



Current economic conditions and challenges in Minnesota, and the special role of labor force in future economic growth

Ron Wirtz

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Ron will discuss current economic conditions in the Minnesota economy, including challenges of the present environment, and the special role of labor force in long-term economic growth. Using an interactive survey, Ron will also gauge attendees' sentiment regarding recent business activity, hiring demand, inflation, outlook and other issues.

Speaker bio: Ron Wirtz is a Regional Outreach Director for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Ron's primary responsibilities involve tracking current business conditions across the six-state Ninth Federal Reserve District, which includes northwest Wisconsin, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

Along with tracking the overall economy, Ron pays special attention to employment and wages – which are central to the Federal Reserve's dual mandate of promoting stable prices and maximum employment. He also tracks consumer spending and tourism. Ron is a central contributor to the **Beige Book**, which is a report of current business conditions published by the Federal Reserve System every six weeks. Ron's work includes extensive outreach to businesses, community leaders and workforce development agencies, and he gives frequent speeches on regional economic conditions.

Previous to this position, Ron was editor of the [fedgazette](#), a regional business and economics journal published by the Minneapolis Fed. Here, he conducted in-depth research on such topics as labor markets and job growth, health care consolidation, the Bakken oil boom, income mobility, disability, public pensions, and many others.