

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.9% in March

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.0% in February to 3.9% in March, which was its lowest level in three years. Wyoming's unemployment rate was slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1%.

From February to March, most county unemployment rates held steady or decreased slightly. It is normal for unemployment rates to fall in March, as employment tends to increase in construction, government, and other sectors. The largest decreases were seen in Johnson (down from 4.9% to 4.3%), Natrona (down from 5.0% to 4.7%), and Laramie (down from 4.1% to 3.8%) counties. Unemployment rates rose slightly in Albany (up from 2.8% to 3.0%) and Weston (up from 3.7% to 3.9%) counties.

From March 2017 to March 2018, unemployment rates fell in 21 counties and rose in two counties. The largest decreases occurred in Sublette (down from 5.8% to 4.1%), Campbell (down from 5.7% to 4.2%), and Natrona (down from 6.0% to 4.7%) counties. Small unemployment rate increases were seen in Washakie (up from 4.7% to 5.2%) and Sheridan (up from 4.7% to 5.0%) counties.

Fremont County reported the highest unemployment rate in March at 5.5%. It was followed by Park (5.2%), Washakie (5.2%), and Sheridan (5.0%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Teton (2.5%), Niobrara (2.5%), Goshen (2.9%), and Albany (3.0%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 274,900 in March 2017 to 278,200 in March 2018, an increase of 3,300 jobs (or 1.2%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the April employment news release for May 22, 2018.

Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment--by place of residence

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2018 (p)	Feb 2018 (r)	Mar 2017 (b)	Mar 2018 (p)	Feb 2018 (r)	Mar 2017 (b)	Mar 2018 (p)	Feb 2018 (r)	Mar 2017 (b)	Mar 2018 (p)	Feb 2018 (r)	Mar 2017 (b)
Albany	20,951	20,769	21,289	20,320	20,188	20,635	631	581	654	3.0	2.8	3.1
Big Horn	5,225	5,238	5,155	4,976	4,975	4,904	249	263	251	4.8	5.0	4.9
Campbell	22,599	22,531	23,413	21,646	21,560	22,086	953	971	1,327	4.2	4.3	5.7
Carbon	7,638	7,605	7,720	7,332	7,301	7,334	306	304	386	4.0	4.0	5.0
Converse	7,365	7,313	7,531	7,087	7,039	7,153	278	274	378	3.8	3.7	5.0
Crook	3,455	3,539	3,430	3,331	3,403	3,266	124	136	164	3.6	3.8	4.8
Fremont	19,221	19,170	19,565	18,168	18,070	18,291	1,053	1,100	1,274	5.5	5.7	6.5
Goshen	6,799	6,815	6,850	6,601	6,620	6,644	198	195	206	2.9	2.9	3.0
Hot Springs	2,276	2,273	2,348	2,184	2,179	2,241	92	94	107	4.0	4.1	4.6
Johnson	4,019	4,057	4,003	3,846	3,857	3,786	173	200	217	4.3	4.9	5.4
Laramie	47,854	47,841	49,020	46,040	45,891	47,022	1,814	1,950	1,998	3.8	4.1	4.1
Lincoln	8,512	8,521	8,578	8,154	8,165	8,190	358	356	388	4.2	4.2	4.5
Natrona	39,584	39,263	40,234	37,725	37,282	37,813	1,859	1,981	2,421	4.7	5.0	6.0
Niobrara	1,264	1,283	1,256	1,233	1,249	1,210	31	34	46	2.5	2.7	3.7
Park	14,773	14,827	14,606	14,010	14,036	13,796	763	791	810	5.2	5.3	5.5
Platte	4,737	4,712	4,561	4,534	4,506	4,350	203	206	211	4.3	4.4	4.6
Sheridan	15,564	15,544	15,779	14,792	14,743	15,033	772	801	746	5.0	5.2	4.7
Sublette	4,172	4,220	4,024	3,999	4,045	3,792	173	175	232	4.1	4.1	5.8
Sweetwater	21,447	21,200	22,066	20,539	20,306	20,909	908	894	1,157	4.2	4.2	5.2
Teton	14,731	14,872	14,666	14,364	14,517	14,259	367	355	407	2.5	2.4	2.8
Uinta	8,831	8,776	9,213	8,435	8,375	8,709	396	401	504	4.5	4.6	5.5
Washakie	4,001	4,031	4,061	3,793	3,827	3,872	208	204	189	5.2	5.1	4.7
Weston	3,678	3,663	3,847	3,534	3,527	3,661	144	136	186	3.9	3.7	4.8
Statewide	288,701	288,065	293,214	276,646	275,663	278,955	12,055	12,402	14,259	4.2	4.3	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.9	4.0	4.3
U.S.										4.1	4.4	4.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.5

(p) Preliminary, (r) Revised, (b) Benchmarked.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

Labor Force = Employment + Unemployment Number

Unemployment Rate = Unemployment Number/Labor Force

	Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates			Change			
	March-18	February-18	March-17	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	291,065	291,482	294,530	-417	-0.1%	-3,465	-1.2%
Employed	279,847	279,930	281,799	-83	0.0%	-1,952	-0.7%
Unemployed	11,218	11,552	12,731	-334	-2.9%	-1,513	-11.9%
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.0	4.3				
Definitions:							
Employed	All persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business.						
Unemployed	All persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week.						
Labor Force	All persons who meet the criteria given above as either employed or unemployed.						
Unemployment Rate	The number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.						
Seasonal Adjustment	A statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series to better understand changes in economic conditions from month to month.						

**Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning**

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Internet Address: <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>

Access R&P's monthly publication on Wyoming's labor market at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends.htm>

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