

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 29, 2014

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**Governor Bullock on Labor Day Report: Main Street Montana Drives Our State's Economic Strength**

Helena, Mont. – As the Labor Day weekend begins, Governor Steve Bullock, Lt. Gov. Angela McLean, and Commissioner of Labor Pam Bucy presented the 2014 Labor Day Report to the workers of Montana. By analyzing employment growth, wages, and job quality, the report makes it clear that the state's economy is strong, and is positioned to grow stronger over the coming years.

"Main Street Montana workers and businesses continue to drive our state's economic strength," Bullock said of the report's findings. "Businesses are hiring, workers are on the job, and entrepreneurs are making investments in the future of our state. All of these things make for an even brighter economic future for our state."

Key findings from the report include:

- Montana's unemployment rate continues to be among the lowest in the nation, at 4.6 percent.
- Montana was the fifth fastest state for employment growth in the nation, growing at a rate of 1.7 percent in 2013.
- Montana's personal income growth has been faster than the national average.
- Montana's GDP expanded by 4.5 percent in 2013
- All Montana industries, except for government, added jobs in 2013

"This report is yet another sign that Montanans are feeling confident about the future of our state's economy," Bucy said. "We're committed to continuing our work with the private sector to ensure we're supporting business, job, and wage growth in every corner of our state."

The report also highlights some of the ongoing areas that need consistent attention. The most notable of these areas is potential worker shortages due to the retirements of Montana's aging workforce. The report calls for continued emphasis on increasing educational attainment and job training efforts, to ensure Montanans have the skills to fill these newly opened positions.

The report concludes, "With a strong and improving economy, a well-educated and trained workforce, and investments in our state by businesses, Montana should continue to outperform the

nation in our economic growth, strengthening our economy and making Montana and even better place to live and do business.”

Bullock has made economic growth for Main Street businesses a top priority. Through his Main Street Montana Project, Bullock has engaged private sector leaders to build on five key pillars for economic growth:

- Train and educate tomorrow’s workforce today;
- Create a climate that attracts, retains and grows business;
- Build upon Montana’s economic foundation;
- Market Montana; and
- Nurture emerging industries and encourage innovation

The Labor Day Report, which is presented annually by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry, provides a detailed look at the economic performance of our state as measured by key indicators important specifically to Montana workers, such as unemployment and personal income growth.

The 2014 Labor Day Report is available online at:

[http://ourfactyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/5686\\_LDR14.pdf](http://ourfactyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/5686_LDR14.pdf)

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