Summary

The poverty rate for Missoula County decreased from 17.3% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 6.7% to 4.5%. Median income in 2014 was higher in Missoula County ($47,029) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 39.7% in 2013 to 43.8% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county increased by 28% (1,317 in 2012 to 1,687 in 2015).

- The poverty rate in Missoula County was 16.5% in 2013. This is above the statewide rate of 15.2%. Both Missoula County’s poverty rate and the statewide poverty rate increased from 2010 to 2013.

**Poverty Rate**

- The poverty rates for the youth (under 18) and elderly (65 and older) were lower in Missoula County than in Montana. However, the poverty rate for working age adults (18 to 64) was higher in Missoula County than in Montana.

- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was lower in Missoula County than the state (14.9% versus 19.7%). The poverty rate for those 18 to 64 was higher in Missoula County than the state (19.1% versus 14.5%). However, the poverty rate for elderly adults (65 and older) was slightly lower in Missoula County than the state (8.2% versus 8.6%).
The unemployment rate in Missoula County was very similar to the statewide unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in Missoula County was 4.5% in 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, 12.6% of the population in Missoula County was receiving SNAP benefits. The average amount per case was $228 down from $246 in 2012. In the 2012, 14.2% 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 Missoula County per case was $344 in June of 2015 with 0.50% of the population receiving TANF benefits.
The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 39.7% in 2013 to 43.8% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

The LIHEAP case load increased by 28% (1,317 in 2012 to 1,687 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 2.3% ($474 in 2012 to $463 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 Family Adults 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 15.2% ($62.8 million in 2010 to $72.4 million 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>Missoula</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 ($1 million)</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 ($1 million)</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 2011 to 2014, the population of Missoula County increased by 3.5%.
During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were slightly higher in Missoula County than state of Montana from 2011 through 2014.

In 2014, the county’s Under 18 population was a lower 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 lower than the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014. The county’s dependency ratio increased from 47% in 2011 to 49% in 2014, while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014. This low dependency ratio is driven by the county’s low old age dependency ratio (18% in the county versus 25% in the state).

In 2014, 5% 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 Missoula County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 22%, which is 2% 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 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 Missoula County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 19% to 17% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest increased from 21% to 26%. Missoula County’s personal income represents 10.6% of the statewide total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Income (2014)</th>
<th>Missoula</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($ x 1000) Total Personal Income</td>
<td>$4,329,548</td>
<td>$40,843,525</td>
<td>10.6%</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 and county.
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 28.5% ($1,415 in 2000 to $1,819 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 35% 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).