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Montana's Unemployment Rate at 4.5%

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate again dropped slightly in October, down 0.1 percentage points to 4.5%. The unemployment rate has decreased by 0.8 percentage points since January. The U.S. unemployment rate also decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.8%.

"As we head into the holiday season, Montana's unemployment rate continues to decline and our economy continues to grow," Governor Steve Bullock said. "The historic job growth we've seen since January should give Montana businesses and retailers confidence as we head to the end of the year."

"Montana's economy has posted strong gains this year for Montana's working families," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "The Department of Labor and Industry looks forward to continuing our efforts to improve the skills of the Montana workforce, ensuring that our economy will continue to out-perform in future years."

Total employment estimates suggested job growth of 580 jobs over the last month, with 12,145 jobs added over the past year. Total employment estimates include payroll employment plus agricultural and self-employed workers. The labor force increased by 56 workers in October, while the number of unemployed declined by 525 workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a small employment decline of 400 jobs. Payroll employment has added roughly 7,000 jobs over the past year.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 0.1% in September. Increases in food and shelter prices outweighed declines in the energy index. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent in September.

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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 Friday, December 19, 2014.

******* 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 reviews the employment of teenage workers in Montana.** County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **3.8** percent. County labor force information is on the website at www.lmi.mt.gov.

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