Summary

The poverty rate for Judith Basin County increased from 9.9% in 2010 to 12.4% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 6.2% to 4.3%. Median income in 2014 was lower in Judith Basin County ($45,670) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 42.8% in 2013 to 40.3% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county increased by 6.3% (16 in 2012 to 17 in 2015).

- Judith Basin’s poverty rate increased from 9.9% to 12.4% over the 2010 to 2013 time period. The state poverty rate rose over the same time period. The state poverty rate is 15.2% in 2013.

- The poverty rates for all age groups were lower in Judith Basin County than the Montana rates.
- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was lower in Judith Basin County than the state (16.1% versus 19.7%). The poverty rate for working adults (18 to 64) was lower in Judith Basin County than the state (11.8% versus 14.5%) And, the poverty rate for the elderly (65 and older) was lower in Judith Basin County than the state (7.2% versus 8.6%).

Poverty Rate

Poverty Rate by Age
The unemployment rate in Judith Basin County was 4.3% in 2014 which is slightly less than that statewide unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in Judith Basin County declined approximately 2% 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, 4.1% of the population in Judith Basin County was receiving SNAP benefits. In 2012, 3.9% 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.

County level data for the TANF is not available for Judith Basin County.
The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 42.8% in 2013 to 40.3% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

The LIHEAP case load increased by 6.3% (16 in 2012 to 17 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 7.8% ($781 in 2012 to $720 in 2015) in the county and decreased 10.8% ($580 in 2012 to $518 in 2015) for the state from December 2012 to December 2015.

The county’s child and disabled 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 94.0% (about $400,000 in 2010 to about $800,000 in 2014), while increasing over 17.5% ($624.4 million in 2010 to $733.7 million in 2014) in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid Physical Health</th>
<th>Judith Basin</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 2011 to 2014, the population of Judith Basin County increased by 2.8%.
During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were substantially lower in Judith Basin County than in the state of Montana from 2011 through 2014.

In 2014, the county’s Under 18 population was a higher proportion than for Montana. The county’s 65 & older population was a lower proportion than for Montana.
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 substantially higher than the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014.

The county’s dependency ratio decreased from 72% in 2011 to 69% in 2014, while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

The data suggests that the county has a younger and elderly population which is higher compared to the state.

In 2014, 6% of county residents aged 25 and older did not obtain a high school diploma, while the state average was 8%.

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 Judith Basin County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 24%, which is slightly lower than the statewide rate.

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

Data Note: Income is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month (2010 to 2014) estimate.
The median income amount was lower and the per-capita income amount was higher 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 Judith Basin County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 23% to 14% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest decreased from 32% to 25%. Both of these changes were driven by a significant increase in total personal income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Income (2014)</th>
<th>Judith Basin</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Personal Income</td>
<td>$100,582</td>
<td>$40,843,525</td>
<td>0.2%</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 and medical benefits, while other transfer payments decreased for the county.
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 49.3% ($1,310 in 2000 to $1,956 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 18.8% in the county and 18.3% in the state.

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