

JOBS NOW Coalition

Job Vacancy FACT SHEET—September 2011

Southwest Minnesota Job Seekers Outnumber Full-time Openings 5-to-1

There are twice as many job openings in Southwest Minnesota as there were two years ago, according to the most recent Job Vacancy Survey from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.* With 13,600 unemployed workers competing for 4,300 unfilled jobs, job seekers now outnumber job openings 3-to-1.**

Of the 4,300 job openings in Southwest Minnesota, 2,500 are full-time. This means job seekers outnumber full-time openings 5-to-1.

Other major findings for Southwest Minnesota include:

- Forty-one percent of openings are part-time.
- Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of all openings require no education or training beyond high school.
- Only 45 percent of openings offer health care.
- The median wage for all openings is \$10.00 per hour.***

JOBS NOW's Cost of Living research shows that in a Southwest Minnesota family of four with both parents working full-time, each worker must earn \$12.47 per hour to meet basic needs. To see the Cost of Living by county, use the online Family Wage & Budget Calculator at www.jobsnowcoalition.org/calculator/calculator.html

Questions? Contact Kevin Ristau at 651-290-0240 or kristau@jobsnowcoalition.org

* The Southwest Minnesota Planning Region consists of the following 23 counties: Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Sibley, Swift, Waseca, Watonwan, and Yellow Medicine.

** See www.positivelyminnesota.com/Data_Publications/Data/Current_Economic_Highlights/Job_Vacancies.aspx Figures for job seekers and job openings are from second quarter 2011.

*** A median is a midway point; half of the jobs are above it, half below.