



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director
TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520
FAX: (406)444-1394
e-mail: ckylerwest@mt.gov

P.O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MT
59624-1728

Barbara Wagner, Senior Economist
(406) 444-5474

September 16, 2011

(HELENA) --- Unemployment Rate 7.8% In August

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate increased by 0.1% up to 7.8% in August. The U.S. unemployment rate held steady at 9.1%.

"After job gains in the first half of 2011, Montana's economy slowed in the third quarter and shed some of the jobs added earlier in the year," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Montana's economic recovery continues, but job growth is slow and unsteady."

Total employment estimates that include payroll, self-employed and agricultural workers indicate a very small job loss of approximately 380 jobs. Payroll employment estimates indicate a job loss of 1,900 jobs. Payroll employment estimates are often more volatile than the total employment estimates.

The seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.4% in August, with broad-based price indexes in all goods. The CPI-U increased by 3.8% over the last year. The index for all items less food and energy (also called core inflation) increased by 0.2% for the third straight month.

###

**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 September 2011 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, October 21, 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.ourfactyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

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

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