West Central Minnesota: An Economic Development Snapshot 2018

**OTTER TAIL COUNTY**

- 32% unemployment rate in 2017
- $740 average weekly wage
- Region growth
  - 2010: 221,688
  - 2017: 230,153
  - Projected: 233,909

**Unemployment Rate US, MN, and West Central 1998-2018**

- 1998: 4.1%
- 2017: 4.0%

**Racial Diversity**

- 7 in 10 people new to the region are from a minority group: (birth, in-migration)
- In 2016, 9% of population was from a minority group.

**65+ Age Wave**

The "Age Wave" will continue and greatly impact communities, the workforce, and services.

**People**

- **OTTER TAIL COUNTY GROWTH**
  - 2010: 57,303
  - 2017: 58,270
  - Projected: 58,216

**Wages**

- **2018 Average Weekly Wage by Economic Development Region**
  - EDR 1: 1839
  - EDR 2: 1924
  - EDR 3: 1807
  - EDR 4: 1971
  - EDR 5: 1781
  - EDR 6: 1775
  - EDR 7: 1759
  - EDR 8: 1759
  - EDR 9: 1740

**Trends**

- Need for larger workforce
- Housing affordability and availability
- Need for increased wages
- Need to expand broadband access and coverage
- Need for more child care openings and providers
- Rising cost of energy

**Unemployment**

- **2018 Unemployment Rate by County**
  - Otter Tail: 32%
  - Minnesota: 5.0%
  - US: 4.1%

**Poverty**

- **2018 Poverty Rate by County**
  - Otter Tail: 10.0%
  - Minnesota: 12.5%
  - US: 12.5%

Data resources are available through the West Central Minnesota 2017-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at ceds.wcif.org.

West Central Initiative compiles the CEDS plan for the Region IV Economic Development District of Minnesota.

FOR INFO: Greg Wagner, Business & Economic Development Director // greg@wcif.org // 800.735.2239