

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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Governor Bullock Announces Montana's Unemployment Rate Remains at Ideal Levels

MONTANA – Governor Steve Bullock today announced Montana's unemployment rate remained at 3.9% in July. The U.S. unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3% after a slight uptick last month.

"Montana is experiencing steady economic growth, benefitting businesses and workers alike," said Governor Bullock. **"More Montanans are at work than ever before in our state's history, wages are increasing, and manufacturing is growing at twice the national average. We're growing some of the best wheat in the world, producing cutting-edge optics technologies, making the best waders, fly-rods, and drift boats money can buy."**

Total employment increased by roughly 5,200 jobs in July on an unadjusted basis. However, that level of hiring is expected during July, leaving the seasonally adjusted total employment level roughly even from last month. Total employment includes the self-employed, agricultural workers, and payroll employment. Payroll employment estimates indicate a loss of 700 jobs over the month, but an increase of 5,200 jobs since July 2016. The payroll job losses were primarily in the healthcare industry, where employment growth may have been affected by policy uncertainty at the federal level.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 0.1% in July. The energy index posted a small decline, while most other goods increased prices slightly. Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U has increased by 1.7%. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, increased 0.1% in July.

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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 0.5 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 2017 will be released on Friday, September 15, 2017.

***** 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 discusses forecasted job growth in Montana.

***** 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 3.5%.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Powder River	1.7	-0.5	1,080	-61
2	Daniels County	1.9	-0.3	965	-30
3	McCone County	2.1	0.5	1,050	-62
4	Gallatin County	2.2	-0.1	66,322	1,851
4	Sheridan County	2.2	-0.8	1,873	-33
6	Fallon County	2.4	-0.9	1,724	-111
7	Beaverhead County	2.5	-0.5	5,154	-9
7	Carter County	2.5	-0.5	706	-5
7	Liberty County	2.5	-0.7	994	-49
10	Sweet Grass County	2.6	-0.5	1,808	-43
10	Valley County	2.6	-0.7	4,512	-35
12	Custer County	2.8	-0.7	5,993	-183
13	Deer Lodge County	2.9	-0.8	5,332	6
13	Madison County	2.9	-0.2	4,555	-13
13	Park County	2.9	-0.3	8,838	38
13	Petroleum County	2.9	-0.6	266	-10
13	Toole County	2.9	-0.6	2,220	-20
18	Fergus County	3.0	-0.2	5,755	6
18	Garfield County	3.0	0.6	775	-33
18	Prairie County	3.0	-0.2	526	8
21	Carbon County	3.1	-0.3	5,362	-13
21	Chouteau County	3.1	-0.9	2,504	-59
21	Lewis and Clark	3.1	-0.1	34,984	-22
24	Dawson County	3.2	-0.8	4,363	-112
24	Missoula County	3.2	-0.3	58,991	66
24	Powell County	3.2	-1.4	2,797	-4

27	Golden Valley	3.3	0	376	-6
27	Judith Basin County	3.3	0.2	903	-37
27	Yellowstone County	3.3	-0.3	79,961	573
30	Teton County	3.4	-0.1	2,743	-97
30	Wibaux County	3.4	-0.8	511	-15
32	Cascade County	3.5	-0.4	36,379	50
32	Jefferson County	3.5	-0.6	5,547	-21
32	Stillwater County	3.5	-0.1	4,625	-122
32	Treasure County	3.5	-0.1	334	-17
32	Wheatland County	3.5	-1.3	791	-24
37	Meagher County	3.6	0.4	959	-4
37	Pondera County	3.6	-0.7	2,770	-81
39	Blaine County	3.7	-0.8	2,205	-90
39	Hill County	3.7	-0.9	7,515	-3
39	Musselshell County	3.7	-0.9	2,178	-47
39	Richland County	3.7	-1.2	5,570	-520
39	Silver Bow County	3.7	-0.2	16,984	-138
44	Broadwater County	3.8	-0.7	2,511	8
44	Lake County	3.8	-0.7	13,139	218
46	Flathead County	3.9	-0.5	46,840	411
46	Phillips County	3.9	-0.8	1,811	-101
46	Ravalli County	3.9	-0.3	18,956	-13
49	Granite County	4.7	-0.7	1,583	-4
50	Roosevelt County	5.1	-0.6	4,402	-207
50	Rosebud County	5.1	-0.8	3,802	-146
52	Sanders County	5.3	-1.3	4,401	-109
53	Mineral County	5.8	-0.4	1,633	-25
54	Lincoln County	6.8	-0.6	7,511	65
55	Glacier County	7.8	-1.3	5,421	-216
56	Big Horn County	11.8	4.6	5,264	76

******* 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 **3.5%**. 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	4.0	-0.8	12,792	173
2	Fort Peck	6.1	-0.9	4,006	-169
3	Fort Belknap	8.7	-1.8	726	-30
4	Blackfeet	10.8	-1.6	3,840	-151
5	Rocky Boy's	11.3	-2.6	1,090	-8
6	Northern Cheyenne	13.8	0.0	1,378	-25
7	Crow	17.4	6.4	2,638	36

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