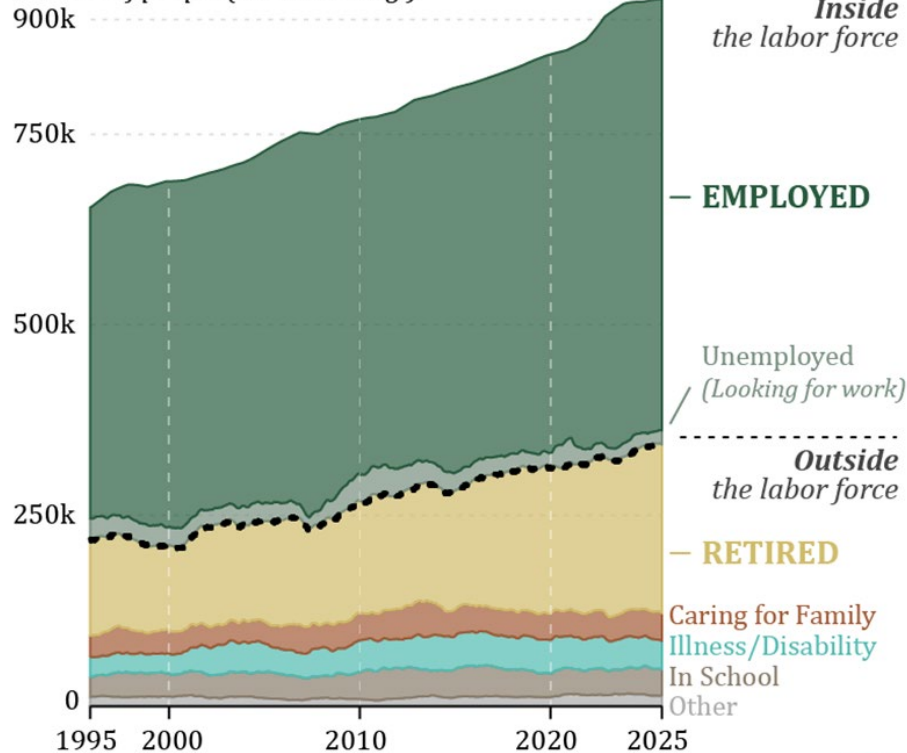


Employment Status of Montana Adults, 1995-2025

Retirees represent a growing share of population age 16-plus

Number of people (12-month avg.)



Source: U.S. Census Current Population Survey via University of Minnesota IPUMS / Chart: Legislative Fiscal Division



As Montana's population has grown over the past 30 years, so has the number of working adults: from about 408,000 in 1995 to 565,000 in 2025. The number of adult Montanans who are not a part of the state's labor force has also grown, driven by an increasing number of retirees.

An estimated 221,000 Montanans were retired as of 2025. Those retirees represented 24% of the state's population age 16 or older that year, up from 20% in 1995.

In comparison, about 37,000 Montanans were outside the workforce in 2025 because they were caring for children or other family members. An additional 37,000 were not working because of an illness or disability and 35,000 were attending school.

These figures are based on U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey microdata accessed via the University of Minnesota's IPUMS system.

More analysis on the state's economic trends, including the fiscal implications of an aging income tax base, is available in [Economic and Income Trends in Montana](#), a presentation delivered to the legislature's Modernization and Risk Analysis (MARA) Committee on February 25, 2026.

Coming next week: How Montana's employment dynamics break down by age.