

Work

A city's social and economic fortunes turn, in large part, on the ability of its residents to succeed in the labor force. If residents are not able to find work, or have no connection to the labor market at all, a city may need to promote better access to jobs networks and job opportunities for groups or neighborhoods left behind. Understanding more about the employed population is equally crucial. For that reason, understanding the kinds of jobs in which its residents work can help a city tailor education, economic development, and career development strategies that enhance economic security for working families.

Fargo exceeds national and peer rates for its share of adults participating in the labor force

Labor force participation rate, 2000

City	Population 16 and Over	In Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate
Fargo	73,615	55,251	75.1%
Sioux Falls, SD	96,178	71,988	74.8%
Lincoln, NE	179,490	131,691	73.4%
Madison, WI	175,269	128,050	73.1%
Fort Collins, CO	95,935	69,424	72.4%
Columbus, OH	555,471	394,564	71.0%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	523,787	371,018	70.8%
Indianapolis, IN	602,600	415,761	69.0%
Kansas City, MO	340,707	226,579	66.5%
Duluth, MN	70,664	45,419	64.3%
Nation	217,168,077	138,820,935	63.9%
Chicago, IL	2,215,574	1,358,054	61.3%

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P43, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Note: A person is considered to be “in the labor force” if they have a job or if they are unemployed but actively seeking work. It is a measure of engagement with work and the local economy.

In Fargo, less than 5 percent of children under age 17 live in a family with no adult workers which is less than half the national rate

Share of children living in families with no parents in labor force, 2000

City	Children living in Families	Children living in families with no parent in Labor Force	Percent
Fargo	18,629	853	4.6%
Sioux Falls, SD	29,764	1,456	4.9%
Fort Collins, CO	24,499	1,270	5.2%
Lincoln, NE	49,748	2,751	5.5%
Madison, WI	34,850	2,359	6.8%
Duluth, MN	17,399	1,232	7.1%
Nation	67,882,626	7,096,231	10.5%
Indianapolis, IN	186,615	20,247	10.8%
Columbus, OH	160,779	19,261	12.0%
Kansas City, MO	103,352	14,581	14.1%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	150,072	25,699	17.1%
Chicago, IL	675,233	146,055	21.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P46, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Fargo is a university community and a regional shopping center. Almost half of all Fargo jobs are in the areas of “Educational, Health and Social Services” and “Wholesale and Retail trade”

Share of workers by major industries, 2000

City	Educational, Health and Social Services	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Manufacturing	Professional, Scientific and Management Services	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Svc	Other industries
Madison, WI	30.0	12.9	8.4	10.4	9.1	29.2
Duluth, MN	29.5	17.3	5.6	6.0	11.6	30.0
Fort Collins, CO	24.3	15.0	13.9	11.5	10.3	25.0
Lincoln, NE	24.0	14.0	11.6	9.1	8.5	32.8
Fargo	23.6	20.3	8.3	6.0	9.5	32.3
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	23.4	12.9	11.6	12.9	10.0	29.1
Nation	19.9	15.3	14.1	9.3	9.2	32.1
Sioux Falls, SD	19.8	17.4	12.0	3.8	7.8	39.2
Columbus, OH	19.3	17.1	8.9	10.8	9.1	34.7
Chicago, IL	19.0	12.0	13.1	13.6	8.5	33.8
Indianapolis, IN	18.5	16.3	13.5	9.5	8.6	33.5
Kansas City, MO	18.3	14.6	10.1	10.8	9.4	36.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P49, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Fargo workers are employed in year-round part-time work at almost twice the national rate

Share of population 16+ by full-time/part-time employment status, 2000

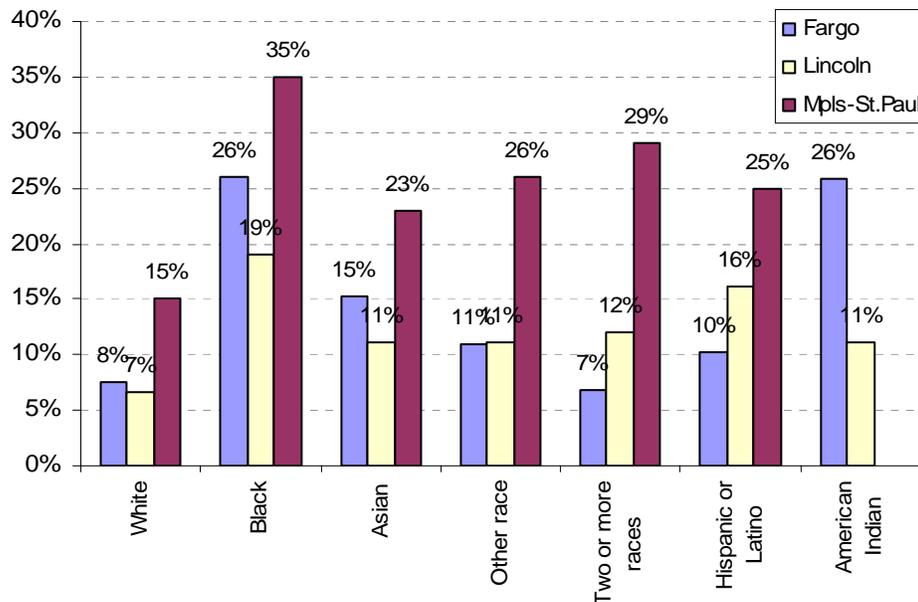
City	Full time All year	Full time Seasonal	Part time All year	Part time Seasonal	Did not work in 1999
Fargo	45.9%	13.7%	11.3%	10.8%	18.2%
Duluth, MN	35.2%	12.4%	11.2%	12.6%	28.6%
Madison, WI	43.0%	13.8%	10.0%	15.2%	17.9%
Fort Collins, CO	40.7%	15.7%	9.8%	16.0%	17.9%
Lincoln, NE	48.8%	11.4%	9.5%	11.4%	18.9%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	44.6%	13.1%	8.2%	10.8%	23.3%
Sioux Falls, SD	52.1%	11.1%	8.0%	9.1%	19.7%
Columbus, OH	48.9%	12.0%	6.8%	9.4%	22.8%
Nation	43.2%	11.8%	6.2%	8.4%	30.5%
Indianapolis, IN	48.5%	12.1%	5.8%	8.3%	25.4%
Kansas City, MO	47.0%	12.3%	5.3%	8.0%	27.3%
Chicago, IL	40.8%	13.0%	5.0%	7.4%	33.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P47, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Note: Full time all year – 35+ hours/week 48+ weeks/year, Full time seasonal - 35+ hours/week <48 weeks/year, Part time all year - <35 hours/week 48+ weeks/year, Part time seasonal - <35 hours/week <48 weeks/year.

Overall, auto use is high in Fargo but, one in four American Indian and Black households in Fargo do not have access to an automobile

Share of households without a vehicle by race/ethnicity, 2000



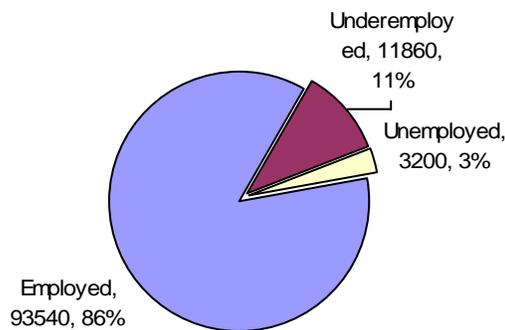
The unemployment rate in Fargo is well below the national average and has been for at least 10 years

Unemployment Rate, 2002

City	2002	1992	1982
Fargo	2.5%		
Sioux Falls, SD	2.6%		
Fort Collins, CO			
Lincoln, NE			
Madison, WI			
Duluth, MN			
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	4.7%		
Kansas City, MO	6.1%		
Columbus, OH	5.1%		
Indianapolis, IN	8.0%		
Chicago, IL	5.3%		
Nation	5.7%		

Source: SOCDs - HUD

Employment Status of workers in Fargo Moorhead Labor force



“Underemployed” workers have indicated interest in changing jobs and have the skills to warrant a higher level of employment.⁸

% of underemployed	...willing to change jobs for designated hourly wage or less
10%	\$9.11
25%	\$11.38
50%	\$15.24
75%	\$22.18

⁸ The Fargo Moorhead MSA Labor Availability Survey, The Pathfinders (June 2004), p. 8.