

Demographic & Economic Information for

Big Horn County



September 2010

Photo courtesy of MontanaPictures.net



**Big Horn
County**

**Montana Department
of Labor and Industry**
WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION



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Big Horn County

Big Horn County is Montana's fourteenth most populous county, with an estimated 13,015 residents as of July 1st, 2009. Hardin, the county seat, is the state's 23rd largest city, with a population estimated at 3,532 in 2009.¹ Other cities and towns in Big Horn County include Busby, Crow Agency, Fort Smith, Garryowen, Lodge Grass, Pryor, St. Xavier, and Wyola. The majority of Big Horn County lies within the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations.

Coal Mining and Agriculture both play major roles in Big Horn County's economy. Farms and ranches in the county produce mainly beef cattle, sugar beets, alfalfa, and small grains.²

Big Horn County is the location of the famous Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, and the annual "Custer's Last Stand Reenactment," which draws Montanans and out-of-state visitors to witness the tale of the Battle of the Little Bighorn told from the Indian perspective. Big Horn County also boasts the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, which is known for its world class trout fishing.

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²MSU extension in Big Horn County, <http://extn.msu.montana.edu/counties/bighorn.htm>

Resources for Big Horn County

Chamber of Commerce

Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

10 East Railway
P.O. Box 446
Hardin, MT 59034
Ph: (406) 665-1672, Fax: (406) 665-3577
E-mail: hardinchamber@bhwi.net
www.custerslaststand.org/chamber

Economic Development

City of Hardin Economic
Development Office
Phone: (406) 665-9269
E-mail: edo@hardinmt.com

Newspaper

Big Horn County News
P. O. Box 926
Hardin, MT 59034
Phone: (406) 665-1008
www.bighorncountynews.com

Job Service Workforce Center

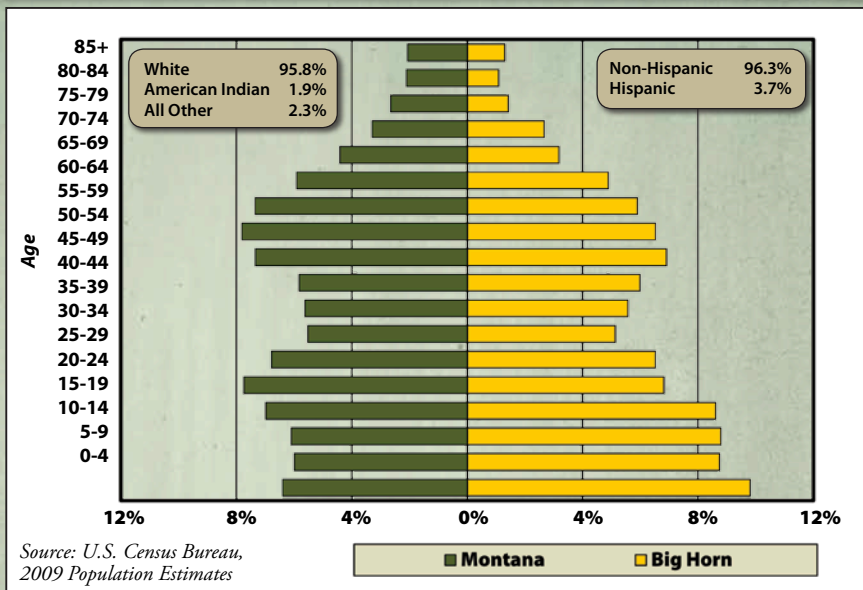
Billings Job Service Workforce Center
2121 Rosebud Drive, Ste. B
Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 406-652-3080
Fax: 406-652-0444
E-mail: billingsjsc@mt.gov
www.wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/billings

Population for Big Horn County & Related Areas

Geography	% Change 2000-2009	Population Estimates						Census
		July 1, 2009	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2000	April 1, 2000
Big Horn County	2.8%	13,015	12,809	12,751	12,703	12,769	12,659	12,671
Hardin city	3.7%	3,532	3,477	3,453	3,428	3,435	3,405	3,384
Lodge Grass town	1.1%	537	529	527	526	530	531	510
Balance Big Horn County	2.6%	8,946	8,803	8,771	8,749	8,804	8,723	8,777

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Big Horn County, 2009



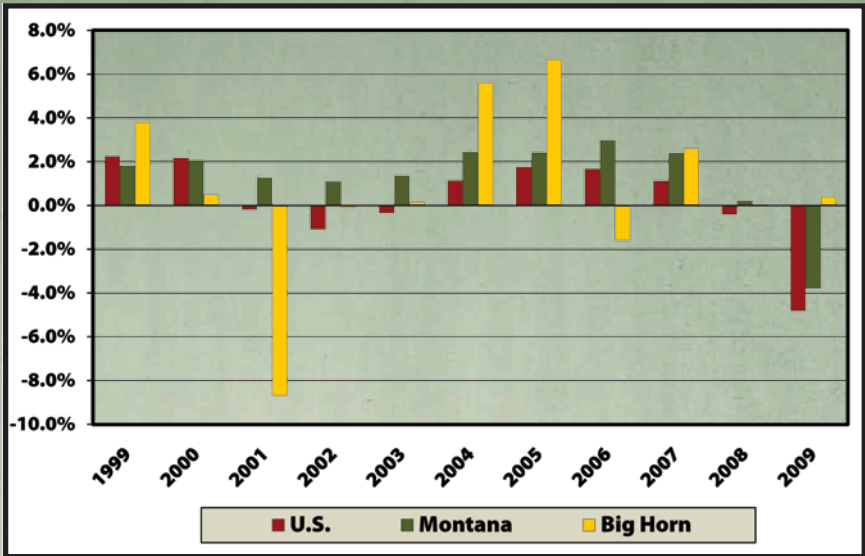
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Big Horn County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	23.6%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	30.2%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	26.1%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.8%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	10.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	2.7%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	0.9%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1999 to 2009 U.S., Montana, and Big Horn County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 10 Private Employers in Big Horn County (Based on 4th Quarter 2009 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Awe Kualawaache Care Center	4	Home Care Services	4
Big Horn Hospital Association	6	Kennecott Energy Co. Spring Creek Mine	6
Big Horn / Little Horn IGA	4	McDonald's	5
Colorado Energy Management / Hardin Generating Station	4	St Charles Mission School and Pretty Eagle Catholic School	5
Decker Coal Company	6	Westmoreland Resources Inc	6

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads, tribal entities, and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Big Horn County

Farms			
	2007 Census	2002 Census	% Change
Farms: (number)	695	584	19%
Land in farms (acres)	2,899,620	2,811,337	3%
Average size of farms (acres)	4,172	4,814	-13%
Median size of farms (acres)	550	1,190	-54%
Farms by size: (number)			
Less than 1,000 acres	406	317	28%
1,000 acres or more	289	267	8%
Farms by value of products sold: (number)			
Less than \$100,000	512	426	20%
\$100,000 or more	183	158	16%
Farms by type of organization: (number)			
Family, Individual, Partnership	619	525	18%
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	76	59	29%
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested			
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)			
Cattle and calves	93,169	87,736	6%
Hogs and pigs	102	*	*
Sheep and lambs	641	1,519	-58%
Horses and ponies	5,637	4,081	38%
Bison	2,150	2,149	0%
Chickens (layers and broilers)	521	*	*
Crops Harvested (acres)			
Corn for grain	745	327	128%
Corn for silage or greenchop	1,935	3,158	-39%
Wheat for grain, All	102,081	85,192	20%
Winter wheat for grain	87,729	64,683	36%
Spring wheat for grain	14,352	20,509	-30%
Durum wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Oats for grain	467	568	-18%
Barley for grain	18,048	12,641	43%
Hay, haylage, grass silage	83,429	59,136	41%
Sunflower seed, All	0	0	NA
Operator Demographics			
Primary occupation: (number)			
Farming	369	392	-6%
Other	326	192	70%
Place of residence: (number)			
On farm operated	527	463	14%
Not on farm operated	168	121	39%
Years on present farm: (number)			
Less than 10 years	164	147	12%
10 years or more	531	437	22%
Age group: (number)			
Under 55 years	317	303	5%
55 years and over	378	281	35%
Average age of operators: (number)	55.5	54.2	2%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007

* - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2009

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	280	4,512	\$34,453
TOTAL PRIVATE	235	2,138	\$37,312
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	18	87	\$25,266
Crop production	7	37	\$21,233
Animal production	8	40	\$27,593
Forestry and logging	1	*	*
Agriculture & forestry support	2	*	*
MINING	8	571	\$71,412
Oil and gas extraction	2	*	*
Mining, except oil and gas	3	396	\$72,582
Support activities for mining	3	*	*
UTILITIES	5	58	\$68,067
CONSTRUCTION	19	54	\$37,584
Construction of buildings	5	20	\$24,598
Heavy and civil engineering construction	3	5	\$58,959
Specialty trade contractors	12	29	\$43,127
MANUFACTURING	5	39	\$39,129
Petroleum & coal products manufacturing	2	*	*
Chemical manufacturing	2	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	7	26	\$42,949
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	6	*	*
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	1	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	35	319	\$16,839
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	4	32	\$26,032
Electronics and appliance stores	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	5	88	\$17,079
Health and personal care stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	11	97	\$15,239
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1	*	*
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	2	*	*
General merchandise stores	2	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	6	45	\$12,590
Nonstore retailers	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	13	68	\$21,265
Truck transportation	5	11	\$28,367

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)
 * Data Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2009

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Transit and ground passenger transport	4	38	\$11,731
Pipeline transportation	1	*	*
Support activities for transportation	3	17	\$32,372
INFORMATION	5	14	\$18,320
Publishing industries, except Internet	1	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
Telecommunications	3	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	10	84	\$35,336
Credit intermediation & related activity	5	61	\$36,481
Insurance carriers & related activities	5	24	\$32,415
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	6	11	\$19,845
Real estate	5	*	*
Rental and leasing services	1	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	26	71	\$42,712
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	5	13	\$29,659
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	4	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	16	267	\$26,062
Ambulatory health care services	6	21	\$22,988
Hospitals	1	98	\$35,056
Nursing and residential care facilities	2	*	*
Social assistance	7	57	\$13,840
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	12	64	\$17,727
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	10	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	27	275	\$12,876
Accommodation	13	80	\$13,620
Food services and drinking places	14	195	\$12,571
OTHER SERVICES	15	45	\$19,044
Repair and maintenance	5	13	\$22,724
Personal and laundry services	4	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	5	18	\$9,503
Private households	1	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	46	2,375	\$31,880
Local Government	15	1,930	\$26,796
State Government	7	22	\$29,301
Federal Government	24	423	\$55,191

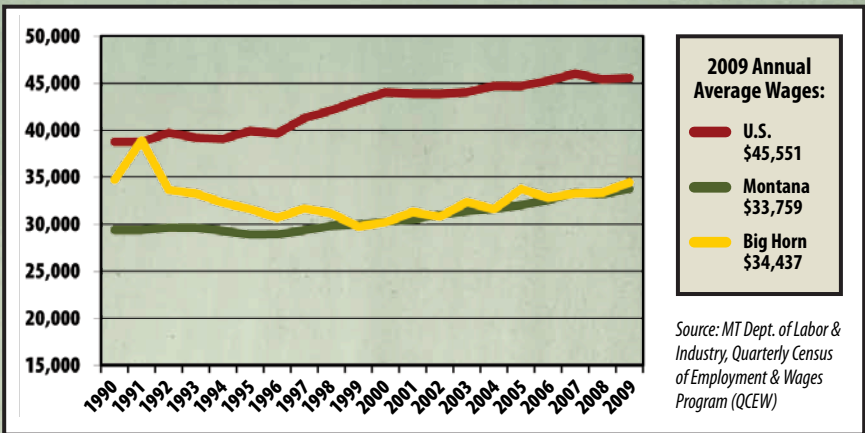
The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

Annual Average Labor Force - Big Horn County

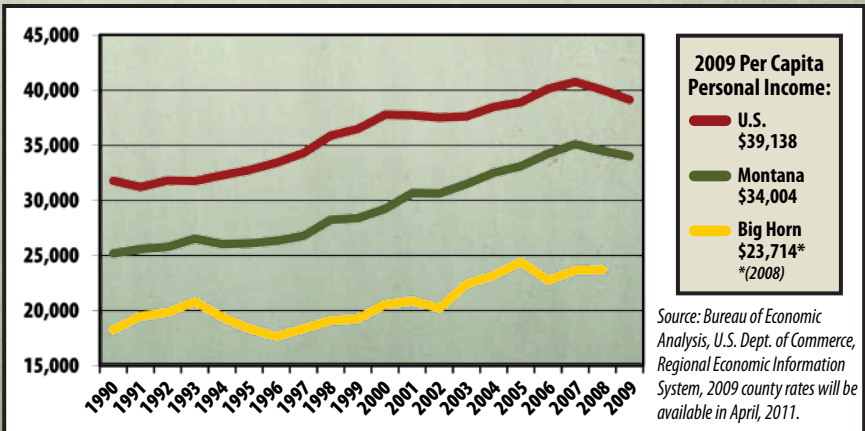
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2009	5,209	4,761	448	8.6%
2008	5,203	4,814	389	7.5%
2007	5,030	4,734	296	5.9%
2006	5,000	4,678	322	6.4%
2005	5,187	4,777	410	7.9%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2009 (In 2009 Dollars)



Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2009 (In 2009 Dollars)



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