Summary

The poverty rate for Deer Lodge County decreased from 21.2% in 2010 to 20.5% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 6.2% to 4.5%. Median income in 2014 was lower in Deer Lodge County ($41,015) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 54.7% in 2013 to 60.3% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county decreased by 3.0% (132 in 2012 to 128 in 2015).

- The poverty rate in Deer Lodge County has oscillated in recent years. The county’s poverty level has been consistently higher than the state poverty rate. The 2013 rate of 20.5% is lower than the 2010 rate of 21.2%. The state rate has increased over this same time period.

- The poverty rates for all age groups were higher in Deer Lodge County than Montana.
- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was higher in Deer Lodge County than Montana (33.6% versus 19.7%). The poverty rate for those 18 to 64 was lower in Deer Lodge County than the state (22.4% versus 14.5%). However, the poverty rate for elderly adults (65 and older) was higher in Deer Lodge County than the state (8.8% versus 8.6%).
The unemployment rate in Deer Lodge County was nearly identical to the statewide rate in 2014 at 4.5%. The unemployment rate in Deer Lodge County declined from 2011 to 2014.

The SNAP Program had 54,535 cases active in June of 2015 providing benefits to 116,843 Montanans. The average monthly benefit per case was $254 (or $118 per person). This represents 11.8% of the Montana population. These numbers are down from 2012 when there were 58,918 cases representing 126,547 recipients or 12.8% of the population. Also in 2012, the average benefit was $276 per case or $128 per person. Each program statistic has declined since 2012.

In 2015, 12.3% of the population in Deer Lodge County was receiving SNAP benefits. The average amount per case was $222 down from $235 in 2012. In the 2012, 14.0% of the population received benefits.

The TANF program had 2,936 active cases in Montana in June of 2015 benefiting 7,007 individuals (0.71% of the population). The average benefit per case was $374 per month. These numbers are down from 2012 when there were 3,282 cases benefiting 8,162 individuals (0.82% of the population). The average benefit in 2012 was $426 per month.

The average benefit in Deer Lodge County per case was $352 in June of 2015 with 0.03% of the population receiving TANF benefits.
The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 54.7% in 2013 to 60.3% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

The LIHEAP case load decreased by 3% (132 in 2012 to 128 in 2015) for the county and increased by over 9.5% (10,765 in 2012 to 11,795 in 2015) for the state from December 2012 to December 2015. The LIHEAP payments per case decreased by less than 3% ($468 in 2012 to $456 in 2015) in the county and 10.8% ($580 in 2012 to $518 in 2015) for the state from December 2012 to December 2015.

The county’s aged and family adult’s clients accounted for a higher percentage of Medicaid’s Physical Health funding utilization in 2014 than 2010. Medicaid Physical Health expenditures in the county increased by 8.8% ($8.4 million in 2010 to $9.1 million in 2014), while increasing over 17.5% ($624.4 million in 2010 to $733.7 million in 2014) in the state.

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• From 2011 to 2014, the population of Deer Lodge County decreased by 0.3%.
• During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

**Population**

![Population Graph]

- Montana: 973,739, 990,785, 998,554, 1,006,370
- Deer Lodge: 9,270, 9,277, 9,285, 9,243

**Labor Force**

- Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were somewhat higher in Deer Lodge County than state of Montana from 2011 through 2014.

![Labor Force Graph]

- Montana: 67, 67, 67, 67
- Deer Lodge: 64, 64, 64, 64

**Age Distribution**

- In 2014, the county’s Under 18 population was a lower proportion than for Montana. The county’s 65 & older population was a higher proportion than for Montana.

![Age Distribution Graphs]

- Age Distribution (2010):
  - Montana: Under 18 (23%), 18-64 (63%), 65 & Over (14%)
  - Deer Lodge: Under 18 (19%), 18-64 (63%), 65 & Over (14%)

- Age Distribution (2014):
  - Montana: Under 18 (22%), 18-64 (63%), 65 & Over (16%)
  - Deer Lodge: Under 18 (18%), 18-64 (63%), 65 & Over (19%)
The dependency ratio is the number of young (0 to 17) and elderly (65 and older), who are said to be dependent, divided by the working age (18 to 64) population.

- The county’s dependency ratio was slightly higher than the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014.
- The county’s dependency ratio remain relatively stable (around 63%), while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

In 2014, 9% of county residents aged 25 and older did not obtain a high school diploma, while the state average was 8%.

Data Note: Educational Attainment is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month (2010 to 2014) estimate.

Twenty Five percent of households in Montana earned less than $25,000 a year. Over the same time period, 47% of Montana households earned $50,000 or more.

The percentage of households in Deer Lodge County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 31%, which is about 6% higher than the statewide rate.

Data Note: Income is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month (2010 to 2014) estimate.
The median income and the per-capita income amounts were lower for the county than the state.

Data Note: Income is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month estimate based on 2010 to 2014 data.

In Montana from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 21% to 19% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest increased from 21% to 23%.

In Deer Lodge County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 30% to 29% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest increased from 17% to 19%. Deer Lodge County’s personal income represents 0.8% of the statewide total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Income (2014)</th>
<th>Deer Lodge</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($ x 1000) Total Personal Income</td>
<td>$313,447</td>
<td>$40,843,525</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2010 to 2014, the share of transfer payments for retirement and disability, medical benefits, and veteran’s benefits increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the state.

The share of transfer payments for retirement and disability, income maintenance benefits, and veteran’s benefits while other transfer payments decreased for the county.

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement and disability insurance benefits (%)</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical benefits (%)</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>41.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income maintenance benefits (%)</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance compensation (%)</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ benefits (%)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (%)</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total cost (x$1,000,000) 2010 | 6,855 | 82 |
| Total cost (x$1,000,000) 2014 | 7,489 | 89 |
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 43.5% ($1,422 in 2000 to $2,040 in 2013) in the county and 35.1% ($1,556 in 2000 to $2,103 in 2013) in the state. The percentage of EITC filers (EITC filers/Total IRS filers) increased by 12.3% in the county and 18.3% in the state.

The data sources for this report can be found at [www.montana.edu/extension/econ/poverty.html](http://www.montana.edu/extension/econ/poverty.html).