



“Montanans expect our state’s leaders to live within our means and make responsible decisions about our state finances. They expect us to invest in areas that help grow our state’s economy and ensure the economic and socioeconomic well-being of our friends, families, and neighbors.”

— Gov. Steve Bullock, unveiling his state budget proposal November 15, 2016

Gov. Steve Bullock (D)

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Montana

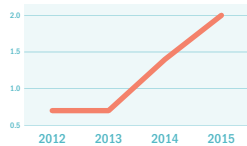
Pop. (2016): 1,047,855
Median household income: \$47,161
Credit Rating: AA/Stable

Pop. growth 2016–2021: 0.96%
Median age: 40.7
Right-to-work state: No

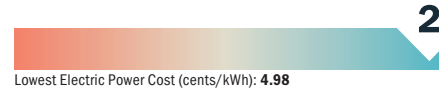
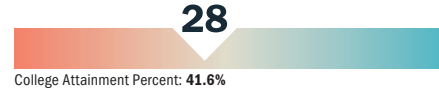
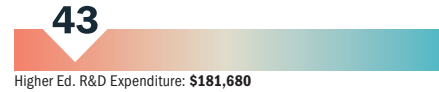
Legislative Update

- Gov. Bullock in May launched an infrastructure funding plan to be considered during the 2017 legislative session that calls for a \$200 million investment of cash and bonds. He also proposed dedicating 75 percent of the revenue coming in to the Coal Tax Severance Fund to create the Build Montana Trust to fund Montana’s infrastructure needs in the future.
- The Montana HELP Plan for healthcare includes a workforce training component called HELP-Link, launched in February 2016. It is a free workforce program for Montanans covered by Medicaid under the plan that connects them with workforce training, employment services and job openings in local communities.

GDP
48th



2015 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$45,237



Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2015

COMPANY	CITY	COUNTY	TYPE	NEW/ EXPANDED	PRODUCT	INVESTMENT (US\$ M)	EMP
Northwestern Energy Corp.	Butte	Silver Bow	HQ	N	Electric Power	26	
Montana Eggs	Great Falls	Cascade	MF	N	Eggs	7	20

DT = Data Center | MF = Manufacturing | OF = Office | HQ = Headquarters | RD = Research & Development | DW = Distribution/Warehouse

Did You Know?

The 2016 Kauffman Index of Startup Activity in August named Montana the top state for entrepreneurs for the fourth year in a row.

A September 2016 report from the Montana Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) found that, during 2014–15, the SBDC consulted and trained 2,150 entrepreneurs, and facilitated the creation of 61 new businesses, \$57.2 million in sales by its clients, and 475 new jobs.

Employment projections produced by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry suggest that the healthcare sector will add roughly 1,300 jobs every year until 2024.

A 2015 University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) survey of Montana High Tech Business Alliance (MHTBA) members found Montana high-tech and manufacturing firms are growing at eight to 10 times the rate of the overall state economy and pay an average of about \$50,000 — twice the median wage.

Montana State University in Bozeman boasted fall 2016 enrollment of 16,440 students, of whom 14,400 were undergraduates.

Montana’s unemployment rate of 4 percent in November 2016 was down nearly 7 percent since November 2015.

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