

Employment and Local Economic Trends Analysis

While many factors influence the need for housing, employment opportunities represent a predominant demand generator. Without jobs and corresponding wages, the means to afford housing is severely limited.

Employment opportunities may be provided by a broad range of private and public business sectors. Jobs may be available in manufacturing, commercial services, agriculture, public administration, and other industries. The type of employment, wage level, and working conditions will each influence the kind of housing that is needed and at what level of affordability.

Major employers in Crow Wing County with 150 or more employees include:

▶ Brainerd Public Schools - Brainerd	950 employees
▶ St Joseph's Medical Center - Brainerd	908 employees
▶ Brainerd Regional Human Service Center - Brainerd	677 employees
▶ Maddens, Inc. - Brainerd	500 employees
▶ Crow Wing County - Brainerd	450 employees
▶ Bisys - Brainerd	404 employees
▶ Cuyuna Regional Medical Center - Crosby	390 employees
▶ Wal-Mart - Baxter	300 employees
▶ Mills Fleet Farm - Baxter	309 employees
▶ Bethany Good Samaritan Village - Brainerd	325 employees
▶ Breezy Point Resort - Breezy Point	205 employees
▶ Crosby Public Schools - Crosby	255 employees
▶ Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge - Deerwood	250 employees
▶ Grand View Lodge - Nisswa	600 employees
▶ Brainerd Medical Center - Brainerd	285 employees
▶ U.S. Link - Pequot Lakes	246 employees
▶ Central Lakes Community College - Brainerd	313 employees
▶ Trus Joist Mac Millan - Deerwood	220 employees
▶ Pequot Lakes Public Schools - Pequot Lakes	200 employees
▶ Riverwood International USA - Crosby	190 employees
▶ MN Dept of Transportation - Baxter	175 employees
▶ Anderson Brothers Construction - Brainerd	160 employees
▶ Keystone Automotive Industries, Inc. - Brainerd	157 employees
▶ Nor-Son Inc. - Baxter	177 employees
▶ Good Neighbor Home Health Care - Baxter	150 employees
▶ Woodland Good Samaritan Village - Brainerd	150 employees

Source: Community Profiles, MN Department of Trade and Economic Development

Work Force and Unemployment Rates - Crow Wing County

Employment information is available at the County level. Data in the table that follows are for all of Crow Wing County. Data in the following tables have been obtained from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Table 1 County Average Annual Labor Force 2000 -2006						
Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate - MN	Unemployment Rate - US
2000	29,052	27,897	1,155	4.0%	3.1%	4.0%
2001	30,140	28,801	1,339	4.4%	3.8%	4.7%
2002	31,315	29,680	1,635	5.2%	4.5%	5.8%
2003	31,948	30,158	1,790	5.6%	4.8%	6.0%
2004	32,508	30,848	1,660	5.1%	4.6%	5.6%
2005	32,488	30,892	1,596	4.9%	4.1%	5.1%
2006	33,074	31,480	1,594	4.8%	4.0%	4.6%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

- ▶ Crow Wing County has had a steady increase in the size of the available labor force in recent years. Between 2000 and 2006 (the last full year of data), the labor force increased by 13.8%.
- ▶ The employed work force shows similar patterns, with a steady increase in the number of employed workers in the County between 2000 and 2006. During this period, the employed work force grew by 12.8%.
- ▶ With a faster rate of growth in the available labor force than in the employed work force, the County's unemployment rate in 2006 was higher than in 2000. However, the unemployment rate in 2006, at 4.8%, was lower than the peak that was reached in 2003, when it reached 5.6%.
- ▶ Although the County's unemployment rate was above the Statewide rate for each of the years reviewed, it has generally remained at or below the national unemployment rate since 2000.

Work Force and Unemployment Rates - Brainerd

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development does provide employment information for the larger Cities in the State, including Brainerd.

Table 2 Brainerd Average Annual Labor Force 2000 -2006						
Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate - MN	Unemployment Rate - US
2000	6,679	6,308	371	5.6%	3.1%	4.0%
2001	7,041	6,579	462	6.6%	3.8%	4.7%
2002	7,304	6,671	633	8.7%	4.5%	5.8%
2003	7,925	6,704	1,221	15.4%	4.8%	6.0%
2004	7,315	6,742	573	7.8%	4.6%	5.6%
2005	7,201	6,665	536	7.4%	4.1%	5.1%
2006	7,340	6,792	548	7.5%	4.0%	4.6%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

- ▶ Labor force changes in Brainerd show different patterns than the County-wide information on the preceding page. Although the available labor force in 2006 was larger than in 2000, Brainerd's available labor force reached a peak in 2003, and was lower by 2006. Between 2000 and 2006, the available labor force increased by 9.9%. However, between 2003 and 2006, the available labor force decreased in size by 7.4%.
- ▶ The labor force increase in 2003 appears to be somewhat of an anomaly, as the employed work force has grown at a more stable rate since 2000. During this time, the City's employed work force has increased in size by 7.7%.
- ▶ The sudden increase in the available labor force in 2003 also caused a spike in the City's unemployment rate, as it reached 15.4% in that year. However, by 2006, the last full year of data, it had declined to 7.5%.
- ▶ The City's unemployment rate has consistently been above the State and national rates of unemployment.

Employment and Wages by Industry - Crow Wing County

The following table shows the average weekly wages by major employment sector in 2005, the last full year of data. It is important to note that the major employment sectors listed do not represent all employment in the County.

Table 3 County Average Weekly Wages by Industry Detail		
Industry	2005 Employment	2005 Average Weekly Wage
Total All Industry	28,397	\$549
Natural Resources and Mining	51	\$384
Construction	2,206	\$753
Manufacturing	2,885	\$695
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	6,483	\$465
Information	701	\$730
Financial Activities	1,413	\$718
Professional and Business Services	1,724	\$636
Education and Health Services	6,863	\$617
Leisure and Hospitality	4,016	\$229
Other Services	817	\$260

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

- ▶ The average weekly wage for all industry in 2005 was \$549. At full-time employment, this equates to an annual wage of \$28,548.
- ▶ The highest paying wage sectors were Construction, Information, and Financial Activities, with average weekly wages above \$700. At full-time employment, the average annual wage for Construction was \$39,156.
- ▶ The lowest paying wage sector was Leisure and Hospitality, with an average weekly wage of only \$229. At full-time employment in this sector, the average worker would earn \$11,908 annually. Leisure and Hospitality was also the third largest employment sector in the County.

Employment and Wages by Industry - Cities

The following table shows the total employment level and average weekly wage for all industry by City for 2005, the last full year of data. This information is collected and reported by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Table 4 County Average Weekly Wages by Industry Detail		
City	2005 Employment	2005 Average Weekly Wage
Baxter	5,512	\$489
Brainerd	12,855	\$599
Breezy Point	449	\$288
Crosby	1,497	\$644
Crosslake	742	\$436
Deerwood	453	\$719
Emily	178	\$301
Garrison	251	\$213
Ironton	92	\$455
Nisswa	1,211	\$402
Pequot Lakes	1,374	\$584
Pillager (Cass)	327	\$493
Remer (Cass)	298	\$484

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

- ▶ Employment and average weekly wage information was available for each of the Cities participating in this Update.
- ▶ Average weekly wages for employment within each City varied widely, from a high of \$719 per week in Deerwood, to a low of \$213 per week in Garrison.

Employment Projections by Industry

The Department of Employment and Economic Development has generated employment projections for each region of the State. Crow Wing County is included in the Northwest Region. The following table compares estimated employment in the general industry classifications in 2002, the projected level of employment by 2012, and the percentage change.

Table 5 Projected Employment by Industry - 2012			
Industry	2002 Employment	2012 Projected Employment	Percent Change 2002-2012
Total All Industry	255,061	291,672	14.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	8,428	7,464	-11.4%
Construction	10,310	13,027	26.4%
Manufacturing	31,213	36,805	17.9%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	43,736	51,016	16.6%
Information	3,690	4,297	16.4%
Financial Activities	7,413	9,033	21.9%
Professional and Business Services	7,773	12,161	56.5%
Education and Health Services	51,734	61,277	18.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	24,685	28,698	16.3%
Other Services	10,642	12,154	14.2%
Government	20,612	22,340	8.4%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

- ▶ Projections for the year 2012 show that the Professional and Business Services sector is expected to have the greatest percentage growth among industries in Northwest Minnesota between 2002 and 2012. This sector is projected to add nearly 4,400 jobs, for percentage growth of more than 56%. While this sector is a broad industry classification that includes a wide range of sub-sectors, the average weekly wage in this sector in Crow Wing County in 2005 was \$636, well above the average for all industry.
- ▶ In numeric growth, the largest employment increase in Northwest Minnesota is expected in the Education and Health Services sector, which is projected to add more than 9,500 new jobs. This was the largest single employment sector in Crow Wing County in 2005, and paid average weekly wages of \$617, above the average for all industry sectors.
- ▶ The only industry sector expected to lose jobs between 2002 and 2012 is the Natural Resources and Mining sector.