

## Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.7% in February 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly from 4.8% in January to 4.7% in February (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than its February 2016 level of 5.3%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly from January to February, rising by an estimated 1,214 individuals (0.4%; not a statistically significant change).

From January to February, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased slightly. The largest decreases occurred in Johnson (down from 6.5% to 5.6%), Natrona (down from 7.6% to 6.8%), Campbell (down from 6.7% to 6.0%), and Big Horn (down from 5.4% to 4.7%) counties. Niobrara County's unemployment was unchanged from January to February at 3.3%.

From February 2016 to February 2017, unemployment rates fell in 22 counties and rose slightly in Weston County (up from 4.2% to 4.7%). The largest decreases were seen in Johnson (down from 7.3% to 5.6%), Sublette (down from 7.4% to 5.8%), Fremont (down from 8.5% to 6.9%), and Big Horn (down from 6.2% to 4.7%) counties.

Fremont County (6.9%) posted the highest unemployment rate in February. It was followed by Natrona (6.8%), Campbell (6.0%), and Sublette (5.8%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Teton (2.8%), Goshen (2.8%), and Albany (2.8%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 277,500 in February 2016 to 270,600 in February 2017, a decrease of 6,900 jobs (or -2.5%; a statistically significant decrease).

Research & Planning has scheduled the March employment news release for April 25, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2017 (p)	Jan 2017 (r)	Feb 2016 (b)	Feb 2017 (p)	Jan 2017 (r)	Feb 2016 (b)	Feb 2017 (p)	Jan 2017 (r)	Feb 2016 (b)	Feb 2017 (p)	Jan 2017 (r)	Feb 2016 (b)
Albany	21,731	20,961	21,502	21,118	20,250	20,803	613	711	699	2.8	3.4	3.3
Big Horn	5,393	5,514	5,273	5,140	5,217	4,947	253	297	326	4.7	5.4	6.2
Campbell	24,109	24,189	25,447	22,658	22,572	23,755	1,451	1,617	1,692	6.0	6.7	6.6
Carbon	8,317	8,411	8,054	7,921	8,003	7,558	396	408	496	4.8	4.9	6.2
Converse	7,770	7,834	8,117	7,361	7,380	7,617	409	454	500	5.3	5.8	6.2
Crook	3,613	3,747	3,518	3,442	3,560	3,338	171	187	180	4.7	5.0	5.1
Fremont	20,167	20,137	20,091	18,768	18,625	18,384	1,399	1,512	1,707	6.9	7.5	8.5
Goshen	6,999	7,174	6,874	6,801	6,939	6,614	198	235	260	2.8	3.3	3.8
Hot Springs	2,493	2,496	2,390	2,376	2,371	2,253	117	125	137	4.7	5.0	5.7
Johnson	4,084	4,174	3,999	3,857	3,904	3,708	227	270	291	5.6	6.5	7.3
Laramie	50,584	50,051	48,990	48,534	47,737	46,703	2,050	2,314	2,287	4.1	4.6	4.7
Lincoln	8,835	8,857	8,512	8,429	8,430	8,003	406	427	509	4.6	4.8	6.0
Natrona	40,090	40,280	42,091	37,376	37,236	38,951	2,714	3,044	3,140	6.8	7.6	7.5
Niobrara	1,310	1,347	1,280	1,267	1,302	1,235	43	45	45	3.3	3.3	3.5
Park	15,353	15,493	14,774	14,485	14,530	13,835	868	963	939	5.7	6.2	6.4
Platte	4,682	4,757	4,614	4,468	4,525	4,338	214	232	276	4.6	4.9	6.0
Sheridan	16,197	16,275	15,916	15,381	15,371	14,951	816	904	965	5.0	5.6	6.1
Sublette	4,257	4,365	4,138	4,011	4,097	3,831	246	268	307	5.8	6.1	7.4
Sweetwater	22,354	22,250	22,432	21,097	20,888	21,041	1,257	1,362	1,391	5.6	6.1	6.2
Teton	15,154	15,240	14,312	14,726	14,790	13,876	428	450	436	2.8	3.0	3.0
Uinta	9,284	9,310	9,558	8,753	8,744	8,963	531	566	595	5.7	6.1	6.2
Washakie	4,243	4,319	4,150	4,036	4,103	3,899	207	216	251	4.9	5.0	6.0
Weston	3,999	4,016	3,933	3,811	3,814	3,767	188	202	166	4.7	5.0	4.2
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>301,019</b>	<b>301,194</b>	<b>299,963</b>	<b>285,816</b>	<b>284,386</b>	<b>282,370</b>	<b>15,203</b>	<b>16,808</b>	<b>17,593</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....</b>										<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>U.S.....</b>										<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....</b>										<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>

(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

	<b>Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates</b>			Change			
	February-17	January-17	February-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	303,146	302,196	303,253	950	0.3%	-107	0.0%
Employed	288,827	287,613	287,102	1,214	0.4%	1,725	0.6%
Unemployed	14,319	14,583	16,151	-264	-1.8%	-1,832	-11.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.8	5.3				
<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**

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**Research & Planning**

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

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

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