

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF FERGUS COUNTY

Labor Market, 2023

Population: 11,772
Labor Force: 5,828
Employed: 5,650
Unemployed: 178
Unemployment Rate: 3.1%
 (Above the statewide rate of 2.9%)

Employment Growth

59 jobs gained since 2013, about 1% of total jobs.

Income and Benefits

\$76,228 average household income in 2022, ranking Fergus County **34th** highest among Montana counties.

85.9% of population with health insurance coverage.

7.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

14.8% of the population with income below the federal poverty level (above the state average of 12.4%).

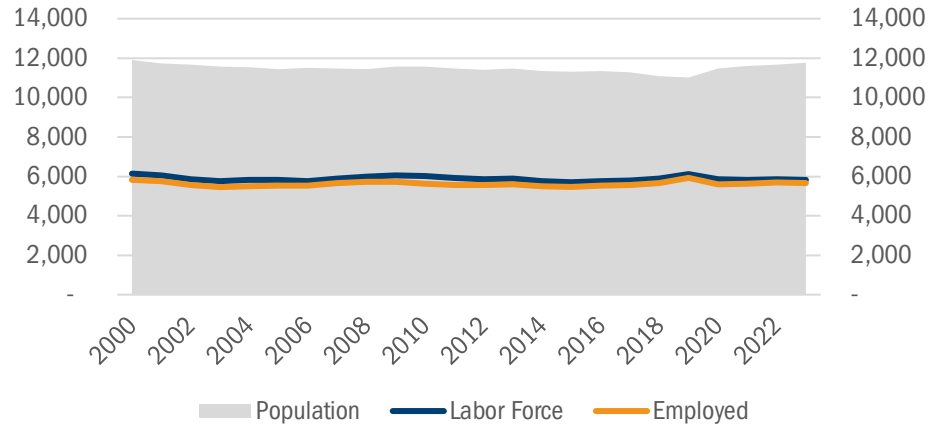
Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Finance & Insurance - \$70,390
2. Construction - \$65,600
3. Transportation - \$58,820
4. Public Administration - \$56,100
5. Manufacturing - \$54,640

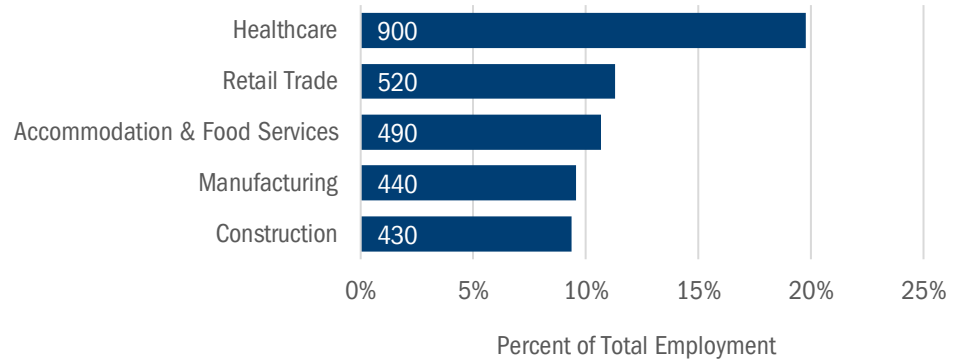
Workforce Size in Fergus County

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.

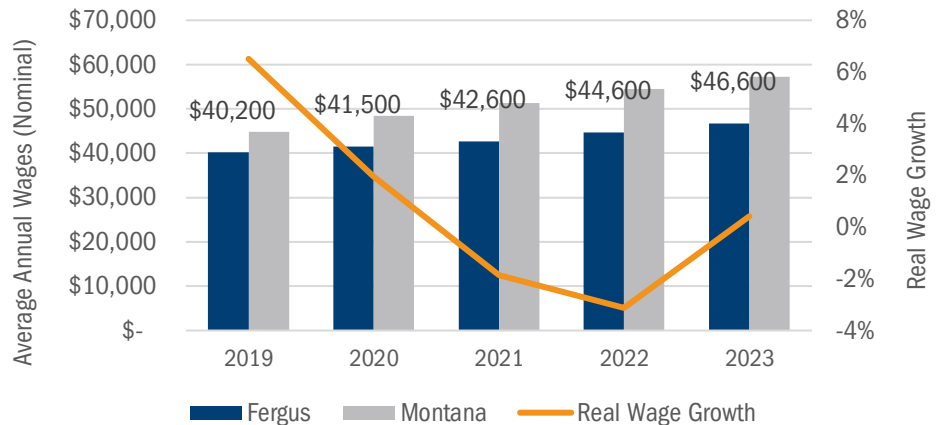
Top Employing Industries, 2023



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

60.7% of Fergus County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

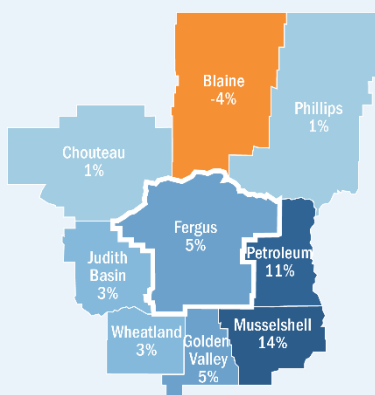
82.7% of Fergus County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, similar to the statewide rate of 84.2%

Population Increase in Central Montana

Fergus County had **602 more people move in** than out from 2020 to 2023, about **5%** of the population.

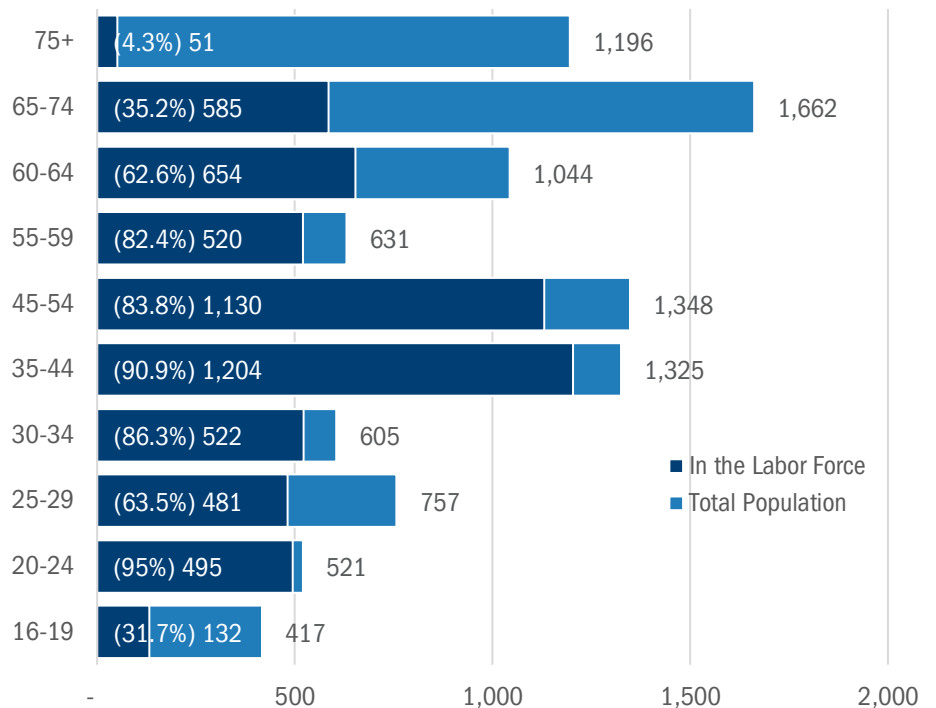
17.2% of workers in Fergus County **work from home**, greater than the statewide average of 10.6%.

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.

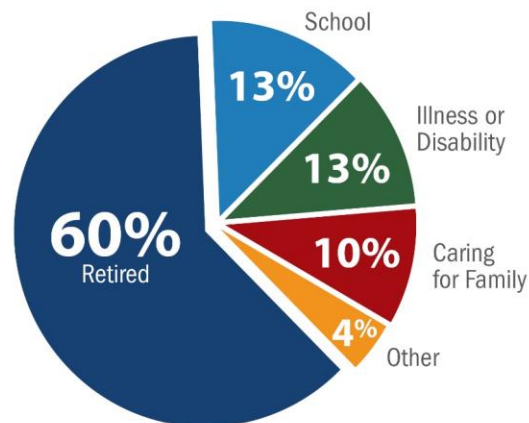
Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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, Population 20-64

86.9%
men in the labor force

73.4%
women in the labor force

82.7%
mothers with children under 18 in the labor force