



2nd Quarter 2019 Index

Rank of average annual pay growth from 2013-2017 in Great Falls MSA amongst all 370 U.S. MSA's: 11th

Consecutive quarters that average wages in Great Falls MSA have increased: 21

Growth in "Admin and Support" jobs in Great Falls MSA from 2018Q1 to 2019Q1 driven by FCR's hiring downturn: 7.4%

Great Falls ranking for lowest taxes per capita amongst Montana cities: 2nd

Great Falls ranking as Best U.S. Small City for Business: 36th

Increase in hotel room demand in Great Falls over past 12 months: 5%

Increase in guests arriving by air: 4%

Size of Big Sky Cheese plant proposed in Cascade County: 20,000 square feet

Job multiplier for cheese manufacturing in county according to JobsEQ: 3.34

Projected total job creation from just 5 new cheese manufacturing jobs: 17

Projected sales/output in county from 5 such jobs: \$4 million

Further ripple job creation through increased ag production: 7

Number of GFDA out of state business development trips during quarter: 7

Downtown building permits issued during 2019Q1: 13

Total of permits: \$5,108,627

Downtown volunteer hours donated: 7,827

Number of local entrepreneurs and businesses coached by GFDA during quarter: 126

Of these, number of new coaching clients: 55

Number of business training sessions offered during quarter: 16

Number of training participants: 209

Number of businesses started or bought by coached clients during quarter: 1

New capital secured by entrepreneur clients during quarter: \$235,211

Percent of Montana businesses that are small: 98%

Faster growth experienced by businesses that plan and track against their plan: 30%

Sample business plans available through LivePlan tool offered by GFDA: 500+

Number of free business data and strategy tools offered by GFDA: 7

Government contracts won by clients during quarter: \$404,348

Number of gap and bridge loans closed during quarter: 9

Amount of loans closed during quarter: \$4,612,751

Private investment leveraged by these loans: \$11,351,060

Loan commitments issued during quarter: \$80,558

Montana business tax climate ranking by Business Facilities: 5th
Total domestic and international traveler spending in U.S. in 2018: \$1.1 trillion
Number of U.S. jobs supported by tourism: 15.7 million
Number of visitors to Montana in 2018: 12.4 million
Out-of-State visitor contribution to state economy: \$3.8 billion
Percent of food service jobs most susceptible to automation: 81%
Percent of administrative jobs: 60%
U.S. adults who say good customer service increases the likelihood that they will spend more money than they had planned: 73%
Consumers who say their expectations of customer service are considerably higher now than three years ago: 50%
E-commerce share of retail market in 2018: 14.3%
Retail store closures in U.S. in 2018: 5,864
Number of store openings: 3,239
Number of female agricultural producers in Montana: 18,673
No-till acres in Montana: 8,050,902
Increase in Montana no-till acres since 2012: 17%
Number of Montana farms engaging in their own ag processing or manufacturing: 292
Miles that a freight train can move one ton of freight on one gallon of fuel: 479
Corporate executives who say expedited or “fast-track” permitting is important or very important in deciding where to locate a facility: 64.9%
Who say quality of life factors are important or very important: 82.8%
Availability of skilled labor: 91.5%
Site selection consultants who say shovel-ready/pre-certified sites are important in clients’ site searches: 80%
U.S. population that lived in metropolitan or micropolitan areas in 2018 according to the Census: 94.6%
Rural residents who live in metropolitan areas: 75%
Share of population growth 2010-2018 in areas with 100,000-250,000 residents: 3.8%
Share of growth in areas with 50,000-100,000 residents: 0.6%
In areas with less than 50,000 residents: 0.0%
Number of U.S. metro areas with greater population than Montana in 2018: 53
New GFDA Investors in Economic Development in FY 2019: 25
THANK YOU!



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