

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF WHEATLAND COUNTY

## Labor Market, 2023

**Population:** 2,057  
**Labor Force:** 755  
**Employed:** 725  
**Unemployed:** 30  
**Unemployment Rate:** 4.0%  
 (Above the statewide rate of 2.9%)

## Employment Growth

**50 jobs lost** since 2020, about 6% of total jobs.

## Income and Benefits

**\$63,128** average household income in 2022, ranking Wheatland County the **52nd** highest among all counties.

**80.3%** of population with health insurance coverage.

**3.5%** of households receiving SNAP benefits in last year.

**22.7%** of the population with income below the federal poverty level (above the state average of 12.4%).

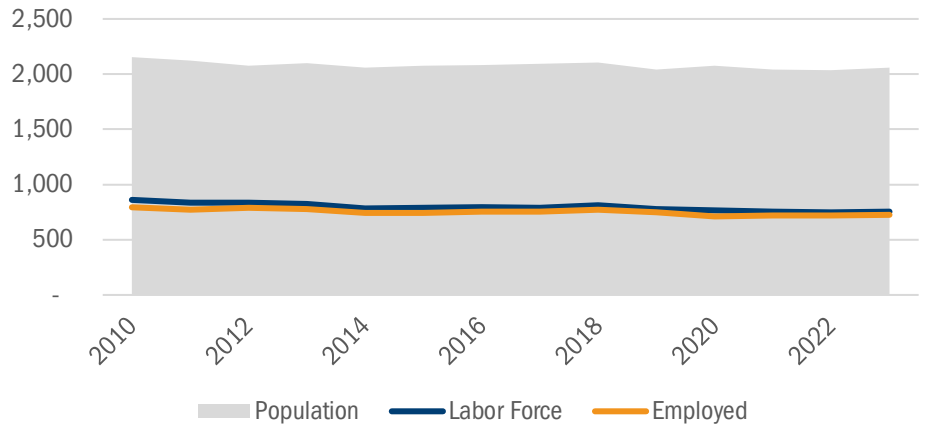
## Highest Paying Industries

Average Annual Wage, 2023

1. Construction - \$68,690
2. Transportation - \$55,540
3. Manufacturing - \$47,160
4. Healthcare - \$44,610
5. Public Administration - \$40,230

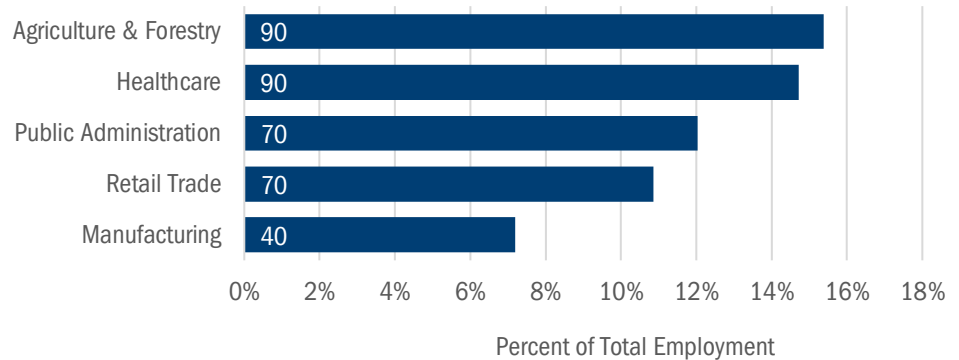
## Workforce Size in Wheatland County

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.

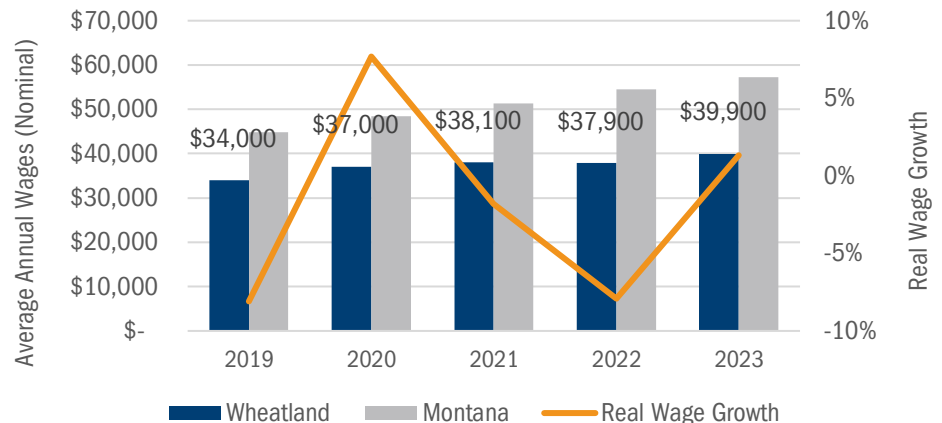
## Top Employing Industries, 2023



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**

**49.0%** of Wheatland County's population over 15 participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 63.0%.

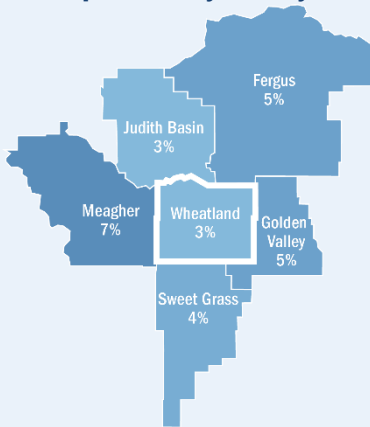
**68.5%** of Wheatland County's prime working age population (25 to 54 years old) participates in the labor force, below the statewide rate of 84.2%.

**Population Growth Continues in Wheatland County**

Wheatland County had **70 more people move in** than out from 2020 to 2023, about **3%** of the county population.

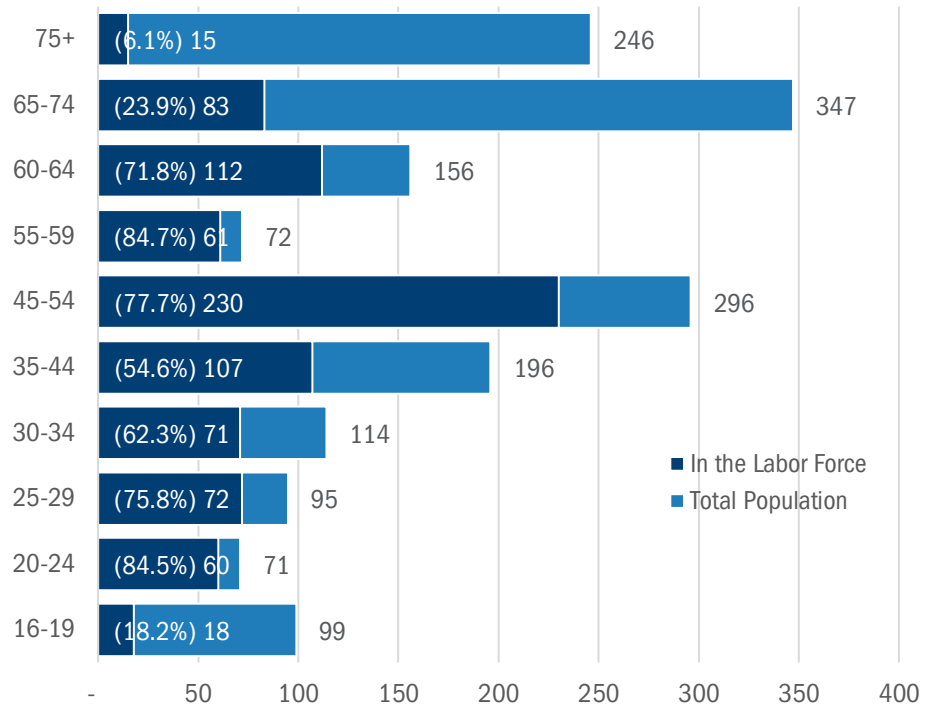
**22.6%** of workers in Wheatland County **work from home**, greater than the statewide average of 10.6%.

**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.

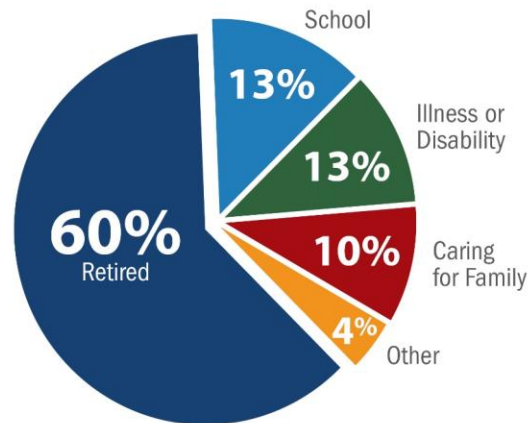
**Population by Age Group and Participation in Labor Force**



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.

**Nearly 19% of Wheatland County payroll jobs are in the agriculture & forestry industry, the 5<sup>th</sup> highest share among Montana Counties.**