

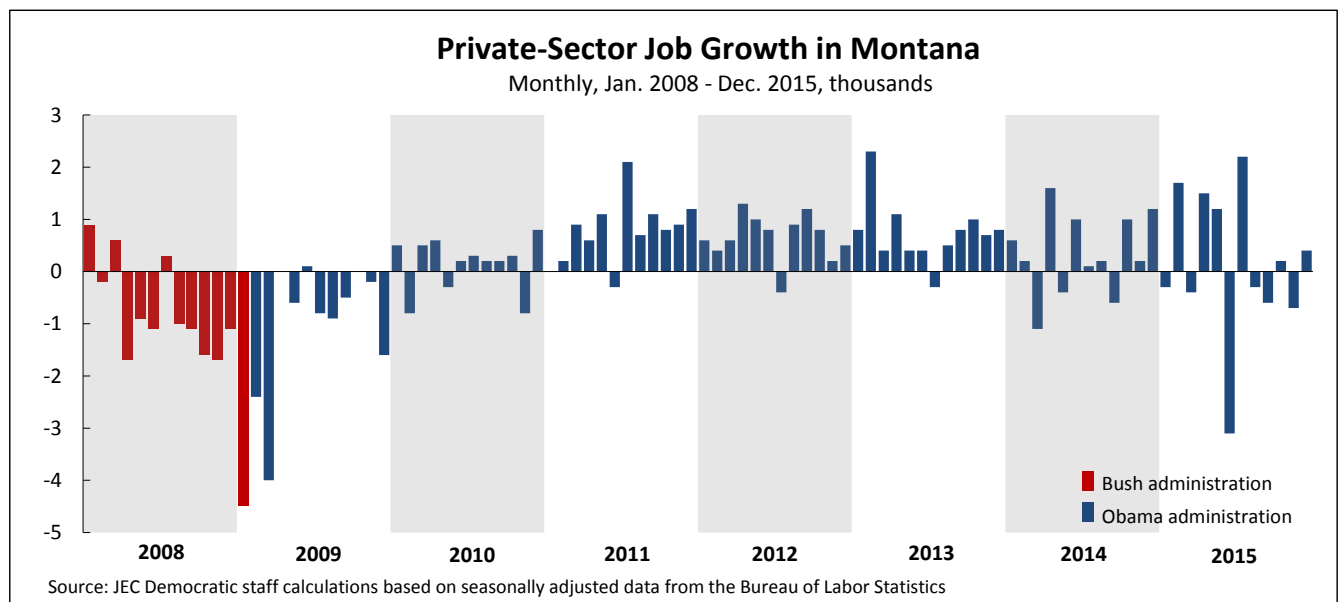


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: MONTANA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Montana grew by 1,800 jobs, an average of 150 jobs per month. This represents a slowdown in job growth from the 330 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Montana businesses added 400 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: other services at 6.3 percent (1,100 jobs), financial activities at 3.9 percent (1,000 jobs) and education and health services at 2.0 percent (1,400 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Montana businesses have added 33,900 jobs (an increase of 10.1 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Montana unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point in 2015 and was 4.0 percent in December. The rate is 3.4 percentage points below its recent peak of 7.4 percent in April 2010.
- Unemployment in Montana was 1.0 percentage point below the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was down 0.1 percentage point from November.
- There were 21,100 state residents unemployed in December, down 2,300 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Montana rose by 2.8 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$22.52. The average workweek was 32.4 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$729.65.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Montana	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	1,800	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	33,900	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	4.0%	5.0%
	December 2014	4.5%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	7.4%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$51,100	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$49,800	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	12.0%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	13.0%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.8%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	3.8%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	14.2%	11.7%
	2013	16.5%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Montana grew by 2.0 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Montana GDP growth has averaged 2.2 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Montana increased by 4.2 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 22.9 percent since their recent low in the first quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in Montana broke ground on 2,580 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 3,680 units. That marks an increase of 25.6 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Montana, goods exports totaled \$101 million in November and \$1.4 billion over the past year, down 1.7 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 28.2 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Montana economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Montana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Montana office: <http://lmi.mt.gov/>