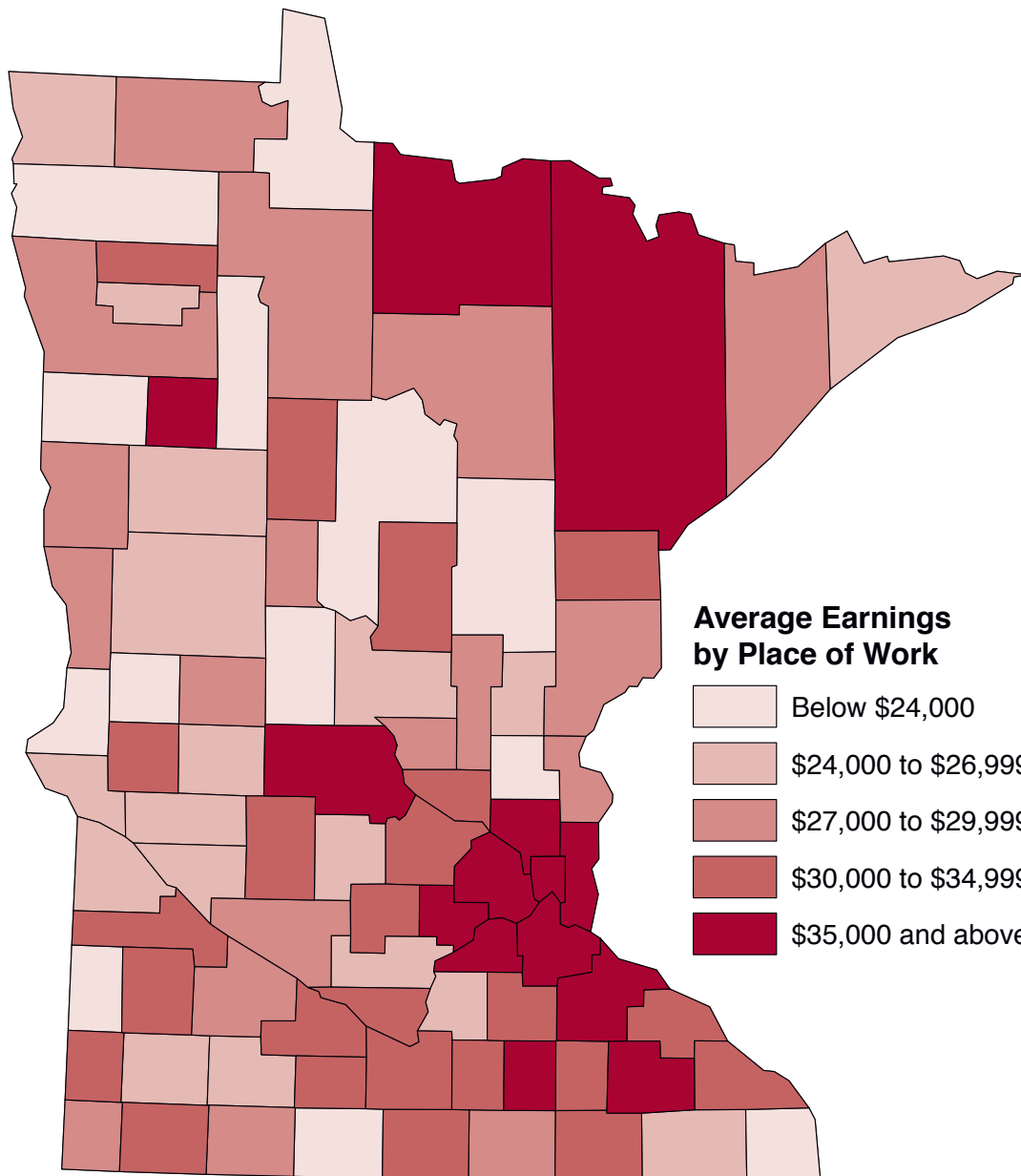


Average Earnings, 2004

Average earnings by place of work show the wages workers make, as opposed to income, which includes both earned income, such as wages, and unearned income, such as interest and dividends. In Minnesota, the highest earnings are concentrated in the Twin Cities and Rochester areas, and to a lesser extent in other regional centers, like St. Cloud, Mankato and Duluth (the state average was \$43,213). The timber industry in the northeast and manufacturing in the northwest contribute to higher earnings there, while universities in Stevens and Lyon counties raise earnings as well. While lower average earnings may be a result of generally lower paying jobs, it may also indicate counties where many residents commute to a larger employment center in a neighboring county.



Data source: U.S. Department of Commerce,
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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