

LAKES AREA **FACT BOOK**

*A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE
ALEXANDRIA/DOUGLAS COUNTY AREA.*



Alexandria Area
Economic Development
Commission

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AAEDC STAFF



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AAEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & FUNDERS

AAEDC Board of Directors & Representation



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Alexandria Township



Rick Paulsen
City of Alexandria



Corliss Stark
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Dr. Kevin Kopischke
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Kevin Gorghuber
Carlos Township



Mary New
Hudson Township



Deena Steffl
LaGrand Township



Mark Grandgenett
Lake Mary Township

Invited Guests:

Paul Anderson - Douglas County
Al Crowser - Alexandria Light & Power
Joel Dahlheimer - Alexandria Township
Coni McKay - Alexandria Lakes Area
Chamber of Commerce
H. Dan Ness - City of Alexandria
Dave Wolf - Gardonville Cooperative

AAEDC Funders:

Funding provided by the Lakes Area Economic
Development Authority (LAEDA) whose
membership is comprised of the City of Alexandria,
City of Garfield, Alexandria Township, and
LaGrand Township; with supporting annual
appropriations from the Townships of Brandon,
Carlos, Hudson, Lake Mary, and Douglas County.

POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS

Population Estimates By Area:

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008
City of Alexandria	11,043	11,323	11,481	12,415
City of Garfield	300	302	304	308
City of Osakis (D.C.)	1,428	1,441	1,440	1,446
Alexandria Township	4,130	4,139	4,174	3,342
Brandon Township	638	633	632	640
Carlos Township	2,054	2,054	2,092	2,106
Hudson Township	726	723	728	741
LaGrand Township	4,330	4,374	4,421	4,437
Lake Mary Township	1,093	1,093	1,103	1,132
Douglas County	35,125	35,477	35,827	36,151

Source: www.demography.state.mn.us

Unlike many Greater Minnesota communities, the population of Douglas County continues to grow at a rapid pace, and is projected to continue growing into the future. Most significantly, the Douglas County area is projected to maintain and grow its “under 45” age group, who are in their prime working years. The presence of a wide variety of employers, along with the lakes and natural environment, continues to draw and retain new residents of all ages.

Projected Douglas County Population Based on Age:

Age	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
0 to 4	1,824	2,170	2,110	1,990	1,910	1,870	1,870
5 to 9	1,892	2,160	2,480	2,440	2,350	2,230	2,210
10 to 14	2,143	2,070	2,330	2,620	2,580	2,480	2,390
15 to 19	2,364	2,220	2,140	2,360	2,610	2,570	2,490
20 to 24	2,654	2,280	2,210	2,080	2,240	2,340	2,360
25 to 29	2,854	2,660	2,430	2,340	2,190	2,300	2,390
30 to 34	1,949	2,900	2,810	2,620	2,520	2,350	2,470
35 to 39	2,061	2,160	2,940	2,900	2,750	2,640	2,470
40 to 44	2,499	2,210	2,270	2,950	2,950	2,810	2,700
45 to 49	2,683	2,680	2,380	2,410	3,030	3,040	2,910
50 to 54	2,380	2,830	2,840	2,520	2,530	3,070	3,120
55 to 59	2,037	2,630	3,110	3,110	2,770	2,720	3,240
60 to 64	1,753	2,280	2,880	3,370	3,370	2,990	2,930
65 to 69	1,565	1,810	2,350	2,930	3,410	3,390	3,030
70 to 74	1,405	1,530	1,780	2,330	2,890	3,340	3,340
75 to 79	1,318	1,230	1,340	1,590	2,090	2,590	3,010
80 to 84	936	1,010	960	1,070	1,280	1,710	2,140
85+	1,183	1,060	1,100	1,120	1,230	1,450	1,900
Total Population	35,500	37,890	40,460	42,750	44,700	45,890	46,970

Source: www.demography.state.mn.us

STATISTICS

Median Household Incomes:

The state of Minnesota recorded the 11th highest median household income in the United States for 2007 at \$55,664. Douglas County ranked 47th (out of 87) for the highest median household income in MN in 2007 at \$44,295.

	1995	2000	2007	1995-2007 % Change	2000-2007 % Change
Douglas County	\$31,388	\$39,270	\$44,295	41.1%	10.3%
Grant County	\$28,194	\$35,939	\$39,285	39.3%	9.3%
Otter Tail County	\$29,598	\$36,710	\$40,721	37.6%	10.9%
Pope County	\$28,232	\$36,802	\$43,090	52.6%	17.1%
Stearns County	\$36,170	\$44,764	\$51,489	42.4%	15.0%
Todd County	\$25,595	\$33,332	\$39,655	54.9%	19.0%
Minnesota	\$37,483	\$49,170	\$55,664	48.5%	13.2%
United States	\$34,076	\$41,990	\$50,740	48.9%	20.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Website - State & County QuickFacts

While the median household income level for Douglas County is lower than the state and national averages, it does exceed the median household income levels of nearly all other west-central MN Counties.

Douglas County Average Annual Employment and Average Weekly Wage by Industry:

Industry	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Employment	Wage	Employment	Wage	Employment	Wage	Employment	Wage
Goods Producing	4,039	\$727	4,126	\$747	3,997	\$793	3,950	\$799
Natural Resources & Mining	81	\$353	81	\$376	83	\$394	96	\$365
Construction	1,215	\$751	1,231	\$767	1,085	\$833	972	\$830
Manufacturing	2,746	\$727	2,814	\$749	2,829	\$789	2,882	\$803
Services Providing	13,177	\$488	13,377	\$513	13,453	\$535	13,730	\$628
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	4,260	\$472	4,185	\$502	4,100	\$520	4,231	\$543
Information	509	\$842	542	\$882	586	\$951	590	\$950
Financial Activities	566	\$625	557	\$698	565	\$740	562	\$780
Professional & Business Service	975	\$488	980	\$512	1,000	\$534	944	\$572
Education & Health	3,610	\$598	3,641	\$629	3,745	\$639	3,896	\$658
Leisure & Hospitality	2,222	\$195	2,310	\$200	2,271	\$205	2,241	\$215
Other Services	450	\$320	472	\$291	460	\$319	460	\$325
Public Administration	585	\$699	605	\$698	605	\$718	633	\$720
Total	17,216		17,503		17,450		17,678	

Source: Minnesota Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). MN DEED website.

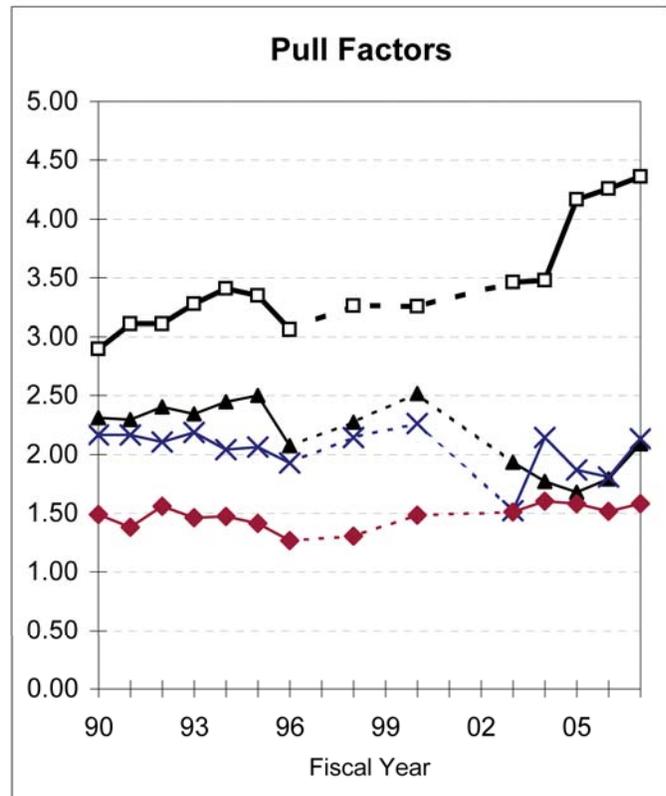
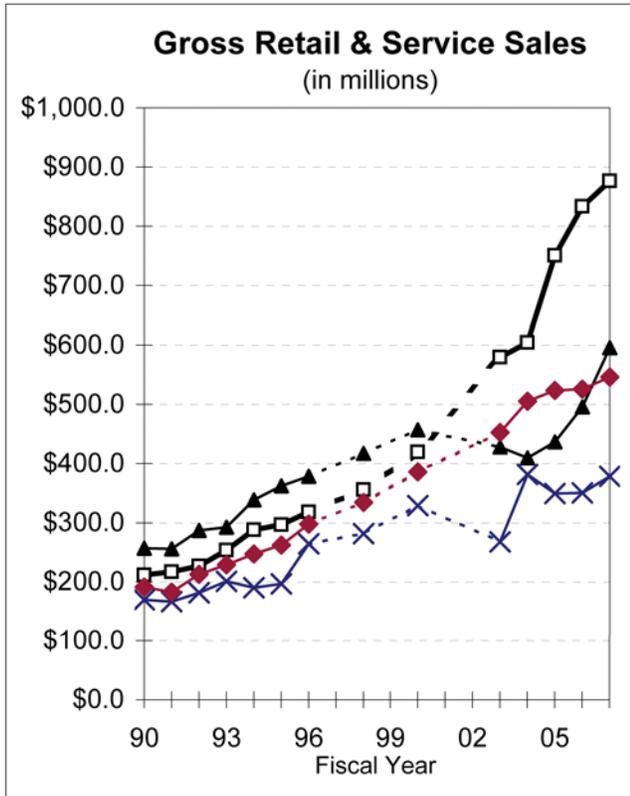
While some industry sectors in Douglas County saw a small decrease in employment from 2007 to 2008, overall the total number of employees County-wide increased. Along with this increase in employees came mild increases in weekly wages paid for nearly all industry sectors.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Comparison with Like Trade Centers:

Information about like/competing trade centers can provide a useful means of comparison when assessing a community's retail trade strength. Comparison cities are selected based on geographic proximity, relative size, and availability of data. Some caution is warranted in the interpretation of these comparisons however, since retail sales data is provided for only a limited number of communities.

The "Pull Factors" illustrated below are calculated using taxable sales. Although taxable sales do not capture the full extent of sales in stores with a large number of untaxed goods, like grocery and apparel stores, this data is audited by the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Since sales tax laws apply statewide, all cities are compared on the same basis.



Alexandria
 Bemidji
 Detroit Lakes
 Fergus Falls

Pull Factors provide a measure of sales activity in a locality by dividing the local per capita dollar sales by the state average per capita dollar sales. A Pull Factor of 1 indicates that the locality has the same amount of dollar sales activity per capita as the state of Minnesota. Pull Factors greater or less than 1 indicate a greater or lesser amount of sales, respectively.

To request a copy of the "2007 Retail Trade Analysis for Alexandria & Douglas County," please contact the AAEDC.

City	2007 Population	Gross Sales (\$ millions)	Taxable Sales (\$ millions)	Number of Firms	Per Capita Taxable Sales	Pull Factors (Taxable Sales)
Alexandria	11,187	\$876.15	\$474.25	526	\$42,393	4.36
Bemidji	13,419	\$595.69	\$272.61	478	\$20,315	2.09
Detroit Lakes	8,030	\$378.79	\$166.50	320	\$20,734	2.13
Fergus Falls	13,697	\$546.52	\$210.72	389	\$15,384	1.58

Source: 2007 Retail Trade Analysis Report: Alexandria & Douglas County, Minnesota

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Douglas County Area Property Sales - Historical:

2005 Property Type	Units Sold	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. Days on Market
Residential	327	\$123,416	129
Residential w/acreage	51	\$182,265	121
Lakeshore Homes	120	\$303,866	133
Condo/Townhome	34	\$176,708	217
Condo/Townhome -Lake	7	\$266,957	152
Farm w/Buildings	-	-	-
Commercial	35	\$206,434	151

2006 Property Type	Units Sold	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. Days on Market
Residential	311	\$136,356	137
Residential w/acreage	56	\$174,373	135
Lakeshore Homes	107	\$285,844	133
Condo/Townhome	45	\$159,899	216
Condo/Townhome -Lake	16	\$273,124	203
Farm w/Buildings	1	\$270,500	167
Commercial	31	\$159,959	176

2007 Property Type	Units Sold	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. Days on Market
Residential	275	\$157,162	127
Residential w/acreage	67	\$216,076	156
Lakeshore Homes	121	\$369,093	153
Condo/Townhome	35	\$185,391	160
Condo/Townhome -Lake	15	\$259,298	206
Farm w/Buildings	1	\$825,000	253
Commercial	30	\$148,299	190

2008 Property Type	Units Sold	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. Days on Market
Residential	257	\$156,405	143
Residential w/acreage	56	\$185,018	170
Lakeshore Homes	82	\$365,731	146
Condo/Townhome	27	\$156,844	177
Condo/Townhome -Lake	14	\$292,779	200
Farm w/Buildings	1	\$470,000	144
Commercial	9	\$236,267	184

Source: Greater Alexandria Area Association of Realtors

Property Sales Trends 2005-2008:

Property Type	% Change Units Sold	% Change Avg. Sale Price	% Change Avg. Days on Market
Residential	-21.4%	26.7%	10.9%
Residential w/acreage	9.8%	1.5%	40.5%
Lakeshore Homes	-31.7%	20.4%	9.8%
Condo/Townhome	-20.6%	-11.2%	-18.4%
Condo/Townhome-Lake	100%	9.7%	-5.3%
Farm w/Buildings	0%	73.8%	-13.8%
Commercial	-74.3%	14.5%	21.9%

Property Information:

The Alexandria/Douglas County real estate market continues to be strong, due in large part to the area's lakes/natural environment and stable job market. In addition, the area has a strong draw for retirees and seasonal property owners which augments the number of sales throughout the region.

The overall Douglas County real estate market saw an 18.2% decrease in sales from 2007 to 2008, with the majority of property types seeing a slight dip in average selling price. Contrary to the short-term, the four year trend of sales prices has seen solid increases in nearly all categories. Property highlights for 2008 include the increased average sale price of commercial and condo/townhome-lake properties.

For additional information on the Alexandria area/Douglas County real estate market or to locate a real estate agent, please contact the Greater Alexandria Area Association of Realtors at (866) 281-9786 or www.alexandriamnrealtors.com.

Year	Total Units Sold
2005	574
2006	567
2007	545
2008	446

LAKES AREA FACT BOOK

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Area Taxable Market Values:

Area	2007 Totals	2008 Totals	2009 Totals
Alexandria Twshp	\$589,771,200	\$632,365,500	\$516,869,400
Brandon Twshp	\$134,927,300	\$147,136,500	\$160,582,600
Carlos Twshp	\$455,223,500	\$480,550,300	\$499,495,000
Hudson Twshp	\$138,613,000	\$153,066,900	\$162,846,600
LaGrand Twshp	\$570,508,200	\$591,381,700	\$608,861,600
Lake Mary Twshp	\$177,447,000	\$194,509,700	\$201,373,600
City of Alexandria	\$1,177,672,800	\$1,247,093,700	\$1,370,656,700
City of Garfield	\$22,035,000	\$23,099,600	\$22,594,000
City of Osakis	\$107,297,400	\$111,233,700	\$108,931,900
Douglas County	\$5,038,064,900	\$5,423,120,100	\$5,594,626,000
Becker County	\$3,279,796,500	\$3,810,950,700	\$4,269,099,300
Beltrami County	\$2,386,728,900	\$2,659,177,700	\$2,869,002,900
Crow Wing County	\$9,026,637,800	\$10,350,333,700	\$11,392,140,900
Itasca County	\$4,200,137,700	\$4,790,061,100	\$5,405,246,700
Kandiyohi County	\$4,070,360,300	\$4,374,326,800	\$4,792,727,500
Otter Tail County	\$6,390,539,400	\$7,352,142,800	\$8,110,312,700

Sources: MN County Assessors

Property Tax

Classification Rate:

Commercial & Industrial - The first \$150,000 of market value classification rate is 1.50%. Value over \$150,000 classification rate is 2.00%.

State General Tax - Class 3 - commercial/industrial is one type of property that must pay the state general tax. The MN Dept. of Revenue calculates the tax rate annually and sets it on November 1. Each year there will be a different rate but only one rate for the entire state. The tax rate is 45.535% for taxes payable in 2009. This rate applies to the net tax capacity of the property and is a small percentage of a property's market value. The percentage varies by property class.

Tax Extension Rates:

Tax extension rates for taxes payable in 2009 for all types of property located in the City of Alexandria:

City Rate	County Rate	School Rate	HRA	LAEDA	Total Rate
34.067%	42.522%	13.426%	1.433%	0.777%	92.225%

Our communities are currently undertaking a number of infrastructure projects to increase the amount and quality of services available to local residents and businesses. 2009 property taxes are helping to fund projects including a School District 206 Building Referendum, the construction of a new Douglas County Jail and Public Works building, and numerous other projects within the City of Alexandria and throughout Douglas County.

2008 Regional Tax Rate Comparison:

City	Total Tax Capacity	2008 NET TAX CAPACITY RATES				
		County	City	School	Special	Total
Alexandria	\$12,578,809	42.45%	33.63%	11.88%	2.24%	90.20%
Brainerd	\$9,110,707	29.72%	44.34%	17.72%	1.33%	93.11%
Detroit Lakes	\$9,027,103	42.60%	30.78%	11.56%	3.13%	88.06%
Fergus Falls	\$9,537,263	35.38%	42.86%	27.94%	1.24%	107.42%
Little Falls	\$5,371,692	50.39%	54.07%	11.82%	1.94%	118.22%
Monticello	\$17,312,075	31.65%	46.94%	25.25%	2.52%	106.36%
Moorhead	\$20,266,391	59.08%	31.54%	32.27%	4.03%	126.92%
Willmar	\$12,096,545	56.71%	28.09%	20.23%	2.50%	107.52%
St. Cloud	\$49,710,911	48.67%	40.76%	11.53%	2.80%	103.75%
Minneapolis	\$476,003,270	34.47%	56.29%	21.93%	6.77%	119.45%

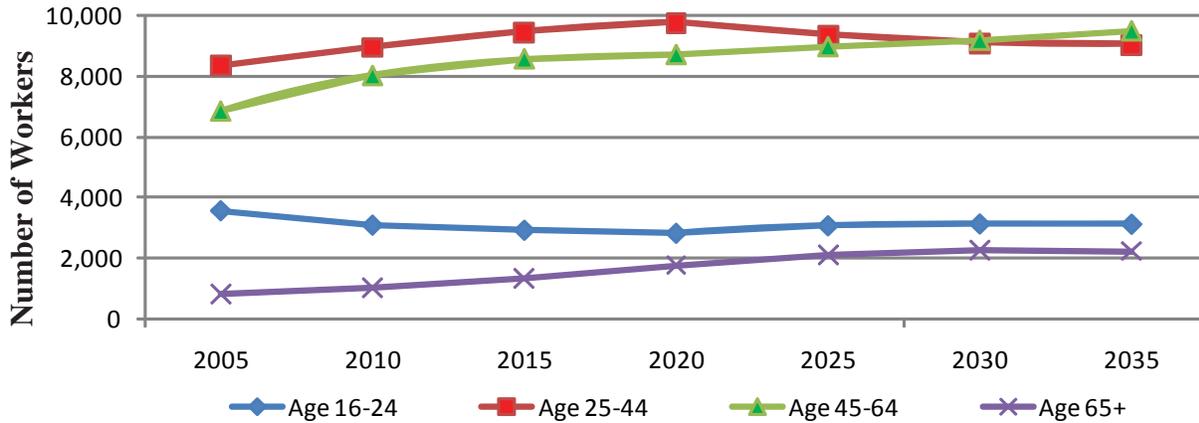
Source: League of Minnesota Cities - 2008 Property Tax Data Table

AREA WORKFORCE

Workforce:

The Douglas County labor force is growing in all age groups unlike other areas of the state, especially those in rural Minnesota. Specifically, Douglas County is seeing a general increase of individuals in their “prime working years,” from ages 25 to 54. The total Douglas County labor force is projected to increase by 22% or 4,290 people by 2035.

Douglas County Labor Force Projections, 2005 - 2035

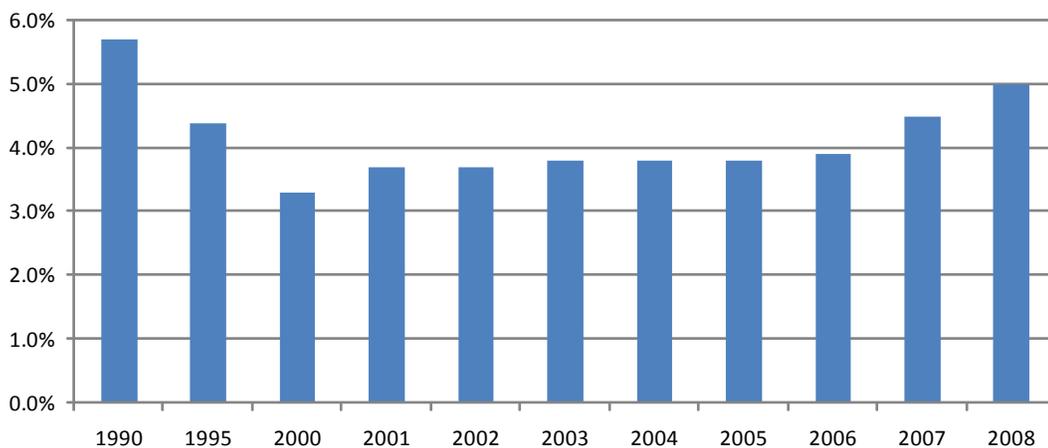


Source: www.demography.state.mn.us

Douglas County Labor Force Projections: 2005-2035

Age	Estimated 2005	Projected 2010	Projected 2015	Projected 2020	Projected 2025	Projected 2030	Projected 2035	% Change 2005-2015	% Change 2005-2035
16 to 24	3,560	3,080	2,910	2,810	3,060	3,120	3,110	-18.3%	-1.3%
25 to 44	8,350	8,950	9,450	9,770	9,380	9,090	9,050	13.2%	8.4%
45 to 64	6,830	8,000	8,550	8,690	8,950	9,160	9,470	25.2%	38.7%
65+	820	1,010	1,320	1,760	2,090	2,250	2,220	61.0%	170.7%
Total	19,560	21,040	22,230	23,030	23,480	23,620	23,850	13.7%	21.9%

Douglas County Historical Unemployment Rates:



1990	5.7%
1995	4.4%
2000	3.3%
2001	3.7%
2002	3.7%
2003	3.8%
2004	3.8%
2005	3.8%
2006	3.9%
2007	4.5%
2008	5.0%

Source: MN Department of Employment & Economic Development
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

Major Highways:

Alexandria is located in the heart of West Central Minnesota and provides great access to the great plains region of the central United States. The community is located on Interstate 94, and is 130 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul, 100 miles southeast of the Fargo-Moorhead area, 66 miles northwest of St. Cloud, 215 miles southwest of Duluth and 215 miles northwest of Rochester.

Two ten-ton State Highways add to the area's accessibility: State Highway 29 running north/south and State Highway 27 running east/west.



Workforce Commuting Patterns:

Local businesses draw 17,236 employees from throughout the region to work within Douglas County. Douglas County supplies 83.7% of the workforce (14,434 people), while the surrounding counties supply the remaining 16.3% of workers (2,802 people). Douglas County is a net importer of labor.

The average commute time for workers in the Douglas County area is 13.8 minutes (2000 data) - compared to the U.S. average of 25.5 minutes.

Commuting Patterns for Douglas County			
Workers in Douglas County		Residents of Douglas County	
County of Residence	Count	County of Workplace	Count
Douglas County	14,434	Douglas County	14,434
Pope County	729	Pope County	403
Todd County	594	Grant County	230
Otter Tail County	508	Stearns County	219
Grant County	255	Otter Tail County	212
Stearns County	243	Todd County	146
Other	473	All other Counties	639
Total Workforce	17,236	Total Workforce	16,283

Source: 2008 Alexandria & Douglas County Labor Market Profile - MN DEED

2008 Alexandria Area Traffic Volumes:

Location	Traffic Count Per Day
Downtown/Broadway (3rd to 22nd Ave)	18,300
South Broadway (22nd Ave to Interstate 94)	16,600
I-94 West of Hwy 29	16,800
I-94 East of Hwy 29	17,800
North Nokomis	17,900
Hwy 27 East (East of McKay Ave)	8,600
Hwy 27 West (West of Hwy 29)	6,300
Hwy 29 North (North of N. Nokomis St)	9,400
Hwy 29 South (South of I-94)	11,000

Source: 2008 Traffic Volumes; Municipality of Alexandria, MN; Minnesota Department of Transportation



INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

The Douglas County area is home to a variety of industry clusters that make up the well-balanced economic environment. This balanced economy has sustained the region through numerous economic recessions/downturns and continues to attract and retain new businesses and workers from throughout the nation. The large consumer base that relies upon regional businesses includes populations from a large number of west-central Minnesota counties and combines to build the business success of the entire region.

Major industry clusters within the Douglas County region include:

- **Manufacturing** - Packaging equipment manufacturing, automation/motion control, aluminum extrusion, plastic molding, food product manufacturing, welding, machining, painting/plating, and many more.
- **Health Care**: Primary and general care, elective procedures, specialty care, long-term care, senior care, dental, chiropractic, natural/homeopathic, supporting services, and specialty health care services.
- **Education**: Early childhood, K-12, higher education, and adult continuing education - various public and private educational opportunities are available.
- **Tourism**: Resorts, hotels, motels, campgrounds, parks, lakes, streams, forests, etc.
- **Retail**: Short and long-term consumer and business-to-business goods of many varieties.
- **Service**: Legal, financial, transportation, distribution, construction, wholesaling, insurance, etc.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS & INDUSTRIES

Employer	Industry Sector	Employees
Alexandria Public Schools (District 206)	Education	640
Douglas County Hospital	Health Care	620
Douglas Machine, Inc.	Packaging Equipment Manufacturer	548
Douglas County	Government	365
Tastefully Simple	Direct Selling Establishment	365
Knute Nelson	Nursing Home/Assisted Living	330
Alexandria Extrusion Company	Aluminum Extruded Parts	295
SunOpta Inc. - Companies of Alexandria	Dairy Product Manufacturing	253
3M - Alexandria	Abrasives Division	250
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center	Leisure & Hospitality	250
Central Specialities	Road Construction	250
Alexandria Technical College	Education	220
Bethany Community	Nursing Home/Assisted Living	220
Alexandria Clinic, P.A.	Health Care	200
Donnelly Custom Manufacturing Company	Plastic Molding Manufacturer	200
Brenton Engineering Company	Packaging Equipment Manufacturer	198
Henry's Foods Inc.	Grocery Product Wholesalers	170
Broadway Medical Center	Health Care	135
PrimeWest Health	Health Insurance Provider	121
ITW Heartland	Manufacturing	118
Aagard Group, LLC	Packaging Equipment Manufacturer	105
Innovative Companies	Nonresidential Building Construction/Service	100

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Airport

Chandler Field in Alexandria has an FBO and repair facility that provides maintenance for private aircraft, charter service, aviation fuel (100LL) and jet fuel, aircraft rental, flight instruction, and sightseeing flights. Charter service for as many as six or seven passengers is available seven days a week.

The airport has two paved runways: 5,100 feet long and 4,100 feet long with an ILS approach for Rwy 31 and VOR/GPS approach for 31 and 22.

Public Transit Services

Greyhound Bus Company runs daily to Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Fargo-Moorhead, Grand Forks, and Winnipeg areas.

Pickup: 308 3rd Ave E, Alexandria

Contact: (320) 762-0200 or (800) 454-2487

Rainbow Rider busses serve Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Todd and Traverse counties. Rainbow Rider is a public transit system with handicapped accessible busses and is available to all people in the five county area, offering door to door service. Advance notice assures your ride on Rainbow Rider's schedule, but even last minute trips can often be accommodated.

Bus Service Hours (in Alexandria): Monday - Friday: 6 am - 8 pm, and Saturdays 8 am - 4 pm. Hours of travel vary in other communities.

Contact: (320) 283-5061 or (800) 450-7770

www.rainbowriderbus.com

Executive Express, provides "transportation relaxation" airport shuttle service to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Along with Alexandria, the company serves 40 central and western MN cities on a scheduled basis multiple times per day, seven days a week. They also provide private charter service and same day package delivery service. Executive Express specializes in transportation to/from the Alexandria area, Melrose, Sauk Centre, Albany, Avon, Saint Cloud, Clearwater, Monticello, Rogers, Maple Grove, Plymouth, Albertville, Brooklyn Park, Little Falls, Brainerd, Camp Ripley, Litchfield, Spicer, Atwater, Willmar, Paynesville, and Cold Spring. Daily service also from Morris, Cyrus, Starbuck, Glenwood, Wadena, Browerville, and Long Prairie and other cities by special arrangement.

Contact: (320) 253-2226 or (888) 522-9899

www.executiveexpress.biz



There are two local taxicabs and a medical transportation service available in the Alexandria area:

Taxi Guy (320) 815-5353

Viking Taxi (320) 808-5000

Medi-Van (800) 422-0976

Parcel/Postage Service

United Parcel Service (UPS) has a terminal and a UPS Store in Alexandria, which allows earlier delivery service and later pick-up in the afternoon to businesses in the community. UPS offers next day service and three-day delivery to world-wide points.

There are pickups and post office boxes conveniently located throughout the City offering express mail service to area businesses, and guaranteeing overnight delivery to most addresses in the United States.

Several expedited services are also available: Airborne Express, Federal Express, DHL, and Speedee Delivery.

Trucking Service

There are several major Carriers for Hire & Courier Services and 3 personal moving companies located in the Alexandria area.

LOCAL UTILITIES

Alexandria Light & Power (ALP):



Alexandria Light & Power (ALP) provides electricity to the City of Alexandria, the surrounding lakes area, and the City of Nelson. ALP has over 9,200 residential, commercial, and

industrial customers and serves an area of approximately 35 sq. miles. ALP's four substations, transmission, and distribution systems have all recently been reconstructed to meet the growing needs of the community and provide reliable power in the future. Protecting the environment is a top priority for ALP while also recognizing the growing demand for electricity. ALP offers wind energy, a renewable energy source, through its energy partner Missouri River Energy Services' RiverwindsSM Program. ALP also has several energy efficiency programs that will help customers reduce power costs and operate more efficiently. Information on all ALP programs can be found on their website.



Alexandria Light & Power - (320) 763-6501 - www.alputilities.com

Runestone Electric Association (REA):



Runestone Electric Association (REA) is an electric distribution cooperative serving residents of Douglas County, as well as portions of six other West Central Minnesota counties.

Runestone owns and maintains 2,900 miles of line and 18 substations. Over 13,350 accounts are served, representing residential, farm, commercial, industrial, and irrigation accounts. Heartland Security is a subsidiary of REA that provides residential & commercial security systems. REA is a Touchstone Energy cooperative, a national alliance of electric cooperatives.

**Runestone Electric Association - (320) 762-1121 - (800) 473-1722
www.RunestoneElectric.com**

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association:



Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association is an active cooperative serving the greater Douglas County area. Gardonville provides local and long distance telephone service, toll-free service, dialup and high-speed Internet, web-hosting, computer protection service, television service and, most recently, DIRECTV, cellular service and netbooks. In addition, our subsidiary, Brandon Communications, provides services which include two-way radio communications, pagers, data cabling, emergency lighting solutions, AstroStart remote car starters and cellular car kits and antennas. In May 2009, Gardonville opened a retail location in the Midway Mall in Alexandria, which enabled them to better serve existing and new customers. Gardonville's mission is to provide state of the art telecommunication services to its members and surrounding areas.

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association - (320) 834-2204 - www.gctel.com

LOCAL UTILITIES

Wastewater Treatment:

The Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District provides wastewater collection and treatment services to an area of 200 sq. miles including the City of Alexandria and to substantial portions of the surrounding townships of Alexandria, Hudson, LaGrand, Lake Mary, Ida, and Carlos.

The Commercial sewer use rate is \$3.98/1,000 gallons of metered flow and a single family dwelling residential has a flat rate of \$18.00 per month - as of January 1, 2009.

Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary Sewer District - (320) 762-1135

Trash/Hazardous Waste/Recycling Information:

The Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board owns and operates a Waste-to-Energy Facility, which is located in the City of Alexandria on a 4.3 acre commercial/industrial development site. The surrounding area is in commercial/industrial development. The Waste-to-Energy Facility is designed to incinerate 80 tons of processed mixed municipal, commercial, and non-hazardous industrial waste per day. The energy released from incineration is recovered in the form of steam. The facility generates 36,000 pounds of steam per hour which is distributed to customers via a buried pipeline. Steam generated by the Waste-to-Energy Facility is sold to two markets within one-quarter mile of the facility. The primary steam customers are the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) plant, adjacent to the facility site, and the Douglas County Hospital. The Waste-to-Energy Facility operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on a year round basis. Solid waste is accepted from licensed haulers only. Residents may not bring waste to the facility.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management (PDSWM) plans to expand its Waste-to-Energy Facility in 2009 due to the population growth in Pope and Douglas Counties, and the growing solid waste needs of the two counties. The expansion will also allow Alexandria Technical College to become a renewable energy user, as Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management will have more steam energy available after the expansion.

In 2003, a 19,000 sq. ft. Material Recycling Facility or MRF was constructed to further enhance the processing of solid waste. The MRF operation removes large pieces of metal and other harmful items from the waste stream. Curbside recycling from Douglas and Pope County residents and businesses is hauled to the facility daily and sorted in the MRF each morning before any trash is run through the system. Corrugated cardboard, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, phonebooks, boxboard, tin and aluminum cans, and number 1 and 2 plastics are also removed and ultimately baled in preparation for the recycling market.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management also provides a Recycling Center for residents, located on facility grounds. The Recycling Center is staffed full-time with a recycling attendant on-hand to help with recycling and providing recycling instructions. Residents may recycle the following items at the Recycling Center free of charge: Aluminum Cans, Tin Cans, Corrugated Cardboard, Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 and #2, Newspaper, Catalogs, Magazines, Phone books, Boxboard Office Paper, Scrap Metal, Automotive Batteries, Used Oil and Oil Filters, and Yard Waste. The Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00am through 5:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am through 2:00pm.

The residents of Pope and Douglas County have a permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility available to them. The facility accepts many items that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash. These include, but are not limited to: drain cleaners, oven cleaners, pesticides, toilet bowl cleaners, stain, paint, varnish, glues, paint removers, anti-freeze, disinfectants, nail polish and remover, and rechargeable batteries. The HHW facility is for households only. Business and Agricultural wastes are not accepted. Items are checked when they are brought in and if any of the products can be reused; they are put on a shelf and are free for someone else's use. The Household Hazardous Waste facility and product exchange are open Monday through Friday 8:00am - 12:00 Noon and 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

More specific information on how to recycle or properly dispose of these items properly can be found on www.popedouglasrecycle.com or by contacting the Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Hotline at 1-800-972-6318.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management - (320) 763-9340 - (800) 972-6318

www.popedouglasrecycle.com

EDUCATION

Alexandria Technical College:



“Minnesota’s Highest Career Placement. Seriously!”

Alexandria Technical College, one of America’s premier two year colleges, is proud to offer over 50 programs with hands-on learning in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Twice recognized in Governor Pawlenty’s Minnesota Measures report on education, Alexandria Technical College had the highest success percentages of all public two-year colleges in Minnesota in three categories: Student Retention, Student Graduation Rate, and Combined Student Graduation/Transfer Rate.

ATC is actively increasing partnerships with other colleges and universities to provide online and transfer opportunities for its students. The most recent is the availability of Bemidji State University’s Associate in Arts (AA) two-year degree that can be completed right here in Alexandria. After two years at ATC, students may transfer to another college or university to complete their four-year degree. Now more than ever, area high school students are pursuing the Post Secondary Education Options (PSEO) program to access college coursework while in high school.

Founded in 1961, Alexandria Technical College has established a solid reputation for quality instruction and service to its students. ATC is a member college of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and currently serves over 3,500 students annually. With awards exceeding \$100,000 in student support and scholarships each year, Alexandria Technical College’s Foundation ranked (among MnSCU colleges) with the third largest endowment balance, second largest amount of scholarship dollars awarded and largest contributions from business and industry!

Call to schedule a visit with a career counselor or program faculty member to see what Alexandria Technical College can do for you!

Alexandria Technical College - 1601 Jefferson St. - Alexandria, MN 56308

Phone: (320)762-4520 - Toll Free: (888) 234-1222 - Email: info@alextech.edu - Web: www.alextech.edu

Customized Training Center:



“Providing access to learning - for careers and for life.”

We develop innovative solutions that will help your business remain competitive in an increasingly global market. Our vision is to be the premier center of choice, providing results-based services for an ever-changing workforce.

The Customized Training Center will:

- Work with your company to deliver convenient, high-value solutions that fit your needs.
- Provide value-added learning opportunities that enhance economic development.
- Create partnerships with people, businesses, and industries for lifelong learning.
- Serve as the educational portal for your organization.
- Position Alexandria Technical College as a state leader for workforce development.

Our services include:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Business Development | • Industrial Automation |
| • Computer & Technology | • Lean Healthcare |
| • Continuing Education & Professional Training | • Manufacturing Technologies |
| • Organizational Development | |



Contact the Customized Training Center at Alexandria Technical College with your specific organizational goals and challenges.

Direct: 320-762-4510 - Toll Free: 1-888-234-1313 - www.alextech.edu/CustomizedTraining

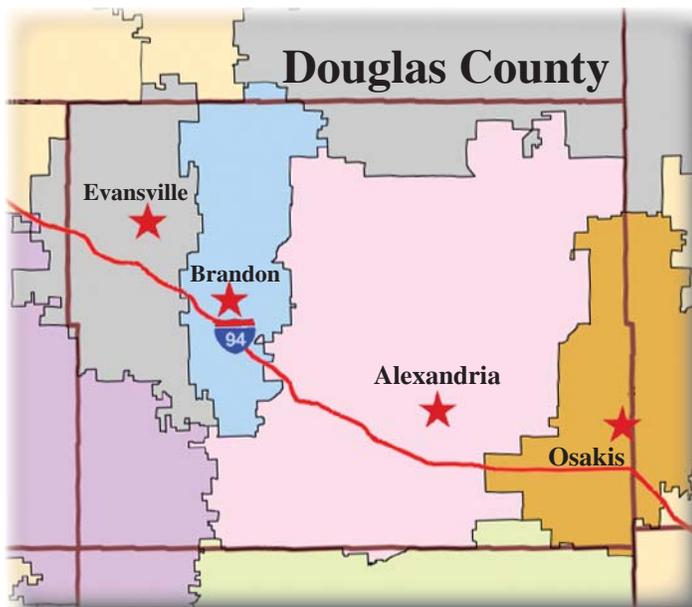
EDUCATION

Public Education Information:

School District	Alexandria District # 206	Brandon Public Schools	Evansville Public Schools	Osakis Public Schools	Lakes Area Charter School
Phone Number	(320) 762-2141	(320) 524-2263	(218) 948-2241	(320) 859-2191	(320) 859-5302
Website	www.alexandria.k12.mn.us	www.brandon.k12.mn.us	www.evansville.k12.mn.us	www.osakispublicschools.org	www.lakesareacharterschool.org
Student Enrollment	3,865	287	173	727	59
Licensed Teachers	247	21	20	47	5
Student/Teacher Ratio	16:1	14:1	9:1	15:1	13:1
Grade Levels Served	K - 12	K - 12	K - 12	K - 12	9 - 12
Graduation Rate	99.0%	97.0%	94.0%	100.0%	73.0%
Percent Free & Reduced Lunch Utilization	26.0%	18.0%	46.0%	33.0%	41.0%
Half-Day Kindergarten Option	No	No	No	No	N/A
All-Day Kindergarten Option	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Community Education Offered	Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A
Early Childhood Education Offered	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

Source: "School District Report Cards, 2007-2008" - MN Department of Education - <http://education.state.mn.us>

Douglas County School District Boundaries:



Douglas County is home to four public school districts, one Charter School, and a number of private education options for K-12 learning. Each school and district provides a strong educational framework for students as well as providing additional course and learning options which vary slightly from school to school. All of the schools and districts have a strong history of academic excellence and provide a wide variety of educational opportunities to serve their students.

In addition to those located within Douglas County, the Districts of Parkers Prairie (ISD 547), Minnewaska (ISD 2149), and West Cental Area (ISD 2342) have boundaries that extend into small portions of the County.

EDUCATION

Private Education Information:

School	New Testament Christian School	St. Agnes Catholic School	St. Mary's Catholic School	Zion Lutheran School
Phone Number	(320) 763-4050	(320) 859-2130	(320) 762-9202	(320) 763-4842
Website	www.newtestamentchristianschool.org	www.stclouddiocese.org/cem/schools/saso	http://smsa.stclouddiocese.org	www.zionalex.org/zion_school.htm
Grade Levels Served	K - 12	K - 6	K - 6	K - 8

Adult Basic Education:

The Adult Basic Education Program offers the following programs and services at no cost to participants who are at least 16 years of age and not currently enrolled in secondary school:

- GED and Adult High School Diploma
- English as a Second Language/Citizenship
- Basic reading, writing, math and life skills instruction
- Family Literacy
- Workforce Preparation, including basic computer literacy instruction
- Accuplacer/college readiness, including Pre-Nursing Courses

Flexible, continuous classes are designed to meet your needs and enrollment can occur at any time. Distance learning options are available for GED and Accuplacer test preparation. Individual adult literacy tutors are available for one-on-one instruction.

Runestone Regional Learning Center - 817 Fillmore Street - (320) 762-0627

MEDICAL SERVICES

Douglas County Hospital:



Douglas County Hospital is a 127-bed acute care hospital located in the heart of Minnesota's lake country. The hospital is classified as a Medicare Rural Referral Center and serves approximately 150,000 people in west central Minnesota. The hospital provides a wide range of primary care and specialty services including orthopedics, urology, ophthalmology, general surgery, OB/GYN, ENT, pain management and spine surgery. The hospital also has specialized programs in radiation oncology, medical oncology and kidney dialysis. Douglas County Hospital is accredited by the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program. In 2002 and 2008, Douglas County Hospital was named as one of the nation's Top 100 Hospitals.

In August 2008, the hospital broke ground on a new four-floor 110,000 square foot addition on the southeast side of the current facility. The main floor will be clinic space leased to Heartland Orthopedics, the second floor includes 34 private inpatient rooms, and the third floor will be a new Obstetrics Unit. This new state-of-the-art facility will position DCH to meet the population growth and increased healthcare needs of the region for the next 30-40 years. The expansion project is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2010.

Douglas County Hospital - 111 17th Ave East - (320) 762-1511 - www.dchospital.com

MEDICAL SERVICES

Alexandria Clinic, P.A.:

Dedicated to Your Health and Wellness



Alexandria Clinic has approximately 200 employees with two locations; Alexandria and Osakis. They have 34 board certified providers in the following multi-specialty areas: Express Care, Family Practice, Family Nurse Practitioners, General Thoracic & Vascular Surgery, Hospitalist, Internal Medicine, Midwifery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, Podiatry, and Urology. The clinic also provides Outreach and other Community Services such as Allergy, Audiology, Asthma Education, Bone Densitometry, Cardiac Stress Testing, Chemotherapy, Community Services, Congestive Heart Failure Clinic, CT Scanning, Diabetes Education, Digital Mammography, Echocardiography, Minneapolis Heart Institute at Alexandria Clinic, Neurology, Oncology, Pediatric Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Pro-Time Clinic, and Rheumatology.

Alexandria Clinic is dedicated to providing preventive, interventional, and supportive services for their patients in the most compassionate, thoughtful, and efficient manner.

**Alexandria Clinic P.A. - 610 30th Ave West - (320) 763-5123
(800) 646-4220 - www.alexclinic.com**

Broadway Medical Center:



Broadway Medical Center is a multi-specialty clinic with nearly 30 caregivers and over 100 support staff in two locations. Their main office is in Alexandria and their satellite clinic is located in Parkers Prairie. Our multi-specialty list includes Family Practice, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, OB/GYN & Midwifery care, Endocrinology, Allergy & Immunology, Cardiology, Diabetes Care, Neurology, nutrition, and Podiatry. Broadway Medical Center physicians also staff the Emergency Room, Oncology Center, and Hospitalist Service at Douglas County Hospital. The clinic is conveniently located next to Douglas County Hospital on the corner of 15th Avenue and Broadway Street. New and established patients are always welcomed and appreciated at our facility. It is our mission *to provide compassionate care, serve our community, and respect each other as family.*

**Broadway Medical Center - 1527 Broadway St. - (320) 762-0399
(888) 640-0399 - www.broadwaymedicalcenter.com**

Heartland Orthopedic Specialists:



The One To Trust.

Heartland Orthopedic Specialists P.S. has five board certified and one board eligible orthopedic surgeons and a board certified podiatrist that service West Central Minnesota's orthopedic needs, specializing in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Musculoskeletal system conditions. Such conditions include bones, ligaments, tendons, and muscles while also treating injuries involving the hand/wrist, upper & lower extremities, sports medicine related injuries, joint replacements, foot/ankle, and arthroscopic surgeries. In addition, the clinic also employs Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, and Athletic Trainers to help assist in providing quality patient care.

In addition to the services offered through the main clinic located in Alexandria, our physicians travel to satellite locations such as APMC in Willmar, Glacial Ridge Hospital, Prairie Medical Associates, and Appleton Municipal Hospital.

The clinic is conveniently located next to Douglas County Hospital and is dedicated to providing state of the art surgical and non-surgical orthopedic care in the areas of trauma, sports medicine, and elective reconstructive surgery.

**Heartland Orthopedic Specialists P.A. - 1500 Irving Street - (320) 762-1144
(800) 762-1177 - www.HeartlandOrthopedics.com**

AREA RECREATION & ACTIVITIES

Alexandria Area YMCA:



The Alexandria Area YMCA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to, "Put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all". The YMCA broke ground on a 56,000 square foot program center on April 22nd, 2009 and anticipates opening its doors to the community in June of 2010. The YMCA facility will include an aquatic center, gymnasium, health and wellness center, child care center, walking track, social lounge, group fitness studio and much more. The YMCA will also feature a Therapy/Rehab Center due to a partnership with Douglas County Hospital. Our vision is to construct a state-of-the-art recreational facility for the Alexandria area that will address the numerous program/facility needs in the community for kids, adults, seniors and families. As we continue to grow, the programming base of the YMCA will increase dramatically due to the presence of state of the art facilities. In the near future, the YMCA will address plans to develop outdoor field space to better serve the community. The YMCA is staff led and volunteer driven, providing countless volunteer opportunities in programs and policy making.

Alexandria Area YMCA - www.alexandriaymca.com - (320) 763-9621 - alexymca@rea-alp.com

Lakes Area Recreation:



Since 1989, Lakes Area Recreation has provided a wide variety of recreational and family activities for people in Alexandria and the Douglas County Lakes Area. Located in the Douglas County Services Center at 720 Fillmore Street in Alexandria, Lakes Area Recreation provides opportunities for activities such as swimming, weight lifting, cardiovascular fitness, aerobics, gymnastics, youth camps, and a wide variety of sports for youth and adults. Annually, over 7,200 youth registrations are received for over 30 different youth programs.

Facilities at Lakes Area Recreation include a cardio room, Nautilus weight machines, free weight room, gymnasium, gymnastics center, locker rooms, and a multipurpose room. LAR also schedules all other gymnasiums and outdoor facilities owned by School District #206 and provides lifeguarding services for the Lake Latoka and Le Homme Dieu Beaches.

Lakes Area Recreation - www.lakesarearecreation.com - (320) 762-2868

Theatre Le Homme Dieu:



Located just north of Alexandria on Lake Le Homme Dieu, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, offering summer stock theatre to the Alexandria area since 1961, has reinvented itself for 2009 by importing five high-caliber, family friendly, often-comic musicals from professional theater companies throughout Minnesota, including Actors Theatre of Minnesota, The Duluth Playhouse, Pioneer Place Theater, and Minneapolis Musical Theatre. By partnering with Minnesota's professional theatres and revising its ticket offerings, the 2009 season increases quality, improves value, creates demand, and lowers ticket prices!

**Theatre L'Homme Dieu - 1875 County Rd 120 NE, Alexandria - (320) 846-3150
tlhd@rea-alp.com - www.tlhd.org**

Alexandria Area Arts Association (AAAA):



The Alexandria Area Arts Association (AAAA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for both the enjoyment of and participation in the arts. Many programs, combining professional and non-professional efforts and abilities, are presented throughout the year. The season runs from October to September, and includes four productions per year.

The goals of the AAAA Board of Directors are to:

- Stimulate education in the arts
- Encourage meaningful exposure and active participation by all age groups in music, visual arts, dance, literature, theatre, and all other forms of art.
- Promote the arts in cooperation with area community organizations, public and private educational systems, churches, arts associations and other interested groups.

Alexandria Area Arts Association - www.alexandriaareaarts.org - (320) 762-8300

LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

Alexandria Housing & Redevelopment Authority:



The Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides safe, decent and affordable housing programs for qualified residents who seek self sufficiency, economic independence, and fiscal integrity to improve the quality of their lives.

Quality apartments and townhomes at an affordable price can be arranged through the public housing programs at the Alexandria HRA. The HRA manages two rental properties, one is the Viking Towers and the other is Woodhill Townhomes. The Viking Towers are one bedroom apartments and the Woodhill Townhomes are 2-3 bedroom units. For more information or if you are interested in an application please contact Cathie Glaeseman, Public Housing Coordinator at (320) 762-1311 or visit our website at www.alexandriahra.com.

The Alexandria HRA provides opportunities backed by financial institutions and government programs to put families & individuals into their own homes at reasonable mortgage rates and payments. The HRA builds these affordable homes within the city limits of Alexandria. The HRA also provides secondary financing for homes built at the Trails Development which is located on County Road 22. To get more information about either of these programs, please visit our website or contact Erin Bolland at (320) 762-1311

Alexandria HRA - 805 Fillmore Street - (320) 762-1311 - www.alexandriahra.com

Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority:

The Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority provides rental assistance and public housing assistance to qualifying citizens of Douglas County. One program being administered is the “Security Deposit Loan Program,” which loans funds that can be used to cover the up-front costs of a security deposit or initial utility installation fees. Loaned funds are repaid over time to allow for future lending and are available to qualifying individuals for rental units in Douglas County.

In addition, the Douglas County HRA works in partnership with the Douglas, Pope, and Stevens County Mental Health Authorities to administer the Bridges Program, which provides a housing subsidy for persons with serious and persistent mental illness while they are on waiting lists for federal or other permanent housing subsidy programs.

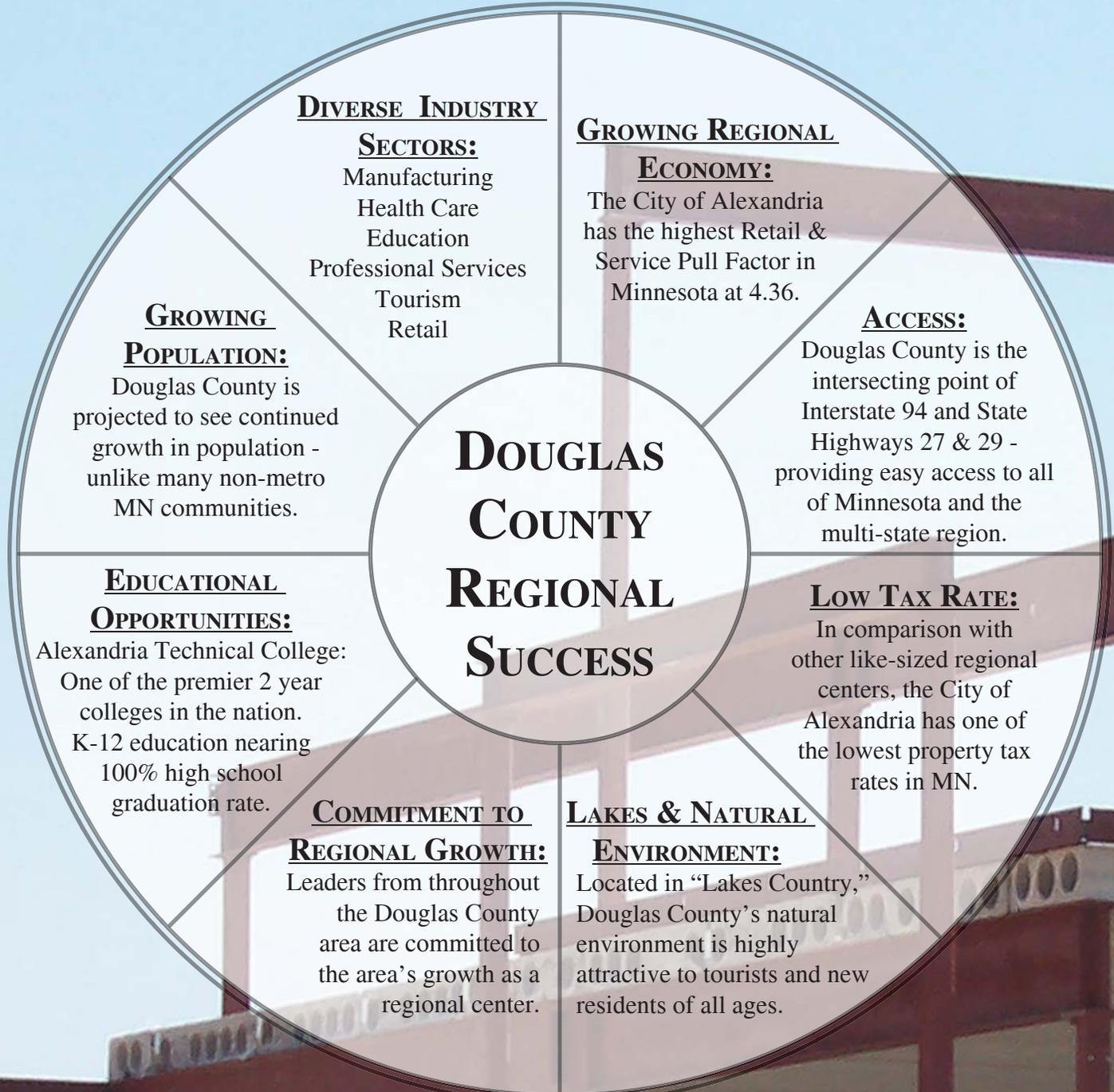
Other services of the Douglas County HRA include Tax Increment Financing authority for projects in Douglas County (outside of the City of Alexandria), housing and rental property grant and low interest loan program administration, and other special programs.

Douglas County HRA - 1224 North Nokomis St. - (320) 762-3849

Business Service Organizations:

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce:	(320) 763-3161
Alexandria Technical College - Customized Training Center:	(320) 762-4510
Douglas County Assessor:	(320) 762-3884
Douglas County Auditor/Treasurer:	(320) 762-3077
Douglas County Land & Resource Management:	(320) 762-3863
Douglas County License Bureau:	(320) 762-3897
Douglas County Public Works:	(320) 763-6001
MN Secretary of State - Registration of Business Name:	(651) 296-2803
MN WorkForce Center - Alexandria Branch:	(320) 762-7800
Small Business Development Center - Moorhead Office:	(218) 477-2289
West Central Initiative:	(218) 739-2239

COMPONENTS FOR REGIONAL SUCCESS:



Updated July 2009



Alexandria Area
Economic Development
Commission

610 Fillmore Street, Suite 1 - Alexandria, MN 56308

Phone: (320) 763-4545 - Toll Free: (866) 296-4545 - Fax: (320) 763-4457

Email: aaedc@rea-alp.com - Web: www.alexmn.org

Additional copies of this publication available upon request from the AAEDC.