

**Workforce Information Grant
PY 2007
Montana Progress Report**

1. Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data.

Monthly and quarterly data is updated regularly and on schedule. We also populate tables for the Consumer Price Index and training providers and programs from the State Workforce Investment Board's eligible training provider list as well as all 2-year, 4-year, and proprietary schools in the state. The occupational licensing data is also updated each year and submitted to the National Crosswalk Service Center. Montana is on version 2.3 of the Workforce Information Database. Montana has not yet migrated to Version 2.4 because CIBER (Workforce Informer host) has not yet implemented 2.4. As soon as they have completed the work necessary to migrate to 2.4 Montana will be current.

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

Montana produced long-term industry and occupational projections for 2006 – 2016 and short-term projections for 2007 – 2009. The data has been submitted to the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP). The Workforce Information Database (WID) will be updated once data suppression requirements have been reviewed and verified (estimated no later than July 18, 2008). This information will also be available in one of the bureau's popular downloaded publications, our biennial "Projections" publications. Direct link: www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/career/?PAGEID=3&SUBID=158.

3. Publish an annual economic analysis report for the governor and the SWIB.

Montana published and presented its annual economic analysis report to the governor and the SWIB on August 29, 2007. The report is scheduled in conjunction with the Labor Day holiday and is called the Labor Day Report. Each year a general overview of the state's and the seven Indian Reservations' economies are covered including unemployment, employment growth, wages, and income. Each year the report presents more in depth information on other topics that relate to the Montana economy. This year's report focused on the labor shortage and potential labor pools. This was the second year that a portion of the report was dedicated to economic data for Montana's Indian reservations. The report is posted on our website: www.ourfactsyourfuture.org and was downloaded 8,449 times throughout the grant period. Direct link: www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=145.

4. Post products, information, and reports on the Internet.

Montana used hard copy publications and fliers, the Internet, and other media deemed appropriate to provide O*Net SOC-based occupational products to customers on a variety of pertinent occupation-related information. Montana continued to improve current products and develop new products for our users. Our Workforce Information Database delivery mechanism (Workforce Informer) allows us to promote a standard electronic delivery system via the Internet that can be accessed 24/7. Through this system, customers can access information that meets their needs, including wages, projections, commuting patterns, employer name and address database, and unemployment rates, to name a few.

We also produce a career information delivery system (CIDS) known as the Montana Career Information Delivery System (MCIS). This information is available to all Montanans at no cost through

our partnership with the Student Assistance Foundation via Internet. It is used by all of our customers for career development, career choice or change, financial needs and skills assessments. This tool gives customers the means to access occupational information, wages, job outlook/projections and employment trends to make better informed choices. Data populated as noted in items 1-3 are delivered through our website: www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

There were 313,291 visits to the website during the grant period.

Additional items that were posted on the website (and provided in print version) include the following:

Publication	Downloads	# of printed publications*
OES Wages	62,007	7
Minimum Wage Fact Sheet	9,973	--
Economy At A Glance	32,793	1,536
Montana Career Guide	31,069	20,000
County Fliers	14,747	112
Jacob and Emily Skip School: A Career Clusters Workbook	8,576	2,069
Prevailing Wages (all publications)	33,924	16
Labor Day Report	8,449	10
Experience Wanted: An Employment Guide for Montana Seniors	1,575	25
Inside Edition: Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Criminal Records	10,284	102
Willing and Able: Job Hunting Guide For Montanans with Disabilities	3,502	255
Reservation Fliers	23,405	129
Who Needs Math & Science	1,234	--
2004-2014 Projections	2,928	100
R&A 2006 Impact Report	2,522	--
MCRN Connections Newsletter	730	8,000
Occupational Injuries & Illnesses	709	1
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries	3,841	--
EAG Articles	14,139	--
Statewide Fliers	1,547	--
EAG Podcasts	2,570	--
Alphabet Pages	1,315	--
Career Peeks	3,112	101
Interview Tips & Activity	1,688	1,688
Who Needs Math?	4,049	68
Who Needs Science?	2,842	68
MCIS Jr. Workbook	2,795	
Crosswalks to MT K-12 Standards	161	--
What to Pack	--	300
Pocket Resume		170
Foreign Labor Certification	2,471	--

*We print all of our publications by request instead of printing up large batches of them and then having to throw them away when we get new data. Each year has seen an increase in the number of our publications being downloaded from our website.

5. Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards.

The bureau has provided data and economic analysis to members of the SWIB's Executive Committee and staff throughout the year. This has included economic data, "talking points" papers, and PowerPoint presentations on the general economy, healthcare occupations, and education. R&A also worked with the State Health Care Planning Grant Steering Committee and the State Tribal Economic Development Commission. Staff worked closely with the state workforce investment board to help determine LMI needs and to disseminate information. As the governor's designee for Section 118 of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, Montana also provided career information and worked with state Workforce Investment Boards.

6. Conduct special studies and economic analyses.

R&A has increased awareness of the expertise of our staff which has resulted in an increase in the interest and request for special studies and economic analysis. During the grant period the bureau produced the following studies and partnerships:

Partnership with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education:

Examine the link between education and work success in Montana.

Partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation:

Examine the economy directly associated with restoration of the environment, identifying occupations, employment, skills, and education opportunities.

Partnership with WIA program, Central Office, DLI:

Examine present and future worker dislocations and workforce training/development needs.

Partnership with Montana State University (WIRED) and Governor's Office (WIRED):

Examine labor market information for eastern Montana, identify employment needs, shortfalls, and training options for future workforce.

Labor Availability Study:

Collecting data to update the 2002 study. This study gathers data on the rural and urban labor markets in Montana and general information on the supply of workers and selected job characteristics.

Montana Economy At A Glance

This is a monthly publication that provides the latest economic data such as unemployment rate, employment, and wages. Each month an article is written on research done on various topics. This grant period podcasts were added of each Montana Economy At A Glance and feature article. During the grant period the following articles were included:

- Workforce Information: A Critical Link for Economic Development
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2013_Jun07_EAG_Article.pdf

- Is Montana Gaining Decent Jobs? Assessing the quality of newly created jobs in Montana
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2033_July07_EAG_Article.pdf
- Addressing the Coming Labor Shortage
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2083_Aug07_EAG_Article.pdf
- Deepening the Applicant Pool: Hiring Potential Instead of Credentials
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2111_Sept07_EAG_Article.pdf
- Components of an Economy: An Analysis of Wage Growth Rates in Montana's Industries
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2148_Oct07_EAG_Article.pdf
- Job Turnover in Montana: The Good and the Bad
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2161_Nov07_EAG_Article.pdf
- Do You Know Your Worth?
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2384_Jan08_EAG_Article.pdf
- Can Montana Escape a National Economic Downturn?
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2673_Feb08_EAG_Article.pdf
- The Good News About Gas Prices: An Overview of Montana's Energy Industry
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2723_Mar08_EAG_Article.pdf
- Montana's Export Boom and the Declining Dollar
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2766_Apr08_EAG_Article.pdf
- Measuring the Cost of Living in Montana
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2789_May08_EAG_art.pdf
- The Twilight Zone
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/2816_June08_EAG_art.pdf

Bureau staff also made many presentations throughout the year, speaking to approximately 350 people about the economy and career development.