



news release

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Year over Year Job Numbers Increase for 20 Consecutive Months

Month to Month numbers decrease for public sector, but increase for private sector

Mankato, MINN (May 17, 2012) – The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) today released job figures for our regional Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that includes Blue Earth and Nicollet counties.

When it comes to judging the economic strength of a region relative to jobs, one of the best sources is Current Employment Statistics (CES) data, which measures the number of paid employees in a particular region, excluding self-employment and farm jobs. According to April CES data released today Greater Mankato had the highest year over year job gain for any MSA in the state for the 6th consecutive month, with 700+ more jobs in April 2012 than April 2011, a 1.4% increase. The gain was a result of a private sector year over year increase of 776 jobs and public sector decrease of 24 jobs.

April Year Over Year Job Increases for MN MSAs

Table with 3 columns: Area, Year Over Year Job Increase, Year over Year Job Increase %. Rows include Mankato-North Mankato MSA, St. Cloud MSA, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA, Rochester MSA, and Duluth MSA.

Source: CES, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)
Compiled by: Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. | greatermankato.com | 507.385.6640 | info@greatermankato.com

And while the area has seen uncharacteristic month to month job loss the past two months (a period that typically sees job gains), Greater Mankato Growth President & CEO Jonathan Zierdt stresses the numbers ought to be put in the proper context. "Our region has seen year over year job gains, for each of the past 20 months, and some of these gains have been quite dramatic. It's possible that our region's job numbers have stabilized over the past few months. Also, the private sector actually added jobs between March and April, while the public sector shed jobs."

For more CES job number data and graphics, visit greatermankato.com/business-jobsdata.php.

Another measure of area employment is the **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**. LAUS is not as much an indicator of the strength of the business climate, because it measures the total number of people who live in a particular region who are employed, rather than the businesses in the region employing them. Still, LAUS employment numbers continue to look good, with a March 2012 regional unemployment rate of 5.1%, compared to 5.7% a year earlier. For more LAUS unemployment data, visit greatermankato.com/business-unemploymentdata.php.

About Greater Mankato Growth

Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) is committed to advancing business for a stronger community. As the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development organization serving the regional marketplace, GMG advances business through: existing business support, new business growth, business promotion, talent development, public affairs, community marketing, visitor attraction and servicing and civic engagement.

About the Regional Economic Development Alliance

In 2009, the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) began with a progressive group of communities and counties joining together with Greater Mankato Growth in business attraction and development efforts. REDA participants include Eagle Lake, Lake Crystal, Le Sueur, Madison Lake, Mankato, Saint Peter and Blue Earth County. By working together, the group is able to efficiently provide regional and individual city and county information to businesses interested in the Greater Mankato marketplace. As a result of promoting the individual strengths of each community, along with the combined assets of the regional marketplace, all experience collective success.

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