

Project Work

1. Central MN Manufacturers Association: Workforce Development Initiatives
 - Continued promotion and development of the Youth Apprenticeship Toolkit and the “K-12 Navigator” workforce development tools. Participation and site visits are increasing as manufacturers are adding their contact information and resources. School participation continues to increase.
 - <https://cmmaworks.org/k12-navigator>
 - <https://cmmaworks.org/youth-appren>
 - CMMA Breakfast Meeting breakfast meeting on May 23, 2024
 - Meeting location: St. John's University
 - Speaker: Fr. Lew Grobe, OSB - St. John's Abbey Woodworking and Organ Shop
 - CMMA Tour of Manufacturing 2024 planning. Business and school outreach activities.
 - CMMA Golf Fund Raiser and Social - June 11, 2024, at Wapicada Golf Club in Sauk Rapids
 - Discussing partnership opportunities with MPMA and their “Drive for 5” grant initiatives.
 - CMMA submitted a Letter of Commitment for a CMJTS apprenticeship grant application.
 - CMMA participated in May 22, 2024, Granite Stakeholder Tradeshow to promote and collaborate.
 - [Granite Partners](#)
2. Central MN HR Cooperative: meets monthly, second Thursday, 8:00 am–10:00 am. Group met on May 9, 2024, hybrid model. CMJTS, Leslie Wojtowicz, presented on I-WE and DEI initiatives and resources available.
3. Wright County Economic Development Partnership: <https://www.wrightpartnership.org/>
 - Continued development and promotion of web-based career exploration data tool, *WorkForce Pathways*. This site assists Wright County businesses with their Workforce needs to create a long-term vibrant community through education, training, marketing and collaboration. Members of this committee have been making presentations to high school student groups. This info can be located here: <https://www.wrightpartnership.org/workforce-pathways-v2/>
 - Group continues alignment and collaboration with newly created Wright County EDA.
 - 2024 Legislative Update Event:
 - June 27, 2023, 11:30 am–1 pm, Wright County Government Center
4. Work-Based Learning Coordination:
 - Promotion and development of OJT and Incumbent Worker services and training. Providing CMJTS and CareerForce Center (CFC) resources and services info to area businesses through outreach and response to incoming inquiries.
5. Create and broadcast a weekly (Monday) workforce/employment/training program entitled *Work Wright Radio* on KRWC, [Work Wright Radio | KRWC 1360 AM](#), featuring Wright County employers, careers, CFC services and resources. Sharing info on CMJTS, UI, CFC, Partners, and more. April guests included MCF partner SCEP
6. Providing job search assistance to active CMJTS job seekers as referred from ES in PA and Adult/DW. Assisting with job leads, employer connections and on the job training opportunities.

7. Partner/co- facilitate the Monticello CFC job seeker professional development and networking group, which meets on Tuesdays, 10:00 am–12:00 pm via Zoom. Discussion topics include finance in career transition, advanced LinkedIn strategies, and self- branding/promotion. Attendance is increasing. Most attendees learn of this group through DEED outreach, many people from the metro area attend. Continuing increase in job seekers from medical device, IT and financial services industries.
8. Promoting Inclusive Workplace Employer designation initiative with DEED and other CFC partners to assist businesses with diversity and inclusion opportunities.
9. Participating in CMJTS DEI team to enhance CMJTS work environment and practices.
10. Participated in the 3rd Annual Maple Lake Block Party/Job Fair on May 16, 2024. Promoted CFC partners and services.
11. Planning and promotion of June 20, 2024, quarterly job fair at Monticello CareerForce Center
12. Promoted and attended the WDB’s Community & Government Relation Committee’s May 17, 2024, AI virtual presentation.
13. Attended May 1, 2024, CMJTS all staff meeting and training.

Labor Market Info from MN DEED

The unemployment rate held at 2.7% in Minnesota in April, on a seasonally adjusted basis, for the sixth consecutive month.

The number of unemployed ticked up to 85,199 workers and the number of employed increased to 3,016,184 workers. The labor force grew to 3,101,383 workers, and the labor force participation rate held at 68%.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 3.9% in April, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The labor force participation rate held at 62.7%.

Unemployment Rates			
	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023
Minnesota			
Seasonally Adjusted	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	2.7%	3.2%	2.8%
United States			
Seasonally Adjusted	3.9%	3.8%	3.4%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	3.5%	3.9%	3.1%

MN DEED County Unemployment Rates For April 2024, (not seasonally adjusted)

Wright County: 2.8%
Sherburne County: 3.0%

Business Trends/Updates/Events

- **City of Isanti** – noted recently that they are gaining businesses in their business park as a result of the City of Blaine “disrupting” their industrial park to transition it to more of a hospitality environment. One example is a hotel they are putting in. Isanti has received 4 businesses in their industrial area so far due to this change.
- **Mille Lacs County Child Care Coalition** hosted a Child Care Provider Appreciation event on Monday, May 20th. Assisted with event as member of committee.
- **Become Cyber Savvy – Free training for community members.** Online over Zoom will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month starting May 9th from 2pm – 3pm, and the 4th Thursday of the month from 6pm-7pm. Also available in an online self-paced course. Organizations can host in-person trainings which are facilitated by the Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence (see more details below).
- **NLX Informational meeting** attended as part of the East Central Regional Transit Coordination Committee held on May 9 in Mora.
- **East Central Schools Career Fair** – Friday, May 3. BSC - assisted with business contacts and day of coordination. Completed planning call for 2025 event slated for Friday, March 9, 2025.
- **Rush City High School Career Fair** – Thursday, May 9, 12:30pm – 3:00pm.
- **Chisago County Manufacturing Month** event hosted by Chisago County HRA-EDA will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, and will include business tours for high school students, and onsite speaker and business booths. Planning sessions are underway.
- **EDAM Conference** – preparing presentation with regional partners to share about partnership success across programs and initiatives that have a positive impact on communities.
- **Aurelius Manufacturing** is in need of 2 CNC Machinists and find they are difficult to recruit. They did recently benefit from a layoff in Ramsey by gaining 2 welders who chose to start working closer to home rather than commute.
- **The Bug Company** – based in Ham Lake, is in need of production workers. They grow insects that are shipped out as food for reptiles, etc.
- **Job’s House of Prosperity** - This company is opening specific homes in the Grasston and Isanti areas to accommodate their specific customers. They are looking to hire 2 Behavior Technician Supervisors, \$26/hr and 22 Behavior Technicians, \$23/hr for the home in Grasston. In Isanti they are looking to hire 14 Behavior Technicians, \$23/hr. All required training will be provided. These positions are available in various shifts morning, evening, overnights, and weekends. They are hiring immediately.

Opportunity Reminder – Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence - Their new initiatives present a wealth of opportunities for CMJTS, the Board, and the communities and businesses we serve. **Some items include – free high school computer science curriculum, Cyber Internet Safety Training for community members “Becoming Cyber Savvy (in person and online)(CMJTS could offer to host an in-person training at our locations for customers and community members); Cyber Security for Employees (CMJTS could access this for our own employees and also promote this resources to the businesses we serve to use with their own employees), Advanced Cyber Security for IT Professions (customized training style for businesses to help protect their business and even specific departments – for example specific departments in manufacturing that are run by computer, Ag equipment run by computer, and many more – fee based on customer need).** <https://www.minnesotatechresources.org/>

East Central Development Partnership – BSC was a presenter on Workforce Tools that Work, alongside Della Ludwig and Luke Greiner, at the month membership meeting held on Friday, May 24 in Rush City. BSC also participates in ECDP Executive Board meetings as well. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 28. Presentation slides attached.

Human Resources Cooperative – Thursday, May 23 was held in-person at the Pine Innovation Center in Pine City. The next meeting will be held online on Thursday, June 13 at 8am. Some highlights include discussion on the new federal guidelines for exempt employees, some manufacturers have been a little slow lately, considerations of adjusted work schedules for added flexibility, one noted that they are working to move away from temp service hiring, concerns about paid family medical slated for 2026,

Regional Business Services Team Meeting – with Della Ludwig, Angie Dahle, and CMJTS Business Services team held on 5/15.

Incumbent Worker Projects

New

- Advance Design & Systems – Pine County, 5 trainees

On-going

- Advanced Volumetrics, Wright County, 25 trainees
- City of Hinckley, Pine County, 2 trainees

Completed

- Kendall Family Services, Chisago, Isanti, Washington Counties, 3 trainees
-

On-going file management and follow up for IW files in WF1.

Operation Exploration Planning – Coordinating presenters for the weeklong healthcare camp to be held at the Mora High School the week of June 24-28. Newly scheduled employers include Lighthouse Child and Family Services, Kendall Family Services, and Anoka Ramsey Community College Pharmacy Tech program. Additional presenters previously listed include – tour to highlight occupations, lunch and bingo with residents at St. Clare Senior Living, Life Link III will fly in and land at Mora High School to share about their occupations and show their helicopter, Sheriff’s Department and Fire Department to highlight dispatch and EMS coordination services, CPR/First Aid training will be provided, Welia will be providing presenters from HR, Clinic Nursing, Imaging, and Rehab Services, Embrace Orthodontics. Coborn’s, Kwik Trip, Embrace Orthodontics, and Welia have committed to donations for lunch and snacks.



Social Security Advocacy Services – Working on cases in the East Central Region at various stages in the application process. Working one on one with individuals to assist in filing applications and key function and work history reports, helping to identify progress on their cases and to submit information in a timely manner that will support their case. Case management and assistance being provided to nine individuals at this time.

Local Layoffs – have reached out to contacts in the community to learn more about recent local business closings and subsequent layoffs in an attempt to connect those who may have been dislocated with available program resources. Cavallin Ford – Pine City, 6 employees – resources delivered prior to closing






Grant Team – Editing proposals, requests for letters of support for several grants.

Unemployment Rate Data and Information





Local Unemployment Statistics for April 2024

More Info	Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
 	EDR 7E- East Central	89,026	NA	85,250	NA	3,776	4.2%

Local Unemployment Statistics for April 2024

More Info	Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
	Chisago County	30,209	NA	29,229	NA	980	3.2%
	Isanti County	21,961	NA	21,121	NA	840	3.8%
	Kanabec County	9,326	NA	8,839	NA	487	5.2%
	Mille Lacs County	12,887	NA	12,198	NA	689	5.3%
	Pine County	14,643	NA	13,863	NA	780	5.3%

Local Unemployment Statistics for April 2024

More Info	Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
	U S	167,484,000	62.5%	161,590,000	60.3%	5,894,000	3.5%
	Minnesota	3,101,808	68%	3,018,862	66.2%	82,946	2.7%
	U S Seasonally Adjusted	167,982,000	62.7%	161,491,000	60.2%	6,492,000	3.9%
	Minnesota Seasonally Adjusted	3,101,383	68%	3,016,184	66.2%	85,199	2.7%

DEED Workforce Strategy Consultant Team

Employers expanding or relocating to Minnesota

Manufacturing, Healthcare, Construction
Trades, Agriculture, Tech, Transportation, emerging
sectors: Semi-Conductor, Bio-Business, Clean
Energy

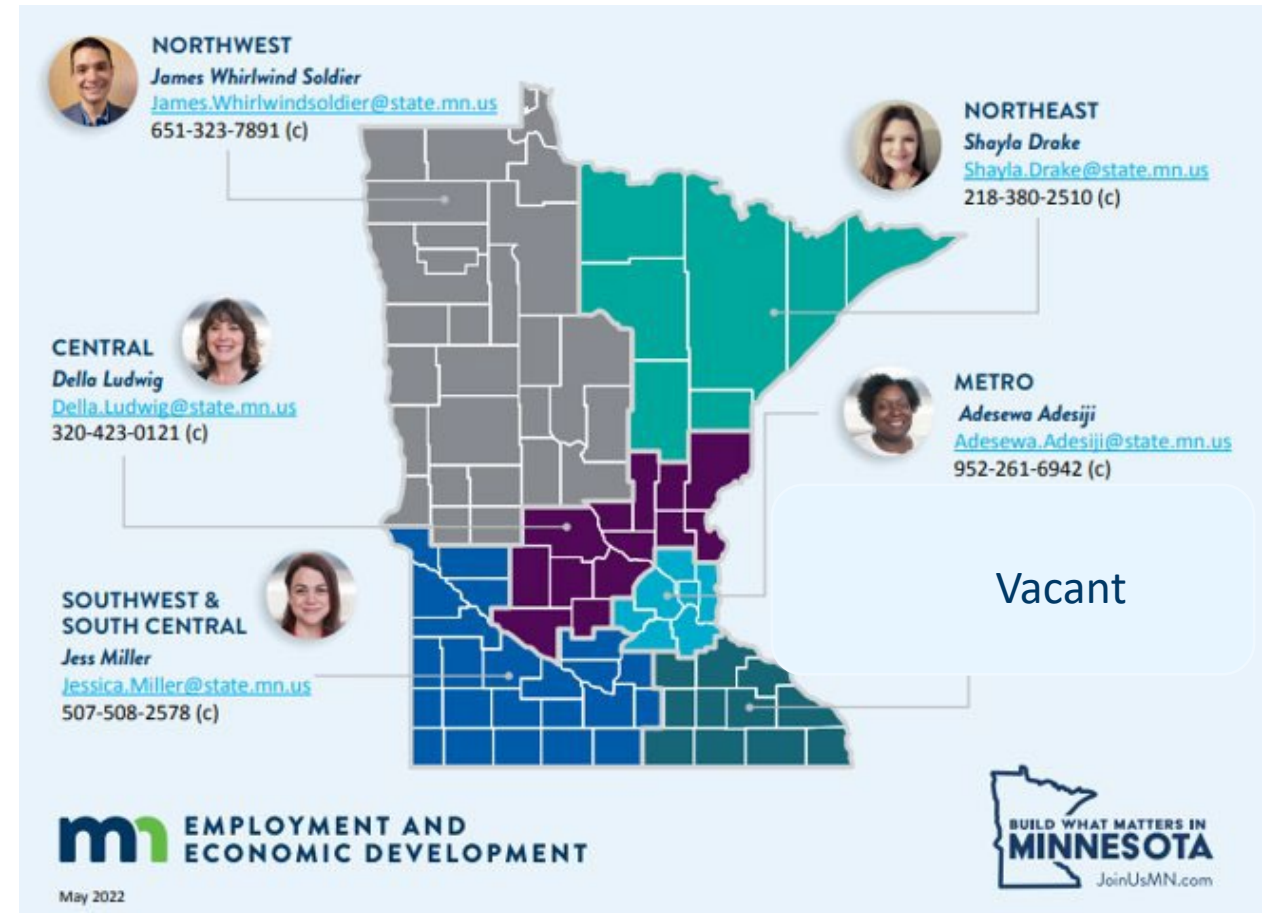
Communities, regions, workforce and education
partners

PROJECTS:

Workforce Wednesday, Business Led Sector
Partnerships (GWDB), DiMi, MIWI, Welcoming
Communities, Manufacturing Month & Tour of
Manufacturing, Construct Tomorrow, SCRUBS Camp
and other career exploration events



<https://mn.gov/deed/joinusmn/about/workforce/>



JoinUsMN.com

Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Program



Automation Training Incentive Program (ATIP)

Up to \$35,000 to small businesses (under 150 employees) that are implementing new automation for training incumbent workers on the automation technology.

SNX Technologies in Sauk Rapids

Louis Industries in Paynesville

Northland Machine in Grand Rapids



Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP)

Up to \$200,000 to new or expanding businesses in greater MN that are adding at least three new jobs.

Aeriox in Mora

AirCorps Aviation in Bemidji

Structural Tower Services in Becker



MN Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) Partnership Program

Up to \$400,000 to educational institutions that partner with businesses to develop new-job training or retraining for existing employees.

Rosenbauer America in Wyoming

Polaris Industries in Wyoming

Caltronics Design & Assembly in Stacy



Pathways Program

Up to \$400,000 to educational institutions or nonprofit organizations that partner with businesses to provide training, new jobs and career paths for low-income people



Low Income Worker Training Program

Up to \$200,000 to public, private, or nonprofit entities to help low-income people gain new skills necessary move up the career ladder to higher paying jobs and greater economic self-sufficiency



<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/>

2024 Workforce Wednesday

2024 Workforce Wednesday Schedule

- **January 3:** Demographics are Destiny: Utilizing Labor Market Data as a Business Strategy
- **February 7:** DEIAB: More Than Just an Acronym
- **March 6:** Supporting the New American Workforce
- **April 3:** Top 5 employee benefits to offer experienced job seekers and your best employees
- **May 1:** Improved Employee Engagement through Authentic Leadership
- **June 5:** Fair Chance 101: How to Recruit & Retain a Justice-Involved Workforce
- **August 7:** Navigating the Workforce System - An Employer's Guide
- **September 4:** What's Does Your Strategy Say About You: Engaging, Attracting, & Retaining Your Workforce
- **October 2:** Build Your Own Future Workforce- Training & Upskilling Your Workforce for Tomorrow's Needs
- **November 6:** The Evolving Native American Workforce and Indigenous Economy
- **December 4:** 2024 In Review: Regional Employer Best Practices



Register at: <https://www.careerforcemn.com/WorkforceWednesday>



EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Strategy

Della Ludwig

Workforce Strategy Consultant – Central MN

Della.Ludwig@state.mn.us





The CMJTS Business Services Team gets to know regional businesses to understand their challenges and connect them with job seekers, hiring events, training solutions, and additional resources. They provide consultations on recruitment efforts, job descriptions, wages, benefits, and training needs.

CMJTS supports the growth of the regional workforce assisting individuals to explore, choose, and advance along gainful career pathways—those seeking first, next, or last jobs.

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW



Connect with Qualified Workers

From youth to seniors, entry-level to experienced, our jobseekers are ready to go to work. Many have recently completed an education or training program.

Connect with Employee Training

When specific training is needed, consider a work-based training option:

- **Incumbent Worker Training**
Strengthen your business by upskilling your current workforce. Receive up to \$25,000 per year for approved training projects that help retain a skilled workforce or avert layoffs.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT)**
Hire a new, eligible employee who needs additional skills and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS) will reimburse you a portion of the wages, for a contracted length of time, in exchange for providing training on the job.
- **Work Experience/Transitional Jobs**
Provide a supervised worksite for the emerging workforce for a designated length of time. CMJTS is the employer of record.
- **Registered Apprenticeship**
Increase recruitment and retention by offering a combination of approved classroom and on-the-job training. Consistent, effective training leads to long-term business benefits.

Connect with Business Resources

- Use CMJTS' offices for your recruitment and interviewing
- Visit with our professional staff to find solutions that help meet your workforce development needs
- Link to our partners in business and the CareerForce system

Contact our team of Business Service coordinators who will lead you through the steps to recruit, train, and employ the skilled workers you need!

Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties

Rebecca Perrotti
612.247.9319
rperrotti@cmjts.org

Sherburne and Wright Counties

Tim Zipoy
612.325.7791
tzipoy@cmjts.org

Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties

Bridget Paulson
320.290.7685
bpaulson@cmjts.org

www.cmjts.org



Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by contacting Gina Cummings at 763-273-3700 or email at gacummings@cmjts.org

Serving Chisago • Isanti • Kanabec • Kandiyohi • McLeod • Meeker • Mille Lacs • Pine • Renville • Sherburne • Wright Counties

CMJTS' IWT program is supported by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor as part of an award to MN DEED totaling \$367,625,000 in WIOA Adult Funding/ (\$1,371,930,000 in WIOA DW Funding) with 0 percentage financed from non-governmental source.

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CMJTS Work-Based Training Options



Work Experience/Paid Internship

A structured, short-term training with a host employer to provide meaningful employment and develop positive work skills to add to a résumé.

Wages, work comp, etc., are paid by CMJTS program funds.

- Family Pathways Thrift Stores & Food Shelf
- East Central Auto – Rush City
- Rosenbauer USA
- Coborn's
- Princeton Schools – IT, Bus Garage, Childcare
- Diesel Shop – Rush City



On-the-Job Training

Businesses can receive a 50% wage reimbursement for up to six months when hiring an eligible individual.

OJT benefits businesses and new employees by offsetting the cost of training a new hire and the new hire learns skills while on the job.

- Lakes & Pines Community Action Council
- Isanti Retail Meats
- Myslajek, Kemp & Spencer
- North Metro Saw



CMJTS Work-Based Training Options



Incumbent Worker Training Program

A business-driven program that provides direct financial assistance to upskill current employees to avert a layoff and/or improve the economic competitiveness of businesses.

Reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for approved training costs.

Must be located and registered in MN and in operation for 12 months or more.

- Advance Design & Systems
- City of Hinckley
- Kendall Family Services
- Atscott Manufacturing
- Reliable Bronze
- City of Mora
- Broekema Beltway
- Rosenbauer USA
- Distinctive Door Designs
- Ritz Machine Works
- Vision Machine
- Harris Hardwoods
- DAKA Corporation
- Stepp Manufacturing
- Grand Casino Hinckley
- Lakes Region EMS
- Isanti County

Since 2019, CMJTS has funded 93 employers impacting 749 employees, with incumbent worker training.



CENTRAL MINNESOTA Jobs & Training Services



Rebecca Perrotti
Business Service Coordinator
Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Services, Inc.
612-247-9319
rperrotti@cmjts.org

www.cmjts.org



CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Jobs & Training Services

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From Openings to Hiring: Labor Force Trends



Luke Greiner

Labor Market Analyst

Labor Market Information Office

Department of Employment and Economic Development

- Data**
- Data Tools
- Monthly Highlights
- Regional Labor Markets
 - > Central
 - Metro
 - Northeast
 - Northwest
 - Southeast
 - Southwest
- LMI Training Sessions
- Research & Publications
- Economic Analysis
- Workforce Data
- Data for Job Seekers
- Data for Businesses
- Data for Government
- Data for News Media
- LMI Help

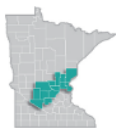


Central Region

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is excited to be offering a series of workshops on utilizing our Labor Market Information tools.

Labor Market

Explore the Central Minnesota labor market, including employment, unemployment, wages, occupations, and industries through the series of profiles, articles, and blogs in this section.



Counties: Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

Want the freshest data delivered by email? [Subscribe to our regional newsletters.](#)

- Profiles
- Snapshots**
- Articles
- Blog
- Contact

Regional Profiles

Planning Region

[Central Minnesota](#)
Counties: Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

Economic Development Regions

[Region 6E](#)
Counties: Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville

[Region 7E](#)
Counties: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs Pine

[Region 7W](#)
Counties: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

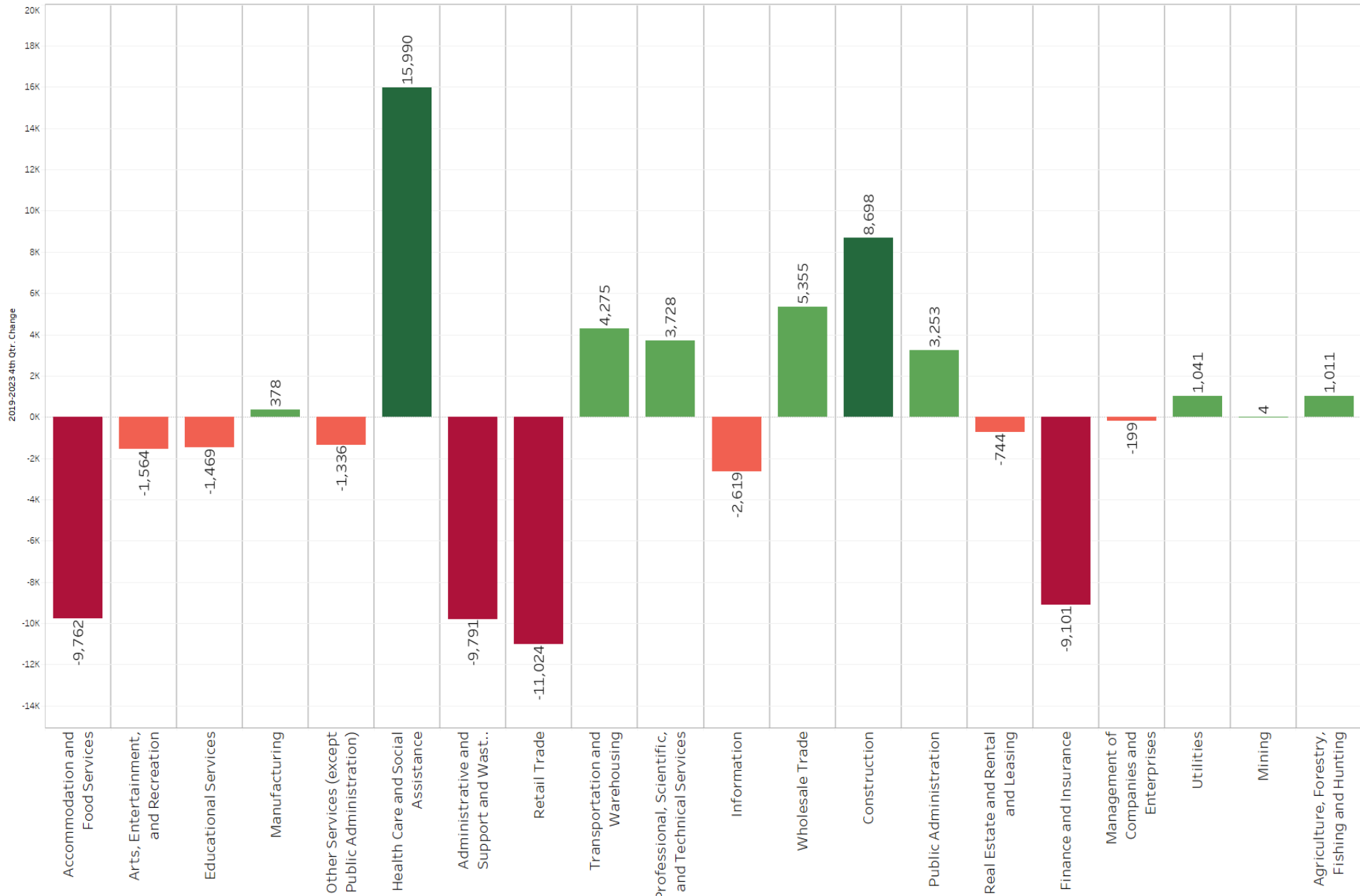
County Profiles

[Benton](#), [Chisago](#), [Isanti](#), [Kanabec](#), [Kandiyohi](#), [McLeod](#), [Meeker](#), [Mille Lacs](#), [Pine](#), [Renville](#), [Sherburne](#), [Stearns](#), [Wright](#)

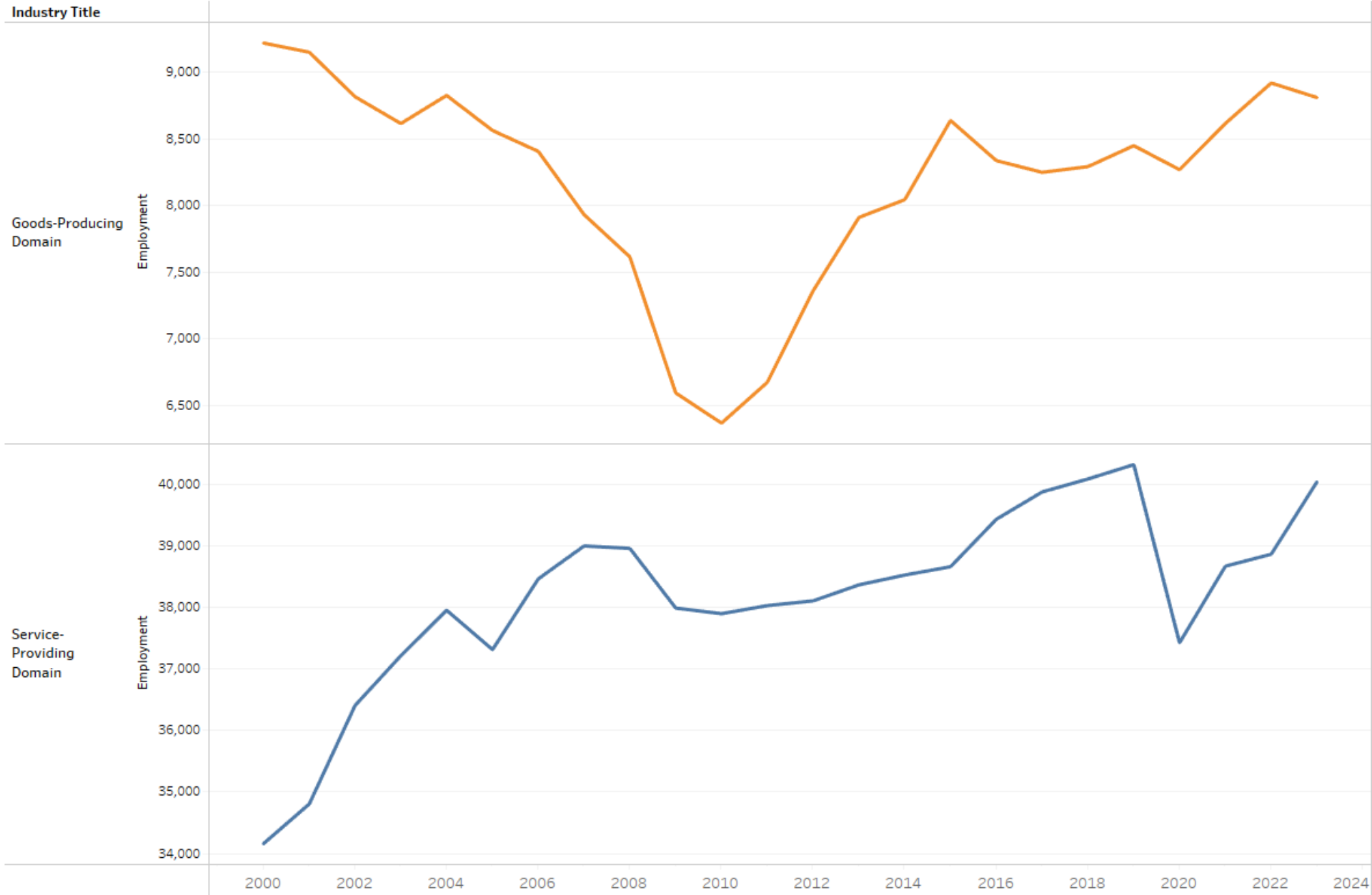
Minnesota's Economic Situation (April)

- Unemployment rate remained steady at 2.7% 6 months in a row.
 - Labor Force increased by 3,700 workers but is 4k workers smaller compared to last April.
 - Up about 1,700 workers compared to April 2019 on a seasonally adjusted basis, 5 years later... That's a growth rate of 0.05%
 - LFPR is holding at 68%, and 62.7% nationally.
- Private sector wages are up 3.5% over- the- year and 16.9% since the beginning of 2020.
- CPI is running at 3.4% OTY and 18% through 2023 (excluding inflation so far this year)
- Employment growth is clipping along at 1.5%, just below the national rate of 1.8% OTY

Minnesota
4th Quarter Change, 2019- to-2023



Employment Trends in EDR 7E- East Central





EDR 7E- East Central

4th Quarter Change, 2019- to- 2023

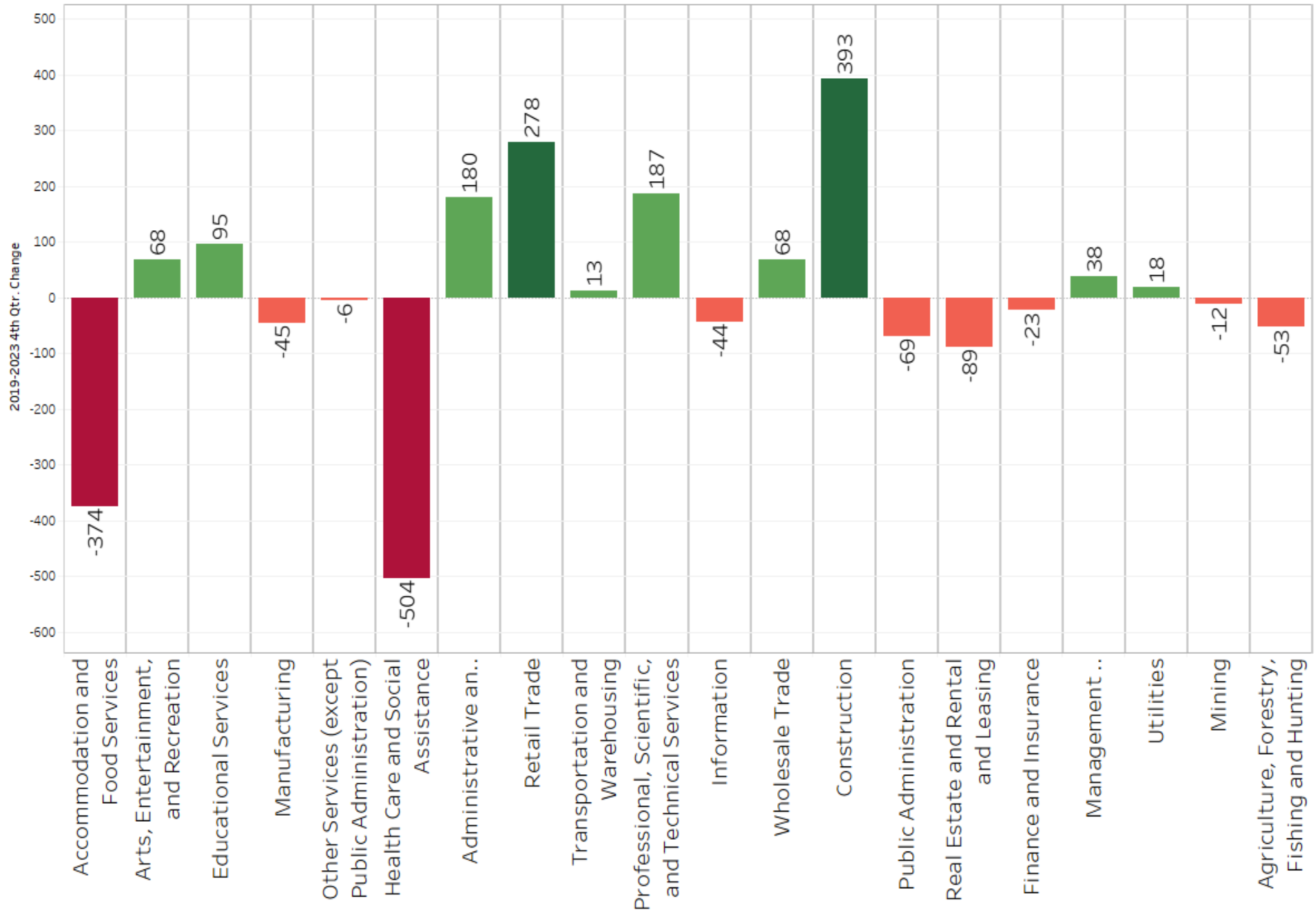


Figure 3
 Minnesota JOLTS Measurements
 March 2005 - March 2023



Source: BLS JOLTS - <https://www.bls.gov/jlt> 3-month moving average of seasonally adjusted data

Central Minnesota Job Vacancies by Industry, 2022

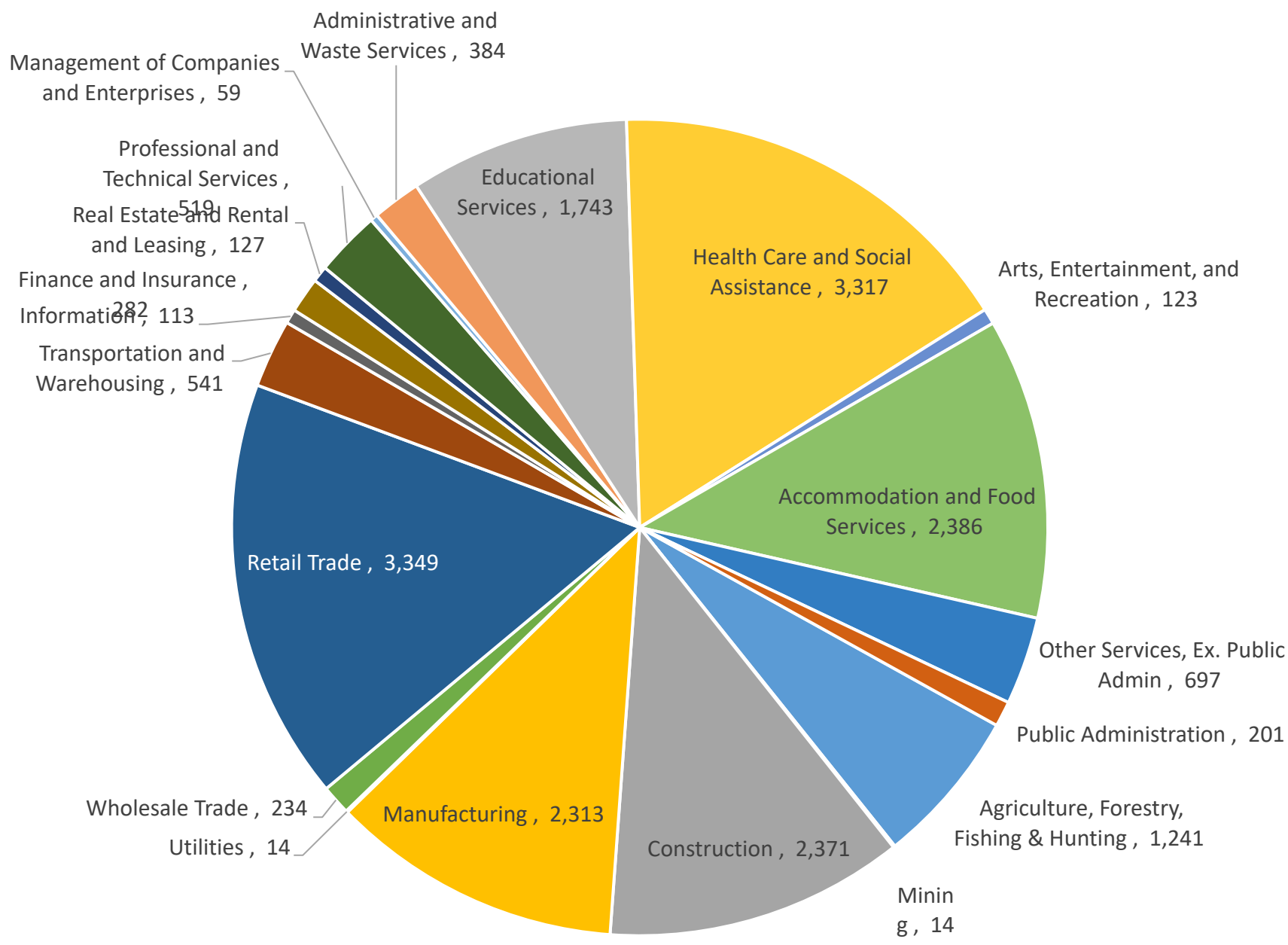
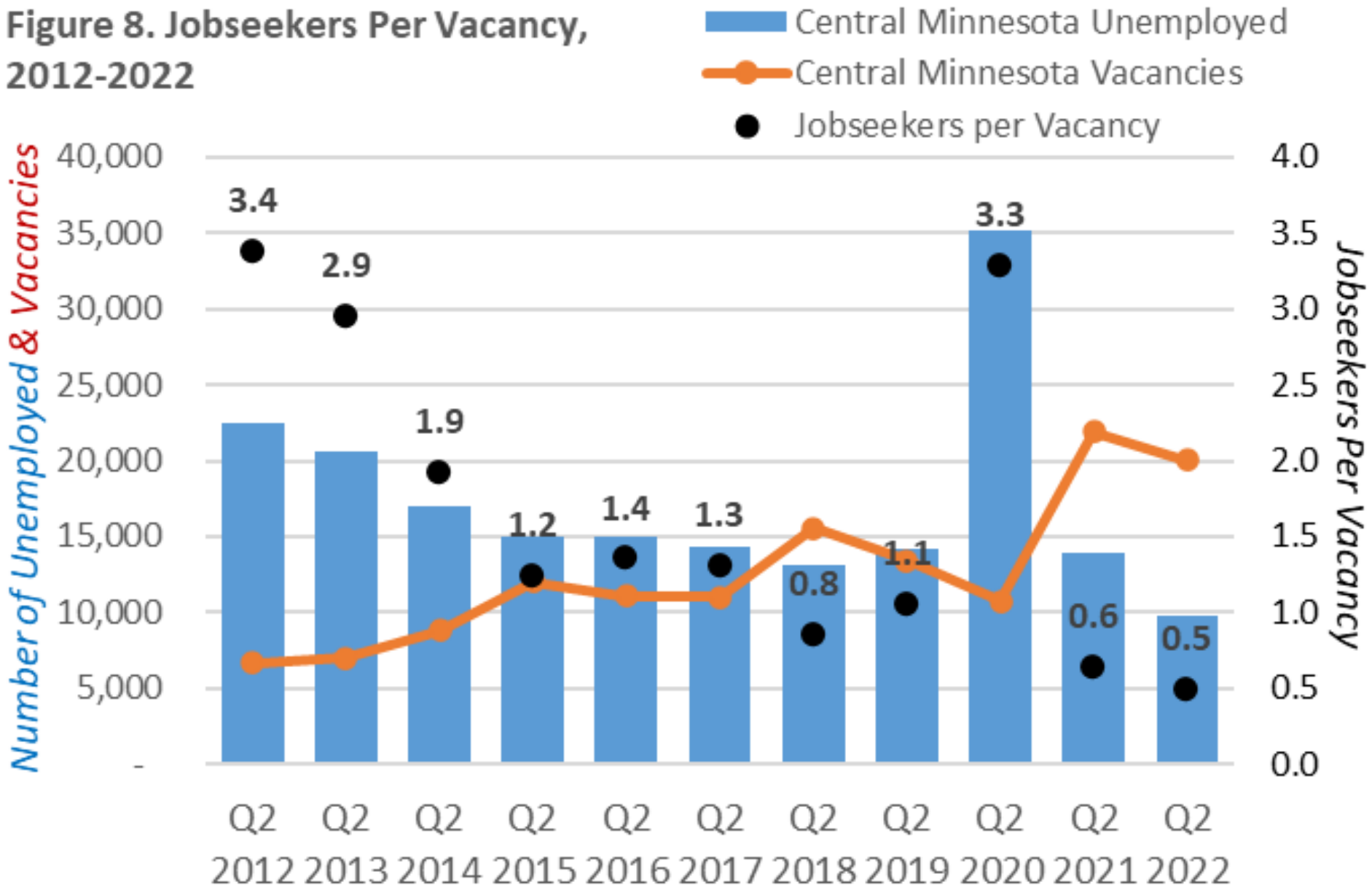


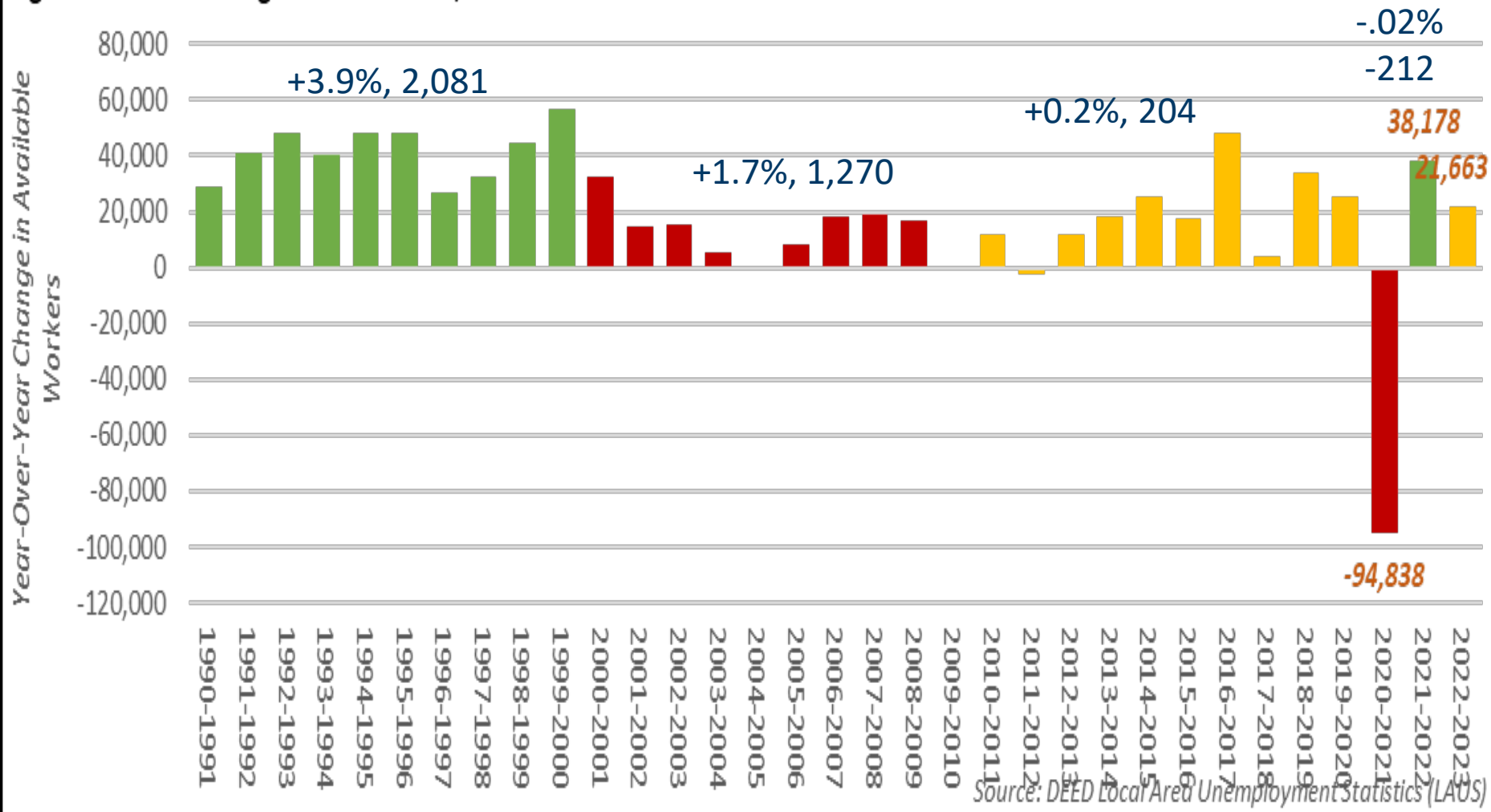
Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2012-2022



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

East Central Minnesota's Labor Force Growth

Figure 9. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2023

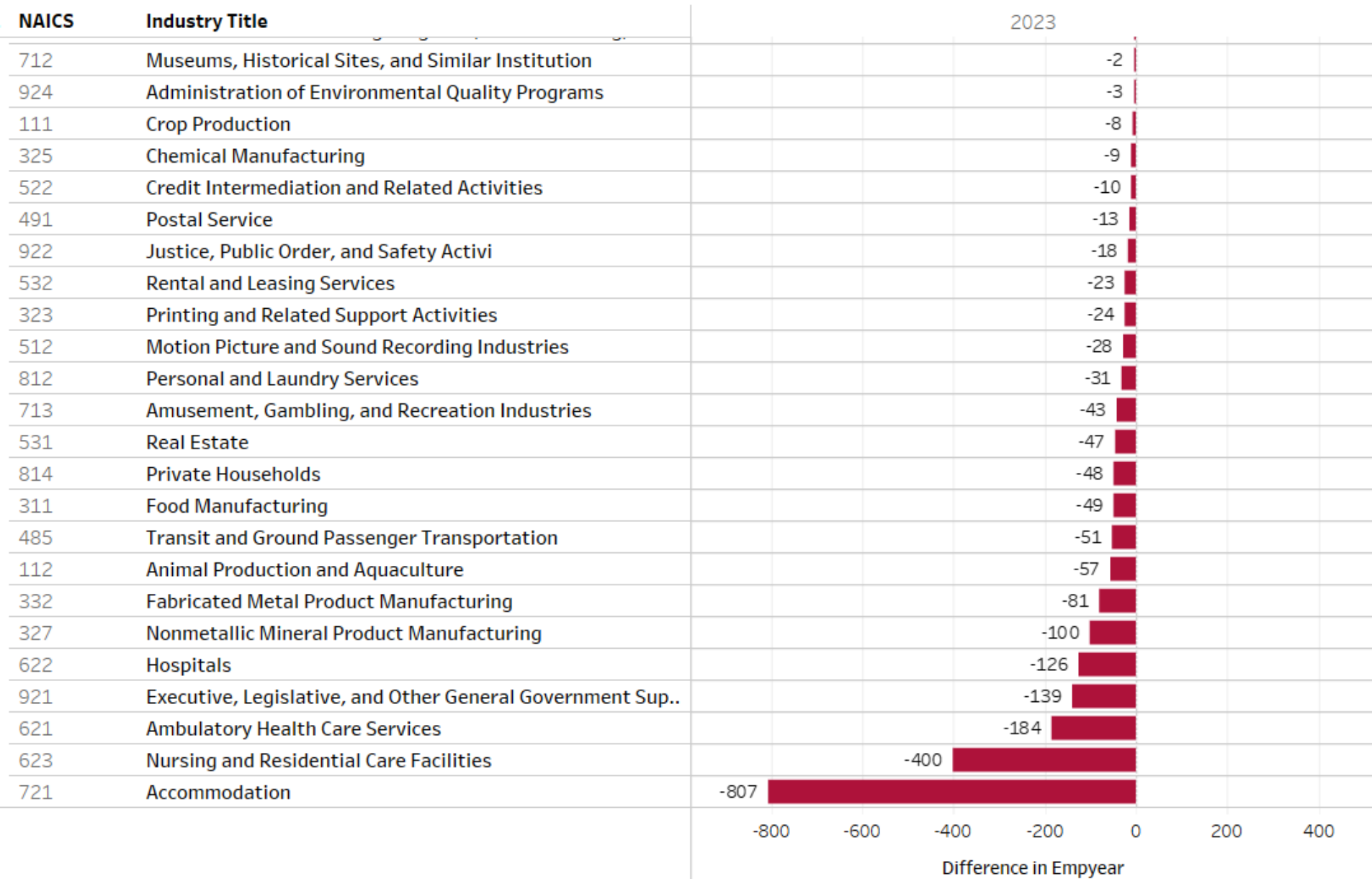


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

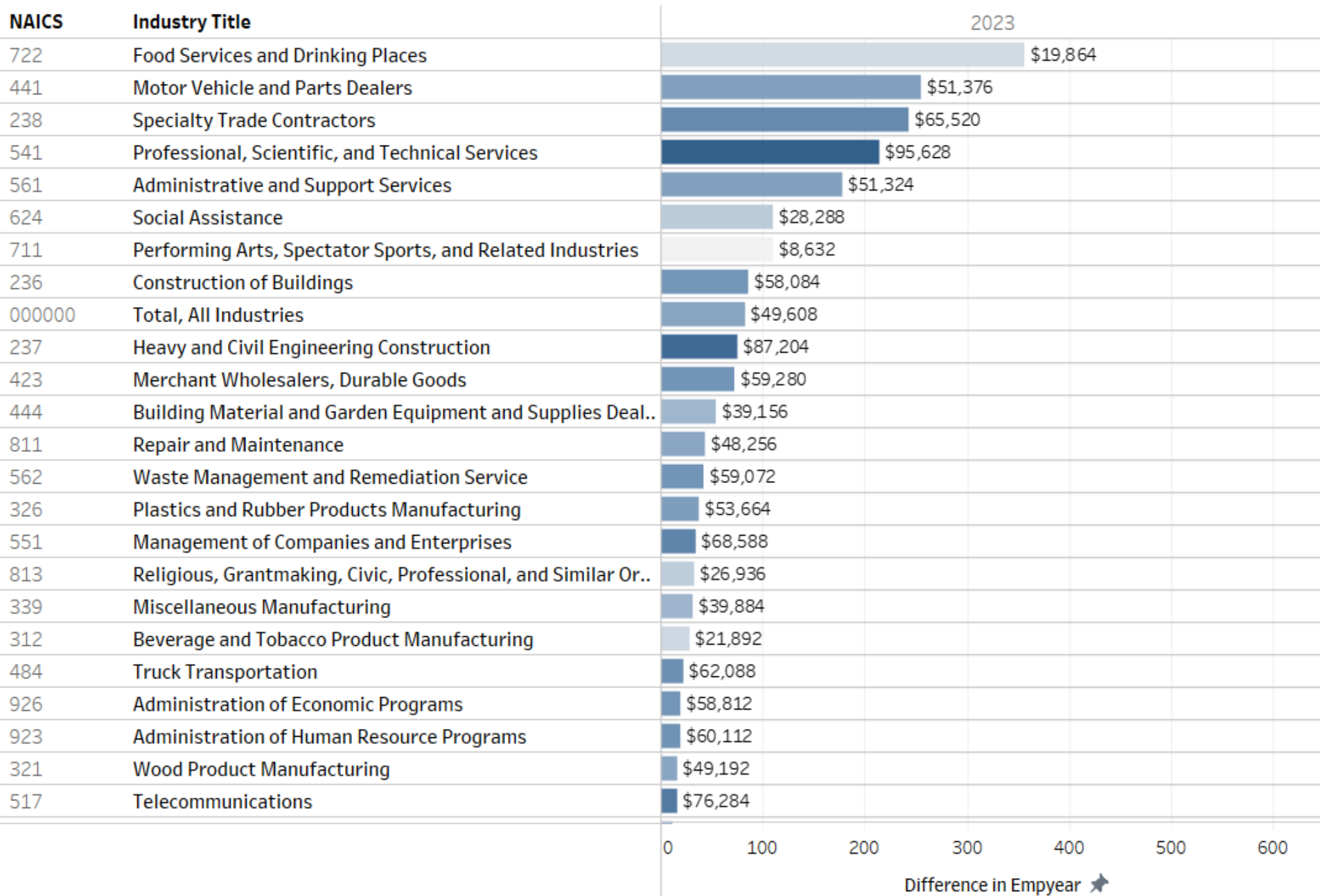
2019-2023 Employment Change



2019-2023 Employment Change



2019-2023 Employment Change



2019-2023 Employment and Wage Change in East Central MN

NAICS	Industry Title	2023	
722	Food Services and Drinkin..	357	29.93%
441	Motor Vehicle and Parts D..	255	20.19%
238	Specialty Trade Contracto..	243	20.92%
541	Professional, Scientific, a..	214	16.25%
561	Administrative and Suppo..	178	9.42%
624	Social Assistance	111	19.56%
711	Performing Arts, Spectat..	110	-26.55%
236	Construction of Buildings	86	19.72%
000000	Total, All Industries	83	22.46%
237	Heavy and Civil Engineeri..	76	8.68%
423	Merchant Wholesalers, D..	73	14.57%
444	Building Material and Gar..	54	26.77%
811	Repair and Maintenance	44	23.40%
562	Waste Management and ..	42	35.24%
326	Plastics and Rubber Prod..	38	21.41%
551	Management of Companie..	35	7.06%
813	Religious, Grantmaking, C..	33	31.47%
339	Miscellaneous Manufactu..	31	4.78%
312	Beverage and Tobacco Pr..	29	24.19%
484	Truck Transportation	23	35.22%
926	Administration of Econom..	19	6.50%
923	Administration of Human ..	19	13.56%
321	Wood Product Manufactu..	17	19.75%
517	Telecommunications	17	18.02%

-1,000

-500

0

500

-50%

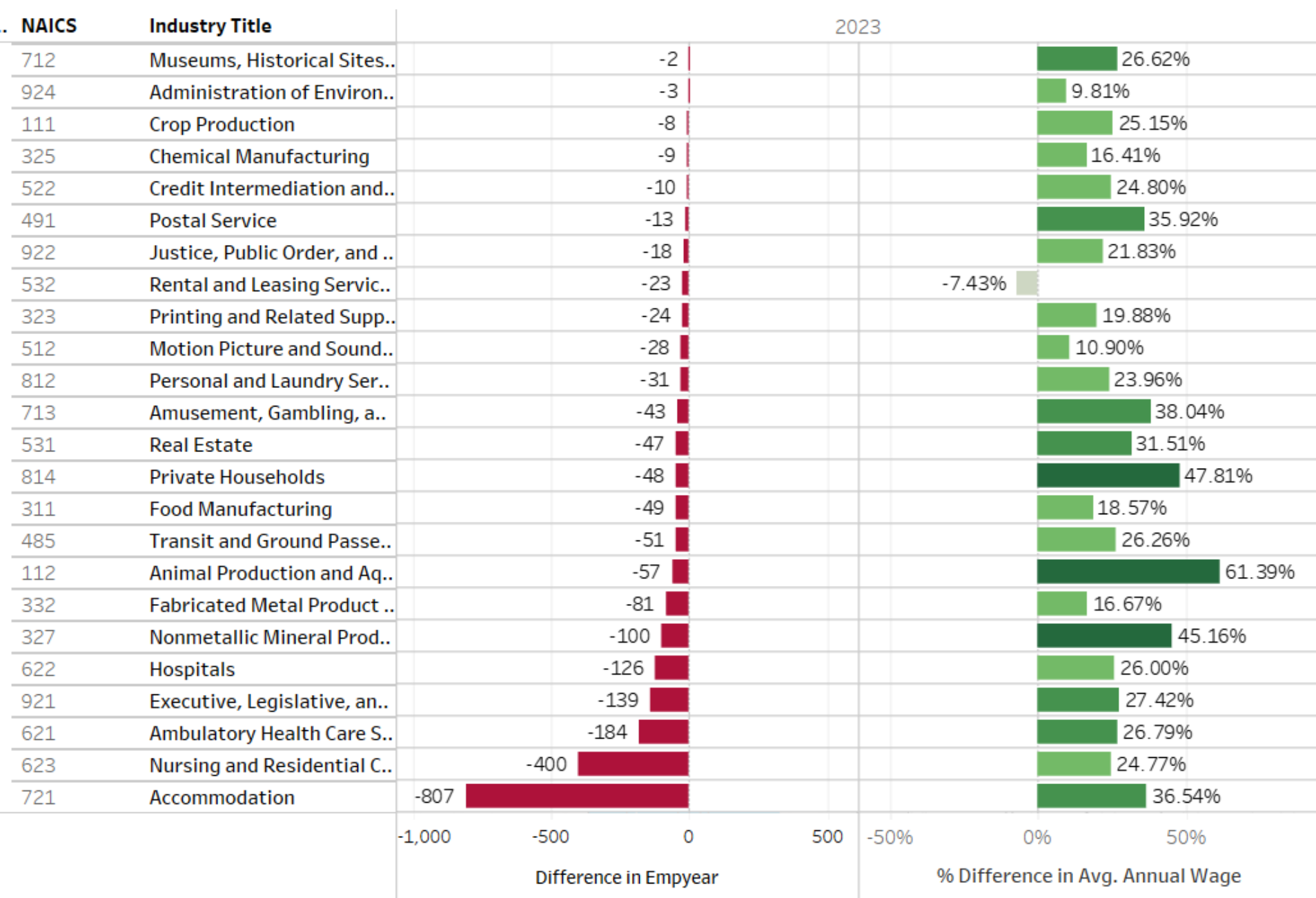
0%

50%

Difference in Emplayear

% Difference in Avg. Annual Wage

2019-2023 Employment and Wage Change in East Central MN



DATA IS IS
GOOD



Thank You!



Luke Greiner

Labor Market Analyst, Labor Market Information Office
Department of Employment and Economic Development

Luke.greiner@state.mn.us

320-223-6992

Business and Business-Related News for Economic Development Region 6E: May 2024.

DEED News: Governor Tim Walz announced \$6.2 million in new grants to expand childcare across the state. DEED has awarded 21 organizations with Child Care Economic Development Grants – the state's largest-ever round of funding for this program. The funding is expected to increase childcare program capacity by 2,241 slots. "Making Minnesota the best state for children and families starts with childcare," said Governor Walz. "Accessible, quality childcare is critical not only for strong child development, but also for the economic wellbeing of the families in our state. These grants will increase access to childcare and help more Minnesotans enter the workforce, growing our labor force and economy."

Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Center, \$500,000. The money is expected to be split between two projects — a nature preschool at the Gary Westby Observatory at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in rural **Spicer** and four specialized child care units in **Atwater**.

Hutchinson and Litchfield Newspaper reopens: With just a one-week gap after the last editions of the Hutchinson Leader and Litchfield Independent Review, new newspapers appear this week in both cities with the launch of the Hutchinson Station and Litchfield Rail. A handful of former Independent Review and Leader staff members have joined the effort by Cherry Road Media to re-establish local newspaper coverage. CherryRoad Technologies in New Jersey has announced it will be opening two new community journalism operations, the **Litchfield Rail** and the **Hutchinson Station**. Staffing the new community newspapers will be previous editorial and advertising staff from the Leader and Independent Review, including Editor Brent Schacherer, who has been doing journalism in Hutchinson and Litchfield for 25 years.

Willmar Business growth: Congratulations to Bethesda on the groundbreaking for Bethesda StoneRidge expansion. The project is managed by Marcus Construction and promises luxurious amenities, a vibrant community, and ample opportunities to focus on wellness and social connection. According to Bethesda President/CEO Michelle Haefner, Vice President of Operations Sam Quam.

Ridgewater College news: Ridgewater's Customized Training and Continuing Education Department will offer three new entry-level, accelerated training programs this summer, tailored to provide foundational skills for high-demand careers.

Welding: This four-week, 120-hour training provides instruction in basic welding techniques, safety procedures, and equipment operation.

Limited-Energy Systems: Participants learn fundamental concepts in low-voltage wiring, security systems installation, and telecommunications infrastructure during this six-week, hands-on training with industry-standard equipment.

Carpentry: Individuals with a passion for craftsmanship and a desire to work in construction can gain foundational skills in basic carpentry techniques in this six-week training.

There were **464** postings on Minnesotaworks.net for Region 6E.

	The same from 30 days in April.	
Kandiyohi County:	194 posts (172 FT and 22 PT) 202 posts (187 FT and 15 PT)	Down from last month:
McLeod County:	141 posts (117 FT and 24 PT) 149 posts (127 FT and 22 PT)	Down from last month:
Meeker County:	92 posts (77 FT and 15 PT) 75 posts (67 FT and 8 PT)	UP from last month:
Renville County:	35 posts (33 FT and 2 PT) 38 posts (37 FT and 1 PT)	Down from last month:

Committee/Project Involvement/Misc. Business Service Coordinator Activity Highlights

I have been fortunate to participate in several EDA, Community based, and agency based virtual meetings:

- Translator Certification training partnership with ABE Willmar and Hutchinson.
- Mid-MN Regional Transportation Coordinating Council MMRTCC.
- Open Doors for Youth Board meetings.
- LYFT committee Advisory Board meeting.
- Work Experience site search in Litchfield.
- Operation Exploration camps recruitment and funding requests.
- EXPLORE Career Day Ridgewater Willmar follow up meeting.
- Ticket to Work, Benefit Analysis and Placement Referral customer meetings and intakes.
- Monticello CareerForce staff coverage days.

Incumbent Worker projects in Progress:

SWIF: Leadership and Executive training Purdue University. \$19,750. 2 Trainees.

Incumbent Worker Projects:

Pact for Families: Interpreter Certification training. \$2,300, 3 trainees.

K&S Millwrights: Crane Operator training. \$17,520. 3 trainees.

Unlimited Ag: CDL Training Ridgewater College. 5 trainees. \$25,000. Modification to end date.

Follow Up IW Projects:

Haug-Kubota Implement: CDL training, Ridgewater College, 3 trainees, \$5600.

Nanotech Precision: Awarded 6/7/2022. Apprenticeship program development training. 4 trainees, \$25,000.

IRD Glass: Software training, Leadership Development, Reasonable Suspicion for Leaders.

Loftness Farm Equipment: AWS Welding protocol. Trainees: 16 total \$11,600.

Southwest Initiative Foundation: DEI and Leadership training: \$21,600 with 22 trainees.

Whirltronics: Master CAM & Leadership training: \$7,300 with 3 trainees.

Custom Products: Awarded 5/23/2022. Leadership and Lean training. 47 trainees. \$23,181.00.

Minnesota DEED Unemployment Statistics posted are 30 days behind.

Local Unemployment Statistics April 2024.

<https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/laus/>

Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
U S	167,484,000	62.5%	161,590,000	60.3%	5,894,000	3.5%
Minnesota	3,101,808	68%	3,018,862	66.2%	82,946	2.7%
U S Seasonally Adjusted	167,982,000	62.7%	161,491,000	60.2%	6,492,000	3.9%
Minnesota Seasonally Adjusted	3,101,383	68%	3,016,184	66.2%	85,199	2.7%
Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
EDR 6E- Southwest Central	64,917	NA	62,973	NA	1,944	3%
Area - click name for historical data	Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment	Employment to Population Ratio	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Kandiyohi County	23,411	NA	22,807	NA	604	2.6%
McLeod County	19,412	NA	18,843	NA	569	2.9%
Meeker County	14,070	NA	13,622	NA	448	3.2%
Renville County	8,024	NA	7,701	NA	323	4%