

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 5.4% in May 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady from April to May at 5.4%. Wyoming's unemployment rate was much lower than its May 2020 level of 8.5% and slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.8%.

From April to May, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased in most counties. Unemployment rates often decline in May as warmer weather brings seasonal job gains in leisure & hospitality, construction, professional & business services, and government. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Teton (down from 7.1% to 5.9%), Park (down from 5.2% to 4.6%), Natrona (down from 7.5% to 6.9%), and Johnson (down from 5.3% to 4.7%) counties.

From May 2020 to May 2021, unemployment rates fell in every county. Jobless rates were especially high in May 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the decreases in 2021 reflect a return toward more normal levels. The largest decreases occurred in Teton (down from 15.9% to 5.9%), Natrona (down from 11.4% to 6.9%), Park (down from 8.4% to 4.6%), and Campbell (down from 9.8% to 6.2%) counties.

In May 2021, the lowest unemployment rates were reported in Crook County at 3.9%, and Weston and Niobrara counties, both at 4.0%. The highest rates were found in Natrona County at 6.9%, and Sublette and Sweetwater counties, both at 6.7%. Many of the counties with the highest unemployment rates were in areas of the state that are highly dependent on the energy sector.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 263,300 in May 2020 to 273,300 in May 2021, an increase of 10,000 jobs (3.8%). Nonfarm employment was unusually low in May 2020 because of widespread economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the June unemployment news release for July 19, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2021 (p)	Apr 2021 (r)	May 2020 (b)	May 2021 (p)	Apr 2021 (r)	May 2020 (b)	May 2021 (p)	Apr 2021 (r)	May 2020 (b)	May 2021 (p)	Apr 2021 (r)	May 2020 (b)
Albany	19,380	19,549	20,123	18,536	18,759	19,050	844	790	1,073	4.4	4.0	5.3
Big Horn	5,697	5,517	5,394	5,409	5,221	5,089	288	296	305	5.1	5.4	5.7
Campbell	22,367	22,713	24,118	20,984	21,265	21,754	1,383	1,448	2,364	6.2	6.4	9.8
Carbon	8,188	7,924	7,989	7,835	7,554	7,449	353	370	540	4.3	4.7	6.8
Converse	7,791	7,830	8,161	7,340	7,343	7,489	451	487	672	5.8	6.2	8.2
Crook	4,198	3,941	3,877	4,036	3,782	3,682	162	159	195	3.9	4.0	5.0
Fremont	19,222	19,281	19,555	18,132	18,133	17,920	1,090	1,148	1,635	5.7	6.0	8.4
Goshen	6,796	6,617	6,623	6,519	6,334	6,277	277	283	346	4.1	4.3	5.2
Hot Springs	2,306	2,283	2,241	2,195	2,178	2,092	111	105	149	4.8	4.6	6.6
Johnson	4,470	4,310	4,221	4,259	4,081	3,882	211	229	339	4.7	5.3	8.0
Laramie	51,068	51,656	51,434	48,658	49,249	47,392	2,410	2,407	4,042	4.7	4.7	7.9
Lincoln	9,475	9,347	9,401	9,036	8,885	8,702	439	462	699	4.6	4.9	7.4
Natrona	40,372	41,378	41,042	37,575	38,272	36,353	2,797	3,106	4,689	6.9	7.5	11.4
Niobrara	1,388	1,329	1,268	1,333	1,273	1,210	55	56	58	4.0	4.2	4.6
Park	16,198	15,147	15,158	15,456	14,359	13,891	742	788	1,267	4.6	5.2	8.4
Platte	4,909	4,781	4,678	4,686	4,563	4,364	223	218	314	4.5	4.6	6.7
Sheridan	16,553	16,265	16,540	15,741	15,398	15,310	812	867	1,230	4.9	5.3	7.4
Sublette	4,119	3,917	4,093	3,845	3,634	3,687	274	283	406	6.7	7.2	9.9
Sweetwater	20,190	20,511	21,179	18,841	19,101	19,095	1,349	1,410	2,084	6.7	6.9	9.8
Teton	12,530	12,162	14,614	11,786	11,298	12,290	744	864	2,324	5.9	7.1	15.9
Uinta	9,285	9,275	9,377	8,721	8,685	8,559	564	590	818	6.1	6.4	8.7
Washakie	4,094	4,055	4,019	3,900	3,849	3,739	194	206	280	4.7	5.1	7.0
Weston	3,993	3,954	3,871	3,833	3,799	3,679	160	155	192	4.0	3.9	5.0
Statewide	294,589	293,740	298,976	278,656	277,017	272,955	15,933	16,723	26,021	5.4	5.7	8.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.4	5.4	8.5
U.S.....										5.5	5.7	13.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.8	6.1	13.3

(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			
				Month		Year	
	May-21	April-21	May-20	absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	296,321	296,150	300,611	171	0.1%	-4,290	-1.4%
Employed	280,279	280,183	275,096	96	0.0%	5,183	1.9%
Unemployed	16,042	15,967	25,515	75	0.5%	-9,473	-37.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	8.5				

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**

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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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