

2nd Quarter 2015 Index

- Great Falls metro ranking for Prime Workforce amongst all U.S. metro areas: Top 15%
- Ranking amongst U.S. metro areas with population under 160,000: 16th
- Great Falls metro 2014 increase in annual average weekly wage: 5.2%
- Great Falls increase relative to Montana average increase: 49% greater
 - Relative to U.S. average increase: 60% greater
 - Great Falls total wage increase in 2014: 4.9%
- Out-of-state business development trips during quarter to pitch Great Falls: 3
- Number of miles driven on Calgary/Spokane business development trip: 1,110
- Pairs of shoes worn out at RECON commercial real estate event: 2
- June unemployment rate for Great Falls metro: 3.9%
- Number of job openings currently posted at Great Falls Job Service: 904
 - Number posted on SimplyHired.com: 1,434
- Great Falls Best Small Cities ranking amongst 1,300 cities in U.S.: Top 100
 - Number of agri-processing competitive business cases for Great Falls region developed during quarter: 3
 - Number of new out-of-state prospects generated by first business case while still in its draft form: 3
 - Percentage of Great Falls employers surveyed during quarter that expect to increase employment in next 12 months: 47%
 - Percent that expect to keep employment stable: 50%
 - Percent that expect to decrease employment: 3%
 - Percent of employees at surveyed companies who have been with firm 4 or more years: 92%
 - Number of local businesses coached during quarter: 8
 - Number of coaching sessions: 188
 - Number of business training sessions offered during quarter: 5
 - Number of business participants: 69
- Number of outreach meetings with local companies during quarter: 22
- Apartment vacancy rate in Great Falls: 2.2%
 - Montana average: 5.5%
 - National average: 6.5%
- Increase in Great Falls single-family home rental rates in 2014: 13.4%
- Great Falls cost of living relative to national average: 90%
 - Cost of doing business: 93%
- Great Falls office rental rates relative to national average: 40%

Personal income growth in Great Falls metro in 2014: 4.8%

Predicted income growth for 2015: 4.8%

Predicted for 2016: 6.3%

Downtown Great Falls volunteer hours during quarter: 9,673

Downtown renovations permitted during quarter: 16

Total of GFDA and High Plains Financial gap and bridge financing loans closed during fiscal year 2015: \$4,087,000

Total investment leveraged by these loans: \$22,049,748

Additional loans approved to close in FY 2016: \$2,939,000

Total investment to be leveraged by these loans: \$26,751,620

SBA 20 year fixed loan interest rate in July, including all fees: 4.961%

10-year loan fixed rate: 4.326%

Equity required on SBA 504 loan deals: as low as 10%

Great Falls metro GDP growth predicted for 2015: 2.6%

For 2016: 3.1%

Growth in Great Falls metro employment predicted in 2016: 2.2%

Montana ranking of entrepreneurial activity for 3rd year in a row: 1st

Montana ranking for lowest obesity rate: 3rd

Montana ranking of states whose residents say their state is the best or one of the best states to live in: 1st

Montana ranking for lowest hospital inpatient charges in nation: 1st

Montana ranking for lowest hospital outpatient charges: 2nd

Last year federal gas tax was raised: 1993

Last year Montana gas tax was raised: 1994

Today's purchasing power of a 1994 dollar: 62¢

Estimated extra maintenance cost each Montanan pays every year due to poor condition of some roads: \$292 to \$484

Percentage of U.S. employees who say they are engaged in their work: 32.4%

Percentage of managers: 35%

Number of transactions MasterCard processes per hour: 160 million

Estimated number of economic development organizations in North America: 10,000+

Number of accredited economic development organizations in North America: 43 including GFDA

Number of U.S. commercial spaceports licensed by the FAA: 10

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