



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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(HELENA) --- MONTANA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONSTANT IN MAY

(HELENA) --- Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained steady in May at 7.3% despite modest job gains. The unemployment rate has decreased from 7.5% at the start of the year. The U.S. unemployment rate was also constant at 9.1% with small gains in job levels.

"The rate of job growth slowed slightly this month, but we remain on the track to recovery," says Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "The trend of private sector job growth that we have seen throughout the last year continues this month, with more than 1,100 private sector jobs added."

The estimate for the total number of Montanans who are working, including agricultural, payroll, and self-employed workers, increased by 1,088 jobs. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 500 over the month, with job losses in the public sector cancelling out some of the 1,100 private sector job gain.

The seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 0.2% in May, despite a decrease in the energy index. Gasoline prices decreased for the first time since last June. The index for all items less food and energy (also called core inflation) increased by 0.3%, the largest increase since July 2008.

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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 1.0 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 June 2011 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, July 22, 2011.

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

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121