

Panel “An Entrepreneur Walks Into a Library”

New Tools for Entrepreneurs

Main Street Montana Project & Montana Department of Commerce

PRESENTATION AT:

MT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

PRESENTATION BY:

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BUREAU CHIEF

MT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CENSUS & ECONOMIC INFORMATION CENTER (CEIC)

Main Street Montana Project

MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT

Governor Steve Bullock initiated the Main Street Montana Project in early 2013 by enlisting the services of two of Montana's most respected and accomplished business leaders: Larry Simkins, CEO of the Washington Companies, and Bill Johnstone, CEO of D.A. Davidson Companies.

The goal of the project was and is to create a dynamic private-public partnership to build and implement a business plan for Montana by Montanans. Over the course of approximately one year, Larry and Bill worked with members of Governor Bullock's administration to engage in a process of soliciting broad input and engagement from the private sector, as well as conducting research regarding Montana's economy - its strengths and challenges. More than 3,000 Montanans provided input through participating in a series of regional roundtable meetings and completing surveys.

The Main Street Montana Project plan was released in early April 2014. It identifies five Pillars upon which the plan is built:

- [1. Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today](#)
- [2. Create a Climate that Attracts, Retains and Grows Businesses](#)
- [3. Build upon Montana's Economic Foundation](#)
- [4. Market Montana](#)
- [5. Nurture Emerging Industries and Encourage Innovation](#)



<http://mainstreetmontanaproject.com/>

Main Street Montana Project New Support for Entrepreneurs

- **MSU’s Jake Jobs Center for Business and Entrepreneurship and the Blackstone LaunchPad** are both focusing on developing entrepreneurial skills in students with the goal of enabling students to create the jobs of the future. Blackstone has served over 200 students and alumni to date.
- TechLink in the Office of Research and Economic Development at MSU is establishing a center (called a **Procurement Technical Assistance Center**, or PTAC) to assist companies in selling their products and services to government at the federal, state, and local levels.
- **“How to Build A Startup” pilot program developed**, offered in an 8-week format at UM Missoula.
- **Successful entrepreneurs** and researchers in computer science, software engineering, and electrical engineering have been **appointed as Affiliated Faculty at MT Tech**, connecting faculty and students with entrepreneurial mentoring and key research and project topics in industrially important areas.



Main Street Montana Project New Support for Entrepreneurs

- Montana Tech's Master of **Project Engineering Management** includes **entrepreneurship in its curriculum. A business administration minor, including entrepreneurship**, is available to engineering and science bachelor's-degree students.



- The **lecture series**, titled "First Friday" was launched at MT Tech in March 2014 **featuring inspiring entrepreneurial speakers.**

- Montana Tech's BEAR (Business Expansion and Retention) **assigns undergraduate interns to new and developing businesses.**
- Governor's Office of Economic Development is spearheading the development of a **Business Portal as a "one-stop" location for businesses to interface with state government.**
- Governor's Office of Economic Development launched a renovated **innovatemontana.com website, featuring entrepreneurial resources and successful Montana entrepreneurs.**

Main Street Montana Project New Support for Entrepreneurs

- **Innovation Initiative** (partnership between Missoula Economic Partnership, business incubator MonTEC and Hellgate Venture network) is **hosting free workshops on a range of startup business topics.**
- Flathead Valley Community College’s New **Business Innovation Certificate** - includes extensive hands-on application of business launch and development. Real life business skills have been embedded in courses learning outcomes.
- Montana Tech has reconfigured its **Center for Advanced Mineral & Metallurgical Processing (CAMP)** into a research and education center to assist manufacturing start-ups with materials testing.
- UM Missoula journalism Professor, Henrietta Lowisch’s online course entitled, "Journalistic Tools for Scientists" teaches scientists **how to effectively communicate their work to the public.**
- At MSU Bozeman, the Business School has created an **interdisciplinary course with Engineering and Architecture to teach entrepreneurial skills.**
- Montana Tech maintains an **active network of mentors** from many business and industry sectors.



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KEY INDUSTRY NETWORKS (KINS)

The Key Industry Networks (KINS) are the core mechanism through which the private sector is providing input and guidance on how to move Montana’s economy forward. Twelve KINS were identified in the Main Street Plan, and a thirteenth KIN was subsequently added to include the Nonprofit sector.

Energy and Utilities

Co-Chairs: Niles Hushka, KLJ Engineering; Bob Rowe, Northwestern Energy

Financial Services

Co-Chairs: Kay Clevidence, Farmers State Bank; William Coffee, Stockman Bank

Food and Agriculture

Co-Chairs: Jim Peterson, Peterson Ranch; Greg Thayer, Montana Milling

Health and Wellness

Co-Chairs: Rick Haraldson, Sidney Health Center; Larry White, University of Montana

Housing and Construction

Co-Chairs: Dick Anderson, Dick Anderson Construction; Brad McCall, Greg McCall, McCall Homes

Innovation and Technology

Co-Chairs: Donald Beeman, former CEO of LigoCyte; Jason Corbally, Edulog

Interconnectivity and Telecommunications

Co-Chairs: Rob Ferris, Vision Net; Bill Squires, Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Manufacturing

Co-Chairs: Mike Robbins, Bert Robbins, SeaCast, Inc.; K.C. Walsh, Simms Fishing Products

Natural Resources

Co-Chairs: Todd Myers, Cloud Peak Energy; Loren Rose, Pyramid Mountain Lumber

Non-Profit

The Non-Profit KIN co-chairs will soon be identified.

Small Business and Downtown

Co-Chairs: Sarah Calhoun, Red Ants Pants; Scott Brown, Base Camp

Tourism

Co-Chairs: Rhonda Fitzgerald, Garden Wall Inn; Taylor Middleton, Big Sky Resort

Transportation

Co-Chairs: Jason Matheny, Davis Transport, Inc.; Thomas Walsh, Montana Rail Link



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Montana Department of Commerce Support for Entrepreneurs



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**STARTUP
BUSINESS CHECKLIST**



**FINANCE
INFORMATION CENTER**



**MADE IN MONTANA
PROGRAM**



**RECEIVE NEWS
EMAIL UPDATES**



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MT Department of Commerce Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC) Website Home Page

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Welcome to Census & Economic Information Center

The Census and Economic Information Center provides current, easily accessible and thorough economic and demographic analysis, maps, data, and expert assistance to meet the needs and requests of Montanans.

What's New

- [CEIC Data User's Conference](#)
- [MT Agriculture Commodities Dashboard](#)
- [Economic Dashboard](#)
- [Energy Quick Stats](#)
- [Industry Dashboard](#)
- [State Labor Force Dashboard](#)

[Download Montana Census data](#)

[Useful Links for acquiring data](#)

Retail Gasoline Prices Rocky Mountain Region	Latest Value	Percent Change from Week Ago
Regular Gasoline (US\$ per gallon)	3.368 in 10/28/2013	-1.69% ↓
Midgrade Gasoline (US\$ per gallon)	3.481 in 10/28/2013	-1.67% ↓
Premium Gasoline (US\$ per gallon)	3.629 in 10/28/2013	-1.63% ↓
Highway #2 Diesel (US\$ per gallon)	3.865 in 10/28/2013	-0.26% ↓

Economics & Business
Real-time Industry and Employment Statistics from the Most Current Releases.

Income, Poverty & Health Insurance
Current Income and Poverty Measures at the State and County Level.

Map Resources
Explore existing maps, add new data or create your own custom map that can be saved and shared.

Area Profiles
NEW: Active Data Search Tool Data; State Legislative Profiles

Energy

Population Demographics & Projections

International Trade

Learning Center

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MT Department of Commerce Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC) Website Maps – Interactive & Published

Census & Economic Information Center

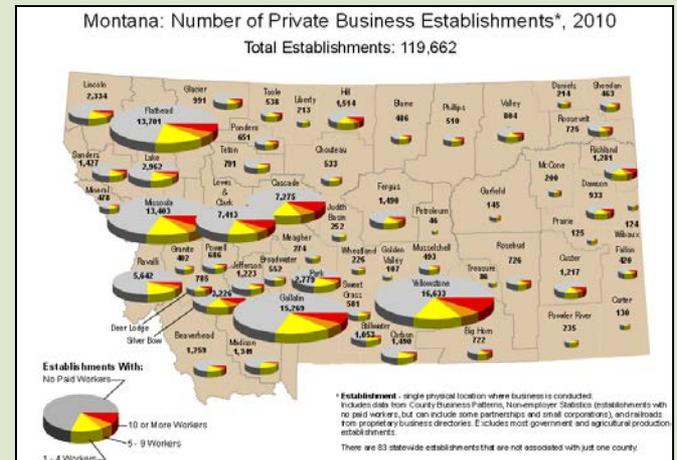
CEIC Maps Page

Interactive Maps

- Featured Maps
- Age, Gender and Race
- Economics, Employment and Business
- Education
- Household and Housing Characteristics
- Income, Poverty and Health Insurance
- Population
- Tribal & Reservation
- 2013 Data User's Conference ArcGIS Online Workshop Maps

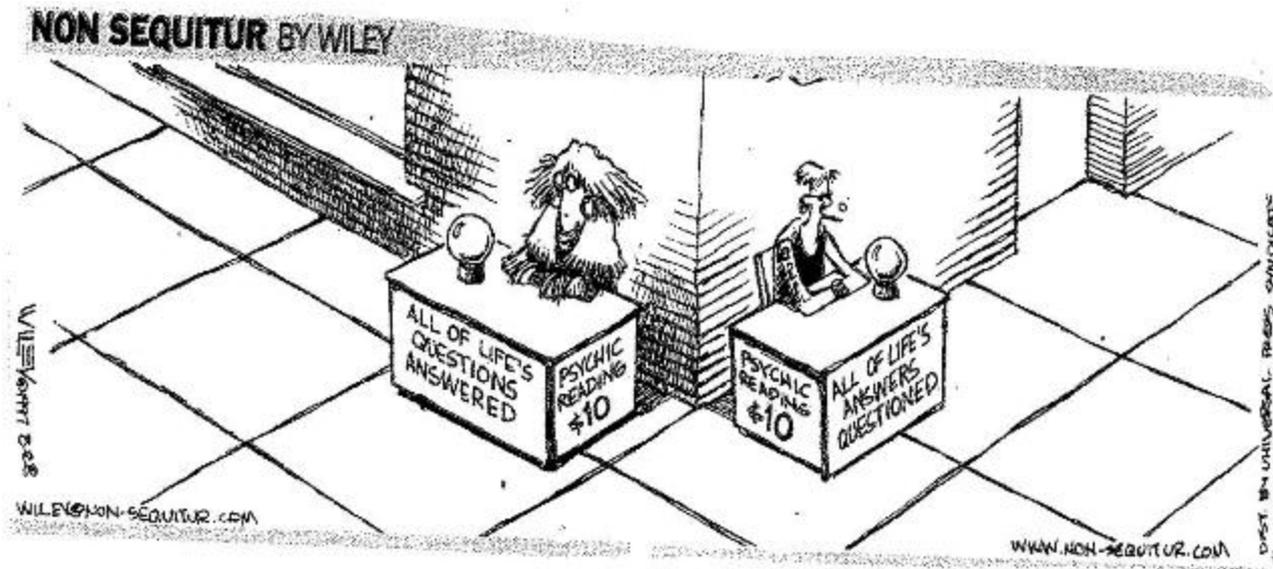
PDF Maps

- Age, Gender and Race
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Questions??

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Contact Information

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