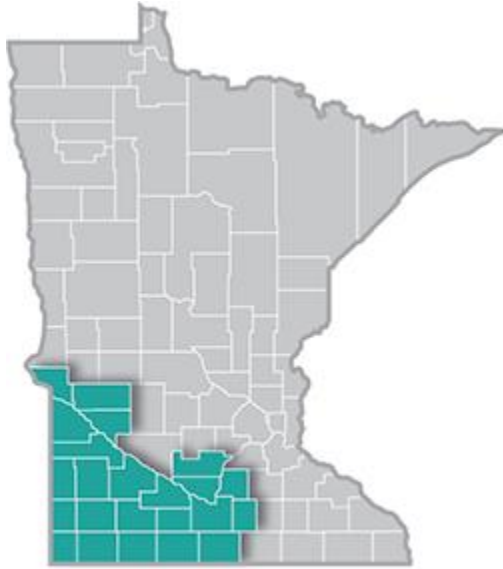


Southwest Minnesota – Manufacturing Overview



According to DEED’s [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) data, the 23-county Southwest Minnesota region was home to 602 manufacturing establishments providing 32,941 jobs through the third quarter of 2016. That was 10.2 percent of total manufacturing employment in the state. Manufacturing accounted for 18.6 percent of total employment in the region, making it the largest industry in the region ahead of health care and social assistance (30,787 jobs) and ahead of retail trade (20,733 jobs). Southwest is the only region in the state where manufacturing is still the largest employing industry.

These manufacturers provided about \$412 million in total payroll in the third quarter of 2016, making it the largest industry in terms of payroll. Average weekly wages in manufacturing were \$962 in 2016, which was 24.3 percent higher than the total of all industries.

Table 1. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics, Quarter 3 2016

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms, Q3 2016	Number of Jobs, Q3 2016	Quarterly Payroll, Q3 2016	Avg. Weekly Wages, Q3 2016
0	Total, All Industries	11,685	177,388	\$1,786,024,400	\$774
31	Manufacturing	602	32,941	\$412,216,132	\$962
311	Food Manufacturing	104	12,203	\$156,781,413	\$988
323	Printing & Related Support Activities	61	3,474	\$36,674,819	\$812
333	Machinery Manufacturing	62	3,084	\$39,195,207	\$977
335	Electrical Equip., Appliance, & Component Mfg.	20	1,938	\$27,623,252	\$1,096
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	89	1,921	\$23,328,012	\$934
334	Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	24	1,900	\$25,438,028	\$1,029
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	32	1,835	\$27,097,343	\$1,135
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	24	1,166	\$12,552,156	\$828
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	33	963	\$10,961,596	\$875
325	Chemical Manufacturing	29	939	\$14,144,159	\$1,158
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	21	930	\$10,603,714	\$877
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	41	874	\$10,022,864	\$882
337	Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	24	622	\$5,376,555	\$664
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	7	568	\$7,968,558	\$1,079
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	11	360	\$3,496,815	\$747
314	Textile Product Mills	15	96	\$541,685	\$434
315	Apparel Manufacturing	3	45	\$226,149	\$386

Source: DEED [Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\)](#) program

Food Manufacturing was easily the largest sector in Southwest Minnesota, with 12,203 jobs at 104 establishments, and just under \$157 million in quarterly payroll. Southwest Minnesota has exactly 25 percent of statewide employment in Food Manufacturing, and had the largest number of food manufacturing jobs of the 6 planning regions in the state, ahead of even the Twin Cities metro area.

The largest subsectors in Food Manufacturing include Animal Slaughtering and Processing (4,972 jobs), Dairy Product Manufacturing (2,551 jobs), Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing (2,529 jobs), Grain and Oilseed Milling (1,031 jobs), Animal Food Manufacturing (472 jobs), and Bakeries and Tortilla Manufacturing (304 jobs).

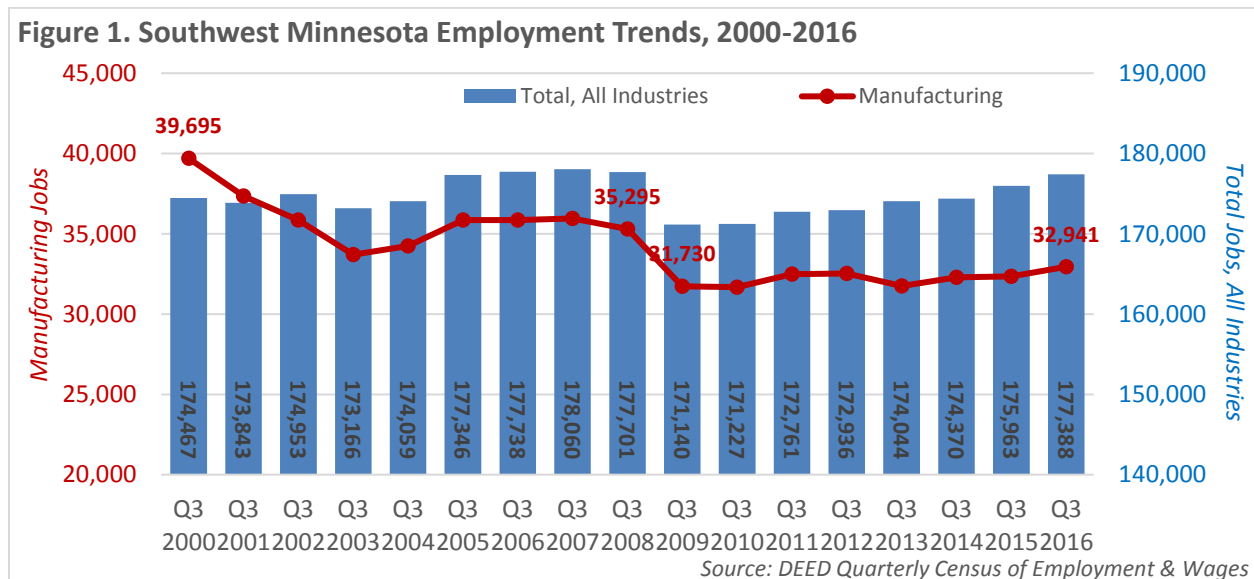
The second largest manufacturing sector in the region is Printing and Related Support Activities, which had 3,474 jobs at 61 establishments through the third quarter of 2016, and was also much more strongly concentrated in Southwest Minnesota than the state. Machinery Manufacturing is the third largest sector, with 3,084 jobs at 62 establishments, which was also a higher concentration than the state. Combined, these three large sectors provided 57 percent of total manufacturing jobs in the region.

Southwest Minnesota also had large numbers of jobs in Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing (1,938 jobs), Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (1,921 jobs), Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (1,900 jobs), and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (1,835 jobs), which was nearly three times as concentrated in Southwest Minnesota as in the rest of the state. The region had smaller but notable employment in Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing (1,166 jobs), Wood Product Manufacturing (963 jobs), Chemical Manufacturing (939 jobs), Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (930 jobs), Miscellaneous Manufacturing (874 jobs), Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing (622 jobs), and Primary Metal Manufacturing (568 jobs).

Average weekly wages in manufacturing (\$962) were 24.3 percent higher than the total of all industries (\$774), led by high average weekly wages in Chemical Manufacturing (\$1,158), Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (\$1,135), Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Components (\$1,096), Primary Metal Manufacturing (\$1,079), and Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$1,142).

Industry Trends

Manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota cut about 6,000 jobs during the 2001 recession, then enjoyed a slight recovery and regained about 1,600 jobs from 2003 to 2008. The region’s manufacturers suffered more job losses during the recession from 2008 to 2009, dropping 3,565 jobs in one year, to a low of 31,677 jobs through the third quarter of 2010. However, manufacturers in the region have again enjoyed a slow but steady recovery, regaining about 1,300 net new jobs from the third quarter of 2010 through the third quarter of 2016 (see Figure 1).



Despite the recent recovery, manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota still have about 2,900 fewer jobs now than ten years ago, in 2006. Manufacturing employment was down about 8.1 percent from 2006 to 2016, while the total of all industries has almost reached its pre-recession peak from 2007 and is now down just 350 jobs compared to 2006, a 0.2 percent decrease in jobs.

The biggest job declines in the past decade occurred in Printing and Related Support Activities, which stamped out 2,066 jobs, Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, which sliced 1,005 jobs, and Machinery Manufacturing, which cut 964 jobs from 2006 to 2016. The region also suffered large declines in the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing and Wood Product Manufacturing sectors, which both eliminated over 33 percent of their employment since 2006.

In sum, just over half of the 17 manufacturing sectors had fewer jobs in 2016 than in 2006, but eight of the nine lost 20 percent or more of their employment. In contrast, eight sectors saw employment growth since 2006, with the largest job gains occurring in Food Manufacturing, which added 1,425 jobs, and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, which gained more than 650 jobs. Southwest Minnesota also saw important job gains in Miscellaneous Manufacturing, Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing, Plastics and Rubber Manufacturing, Chemical Manufacturing, and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing.

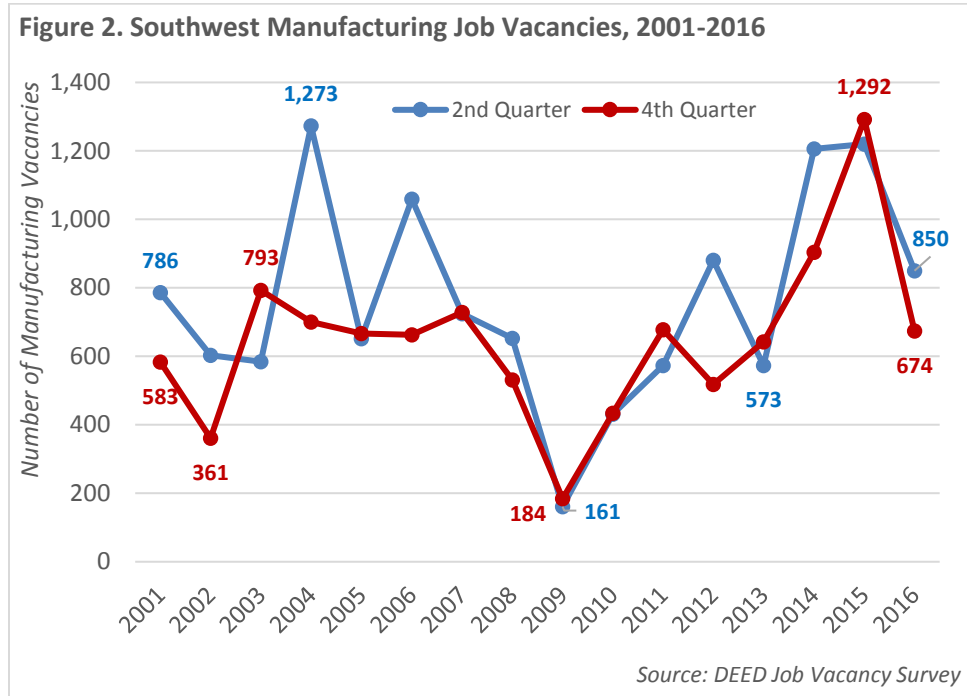
Encouragingly, 12 of the 17 sectors added jobs since the third quarter of 2011. However, just seven sectors gained jobs in the past year. Like the ten-year trends, the biggest gains were in Food Manufacturing, Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing, and Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing, while Machinery Manufacturing suffered the biggest job loss (see Table 2).

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Jobs, Q3 2016	1-Year Trend, Q3 2015-Q3 2016		5-Year Trend, Q3 2011-Q3 2016		10-Year Trend, Q3 2006-Q3 2016	
		Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	177,388	+1,425	+0.8%	+4,627	+2.7%	-350	-0.2%
Manufacturing	32,941	+604	+1.9%	+465	+1.4%	-2,907	-8.1%
Food Manufacturing	12,203	+1,333	+12.3%	+855	+7.5%	+1,425	+13.2%
Printing & Related Support Activities	3,474	-67	-1.9%	-786	-18.5%	-2,066	-37.3%
Machinery Manufacturing	3,084	-653	-17.5%	-464	-13.1%	-964	-23.8%
Electrical Equip, Appliance Mfg.	1,938	-60	-3.0%	-64	-3.2%	-25	-1.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	1,921	-52	-2.6%	+9	+0.5%	+80	+4.3%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	1,900	-43	-2.2%	-378	-16.6%	-1,005	-34.6%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	1,835	+161	+9.6%	+679	+58.7%	+658	+55.9%
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	1,166	+131	+12.7%	+186	+19.0%	+100	+9.4%
Wood Product Manufacturing	963	-110	-10.3%	+42	+4.6%	-484	-33.4%
Chemical Manufacturing	939	+34	+3.8%	+146	+18.4%	+93	+11.0%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	930	-87	-8.6%	+39	+4.4%	-553	-37.3%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	874	-29	-3.2%	+45	+5.4%	+253	+40.7%
Furniture & Related Product Mfg.	622	+15	+2.5%	+82	+15.2%	-190	-23.4%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	568	+4	+0.7%	-20	-3.4%	-247	-30.3%
Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	360	+27	+8.1%	+92	+34.3%	+110	+44.0%
Textile Product Mills	96	-13	-11.9%	+2	+2.1%	+36	+60.0%
Apparel Manufacturing	45	N/A	N/A	+8	+21.6%	-44	-49.4%

Source: DEED [Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\)](#) program

Industry Demand

The steady recovery in manufacturing employment in recent years has led to a rising number of [job vacancies](#) across the Southwest Minnesota region. The 674 job vacancies reported by manufacturing employers in the fourth quarter of 2016 was down compared to the record-high 1,292 vacancies posted in 2015, but was still over three times more openings than the 184 vacancies posted in 2009, at the bottom of the recession (see Figure 2).



The median wage offer for these vacancies climbed to \$14.77 per hour in the fourth quarter of 2016, about \$2 more than openings reported in the fourth quarter of 2015, but down almost \$0.50 per hour compared to the fourth quarter of 2011. About 30 percent of the manufacturing vacancies required postsecondary education and 42 percent required at least a year of prior work experience, which was in line with past years. Just 14 percent of the posted manufacturing openings were part-time, as compared to 33 percent of vacancies across all industries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Job Vacancy Survey, 4th Quarter 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Industries	6,322	\$12.95	33%	30%	32%
Manufacturing	674	\$14.77	14%	29%	42%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

The largest number of manufacturing vacancies were production occupations, including food processing workers, printing workers, assemblers and fabricators, and other production occupations. The median wage offer for these positions was \$11.90, but ranged between \$9 and \$22 per hour. Manufacturers in Southwest Minnesota were also looking to hire sales and office, transportation and material moving, management, and installation, maintenance, and repair workers (see Table 4).

Table 4. Southwest Minnesota Production Occupations Job Vacancy Survey, 4th Quarter 2016

SOC Occupational Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offer	Percent Part-time	Percent Requiring Postsecondary Education	Percent Requiring 1+ Years Work Experience
Total, All Occupations	6,322	\$12.95	33%	30%	32%
Production Occupations	882	\$11.90	13%	17%	28%
Supervisors of Production Workers	38	\$22.03	0%	76%	55%
Assemblers & Fabricators	57	\$11.11	0%	0%	20%
Food Processing Workers	400	\$10.53	8%	21%	35%
Metal Workers & Plastics Workers	41	\$14.73	0%	73%	87%
Printing Workers	262	\$11.82	32%	2%	2%
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishing Workers	19	\$9.34	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Production Occupations	56	\$12.41	0%	0%	53%
Office & Administrative Support	571	\$11.67	36%	20%	36%
Transportation & Material Moving	784	\$15.05	31%	7%	50%
Architecture & Engineering	65	\$23.55	0%	74%	60%
Management	105	\$31.95	1%	93%	89%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	413	\$15.84	2%	49%	63%
Sales & Related	1,323	\$10.16	66%	24%	46%

Source: DEED [Job Vacancy Survey](#)

Industry Occupational Employment

DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program provides detailed employment and wage data for a wide range of occupations involved in manufacturing. In sum, there were an estimated 20,580 people working in production occupations in Southwest Minnesota, accounting for about 11.7 percent of total employment in the region. Median hourly wages for production occupations were \$15.88 in 2016, but ranged from \$10.42 at the low end to \$24.29 at the high end.

As noted above, in addition to production occupations, manufacturers also require the services of workers in several other occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, architecture and engineering, management, and installation, maintenance and repair. Not surprisingly, wages were higher for the higher level positions (see Table 5).

Table 5. Southwest Minnesota Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2016

SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Regional Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Employment	Statewide Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	176,530	\$15.98	2,772,240	\$18.88
Production Occupations	20,580	\$15.88	219,390	\$16.80
Office & Administrative Support	24,480	\$15.57	403,870	\$17.65
Transportation & Material Moving	11,090	\$13.84	174,150	\$16.35
Architecture & Engineering	2,690	\$29.99	52,680	\$35.14
Management	8,600	\$36.92	167,820	\$48.47
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	6,490	\$19.78	94,280	\$21.96
Sales & Related	17,270	\$11.07	274,960	\$13.03
Business & Financial Operations	6,090	\$26.48	162,610	\$31.06
Computer & Mathematical	2,570	\$28.04	94,470	\$38.93

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\) program](#)

Team assemblers, first-line supervisors, machinists, and more are the most common jobs found at manufacturing firms in Minnesota, according to DEED’s Occupational Staffing Matrix data. Median hourly wages for these manufacturing positions ranged from a low of less than \$10 per hour for packers and packagers to a high of about \$25 per hour for tool and die makers and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers. Almost all of the production-related manufacturing occupations can be gained with a high school diploma and learned through on-the-job training, though some also benefit from vocational training or associate degrees (see Table 6).

Table 6. Southwest Minnesota Top 30 Production-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2016 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
512092	Team Assemblers	1,250	\$16.20	High School or equiv.
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	1,290	\$24.80	High School or equiv.
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	460	\$13.88	High School or equiv.
514041	Machinists	530	\$17.86	Vocational training
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	2,420	\$12.64	High School or equiv.
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	1,340	\$15.38	High School or equiv.
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	960	\$18.97	High School or equiv.
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	890	\$17.03	High School or equiv.
537062	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	2,380	\$14.73	High School or equiv.
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters, Metal/Plastic	500	\$18.05	High School or equiv.
515112	Printing Press Operators	680	\$19.10	High School or equiv.
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	560	\$21.86	Vocational training
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	650	\$13.99	High School or equiv.
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	650	\$11.51	High School or equiv.
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal/Plastic	700	\$16.62	High School or equiv.
537051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	640	\$17.04	High School or equiv.
519199	Production Workers, All Other	570	\$16.13	High School or equiv.
499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,410	\$18.27	High School or equiv.
537064	Packers & Packagers, Hand	1,440	\$9.45	High School or equiv.
513099	All other food processing workers	350	\$14.32	High School or equiv.
514072	Molding, Coremaking & Casting Machine Setters & Operators	190	\$15.82	High School or equiv.
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	3,850	\$17.67	High School or equiv.
512023	Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	70	\$11.92	High School or equiv.
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters & Operators	190	\$16.10	High School or equiv.
513092	Food Batchmakers	480	\$20.49	High School or equiv.
519196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	N/A	N/A	High School or equiv.
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	520	\$15.92	High School or equiv.
517011	Cabinetmakers & Bench Carpenters	70	\$14.94	High School or equiv.
519032	Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	150	\$17.03	High School or equiv.
514111	Tool & Die Makers	110	\$25.72	Vocational training

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

In addition to the production-related occupations, manufacturers also rely heavily on sales and office workers including manufacturing sales representatives, customer service representatives, and production, planning, shipping, and traffic clerks; transportation and material moving workers such as truck drivers and packers and packagers; engineering occupations like industrial, mechanical, and electrical engineers; management positions such as industrial production and general managers; and business and financial operations occupations like accountants and auditors.

Many of these occupations require higher education, but also offer higher wages. For example, all of the engineering positions have median wages above \$30 per hour in Southwest Minnesota, with median wages topping \$50 per hour for engineering managers, but also require bachelor’s degrees at the minimum. Likewise, software developers, industrial production managers, and general and operations managers all earn well over \$30 per hour, and all require bachelor’s degrees. In contrast, sales representatives required just a high school diploma, but also offered relatively high wages (see Table 7).

Table 7. Southwest Minnesota Top 20 Office-related Manufacturing Occupations, 2016 Wage Data

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations
414012	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, exc. Technical Products	1,860	\$25.01	High School or equiv.
434051	Customer Service Representatives	2,440	\$15.03	High School or equiv.
172112	Industrial Engineers	530	\$35.05	Bachelor's degree
111021	General & Operations Managers	2,290	\$34.12	Bachelor's degree
435071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	910	\$14.96	High School or equiv.
113051	Industrial Production Managers	450	\$37.63	Bachelor's degree
172141	Mechanical Engineers	450	\$33.67	Bachelor's degree
433031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,360	\$16.43	High School or equiv.
173026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	210	\$21.99	Associate degree
131023	Purchasing Agents, exc. Wholesale, Retail & Farm Products	330	\$26.14	Bachelor's degree
439061	Office Clerks, General	2,990	\$14.13	High School or equiv.
414011	Sales Representatives, Manufacturing, Technical Products	N/A	\$38.62	Bachelor's degree
435061	Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerks	390	\$21.42	High School or equiv.
132011	Accountants & Auditors	1,070	\$27.60	Bachelor's degree
435081	Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	2,850	\$10.49	High School or equiv.
119041	Engineering Managers	100	\$51.72	Bachelor's degree
172071	Electrical Engineers	170	\$37.50	Bachelor's degree
151133	Software Developers, Systems Software	140	\$49.84	Bachelor's degree
151132	Software Developers, Applications	230	\$38.50	Bachelor's degree
173023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	180	\$24.93	Associate degree

Source: DEED [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program, [Minnesota Educational Requirements for Occupations](#)

Industry Outlook

According to DEED’s 2014 to 2024 Employment Outlook data, the Southwest Minnesota manufacturing industry is projected to lose about 500 jobs over the next decade, a slight 1.5 percent decline, which is the second smallest of any region in the state. The state of Minnesota as a whole is projected to lose about 14,500 manufacturing jobs from 2014 to 2024, a 4.6 percent decline, which makes Southwest Minnesota’s projected stability more unique. Still, the small decline in Manufacturing is in contrast to overall growth of 1.0 percent across the total of all industries in Southwest Minnesota.

Nine of the 17 sectors are expected to see job declines in the next decade, with the most severe losses projected in Printing and Related Support Activities and Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, which combined are expected to lose just under 1,150 jobs combined.

In contrast, eight of the 17 manufacturing sectors are expected to add jobs, led by a strong resurgence in Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, which is projected to gain 414 net new jobs, a 20.7 percent expansion. The region may also see job growth in Machinery Manufacturing, Wood Product Manufacturing, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, and Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing, which combined are expected to regain just over 1,060 jobs (see Table 8).

Table 8. Southwest Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Projections, 2014-2024

NAICS Code	Industry	Estimated Employment 2014	Projected Employment 2024	Percent Change 2014-2024	Numeric Change 2014-2024
0	Total, All Industries	208,555	210,669	+1.0%	+2,114
31	Manufacturing	31,340	30,844	-1.5%	-496
311	Food Manufacturing	10,145	10,120	-0.2%	-25
333	Machinery Manufacturing	3,756	4,053	+7.9%	+297
323	Printing and Related Support Activities	3,740	2,897	-22.5%	-843
332	Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	1,993	2,407	+20.7%	+414
335	Electrical Equipment and Appliances	2,009	1,880	-6.4%	-129
334	Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	1,945	1,639	-15.7%	-306
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg.	1,380	1,268	-8.1%	-112
321	Wood Product Manufacturing	959	1,147	+19.6%	+188
326	Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	1,050	1,014	-3.4%	-36
336	Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,051	971	-7.6%	-80
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	844	925	+9.5%	+81
325	Chemical Manufacturing	888	898	+1.1%	+10
337	Furniture and Related Product Mfg.	549	630	+14.7%	+81
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	580	591	+1.8%	+11
312	Beverage & Tobacco Product Mfg.	290	267	-7.9%	-23
314	Textile Product Mills	104	92	-11.5%	-12

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

Occupational Outlook

The decline in Southwest Minnesota manufacturing employment is expected to carry over into production occupations as well, leading to a projected 0.5 percent job decline from 2014 to 2024. However, the region is still expected to have significant demand for production workers over the next ten years due to a large number of replacement openings – jobs that become available because the existing worker retires out of the labor force or changes careers. There may be as many as 5,470 total openings for production occupations in the region, primarily from replacement openings.

Overall, 15 of the 46 production occupations in the region are expected to see new job growth from 2014 to 2024, led by Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Slaughterers and Meat Packers, and Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers, which are all projected to add more than 150 net new jobs. Machinists and Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers are also projected to have notable employment growth in the next decade.

In contrast, the biggest declines are projected for Printing Press Operators, Print Binding and Finishing Workers, Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers, and Helpers – Production Workers. Just six of the 46 production occupations are expected to lose more than 20 percent of their jobs, with Photographic Process Workers and Prepress Technicians seeing the most rapid drop-offs.

Regardless of growth or decline, every occupation is expected to at least have some replacement openings from 2014 to 2024. The largest number of total openings are projected for Slaughterers and Meat Packers, Packaging and Filling Machine Operators, Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, and Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers, which are all expected to have at least 430 total openings in the region. Team Assemblers and Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers will also remain in demand due to new hires and replacement openings (see Table 9).

Table 9. Top 25 Southwest Minnesota Production Occupation Projections, 2014-2024

SOC Code	SOC Occupational Title	Estimated Employment 2014	Projected Employment 2024	Percent Change 2014-2024	Numeric Change 2014-2024	* Replacement Openings 2014-2024	** Total Openings 2014-2024
0	Total, All Occupations	208,555	210,669	+1.0%	+2,114	+48,070	+55,090
510000	Production Occupations	21,004	20,890	-0.5%	-114	+4,620	+5,470
513023	Slaughterers & Meat Packers	2,903	3,106	+6.9%	+203	+570	+770
512092	Team Assemblers	1,318	1,330	+0.9%	+12	+280	+290
519111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	1,357	1,314	-3.1%	-43	+480	+480
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers	1,160	1,150	-0.8%	-10	+180	+180
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	981	1,135	+15.6%	+154	+280	+430
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	793	1,031	+30.0%	+238	+240	+470
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, & Weighers	862	868	+0.6%	+6	+210	+220
512099	Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	846	815	-3.6%	-31	+180	+180
513022	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	564	604	+7.0%	+40	+110	+150
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	602	576	-4.3%	-26	+120	+120
515112	Printing Press Operators	656	523	-20.2%	-133	+90	+90
519199	Production Workers, All Other	518	495	-4.4%	-23	+100	+100
514041	Machinists	449	493	+9.7%	+44	+130	+170
518031	Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant & System	481	471	-2.0%	-10	+120	+120
512022	Electrical & Electronic Equipment Assemblers	513	451	-12.0%	-62	+60	+60
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	487	435	-10.6%	-52	+150	+150
514031	Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Setters	449	410	-8.6%	-39	+50	+50
515113	Print Binding & Finishing Workers	509	401	-21.2%	-108	+70	+70
516011	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	333	325	-2.4%	-8	+40	+40
513092	Food Batchmakers	345	322	-6.6%	-23	+70	+70
519023	Mixing & Blending Machine Setters & Operators	256	248	-3.1%	-8	+50	+50
513021	Butchers & Meat Cutters	238	226	-5.0%	-12	+40	+40
519021	Crushing, Grinding, & Polishing Machine Setters	246	226	-8.1%	-20	+50	+50
514021	Extruding & Drawing Machine Setters & Oper.	274	202	-26.2%	-72	+60	+60
519121	Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters	168	185	+10.1%	+17	+30	+40

*** Replacement Openings:**

Net replacement openings is an estimate of the need for new work force entrants to replace workers who leave an occupation.

It estimates the net movement of:

- 1) experienced workers who leave an occupation and start working in another occupation, stop working altogether, or leave the geographic area, minus
- 2) experienced workers who move into such an opening. It thus does not represent the total number of jobs to be filled due to the need to replace workers.

**** Total Openings:**

Total job openings represent the sum of employment increases and net replacements. If employment change is negative, job openings due to growth are zero and total job openings equals net replacements.

Source: DEED [Employment Outlook](#)

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<http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/southwest-lmi.jsp>

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