

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF PHILLIPS COUNTY

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 4,249  
**Labor Force:** 1,761  
**Employed:** 1,687  
**Unemployed:** 74  
**Unemployment Rate:** 4.2%  
 (Above the Statewide Rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**121 jobs lost** since 2020, about 7% of total jobs

## Income and Benefits

**\$75,183** average household income in 2022, ranking Phillips County the **36th** highest among counties.

**90.6%** of population with health insurance coverage.

**6.2%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**6.9%** of population with income below the federal poverty level (below the state average of 12.4%).

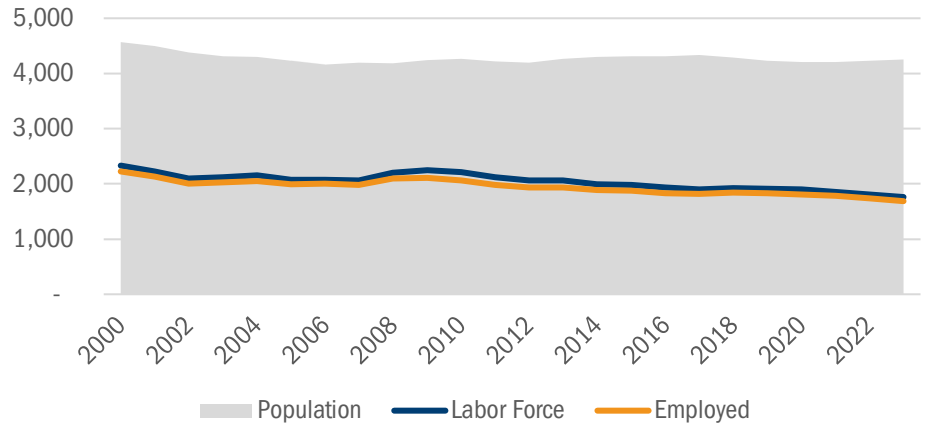
## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Utilities - \$73,130
2. Real Estate - \$57,580
3. Finance & Insurance - \$54,510
4. Public Administration - \$53,540
5. Construction - \$53,010

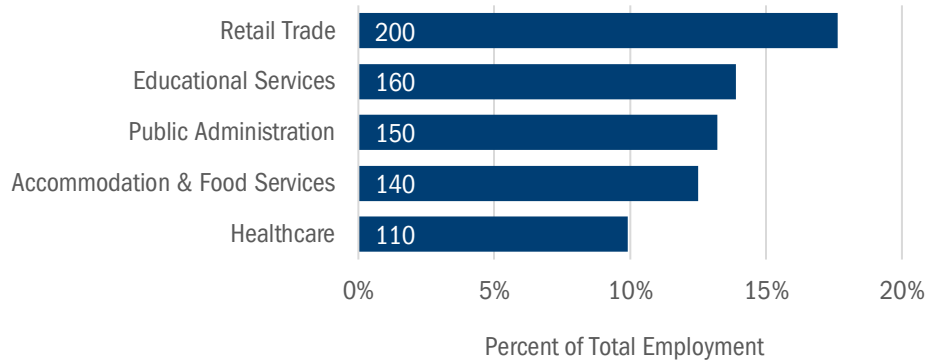
## Workforce Size in Phillips County

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.

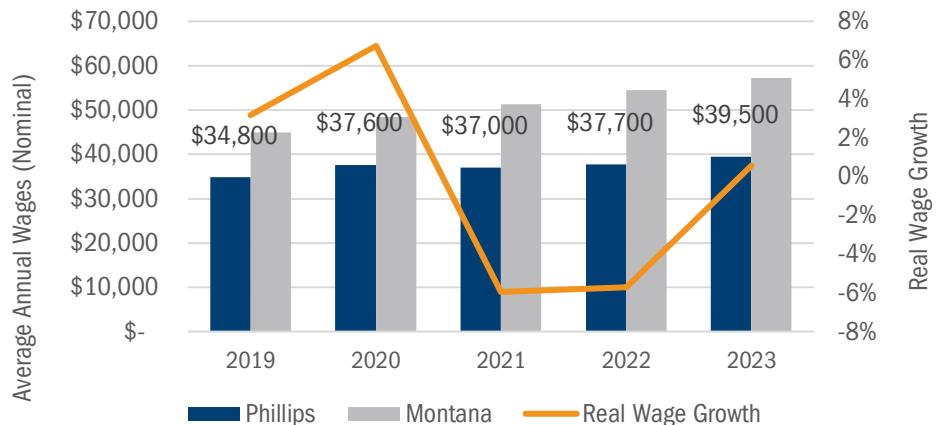
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



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

**60.4%** of Phillips County's population above 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%

**76.1%** of Phillips County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%.

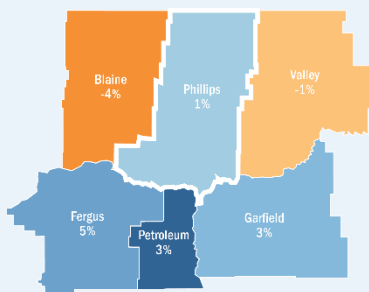
### Populations Increase in Southwestern Montana

After two decades of population decline, **Phillips county had 50 more people** move in than out since 2020, a 1% population gain.

**15.8% of workers** in Phillips County **work from home**, greater than the statewide average of 10.6%.

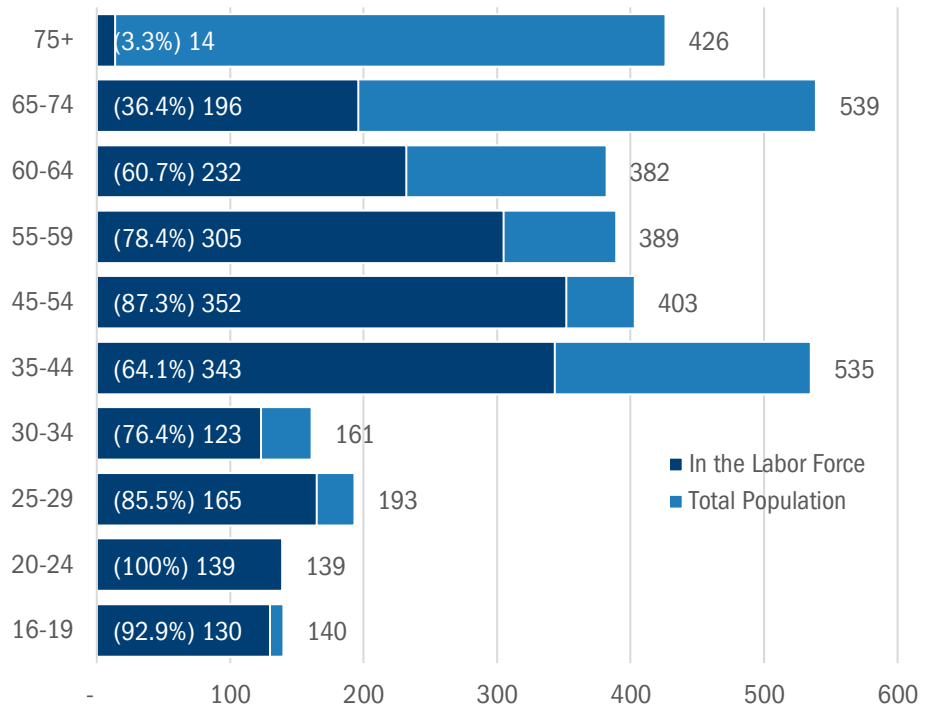
### Net Migration as a Percent of the Population by County

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.

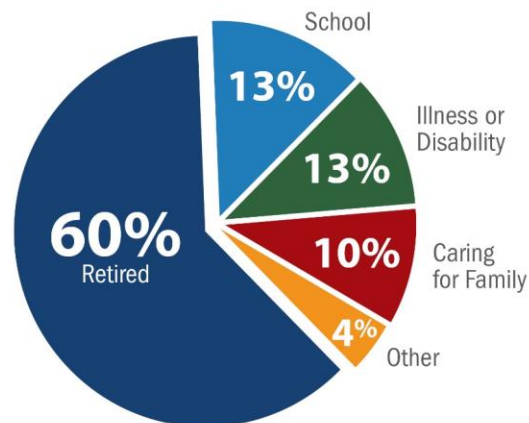
### Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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.

### Fort Belknap Reservation, 2023

**Labor Force: 757**

**Employed: 691**

**Unemployment Rate: 8.7%**

