



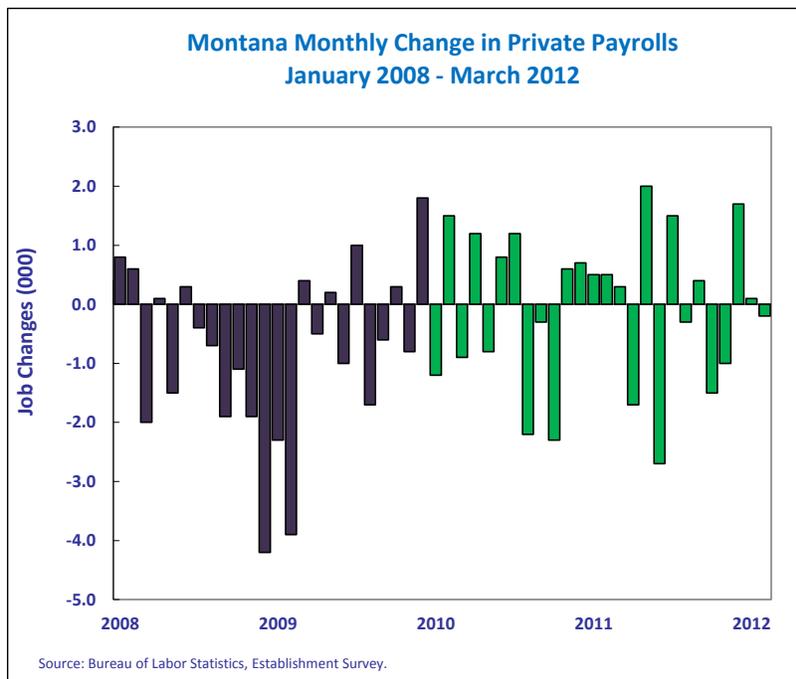
Economic Overview And Outlook: Montana

JOBS

- Including March, the private sector has gained jobs nationwide for 25 consecutive months.
- In Montana, private sector employment fell by 6.8 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 1.6 percent.
- In Montana, employees in the construction, mining, and manufacturing sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Montana have experienced the greatest employment increases: mining; professional and business services; and construction.*
- As the economy continues its emergence from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2010 and 2020. The largest gains over this period are expected to occur in the healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and retail trade sectors. Job gains in the goods-producing sector of the economy will be led by the construction and mining industries while the number of manufacturing jobs is expected to fall.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Montana was 6.2 percent in March 2012, 2.5 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 7.0 percent in August 2011.
- 31,000 Montana residents were counted among the unemployed in Montana during March 2012.
- In Montana, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 5,931 during March, up 4.2 percent from the previous month. Since peaking at 9,368 in March 2009, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits in Montana have declined by 36.7 percent.



EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 4.6 percent. Most recently, in the 4th quarter of 2011, total personal income is 0.9 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.

- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Montana was \$32,186.00 in the 4th quarter of 2011, up from \$30,501.90 in the 4th quarter of 2009.

HOUSING

- After peaking in the first quarter of 2007, national home prices declined by 16.6 percent over 17 quarters. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the most recent quarter, national home prices rose by 1.4 percent.
- In Montana, home prices fell by 9.4 percent over 13 quarters from their peak in the first quarter of 2008. Since the second quarter of 2011, home prices in Montana have risen by 1.2 percent.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2011, 1.8 percent of all mortgages, including 10.7 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Montana.
- Housing starts in Montana totaled 1,380 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2012, a decrease of 7.4 percent from January.
- Within the West census region, which includes Montana, sales of new single-family homes totaled 81,000 units in February 2012, an increase of 8.0 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 7.4 percent to 1,000,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2012.

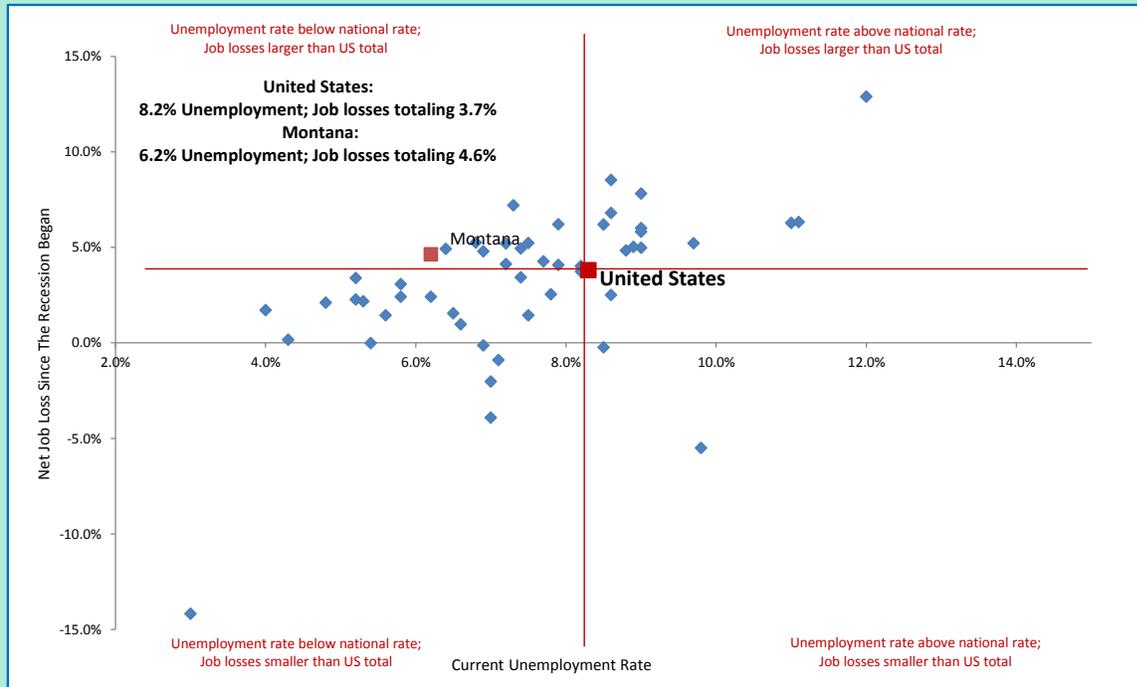
* For Montana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Montana office:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=190>

How Does Montana Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Montana to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Montana since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Montana.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



STATE QUICK FACTS

	Montana	United States
Unemployment Rates	March 2009	5.6%
	March 2010	6.8%
	March 2011	6.8%
	March 2012	6.2%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	13.5%	9.4%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	7.8%	8.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	17.5%	12.1%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 45,906
	(2010 \$) 2010	\$ 41,467
Poverty Rate	2007	13.0%
	2010	14.0%
No Health Insurance	2007	15.6%
	2010	18.1%