

June 2012

# Montana

## COUNTY FLIERS

### Economic and Demographic Information for

# LIBERTY COUNTY



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



**Research  
Analysis &  
BUREAU**



# LIBERTY COUNTY

Liberty County is Montana's forty-third most populous county, with a population of 2,339 residents according to the 2010 Census. Chester, the county seat, is the state's 60th largest town, with a population of 847 in 2010.<sup>1</sup> Other towns in Liberty County include Joplin, Lothair, and Whitlash. Liberty County is located on Montana's Hi-Line between Hill and Toole Counties, and borders Canada to the north and Choteau County to the south.

The Sweet Grass Hills line the north side of the county, while the south is marked by the Tiber Dam on the Marias River. A large portion of Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) lies within Liberty County, and provides boating, camping, and fishing opportunities to visitors. The area offers 178 miles of shoreline, a marina, and five boat ramps at various points around the lake.<sup>2</sup>

Other area attractions include the Liberty County Museum and the Liberty Village Arts Center, both located in Chester. Chester also boasts the Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, the only medical facility in a 40 mile radius.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup>[www.visitmt.com/categories/City.asp?City=LOTHAIR&SiteID=1](http://www.visitmt.com/categories/City.asp?City=LOTHAIR&SiteID=1)

<sup>3</sup>[www.comehomemontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=liberty\\_county](http://www.comehomemontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=liberty_county)

## TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN LIBERTY COUNTY

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

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Liberty County Hospital	6	Superior Feeds	2
Mike's IGA Conoco Travel Center & Subway	4	Grand Bar	3
Jerry D Martin, DDS	2	Pugsley Ranches	3
Meissner Ranches	3	Colombia Grain Inc.	2
Spud's Café	3	Sweet Grass Lodge	2

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49, Class 3 = 10 to 19, Class 2 = 5 to 9

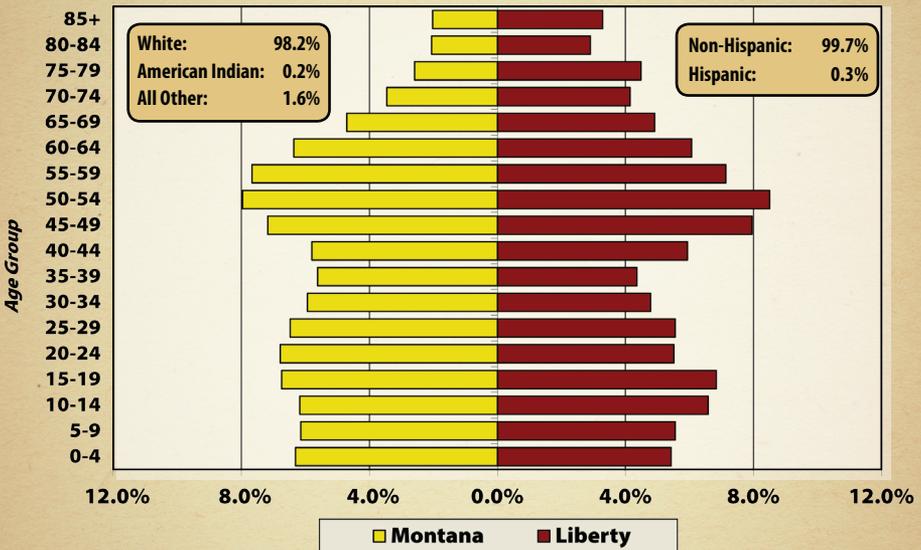
Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages (QCEW) Program. This list ONLY includes industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads, tribal entities, and government agencies are excluded.

**POPULATION FOR LIBERTY COUNTY AND RELATED AREAS**

Geography	Census 2000	2002 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Census 2010	% Change 2000-2010
Liberty County	2,158	2,007	2,002	1,839	1,743	2,339	8.4%
Chester town	871	813	811	748	710	847	-2.8%
Balance Liberty County	1,287	1,194	1,191	1,091	1,033	1,492	15.9%

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

**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE - LIBERTY COUNTY, 2010**



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

Educational Attainment	Liberty County	Montana	United States
Less than a High School Diploma	26.4%	8.3%	14.4%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	22.0%	29.9%	28.5%
Some College	31.3%	25.1%	21.3%
Associate's Degree	4.4%	7.9%	7.6%
Bachelor's Degree	14.3%	19.8%	17.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1.5%	9.0%	10.4%

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

## LIBERTY COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	81	474	\$24,665
TOTAL PRIVATE	65	325	\$24,054
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	9	37	\$24,315
Crop production	2	*	*
Animal production	3	23	\$20,727
Agriculture & forestry support	4	*	*
MINING	2	*	*
Oil and gas extraction	1	*	*
Support activities for mining	1	*	*
UTILITIES	2	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	2	*	*
Construction of buildings	1	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	1	*	*
MANUFACTURING	1	*	*
Chemical manufacturing	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	4	23	\$30,526
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	4	23	\$30,526
RETAIL TRADE	7	41	\$18,426
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	2	*	*
Gasoline stations	1	*	*
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	2	*	*
Truck transportation	1	*	*
Transit and ground passenger transport	1	*	*
INFORMATION	2	*	*
Publishing industries, except Internet	2	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	6	21	\$46,496

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

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Credit intermediation & related activity	3	9	\$31,912
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	2	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	1	*	*
Real estate	1	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	6	9	\$25,724
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	1	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	2	*	*
Ambulatory health care services	1	*	*
Hospitals	1	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	4	6	\$6,315
Performing arts and spectator sports	1	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	1	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	4	25	\$7,431
Food services and drinking places	4	25	\$7,431
OTHER SERVICES	10	18	\$12,592
Repair and maintenance	3	4	\$26,022
Personal and laundry services	1	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	5	13	\$8,135
Private households	1	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	149	\$25,997
Local Government	7	121	\$23,184
State Government	2	2	\$24,267
Federal Government	7	27	\$38,922

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 LIBERTY COUNTY

	2007 Census	2002 Census	% Change
<b>FARMS</b>			
Farms: (number)	299	297	1%
Land in farms (acres)	904,327	905,171	0%
Average size of farms (acres)	3,025	3,048	-1%
Median size of farms (acres)	1,760	2,433	-28%
Farms by size: (number)			
Less than 1,000 acres	93	78	19%
1,000 acres or more	206	219	-6%
Farms by value of products sold: (number)			
Less than \$100,000	161	224	-28%
\$100,000 or more	138	73	89%
Farms by type of organization: (number)			
Family, Individual, Partnership	175	195	-10%
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	124	102	22%
<b>LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND CROPS HARVESTED</b>			
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)			
Cattle and calves	13,787	13,026	6%
Hogs and pigs	17,847	15,364	16%
Sheep and lambs	*	22	*
Horses and ponies	244	283	-14%
Bison	*	*	*
Chickens (layers and broilers)	36,892	37,305	-1%
Crops Harvested (acres)			
Corn for grain	820	*	*
Corn for silage or greenchop	900	*	*
Wheat for grain, All	250,104	251,636	-1%
Winter wheat for grain	164,622	3,539	4552%
Spring wheat for grain	*	244,404	*
Durum wheat for grain	*	3,693	*
Oats for grain	469	*	*
Barley for grain	21,685	22,357	-3%
Hay, haylage, grass silage	11,486	16,943	-32%
Sunflower seed, All	0	0	NA
<b>OPERATOR DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
Primary occupation: (number)			
Farming	196	269	-27%
Other	103	28	268%
Place of residence: (number)			
On farm operated	195	230	-15%
Not on farm operated	104	67	55%
Years on present farm: (number)			
Less than 10 years	48	35	37%
10 years or more	251	262	-4%
Age group: (number)			
Under 55 years	135	145	-7%
55 years and over	164	152	8%
Average age of operators: (number)	58.2	56.6	3%

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

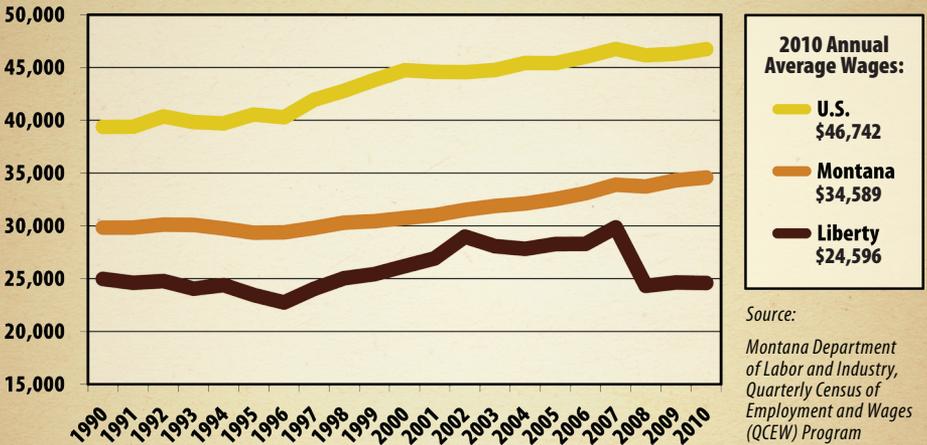
\* = Not Disclosable

**ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE - LIBERTY COUNTY**

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2010	725	689	36	5.0%
2009	746	717	29	3.9%
2008	776	747	29	3.7%
2007	799	777	22	2.8%
2006	822	798	24	2.9%
2005	862	828	34	3.9%

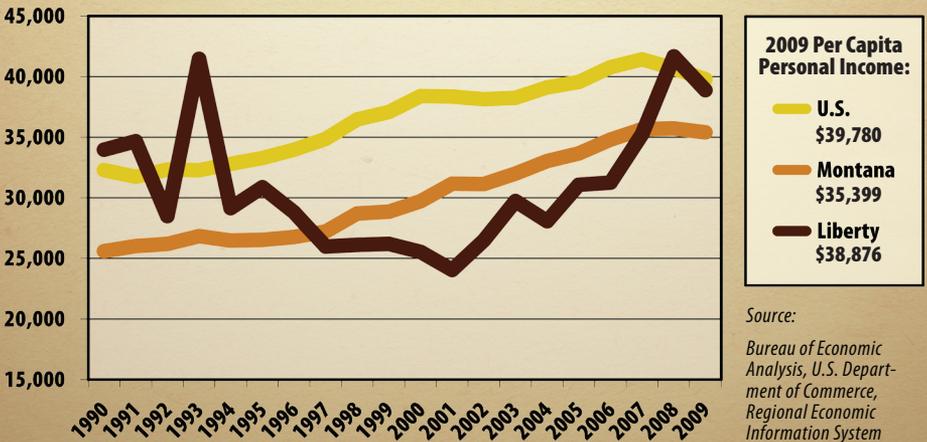
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

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



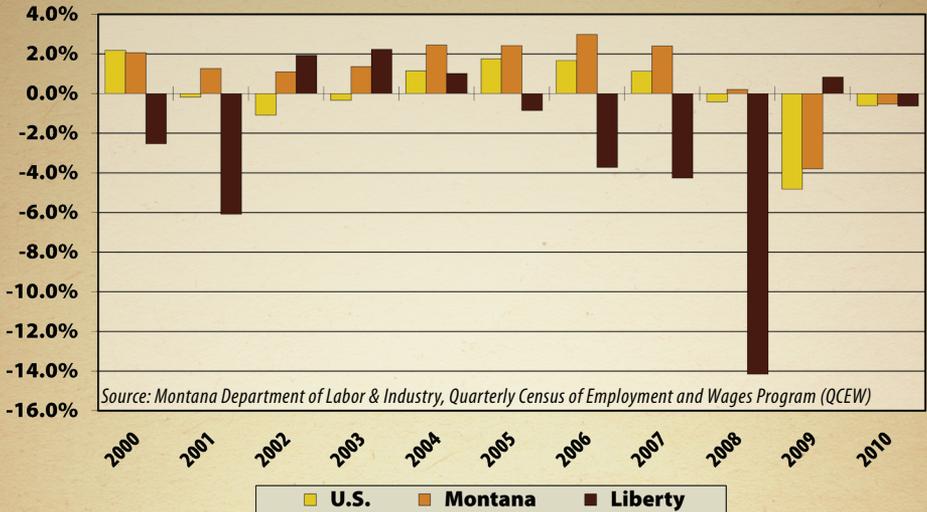
Source:  
Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program

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



Source:  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

## PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT - 2000 TO 2010 (United States, Montana, and Liberty County)



## RESOURCES FOR LIBERTY COUNTY

### Chambers of Commerce

#### Liberty County Chamber of Commerce

30 Main Street  
P.O. Box 632  
Chester, MT 59522  
Ph: (406) 759-4848  
Email: [lynda@libertycountyycc.com](mailto:lynda@libertycountyycc.com)  
[www.libertycountyycc.com](http://www.libertycountyycc.com)

### Job Service Workforce Center

Shelby Job Service  
202 Main Street  
Shelby, MT 59474  
Ph: (406) 434-5161  
Fax: (406) 434-2351  
Email: [ShelbyJSC@mt.gov](mailto:ShelbyJSC@mt.gov)  
<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/shelby>

### Economic Development

#### MSU Liberty County Extension Service

111 First Street East  
P. O. Box 607  
Chester, MT 59522-0607  
Ph: (406) 759-5625  
Fax: (406) 759-5996  
E-mail: [jlf@montana.edu](mailto:jlf@montana.edu)  
[www.msuextension.org/liberty](http://www.msuextension.org/liberty)

### Newspaper

#### Liberty County Times

46 First Street East  
P. O. Box 689  
Chester, MT 59522  
Ph: (406) 759-5355  
E-mail: [lctimes@itstriangle.net](mailto:lctimes@itstriangle.net)  
[www.libertycountyytimes.net](http://www.libertycountyytimes.net)