



Forest County, WI

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



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Report Parameters

1 County

55041 Forest County, WI

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical area.

Economy Overview

9,626

Population (2025)

Population **grew by 458** over the last 5 years and is projected to **grow by 384** over the next 5 years.

3,784

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **grew by 570** over the last 5 years and are projected to **grow by 212** over the next 5 years.

\$61.1K

Median Household Income (2024)

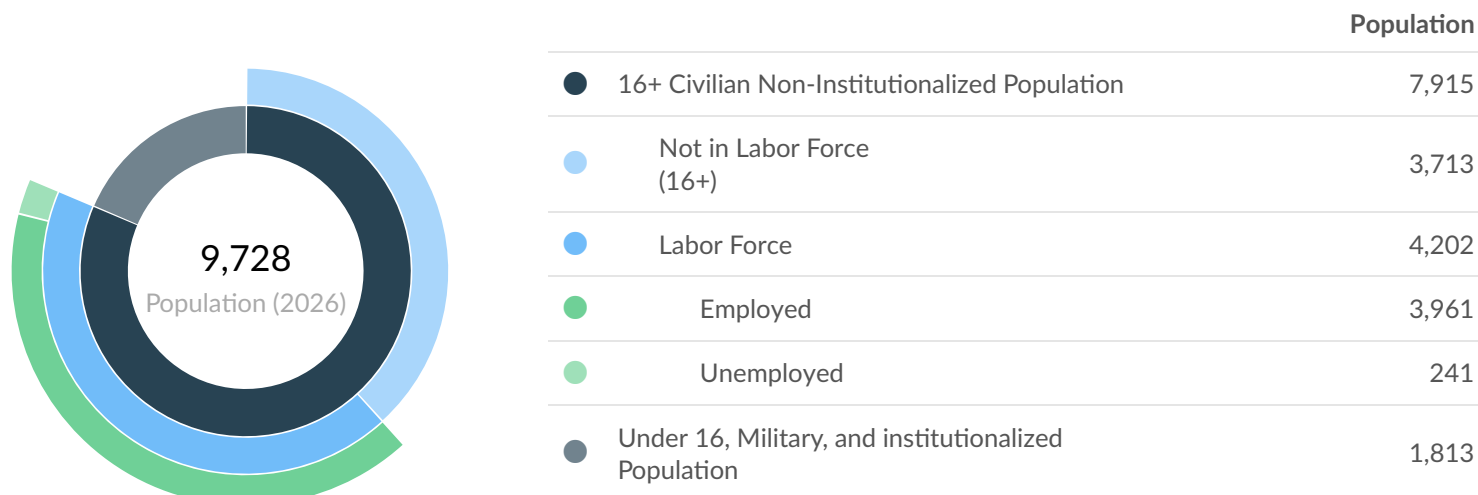
Median household income is **\$19.7K below** the national median household income of \$80.7K.

Takeaways

- As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 5.0%** since 2020, growing by 458. Population is expected to **increase by 4.0%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 384.
- From 2020 to 2025, jobs **increased by 17.7%** in Forest County, WI from 3,214 to **3,784**. This change **outpaced the national growth rate of 10.6% by 7.1%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 58.7% to 53.3% between 2020 and 2025**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **12.4% of Forest County, WI residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (9.4% below the national average), and **12.0% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.2% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2025 are Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals, Education and Hospitals (Local Government), and Restaurants and Other Eating Places.

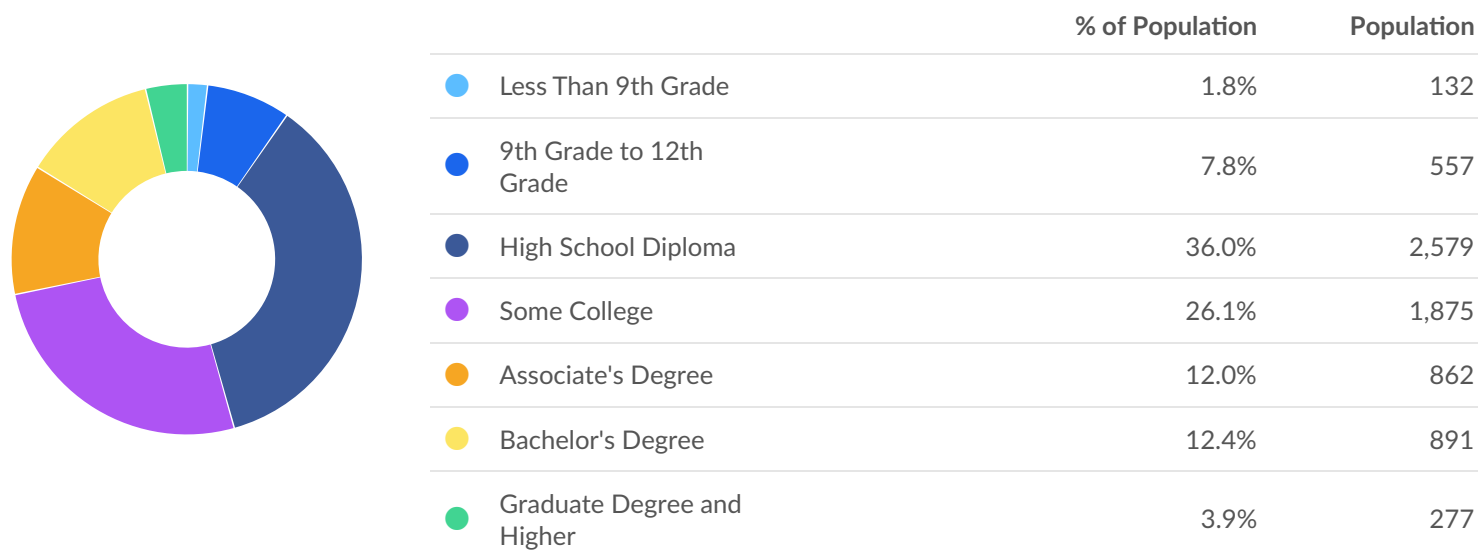
	Population (2026)	Labor Force (Mar 2026)	Jobs (2025)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	9,728	4,202	3,784	98.6	\$433.85M	\$958.48M	\$840.54M
State	5,996,794	3,120,531	3,270,959	100.3	\$463.86B	\$403.59B	\$435.94B

Mar 2026 Labor Force Breakdown



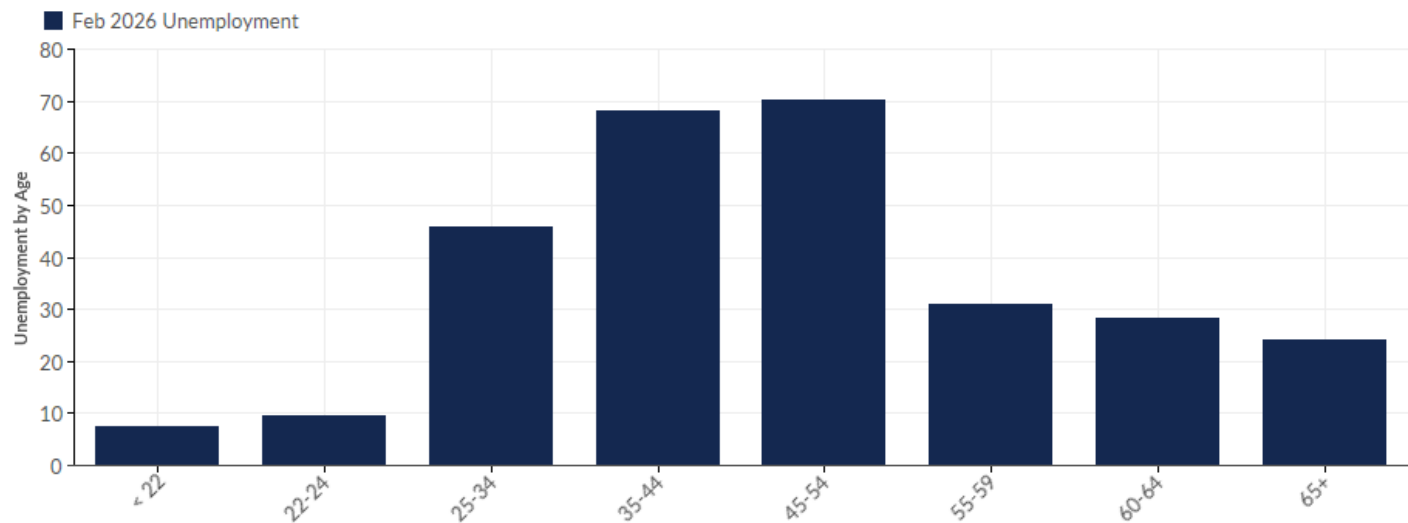
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **12.4% of Forest County, WI residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (9.4% below the national average), and **12.0% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.2% above the national average).



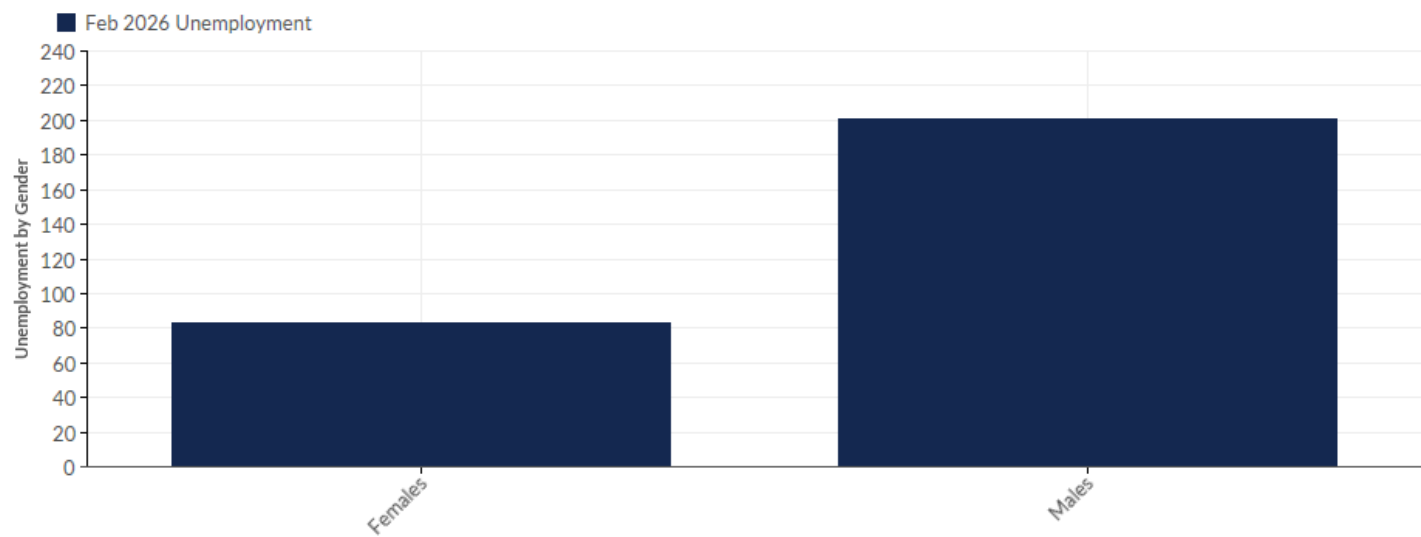
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



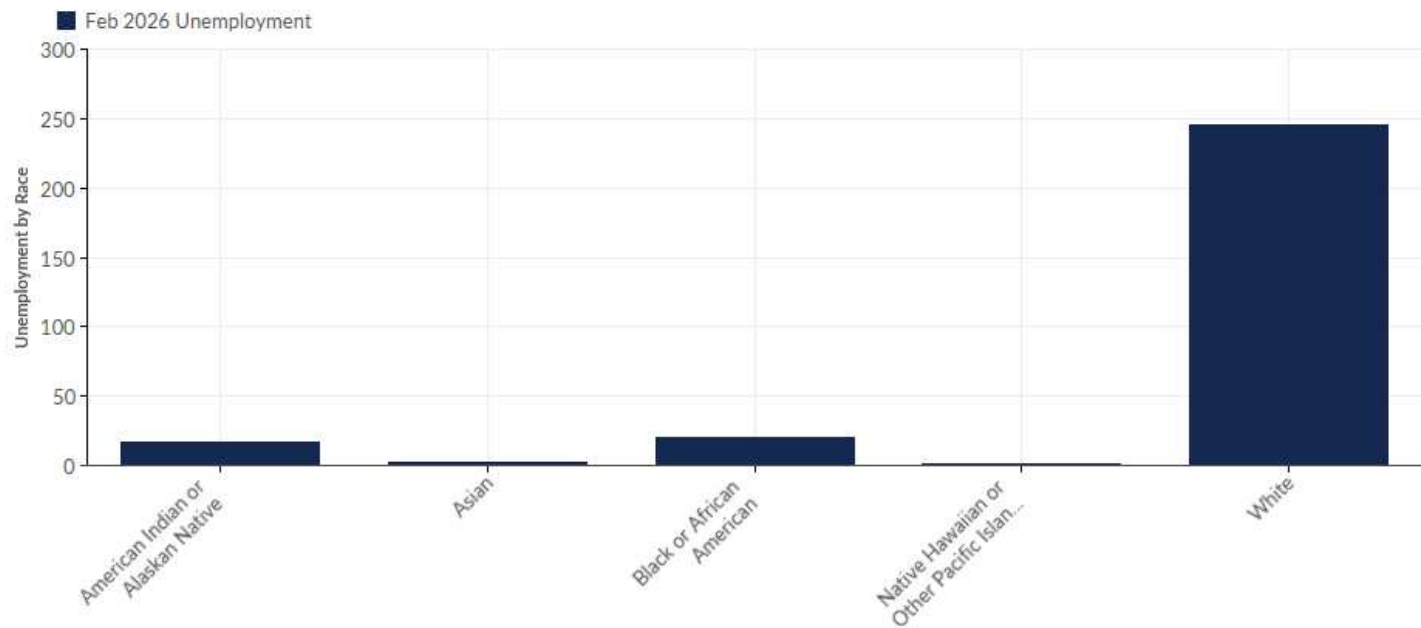
Age	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
< 22	7	2.46%
22-24	10	3.52%
25-34	46	16.20%
35-44	68	23.94%
45-54	70	24.65%
55-59	31	10.92%
60-64	28	9.86%
65+	24	8.45%
Total	284	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



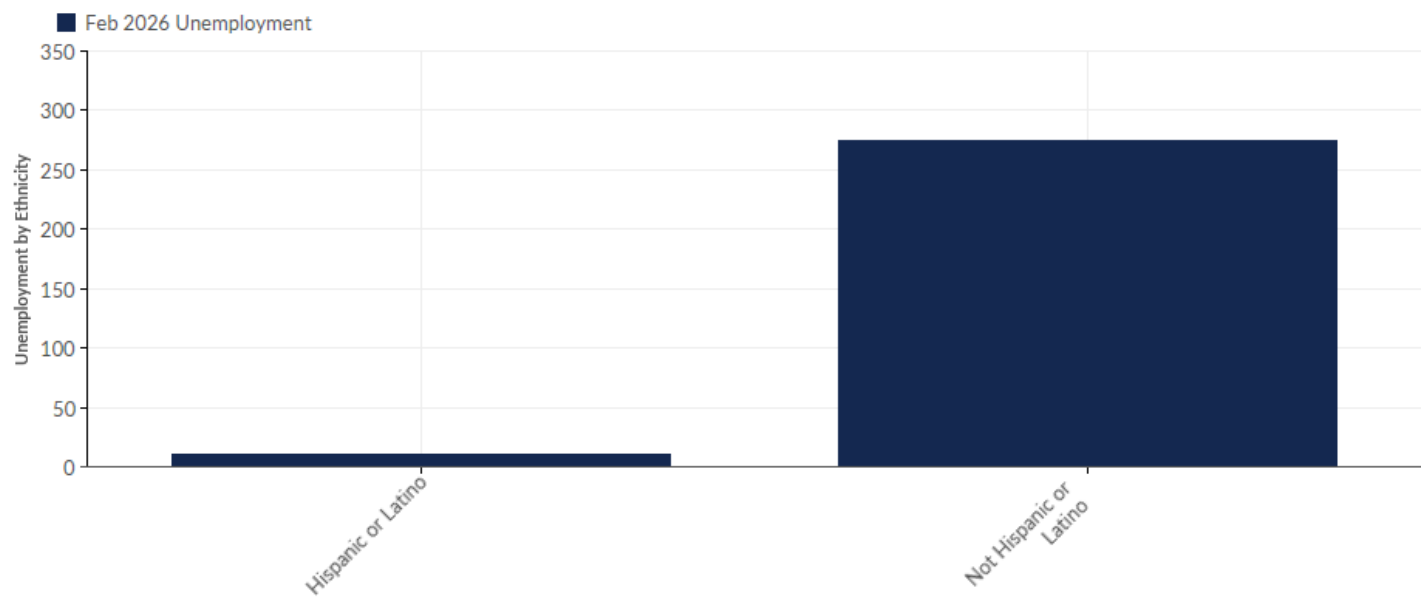
Gender	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
Females	83	29.23%
Males	201	70.77%
Total	284	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	16	5.63%
Asian	2	0.70%
Black or African American	20	7.04%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.35%
White	245	86.27%
Total	284	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

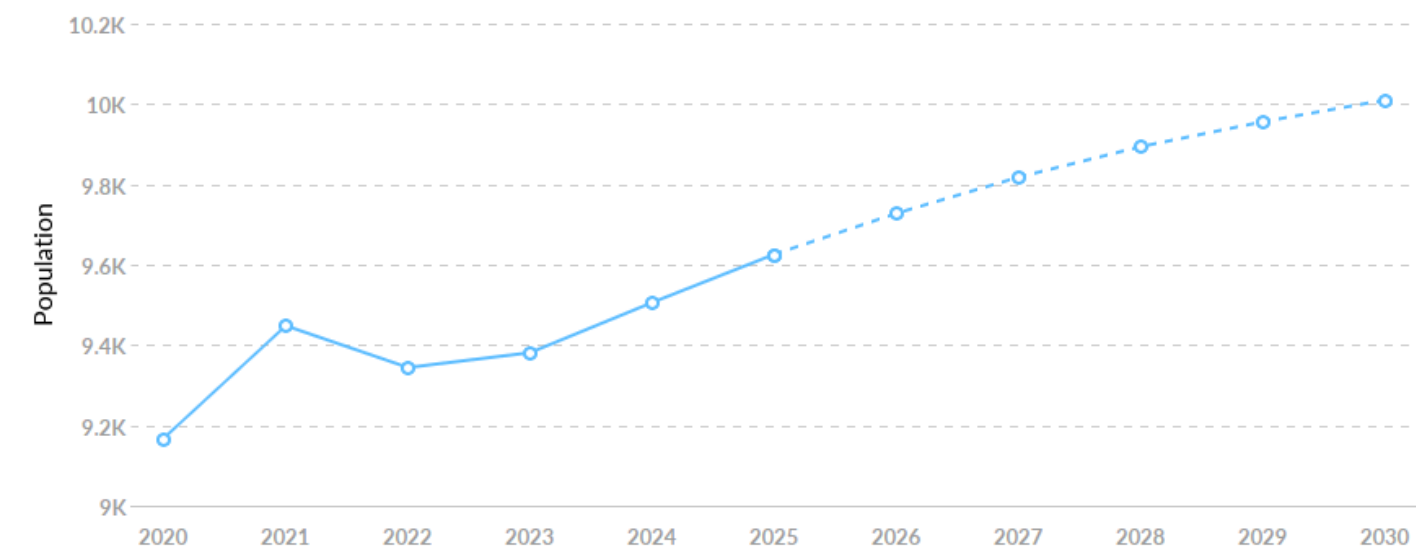


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	10	3.52%
Not Hispanic or Latino	274	96.48%
Total	284	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

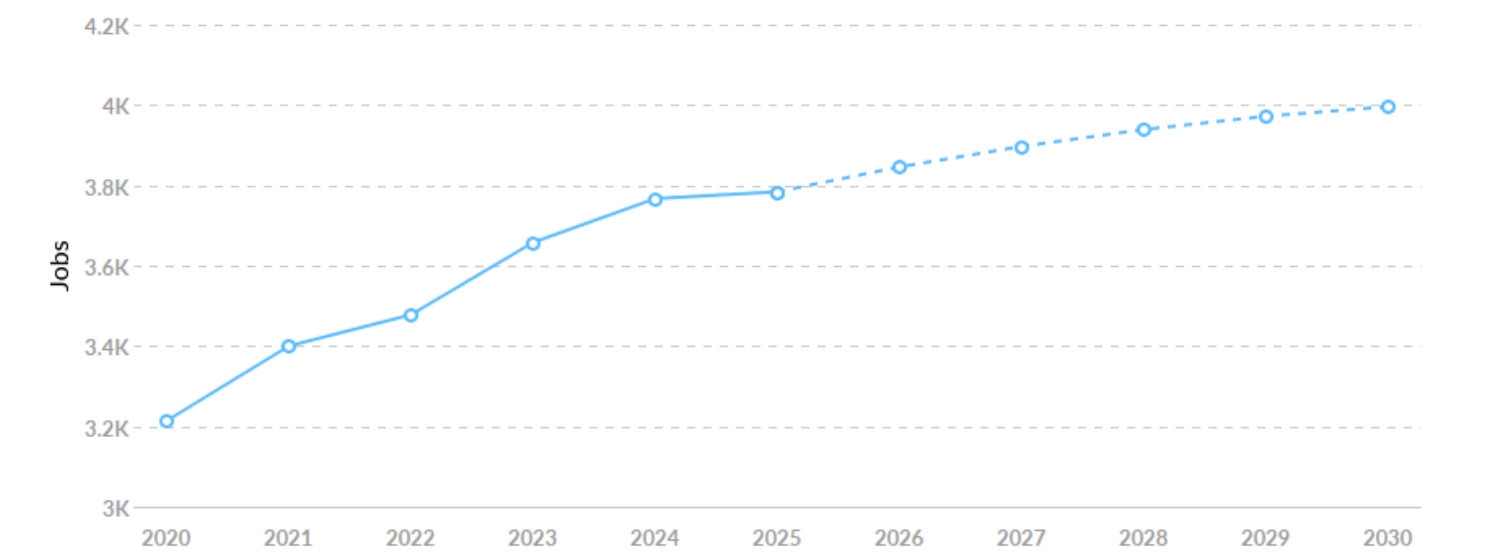
As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 5.0%** since 2020, growing by 458. Population is expected to **increase by 4.0%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 384.



Timeframe	Population
2020	9,168
2021	9,448
2022	9,344
2023	9,381
2024	9,506
2025	9,626
2026	9,728
2027	9,818
2028	9,894
2029	9,956
2030	10,010

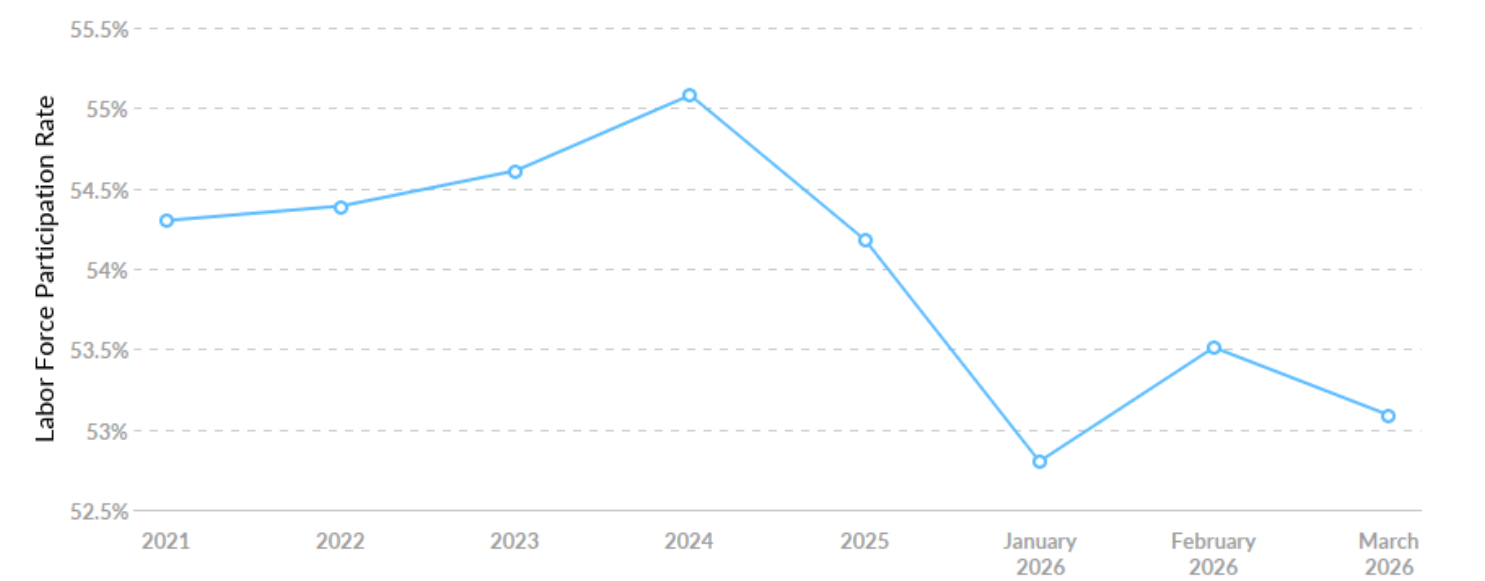
Job Trends

From 2020 to 2025, jobs increased by 17.7% in Forest County, WI from 3,214 to 3,784. This change outpaced the national growth rate of 10.6% by 7.1%.



Timeframe	Jobs
2020	3,214
2021	3,400
2022	3,478
2023	3,658
2024	3,767
2025	3,784
2026	3,846
2027	3,897
2028	3,939
2029	3,972
2030	3,996

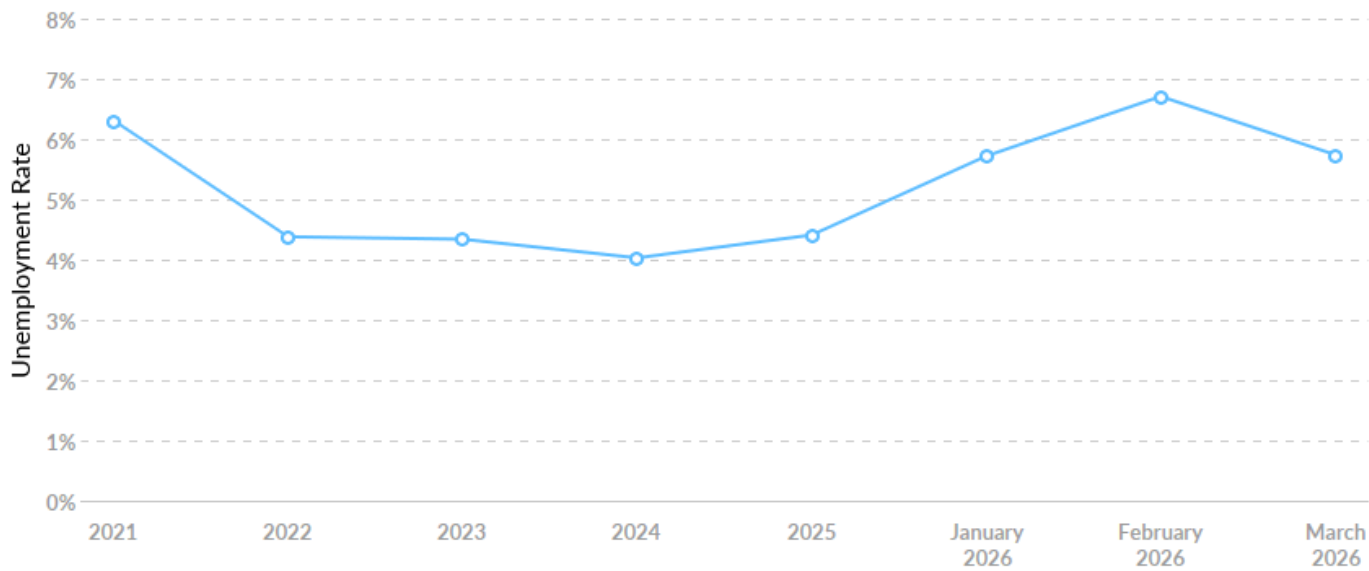
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2021	54.30%
2022	54.39%
2023	54.61%
2024	55.08%
2025	54.18%
January 2026	52.80%
February 2026	53.51%
March 2026	53.09%

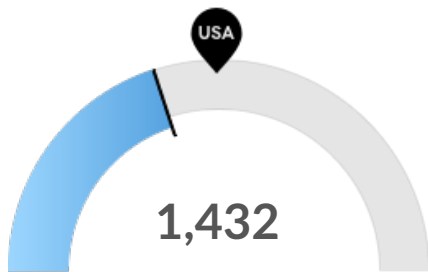
Unemployment Rate Trends

Forest County, WI had a March 2026 unemployment rate of 5.74%, **decreasing from 6.31%** 5 years before.



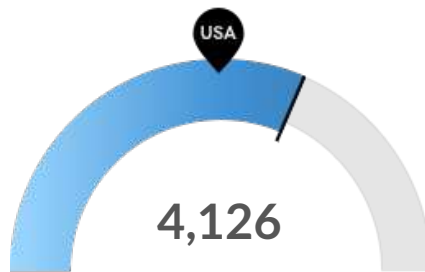
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2021	6.31%
2022	4.38%
2023	4.34%
2024	4.03%
2025	4.41%
January 2026	5.72%
February 2026	6.71%
March 2026	5.74%

Population Characteristics



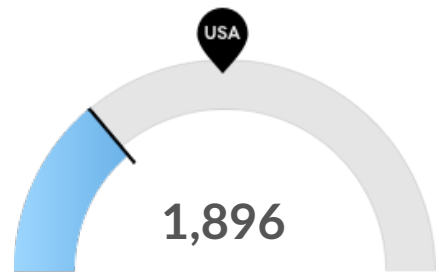
Millennials

Forest County, WI has 1,432 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 1,946.



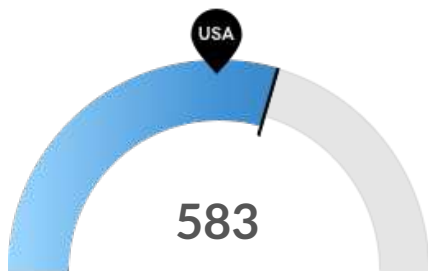
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is high in Forest County, WI. The national average for an area this size is 2,874 people 55 or older, while there are 4,126 here.



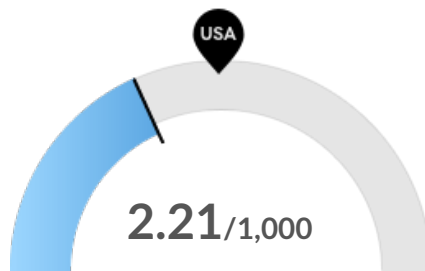
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is low in Forest County, WI. The national average for an area this size is 4,044 racially diverse people, while there are 1,896 here.



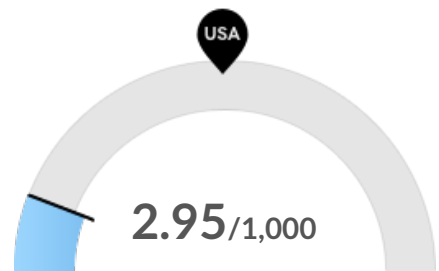
Veterans

Forest County, WI has 583 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 452.



Violent Crime

Forest County, WI has 2.21 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.38 per 1,000 people.

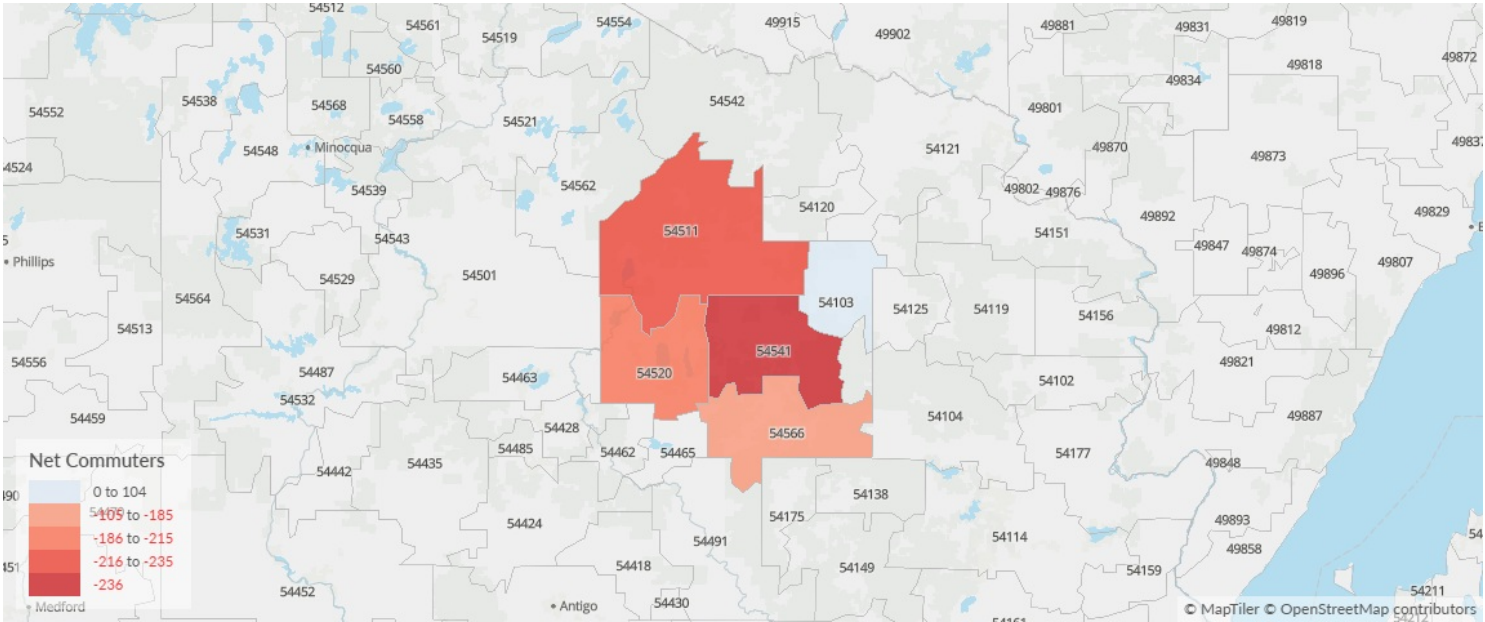


Property Crime

Forest County, WI has 2.95 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 16.44 per 1,000 people.

Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in Forest County, WI currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions.



Where Talent Works

ZIP	Name	2025 Employment
54520	Crandon, WI (in Forest c...	1,918
54566	Wabeno, WI (in Forest c...	627
54511	Argonne, WI (in Forest c...	595
54541	Laona, WI (in Forest cou...	348
54103	Armstrong Creek, WI (in...	296

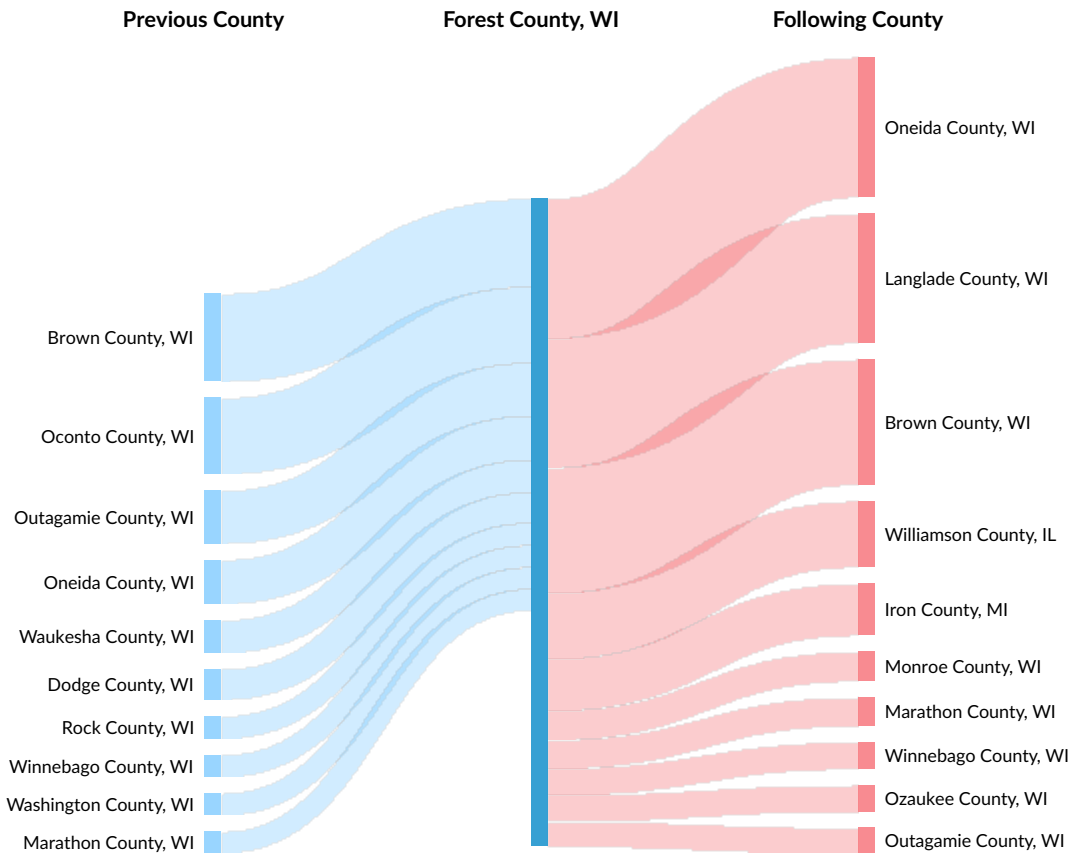
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2025 Workers
54520	Crandon, WI (in Forest c...	2,103
54511	Argonne, WI (in Forest c...	811
54566	Wabeno, WI (in Forest c...	732
54541	Laona, WI (in Forest cou...	584
54103	Armstrong Creek, WI (in...	270

Inbound and Outbound Migration

The table below analyzes past and current residents of Forest County, WI. The left column shows residents of other counties migrating to Forest County, WI. The right column shows residents migrating from Forest County, WI to other counties.

As of 2023, 22 people have migrated from Brown County, WI to Forest County, WI. In the same year, 36 people left Forest County, WI migrating to Oneida County, WI. The total Net Migration for Forest County, WI in 2023 was -64.

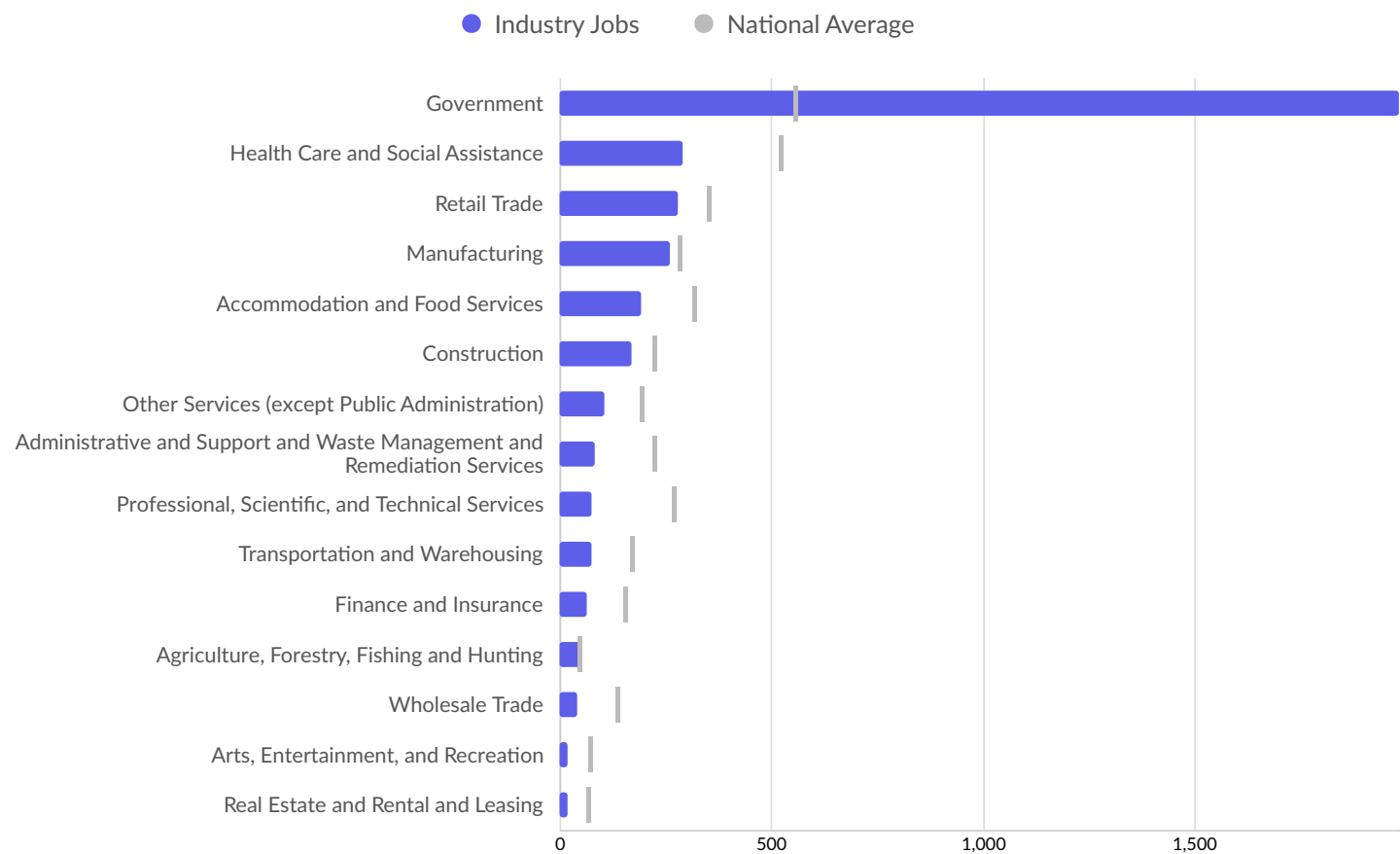


Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Brown County, WI	22
Oconto County, WI	19
Outagamie County, WI	13
Oneida County, WI	11
Waukesha County, WI	8
Dodge County, WI	8

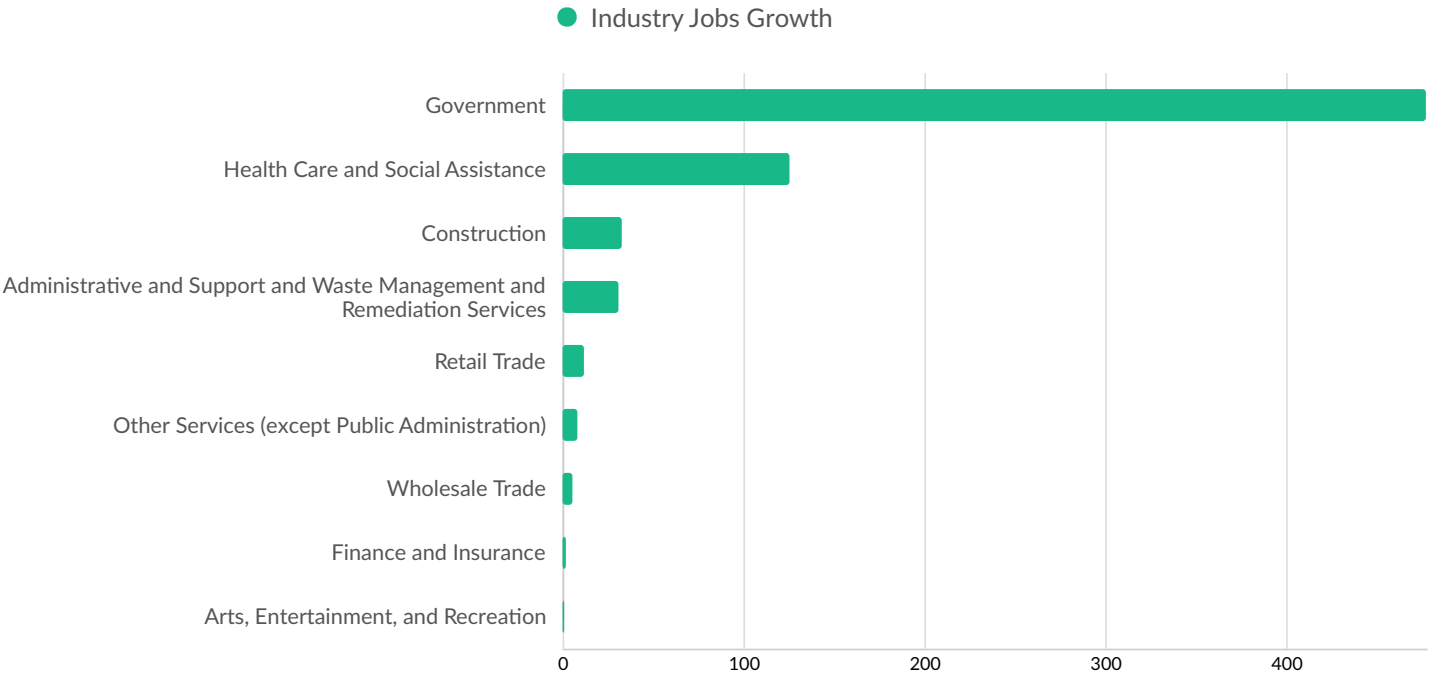
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Rock County, WI	6
Winnebago County, WI	6
Washington County, WI	6
Marathon County, WI	5
Wood County, WI	5
Eau Claire County, WI	5
Columbia County, WI	5
La Crosse County, WI	5
Jefferson County, WI	4
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Oneida County, WI	36
Langlade County, WI	33
Brown County, WI	32
Williamson County, IL	17
Iron County, MI	13
Monroe County, WI	7
Marathon County, WI	7
Winnebago County, WI	7
Ozaukee County, WI	7
Outagamie County, WI	6
Dane County, WI	6
Winnebago County, IL	6
Olmsted County, MN	5
Waupaca County, WI	5
Wright County, MN	4

Industry Characteristics

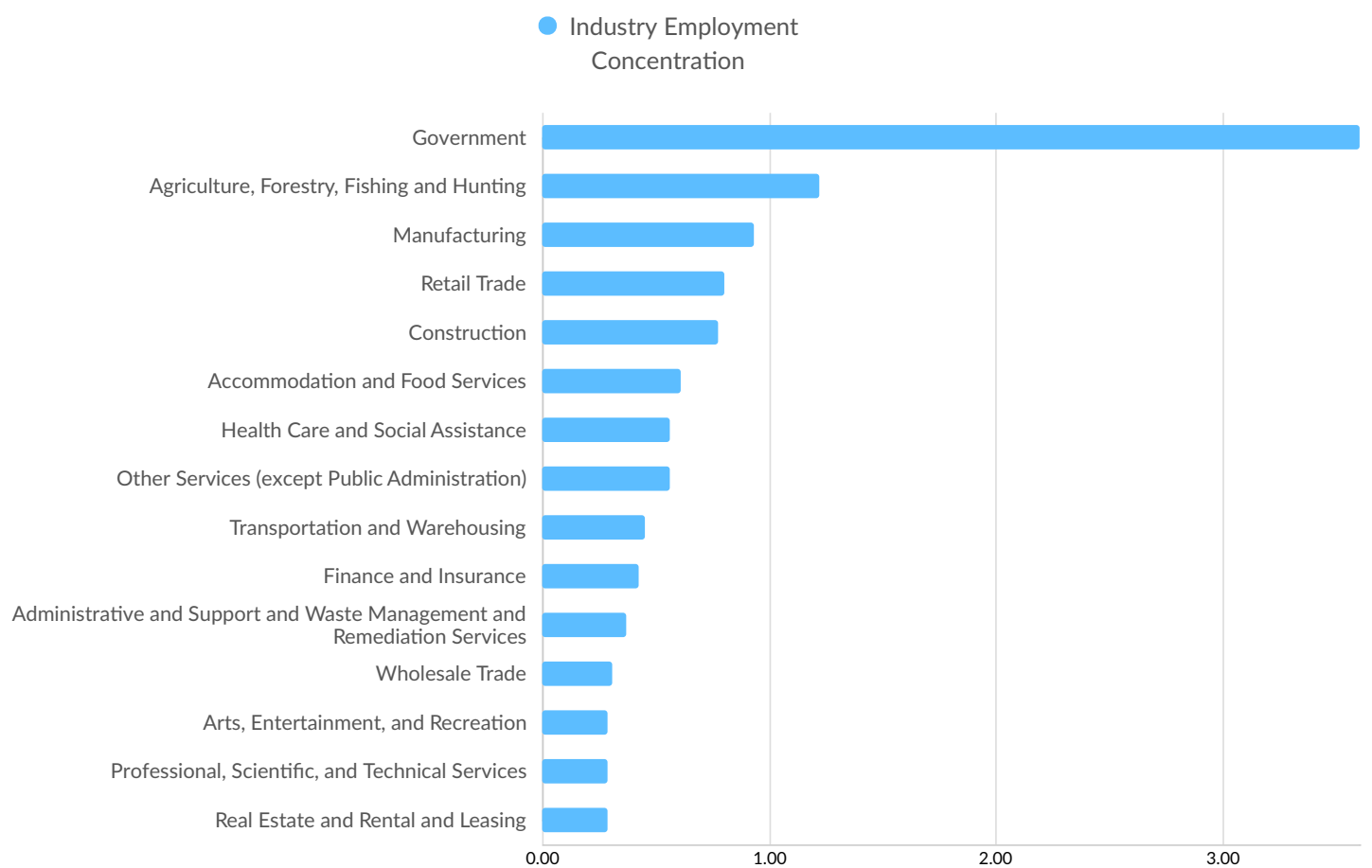
Largest Industries



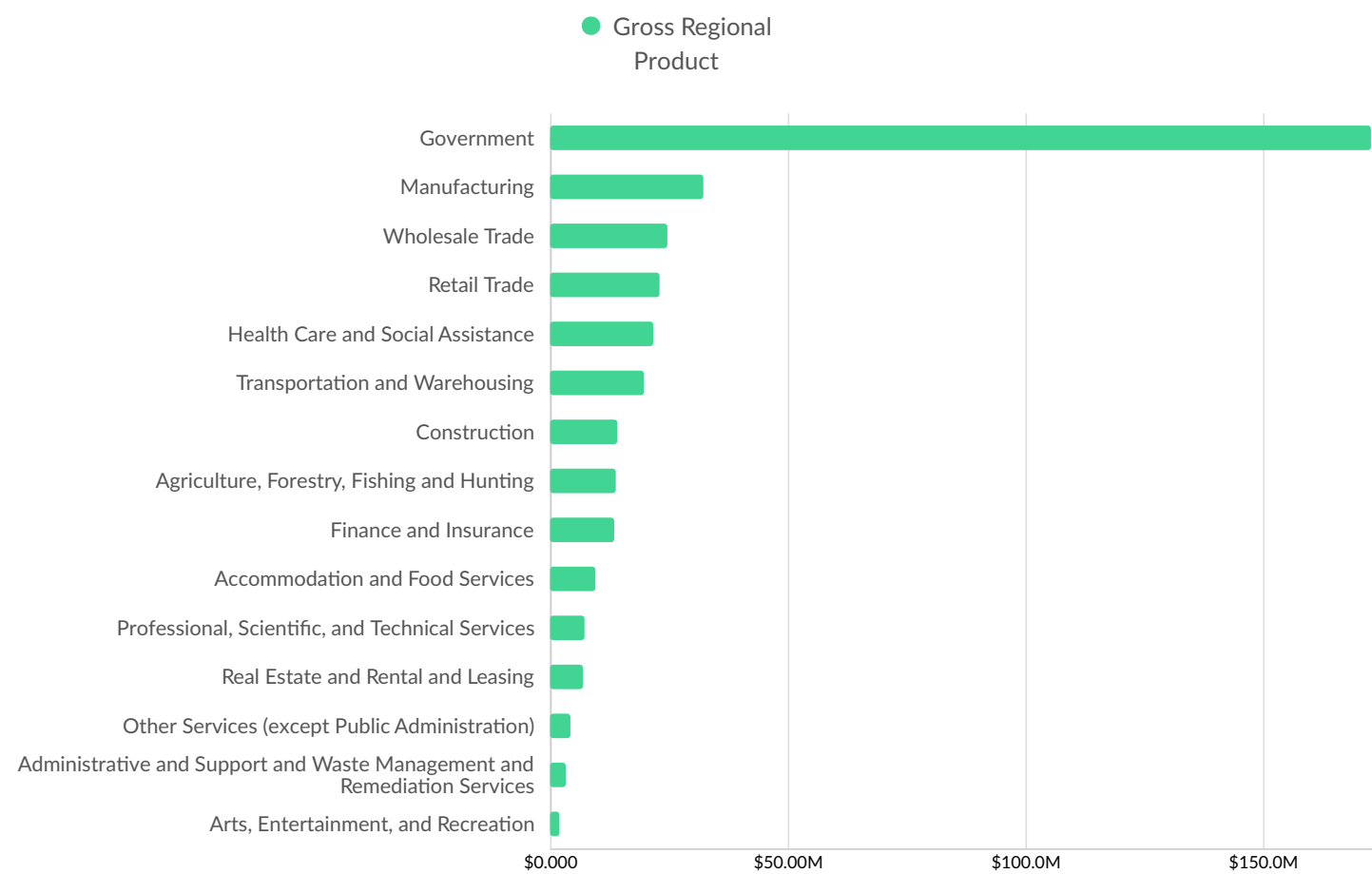
Top Growing Industries



Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



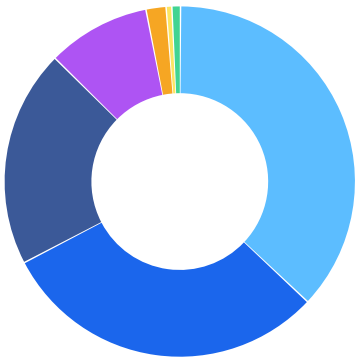
Business Characteristics

557 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 557 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 108 companies in Forest County, WI posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
Potawatomi Bingo Casino	129	Potawatomi Bingo Casino	113
Crandon School District	26	Good Samaritan Society	72
School District Of Crandon	24	Bay At Nu Roc Health And Reha...	32
Sokaogon Chippewa Community	24	Healthcare Services Group	28
U.S.D.A Forest Service	15	Cci Systems	24
Forest County Potawatomi Heal...	14	Mole Lake Casino Lodge & Conf...	19
Aspirus	10	Dollar General	15
Ministry Health Care	9	Family Dollar	14
One Prospect Technologies	9	Sokaogon Chippewa Community	14
Cleereman Industries	8	Truenorth	12

Business Size

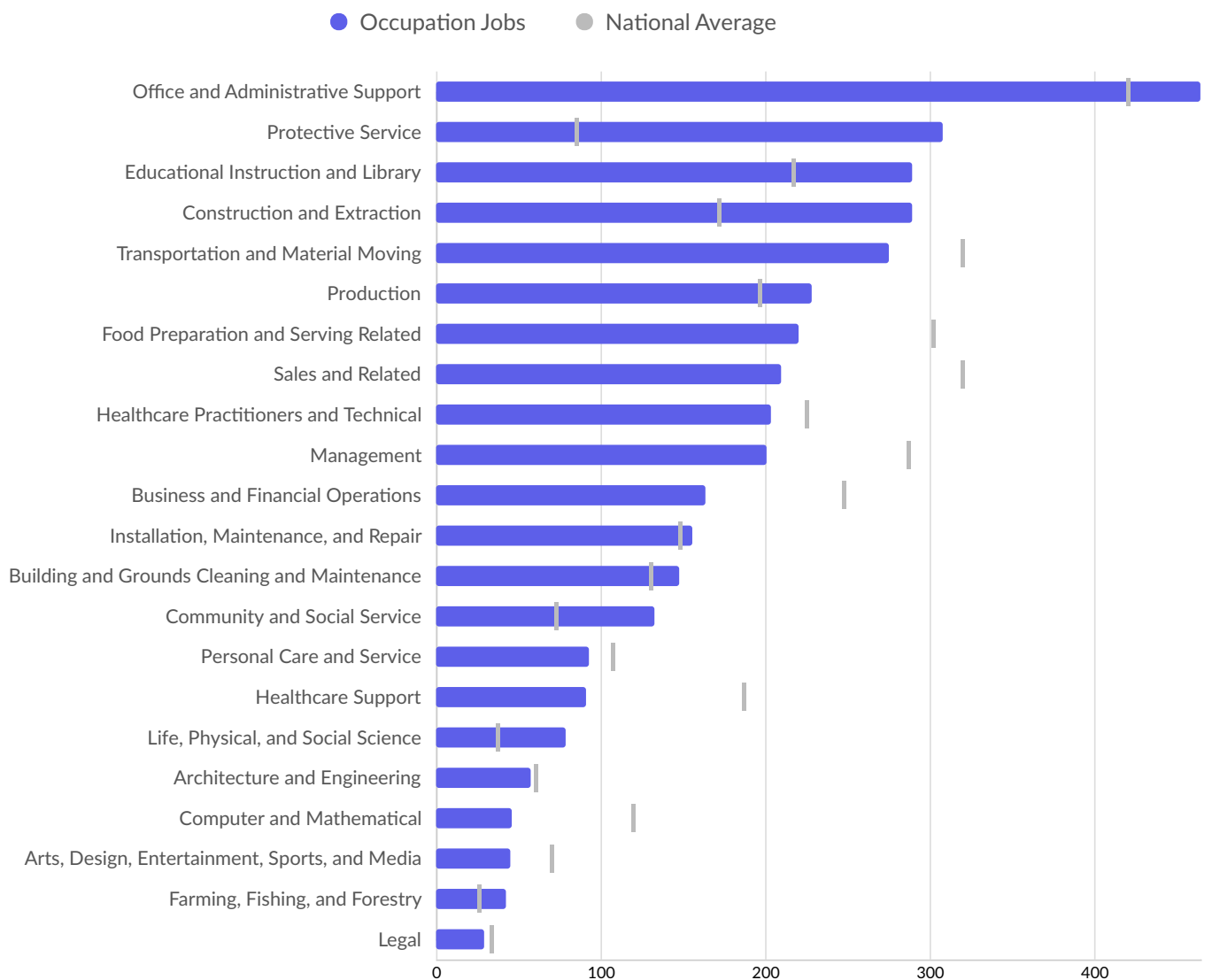


	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	36.9%	140
5 to 9 employees	30.3%	115
10 to 19 employees	20.1%	76
20 to 49 employees	9.5%	36
50 to 99 employees	1.8%	7
100 to 249 employees	0.5%	2
250 to 499 employees	0.8%	3

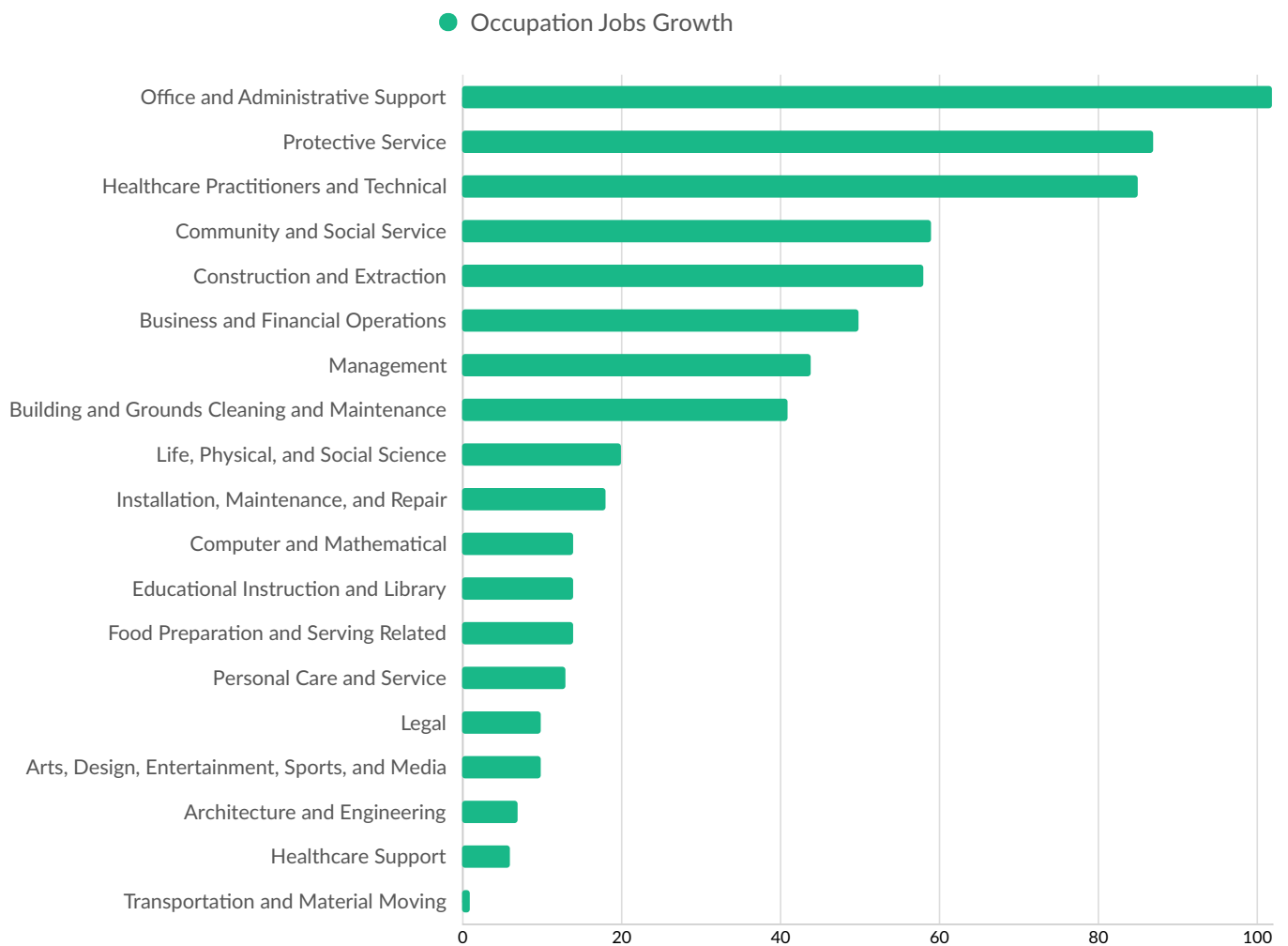
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

Workforce Characteristics

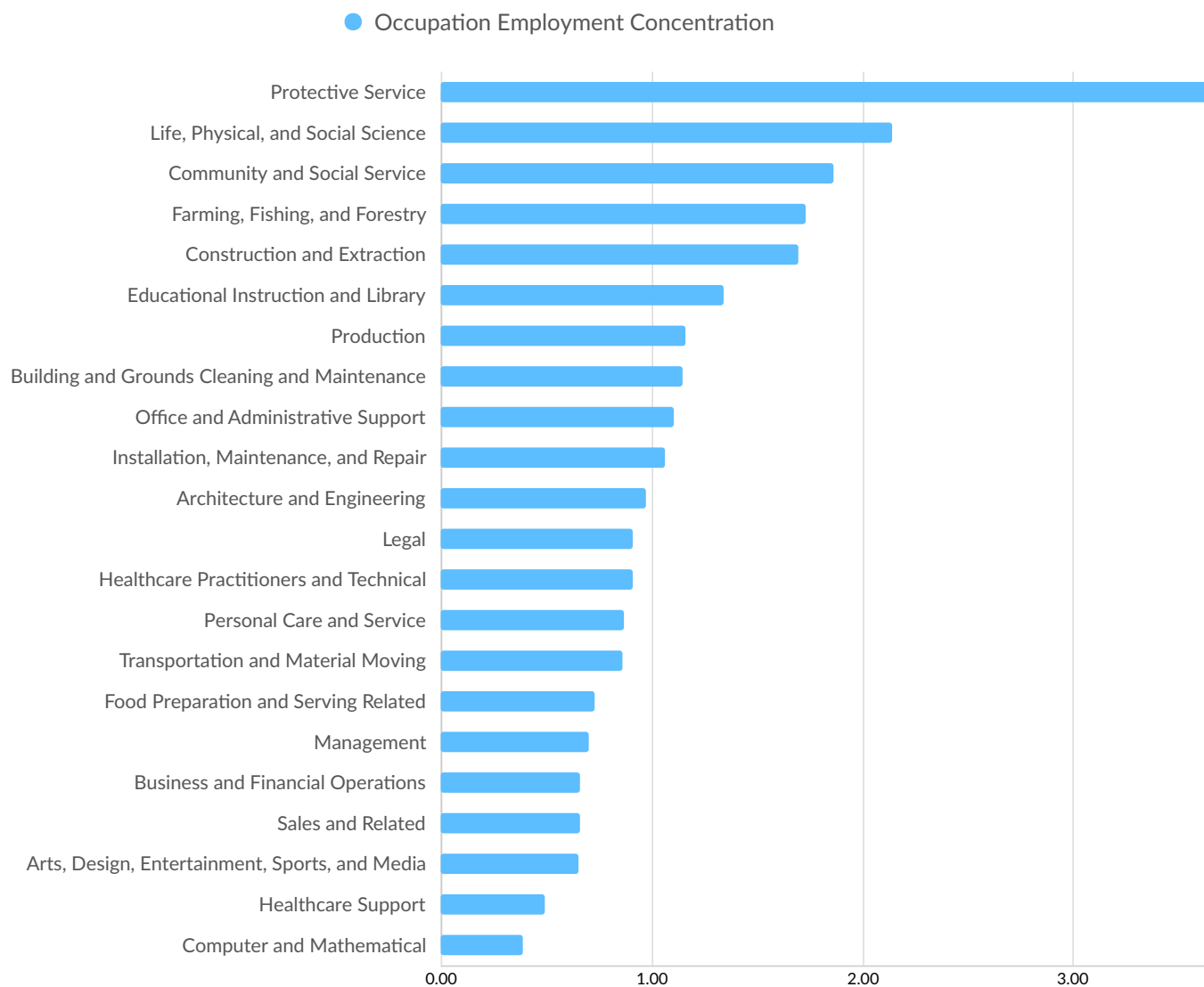
Largest Occupations



Top Growing Occupations



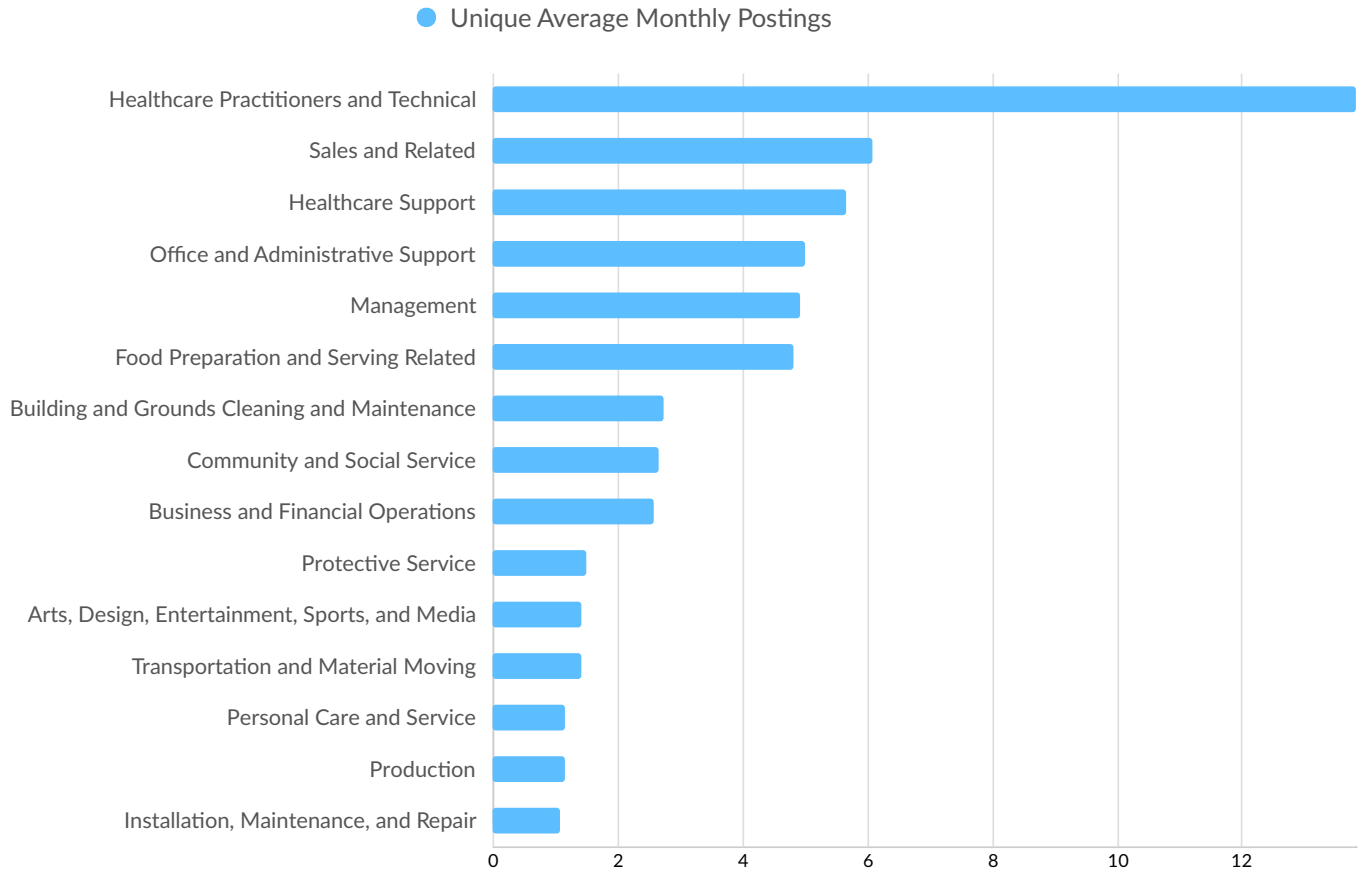
Top Occupation Employment Concentration



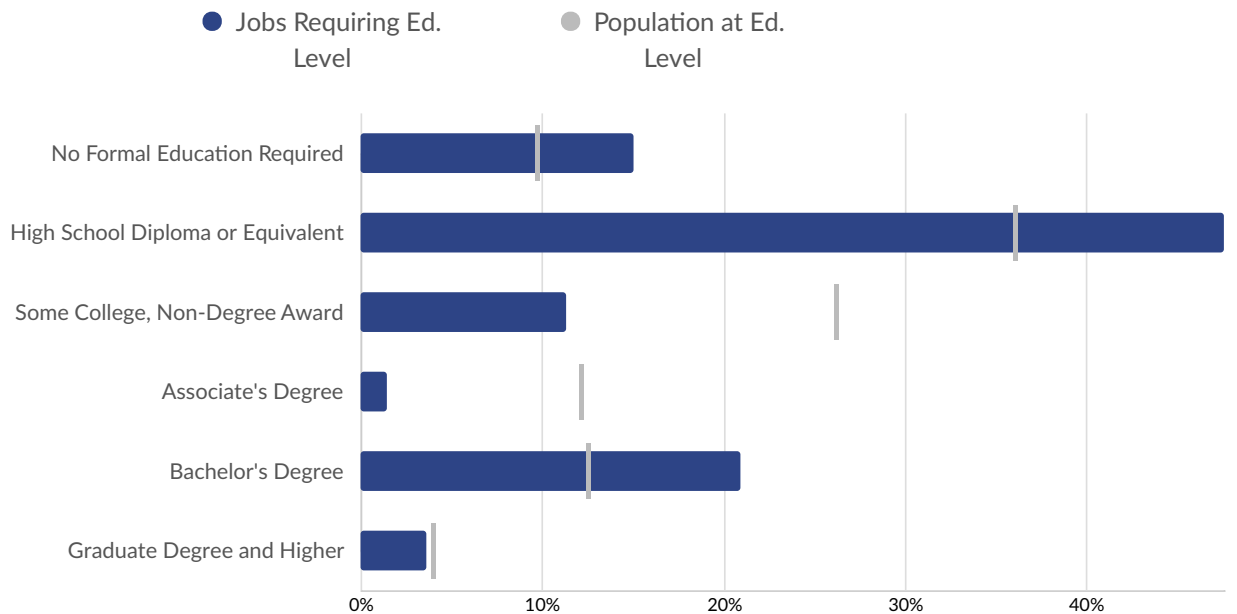
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations



Underemployment



Educational Pipeline

Over the last 5 years, no schools in Forest County, WI produced graduates.

In-Demand Skills

