

Kandiyohi County Demographic & Economic Profile

Demographic Characteristics

Anchored by the regional center of Willmar, Kandiyohi County is currently experiencing a small population decline, losing just over 400 people from the county since the turn of the century. In fact, Kandiyohi County was one of 47 counties in state that lost population between 2000 and 2007, declining -1.0 percent. With 40,784 people, Kandiyohi County is now the 23rd largest county in Minnesota, dropping from 21st largest in 2000 and from 21st largest in 1990, although it has 2,023 more people than in 1990.

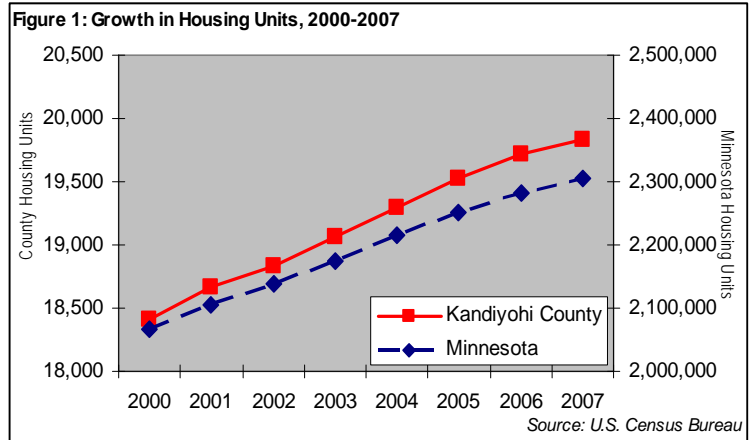
Kandiyohi County had the 23rd largest natural increase in the state between 2000 and 2005 – with 921 more births (2,778) than deaths (1,857), but showed a decrease in net migration (-637 people). Population projections from the state demographic center show returning growth over the next 30 years, with Kandiyohi County expected to see a 2.5% increase from 2005 to 2015 before inching up to more than 44,000 people by 2035. (See Table 1.)

Table 1: Kandiyohi Co. Population Projections, 2005-2035

Age Group	2005 Pop.	2015 Pop.	2025 Pop.	2035 Pop.	2005 - 2035
0-14 years	8,056	8,320	8,300	7,940	-1.4%
15-24 years	5,940	5,280	5,410	5,410	-8.9%
25-34 years	4,797	5,050	4,590	4,550	-5.1%
35-44 years	5,468	4,700	5,030	4,570	-16.4%
45-54 years	6,676	5,550	4,790	5,110	-23.5%
55-64 years	4,418	6,270	5,360	4,640	5.0%
65 years & over	6,284	7,490	10,470	11,970	90.5%
Total Population	41,639	42,660	43,950	44,190	6.1%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

The described population loss seems strange, however, in comparison to the number of new housing units added in Kandiyohi County from 2000 to 2007. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Kandiyohi County added just over 1,400 housing units, which averages out to 202 new housing units each year. The biggest residential boom occurred from 2000 to 2005, before slowing from 2006 to 2007. (See Figure 1.) Of the 13 counties in Central Minnesota, Kandiyohi County had the tenth highest median sales price for homes through September of 2007, at \$138,483. Unlike other counties in the region, the number of sales occurring in Kandiyohi County went up 2.5 percent from 2006 to 2007 and the median sales price increased 8.6 percent, while the number of foreclosures rose just 12 percent from 2005 to 2008, according to data from HousingLink and the State Demographic Center. According to 2007 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey program, Kandiyohi County had the 35th-highest median household income in Minnesota, at \$46,136. Kandiyohi County's median household income was \$9,500 lower than Minnesota's (\$55,664).



Willmar is a regional employment center, and Kandiyohi County has one of the highest rates of residents staying within their home county for work in the state (71.9%). Workers also drive in from surrounding counties including Stearns, Renville, Meeker, Swift, and Chippewa. At the same time, residents from Kandiyohi County also drive to other counties for work, primarily the Twin Cities and St. Cloud metro areas including Ramsey, Stearns, Hennepin, Anoka, and Meeker Counties. (See Table 2.)

Table 2: Commuting Patterns for Kandiyohi County

Residence	Workplace	Count	Residence	Workplace	Count
Kandiyohi Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	14,945	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	14,945
Stearns Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	520	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Ramsey Co. MN	906
Renville Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	449	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Stearns Co. MN	867
Meeker Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	434	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Hennepin Co. MN	826
Swift Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	386	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Anoka Co. MN	375
Otter Tail Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	336	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Meeker Co. MN	343
Chippewa Co. MN	Kandiyohi Co. MN	308	Kandiyohi Co. MN	Chippewa Co. MN	336
All Other Counties	Kandiyohi Co. MN	1,879	Kandiyohi Co. MN	All Other Counties	2,174
Total Primary Jobs in Kandiyohi Co.		19,257	Total Primary Jobs held by Kandiyohi Co. Residents		20,772

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Worker Origin-Destination Database, 2006

Industry Employment Characteristics

With 1,412 business establishments providing 23,039 covered jobs and paying out average weekly wages of \$595 in the second quarter of 2008, Kandiyohi County's economy is still expanding despite the state and national recession. Between 2007 and 2008, employment in Kandiyohi County increased 0.4 percent, or 91 net new covered jobs. In comparison, the state of Minnesota lost jobs at a -0.2 percent clip. And since the second quarter of 2000, Kandiyohi County has added 1,364 net new covered jobs, a 6.3 percent expansion. Over that same time frame, the state of Minnesota has added about 75,000 jobs, a 2.9 percent increase. Kandiyohi County also had 3,010 nonemployer establishments in 2006 as well as 1,286 farms in 2002.

The healthcare and social assistance industry provides the most covered jobs in the county, with 23.5 percent of total employment, or 5,419 covered jobs. Due to increased demand and expanded services, the health care and social assistance industry grew 5.7 percent from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008, adding 291 net new jobs. In contrast to other areas of the state, manufacturing gained 33 jobs from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008, now comprising about 13.5 percent of countywide employment. Construction, which had 188 firms and 1,341 jobs, suffered job loss over the last year, losing -85 employees due to the housing slowdown. Retail trade is the next largest industry in Kandiyohi County, providing 3,028 jobs at 242 business establishments. Like many other counties that were seeing declines in retail employment, Kandiyohi County had -36 net fewer jobs from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008. The related accommodation and food services industry suffered through job losses as well, dropping -39 jobs over the last year.

Educational services provided 6.8 percent of total employment in the county, or 1,577 jobs; and public administration offered 1,074 jobs, or 4.7 percent. After gaining 41 net new jobs, finance and insurance reported 592 covered jobs through the second quarter of 2008, 2.6 percent of countywide jobs. Wholesale trade also added 4 jobs from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008, and was one of the highest paying industries in the county with \$935 average weekly wages. Other important industries in the county included transportation and warehousing, information, professional and technical services, and other services, excluding public administration. (See Table 3.)

NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms 2008	Number of Jobs 2008	Avg. Weekly Wage 2008	Percent of Total County Jobs	Numeric Change in Firms 07-08	Numeric Change in Jobs 07-08	Percent Change in Jobs 07-08	Percent Change in Wage 07-08
0 - Total, All Industries	1,412	23,039	\$595	100.0%	24	91	0.4%	2.9%
23 - Construction	188	1,341	\$817	5.8%	0	-85	-6.0%	0.0%
31 - Manufacturing	68	3,104	\$705	13.5%	-1	33	1.1%	4.6%
22 - Utilities	3	63	\$1,216	0.3%	0	2	3.3%	1.7%
42 - Wholesale Trade	81	1,004	\$935	4.4%	-2	4	0.4%	6.4%
44 - Retail Trade	242	3,028	\$408	13.1%	7	-36	-1.2%	1.5%
48 - Transportation & Warehousing	70	410	\$589	1.8%	2	13	3.3%	4.4%
51 - Information	29	441	\$533	1.9%	0	-138	-23.8%	5.8%
52 - Finance and Insurance	80	592	\$793	2.6%	1	41	7.4%	0.5%
53 - Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	46	115	\$524	0.5%	0	-17	-12.9%	9.2%
54 - Professional & Technical Services	80	550	\$692	2.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
56 - Administrative & Waste Svcs. (2007 data)	64	873	\$363	3.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
61 - Educational Services	23	1,577	\$764	6.8%	-1	28	1.8%	5.4%
62 - Health Care & Social Assistance	115	5,419	\$586	23.5%	6	291	5.7%	-0.2%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	19	334	\$228	1.4%	-1	-23	-6.4%	9.1%
72 - Accommodation & Food Services	82	1,435	\$206	6.2%	7	-39	-2.6%	6.2%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin.	104	763	\$317	3.3%	0	76	11.1%	-2.2%
92 - Public Administration	54	1,074	\$698	4.7%	7	125	13.2%	-6.8%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program; 2nd Qtr. 2007 to 2nd Qtr. 2008 data

For more information on the demographic, labor market, and economic statistics for Kandiyohi County, please call Cameron Macht at 320-231-5174 ext. 7535 or e-mail at cameron.macht@state.mn.us.