

February 2012

# Montana

## COUNTY FLIERS

### Economic and Demographic Information for

# BIG HORN COUNTY



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**  
Workforce Services Division



**Research  
Analysis &  
BUREAU**



# BIG HORN COUNTY

Big Horn County is Montana's fourteenth most populous county with a reported 12,865 residents according to the 2010 decennial census. Hardin, the county seat, is the state's 22nd largest city with a population of 3,505 in 2010.<sup>1</sup> Other cities and towns in Big Horn County include Busby, Crow Agency, Fort Smith, Garyowen, Lodge Grass, Pryor, St. Xavier, and Wyola. The majority of Big Horn County lies within the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations.

Coal Mining and Agriculture both play major roles in Big Horn County's economy. Farms and ranches in the county produce mainly beef cattle, sugar beets, alfalfa, and small grains.<sup>2</sup>

Big Horn County is the location of the famous Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument and the annual "Custer's Last Stand Reenactment," which draws Montanans and out-of-state visitors to witness the tale of the Battle of the Little Bighorn told from the Indian perspective. Big Horn County also boasts the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, which is known for its world class trout fishing.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census

<sup>2</sup>MSU extension in Big Horn County,  
<http://extn.msu.montana.edu/counties/bighorn.htm>

## TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN BIG HORN COUNTY

(Based on 2nd Quarter 2011 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Awe Kualawaache Care Center	4	Kennecott Energy Co. Spring Creek Mine	7
Big Horn / Little Horn IGA	5	Little Horn State Bank	4
Big Horn Hospital Association	6	McDonald's	4
Colorado Energy Management / Hardin Generating Station	4	St Charles Mission School and Pretty Eagle Catholic School	5
Decker Coal Company	6	Westmoreland Resources Inc	6

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249, Class 5 = 50 to 99, Class 4 = 20 to 49.

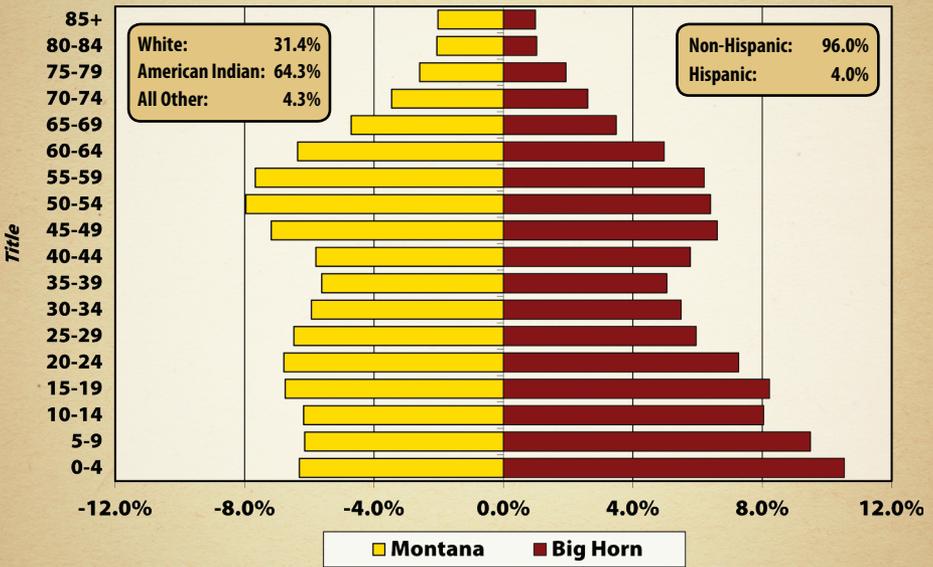
Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages (QCEW) Program. This list ONLY includes industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads, tribal entities, and government agencies are excluded.

**POPULATION FOR BIG HORN COUNTY AND RELATED AREAS**

Geography	Census 2000	2002 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Census 2010	% Change 2000-2010
Big Horn County	12,671	12,771	12,844	12,703	12,809	12,865	1.5%
Hardin city	3,384	3,428	3,465	3,428	3,477	3,505	3.6%
Lodge Grass town	510	536	537	526	529	428	-16.1%
Balance Big Horn County	8,777	8,807	8,842	8,749	8,803	8,932	1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE - BIG HORN COUNTY, 2010**



**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (population 25 years and older)**

Educational Attainment	Big Horn County	Montana	United States
Less than a High School Diploma	17.6%	8.3%	14.4%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	37.4%	29.9%	28.5%
Some College	25.8%	25.1%	21.3%
Associate's Degree	8.3%	7.9%	7.6%
Bachelor's Degree	6.9%	19.8%	17.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	4.1%	9.0%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010 (US & MT), and 2005-2009 estimates (County).

## BIG HORN COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	460	3,557	\$29,066
TOTAL PRIVATE	419	2,653	\$26,685
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	46	245	\$24,649
Crop production	6	33	\$21,134
Animal production	33	204	\$25,177
Forestry and logging	2	*	*
Agriculture & forestry support	5	*	*
MINING	3	96	\$78,979
Mining, except oil and gas	3	96	\$78,979
UTILITIES	3	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	51	147	\$31,155
Construction of buildings	20	43	\$21,950
Heavy and civil engineering construction	5	43	\$46,769
Specialty trade contractors	26	61	\$26,660
MANUFACTURING	13	61	\$23,224
Food manufacturing	4	24	\$28,165
Textile product mills	1	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	2	*	*
Printing and related support activities	1	*	*
Plastics & rubber products manufacturing	1	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	1	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	2	*	*
Machinery manufacturing	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	16	144	\$23,654
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	4	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	9	73	\$25,115
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	46	400	\$20,307
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	7	62	\$29,100
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1	*	*
Electronics and appliance stores	2	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	6	116	\$20,050
Health and personal care stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	8	66	\$14,564
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	4	43	\$21,230
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	8	23	\$10,458
General merchandise stores	5	46	\$21,643
Miscellaneous store retailers	2	*	*
Nonstore retailers	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	10	15	\$24,404
Truck transportation	9	14	\$23,171

## BIG HORN COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010 (cont.)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Support activities for transportation	1	*	*
<b>INFORMATION</b>	7	37	\$33,879
Publishing industries, except Internet	1	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
Broadcasting, except Internet	2	*	*
Telecommunications	3	*	*
<b>FINANCE AND INSURANCE</b>	21	110	\$40,956
Credit intermediation & related activity	7	77	\$41,405
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	2	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	12	*	*
<b>REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING</b>	23	167	\$31,718
Real estate	19	38	\$18,265
Rental and leasing services	3	*	*
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible asset	1	*	*
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>	31	73	\$24,825
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES</b>	15	41	\$28,008
Administrative and support services	13	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	2	*	*
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	2	*	*
<b>HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE</b>	38	478	\$35,083
Ambulatory health care services	23	107	\$28,578
Hospitals	1	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	2	*	*
Social assistance	12	82	\$15,535
<b>ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION</b>	16	50	\$14,597
Performing arts and spectator sports	1	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	1	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	14	48	\$13,915
<b>ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES</b>	51	451	\$10,858
Accommodation	13	128	\$11,990
Food services and drinking places	39	323	\$10,407
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>	28	114	\$11,157
Repair and maintenance	9	30	\$20,470
Personal and laundry services	5	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	13	74	\$6,668
Private households	1	*	*
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	41	904	\$36,057
Local Government	15	371	\$29,196
State Government	11	317	\$34,080
Federal Government	15	215	\$50,794

Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana Unemployment Insurance. Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data, or to rounding.

\*Data not disclosable

## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR BIG HORN COUNTY

	2007 Census	2002 Census	% Change
<b>FARMS</b>			
Farms: (number)	695	584	19%
Land in farms (acres)	2,899,620	2,811,337	3%
Average size of farms (acres)	4,172	4,814	-13%
Median size of farms (acres)	550	1,190	-54%
Farms by size: (number)			
Less than 1,000 acres	406	317	28%
1,000 acres or more	289	267	8%
Farms by value of products sold: (number)			
Less than \$100,000	512	426	20%
\$100,000 or more	183	158	16%
Farms by type of organization: (number)			
Family, Individual, Partnership	619	525	18%
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	76	59	29%
<b>LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND CROPS HARVESTED</b>			
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)			
Cattle and calves	93,169	87,736	6%
Hogs and pigs	102	*	*
Sheep and lambs	641	1,519	-58%
Horses and ponies	5,637	4,081	38%
Bison	2,150	2,149	0%
Chickens (layers and broilers)	521	*	*
Crops Harvested (acres)			
Corn for grain	745	327	128%
Corn for silage or greenchop	1,935	3,158	-39%
Wheat for grain, All	102,081	85,192	20%
Winter wheat for grain	87,729	64,683	36%
Spring wheat for grain	14,352	20,509	-30%
Durum wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Oats for grain	467	568	-18%
Barley for grain	18,048	12,641	43%
Hay, haylage, grass silage	83,429	59,136	41%
Sunflower seed, All	0	0	NA
<b>OPERATOR DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
Primary occupation: (number)			
Farming	369	392	-6%
Other	326	192	70%
Place of residence: (number)			
On farm operated	527	463	14%
Not on farm operated	168	121	39%
Years on present farm: (number)			
Less than 10 years	164	147	12%
10 years or more	531	437	22%
Age group: (number)			
Under 55 years	317	303	5%
55 years and over	378	281	35%
Average age of operators: (number)	55.5	54.2	2%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007

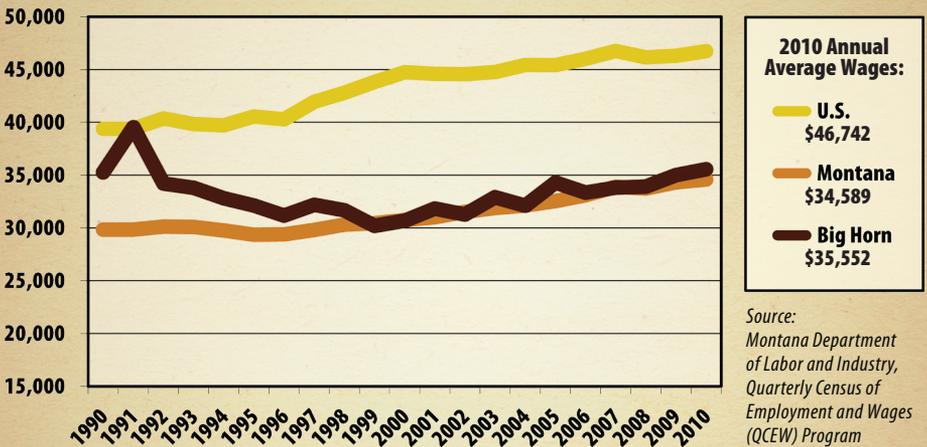
\* = Not Disclosable

**ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE - BIG HORN COUNTY**

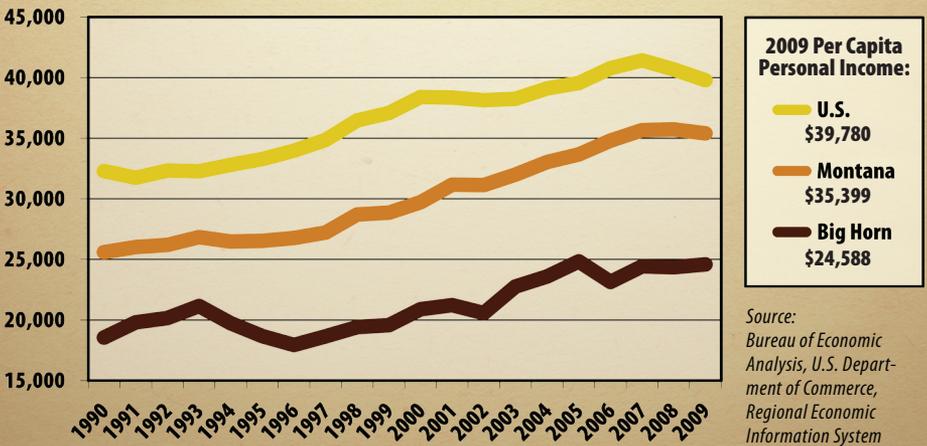
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2010	5,202	4,603	599	11.5%
2009	5,167	4,713	454	8.8%
2008	5,180	4,799	381	7.4%
2007	5,065	4,749	316	6.2%
2006	4,973	4,655	318	6.4%
2005	5,137	4,743	394	7.7%

Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

**ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGES - BIG HORN COUNTY, 1990-2010**  
(In 2010 Dollars)

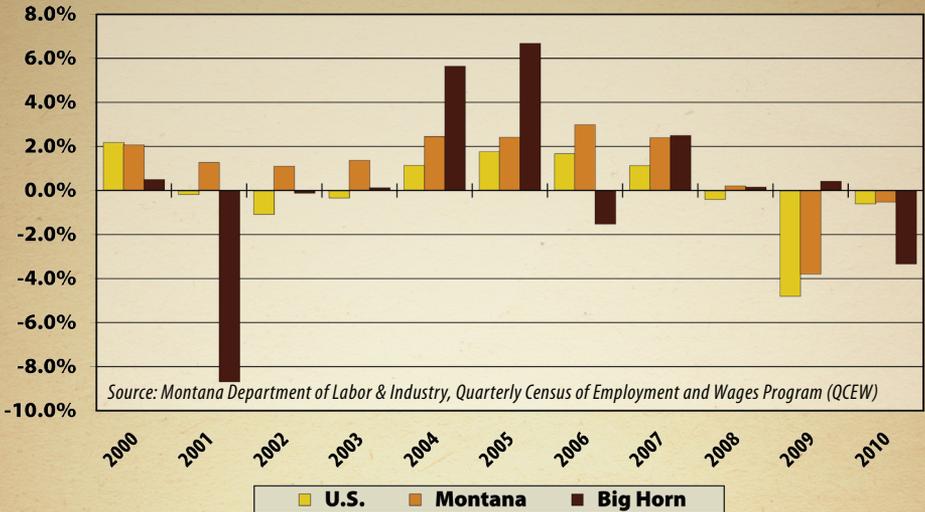


**PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - BIG HORN COUNTY, 1990-2009**  
(In 2010 Dollars)



## PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT - 2000 TO 2010

(United States, Montana, and Big Horn County)



## RESOURCES FOR BIG HORN COUNTY

### Economic Development

#### **Two Rivers Authority**

406 N. Cheyenne Ave.

Hardin, MT 59034

Phone: (406) 665-9274

E-mail: [edo@hardinmt.com](mailto:edo@hardinmt.com)

Web: [www.tworiversauthority.org](http://www.tworiversauthority.org)

#### **Little Big Horn College Extension Project Economic and Community Development**

Latonna Old Elk, Project Coordinator

Little Big Horn College

8645 S. Weaver Dr.

Crow Agency, MT 59022

Phone: (406) 638-3139

### Job Service Center

#### **Billings Job Service Workforce Center**

2121 Rosebud Drive, Stop B

Billings, MT 59102-6274

Ph: (406) 652-3080

Fax: 406-652-0444

E-mail: [BillingsJSC@mt.gov](mailto:BillingsJSC@mt.gov)

Web: <http://wsd.dlii.mt.gov/local/billings>

### Chamber of Commerce

#### **Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture**

10 East Railway, P.O. Box 446

Hardin, MT 59034

Ph: (406) 665-1672

Fax: (406) 665-3577

E-mail: [hardinchamber@bhwi.net](mailto:hardinchamber@bhwi.net)

Web: <http://thehardinchamber.org>

### Higher Education

#### **Little Big Horn College**

8645 S. Weaver Dr.

Crow Agency, MT 59022

Phone: (406) 638-3100

Fax: (406) 638-3169

Web: [www.lbhc.edu](http://www.lbhc.edu)

### Newspapers

#### **Big Horn County News**

204 N. Center Ave.

P. O. Box 926

Hardin, MT 59034

Phone: (406) 665-1008

Fax: (406) 665-1012

Web: [www.bighorncountynews.com](http://www.bighorncountynews.com)