</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Companies</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. Support &amp; Waste Mgmt. Svcs.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
<td>#N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Luke Greiner  Regional Analyst, Central & Southwest
CareerForce St. Cloud  | 1542 Northway Dr. Door 2  | St. Cloud MN 56303
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web: www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/

Data updated: June 24, 2022