



* FY 2020 Year-to-date Balance is 354,066,967 as of March 23, 2020.

Montana employers pay state unemployment taxes on employee wages into an unemployment insurance fund established under [39-51-401, MCA](#). The amount of the tax, established through statutory tax rates, is experience-rated based on history of the employer's tax payments, unemployment insurance benefits paid to employees, taxable wages, and the average rate for the employer's industry. By statute, the funds are used only to pay unemployment insurance benefits.

This chart shows the fund balance of Montana's unemployment insurance fund at the beginning of each fiscal year from 2008 through 2020. The fund balance decreased from FY 2009 through 2012 due to the Great Recession but Montana kept a solvent trust fund through that time and did not have to request federal loans to support the fund, due in part to additional federal funds. Between FY 2009 and FY 2011 Montana received \$267.1 million in emergency unemployment compensation and \$50.8 million to provide additional compensation. The fund balance has grown since then as the economy has recovered.

As of March 23, 2020, the balance of this fund has approximately \$354 million available to make unemployment payments to workers. In addition to this balance, federal funding for unemployment benefits is included the Congressional coronavirus stimulus bill currently under debate.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increased unemployment benefits claims, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, which administers the trust fund, has adopted temporary emergency rules to streamline unemployment benefits for those affected. Those rules and additional resources can be found on the department's website: <http://dli.mt.gov/employer-covid-19>