

Meagher County Economic Profile

The Sheep Creek Project area is located in Meagher County, Montana. The current project is to construct an adit portal and a decline to access ore deposit for bulk underground sampling and drilling.

Population

Meagher County is sparsely populated by Montana and US standards. The land area, is 2,391.82 square miles and the population density is 0.8 people per square mile, while the average for Montana in 2010 was 6.8 people per square mile. **Table 1** shows the 2000, 2010 and trends in population, along with the population density (people per square mile) for Meagher County, the state of Montana, and the US. The population in Meagher County has decreased slightly since 2000, however, it is higher than the 1990 population of 1,824. The US Census Bureau reports that migration out of the county is greater than migration into the county, and the number of births has also decreased. These are the causes of the decline in population in the county.

Year	Meagher County	Montana	US
2010	1,891	989,415	308,745,538
2000	1,932	902,190	281,424,602
2000 to 2010	-2.1%	9.7%	9.7

Source: US Census 2011

Demographics

Demographics is a characterization of the population. **Table 2** shows the population of Meagher County, Montana, and the US by age group in 2009. Meagher County has a significantly higher proportion of its population over the age of 65 compared to Montana and the US.

	Meagher County	Montana	US
Under 5 years old, percent, 2009	5.6%	6.4%	6.9%
Under 18 years old, percent, 2009	20.1%	22.5%	24.3%
65 years old and over, percent, 2009	21.2%	14.6%	12.9%

US Census 2011

Employment by Industry

Meagher County is rural and the main industry is farming and ranching. **Table 3** shows the industries in the county and trends in employment between 2001 and 2009. In the census, this information is provided by proprietor.

	2001	2009	Change 2001-2009
Farm	227	173	-54
Retail trade	76	102	26

Real estate and rental and leasing	8	19	11
Administrative and waste services	24	na	na
Educational services	5	6	1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	52	54	2
Accommodation and food services	109	101	-8
Other services, except public administration	68	72	4
Government	180	151	-29
Total Employment (%)			
Farm	19.5%	16.1%	-23.8%
Retail trade	6.5%	9.5%	34.2%
Real estate and rental and leasing	0.7%	1.7%	142.3%
Management of companies and enterprises	0.0%	0.0%	na
Administrative and waste services	2.1%	na	na
Educational services	0.4%	0.5%	12.0%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4.4%	5.0%	4.8%
Accommodation and food services	9.4%	9.4%	-7.5%
Other services, except public administration	5.8%	6.7%	5.9%
Government	15.5%	14.1%	-16.1%

US Census. 2011b.

Employment Rate

The employment rate is an indication of the potential available employees. Considering the nationwide economic conditions, both Meagher County and Montana reported lower than average unemployment rates for August 2011. **Table 4** indicates the employment rates for Meagher County and the state of Montana.

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Meagher County	829	764	65	7.8
Montana	509,558	473,544	36,014	7.1

MDLI 2011

Income

Income is reported by the US Census as “per capita” and household. The per capita takes the total income for the county, state, or country and divides it by the total population in each for an indication of the income per person. The household income is reported as the median household income. The median income is rate where half the households earn more and half the households earn less. **Table 5** reports these numbers for Meagher County, Montana, and the US, along with the percent of the population that is considered below the poverty level. The US Census definition of poverty is complicated (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>). For example,

one person living alone over the age of 65 is considered in poverty if their income was less than \$10,458 in 2010 as is a family of 4 (two children under 18) who earned less than \$22,113 in 2010.

	Meagher County	Montana	US
5-year (2005-2009) average per capita income in past 12 months (2009 dollars)	\$18,866	\$22,881	\$27,041
Median household income, 2009	\$32,509	\$42,222	\$50,221
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	19.0%	15.0%	14.3%

US Census 2011

Project Employment

Average quarterly employment for the decline construction and development drilling period is shown in Table 26. Mining crews would nominally consist of 5 to 6 miners per shift and underground drilling crews would consist of 2 people per drill per shift and typically require assistance from the miners for moves and material handling. Additional personnel would include the project engineer, site superintendent, chief geologist, field geologists, environmental technician, head mechanic, head electrician, drillers, and surface laborers. The maximum number of employees would be about 45 people. Principal tasks per quarter are also depicted in Table 6.

Table 6. Average Quarterly Employment and Principal Tasks

Employees	Quarter						Awaiting Permitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Admin/Supervision	3	6	6	6	6	6	2
Hourly ¹	14	24	24	24	39	39	2
Total	17	30	30	30	45	45	4
Principal Tasks		Mobilization		Decline Const.		Decline Const. Development Drilling/Bulk Sampling and Temporary or Permanent Closure and Monitoring	Care and Maintenance while awaiting Permitting, and Monitoring

¹ Miners, drillers, and laborers

Employee Work Schedules

Project work would be conducted on a schedule of two 12-hour shifts per day, seven days per week while driving the decline and while executing the underground development drilling program. Four mining crews and drill crews would be used in the rotations. Waste rock hauling from the portal to the

waste rock facilities will be scheduled for day shifts, if surface truck transfer/haulage is required for these materials. Deliveries and

References

MDLI 2011. Montana Department of Labor & Industry. Labor Market Info. August 2011 County Labor Force Statistics, Non-Seasonally Adjusted Preliminary. Available online at <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=190>. Accessed October 3, 2011.

US Census. 2011a. Meagher County QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau. Meagher County, Montana. Available online at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/30059.html>. Accessed 9/30/2011

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