West Central Minnesota: An Economic Development Snapshot 2019

**Unemployment Rate US, MN and West Central 1999-2019**

**WILKIN**

- 60% of the population is from a minority group (births, in-migration).
- In 2018, 9.6% of the population identifies as a person of color.

**PERCENT OF POPULATION 65+ BY COUNTY**

**PEOPLE**

- Larger workforce
- Housing affordability and availability
- Increased wages
- Expand broadband access & coverage
- More child care openings and providers
- Stabilize cost of energy

**TRENDING NEEDS**

**WAGES**

- 2019 Average Weekly Wage by Economic Development Region
  - Accommodation and Food Services
    - Vacancy rate: 8.2% (55% part-time, 3% seasonal)
    - Median starting wage: $12.42 per hour
  - Administrative and Waste
    - Vacancy rate: 7.1% (54% part-time, 11% seasonal)
    - Median starting wage: $10.02 per hour
  - Retail Trade
    - Vacancy rate: 7.1% (47% part-time, 11% seasonal)
    - Median starting wage: $13.14 per hour
  - Health Care and Social Assistance
    - Vacancy rate: 6.4% (85% part-time, 15% seasonal)
    - Median starting wage: $15.39 per hour

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**POVERTY**

- Data resources are available through the West Central Minnesota 2017-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at ceds.wcri.org.
- West Central Initiative compiles the CEDS plan for the Region IV Economic Development District of Minnesota.

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Learn more at: ceds.wcri.org