

2. POPULATION & ECONOMY

PART 1: KEY FINDINGS

1. Population Growth Trends

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's population peaked in 1960 at 18,640 people, but less than half that number live there today. However, due to recent positive in-migration and demographic trends, projections indicate that over the next 15 years ADLC will see modest population growth. It is important to note that local events such as the development of base industries in the county, increase in tourism, or a significant national event such as another recession, can alter rates of population growth. There was already positive in-migration into the county from 2007 to 2008, but a negative trend in the natural increase (deaths exceeding births) offset these gains.

2. Age Distribution

The median age in the County as of the 2010 Census was 46.0, considerably older than the statewide average of 39.8 years. Almost one-half of households had an individual over age 65. The aging of the population is a nationwide trend and will have impacts on housing design, increase the demand on social services, and create changes in the labor force. Also, the 65 and over age cohort is more likely to experience a disability. According to U.S. Census data, ADLC had a higher percentage of people with disabilities compared to the rest of the state and this was due in part to the higher percentage of people over 65 years of age.

3. Per Capita Income

Per capita income in the county has historically been lower than the statewide average. The county has a higher percentage of income that is derived from transfer payments such as social security, pensions, and unemployment. This is indicative of the older population in the County. The lower incomes in the County result in a higher proportion of individuals classified as below poverty levels compared to the rest of the state. One in four children under age 18 is living below poverty in the County. Although wages are lower in the county, most living costs are also generally lower than national averages.

4. Employment Trends

Unemployment rates have declined dramatically in ADLC. Current unemployment is now lower than the state average and ranks the 14th lowest state-wide. Over the past five years, significant increases in employment have been seen in the professional/technical service, retail, and health care sectors. However, there were declines in the food/accommodation and construction sectors. In the agriculture sector, the U.S. Census of agriculture indicates fewer farms and fewer operators who engage in farming as a full-time occupation.

5. Tourism

The contribution of the tourism economy has increased. Lodging tax collections have experienced an increase since 2010. Compared to other counties in the region, however, ADLC collected lower lodging tax revenues than other counties with equivalent populations.

PART 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. Population Change

According to U.S. Census estimates, the population of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County in 2016 was 9,085, making it the 26th most populous of Montana’s 56 counties. The county population peaked in 1960 at 18,640 people, but since then total county population has been closely linked with the operation of the former copper smelter run by the Anaconda Mining Company. Even when the smelter was active, however, there were population fluctuations depending on local employment levels. Since the smelter closed in 1980, the County has experienced steady population decline, and from 1970 to 2010, the population declined by -40.6%. However, according to the most recent estimates, the rate of population decline is leveling off and was only -3.5% from 2000 to 2016.

Table 2-1: Census Population 1930 to 2016 – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, MT

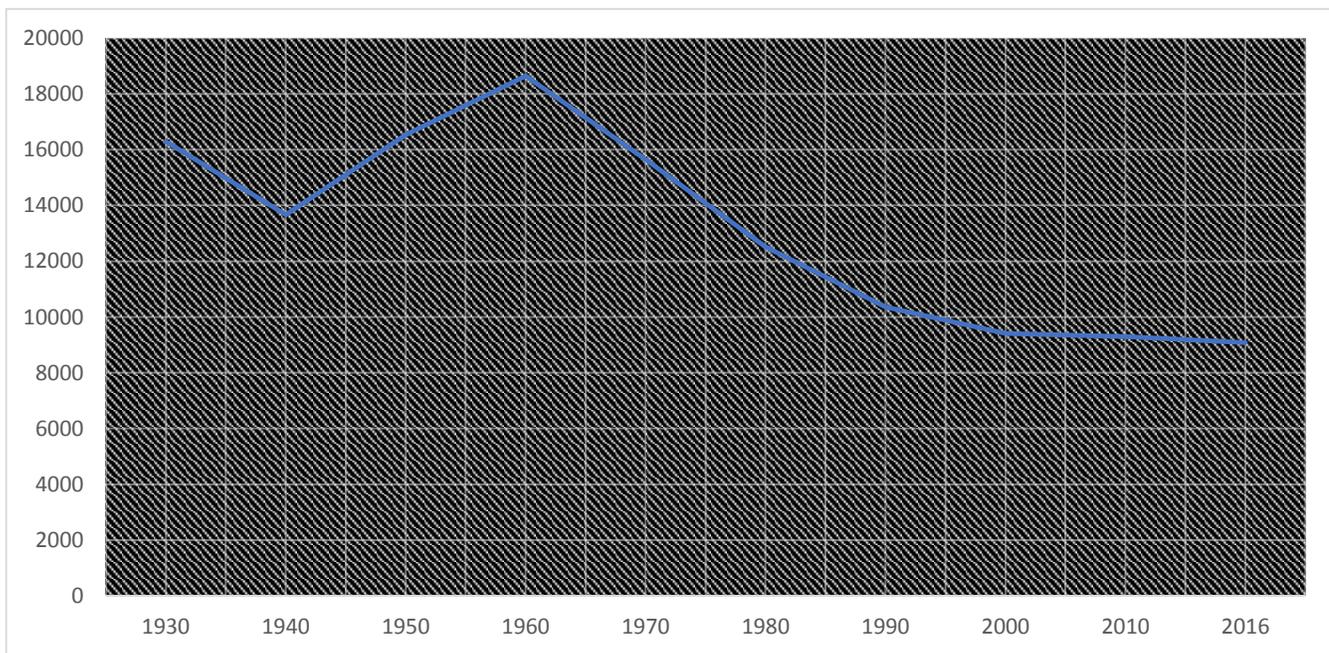
	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2016
Anaconda	12,494	11,004	11,254	12,054	9,771	---	---	---	---	--
Deer Lodge County	16,293	13,672	16,533	18,640	15,652	12,518	10,356	9,417	9,298	9,085

Source: U.S. Census of the Population 1930 -2010

Source: 2016 U.S. Census – American Community Survey

Note: After the 1970 census, the City of Anaconda and Deer Lodge County became a consolidated government so population figures are only available on a countywide basis starting with the 1980 Census.

Figure 2-1: Population Growth in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County 1930 – 2016



Source: U.S. Census of Population

2. Dynamics of Population Change

The statewide population grew 5.4% from 2010 to 2016, and except for ADLC and Powell Counties, the surrounding counties all experienced population growth over that period as well. Since 2000, Ravalli County had the largest increase in population, but since 2010 Granite County has had the fastest rate of increase.

Table 2-2: Population Change in Surrounding Counties

County	2000	2010	2016	2010 - 2016% Change
ADLC	9,417	9,298	9,085	-2.3%
Butte-Silver Bow	34,606	34,200	34,553	1.1%
Powell	7,180	7,027	6,858	-2.4%
Granite	2,830	3,079	3,368	9.4%
Beaverhead	9,202	9,246	9,401	1.7%
Ravalli	36,070	40,121	42,088	4.7%
Jefferson	6,851	11,406	11,853	3.9%
Montana	902,190	989,415	1,042,520	5.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of the Population & American Community Survey

Other components of population change include natural increase and net in-migration. Natural increase is defined as the number of births in the county minus the number of deaths. ADLC had the largest regional rate of decline for natural increase from 2010 to 2016 with 777 recorded deaths and only 448 births. All surrounding counties, except for Beaverhead County, experienced a negative rate of natural increase. Beaverhead County is the location of Western Montana University and has a younger population that results in a higher birth rate.

The rate of net in-migration is calculated by subtracting the number of people who move out of the county from the number who relocate to the county. In the most recent year that data is available, ADLC had a positive rate of in-migration. It was not enough, however, to offset the loss of population due to deaths exceeding births.

Table 2-3: Rates for Various Components of Population Change – 2010-2016

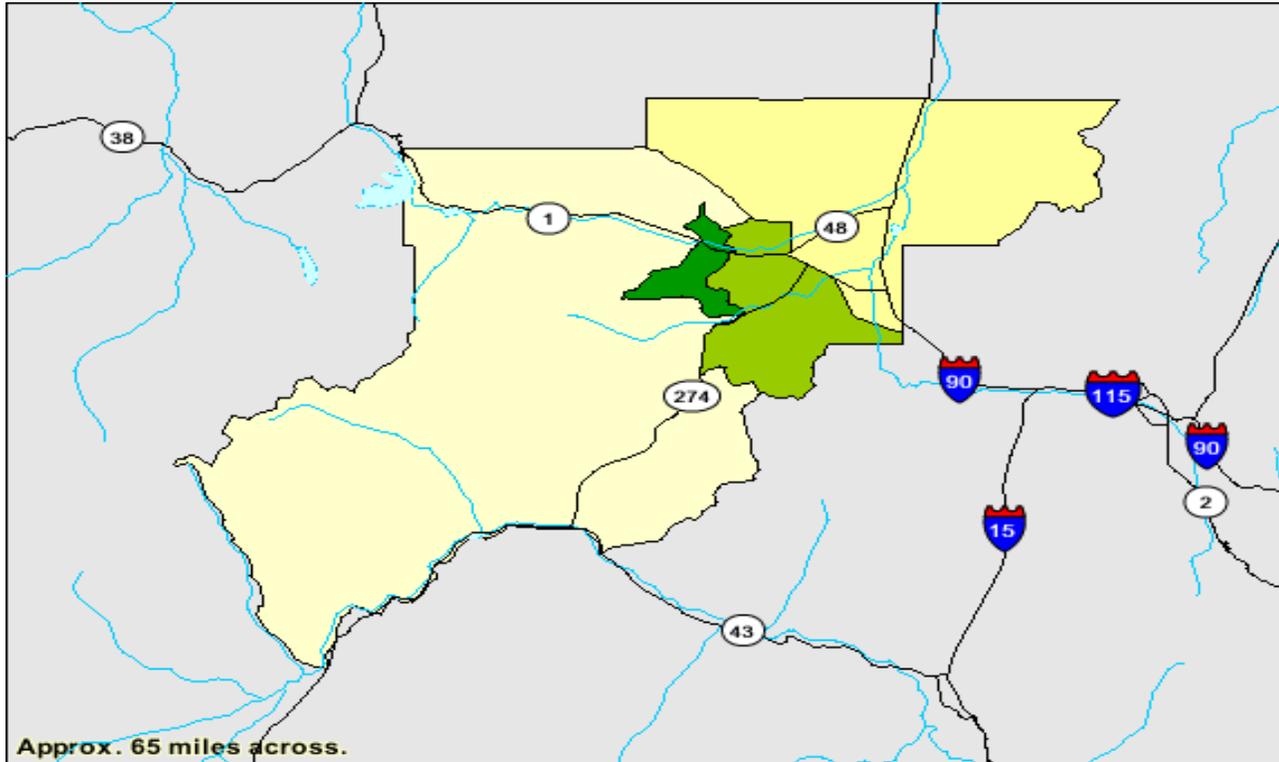
County	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migration
ADLC	448	777	-329	99
Butte-Silver Bow	2492	2,562	-70	395
Powell	328	456	-128	-41
Granite	130	197	-67	341
Beaverhead	561	492	69	79
Ravalli	2394	2,634	-240	1,979
Jefferson	525	640	-115	544

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, "Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change"

3. Population Distribution

According to the 2010 Census, population in the County was concentrated around the area that, prior to 1980, was the incorporated City of Anaconda. East of Anaconda and around the Opportunity area are other population concentrations. Smaller pockets of population include the Galen, Warm Springs, Georgetown Lake, and the West Valley areas.

Map 2-1: Population Density – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County



Data Classes

Persons/Sq Mile

3 - 3

7 - 7

55 - 55

240 - 240

Features

Major Road

Street

Stream/Waterbody

Stream/Waterbody

Items in gray text

are not visible

at this zoom level

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of the Population, 2010

4. Population Projections

According to the Montana Census and Economic Information Center, the total population for the County is projected to increase through the year 2035. Population projections, however, are based on recent migration trends and demographic make-up of the county. Any fundamental change in these trends, such as the County's economic development efforts beginning to bear fruit and bring jobs and dollars into the local economy, could alter the rate of population growth. It is interesting to note that after decades of declining population, the state of Montana is projecting a 5.8% growth rate in only four years, and then steady population growth after the year 2020.

Table 2-4: Population Projections for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Year	Projected Population
2016 (Estimate)	9,085
2020	9,614
2025	10,064
2030	10,500
2035	10,832

Source: Montana Census and Economic Information Center, Dept. of Commerce & NPA Data Services

5. Age Distribution

ADLC continues to be one of the oldest counties in Montana. According to the American Community Survey, the median age in the county was 47.4 years, significantly older than the statewide median of 39.8 years. Furthermore, 21.7% of the population was age 65 and over compared to 17.1% statewide. The percentage of people over age 80 had increased to 5.7% by the latest ACS estimates. This is significant because this segment of the population is typically less active than recent retirees and they frequently require more specialized housing and medical services. Also, males out-number females in the county by 52.3% to 47.7%.

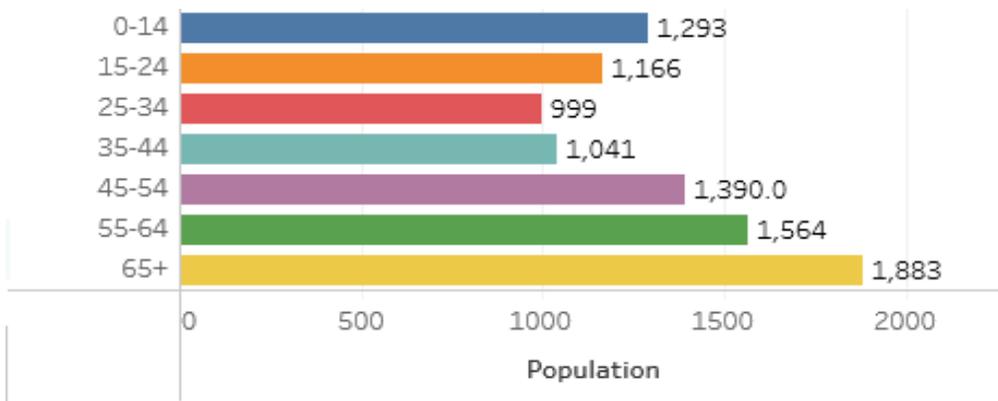
Table 2-5: Population by Age

Age Group	Number	Percent
Under 5	307	3.4%
5-9	373	4.1%
10-14	417	4.6%
15-19	720	7.9%
20-24	502	5.5%
25-29	387	4.2%
30-34	370	4.1%
35-39	609	6.7%
40-44	519	5.7%
45-49	663	7.3%
50-54	685	7.5%
55-59	701	7.7%
60-64	898	9.8%
65-69	712	7.8%
70-74	419	4.6%
75-79	334	3.7%
80-84	296	3.2%
85+	219	2.4%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012-2017

As indicated in the chart below, the 65 and over age group represents the largest segment of the population in Anaconda – Deer Lodge County. The smallest age group is the 25 to 34-year olds. This typically represents the trend of high school graduates leaving home to attend college or look for work outside of the County. Anecdotally it is known that former Anaconda residents often return when they retire, mostly for family reasons, but also for the relatively low cost of living.

Figure 2-2: Population by Age – Anaconda - Deer Lodge County



Source: Montana Department of Labor Industry, Local Area Profiles <http://lmi.mt.gov/Local-Area-Profiles>

6. Population by Race

In 2010, the population of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County was predominantly white (93.1%) with Native Americans comprising the largest minority group. Statewide, 84.4% of the population identified themselves as white.

Table 2-6: Population by Race

Race	Number	Percent
White	8,660	93.1%
Black or African American	38	0.4%
Native American incl. Alaska Native	285	3.1%
Asian	29	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	4	0%
Some other race	48	2.5%
Two or more races	234	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino	271	2.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of the Population, 2010

7. Education

In 2010, the percentage of people in ADLC who have attained at least a high school diploma was 90.9% compared to the State average of 92.8%. The percent of persons with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 16.8% compared to a State average of 29.5%.

Table 2-7: Educational Attainment – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Educational Attainment	Number	Percent
Population 25 years and over	6,719	100%
Less than 9th grade	204	3.0%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	409	6.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,603	38.7%
Some college, no degree	1,697	25.3%
Associate degree	676	10.1%
Bachelor's degree	699	10.1%
Graduate or professional degree	431	6.4%
Percent high school graduate or higher		90.9%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher		16.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015

8. Disability

According to the Census Bureau, 18.8% of adults in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County age 21 to 64 had a disability compared to 13.3% statewide. The percentage of seniors over age 75 experiencing a disability (58.6%) in the county was also higher than the state average of 49.5%. Two of the factors at work here are an older population compared with the state as a whole. Another factor is that many seniors and others with disabilities relocate to Anaconda to take advantage of the rehabilitative services provided by A.W.A.R.E. and other assistance offered in the community. Cognitive impairment and ambulatory limitations were the most common types of disabilities. As

the population ages and disabled persons continue to relocate to Anaconda for services and treatment, the demands for specialized housing and community services to accommodate individuals with disabilities will increase.

Table 2-8: Disability Status for Anaconda-Deer Lodge Population

Disability Status of the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	Percent
Population 5 to 20 years	17.6%
Population 21 to 64 years	18.8%
Population 65 to 74 years	32.2%
Population 75 years and over	58.6%
Hearing Impairment	7.3%
Vision Impairment	3.0%
Cognitive Impairment	11.1%
Ambulatory Limitations	11.5%
Self-Care Limitations	3.5%
Independent Living Limitations	8.8%

Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey 2011 – 2015

9. Household Characteristics

In 2000, two-thirds of households were classified as family households comprised of related married couples, parents, and children. In 2015, however, families comprised only 57% of all households. Non-family households, which include single persons or non-related persons sharing a dwelling unit, comprised 43% in ADLC compared to 37.6% statewide. Slightly less than one-half of households had an individual over age of 65 compared to just 38.7% for the State of Montana. In ADLC, the average household size is 2.13, somewhat below the state average of 2.41 persons per household.

Table 2-9: Household Characteristics – Anaconda-Deer Lodge, MT

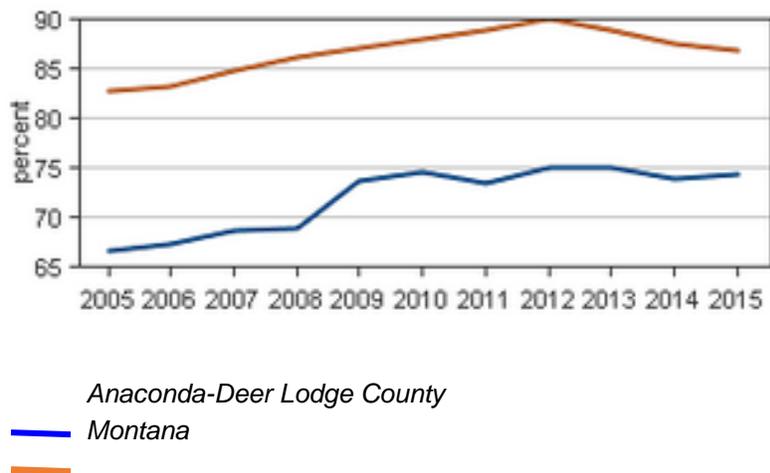
Household Characteristics	ADLC	Montana
Total households	3851	409,394
Family households	2187	255,470
Nonfamily households	1664	153,924
% of Householder living alone	39.4%	30.5%
% of Householder 65 years and over	16.8%	11.4%
% Households with individuals under 18 years	19.3%	27.5%
% Households with individuals 65 years and over	48.4%	38.7%
Average household size (All households)	2.13	2.41
Average family size	2.86	3.00

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011 - 2015

10. Income (Per Capita)

In 2015, ADLC had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$35,857. This PCPI ranked 46th in the state, was 86 % of the state average at \$41,809, and 75% of the \$48,112 national average. The 2015 PCPI reflected an increase of 4.5 percent from 2014. The 2014-2015 state change was 3.0 percent and the national change was 3.7 percent.

Figure 2-3: Per Capita Income as a Percent of the United States



Source: www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts/action.cfm

11. Personal Income by Type

Total personal income includes net earnings by place of residence; dividends, interest, and rent collections; and personal current transfer receipts received by the residents of ADLC. In 2015, total personal income for all residents of ADLC combined was \$327,695,000. Total personal income ranked 27th in the state.

Table 2-10: Personal Income by Type – 2015

Personal Income	ADLC	Montana
Net earnings	52%	62%
Dividends, Interest, and Rent	19%	22%
Transfer Payments	28%	19%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts>

From 2005 to 2015, the average annual growth rate in the County for net earnings was 3.8% percent; for dividends, interest, and rent collections it was 4.4 percent; and for personal current transfer receipts it was 4.0 percent. Growth in net earnings was comparable to the state while growth in transfer payments lagged behind state and national averages.

Table 2-11: Average Annual Growth Rate in Personal Income from 2005 to 2015

Personal Income	ADLC	Montana	U.S.
Net earnings	3.8%	3.9%	3.2%
Dividends, Interest, and Rent	4.4%	4.7%	4.3%
Transfer Payments	4.0%	6.0%	5.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts>

12. Poverty

Family characteristics used to determine the poverty threshold are: number of people, number of related children under 18, and whether or not the primary householder is over age 65. Family income is then compared to the poverty threshold for that category, and if that family's income is below the threshold, the family is classified as being in poverty.

Each year the U.S. Census Bureau establishes thresholds to measure the number of people living below a certain income level. The numbers are used to formulate economic policy and distribute social service aid. The poverty threshold in 2016 for a single individual was \$11,880 and for a family with 2 adults and 2 children it was \$24,300.

According to the U.S. Census, 17.3% of the ADLC population have incomes below poverty levels and 16.5% of families with children below the age of 18 live in poverty. Children under age 18 are more likely to be living in poverty than any other group. Compared to the State of Montana, poverty levels are higher in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. Note that median household income in the county is over **16% lower** than the State average.

Table 2-12: Poverty Levels in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

% in Poverty	ADLC	Montana
All ages in Poverty	17.3%	15.2%
Under age 18 in Poverty	26.5%	19.6%
Ages 65 years and over	5.9%	8.3%
Median Household Income	\$39,399	\$47,169

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 - 2015

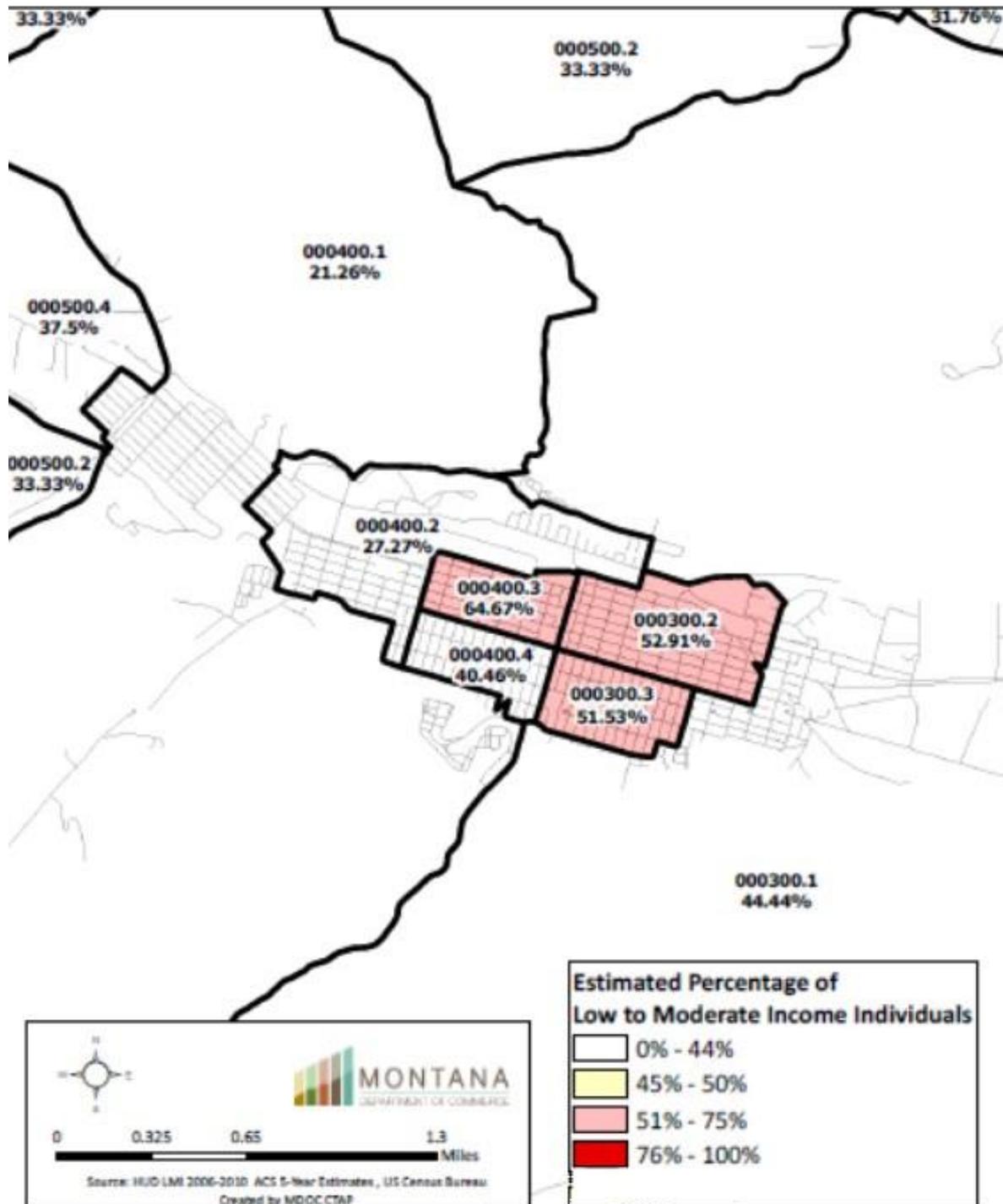
13. Low-Moderate Income

The goal of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is to assist Low and Moderate Income (LMI) households by providing grant funding for housing, infrastructure, and economic development initiatives. Communities must document benefit to LMI persons to apply for these funds. For CDBG purposes, the following definitions apply:

- Moderate Income is defined as income from 50% to 80% of median family income.
- Low Income is defined as income below 50% of median family income.

Map 2-2 indicates the percentage of LMI households in census tracts in and around Anaconda.
 Map 2-2: Low-Moderate Income Distribution in Anaconda

Estimated Percentage of Low to Moderate Income Individuals Anaconda, MT



14. Labor Force

The number of persons participating in the County labor force increased steadily from 2005 through 2015. Although the unemployment rate in the County has been historically higher than the statewide average, in 2012 through 2015 ADLC had a **lower** unemployment rate than the state average, and 2015 saw the **lowest County unemployment rate** in more than 15 years at only 3.9%.

Table 2-13: Labor Force Data for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Montana Unemployment Rate
2005	3,810	3,611	199	5.2%	3.7%
2006	3,887	3,707	180	4.6%	3.3%
2007	3,899	3,719	180	4.6%	3.4%
2008	3,852	3,625	227	5.9%	4.5%
2009	3,909	3,637	272	7.0%	6.2%
2010 (Aug)	4,019	3,707	312	7.8%	6.8%
2012	5,118	4,900	288	5.6%	6.0%
2013	5,234	4,976	258	4.9%	5.4%
2014	5,274	5,045	229	4.3%	4.7%
2015	5,291	5,084	207	3.9%	4.2%

Source: Montana Dept. of Labor <http://lmi.mt.gov/Local-Area-Profiles>

15. Annual Average Wages and Cost of Living

Although the average wage in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has increased over the past 5-years, it still lags behind national and Montana averages. This may be attributed to an overall lower cost of living in the county as well as a higher percentage of jobs in the service and retail sectors. According to www.bestplaces.net, cost of living in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County was 16.3% lower than the U.S. average in 2018, due mostly to lower housing costs.

Table 2-14: Annual Average Wages, 2010 – 2015

Year	ADLC	Montana
2010	\$29,328	\$34,632
2011	\$29,172	\$35,776
2012	\$33,072	\$37,706
2013	\$33,956	\$37,596
2014	\$35,552	\$38,896
2015	\$34,340	\$40,040

Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry <http://lmi.mt.gov/Local-Area-Profiles>