

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

9,574

Population (2025)

Population **grew by 401** over the last 5 years and is projected to **grow by 490** over the next 5 years.

3,768

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **grew by 554** over the last 5 years and are projected to **grow by 176** over the next 5 years.

$61.1K

Median Household Income (2024)

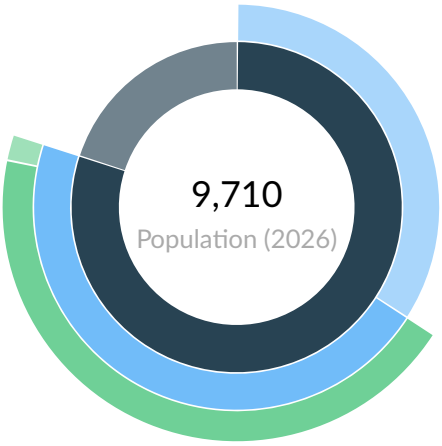
Median household income is **$19.7K below** the national median household income of $80.7K.

Takeaways

- As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 4.4%** since 2020, growing by 401. Population is expected to **increase by 5.1%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 490.
- From 2020 to 2025, jobs **increased by 17.2%** in Forest County, WI from 3,214 to **3,768**. This change **outpaced the national growth rate of 10.7% by 6.5%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 59.2% to 54.5% between 2020 and 2025**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **12.5% of Forest County, WI residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (9.3% below the national average), and **12.0% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.1% 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 (Jul 2026)	Jobs (2025)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	9,710	4,454	3,768	98.5	$419.74M	$953.58M	$828.93M
State	5,995,935	3,191,892	3,272,992	100.3	$465.83B	$405.24B	$440.26B

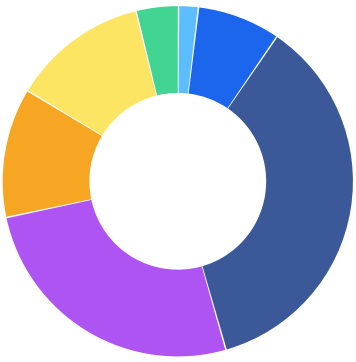
Jul 2026 Labor Force Breakdown



	Population
16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	7,762
Not in Labor Force (16+)	3,308
Labor Force	4,454
Employed	4,279
Unemployed	175
Under 16, Military, and institutionalized Population	1,947

Educational Attainment

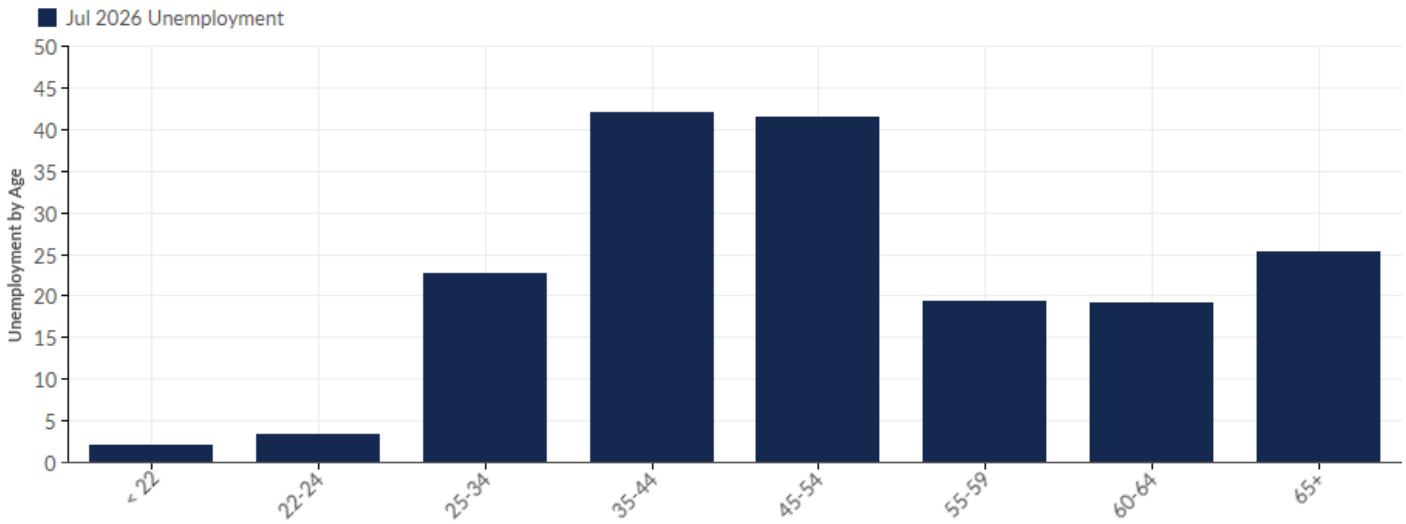
Concerning educational attainment, **12.5% of Forest County, WI residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (9.3% below the national average), and **12.0% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.1% above the national average).



	% of Population	Population
Less Than 9th Grade	1.8%	129
9th Grade to 12th Grade	7.7%	541
High School Diploma	36.0%	2,538
Some College	26.1%	1,842
Associate's Degree	12.0%	843
Bachelor's Degree	12.5%	884
Graduate Degree and Higher	3.9%	275

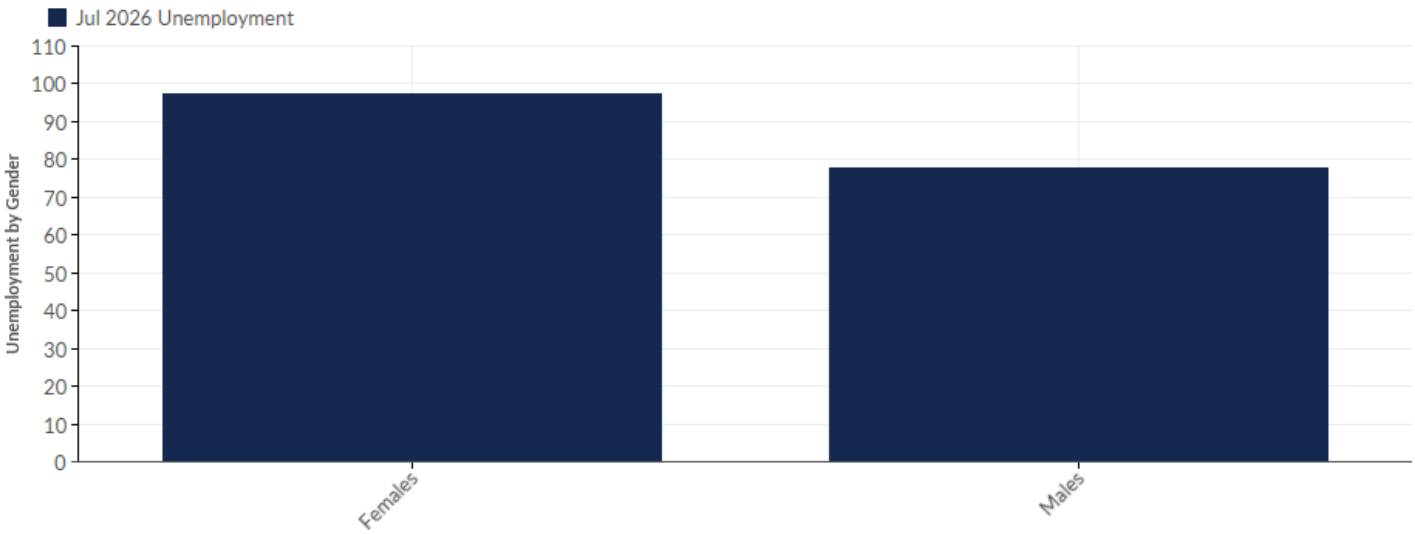
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



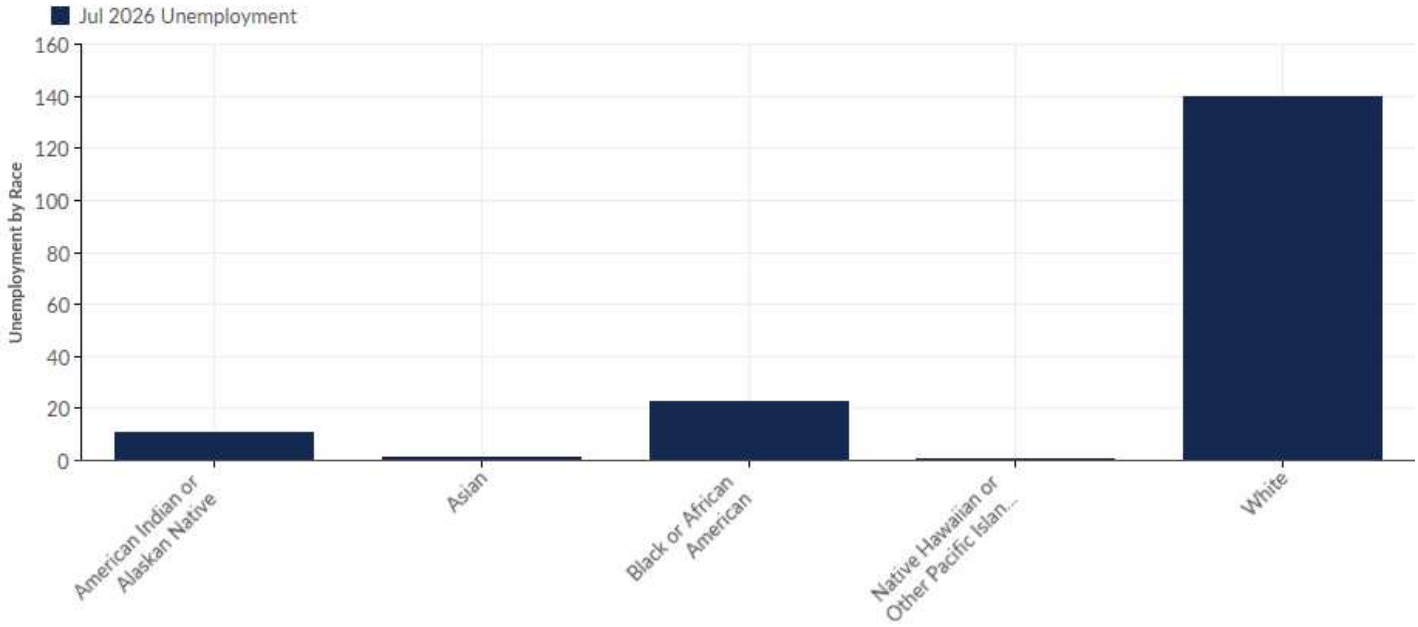
Age		Unemployment (Jul 2026)	% of Unemployed
< 22		2	1.14%
22-24		3	1.71%
25-34		23	13.14%
35-44		42	24.00%
45-54		42	24.00%
55-59		19	10.86%
60-64		19	10.86%
65+		25	14.29%
	Total	175	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



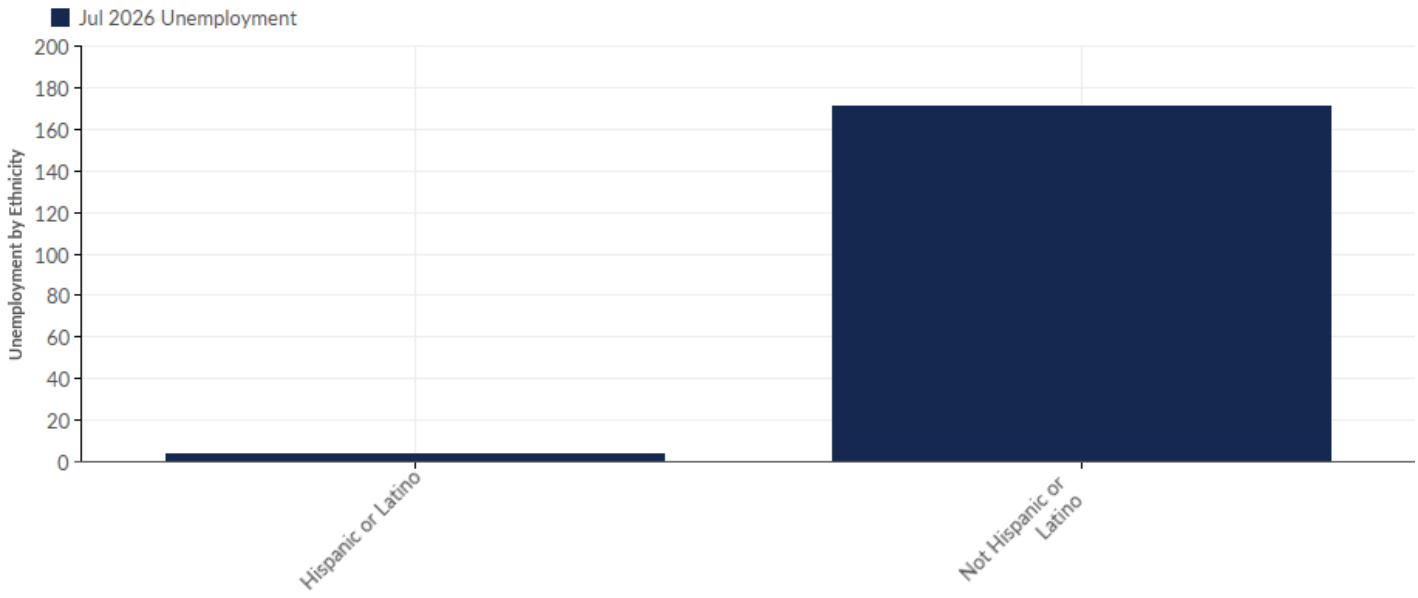
Gender	Unemployment (Jul 2026)	% of Unemployed
Females	97	55.43%
Males	78	44.57%
Total	175	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Jul 2026)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	11	6.29%
Asian	1	0.57%
Black or African American	22	12.57%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.57%
White	140	80.00%
Total	175	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

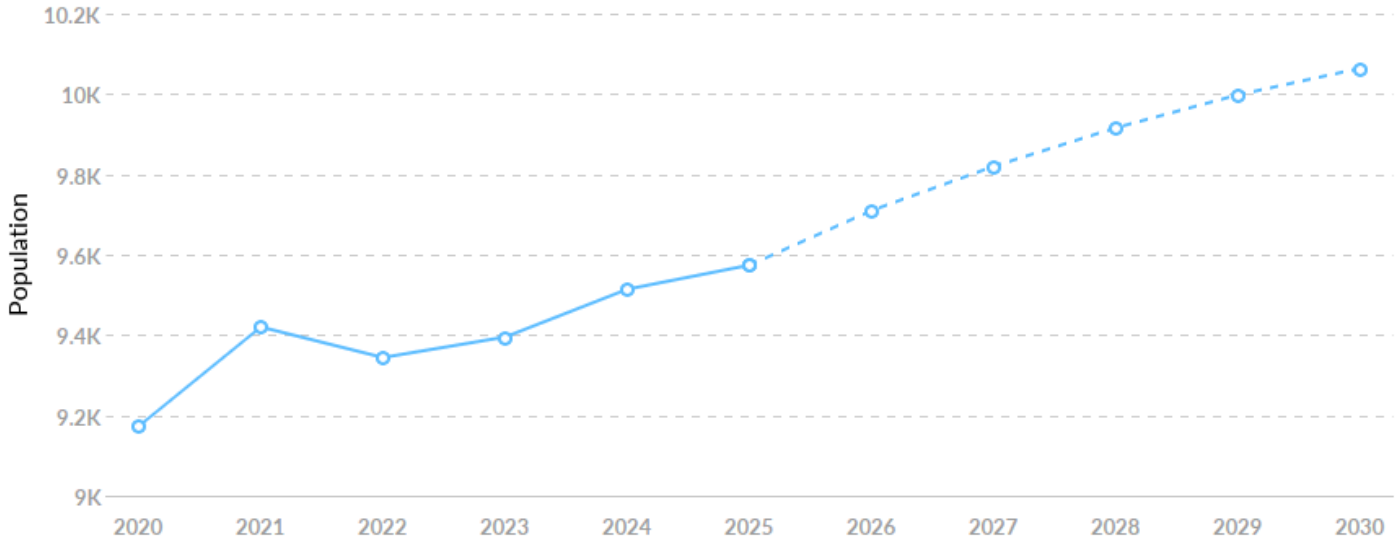


Ethnicity		Unemployment (Jul 2026)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino		4	2.29%
Not Hispanic or Latino		171	97.71%
	Total	175	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

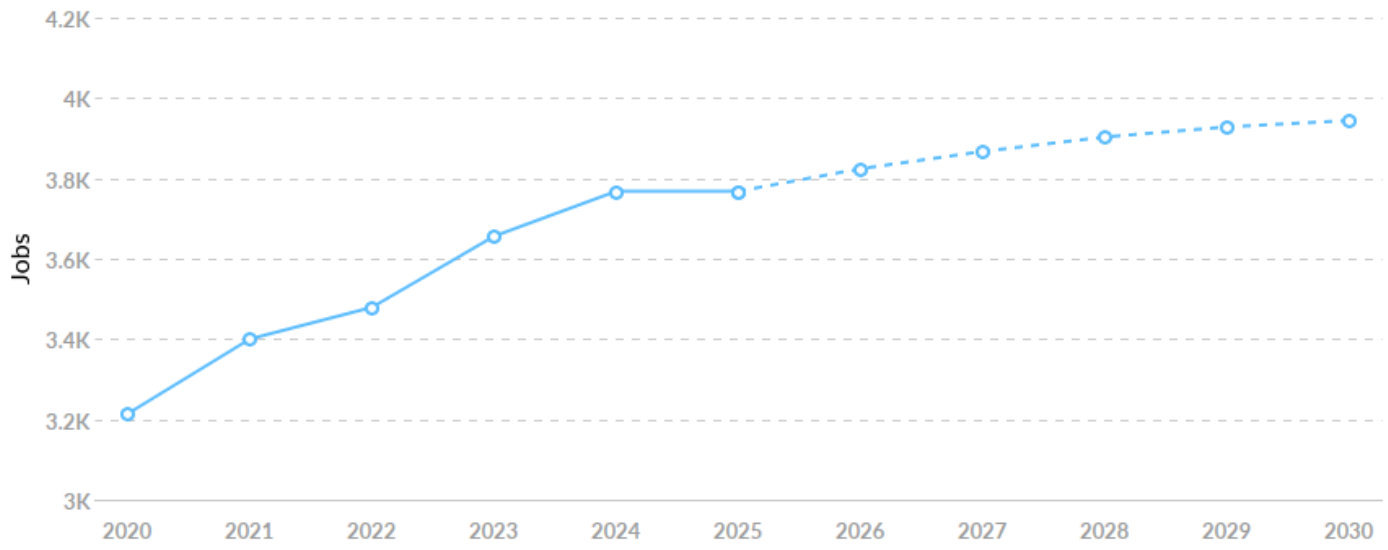
As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 4.4%** since 2020, growing by 401. Population is expected to **increase by 5.1%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 490.



Timeframe	Population
2020	9,173
2021	9,420
2022	9,344
2023	9,395
2024	9,514
2025	9,574
2026	9,710
2027	9,820
2028	9,916
2029	9,998
2030	10,064

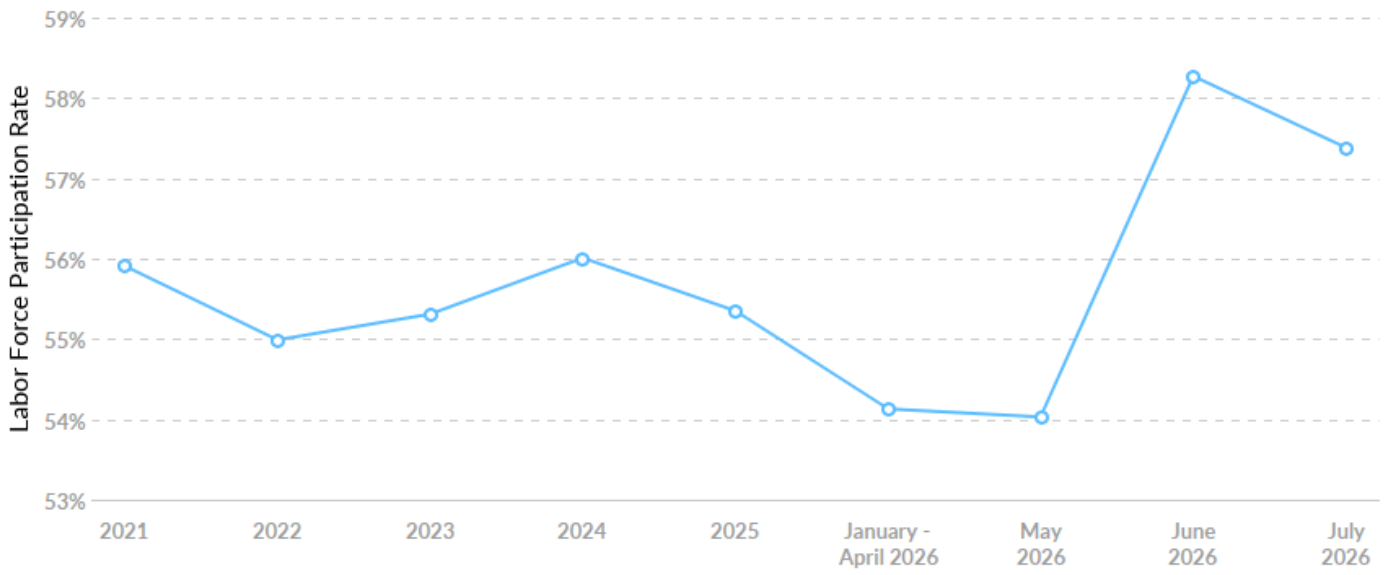
Job Trends

From 2020 to 2025, jobs **increased by 17.2%** in Forest County, WI from 3,214 to **3,768**. This change **outpaced the national growth rate of 10.7% by 6.5%.**



Timeframe	Jobs
2020	3,214
2021	3,400
2022	3,479
2023	3,656
2024	3,768
2025	3,768
2026	3,824
2027	3,867
2028	3,903
2029	3,928
2030	3,944

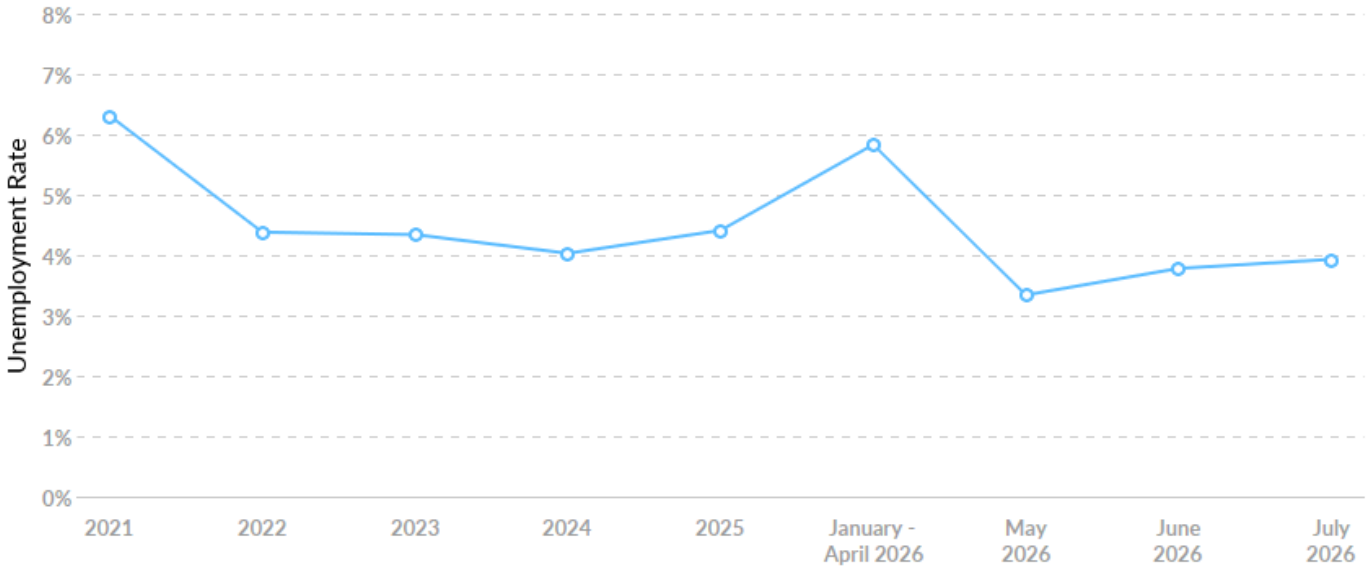
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2021	55.91%
2022	54.99%
2023	55.31%
2024	56.01%
2025	55.35%
January - April 2026	54.13%
May 2026	54.03%
June 2026	58.27%
July 2026	57.38%

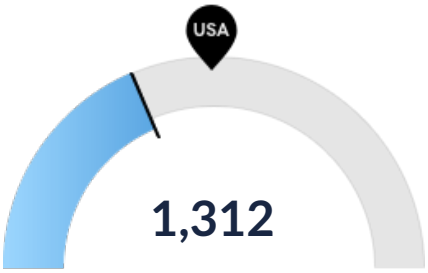
Unemployment Rate Trends

Forest County, WI had a July 2026 unemployment rate of 3.93%, **decreasing from 6.31%** 5 years before.



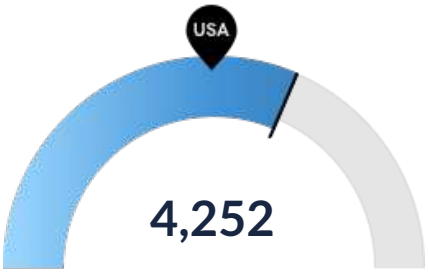
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2021	6.31%
2022	4.38%
2023	4.34%
2024	4.03%
2025	4.41%
January - April 2026	5.83%
May 2026	3.34%
June 2026	3.78%
July 2026	3.93%

Population Characteristics



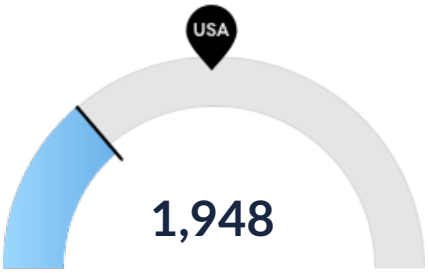
Millennials

Forest County, WI has 1,312 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 1,953.



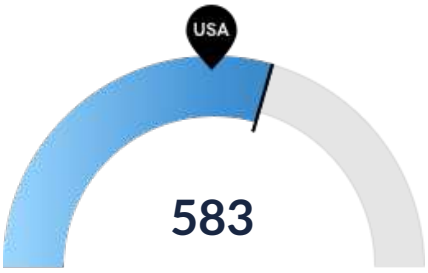
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is high in Forest County, WI. The national average for an area this size is 2,964 people 55 or older, while there are 4,252 here.



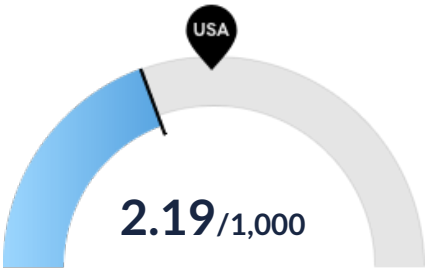
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is low in Forest County, WI. The national average for an area this size is 4,202 racially diverse people, while there are 1,948 here.



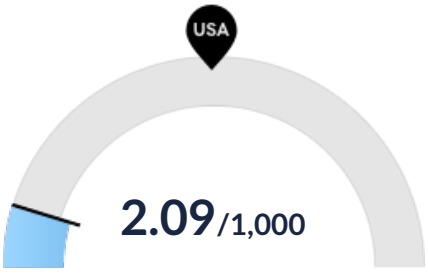
Veterans

Forest County, WI has 583 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 453.



Violent Crime

Forest County, WI has 2.19 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.1 per 1,000 people.

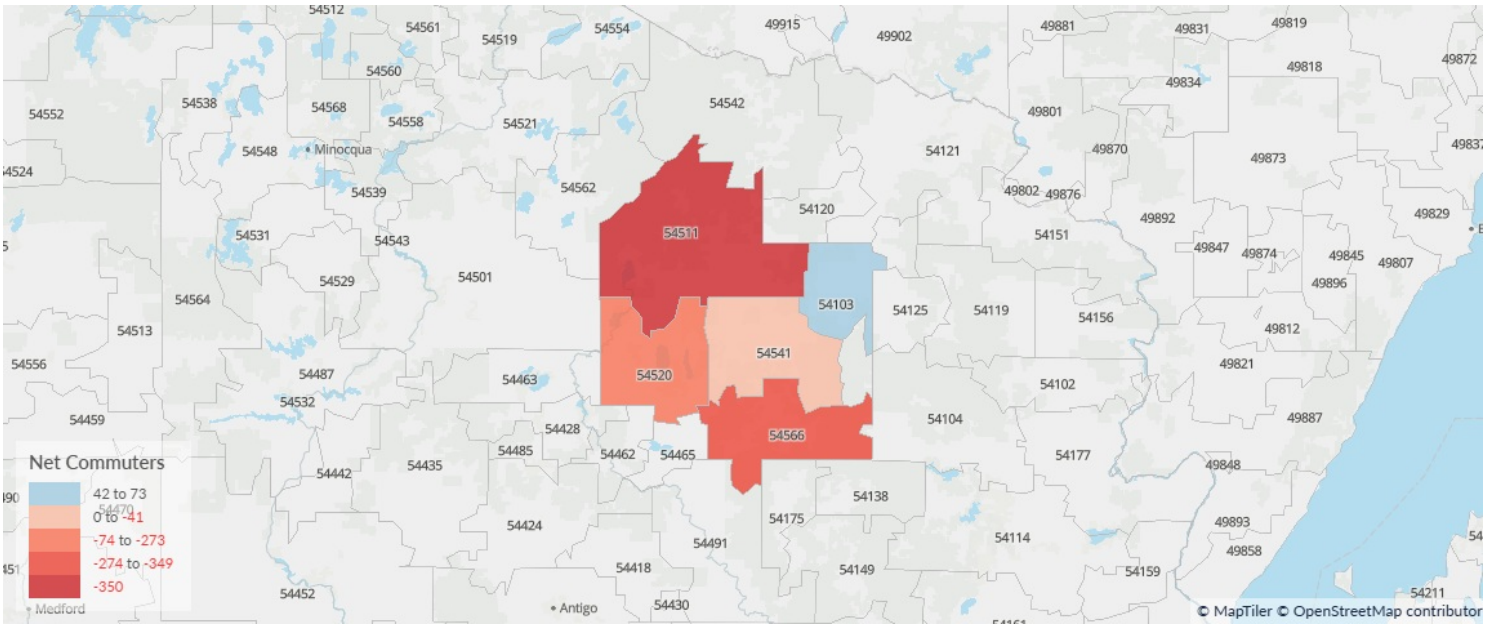


Property Crime

Forest County, WI has 2.09 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 14.58 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...	2,005
54541	Laona, WI (in Forest cou...	593
54566	Wabeno, WI (in Forest c...	443
54511	Argonne, WI (in Forest c...	410
54103	Armstrong Creek, WI (in...	317

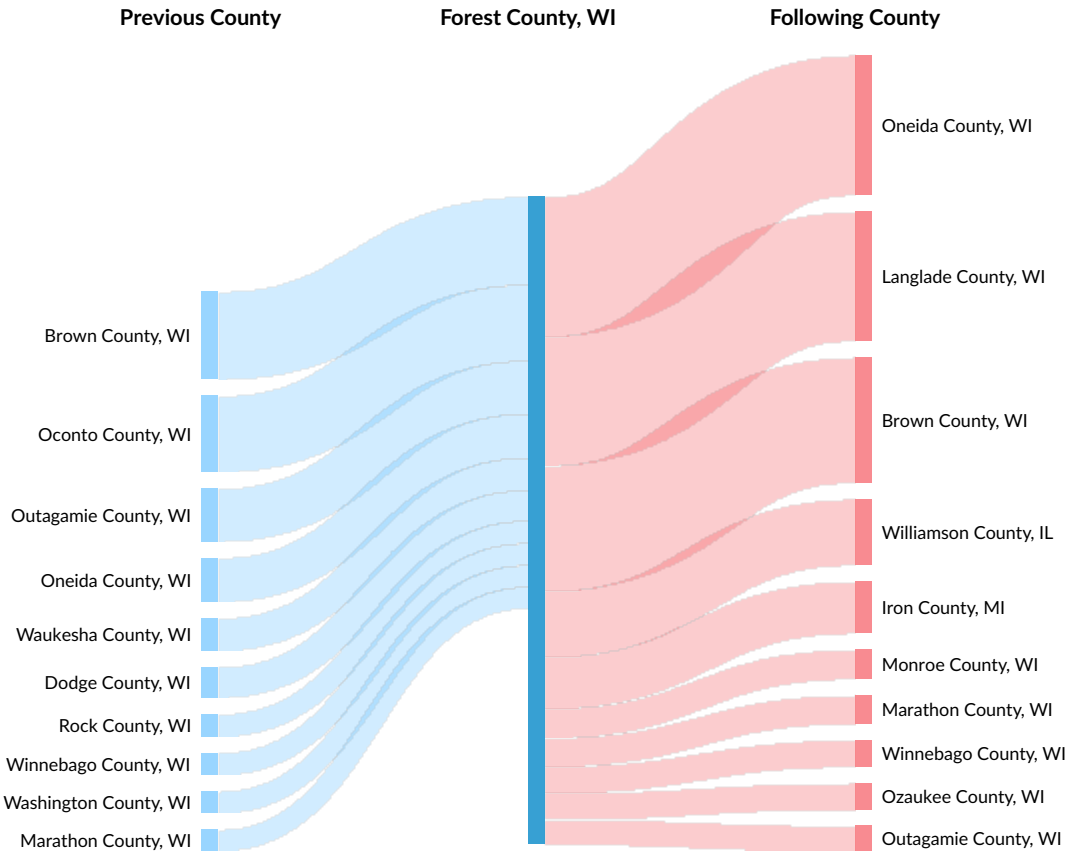
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2025 Workers
54520	Crandon, WI (in Forest c...	2,079
54511	Argonne, WI (in Forest c...	761
54566	Wabeno, WI (in Forest c...	717
54541	Laona, WI (in Forest cou...	603
54103	Armstrong Creek, WI (in...	274

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.



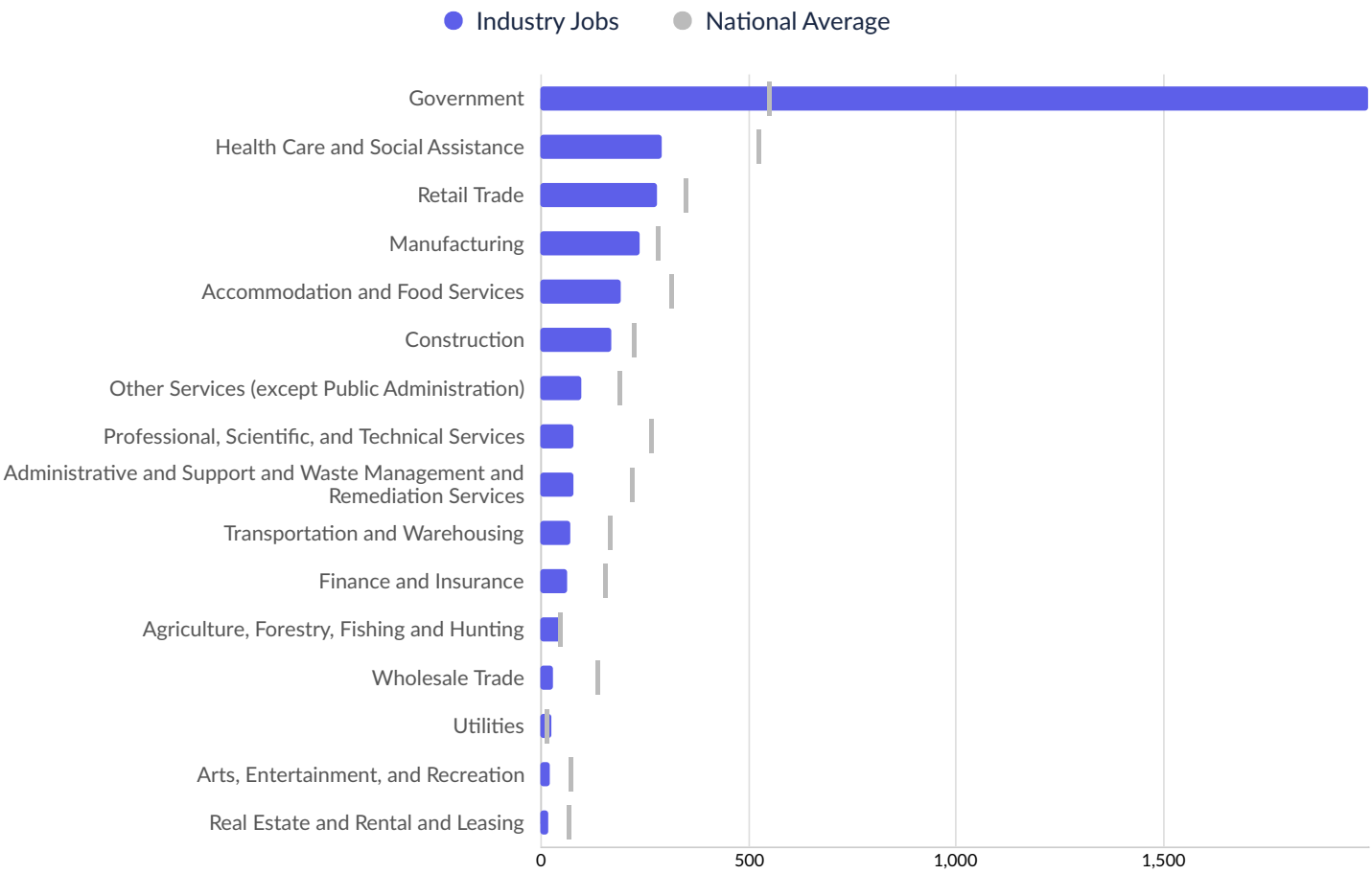
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Brown County, WI	22
Oconto County, WI	19
Outagamie County, WI	13
Oneida County, WI	11
Waukesha County, WI	8
Dodge County, WI	8

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

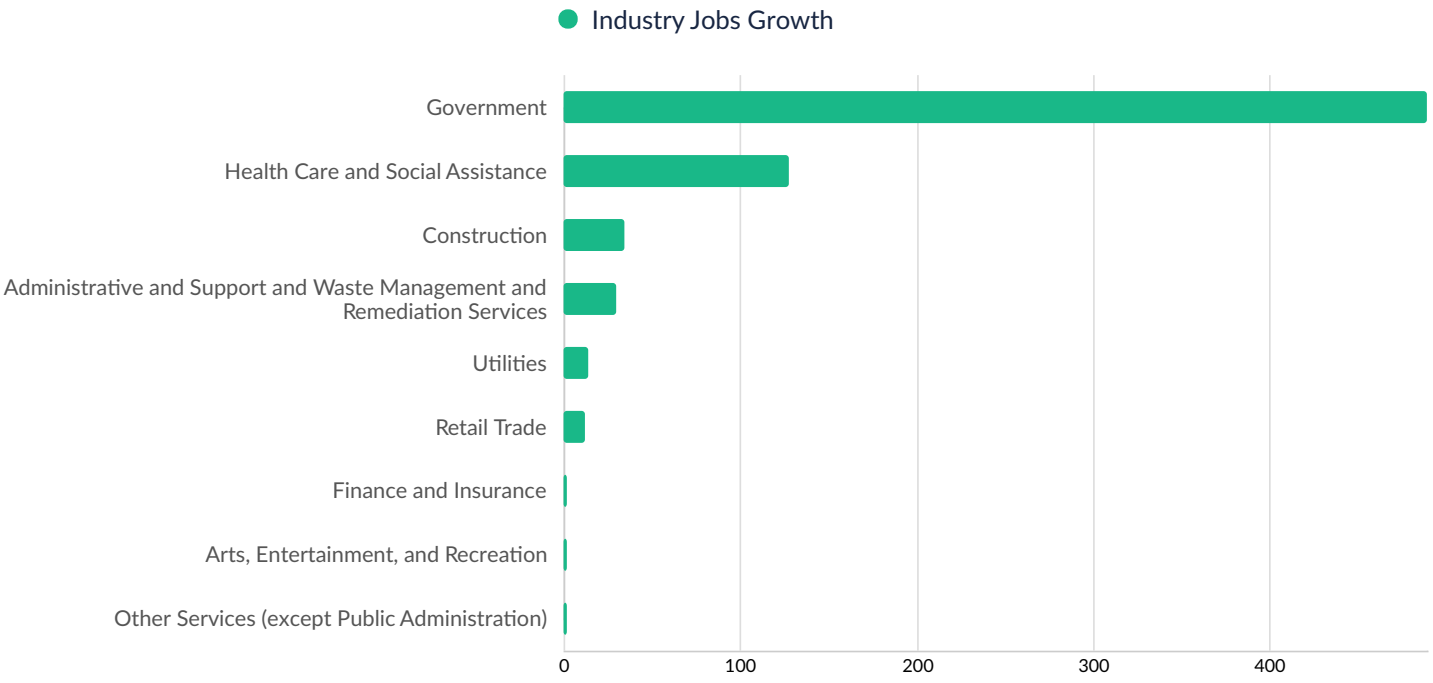
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Oneida County, WI	36
Langlade County, WI	33
Brown County, WI	32
Williamson County, IL	17
Iron County, MI	13
Monroe County, WI	7
Marathon County, WI	7
Winnebago County, WI	7
Ozaukee County, WI	7
Outagamie County, WI	6
Dane County, WI	6
Winnebago County, IL	6
Olmsted County, MN	5
Waupaca County, WI	5
Wright County, MN	4

Industry Characteristics

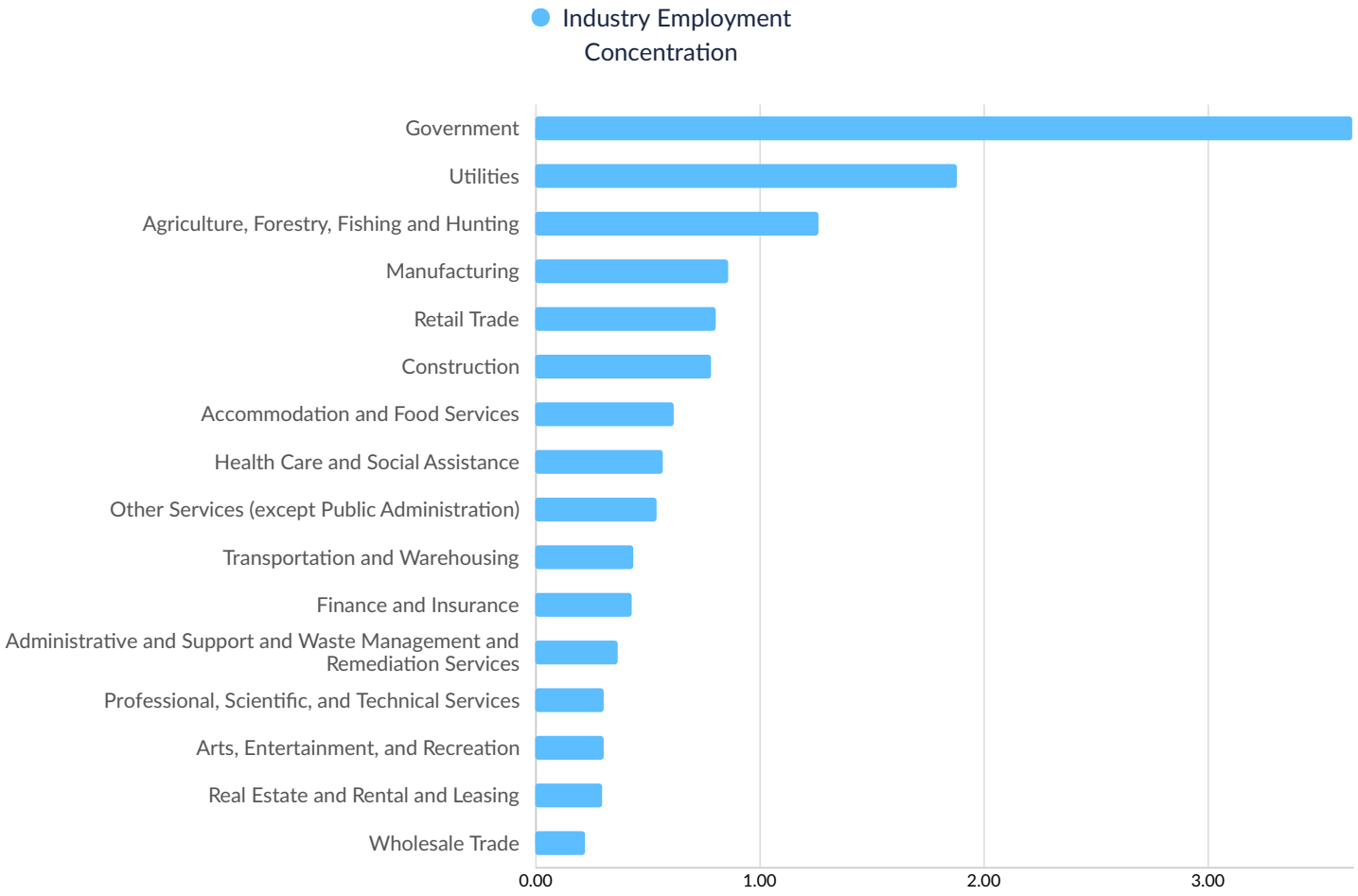
Largest Industries



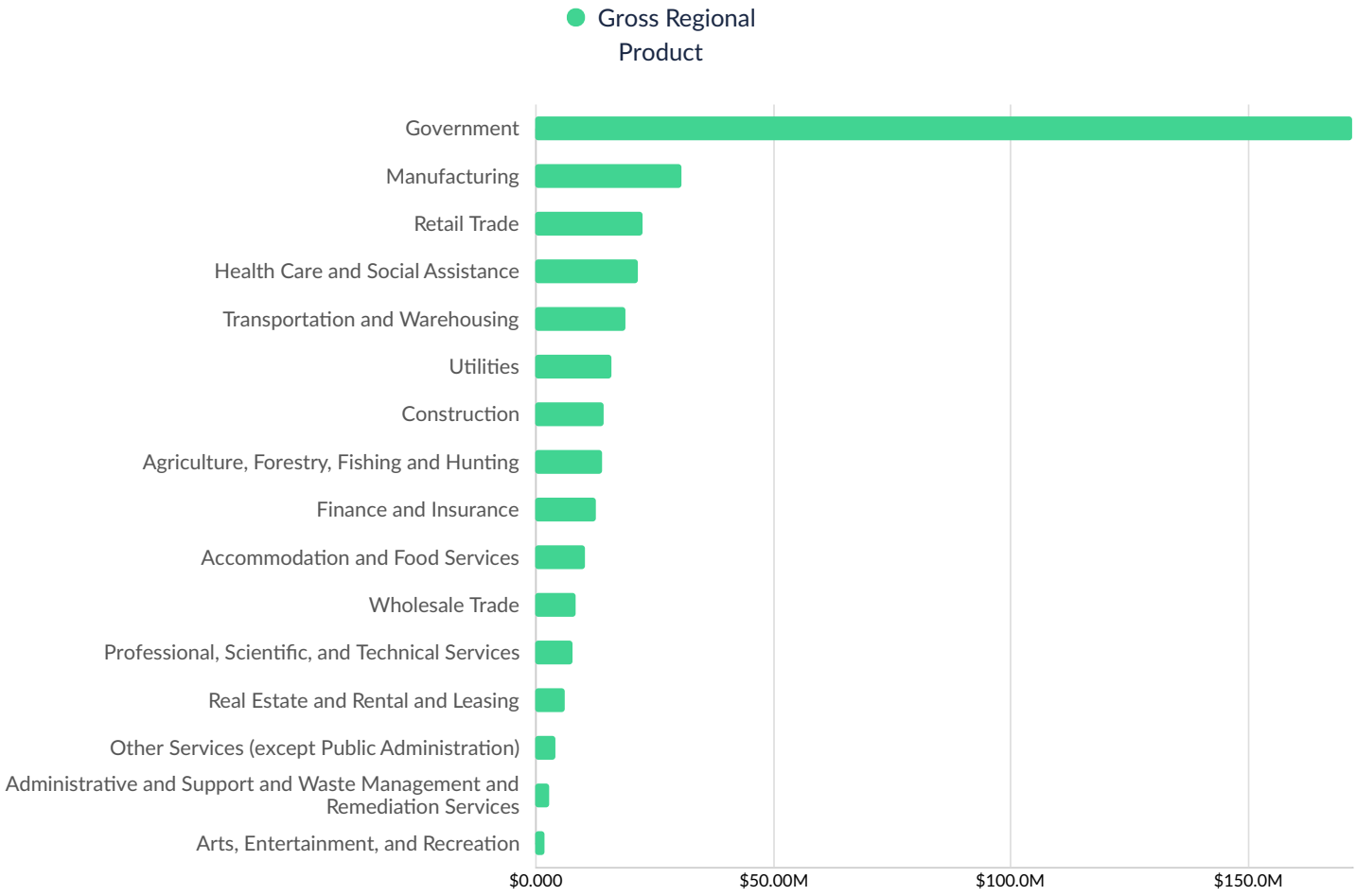
Top Growing Industries



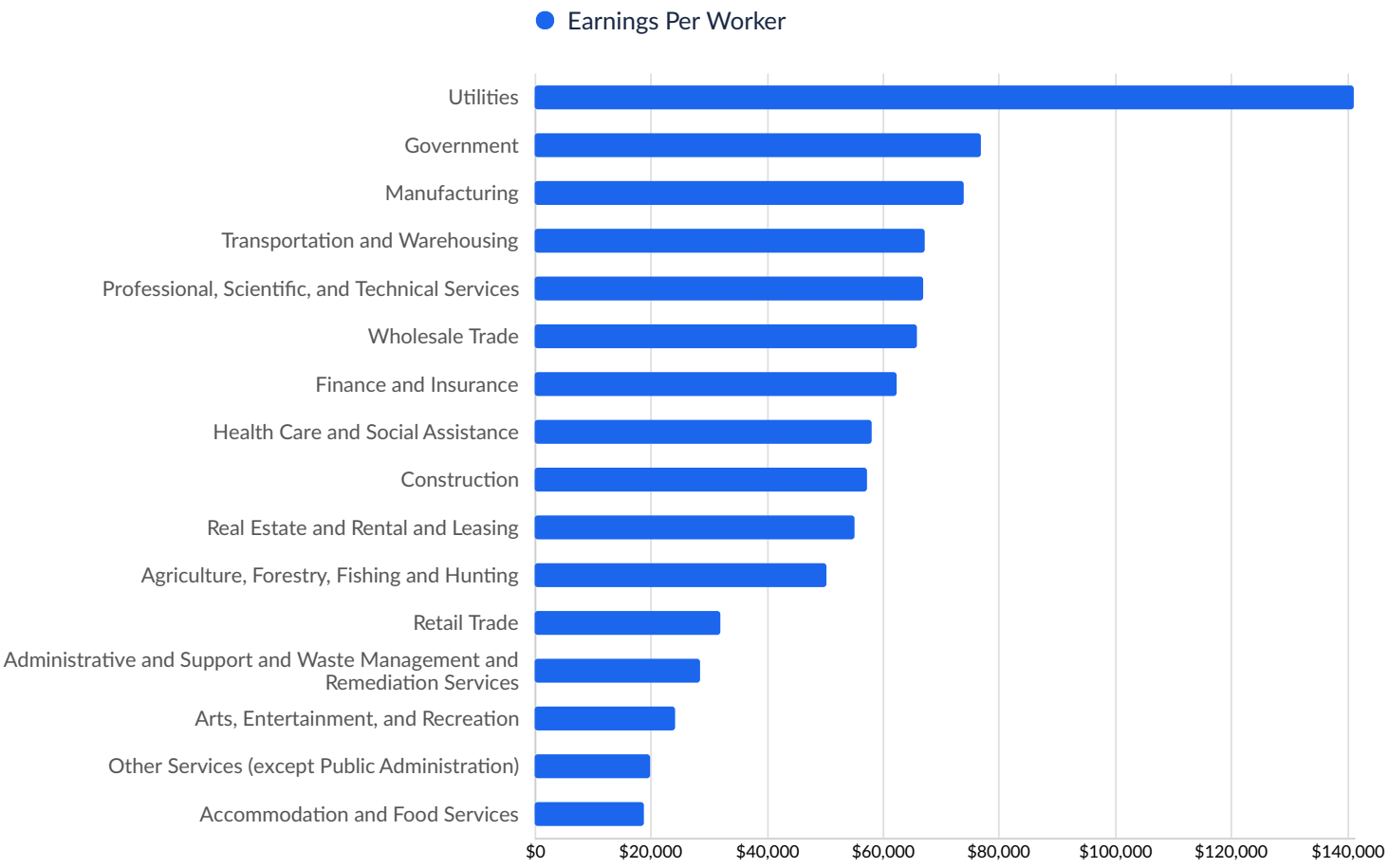
Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



Business Characteristics

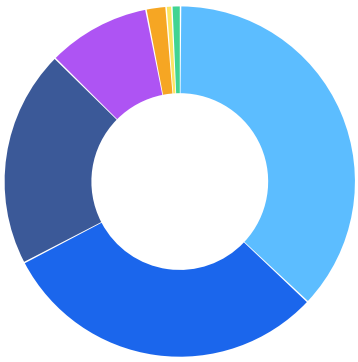
523 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 523 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 112 companies in Forest County, WI posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles
Potawatomi Bingo Casino	128
Crandon School District	26
Sokaogon Chippewa Community	25
School District Of Crandon	24
Forest County Potawatomi Heal...	14
U.S.D.A Forest Service	14
Aspirus	12
Potawatomi Casino Hotel	9
Cleereman Industries	8
Laona State Bank	8

Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
Potawatomi Bingo Casino	116
Bay At Nu Roc Health And Reha...	36
Good Samaritan Society	32
Healthcare Services Group	29
Mole Lake Casino Lodge & Conf...	20
Potawatomi Casino Hotel	16
Cci Systems	14
Curative	12
Forest County	12
Aci-Health	9

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

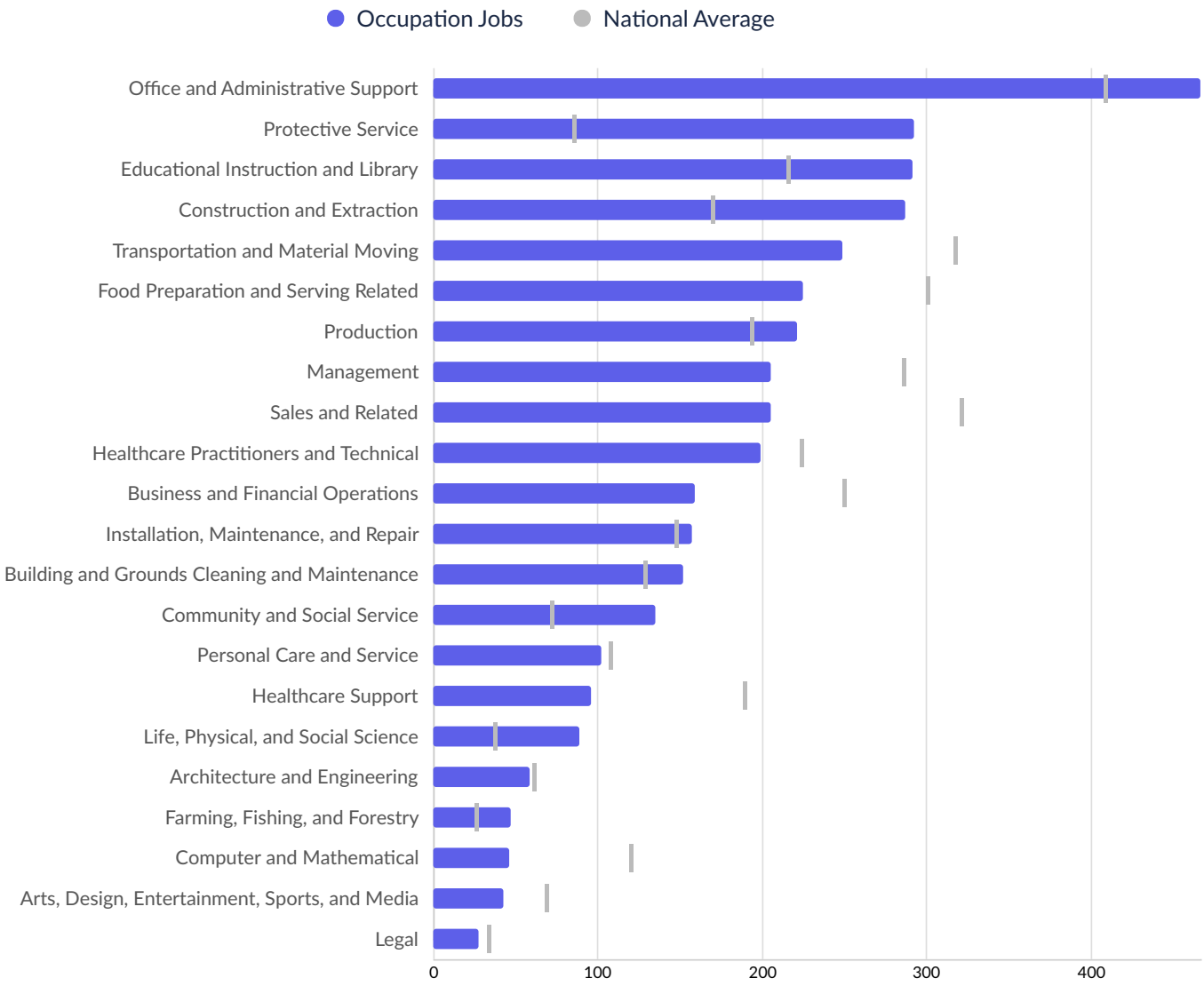
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on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

Layoff Activity (Reported WARN Notices)

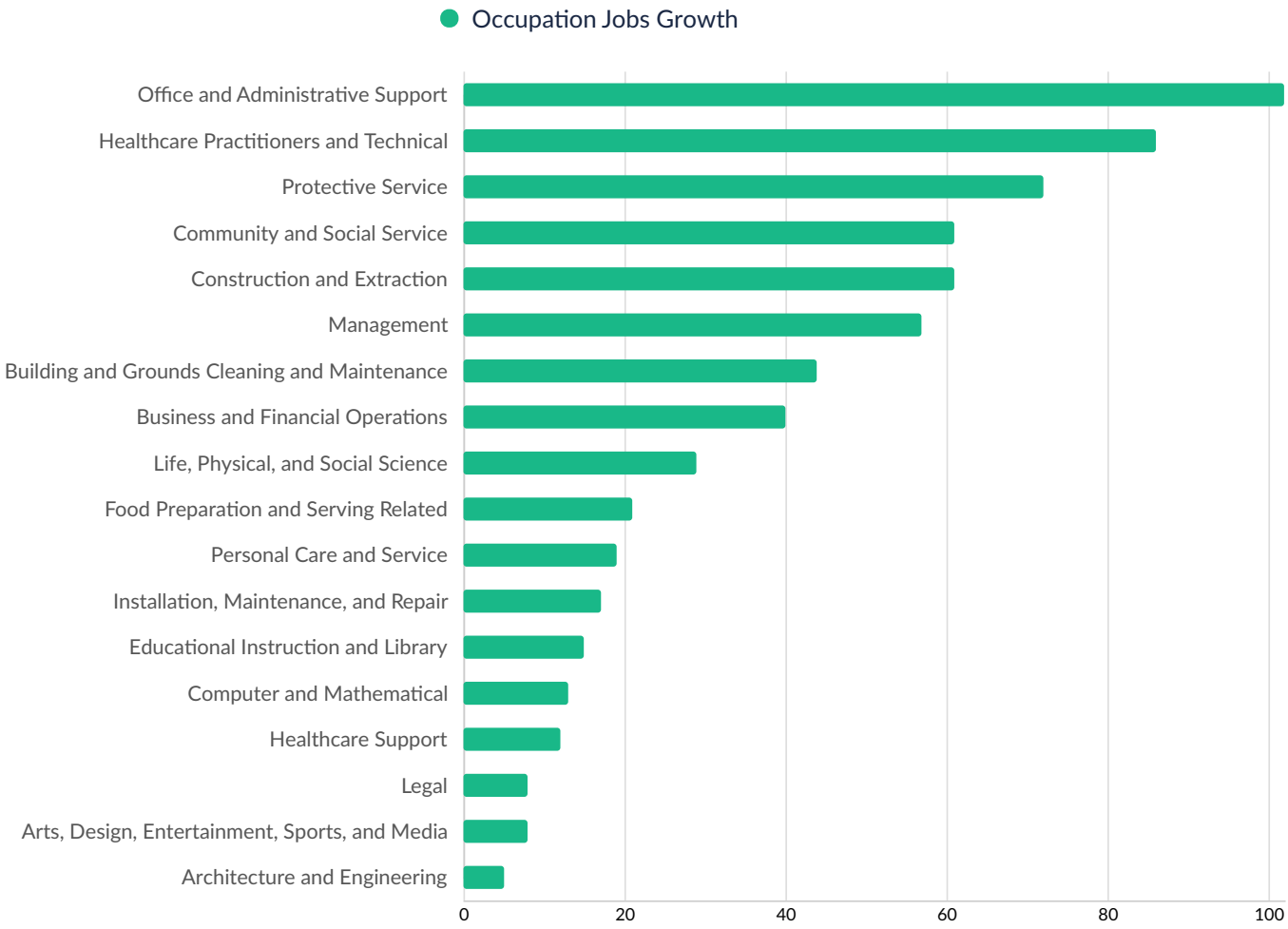
No WARN layoff events were found for the selected region and time period.

Workforce Characteristics

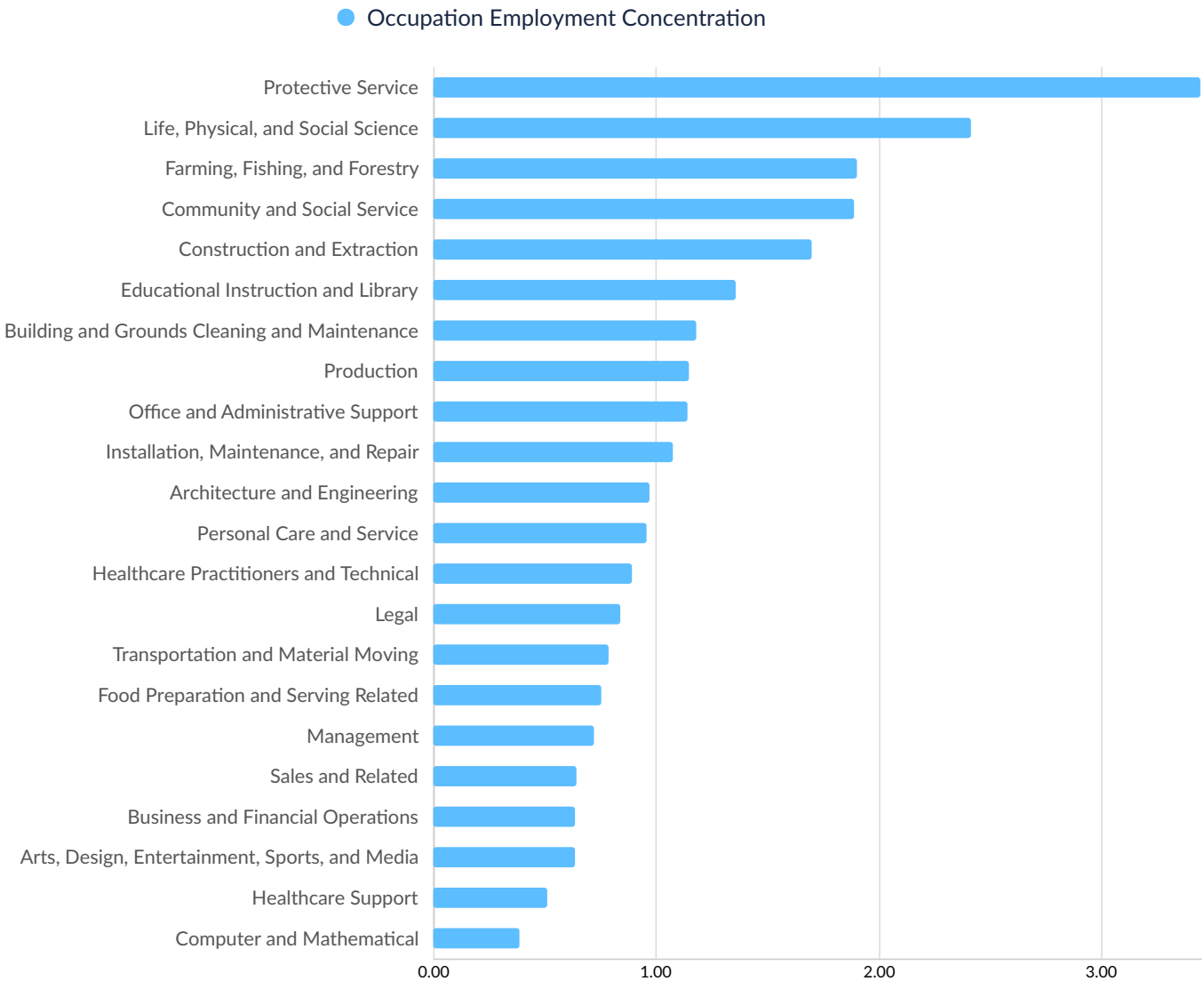
Largest Occupations



Top Growing Occupations



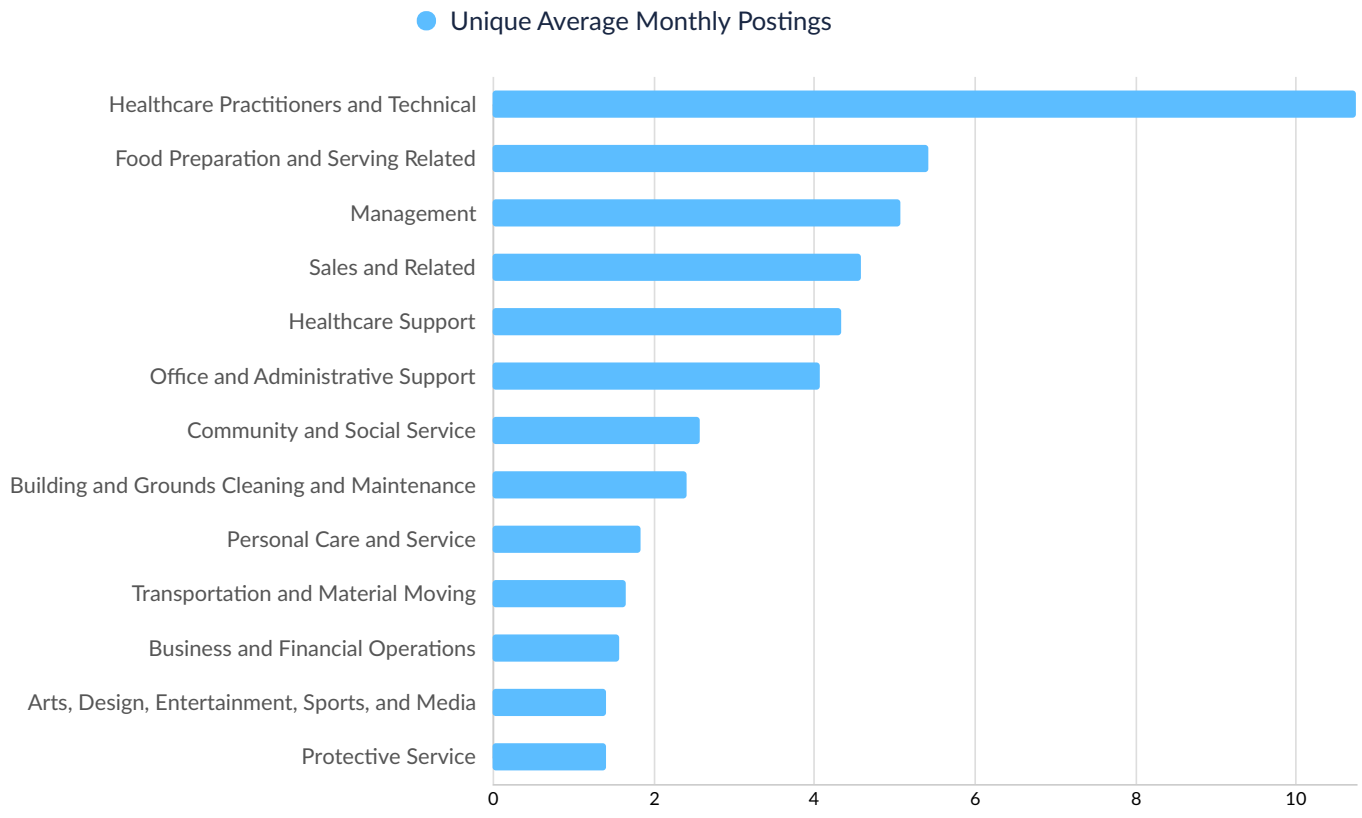
Top Occupation Employment Concentration



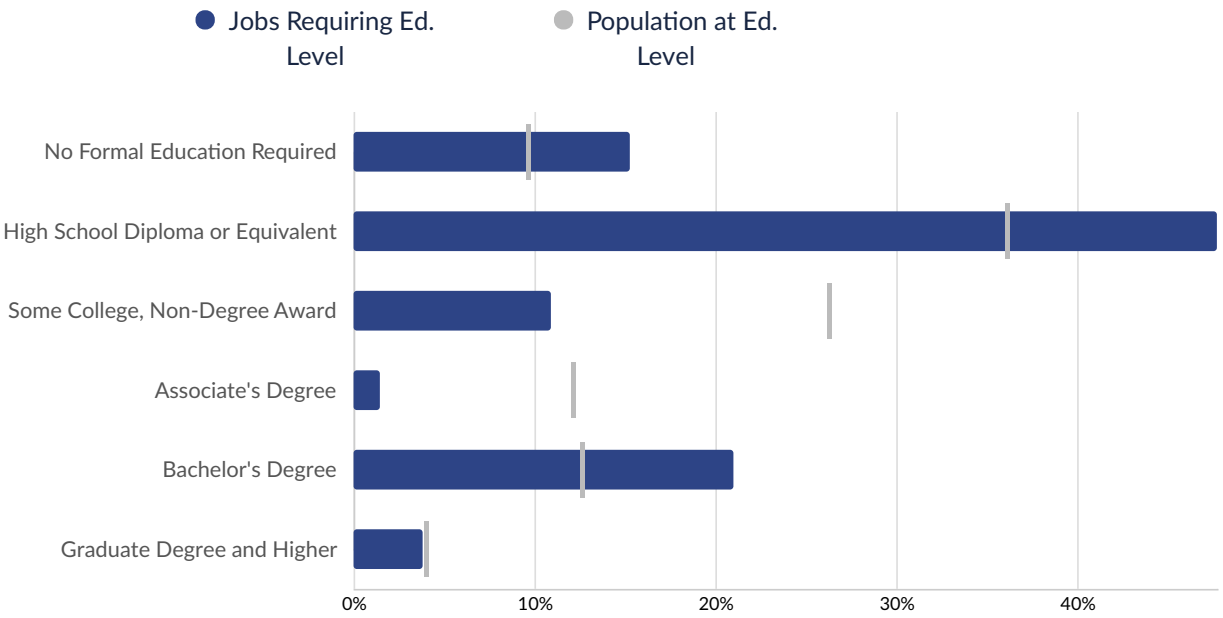
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations



Underemployment



Educational Pipeline

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

In-Demand Skills

