

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF MUSSELHELL COUNTY

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 5,308  
**Labor Force:** 2,390  
**Employed:** 2,317  
**Unemployed:** 73  
**Unemployment Rate:** 3.1%  
 (Above the Statewide Rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**112 jobs gained** since 2020, about 5% of total jobs.

## Income and Benefits

**\$73,212** average household income in 2022, ranking Musselshell County the **39th** highest among Montana counties.

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

**12.2%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**11.8%** of the population with income below the federal poverty level (similar to the state average of 12.4%).

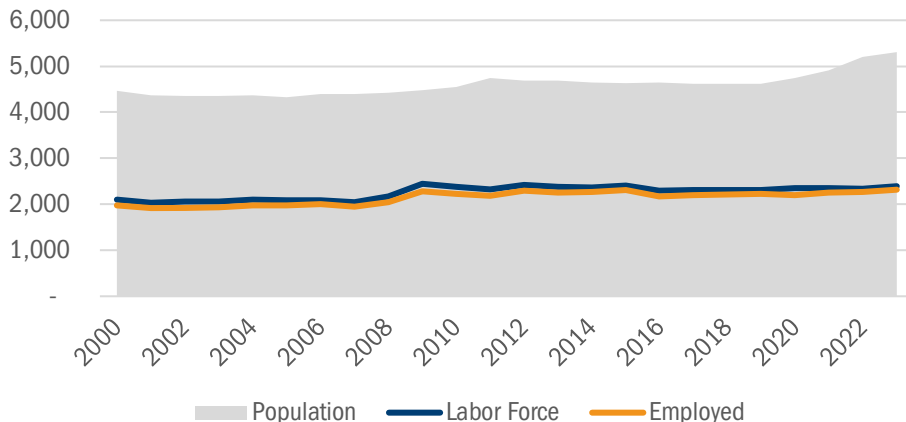
## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Mining & Extraction - \$134,800
2. Information - \$69,550
3. Finance & Insurance - \$55,160
4. Wholesale Trade - \$53,240
5. Profession, Scientific, & Technical Services - \$51,620

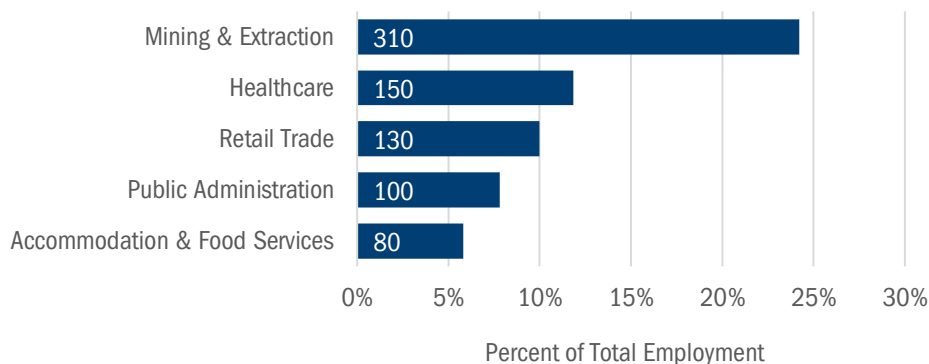
## Workforce Size in Musselshell County

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.

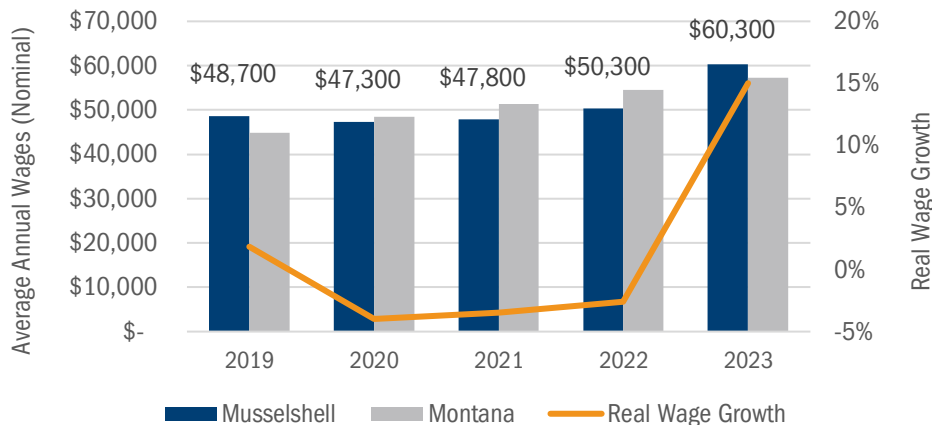
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



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

**50.4%** of Musselshell County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

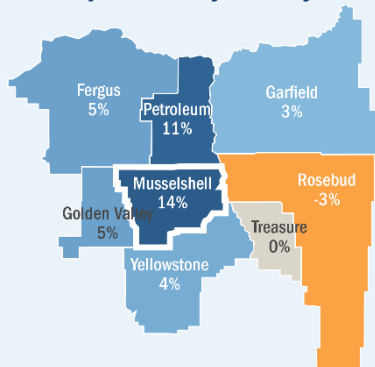
**76.2%** of Musselshell County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%.

### Population Growth in Musselshell County

Musselshell County had **750 more people move in** than out since 2020, about **14%** of the population, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate in the state.

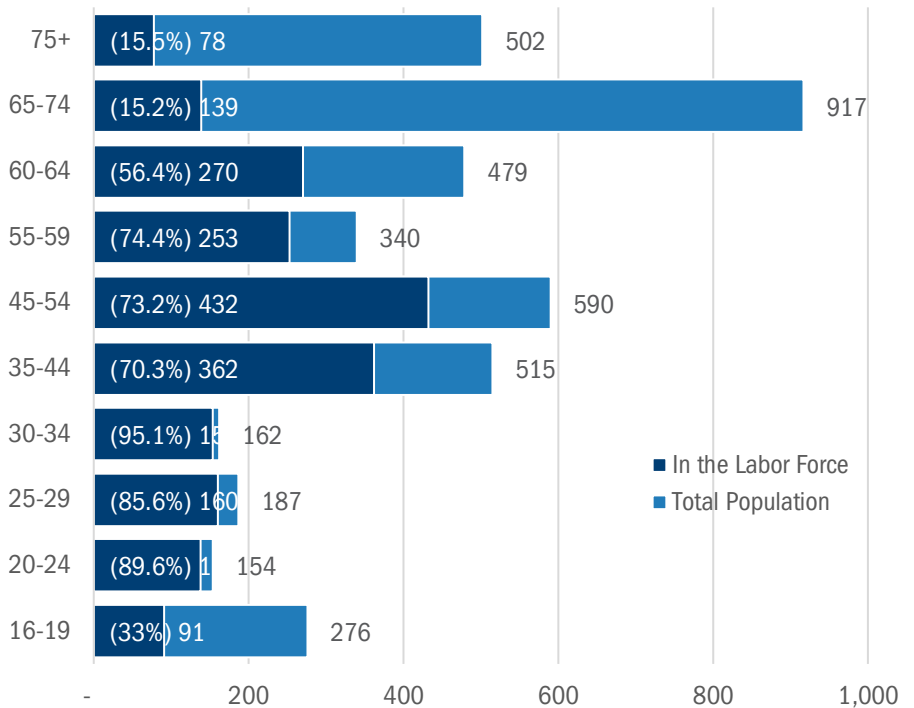
**15.7%** of workers in Musselshell County **work from home**, greater than the statewide average of 10.6%.

### 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.

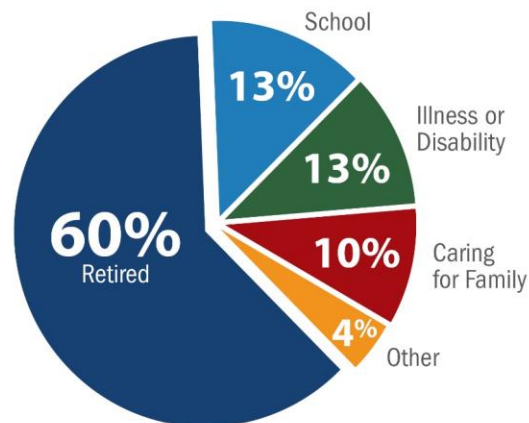
### Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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.

**Musselshell County makes up 5% of the state's mining and resource extraction jobs, despite having just 0.5% of the state's population.**