

## Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.8% in December 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.1% in November to 4.8% in December. Wyoming's unemployment rate has decreased for eight months in a row and is much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 6.7%. Both statewide and county-level unemployment data suggest that Wyoming's economic situation is steadily improving.

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from November to December. However, large decreases were seen in a few counties. Teton County's unemployment rate fell from 5.8% to 3.9% as the winter tourist season ramped up. Jobless rates also fell in Natrona County (down from 7.1% to 6.5%), Converse County (down from 5.1% to 4.5%), and Campbell County (down from 5.8% to 5.2%).

From December 2019 to December 2020, unemployment rates rose in 19 counties, were unchanged in three counties, and fell slightly in Hot Springs County (down from 4.0% to 3.9%). The largest increases occurred in key energy producing areas of the state. Natrona County's unemployment rate rose from 4.2% to 6.5%, Campbell County's rate rose from 3.1% to 5.2%, Converse County's rate rose from 3.0% to 4.5%, and Sweetwater County's rate rose from 4.5% to 5.8%. Jobless rates were unchanged from a year earlier in Fremont County (4.8%), Niobrara County (3.4%), and Platte County (4.1%).

Natrona County had the highest unemployment rate in the state at 6.5%. It was followed by Sweetwater County at 5.8% and Sublette County at 5.7%. The lowest rates were found in Albany and Weston counties, both at 3.0%, and Crook County at 3.1%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 285,800 in December 2019 to 273,500 in December 2020, a decline of 12,300 jobs (-4.3%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the January unemployment news release for March 8, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (r)	Dec 2019 (b)	Dec 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (r)	Dec 2019 (b)	Dec 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (r)	Dec 2019 (b)	Dec 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (r)	Dec 2019 (b)
Albany	21,722	21,785	20,632	21,072	21,121	20,072	650	664	560	3.0	3.0	2.7
Big Horn	5,253	5,270	5,262	5,037	5,067	5,066	216	203	196	4.1	3.9	3.7
Campbell	23,455	23,658	23,483	22,228	22,283	22,744	1,227	1,375	739	5.2	5.8	3.1
Carbon	7,726	7,743	7,891	7,409	7,448	7,605	317	295	286	4.1	3.8	3.6
Converse	9,054	9,146	8,928	8,643	8,682	8,662	411	464	266	4.5	5.1	3.0
Crook	3,690	3,736	3,660	3,574	3,612	3,551	116	124	109	3.1	3.3	3.0
Fremont	18,969	19,111	18,735	18,052	18,105	17,841	917	1,006	894	4.8	5.3	4.8
Goshen	6,523	6,597	6,680	6,283	6,336	6,453	240	261	227	3.7	4.0	3.4
Hot Springs	2,198	2,216	2,137	2,112	2,119	2,051	86	97	86	3.9	4.4	4.0
Johnson	4,091	4,125	4,073	3,918	3,943	3,921	173	182	152	4.2	4.4	3.7
Laramie	48,588	49,026	48,232	46,596	46,955	46,586	1,992	2,071	1,646	4.1	4.2	3.4
Lincoln	8,806	8,845	8,707	8,464	8,486	8,400	342	359	307	3.9	4.1	3.5
Natrona	39,317	39,959	39,229	36,748	37,139	37,593	2,569	2,820	1,636	6.5	7.1	4.2
Niobrara	1,233	1,246	1,217	1,191	1,204	1,176	42	42	41	3.4	3.4	3.4
Park	14,859	14,941	14,721	14,194	14,266	14,074	665	675	647	4.5	4.5	4.4
Platte	4,737	4,770	4,486	4,544	4,579	4,303	193	191	183	4.1	4.0	4.1
Sheridan	15,857	15,911	15,540	15,198	15,264	15,011	659	647	529	4.2	4.1	3.4
Sublette	4,004	4,025	4,098	3,774	3,807	3,892	230	218	206	5.7	5.4	5.0
Sweetwater	21,104	21,199	21,232	19,880	19,920	20,272	1,224	1,279	960	5.8	6.0	4.5
Teton	13,891	14,220	14,971	13,353	13,395	14,530	538	825	441	3.9	5.8	2.9
Uinta	8,941	9,006	8,880	8,498	8,519	8,528	443	487	352	5.0	5.4	4.0
Washakie	3,847	3,884	3,953	3,685	3,701	3,811	162	183	142	4.2	4.7	3.6
Weston	3,810	3,832	3,793	3,695	3,708	3,696	115	124	97	3.0	3.2	2.6
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>291,676</b>	<b>294,251</b>	<b>290,539</b>	<b>278,149</b>	<b>279,657</b>	<b>279,838</b>	<b>13,527</b>	<b>14,594</b>	<b>10,701</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....</b>										<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>U.S.....</b>										<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....</b>										<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>

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

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

Labor Force = Employment + Unemployed Number

Unemployment Rate = Unemployed Number/Labor Force

	Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates			Change			
	December-20	November-20	December-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,000	294,361	292,662	-361	-0.1%	1,338	0.5%
Employed	279,896	279,246	281,857	650	0.2%	-1,961	-0.7%
Unemployed	14,104	15,115	10,805	-1,011	-6.7%	3,299	30.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.1	3.7				
<b>Definitions:</b>							
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: <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>

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