

3 REASONS TO LOVE YOUR REGION

REGION 8

Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Region 8 has a healthy small business economy. It had four of the top five states in the country with the highest share of employment by small firms in 2012: Montana (68%), Wyoming (62%), South Dakota (59%), and North Dakota (59%). The region had the highest percent increase in real GDP in the country (4.5%) in 2012-2013. And two states, North Dakota and Utah, had some of the highest private sector employment growth rates in the country in 2013-2014 (5.8% and 3.7% respectively).



FUN FACT!

Region 8 is a great place for crafty entrepreneurs. Colorado ranks fourth in the nation in breweries per capita (CNN.com), and USA Today ranked Colorado third in the country for its 130 craft breweries.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Region 8 stands tall in entrepreneurial spirit. The Kauffman Foundation ranked Montana first in entrepreneurial activity in 2013, and the state led the nation in self-employment (13.6%). South and North Dakota are also self-employment standouts at 13.1% and 11.8% respectively.

Sources: (1) SBA Office of Advocacy, Small Business Profiles (2) CNN.com, USA Today; (3) Kauffman Foundation.

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