

# Minnesota loses 4,200 jobs in July

## JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Minnesota lost 4,200 jobs in July, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The state's unemployment rate remained unchanged in July at 4.5 percent, while the U.S. unemployment rate in July was 6.2 percent.

June figures have been revised, from 8,500 initial jobs gained to 4,900 jobs gained. Over the past year, Minnesota has gained 68,344 jobs for a growth rate of 2.5 percent, compared to the U.S. growth rate of 1.9 percent during the same period.

According to a release, every year, July has a decrease in the number of jobs on a seasonally unadjusted basis. According to DEED officials, recent drops due to seasonal adjustment reduce confidence that Minnesota's seasonally adjusted estimates accurately reflect recent trends in job growth.

"July's employment change appears disappointing, however, this is the smallest percentage decline in jobs for a July since 1999," DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said in a release. "Minnesota's economic indicators remain positive, and underlying employment data continue to look strong."

### Local numbers

In Koochiching County in July, there were 571 unemployed persons from a work force of 6,737, for an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent. This is a drop from June's unemployment rate

of 9.1 percent. It compares to July 2013, when there were 510 unemployed persons from a work force of 6,777, for an unemployment rate of 7.5 percent.

Trade, transportation and utilities led all sectors in job growth in July with 1,600 jobs gained. Manufacturing added 700 jobs, leisure and hospitality gained 600 jobs, and other services added 200 jobs. Logging and mining, and professional and business services held steady.

Education and health services lost 5,300 jobs in July, information lost 1,000 jobs, construction lost 700 jobs, financial activities lost 200 jobs, and government lost 100 jobs. The July employment losses in education and health services were the most on record, driven by job cuts in private education.

Over the past year, government led all sectors with 21,513 jobs added. Professional and business services gained 11,667 jobs, manufacturing added 9,505 jobs, education and health services gained 9,023 jobs, construction added 8,260 jobs, trade, transportation and utilities gained 5,658 jobs, leisure and hospitality added 4,456 jobs, and logging and mining gained 636 jobs.

Financial activities lost 1,152 jobs in the past year. Other services lost 860 jobs and information lost 362 jobs.



Katie Clark Sieben

## CONSERVATION OFFICER REPORTS

### District 5 — Eveleth area

CO Darin Kittelson (International Falls) reported finished up ATV Instructor Training with US Border Patrol. Rest of week was spent in court with a fishing case from last fall and Ontario moose case. Bear baiting calls were handled as were other animal complaints (wolf, deer, and bear). Fishing activity on Rainy Lake continues to be busy with cooperative weather.

CO Troy Fondie (Orr) reports monitoring angling and boating activities over the week. Fishing remains very poor with little observed being caught. Forest roads were checked and public access sites monitored. Computer work is ongoing.

CO Brad Schultz (Cook) reports checking on fishing and boating activity throughout the week. The weather was nice and a few bass and pan fish were biting. Calls related to the upcoming hunting seasons were returned.

CO Don Bozovsky (Hibbing) worked anglers, boaters, invasive species enforcement and ATVs. He also responded to ATV and PWC complaints and worked Lake Vermilion. The officer assisted the State Patrol with traffic control on a semi blocking two lanes of traffic and the Hibbing PD with two juveniles huffing substances in a city park. The officer arrested an individual with a gross misdemeanor arrest



CO Darin Kittelson

warrant, while working out of the boat. A frightened weasel was seen imitating a flying squirrel and took a jump off the edge of a 20 foot bridge. Enforcement action was taken on angling license and invasive species violations, ATV and state trail violations, and numerous boating and personal watercraft violations.

CO Matt Frericks (Virginia) spoke at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Virginia about new laws, the upcoming deer season and common violations and appeared in court to testify concerning a boating violation. With nice weather, area lakes were busy over the last weekend. Violations such as operating unregistered watercraft and insufficient PFDs were encountered. Loud boat complaints continue to come in from numerous lake shore owners on Lake Vermilion. CO Frericks met with several owners of loud boats and tested their exhaust systems after they had them worked on to make them quieter. CO Frericks urges owners of loud boats to contact him and arrange to have their boats tested with the decibel meter to find out if their boat exceeds the limits.

CO Mark Fredin (Aurora) worked a Lake Superior detail out of Two Harbors/Silver Bay area with violations of no Minnesota angling license or trout stamp found. Fredin worked a boat and water detail in the vacant Ray station on Kabetogama and Namakan Lakes with WREO Arhart. Bear baiting activity was checked into.

International Falls #2 — vacant.  
Ray — vacant.

Tower — vacant.

### District 1 — Baudette area

CO Ben Huener (Roseau) worked with local deputies on a case involving a deer shot at night. Multiple charges are pending for two individuals. The law and ethics portion was presented at Warroad's Firearms Safety Class. Assistance was given to a Federal USDA wolf trapper at a local calf depredation site. Bear bait sites were monitored in the first couple days of legal bear baiting.

CO Demo Regas (Blackduck) reports working angling activity, boater AIS compliance on special regulation lakes, ATV, OHM and ORV activity and the start of bear baiting activity throughout the week. A TIP call of angler's possibly taking over-limits pan fish was investigated and assistance was given to the sheriff's office locating a female who became lost on an area snowmobile trail. Enforcement action for the week included fishing license and ATV registration violations.

CO Jeremy Woinarowicz (Thief River Falls) worked with a COC checking bear baiting activity and area ATV trails. He also checked local anglers and investigated a possible gray wolf depredation. Enforcement action for the week included angle without valid license, possess small amount of marijuana, possess drug paraphernalia, place bait for bear without valid license, and various ATV and WMA violations.

Baudette #1 -vacant.  
Baudette #2 -vacant.  
Blackduck #2 — vacant.  
Karlstad — vacant.

Thief River Falls #2 — vacant.

Warroad #1 — vacant.  
Warroad #2 — vacant.

### District 2 — Bemidji area

CO Tom Hutchins (Crookston) reports checking anglers and watercraft operators on area lakes and rivers. Public water access sites were also checked. Time was also spent attending a district meeting in Detroit Lakes. Some fish over-limit violations were found.

CO Dan Malinowski (Fosston) monitored off-road vehicles, ATVs, angling, early goose hunters and began to get more fall hunting questions. He responded to litter, wetland draining, lake alterations, sick/dead coyotes and bear vs. dog concerns.

CO Tim Gray (Bagley) checked bear baits, finished a wolf complaint and checked anglers.

CO Brice Vollbrecht (Bemidji) completed phase one of field training with a COC. Time was spent monitoring angling and boating activity. A complaint of a fence across a public water was investigated as well as boulders placed in front of an access on a public lake to prevent individuals from landing boats. A meeting was attended in Detroit Lakes.

CO Brian Holt (Bemidji) primarily patrolled OHV trails during the week. Many OHVs were encountered including some horseback riders. Officer Holt also checked bear baiting activity. A district meeting was attended and time was spent preparing for an upcoming firearms safety class. Enforcement activity for the week included OHM violations.

## COUNTY

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U.S." in the act and expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction.

"Counties could feel a major impact as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules or standards," NACA wrote in the brief.

Commissioner Wade Pavleck agreed the proposal is a huge issue in Koochiching County. He said the local economy "is tilting to the negative and this wouldn't help." He also said the proposed changes in the act would make any kind of development more difficult and costly and may require additional wetland mitigation than is now required.

The proposal is moving forward in a "rule making process" or executive order, bypassing the legislative process, which Pavleck called troubling.

"We have more experi-

ence with wetlands than any county in the state just because we have so much, but if this is being done under executive order, the the train has left the station and the route has been plotted," he said.

Commissioner Wayne Skoe said the state of Minnesota has been silent on the proposal. He suggested the Department of Natural Resources should be providing comment.

Board Chairman Rob Ecklund said more than 1 million comments are expected to be made on the proposal, which could take the EPA up to 18 months to evaluate.

He said many groups around the nation are providing comment.

"It's incumbent on us to make this request," he said. "We need to get information out there and see what the EPA is proposing. We will get the information and inform the federal delegation."

## WEATHER

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And, she said, it isn't uncommon to start seeing lows in the mid 50s.

"What we're experiencing now is not very unusual," she said.

### What's to come

Speaking of unusual, it is likely some have the fear that last year's colder-than-normal winter will repeat itself this year. Lovin, however, reassured it doesn't appear this winter will mimic what Borderland experienced last season.

"Last year was probably something you only see once in your lifetime," the meteorologist said of the second coldest winter on

record. "No matter what, (this winter) will likely be warmer than last year."

She attributed the trend toward El Niño, which is progressively developing, she said. El Niño is associated with a band of warm ocean water temperatures that periodically develops off the Pacific coast of South America.

"It is still a little early to tell, we don't quite have our outlooks done yet, but that is the trend," Lovin said.

Either way, those who live, work and play in the Icebox of the Nation know summer can't last forever. Winter will arrive, it will still be cold, but summer will return once again, hopefully with less water next time.

## BROTHERHOOD

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valley beside the ocean. It is the place some of his relatives left to immigrate to South Dakota.

Egeland came to New York from Bergen, Norway, June 22, he said. He visited relatives in New Jersey, flew to Minnesota, attended the Moorhead Nordic Festival, and met friends in Nisswa and Norway Lake. He visited the Sunberg Creamery Cafe, which features authentic Norwegian food and where Norwegian is spoken every Thursday, he said, laughing.

"They are not born in Norway, but still speak Norwegian and have dialects from the area in Norway where their grandparents or someone came from," he said.

He traveled to Minneapolis, rented a car to visit friends in Rapid City, South Dakota, viewed Mount Rushmore, and flew to see friends in Arkansas. He got a ride to Wichita, Kan., where he "met some Norway folks there, too."

He said he recently found he has relatives in the Texas Panhandle, so he drove from Wichita to Oslo Township in Texas, where he attended the Oslo Lutheran Church and saw the tombstones of relatives who immigrated from Norway.

After Texas, he reconnected with friends in Wichita, who gave him a ride to Minneapolis, where he attended a church service held in Norwegian.

"I sound like a proud Norwegian, don't I?" he said with a smile.

"It's so amazing to me that two or three generations later, they're even more Norwegian than us Norwegians," he said. "It's fantastic."

Egeland said he very much respects how people of Norwegian ancestry hold on to the connection. "It warms my heart to see that," he said. "There are more Norwegian Americans than there are Norwegians. You outnumber us."

Egeland said coming to America does not get old.

"I have been here 25 times and every time is the best time," he said. "Guess what this time is? It's the best time I have had ever."

Egeland said his experience in International Falls has been unique. He spent some time at Vinland Lodge, the local Sons of Norway meeting place, and joined the lodge. A week ago, Egeland was presented with an International Falls pin by Mayor Bob Anderson, and Egeland drove a truck pulling a bass boat in the International Falls Bass Championship boat parade.

"I've been all over the United States," Egeland

said. "I gotta say this is the friendliest town I have ever been in."

He credits Bergh as a great ambassador for Sons of Norway. Bergh said Egeland, as a member of Sons of Norway, now has even more friends in the U.S.

"You always have a safe place to land and feel at home with the Sons of Norway," Egeland said. "I always contact Sons of Norway, who invite you over and find members who speak Norwegian. You make their day and they make your day."

Bergh, a ski jumper in his youth, said he became interested in Norway as he researched his father's genealogy. "I am back to 1254 now," he said of the year he is researching on a Norwegian heritage website.

The site includes boat registration, captain information and more. He found his great grandparents came from Kongsberg, Norway. A Norwegian man he connected with on the site referred in a conversation to his best friend, famed Norwegian ski jumper Birger Ruud, with whom Bergh had competed with.

That new friend sent Bergh two small Norwegian battle axes, which he put on cords to wear around his neck. He gave Egeland the other one as a symbol of their connection. "It's a small world," Bergh said.

Egeland said he's thought about moving to America, and visiting Norway, and he has invited Bergh to visit him in Norway.

Bergh said Egeland fits International Falls well. Already he's made good friends with Bergh's morning coffee group, members of which began to greet Egeland with "Hey Jens, where's the lutefisk?"

Egeland said the tradition of eating lutefisk is returning to Norway, with a resurgence of cultural pride.

"Some places, they can't get enough lutefisk, they're completely booked when they serve it," he said.

Egeland said Bergh makes the best lutefisk, starting from scratch in a six-day process.

"People eat it that have never eaten it," Bergh said.

Egeland had planned to leave the Falls earlier, but was convinced by Bergh and his friends to stay until last week. He said he has no firm itinerary when he travels.

"It can make it very exciting sometimes when things don't work out," he said.

He said he planned to go again to Moorhead, and after that, "who knows?"

He has an open ticket to return to Norway, where he will work for another eight months and likely do it all over again.

"I get America fever," he said.



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