

Northeast Minnesota Highlights

Demographic Highlights

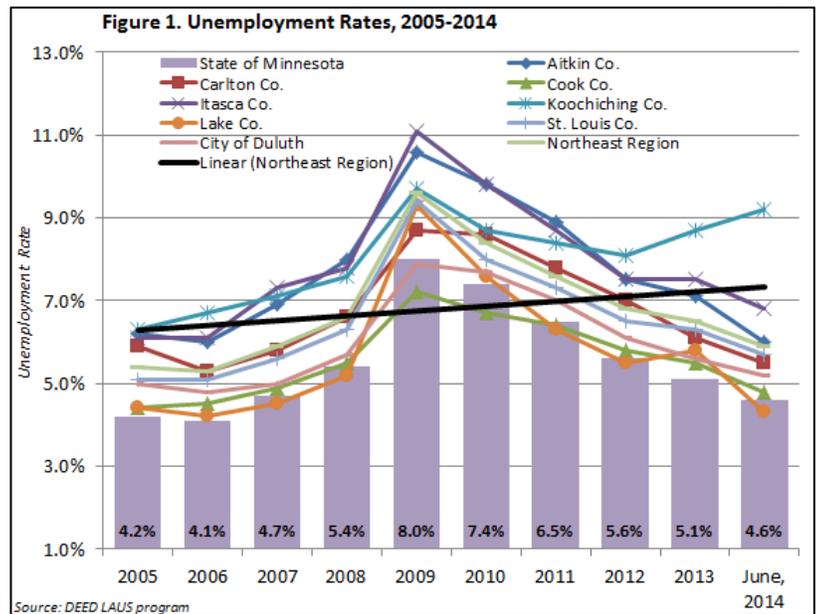
- According to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, the city of Duluth was home to 86,128 people in 2013, making it the 5th largest city in the state, behind only Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, and Bloomington. The seven-county Northeast Minnesota region – which includes Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis County – has 326,489 residents, accounting for 6.0% of the state’s total population.
- Northeast Minnesota’s population grew by 4,416 people from 2000 to 2013, a 1.4% growth rate, compared to a 10.2% growth rate statewide. Carlton County was the fastest (+12.0%) and largest (+3,789 people) growing county in the region, followed by Itasca (+1,572 people, +3.6%) and Aitkin (+441 people, +2.9%); while Cook (+32 people, +0.6%) and St. Louis (+12 people, +0.0%) essentially held steady. Lake County saw a small population decline (-281 people, -2.5%) and Koochiching suffered a large decline (-1,149 people, -8.0%). (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Population, 2000-2013	2000 Population	2013 Estimate	2000-2013 Change	
Aitkin Co.	15,301	15,742	+441	+2.9%
Carlton Co.	31,671	35,460	+3,789	+12.0%
Cook Co.	5,168	5,200	+32	+0.6%
Itasca Co.	43,992	45,564	+1,572	+3.6%
Koochiching Co.	14,355	13,206	-1,149	-8.0%
Lake Co.	11,058	10,777	-281	-2.5%
St. Louis Co.	200,528	200,540	+12	+0.0%
Northeast Region	322,073	326,489	+4,416	+1.4%
State of Minnesota	4,919,479	5,420,380	+500,901	+10.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Workforce Highlights

- Northeast Minnesota has consistently had among the highest unemployment rates of all the regions in Minnesota, consistently tracking at least 1 percent above the state rate. Northeast Minnesota’s unemployment rate climbed as high as 9.6% in 2009, which was over 1.5% above the state rate, before inching back down to 6.5% in 2013. Through June of 2014, Northeast Minnesota’s rate was 5.9%, which was 1.3% above Minnesota’s rate (4.6%). (See Figure 1.)
- Koochiching County had the highest rate in the region in June 2014, at 9.2%. Itasca County’s rate dipped just below 7.0%, after climbing the highest during the recession (11.1% in 2009). Aitkin County also reached 10.6% in 2009, but had dropped to 6.0% in June 2014. Rates were also declining in St. Louis County (5.7%) and the city of Duluth (5.2%), as well as Carlton County (5.5%). Cook County’s 4.8% rate was just above the state rate, while Lake County continued to have the lowest rate in the region, at 4.3% in June of 2014.



Economic Highlights

- The Northeast Minnesota region was home to 140,341 jobs at 8,922 business establishments in 2013, according to data from DEED’s QCEW program. Northeast Minnesota enjoyed a 1.3% jump in jobs in the last year, as well as a 2.1% increase from 2010 to 2013. Thirteen of the 20 industry sectors gained jobs from 2012 to 2013, led by a strong expansion in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Real Estate, Rental and Leasing; Other Services; Transportation and Warehousing; and Construction.
- Nearly three-fourths of the state’s Mining employment is located in Northeast Minnesota, and it is the highest paying industry in the region, at \$88,816. It gained nearly 675 jobs since 2010, making it the fastest growing industry (+17.6%) in the region from 2010 to 2013, despite a small decline in the last year (-1.0%).

- Health care and social assistance is the largest employing industry in Northeast Minnesota, with 32,823 jobs, accounting for 23.4% of total jobs. Health care saw a small but steady rise in jobs in recent years, and is projected to be the largest growing industry in the region over the next decade.

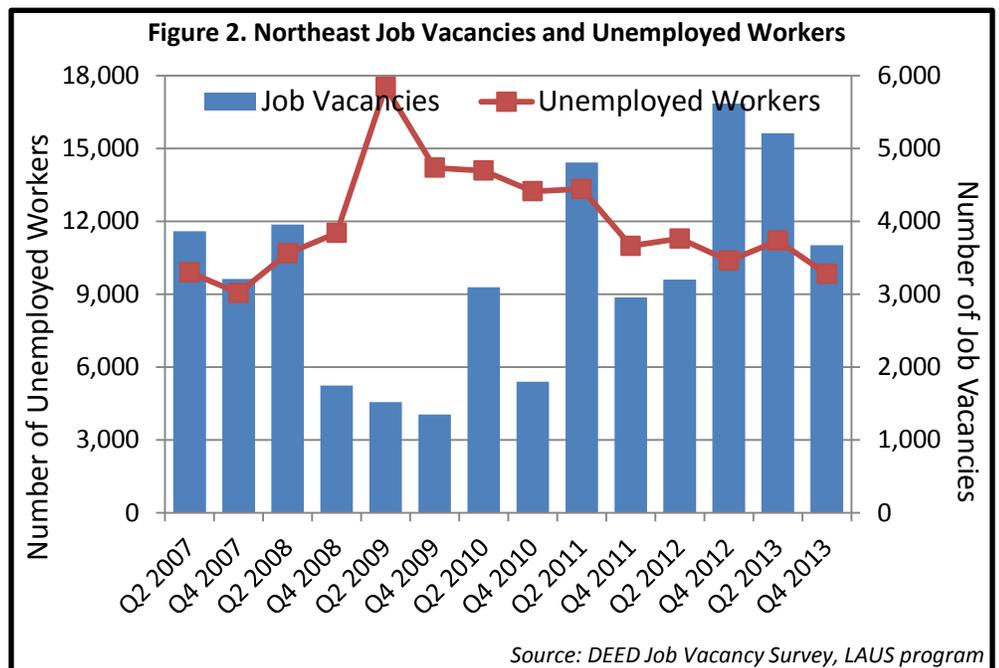
NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Avg. Annual Wages	2012-2013 Job Change	2010-2013 Job Change
Total, All Industries	8,922	140,341	100.0%	\$39,468	+1.3%	+2.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	130	586	0.4%	\$35,412	-4.6%	-3.3%
Mining	31	4,498	3.2%	\$88,816	-1.0%	+17.6%
Construction	983	6,064	4.3%	\$51,532	+2.7%	+8.0%
Manufacturing	358	8,916	6.4%	\$54,912	-0.6%	+7.4%
Utilities	55	1,712	1.2%	\$86,268	+0.7%	+3.4%
Wholesale Trade	288	3,083	2.2%	\$48,984	-2.6%	+2.7%
Retail Trade	1,412	17,604	12.5%	\$22,516	+1.1%	+1.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	333	3,578	2.5%	\$43,784	+4.2%	+6.9%
Information	160	1,748	1.2%	\$43,524	ND	ND
Finance & Insurance	450	4,825	3.4%	\$45,916	+2.2%	+2.7%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	274	1,258	0.9%	\$25,220	+9.0%	+4.2%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	571	3,904	2.8%	\$58,708	+10.9%	+4.1%
Management of Companies	41	820	0.6%	\$74,412	-8.8%	-18.4%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	304	3,942	2.8%	\$24,492	+1.4%	-0.9%
Educational Services	286	11,672	8.3%	\$41,132	+0.2%	0.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	882	32,823	23.4%	\$42,484	+0.8%	+0.5%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	245	3,682	2.6%	\$20,904	-0.9%	-1.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	949	14,371	10.2%	\$13,312	+1.5%	+1.3%
Other Services	779	4,636	3.3%	\$23,608	+7.5%	+6.6%
Public Administration	392	10,615	7.6%	\$46,696	+1.4%	+0.1%

Source: DEED QCEW program

- The next largest industries are Retail Trade (17,604 jobs, 12.5%) and Accommodation and Food Services (14,371 jobs, 10.2%), which are both more concentrated in the region than in the state (10.7%, 8.1% respectively).

Educational services (11,672 jobs) and Public Administration (10,615 jobs) are the next largest industries in the region, and have both seen very small job increases.

- Northeast Minnesota had about 2.4 jobseekers for every job vacancy in 2013
 - Down from 11 jobseekers per vacancy in 2009!
 - Back to pre-recession levels (2.7 jobseekers in 2007)
 - Largest number of vacancies in Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance, followed by Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Services.
 - Smaller number of vacancies in Public Administration, Educational Services, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Professional & Technical Services, and Other Services.



- Northeast Minnesota had 227 occupations in high demand
 - 95 require a high school diploma or less
 - 39 require some college, postsecondary vocational award, or associate's degree
 - 68 require a bachelor's degree
 - 25 require an advanced degree
 - 35 are healthcare practitioners
 - 32 are production occupations
 - 23 are installation, maintenance and repair occupations
 - 22 are business & finance
 - 16 are architecture & engineering
 - 15 are management
 - 13 are computer & mathematical

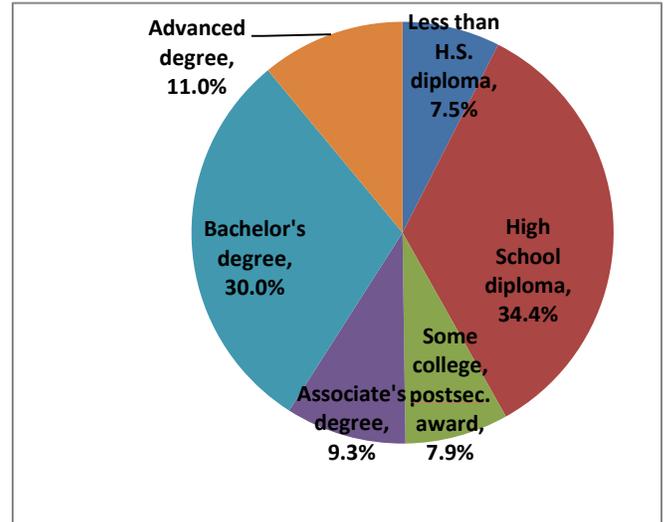
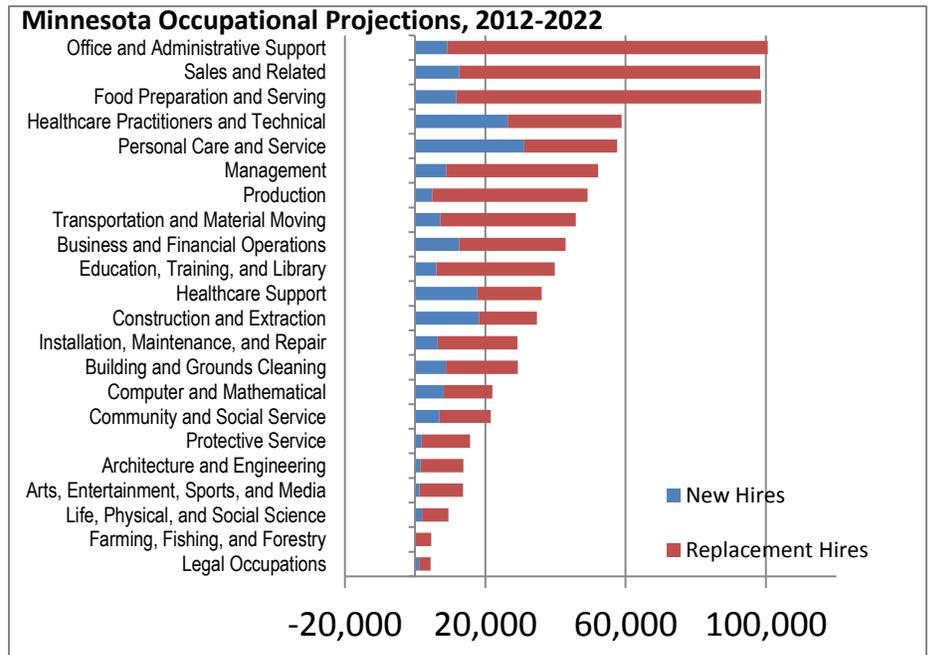


Table 3. Northeast Minnesota Jobs in Demand by Educational Level

High School Diploma or Less	Postsecondary Award & Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Combined Food Prep & Serving Workers \$17,900	Computer User Support Specialists \$43,460	Registered Nurses \$62,420
Social & Human Service Assistants \$28,884	Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians \$41,819	Marketing Managers \$75,362
Personal Care Aides \$21,654	Civil Engineering Technicians \$52,814	Physicians & Surgeons \$190,199
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners \$19,744	Radiologic Technologists \$57,595	Computer Systems Analysts \$69,796
Cashiers \$18,412	Cardiovascular Technologists \$56,004	Architects \$77,889
Office Clerks, General \$27,825	Hairdressers, Stylists & Cosmetologists \$21,753	Nurse Practitioners \$95,019
Home Health Aides \$22,168	Computer Network Support Specialists \$47,961	Human Resources Specialists \$47,125
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers \$22,645	Dental Hygienists \$66,740	Accountants & Auditors \$57,307
Sewing Machine Operators \$21,439	Electronic Equipment Installers \$24,029	Financial Managers \$87,598

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand (OID) tool

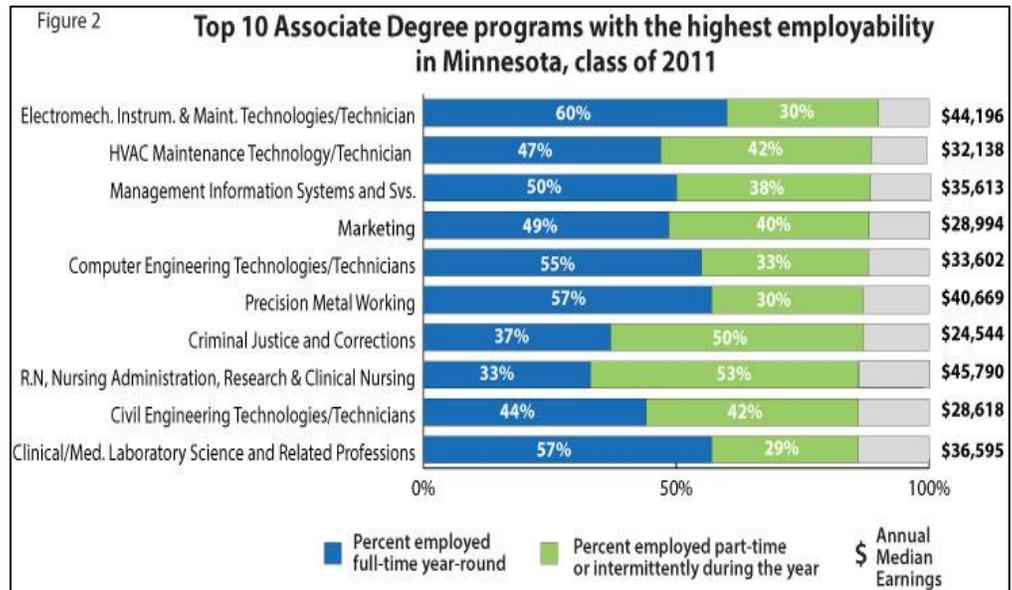
- According to DEED's 2012-2022 Employment Outlook tool, Minnesota's economy will gain +204,999 net new jobs, a growth rate of +7.0%
 - Minnesota gained 358,732 jobs from 1980-1990
 - Minnesota gained 549,000 jobs from 1990-2000
 - Minnesota lost -43,706 jobs from 2000-2010
- In addition, over +673,520 workers will be needed to take jobs left vacant through retirements and replacements



- Choice of major (focus on career and labor market trends) is the main driver of economic success after graduation
 - There are more opportunities in MN for people with degrees that are technical (focused on analytical/quantitative skills) or geared towards growing sectors (Health Care & Social Assistance, Education)
 - This is true at every award level!*

- Findings show that two-thirds of graduates were employed in Minnesota a year after graduation
- Overall, wages increased with education level

- Hourly wages for bachelor's and graduate degree completers rose at a faster rate than others between 12 and 24 months after graduation, suggesting stronger earning power in the long run



- Both full-time and year-round employment status affect wage results. Individuals who worked full-time for the whole year earned considerably more than the total population employed
- Only 42% of 2011 completers who were employed managed to find a full-time job and keep it for the whole year
 - These results stand as evidence of under-employment, or under-utilization of skills in the economy

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