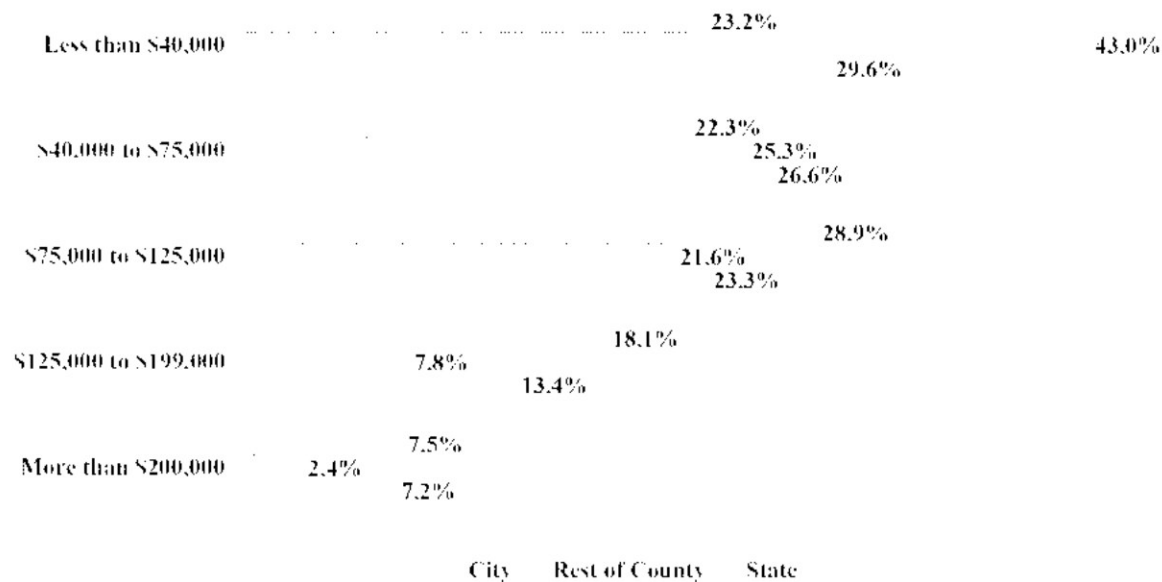


The Colstrip SES and the Rosebud Mine

The city of Colstrip in Rosebud County in southeast Montana is home to two of the largest and highest paying industrial facilities in the entire state – the Colstrip SES and the Rosebud Mine. The economic prosperity that is enjoyed in the community today because of the presence of these major employers is evident from the earnings data from the American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1

2022 Household Income



Compared to the state and especially to the remainder of Rosebud County, household income in the city of Colstrip is tilted to the upper side of the income distribution. Almost 29 percent of Colstrip households earn between \$75,000 and \$125,000 in annual income. All the earnings categories shown in the Figure above those amounts contain higher percentages of Colstrip households than elsewhere as well, which stands in stark contrast to most other communities in the eastern third of Montana.

Summary of Findings

The basic finding of this research is that the premature closure of the Colstrip SES (which also necessitates the closure of the adjacent Rosebud Mine) would be a significant setback for the economy of the state of Montana. Based on a comparison of economic activity that is projected under a status quo, no-closure scenario, the research shows that an economy where the closures take place is smaller by:

- 3,262 permanent, year-round jobs in the year 2028, the first full year of closure for the mine and the generating station. The lost jobs occur across a wide spectrum of industries and occupations.
- \$240.3 million dollars in income received by households during the year 2028, due to the loss of jobs and people in the smaller state economy that results from the closure of the facilities. The loss of \$203.4 million in disposable, after tax, income received by households in 2028 represents a considerable decline in spending power in local economies throughout the state.