

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

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Montana's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.5 Percent

HELENA – Montana's unemployment situation continued to improve, with the unemployment rate falling by 0.1 percentage points over the month for a rate of 4.5 percent in June. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped by 0.2 percentage points to 6.1 percent.

"Montana's economy continued its steady growth last month, rounding out the first half of the year with more strong job creation," Governor Steve Bullock said. "Our state is consistently recognized for its great business tax climate, well trained workforce, and support of entrepreneurs and small businesses, and our unemployment rate is a strong sign of the great things happening in Montana."

"Montana's unemployment rate is well below the national average and continues to fall as more and more Montanans gain jobs," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "We anticipate the positive trends will continue throughout the year, with further job gains and wage increases."

Total employment, which includes payroll employment plus agricultural and self-employed workers, added 819 jobs in June, continuing the strong job growth in 2014. Montana has added over 11,000 jobs since the beginning of the year. The labor force increased slightly by 222 workers over the month. Payroll employment estimates indicate larger job gains of 1,800 jobs over the month, with most private industries adding jobs.

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*** Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level.*

All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.

The next Labor Situation Report will be released on Monday, August 18, 2014. Inflation figures, which are typically included in the monthly Labor Situation Report, will not be published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics until July 22.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******



Visit our website at www.lmi.mt.gov for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. **This month's Economy at a Glance article examines the causes of wage growth in Montana.** County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the

unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **4.6** percent. County labor force information can be found by using this link:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=205>.

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