



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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October 21, 2011

(HELENA) --- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN SLIGHTLY

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate decreased by 0.1% to 7.7% in September. The U.S. unemployment rate again held steady at 9.1%.

"After job gains in the first half of 2011, Montana's economy slowed in the third quarter," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "However, the job gains posted in September suggest that we are still on the recovery path. We look forward to stronger job gains in the coming months."

Total employment, which includes payroll, self-employed, and agricultural workers, posted job gains of about 900 in September. Payroll employment increased by 300 jobs, with a job gains of 700 in the private sector countering losses in the public sector. The private sector has posted fairly strong job growth throughout 2010 and 2011, but continued government job losses have prevented unemployment from declining.

The seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.3% in September, led by increases in the energy and food indexes. The CPI-U increased by 3.9% over the last year. The index for all items less food and energy (also called core inflation) increased by 0.1%, the smallest increase since March.

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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 October 2011 Labor Situation Report will be released on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

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

Questions about the Unemployment Rate? Find answers at:

<http://www.ourfactyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=296>

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactyourfuture.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