



How Business Friendly Are Montana's 25 Largest Cities?

A Montana Policy Institute and American Indicators Report



By John Hill, Ph.D.
President, American Indicators

Introduction

In order to excel in an increasingly competitive global marketplace, Montana must be as attractive as possible to businesses wishing to relocate to or expand in the state. There are numerous state level comparisons of Montana's business friendliness to inform policymakers in Helena. The same sort of report dedicated to comparing major cities and towns in Montana simply doesn't exist. Cities and towns are the real engines that drive the statewide economy and Montanans should consider how they compare against each other with respect to economic, social, and educational factors attractive to businesses.

The Montana Policy Institute (MPI) and American Indicators have collected data on Montana's 25 most populous incorporated areas and ranked them based on criteria that both ensure business success and protect the entrepreneurial spirit.¹ The three categories ranked are Economic Vitality, Business Tax Burden, and Community Allure (see the sidebar for an in-depth explanation of the composition of each category).

In summary, this report looks at a number of factors: What cities have the best tax policy? Which have more community allure, such as low costs of living and low crime rates? What cities have experienced the most year-over-year population and job growth? What type of economic vitality do cities have, including the average incomes for local residents? These and other questions are answered in this report.

The Business-Friendly Formula (See Appendix A)

Economic Vitality (40% of overall score):

- Recent job growth (50% of Economic Vitality category)
- Residential population growth from 2010 to 2011 (12.5%)
- Population growth from 2000 to 2010, divided by 10 (12.5%)
- Median per capita income (25%)

Business Tax Burden (40% of overall score):

- Business property taxes (100% of Business Tax Burden category)

Community Allure (20% of overall score):

- Cost of living index (35% of Community Allure category)
- Per-capita violent crime rate (35%)
- Percent of adults age 25 or older with at least a high school diploma (15%)
- Average Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) scores for all high schools in incorporated areas (15%)

Montana's Top 10 Business-Friendly Cities

City	Score
1. Polson	69.34
2. Sidney	69.00
3. Glasgow	67.14
4. Bozeman	62.86
5. Belgrade	62.05
6. Dillon	59.78
7. Billings	58.70
8. Lewistown	56.50
9. Livingston	54.33
10. Great Falls	53.35

Montana's Most Business-Friendly Cities

So what city takes the prize? After careful analysis, the results are in: Polson is Montana's Most Business-Friendly City. Located in the natural beauty of Lake County, Polson finished fifth in Economic Vitality, second in the Business Tax Burden category, and 24th in Community Allure, for a composite score of 69.34 out of 100 possible points (see Appendix B).

Sidney (69.00) in Richland County finished a close second because of its first place ranking in the Business Tax Burden category. Its lower scores in Economic Vitality (14th) and Community Allure (21st) come from its declining long-term population growth, subpar job growth, and its uncompetitive Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) scores for its high school students.

Glasgow (67.14) finished just behind Sidney for third place. It finished first in Economic Vitality and had the tenth best Business Tax Burden ranking, as well as the fifth highest score for Community Allure.

¹In developing those rankings, the Montana Policy Institute and American Indicators looked to the Beacon Center of Tennessee's annual report, "How Business-Friendly are Tennessee's Cities?" See JUSTIN OWEN & RYAN TURBEVILLE, BEACON CENTER OF TENNESSEE, NO. 11-05, HOW BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ARE TENNESSEE'S CITIES? (Nov. 14, 2011), available at www.beacontn.org/wp-content/uploads/How-Business-Friendly-are-Tennessees-Cities-in-2011.pdf.

Montana's Least Business-Friendly Cities

With every best there is a worst, and the dubious honor of being Montana's least business-friendly city belongs to Anaconda in Deer Lodge County, with a total score of 23.88 out of a possible 100 points. Unfortunately, Anaconda's scores were near the bottom in terms of Economic Vitality (23rd out of 25) and its Business Tax Burden (22nd). Its Community Allure ranking was also below average (18th), due largely to its low percentage of adults with at least a high school degree.

Joining Anaconda as the least favorable cities for business in Montana are Miles City (30.17) and Butte (31.31). To its credit, Miles City's score on Community Allure was the third highest in the state, due largely to its low crime rate and its affordable cost of living. Its Economic Vitality score, though, ranked an unimpressive 19th because of declining job growth, declining long- and short-term population, and shrinking personal income. Moreover, its Business Tax Burden was the second highest in the state, giving it 24th place in these rankings. Butte also had a respectable ranking in Community Allure (6th), but it was not enough to overcome lower rankings in Economic Vitality (17th) and the lowest rank in the state in terms of its Business Tax Burden (25th).

Cities also were divided into five population tiers and ranked to show comparisons between those of similar size (see Table 1 and Appendix F). Among the most populous cities in the top tier, Bozeman was found to be the most business-friendly city, with an overall score of 62.86 out of a possible 100 points, with Billings (58.70) and Great Falls (53.35) following at a distant second and third place, respectively.

In the second tier, Havre took the top spot with a score of 50.70, the 11th highest in the state, while Anaconda finished dead last not just in the tier but in the state as a whole (23.88). The scores and ranks for the remaining tiers can be found in Table 1.

Table 1
Composite Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier

Top Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Bozeman	38,025	62.86	1	4
Billings	105,636	58.70	2	7
Great Falls	58,950	53.35	3	10
Missoula	67,290	35.85	4	22
Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	31.31	5	23
Second Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Havre	9,600	50.90	1	11
Kalispell	20,008	49.01	2	14
Helena	28,592	41.73	3	20
Miles City	8,438	30.17	4	24
Anaconda	9,299	23.88	5	25
Third Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Belgrade	7,549	62.05	1	5
Lewistown	5,858	56.50	2	8
Livingston	6,969	54.33	3	9
Whitefish	6,384	49.94	4	12
Laurel	6,814	42.80	5	19

Table 1 (continued)
Composite Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier

Fourth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Polson	4,524	69.34	1	1
Sidney	5,436	69.00	2	2
Columbia Falls	4,707	48.15	3	15
Hamilton	4,374	45.28	4	16
Glendive	4,947	43.86	5	18

Fifth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Glasgow	3,301	67.14	1	3
Dillon	4,113	59.78	2	6
Deer Lodge	3,130	49.39	3	13
Wolf Point	2,646	44.11	4	17
Cut Bank	2,919	40.72	5	21

Economic Vitality

The economic vitality of a city is important to businesses because factors such as its job growth, population growth, and median per-capita income reflect its ability to survive, especially during an economic downturn. “Population growth indicates that an area has a solid consumer base that can attract and support commerce. Job performance has a clear impact on a city’s business climate, while income levels reveal a city’s ability to generate wealth for its residents.”²

As Appendix C shows, the five best-performing cities in Montana in the category of Economic Vitality are Glasgow (76.81 out of a possible 100), Billings (71.76), Helena (65.29), Great Falls (64.89), and Polson (64.13). Within each subcategory, Polson had the most job growth (3.93%), Kalispell had the greatest long-term residential population growth from 2000 to 2010 (40.1% per year), Sidney had the largest short-term growth from 2010 to 2011 (4.72%) (despite declining long-term population growth), and Helena had the highest per-capita income (\$27,583).

Deer Lodge was the poorest scoring city in Economic Vitality, earning only 11.78 points. It was followed by Hamilton (19.98), Anaconda (24.01), Wolf Point (28.61), and Lewistown (31.66). Each of these cities has suffered serious declines in job growth. All but Hamilton and Lewistown have seen their populations shrink since 2000, and the per-capita incomes of Wolf Point (\$16,492), Deer Lodge (\$17,908), and Hamilton (\$18,620) are among the lowest in the state.

Each population tier was also ranked in terms of its Economic Vitality Score. As Table 2 shows, Billings was the highest-ranked city in the top tier (71.76), followed by Great Falls (64.89). Butte was the poorest performer in the top tier and has a statewide rank of 17th out of 25 (42.62).

In the second tier, Helena ranked first in Economic Vitality with its third best score in the state (65.29). Kalispell was a distant second, finishing in 10th place in the state with a score of 57.48.

Interestingly, the city with the highest score for Economic Vitality – Glasgow – is one of the smallest incorporated areas in the Montana. With a 2011 population of only 3,301, Glasgow scored an impressive 76.81, mostly because

² BEACON CENTER OF TENNESSEE, *supra* note 1, at p. 4.

of its above-average per-capita income (\$23,092 in 2010), impressive job growth, and steady long-term population growth.

Table 2
Economic Vitality Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier

Top Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Billings	105,636	71.76	1	2
Great Falls	58,950	64.89	2	4
Bozeman	38,025	63.56	3	6
Missoula	67,290	58.13	4	9
Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	42.62	5	17

Second Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Helena	28,592	65.29	1	3
Kalispell	20,008	57.48	2	10
Havre	9,600	41.11	3	18
Miles City	8,438	35.42	4	19
Anaconda	9,299	24.01	5	23

Third Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Belgrade	7,549	59.84	1	7
Laurel	6,814	51.82	2	13
Whitefish	6,384	45.29	3	15
Livingston	6,969	32.11	4	20
Lewistown	5,858	31.66	5	21

Fourth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Polson	4,524	64.13	1	5
Columbia Falls	4,707	59.26	2	8
Glendive	4,947	54.51	3	11
Sidney	5,436	51.43	4	14
Hamilton	4,374	19.98	5	24

Fifth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Glasgow	3,301	76.81	1	1
Cut Bank	2,919	52.95	2	12
Dillon	4,113	44.55	3	16
Wolf Point	2,646	28.61	4	22
Deer Lodge	3,130	11.78	5	25

Business Tax Burden

The Business Tax Burden category evaluates the business friendliness of each incorporated area based on the total property tax rates in both its city and county.³ Property tax rates are expressed in millage (mills), which are equal to one-tenth of one cent. The average property tax rate per county in Montana for the 2009-2010 fiscal year was 583.64 mills, with rates ranging from 362.88 in Sidney (Richland County) to 734.59 in Butte (Silver Bow County).

According to Appendix D, the five best-ranking cities in Montana in terms of their Business Tax Burden are Sidney (362.88), Polson (426.49), Deer Lodge (463.74), Hamilton (502.28), and Lewistown (505.12). On the other hand, Butte (734.59), Miles City (729.52), Missoula (703.71), Anaconda (697.08), and Helena (685.88) are the five worst cities in Montana when it comes to the property tax burdens placed on their businesses.

When Montana’s 25 largest incorporated areas are ranked according to their population and divided into five tiers, Bozeman possessed the lowest tax burden in the top tier, giving it a score of 67.18 (see Table 3). Billings had the second best score (44.38), followed closely by Great Falls (39.93).

Among second tier cities, Havre was best for business in terms of low property taxes (58.74), while Miles City had the second worst score in Montana (6.09), largely because its millage rate was 25 percent higher than the state average.

Table 3
Business Tax Burden Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier

Top Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Bozeman	38,025	67.18	1	9
Billings	105,636	44.38	2	14
Great Falls	58,950	39.93	3	15
Missoula	67,290	10.14	4	23
Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	5.47	5	25

Second Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Havre	9,600	58.74	1	12
Kalispell	20,008	39.52	2	16
Helena	28,592	13.91	3	21
Anaconda	9,299	11.44	4	22
Miles City	8,438	6.09	5	24

³ In rankings for other states, the Business Tax Burden is divided between its property and sales taxes. This could not work in Montana as neither the state nor local governments levy any sales taxes. Source: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, BIENNIAL REPORT: PROPERTY TAX (2011), available at http://revenue.mt.gov/content/publications/biennial_reports/2008-2010/BiennialReport-PropTax.pdf. Updated mills were provided by the Montana Department of Revenue, personal communication, Aug. 29, 2012.

Table 3 (continued)
Business Tax Burden Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier

Third Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Lewistown	5,858	79.76	1	5
Livingston	6,969	75.46	2	6
Belgrade	7,549	70.21	3	7
Whitefish	6,384	56.05	4	13
Laurel	6,814	30.24	5	18

Fourth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Sidney	5,436	99.04	1	1
Polson	4,524	95.22	2	2
Hamilton	4,374	80.59	3	4
Columbia Falls	4,707	32.05	4	17
Glendive	4,947	18.99	5	20

Fifth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Deer Lodge	3,130	89.83	1	3
Dillon	4,113	69.51	2	8
Glasgow	3,301	60.67	3	10
Wolf Point	2,646	59.61	4	11
Cut Bank	2,919	21.06	5	19

Community Allure

The factors that make up the Community Allure category count for a smaller percentage of the rankings than Business Tax Burden and Economic Vitality. Even so, indicators included in Community Allure, such as the cost of living index, education performance, and crime rates, all play a key role in any city’s business climate.

With its reasonable cost of living, safe neighborhoods, and average education system, Glendive takes the top spot in the Community Allure category (72.31; see Appendix E). Coming in second place is Dillon (70.79), with superior standardized test scores and a better educated adult workforce than Glendive, but a higher cost of living and crime rate. Miles City (67.81), Billings (61.25), and Glasgow (60.75) round out the top five in Community Allure.

Despite having average CRT standardized scores, Hamilton’s high cost of living, coupled with its above-average crime rate and below-average percentage of adults with at least a high school diploma, put it in last place for Community Allure (25.25). Polson (28.00), Missoula (42.73), Deer Lodge (43.73), and Sidney (44.06) finish out the bottom five in this category.

To look at Community Allure, we also break the cities down into population tiers (see Table 4). Among the top tier, Billings scored highest (61.25), followed closely by Butte (60.37). Missoula scored lowest, with only 42.73 out of 100 possible points.

Among those cities in the second tier, Miles City was the runaway first place performer (67.81), largely because of its affordability and lower-than-average crime rate. Had its CRT scores been better, its overall ranking of 3rd in the state could have been even higher.

**Table 4
Community Allure Scores for Incorporated Areas, by Population and Tier**

Top Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Billings	105,636	61.25	1	4
Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	60.37	2	6
Great Falls	58,950	57.09	3	9
Bozeman	38,025	52.83	4	13
Missoula	67,290	42.73	5	23

Second Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Miles City	8,438	67.81	1	3
Havre	9,600	54.82	2	12
Kalispell	20,008	51.06	3	14
Helena	28,592	50.25	4	15
Anaconda	9,299	48.50	5	18

Third Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Lewistown	5,858	59.65	1	7
Livingston	6,969	56.50	2	10
Belgrade	7,549	50.18	3	16
Laurel	6,814	49.90	4	17
Whitefish	6,384	47.02	5	19

Fourth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Glendive	4,947	72.31	1	1
Columbia Falls	4,707	58.14	2	8
Sidney	5,436	44.06	3	21
Polson	4,524	28.00	4	24
Hamilton	4,374	25.25	5	25

Fifth Tier	Population	Overall Score	Tier Rank	Overall Rank
Dillon	4,113	70.79	1	2
Glasgow	3,301	60.75	2	5
Cut Bank	2,919	55.60	3	11
Wolf Point	2,646	44.11	4	20
Deer Lodge	3,130	43.73	5	22

Conclusion

Montana's most business-friendly cities possess responsible, limited governance, reasonable tax rates, quality education outcomes, low crime, and a thriving economy despite significant economic hurdles. Seven of the state's top 10 business-friendly cities look like Glasgow and Sidney, which possess small but growing populations, and room to grow geographically.

This does not mean, though, that Montana's larger cities cannot compete against smaller, nimbler ones. Bozeman (4th place) and Billings (7th), for example, both have relatively large populations, yet they also possess above-average per-capita incomes, solid short- and long-term population growth, below-average violent crime rates, and large, job-ready workforces.

Local policymakers seeking to make their cities more business-friendly should follow the path of these cities by maintaining low tax rates on businesses and families, focusing on education and public safety, and making their cities as attractive as possible to prospective businesses. By making simple adjustments, many cities across Montana could be on their way to becoming Montana's most business-friendly city, and in the process, help establish Montana as a destination for growing companies both regionally and nationally.

A word of encouragement to the cities whose scores are not where they want them to be: every city surveyed, from the worst to the best, has considerable room for improvement. Even Polson, the best city in Montana for business, scored only 69.34 out of a possible 100 points. While a perfect score is highly unlikely, an improvement of only 10 points could move a lagging city to the center of the pack, or a middling city to the top 10.

Cities at or near the top should not rest on their laurels. On average, less than two points separated ranks from each other, and less than one point separated first from second place. If several cities made even small changes to improve their business climates, next year's rankings could be dramatically different.

Appendix A: The Business-Friendly Formula

Economic Vitality (40% of overall score):

- Recent job growth (50% of Economic Vitality category)⁴
- Residential population growth from 2010 to 2011 (12.5%)⁵
- Population growth from 2000 to 2010, divided by 10 (12.5%)⁶
- Median per capita income (25%)⁷

Business Tax Burden (40% of overall score):

- Business property taxes (100% of Business Tax Burden category)⁸

Community Allure (20% of overall score):

- Cost of living index (35% of Community Allure category)⁹
- Per-capita violent crime rate (35%)¹⁰
- Percent of adults age 25 or older with at least a high school diploma (15%)¹¹
- Average Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) scores for all high schools in incorporated areas (15%)¹²

⁴ U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN FACT FINDER, Table S2301: Employment Status (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2006-2010 and 2005-2009), www.factfinder2.census.gov (last visited June 4, 2012).

⁵ U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, STATE & COUNTY QUICK FACTS, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html> (last visited June 28, 2012).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, BIENNIAL REPORT: PROPERTY TAX (2011), *supra* note 3.

⁹ SPERLING'S BEST PLACES, www.bestplaces.net (last visited Sept. 6, 2012).

¹⁰ BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL, STATE OF MONTANA, <http://mtibrsrp.mt.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx> (last visited Sept. 6, 2012).

¹¹ U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, STATE & COUNTY QUICK FACTS, *supra* note 5.

¹² OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION REPORTING CENTER, MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, <http://data.opi.mt.gov/opireportingcenter/frmDefault.aspx> (last visited Sept. 6, 2012).

Appendix B: Overall Business-Friendly Ranking

		2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score
1	Polson	4,524	64.13	95.22	28.00	69.34
2	Sidney	5,436	51.43	99.04	44.06	69.00
3	Glasgow	3,301	76.81	60.67	60.75	67.14
4	Bozeman	38,025	63.56	52.83	52.83	62.86
5	Belgrade	7,549	59.84	70.21	50.18	62.05
6	Dillon	4,113	44.55	69.51	70.79	59.78
7	Billings	105,636	71.76	44.38	61.25	58.70
8	Lewistown	5,858	31.66	79.76	59.65	56.50
9	Livingston	6,969	32.11	75.46	56.50	54.33
10	Great Falls	58,950	64.89	39.93	57.09	53.35
11	Havre	9,600	41.11	58.74	54.82	50.90
12	Whitefish	6,384	45.29	56.05	47.02	49.94
13	Deer Lodge	3,130	11.78	89.83	43.73	49.39
14	Kalispell	20,008	57.48	39.52	51.06	49.01
15	Columbia Falls	4,707	59.26	32.05	58.14	48.15
16	Hamilton	4,374	19.98	80.59	25.25	45.28
17	Wolf Point	2,646	28.61	59.61	44.11	44.11
18	Glendive	4,947	54.51	18.99	72.31	43.86
19	Laurel	6,814	51.82	30.24	49.90	42.80
20	Helena	28,592	65.29	13.91	50.25	41.73
21	Cut Bank	2,919	52.95	21.06	55.60	40.72
22	Missoula	67,290	58.13	10.14	42.73	35.85
23	Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	42.62	5.47	60.37	31.31
24	Miles City	8,438	35.42	6.09	67.81	30.17
25	Anaconda-Deer Lodge	9,299	24.01	11.44	48.50	23.88

Appendix C: Economic Vitality Ranking

		Recent Job Growth: 2009-2010	Residential Population Growth: 2009-2010	Residential Population Growth: 2000-2010	Median Per-Capita Income	Total Economic Vitality Score
1	Glasgow	97.11	69.11	23.20	66.87	76.81
2	Billings	63.47	64.26	67.75	94.08	71.76
3	Helena	53.48	64.83	48.81	97.39	65.29
4	Great Falls	81.76	43.33	31.30	58.75	64.89
5	Polson	99.82	44.68	53.89	7.61	64.13
6	Bozeman	36.59	80.31	97.24	92.28	63.56
7	Belgrade	56.15	83.91	92.40	38.90	59.84
8	Columbia Falls	81.43	32.24	91.98	12.07	59.26
9	Missoula	57.85	43.04	70.69	59.96	58.13
10	Kalispell	60.21	32.28	98.81	43.94	57.48
11	Glendive	58.88	27.60	34.41	69.27	54.51
12	Cut Bank	68.99	73.96	9.83	31.91	52.95
13	Laurel	57.07	64.92	43.07	39.15	51.82
14	Sidney	24.16	99.90	46.99	83.96	51.43
15	Whitefish	12.56	32.82	89.14	95.06	45.29
16	Dillon	66.90	11.24	51.28	13.16	44.55
17	Butte-Silver Bow	48.03	36.13	21.01	45.84	42.62
18	Havre	27.63	96.19	16.70	52.73	41.11
19	Miles City	42.80	30.13	21.39	30.31	35.42
20	Livingston	25.07	4.71	30.30	60.82	32.11
21	Lewistown	23.77	8.13	27.00	61.51	31.66
22	Wolf Point	37.92	49.66	19.97	3.78	28.61
23	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	11.60	21.58	20.62	51.74	24.01
24	Hamilton	5.38	38.13	71.43	14.39	19.98
25	Deer Lodge	7.09	38.53	8.08	9.65	11.78

Appendix D: Business Tax Burden Ranking

	Total Business Tax Burden Score
1 Sidney	99.04
2 Polson	95.22
3 Deer Lodge	89.83
4 Hamilton	80.59
5 Lewistown	79.76
6 Livingston	75.46
7 Belgrade	70.21
8 Dillon	69.51
9 Bozeman	67.18
10 Glasgow	60.67
11 Wolf Point	59.61
12 Havre	58.74
13 Whitefish	56.05
14 Billings	44.38
15 Great Falls	39.93
16 Kalispell	39.52
17 Columbia Falls	32.05
18 Laurel	30.24
19 Cut Bank	21.06
20 Glendive	18.99
21 Helena	13.91
22 Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	11.44
23 Missoula	10.14
22 Miles City	6.09
25 Butte-Silver Bow	5.47

Appendix E: Community Allure Ranking

		Cost of Living (Sept. 2011)	Per-Capita Violent Crime (2010)	Percent of Adults 25+ With High School Diploma or Better (2006-2010)	CRT Composite Scores for High School Students: 2010-2011 School Year	Community Allure Score
1	Glendive	84.66	79.80	44.01	54.30	72.31
2	Dillon	69.24	62.27	68.35	96.71	70.79
3	Miles City	84.66	69.44	59.99	32.54	67.81
4	Billings	41.13	69.86	71.47	77.92	61.25
5	Glasgow	82.07	69.81	18.05	32.54	60.75
6	Butte-Silver Bow	72.79	62.42	67.54	19.47	60.37
7	Lewistown	72.79	59.43	12.76	76.40	59.65
8	Columbia Falls	37.14	80.95	54.71	57.32	58.14
9	Great Falls	53.48	74.33	59.99	22.41	57.09
10	Livingston	57.58	65.72	38.77	50.23	56.50
11	Cut Bank	89.06	23.01	21.15	88.05	55.60
12	Havre	76.13	31.20	86.06	28.94	54.82
13	Bozeman	1.40	66.86	95.85	97.06	52.83
14	Kalispell	26.12	57.38	54.71	90.83	51.06
15	Helena	41.13	51.63	89.66	28.94	50.25
16	Belgrade	4.67	64.17	97.49	76.40	50.18
17	Laurel	49.34	79.19	28.96	3.78	49.90
18	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	69.24	40.82	16.34	50.23	48.50
19	Whitefish	3.74	78.45	71.47	50.23	47.02
20	Wolf Point	93.84	17.67	32.91	0.97	44.11
21	Sidney	41.13	73.32	2.72	23.95	44.06
22	Deer Lodge	79.22	0.07	40.50	66.04	43.73
23	Missoula	4.67	63.81	71.47	53.64	42.73
24	Polson	45.21	0.61	57.37	22.41	28.00
25	Hamilton	26.12	24.72	1.50	48.22	25.25

Appendix F: City Ranking by Population Tiers

Top Tier	2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score	Rank
Bozeman	38,025	63.56	67.18	52.83	62.86	4
Billings	105,636	71.76	44.38	61.25	58.70	7
Great Falls	58,950	64.89	39.93	57.09	53.35	10
Missoula	67,290	58.13	10.14	42.73	35.85	22
Butte-Silver Bow	33,704	42.62	5.47	60.37	31.31	23

Second Tier	2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score	Rank
Havre	9,600	41.11	58.74	54.82	50.90	11
Kalispell	20,008	57.48	39.52	51.06	49.01	14
Helena	28,592	65.29	13.91	50.25	41.73	20
Miles City	8,438	35.42	6.09	67.81	30.17	24
Anaconda	9,299	24.01	11.44	48.50	23.88	25

Third Tier	2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score	Rank
Belgrade	7,549	59.84	70.21	50.18	62.05	5
Lewistown	5,858	31.66	79.76	59.65	56.50	8
Livingston	6,969	32.11	75.46	56.50	54.33	9
Whitefish	6,384	45.29	56.05	47.02	49.94	12
Laurel	6,814	51.82	30.24	49.90	42.80	19

Fourth Tier	2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score	Rank
Polson	4,524	64.13	95.22	28.00	69.34	1
Sidney	5,436	51.43	99.04	44.06	69.00	2
Columbia Falls	4,707	59.26	32.05	58.14	48.15	15
Hamilton	4,374	19.98	80.59	25.25	45.28	16
Glendive	4,947	54.51	18.99	72.31	43.86	18

Fifth Tier	2011 Population	Economic Vitality	Business Tax Burden	Community Allure	Overall Score	Rank
Glasgow	3,301	76.81	60.67	60.75	67.14	3
Dillon	4,113	44.55	69.51	70.79	59.78	6
Deer Lodge	3,130	11.78	89.83	43.73	49.39	13
Wolf Point	2,646	28.61	59.61	44.11	44.11	17
Cut Bank	2,919	52.95	21.06	55.60	40.72	21

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Dr. John Hill is President and Founder of AMERICAN INDICATORS, which he created in 2009 to help businesses and think tanks track trends in politics, health, family, economics, education, and the environment. Dr. Hill's work in public policy research began in 1995, when he joined the Alabama Policy Institute. In addition to working at API, he has been an adjunct instructor at Faulkner University since 1996, where he teaches introductory research methods, statistics, and quantitative business analysis for executive programs across Alabama. Dr. Hill holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting and Bible from Freed-Hardeman University (1988), a master's degree in speech from the University of Memphis (1990), and a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Alabama (1996). You can learn more about AI at <https://sites.google.com/site/americanindicators/>.

Bozeman Office

67 W Kagy Blvd., Ste. B
Bozeman, MT 59715
406.219.0508

Helena Office

1 S. Montana Ave., Ste. L-
6 Helena, MT 59601
406.443.4205

info@montanapolicy.org
www.montanapolicy.org