

AT A GLANCE

# MONTANA'S LABOR SHORTAGE

Montana is open for business, but a critical labor shortage, stemming in large part from a pandemic-era expansion of unemployment, affects nearly every industry in our economy. It's a crisis that threatens to stifle growth and leave our economy behind.

## Montana businesses face worker shortage while recovering from pandemic losses

— KTVH Helena Montana

"...[Steve's Café owner Steve] Vincelli says he made the decision to only open six days a week at each location because of staffing difficulties and not wanting to burn out the staff he does have...Steve's Cafe isn't the only business struggling to find workers right now. Many other Main Street businesses across the state are having hiring difficulties."

## Labor shortage: Missoula businesses struggle to find workers

— Missoulian

"Jack and Christy Wich are desperate to give people jobs, but they can't find anyone willing to take them...'Some other employers I've talked to feel the same way,' she said. 'The enhanced unemployment the government put out was wonderful for a lot of people, but at this point they don't have to go out and actively look for work. And that goes through September, so that's going to mean a tough summer for us.'"

## Kalispell café temporarily closes due to staffing shortage

— Daily Inter Lake

"'We made this difficult choice because we are unable to find enough staff to maintain consistent operations in this location,' the company said in a news release."

## Flathead employers face staffing shortage, virtual workforce event planned next week

— NBC Montana

"Proof Research is a barrel manufacturer that also makes full build rifles and composite stocks. They say they're also facing a staffing shortage...'As our business continues to grow, we continue to look for employees, and right now it's a pretty tough market out there in the valley. There are so many places that are hiring, so a lot of competition with trying to find employees,' Proof Research HR manager Kim Johnson said."

## Montana Unemployment Rate



## -10,000 Workers

Our workforce is 10,000 or more workers smaller than it was pre-pandemic – despite an influx of new residents from out-of-state.

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