

# Mankato job losses continue

By Tim Krohn

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**MANKATO** — The Mankato/North Mankato area is continuing to see job losses while most other regional cities and the state are gaining, according to the June unemployment figures released by the state Thursday. The Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area (all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties) was the only outstate large city to have an over the year employment loss.

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The local employment loss of 800 is a 1.5 percent drop.

Meanwhile there was an over the year gain of 100 for Duluth and 900 for both Rochester and St. Cloud.

Minnesota has gained more than 11,000 jobs in the last 12 months, representing the first year over the year employment growth in the state since April 2008.

Minnesota's unemployment rate fell from 7 percent to 6.8 percent in June, but that figure is not as positive as it looks because the drop came from people who have given up actively looking for jobs and who are then not counted as unemployed.

Minnesota's "labor force participation" rate fell 0.4 percent points to 72.2 percent as those seeking jobs either retired or became discouraged and gave up looking.

Minnesota lost 3,700 jobs during June as temporary U.S. Census jobs ended, state officials said.

Minnesota's 6.8 percent unemployment rate is still well below the nation's 9.5 rate.

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