



FLATHEAD VALLEY WORKFORCE

Economic Trends and Demographics

Abstract

Flathead County sits in beautiful Northwest Montana. It has a vibrant economy based on its position as a regional trade center, providing medical services, tourism, logging and wood product manufacturing, home construction, and manufacturing. While hurt badly by the 2008 financial crisis, Flathead County has since fully recovered.

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Important Industries

Current State

All industries in Flathead County with over \$100k in total payroll are listed in Figure 1.

Figure 1 columns are defined as follows:

Payroll - The total amount of wages paid to all employees in an industry.

Employment - The total number of employees in an industry.

Average Wage - The average wage paid to each employee in an industry.

The rightmost two columns present location quotients. Location quotients describe the importance of industries to a region relative the United States generally. Locations quotients based on employment are described in Equation 1.

$$\text{Location Quotient} = \frac{\% \text{ Flathead Workforce Employed in Industry}}{\% \text{ Nationwide Workforce Employed in Industry}}$$

Equation 1

A location quotient greater than 1 implies the industry is relatively more important to Flathead Valley than the United States at large. A location quotient less than 1 implies it is relatively less important. High location quotient industries are also described as “basic” or exporting industries. Location quotients can be based on payroll rather than employment numbers, and this statistic also displayed in Figure 1.

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NAICS Code	Description	Category	Payroll	Employment	Average Wage	% Payroll	% Employment	LQ Payroll	LQ Employment
622	Hospitals	Medical	\$ 218,713,412	3,164	\$ 69,131	14.4%	8.3%	3.10	2.03
621	Outpatient Medical Care	Medical	123,217,085	2,208	55,815	8.1%	5.8%	1.24	0.98
541	Lawyers/Engineers/Accounts/ etc.	Regional Trade Center	102,131,700	1,986	51,426	6.7%	5.2%	0.54	0.71
238	Specialty trade contractors	Construction	77,866,341	1,821	42,758	5.1%	4.8%	1.41	1.34
722	Food services and drinking places	Tourism	69,060,852	4,226	16,340	4.5%	11.1%	1.40	1.17
321	Wood product manufacturing	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	56,841,399	876	64,881	3.7%	2.3%	14.43	7.13
522	Banking	Regional Trade Center	53,656,611	900	59,602	3.5%	2.4%	1.11	1.10
561	Temp agencies, call centers	General	49,061,271	1,608	30,520	3.2%	4.2%	0.65	0.60
524	Insurance carriers and related activities	Regional Trade Center	46,413,461	794	58,480	3.1%	2.1%	1.06	1.11
441	Motor vehicle and parts dealers	Regional Trade Center	43,586,871	963	45,281	2.9%	2.5%	1.97	1.55
721	Accommodation	Tourism	41,502,008	1,736	23,907	2.7%	4.6%	3.00	2.82
333	Machinery manufacturing	Manufacturing	39,670,621	493	80,468	2.6%	1.3%	2.35	1.48
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	Medical	36,260,396	1,178	30,788	2.4%	3.1%	1.56	1.14
236	Construction of buildings	Construction	35,431,600	763	46,452	2.3%	2.0%	1.55	1.60
452	General merchandise stores	Regional Trade Center	31,986,490	1,121	28,536	2.1%	3.0%	1.89	1.16
445	Food and beverage stores	Tourism	29,012,044	1,188	24,429	1.9%	3.1%	1.72	1.24
444	Building material and garden supply stores	Construction	24,903,148	724	34,381	1.6%	1.9%	2.59	1.82
237	Heavy and civil engineering construction	Construction	24,884,573	424	58,621	1.6%	1.1%	1.55	1.40
713	Amusements, gambling, and recreation	Tourism	24,814,456	1,327	18,706	1.6%	3.5%	3.00	2.60
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	Regional Trade Center	24,661,025	491	50,201	1.6%	1.3%	0.50	0.54
424	Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	Regional Trade Center	23,247,174	514	45,272	1.5%	1.4%	0.75	0.81
811	Repair and maintenance	Construction	19,507,972	481	40,599	1.3%	1.3%	1.52	1.19
531	Real estate	Construction	16,651,869	447	37,211	1.1%	1.2%	0.79	0.90
523	Securities, commodity contracts, investments	Regional Trade Center	15,635,257	123	127,202	1.0%	0.3%	0.33	0.43
813	Membership associations and organizations	Regional Trade Center	15,341,063	700	21,916	1.0%	1.8%	1.14	1.65
425	Electronic markets and agents and brokers	Regional Trade Center	15,120,431	121	125,307	1.0%	0.3%	0.76	0.44
332	Fabricated metal product manufacturing	Manufacturing	15,011,837	353	42,536	1.0%	0.9%	0.84	0.80
551	Management of companies and enterprises	Regional Trade Center	14,270,056	138	103,531	0.9%	0.4%	0.23	0.20
611	Educational services	Regional Trade Center	13,383,584	449	29,835	0.9%	1.2%	0.42	0.51
624	Social assistance	Regional Trade Center	12,883,696	599	21,491	0.8%	1.6%	0.66	0.52
484	Truck transportation	Regional Trade Center	12,729,679	302	42,116	0.8%	0.8%	0.77	0.67
212	Mining, except oil and gas	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	11,380,890	228	49,989	0.7%	0.6%	3.61	3.99
446	Health and personal care stores	General	10,415,956	273	38,200	0.7%	0.7%	1.14	0.82
451	Sports, hobby, music instrument, book stores	Tourism	10,304,995	449	22,938	0.7%	1.2%	3.62	2.42
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	Regional Trade Center	9,853,821	424	23,236	0.6%	1.1%	2.00	1.65
334	Computer and electronic product manufacturing	Manufacturing	9,680,992	214	45,238	0.6%	0.6%	0.34	0.66
492	Couriers and messengers	General	8,566,160	196	43,594	0.6%	0.5%	1.24	0.95
517	Telecommunications	Regional Trade Center	8,472,535	129	65,467	0.6%	0.3%	0.55	0.54
442	Furniture and home furnishings stores	Regional Trade Center	7,263,281	223	32,595	0.5%	0.6%	1.87	1.51
447	Gasoline stations	General	6,935,239	345	20,117	0.5%	0.9%	1.54	1.19
443	Electronics and appliance stores	Regional Trade Center	6,751,086	188	35,862	0.4%	0.5%	1.28	1.21
113	Forestry and logging	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	6,660,003	138	48,116	0.4%	0.4%	12.36	8.27
511	Publishing industries, except internet	Regional Trade Center	6,243,503	139	44,810	0.4%	0.4%	0.33	0.62
323	Printing and related support activities	Regional Trade Center	5,741,809	136	42,219	0.4%	0.4%	1.20	1.00
812	Personal and laundry services	General	5,423,990	252	21,510	0.4%	0.7%	0.59	0.55
311	Food manufacturing	General	5,064,309	215	23,528	0.3%	0.6%	0.30	0.44
448	Clothing and clothing accessories stores	Regional Trade Center	4,457,216	267	16,668	0.3%	0.7%	0.66	0.62
454	Nonstore retailers	General	4,330,682	113	38,240	0.3%	0.3%	0.53	0.64
337	Furniture and related product manufacturing	Regional Trade Center	4,233,950	90	46,827	0.3%	0.2%	1.07	0.74
488	Support activities for transportation	General	3,546,887	88	40,153	0.2%	0.2%	0.42	0.42
112	Animal production and aquaculture	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	3,492,534	77	45,260	0.2%	0.2%	1.58	0.95
814	Private households	General	3,111,032	105	29,535	0.2%	0.3%	1.90	1.18
111	Crop production	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	2,606,090	106	24,702	0.2%	0.3%	0.64	0.61
481	Air transportation	Regional Trade Center	2,550,350	91	27,873	0.2%	0.2%	0.26	0.60
562	Waste management and remediation services	Regional Trade Center	2,504,855	68	36,791	0.2%	0.2%	0.45	0.53
325	Chemical manufacturing	General	2,238,021	68	32,792	0.1%	0.2%	0.13	0.27
312	Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	General	1,993,834	95	21,080	0.1%	0.2%	0.64	1.16
327	Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	General	1,837,578	56	32,912	0.1%	0.1%	0.35	0.44
711	Performing arts and spectator sports	Tourism	1,805,088	85	21,299	0.1%	0.2%	0.18	0.57
515	Broadcasting, except internet	Regional Trade Center	1,585,255	41	38,430	0.1%	0.1%	0.30	0.49
326	Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	General	1,362,308	38	35,929	0.1%	0.1%	0.16	0.17
339	Miscellaneous manufacturing	General	1,294,936	39	33,490	0.1%	0.1%	0.15	0.21
512	Motion picture and sound recording industries	General	1,176,602	58	20,315	0.1%	0.2%	0.18	0.44
485	Transit and ground passenger transportation	General	997,156	57	17,342	0.1%	0.2%	0.29	0.39
487	Scenic and sightseeing transportation	Tourism	914,511	26	35,174	0.1%	0.1%	3.65	2.50
211	Oil and gas extraction	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	826,336	6	143,711	0.1%	0.0%	0.15	0.13
518	Data processing, hosting and related services	Regional Trade Center	378,763	7	54,761	0.0%	0.0%	0.05	0.07
712	Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	Tourism	313,390	20	15,935	0.0%	0.1%	0.25	0.39
213	Support activities for mining	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	149,257	3	54,275	0.0%	0.0%	0.03	0.03
519	Other information services	General	137,213	3	54,885	0.0%	0.0%	0.01	0.03
999	Unclassified	General	112,206	2	53,859	0.0%	0.0%	0.04	0.03
10	Total		1,520,191,738	37,921	40,088	100.0%	100.0%	1.00	1.00

Figure 1 – 2017 Employment Information^{1,2}

¹ Provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Excludes government employees. About 87% of Flathead workers are employed in the private sector.

² Industries with less than \$100k in total payroll are not listed in Figure 1. The total sums include industries excluded from the list.

Trends

The industries in Flathead County can be broadly grouped into seven categories:

1. Regional Trade Center
2. Medical
3. Construction
4. Tourism
5. General
6. Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources
7. Manufacturing

Catgory	Payroll	Employment	Average Wage	% Payroll	% Employment	LQ Payroll	LQ Employment
Regional Trade Center	\$ 485,083,522	11,005	\$ 44,077	31.9%	29.0%	0.65	0.76
Medical	378,190,893	6,549	57,747	24.9%	17.3%	1.85	1.29
Construction	199,245,503	4,661	42,750	13.1%	12.3%	1.36	1.29
Tourism	177,727,344	9,056	19,625	11.7%	23.9%	1.63	1.42
General	107,605,380	3,611	29,799	7.1%	9.5%	0.49	0.55
Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	81,956,509	1,433	57,179	5.4%	3.8%	3.08	2.33
Manufacturing	64,363,450	1,060	60,725	4.2%	2.8%	0.97	0.92
Total	1,520,191,738	37,921	40,088	100.0%	100.0%	1.00	1.00

Figure 2 – 2017 Employment Information³

Flathead County is a regional trade center that provides many services which surrounding communities are too small to support. This includes services such as legal, accounting, and engineering; as well as shopping. This is a major sector for Kalispell, employing 1/3 of the workforce.

Medical services are also a major sector for Flathead County. This includes Kalispell Regional Medical Center, as well outpatient services like physician's offices. About 1/6 of the Kalispell workforce is employed in this category.

Construction is a major industry as well. This includes all industries related to the construction of buildings. Part of this industry's importance is due to Flathead County's high growth rate. Flathead County's population grew 28% between 2000 and 2015.⁴

Tourism is an important piece of the Flathead economy. The county contains three of Montana's most popular destinations: Glacier National Park, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Flathead Lake. This category includes industries related to tourism, accommodations, and food and beverage services.

Logging, Wood Products, and Natural Resources includes industries related to timber harvest and processing; as well as mining and agriculture. This historic sector remains an important part of the Flathead economy, although in absolute numbers it has declined in recent years.

Manufacturing includes businesses related to Applied Materials, and also small arms manufacturing. It is a smaller but growing sector.

General includes industries not in the other 6 sectors.

³ Derived from Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

⁴ https://web.archive.org/web/20190128021150/https://billingsgazette.com/business/rapidly-growing-flathead-valley-continue-surging-economic-development/article_52391922-73f3-55be-9d4a-96af9160d7e1.html

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Growth Rates

Changes in the size of different industries between 2007 and 2017 can be seen in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

NAICS Code	Description	Category	Δ Payroll	Δ Employment	%Δ Payroll	%Δ Employment	Δ LQ Payroll	Δ LQ Employment
622	Hospitals	Medical	\$ 155,292,318	\$ 1,560	245%	97%	1.77	0.92
621	Outpatient Medical Care	Medical	44,617,528	426	57%	24%	-0.04	-0.03
541	Lawyers/Engineers/Accounts/ etc.	Regional Trade Center	48,594,624	627	91%	46%	0.10	0.16
238	Specialty trade contractors	Construction	-5,081,531	-621	-6%	-25%	-0.39	-0.23
722	Food services and drinking places	Tourism	23,189,104	559	51%	15%	-0.09	-0.02
321	Wood product manufacturing	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	-13,577,870	-650	-19%	-43%	-3.03	-2.05
522	Banking	Regional Trade Center	12,536,350	-52	30%	-5%	0.03	0.07
561	Temp agencies, call centers	General	-11,921,255	-894	-20%	-36%	-0.48	-0.36
524	Insurance carriers and related activities	Regional Trade Center	18,624,628	167	67%	27%	0.20	0.21
441	Motor vehicle and parts dealers	Regional Trade Center	15,378,873	234	55%	32%	0.35	0.37
721	Accommodation	Tourism	14,228,180	279	52%	19%	0.41	0.39
333	Machinery manufacturing	Manufacturing	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	Medical	12,688,613	227	54%	24%	0.16	0.14
236	Construction of buildings	Construction	-5,574,359	-448	-14%	-37%	-0.48	-0.52
452	General merchandise stores	Regional Trade Center	8,987,392	100	39%	10%	0.23	0.11
445	Food and beverage stores	Tourism	8,051,472	236	38%	25%	0.16	0.21
444	Building material and garden supply stores	Construction	-1,737,917	-179	-7%	-20%	-0.44	-0.32
237	Heavy and civil engineering construction	Construction	3,140,150	-161	-11%	-28%	-0.75	-0.44
713	Amusements, gambling, and recreation	Tourism	6,958,044	88	39%	7%	0.10	-0.09
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	Regional Trade Center	172,417	-59	1%	-11%	-0.08	-0.01
424	Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	Regional Trade Center	7,316,505	55	46%	12%	0.11	0.12
811	Repair and maintenance	Construction	6,055,428	14	45%	3%	0.11	0.03
531	Real estate	Construction	922,772	-74	6%	-14%	-0.25	-0.18
523	Securities, commodity contracts, investments	Regional Trade Center	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
813	Membership associations and organizations	Regional Trade Center	4,357,599	7	40%	1%	-0.02	0.04
425	Electronic markets and agents and brokers	Regional Trade Center	11,259,648	54	292%	80%	0.48	0.19
332	Fabricated metal product manufacturing	Manufacturing	9,124,610	172	155%	95%	0.47	0.44
551	Management of companies and enterprises	Regional Trade Center	3,536,622	1	33%	1%	-0.04	-0.03
611	Educational services	Regional Trade Center	2,440,937	27	22%	6%	-0.12	-0.06
624	Social assistance	Regional Trade Center	6,840,464	223	113%	59%	0.10	0.01
484	Truck transportation	Regional Trade Center	1,953,779	-54	18%	-15%	-0.05	-0.09
212	Mining, except oil and gas	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	-1,277,780	-44	-10%	-16%	-0.65	0.17
446	Health and personal care stores	General	1,960,905	21	23%	8%	-0.05	0.04
451	Sports, hobby, music instrument, book stores	Tourism	1,943,521	6	23%	1%	0.51	0.35
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	Regional Trade Center	2,811,172	82	40%	24%	0.40	0.44
334	Computer and electronic product manufacturing	Manufacturing	5,568,151	115	135%	116%	0.17	0.42
492	Couriers and messengers	General	4,019,841	80	88%	68%	0.36	0.33
517	Telecommunications	Regional Trade Center	-3,365,268	-133	-28%	-51%	-0.18	-0.25
442	Furniture and home furnishings stores	Regional Trade Center	-1,774,585	-76	-20%	-25%	-0.46	-0.10
447	Gasoline stations	General	860,722	-60	14%	-15%	-0.22	-0.26
443	Electronics and appliance stores	Regional Trade Center	-858,302	-83	-11%	-31%	-0.34	-0.33
113	Forestry and logging	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	-857,200	-59	-11%	-30%	-2.25	-1.04
511	Publishing industries, except internet	Regional Trade Center	-1,610,981	-80	-21%	-36%	-0.22	-0.13
323	Printing and related support activities	Regional Trade Center	2,851,695	17	99%	14%	0.71	0.41
812	Personal and laundry services	General	1,250,649	-9	30%	-3%	-0.06	-0.06
311	Food manufacturing	General	-293,533	-11	-5%	-5%	-0.13	-0.04
448	Clothing and retailing accessories stores	Regional Trade Center	504,518	-1	13%	0%	0.03	0.07
454	Nonstore retailers	General	41,470	-13	1%	-11%	-0.55	-0.27
337	Furniture and related product manufacturing	Regional Trade Center	819,883	-14	24%	-13%	0.26	0.13
488	Support activities for transportation	General	56,827	-16	2%	-15%	-0.16	-0.14
112	Animal production and aquaculture	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	2,890,394	54	480%	230%	1.14	0.62
814	Private households	General	1,759,116	49	130%	87%	1.25	0.86
111	Crop production	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	799,150	22	44%	26%	0.00	0.13
481	Air transportation	Regional Trade Center	1,242,347	35	95%	63%	0.06	0.24
562	Waste management and remediation services	Regional Trade Center	-20,216	-13	-1%	-16%	-0.21	-0.18
325	Chemical manufacturing	General	1,398,259	34	167%	99%	0.07	0.14
312	Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	General	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
327	Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	General	-124,524	-7	-6%	-12%	-0.03	0.05
711	Performing arts and spectator sports	Tourism	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
515	Broadcasting, except internet	Regional Trade Center	-447,824	-16	-22%	-28%	-0.13	-0.05
326	Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	General	948,655	17	229%	83%	0.10	0.09
339	Miscellaneous manufacturing	General	566,732	13	78%	49%	0.05	0.09
512	Motion picture and sound recording industries	General	-165,421	-29	-12%	-34%	-0.11	-0.27
485	Transit and ground passenger transportation	General	700,881	28	237%	92%	0.16	0.16
487	Scenic and sightseeing transportation	Tourism	397,493	8	77%	42%	0.61	0.52
211	Oil and gas extraction	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
518	Data processing, hosting and related services	Regional Trade Center	-3,035,267	-56	-89%	-89%	-0.73	-0.65
712	Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	Tourism	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
213	Support activities for mining	Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
519	Other information services	General	22,440	-5	20%	-67%	-0.04	-0.16
999	Unclassified	General	No data in 2007	No data in 2007				
10	Total		395,950,390	1,027	35%	3%	0.00	0.00

Figure 3⁵

⁵ Derived from Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Some smaller industries lacked data in 2007.

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Category	Change 2007 to 2017					
	Δ Payroll	Δ Employment	Δ Wages	%Δ Payroll	%Δ Employment	%Δ Wages
Regional Trade Center	\$ 139,117,010	\$ 992	\$ 9,738	42%	10%	29%
Medical	212,598,459	2,212	19,565	128%	51%	51%
Construction	-8,555,757	-1,470	8,854	-4%	-24%	26%
Tourism	54,767,814	1,176	4,076	45%	15%	26%
General	1,081,764	-803	5,836	1%	-19%	24%
Logging, Wood Products, Natural Resources	-12,023,306	-678	12,598	-13%	-32%	28%
Manufacturing	14,692,761	287	7,884	147%	102%	22%
Total	395,950,390	1,027	9,616	35%	3%	32%

Figure 4⁶

Trends

There are 5 trends of note:

1. Medical services, and particularly Kalispell Region Medical Center, have grown significantly. Hospitals alone are responsible for 40% of county payroll growth.
2. Tourism and industries associated with being a regional trade center are both large categories which have increased significantly.
3. Wages in all broad categories have increased. Wages have increased 32% (not accounting for inflation).
4. Construction and Logging, Wood Products, and Natural Resources are have lower payroll and employment. However, they also have increased wages. This is likely due to increased efficiencies, and the chosen comparison date. 2007 was at the tail end of the pre-recession US building boom.
5. Manufacturing, while only 4.2% of total payroll, has experienced the largest percent increase of any category.

Workforce Characteristics

A description of the Flathead workforce is shown in Figure 5.

Trends

1. Flathead County's population is growing at twice the rate of America at large. Flathead County large population is primarily driven by intra-nation migration, rather than high birthrates or foreign immigration. In fact, it has birthrates slightly below average and a low proportion of foreign immigrants.
2. Flathead County has higher educational attainment for levels before Bachelor's degrees, and lower levels thereafter. This may be due to the lack of a local four year University.
3. Flathead County has a larger retired population than the United States.
4. Flathead County has a relative lack of jobs paying more than \$100k. This is a potential impediment to immigration of highly skilled workers.

⁶ Derived from Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Industries which did not contain data for 2007 are excluded.

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People	Flathead	USA	Difference
Population estimates, July 1, 2017, (V2017)	100,000	325,719,178	
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2017)	90,928	308,758,105	
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2017, (V2017)	10.0%	5.5%	4.5%
Age and Sex			
Persons aged 0-5, percent	6.0%	6.1%	-0.1%
Persons aged 6-17, percent	16.1%	16.5%	-0.4%
Persons aged 18-64, percent	59.1%	61.8%	-2.7%
Persons aged over 65, percent	18.8%	15.6%	3.2%
Female persons, percent	50.1%	50.8%	-0.7%
Race and Hispanic Origin			
White alone, percent	95.1%	76.6%	18.5%
Black or African American alone, percent	0.3%	13.4%	-13.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	1.4%	1.3%	0.1%
Asian alone, percent	0.8%	5.8%	-5.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	2.4%	2.7%	-0.3%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	2.8%	18.1%	-15.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	92.9%	60.7%	32.2%
Population Characteristics			
Veterans, 2013-2017	8.6%	5.8%	2.8%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2013-2017	2.1%	13.4%	-11.3%
Housing			
Housing units, July 1, 2017, (V2017)	48,741	137,403,460	
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2013-2017	72.0%	63.8%	8.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2013-2017	\$246,500	\$193,500	\$53,000
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2013-2017	\$1,338	\$1,515	-\$177
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2013-2017	\$401	\$474	-\$73
Median gross rent, 2013-2017	\$798	\$982	-\$184
Building permits per 10,000 population, 2017	36.1	39.4	-3.3
Families and Living Arrangements			
Households, 2013-2017	38,006	118,825,921	
Persons per household, 2013-2017	2.5	2.63	-0.13
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2013-2017	86.3%	85.4%	0.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2013-2017	2.7%	21.3%	-18.6%
Computer and Internet Usage			
Households with a computer, percent, 2013-2017	87.7%	87.2%	0.5%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2013-2017	79.9%	78.1%	1.8%
Education			
More than 9th grade, no diploma	98.8%	94.6%	4.2%
High school graduate	94.3%	87.3%	7.0%
Some college, no degree	65.2%	60.0%	5.2%
Associate's degree	39.4%	39.2%	0.3%
Bachelor's degree	29.1%	30.9%	-1.8%
Graduate or professional degree	9.3%	11.8%	-2.4%
Health			
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2013-2017	7.4%	8.7%	-1.3%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	9.5%	10.2%	-0.7%
Economy			
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2013-2017	62.6%	63.0%	-0.4%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2013-2017	58.4%	58.2%	0.2%
Household Income Distribution			
Less than \$10,000	6.2%	6.7%	-0.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.3%	4.9%	0.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.7%	9.8%	0.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.6%	9.5%	2.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.8%	13.0%	1.8%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20.7%	17.7%	3.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.0%	12.3%	-0.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11.5%	14.1%	-2.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3.8%	5.8%	-2.0%
\$200,000 or more	3.5%	6.3%	-2.8%

Figure 5⁷

⁷ US Census Bureau quick facts.

Recovery from 2008 Financial Crisis

Employment and payroll statistics are presented in Figure 6 and Figure 7.

The Flathead Economy was hit particularly hard by the 2008 financial crisis. Flathead unemployment was over 10% for three consecutive years. Between 2007 and 2010, private sector payrolls decreased by 10%, and total employees decreased by 5,000 jobs.

The 2008 crisis was primarily driven by declines in housing values and home construction. Home construction, logging, and wood product manufacturing are all major Flathead industries. As such Flathead County was more severely impacted by the crisis than the US at large.

However, since 2010, Flathead's economy has recovered strongly. As of YE 2017; payrolls, employees, and wages are significantly above pre-recession levels. Unemployment is below 5%, wages are up, and almost 6,000 jobs have been added to the economy.

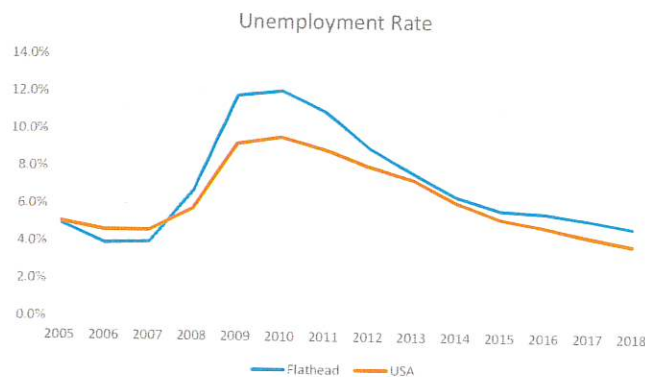


Figure 6⁸



Figure 7⁹

⁸ Provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey.

⁹ Provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Conclusions

Flathead County has a strong economy with growing population, employment, and wages.

Growth has been primarily driven by manufacturing, tourism, being a regional trade center, and especially medical services. Over the last 10 years, wages have increased in virtually all industries.

Flathead County's population has grown at twice the yearly rate of the United States, driven by immigration from other US states. It boasts a high school graduation rate and home ownership rate greater than the national average.

The county was hit hard by the 2008 financial crisis, due to its dependence on home construction and wood products. However, it has since fully recovered.

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