

ADF Group opens fabrication plant in Great Falls to reach Western U.S. and Canadian Markets

ADF Group, an international leader in structural steel design, engineering, fabrication and construction, chose Great Falls as the site for their western expansion. The company purchased a 100-acre site in Great Falls and last year opened a \$31 million 100,000 SF fabrication facility and 42,000 SF paint and coating plant. The company has hired 165 employees and expects to grow to 340 in the next 2 years.

Loenbro announces will add 450 employees on 52-acre expansion site

Loenbro, a Great Falls-based welding company that provides a wide range of comprehensive oil and gas pipeline solutions, has added over 350 new primary sector jobs in the last 2 years to bring their total to 725 employees. The company purchased a 52-acre expansion site in the Great Falls north industrial area and has started construction on a 30,000 SF state-of-the-art pipe fabrication facility and a 28,000 SF headquarters office. In January, the company announced it plans to add 450 more employees in Great Falls over the next 5 years.

Health Care Service Corporation selects Great Falls as the site for 120+ person call center

Health Care Service Corporation, the largest customer-owned health insurance company in the United States, announced a major back-office expansion with their acquisition of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana in 2013. Great Falls was selected as the site for this exciting expansion that opened in June, 2014. The Center has already hired over 90 people.

BE Aerospace expands Great Falls aviation electronics manufacturing center

EMTEQ, a leader in aviation electronics, chose Great Falls as the site for their expansion in 2012. The initial expansion was projected to create between 50-60 jobs. BE Aerospace acquired EMTEQ in 2014 and announced it would expand the Great Falls operation into a full business unit. Employment has topped 160 and the company will soon announce its local real estate plans to enable further growth.

Calumet Montana Refining starts construction on major investment to double plant capacity

Calumet Montana Refining has started construction on a \$400 million expansion of its Great Falls refinery, creating 40+ new high wage primary sector jobs. The refinery produces gasoline, middle distillates and asphalt that it markets primarily into local markets in Washington, Montana, Idaho and Alberta.

Great Falls AgriTech Park development is well underway with four companies

The Great Falls Development Authority is developing the Great Falls AgriTech Park, a 1,150+ acre shovel-ready, rail-served heavy industrial park. **Lot 1 (57 acres) sold to Pacific Steel and Recycling** that is relocating and expanding their Great Falls operations. **Lot 2 (20 acres) sold to Montana Specialty Mills**, a processor and marketer of high quality oil seeds, will build a new oil seed manufacturing plant, clearing the way for further clean-up and redevelopment of the West Bank Urban Renewal Area, where they are currently located. **Lots 3 & 4 (23 acres) are under agreement to Helena Chemical** that will build an agricultural supply facility. **Lot 5** is under agreement for a **major distribution center**. All four companies plan to start construction this year.

Galloway announces East Side Retail Center

The new 26 acre retail center on the east end of 10th Avenue South will include a 189,000 SF big box, gasoline station and four 1-2 acre pads. Buffalo Wild Wings, Hoagieville, Starbucks, NutriShop, Z Pizza, United Rental and other leading brands expanded in the Great Falls market in 2014. 15 businesses opened downtown in 2013 and a new downtown boutique hotel is under construction. In the first 2 weeks of 2015, 2 new retailers have announced renovation projects on 10th Avenue South and our 5th micro-brewery, Black Eagle Brewery, opened.

Developers purchase West Bank Riverfront property for mixed-use development

Continuing the success of the award-winning West Bank One project, local developers have purchased a 14 acre riverfront site from Cascade County for mixed use redevelopment. Nine River's Edge Trail projects are planned for 2015 along with further improvement to the City's riverfront West Bank Park. The new 13,440 SF Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center will open this summer on the west side of the city.

Centene Announces Expansion with second shift in Great Falls

Centene, a national leader in healthcare services, added 3-dozen new high wage jobs in Great Falls in 2013-2014, growing to 325 local employees. In 2014 it started a 2nd shift to continue growing its Great Falls center.

USAF Adding 216 Positions at MAFB

The United States Air Force has begun adding 216 positions to Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls. New hangars are under construction at the Montana Air National Guard base at Great Falls International Airport to house the unit's new C-130 mission.

Erck Hotels to build Convention Center and Hilton Home 2 Hotel

Erck Hotels announced it will start construction in early 2015 on a 600-650 person 22,000 SF Convention Center that will be connected to its Hilton Garden Inn property in Great Falls. The company will also start construction of a 101 room Hilton Home 2 extended stay hotel adjacent to the Hilton Garden Inn.

Developers announce over 432 new Apartments

The Farran Group has started construction on the upscale 216-unit Talus apartment complex in the Medical/University Tech District. Polsen Development has plans for a 56-unit project also in the Med/Tech District. American Property Development is adding 24 units on the city's east side. Carroll Development has started construction of the first building of the 48-unit Skyline Heights apartments on the city's north side. Accessible Space will start soon on the 38-unit Voyager Apartments accessible and affordable senior housing. Benefis Health Systems will construct a 16 unit addition to the Cascade Ridge apartments in 2015. NeighborWorks Great Falls announced plans for a new 12-unit downtown apartment complex. The University of Great Falls has started construction on a 36-unit student-housing complex on the University campus.

Great Falls Clinic break ground on new \$31.2 million hospital

Great Falls Clinic, in partnership with Symbion, started construction in mid-2014 on a new 19-bed 60,000 SF hospital in Great Falls.

Great Falls climbs for 8th straight year in Policom's Economic Strength Ranking

In 2006, the Great Falls metro area ranked 308th in Policom's annual metro area economic strength ranking. We've climbed every year since then, reaching 109th in 2014, a climb above 199 other U.S. metro areas. Great Falls climbed 97 places in New Geography's 2014 Best Cities for Job Growth.

Great Falls sets Employment records in 2013 and 2014

Employment growth has averaged 1.72%/year for the last 3 years; labor force growth has averaged 1.21%/year. The unemployment rate was 4.6% in February. Population in the metro area (Cascade County) grew by 600 from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013, according to the U.S. Census. Manufacturing employment grew 14.9% in the Great Falls metro area from July 2013 to July 2014.

Great Falls Growth Indicators

Total wages increased 3.8% in the 1st Quarter of 2014 from the 1st Quarter of 2013. Average weekly wages were up 2.8% (MDOL ES-204 QCEW). Per capita income grew by 3.52% in 2012; up 13.73% since 2008 (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis). Enrollment at the University of Great Falls grew 8% in 2013, marking 59% growth in 5 years. Great Falls Public Schools enrollment grew for the 2nd year in a row. Metro area median home sale price rose 7.2% from 2008 to 2012. Metro area manufacturing earnings increased 7% from 2010 to 2012. Metro area exports increased 258% from 2005-2012, ranking 35th amongst 357 U.S. metro areas.