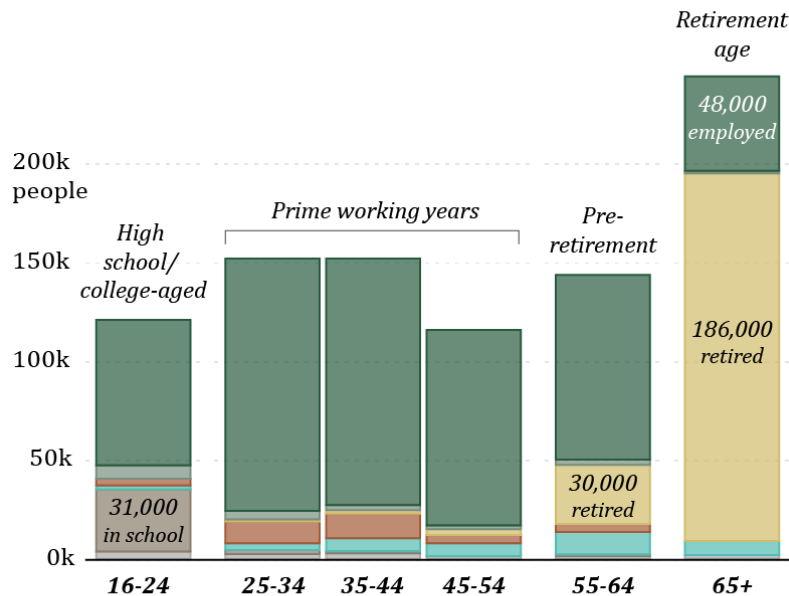
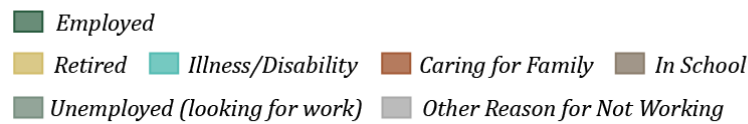


## Employment Status of Montanans by Age, 2025

Retirement is the most common reason for not working



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



Of the 927,000 Montanans age 16 and older in 2025, an estimated 565,000 were employed. The remaining 39% didn't work for a variety of reasons.

A comparatively small share of those non-employed Montanans, 19,000, were classified as "unemployed" by the traditional definition used by labor economists, which includes only people who are not employed and actively looking for work.

Many Montanans, 222,000, were not working because they were retired. Most of those retirees are 65 or older, 186,000, with another 30,000 retirees in the pre-retirement age bracket of 55 to 64.

Comparatively few younger Montanans are retired. In the 25 to 54 age bracket, the range economists typically consider prime working years, the most common reason for not being employed was commitments to caring for children or other family members (an estimated 28,000 people age 25 to 54), followed by illness/disability (an estimated 17,000).

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.