

**NEWS RELEASE**  
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK  
STATE OF MONTANA

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**Montana Jobs Continue Rapid Growth; Unemployment Rate Steady at 5.1 Percent in March**

HELENA – Montana's economy continued to post strong job growth in March, adding 2,431 jobs. The unemployment rate held steady over the month at 5.1% due to growth in the labor force as more and more Montanans enter the job market. The U.S. unemployment rate remained flat over the month at 6.7 percent.

"This year has brought strong job growth for Montana's workers and businesses, with 7,450 jobs added in the first quarter," Governor Steve Bullock said. "My administration works every day with both employees and employers to ensure vigorous growth job continues throughout 2014, and that work is paying off in the job market and in the economy as a whole"

"Stronger job growth has brought more workers into our labor force, which is a positive sign for our employers who are looking for workers," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "The Department of Labor and Industry will continue to work to get these workers into appropriate jobs as quickly as possible."

March posted sizable gains in both employment and the labor force. Total employment, which includes payroll employment plus agricultural and self-employed workers, added 2,431 jobs in March to bring the total first quarter job growth to 7,450. The labor force increased 2,450 workers, keeping the unemployment rate steady for the month. Payroll employment estimates signal smaller job growth of 300 jobs, with manufacturing and health care posting the largest job gains at 400 jobs each. Differences between payroll and total job growth estimates are not unusual.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in March with due to price increases in food and shelter. Energy prices receded with a fall in gasoline prices. Core inflation, measured by the all items less food and energy index, rose by 0.2 percent.

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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 0.8 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 will be released on Friday, May 16, 2014.

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

Visit our website at [www.lmi.mt.gov](http://www.lmi.mt.gov) for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. This month's Economy at a Glance article compares four Montana counties to determine why local labor markets differ within the state. County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of 6.0 percent. County labor force information can be found by using this link: <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=205>.

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