

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF BLAINE COUNTY

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 6,899  
**Labor Force:** 2,180  
**Employed:** 2,102  
**Unemployed:** 78  
**Unemployment Rate:** 3.6%  
 (Above the Statewide Rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**119 jobs lost** since 2018, about 5% of total jobs

## Income and Benefits

**\$68,530** average household income in 2022, ranking Blaine County the **47th** highest among counties.

**82.6%** of population with health insurance coverage.

**13.9%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**20.2%** of population with income below the federal poverty level (above the state average of 12.4%).

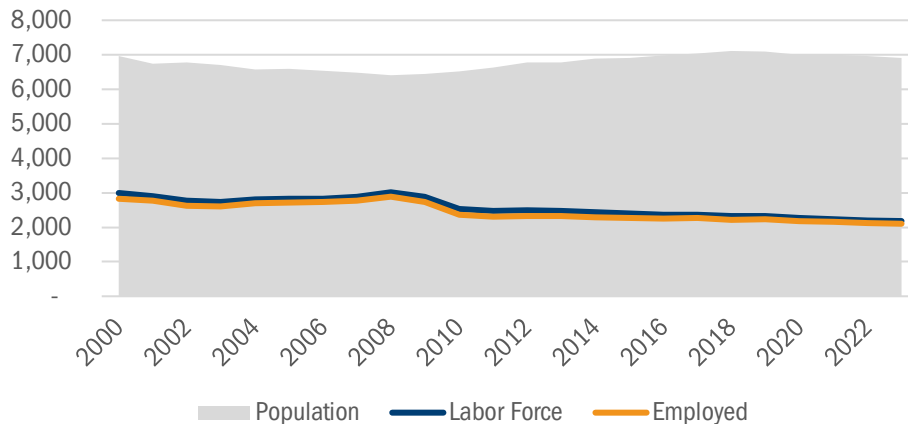
## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Administrative & Support Services - \$75,240
2. Other Services - \$68,730
3. Healthcare - \$64,400
4. Finance & Insurance - \$54,890
5. Professional & Technical Services - \$51,970

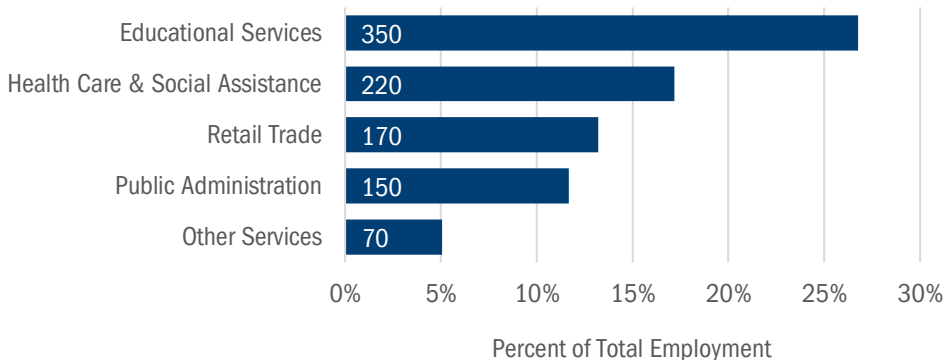
## Workforce Size in Blaine County

Employment, Labor Force, and Population



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Population total intercensal tables, Population and Housing Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau.

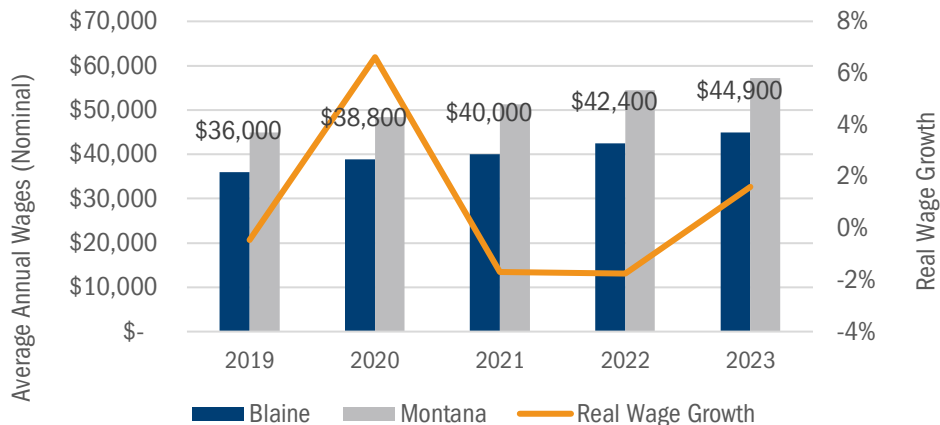
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Average Wage and Real Wage Growth

Comparison to Statewide Average



Source: U.S. BLS and Montana Department of Labor & Industry, QCEW and CPI-U. Wages rounded to nearest hundred.



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**  
 Governor Greg Gianforte  
 Commissioner Sarah Swanson

### Labor Force Participation

**60.0%** of Blaine County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

**76.7%** of Blaine County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%.

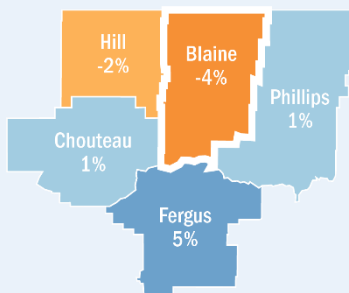
### Outmigration in Blaine County

Blaine County had **312 more people move out** than in from 2020 to 2023. This 4% decrease was the most of any county.

**13.0% of workers** in Blaine County **work from home**, greater than the statewide average of 10.6%.

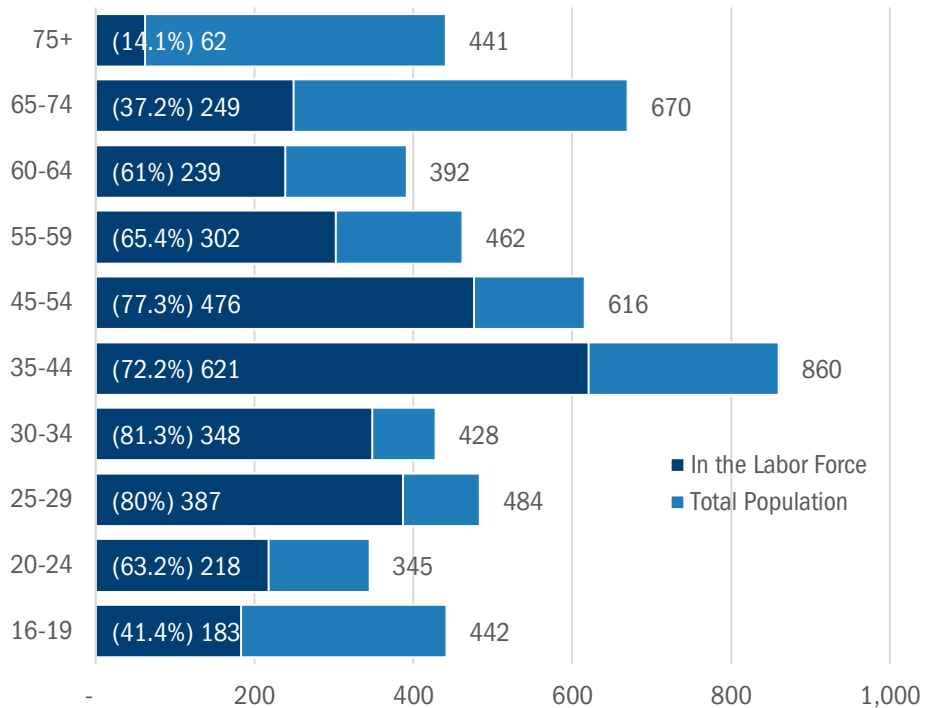
### Net Migration as a Percent of the Population by County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual



Resident Population Estimates, Estimated Components of Resident Population Change, and Rates of the Components of Population Changes for States and Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023.

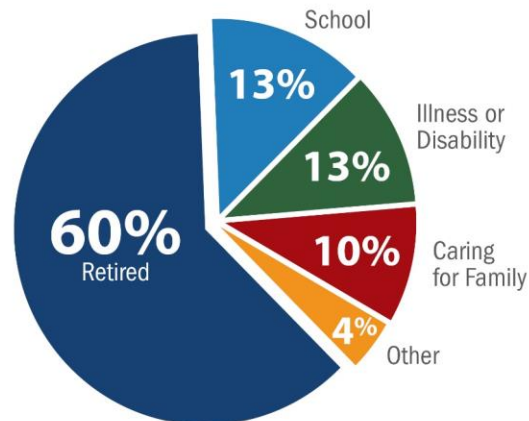
### Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimates. Labor force participation rates are in parentheses.

### Most People Not Working are Retired

Reasons Not Participating in Montana Labor Force



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), U.S. BLS and U.S. Census. MTDLI analysis of IPUMS CPS microdata for Montana for Jan through Dec 2023.

### Labor Force Participation by Sex, Montana Population 20-64

**82.4%**  
men in the labor force

**75.6%**  
women in the labor force

**76.9%**  
mothers with children under 18 in the labor force