

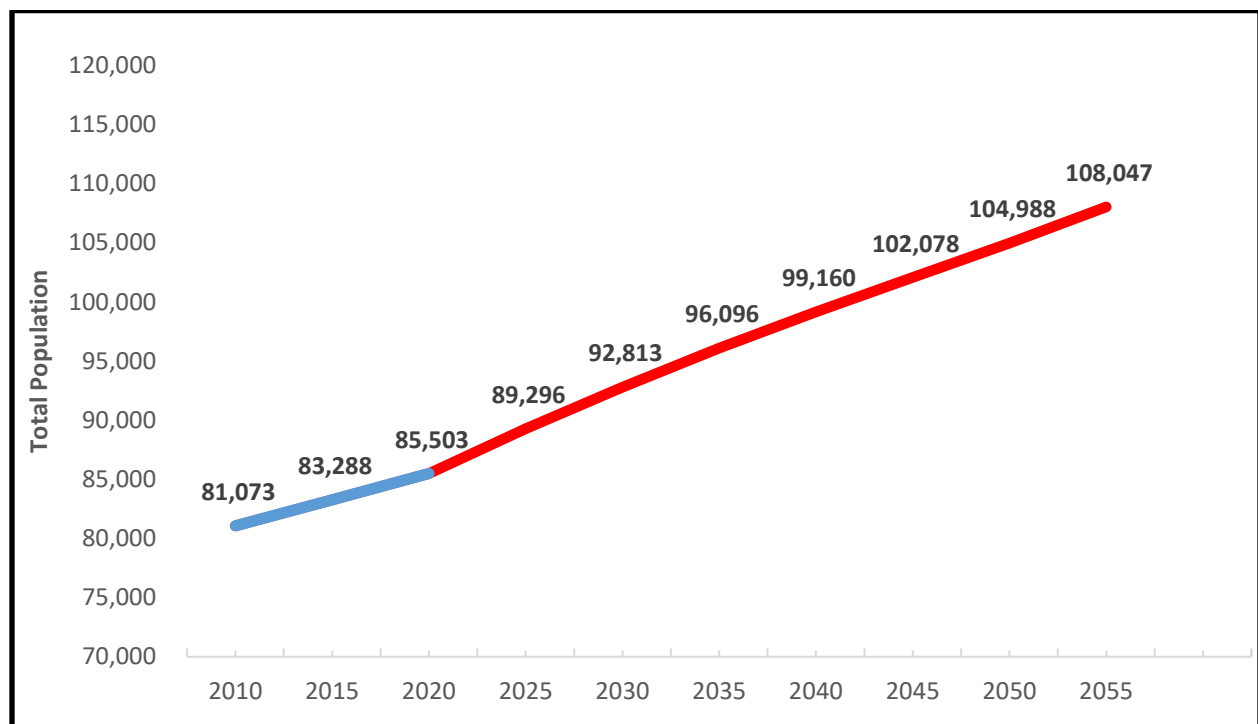
# DMATS Area Demographic Projections

## Introduction

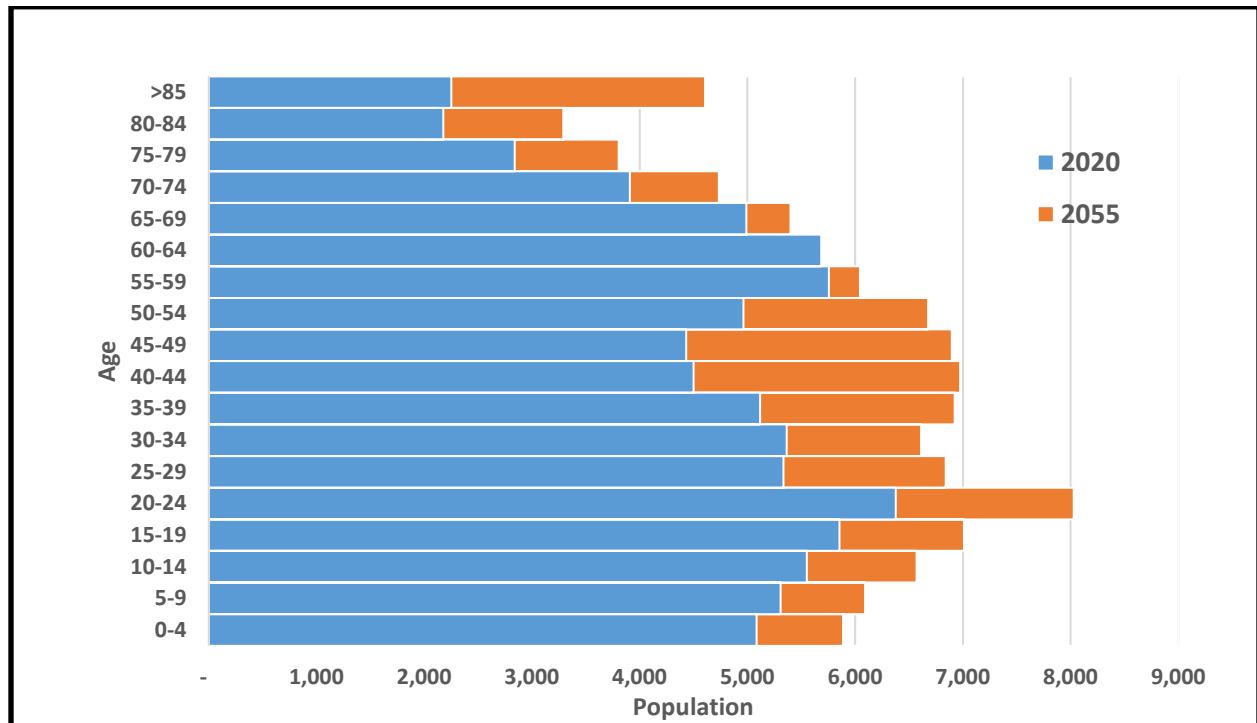
As we begin the process of developing our Long-Range Transportation Plan, we look at what the future needs of the region might look like. To do this we develop population and employment projections that we can then use to guide our planning process. This is especially important for our transportation model, as it can help show which roadways will need to accommodate a higher number of users.

## Population Projection

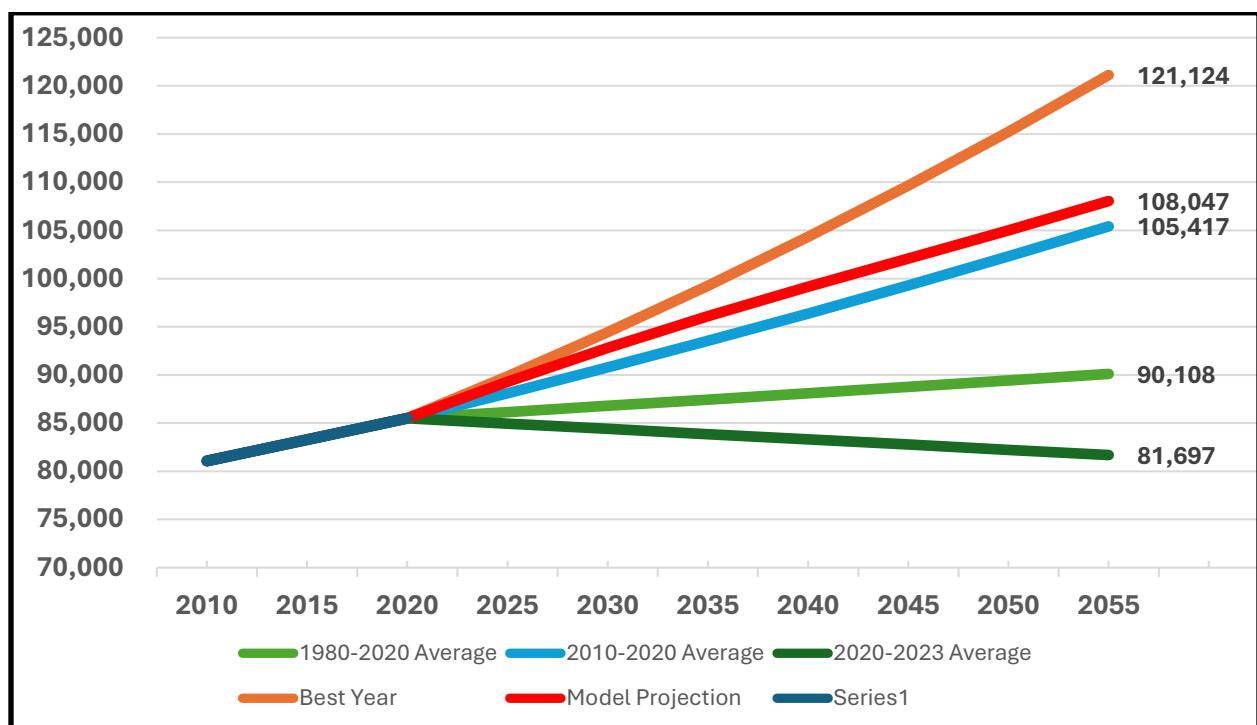
DMATS continued using the same methodology as the previous LRTP, which was the age cohorts method. The cohorts method uses cohorts of people of the same age and sex and determining the future population through natural population change and existing migration trends. We used 2020 Decennial Census population to calculate the below projection. The projection shows an increase from 85,503 people to 108,047 over the 35 year period. This is a total increase of 26.4% and an annual average increase of 0.75%.



Below is a chart showing the projected population change by age. People in age groups under 55 are expected to drive a majority of the increase in the region.

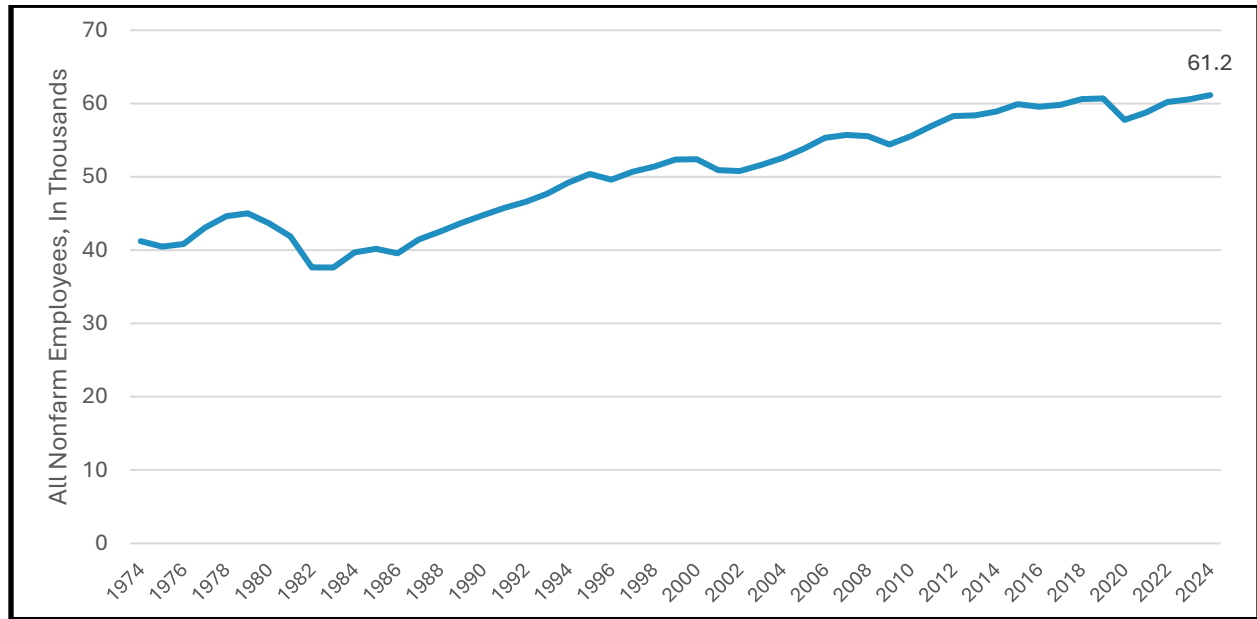


To verify that the projection is reasonable, DMATS compared the projection with historical growth rates. The model projection came out to be second highest and close to the median result.

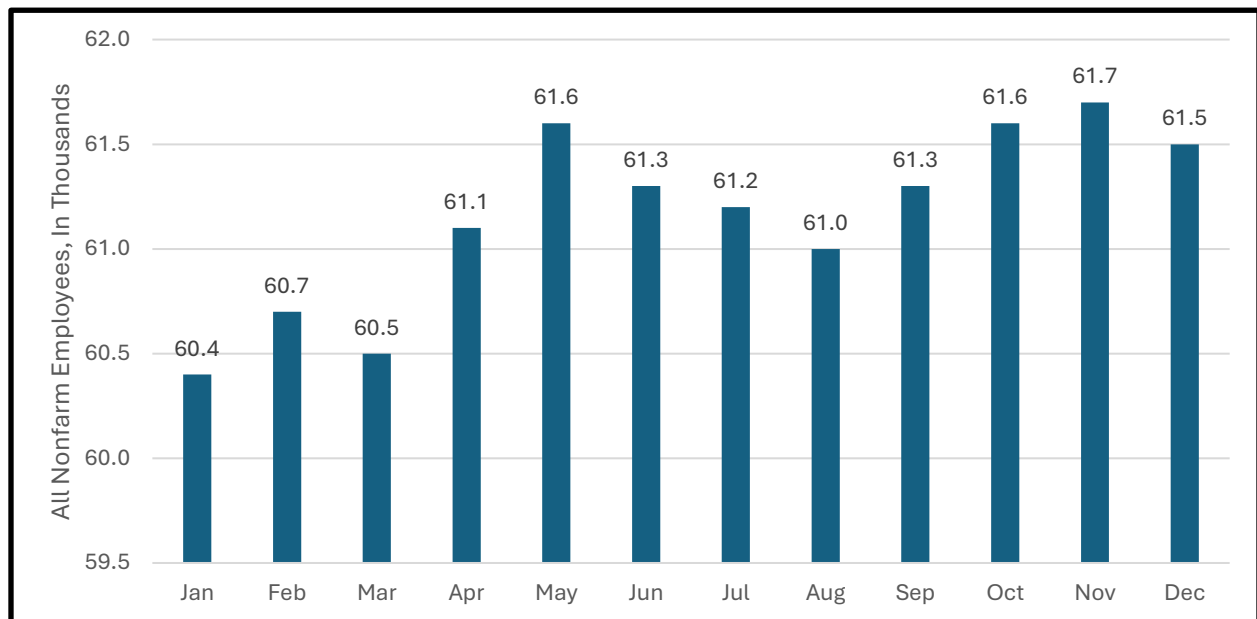


## Employment Projection

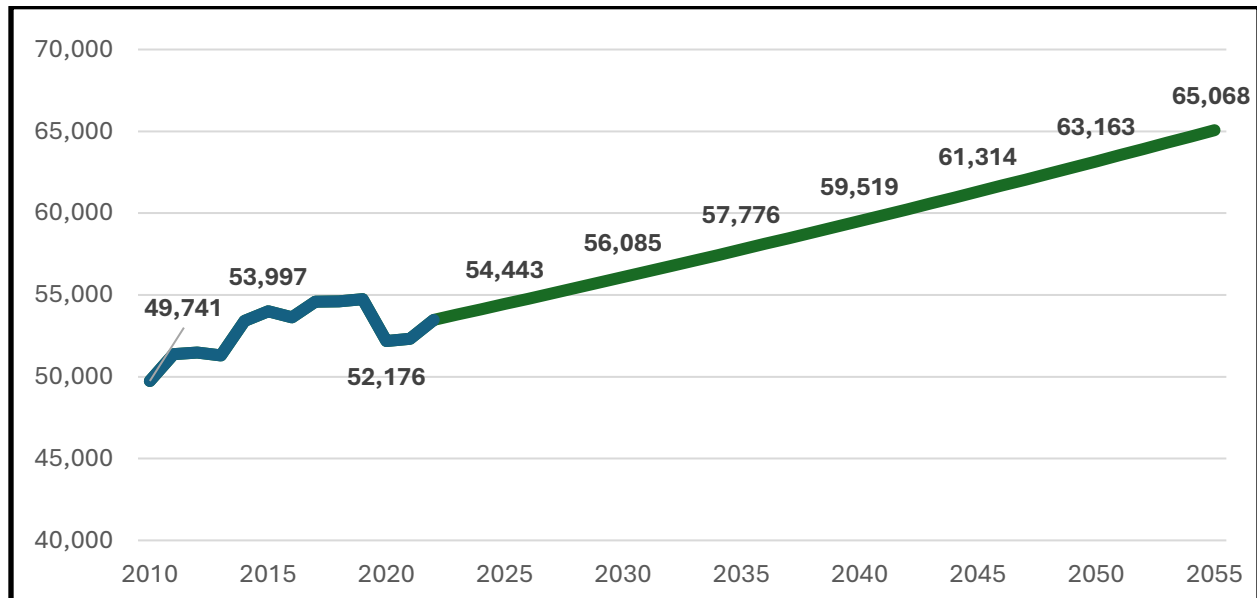
The next charts examine current employment trends within Dubuque County. The first chart shows annual average nonfarm employment in Dubuque County over the past 50 years. Employment has mostly increased since the 1980s, with fluctuations year to year.



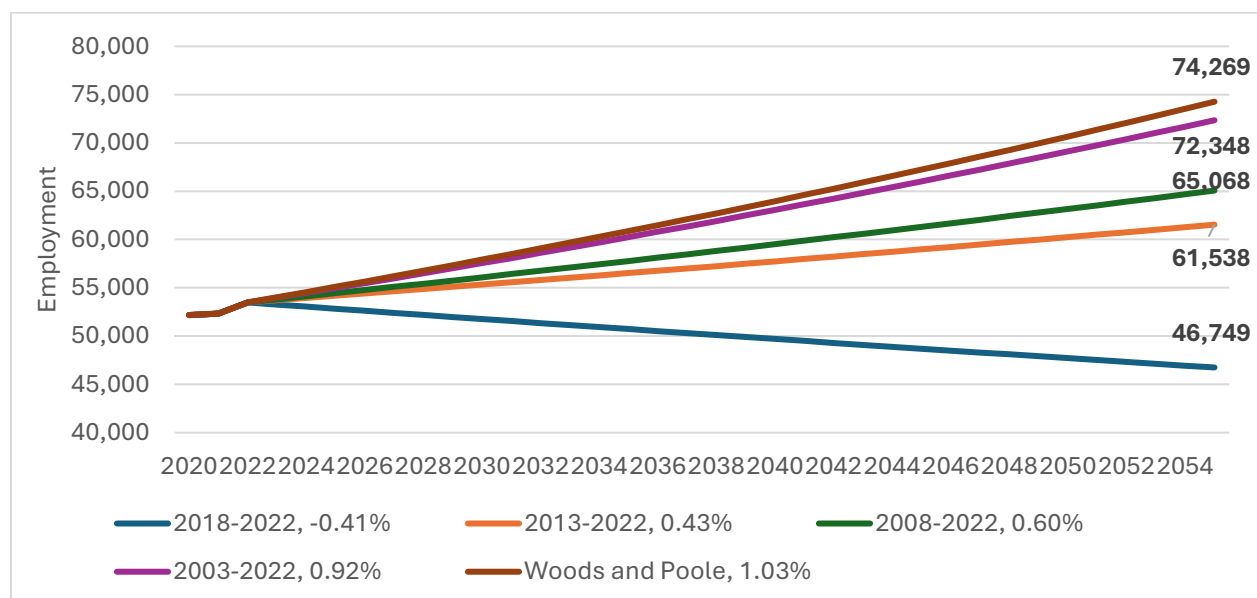
The next chart shows 2024 nonfarm employment by month, not seasonally adjusted. This shows how employment fluctuates throughout the year within the county.



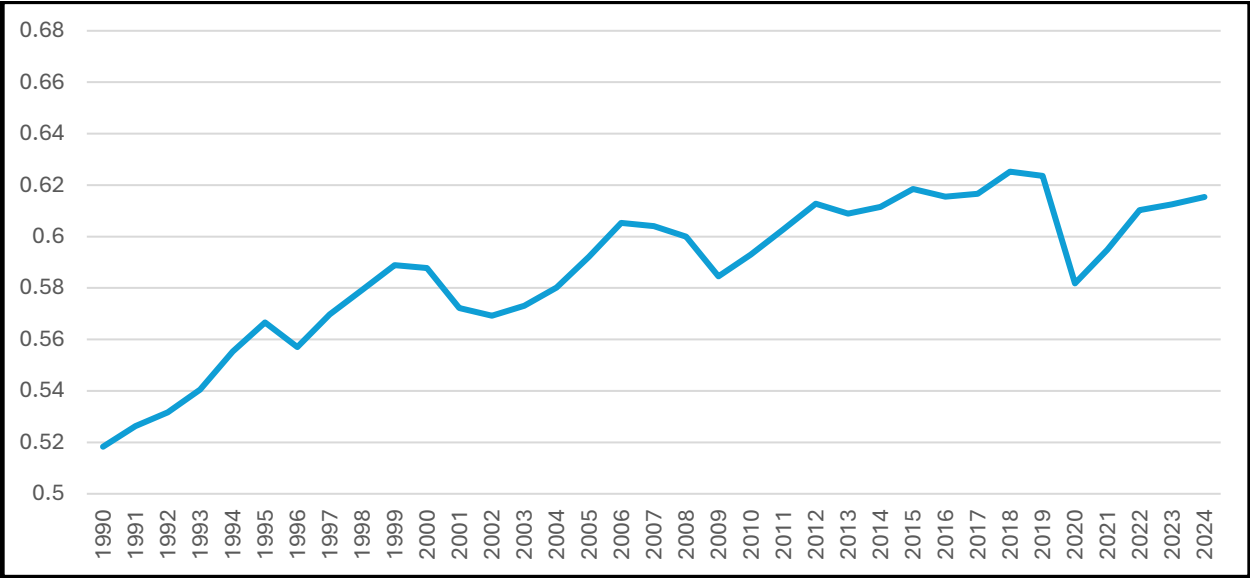
For our employment projection, we used data from the US Census OnTheMap service. This service allows DMATS to get employment numbers that are more specific to the DMATS area, as most employment statistics are limited to using the entirety of Dubuque County. For our projection we used 2022 as a base year and projected out to 2055 using a 0.6% annual average increase, based on the growth from 2008-2022. The 2022 employment was reported as 53,481 and is projected to increase to 65,068 which is a total increase of 8.94%.



For comparison, we looked at a couple other scenarios based on historical growth rates as well as data from Woods and Poole. This scenario was chosen as it was the median result.



To check for reasonableness, we also looked at the employment to population ratio. The chart below shows the average ratio from 1990-2024 of Dubuque County. This shows a fluctuation but gradual increase over time.



With the projected employment, this ratio is projected to stay around 0.6 employees per population.

	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055
Population Projection	89,296	92,813	96,096	99,160	102,078	104,988	<b>108,047</b>
Employment Projection	54,443	56,085	57,776	59,519	61,314	63,918	<b>65,068</b>
Employment/Population Ratio	0.61	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.61	<b>0.6</b>