

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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Montana's Unemployment Rate Continues Down to 4.3 Percent

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate continued its decline in February, down 0.1 percentage points to 4.3 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 5.5 percent in February.

"With strong job creation in the first two months of this year, Montana's economy continues the growth we saw throughout last year," Governor Steve Bullock said. "I'm committed to building on our economic strength to ensure all Montana communities feel the benefits of our growing economy."

"Job creation in the state continues to be good news for Montana," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "Two years ago, our focus was to find jobs for workers. With our strong economy, our task is now to find workers for jobs."

Montana's total employment levels increased by 2,921 jobs in February. Over-the-year employment growth of roughly 7,700 jobs indicates strong job growth of 1.6 percent. Total employment estimates include payroll employment, plus agricultural and self-employed workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a gain of 2,000 jobs over the month.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in February with stabilization in energy prices after several months of sharp decline for gasoline prices. The CPI-U is at the same level as February 2014, indicating no inflation over the past year. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, rose 0.2 percent in February.

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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 March 2015 will be released on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

***** 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.

***** 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 **5.8 percent**.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Fallon County	2.1	-0.1	2,113	111
2	Liberty County	2.6	1.3	968	75
2	Powder River County	2.6	1.5	1,017	61
2	Richland County	2.6	0.0	7,428	343
5	Wibaux County	2.7	0.7	549	45
6	Daniels County	2.8	0.3	924	10
6	Dawson County	2.8	0.1	4,897	217
6	Garfield County	2.8	0.5	727	43
6	McCone County	2.8	0.0	1,096	69
10	Chouteau County	3	0.6	2,505	92
11	Gallatin County	3.3	0.7	55,654	2,135
12	Meagher County	3.4	2.3	945	44
13	Sheridan County	3.5	-0.1	2,037	9
13	Sweet Grass County	3.5	0.7	1,725	68
15	Yellowstone County	3.6	0.8	78,178	2,383
16	Carbon County	3.8	0.9	5,298	191
16	Valley County	3.8	0.1	4,275	211
18	Custer County	3.9	0.0	6,333	-61
18	Toole County	3.9	-0.1	2,252	1

20	Lewis & Clark County	4	0.6	34,188	328
21	Stillwater County	4.1	0.3	4,855	44
22	Beaverhead County	4.2	0.3	4,636	75
22	Carter County	4.2	0.3	641	26
22	Musselshell County	4.2	0.8	2,354	49
25	Madison County	4.3	1.1	4,518	80
25	Teton County	4.3	0.4	2,803	121
27	Jefferson County	4.5	1.3	5,441	85
28	Cascade County	4.6	0.7	36,320	-224
28	Missoula County	4.6	1.1	59,100	2,190
30	Hill County	4.7	2.2	7,413	15
30	Judith Basin County	4.7	0.4	921	54
30	Prairie County	4.7	0.3	504	24
33	Deer Lodge County	4.8	0.9	5,067	96
34	Silver Bow County	5.0	1.0	16,210	13
35	Golden Valley County	5.1	0.6	387	20
36	Pondera County	5.3	0.4	2,757	110
37	Treasure County	5.4	-0.6	334	20
38	Broadwater County	5.8	1.7	2,380	25
38	Powell County	5.8	1.1	2,740	22
40	Fergus County	5.9	-0.4	5,438	59
40	Park County	5.9	1.1	7,351	155
40	Roosevelt County	5.9	0.2	4,576	-3
43	Lake County	6.0	1.5	11,704	126
44	Wheatland County	6.1	1.7	738	31
45	Rosebud County	6.2	0.9	3,827	-5
46	Blaine County	6.5	0.3	2,270	28
46	Ravalli County	6.5	1.7	17,804	444
48	Petroleum County	6.7	-1.5	292	21
49	Phillips County	7.0	0.3	1,876	61
50	Granite County	7.3	1.5	1,543	129
51	Flathead County	7.5	0.9	40,286	338
52	Big Horn County	8.7	4.3	5,027	175
53	Mineral County	10.2	0.8	1,558	2
54	Sanders County	11.1	1.4	4,174	97
55	Glacier County	11.6	-0.2	4,853	-313
56	Lincoln County	13.6	1.3	6,927	149

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