



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana's Unemployment Rate at 3.9% in May

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate increased slightly in May, moving up 0.1 percentage points to 3.9%. The U.S. unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.3%. This convergence of the national and state rates is expected with the tightening labor market.

“Montana's economy continues to be one of the nation's strongest, providing opportunities for people in the labor market,” said Commissioner of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry Pam Bucy. **“This is a benefit for workers looking to earn higher wages or improve their employment skills.”**

Both the payroll employment estimates and the total employment estimates (which includes payroll workers, the self-employed, and agricultural workers) posted employment decreases from April to May of 600 jobs and 670 jobs respectively. The retail industry posted the highest number of job losses. However, overall payroll employment remains strong, with 7,400 more jobs than May 2016.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 0.1% in May. The main contributor to the decline was a decrease in the energy index. Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U has increased by 1.9%. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, posted a gain of 0.1% in May.

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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 June 2017 will be released on Friday, July 21, 2017.

***** 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 wage rates by occupation. This month's Economy at a Glance discusses the importance of Montana's 55-and-over labor force.

***** 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 **3.6%**.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Daniels County	1.8	-0.5	958	-13
1	McCone County	1.8	0.5	1,027	-73
1	Powder River County	1.8	0	1,066	-63
4	Carter County	2.0	-0.6	703	-13
5	Garfield County	2.3	0.5	778	-39
5	Sheridan County	2.3	-0.4	1,890	-108
5	Sweet Grass County	2.3	0.1	1,747	-67
8	Liberty County	2.4	-0.4	991	-47
9	Chouteau County	2.5	-0.6	2,545	-46
10	Custer County	2.6	-0.3	6,081	-196
10	Fallon County	2.6	-0.8	1,719	-138
12	Beaverhead County	2.7	-0.3	5,028	-1
13	Deer Lodge County	2.8	-0.2	5,220	77
13	Judith Basin County	2.8	0.2	933	-36
13	Toole County	2.8	-0.3	2,193	-39
13	Valley County	2.8	-0.4	4,317	-44
17	Gallatin County	2.9	0	61,309	1,761
17	Lewis and Clark	2.9	0.1	34,184	15
17	Wheatland County	2.9	-1.4	807	-20

17	Yellowstone County	2.9	-0.2	79,169	-224
21	Fergus County	3.0	-0.3	5,717	-9
21	Petroleum County	3.0	-1.2	262	-14
23	Missoula County	3.1	-0.2	59,776	-58
23	Pondera County	3.1	-0.5	2,835	-107
25	Cascade County	3.2	-0.3	36,567	-326
25	Hill County	3.2	-0.6	7,638	-22
25	Wibaux County	3.2	-0.5	513	-33
28	Carbon County	3.3	-0.4	5,292	-61
28	Stillwater County	3.3	-0.1	4,642	-112
28	Teton County	3.3	0.6	2,774	-147
31	Blaine County	3.4	-1	2,326	-65
31	Treasure County	3.4	-0.9	345	-29
33	Dawson County	3.5	-0.2	4,386	-198
33	Park County	3.5	-0.6	8,131	-31
33	Phillips County	3.5	-1.2	1,831	-120
36	Lake County	3.6	-0.3	12,909	184
36	Musselshell County	3.6	-1.1	2,184	-59
36	Silver Bow County	3.6	-0.2	16,547	-138
39	Golden Valley	3.9	-0.6	369	-10
39	Jefferson County	3.9	-0.2	5,416	-20
39	Madison County	3.9	-0.2	3,615	15
42	Broadwater County	4.0	-1.3	2,434	-41
42	Powell County	4.0	-0.6	2,775	-42
42	Rosebud County	4.0	-0.2	4,162	-133
45	Prairie County	4.1	0.7	521	2
45	Ravalli County	4.1	0.1	19,035	26
47	Meagher County	4.3	0.6	871	1
48	Richland County	4.4	-1	5,471	-604
48	Roosevelt County	4.4	-0.3	4,407	-178
50	Flathead County	4.8	-0.1	43,645	288
51	Granite County	5.5	0	1,481	-80
52	Mineral County	6.2	-0.2	1,579	-43
52	Sanders County	6.2	-0.3	4,381	-138
54	Glacier County	7.6	-0.5	5,180	-280
55	Lincoln County	8.0	0.6	7,370	-81
56	Big Horn County	12.4	4.9	5,245	-24

***** RESERVATION UNEMPLOYMENT RATES *****

The unemployment rate and ranking for each of Montana's seven reservations is provided below. Reservation unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **3.6%**. Reservation areas overlap

with county areas, meaning that unemployed individuals living on a reservation will be included in both the reservation and county totals.

Rank	Reservation	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Flathead	3.9	-0.3	12,590	138
2	Fort Peck	5.5	-0.4	3,991	-149
3	Fort Belknap	7.8	-2.6	765	-22
4	Rocky Boy's	9.7	-1.9	1,108	-8
5	Blackfeet	10.4	-0.7	3,685	-196
6	Northern Cheyenne	12.1	1.2	1,457	-32
7	Crow	18.2	6.9	2,627	-12

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