

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 8.8% in May 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from its revised level of 9.6% in April to 8.8% in May. It appears that the state's economy improved modestly in May as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were loosened and some businesses reopened. At 8.8%, Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 13.3%.

Most county unemployment rates fell from April to May, perhaps suggesting small scale improvement in labor markets around the state. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Teton (down from 18.2% to 15.0%), Sublette (down from 11.4% to 9.8%), and Johnson (down from 9.7% to 8.1%) counties. Unemployment rates rose slightly in Converse County (up from 6.4% to 7.3%) and Carbon County (up from 6.8% to 7.0%).

Unemployment rates were higher than a year earlier in all 23 counties. The largest increases were seen in Teton County (up from 2.9% to 15.0%), Natrona County (up from 3.7% to 11.7%), Campbell County (up from 3.2% to 9.7%), and Sweetwater County (up from 3.5% to 9.7%).

Niobrara County had the lowest unemployment rate in May at 4.5%. It was followed by Albany County at 4.9% and Weston County at 5.0%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Teton County at 15.0%, Natrona County at 11.7%, and Sublette County at 9.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 292,300 in May 2019 to 265,500 in May 2020, a decline of 26,800 jobs (-9.2%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the June unemployment news release for July 21, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2020 (p)	Apr 2020 (r)	May 2019 (b)	May 2020 (p)	Apr 2020 (r)	May 2019 (b)	May 2020 (p)	Apr 2020 (r)	May 2019 (b)	May 2020 (p)	Apr 2020 (r)	May 2019 (b)
Albany	21,260	21,182	20,622	20,215	20,029	19,998	1,045	1,153	624	4.9	5.4	3.0
Big Horn	5,117	5,104	5,241	4,819	4,758	5,035	298	346	206	5.8	6.8	3.9
Campbell	23,636	23,527	23,085	21,335	21,129	22,347	2,301	2,398	738	9.7	10.2	3.2
Carbon	7,633	7,520	7,775	7,100	7,011	7,544	533	7,100	231	7.0	6.8	3.0
Converse	8,926	8,766	8,591	8,278	8,209	8,365	648	557	226	7.3	6.4	2.6
Crook	3,597	3,553	3,636	3,410	3,350	3,530	187	203	106	5.2	5.7	2.9
Fremont	18,895	18,885	18,375	17,295	17,129	17,683	1,600	1,756	692	8.5	9.3	3.8
Goshen	6,337	6,300	6,458	6,005	5,911	6,222	332	389	236	5.2	6.2	3.7
Hot Springs	2,171	2,161	2,161	2,023	2,003	2,091	148	158	70	6.8	7.3	3.2
Johnson	4,078	4,095	4,111	3,746	3,698	3,972	332	397	139	8.1	9.7	3.4
Laramie	49,998	50,162	48,095	46,076	45,626	46,554	3,922	4,536	1,541	7.8	9.0	3.2
Lincoln	8,796	8,827	8,817	8,116	8,040	8,543	680	787	274	7.7	8.9	3.1
Natrona	39,251	40,233	38,975	34,675	35,152	37,548	4,576	5,081	1,427	11.7	12.6	3.7
Niobrara	1,187	1,170	1,205	1,133	1,116	1,173	54	54	32	4.5	4.6	2.7
Park	14,821	14,827	15,678	13,584	13,425	15,141	1,237	1,402	537	8.3	9.5	3.4
Platte	4,648	4,608	4,681	4,347	4,285	4,539	301	323	142	6.5	7.0	3.0
Sheridan	15,766	15,752	15,553	14,560	14,396	15,069	1,206	1,356	484	7.6	8.6	3.1
Sublette	4,001	4,008	3,975	3,609	3,552	3,816	392	456	159	9.8	11.4	4.0
Sweetwater	21,157	21,150	21,472	19,097	18,921	20,730	2,060	2,229	742	9.7	10.5	3.5
Teton	15,045	15,485	14,760	12,786	12,665	14,327	2,259	2,820	433	15.0	18.2	2.9
Uinta	8,960	8,918	9,175	8,159	8,081	8,843	801	837	332	8.9	9.4	3.6
Washakie	3,795	3,765	3,880	3,525	3,487	3,741	270	278	139	7.1	7.4	3.6
Weston	3,730	3,715	3,802	3,542	3,503	3,695	188	212	107	5.0	5.7	2.8
Statewide	292,808	293,713	290,120	267,434	265,476	280,504	25,374	28,237	9,616	8.7	9.6	3.3
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										8.8	9.6	3.5
U.S.....										13.0	14.4	3.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										13.3	14.7	3.6

(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			
	May-20	April-20	May-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,598	296,644	292,132	-2,046	-0.7%	2,466	0.8%
Employed	268,681	268,301	281,782	380	0.1%	-13,101	-4.6%
Unemployed	25,917	28,343	10,350	-2,426	-8.6%	15,567	150.4%
Unemployment Rate	8.8	9.6	3.5				
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**

June 23, 2020

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

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

Contacts:

David Bullard, Senior Economist
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

david.bullard@wyo.gov
carola.cowan@wyo.gov

307-473-3810
307-473-3804

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning
PO Box 2760
Casper WY 82602-2760