



4th Quarter 2017 Index

Great Falls MSA ranking for private industry average hourly earnings: 88th percentile
GF MSA (Cascade County) ranking for per capita personal income growth in 2016: Top 20%
GF MSA personal income growth projected by Moody's over next 5 years: 21%
Great Falls MSA increase in average wages year-over-year at end of 2017Q2: 3.7%
Average growth for each worker: \$1,438
Year-over-year growth in local total wages: \$58 million
Growth in Great Falls MSA construction employment over last 4 quarters: 9.3%
Great Falls ranking amongst all 413 U.S. cities with population under 150,000 as Best Small
Cities for 2018 College Graduates: 14th
Size of West Bank Landing's first mixed-use building under construction: 33,468 SF
Number of eggs shipped from Montana Eggs LLC/Wilcox Family Farms: 5,000,000 dozen
Percentage of these that are certified organic: 40%
Estimated number of eggs produced and graded during quarter: 58.5 million
Montana ranking for production of lentils: 1st
For production of barley, garbanzo beans, dry edible peas, flaxseed and safflower: 2nd
For canola, all wheat, alfalfa hay and honey: 3rd
Number of out of town visitors who spent at least one night in Great Falls in 2017: 770,000
Estimated dollars spent locally by these visitors: \$250 million
Statewide farm association conventions hosted in Great Falls during quarter: 4
Convention attendees: 1,600+
Capital investment announced by University of Providence during quarter: \$25 million
Electric generation capacity of the 5 hydroelectric dams in the Great Falls area: 255 MW
Number of GFDA business development trips during quarter: 3
Site selection consultants networked with during quarter: 39
Bankers and brokers networked with during quarter: 33
Number of metropolitan and micropolitan areas in U.S. that Great Falls competes with for
private business investment and talent: All 924
Number outside of the United States: Huge
GFDA/HPF gap and bridge loans approved during quarter: \$841,000
Additional private investment these loans will leverage: \$1,179,270
Number of local entrepreneurs and businesses coached by GFDA during quarter: 114
Of these, number of new coaching clients: 38
Number of business training sessions offered during quarter: 8
Number of business participants: 77
Number of trainings on our 2018 Business Education Calendar: 51
Number of businesses started or bought by coached clients during quarter: 2

New capital secured by small business clients during quarter: \$7,507,146
Government contracts won by small business clients during quarter: \$328,600
Amount of GFDA brownfield cleanup grant approved for YWCA: \$77,871
Number of new staff team members who joined GFDA during quarter: 2
Number of reports GFDA has to submit to agencies every year: 125+
Number of certified economic development professionals in Montana: 4
Number at GFDA: 2
Number of new downtown businesses opened during quarter: 4
Number of downtown building permits issued during quarter: 13
Volunteer hours donated downtown during quarter: 8,349
Accredited National Main Street downtown revitalization organizations in Montana: 3
Probability that Great Falls Downtown Development Partnership is one of the 3: 100%
Number of single-family homes sold in Great Falls in 2017: 872
Average sold price: \$187,869
Consecutive years Montana has had flat or reduced worker compensation premium rates: 9
Drop in Montana State Fund worker compensation rates since 2007: 37%
Montana ranking for lowest industrial electricity rates by Business Facilities: 2nd
Montana ranking for best business tax climate: 6th
For best cost of doing business: 8th
For national wage growth: 1st
For manufacturing GDP growth: 1st
For startup activity per capita: 4th
For microbreweries per capita: 2nd
For happiest state in nation: 3rd
Percentage of Montana manufacturers that have fewer than 10 employees: 69%
Growth in number of Montana women-owned businesses in past 20 years: 67%
Number of Americans severely behind on payments on federal student loans: 4.6 million
Change in last 4 years: Double
Companies that say shortage of available, skilled workforce has held back expansion: 27%
Has influenced their decision to expand amongst competing locations: 64%
New Montana apprenticeship programs combining on-the-job and college training: 18
Number of drilled, uncompleted wells in Bakken: 775
Number of U.S. residents who still don't have broadband internet access: 34 million
Percent of Toronto residents who were born outside Canada: 52%
Average number of hours worked each year in the United States: 1,763
Average worked in Europe: 25% less
Average worked in Mexico: 2,255

Results Matter.

See how we help companies like yours to succeed.

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