

ADF Group continues growth at state-of-the-art fabrication plant in Great Falls

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 invested nearly \$40 million on a 100,000 SF fabrication facility and 42,000 SF paint and coating plant. The company has topped 200 employees in Great Falls and expects to grow to 340 in the next couple of 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 is developing a 52-acre expansion in Great Falls that includes 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, selected Great Falls to expand its claims processing operations. The center opened in June 2014 and 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 under 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 its 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. **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 fall.

Walmart announces as anchor tenant for East Side Retail Center - Construction to begin in Fall 2015

The new 26 acre retail center on the east end of 10th Avenue South will be anchored by a 189,000 SF Walmart Supercenter and include a gasoline station and four 1-2 acre pads. Buffalo Wild Wings, Hoagieville, Starbucks, NutriShop, Z Pizza, United Rental and other leading brands have recently expanded in the Great Falls.

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.

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 Adoption Center will open this summer on the west side of the city.

New Bureau of Land Management building under construction

Sletten Construction began work on a 32,000 SF building for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on 38th Street North at the intersection of River Drive North in Great Falls that will serve as a new gateway to the North Park industrial area.

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. Last week USAF announced the 819th Red Horse Squadron would stay in Great Falls.

Erck Hotels to build Convention Center and Hilton Home 2 Hotel

Erck Hotels announced it will start construction in early 2016 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. The upscale boutique historic Hotel Arvon will open downtown this summer.

Developers start construction on over 432 new Apartments

Talus Apartment Homes celebrated grand opening last month of its upscale 216-unit Talus apartment complex in the Medical/University Tech District. Carroll Development is finishing construction of the 48-unit Skyline Heights apartments on the city's north side. Accessible Space has started on the 38-unit Voyager Apartments accessible and affordable senior housing. The University of Great Falls has started construction on a 36-unit student-housing complex on the University campus. Benefis Health Systems will construct a 16-unit addition to the Cascade Ridge apartments in 2015. NeighborWorks Great Falls will start construction this fall on a 12-unit downtown apartment complex. 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. Moody's says Great Falls apartment vacancy rate is 2% (considered full occupancy) 6.5% across the nation,

Great Falls Clinic undergoing major expansion

Great Falls Clinic, in partnership with Symbion, started construction on a new 19-bed 60,000 SF hospital in Great Falls. Elkin Family Dentistry is expanding and under construction on a new 3,500 sq. ft. dental office.

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 3.2% in May 2015. Manufacturing employment grew 14.9% in the Great Falls metro area from July 2013 to July 2014. Great Falls was named as the #16 small city for "Prime Workforce" by Area Development magazine.

Great Falls Growth Indicators

Average weekly wages grew 60% more than the national average in Great Falls in 2014, Great Falls metro grew 5.2% compared to 3.1% in the U.S. and unemployment is at 3.2% as of May. Per capita income is up 13.73% since 2008 (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis).