

President Biden's Economic Plan is Working for Montana

Several economic indicators demonstrate robust economic progress in Montana since President Biden took office. Below are key metrics—such as state employment, unemployment insurance claims, GDP, supplemental poverty, and vaccination rates—that help us interpret the current moment and highlight our progress on economic recovery and enhanced support for workers and families.

Employment:

- Since January 2021, the Montana economy has added 24,400 **jobs** (5.1 percent of January 2021 employment in Montana). The state economy has recovered 128 percent of the jobs lost between February 2020 and April 2020.
 - In the largest sector (trade, transportation, and utilities), the Montana economy added 4,200 jobs between January 2021 and April 2022.
 - In the second largest sector (government), the state economy added 900 jobs.
 - In the third largest sector (educational and health services), the state economy added 1,700 jobs.
- The state's **unemployment rate** fell from 3.8 percent in January 2021 to 2.3 percent in April 2022. This is equal to the lowest unemployment rate for the state on record (series started in 1976).
- **Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance** in Montana fell 76 percent since President Biden took office, from around 2,500 at the start of the Administration to about 590 for the week ending May 28, 2022.
- The **quits rate**, a measure of labor market strength (since people generally quit jobs to take better jobs), rose from 3.3 percent in January 2021 to 3.8 percent in March 2022.

GDP:

- Montana's **real GDP** grew 3.9 percent at an annual rate in the 4th quarter of 2021.
 - This is a substantial acceleration compared with growth in 2020, when Montana's real GDP increased by 0.3 percent Q4/Q4, and compared with 2019, when Montana's real GDP grew by 1.7 percent Q4/Q4.
 - In the largest sector (financial services and real estate), real GDP grew 4.8 percent at an annual rate in the 4th quarter of 2021, after growing by 1.6 percent in 2020 and 3.4 percent in 2019.

Small Businesses:

- Residents of Montana [applied](#) to start more **new businesses** during President Biden's first year in office than in any other year since the series started in 2005.
- Congressional Republicans' tax plan would raise taxes on 58.6 percent of small business owners in Montana, and 82.0 percent of small business owners earning less than \$50,000 per year. The typical affected small business owner would see their taxes increase by \$600.

Poverty:

- Montana's **Supplemental Poverty Measure** was [projected](#) to be 6.5 percent in 2021, lower than 11.4 percent on a comparable measure in 2018.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure for children under 18 in Montana was projected to be 2.8 percent in 2021, lower than 9.2 percent on a comparable measure in 2018.

Vaccinations:

- The number of **fully vaccinated people** in Montana has increased from approximately 0 in January 2021 to 609,000 as of May 2022.