# COMMUNITY PROFILE

Helena, Montana is the state capital and County seat of Lewis & Clark County. The City is situated near the Missouri River, at the eastern foot of the Continental Divide in a fertile valley surrounded by rolling hills and lofty mountains. Mount Helena and Mount Ascension form scenic backdrops to the south and west of town, which are home to over 70 miles of recreational trails.

In addition to the abundance of recreation opportunities, the city boasts a historic downtown replete with local shops, restaurants, breweries and a pedestrian mall. Dubbed one of the "100 Best Small Art Towns in America" by American's for the Arts, Helena's creativity shines through organizations like the world-renowned Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts, several local theaters and art museums, the Helena Symphony, and the Montana Historical Society Museum.

While healthcare, education and government-related jobs predominate, Helena is an agricultural and livestock trade center and has light manufactures. The city has a long history of economic stability with relatively low unemployment compared to the rest of the state.

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION IN THE CITY OF HELENA
32,024

POPULATION IN LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY
71,593
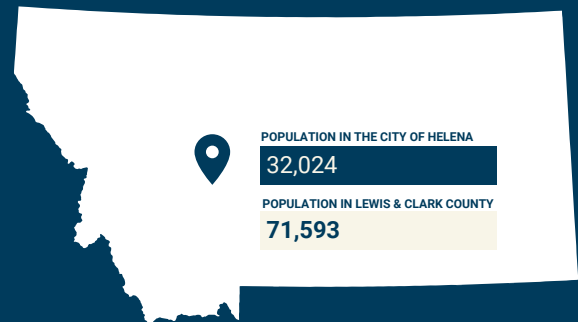
DAYTIME POPULATION WITHIN HELENA:

40,389

...

HOUSING UNITS:

14,245

...

MEDIAN AGE: 40.1

...

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (AGE 25+):

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER 47.9%

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE 19.4%

...

MEAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

$79,532

...

MEAN TRAVEL TIME TO WORK:

12.7 MIN.

...

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CITY: 2

POPULATION

SOURCE: 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

TOTAL POPULATION: 31,401

GROWTH RATE - 2020-2025

0.81%
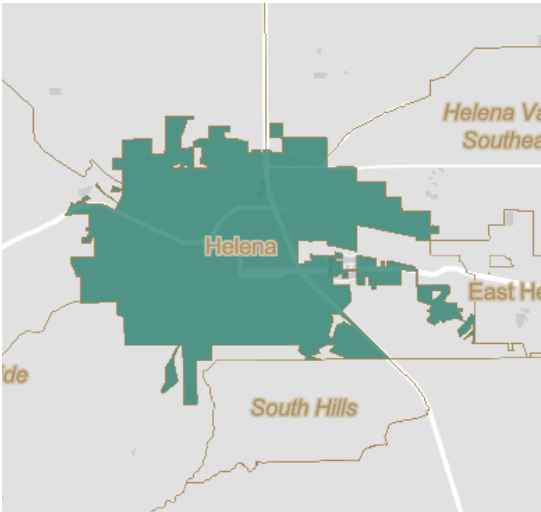POPULATION

0.85%
HOUSEHOLD

0.97%
HOUSEHOLD
MEDIAN
INCOME

0.65%
FAMILIES

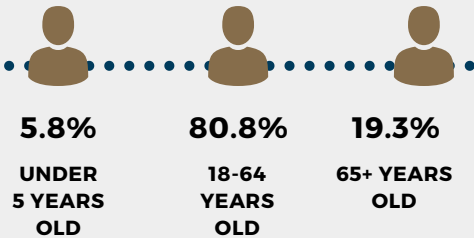**HELENA, MT HAS A TOTAL AREA OF 16.5 SQ. MILES**

2020 POPULATION BY RACE

Caucasian - 93.7%

American Indian & Native Alaskan - 1.2%

Asian - 0.9%

Black or African American - 0.5%

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander - 9.1%

Two or More Races - 2.8%

Other Race - 0.8%

2020 POPULATION BY AGE

5.8%
UNDER
5 YEARS
OLD

80.8%
18-64
YEARS
OLD

19.3%
65+ YEARS
OLD

EDUCATION

SOURCE: 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

76.2%

POP. HAS SOME COLLEGE,
DEGREE

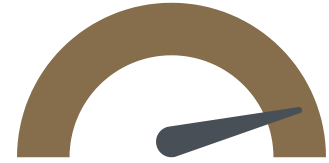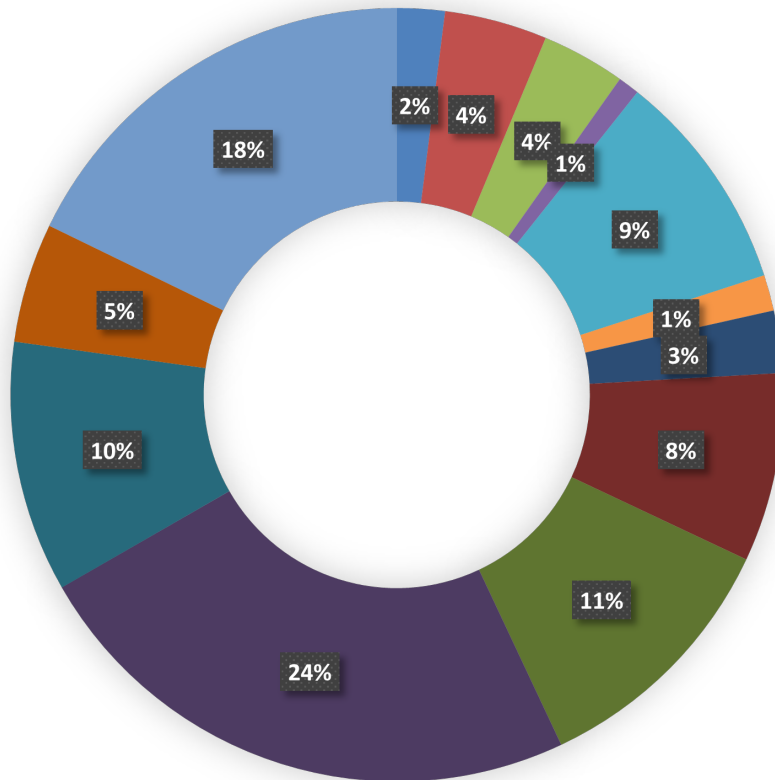**47.9%**

POP. HAS BACHELORS'S
DEGREE
OR HIGHER

19.4%

POP. HAS GRADUATE OR
PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

WORKFORCE

CIVILIAN WORKFORCE OVER THE AGE OF 16 BY INDUSTRY

SOURCE: 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

2% 4% 4% 1% 9% 18% 5% 10% 1% 3% 8% 24% 11%

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: 89.3%

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Transportation and warehousing, and utilities
- Information
- Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
- Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services
- Educational services, and health care and social assistance
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
- Other services, except public administration
- Public administration

KEY EMPLOYERS

SOURCE: HELENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRENDS REPORT & STATE OF MONTANA DEPT. OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY LABOR MARKET LOCAL PROFILE

- State of Montana
- Local government (City, County, School Dist.)
- Federal Government
- St. Peter's Hospital
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Carroll College
- Shodair Children's hospital
- VA hospital
- SoFi
- Boeing

12.7

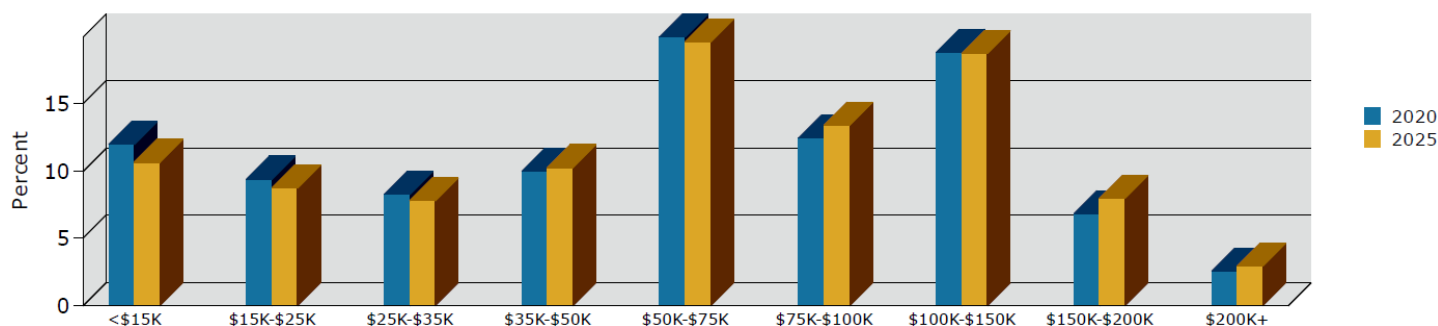**AVG. COMMUTE TO WORK HELENA (IN MIN.)**

26.9

AVG. COMMUTE TO WORK UNITED STATES (IN MIN.)

INCOME

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, CENSUS 2010 SUMMARY FILE 1. ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2020 AND 2025.

DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, CENSUS 2010 SUMMARY FILE 1. ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2020 AND 2025.

Data Note: Disposable Income is after-tax household income. Disposable income forecasts are based on the Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

	Census 2010	2020	2025	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 Annual Rate
Population	28,715	31,401	32,698	1,297	0.81%
Median Age	40.4	42.2	42.5	0.3	0.14%
Households	13,017	14,245	14,859	614	0.85%
Average Household Size	2.08	2.09	2.09	0.00	0.00%

LIVING WAGE INFORMATION

GLASMEIER, AMY K. LIVING WAGE CALCULATOR. 2020. MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. LIVINGWAGE.MIT.EDU.

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support themselves and their family. The assumption is the sole provider is working full-time (2080 hours per year). The tool provides information for individuals, and households with one or two working adults and zero to three children. In the case of households with two working adults, all values are per working adult, single or in a family unless otherwise noted.

The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have. Data are updated annually, in the first quarter of the new year. State minimum wages are determined based on the posted value of the minimum wage as of January one of the coming year (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019). The poverty rate reflects a person's gross annual income converted to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.

	1 ADULT				2 ADULTS (1 WORKING)				2 ADULTS (BOTH WORKING)			
	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
Living Wage	$14.61	$30.78	$38.65	$50.30	$24.12	$28.88	$32.74	$35.82	$12.06	$16.93	$21.35	$25.37
Poverty Wage	$6.13	$8.29	$10.44	$12.60	$8.29	$10.44	$12.60	$14.75	$4.14	$5.22	$6.30	$7.38
Minimum Wage	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65	$8.65

HOUSING

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, CENSUS 2010 SUMMARY FILE 1. ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2020 AND 2025.

**OWNED: 50.1%; RENTED: 49.9%**
OCCUPIED UNITS
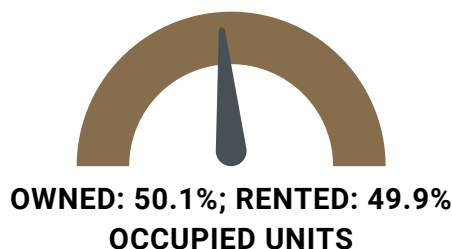
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS: 14,245

MEDIAN HOME VALUE: $255,251

HOUSING UNITS BY OCCUPANCY STATUS AND TENURE

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, CENSUS 2010 SUMMARY FILE 1. ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2020 AND 2025.

Housing Units by Occupancy Status and Tenure	Census 2010		2020		2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	13,702	100.0%	14,926	100.0%	15,499	100.0%
Occupied	13,017	95.0%	14,245	95.4%	14,859	95.9%
Owner	7,138	52.1%	7,136	47.8%	7,469	48.2%
Renter	5,879	42.9%	7,109	47.6%	7,390	47.7%
Vacant	685	5.0%	681	4.6%	640	4.1%

Households

2020 Home Value
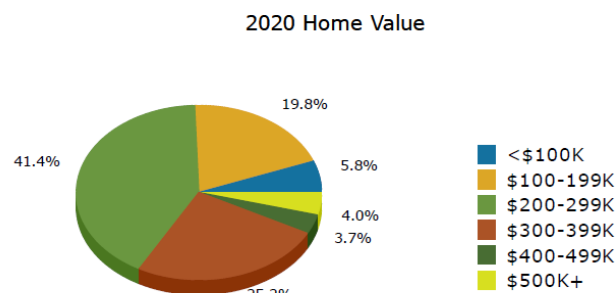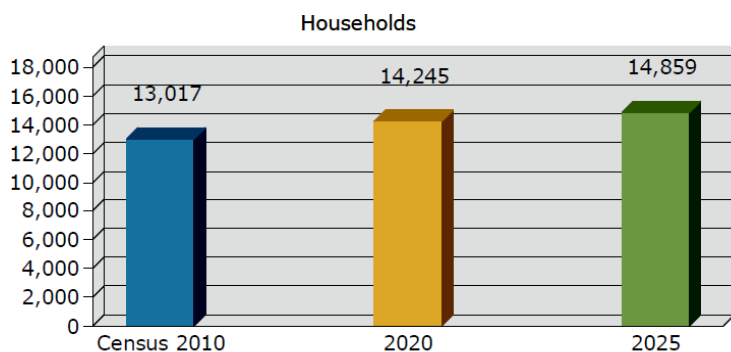
2020 AFFORDABILITY, MORTGAGE AND WEALTH

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, CENSUS 2010 SUMMARY FILE 1. ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2020 AND 2025.

Data Note: Housing Affordability Index (HAI) measures the financial ability of a typical household to purchase an existing home in an area. A HAI of 100 represents an area that on average has sufficient household income to qualify for a loan on a home valued at the median home price. An index greater than 100 suggests homes are easily afforded by the average area resident. A HAI less than 100 suggests that homes are less affordable. The housing affordability index is not applicable in areas with no households or in predominantly rental markets. Esri's home value estimates cover owner-occupied homes only.

The % of Income for Mortgage quantifies the percentage of median household income dedicated to mortgage payments on a home priced at the median value (assuming a 30-year mortgage and a 20% down payment)

The Wealth Index is based on a number of indicators of affluence including average household income and average net worth, but it also includes the value of material possessions and resources. It represents the wealth of the area relative to the national level. Values above or below 100 represent above-average wealth or below-average wealth compared to the national level.

2020 Affordability, Mortgage and Wealth	
Housing Affordability Index	131
Percent of Income for Mortgage	17.6%
Wealth Index	69