



For Immediate Release: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Tracy McIntyre  
Montana Cooperative Development Center  
Montana Council of Cooperatives  
406-868-0757  
[tracy@mcdc.coop](mailto:tracy@mcdc.coop)  
[www.mcdc.coop](http://www.mcdc.coop)  
[www.montanacouncil.coop](http://www.montanacouncil.coop)



Great Falls, Montana: The Montana Cooperative Development Center and the Montana Council of Cooperatives released the 2020 Montana Cooperative Economic Impact Report at the Council of Cooperative's annual meeting's virtual sessions earlier this month. The report, conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, is a compilation of Montana's cooperatives that span a broad spectrum of industries, including finance, energy, telecommunications, manufacturing, retail, arts, and agriculture. The report outlines the economic impact of the Montana Cooperative Community based on 2019-2020 information.

The highlights:

- Cooperatives in Montana provide more than 5,000 direct jobs. On average, each Montana Cooperative employed 44 people with an annual salary of \$79,900
- Montana Cooperatives ultimately produce an economy with:
  - 23,480 more jobs
  - \$1.6 billion more each year in income
  - \$7.6 billion each year in additional output
  - 33,000 more people attracted and retained in Montana because of cooperatives
- Each new job created in the State because of Cooperatives averages \$61,544 In salary. 47% higher than the state average

Cooperatives in Montana, supported by the Montana Council of Cooperatives and the Montana Cooperative Development Center, are an essential economic driver in both rural and urban Montana. Cooperatives are found in cities and towns all across the State, and range from 3-man workers cooperative to a multi-million dollar refinery. In rural Montana, cooperatives are the stabilizing force for public services, support local charitable activities, invest in the future through numerous youth programs and scholarships, and provide higher-wage jobs than state averages.

Overall, cooperatives make the Montana economy significantly larger, more prosperous, and more populous. For those interested in learning how to create a cooperative to address their business or community need, contact the Montana Cooperative Development Center. The Montana Cooperative Development Center is the only state-recognized organization to assist in the development of cooperatives. It administers the Montana Council of Cooperatives, an organization dedicated to supporting the continued vitality of the Montana Cooperative Community.

A Copy of the full report may be found at [www.mcdc.coop](http://www.mcdc.coop) or at [www.montanacouncil.coop](http://www.montanacouncil.coop).

This is an Equal Opportunity Program. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed at: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC 20250-9410. For TTD Service contact the Montana Relay Service at 711 or 800-253-4091.