## Montana Indian Reservations



## Fort Belknap Indian Reservation



## Population Report

|  | Male | Female | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Tribal Enrollment | 2,556 | 2,676 | 5,232 |
| total Resident Population | 1,978 | 1,831 | 3,809 |
| Resident Working Age | 1,127 | 1,020 | 2,147 |
| Population - by Years |  |  |  |
| Age 16-64 | 974 | 918 | 1,892 |
| Age 25-34 | not defined | not defined |  |
| Age 35-44 | not defined | not defined |  |
| Age 45-64 | not defined | not defined |  |
| Age 65-Above | 79 | 78 | 157 |
| Not in Labor Force | 246 | 142 | 388 |
| Potential Labor Force | 981 | 878 | 1,859 |
| Total Employed | 294 | 275 | 569 |
| Total Unemployed | 687 | 603 | 1,290 |
| RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT | 69.39\% |  |  |
| Source: BIA Labor Force Report - September 1996 (Gros Ventre \& Assiniboine Enrolled Members only) |  |  |  |

## Unemployment Rate

|  | 1992 | 1993 | 1995 | 1996 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fort Belknap | 54.00\% | 65.00\% | 65.50\% | 69.39\% |
| Blaine County | 11.00\% | 10.40\% | 10.80\% | 9.40\% |
| Phillips County | 7.70\% | 6.10\% | 6.60\% | 6.00\% |
| State of Montana | 8.30\% | 8.10\% | 6.60\% | 5.10\% |
| National Rate | 6.10\% | 7.10\% | 5.60\% | 5.38\% |
| Source: Employment \& Earnings, U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics |  |  |  |  |

## Average Family Income

Blaine County
Phillips County
Fort Belknap
\$21,347.00
\$26,862.00
\$14,583.00

Average Family Income


## Business Entrepreneurship Option

## 94 credits

The Business Entrepreneurship option is designed to provide graduates with the skills necessary for starting and operating new business, needed technical and communication skills are emphasized.

Entrepreneurship Core Curriculum
BU 100 Introduction to Business
BU 105 Entrepreneurship I
BU 201* Accounting I 5
BU 205* Entrepreneurship II 5
BU 250* Business Law 5
BU 280* Cooperative Education or 3
BU 292* Field Experience 3
CSC 125* Spreadsheet Applications 3
CSC 140* Word Processing 4
ECON 205* Microeconomics 5

Select 8 credits from these required electives
BU 130*
Income Taxes2

BU 133* International Business 2
BU 135* Salespersonship 2
BU 137* Spreadsheet \& Word processing for Entrepreneurs 2
BU 210* Computerized Accounting 2
BU 230* Marketing Principles 2
BU 233* Finance Principles 2
BU 235* Management Principles 2
BU 237* Mgmt Information Sys for
Entrepreneurs
2

# CLASS PARTICIPATION 

## Summer 1996-Spring 1997

| Age | Female |  | Male |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 18-25 | 9 | 8\% | 3 | 6\% | 12 | 7\% |
| 26-40 | 38 | 32\% | 16 | 34\% | 54 | 33\% |
| 41+ | 71 | 60\% | 29 | 60\% | 100 | 60\% |
|  | 118 | 100\% | 48 | 100\% | 166 | 100\% |

## SMALL BUSINESS CENTER SURVEY

1997

In an effort to see what types of businesses could be successful on Fort Belknap, the Small Business Center requests your assistance in filling out the following survey;

1 What types of businesses do you think are needed on Fort Belknap?
92 Applicants polled produced the following answers;

| Question \# 1 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Business |  | Answers |  | Percentage |
| Bar - Liquor | 2 | $1 \%$ |  |  |
| Office Supplies | 5 | $2 \%$ |  |  |
| Convenience Store | 6 | $2 \%$ |  |  |
| Manufacturing | 6 | $2 \%$ |  |  |
| Hotel - Motel | 13 | $5 \%$ |  |  |
| Wholesale Goods | 18 | $6 \%$ |  |  |
| Restaurant | 23 | $8 \%$ |  |  |
| Auto-Garage | 33 | $12 \%$ |  |  |
| Retail - Goods | 35 | $13 \%$ |  |  |
| Retail - Grocery | 36 | $13 \%$ |  |  |
| Service - Other | 47 | $17 \%$ |  |  |
| Laundry - Clothing | 53 | $19 \%$ |  |  |



2 What types of businesses do you think could be successful in the following communities:

LodgePole:

| Question \# 2 <br> LodgeP <br> Business |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Answers |  | Percentage |
| Convenience Store | 11 | $20 \%$ |
| Retail - Grocery | 1 | $2 \%$ |
| Retail - Goods | 3 | $5 \%$ |
| Auto-Garage | 3 | $5 \%$ |
| Restaurant | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Bar - Liquor | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Hotel - Motel | 4 | $7 \%$ |
| Laundry - Clothing | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Service - Other | 11 | $20 \%$ |
| Office Supplies | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Wholesale Goods | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Manufacturing | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Tourism - Attractions | 17 | $30 \%$ |

LodgePole Businesses


QConvenience Store
-Retail - Grocery

- Retail - Goods
-Auto-Garage
- Restaurant
-Bar - Liquor
- Hotel - Motel

LLaundry - Clothing

- Service - Other
- Office Supplies
-Wholesale Goods
$\square$ Manufacturing
- Tourism - Attractions

Hays:

| Question \# 2 Hays |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Business | Answers | Percentage |
| Auto-Garage | 20 | $36 \%$ |
| Retail - Grocery | 8 | $14 \%$ |
| Service - Other | 1 | $2 \%$ |
| Office Supplies | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Hotel - Motel | 3 | $5 \%$ |
| Wholesale Goods | 1 | $2 \%$ |
| Laundry - Clothing | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Convenience Store | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Manufacturing | 8 | $14 \%$ |
| Restaurant | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Bar - Liquor | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Retail - Goods | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Tourism - Attractions | 14 | $25 \%$ |

Hays Businesses


\author{

- Auto-Garage <br> -Retail - Grocery <br> - Service - Other <br> $\square$ Office Supplies <br> - Hotel - Motel <br> Wholesale Goods <br> Laundry - Clothing <br> $\square$ Convenience Store <br> - Manufacturing <br> -Restaurant <br> -Bar - Liquor <br> -Retail - Goods <br> Tourism - Attractions
}

Agency:

| Question \# 2 <br> Agency |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Business | Answers | Percentage |
| Auto-Garage | 14 | $25 \%$ |
| Retail - Grocery | 10 | $18 \%$ |
| Service - Other | 8 | $14 \%$ |
| Office Supplies | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Hotel - Motel | 6 | $11 \%$ |
| Wholesale Goods | 1 | $2 \%$ |
| Laundry - Clothing | 3 | $5 \%$ |
| Convenience Store | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Manufacturing | 7 | $13 \%$ |
| Restaurant | 2 | $4 \%$ |
| Bar - Liquor | 7 | $13 \%$ |
| Retail - Goods | 3 | $5 \%$ |
| Tourism - Attractions | 6 | $11 \%$ |

Agency Businesses


- Auto-Garage

Retail - Grocery

- Service - Other
-Office Supplies
- Hotel - Motel

Wholesale Goods

- Laundry - Clothing
- Convenience Store

Manufacturing
-Restaurant
-Bar - Liquor
-Retail - Goods
Tourism - Attractions

## 3. Would you be willing to support these businesses?

## 4. Why or Why not?

All respondents answered yes to this question with only one not responding. The following represents their answers;

|  | V17y |
| :---: | :---: |
| Yes | Prices seem to get very high with small businesses |
| Yes | Move convenient than traveling to Harlem or Malta |
|  | I believe small businesses treats people better, they know you as a person and not as an account. |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | I like to see Indian people make it. |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | Better than going to Harlem |
| Yes | the miles add up when you have to |
| Yes | for instance the meat processing would probably produce a big profit. Especially the wild game aspect, people in cities outside of Montana are really into these types of meats. |
| Yes | It would save traveling and would be convenient |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | Traveling to Havre takes extra gas money and puts more miles on your car |
| Yes | Local business improves local economies |
| Yes | Because of convenience |
| Yes | Because we need to put money into our communities instead of others |
| Yes | because they are closer |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | Drive all the way to Havre to wash and vacuum my car and get groceries |
| Yes | Because it would support independence and provide income to tribal members. |
| Yes | Friends, family or myself would take advantage of the services |
| Yes | To build up our tribe |
| Yes | Particularly if they were owned and operated by Native Americans. |
| Yes | Community economics |
| Yes | so the businesses will be more successful |
| Yes | Local tribally owned we need to become more self sufficient |
| Yes | for close shopping we travel 35 to 70 miles for good cheap products |
| Yes | good friends good whiskey and good loving |
|  | If it's Indian owned and Indian managed |
| Yes | We have to travel a long way to shop, eat at restaurants, movies |
| Yes | shopping locally would be more convenient |
| Yes | close travel not required |
| Yes | I would buy local |
|  | need a variety of places to shop and eat |
| Yes | to help make money and if the help is friendly and courteous |
| Yes | many people don't have water or wash machines |
| Yes | because of travel |


|  | because I believe fort Belknap should not depend on the government |
| :---: | :---: |
| Yes | I believe in supporting Indian owned businesses |
| Yes | close to home, support and boost local economy |
| Yes | Unemployment far too high, people remain dependent self-esteem low, substance abuse other abuses epidemic. People need to feel good about who they are |
| Yes | save me a lot of time, as to go to Lodgepole for my needs |
| Yes | Definitely |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | have taco sales etc |
| Yes | Because all of above listed are very needed stores or businesses |
| Yes | It would be closer than going to Havre |
| Yes |  |
|  | I would support because our reservation needs all these businesses for sparse locations in between towns |
| Yes | Because we need more businesses supporting the reservation. why go to billings, great falls or even Hariem when you could get it here. |
| Yes | Everyone would need to answer a survey to find out if enough would use or is everyone set up a washer dryer |
| Yes |  |
| Yes | Patronage to keep going |
| Yes | Then 1 would not have to drive to Havre |
| Yes | So I wouldn't have to travel so far |
| Yes | There would be less trouble if there was somewhere to go |
| Yes | Too far to travel to town |
| Yes | Because my washer is broken |
| Yes | I am getting tired of traveling to Havre to shop |
| Yes | If the prices were competitive to Harlem |
| Yes | Depending on the business proposal |
| Yes | Because I think this would work here it's needed |
| Yes | Because we need many services on the reservation for people who cannot get anywhere to everyday chores |
| Yes | We would be helping our own people |
| Yes | l'd rather spend my money on the rez |
| Yes | I would attempt, prices seem to get very high w/small businesses |
|  | I live in Havre, but spend a lot of time on Fort Beiknap and would shop here if there was something available I needed. |
|  | it would save money and time to be able to shop here. In addition, if we can sustain ourselves as a community, we benefit, and more importantly our children will have a future |
| Yes | to keep the businesses open |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
| Yes |  |
|  | If we're to stand as a nation we need to change our paradign and start being a community |
| Yes, | Creates employment business is local |


5. Would you be willing to encourage others, who are not from Fort Belknap, to be supportive of our businesses?

91 of those polled responded yes and two had no response.
6. Where do you do most of your shopping?

| Question |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 6 |  |  |
| City | Answer | Percentage |
| Harlem | 36 | $39 \%$ |
| Chinook | 2 | $2 \%$ |
| Havre | 50 | $54 \%$ |
| Malta | 2 | $2 \%$ |
| Great Falls | 0 | $0 \%$ |
| Billings | 2 | $2 \%$ |

City Most Shopped

7. How many times a month do you travel to the following places? And what are the main items you shop for?

| City | Times per <br> Month | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Harlem | 1,175 | $62 \%$ |
| Chinook | 147 | $8 \%$ |
| Havre | 384 | $20 \%$ |
| Malta | 64 | $3 \%$ |
| Great Falls | 56 | $3 \%$ |
| Billings | 63 | $3 \%$ |

8. If these items were available on Fort Belknap, would you purchase them here, or would you continue to travel the distance to shop?

Most polled stated that they do most of their small shopping (less than \$100) in stores closest to where they live. However, many indicated that they do their major purchases in cities that offer lower value and better quality goods. All indicated that if local stores/businesses could offer similar quality and value they would rather prefer to shop locally than have to spend the extra time traveling.

## Businesses on Fort Belknap




