

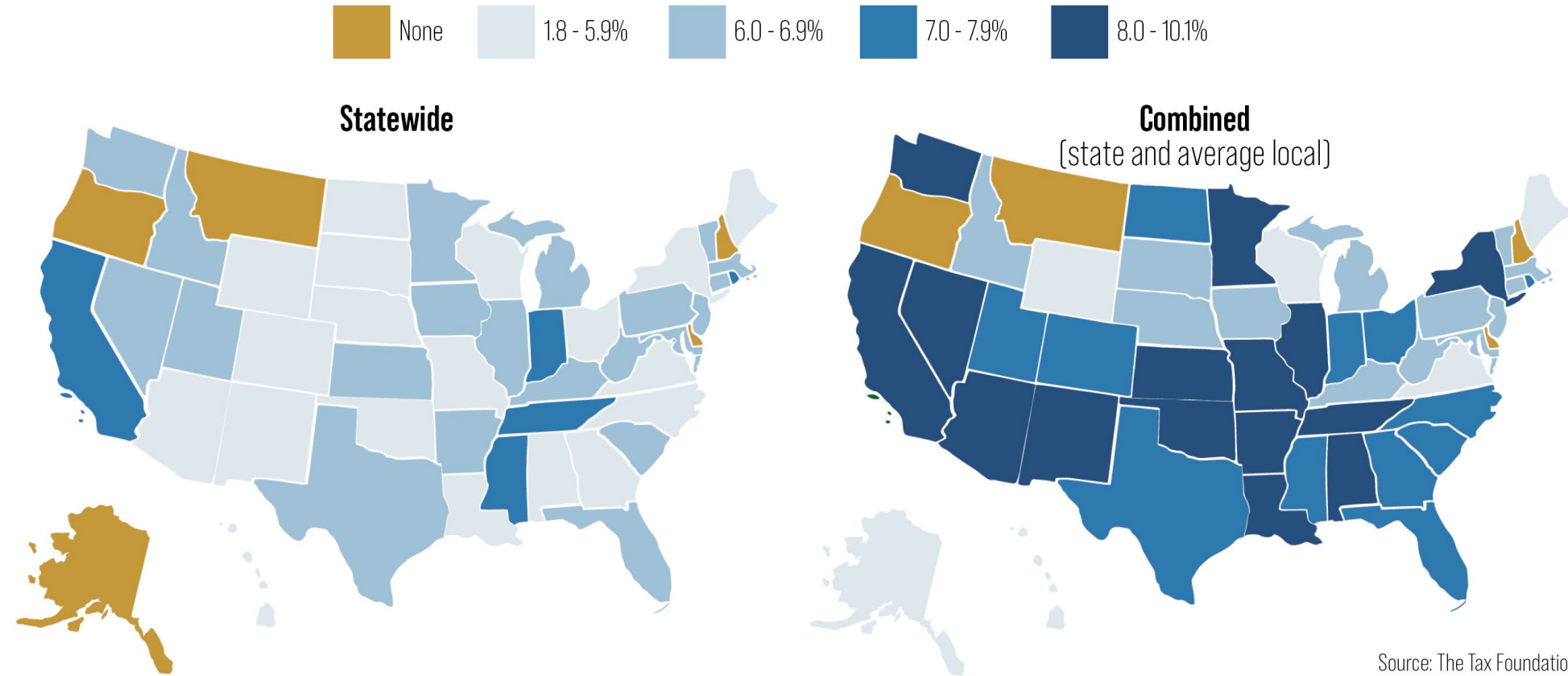
# Local Sales Tax and The Economic Outlook for Cascade County

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# In Many States, Local Sales Taxes Are Large: About ¾ of State's Allow Local Sales Tax.

Sales tax rates, July 2025



# Local Option Sales Tax Problem 1: Large Inequities Across Areas

Illustrated With Former Home County:  
All areas have the same sales tax rate.

Differences are due to

- 1) major highways/tourist traffic
- 2) location of shopping centers  
(incentives)
- 3) housing (less is better!)

Jurisdictional competition for sales tax is not  
economic development: a zero-sum regional game.

| Placer County<br>Communities | Sales Tax Revenue<br>Per Capita |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| County Unincorporated        | \$155.87                        |
| Auburn                       | \$550.70                        |
| Colfax                       | \$679.37                        |
| Lincoln                      | \$80.66                         |
| Loomis                       | \$182.52                        |
| Rocklin                      | \$222.49                        |
| Roseville                    | \$393.86                        |

Source: California City Finance, 2018-19.



# Local Option Sales Tax Problem 2: Negative Fiscal Incentives For Local Governments Especially When Paired With Property Tax Restrictions

## Hospitality, Entertainment, & Recreation Incentive Program

The Hospitality, Entertainment & Recreation (HER) incentive offers a sales tax rebate or direct financial assistance, building and planning fee rebates, and/or transient occupancy tax rebates and is available to unique retailer(s) who offer a full-service establishment with hospitality, recreation, and entertainment venues. To qualify, a business must:

A minimum of \$10 million in annual sales qualifies for a 20% rebate of the portion of tax collected by the City, growing to a sales tax rebate of 50% for businesses generating \$30 million or more in annual sales.

## Citywide Retail Incentive Program

Sales Tax and Building & Plan Fee rebate incentives used to attract “unique business” to Tracy. Qualified businesses must:

- Engage in “retail sales” within the City limits of Tracy
- Classify as a “unique business”
- Provide 5 years of actual annual sales for its 2 closest locations
- Identify the City of Tracy as the point of sale

Example: City of Tracy Charges \$75,000 In Impact Fees On A New House But Rebates Up To 50% of Sales Taxes To Attract New Retail and Hospitality.

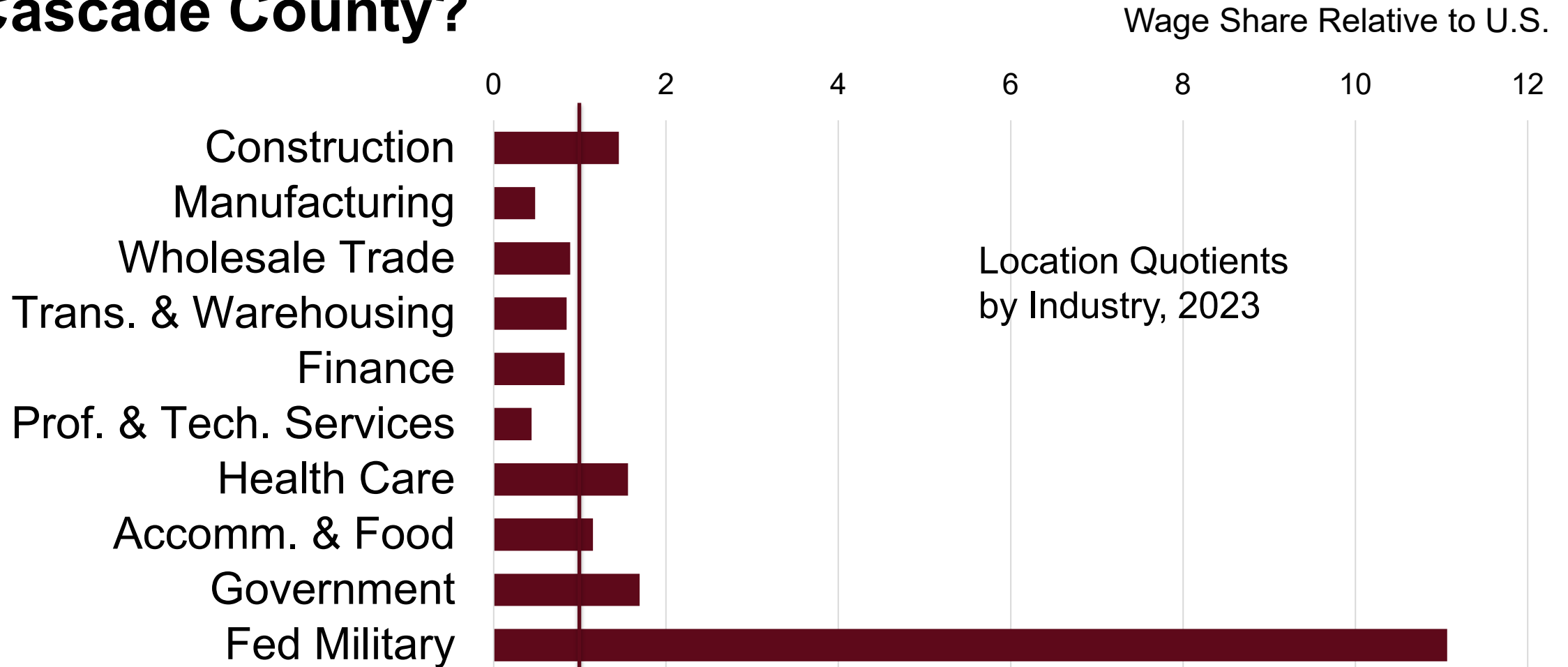


# Mixed Signals in Great Falls

- Population growth surge was short-lived.
- Jobs down in 2025, but wage growth is strong.
- Big projects in the pipeline could bring big changes.
  - Much uncertainty about timing and scale.

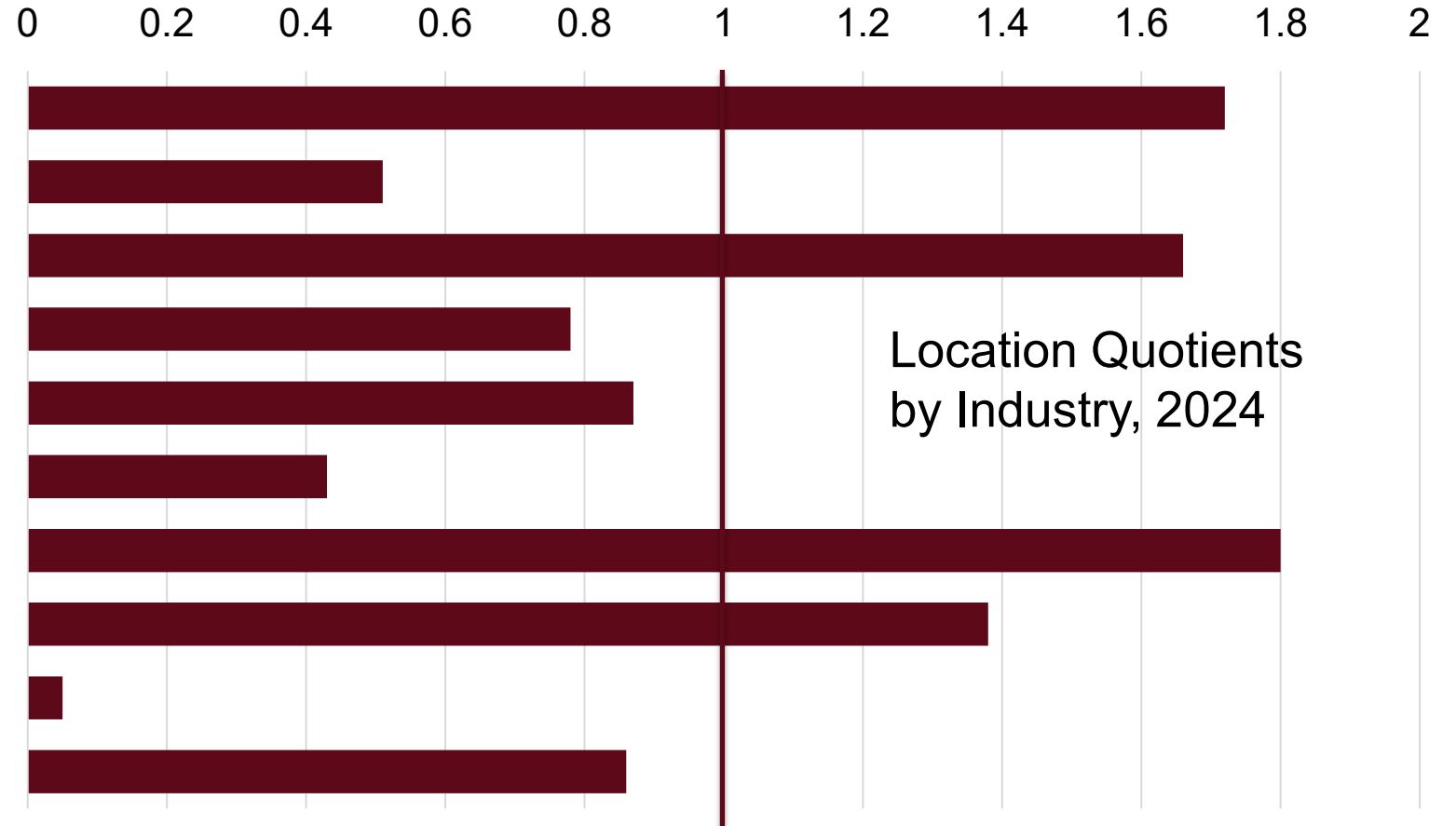


# What Are the Most Prominent Industries in Cascade County?



# What Are the Most Prominent Private Industries in Cascade County?

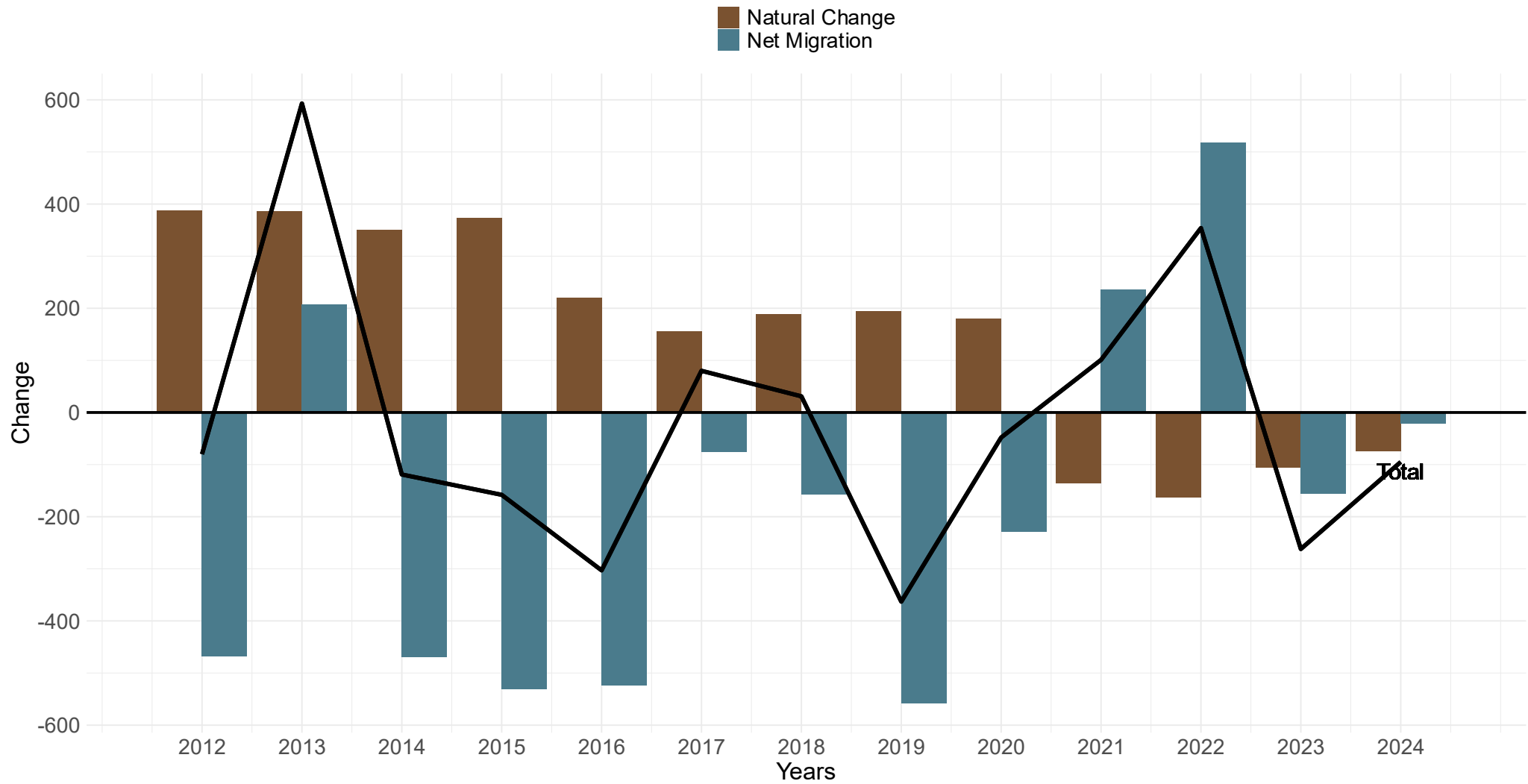
Wage Share Relative to U.S.



Location Quotients by Industry, 2024



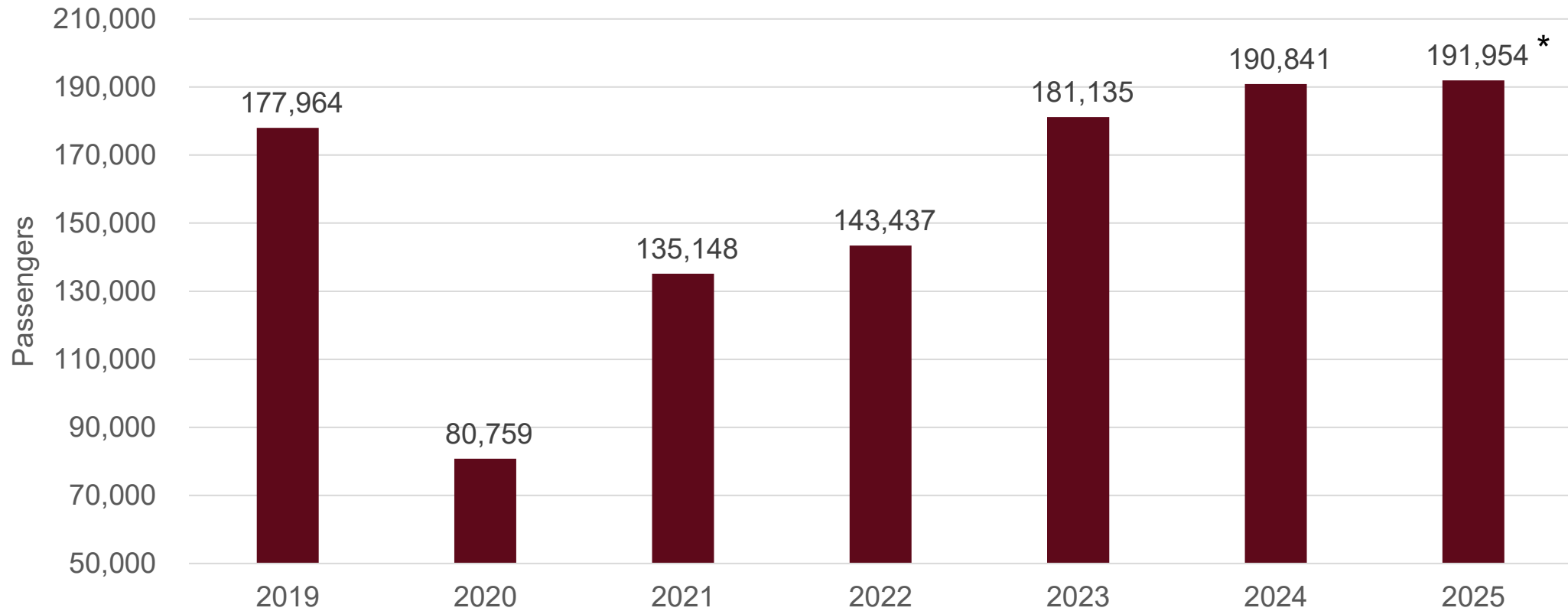
# Components of Population Change, Cascade County



Source: U.S. Census - Population and Housing Units Estimates (PEP)

# Airport Steady in 2025 After Recent Gains

Enplanements, Great Falls International Airport



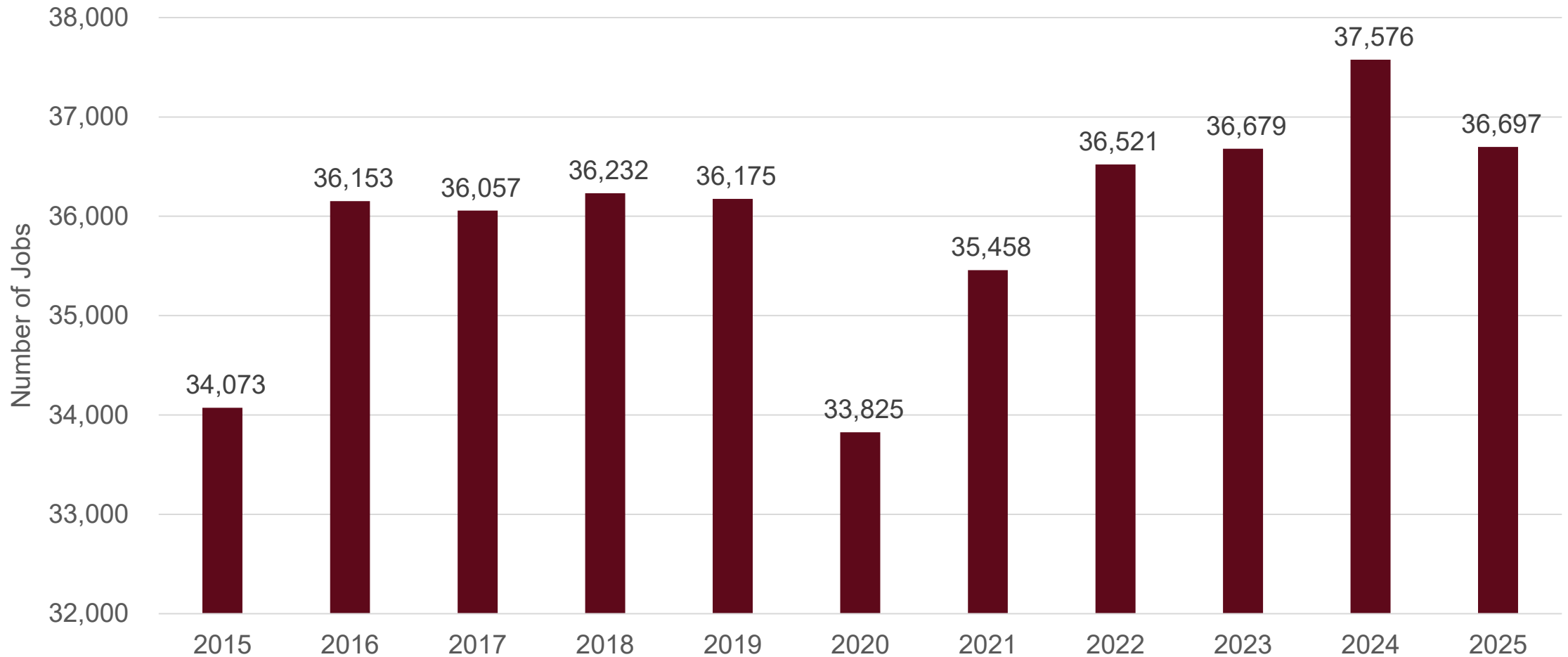
Source: Montana Dept of Transportation Statistics

\* Projected

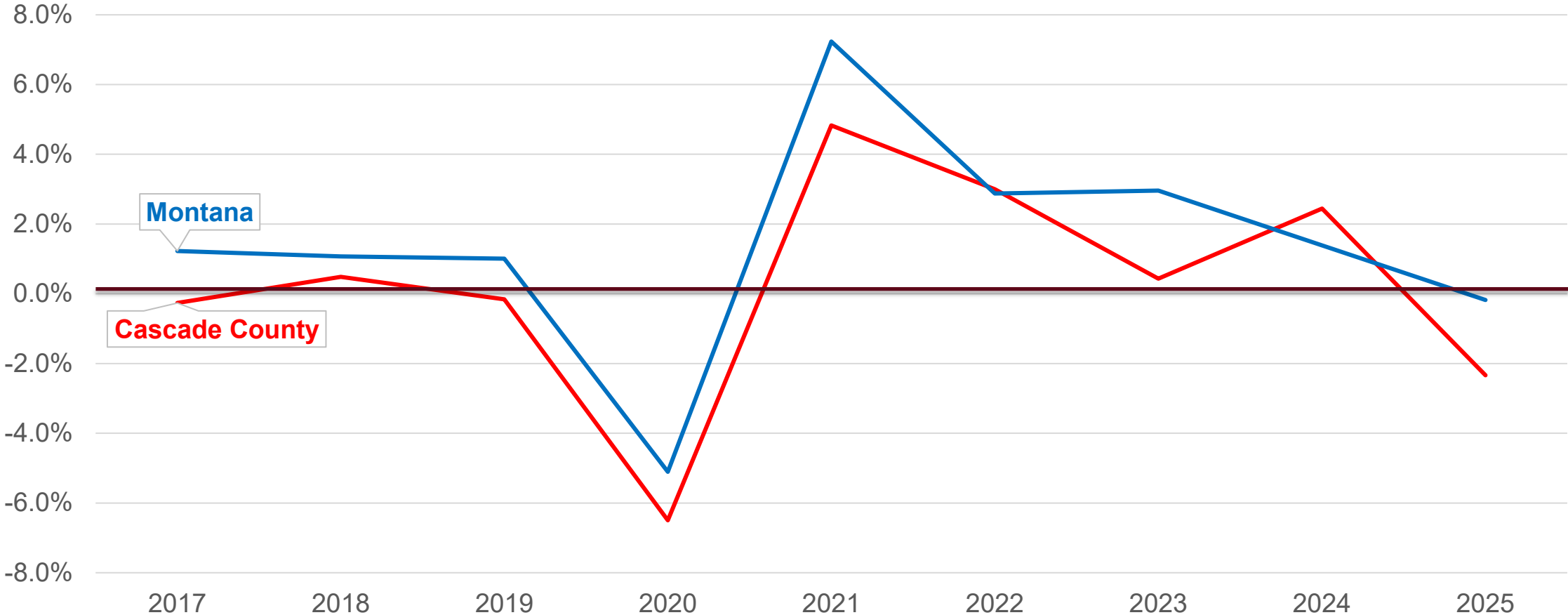


# Cascade County Employment

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, QCEW. Data is June each year)

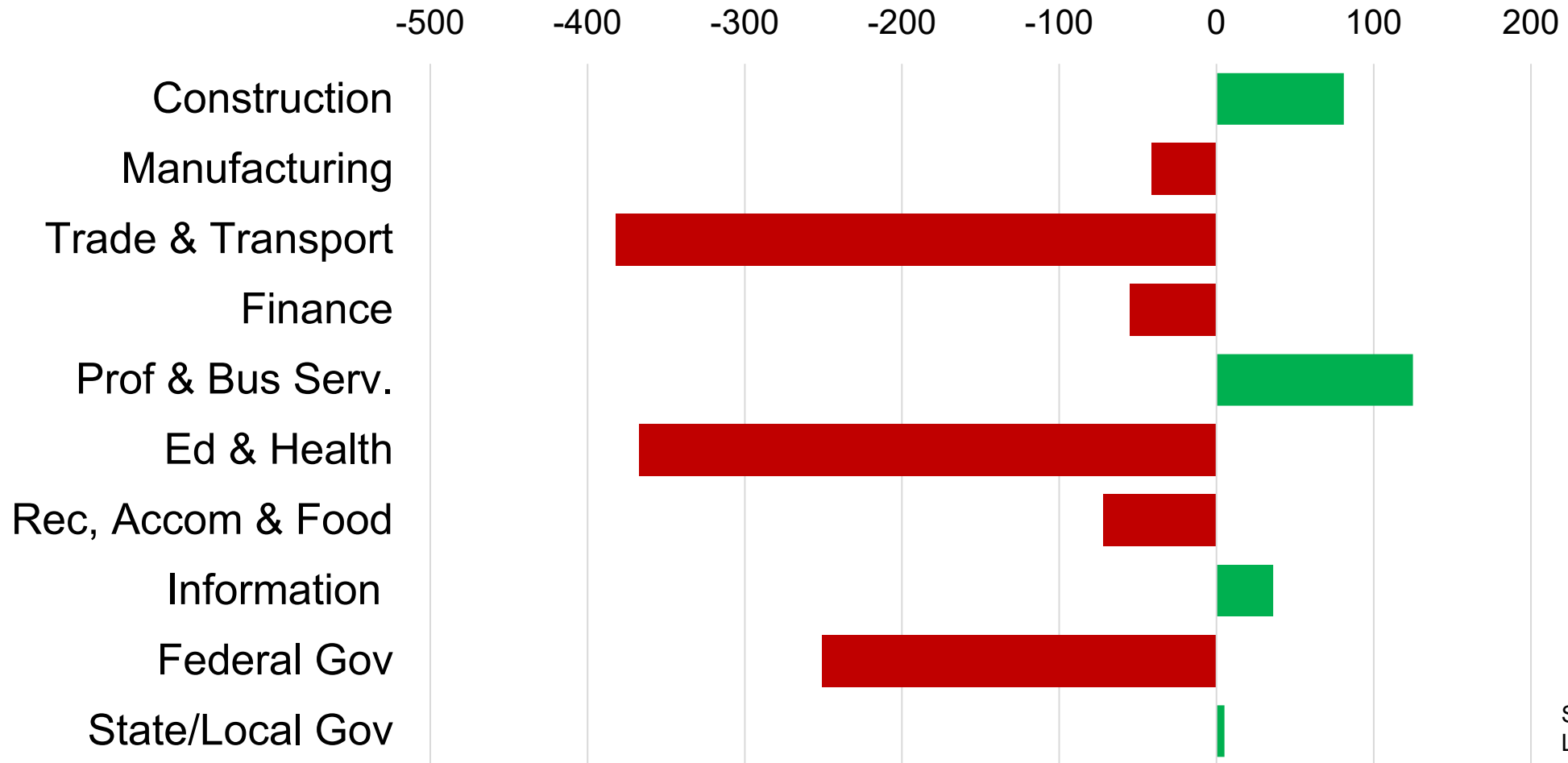


# Annual % Change in Jobs – Cascade County



# Most Prominent Sectors Experienced Losses

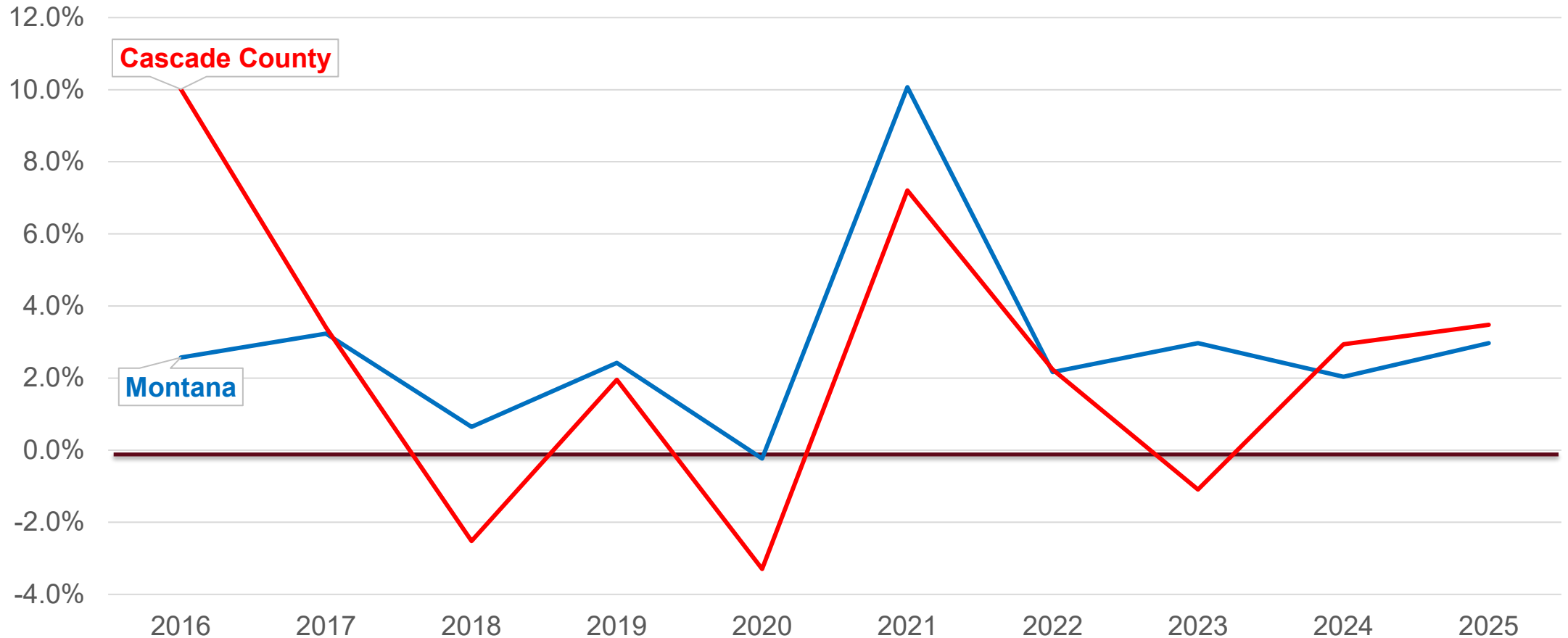
## Change in Jobs: June 2025 – 2024



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



# % Change in Total Wages - Cascade County Inflation Adjusted



# % Change in Average Weekly Wage – Cascade County Inflation Adjusted

