

NEWS RELEASE
COMMISSIONER PAM BUCY
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.2 Percent in July

HELENA, MT – Montana's unemployment rate remained steady for the month of July at 4.2 percent. The national unemployment rate stayed at 4.9 percent for the month of July as well.

Total employment remained above 501,000 in July, while payroll employment dropped by 0.2% over the month. Employment data for the first quarter of 2016 recently released suggests payroll employment has grown by 1.8% over the last twelve months. This growth has been driven by the accommodation and food services, healthcare, and retail trade industries, which have all added over 1,400 jobs in the last year, offsetting employment losses in the mining industry. Montana has added over 7,700 jobs for the year ending in the first quarter of 2016.

"Montana continues to have low unemployment levels and strong job growth," said Montana Labor & Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy. **"Much of the recent growth in Montana's employment has stemmed from the more populated regions, and been driven by consumer-based industries."**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was unchanged in July. Over the last twelve months, the CPI-U rose 0.8 percent before seasonal adjustment. Increases in the price of transportation, shelter and medical care have been offset by decreases in energy prices. The energy index decreased over the month, led by a decrease of 4.7% in gasoline. Core inflation, measured by the all items less food and energy index, rose 0.1 percent over the month.

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*** Statewide 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 0.3 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 August 2016 will be released on Tuesday, September 20th.

***** 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 article summarizes the recently released employment projections from 2015-2025.

***** 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 3.9%.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	McCone County	1.7	-0.1	1,100	-36
2	Powder River County	2.0	-0.5	1,143	46
3	Daniels County	2.4	0.3	959	-34
3	Gallatin County	2.4	-0.1	63,509	1,818
3	Garfield County	2.4	0.3	803	2
6	Judith Basin County	2.7	-0.2	996	-15
7	Sheridan County	2.9	0.7	2,068	-22
8	Madison County	3.1	0.2	4,584	223
8	Sweet Grass County	3.1	0.7	1,878	14
10	Beaverhead County	3.2	0.2	5,046	-19
10	Carter County	3.2	-0.1	705	5
12	Fallon County	3.3	1.4	1,870	-94
12	Fergus County	3.3	0.1	5,626	-79
12	Park County	3.3	-0.4	8,767	74
12	Petroleum County	3.3	-0.6	290	-3
12	Prairie County	3.3	-0.3	529	-12
17	Carbon County	3.4	0.2	5,463	11
17	Golden Valley County	3.4	0.2	400	1

17	Lewis and Clark County	3.4	0.2	34,577	-72
17	Liberty County	3.4	1.1	1,024	21
17	Valley County	3.4	0.5	4,529	-21
22	Meagher County	3.5	0.6	942	-92
23	Missoula County	3.6	0.0	58,900	894
23	Teton County	3.6	0.0	2,831	-72
23	Toole County	3.6	0.3	2,254	-94
26	Custer County	3.7	0.6	6,114	-207
26	Stillwater County	3.7	0.5	4,736	-138
26	Yellowstone County	3.7	0.5	80,105	153
29	Chouteau County	3.8	1.0	2,515	-42
29	Deer Lodge County	3.8	0.3	5,145	-58
29	Treasure County	3.8	-0.8	358	6
32	Cascade County	3.9	0.1	37,048	-48
33	Dawson County	4.0	0.7	4,682	-26
34	Silver Bow County	4.2	0.2	16,562	-481
35	Jefferson County	4.3	0.7	5,508	-10
35	Wibaux County	4.3	1.1	531	-21
37	Musselshell County	4.4	0.4	2,307	-48
37	Ravalli County	4.4	-0.2	18,791	221
39	Blaine County	4.5	-0.1	2,286	-14
40	Broadwater County	4.6	0.2	2,503	46
40	Flathead County	4.6	0.1	45,787	164
40	Lake County	4.6	-0.1	12,793	119
40	Pondera County	4.6	-0.5	2,809	-29
44	Powell County	4.7	1.0	2,830	-148
44	Wheatland County	4.7	-0.7	787	-5
46	Richland County	4.8	1.7	6,365	-371
47	Hill County	4.9	0.4	7,443	-92
47	Phillips County	4.9	0.9	1,923	-45
49	Granite County	5.5	0.4	1,506	-51
50	Roosevelt County	6.2	1.0	4,414	-140
51	Rosebud County	6.3	0.7	3,799	-156
52	Mineral County	6.4	-0.3	1,613	-109
53	Sanders County	6.8	0.0	4,408	-59
54	Big Horn County	7.4	1.0	5,313	-8
55	Lincoln County	7.8	-0.7	7,311	-33
56	Glacier County	9.2	0.4	5,804	68

***** 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 **3.9%**. 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	4.9	-0.1	12,489	101
2	Fort Peck	7.5	1.2	4,023	-115
3	Fort Belknap	10.7	0.4	753	-5
4	Crow	11.2	1.5	2,663	-3
5	Blackfeet	12.6	0.4	4,098	42
6	Rocky Boy's	14.2	1.6	1,084	-15
7	Northern Cheyenne	14.4	1.6	1,382	-36