The Outlook for Fergus County

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Bureau of Business and Economic Research
University of Montana
What is your economic outlook?

1. Go to pollev.com/bber297 to respond

or,

2. Text BBER297 to 22333 once to join
   Then text A, B, or C to vote
In terms of sales, what kind of year did your business or organization have last year?

- Better than 2016
- About the same as 2016
- Worse than 2016
Again in terms of sales, what kind of year do you expect for your business or organization this year?

- Better than 2017
- About the same as 2017
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## Fergus County Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population, 2016</td>
<td>11,413</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent change since 2010</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Aged 65 or Older</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with Bachelors Degree or Higher (Age 25+)</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent without Health Insurance Coverage, 2015</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earnings per Job, 2016</td>
<td>$36,816</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$64,096</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$46,266</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>$30,539</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Warehousing</td>
<td>$39,450</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Drivers of Economic Activity
Percent Share of Income in Basic Industries, Fergus County

- Ag. & Ag. Services, 33%
- Heavy & Civil Engineering, 17%
- Manufacturing, 15%
- Federal Govt., 13%
- State Govt., 13%
- Nonres. Travel, 6%
- Rehab., Other, 3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and BBER
What Has Grown Since 2007
Inflation Corrected Earnings in 2016 as Percent of 2007

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Uneven Pattern of Growth in 2016
Percent Growth in Inflation-Corrected Nonfarm Earnings

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Health Care Expanded Significantly in 2016

Growth in Inflation-Corrected Earnings, Fergus County ($ Millions)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Recent Wage Growth Has Been Weak
Inflation-Corrected Covered Wages, Index 2007=100

Percent

07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Hill
Montana
Fergus

Seasonally adjusted by BBER
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Outlook for Job Growth is Pessimistic
Employment Growth, Fergus County 2014-21

Source: IHS Markit
In-Migration to Fergus County
by Source, 2009-13

Usmigrationflowmapper.com
Looking Ahead to 2018

- Growth has picked up significantly beginning in 2015
- Manufacturing expansion, continued growth in heavy construction have led the way
- Recent success in visitor spending registering in the data
- Retail trade impacted by e-commerce competitors
- Stage is set for continued growth
Growth in Nonfarm Earnings, Fergus County, 2015-2021

Source: BBER and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
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Questions?