

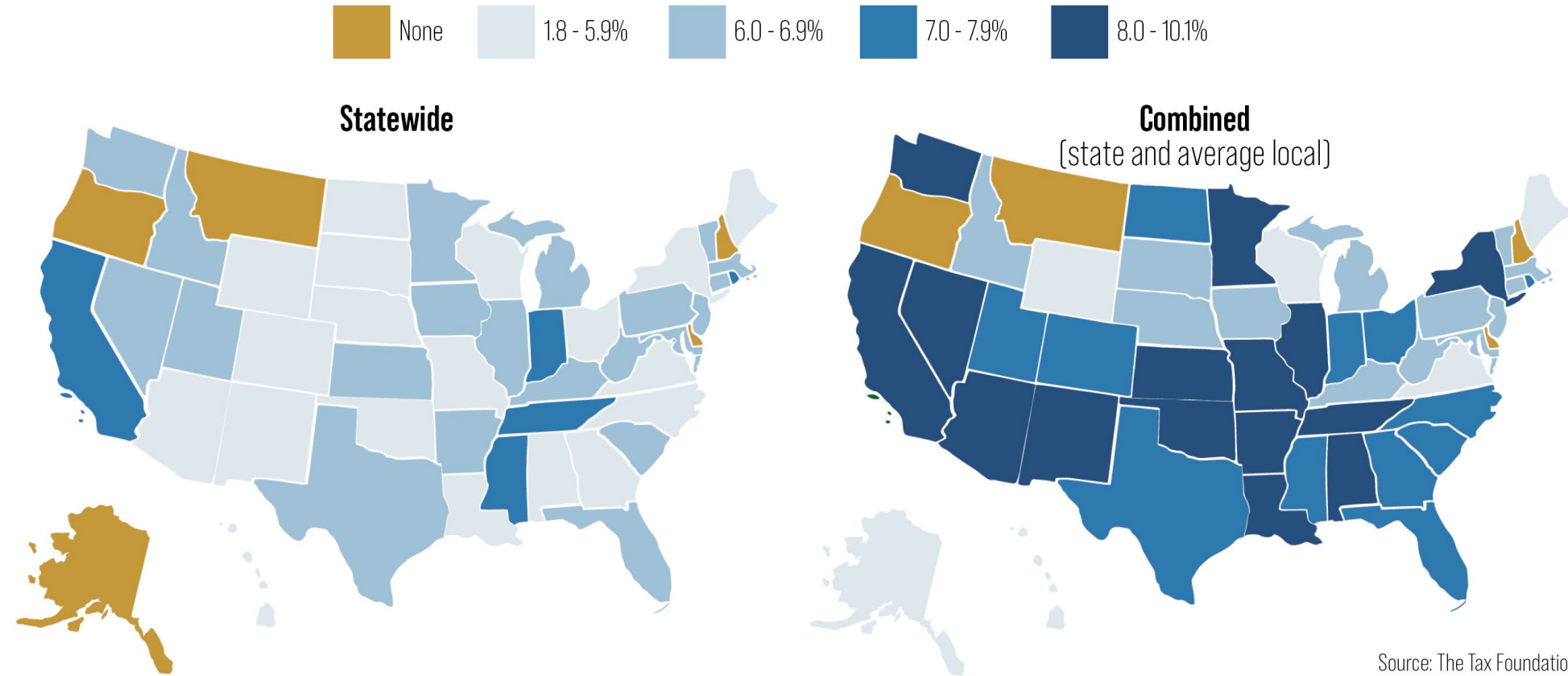
# Local Sales Tax and The Economic Outlook for Flathead County

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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



Source: The Tax Foundation



# 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 Communities	Sales Tax Revenue 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.

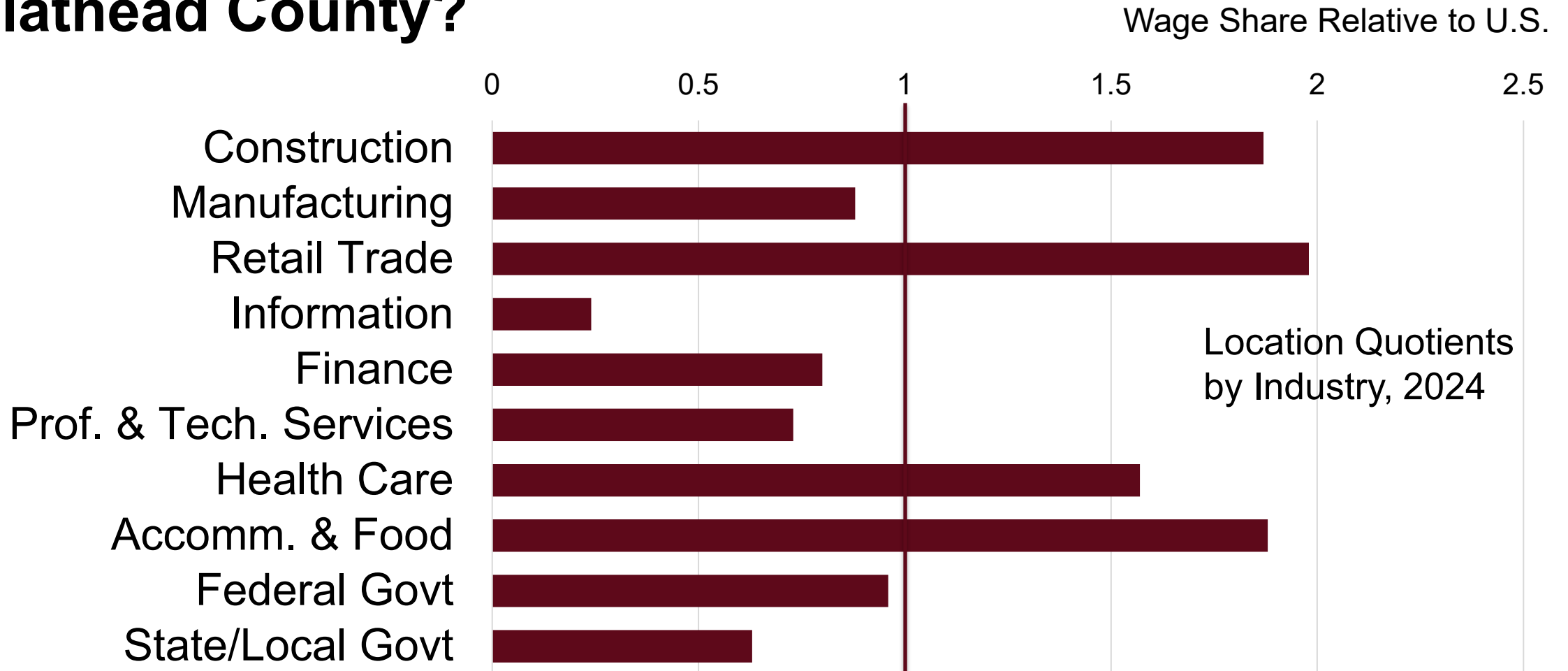


# Growth Slows but is Sustained in 2025

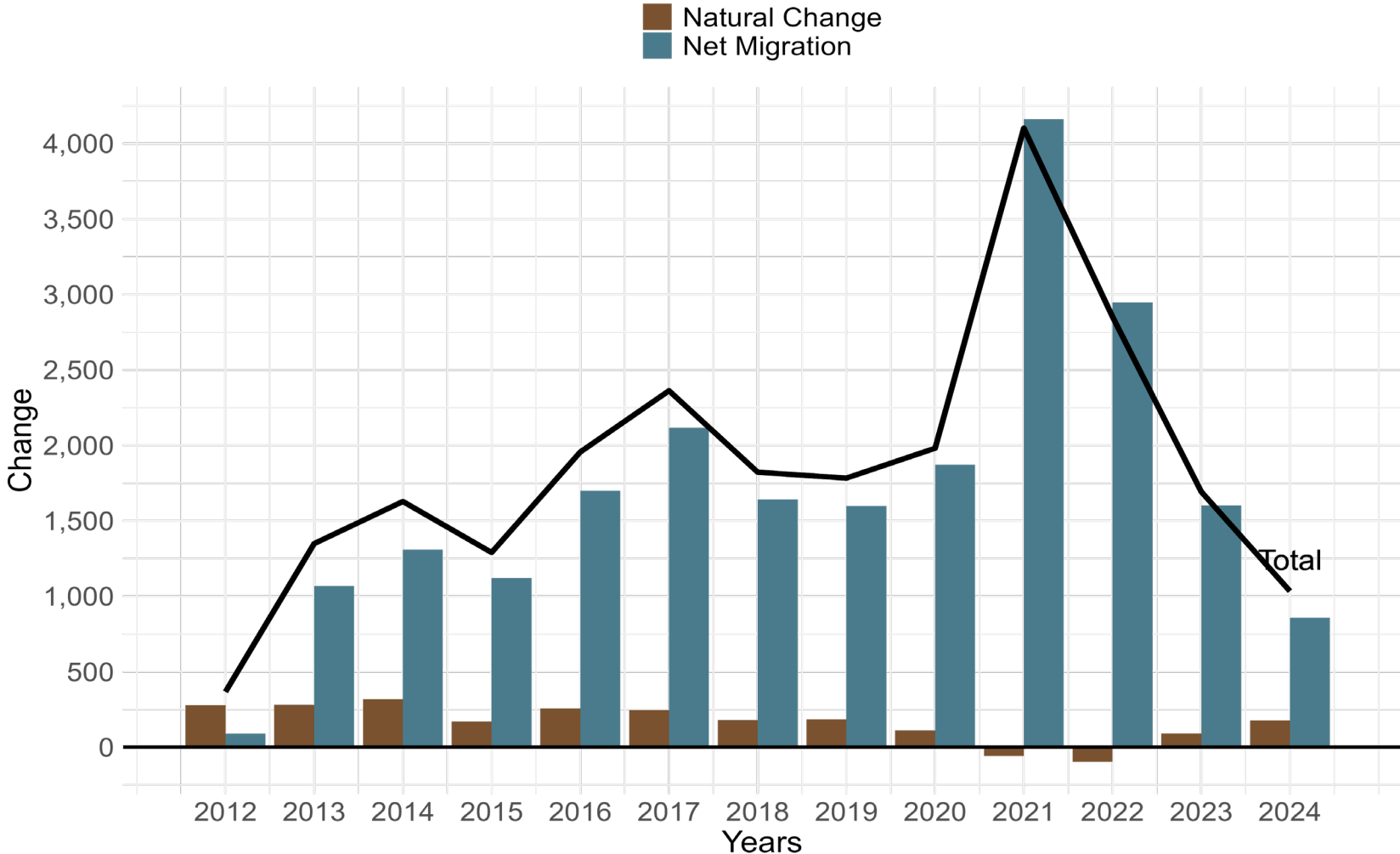
- Population in-migration remains the dominant economic story despite slower in-migration.
  - Strong construction, but little progress on affordability.
- Wage growth beating inflation: tech and health care are contributing
- Avoiding Problems Hitting Other Regions:
  - Wood Products Sector is holding up
  - relatively low Government dependence



# What Are the Most Prominent Industries in Flathead County?



# Components of Population Change, Flathead County

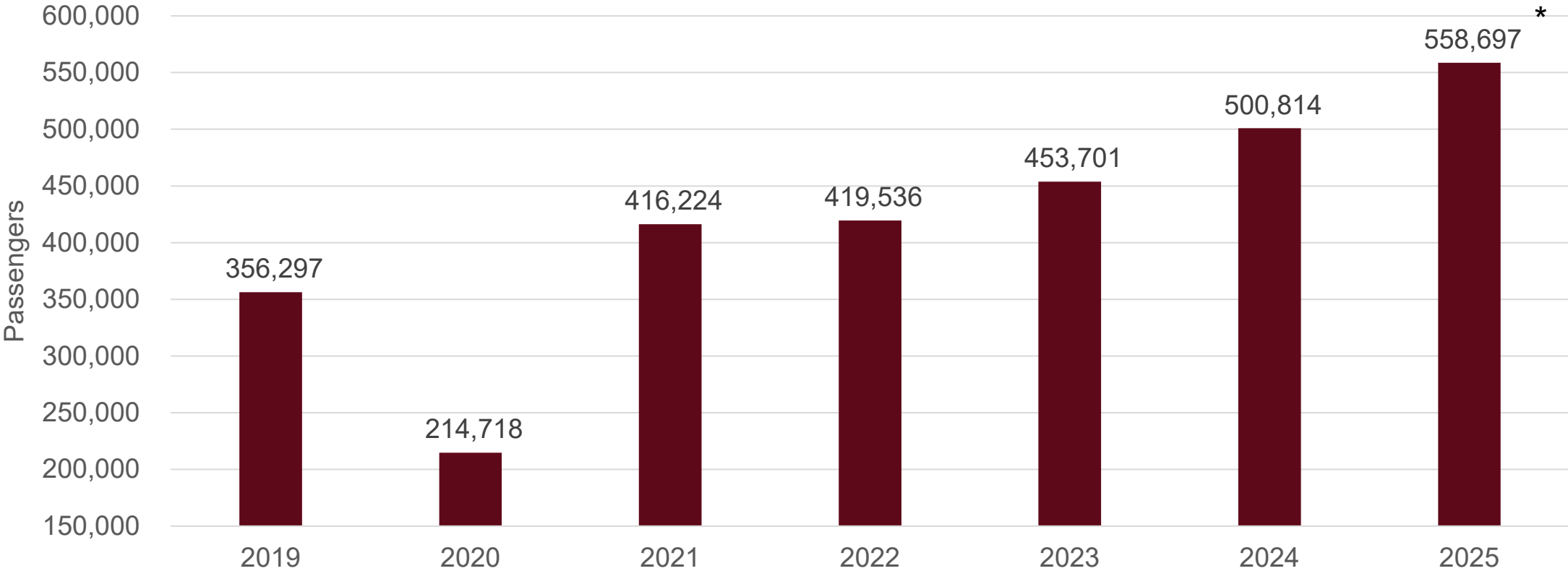


Source: U.S. Census - Population and Housing Units Estimates (PEP)



# Airport Growth Continued in 2025

## Enplanements, Glacier Park International Airport



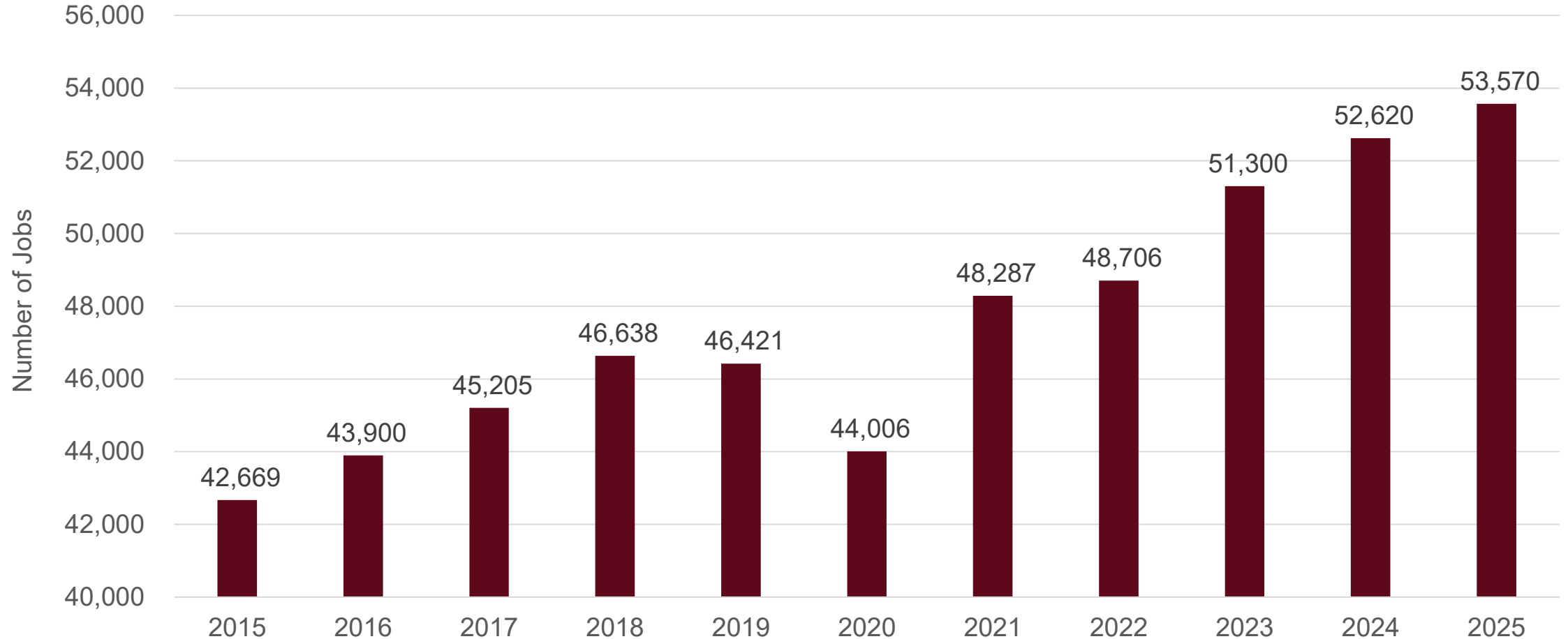
Source: Montana Dept of Transportation Statistics

\* Projected

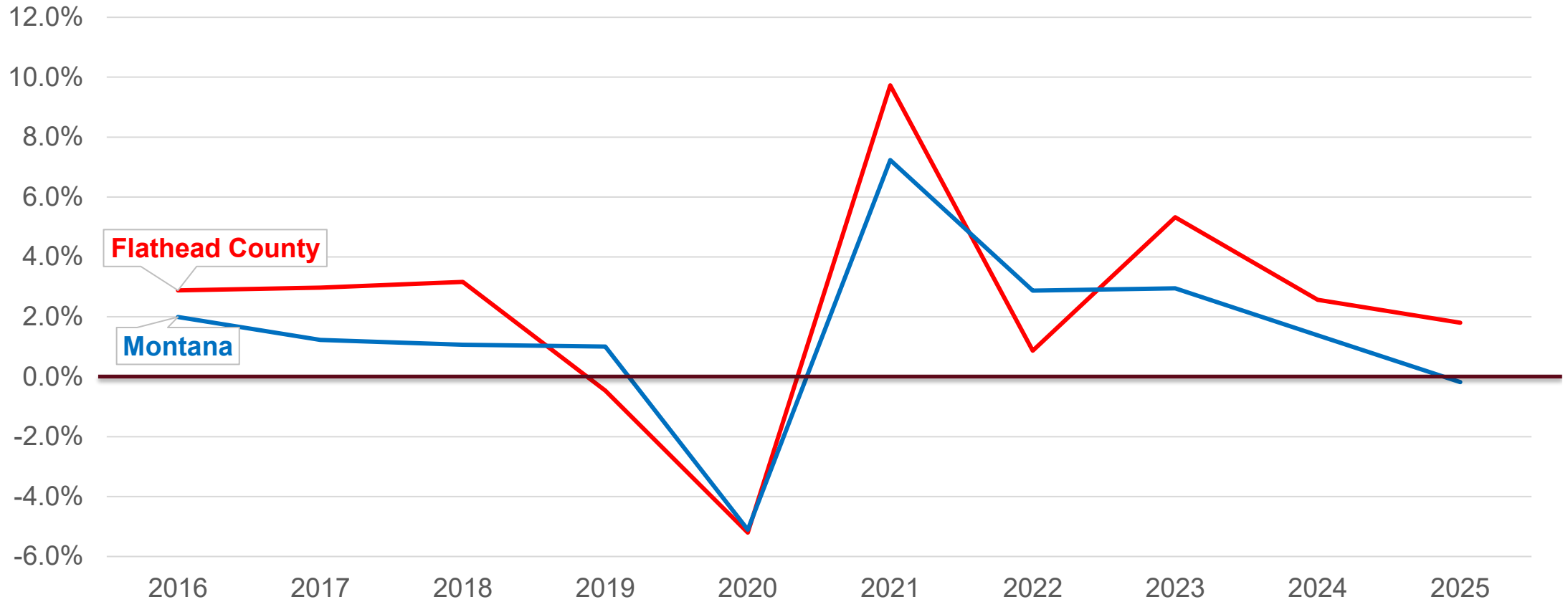


# Flathead County Employment

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

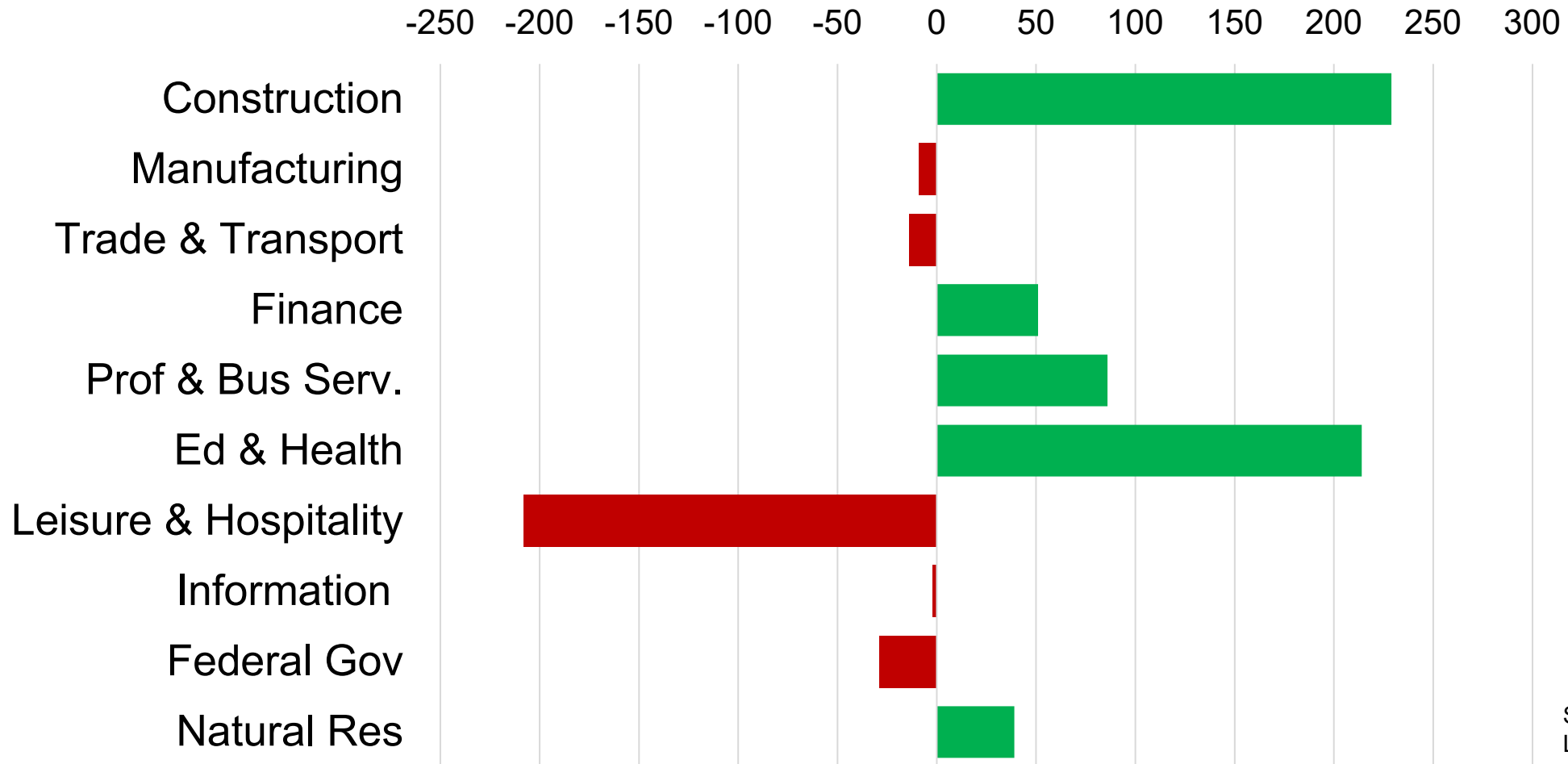


# Annual % Change in Jobs – Flathead County



# Health and Construction Lead Job Gains

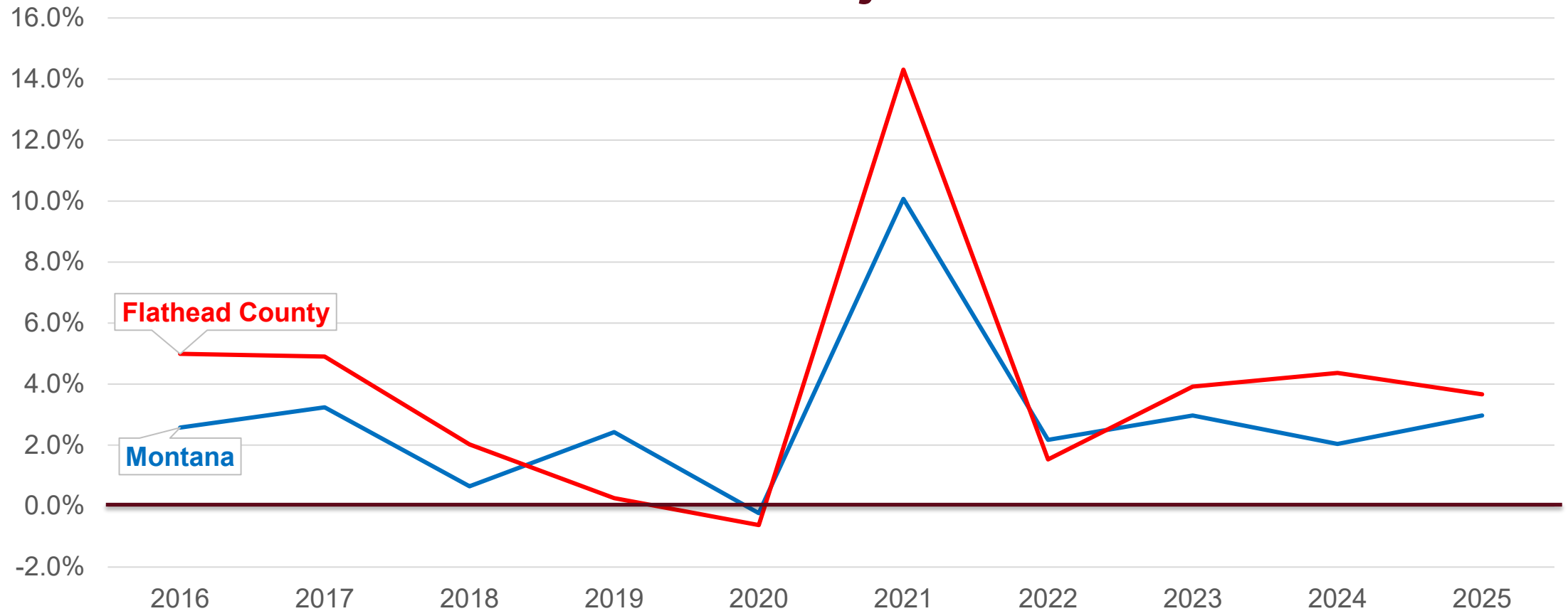
## Change in Jobs: June 2025 – 2024



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



# % Change in Total Wages – Flathead County Inflation Adjusted



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

