

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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Montana's Unemployment Rate at 4.3%

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate dropped again in November, down 0.2 percentage points to 4.3%. The unemployment rate has decreased by a full percentage point since January. The U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month at 5.8%.

"Montana's unemployment rate has declined by a full percentage point this year, a sign of our state's undeniable economic strength," Governor Steve Bullock said. "I'm committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that all Montana families enjoy the benefits of our growing economy."

"Montana's economic growth has been solid this year, and we anticipate a strong holiday season for our state's retail and tourism businesses with more consumer dollars in the economy," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "Heading into 2015, we expect this economic growth to continue, and we continue to expand training opportunities to ensure businesses have access to a skilled workforce to fill high-demand jobs."

Montana's total employment levels increased by 475 jobs over the last month, with 12,328 jobs added since last November. These preliminary numbers indicate strong job growth of 2.5% in 2014, much higher than the average historical growth rate of about 1% annually going back to 1976. Total employment estimates include payroll employment plus agricultural and self-employed workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a gain of 1,000 jobs over the month, with gains in the trade, transportation, health care, and leisure activities industries.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) fell in November following a month of no change in October. Declines in gasoline and energy prices offset price increases in other goods in both months. The November decline in gas prices was the sharpest decline in gasoline since December 2008. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, increased 0.2 percent in October and 0.1 in November.

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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 Tuesday, January 27, 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. **How long do businesses in Montana stay open? Find out in this month's Economy at a Glance article.**

***** 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 **4.2** percent.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Fallon County	1.4	-0.4	2,094	38
2	Richland County	1.6	-0.6	7,604	501
3	Dawson County	2.2	-0.9	4,486	100
3	Sheridan County	2.2	-0.7	2,020	29
3	Sweet Grass County	2.2	-0.4	2,335	-26
3	Wibaux County	2.2	-0.9	522	-5
7	McCone County	2.5	0.3	995	-50
7	Valley County	2.5	-1.1	3,931	47
9	Garfield County	2.7	-0.5	533	-64
9	Powder River County	2.7	-0.5	900	-144
11	Carter County	2.9	-0.2	644	25
11	Chouteau County	2.9	-0.5	2,327	-124
11	Toole County	2.9	-0.7	2,348	72
11	Wheatland County	2.9	-1.3	948	-107
15	Beaverhead County	3.0	-0.8	4,785	-213
15	Judith Basin County	3.0	-0.7	1,049	-79
17	Custer County	3.1	0.2	6,319	17
17	Yellowstone County	3.1	-0.7	83,753	2,735
19	Lewis and Clark County	3.3	-0.8	33,954	1,311
19	Musselshell County	3.3	-0.9	2,367	13
19	Prairie County	3.3	-0.7	497	-54
22	Carbon County	3.4	-1.6	5,271	172
23	Liberty County	3.5	-1.0	653	-82
23	Teton County	3.5	-0.2	2,756	-131
25	Gallatin County	3.7	-0.9	53,076	3,068
25	Jefferson County	3.7	-1.6	5,653	219

25	Missoula County	3.7	-1.1	60,320	2,160
25	Stillwater County	3.7	-0.4	4,507	45
29	Cascade County	3.8	-0.6	40,044	484
30	Phillips County	4.0	-0.2	1,850	-190
31	Silver Bow County	4.1	-1.0	16,974	170
32	Blaine County	4.3	-0.9	2,518	-62
32	Daniels County	4.3	-0.3	728	18
32	Fergus County	4.3	-0.2	5,513	-81
32	Golden Valley County	4.3	0.6	463	-34
32	Madison County	4.3	-1.8	3,470	58
37	Hill County	4.4	-2.4	7,746	51
38	Meagher County	4.5	-0.5	770	-143
39	Pondera County	4.7	-0.7	2,271	-134
39	Treasure County	4.7	0.9	304	-125
41	Roosevelt County	4.8	-0.9	4,234	147
42	Broadwater County	5.1	-2.1	2,168	-46
42	Powell County	5.1	-1.9	2,618	88
44	Rosebud County	5.3	-1.6	3,534	-11
45	Deer Lodge County	5.4	-1.3	3,837	141
46	Petroleum County	5.5	0.0	208	-16
47	Ravalli County	5.7	-1.3	16,942	88
48	Flathead County	5.8	-1.7	41,524	1,574
48	Lake County	5.8	-1.9	10,267	-27
48	Park County	5.8	-0.9	7,936	67
51	Mineral County	7.4	-2.3	1,773	57
52	Granite County	8.1	-1.3	1,070	-54
53	Big Horn County	8.3	-5.4	4,713	84
54	Sanders County	9.7	-2.7	3,525	-32
55	Lincoln County	10.6	-3.8	6,536	195
56	Glacier County	10.8	-0.5	4,988	8

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