Economic Trends
Where Are Your Graduates Now?

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Labor Market Information Office

Department of Employment and Economic Development

Data Tools ▶
Monthly Highlights ▶
Regional Labor Markets ▶
Research & Publications ▶
Economic Analysis ▶
Workforce Data ▶
Data for Job Seekers
Data for Businesses
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Southwest Regi...

The Minnesota Department of Employ... ...ment is excited to be offering a series of workshops on utilizing our Labor Market Information tools.

Labor Market

Explore the Southwest Minnesota labor... ...ent, unemployment, wages, occupations, and industries.
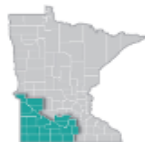
Counties: Big Stone, Bl...
Chippewa, Cottonwoo...
Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon,
Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles,
Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Sibley,
Swift, Waseca, Watonwan, Yellow Medicine

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Regional Profiles

Planning Region

Southwest Minnesota

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

Economic Development Regions

Region 6W

Counties: Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine

Region 8

Counties: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock

Region 9

Counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

County Profiles

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

Minnesota's September Employment Situation

- The unemployment rate held steady at 3.1%
  - The labor force size increased by 1,516 people over the month. The number of employed increased by 708 workers, and the number of unemployed increased by 808 people

- The labor force participation rate stayed the same over-the-month at 68.5%

- Minnesota's labor force is still 14k workers smaller than in Feb 2020

- Avg hourly wages for private sector workers are up 3.3% OTY and 13.6% since August 2020
  - Inflation was 3.7% OTY and 18.3% over the last three
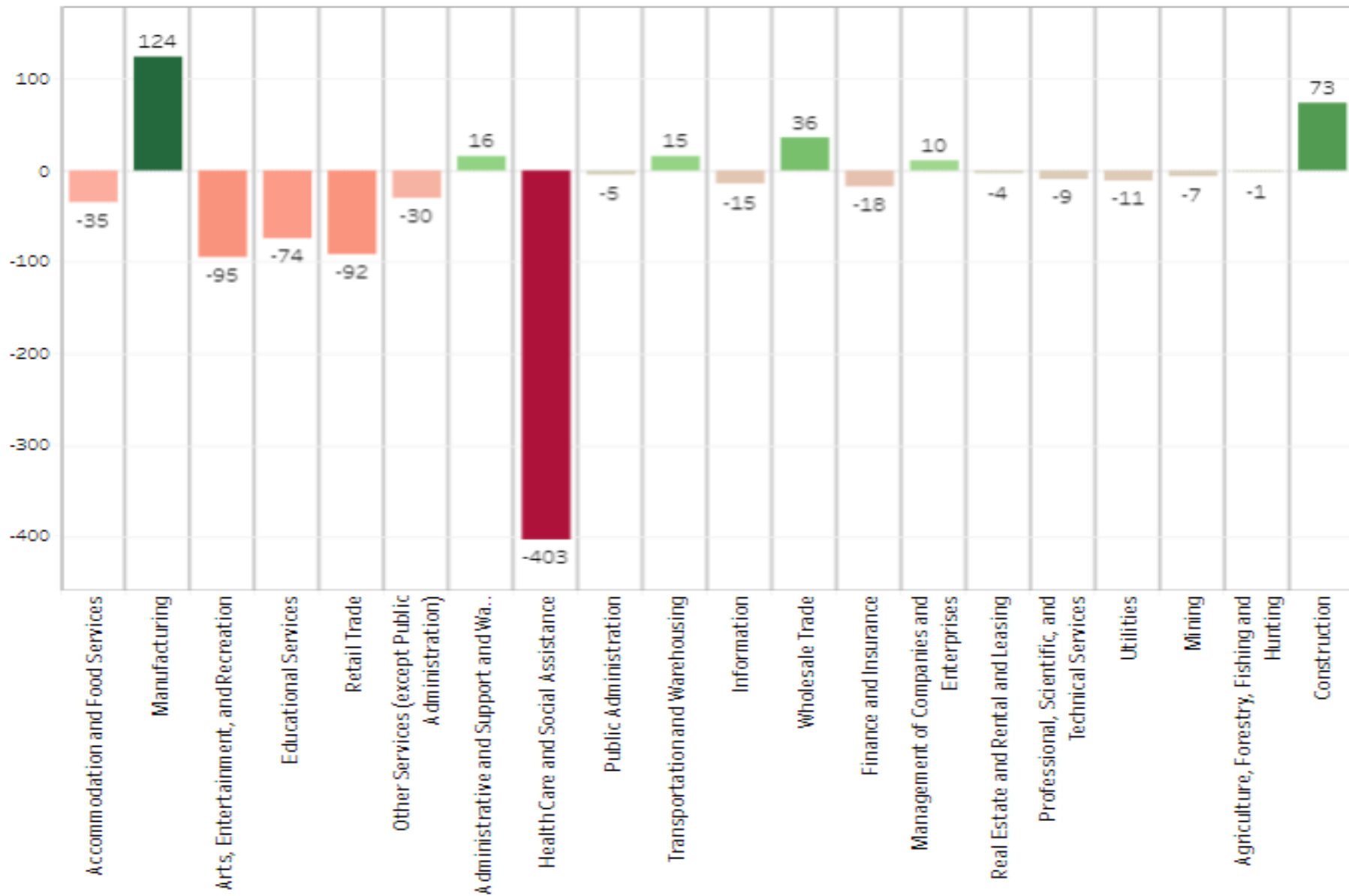
Region 6W Employment Trends
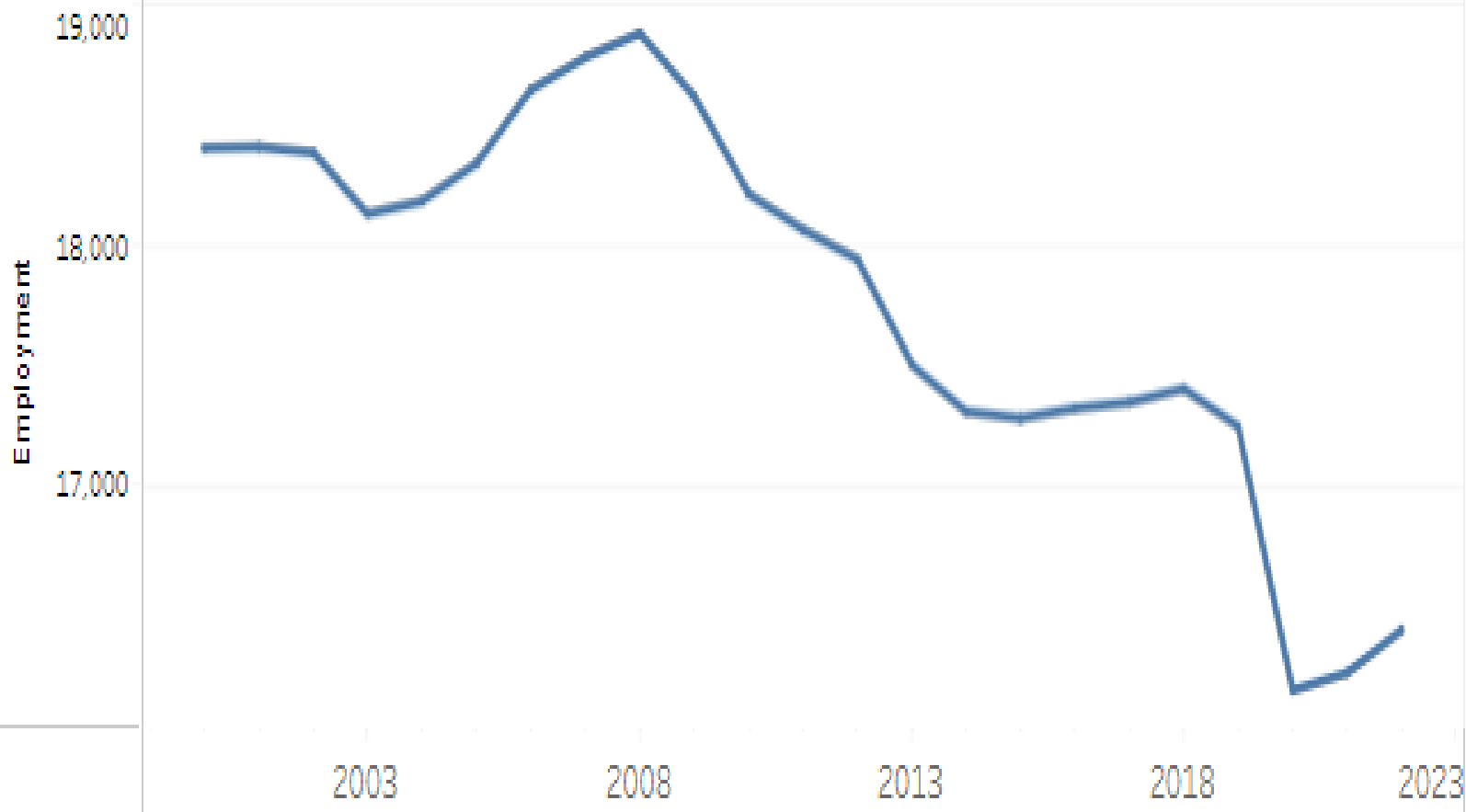
EDR 6W- Upper Minnesota Valley
1st Quarter Change, 2020- to- 2023

Labor Force
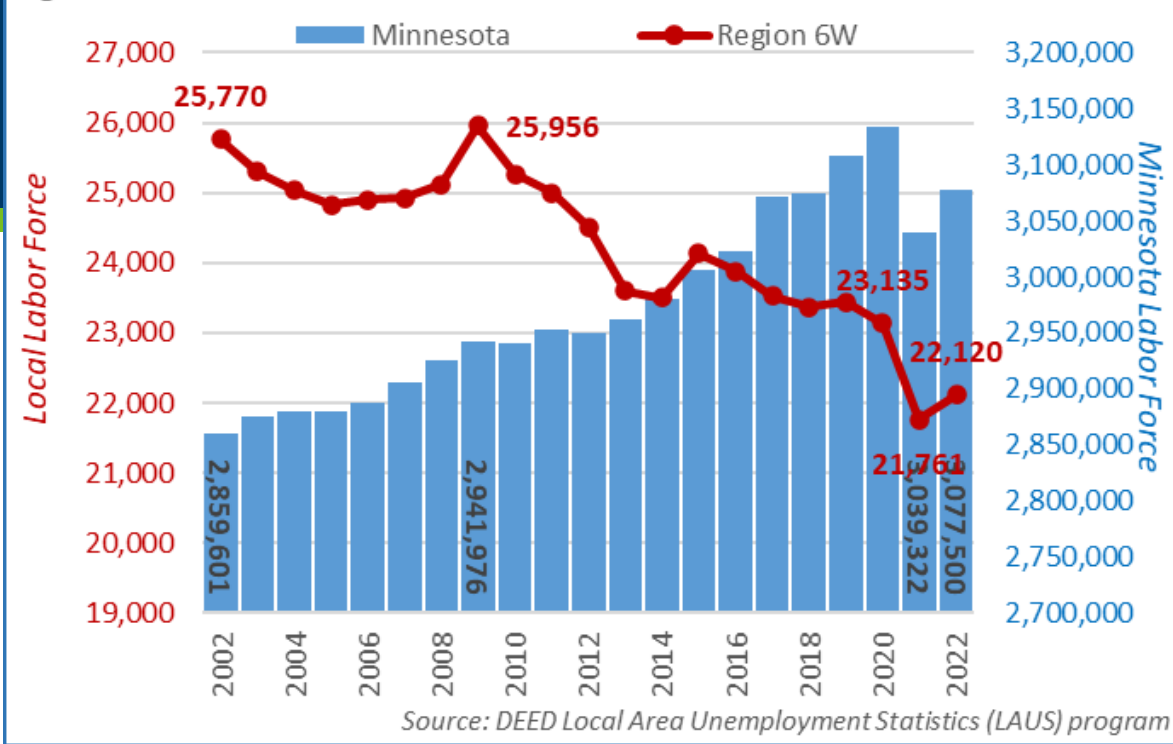

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates, 2002-2022

Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program

Table 15. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035				
Region 6W	**2025 Labor Force Projection**	**2035 Labor Force Projection**	**2025-2035 Change**	
			Numeric	**Percent**
16 to 19 years	1,057	1,014	*-43*	*-4.1%*
20 to 24 years	1,716	1,837	*121*	*7.1%*
25 to 44 years	7,736	7,340	*-397*	*-5.1%*
45 to 54 years	3,594	4,002	*408*	*11.4%*
55 to 64 years	3,898	2,962	*-936*	*-24.0%*
65 to 74 years	1,732	1,335	*-397*	*-22.9%*
75 years & over	379	440	*61*	*16.2%*
Total Labor Force	**20,112**	**18,930**	***-1,182***	***-5.9%***
Source: calculated from Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2012-2022

Legend:
- ■ Southwest Minnesota Unemployed
- ━●━ Southwest Minnesota Vacancies
- ● Jobseekers per Vacancy

Jobseekers per Vacancy values by year:
- Q2 2012: 2.6
- Q2 2013: 2.2
- Q2 2014: 1.4
- Q2 2015: 1.1
- Q2 2016: 1.2
- Q2 2017: 0.8
- Q2 2018: 0.6
- Q2 2019: 0.6
- Q2 2020: 2.3
- Q2 2021: 0.6
- Q2 2022: 0.3

Left axis: Number of Unemployed & Vacancies
Right axis: Jobseekers Per Vacancy
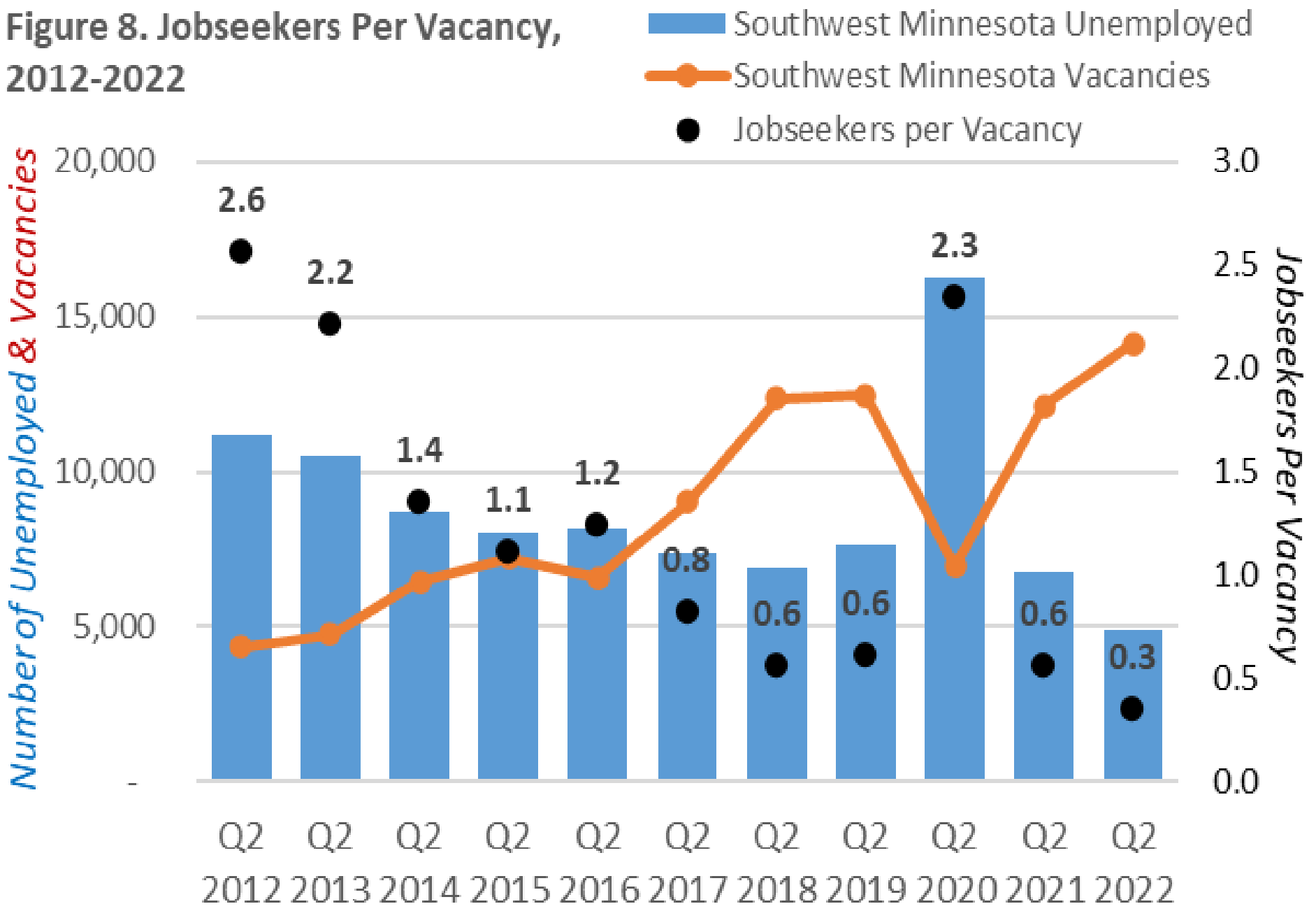
Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

Southwest Minnesota Job Vacancies in 2022

Occupation	Number of Job Vacancies
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	2,626
Production Occupations	1,782
Sales and Related Occupations	1,467
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,290
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,252
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	786
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	766
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	731
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	554
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	553
Management Occupations	430
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occu	379
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occ	183
Legal Occupations	179
Construction and Extraction Occupations	165
Community and Social Service Occupations	159
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	151
Protective Service Occupations	142
Personal Care and Service Occupations	135
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	130
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	99
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	69

Number of Job Vacancies

Figure 3
Minnesota JOLTS Measurements
March 2005 - March 2023
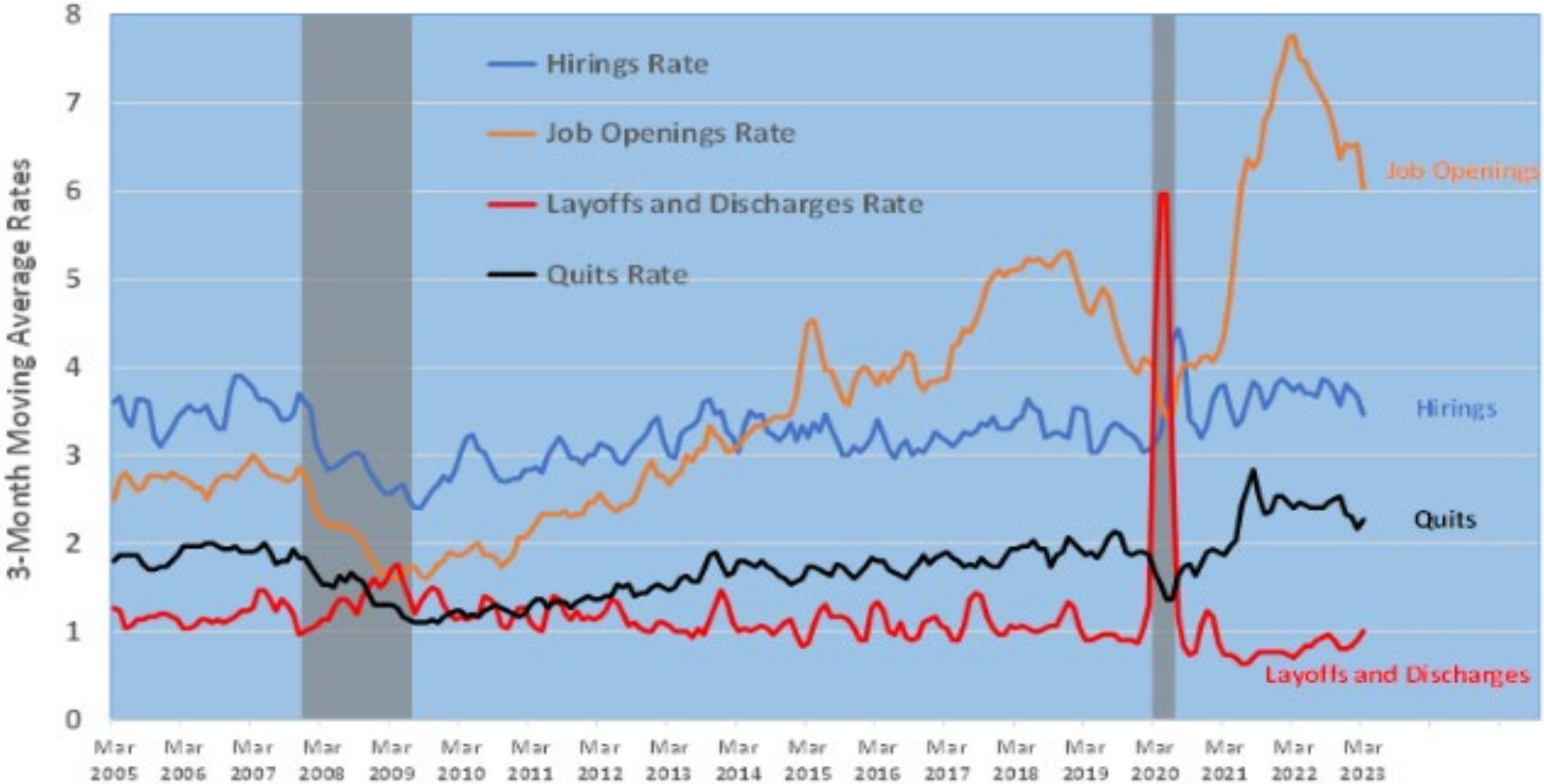
Source: BLS JOLTS - https://www.bls.gov/jlt   3-month moving average of seasonall adjusted data

EDR 6W Student Enrollment, 2021-2022
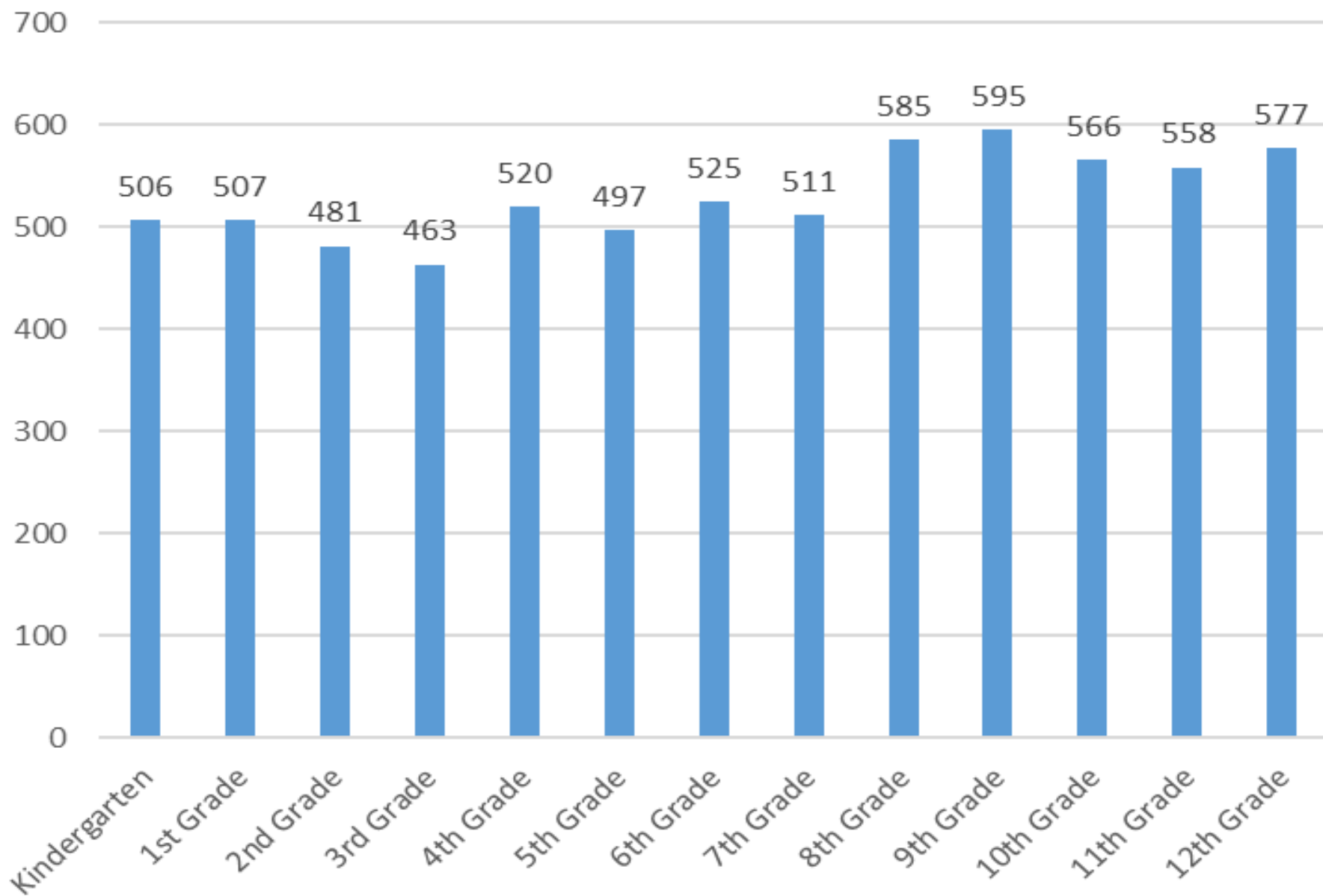
Officials have released a list of the proposed program cuts:

Majors

- Philosophy, BA
- Philosophy Interdisciplinary, BA
- Real Estate, BS
- Theatre and Social Change, BA
- Insurance, BS
- Nuclear Medicine Technology

Master's

- Marriage & Family Therapy, MS

Grad Certificates
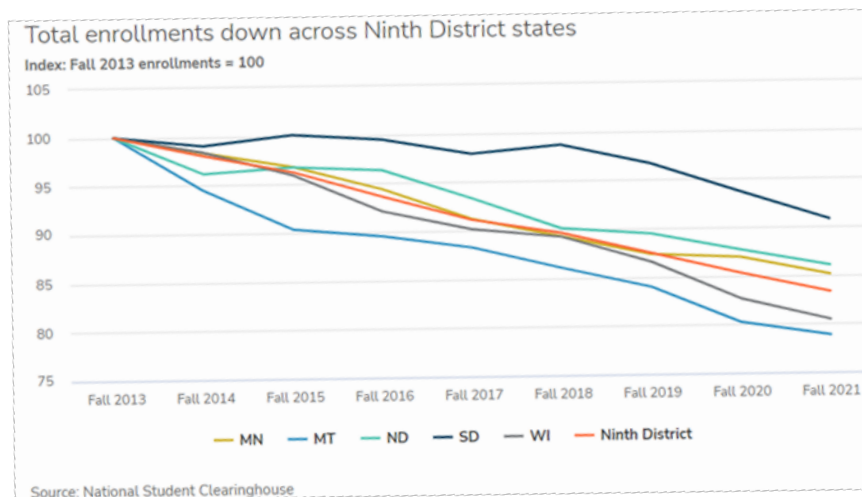
- Marriage & Family Therapy

Minors

- British Studies
- Ethics
- Ethics Interdisciplinary
- Philosophy
- Philosophy Interdisciplinary
- Religious Studies
- Theatre

House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee 1/19/23

By that measurement, enrollment in the Minnesota State system declined by 27.9% between fiscal years 2013 and 2022. The schools experiencing the largest drops were:

- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, 45.7%;
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College, 43.2%;
- Inver Hills Community College, 42.8%;
- Northland Community and Technical College, 42.5%;
- Hennepin Technical College, 41.9%; and
- St. Cloud State University, 41.5%.

By comparison, the largest school in the system, Minnesota State University, Mankato, saw its enrollment fall only 7.9% over the same period. Southwest Minnesota State University is 10.7% smaller than a decade ago.

Total enrollments down across Ninth District states

Index: Fall 2013 enrollments = 100

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

SCSU, along with many universities nationwide, is dealing with a significant enrollment decline. Research has found the student population at SCSU has dropped by almost 50 percent since 2010.
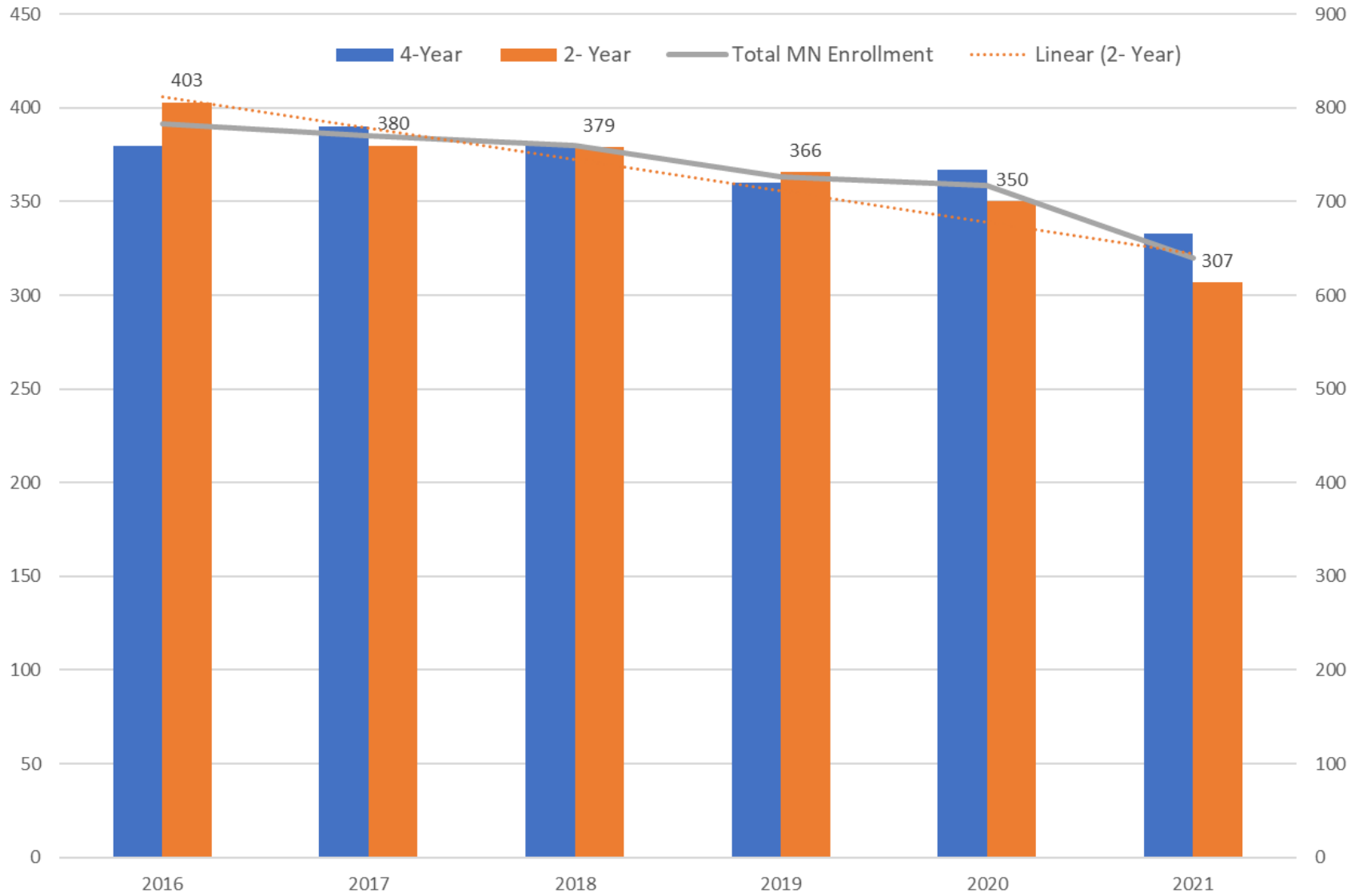
Impact to Higher Education is Still Unfolding

- The educational needs of our workforce is driven mostly by business cycles (labor availability), not technology
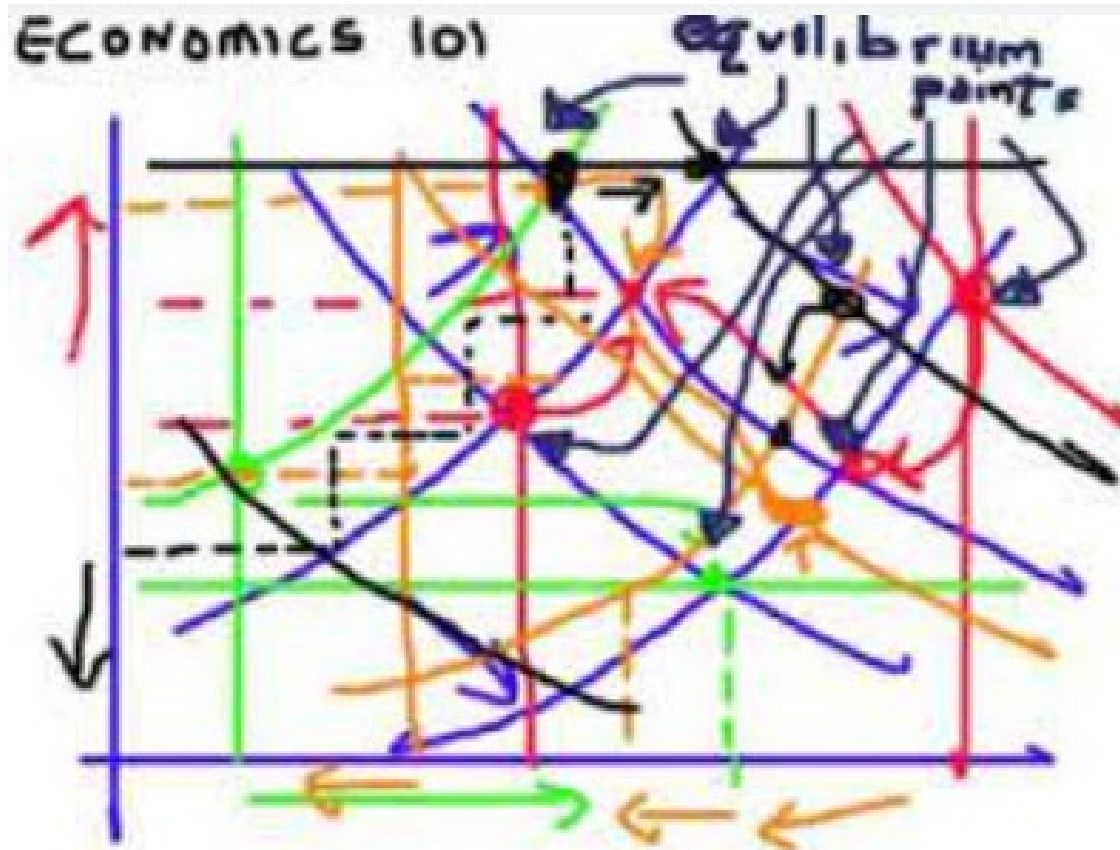
Minnesota's Share of Job Openings Requiring High School Diploma or Less

Source: DEED, Job Vacancy Survey
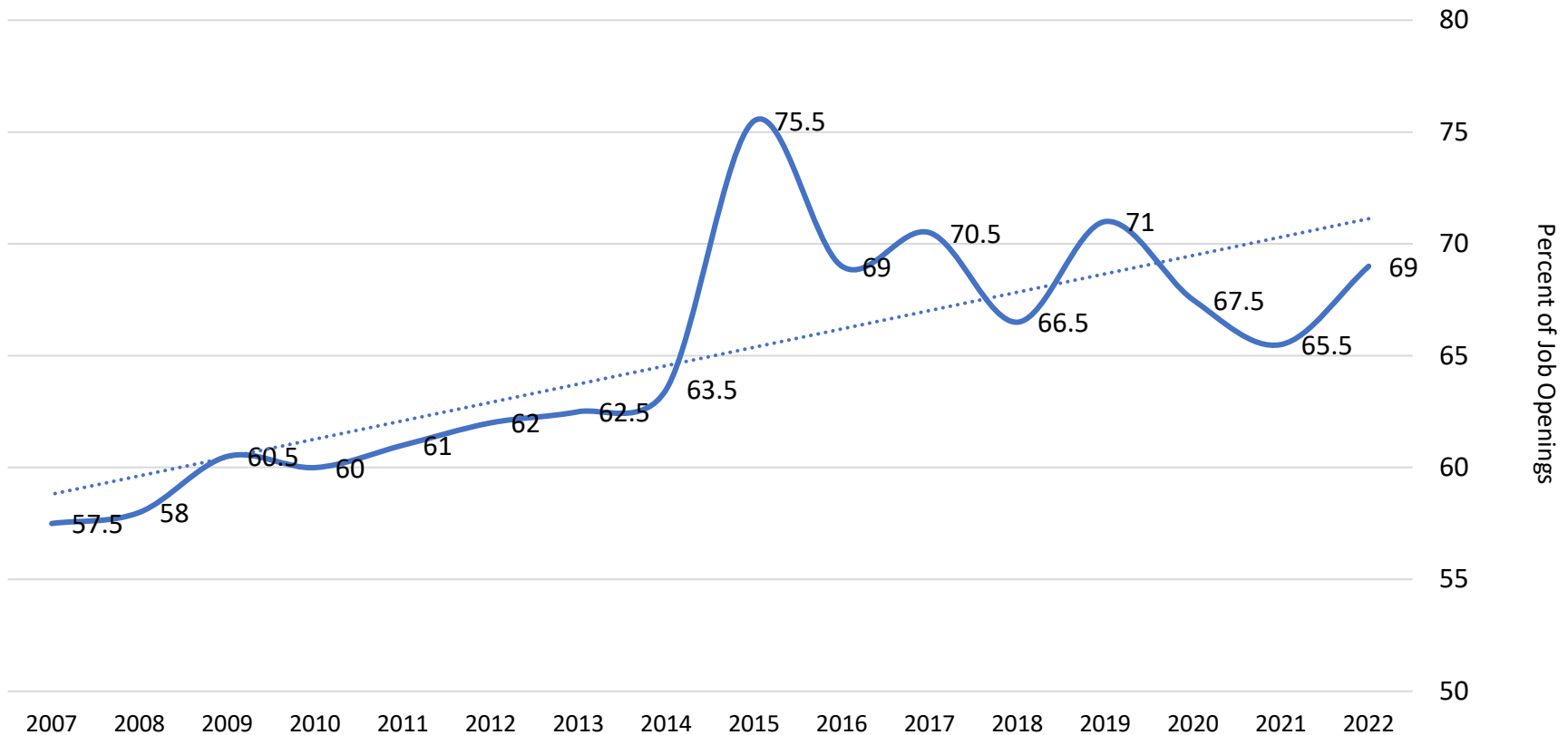
Recent High School Graduate Enrollment Trends in EDR 6W and 8

Are you asking yourself "why did Luke just tell us all that?"

What is Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Your District?
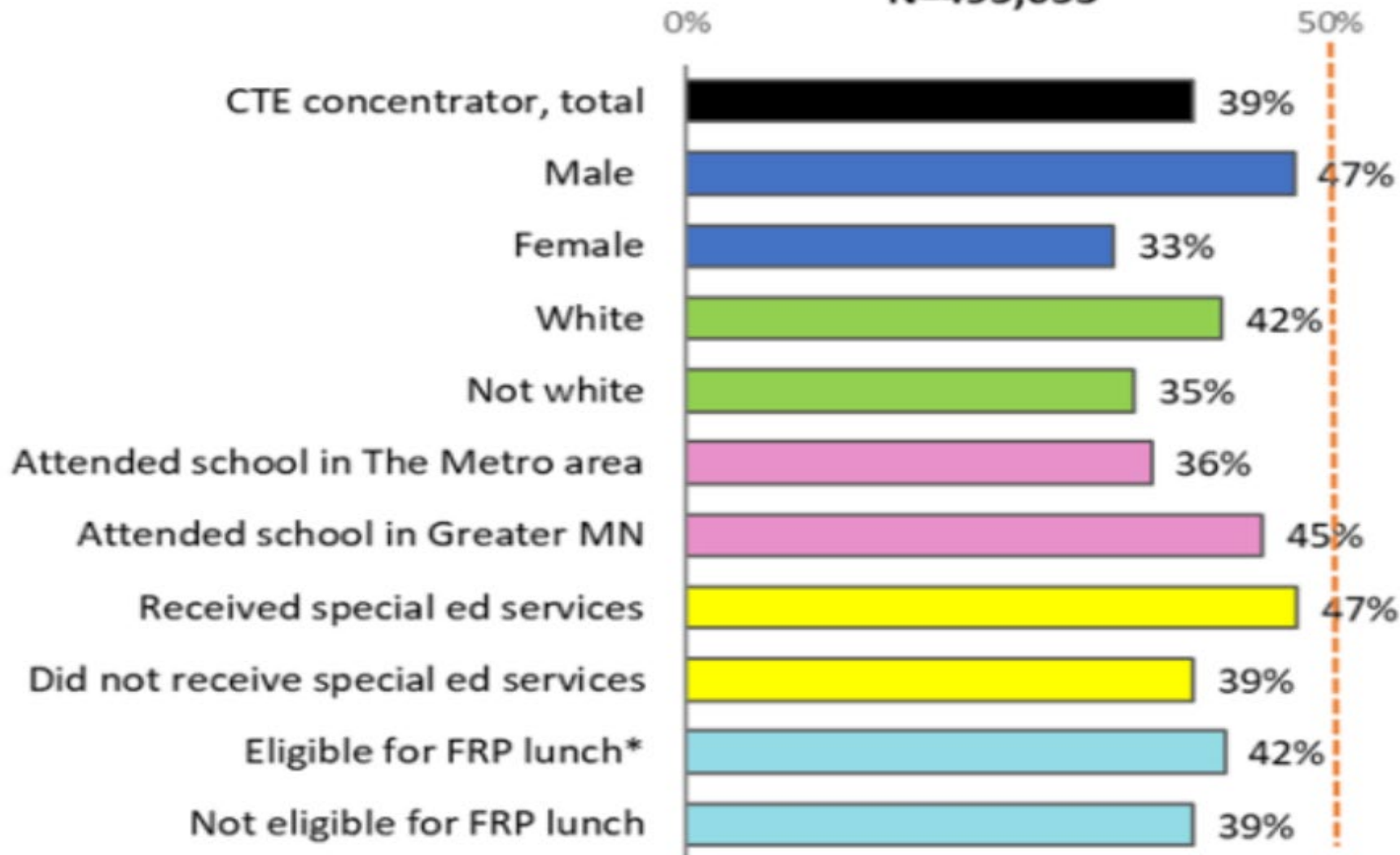
Career Exploration

AND

Technical Skills Training?

Who is CTE for?

Rates of CTE concentrator participation by demographic characteristics
High school graduation 2009-2017
N=495,053

Category	Rate
CTE concentrator, total	39%
Male	47%
Female	33%
White	42%
Not white	35%
Attended school in The Metro area	36%
Attended school in Greater MN	45%
Received special ed services	47%
Did not receive special ed services	39%
Eligible for FRP lunch*	42%
Not eligible for FRP lunch	39%

*Participation in the national Free/Reduced Price lunch program is a proxi for family income
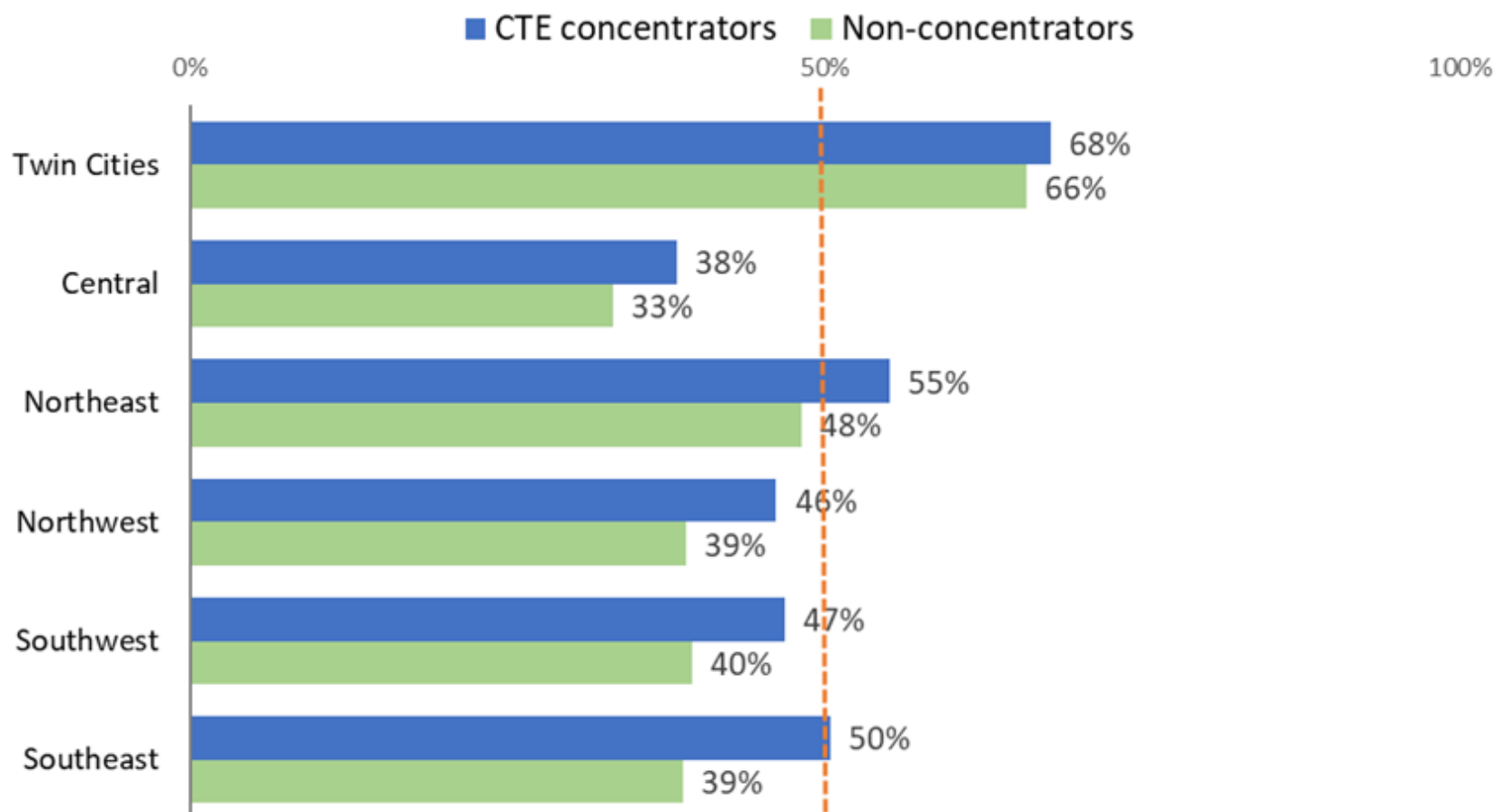Source: Author's calculations based on data from SLEDS

CTE is a successful local workforce retention strategy

Employment retention in the region five years after high school
Graduation cohorts 2010-2016
N=333,194*

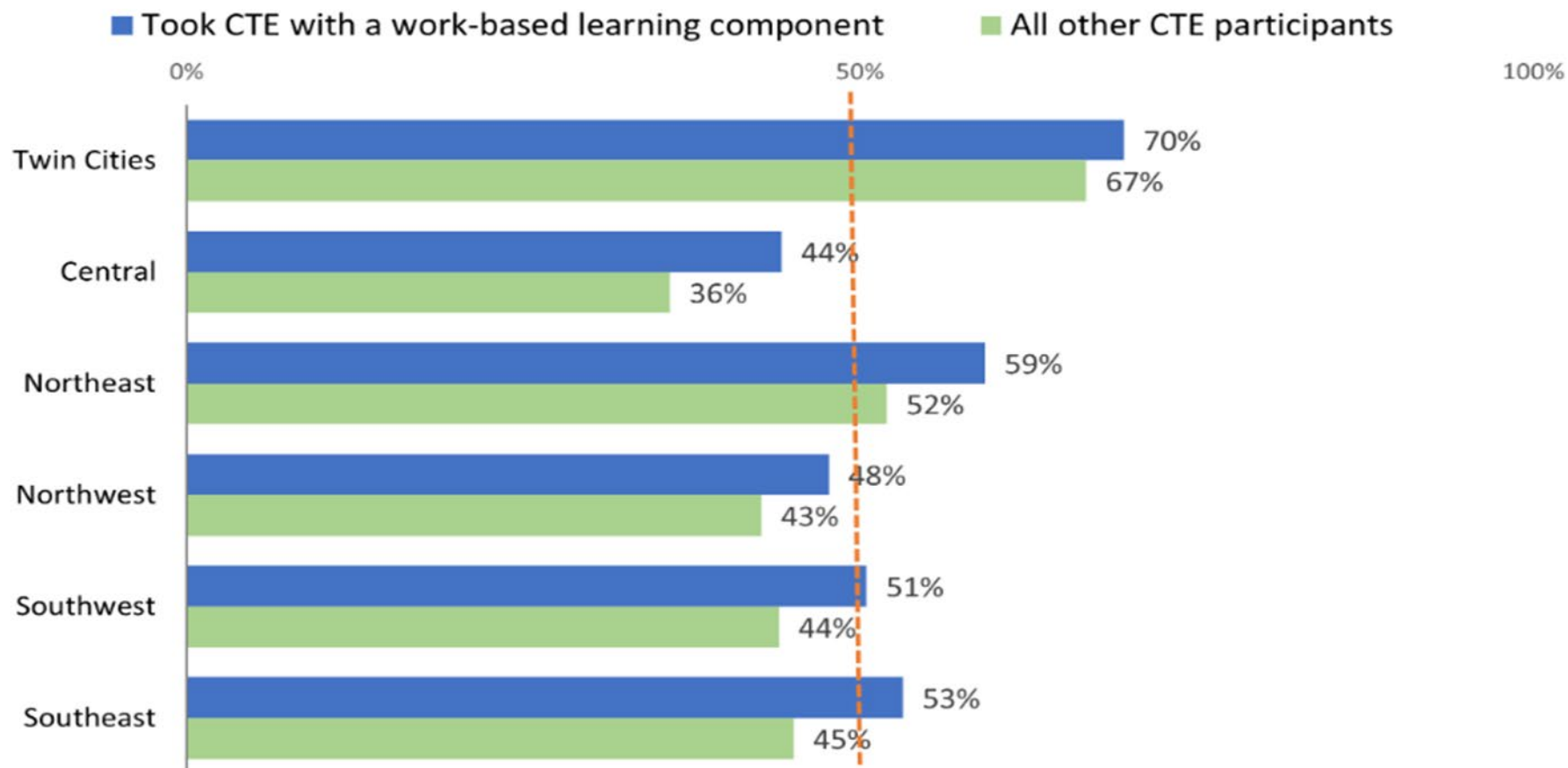■ CTE concentrators ■ Non-concentrators

Region	CTE concentrators	Non-concentrators
Twin Cities	68%	66%
Central	38%	33%
Northeast	55%	48%
Northwest	46%	39%
Southwest	47%	40%
Southeast	50%	39%

Work retention in the region among CTE participants
Five years after high school
Graduation cohorts 2010-2016
N=268,327*

■ Took CTE with a work-based learning component   ■ All other CTE participants

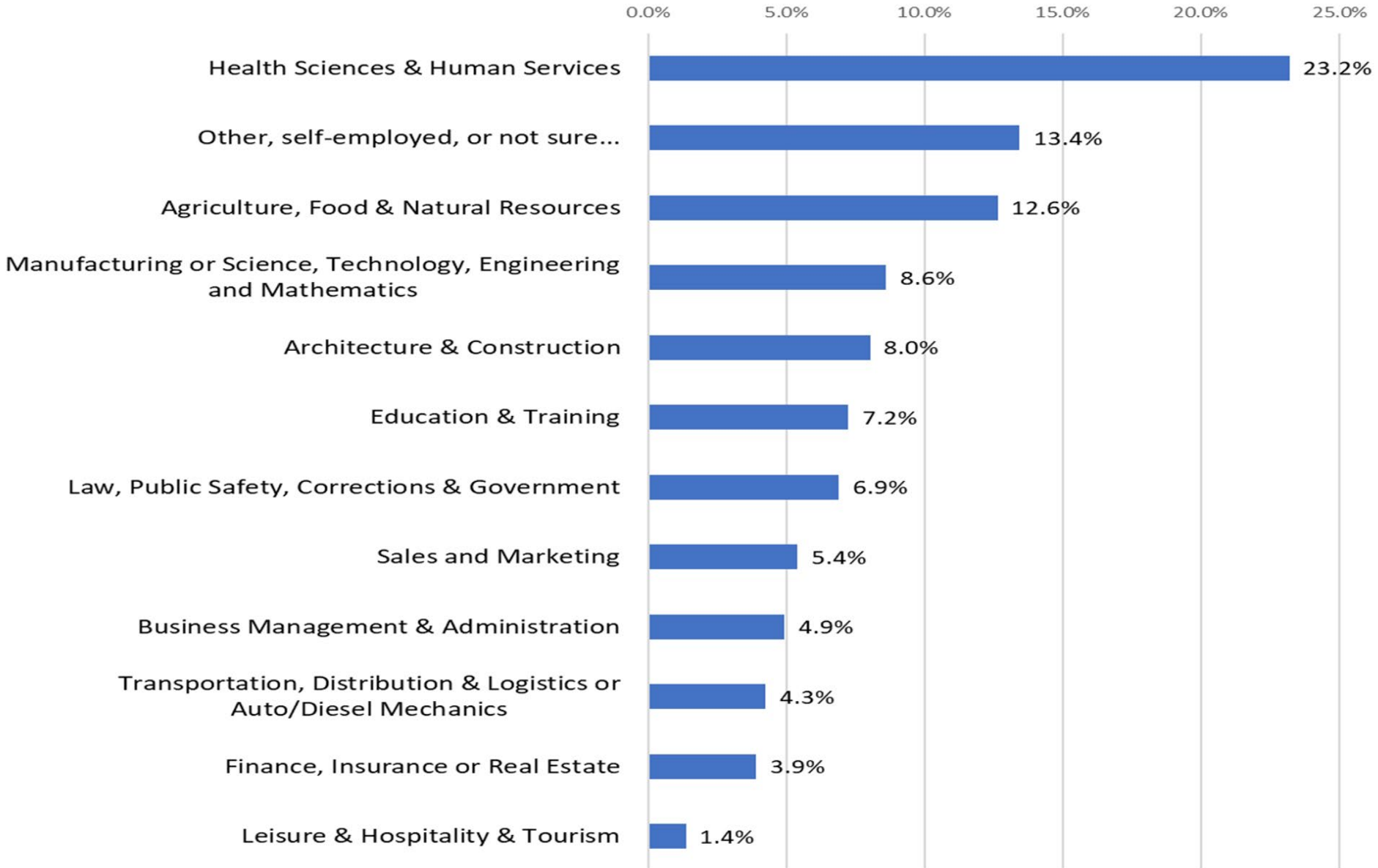| Region	Took CTE with a work-based learning component	All other CTE participants
Twin Cities	70%	67%
Central	44%	36%
Northeast	59%	52%
Northwest	48%	43%
Southwest	51%	44%
Southeast	53%	45%

* This figure represents students who took at least one CTE course in high school. Individuals with an employment record in Minnesota but unknown geographic location were excluded.

The likelihood of remaining in the same region for work among CTE participants who took work-based learning (blue bars) is even larger among students who completed apprenticeships or on-the-job training, which represent real job placement experiences for students. Table 2 shows how three Greater Minnesota regions – Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast – are on the forefront of offering exposure to real-world workplaces to Minnesota students through CTE.

2023 Southwest Career Expo Results
What type of job are you MOST interested in?

| Category	Percentage
Health Sciences & Human Services	23.2%
Other, self-employed, or not sure...	13.4%
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	12.6%
Manufacturing or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	8.6%
Architecture & Construction	8.0%
Education & Training	7.2%
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Government	6.9%
Sales and Marketing	5.4%
Business Management & Administration	4.9%
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics or Auto/Diesel Mechanics	4.3%
Finance, Insurance or Real Estate	3.9%
Leisure & Hospitality & Tourism	1.4%

2023 SW Career Expo
What would be the MOST helpful information to help decide what type of career you want?

- What I would be doing on the job
- How much money I could make
- How much education I need to acquire
- What type of schedule and hours are typical
- How many job openings there are
- What region of the state or country has the job
- If I can work from home

16.8%
5.2%
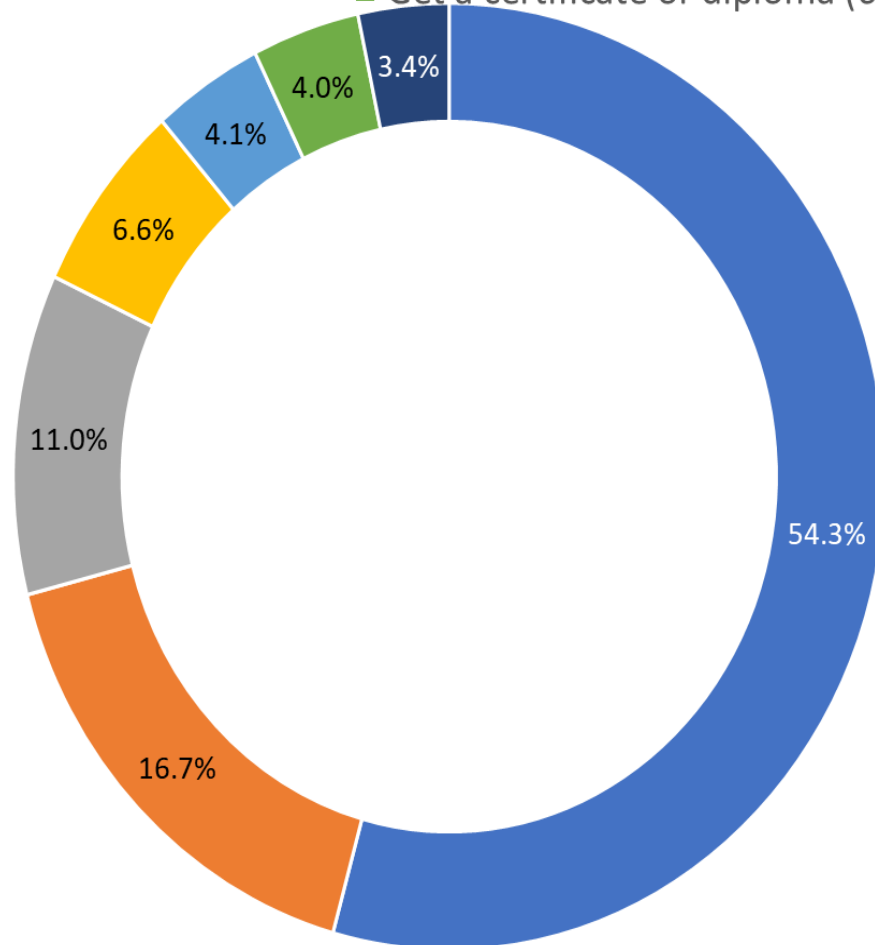27.9%
8.4%
2.9%
1.4%
37.2%
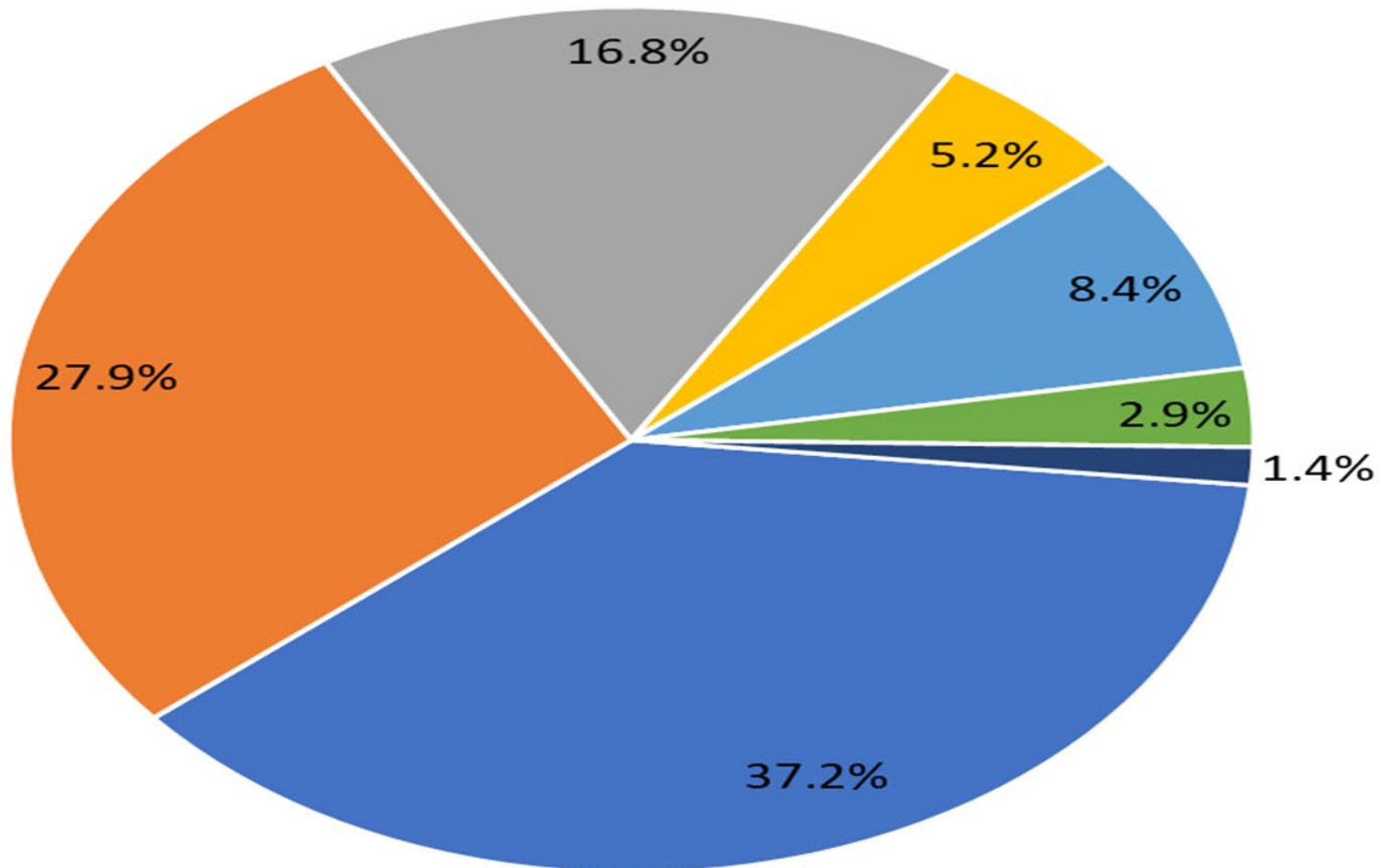
SW Career Expo
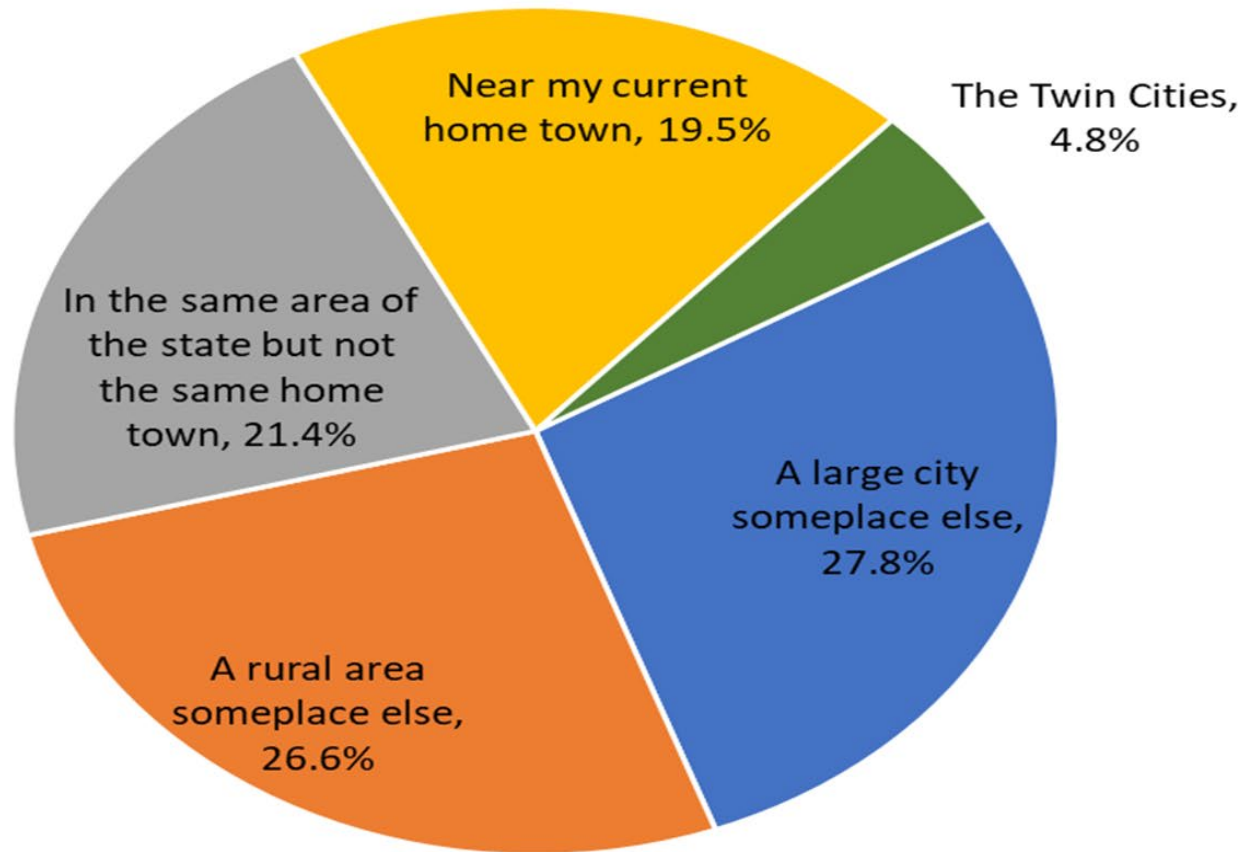How would you prefer to learn about careers?
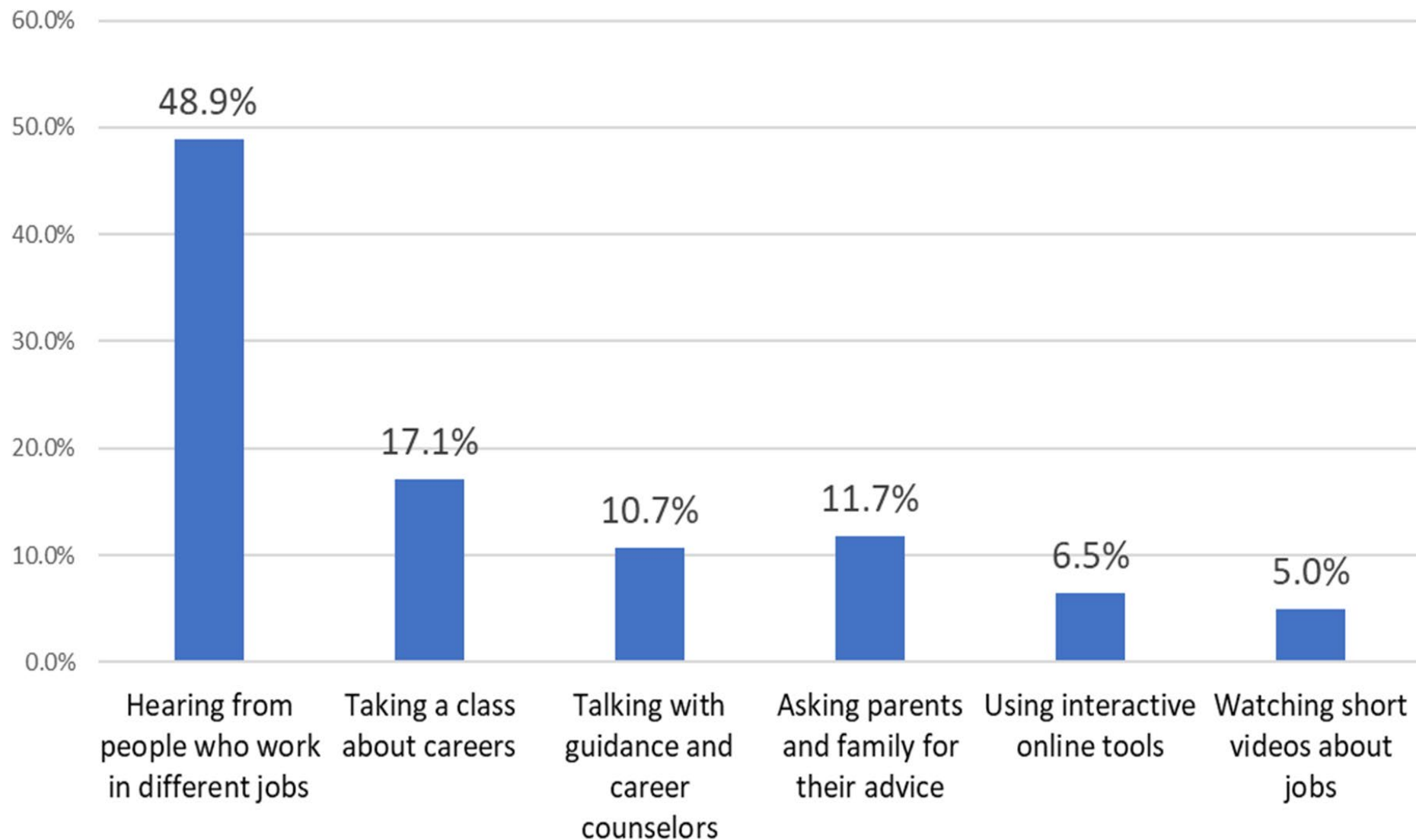
2023 SW Career Expo
What do you plan to do after high school?

- Get a bachelor's degree (4-year degree)
- Get an associate's degree (2-year degree)
- Get a job
- Other...
- Get an apprenticeship
- Get a certificate or diploma (6 months-1 year)
- Join the military

3.4%
4.0%
4.1%
6.6%
11.0%
54.3%
16.7%

2023 Southwest Career Expo
Where Do You Want To Live?

- Near my current home town, 19.5%
- The Twin Cities, 4.8%
- In the same area of the state but not the same home town, 21.4%
- A large city someplace else, 27.8%
- A rural area someplace else, 26.6%

Legend:
- A large city someplace else
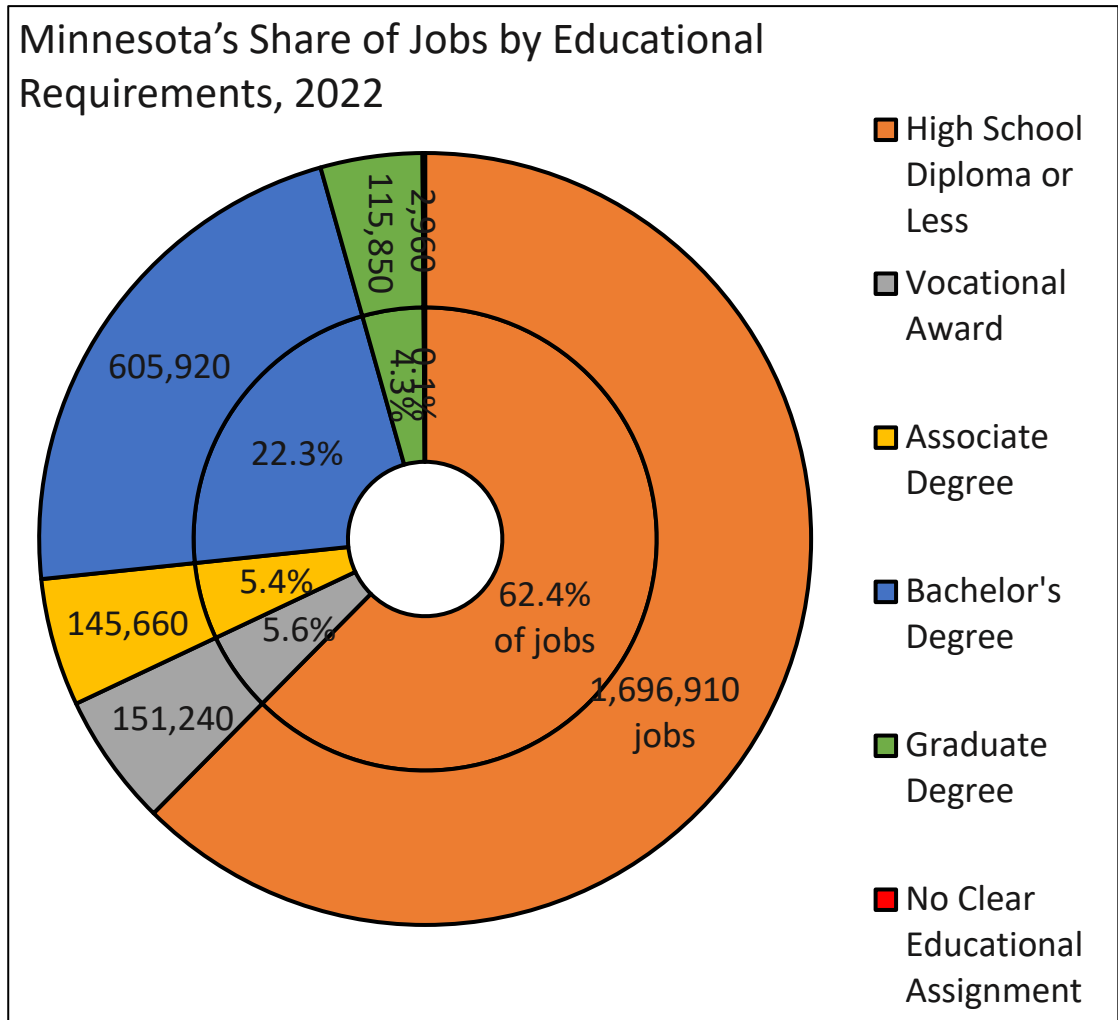- A rural area someplace else
- In the same area of the state but not the same home town
- Near my current home town
- The Twin Cities

You are an influencer

- How are we framing career opportunities?

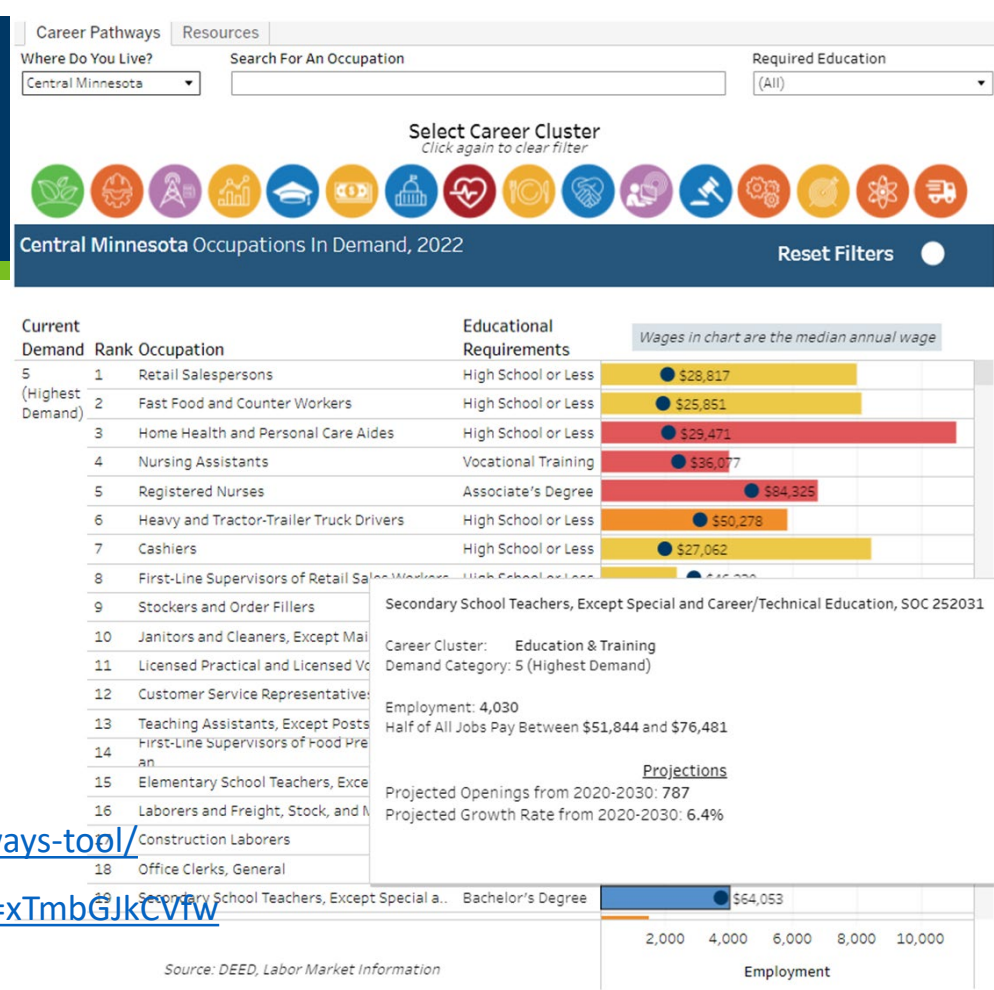- How do we think and talk about our communities?

Do we encourage deciding an education or a career path first?

Minnesota's Share of Jobs by Educational Requirements, 2022

Legend:
- High School Diploma or Less
- Vocational Award
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Degree
- No Clear Educational Assignment

Chart values: 605,920; 115,850; 2,960; 22.3%; 4.3%; 0.1%; 5.4%; 145,660; 5.6%; 151,240; 62.4% of jobs; 1,696,910 jobs

CTE can exist well beyond traditional definitions (Perkins Funded)

- **Understanding what occupations are in demand and crafting programs that align with your regional economy is incredibly important.**

  - Alignment helps students gain relevant skills, but it also ensures local employers are engaged at an appropriate rate

- **Are your students stuck from their schedule?**

  - If the state has minimum standards for core classes, then going above and beyond the minimum is better, right? ***Chat with Patrick Walsh at BBE!***

- **Are we spoon feeding our students?**

  - Do they understand the value proposition of high school?

- ***Our labor force growth is constricting our economy, we can't afford the inefficiencies of our educational past to continue.***

We have a few tools to help

•Career Pathways Tool

- https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/career-pathways-tool/
- Video tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTmbGJkCVfw

- Path to Career Success:
  - https://mn.gov/deed/data/lmi-reports/workforce-path-success/

- Video for parents and students:
  - https://youtu.be/9rNb-aefpMk

- Graduate Employment Outcomes:
  - https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/graduate-employment-outcomes/
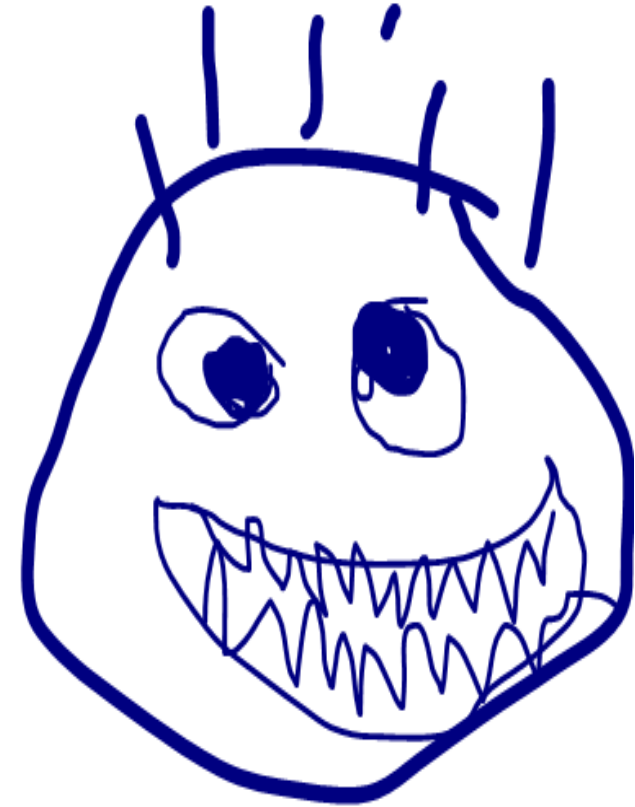
Thank You!

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Explore our research in more detail:

https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/trends/march-2022/cte.jsp
https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/review/june-2021/cte-minnesota.jsp
https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/trends/june-2022/high-school.jsp