

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF PRAIRIE COUNTY

Labor Market, 2023

Population: 1,112
Labor Force: 674
Employed: 657
Unemployed: 17
Unemployment Rate: 2.5%
 (Below as the Statewide Rate of 2.9%)

Employment Growth

28 jobs lost from 2012 to 2022, about 6% of total jobs.

Income and Benefits

\$69,469 average household income in 2022, ranking Prairie County **45th** highest among Montana counties.

94% of population with health insurance coverage.

20% of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

22% of the population with income below the federal poverty level (above the state average of 12.4%).

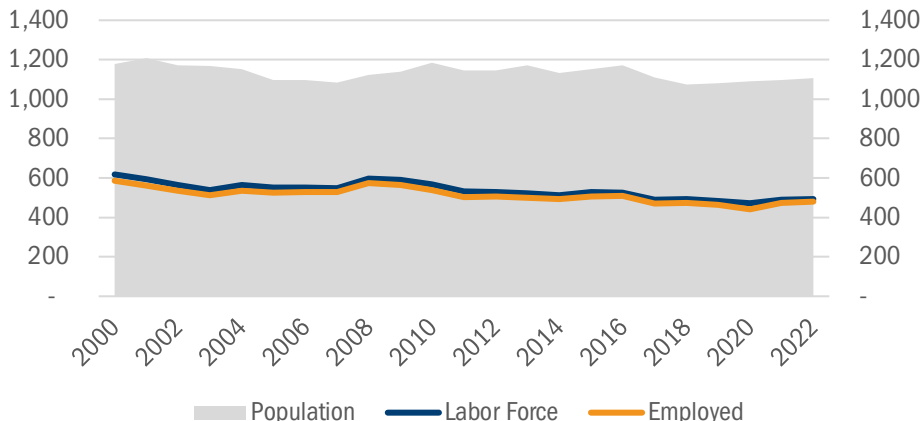
Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Construction - \$73,550
2. Professional & Technical Services - \$72,900
3. Public Admin - \$71,280
4. Agriculture & Forestry - \$48,910
5. Other Services - \$21,270

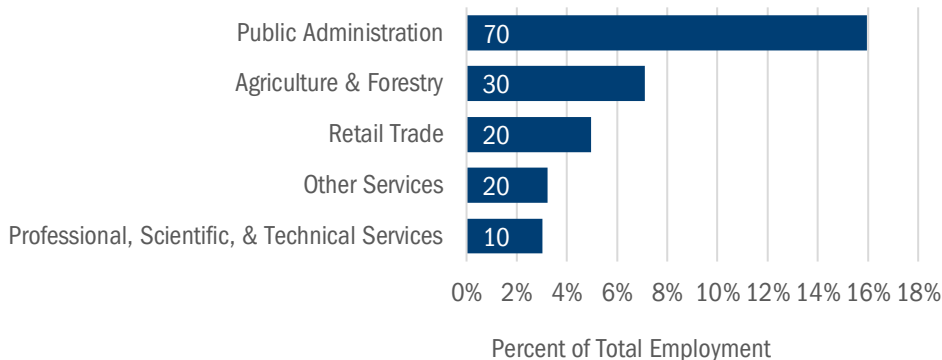
Workforce Size in Prairie County

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.

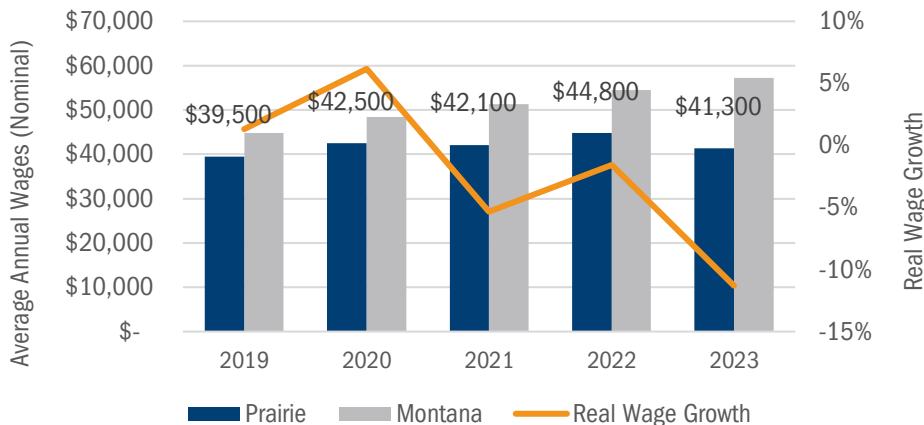
Top Employing Industries, 2023



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

56.5% of Prairie County's above 15 population participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

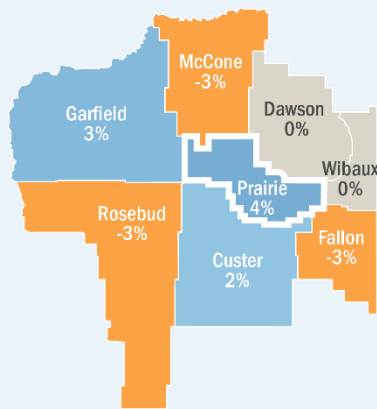
81.6% of Prairie County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%

Mixed Population Changes in Eastern Montana

Prairie County had **45 more people move in** than out from 2020 to 2023, about **4%** of the population.

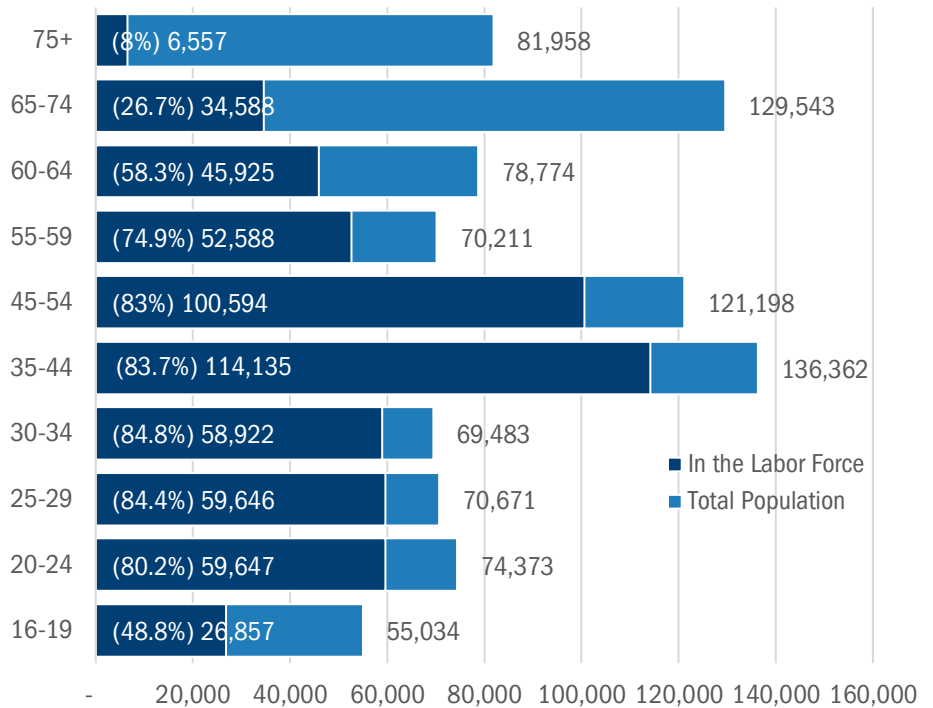
Prairie County is estimated to have a greater share of workers who work from home than the statewide average of 10.6%.

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.

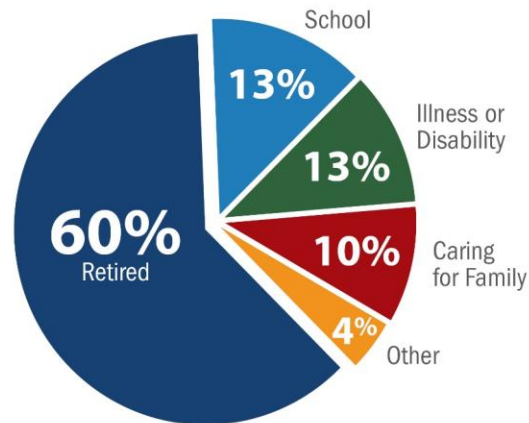
Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force



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, Montana Population 20-64

82.4%
men in the labor force

75.6%
women in the labor force

76.9%
mothers with children under 18 in the labor force



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