

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.1% in October 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.5% in September to 4.1% in October. The recent decreases in Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate have been largely the result of unemployed individuals leaving the labor force. From October 2020 to October 2021, the number of unemployed people in Wyoming decreased by an estimated 3,955 individuals. Estimates suggest that just over one-third of those people (1,331 individuals) had found jobs and gone to work, while nearly two-thirds (2,624 individuals) had stopped looking for work and dropped out of the labor force. It appears that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Wyoming's economy.

From September to October, unemployment rates fell in most counties. The largest decreases occurred in Niobrara (down from 2.4% to 1.9%), Sublette (down from 3.4% to 3.0%), Natrona (down from 3.7% to 3.3%), Hot Springs (down from 2.4% to 2.0%), and Campbell (down from 3.3% to 2.9%) counties.

From October 2020 to October 2021, jobless rates decreased in every county. Unemployment rates were unusually high in October 2020 because of the pandemic. The largest decreases were seen in Natrona (down from 6.6% to 3.3%), Converse (down from 5.5% to 2.5%), Campbell (down from 5.9% to 2.9%), and Sweetwater (down from 5.4% to 3.1%) counties.

Natrona County had the highest unemployment rate in October at 3.3%. It was followed by Sweetwater County at 3.1%, Sublette County at 3.0%, and Campbell County at 2.9%. The lowest rates were found in Weston County at 1.7%, Teton County at 1.8%, and Niobrara and Crook counties, each at 1.9%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 274,500 in October 2020 to 277,100 in October 2021, an increase of 2,600 jobs (0.9%). Employment was unusually low in October 2020 because of economic disruptions related to the pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the November unemployment news release for December 20, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2021 (p)	Sep 2021 (r)	Oct 2020 (b)	Oct 2021 (p)	Sep 2021 (r)	Oct 2020 (b)	Oct 2021 (p)	Sep 2021 (r)	Oct 2020 (b)	Oct 2021 (p)	Sep 2021 (r)	Oct 2020 (b)
Albany	19,235	19,213	18,991	18,841	18,772	18,432	394	441	559	2.0	2.3	2.9
Big Horn	5,465	5,541	5,471	5,340	5,402	5,295	125	139	176	2.3	2.5	3.2
Campbell	22,052	21,903	22,878	21,416	21,171	21,536	636	732	1,342	2.9	3.3	5.9
Carbon	8,432	8,562	8,353	8,258	8,363	8,115	174	199	238	2.1	2.3	2.8
Converse	7,549	7,482	7,846	7,358	7,271	7,416	191	211	430	2.5	2.8	5.5
Crook	3,931	4,013	4,019	3,858	3,932	3,899	73	81	120	1.9	2.0	3.0
Fremont	19,405	19,361	19,328	18,921	18,822	18,438	484	539	890	2.5	2.8	4.6
Goshen	6,576	6,632	6,730	6,445	6,483	6,515	131	149	215	2.0	2.2	3.2
Hot Springs	2,298	2,306	2,235	2,252	2,251	2,152	46	55	83	2.0	2.4	3.7
Johnson	4,313	4,357	4,218	4,218	4,259	4,053	95	98	165	2.2	2.2	3.9
Laramie	49,389	49,008	50,521	48,274	47,747	48,615	1,115	1,261	1,906	2.3	2.6	3.8
Lincoln	9,861	9,944	9,444	9,666	9,732	9,134	195	212	310	2.0	2.1	3.3
Natrona	39,098	38,638	40,237	37,818	37,197	37,598	1,280	1,441	2,639	3.3	3.7	6.6
Niobrara	1,303	1,325	1,288	1,278	1,293	1,249	25	32	39	1.9	2.4	3.0
Park	15,758	16,308	15,683	15,394	15,920	15,138	364	388	545	2.3	2.4	3.5
Platte	4,549	4,612	4,686	4,448	4,502	4,527	101	110	159	2.2	2.4	3.4
Sheridan	16,211	16,173	16,188	15,844	15,774	15,603	367	399	585	2.3	2.5	3.6
Sublette	4,021	4,104	4,035	3,901	3,966	3,832	120	138	203	3.0	3.4	5.0
Sweetwater	19,363	19,194	20,460	18,756	18,535	19,345	607	659	1,115	3.1	3.4	5.4
Teton	16,536	17,491	14,929	16,234	17,213	14,380	302	278	549	1.8	1.6	3.7
Uinta	9,028	8,969	9,297	8,785	8,698	8,858	243	271	439	2.7	3.0	4.7
Washakie	4,075	4,057	3,997	3,988	3,958	3,864	87	99	133	2.1	2.4	3.3
Weston	3,832	3,809	3,843	3,766	3,735	3,731	66	74	112	1.7	1.9	2.9
Statewide	292,278	292,998	294,677	285,057	284,994	281,723	7,221	8,004	12,954	2.5	2.7	4.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.5	5.4
U.S.....										4.3	4.6	6.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.6	4.8	6.9

(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

	October-21	September-21	October-20	Change		Change	
				Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	292,999	293,700	295,623	-701	-0.2%	-2,624	-0.9%
Employed	280,951	280,486	279,620	465	0.2%	1,331	0.5%
Unemployed	12,048	13,214	16,003	-1,166	-8.8%	-3,955	-24.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.5	5.4				

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**

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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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