

Montana

Governors' Office of Economic Development
State Capitol Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
 John Rogers, Chief Business Officer
 406-444-5634



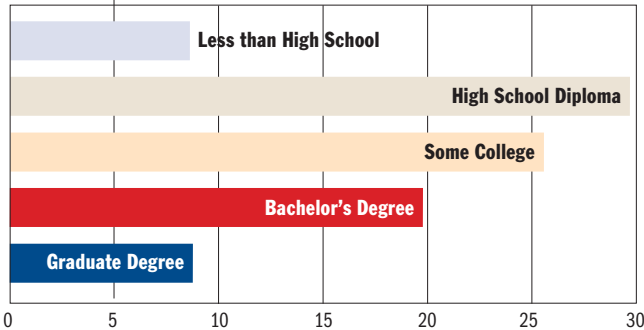
“Montanans must be trained with the skills to compete in the 21st century work force. Our two-year colleges play a crucial role in equipping our students with the skills and experience to meet the needs of employers wanting to do business in Montana.”

— Gov. Steve Bullock, Sept. 18, 2013, on the news that the US Dept. of Labor will grant nearly \$25 million to 13 community colleges and universities for training programs

Governor: Steve Bullock (D) business.mt.gov **Right-to-work state: No**

Population 2012: 1,010,031 **Population growth forecast 2013 thru 2017:** 3.26% **Median household income:** \$48,902 **Median age:** 40.1

Work Force Education by Percentage



Rankings that Matter

GDP	48 (\$33,374*)
Business Tax Climate	7
Small Business Policy	33
Career Readiness Certificates	36 (978)
High School Graduation	15
Health	23

* Real GDP in US millions

Legislative Update

- Beginning on January 1, 2014, a state law takes effect that exempts tens of thousands of Montana businesses from paying tax on and reporting business equipment. The law also lowers the tax for others. According to a 2013 session summary from the Montana Chamber of Commerce, the compromise measure established a \$100,000 exemption, a top threshold of \$6 million, and a lower

- 1.5-percent rate. Equipment valued under \$6 million is taxed at 1.5 percent. If that threshold is exceeded, the rate is 3 percent.
- Effective Feb. 28, 2014, HB 152, as amended, establishes new processes and time lines for local government approval or denial of a property tax abatement or property tax exemption.