



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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**For Immediate Release:**

### **Unemployment Insurance Rate Schedule Remains Steady in 2012**

(Helena, MT) The Department of Labor and Industry announced today that the Unemployment Insurance Rate Schedule will remain unchanged in 2012. "Coupled with a slight improvement in the unemployment rate; this is an indicator that our economy has stabilized and is beginning to grow," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly.

Legislation initially passed in 1979 sets the Unemployment Insurance Rate Schedule for each calendar year. There are 11 schedules as provided by law and the rates are holding steady at schedule seven. The contribution rates in 2012 will average 2.32%; the same as 2011.

The rates have shifted among schedules more than 11 times since the law was passed, however seven of those shifts have been decreases and only four have been increases since 1985. During that same time period, the premiums were set using the minimum rate schedule for 10 consecutive years.

The Montana UI Trust Fund is one of the most solvent in the nation. Currently 28 states have depleted their states trust funds and have borrowed from the federal trust fund \$38.1 billion dollars to pay ongoing benefits. Montana does not anticipate having to borrow to pay benefits because of its sound trust fund reserves and rate structure.

A statutory formula is used to determine employer contribution rates each calendar year.

Individual employer rate information will be available in mid-December. For general information on UI rates, please visit: <http://uid.dli.mt.gov>.

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