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Governor Bullock Presents 2017 Labor Day Report

Governor highlights low unemployment, rising wages, and value of apprenticeships to grow Montana's economy

MONTANA – Governor Steve Bullock, along with Lt. Governor Mike Cooney and Commissioner of Labor & Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy, today presented the [2017 Labor Day Report](#) to local businesses and Montanans.

“Behind the data being presented here today are the working men and women of Montana who make our state strong, guide it through uncertain times, and ensure the state we pass on to our children and grandchildren is even better than the one we inherited,” said Governor Bullock. **“It is thanks to the work of these men and women that Montana’s economy is strong and getting stronger every day.”**

The Labor Day Report is compiled annually by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry and provides a detailed examination at the economic performance of the state as measured by key growth indicators such as unemployment and personal income growth.

The 2017 Labor Day Report highlights the state’s economy continues to grow due to diverse industry sectors and expanded job opportunities for Montanans and that Montana’s growth is expected to continue. Key points from the report include:

- More Montanans are working across the state than ever before;
- Montana has the fastest growing manufacturing sector in the nation;
- Montana’s unemployment rate is well below the national average;
- Montana’s wage growth is the 4th highest in the nation;
- Montana is experiencing a nearly 30% increase in apprenticeships since 2013.

Governor Bullock and Commissioner Bucy highlighted innovative partnerships, particularly apprenticeships, to train Montana’s workforce to meet the growing needs of Montana businesses for highly-skilled and trained workers to fill good-paying jobs.

“Montana is open for business and our local communities are seeing the economic benefits every day,” said Commissioner Bucy. **“Our state is a beacon for other states to look towards because of our innovative work-based learning initiatives, including a robust and growing registered apprenticeship program”**

The report also addresses areas of the workforce that need ongoing attention. The report discusses the Montana Department of Labor & Industry’s recently awarded \$4.6 million grant for the training of workers in coal-impacted counties.

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