

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF CHOUTEAU COUNTY

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 5,847  
**Labor Force:** 2,507  
**Employed:** 2,428  
**Unemployed:** 79  
**Unemployment Rate:** 3.2%  
 (Above the statewide rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**44 jobs gained** since 2020, about 2% of total jobs.

## Income and Benefits

**\$71,860** average household income in 2022, ranking Chouteau County the **42nd** highest among all counties.

**94.2%** of population with health insurance coverage.

**10.8%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**15.1%** of the population with income below the federal poverty level (above the state average of 12.4%).

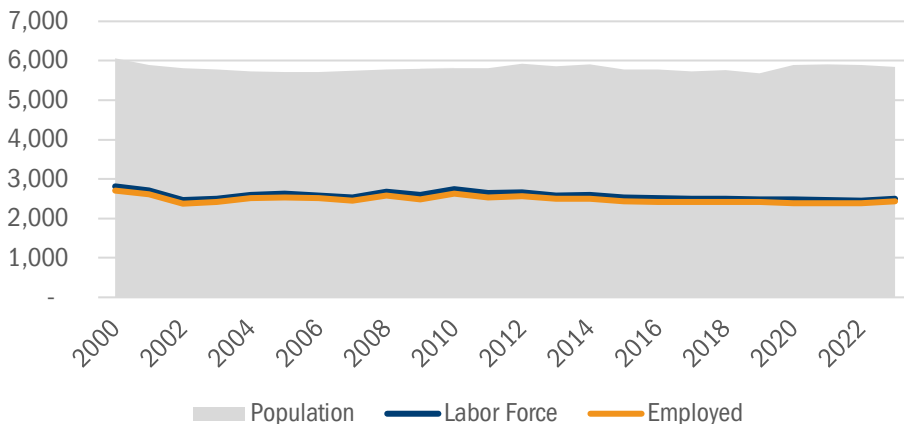
## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Administrative & Support Services - \$93,720
2. Professional & Technical Services - \$93,060
3. Other - \$74,940
4. Finance & Insurance - \$74,510
5. Wholesale Trade - \$63,220

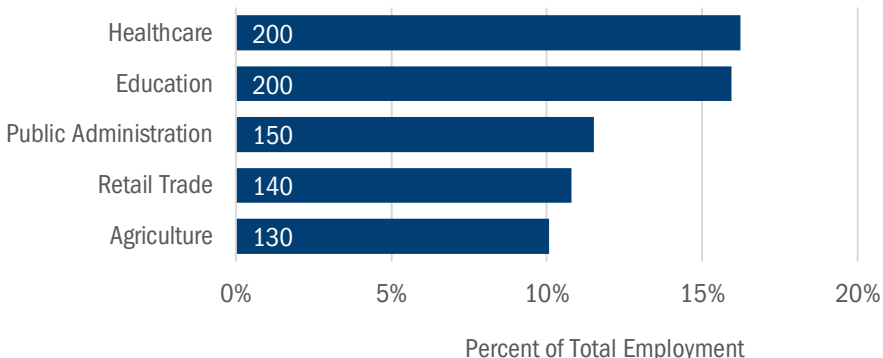
## Workforce Size in Chouteau County

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.

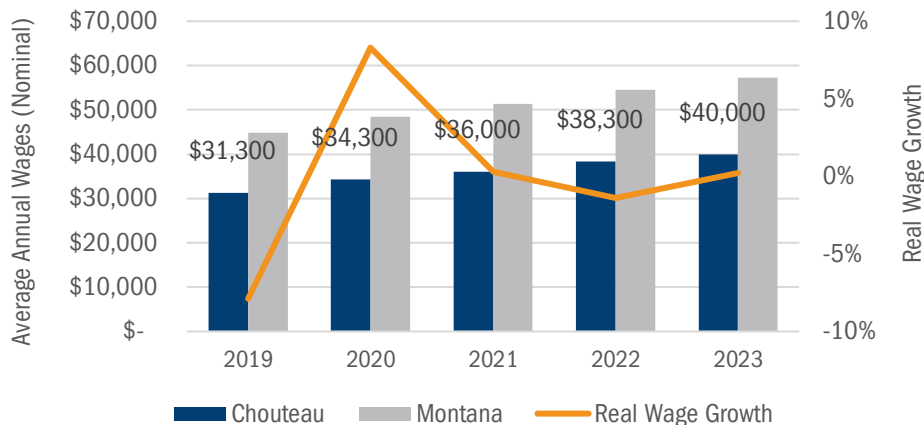
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



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

**55.7%** of Chouteau County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

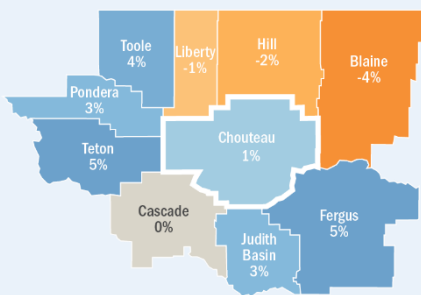
**76.7%** of Chouteau County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%.

### Consistent Population in Chouteau County

Chouteau County had **80 more people move in** than out from 2020 to 2023, about **1%** of the county population.

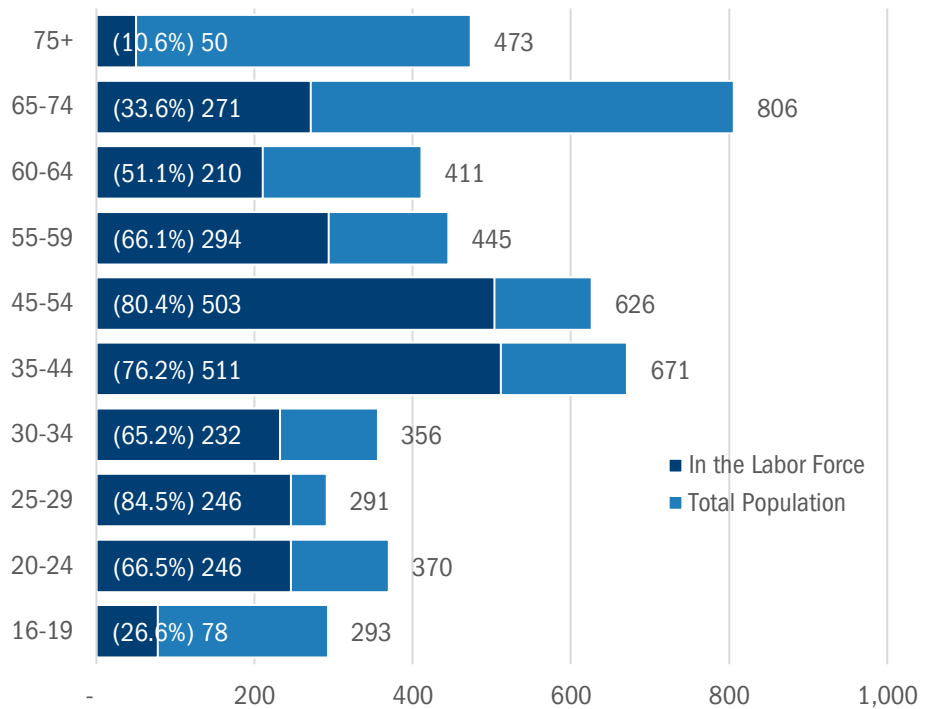
**11.9%** of workers in Chouteau County **work from home**, similar to the statewide average of 10.6%.

### 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.

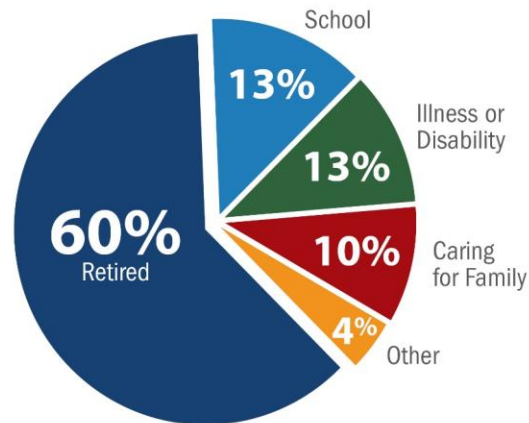
### Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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.

### High Share of Employment in Agriculture

**10% of payroll jobs are in Agriculture** in Chouteau County, **5 times** the state average