NGA Future
Workforce Now
Forum

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Chicago, IL

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Quick Overview of Montana

- Montana’s economy continues to grow
- Montanan’s personal income continues to grow
- Montana’s labor force has never been larger
- Montana’s population continues to grow
FACT: More Densely Populated Areas Growing Faster (but not necessarily Urban)

Montana's Population Density by County

Job Growth by Region and Timeframe

- Greater than the State Average
- Sparsely Populated
- Greater than 5 People per Square Mile

Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY
FACT: Growth Correlated with Bachelor’s Degree Attainment

Bachelor’s Degree Attainment by County

Job Growth by Region and Timeframe

Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY
What's Working in Montana

Billings, MT
What’s Working in Montana

Lewistown, MT
Skilling for the Future

What we know:
• Most at risk are those who lack strong technical training, 2 or 4-year degrees, or job-specific credential.
Montana Solutions

- Integration of Work-Based Learning into career and technical education programs.
- Expansion of apprenticeship models to meet employer challenges.
- Expansion of online learning opportunities through Montana’s University System.
Governor Bullock’s commitment to workforce development, economic prosperity, and education keeps the work moving.
Current Work

• CTE Awareness Campaign
• Credential Identification and Tracking
Optimism for Rural America
Challenges

• Data alignment
• Creating a culture of lifelong learning