The Outlook for Hill 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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## Hill 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>16,542</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent change since 2010</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Aged 65 or Older</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with Bachelors Degree or Higher (Age 25+)</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent without Health Insurance Coverage, 2015</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
## Hill County Profile

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earnings per Job, 2016</td>
<td>$43,455</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$46,945</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$18,528</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>$26,422</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>$68,121</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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
Local Government Expansion an Outlier

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Wage Growth Erratic Since 2016
Inflation-Corrected Covered Wages, Index 2007=100

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, Hill County 2014-21

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

Usmigrationflowmapper.com
Looking Ahead to 2018

• Government growth offset poor private sector performance in 2016
• Measured recovery in rail freight began in 2017
• Weaker Canadian dollar, e-commerce competition have challenged retail
• Federal growth is a wild card
• Sparks for better growth hard to find
Growth in Nonfarm Earnings, Hill County, 2015-2021

Source: BBER and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
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
- Worse than 2017
Questions?