

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



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LT. GOVERNOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montana's Unemployment Rate Down to 4.4 Percent**

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate continued its decline in January, down 0.1 percentage points to 4.4 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.7 percent in January.

"Montana started 2015 with strong job growth, with the economy adding over 3,000 jobs in January," Governor Steve Bullock said. "With strong wage growth last year, and low inflation because of falling fuel prices, more Montanans are employed and have more money in their pockets."

"Montana's economy continues to add good-paying jobs," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "We must continue our efforts to train workers with the skills needed by businesses in order to continue job growth in today's low unemployment environment."

Montana's total employment levels increased by 3,230 jobs in January. Total employment estimates include payroll employment, plus agricultural and self-employed workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a gain of 300 jobs over the month.

Every February, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recalculate the employment estimates for past years in a process called benchmarking. The benchmarking process makes employment estimates more accurate, in addition to smoothing the data series and calibrating the data to new population estimates. This year's benchmark process also included an update to a new model to estimate unemployment rates. Users of labor market information should update their files to reflect the revised estimates to be consistent with the new benchmark data.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) fell sharply for the third straight month in January, declining by 0.7 percent because of a drop in energy prices. The gasoline index fell by 18.7 percent in January. The January price decline erased all price increases from 2014, with the index

decreasing 0.1 percent since January 2014, which marks the first over-the-year deflation since 2009. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, rose 0.2 percent in January.

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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 0.5 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 for the month of February 2015 will be released on Friday, March 27, 2015.**

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



Visit our website at [www.lmi.mt.gov](http://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 considers who has benefited from Montana's strong wage growth by examining the distribution of wages paid to Montana workers.**

**\*\*\*\*\* COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES \*\*\*\*\***

The unemployment rate and ranking for each of Montana's 56 counties is provided below for your convenience. County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **5.3** percent.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Fallon County	2.0	-0.2	2,082	112
2	McCone County	2.6	0.5	1,081	56
2	Richland County	2.6	-0.1	7,401	329
4	Wibaux County	2.9	0.8	561	43
5	Dawson County	3.1	-0.1	4,823	176
6	Powder River County	3.2	1.1	1,003	61
7	Daniels County	3.3	0.5	914	8
7	Liberty County	3.3	0.7	953	59

9	Chouteau County	3.4	0.1	2,474	77
10	Gallatin County	3.6	0.5	55,584	2,361
11	Sheridan County	3.7	0.2	2,031	-4
11	Toole County	3.7	0.1	2,269	23
13	Garfield County	3.8	-0.3	718	26
14	Yellowstone County	4.0	0.6	78,242	2,852
15	Sweet Grass County	4.1	0.2	1,695	61
15	Valley County	4.1	0.1	4,308	221
17	Custer County	4.3	-0.1	6,301	-46
18	Lewis and Clark County	4.4	0.3	34,148	421
19	Carbon County	4.5	0.3	5,291	206
19	Musselshell County	4.5	0.7	2,354	62
21	Beaverhead County	4.6	0.0	4,597	32
21	Carter County	4.6	0.2	636	27
21	Meagher County	4.6	1.3	927	39
21	Stillwater County	4.6	-0.1	4,853	48
25	Madison County	4.7	1.0	4,517	78
26	Teton County	4.8	0.2	2,786	110
27	Deer Lodge County	4.9	0.9	5,104	127
28	Prairie County	5.0	0.5	497	12
29	Cascade County	5.1	0.5	36,495	-107
29	Missoula County	5.1	0.9	57,763	2,058
31	Pondera County	5.3	0.7	2,740	69
32	Hill County	5.4	2.3	7,337	27
32	Jefferson County	5.4	0.6	5,430	90
32	Treasure County	5.4	-0.4	332	7
35	Silver Bow County	5.5	0.5	16,240	10
36	Judith Basin County	5.6	-0.1	910	29
37	Roosevelt County	5.9	0.5	4,560	-37
38	Golden Valley County	6.1	0.3	386	19
38	Petroleum County	6.1	0.4	290	18
38	Powell County	6.1	0.9	2,731	27
41	Fergus County	6.2	0.2	5,444	52
42	Park County	6.4	0.9	7,372	127
43	Broadwater County	6.6	1.1	2,360	33
43	Lake County	6.6	1.1	11,666	185
43	Rosebud County	6.6	0.8	3,810	10
46	Wheatland County	7.0	-0.1	729	16
47	Blaine County	7.2	0.1	2,232	11
48	Ravalli County	7.3	1.2	17,659	419
49	Granite County	7.5	1.8	1,512	142
50	Phillips County	7.6	0.0	1,860	43
51	Flathead County	7.8	1.1	40,198	414
52	Big Horn County	8.9	5.4	5,040	185
53	Sanders County	11.2	2.4	4,156	118
54	Mineral County	11.3	0.9	1,551	13
55	Glacier County	12.5	0.5	4,863	-287

56	Lincoln County	13.0	3.0	6,928	134
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