

# Le Sueur County Demographic & Economic Profile

Prepared on 7/12/2018



**Prepared by:**

**Mark Schultz**

**Regional Labor Market Analyst**

**Southeast and South Central Minnesota**

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Winona WorkForce Center

1250 Homer Road, Suite 200

Winona, MN 55987

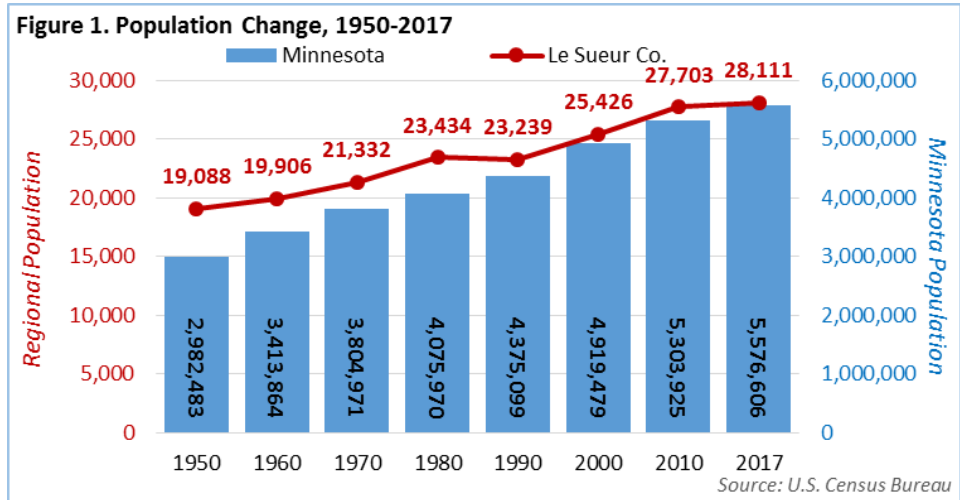
Office: 507-205-6068

[Mark.schultz@state.mn.us](mailto:Mark.schultz@state.mn.us)

<http://www.mn.gov/deed/data>

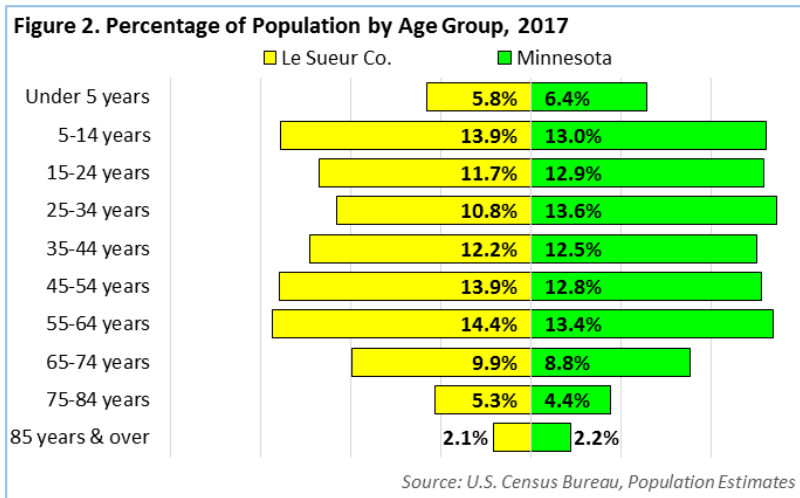
**POPULATION**

Like the state, Le Sueur County's population has seen fairly steady growth since 1950, with only the 1980's seeing an overall decline, equaling a marginal decline of 195 residents (0.8 percent). Overall, the county has seen an increase of just over 9,000 since from 1950



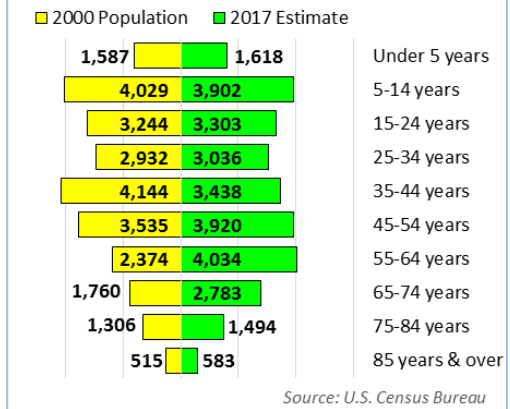
to the current estimate of 28,111 in 2017, a jump of 47.3 percent, compared to an 87 percent increase seen in the state as a whole.

Le Sueur County has an older population that the state as a whole, with higher percentages of residents ages 65 to 84, however also has higher percentages of those ages 45 to 64 who are still valuable members of the workforce. However, the county also sees smaller percentages of some younger, working-age groups, including those between the ages of 25 to 44.



Since 2000, Le Sueur County has seen growth in some age groups while experiencing a decline in others. Of the working-age population ages 15 to 64, only one age group saw a decline during this time, with the population ages 35 to 44 seeing a decline of 706 people. However, an implication of the largest increase by age group, which was seen among those ages 55 to 64, is that if this trend continues, the future may see a larger number of people aging out of the workforce with fewer younger age residents available to fill job openings.

**Figure 3. Population Pyramid, 2000-2017**



Population projections data shows that the implication mentioned above may actually become a reality, as Le Sueur County is expected to see a large number of individuals jump up to higher, traditionally non-employment aged groups, including an increase of 1,800 individuals ages 75 to 84 and over 700 ages 85 and over. Additionally, working aged population between the ages of 45 and 64 is anticipated to see a stark decrease of over 1,900 people. These large gains of older population and losses in working-age population between 45 and 64 is met with smaller gains among the other working-age populations groups between 25 and 44.

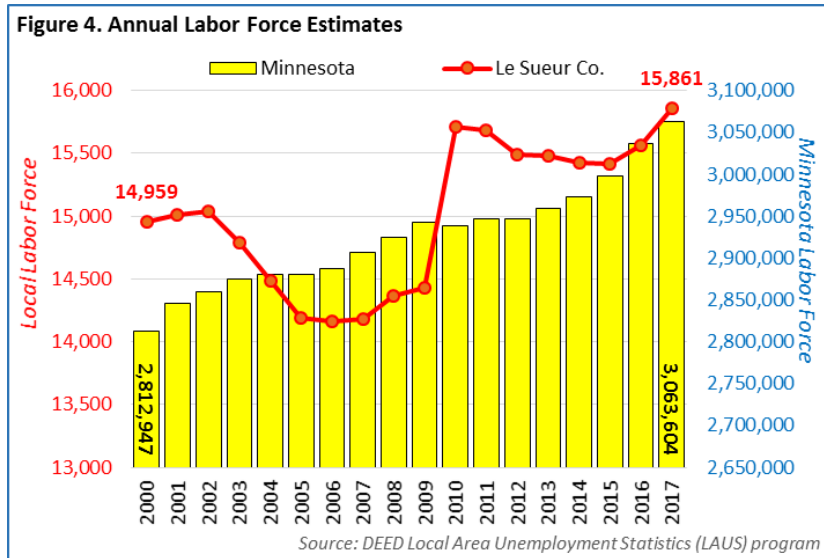
Table 1. Population Projections, 2020-2040					
Le Sueur Co.	2020 Projection	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2020-2040 Change	
				Numeric	Percent
Under 5 years	1,186	1,370	1,474	288	24.3%
5-14 years	3,359	2,364	2,884	-475	-14.1%
15-24 years	4,185	3,667	2,710	-1,475	-35.2%
25-34 years	2,694	3,908	3,438	744	27.6%
35-44 years	3,350	2,675	3,922	572	17.1%
45-54 years	3,532	3,239	2,604	-928	-26.3%
55-64 years	4,175	3,415	3,164	-1,011	-24.2%
65-74 years	3,299	4,053	3,353	54	1.6%
75-84 years	1,850	2,970	3,670	1,820	98.4%
85 years & over	563	808	1,281	718	127.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,193</b>	<b>28,469</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

*Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center*

Le Sueur County is a fairly homogenous county in regards to racial groups, with 95.7 percent of the county population identifying as White and less than one percent identifying as Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, or Asian and Other Pacific Islander. Some other race and two or more raises both counted for less than two percent of the Population However, 5.6 percent of the population identified as being of Hispanic or Latino Origin. Additionally, all but one race group saw increases from 2000 to 2016, with the largest percentage increase seen among Black or African Americans (460.5 percent), two or more races (71.3 percent), Asian and Other Pacific Islander (46 percent), and American Indian and Alaska Native (43.9 percent), while those of Hispanic or Latino Origin jumped by 55.8 percent.

## LABOR FORCE

The labor force in Le Sueur County has seen some ebbs and flows over the years, reaching lows from 2005 to 2007 and remaining low until the peak of the recession in 2009, before a tremendous bounce-back from 2009 to 2010. However, declines ensued again after 2010 until 2015 when the labor force started growing again, finally reaching a peak in 2017 at 15,861.



In general, the labor force in the county is faring better than the state as a whole, with higher labor force participation rates among all but one (65 to 74) age brackets, three of six race/ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and all four educational attainment categories. However, there exists some potential areas of concern, including low labor force participation rates and high unemployment rates among the youngest working-age population, Black or African Americans, individuals with disabilities, and those with less than high school education.

Characteristic	Le Sueur Co.			Minnesota	
	In Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	15,374	71.1%	4.3%	69.9%	4.8%
16 to 19 years	693	54.9%	10.2%	52.3%	14.2%
20 to 24 years	1,285	86.3%	8.6%	83.5%	8.1%
25 to 44 years	5,832	91.3%	3.7%	88.2%	4.4%
45 to 54 years	3,745	89.4%	3.9%	87.2%	3.4%
55 to 64 years	3,020	77.8%	3.4%	72.3%	3.6%
65 to 74 years	642	25.6%	2.7%	27.1%	3.0%
75 years & over	168	8.8%	0.0%	6.0%	2.7%
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>					
White alone	14,849	71.0%	4.2%	69.9%	4.1%
Black or African American	91	63.2%	25.3%	68.5%	12.9%
American Indian & Alaska Native	51	75.0%	0.0%	58.8%	14.8%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	98	90.8%	1.0%	70.7%	5.6%
Some Other Race	167	73.6%	0.0%	77.3%	8.4%
Two or More Races	132	81.5%	9.1%	71.3%	10.1%
Hispanic or Latino	585	66.5%	3.2%	75.5%	8.2%
<b>Employment Characteristics by Veteran Status</b>					
Veterans, 18 to 64 years	710	78.4%	5.9%	78.6%	4.8%
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability</b>					
With Any Disability	691	58.9%	10.1%	51.4%	10.9%
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment</b>					
Population, 25 to 64 years	12,596	87.1%	3.7%	84.0%	4.0%
Less than H.S. Diploma	727	69.5%	6.7%	65.0%	5.6%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,211	84.8%	1.8%	78.7%	3.4%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	4,647	89.8%	2.2%	85.1%	4.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3,009	91.9%	1.0%	89.5%	2.3%

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

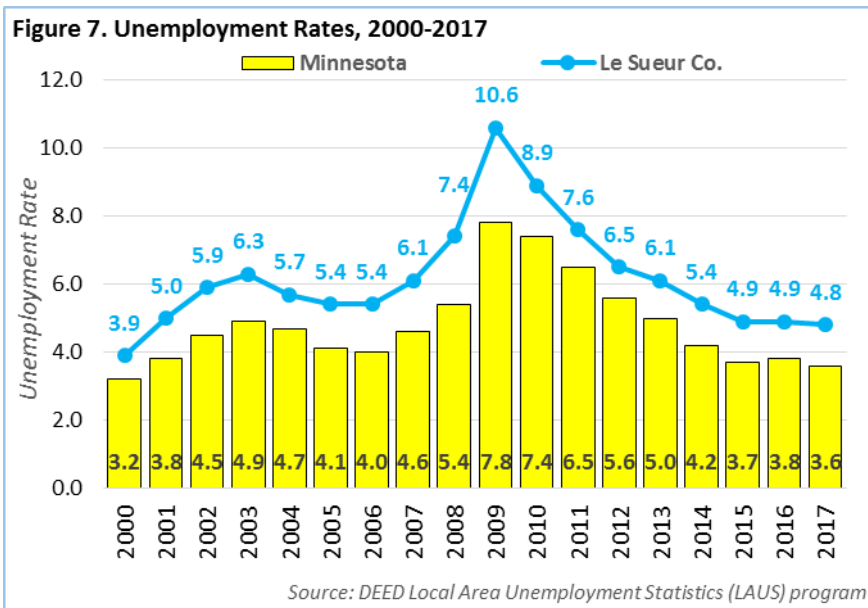
Much like the population, the labor force in Le Sueur County is projected to see declines in working-age population between the ages of 45 and 64 while subsequently seeing increases in retirement-age residents between the ages of 65 and over. With this projected shift the county could struggle to fill job openings in the future due to this changing dynamic and aging of the workforce if this trend continues.

Table 4. Labor Force Projections, 2020-2030				
Le Sueur Co.	2020	2030	2020-2030 Change	
	Project-ion	Project-ion	Numeric	Percent
16 to 19 years	934	697	-237	-25.4%
20 to 24 years	1,777	1,795	19	1.1%
25 to 44 years	5,517	6,009	492	8.9%
45 to 54 years	3,158	2,896	-262	-8.3%
55 to 64 years	3,247	2,656	-591	-18.2%
65 to 74 years	845	1,038	193	22.9%
75 years & over	212	332	120	56.6%
Total Labor Force	15,689	15,423	-266	-1.7%

Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

Since the recession, Le Sueur County has experienced a steady decline in its unemployment rate, dropping from 10.6 percent in 2009 to 4.8 percent in 2017. However, the unemployment rate in the county has remained higher than the state as a whole over the years with a 2017 year-end annual rate of 4.8 percent, compared to 3.6 percent statewide. The most current unemployment rate in the county, as of May 2018, rests at 3.0 percent, dropping from 7.7 percent in January of this year. This county unemployment rate is the second highest in the South Central region, tied with Brown County and lower than the 3.3 percent in Waseca County. In comparison, the state started off 2018 at 4.0 percent unemployment rate in January and currently is at 2.5 percent. This

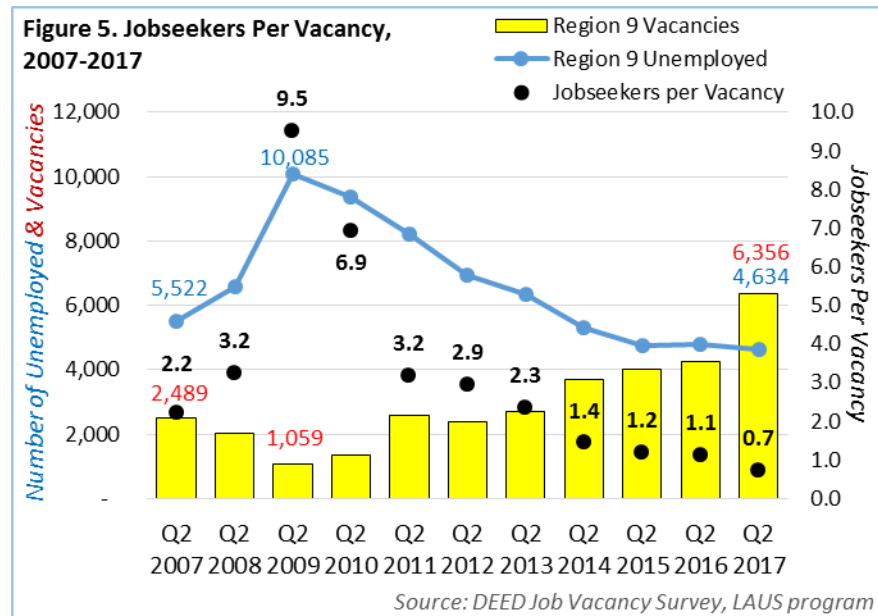


**JOBSEEKER PER VACANCY**

Despite a higher unemployment rate than the state and most of the counties in the region, there is one additional issue that could potentially have an impact on filling current and future vacancies if the population, labor force, and unemployment rate trends continue as they have been. The region's current jobseeker per vacancy ratio sits at 0.7 to 1, meaning that for every 10 job openings there are only seven unemployed individuals.

While county-level data is

not available to perform a jobseeker per vacancy analysis, it is quite possible that Le Sueur County is not unique in this respect and itself is in the midst of a similar low jobseeker per vacancy scenario.



**FOREIGN BORN POPULATION**

With the current situation of aging population, a decreasing labor force and low jobseeker per vacancy ratio, Le Sueur County, like most areas in Minnesota may find itself having to rely on other sources to find labor, including foreign-born population. Unfortunately, Le Sueur County does not have a large foreign-born population to draw from, with very minimal amounts being from Europe, Asia, or Africa, and the largest amount of almost 600 being from the Americas, including Latin and Central America as well as Mexico. See table 5.

**Table 5. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population**

Place of Birth	Le Sueur Co.				Minnesota		
	Number	Percent	Change from 2010-2016		Number	Percent	Change from 2010-2016
Total, Foreign-born Population	779	100.0%	117	17.7%	426,691	100.0%	16.3%
Europe:	72	9.2%	-29	-28.7%	45,735	10.7%	1.6%
Europe: - Northern Europe:	4	5.6%	-20	-83.3%	8,999	19.7%	0.4%
Europe: - Western Europe:	56	77.8%	3	5.7%	9,776	21.4%	-7.4%
Europe: - Southern Europe:	0	0.0%	0	N/A	2,449	5.4%	20.9%
Europe: - Eastern Europe:	12	16.7%	-12	-50.0%	24,457	53.5%	4.4%
Asia:	81	10.4%	-12	-12.9%	163,447	38.3%	20.1%
Asia: - Eastern Asia:	35	43.2%	2	6.1%	35,770	21.9%	14.7%
Asia: - South Central Asia:	0	0.0%	-15	-100.0%	37,775	23.1%	31.7%
Asia: - South Eastern Asia:	46	56.8%	1	2.2%	81,441	49.8%	15.0%
Asia: - Western Asia:	0	0.0%	0	N/A	8,062	4.9%	58.5%
Africa:	37	4.7%	19	105.6%	92,742	21.7%	32.1%
Africa: - Eastern Africa:	18	48.6%	18	N/A	59,554	64.2%	37.6%
Africa: - Middle Africa:	0	0.0%	0	N/A	2,306	2.5%	66.4%
Africa: - Northern Africa:	0	0.0%	0	N/A	4,837	5.2%	-1.6%
Africa: - Southern Africa:	16	43.2%	8	100.0%	1,211	1.3%	29.2%
Africa: - Western Africa:	0	0.0%	-10	-100.0%	22,583	24.4%	32.5%
Oceania:	0	0.0%	-12	-100.0%	2,107	0.5%	31.7%
Americas:	589	75.6%	151	34.5%	122,660	28.7%	7.5%
Americas: - Latin America:	551	93.5%	194	54.3%	110,699	90.2%	9.1%
Latin America: - Central America	513	93.1%	201	64.4%	84,548	76.4%	6.0%
Central America: - Mexico	376	73.3%	107	39.8%	66,605	78.8%	1.4%
Latin America: - South America:	38	6.9%	7	22.6%	20,234	18.3%	16.9%
Americas: - Northern America:	38	6.5%	-43	-53.1%	11,961	9.8%	-5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Over half (54.8 percent) of the population aged 25 and over have education beyond high school, with 33.2 percent having completed some level of post-secondary education. However, 9.2 percent have less than high school education. During the recession,

**Table 6. Educational Attainment for the Population Aged 25 years & Over**

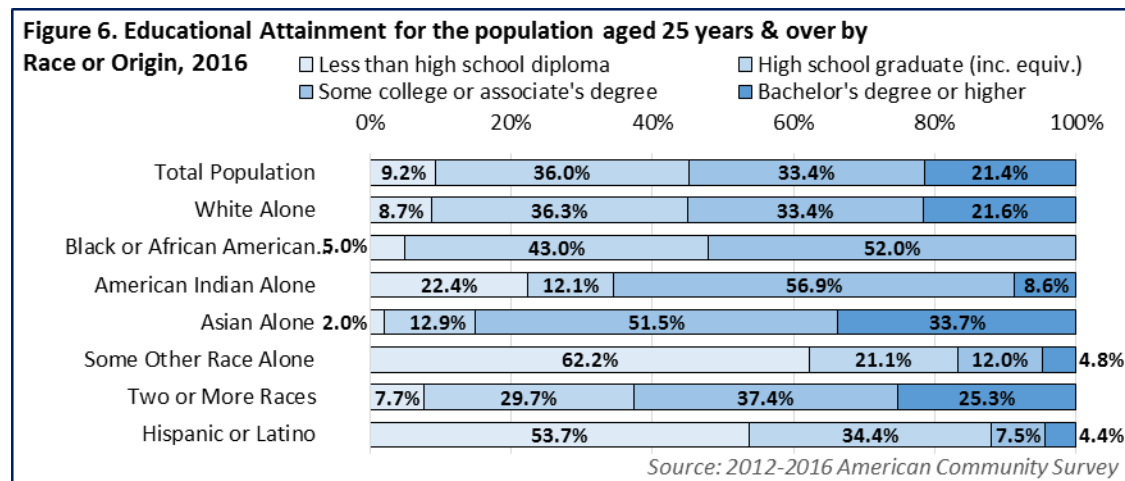
Educational Attainment	Le Sueur Co.		Foreign-Born		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 25 years & over	18,871	100.0%	628	100.0%	100.0%
Less than high school	1,743	9.2%	318	50.6%	7.4%
High school graduate (incl. equiv.)	6,788	36.0%	132	21.0%	25.7%
Some college, no degree	4,079	21.6%	104	16.6%	21.7%
Associate's degree	2,229	11.8%			11.0%
Bachelor's degree	2,871	15.2%	53	8.4%	22.8%
Advanced degree	1,161	6.2%	21	3.3%	11.5%

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

having a high school diploma or education was in demand for obtaining employment, however given the current labor force shortage some employers are starting to lower their education requirements to include those without in order to fill their vacancies. For the foreign born population though, over half do not have a high school diploma or GED while only 28.3 percent have education beyond high school.

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY RACE

The largest number of the total population has a high school diploma or equivalent, however there are variations in the percentage of the population based on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. The White population most closely mirrors the educational attainment of the total population, with 8.7 percent having less than high school diploma, 36.3 percent having a high school diploma, 33.4 percent with some college or associate’s degree, and 21.6 percent having a bachelor’s degree or higher. However, as shown in figure 6, there is much more variation for other groups. For example, Black or African Americans see a lower percentage of individuals with less than a high school diploma, however have higher percentages of people with just a high school diploma or equivalent or some college or associate’s degree. These higher percentages in these educational categories also mean that there are none of the Black or African American population have a bachelor’s degree or higher. The highest percentage of American Indians have some college or an associate’s degree as do Asian and those identifying as two or more races, whereas the highest percentage of those of some other race and Hispanic or Latino origin have less than high school education.



### HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY INCOME

Two measures of income are commonly used in regional analysis – median household and median family incomes. By definition, a family is considered two or more individuals who are related (birth, marriage, adoption) whereas a household includes all residents regardless of relation. In Le Sueur County, the median family income sits at almost \$76,000, 21.5 percent higher than the median

Table 7. Household and Family Incomes, 2016		
	Median Household Income	Median Family Income
Le Sueur Co.	\$62,462	\$75,887
Minnesota	\$63,217	\$79,595

*Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates*



household income. The size of the household as well as the resident's ages has an impact on the household and family incomes – more detail on this can be seen at <http://economistsoutlook.blogs.realtor.org/2014/04/08/median-income-family-vs-household/>.

When looking at household incomes in Le Sueur County by race/ethnicity some startling patterns are evident. As shown in table 8, among Black or African American and American Indian households, there are much higher percentages in the lower income brackets compared to their White counterparts, as well as no households among these two race categories with incomes above \$74,999, with the exception of 8.7 percent of American Indian households (equaling two households) having incomes between \$100,000 to \$149,999. For Asian households, there are none among the lowest income categories, however all of the households are concentrated in the mid-range income categories with none appearing in the highest. Among those identifying as Hispanic or Latino, the distribution is more even among the other groups however there are still none in the highest income group.

Table 8. Household Income in the past 12 months by Race or Origin, 2016							
	TOTAL Households Reporting	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$149,999	\$150,000 or more
White	10,560	16.9%	22.2%	20.9%	15.7%	16.1%	8.1%
Black or African American	57	70.2%	29.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian	23	39.1%	52.2%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%
Asian	48	0.0%	0.0%	70.8%	29.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	76	0.0%	60.5%	6.6%	10.5%	22.4%	0.0%
Two or More Races	41	17.1%	2.4%	19.5%	4.9%	4.9%	51.2%
Hispanic or Latino	319	18.5%	47.6%	19.4%	6.3%	8.2%	0.0%
Total Households Reporting	10,805	17.1%	22.4%	20.9%	15.6%	16.0%	8.1%

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## POVERTY STATUS

In the county, there are higher percentages of the Black or African American and American Indian populations below the poverty level, including about 90 percent of Black or African Americans and just over 17 percent of American Indians, compared to only eight percent among Whites. However, there are a lower percentage of those of some other race and two or more races below poverty and none in the Asian group reported below the poverty level. Among Hispanic and Latino residents though, almost 30 percent are below the poverty level.

Table 9. Poverty Status in the past 12 months by Race or Origin, 2016 (total population for whom poverty status is determined)					
	Total Population	Income below the poverty level	Poverty Rate (% below poverty level)	Income at or above the poverty level	Minnesota Poverty Rate
White Alone	26,211	2,085	8.0%	24,126	8.2%
Black or African American Alone	213	185	86.9%	28	34.0%
American Indian Alone	93	16	17.2%	77	31.4%
Asian Alone	125	0	0.0%	125	16.1%
Some Other Race Alone	430	29	6.7%	401	23.7%
Two or More Races	293	24	8.2%	269	19.4%
Hispanic or Latino	1,524	451	29.6%	1,073	22.2%
Total Population	27,365	2,339	8.5%	25,026	10.8%

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

### COST OF LIVING

In order to meet the basic cost of living needs the typical family - two-parent, one working full-time (40 hrs./week) and one working part-time (20 hrs./week), with one child) would need to earn \$53,785 annually, which equates to each parent needing to earn about \$17.24 per hour. However, this wage requirements vary depending on the family composition. For example, a single person in the county with no children would need to earn \$14.33 per hour while a single person with two children would need to earn \$31.50 per hour and \$35.24 if they had four children. On the other hand, a two-parent family with both parents working full-time with no children would only need to earn \$8.97 per hour, compared to \$17.28 per hour if they had two children and \$19.23 if there were four children.

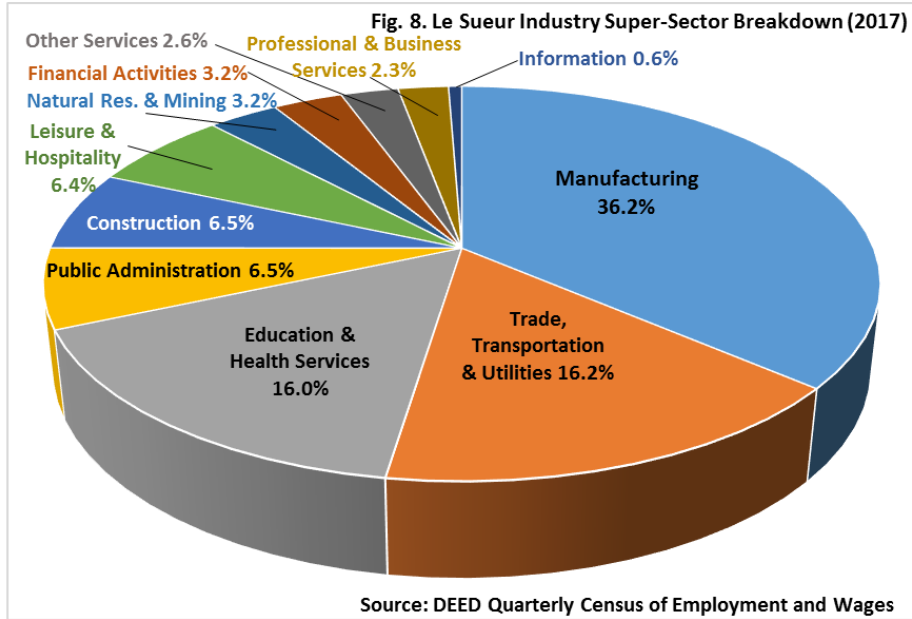
Table 10. Family Yearly Cost, Worker Hourly Wage, and Family Monthly Costs, 2017									
	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Le Sueur Co.	\$53,785	\$17.24	\$368	\$746	\$417	\$903	\$928	\$482	\$638
Minnesota	\$57,624	\$18.47	\$504	\$763	\$459	\$980	\$869	\$510	\$717

Source: DEED Cost of Living

For the “typical family” that the data above is for, the assumption is that the parent that is working part-time is taking care of the child(ren) when they are not at work, thus lowering the monthly cost for child care. However, when full-time child care is needed for one child the cost is around \$512 per month. This amount jumps to \$861 when another child is added into the mix. However, child care is not the largest monthly expense – transportation, housing, food, and taxes are the four highest monthly expenses in the county.

**LE SUEUR COUNTY INDUSTRIES**

There are 11 industry super-sectors in Le Sueur County, with over one-third of jobs being in manufacturing (36.2 percent), while trade, transportation and utilities represents 16.2 percent of jobs and education and health services comprising 16 percent of jobs in the county. On the other hand, the industries making up the lowest percentage of total jobs include natural resources and mining, financial activities, other services, professional and business services, and information, all of which make up less than 4 percent of the total county jobs.



Over the last five years, the county has seen an overall increase of 16.7 percent jobs, equaling about 1,269 more jobs in 2017 than there were in 2012. Manufacturing, which is a powerhouse in the county, saw the largest gain, jumping by 1,245 jobs (63.4 percent), followed by construction (44.5 percent or 178 jobs), health care and social assistance (15.1 percent or 93 jobs) and educational services (12 percent or 76 jobs). Unfortunately, six industry sectors saw declines over this time frame, including administrative and support and waste management and remediation, other services (except public administration), accommodation and food service, finance and insurance, public administration, and arts, entertainment and recreation. While the numeric decrease of these losses were not high, some of these losses occurred in industry sectors that did not have high job counts in the first place, thus equaling larger percentages of the sector jobs. For example, while administrative and support and waste management and remediation services saw a loss of only 88 jobs, this was actually a loss of almost 65 percent of the jobs in this sector given its low representation compared to the total jobs in the county (only 1.8 percent of the total jobs in 2012 and dropping to 0.6 percent of the total 2017 jobs).

**Table 11. Industry Employment Statistics**

Industry Sector	2017 Jobs	2012 Jobs	Numeric Change	Percent Change	2017 Firms	2017 Total Payroll	2017 Avg. Weekly Wages
Total, All Industries	8,856	7,587	1,269	16.7%	718	\$371,843,787	\$807
Manufacturing	3,210	1,965	1,245	63.4%	52	\$173,458,335	\$1,039
Retail Trade	833	815	18	2.2%	84	\$16,546,527	\$382
Health Care and Social Assistance	710	617	93	15.1%	62	\$22,470,627	\$608
Educational Services	709	633	76	12.0%	13	\$24,355,910	\$666
Public Administration	579	592	-13	-2.2%	25	\$19,823,774	\$658
Construction	578	400	178	44.5%	126	\$30,690,878	\$1,012
Accommodation and Food Services	481	521	-40	-7.7%	56	\$5,509,957	\$220
Transportation and Warehousing	360	294	66	22.4%	36	\$12,807,259	\$684
Finance and Insurance	257	284	-27	-9.5%	37	\$12,793,817	\$958
Other Services (except Public Administration)	234	302	-68	-22.5%	77	\$4,753,641	\$390
Mining	156	147	9	6.1%	4	\$14,983,215	\$1,847
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	153	147	6	4.1%	39	\$7,127,124	\$892
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	134	104	30	28.8%	20	\$5,440,283	\$782
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	89	91	-2	-2.2%	14	\$991,751	\$216
Information	54	50	4	8.0%	12	\$2,147,923	\$768
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation	51	139	-88	-63.3%	15	\$1,360,532	\$509
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27	20	7	35.0%	20	\$708,145	\$502

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

The largest number of employing establishments in Le Sueur County were found in the construction sector with 126 firms (17.5 percent of the total firms), followed by retail trade (11.7 percent) and other services (10.7 percent). On the other end of the spectrum, the sectors with the lowest firms included arts, entertainment and recreation (1.9 percent), educational services (1.8 percent), information (1.7 percent) and mining (0.6 percent). Not surprising, manufacturing also contributed the highest amount of the total payroll making up over 45 percent (46.6 percent) of the total payroll while arts, entertainment and recreation and real estate, rental and leasing were the lowest contributing sectors at 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively. In regards to average weekly wages, three industry sectors paid more than \$1,000 weekly – construction (\$1,012), manufacturing (\$1,039) and mining (\$1,847).

### EMPLOYERS BY CLASS SIZE

Almost 90 percent of employing firms in the county are smaller employers with between one and 20 employees while only eight firms (1.1 percent) employ 100 or more workers. Overall, there was a gain of five establishments from 2008 to 2016 with the largest gain of employers with 20 to 49 employees. However, there was a large loss of firms that employ five to nine workers, with a loss of 16 firms. One issue that may accompany this

**Table 12. Employers by Size Class, 2016**

Number of Employees	Le Sueur Co.		Minnesota	Le Sueur Co.	
	Number	Percent	Percent	Change in	Percent
1-4	418	59.5%	53.8%	2	0.5%
5-9	128	18.2%	17.6%	-16	-11.1%
10-19	84	12.0%	13.2%	6	7.7%
20-49	50	7.1%	9.3%	11	28.2%
50-99	14	2.0%	3.3%	1	7.7%
100-249	6	0.9%	1.9%	1	20.0%
250-499	1	0.1%	0.5%	0	0.0%
500 or more	1	0.1%	0.3%	0	0.0%
Total Firms	702	100.0%	100.0%	5	0.7%

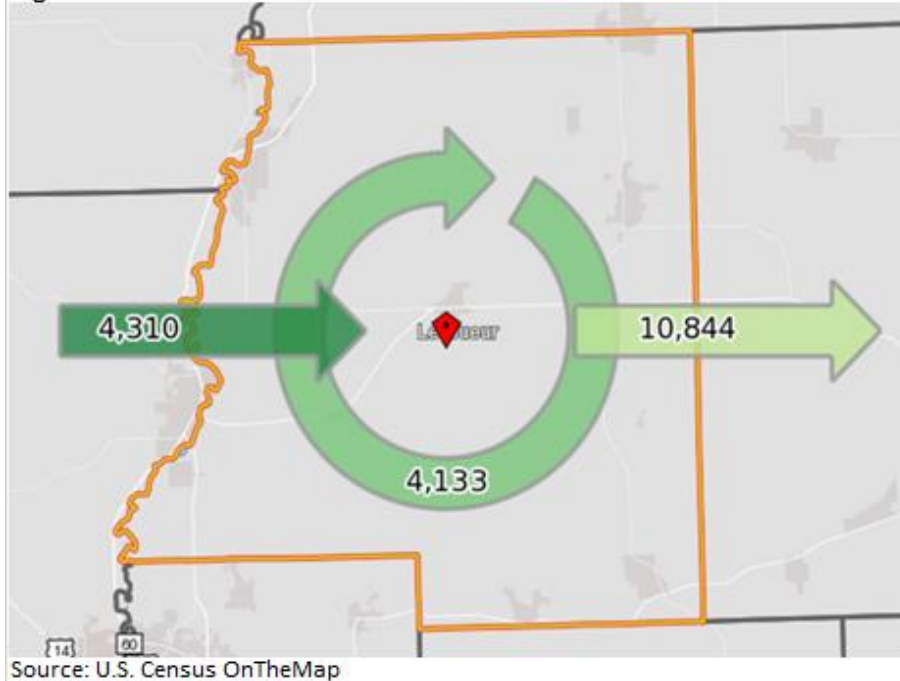
Source: U.S. Census, County Business Patterns

dynamic of having a large number of small employers is that small employers may not have the resources to pay higher and more competitive wages. Given the current labor force shortage and the projected decrease in labor force, these smaller businesses may struggle to attract applicants to fill their job openings

**LABOR AND COMMUTE SHED**

Le Sueur County is a net exporter of labor, meaning that there are more county residents that leave the county for work than those that come in from surrounding areas. In fact, there are more residents that leave the county for work than there are workers that both live and work in the county and come in from other regions – 10,844 residents leave while 8,443 workers either live and work in the county or commute in for work.

**Figure 9. Inflow and Outflow of Labor**



Of the residents that leave the county for work, the largest numbers go to Scott, Hennepin, Blue Earth, Nicollet and Dakota Counties, whereas of the non-residents who commute into the county the highest number come from Scott, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Rice and Sibley Counties. It’s worth noting that good portion of the county residents who commute out for work go to the metro area while there are significantly less non-residents who commute into Le Sueur County from the metro.

Table 13. Commuter Locations					
Where Le Sueur County Workers Live			Where Le Sueur Residents Work		
Le Sueur Co.	4,133	49.0%	Le Sueur Co.	4,133	27.6%
Scott Co.	802	9.5%	Scott Co.	1,734	11.6%
Nicollet Co.	639	7.6%	Hennepin Co.	1,678	11.2%
Blue Earth Co.	564	6.7%	Blue Earth Co.	1,540	10.3%
Rice Co.	435	5.2%	Nicollet Co.	1,449	9.7%
Sibley Co.	422	5.0%	Dakota Co.	1,026	6.9%
Hennepin Co.	198	2.3%	Rice Co.	744	5.0%
Waseca Co.	195	2.3%	Ramsey Co.	444	3.0%
Carver Co.	149	1.8%	Waseca Co.	405	2.7%
Dakota Co.	139	1.6%	Carver Co.	297	2.0%
All Other Locations	767	9.1%	All Other Locations	1,527	10.2%

Source: U.S. Census OnTheMap

