

Total Wages in Great Falls MSA (Cascade County) rose 4.9% in 2017, adding \$72 million in wage earnings. In the last 4 years, total wage earnings jumped 17.2%, adding \$225 million in annual wage earnings. Average wages have increased at a higher or equal rate than Montana and U.S. averages for 16 consecutive quarters. Moody's projects personal income growth of 6.2% in 2018, 5.0% in 2019, and a total of 21% over the next 5 years. Real per capita income grew 2.5% in 2016, more than 5 times the national average of 0.4% and placing GF MSA in top 20% of all U.S. metro areas. Great Falls ranked 14th best small city in nation for 2018 college graduates.

Great Falls tied for the 10th best metro area in the eight-state mountain west for winning private investment deals in 2017, as ranked by Site Selection magazine. Madison Food Park has purchased a 3,018 acre site in the Great Falls region to develop an \$800 million food processing complex including a dairy operation that will focus on specialty cheeses, a distillery, and a multi-species (beef, chicken, pork) meat processing operation. **Montana Advanced Biofuels has chosen Great Falls for a proposed \$365 million wheat and barley food, fuel and feed project.**

FCR's new 35,000 square foot, 400 employee customer service center downtown expects to reach full employment by yearend. Health Care Service Corporation opened 120+ employee BCBS claims processing center. Centene continues to expand its Great Falls claims processing center. Eagle Jet Solutions building largest private hanger in Montana at Great Falls International Airport.

Montana Specialty Mills is constructing a 20-acre \$20 million oil seed food-grade manufacturing plant with Columbia Grain. Four companies have purchased 110 acres in the new rail-served, shovel-ready, heavy industrial **Great Falls AgriTech Park**. Helena Chemical opened a 23-acre complex. FedEx Ground opened a 58,000 SF distribution center. Pacific Steel & Recycling purchased 57 acres for expansion. AgriTech Park certified as a **BNSF Premier Rail Industrial Park**.

West Bank Landing riverfront mixed-use development just opened its 132-room Marriott Springhill Suites. The \$65 million, 14-acre LEED riverfront development will include restaurants, offices and residential condominiums. The Peak at West Bank Landing opened a 15,700 SF upscale fitness center in January. Construction has started on the first mixed use office/retail 33,468 SF building in the development, as well as a quick casual restaurant building for Five on Black.

Town Pump is constructing a 90-room dual-branded Sleep Inn & Suites/Main Stay. Hampton Inn just completed a \$2 million renovation. Hilton Garden Inn started a \$1 million renovation to its restaurant and lounge. Over 892,598 tourists spent a night in Great Falls in 2017, spending over \$205 million. Great Falls Tourism is studying a new events center on state fairgrounds. 57-mile Great Falls River's Edge Trail just designated as a U.S. National Recreational Trail.

Montana Eggs opened a new 58,000 SF \$9 million egg processing facility. Cargill opened its new \$4 million canola research and development center. CHS' nutrition unit and AgFertilizer's expansions were completed. **Pasta Montana installed \$6 million production line increasing capacity by 28%.** Friesen Nutrition has just opened its new 10,000 SF facility. Hinrichs Trading opened a new chickpea processing facility. **Pardue Grain is constructing an \$8 million pulse processing facility.** Windrift Hill just built a new 7,000 SF manufacturing plant.

Wheat Ridge Estates developers announced 228-acre housing and commercial subdivision. Farran Group plans to start a 216-unit upscale apartment complex in the west side of the City next year. Farran just completed construction on a 72-unit addition to its recently opened 216-unit Talus Apartment Homes. **GMD Development and NeighborWorks have broken ground on the 124-unit Rockcross Commons rental development;** Silverthorne plans 36 apartments. HUD fair market rents increased 16.5% in 3 years for 2-bedroom units; 36.5% for 4-bedroom.

Voters approved \$98.8 million in bonds to improve Great Falls Public Schools facilities. Work is underway on improvements to all of its schools. **City recently secured 1906 Missouri River industrial water rights of 6,335 acre feet at a flow rate of 6.0 cubic feet per second.** City's fire insurance rating improved from 4 to 2. Construction is underway on \$32 million upgrade of City's water treatment plant. Voters approved creation of new citywide park district to fund improvements.

Calumet Montana Refining completed construction on \$450 million expansion, adding 50+ new jobs. Cypress Creek Renewables energized 3 MW Black Eagle Solar Farm with over 10,000 solar panels. **Loebro opened new fabrication plant and headquarters on 52 acres;** complex includes 28,000 SF headquarters, 30,000 SF fabrication shop and 7,500 SF machine shop. Rockwell Scales opened its expanded facility. Northwestern Energy increased generating capacity of Ryan Dam. **Allete Clean Energy will construct an 80 MW wind farm in the Great Falls region this year.** Pacific Northwest Solar will construct a 3 MW solar farm just north of Great Falls.

ADF Group continues growth at new fabrication plant; tops 210 jobs; expects to grow to 340. ADF has invested \$40+ million in 100,000 SF fabrication building and 42,000 SF paint/coating plant on 100-acre complex. **Anderson Steel** adding 50 jobs. Avmax announced 50-job expansion at GTF.

North 40 started work on a second 133,000 SF Great Falls store on a 13-acre site. Construction starts this season include 24,000 SF Ace Hardware, Sephora, Papa Murphy, 3 Town Pump renovations, 10,000 SF R&S Roofing Supply, and a new 120 child Play' N Learn daycare center. Harbor Freight, Planet Fitness, Black Bear Diner and Mod Pizza have announced plans to open.

Walmart Supercenter opened in new 26-acre Upper East End Retail Center. Town Pump opened its block-long redevelopment on 10th Avenue South. Hobby Lobby, TJ Maxx, Super 1, Petsmart, Ulta Beauty, Gardner's RV, Panda Express, City Brew, Big Mouth BBQ, Sears Hometown, McDonalds, Mattress Firm, KFC/A&W, Sleep Number, Apricot Lane, T-Mobile, Batteries & More, Teriyaki Madness, T&K Performance and Eagle Beverages warehouse expansion opened. Auto Zone and Mountain View Coop additional stores are under construction, as well as 21,996 SF Opportunity Bank/office building and P&K Property Management's new building.

Great Falls Clinic opened new 19-bed, 60,000 SF hospital. Elkin Family Dentistry, DaVita Dialysis, Seattle Children's Pediatric Cardiology of Montana, and Fresenius Dialysis Center opened facilities. **Benefis Health System just opened the second phase of its \$12.5 million emergency department expansion and announced plans for two new clinics in the city.**

United started new daily seasonal direct flights to Chicago. Glacier National Park continues to set visitation records, up 10% in 2017. First Peoples Buffalo Jump named National Historic Landmark. Historic Belt Theatre renovations were just completed. C.M. Russell Museum opened historic Studio renovation and new Trigg exhibit; historic Russell residence restoration underway.

Providence St. Joseph Health plans to grow University of Providence in Great Falls into major distance learning center; announces \$25 million in immediate construction projects. University is launching multiple new academic and sports programs. **Great Falls College MSU** created new welding, fabrication, industrial technology, health, and computer programming and coding programs.

The \$8.6 million Cameron Family Center opened downtown along with Lithia AutoMall, Hi-Line Climbing Center, Fire Artisan Pizza, Food Frenzy, Chopz, The Mix, Escape the Falls, Klover, Studio Barre, Enbar, 5th & Wine expansion, Saibeen's Kitchen, Boland Aarab PLLP, Al Banco, Smoked America BBQ, Jah-T'aime Food & Catering, renovated Dunn-Brown building, Stockman Bank renovation, and 2 new office buildings. Strain Building renovations and The Block underway.

US Air Force announced 86,565 SF of new construction and 80,000 SF of renovations at Malmstrom AFB. Work has started on plans for major upgrades to ICBM missile systems.

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