

**COUNTY PROFILE**

**Mille Lacs Co.**

Mille Lacs Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 7E, which is located in the Central Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

2023 population:	<b>27,427 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>41.2 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2023	968 people 3.7% increase	state:	38.6 years

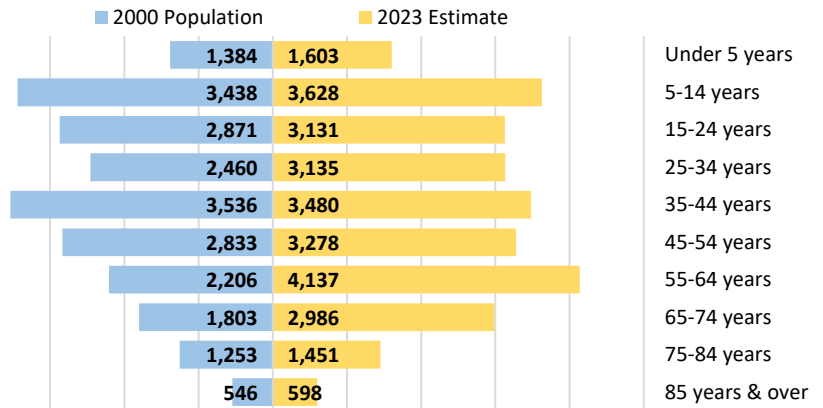
Mille Lacs Co. is the 39th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 9th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2023. Mille Lacs Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

**Table 1. Population by Age Group, 2023**

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,603	5.8%
5-14 years	3,628	13.2%
15-24 years	3,131	11.4%
25-34 years	3,135	11.4%
35-44 years	3,480	12.7%
45-54 years	3,278	12.0%
55-64 years	4,137	15.1%
65-74 years	2,986	10.9%
75-84 years	1,451	5.3%
85 years & over	598	2.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>27,427</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2023 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

**Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2023**



Mille Lacs Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2023, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Mille Lacs 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, 2020-2023**

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Mille Lacs Co.	954	-274	937	1,211	1,222	2	1,220
State of Minnesota	31,111	40,368	207,857	167,489	-11,352	34,624	-45,976

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

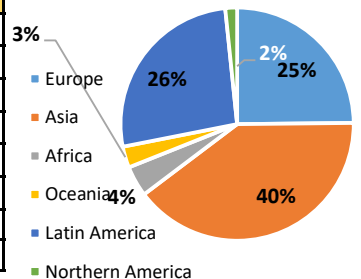
Compared to the state, Mille Lacs Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2022, Mille Lacs Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

**Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023**

	Mille Lacs Co.		Change 2010-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	76	24.8%	-38	-33.3%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	122	39.9%	66	117.9%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	13	4.2%	-2	-13.3%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	9	2.9%	9	#DIV/0!	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	86	28.1%	23	36.5%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	81	26.5%	54	200.0%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	5	1.6%	-31	-86.1%	2.5%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

**Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023**



## COUNTY PROFILE

Mille Lacs Co.

Mille Lacs Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2011, the county's white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023**

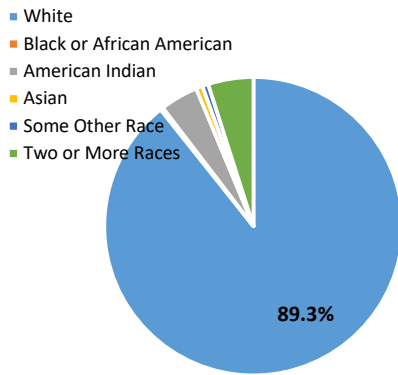


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Mille Lacs Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,912</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	24,031	89.3%	1.7%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	83	0.3%	-46.1%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,109	4.1%	-27.8%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	189	0.7%	62.9%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	177	0.7%	94.5%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	1,323	4.9%	228.3%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	582	2.2%	39.6%	6.2%	37.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

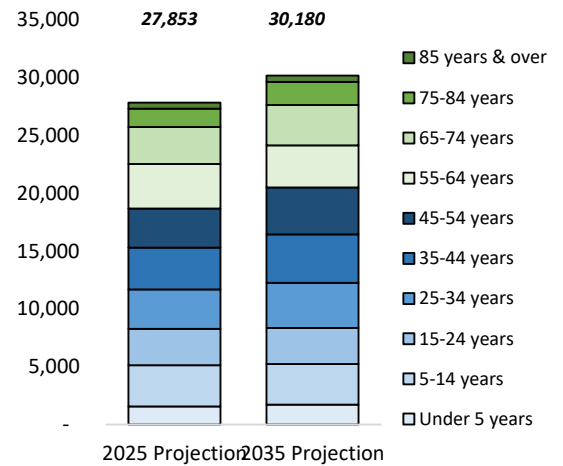
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Mille Lacs Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (4.5%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Mille Lacs Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	1,574	1,731	157	10.0%
5-14 years	3,544	3,497	-47	-1.3%
15-24 years	3,157	3,119	-38	-1.2%
25-34 years	3,406	3,901	495	14.5%
35-44 years	3,637	4,205	568	15.6%
45-54 years	3,358	4,057	699	20.8%
55-64 years	3,865	3,647	-218	-5.6%
65-74 years	3,210	3,473	263	8.2%
75-84 years	1,571	2,018	447	28.5%
85 years & over	531	532	1	0.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>27,853</b>	<b>30,180</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

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

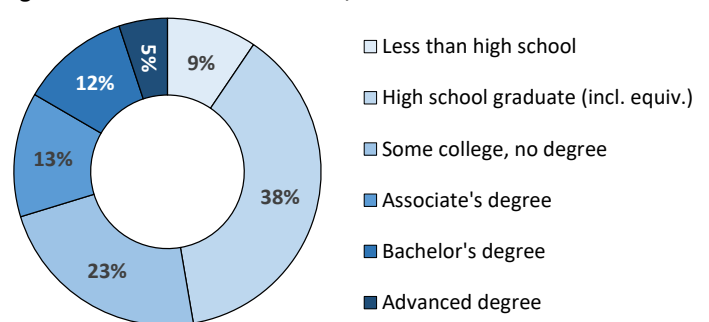


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Mille Lacs Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Mille Lacs 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>90.5%</b>
<b>College-educated:</b>	<b>52.7%</b>
state:	68.8%
<b>Associate's Degree:</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree:</b>	<b>11.5%</b>
<b>Advanced Degree:</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



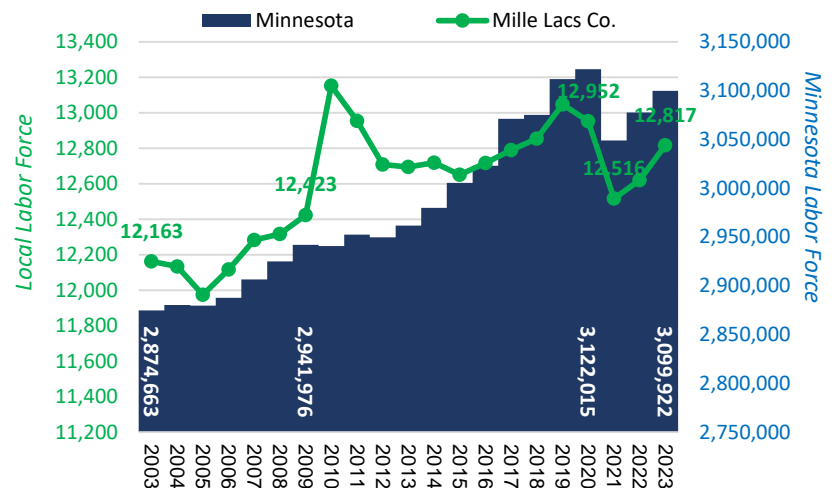
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 5.1%, Mille Lacs Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2023. After the pandemic recession Mille Lacs Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 5.5% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Mille Lacs Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>12,817</b> available workers
Labor Force change, 2008-2023: 500 workers, 4.1% increase
<b>5.1%</b> unemployment rate
2.8% state
<b>654</b> unemployed workers

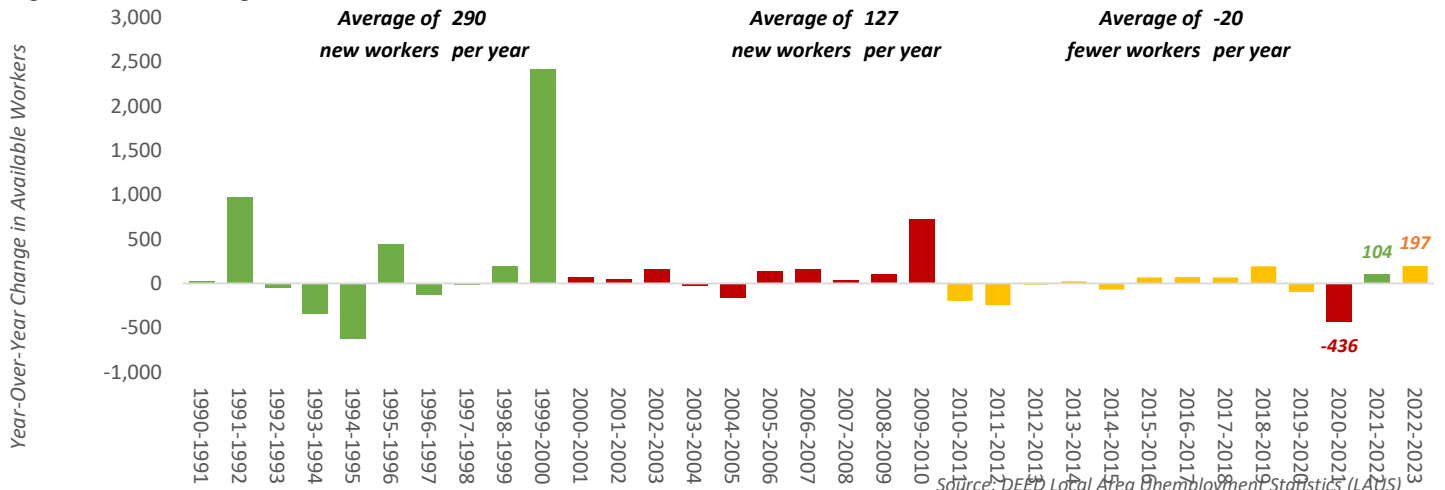
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



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

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023



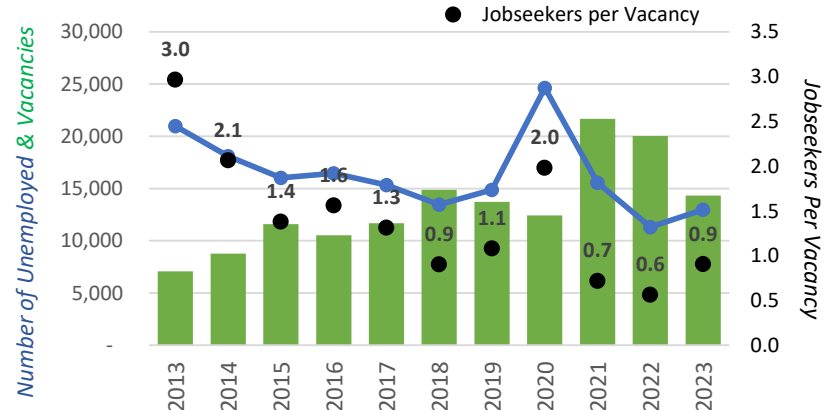
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	2,070	2,065
25 to 54 years	8,913	10,420
55 to 64 years	2,684	2,532
65 years & over	888	982
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>14,555</b>	<b>16,000</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

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. In 2023, job vacancies in Central returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2013-2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

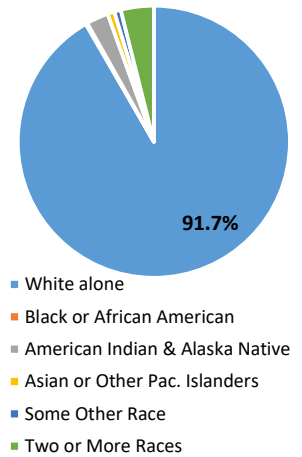
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Mille Lacs Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Mille Lacs Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 81.3% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

**Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023**

	Mille Lacs 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>13,892</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>68.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>7,383</b>	<b>6,512</b>
16 to 19 years	809	62.0%	5.7%	52.7%	9.9%	440	369
20 to 24 years	1,137	83.6%	5.0%	83.4%	6.5%	591	546
25 to 44 years	5,593	86.2%	4.1%	88.7%	3.5%	3,018	2,573
45 to 54 years	2,724	84.7%	4.2%	87.8%	2.9%	1,464	1,259
55 to 64 years	2,818	69.4%	4.8%	72.8%	3.0%	1,437	1,381
65 to 74 years	665	22.7%	2.7%	27.8%	3.4%	368	296
75 years & over	153	7.6%	3.9%	6.6%	3.1%	65	88
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	12,742	65.6%	3.9%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	28	37.8%	0.0%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	365	48.5%	17.4%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	114	63.3%	14.1%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	109	79.6%	1.8%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	544	67.6%	4.8%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	234	63.2%	4.3%	77.1%	5.9%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years</b>							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	959	48.2%	13.8%	55.3%	9.5%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	11,137	80.9%	4.3%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	860	73.1%	5.3%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	3,385	72.9%	0.9%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	4,638	85.5%	4.7%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2,250	89.2%	1.2%	90.5%	2.0%		

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023**



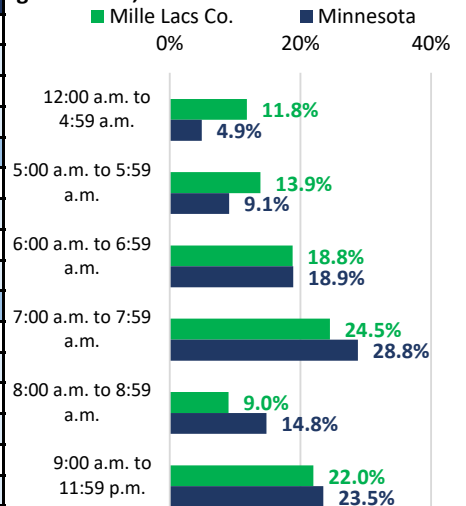
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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

**Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022**

	Mille Lacs Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	12,907	98.7%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	6,552	50.1%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	6,368	48.7%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	170	1.3%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	11,312	86.5%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	196	1.5%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	418	3.2%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	1,164	8.9%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	2,877	22.0%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	2,812	21.5%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	1,726	13.2%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	2,092	16.0%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	1,216	9.3%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	2,341	17.9%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>30.8 minutes</b>		<b>23.1 minutes</b>	

**Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023**



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

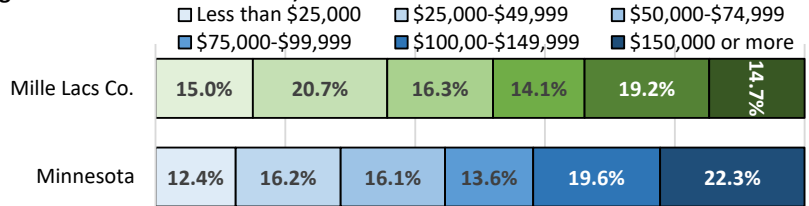
**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Mille Lacs Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Mille Lacs Co. had the 47th highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$71,455</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$86,552</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$35,500</b>
state	\$46,957

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Mille Lacs 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 \$19.9 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2023

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Mille Lacs Co.	\$30,870	\$14.84	\$0	\$402	\$161	\$771	\$628	\$281	\$329
State of Minnesota	\$34,704	\$16.68	\$0	\$419	\$160	\$1,021	\$572	\$345	\$375
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
Mille Lacs Co.	\$62,082	\$19.90	\$421	\$917	\$576	\$1,031	\$1,122	\$466	\$641
State of Minnesota	\$67,320	\$21.58	\$544	\$955	\$574	\$1,285	\$977	\$536	\$739

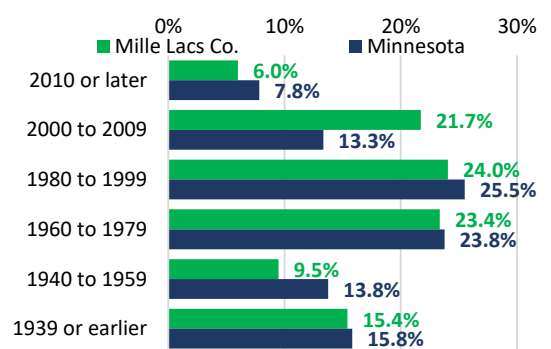
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Mille Lacs Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 31st highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Mille Lacs 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, 2022	Mille Lacs Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	425	5.1%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	438	5.2%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	782	9.4%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,383	16.6%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,745	32.9%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,979	23.7%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	594	7.1%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$237,500</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,655</b>
state	\$1,890

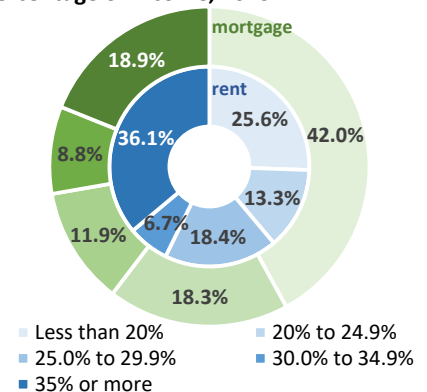
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>27.7%</b>
state	22.5%

<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$909</b>
state	\$1,235

<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
state	47.2%

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2023



OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.18 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 7E than the state. Overall, Region 7E had the 7th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$48.04) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$15.24) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2024

Occupational Group	Region 7E				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>\$23.18</b>	<b>48,440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$25.22</b>	<b>2,881,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$48.04	2,620	5.4%	0.8	\$57.75	201,710	7.0%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.51	1,560	3.2%	0.5	\$39.26	202,700	7.0%
Computer & Mathematical	\$39.52	390	0.8%	0.2	\$50.83	98,240	3.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$40.50	720	1.5%	0.7	\$42.97	58,320	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$37.53	340	0.7%	0.7	\$39.93	29,220	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$28.47	1,580	3.3%	1.6	\$27.92	57,930	2.0%
Legal	\$43.72	170	0.4%	0.5	\$51.15	19,040	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$28.45	3,760	7.8%	1.4	\$28.22	163,340	5.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$25.64	300	0.6%	0.5	\$29.01	36,160	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$41.14	3,030	6.3%	1.0	\$43.01	184,410	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.31	3,230	6.7%	1.1	\$18.07	169,580	5.9%
Protective Service	\$27.55	1,300	2.7%	1.7	\$28.87	45,860	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$15.24	5,200	10.7%	1.3	\$15.07	232,190	8.1%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$18.29	1,350	2.8%	1.0	\$18.83	79,660	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$17.97	1,150	2.4%	1.2	\$17.60	59,420	2.1%
Sales & Related	\$17.40	4,940	10.2%	1.2	\$18.82	242,440	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$23.38	5,190	10.7%	0.9	\$23.86	352,250	12.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.75	80	0.2%	1.4	\$22.13	3,520	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.61	2,780	5.7%	1.5	\$32.44	110,960	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$26.91	1,840	3.8%	1.0	\$29.54	104,530	3.6%
Production	\$23.23	3,470	7.2%	1.0	\$23.05	203,810	7.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$19.92	3,430	7.1%	0.9	\$19.80	225,820	7.8%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2024

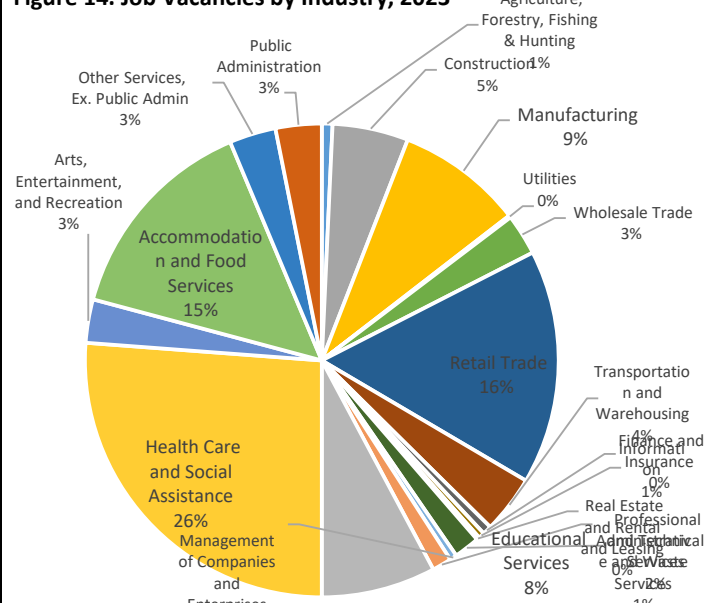
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Mille Lacs Co. is a part of the Central planning region. There were 14320 job vacancies posted by employers in 2023, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Central Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2023

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>14,320</b>	<b>\$19.13</b>
Management	281	\$28.24
Business & Financial Operations	220	\$26.20
Computer & Mathematical	132	\$32.07
Architecture & Engineering	230	\$30.57
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	60	\$31.02
Community & Social Service	417	\$25.91
Education, Training & Library	597	\$19.04
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,967	\$28.25
Healthcare Support	1,097	\$17.11
Protective Service	272	\$24.39
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,319	\$14.84
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	318	\$16.27
Personal Care & Service	433	\$14.55
Sales & Related	1,632	\$17.55
Office & Administrative Support	747	\$17.98
Construction & Extraction	297	\$23.74
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	589	\$24.92
Production	993	\$20.14
Transportation & Material Moving	1,275	\$19.17

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2023

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Central Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2023

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons \$35,817/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$60,953/yr	Registered Nurses \$97,279/yr	General and Operations Managers \$82,833/yr
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$35,952/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,289/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$79,926/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$65,116/yr
Fast Food and Counter Workers \$30,548/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$58,035/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$78,056/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,539/yr
Cashiers \$31,985/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$49,872/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$64,316/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$108,690/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$38,723/yr	Machinists \$61,397/yr	Calibration Technologists and Technicians \$51,876/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$38,309/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$37,511/yr	Emergency Medical Technicians \$43,830/yr	Dental Hygienists \$95,926/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$73,436/yr
Waiters and Waitresses \$24,272/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$49,071/yr	Detectives and Criminal Investigators \$77,932/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$65,914/yr
Childcare Workers \$32,303/yr	Electricians \$79,223/yr	Surgical Technologists \$66,288/yr	Industrial Engineers \$97,918/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$47,389/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$54,808/yr	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping \$49,531/yr	Project Management Specialists \$85,453/yr
Customer Service Representatives \$44,527/yr	Medical Assistants \$48,462/yr	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$46,438/yr	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School \$69,045/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

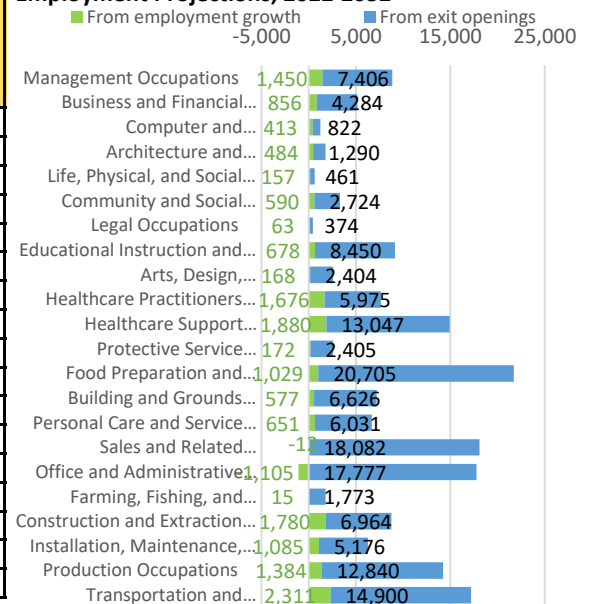
Mille Lacs Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 5.2% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Central Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>315,929</b>	<b>332,231</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
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



**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Mille Lacs Co. had the 41st largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Mille Lacs Co. was the 77th fastest growing in the past year and the 76th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2023, employment in Mille Lacs Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

**788** business establishments

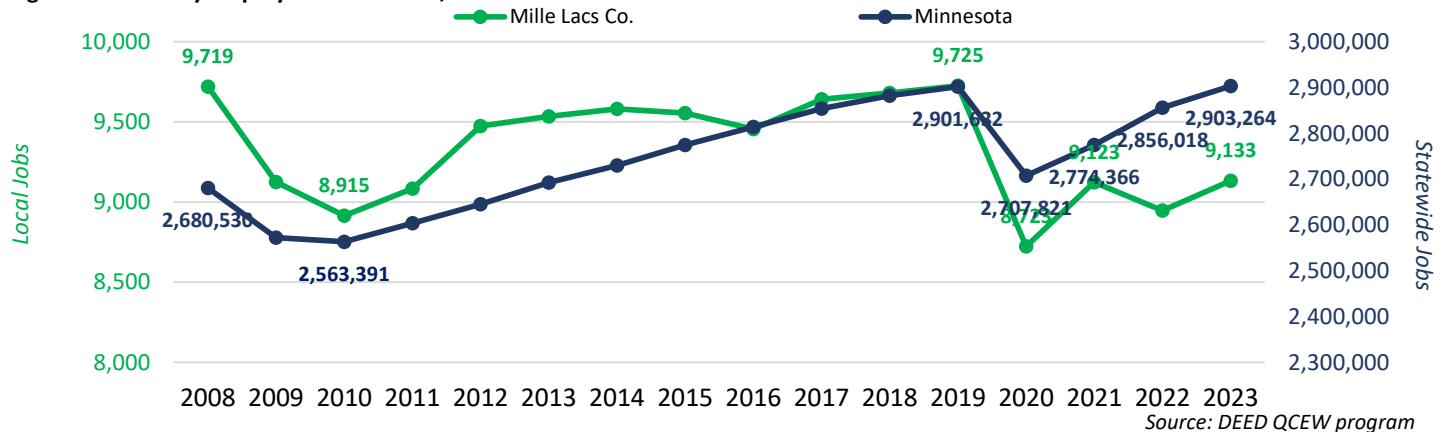
**\$46,888** annual average wage

**9,133** jobs

**\$428,230,447** total industry payroll

Job change, 2019-2023: -592 jobs, -6.1% decline

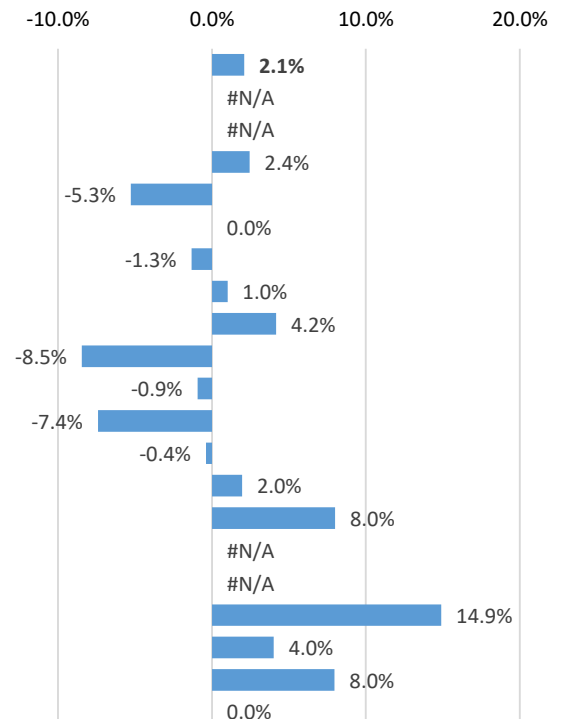
Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2008-2023



Source: DEED QCEW program

Table 15. Mille Lacs Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2023	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$46,888</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	503	5.5%	\$62,436
Manufacturing	720	7.9%	\$50,449
Utilities	39	0.4%	\$107,839
Wholesale Trade	149	1.6%	\$57,324
Retail Trade	1,193	13.1%	\$28,335
Transportation & Warehousing	225	2.5%	\$46,744
Information	65	0.7%	\$57,260
Finance & Insurance	212	2.3%	\$70,886
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	50	0.5%	\$31,550
Professional & Technical Services	254	2.8%	\$80,106
Management of Companies	52	0.6%	\$83,389
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	162	1.8%	\$63,907
Educational Services	889	9.7%	\$26,676
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,560	17.1%	\$24,710
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	108	1.2%	\$16,519
Accommodation & Food Services	1,427	15.6%	\$30,059
Other Services	271	3.0%	\$26,221
Public Administration	1,182	12.9%	\$59,704

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2022-2023



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

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

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Data updated: December 31, 2024