

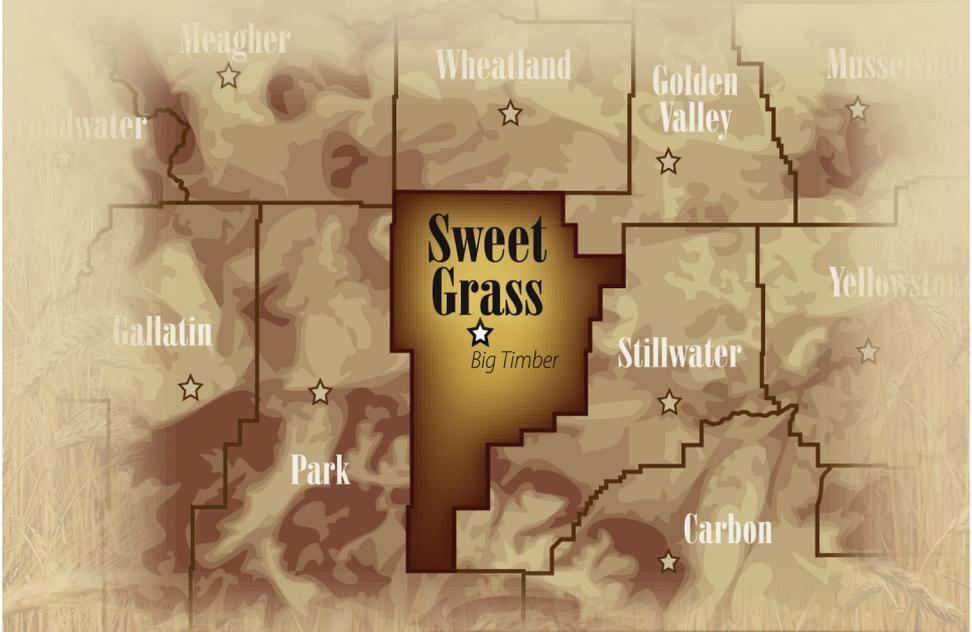
June 2012

Montana

COUNTY FLIERS

Economic and Demographic Information for

SWEET GRASS COUNTY



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY
Workforce Services Division



**Research
Analysis &
BUREAU**



SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Sweet Grass County is Montana's 39th most populous county, with a population of 3,651 residents according to the 2010 Census. Big Timber, the county seat, is the state's 44th largest city, with a population of 1,641 in 2010.¹ Other cities and towns in Sweet Grass County include Greycliff, McLeod, and Melville.

Sweet Grass County comprises 1,846 square miles of land, of which 449 are public lands. Natural amenities include the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness; the Absaroka, Beartooth, and Crazy Mountain Ranges; the Yellowstone and Boulder Rivers, and seven creeks providing ample fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural resources industries are important to Sweet Grass County, with significant mining and agricultural activity. The Stillwater Mining Company provides substantial employment in the county and has the distinction of being the only significant producer of palladium in the United States.

Agriculture is prevalent throughout the eastern and northern sections of the county, where the primary livestock are cattle and sheep. Some crops are also raised, particularly those which require little moisture, such as hay, wheat, barley, and oats.²

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census

²www.comehomemontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=big_timber

TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Big T IGA	4	Sharps Rifles-Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing Company	4
Citizens Bank and Trust	3	Stillwater Mining	7
Fort Liquor Store	4	The Grand Hotel & Restaurant	4
Frosty Freez	3	Timber Bar	3
Peking Garden	3	Town Pump / Super 8 Motel	5

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 7= 250 to 499 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99, Class 4 = 20 to 49, Class 3 = 10 to 19.

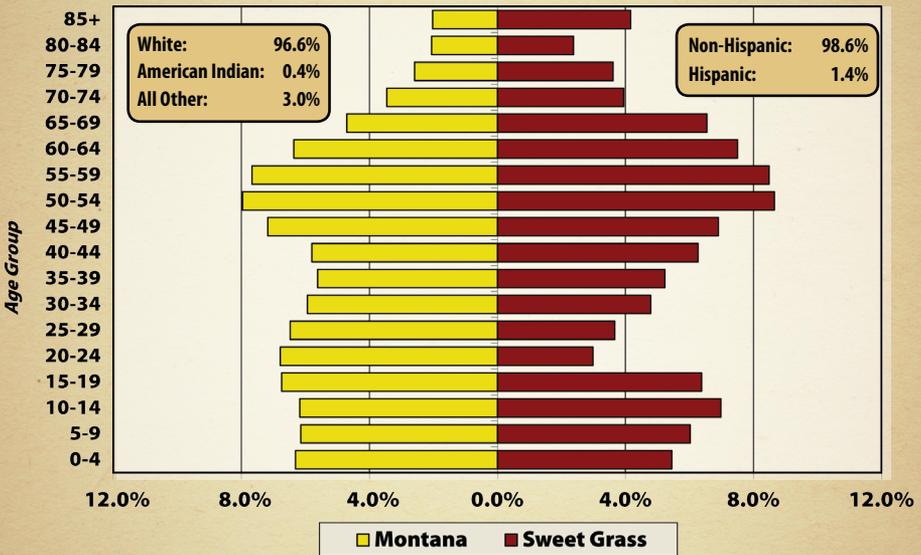
Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages (QCEW) Program. This list ONLY includes industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads, tribal entities, and government agencies are excluded.

POPULATION FOR SWEET GRASS COUNTY AND RELATED AREAS

Geography	Census 2000	2002 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Census 2010	% Change 2000-2010
Sweet Grass County	3,609	3,607	3,646	3,651	3,695	3,651	1.2%
Big Timber city	1,650	1,695	1,719	1,715	1,749	1,641	-0.5%
Balance Sweet Grass County	1,959	1,912	1,927	1,936	1,946	2,010	2.6%

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

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE - SWEET GRASS COUNTY, 2010



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

Educational Attainment	Sweet Grass County	Montana	United States
Less than a High School Diploma	13.8%	8.3%	14.4%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	34.8%	29.9%	28.5%
Some College	17.6%	25.1%	21.3%
Associate's Degree	5.7%	7.9%	7.6%
Bachelor's Degree	22.1%	19.8%	17.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.1%	9.0%	10.4%

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

SWEET GRASS COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	208	1,345	\$35,247
TOTAL PRIVATE	185	978	\$38,300
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	16	67	\$24,341
Crop production	3	*	*
Animal production	11	50	\$27,114
Agriculture & forestry support	2	*	*
MINING	1	*	*
Mining, except oil and gas	1	*	*
UTILITIES	1	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	31	78	\$32,042
Construction of buildings	13	*	*
Heavy and civil engineering construction	2	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	16	35	\$28,551
MANUFACTURING	11	57	\$31,804
Food manufacturing	2	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	1	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	2	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	6	30	\$36,052
WHOLESALE TRADE	6	22	\$56,183
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	1	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	3	14	\$35,601
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	2	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	23	130	\$22,217
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	6	16	\$30,501
Electronics and appliance stores	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	3	*	*
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	3	14	\$8,568
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	2	*	*
General merchandise stores	1	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	4	3	\$13,527
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	2	*	*
Truck transportation	2	*	*
INFORMATION	3	18	\$9,815
Publishing industries, except Internet	1	*	*

SWEET GRASS COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010 (cont.)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	1	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	7	38	\$31,991
Credit intermediation & related activity	3	27	\$33,943
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	3	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	8	11	\$21,433
Real estate	6	*	*
Rental and leasing services	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	12	30	\$23,810
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	2	*	*
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	8	11	\$30,251
Administrative and support services	7	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	6	18	\$12,472
Ambulatory health care services	4	*	*
Social assistance	2	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	12	33	\$10,985
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	1	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	11	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	16	133	\$13,572
Accommodation	7	40	\$14,628
Food services and drinking places	9	93	\$13,120
OTHER SERVICES	19	47	\$18,839
Repair and maintenance	5	13	\$29,568
Personal and laundry services	1	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	9	27	\$11,240
Private households	4	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	23	367	\$27,102
Local Government	9	322	\$24,915
State Government	6	8	\$42,881
Federal Government	8	36	\$43,065

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 SWEET GRASS COUNTY

	2007 Census	2002 Census	% Change
FARMS			
Farms: (number)	355	357	-1%
Land in farms (acres)	812,759	867,058	-6%
Average size of farms (acres)	2,289	2,429	-6%
Median size of farms (acres)	400	948	-58%
Farms by size: (number)			
Less than 1,000 acres	219	208	5%
1,000 acres or more	136	149	-9%
Farms by value of products sold: (number)			
Less than \$100,000	300	312	-4%
\$100,000 or more	55	45	22%
Farms by type of organization: (number)			
Family, Individual, Partnership	304	318	-4%
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	51	39	31%
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND CROPS HARVESTED			
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)			
Cattle and calves	36,196	39,093	-7%
Hogs and pigs	43	37	16%
Sheep and lambs	6,615	8,705	-24%
Horses and ponies	1,809	1,823	-1%
Bison	0	0	NA
Chickens (layers and broilers)	715	561	27%
Crops Harvested (acres)			
Corn for grain	0	*	*
Corn for silage or greenchop	0	0	NA
Wheat for grain, All	4,902	2,847	72%
Winter wheat for grain	*	*	*
Spring wheat for grain	*	*	*
Durum wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Oats for grain	1,780	1,358	31%
Barley for grain	386	2,691	-86%
Hay, haylage, grass silage	44,639	46,165	-3%
Sunflower seed, All	0	0	NA
OPERATOR DEMOGRAPHICS			
Primary occupation: (number)			
Farming	177	205	-14%
Other	178	152	17%
Place of residence: (number)			
On farm operated	290	289	0%
Not on farm operated	65	68	-4%
Years on present farm: (number)			
Less than 10 years	116	103	13%
10 years or more	239	254	-6%
Age group: (number)			
Under 55 years	136	182	-25%
55 years and over	219	175	25%
Average age of operators: (number)	57.8	55.2	5%

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

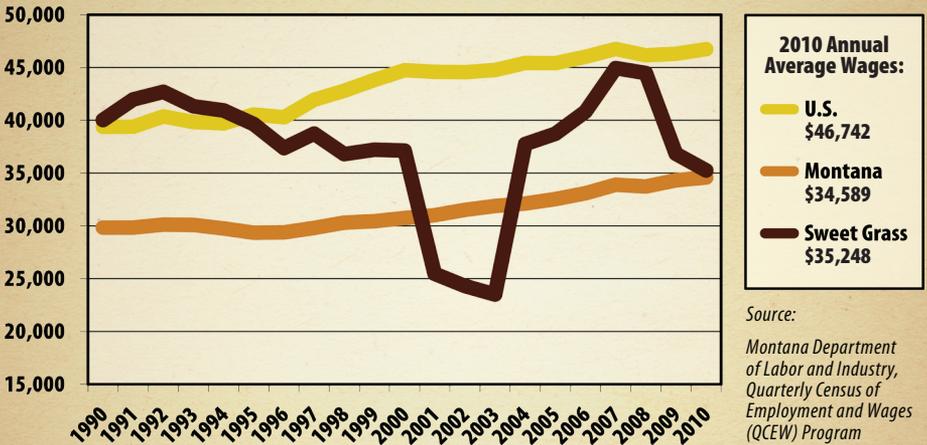
* = Not Disclosable

ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE - SWEET GRASS COUNTY

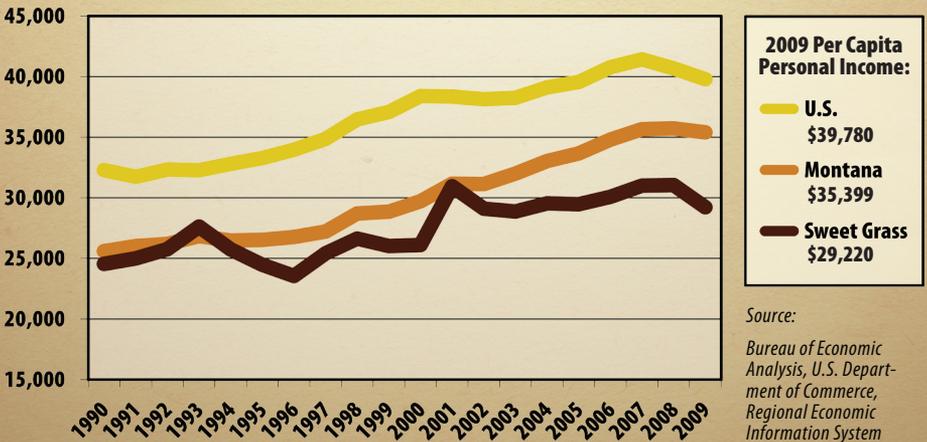
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2010	2,300	2,207	93	4.0%
2009	2,404	2,303	101	4.2%
2008	2,880	2,811	69	2.4%
2007	2,922	2,871	51	1.7%
2006	2,812	2,767	45	1.6%
2005	2,724	2,674	50	1.8%

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

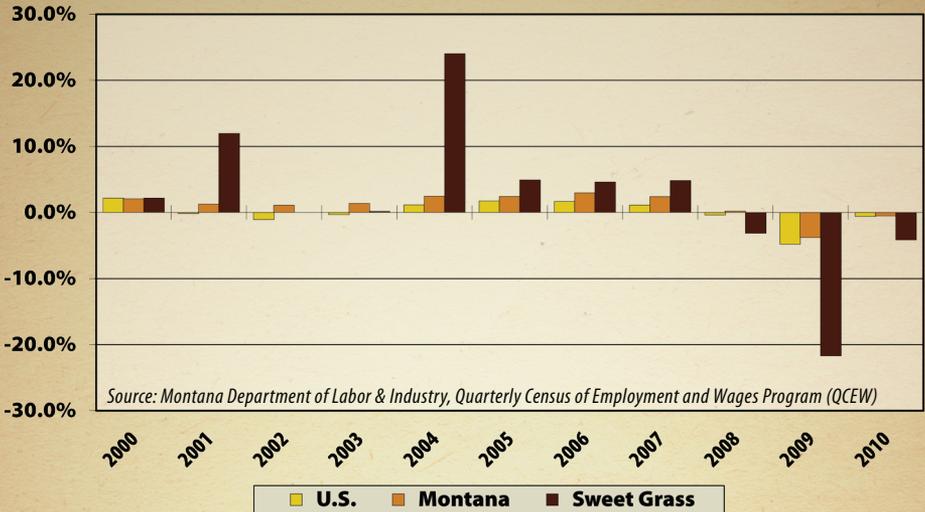
ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGES - SWEET GRASS COUNTY, 1990-2010
(In 2010 Dollars)



PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - SWEET GRASS COUNTY, 1990-2009
(In 2010 Dollars)



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



RESOURCES FOR SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Chambers of Commerce

Sweet Grass Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 1012
Big Timber, MT 59011
Ph: (406) 932-5131
Email: info@bigtimber.com
www.bigtimber.com

Economic Development

MSU - Sweet Grass County Extension Office

Extension Agent: Marc King
Ph: (406) 932-5146
Email: mking@montana.edu
www.co.sweetgrass.mt.us/extension.html

Job Service Workforce Center

Livingston Job Service Workforce Center

220 East Park Street
Livingston, MT 59047
Ph: (406) 222-0520
Email: LivingstonJSC@mt.gov
www.wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston

Newspaper

Big Timber Pioneer

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