

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

THURSDAY, March 5, 2026  
7:30 A.M.

BLAINE HUMAN SERVICE CENTER  
1201 89<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE, ROOM 2402  
BLAINE, MN 55434

\* \* \* A G E N D A \* \* \*

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- III. APPROVE February 5, 2026 MEETING MINUTES (Attached)
- IV. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO LISA GUETZKOW – JTC Department Director – Kate Heffernan, Chief Officer, AC Human Services
- V. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION UPDATE – Tim O’Neill, Regional Analyst, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- VI. JOB SERVICE REPORT – Sara Garbe, Workforce Development Supervisor, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) (Attached)
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
  - Director Update – Lisa Guetzkow
    - IFA/MOU Planning Update
    - Conflict of Interest (Attached)
    - Anoka County Career Fair, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Anoka Technical College (Attached)
    - Construct Tomorrow Update – February 24<sup>th</sup>

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- LAUS – December (Attached)



## **ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

The Anoka County Workforce Development Board Meeting was called to order by Paul Johnson at 7:33 a.m.

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debby Boyd, Greg Frahm-Gilles, Sara Garbe, Lori Higgins, Becky Johnson, Molly Liberto, Patrick McFarland, Lisa Mehling, Courtney Mickelson, Jay Nelson, Jeff Newsom, Michael Scholl, Sarah Thompson

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Schulte, Commissioner Meisner, Tyler Hilsabeck, NaSee Lor, Jessica Leth, Tim O'Neill, Sue Gunder, Nicole Swanson, Krista Peterson

#### **II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION by Greg Frahm-Gilles to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Lisa Mehling. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **III. APPROVE January 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION by Sara Garbe to approve the January 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Molly Liberto. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **IV. ONE-STOP OPERATOR & DIRECTOR TRANSITION UPDATE** – Jessica Leth, Deputy Director, Human Services Division, Anoka County

Workforce Development Region 4 includes Ramsey County, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin-Carver Counties, Dakota-Scott Counties, Washington County and Anoka County. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) require a One-Stop delivery system, branded in MN as CareerForce. One-Stop delivery system is a network of workforce development systems designed to meet business and career-seeker needs. Anoka County partners include:

- **Job Service** is the unit within DEED that operates the Wagner-Peyser program and provides Basic Career Services to customers. They also support employers through services such as job postings, candidate referrals, job fairs and labor market information. 59% of job service referrals in Blaine were received from unemployment insurance (2,093 out of 4,101)
- **Job Training Center (JTC)** administers programs for Dislocated Worker, Adult, MN Family Investment Program, Empowers Youth Program Senior Community Services Employment Program, SNAP, Career Pathway Training and Job Seeker Services. In 2025 JTC had 7,691 customer visits, hosted 27 hiring events with 2,713 attendees.
- **Veterans Employment Services** assists veterans overcoming employment barriers by offering individualized career services to connect them to career opportunities.

556 veterans received services in 2025 with 78% exiting the program with an average wage of \$29.16/hour.

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services** empowers MN with disabilities to achieve their goals for employment, independent living and community integration. There are 38 offices across MN serving 14,389 individuals in 2025. Anoka County served 729 participants.
- **Unemployment Insurance Program** provides benefits to unemployed workers in MN and throughout the United States and collects taxes and reimbursements from employers who have employees in MN. In 2025 MN had 264,944 claims with approximately 7% of Anoka County residents (17,744).
- **Metro North Adult Basic Education (ABE)** is a partnership between eight school districts in the northern metro area. Metro north ABE is the fourth largest consortium in the state. In 2025 they served students from 106 different countries, speaking 81 languages, and living in 145 different cities across 79 school districts in 29 counties.
- **Economic Assistance (EA)** provides effective services with a focus on dignity and self-sufficiency. Programs include SNAP, Medical Assistance, MN Family Investment Program, General Assistance, MN Supplemental Aid, Housing Support, Emergency Programs and Funeral Assistance. In 2025 office support staff had 33,328 visitors in the lobby and 71,353 calls. 19,924 MAXIS cases, 27,626 MNsure and 9,549 child support cases.

Currently we are experiencing a changing landscape with a new JTC and EA Director. The One Stop Operator will transition to the new EA Director in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2026.

**V. OPEN TO BUSINESS (MINNESOTA CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS (MCCD) – Tyler Hilsabeck, Director of Small Business/Washington county and NaSee Lor, Business Advisor, MCCD**

- MCCD is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit service consortium of 35+ nonprofit affordable housing and economic development organizations, and a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)
- Program areas include Open to Business, Shared Ownership, Lending, Advocacy and Field Building, and Leadership Development.
- MCCD advisors offer confidential business consulting and lending options. Partnerships and Resources include DEED, U of MN Law, LEGALCORPS and AC Regional Economic Development.
- Any business or business-owner location in Anoka County can utilize services with no prequalification.
- Start-up loans of up to \$50,000 for businesses that cannot secure any or all financing from traditional commercial lenders.

**VI. CONSTRUCT TOMORROW EVENT** – Sue Gunder, Supervisor, Empowers Youth Program, Anoka County Job Training Center

- Event Date: February 24, 2026 – Statewide initiative that introduces high school students to careers in the union construction trades through engaging, hands-on events.
- Goal is to address workforce shortages, provide career awareness, educate on union advantages and provides education and employment to students.
- This is a strategic investment in MN future workforce, creating pathways to stable, high-paying careers while strengthening the union construction industry.
- Currently 847 students enrolled to attend, with a goal of 1,000.

**VII. Director Update – Nicole Swanson**

- Lisa Guetzkow will be joining JTC as the new director starting Friday, February 20. Lisa comes from Ramsey County and has over 20 years of experience in workforce development and human services.
- IFA/MOU (Infrastructure Funding Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding) – partnership continues to finalize, goal to review in March.
- CareerForce Job Search Experience Survey update.
- DEED Objective and Key Results Overview (handout) – reviewed DEED’s workgroup. Objective is to enhance coordination, service delivery and customer engagement. Workstream goals include Funding, Service Delivery, Outcome Metrics and Deliverables.
- Workforce Development Board Brochure (handout) – updated information and a great summary of the AC board and its purpose.
- Regional Workforce Summit (South Metro), Build Your 2026 AI Action Plan (handout includes registration information). Anoka County summit is on March 11<sup>th</sup>, look for information to be emailed soon.
- Immigration Enforcement – To date no issues in Blaine and a process is in place should a situation arise. This is a Federal issue, not local.

**ADJOURN**

MOTION by Lori Higgins to Adjourn. Seconded by Patrick McFarland. Adjourned at 8:35 a.m.





## Anoka County Current Conditions & Trends

*Cameron Macht – Regional Analysis & Outreach Unit Manager  
Labor Market Information Office – <http://mn.gov/deed/data>*



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## Labor market information office [mn.gov/deed/data](http://mn.gov/deed/data)

- Each state produces employment and economic statistics in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics
- LMI includes employment statistics, unemployment rates, wages and salaries, job projections and more
- LMI is the foundation for informed, market-responsive planning

### Data Center



#### Regional Labor Markets

Explore your region's labor market. Find comprehensive Regional Profiles you can download in PDF, as well as links to articles and data tools. Or contact your regional analyst.

1 2 3 4 5 6

### We've Got Your Number

Nothing tells a story like numbers. And here is where we let them do the talking.

Our data and data tools provide a comprehensive, nuts-and-bolts look at Minnesota's economy and workforce.

[Data Tools](#)

[Monthly Highlights](#)

[Regional Labor Markets](#)

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## Meet the LMI Office

mn.gov/deed/data



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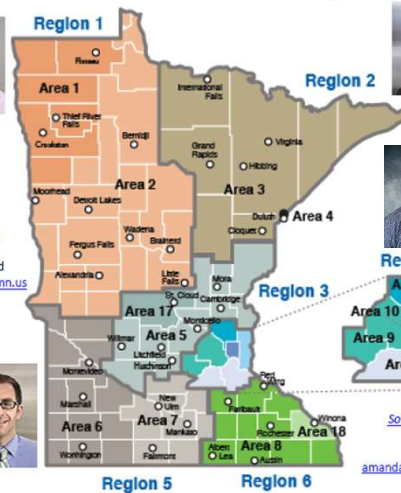
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## Anoka County

### DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

- 8,710 establishments during Q3 2025
- **133,406 covered jobs** (MN's 4<sup>th</sup> largest-employing county)
  - 118,517 private sectors jobs (88.8%)
  - 14,889 government jobs (11.2%)
    - 12,602 local government
    - 1,919 state government
    - 367 federal government
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest-growing county between 2019 and 2025 (+5,697 jobs; +4.5%)
- \$2.3 billion total Q3 payroll
- \$69,940 avg. annual wage

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## Anoka County industry employment

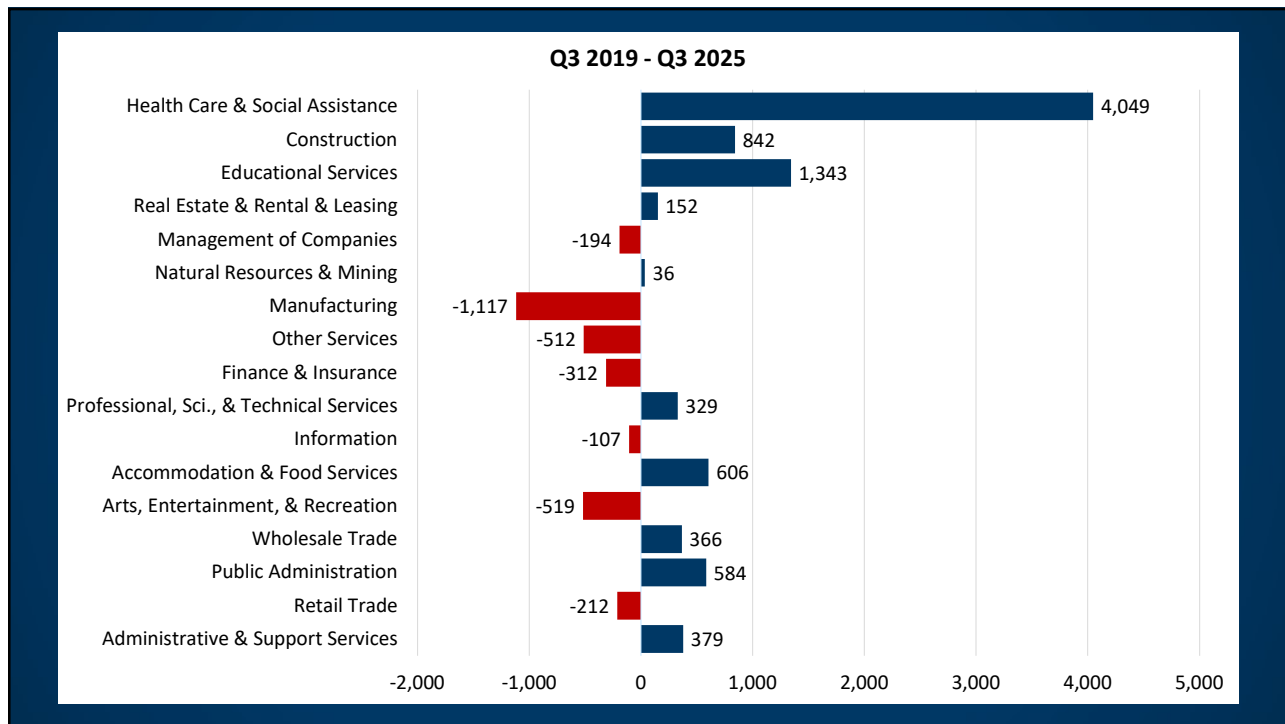
### Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW): Q3 2025

Industry	Number of Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Number of Firms	Avg. Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>133,406</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>\$69,940</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	22,780	17.1%	1,593	\$65,520
Manufacturing	22,755	17.1%	559	\$106,080
Retail Trade	15,586	11.7%	855	\$39,572
Accommodation & Food Services	11,125	8.3%	557	\$25,168
Construction	10,523	7.9%	1,165	\$91,624
Educational Services	9,645	7.2%	202	\$58,448
Wholesale Trade	6,871	5.2%	453	\$114,192
Administrative & Support Services	6,323	4.7%	443	\$56,212
Public Administration	5,608	4.2%	48	\$74,984
Transportation & Warehousing	4,931	3.7%	287	\$62,452
Other Services	4,412	3.3%	897	\$45,084
Professional, Sci., & Technical Services	4,400	3.3%	656	\$100,048
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,161	2.4%	156	\$33,124
Finance & Insurance	1,804	1.4%	332	\$88,712
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,533	1.1%	337	\$55,120
Management of Companies	646	0.5%	46	\$77,168
Natural Resources & Mining	529	0.4%	35	\$41,808
Information	510	0.4%	81	\$74,516
Utilities	258	0.2%	8	\$110,760

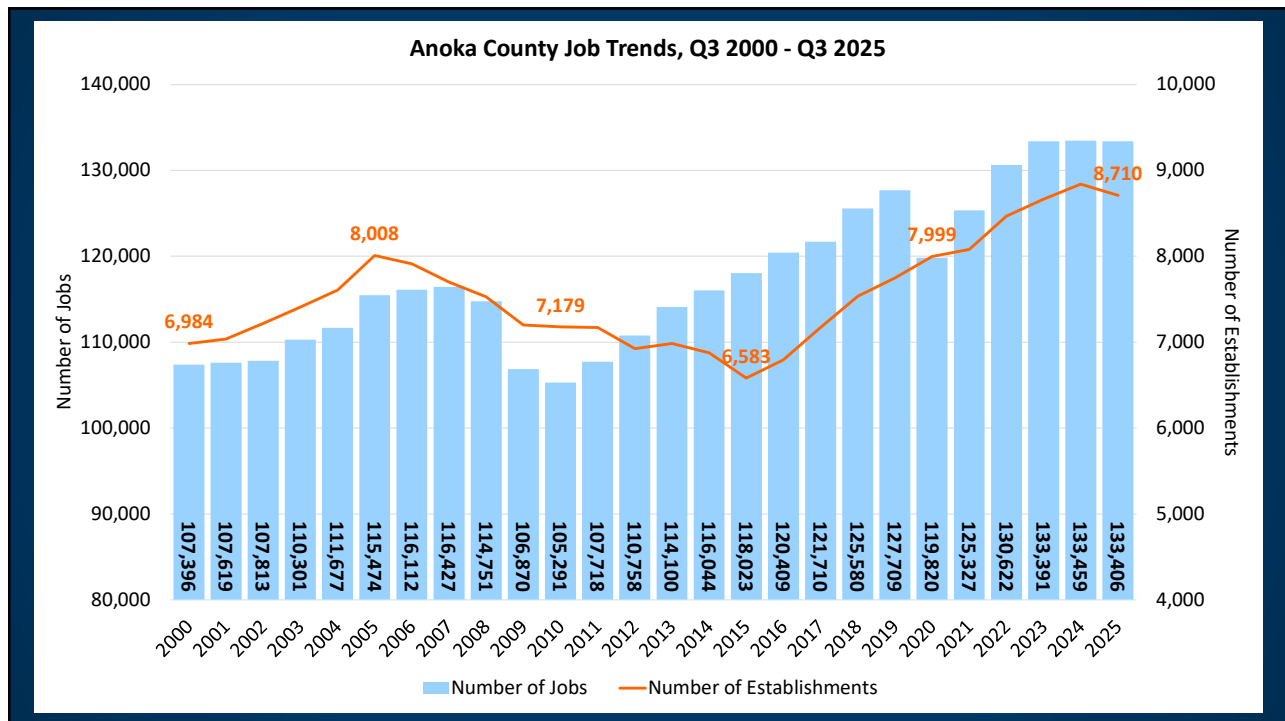
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Anoka County Industry Trends	Q3 2025 Number of Jobs	Q3 2024 – Q3 2025		Q3 2020 – Q3 2025		Q3 2019 – Q3 2025	
		Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>133,406</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>-0.0%</b>	<b>+13,586</b>	<b>+11.3%</b>	<b>+5,697</b>	<b>+4.5%</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	22,780	+1,610	+7.6%	+5,156	+29.3%	+4,049	+21.6%
Manufacturing	22,755	+24	+0.1%	+290	+1.3%	-1,117	-4.7%
Retail Trade	15,586	-260	-1.6%	+51	+0.3%	-212	-1.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	11,125	-56	-0.5%	+2,158	+24.1%	+606	+5.8%
Construction	10,523	+269	+2.6%	+1,484	+16.4%	+842	+8.7%
Educational Services	9,645	+247	+2.6%	+1,495	+18.3%	+1,343	+16.2%
Wholesale Trade	6,871	-205	-2.9%	+557	+8.8%	+366	+5.6%
Administrative & Support Services	6,323	-890	-12.3%	+585	+10.2%	+379	+6.4%
Public Administration	5,608	-239	-4.1%	+601	+12.0%	+584	+11.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	4,931	-574	-10.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Services	4,412	+23	+0.5%	+283	+6.9%	-512	-10.4%
Professional, Sci., & Technical Services	4,400	-14	-0.3%	+125	+2.9%	+329	+8.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,161	-67	-2.1%	+763	+31.8%	-519	-14.1%
Finance & Insurance	1,804	-1	-0.1%	-440	-19.6%	-312	-14.7%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,533	+179	+13.2%	+188	+14.0%	+152	+11.0%
Management of Companies	646	+105	+19.4%	-138	-17.6%	-194	-23.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	529	+46	+9.5%	+7	+1.3%	+36	+7.3%
Information	510	-19	-3.6%	+116	+29.4%	-107	-17.3%
Utilities	258	-231	-47.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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## Anoka County industry employment QCEW: Q3 2025

**• 3-digit NAICS Industries\***

- Food Services & Drinking Places: 10,930 jobs
- Educational Services\*\* : 9,650 jobs
- Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.: 8,450 jobs
- Ambulatory Health Care Services : 8,070 jobs
- Specialty Trade Contractors : 7,730 jobs
- Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.: 6,590 jobs
- Social Assistance: 6,190 jobs
- Administrative & Support Services: 5,560 jobs
- Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods: 5,200 jobs
- General Merchandise Retailers: 4,410 jobs

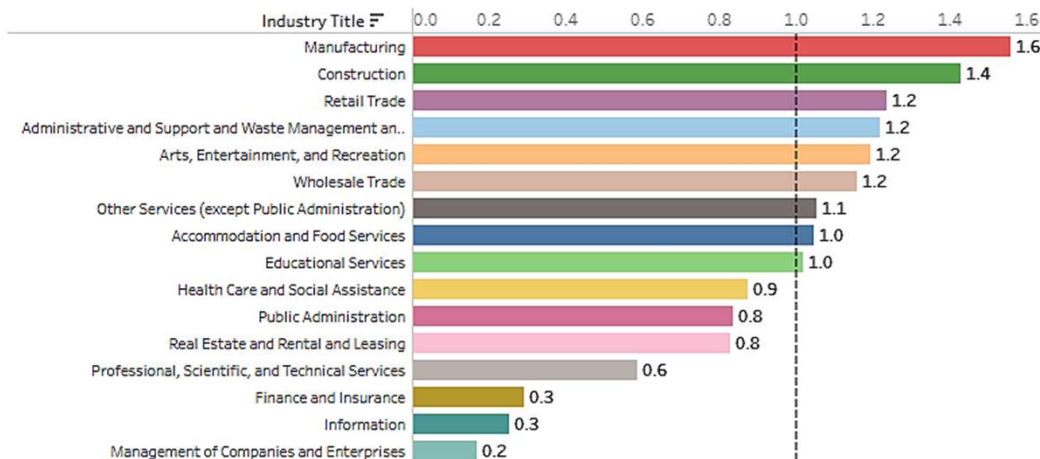
**• 4-digit NAICS Industries\***

- Restaurants: 10,000 jobs
- Elementary & Secondary Schools\*\* : 8,240 jobs
- Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, & Control Instruments Mfg.: 4,990 jobs
- Executive, Legislative, & Other General Government Support: 4,050 jobs
- Individual & Family Services: 3,590 jobs
- Offices of Physicians: 3,240 jobs
- Building Equipment Contractors: 3,090 jobs
- Machine Shops; Turned Product; and Screw, Nut, & Bolt Mfg.: 2,830 jobs
- Services to Building & Dwellings: 2,510 jobs
- Warehouse Clubs, Supercenters, & Other General Merchandise Retailers: 2,290 jobs

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## Anoka County industry concentration QCEW 2-digit NAICS: 2024

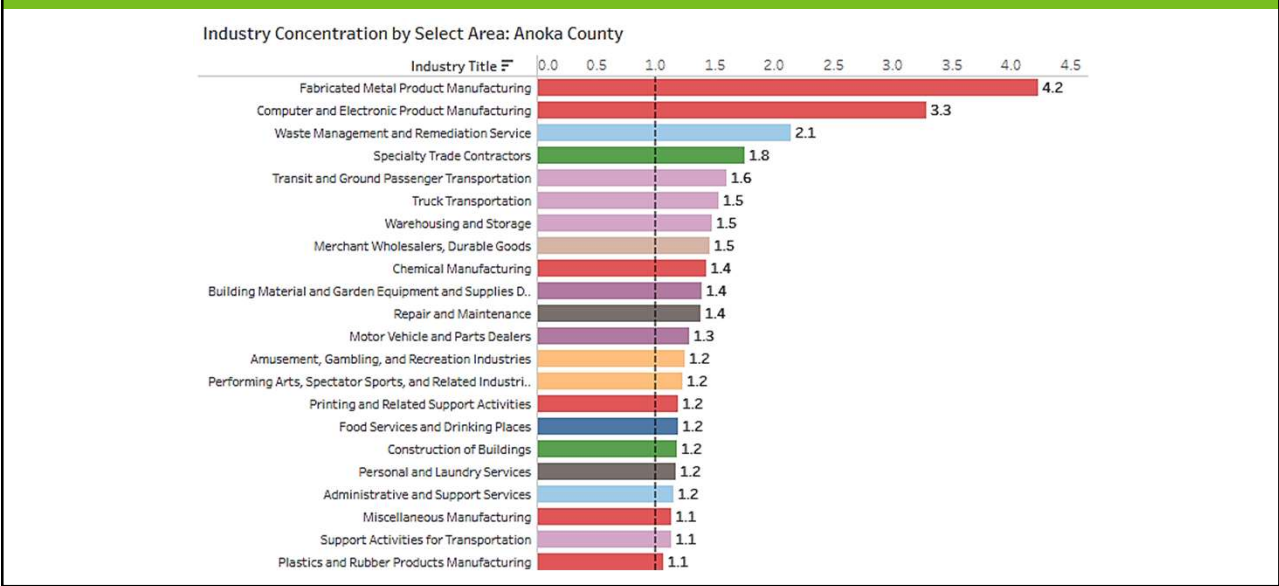
Industry Concentration by Select Area: Anoka County



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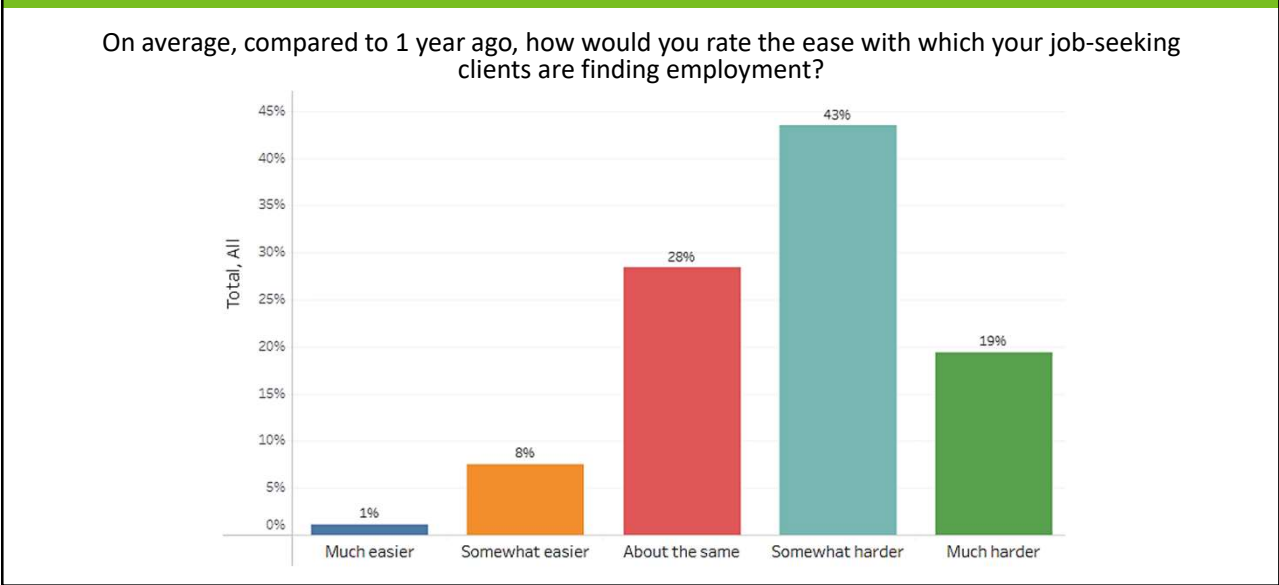
# Anoka County industry concentration

QCEW 3-digit NAICS: 2024



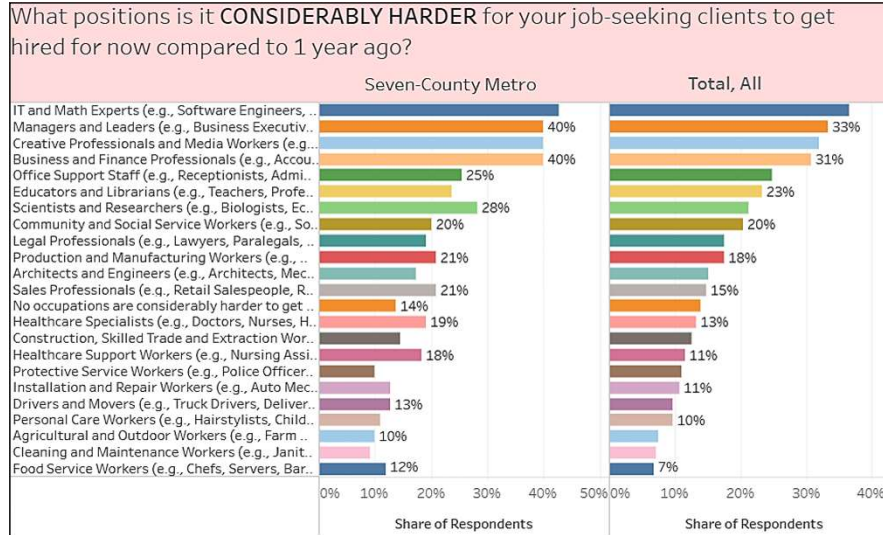
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# Job counselor sentiment in Minnesota



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## Job counselor sentiment in the Metro Area



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## Labor market publications and assistance

- **Main DEED website:** [mn.gov/deed](https://mn.gov/deed)
- **DEED Labor Market Information Office:** [mn.gov/deed/data](https://mn.gov/deed/data)
  - Data tools
  - Reports and publications
  - Monthly highlights
- **LMI Help:** [mn.gov/deed/data/lmi-help](https://mn.gov/deed/data/lmi-help)
  - Send questions by email to [deed.lmi@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.lmi@state.mn.us)
- Regional Labor Market Analysts – Metro Area: Tim O’Neill ([timothy.oneill@state.mn.us](mailto:timothy.oneill@state.mn.us))



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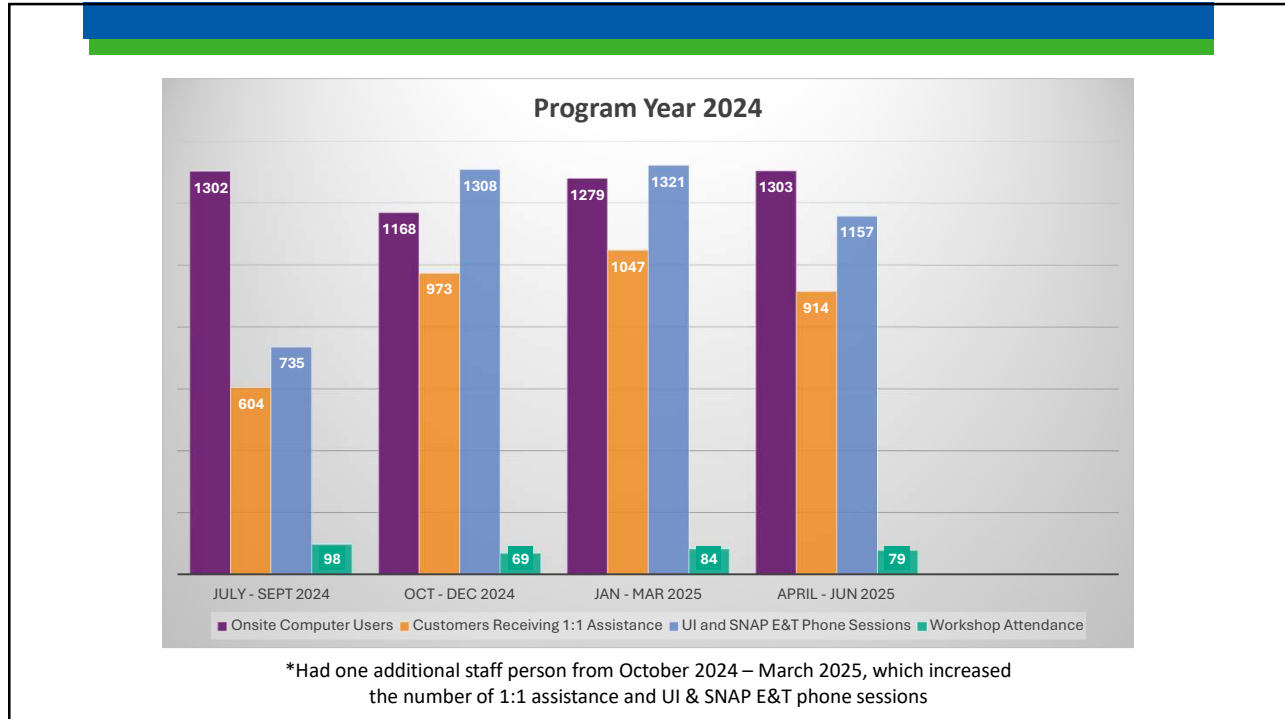
## Job Service Program Year 2024 Blaine Recap

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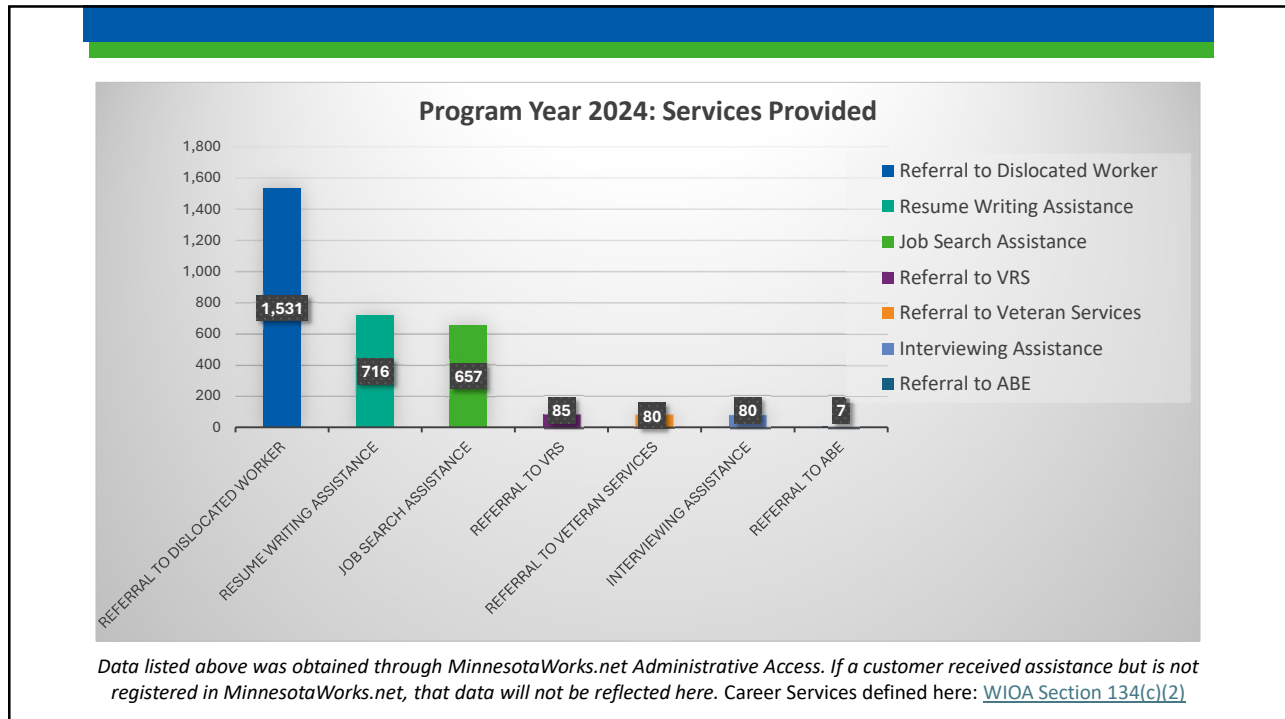
### Employment Services Overview

- The Wagner-Peyser Employment Service Program, established under the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 and now designated as WIOA Title III, serves as a core program within the WIOA framework.
- **Job Service** is the unit within DEED that operates the Wagner-Peyser program.
- The program's primary mission is to provide universal labor-exchange services (Basic Career Services), such as job search assistance, resume writing and interview preparation, referrals to training and employment programs, career counseling, and workshop services.
- The program provides priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses and prioritizes unemployment insurance applicants for re-employment services.
- The program supports employers by providing services such as job order posting and management, candidate referrals, job fairs and hiring events, and labor market information.
- Basic Career Services are also provided through WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.
- Services are provided in-person, by phone, and virtually.

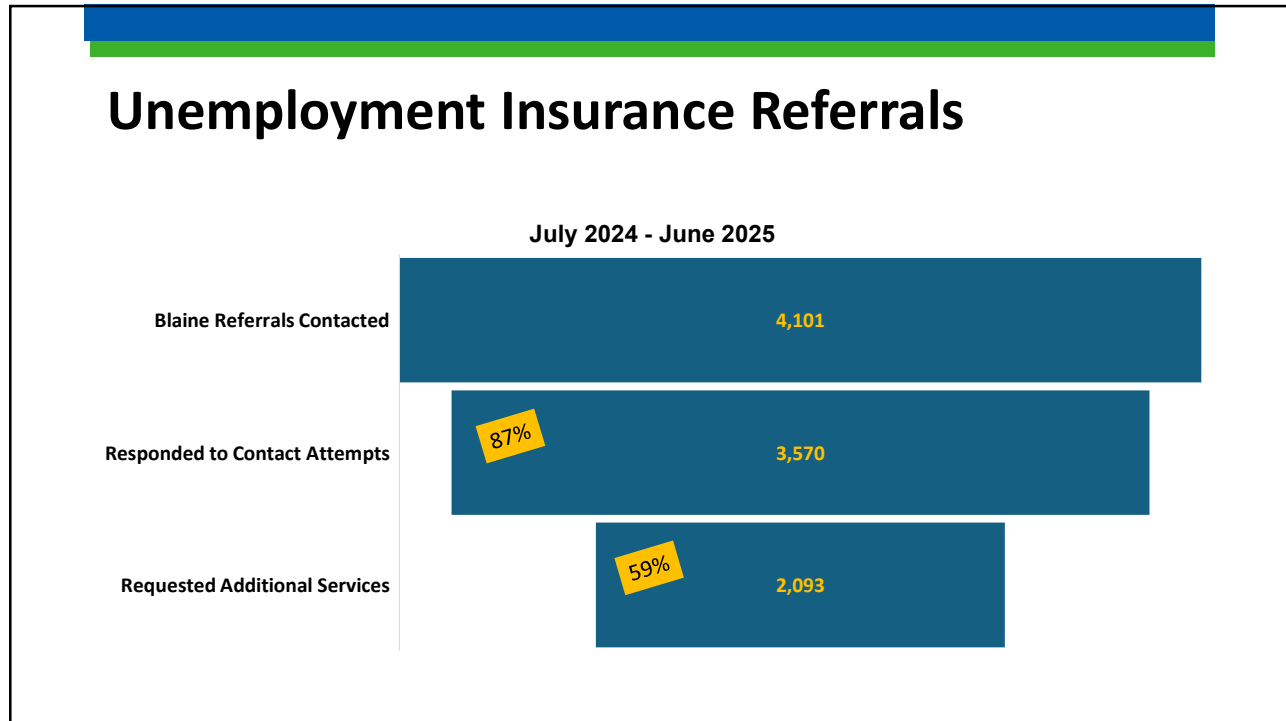
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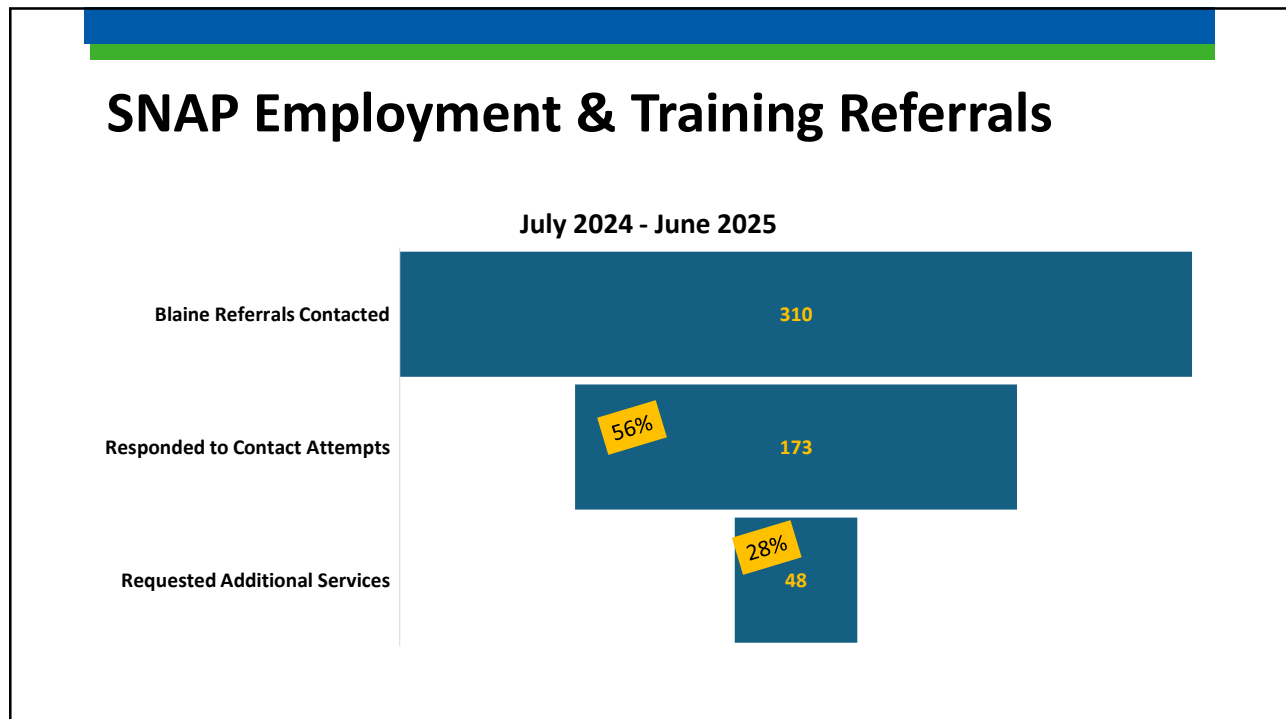
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## Wagner-Peyser Program Year 2023 Statewide Performance

- Total Participants Served (Cohort Period 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024): 19,538
- Total Participants Exited (Cohort Period 4/1/2023 – 3/31/2024): 17,989

	Employment Rate (Q2) 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 After Exit	Employment Rate (Q4) 1/1/22 – 12/31/22 After Exit	Median Earnings 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 After Exit
Negotiated Target	60.0%	65.0%	\$8,100
Actual	62.7%	66.1%	\$9,606

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## Wagner-Peyser Program Year 2024 & 2025 Negotiated Levels of Performance

	Employment Rate (Q2) After Exit	Employment Rate (Q4) After Exit	Median Earnings After Exit
PY 2024	61.0%	61.0%	\$8,100
PY 2025	66.0%	66.0%	\$8,200

## Wagner-Peyser Program Year 2024 & 2025 Actual Levels of Performance

2024 – Preliminary data indicate Minnesota will meet or exceed Title III individual performance indicators in PY24 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025).

2025 – In Progress

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## Success Stories

- *"I just wanted to do a follow up, I just found out that I got hired as a complex scheduler with M Health Physicians and I could not have done it without your help. Thank you so much for helping me with my resume and for helping me with a mock interview. You are exactly what I needed. You just changed my life for the better. I was so down, and you gave me confidence. Thank you so much, I'm so excited!"*
- *"I GOT A JOB! Thank you so much for your help the last 4-ish months. You've been a great cheerleader and coach, and I learned many takeaways on the interview process. You've been awesome. Thank you so much for everything you've done, it helps having someone in your corner helping you out."*
- *Local HR professional received offer as a Regional HR Manager at a local manufacturing company and said, "you were my sanity throughout this process, and I am grateful for the help you provided".*

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## Questions?

**Sara Garbe**

Workforce Development Supervisor (Blaine and Saint Paul)  
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
CareerForce Division

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# Anoka County Career Fair

## DATE AND TIME:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

## FREE TO ATTEND

There is no fee or registration required to attend this event for jobseekers.

Individuals needing accommodation to attend this event, please contact (763) 576-7950.

## LOCATION AND PARKING:

Anoka Technical College  
1355 U.S. 10, Anoka, MN 55303

## FOOD TRUCKS (E1)

Grab & Go Goodies - Food for Purchase

Located outside of E1 Entrance

**100+ exhibitors with multiple job opportunities!**

Sponsored By:



For more information or to request an accommodation to attend this event contact Heidi Braun, at (763) 576-4045 or email Heidi.Braun@anokaramsey.edu



