



Southeast MN Labor Market Update – May 2018

Labor Market Update - Cost of Living

- The cost of living for a typical Minnesota family (two parents; one working full-time, one part-time with one child) in the Southeast region has increased by \$0.65 per hour from 2017 to 2018. Olmsted County saw an increase of \$0.78.
- The monetary increases in Olmsted County's monthly costs were all even or larger than those in the region, with the exception of transportation.
- There was only a \$0.38 increase in wages across all occupations. Ten of the 22 occupational groups saw median wage increases of less than \$0.65 (Southeast) and \$0.78 (Olmsted County) cost of living increase; and an additional four occupational groups actually saw a decrease (although rather minimal decreases). It's somewhat difficult to draw connections from the county-level cost of living increase to the regional changes in median wages. Per Mark Schultz, Regional Labor Market Analyst, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), "I am assuming that if wage data was available at the county-level, there may be some higher wage raises for some occupational groups."
- Four occupational groups (healthcare practitioners and technical; healthcare support; computer and mathematical, life, physical and social science; and legal) saw increases of over \$1.00 per hour, but it's important to note that part of these increases and decreases may be linked to a shift in the types of jobs people are working in these occupational categories. "For example, part of the \$2.65 increase in median wages for legal occupations may be explained by there being more lawyers working at a higher wage or less legal aides working at a lower wage, or a combination of both, rather than everyone working in legal occupations earning that much more from 2017-2018." –Mark Schultz

***See the two tables below**

2017-2018 Cost of Living Requirements Change

Olmsted County	Year	Annual	Hourly	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
	2017	\$50,365	\$16.14	\$404	\$756	\$396	\$928	\$648	\$492	\$573
	2018	\$52,803	\$16.92	\$443	\$756	\$417	\$959	\$714	\$501	\$610
	Change	\$2,438	\$0.78	\$39	\$0	\$21	\$31	\$66	\$9	\$37
	% Change	4.8%	4.8%	9.7%	0.0%	5.3%	3.3%	10.2%	1.8%	6.5%

Southeast EDR	Year	Annual	Hourly	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
	2017	\$48,408	\$15.52	\$311	\$752	\$396	\$834	\$748	\$464	\$529
	2018	\$50,460	\$16.17	\$333	\$752	\$417	\$850	\$825	\$468	\$560
	Change	\$2,052	\$0.65	\$22	\$0	\$21	\$16	\$77	\$4	\$31
	% Change	4.2%	4.2%	7.1%	0.0%	5.3%	1.9%	10.3%	0.8%	5.9%

2017-2018 Wage Changes

Table 1. 2017-2018 (1st Quarter) Median Wage Change - Southeast Minnesota					
Occupational Group	2018 Employ- ment	Median Wage		2017-2018 Change	
		2017	2018	Dollar	Percent
Total, All Occupations	238,090	\$18.53	\$18.91	\$0.38	2.1%
Office and Administrative Support	31,810	\$17.22	\$17.20	-\$0.02	-0.1%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	26,950	\$30.16	\$36.24	\$6.08	20.2%
Production	26,120	\$16.98	\$17.17	\$0.19	1.1%
Sales and Related	20,370	\$11.62	\$11.89	\$0.27	2.3%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	20,230	\$9.94	\$10.79	\$0.85	8.6%
Transportation and Material Moving	14,660	\$16.27	\$16.31	\$0.04	0.2%
Education, Training, and Library	14,620	\$23.42	\$24.30	\$0.88	3.8%
Management	11,410	\$43.03	\$43.19	\$0.16	0.4%
Healthcare Support	9,610	\$14.84	\$16.00	\$1.16	7.8%
Personal Care and Service	9,130	\$11.33	\$11.69	\$0.36	3.2%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	8,240	\$21.13	\$22.10	\$0.97	4.6%
Business and Financial Operations	7,820	\$28.48	\$28.18	-\$0.30	-1.1%
Construction and Extraction	7,600	\$24.72	\$25.29	\$0.57	2.3%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	7,580	\$13.16	\$13.71	\$0.55	4.2%
Computer and Mathematical	5,510	\$40.68	\$41.76	\$1.08	2.7%
Community and Social Services	4,340	\$22.10	\$22.63	\$0.53	2.4%
Architecture and Engineering	3,390	\$36.66	\$36.26	-\$0.40	-1.1%
Protective Service	3,160	\$22.73	\$23.04	\$0.31	1.4%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,590	\$19.38	\$19.71	\$0.33	1.7%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,920	\$29.08	\$30.81	\$1.73	5.9%
Legal	610	\$30.61	\$33.26	\$2.65	8.7%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	410	\$14.73	\$14.71	-\$0.02	-0.1%
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics					