

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 5.1% in January 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.2% in December to 5.1% in January. Wyoming has recently completed a comprehensive annual revision of its unemployment data. The revised data show that the state's unemployment rate peaked at 8.5% in May 2020 and has steadily decreased since then. Wyoming's January unemployment rate of 5.1% was much lower than the U.S. rate of 6.3%.

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Unemployment rates often rise in January as seasonal job losses are seen in many sectors, including construction, retail trade, transportation & warehousing, leisure & hospitality, and government. The largest jobless rate increases were seen in Sublette (up from 6.7% to 8.3%), Big Horn (up from 4.7% to 6.2%), Niobrara (up from 3.9% to 5.2%), and Hot Springs (up from 4.4% to 5.6%) counties.

From January 2020 to January 2021, unemployment rates rose in nearly every county. The largest increases were seen in areas of the state dominated by the energy sector. Converse County's unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 6.7%, Natrona County's rate rose from 5.2% to 8.2%, Campbell County's rate rose from 4.4% to 7.0%, and Sweetwater County's rate rose from 6.2% to 7.7%. In contrast to those increases, Big Horn County's unemployment rate was unchanged from a year earlier at 6.2%.

The lowest unemployment rates in Wyoming were found in Weston County at 3.8%, Crook County at 4.0%, and Teton County at 4.2%. Sublette County reported the highest unemployment rate at 8.3%. It was followed by Natrona County at 8.2%, Sweetwater County at 7.7%, Campbell County at 7.0%, and Converse County at 6.7%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 282,400 in January 2020 to 265,900 in January 2021, a decline of 16,500 jobs (-5.8%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the February unemployment news release for March 29, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2021 (p)	Dec 2020 (b)	Jan 2020 (b)	Jan 2021 (p)	Dec 2020 (b)	Jan 2020 (b)	Jan 2021 (p)	Dec 2020 (b)	Jan 2020 (b)	Jan 2021 (p)	Dec 2020 (b)	Jan 2020 (b)
Albany	19,120	19,212	20,149	18,255	18,471	19,388	865	741	761	4.5	3.9	3.8
Big Horn	5,294	5,280	5,235	4,966	5,031	4,909	328	249	326	6.2	4.7	6.2
Campbell	23,062	22,955	23,752	21,447	21,540	22,700	1,615	1,415	1,052	7.0	6.2	4.4
Carbon	8,113	8,077	7,804	7,673	7,712	7,417	440	365	387	5.4	4.5	5.0
Converse	7,854	7,778	8,967	7,325	7,310	8,654	529	468	313	6.7	6.0	3.5
Crook	3,880	3,814	3,712	3,726	3,680	3,581	154	134	131	4.0	3.5	3.5
Fremont	19,236	19,187	19,092	18,006	18,141	17,896	1,230	1,046	1,196	6.4	5.5	6.3
Goshen	6,662	6,625	6,570	6,345	6,348	6,297	317	277	273	4.8	4.2	4.2
Hot Springs	2,248	2,247	2,222	2,122	2,148	2,119	126	99	103	5.6	4.4	4.6
Johnson	4,082	4,063	4,075	3,844	3,864	3,863	238	199	212	5.8	4.9	5.2
Laramie	50,814	50,684	50,165	48,085	48,397	47,930	2,729	2,287	2,235	5.4	4.5	4.5
Lincoln	9,442	9,327	9,145	8,948	8,931	8,719	494	396	426	5.2	4.2	4.7
Natrona	40,705	40,551	40,540	37,357	37,603	38,414	3,348	2,948	2,126	8.2	7.3	5.2
Niobrara	1,284	1,246	1,235	1,217	1,198	1,187	67	48	48	5.2	3.9	3.9
Park	14,784	14,697	14,824	13,880	13,941	13,940	904	756	884	6.1	5.1	6.0
Platte	4,715	4,595	4,669	4,454	4,376	4,431	261	219	238	5.5	4.8	5.1
Sheridan	16,179	16,119	15,910	15,274	15,361	15,136	905	758	774	5.6	4.7	4.9
Sublette	3,945	3,890	4,064	3,619	3,628	3,775	326	262	289	8.3	6.7	7.1
Sweetwater	20,516	20,645	21,267	18,945	19,248	19,946	1,571	1,397	1,321	7.7	6.8	6.2
Teton	14,938	14,654	15,610	14,314	14,033	15,129	624	621	481	4.2	4.2	3.1
Uinta	9,255	9,332	9,035	8,666	8,819	8,563	589	513	472	6.4	5.5	5.2
Washakie	4,043	4,012	4,067	3,822	3,827	3,859	221	185	208	5.5	4.6	5.1
Weston	3,836	3,818	3,915	3,689	3,687	3,777	147	131	138	3.8	3.4	3.5
Statewide	294,006	292,809	296,026	275,978	277,297	281,630	18,028	15,512	14,396	6.1	5.3	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.1	5.2	4.4
U.S.....										6.8	6.5	4.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.3	6.7	3.5

(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			
	January-21	December-20	January-20	Month absolute	percent	Year absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	295,089	294,630	298,600	459	0.2%	-3,511	-1.2%
Employed	280,009	279,346	285,320	663	0.2%	-5,311	-1.9%
Unemployed	15,080	15,284	13,280	-204	-1.3%	1,800	13.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	4.4				

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**

March 8, 2021

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 Supervisordavid.bullard@wyo.gov
carola.cowan@wyo.gov307-473-3810
307-473-3804Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning
PO Box 2760
Casper WY 82602-2760