

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 11,985  
**Labor Force:** 6,299  
**Employed:** 6,123  
**Unemployed:** 176  
**Unemployment Rate:** 2.8%  
 (Similar to the Statewide Rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**173** jobs gained since 2018, about 3% of total jobs.

## Income and Benefits

**\$82,231** average household income in 2022, ranking Custer County **21st** highest among Montana counties.

**92.6%** of population with health insurance coverage.

**9.4%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**11.1%** of the population with income below the federal poverty level (below the state average of 12.4%).

## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

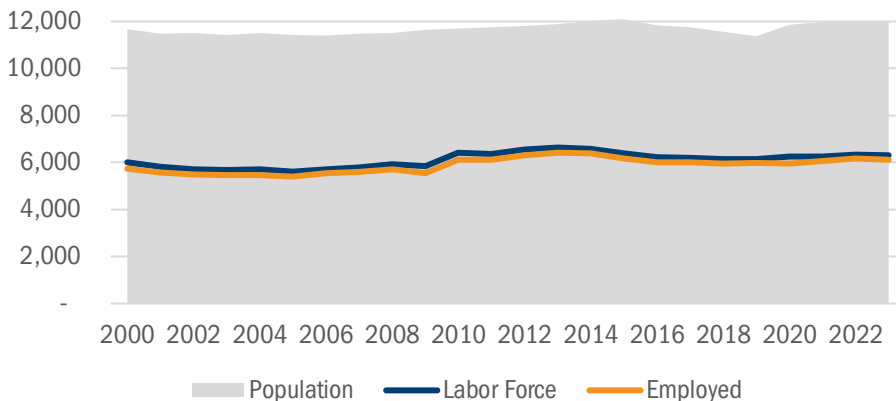
1. Finance & Insurance - \$74,620
2. Utilities - \$72,870
3. Public Administration - \$63,240
4. Healthcare - \$61,410
5. Wholesale Trade - \$55,110



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

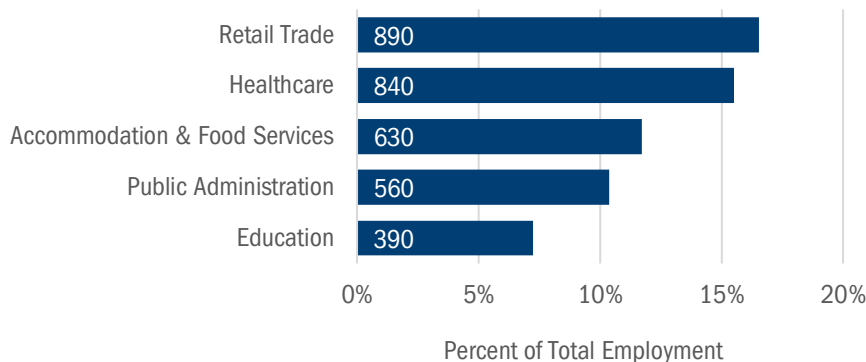
## Workforce Size in Custer County

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.

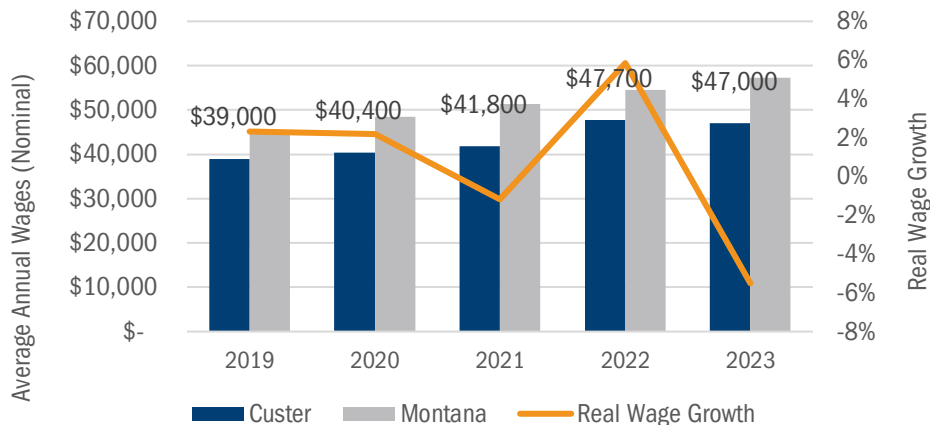
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



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.

### Labor Force Participation

**65.2%** of Custer County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, above the statewide rate of 63.0%.

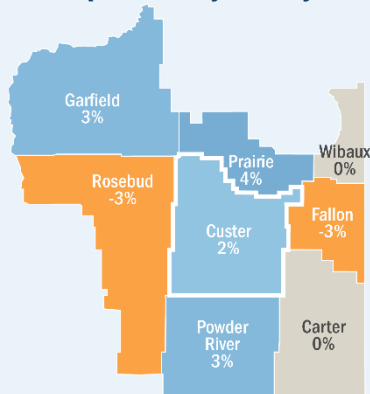
**83.6%** of Custer County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%

### Population Growth in Custer County

Custer County had **240 more people move in** than out from 2020 to 2023, about **2%** of the population.

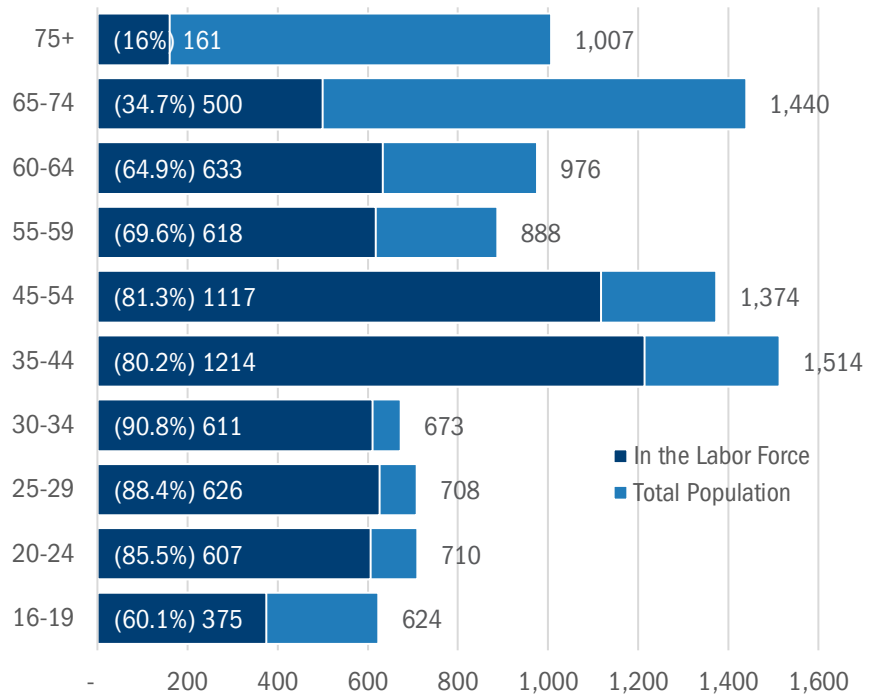
**4.7%** of workers in Custer County **work from home**, below the statewide average of 10.6%.

### 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.

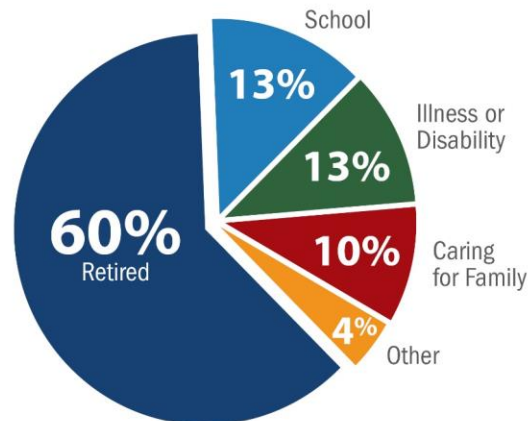
### Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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, Population 20-64

**79.4%**  
men in the labor force

**79.2%**  
women in the labor force

**83.6%**  
mothers with children under 18 in the labor force