

June 2012

Montana

COUNTY FLIERS

Economic and Demographic Information for

SANDERS COUNTY



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY
Workforce Services Division



Research
Analysis &
BUREAU



SANDERS COUNTY

Sanders County is Montana's 17th most populous county, with a population of 11,413 residents according to the 2010 Census. Thompson Falls, the county seat, is the state's 47th largest city, with a population of 1,313 in 2010.¹ Other cities and towns in Sanders County include Dixon, Heron, Hot Springs, Lonepine, Noxon, Paradise, Plains, and Trout Creek. A significant portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation lies within Sanders County.

The National Bison Range spans the border between Sanders and Lake counties, with the largest part located within Sanders County. The refuge supports a bison population ranging from 350 to 500 animals, as well as numerous other species, such as elk, white-tail and mule deer, pronghorns, bighorn sheep, and black bears.²

¹U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates Program*

²www.fws.gov/bisonrange/nbr

TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN SANDERS COUNTY

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

| Business Name | Size Class | Business Name | Size Class |
|--|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Avista Corporation | 4 | Monarch School | 5 |
| Clark Fork Valley Hospital | 6 | Quinn's Hot Springs Resort | 5 |
| Evergreen Hot Springs Health & Rehabilitation Center | 4 | Sander's County Harvest Foods | 4 |
| First Security Bank | 4 | Thompson River Lumber | 5 |
| Little Bitterroot Services | 4 | Town Pump | 4 |

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99, Class 4 = 20 to 49, Class 3 = 10 to 19.

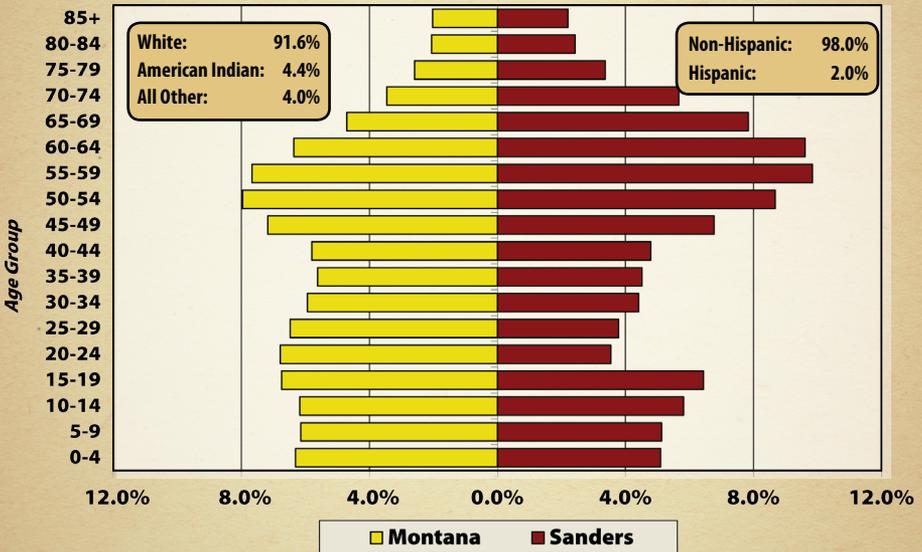
Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, *Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages (QCEW) Program*. This list ONLY includes industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads, tribal entities, and government agencies are excluded.

POPULATION FOR SANDERS COUNTY AND RELATED AREAS

| Geography | Census 2000 | 2002 Estimate | 2004 Estimate | 2006 Estimate | 2008 Estimate | Census 2010 | % Change 2000-2010 |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Sanders County | 10,227 | 10,344 | 10,676 | 10,862 | 11,052 | 11,413 | 11.6% |
| Hot Springs town | 531 | 547 | 562 | 570 | 579 | 544 | 2.4% |
| Plains town | 1,126 | 1,143 | 1,205 | 1,225 | 1,245 | 1,048 | -6.9% |
| Thompson Falls city | 1,321 | 1,340 | 1,378 | 1,401 | 1,424 | 1,313 | -0.6% |
| Balance Sanders County | 7,249 | 7,314 | 7,531 | 7,666 | 7,804 | 8,508 | 17.4% |

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

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE - SANDERS COUNTY, 2010



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

| Educational Attainment | Sanders County | Montana | United States |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|
| Less than a High School Diploma | 14.8% | 8.3% | 14.4% |
| High School Diploma (or equivalent) | 43.1% | 29.9% | 28.5% |
| Some College | 20.6% | 25.1% | 21.3% |
| Associate's Degree | 6.2% | 7.9% | 7.6% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 12.4% | 19.8% | 17.7% |
| Graduate or Professional Degree | 2.8% | 9.0% | 10.4% |

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

SANDERS COUNTY - EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY ANNUAL AVERAGES 2010

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES | 447 | 2,747 | \$26,862 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 405 | 2,059 | \$24,834 |
| AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING | 20 | 68 | \$25,091 |
| Crop production | 3 | * | * |
| Animal production | 1 | * | * |
| Forestry and logging | 12 | 25 | \$29,781 |
| Agriculture & forestry support | 5 | 5 | \$12,828 |
| MINING | 9 | 65 | \$42,586 |
| Mining, except oil and gas | 8 | * | * |
| Support activities for mining | 1 | * | * |
| UTILITIES | 7 | 46 | \$69,675 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 68 | 127 | \$26,426 |
| Construction of buildings | 30 | 38 | \$21,868 |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 10 | 24 | \$26,894 |
| Specialty trade contractors | 29 | 65 | \$28,908 |
| MANUFACTURING | 24 | 188 | \$26,915 |
| Food manufacturing | 3 | * | * |
| Wood product manufacturing | 7 | 96 | \$26,421 |
| Printing and related support activities | 1 | * | * |
| Chemical manufacturing | 1 | * | * |
| Nonmetallic mineral product mfg | 4 | 12 | \$21,039 |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 3 | 47 | \$29,684 |
| Furniture and related product mfg | 2 | * | * |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing | 3 | 15 | \$29,363 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 14 | 54 | \$24,414 |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 6 | 28 | \$23,112 |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 5 | 24 | \$21,239 |
| Electronic markets & agents and brokers | 3 | 2 | \$95,392 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 51 | 319 | \$19,340 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 4 | 33 | \$27,085 |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores | 4 | 2 | \$28,647 |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 1 | * | * |
| Building material & garden supply stores | 11 | 61 | \$18,874 |
| Food and beverage stores | 10 | 109 | \$18,696 |
| Health and personal care stores | 2 | * | * |
| Gasoline stations | 8 | 78 | \$15,454 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 1 | * | * |
| Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores | 1 | * | * |
| General merchandise stores | 1 | * | * |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 5 | 10 | \$14,761 |
| Nonstore retailers | 4 | 11 | \$33,131 |
| TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING | 18 | 56 | \$23,955 |
| Truck transportation | 13 | 27 | \$26,691 |
| Transit and ground passenger transport | 2 | * | * |

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

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Pipeline transportation | 1 | * | * |
| Support activities for transportation | 1 | * | * |
| INFORMATION | 6 | 24 | \$25,021 |
| Publishing industries, except Internet | 2 | * | * |
| Motion picture, sound recording industry | 1 | * | * |
| Telecommunications | 2 | * | * |
| Other information services | 1 | * | * |
| FINANCE AND INSURANCE | 12 | 74 | \$31,342 |
| Credit intermediation & related activity | 7 | 64 | \$31,027 |
| Securities, comm. contracts, investments | 1 | * | * |
| Insurance carriers & related activities | 4 | * | * |
| REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING | 13 | 15 | \$13,355 |
| Real estate | 11 | * | * |
| Rental and leasing services | 2 | * | * |
| PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES | 31 | 57 | \$38,653 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES | 9 | 18 | \$19,379 |
| Administrative and support services | 6 | 15 | \$19,503 |
| Waste management and remediation service | 3 | 3 | \$18,759 |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 8 | 72 | \$30,278 |
| HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE | 38 | 455 | \$28,426 |
| Ambulatory health care services | 13 | 74 | \$28,848 |
| Hospitals | 2 | * | * |
| Nursing and residential care facilities | 11 | 108 | \$19,849 |
| Social assistance | 12 | * | * |
| ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION | 12 | 33 | \$13,932 |
| Performing arts and spectator sports | 2 | * | * |
| Amusements, gambling, and recreation | 10 | * | * |
| ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES | 40 | 310 | \$11,239 |
| Accommodation | 10 | 112 | \$12,720 |
| Food services and drinking places | 29 | 198 | \$10,405 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 26 | 79 | \$19,206 |
| Repair and maintenance | 8 | 28 | \$27,346 |
| Personal and laundry services | 4 | * | * |
| Membership associations & organizations | 12 | 41 | \$14,276 |
| Private households | 3 | * | * |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 42 | 687 | \$32,937 |
| Local Government | 17 | 501 | \$27,483 |
| State Government | 9 | 28 | \$40,514 |
| Federal Government | 16 | 159 | \$48,866 |

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 SANDERS COUNTY

| | 2007 Census | 2002 Census | % Change |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|
| FARMS | | | |
| Farms: (number) | 508 | 464 | 9% |
| Land in farms (acres) | 341,913 | 345,775 | -1% |
| Average size of farms (acres) | 673 | 745 | -10% |
| Median size of farms (acres) | 115 | 179 | -36% |
| Farms by size: (number) | | | |
| Less than 1,000 acres | 460 | 403 | 14% |
| 1,000 acres or more | 48 | 61 | -21% |
| Farms by value of products sold: (number) | | | |
| Less than \$100,000 | 477 | 441 | 8% |
| \$100,000 or more | 31 | 23 | 35% |
| Farms by type of organization: (number) | | | |
| Family, Individual, Partnership | 473 | 439 | 8% |
| Corporation, Cooperative, Trust | 35 | 25 | 40% |
| LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND CROPS HARVESTED | | | |
| Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number) | | | |
| Cattle and calves | 14,643 | 18,683 | -22% |
| Hogs and pigs | 54 | 38 | 42% |
| Sheep and lambs | 177 | 553 | -68% |
| Horses and ponies | 1,655 | 1,456 | 14% |
| Bison | 591 | 656 | -10% |
| Chickens (layers and broilers) | * | * | * |
| Crops Harvested (acres) | | | |
| Corn for grain | * | 0 | NA |
| Corn for silage or greenchop | * | 0 | NA |
| Wheat for grain, All | 520 | 340 | 53% |
| Winter wheat for grain | 330 | * | * |
| Spring wheat for grain | 190 | * | * |
| Durum wheat for grain | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Oats for grain | 202 | 567 | -64% |
| Barley for grain | * | 168 | * |
| Hay, haylage, grass silage | 21,326 | 30,327 | -30% |
| Sunflower seed, All | 0 | 0 | NA |
| OPERATOR DEMOGRAPHICS | | | |
| Primary occupation: (number) | | | |
| Farming | 202 | 238 | -15% |
| Other | 306 | 226 | 35% |
| Place of residence: (number) | | | |
| On farm operated | 444 | 432 | 3% |
| Not on farm operated | 64 | 32 | 100% |
| Years on present farm: (number) | | | |
| Less than 10 years | 140 | 121 | 16% |
| 10 years or more | 368 | 343 | 7% |
| Age group: (number) | | | |
| Under 55 years | 194 | 214 | -9% |
| 55 years and over | 314 | 250 | 26% |
| Average age of operators: (number) | 58.2 | 56.1 | 4% |

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

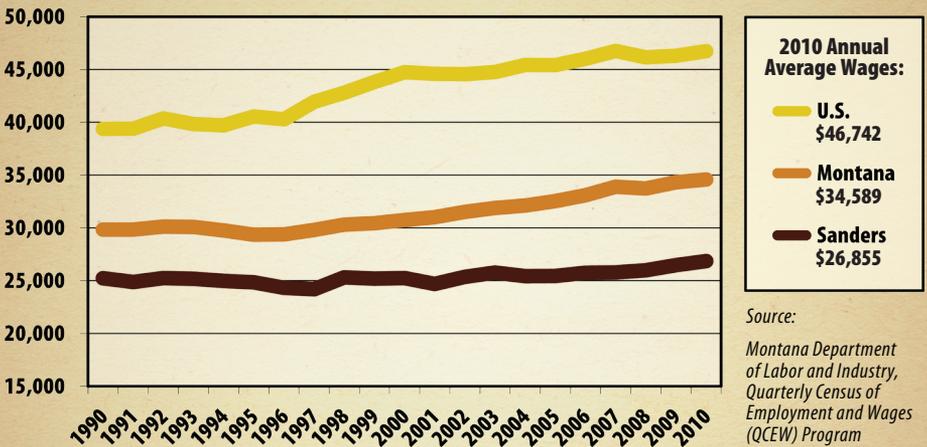
* = Not Disclosable

ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE - SANDERS COUNTY

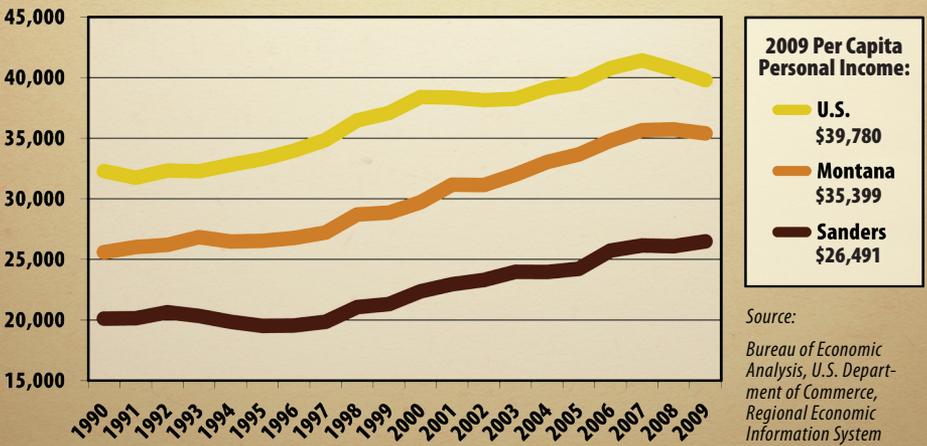
| Year | Civilian Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed | Unemployment Rate |
|------|----------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| 2010 | 4,384 | 3,742 | 642 | 14.6% |
| 2009 | 4,458 | 3,818 | 640 | 14.4% |
| 2008 | 4,649 | 4,216 | 433 | 9.3% |
| 2007 | 4,675 | 4,382 | 293 | 6.3% |
| 2006 | 4,643 | 4,414 | 229 | 4.9% |
| 2005 | 4,485 | 4,223 | 262 | 5.8% |

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

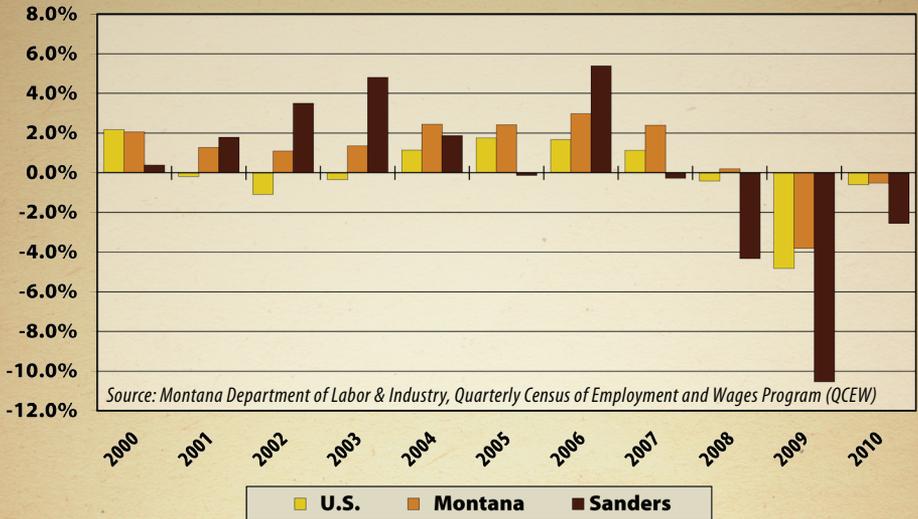
ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGES - SANDERS COUNTY, 1990-2010
(In 2010 Dollars)



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



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



RESOURCES FOR SANDERS COUNTY

Chambers of Commerce

Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 627, Hot Springs, MT 59845
 Ph: (406) 741-2662
 Email hscocf@hotspringsmt.net
www.hotspringsmtchamber.org

Plains-Paradise Chamber of Commerce

<https://plainsmtchamber.org>

Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 493, 1213 Main Street
 Thompson Falls, MT 59873
 Ph: (406) 827-4930
www.thompsonfallschamber.com

Job Service Workforce Center

Sanders County Job Service

2504 Tradewinds Way, Suite #1
 Thompson Falls, MT 59873
 Ph: (406) 827-3472
 E-mail: ThompsonFallsJSC@mt.gov
www.wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/thompsonfalls

Economic Development

Sanders County Community Development Corporation

2504 Tradewinds Way, Suite C1
 P. O. Box 1326
 Thompson Falls, MT 59873
 Ph: (406) 827-6935
 E-mail: sccdc@ronan.net

Newspapers

Clark Fork Valley Press

P. O. Box 667
 Plains, MT 59859
 Ph: (406) 826-3402

Sanders County Ledger

603 Main Street
 P. O. Box 219
 Thompson Falls, MT 59873
 Ph: (406) 827-3421 or (800) 955-754
www.sclledger.net