West Central Minnesota: An Economic Development Snapshot 2018

**TRENDS**

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

**WAGES**

- 2018 Average Weekly Wage by Economic Development Region

- **EDR 1 (Crookston)**: $1,839
- **EDR 2 (Beltrami)**: $1,783
- **EDR 3E (Wilkin)**: $1,791
- **EDR 4 (Mora)**: $1,775
- **EDR 7E (Slayton)**: $1,759
- **EDR 8/6W (Appleton)**: $1,759
- **EDR 5 (Brainerd)**: $1,746

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

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

**POVERTY**

- Poverty Rate by County 2014-2017

**RACIAL DIVERSITY**

- 7 in 10 people new to region are from a minority group: births, in-migration
- In 2017, 9.3% of population identified as a person of color.

**WILKIN**

- Poverty Rate as Percent
  - 2014: 10.0%
  - 2015: 12.0%
  - 2016*: 14.0%
  - 2017: 16.0%
  - 2018: 20.0%

**65+ AGE WAVE**

- The “Age Wave” will continue and greatly impact communities, the workforce and services.

**4 INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST NEED IN 2018**

- **Health Care and Social Assistance**
  - Vacancy rate: 3.9% (4% part-time, 3% seasonal)
  - Median wage: $15.39 per hour
- **Manufacturing**
  - Vacancy rate: 2.2% (4% part-time, 3% seasonal)
  - Median wage: $14.66 per hour
- **Transportation and Warehousing**
  - Vacancy rate: 2.3% (4% part-time, 3% seasonal)
  - Median wage: $16.16 per hour
- **Educational Services**
  - Vacancy rate: 3.4% (5% part-time, 4% seasonal)
  - Median wage: $17.31

**2018 WILKIN COUNTY TOP EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES & AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES**

- **Total Employment**: 1,829
- **Average weekly wages**: $787

- **Health Care & Social Assistance**: 421
  - **Average weekly wages**: $756

- **Educational Services**: 227
  - **Average weekly wages**: $709

- **Wholesale Trade**: 163
  - **Average weekly wages**: $1,499

- **Public Administration**: 129
  - **Average weekly wages**: $812

- **Retail Trade**: 119
  - **Average weekly wages**: $567

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