Summary

The poverty rate for Park County decreased from 13.6% in 2010 to 12.3% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 8.3% to 5.6%. Median income in 2014 was lower in Park County ($42,056) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 37.3% in 2013 to 39.9% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county decreased by 3.7% (242 in 2012 to 233 in 2015).

- The poverty rate in Park County was 12.3% in 2013. The statewide poverty rate was 15.2% in 2013. The Park County poverty rate has been consistently less than the statewide rate from 2010 to 2013.

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

- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was lower in Park County than the state (16% versus 19.7%). The poverty rate for those 18 to 64 was lower in Park County than the state (11.5% versus 14.5%). However, the poverty rate for elderly adults (65 and older) was higher in Park County than the state (9.7% versus 8.6%).
• The unemployment rate in Park County has been consistently about 1% higher than the statewide employment rate from 2011 to 2014. In 2014, the unemployment rate in Park County was 5.6%.

Unemployment Rate

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

• 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, 9.2% of the population in Park County was receiving SNAP benefits. The average amount per case was $243 up from $238 in 2012. In the 2012, 10.5% of the population received benefits.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

• 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 Park County per case was $337 in June of 2015 with 0.32% of the population receiving TANF benefits.
- The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 37.3% in 2013 to 39.9% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

![Free and Reduced School Lunch Eligibility](image)

- The LIHEAP case load decreased by 3.7% (242 in 2012 to 233 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 5.4% ($564 in 2012 to $533 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.

![Utilization of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)](image)

- The county’s family adults, 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 33.7% ($6.6 million in 2010 to $8.9 million in 2014), while increasing over 17.5% ($624.4 million in 2010 to $733.7 million in 2014) in the state.

![Medicaid Utilization Estimates](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid Physical Health</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 ($1 million)</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 ($1 million)</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 2011 to 2014, the population of Park County decreased by 0.7%.
During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were slightly lower in Park County than for the 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 higher proportion than for Montana.

Age Distribution (2010)

Age Distribution (2014)
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 lower than the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014.

The county’s dependency ratio increased from 56% in 2011 to 59% in 2014, while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

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 Park County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 24%, which is about 1% lower 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 Park County 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 27% to 31%. Park County’s personal income represents 1.6% of the statewide total.

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 increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the county.
• From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 33.3% ($1,397 in 2000 to $1,863 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 16.1% 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.