

The Economic Outlook for Hill and Fergus Counties

Patrick M. Barkey, Director
Bureau of Business and Economic Research
University of Montana

Hill County Profile

Indicator	Value	State Rank
Total Population, 2019	16,484	12
Percent change since 2010	2.4%	24
Median age	34.3	51
Percent Aged 65 or Older	14.5%	
Percent with Bachelors Degree or Higher (Age 25+)	25.4%	22
Percent without Health Insurance Coverage, 2018	12.1%	25

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Hill County Profile

Indicator	Value	State Rank
Earnings per Job, 2019	\$48,535	13
Construction	\$54,266	17
Manufacturing	\$21,000	31
Retail Trade	\$32,837	18
Information	\$74,103	1
Transportation and Warehousing	\$110,421	4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Fergus County Profile

Indicator	Value	State Rank
Total Population, 2019	11,050	18
Percent change since 2010	-4.6%	51
Median age	45.3	31
Percent Aged 65 or Older	23.2%	
Percent with Bachelors Degree or Higher (Age 25+)	29.1%	14
Percent without Health Insurance Coverage, 2018	12.7%	20

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

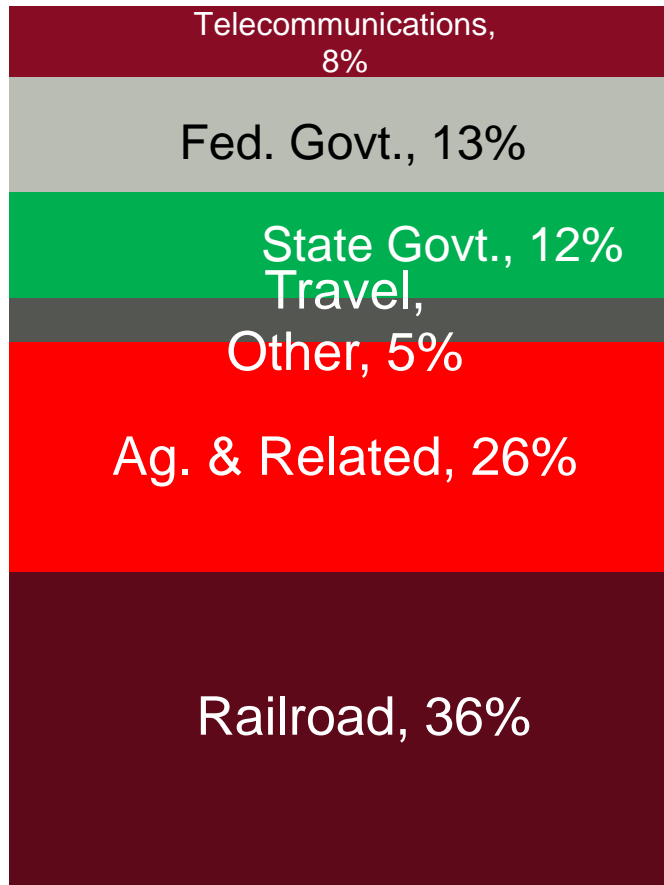
Fergus County Profile

Indicator	Value	State Rank
Earnings per Job, 2019	\$39,651	31
Construction	\$74,792	1
Manufacturing	\$53,040	9
Retail Trade	\$30,435	26
Proprietors Income	\$16,686	36
Information	\$31,129	28

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Drivers of Economic Activity

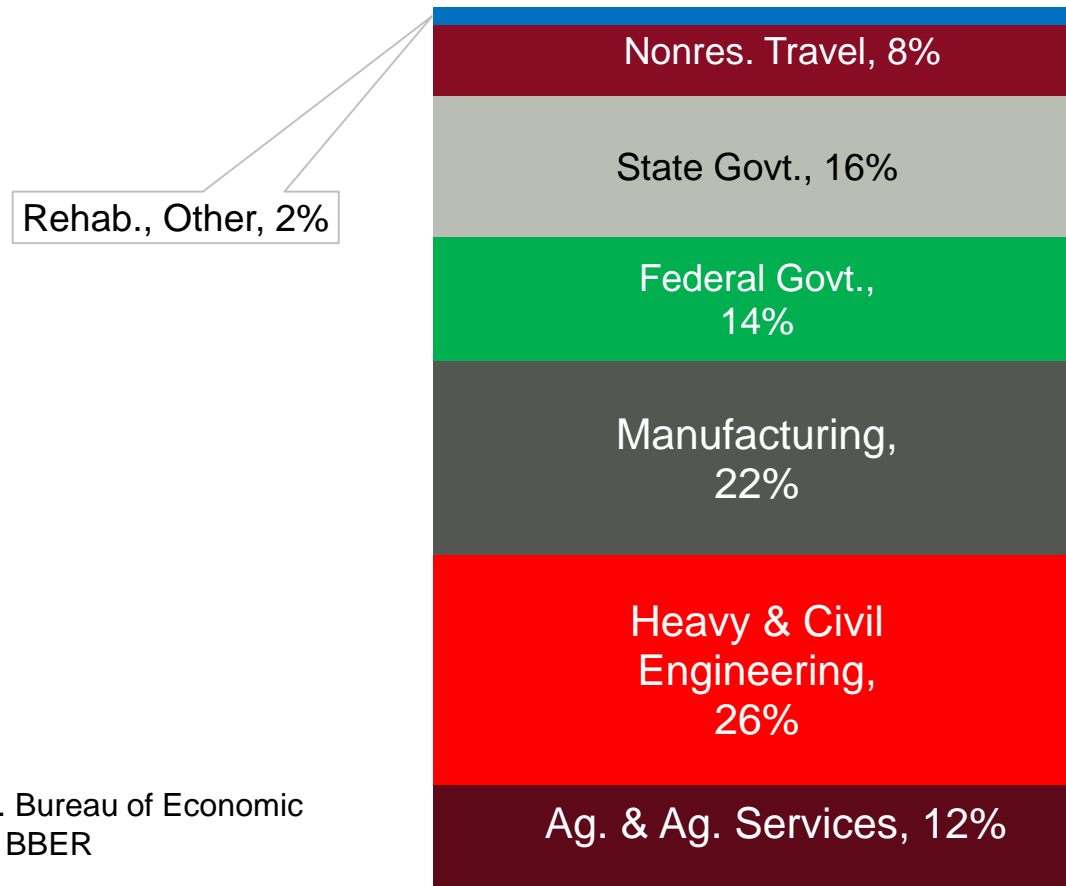
Percent Share of Income in Basic Industries, Hill County



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and BBER

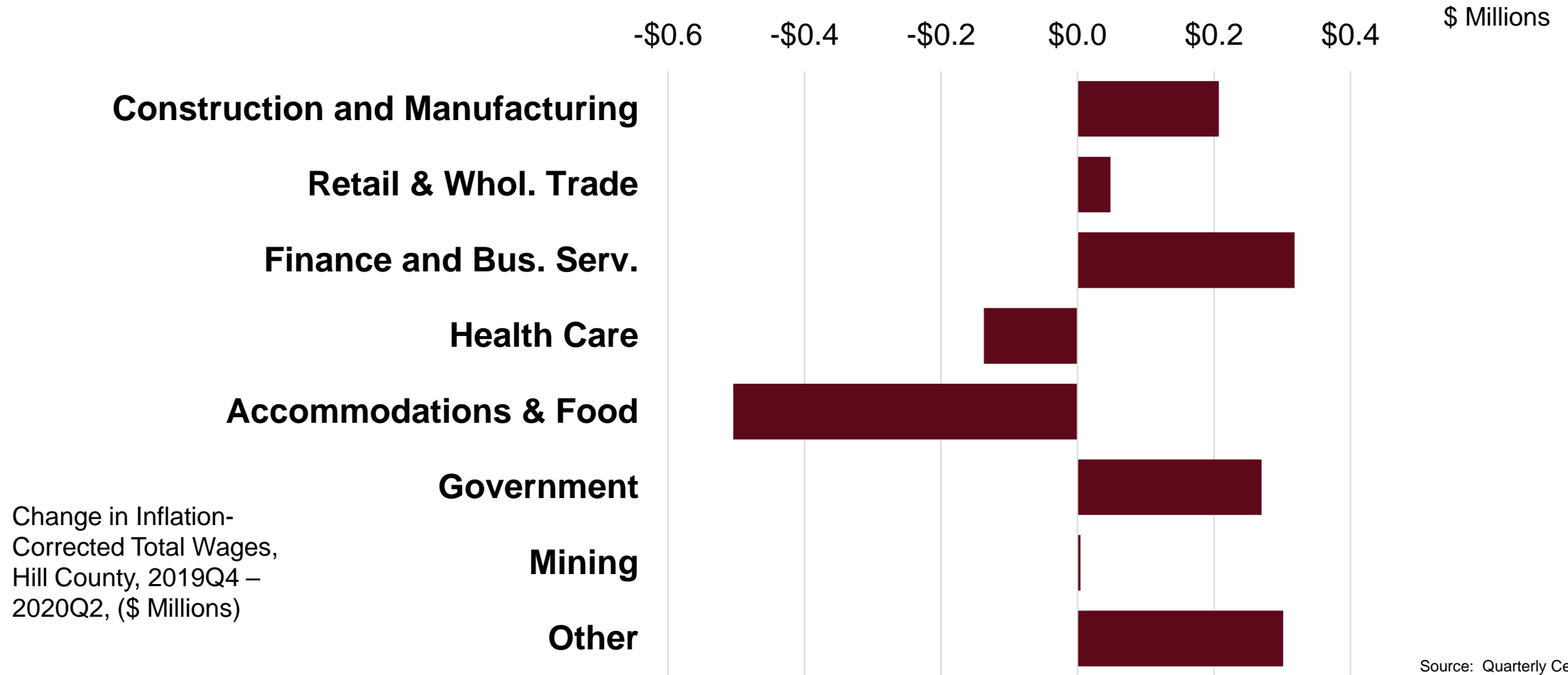
Drivers of Economic Activity

Percent Share of Income in Basic Industries, Fergus County



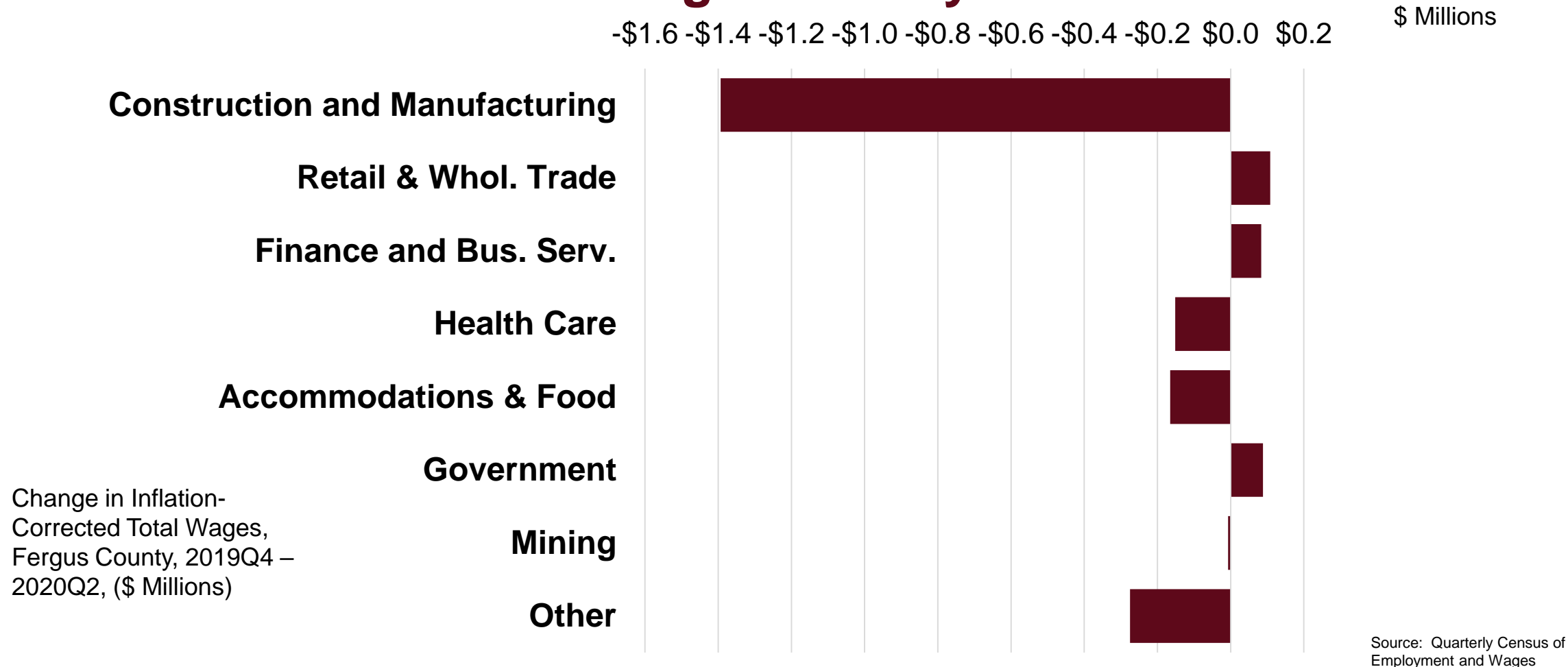
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and BBER

Hill County Covid-19 Declines Concentrated in Hotels and Restaurants



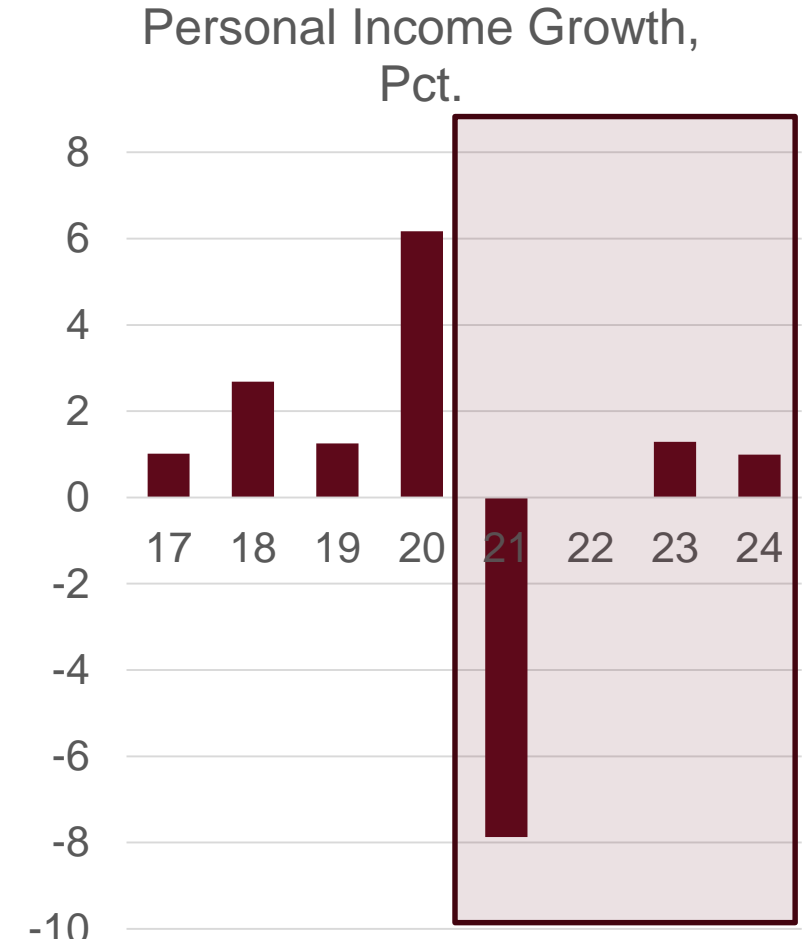
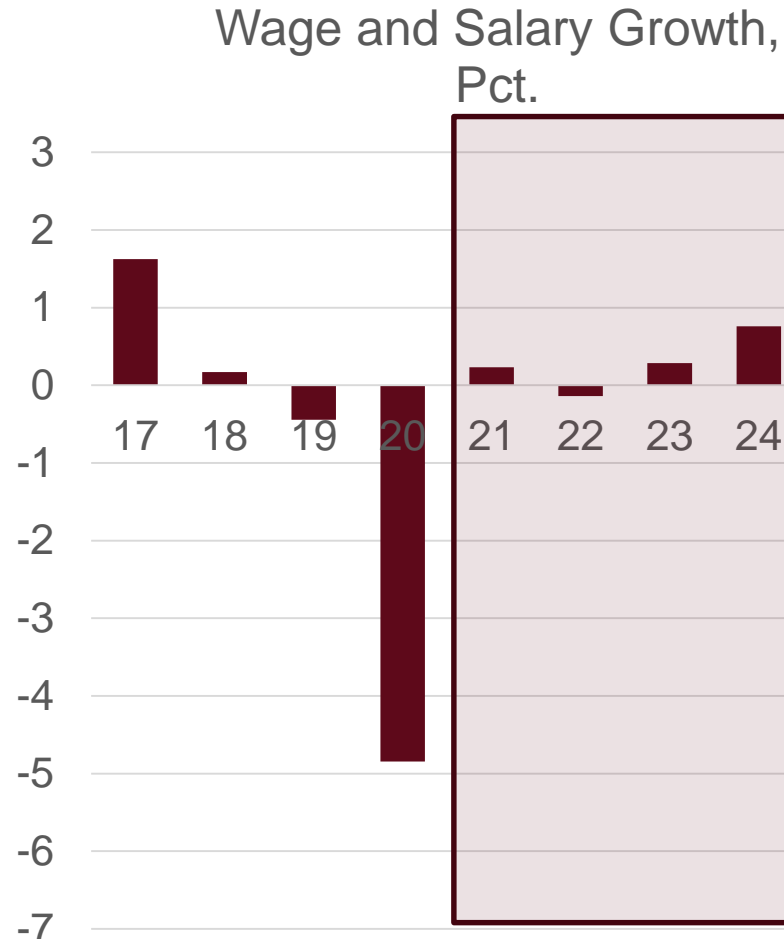
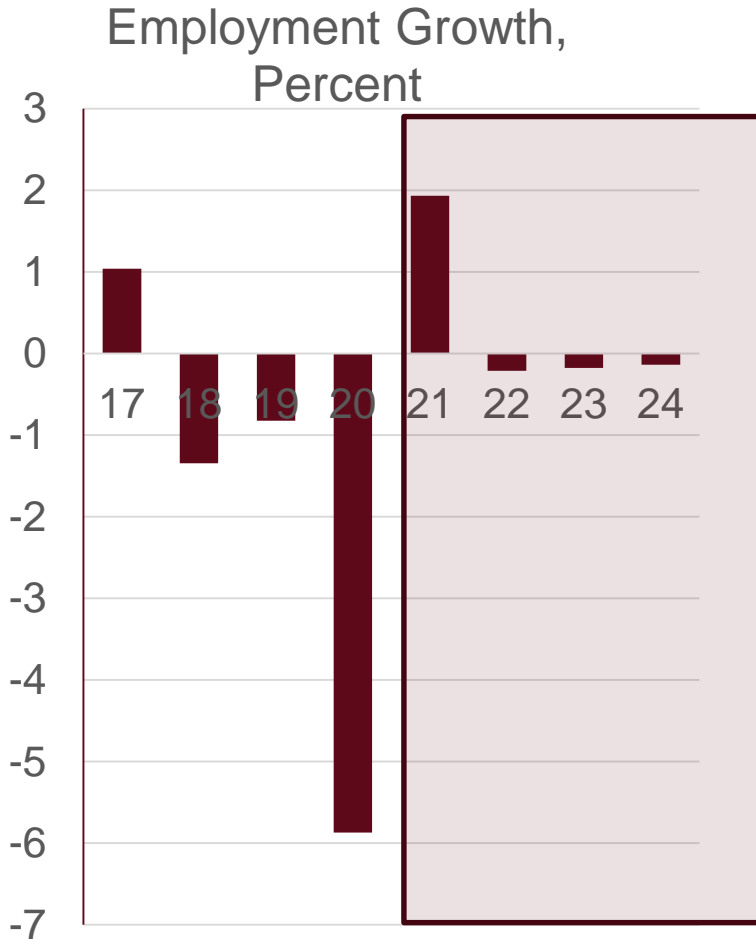
Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Covid-19 Declines in Wages Were Broad-Based in Fergus County



Hill County's Recession Experience

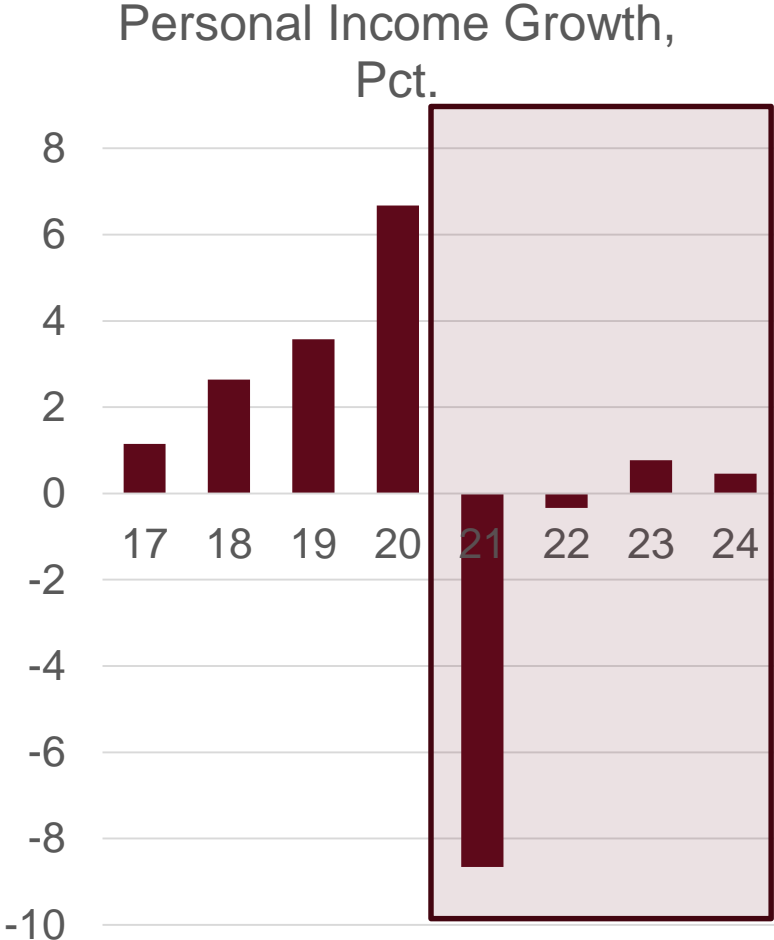
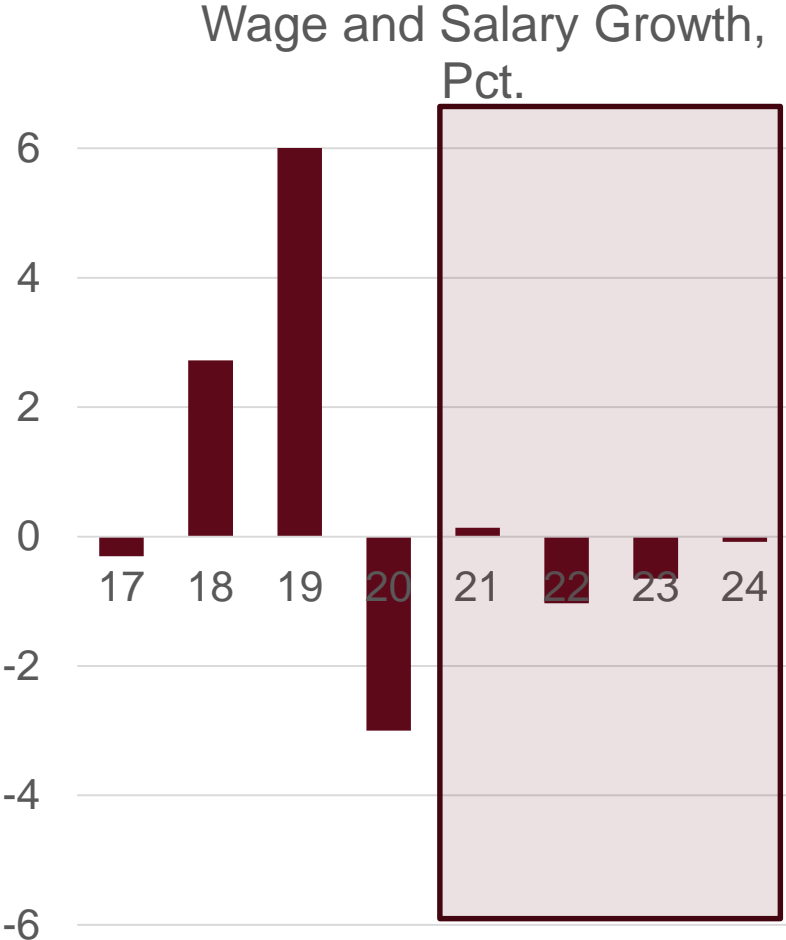
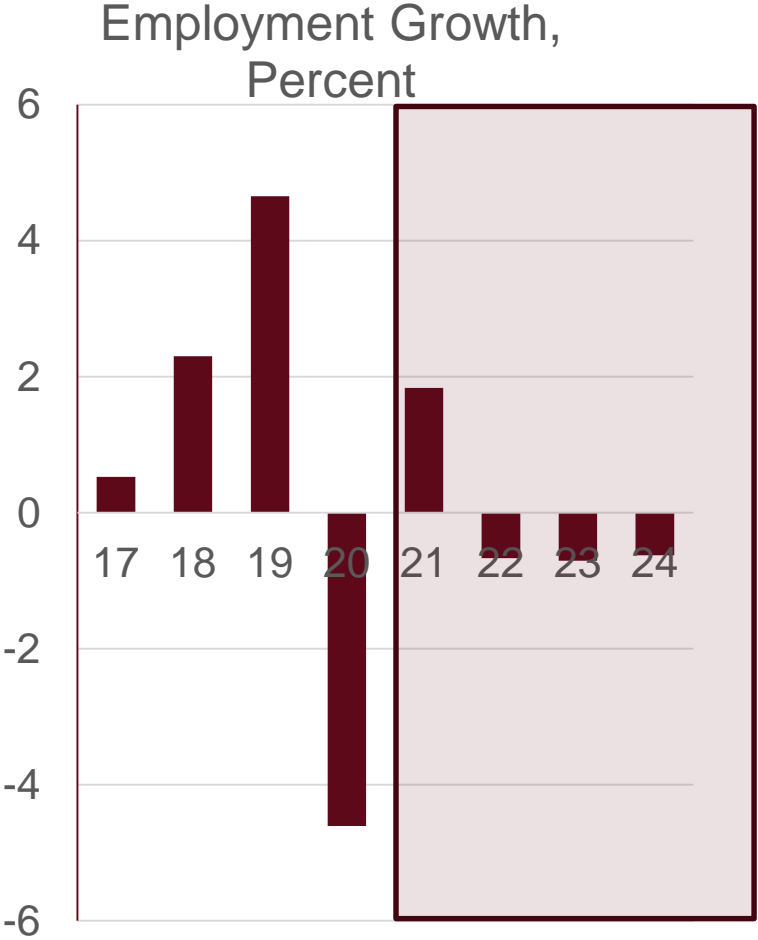
Employment, Wages and Salary and Income Growth, Actual and Forecast, Percent



Source: IHS Markit

Fergus County's Recession Experience

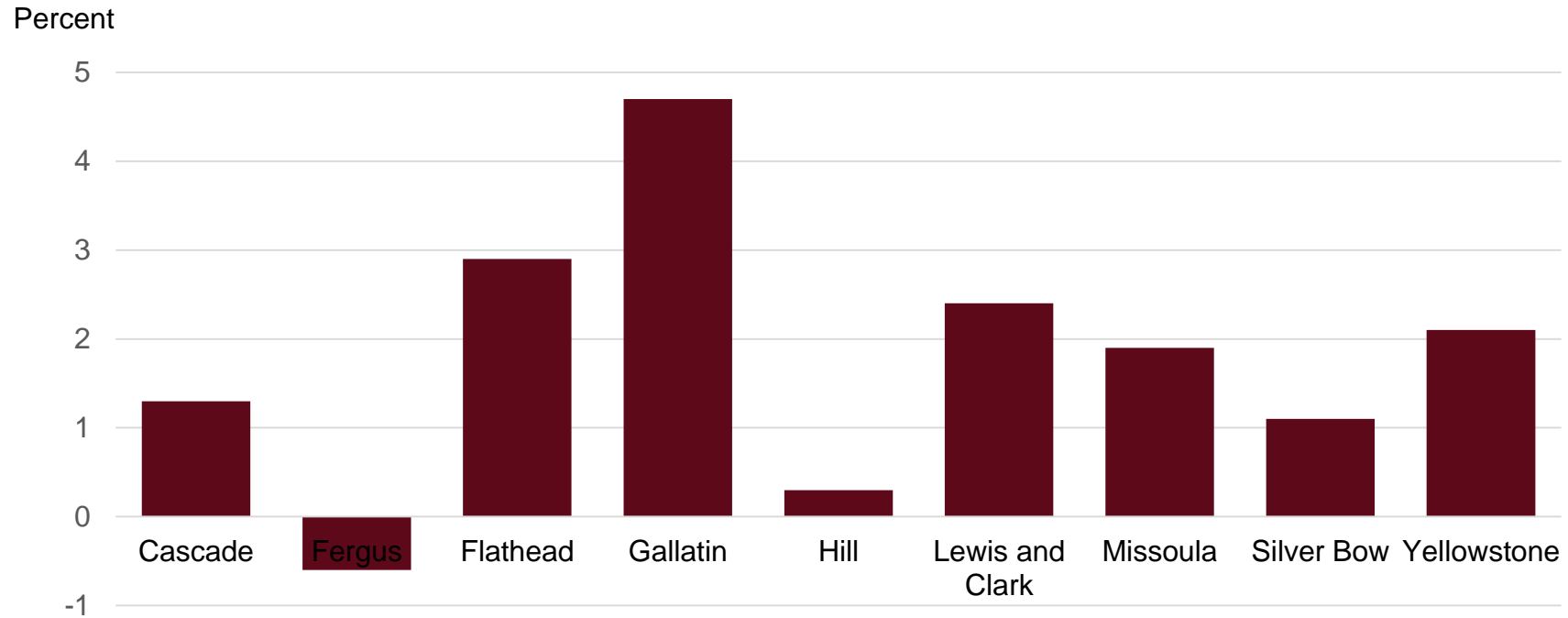
Employment, Wages and Salary and Income Growth, Actual and Forecast, Percent



Source: IHS Markit

Gallatin County Expected to Pace Growth

Average Growth in Nonfarm Earnings, 2022-24, Percent per Year



Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research