

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Governor Bullock Announces Montana's Unemployment Rate Declines to
9.0% in May**

Montana posts third fastest payroll employment growth in the nation

MONTANA – Governor Steve Bullock today announced Montana's unemployment rate improved considerably in May due to strong job growth dropping 2.9 percentage points to 9.0%. In April, the Montana unemployment rate was at 11.9%. The Montana unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 13.3% in May.

“Due to our early action to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we've been able to continue with the phased reopening of our state, our economy is recovering, and thousands of Montanans have returned to work,” said Governor Bullock. **“As we keep working to fight the spread of the virus, we will keep working every single day to stimulate our economy and support Montana families and businesses through this time.”**

Montana posted the third fastest payroll employment growth among states in May with 4% over the month growth, and had the 7th lowest unemployment rate in the country. Private payroll employment also posted a record-breaking gain of 15,700 jobs over the month, with improvement across most private industries. Job losses in the local government sector kept overall payroll employment gains to 13,300 jobs. Total employment (including both payroll jobs and the self-employed) added 16,780 jobs over the month – the most jobs added in any single month since the data series began in 1976. Despite these large job gains, Montana's May employment estimate remains roughly 44,000 jobs below its pre-pandemic peak.

Since this employment data was captured in May, unemployment claims continue to drop, suggesting future employment data will continue to improve. Since the peak of unemployment claims during the week of April 18, nearly 29,000 Montanans have gone back to work to date

and are no longer making a claim. In addition, approximately 15,000 Montanans have gone back to work part time.

Prices once again declined in May, falling 0.1%, marking three months of decline in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Gasoline prices continued to fall, with prices for food and shelter increasing. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, fell by 0.1%.

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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 non-seasonal 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 & Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 406-444-4100.*

The next Labor Situation Report for the month of June will be released on Friday, July 17.

****** 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. Visit www.lmi.mt.gov/home/job-tracking for Montana unemployment claims and economic data for the current recession.

******* 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 **8.5%**.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Liberty	2.4	0.4	883	-26
2	Carter	2.8	-0.3	584	-19
3	Garfield	3.2	1.7	666	-53
4	McCone	3.5	2	858	-65
5	Daniels	3.6	2.2	813	-63
6	Powder River	3.8	2.2	876	-51
7	Petroleum	3.9	1.7	249	-15
8	Treasure	4.6	2.5	310	-14

9	Blaine	4.7	2.1	2,281	-159
9	Chouteau	4.7	2.5	2,246	-149
9	Sweet Grass	4.7	2.2	1,633	-101
12	Fallon	5.0	3.8	1,529	-156
13	Beaverhead	5.1	2.7	4,560	-375
13	Teton	5.1	2.6	2,492	-191
15	Valley	5.2	3	3,695	-312
16	Judith Basin	5.4	3.2	949	47
17	Fergus	5.7	3.6	5,288	-646
18	Hill	6.0	3.2	6,709	-724
18	Phillips	6.0	3.5	1,682	-113
20	Wibaux	6.2	3.8	408	-40
21	Sheridan	6.3	4.5	1,575	-132
22	Pondera	6.4	3.2	2,380	-230
23	Custer	6.5	4.4	5,445	-592
24	Meagher	6.6	3.6	812	-57
24	Powell	6.6	3.1	2,579	-291
24	Stillwater	6.6	4	4,878	-139
27	Deer Lodge	6.7	4.1	4,499	-409
28	Golden Valley	6.8	2.9	330	-19
29	Lewis and Clark	6.9	4.6	31,925	-3,045
30	Jefferson	7.1	4.7	5,062	-468
30	Toole	7.1	5	1,881	-187
32	Madison	7.4	4.8	4,003	-327
32	Prairie	7.4	4.2	423	-34
32	Ravalli	7.4	4.2	18,117	-1,562
35	Broadwater	7.6	4	2,282	-198
36	Musselshell	7.7	4.9	1,991	-181
36	Roosevelt	7.7	4.2	3,908	-487
36	Yellowstone	7.7	5.1	73,843	-5,829
39	Rosebud	7.9	3.9	3,463	-206
40	Cascade	8.0	5.2	34,938	-2,072
40	Lake	8.0	4.6	11,888	-996
42	Dawson	8.2	6.2	4,052	-455
43	Carbon	8.7	5.9	4,941	-361
44	Gallatin	8.9	6.7	61,730	-4,329
45	Silver Bow	9.0	6	14,963	-1,612
46	Big Horn	9.3	2.7	4,077	-430

46	Missoula	9.3	6.7	58,042	-4,505
48	Richland	9.5	7.2	5,044	-645
49	Glacier	9.8	3.7	4,833	-425
50	Wheatland	9.9	7.2	710	-46
51	Sanders	10.0	5.5	4,288	-371
52	Granite	11.0	6.2	1,437	-125
53	Flathead	11.9	8	42,303	-3,429
54	Park	12.6	9.7	8,065	-612
55	Lincoln	12.7	7.1	6,905	-738
55	Mineral	12.7	8.6	1,553	-174

******* 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 **8.5%**. 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	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Flathead	8.5	4.9	11,654	-975
2	Fort Peck	9.6	5.3	3,524	-421
3	Fort Belknap	11.3	5.4	747	-52
4	Blackfeet	13.7	5.1	3,416	-302
5	Crow	13.9	4.0	2,086	-214
6	Rocky Boy's	17.1	8.5	974	-93
7	Northern Cheyenne	18.1	7.9	1,184	-89