1st Quarter 2018 Index

Size of wind farm announced by Allete Clean Energy: 80 MW
Size of Cargill’s new research and development facility in Great Falls: 18,000 SF
Increase in average wages in Great Falls MSA in 2017Q4 compared to 2016Q4: 4.5%
  Montana increase: 3.8%
  U.S. increase: 3.4%
Consecutive quarters that increases in average wages in Great Falls MSA (Cascade County)
have outpaced Montana and national average increase: 14
Cost of living in Great Falls MSA: 91.9% of national average
Increase in total wages earned in Great Falls MSA in 2017: 4.9%
Amount of annual wage earnings this increase reflects: $72 million
Increase in total wage earnings over last four years: 17.2%
Amount of annual wage earnings this increase reflects: $225 million
Square feet of new construction projects announced by Malmstrom AFB: 86,565
Square feet of renovation projects announced by MAFB during quarter: 80,000
Increase in visitors to Glacier National Park in 2017 record-setting year: 10%
Number of new apartments opened at Talus Apartment Homes during quarter: 72
Number of new apartment construction starts planned in Great Falls this year: over 376
Operating cost rank of Great Falls amongst 25 leading food processing regions across the
  United States: Lowest
Number of clients assisted in the first 6 months of our new Great Falls Region Food & Ag
  Development Center: 29
Capital investments by these clients: $42,482,155
New FTE jobs created by clients during first 6 months of our center: 23
Size of North 40’s second Great Falls store announced during quarter: 82,000 SF
Size of new Ace Hardware to be built on 10th Avenue South: 24,000 SF
Size of Wheat Ridge Estates, the largest private real estate development proposed in history of
  Great Falls: 228 acres
Number of entrepreneurs, developers and institutions that presented plans to invest in the
  Great Falls trade area at Ignite Great Falls 2018: 16
Number of start-up businesses clients ranked by our team as high priority: 34
Number of existing business clients ranked by our team as high priority: 70
Number of companies targeted for attraction ranked by our team as high priority: 21
Number of years Sole/Re-cork has been in Great Falls: 12
Recycled corks warehoused in Great Falls to be made into shoes and shoe inserts: 75 million
Number of site selectors pitched at the Site Selector Guild annual meeting: 44
Number of site selectors needed to make a deal happen: 1
GFDA/HPF gap and bridge loans closed during quarter: $957,114
GFDA/HPF gap and bridge loans approved during quarter: $4,334,626
Small businesses across nation that have taken advantage of SBA 504 loans: 145,000
Total amount of SBA 504 loans funded: $75 billion
Effective SBA 504 fixed loan rate average over last 12 months: 4.65%
Number of local entrepreneurs and businesses coached by GFDA during quarter: 147
Of these, number of new coaching clients: 57
Number of coaching sessions, a record quarter for us: 590
Number of business training sessions offered during quarter: 12
Number of business participants: 191
Number of businesses started or bought by coached clients during quarter: 3
New capital secured by small business clients during quarter: $420,000
Government contracts won by small business clients during quarter: $978,927
Number of new downtown businesses opened during quarter: 5
Number of downtown building permits issued during quarter: 13
Dollar amount of permits: $844,369
Number of restaurants that participated in the first Great Falls Restaurant Week: 15
Number of art shows that comprised Western Art Week 2018 in Great Falls: 17
Drop in Montana worker compensation loss rates effective this July 1st: 10.7%
Consecutive years Montana State Fund has lowered worker compensation rates: 12
Drop in rates since 2006: 52%
Montana rank amongst states where residents pay least percentage of income on state and local taxes: 13th
Sales tax rate in Montana: 0%
Average sales tax rate of abutting states: 6.18%
Montana entrepreneur rate: 0.5%
(500 out of every 100,000 adults became entrepreneurs in a given month in Montana)
New wind power capacity built in U.S. in 2017: 7,017 MW
Private investment in U.S. wind power new generation in 2017: $11 billion
Total installed U.S. wind power: 89,077 MW
Number of homes that amount of power can handle: 26 million
National retail center occupancy rate in 2017: 93.1%
Mall occupancy rate: 93.5%
Number of small businesses that close within six months of losing data: 60%
Number of mid-sized companies that close within two years of major data breakdown: 51%
Number of “done” deals in Great Falls region that haven’t been announced yet: 12+

Results Matter.
See how we help companies like yours to succeed.

For info contact Jolene Schalper at JSchalper@GFdevelopment.org or 1-406-750-4481 or Brett Doney at BDoney@GFdevelopment.org or 1-406-750-2119