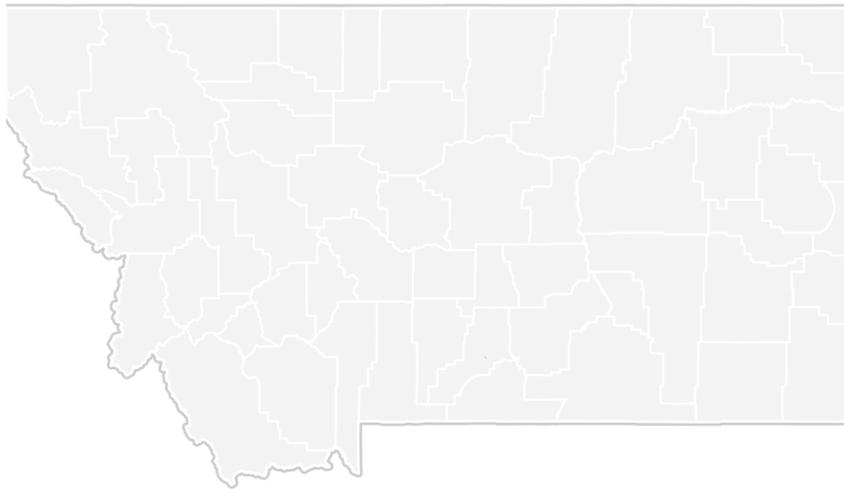


February 2, 2018



# **Economic Overview**

## **Town of Columbus, MT**



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# Demographic Profile

The population in the Town of Columbus, MT was 2,208 per American Community Survey data for 2012-2016.

The region has a civilian labor force of 1,107 with a participation rate of 63.5%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Town of Columbus, MT, 16.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 31.8% in the nation.

The median household income in the Town of Columbus, MT is \$49,805 and the median house value is \$161,200.

Summary <sup>1</sup>						
	Percent			Value		
	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA
<b>Demographics</b>						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	2,208	2,208	318,558,162
Male	46.4%	46.4%	49.2%	1,024	1,024	156,765,322
Female	53.6%	53.6%	50.8%	1,184	1,184	161,792,840
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	39.6	39.6	37.7
Under 18 Years	24.4%	24.4%	23.1%	539	539	73,612,438
18 to 24 Years	7.7%	7.7%	9.8%	171	171	31,296,577
25 to 34 Years	10.6%	10.6%	13.6%	234	234	43,397,907
35 to 44 Years	15.1%	15.1%	12.7%	334	334	40,548,400
45 to 54 Years	10.9%	10.9%	13.6%	241	241	43,460,466
55 to 64 Years	14.0%	14.0%	12.6%	310	310	40,061,742
65 to 74 Years	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	184	184	26,355,308
75 Years, and Over	8.8%	8.8%	6.2%	195	195	19,825,324
Race: White	91.8%	91.8%	73.3%	2,026	2,026	233,657,078
Race: Black or African American	1.4%	1.4%	12.6%	32	32	40,241,818
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0	0	2,597,817
Race: Asian	0.2%	0.2%	5.2%	4	4	16,614,625
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0	0	560,021
Race: Some Other Race	2.9%	2.9%	4.8%	63	63	15,133,856
Race: Two or More Races	3.8%	3.8%	3.1%	83	83	9,752,947
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3.6%	3.6%	17.3%	80	80	55,199,107
<b>Economic</b>						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	63.5%	63.5%	63.3%	1,107	1,107	159,807,099
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0	0	1,011,641
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.0%	4.0%	5.1%	52	52	10,165,671
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$49,805	\$49,805	\$55,322
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$25,864	\$25,864	\$29,829
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.4%	11.4%	15.1%	247	247	46,932,225
Households Receiving Food Stamps	12.5%	12.5%	13.0%	108	108	15,360,951

Summary <sup>1</sup>						
	Percent			Value		
	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.1	20.1	26.1
Commute via Public Transportation	6.5%	6.5%	5.1%	63	63	7,476,312
Union Membership <sup>3</sup>	14.3%	14.3%	10.7%	—	—	—
<b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>						
No High School Diploma	5.4%	5.4%	11.6%	60	60	19,478,050
High School Graduate	38.2%	38.2%	26.1%	427	427	43,788,541
Some College, No Degree	32.9%	32.9%	21.5%	368	368	36,025,193
Associate's Degree	7.4%	7.4%	8.9%	83	83	14,962,488
Bachelor's Degree	10.6%	10.6%	20.2%	119	119	33,845,524
Postgraduate Degree	5.5%	5.5%	11.6%	62	62	19,368,719
<b>Housing</b>						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	1,019	1,019	134,054,899
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$161,200	\$161,200	\$184,700
Homeowner Vacancy	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	11	11	1,395,797
Rental Vacancy	16.3%	16.3%	6.2%	47	47	2,855,844
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	28.0%	28.0%	36.4%	241	241	42,835,169
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	6.2%	6.2%	9.0%	53	53	10,562,847
<b>Social</b>						
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%	25	25	4,433,703
Disconnected Youth <sup>4</sup>	7.4%	7.4%	2.8%	8	8	485,589
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	21.4%	21.4%	34.7%	108	108	24,318,038
With a Disability, Age 18-64	11.2%	11.2%	10.3%	143	143	20,188,257
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	37.8%	37.8%	41.0%	54	54	8,278,834
Foreign Born	2.3%	2.3%	13.2%	50	50	42,194,354
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.6%	2.6%	8.5%	54	54	25,440,956

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2012-2016, unless noted otherwise

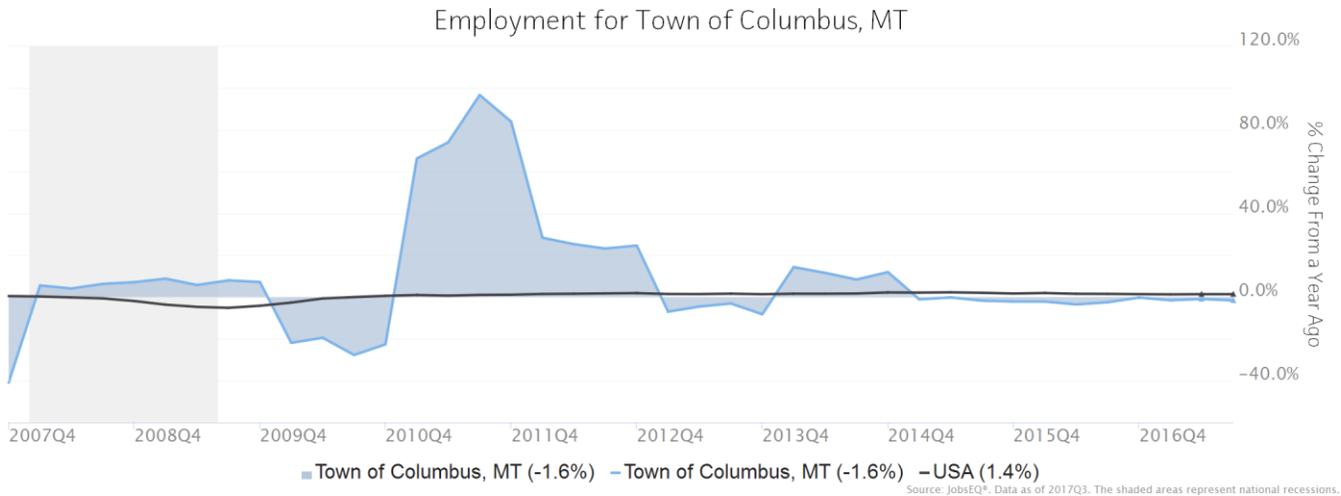
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. 2016; Current Population Survey, unionstats.com, and Chmura; county- and zip-level data are best estimates based upon industry-, MSA-, and state-level data

4. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

# Employment Trends

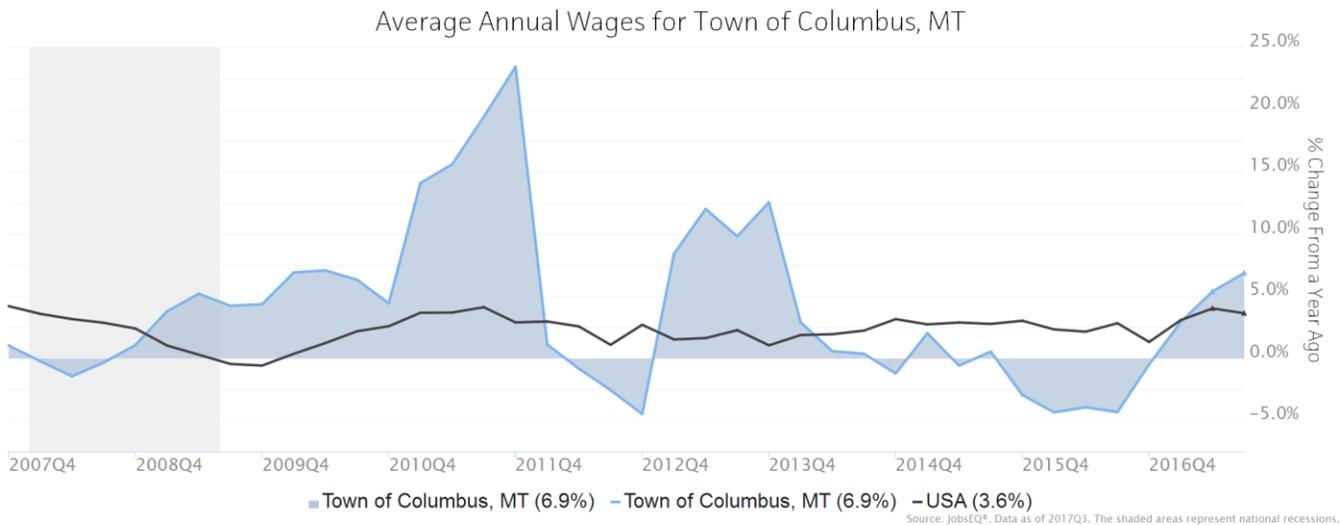
As of 2017Q3, total employment for the Town of Columbus, MT was 1,546 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2017Q3, employment declined 1.6% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2017Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in the Town of Columbus, MT earned annual wages of \$55,030 as of 2017Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 6.9% in the region during the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$54,666 in the nation as of 2017Q3.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2017Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3.

# Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 4.7% lower in Town of Columbus, MT than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information			
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Town of Columbus, MT	\$55,030	95.3	\$57,753
Town of Columbus, MT	\$55,030	95.3	\$57,753
USA	\$54,666	100.0	\$54,666

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

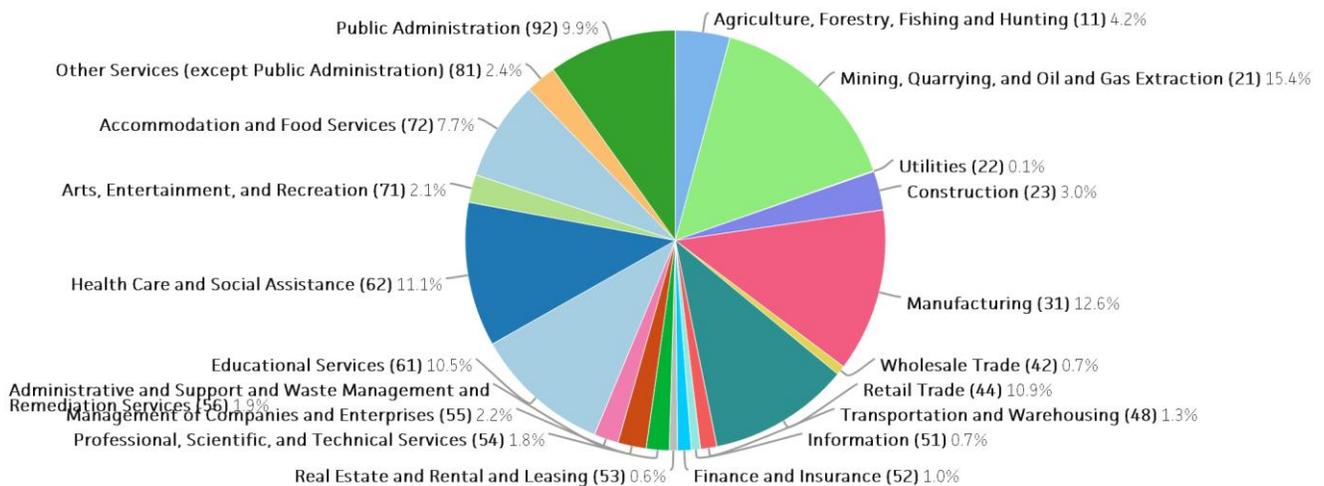
Data as of 2017Q3

Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2017q2, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

# Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Town of Columbus, MT is Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction, employing 238 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Manufacturing (194 workers) and Health Care and Social Assistance (172). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (LQ = 38.68), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (2.96), and Public Administration (2.08).

Total Workers for Town of Columbus, MT by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2017Q3

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2017Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3.

Sectors in the Town of Columbus, MT with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$185,553), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$111,328), and Utilities (\$81,372). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Retail Trade (+53 jobs), Public Administration (+38), and Accommodation and Food Services (+21).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Town of Columbus, MT is projected to expand by 3 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services with a +1.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+2 jobs), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (+1), and Construction (+1).

		Current			Historical				Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q3			Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Average Annual % Change in Employment 2012q3-2017q3			Over the Next 1 Year		
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Avg. Annual Wages	Location Quotient	Empl	Town of Columbus , MT	Town of Columbus , MT	USA	Total Approx Sep Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	65	\$25,445	2.96	-15	-4.0%	-4.0%	0.7%	7	0	0.2%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	238	\$111,328	38.68	-44	-3.3%	-3.3%	-5.3%	24	1	0.3%
22	Utilities	1	\$81,372	0.13	1	n/a	n/a	0.2%	0	0	0.3%
23	Construction	46	\$40,242	0.54	19	11.2%	11.2%	3.4%	5	1	1.3%
31	Manufacturing	194	\$36,432	1.53	-17	-1.7%	-1.7%	0.8%	20	-5	-2.4%
42	Wholesale Trade	11	\$47,767	0.19	-11	-13.0%	-13.0%	0.9%	1	0	-0.6%
44	Retail Trade	168	\$21,484	1.01	53	8.0%	8.0%	1.3%	22	1	0.4%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	19	\$64,680	0.30	7	9.4%	9.4%	2.6%	2	0	-0.1%
51	Information	11	\$59,438	0.35	-2	-3.7%	-3.7%	0.9%	1	0	-1.9%
52	Finance and Insurance	16	\$38,228	0.26	-3	-3.3%	-3.3%	1.1%	2	0	0.7%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10	\$33,389	0.36	-8	-11.6%	-11.6%	2.0%	1	0	-0.1%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	27	\$55,242	0.27	3	2.5%	2.5%	2.3%	2	0	1.3%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	34	\$185,553	1.48	20	19.1%	19.1%	2.7%	3	0	0.8%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	29	\$32,841	0.29	9	8.2%	8.2%	2.5%	3	0	1.5%
61	Educational Services	163	\$33,340	1.28	2	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	15	0	0.0%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	172	\$29,767	0.78	7	0.9%	0.9%	2.5%	16	2	1.0%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	33	\$22,056	1.08	15	13.2%	13.2%	2.3%	5	0	0.8%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	119	\$15,282	0.86	21	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	19	1	0.9%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	36	\$23,052	0.53	-7	-3.7%	-3.7%	-0.2%	4	0	0.6%
92	Public Administration	153	\$37,460	2.08	38	5.8%	5.8%	0.1%	14	1	0.5%
	<b>Total - All Industries</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>\$55,030</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2017Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Town of Columbus, MT is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 175 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Production Occupations (152 workers) and Construction and Extraction Occupations (142). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Construction and Extraction Occupations (LQ = 2.04), Production Occupations (1.62), and Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (1.42).

Occupation groups in the Town of Columbus, MT with the highest average wages per worker are Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$72,000), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$71,700), and Management Occupations (\$70,400). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 0.9% among Management Occupations to 5.2% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Town of Columbus, MT is expected to be Personal Care and Service Occupations with a +1.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Management Occupations (+1 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+1). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (23 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (19).

Occupation Snapshot in Town of Columbus, MT													
		Current					Historical				Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q3			2017q3		Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl 2012q3-2017q3			Over the Next 1 Year		
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Avg. Annual Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Empl	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA	Total Sep Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
11-0000	Management	122	\$70,400	1.31	1	0.9%	-6	-0.9%	-0.9%	1.5%	9	1	0.4%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	50	\$60,900	0.63	1	2.4%	7	3.3%	3.3%	1.6%	4	0	0.6%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	16	\$68,700	0.35	0	n/a	2	3.4%	3.4%	2.4%	1	0	0.7%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	22	\$72,000	0.84	1	2.4%	-2	-1.7%	-1.7%	1.0%	2	0	0.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	18	\$60,200	1.42	0	n/a	1	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	2	0	0.6%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	18	\$41,900	0.74	0	n/a	2	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2	0	0.9%
23-0000	Legal	7	\$56,000	0.58	0	n/a	1	3.1%	3.1%	0.4%	0	0	1.1%
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library	111	\$40,400	1.28	2	4.1%	2	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%	10	0	0.2%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	20	\$31,900	0.73	0	n/a	0	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%	2	0	-0.6%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	66	\$71,700	0.76	1	1.5%	1	0.2%	0.2%	1.7%	4	1	1.0%

**Occupation Snapshot in Town of Columbus, MT**

		Current					Historical				Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q3			2017q3		Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl 2012q3-2017q3			Over the Next 1 Year		
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Avg. Annual Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Empl	Town of Columbus, MT	Town of Columbus, MT	USA	Total Sep Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
31-0000	Healthcare Support	51	\$29,800	1.17	1	4.3%	9	4.0%	4.0%	2.2%	6	0	0.8%
33-0000	Protective Service	37	\$44,000	1.10	0	n/a	7	4.3%	4.3%	1.0%	4	0	0.5%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	135	\$23,000	1.02	4	5.2%	24	4.0%	4.0%	2.9%	23	1	0.9%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	54	\$28,800	0.99	2	4.2%	4	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	7	0	0.8%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	35	\$25,300	0.59	1	3.6%	1	0.4%	0.4%	2.0%	5	0	1.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	132	\$35,400	0.83	4	3.4%	27	4.8%	4.8%	1.3%	19	0	0.2%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	175	\$35,100	0.76	5	3.5%	20	2.5%	2.5%	1.7%	19	-1	-0.5%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	11	\$30,600	1.06	0	n/a	-1	-0.9%	-0.9%	1.3%	2	0	0.0%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	142	\$52,600	2.04	6	4.2%	5	0.8%	0.8%	2.6%	16	1	0.8%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	84	\$49,200	1.42	2	2.8%	-9	-2.0%	-2.0%	1.6%	8	0	0.2%
51-0000	Production	152	\$39,400	1.62	4	4.1%	-14	-1.7%	-1.7%	1.2%	15	-3	-1.8%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	87	\$42,700	0.83	n/a	n/a	5	1.1%	1.1%	2.2%	10	0	0.2%
00-0000	Total - All Occupations	1,546	\$43,700	1.00	n/a	n/a	89	1.2%	1.2%	1.7%	170	3	0.2%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2017Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

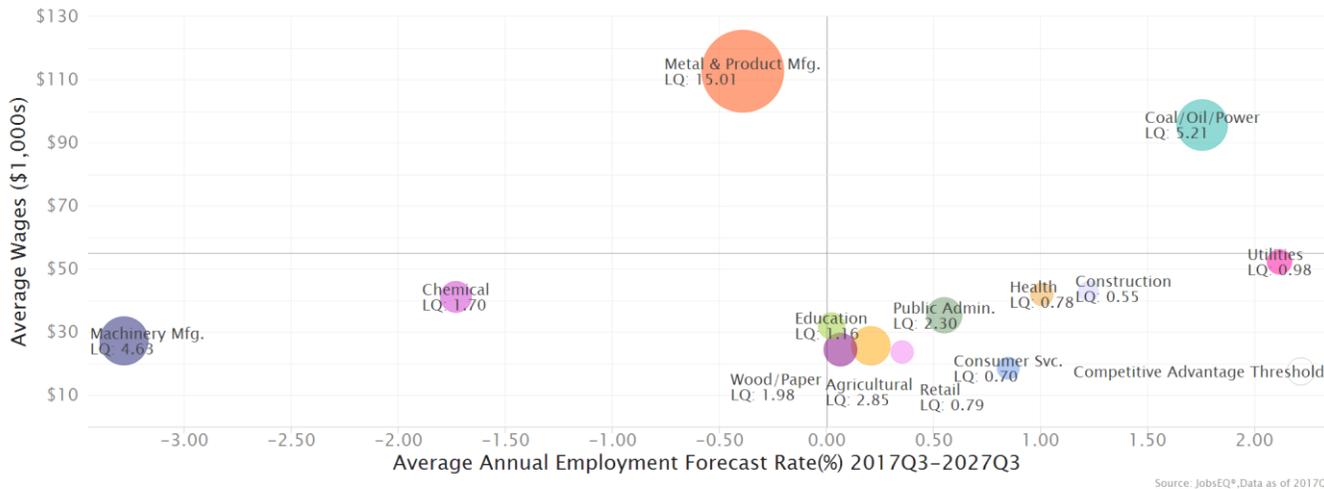
1. Occupation wages are as of 2016 and should be taken as the average for all Covered Employment

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2017Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2016 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Town of Columbus, MT with the highest relative concentration is Metal & Product Mfg. with a location quotient of 15.01. This cluster employs 174 workers in the region with an average wage of \$112,664. Employment in the Metal & Product Mfg. cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.4% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Town of Columbus, MT as of 2017Q3

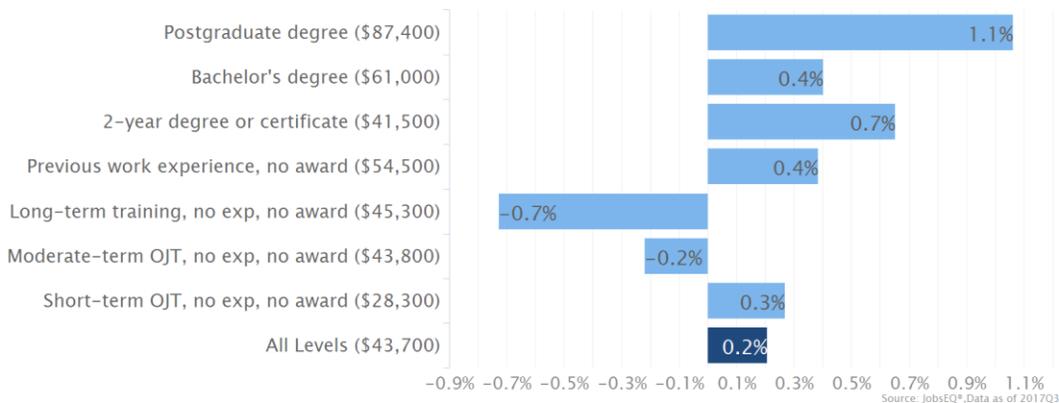


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2017Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Town of Columbus, MT is projected to grow 0.2% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 0.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.7% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required for Town of Columbus, MT



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2017Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# FAQ

## What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

## What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

## What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a *competitive advantage* in that cluster.

## What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

## What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

## What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 23 major groups, 96 minor groups, and 449 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

## About This Report

This report and all data herein were produced by JobsEQ®, a product of Chmura Economics & Analytics. The information contained herein was obtained from sources we believe to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy and completeness.