

Polson's Diverse Business Climate

Polson is home to big (for Montana standards) business, as well as small, local businesses. The business economy is in a growth phase with several businesses expanding and/or opening in the Polson area. Current rankings reinforce the fact that Montana, and specifically, Polson is a great place to do business. Montana topped other states in the nation for entrepreneurs¹ and ranked in the top ten for State Business Tax Climate.² Recently, Governor Bullock commissioned [The Main Street Montana Project](#), a business plan which aims to create, recruit, and retain jobs. The [Montana Policy Institute](#) ranked Polson the Most Business-Friendly City in Montana.³ There are several dynamic local entrepreneurs and, recently, Rachel Carlyle Edington, the founder and owner of Gluten Free Mama, was awarded the Small Business Person of the Year by Small Business Administration.⁴



Some of the top industries in Polson include: Construction, Retail, Healthcare and Social Assistance, and Services.⁵ Another important aspect to the business culture of Polson is the role of agriculture as one of the major industries in Lake County. Producers raise cattle, sheep, and crops such as grain, hay, and Flathead Lake Cherries. The cherries are one of the most-anticipated crops of the summer season. Both the [Mission Mountain Business Development Center](#) and [Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center](#) (branches of Lake County Community Development Corporation) provide opportunities for local producers to develop, market, and package their products.

[The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes](#) support a diversified economy by operating many successful businesses in Lake County and employing approximately 1,000 people.⁶ Because of the variety of businesses that CSKT operates, they understand the benefits and challenges of operating businesses in this area.

Polson business owners are committed to the success of their businesses as well as to the community. [Lake County Community Development Corporation](#), [The Lake County Job Service](#), and [The Polson Chamber](#) want to ensure businesses succeed and are available to assist with workforce development, labor market statistics, employee recruitment, grants, business development, and local connections and support.



¹Missoulian online

²Tax Foundation

³Montana Policy Institute Report

⁴Valley Journal online

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau

⁶Research & Analysis Bureau, Montana Department. of Labor and Industry

TOP 15 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN LAKE COUNTY⁷ (based on employee size):

250 to 499

ST Luke Community Hospital

100 to 249

Mission Mountain Enterprises

New Jore Corporation

ST Joseph Hospital

Super "1" Foods

Walmart Associates

50 to 99

Ashley Martin Manufacturing

Community Bank, INC

Coryell Enterprises LTD

Mission Valley Power

Safeway

Western Bee Supplies

20 to 49

Black Mountain Software, INC

Home Caregivers, INC

⁷Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry