

**Workforce Information Grant
PY 2006
Montana Progress Report**

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

We converted to the newest version of the Workforce Information Database during the last grant period. 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 licensing data is also updated each year and submitted to the National Crosswalk Service Center.

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

Montana produced long-term sub-state projections for the Great Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area for 2004-2014 and the short-term statewide 2006-2008 projections during the grant period. Projections were done using the guidelines and methodology developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership. The Workforce Information Database has been populated with this data, is available on our website, and the data has been submitted to the PMP.

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 31, 2006. 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 economy is 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 occupational projections and industry employment, wage distribution, and multiple job holders. For the first time 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 8,298 times throughout the grant period.

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 291,050 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	36,738	3
Minimum Wage Fact Sheet	9,022	--
Economy At A Glance	60,084	128
Montana Career Guide	21,301	20,000
County Fliers	21,216	4,156
Jacob and Emily Skip School:		
A Career Clusters Workbook	16,037	15,000
Prevailing Wages (all publications)	11,021	--
Labor Day Report	9,240	59
Experience Wanted: An Employment Guide for Montana Seniors	3,124	--
Inside Edition: Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Criminal Records	5,185	--
Willing and Able: Job Hunting Guide For Montanans with Disabilities	3,862	36
Reservation Fliers	18,987	3,109
Who Needs Math & Science	5,080	--
2004-2014 Projections	3,096	186
R&A Impact Report	2,316	--
MCRN Connections Newsletter	790	8,000
Occupational Injuries & Illnesses	1,103	1
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries	810	--

*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.

R&A presented five different presentations during the grant period to the SWIB and SWIB committees. These included the SWIB's executive committee, economic development committee and the health care task force. 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:

Demographic Trends and Economic Impacts: Report for Hospitals and Healthcare in Montana

Reports were produced on all of the critical access hospitals in the state in partnership with the Montana Hospital Association. The reports provide impact analysis on each hospital on the county's economy.

Assessing the Multiplier Effect of Montana's Manufacturing Industry

The Montana Manufacturing Center requested the study to determine the impact of the manufacturing industry on Montana's economy.

Who Offers Benefits? A Survey of Private Businesses

Article written for the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research publication "*Montana Business Quarterly*." The article reported the results of the Montana benefits survey and conclusions drawn from the survey results.

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. During the grant period the following articles were included:

- Wages for Continuous Single and Multiple Jobholders in Montana
- Healthcare in Montana: In Short Supply?
- 2006 Labor Day Report: A Summary
- The Growing Need for Soft Skills
- The Cowboy Boot Changing the Face of Montana's Economy?
- Beyond the Boot Eastern Montana's Economy
- Finding Workers in a Tight Labor Market
- Montana: America's Most Rural State
- Labor Force Outcomes of Montana's Ex-Offender Population
- Help Wanted: A Look at Labor Force Participation in Montana
- Montana's Hidden Sector: Non-Profit Wages and Employment
- How Volatile is Montana's Employment Economy?