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## LABOR FORCE ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND SALARY INFORMATION

MEASURE		MONTH	MOST RECENT	YEAR EARLIER	% CHANGE
Unemployment Rate	FM MSA	JAN 2026	3.4%	3.0%	
	US	JAN 2026	4.7%	4.4%	
Labor Force	FM MSA	JAN 2026	154,745	153,577	0.8%
	US	JAN 2026	169,612,000	169,814,000	-0.1%
Employed	FM MSA	JAN 2026	149,436	148,975	0.3%
	US	JAN 2026	161,670,000	162,347,000	-0.4%
Wage Growth - Total Wages and Average Annual Salary	Cass	Q3 2025	\$2,206,631,589 \$69,056	\$2,148,301,789 \$66,976	2.7%
	Clay	Q3 2025	\$270,791,596 \$54,860	\$262,128,131 \$52,936	3.3%

Notes: Unemployment Rate, Labor Force & Employed data are not seasonally adjusted. Most recent labor statistics are estimates generated monthly through the LAUS program with frequent revisions as updated data becomes available. Wage information sourced from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

## HOME BUILDING PERMITS, VALUES AND RENT

### BUILDING PERMITS

YEAR TO DATE	JAN 2026	JAN 2025	% CHANGE
Total	3	9	-67%
Single Family	3	9	-67%
Multi-Family	0	0	

\*Twinhomes are included in multi-family numbers

### HOME VALUES AND RENT

	MEDIAN HOME VALUE	MEDIAN GROSS RENT: 2 BEDROOM
<b>M MSA</b>	<b>\$289,100</b>	<b>\$985</b>
Sioux Falls, SD MSA	\$295,900	\$1,038
Minneapolis MN MSA	\$374,000	\$1,553
Denver, CO MSA	\$603,800	\$1,961
Des Moines, IA MSA	\$267,400	\$1,166
Omaha, NE MSA	\$268,600	\$1,125

Data for building permits sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's Building Permits Survey; housing starts data excludes residential remodel permits. Data for median home value and median gross rent sourced from American Community Survey 2024 5-year Estimates.



## COST OF LIVING AND COMMUNITY STATISTICS

METRO AREA	CURRENT AVERAGE EARNINGS	COST OF LIVING INDEX	COST OF LIVING ADJUSTED CURRENT AVERAGE EARNINGS	AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL LIVING WAGE FOR FAMILY OF 3
<b>Fargo Moorhead MSA</b>	\$80,002	101.1	\$79,131	3.01	\$84,866
Sioux Falls, SD MSA	\$78,860	105.5	\$74,749	3.04	\$85,953
Minneapolis, MN MSA	\$96,824	103.8	\$93,279	3.10	\$109,814
Denver, CO MSA	\$106,540	115.0	\$92,643	3.07	\$117,078
Des Moines, IA MSA	\$88,344	98.4	\$89,781	3.08	\$88,351
Omaha, NE MSA	\$79,639	99.1	\$80,362	3.12	\$93,517

The average cost of living for all participating places equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places. Living Wage data provided for two adult wage earners and 1 child; amount is required annual income before taxes sourced from livingwage.mit.edu. Current average earnings of QCEW Employees, cost of living index, cost of living adjusted current average earnings sourced from Lightcast 2026.1, www.economicmodeling.com. Average family size sourced from American Community Survey 2024 5-year Estimates.

METRO AREA	VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE	PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE
<b>Fargo Moorhead MSA</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>25.43</b>
US	3.38	16.44

Crime rate data sourced by Lightcast 2026.1, www.economicmodeling.com

## TRANSPORTATION

### TOTAL PASSENGERS AT HECTOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JAN 2026	JAN 2025	% CHANGE	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% CHANGE
96,532	93,994	3.0%	96,532	93,994	3.0%

Data sourced from Hector International Airport, Fargo, ND

## CONSUMER SPENDING

### TAXABLE SALES (CASS COUNTY)

4th QTR 2026	4th QTR 2025	% CHANGE	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	% CHANGE
\$830,379,924	\$811,036,485	2.39%	\$3,214,358,907	\$3,411,530,718	-5.78%

Data sourced from ND Office of State Tax Commissioner

### TAXABLE SALES (CLAY COUNTY)

Annual 2023	Annual 2022	% CHANGE
\$496,230,331	\$469,545,355	5.7%

Data Sourced from MN Department of Revenue