Summary

The poverty rate for Richland County increased from 13.5% in 2010 to 14.2% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 3.1% to 2.4%. Median income in 2014 was higher in Richland County ($61,438) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 26.1% in 2013 to 24.6% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county decreased by 33.9% (59 in 2012 to 39 in 2015).

- Richland County’s poverty rate has increased from 13.5% in 2010 to 14.2% in 2013. The statewide poverty rate is 15.2% in 2013. The statewide and county rate increased from 2010 to 2013.

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

- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was higher in Richland County than Montana (22.8% versus 19.7%).

- The poverty rate for those 18 to 64 was lower in Richland County than Montana (10.7% versus 14.5%). However, the poverty rate for elderly adults (65 and older) was higher in Richland County than Montana (14% versus 8.6%).
The unemployment rate in Richland County was 2.4% in 2014. This is a decline from the 2011 unemployment rate of 3.1%. The statewide unemployment rate was 4.7% in 2014. The statewide rate also 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, 4.4% of the population in Richland County was receiving SNAP benefits. The average amount per case was $276 up from $251 in 2012. In the 2012, 3.6% 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 Richland County per case was $299 in June of 2015 with 0.02% of the population receiving TANF benefits.
• The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 26.1% in 2013 to 24.6% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

• The LIHEAP case load decreased by 33.9% (59 in 2012 to 39 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 13.7% ($502 in 2012 to $433 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 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 decreased by 12.2% ($4.7 million in 2010 to $4.1 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>Richland</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 2011 to 2014, the population of Richland County increased by 12.5%.
• During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were substantially higher in Richland County than for 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 nearly the same as the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014.
• The county’s dependency ratio decreased from 62% in 2011 to 59% in 2014, while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

Educational Attainment Age 25 and Older

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

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

Ranges of Income

• 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 Richland County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 23%, which is about 2% 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 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 Richland County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 14% to 8% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest decreased from 21% to 16%. These decreases are primarily due to an increase in total personal income. Richland County’s personal income represents 1.8% of the statewide total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Income (2014)</th>
<th>Richland</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($ x 1000) Total Personal Income</td>
<td>$717,728</td>
<td>$40,843,525</td>
<td>1.8%</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, medical benefits, income maintenance, and veteran’s benefits increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the county.
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 30.2% ($1,576 in 2000 to $2,052 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) decreased by 32.9% in the county and increased by 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).