

## Employment and Local Economic Trends Analysis

While many factors influence the need for housing, employment opportunities represent a predominant demand generator. Without jobs and corresponding wages, the means to afford housing is severely limited.

Employment opportunities may be provided by a broad range of private and public business sectors. Jobs may be available in manufacturing, commercial services, agriculture, public administration, and other industries. The type of employment, wage level, and working conditions will each influence the kind of housing that is needed and at what level of affordability.

Major employers in Murray County include:

Company	City	No. of Employees
Monogram Meat Snacks	Chandler	153
Murray County Central Schools	Slayton	140
Murray County Medical Center	Slayton	138
Maple Lawn Nursing Home	Fulda	105
Fulda School District	Fulda	95
Golden Living Center	Slayton	80
Murray County Government	Slayton	68
Chandler Co-op	Chandler	58
Schwan's Call Center	Lake Wilson	47
Page 1 Printers	Slayton	46
Jim's Market	Slayton	44
Finley Engineering	Slayton	36
Rupp Construction Company Inc.	Slayton	30
Prairie View Inc.	Slayton	30
Hadley Steel Inc.	Hadley	28
Minnwest Bank South	Slayton	25
Schuur Concrete	Chandler	24
Fulda Electric Inc.	Fulda	23
New Dawn Inc.	Fulda	21

Source: Murray County Economic Development

## Work Force and Unemployment Rates - Murray County

Employment information is available at the County level. Data in the table that follows are for all of Murray County. Data in the following tables have been obtained from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Table 1 County Average Annual Labor Force 2000 -2007*						
Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate - MN	Unemployment Rate - US
2000	5,189	4,994	195	3.8%	3.1%	4.0%
2001	5,713	5,497	216	3.8%	3.8%	4.7%
2002	5,539	5,326	213	3.8%	4.5%	5.8%
2003	5,565	5,320	245	4.4%	4.8%	6.0%
2004	5,597	5,358	239	4.3%	4.6%	5.6%
2005	5,463	5,240	223	4.1%	4.1%	5.1%
2006	5,724	5,507	217	3.8%	4.0%	4.6%
2007*	5,716	5,466	250	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

\* 2007 is through September

- ▶ Murray County has had some fluctuation in the size of the available labor force in recent years. Between 2000 and 2007 (partial year through September), the labor force increased by 10.2%. The labor force is currently at its second-largest level during that span with 5,716 workers in 2007.
- ▶ The employed work force shows similar patterns. The number of employed workers in Murray County has increased by 9.5 % between 2000 and 2007. The level of employment reached its largest level during that span in 2006 with 5,507 employed workers.
- ▶ Despite the increase in workers and employment over the last seven years, the County's unemployment rate has actually increased from 3.8% to 4.4% during that same stretch. However, Murray County's unemployment rate has typically remained lower than the State or national averages.

## Employment and Wages by Industry - Murray County

The following table shows the average weekly wages by major employment sector in 2006, the last full year of data. It is important to note that the major employment sectors listed do not represent all employment in the County.

Table 2 County Average Weekly Wages by Industry Detail		
Industry	2006 Employment	2006 Average Weekly Wage
Total All Industry	2,782	\$472
Natural Resources and Mining	97	\$402
Construction	223	\$540
Manufacturing	272	\$569
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	637	\$447
Information	25	\$550
Financial Activities	161	\$634
Professional and Business Services	99	\$465
Education and Health Services	727	\$494
Leisure and Hospitality	208	\$112
Other Services	61	\$365
Public Administration	193	\$540

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

- ▶ The average weekly wage for all industry in 2006 was \$472. At full-time employment, this equates to an annual wage of \$24,544. The highest paying wage sectors were Financial Activities and Manufacturing with average weekly wages of \$634 and \$569, respectively. At full-time employment, the average annual wage for Financial Activities would be \$32,968. The lowest paying wage sector was Leisure and Hospitality, with an average weekly wage of only \$112. At full-time employment in this sector, the average worker would earn \$5,824 annually.
- ▶ Over 45% of the employment listed in the table above was in the City of Slayton. The average weekly wage for all industry in Slayton was \$459 in 2006. Nearly 20% of the employment listed in the table was in the City of Fulda. The average weekly wage for all industry in Fulda was \$423 in 2006.

## Employment Projections by Industry

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has generated employment projections for each region of the State. Murray County is included in the Southwest Region. The following table compares estimated employment in the general industry classifications in 2004, the projected level of employment by 2014, and the percentage change.

<b>Table 3 Projected Employment by Industry - 2014</b>			
Industry	2004 Employment	2014 Projected Employment	Percent Change 2004-2014
Total All Industry	209,742	225,258	7.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	5,171	5,572	7.8%
Construction	8,099	9,124	12.7%
Manufacturing	32,918	35,008	6.3%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	34,765	36,248	4.3%
Information	4,340	3,630	-16.4%
Financial Activities	7,269	8,467	16.5%
Professional and Business Services	10,069	12,349	22.6%
Education and Health Services	42,617	48,810	14.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	13,183	14,935	13.3%
Other Services	8,404	8,932	6.3%
Public Administration	15,112	15,475	2.4%

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

- ▶ Projections for the year 2014 show that the Professional and Business Services sector is expected to have the greatest percentage growth among industries in Southwest Minnesota between 2004 and 2014. This sector is projected to add nearly 2,280 jobs, for percentage growth of approximately 23%. While this sector is a broad industry classification that includes a wide range of sub-sectors, the average weekly wage in this sector in Murray County in 2006 was \$465, lower than the average for all industry.
- ▶ In numeric growth, the largest employment increase in Southwest Minnesota is expected in the Education and Health Services sector, which is projected to add 6,193 new jobs. This was the largest single employment sector in Murray County in 2006, and paid an average weekly wage of \$494.
- ▶ The only industry sector expected to lose jobs between 2004 and 2014 is the Information sector.

