

Barbara Wagner is the Chief Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, providing information on Montana's economy and labor market to policy makers, media, and the public. Her research includes diverse topics such as the gender pay gap, impacts of paid leave, green jobs, the job retention of newly hired workers, business survival rates, the aging workforce, and the economic impact of restoration. Her previous work experience includes research positions with the U.S. Senate, the Montana Department of Revenue, and the University of Minnesota. Barbara's published research on the healthiness of school meals won the Outstanding RAE Article award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and she has also won regional awards for her labor market publications. She holds a BA with honors in economics and political science from the College of Saint Benedict/ St. John's University in Minnesota, and an MS in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota. Barbara is also proud to have recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of her family's farm in 2015. Barbara also works as an adjunct professor at Great Falls Community College, is a founder of the Helena Young Professionals, serves as a board member on the Employee Investment Advisory Board for the state retirement systems, and has previously served as Race Chair for the Montana Race for the Cure. She has also formed an informal lunch group with other economists in the state for professional development and improved cooperation across agencies. In her free time, Barbara enjoys hiking, home improvement projects, floating, skiing, trapshooting, and wake surfing.