

Labor – glad to be working

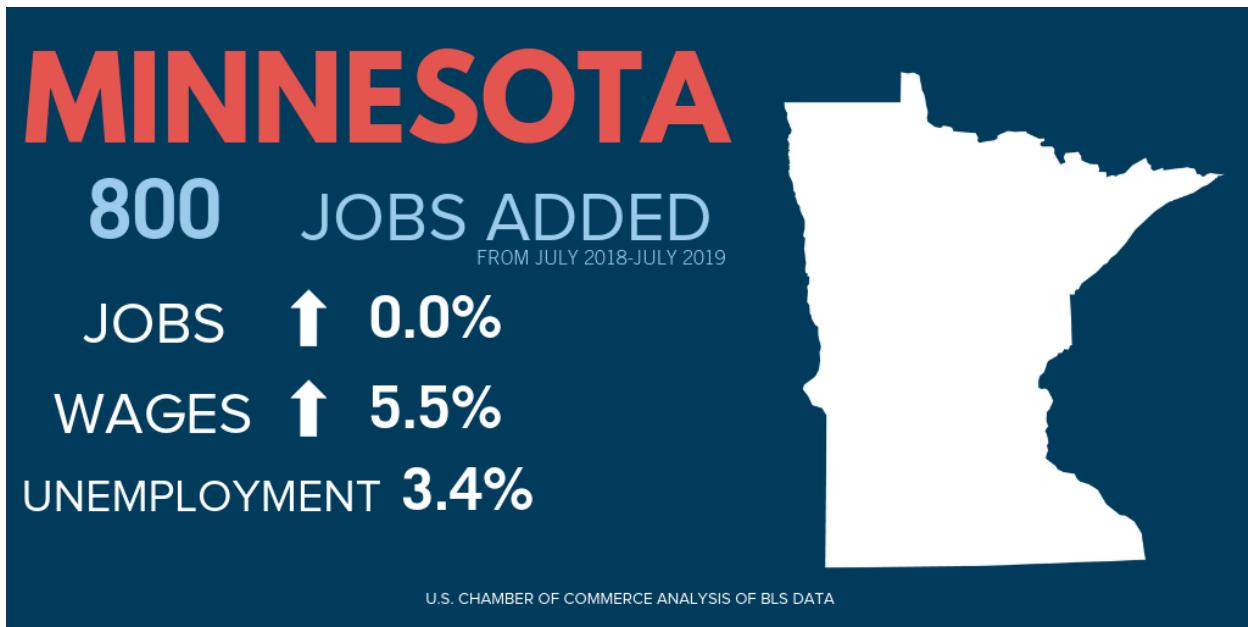
Kellie Sites, President

Waconia Chamber of Commerce

As Labor Day approaches on Monday I've been thinking about all the issues around "labor". Certainly, if you have ever given birth, that kind of labor is something else.

We cannot get our work done without "laboring." Do you enjoy what you do? If you are the boss, are your employees glad to go to your place of business to get their work done? Are they proud of the company? Think about the ways you can impact your environment by being a source of positivity. You can set the tone.

Every one of us makes a difference in the workplace. If you are a negative influence, those around you won't enjoy working with you. In fact, they may start looking for a new place to work. With the cost to train people and the very tight labor market that we have in Minnesota, each business needs to take care of its employees, including not allowing negativity to impact the workplace.



Back to Labor Day... there are many articles out there about how it came to be – here's a segment of one I found interesting:

Have we lost the spirit of Labor Day? By: Jay L Zagorski Senior Lecturer Boston University

...Today Labor Day is no longer about trade unionists marching down the street with banners and their tools of trade. Instead, it is a confused holiday with no associated rituals.

The original holiday was meant to handle a problem of long working hours and no time off. Although the battle over these issues would seem to have been won long ago, this issue is

starting to come back with a vengeance, not for manufacturing workers but for highly skilled white-collar workers, many of whom are constantly connected to work.

If you work all the time and never really take a vacation, start a new ritual that honors the original spirit of Labor Day. Give yourself the day off. Don't go in to work. Shut off your phone, computer and other electronic devices connecting you to your daily grind. Then go to a barbecue, like the original participants did over a century ago, and celebrate having at least one day off from work during the year! <https://theconversation.com/profiles/jay-l-zagorsky-152952>

I am so thankful for my job and all the people I get to work with and the challenges that keep me thinking. I'm thankful for time off as well – to enjoy the fruits of my labor. For those of you that are working on Labor Day, thank you. I hope you get a day off real soon!



Photo credit: Kellie Sites Lake Waconia aboard the *Inconceivable*