

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Rises Slightly to 4.0% in July 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose very slightly from 3.9% in June to 4.0% in July (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than its July 2016 level of 5.4%. From July 2016 to July 2017, Wyoming's labor force decreased by an estimated 7,066 people (-2.3%) suggesting that individuals have moved to other states or dropped out of the labor force.

From June to July, unemployment rates fell in 20 counties, rose slightly in two counties, and remained unchanged in Hot Springs County (3.7%). Unemployment rates often fall in July as seasonal job gains are seen in leisure & hospitality, professional & business services, and retail trade. Large decreases in unemployment occurred in Washakie (down from 4.1% to 3.6%), Teton (down from 2.2% to 1.7%), Campbell (down from 5.1% to 4.7%), and Sublette (down from 4.0% to 3.7%) counties.

From July 2016 to July 2017, unemployment rates fell in every county. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Campbell (down from 7.7% to 4.7%), Converse (down from 6.6% to 4.3%), Natrona (down from 7.2% to 5.0%), and Sublette (down from 5.7% to 3.7%) counties.

Teton County (1.7%) had the lowest unemployment rate in July. It was followed by Crook (2.8%), Lincoln (3.0%), and Goshen (3.0%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (5.3%), Natrona (5.0%), Campbell (4.7%), and Sweetwater (4.4%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 287,000 in July 2016 to 285,900 in July 2017, a decrease of 1,100 jobs (or -0.4%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the August employment news release for September 19, 2017.

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

| County | Labor Force | | | Employment | | | Unemployed Number | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| | Jul 2017 (p) | Jun 2017 (r) | Jul 2016 (b) | Jul 2017 (p) | Jun 2017 (r) | Jul 2016 (b) | Jul 2017 (p) | Jun 2017 (r) | Jul 2016 (b) | (p) | (r) | (b) |
| Albany | 18,675 | 19,289 | 19,695 | 18,103 | 18,660 | 19,033 | 572 | 629 | 662 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Big Horn | 5,531 | 5,811 | 5,849 | 5,322 | 5,573 | 5,587 | 209 | 238 | 262 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.5 |
| Campbell | 23,294 | 23,197 | 24,244 | 22,202 | 22,020 | 22,376 | 1,092 | 1,177 | 1,868 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 7.7 |
| Carbon | 8,232 | 8,589 | 8,858 | 7,945 | 8,281 | 8,513 | 287 | 308 | 345 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Converse | 7,611 | 7,754 | 7,862 | 7,284 | 7,429 | 7,345 | 327 | 325 | 517 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 6.6 |
| Crook | 3,846 | 3,983 | 3,967 | 3,737 | 3,860 | 3,798 | 109 | 123 | 169 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 4.3 |
| Fremont | 19,483 | 19,970 | 20,173 | 18,442 | 18,888 | 18,779 | 1,041 | 1,082 | 1,394 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 6.9 |
| Goshen | 7,136 | 7,122 | 7,184 | 6,921 | 6,899 | 6,939 | 215 | 223 | 245 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Hot Springs | 2,439 | 2,484 | 2,576 | 2,349 | 2,392 | 2,464 | 90 | 92 | 112 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.3 |
| Johnson | 4,429 | 4,576 | 4,497 | 4,278 | 4,407 | 4,294 | 151 | 169 | 203 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 4.5 |
| Laramie | 48,942 | 48,630 | 49,240 | 47,260 | 46,842 | 47,350 | 1,682 | 1,788 | 1,890 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Lincoln | 8,984 | 9,135 | 8,932 | 8,711 | 8,838 | 8,595 | 273 | 297 | 337 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Natrona | 38,919 | 38,869 | 41,171 | 36,977 | 36,815 | 38,216 | 1,942 | 2,054 | 2,955 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 7.2 |
| Niobrara | 1,393 | 1,432 | 1,435 | 1,350 | 1,385 | 1,385 | 43 | 47 | 50 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
| Park | 17,344 | 17,480 | 17,824 | 16,767 | 16,876 | 17,161 | 577 | 604 | 663 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| Platte | 4,763 | 5,046 | 4,910 | 4,591 | 4,867 | 4,681 | 172 | 179 | 229 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 4.7 |
| Sheridan | 16,189 | 16,594 | 16,664 | 15,630 | 16,003 | 16,005 | 559 | 591 | 659 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.0 |
| Sublette | 4,434 | 4,519 | 4,438 | 4,268 | 4,339 | 4,183 | 166 | 180 | 255 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 5.7 |
| Sweetwater | 21,388 | 21,565 | 21,788 | 20,441 | 20,600 | 20,434 | 947 | 965 | 1,354 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 6.2 |
| Teton | 17,796 | 17,128 | 17,847 | 17,493 | 16,755 | 17,489 | 303 | 373 | 358 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Uinta | 9,295 | 9,259 | 9,463 | 8,911 | 8,857 | 8,930 | 384 | 402 | 533 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 5.6 |
| Washakie | 4,260 | 4,277 | 4,354 | 4,106 | 4,101 | 4,160 | 154 | 176 | 194 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.5 |
| Weston | 3,780 | 3,920 | 3,957 | 3,653 | 3,777 | 3,752 | 127 | 143 | 205 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 5.2 |
| Statewide | 298,160 | 300,631 | 306,926 | 286,740 | 288,463 | 291,468 | 11,420 | 12,168 | 15,458 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted..... | | | | | | | | | | 4.0 | 3.9 | 5.4 |
| U.S..... | | | | | | | | | | 4.6 | 4.5 | 5.4 |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted..... | | | | | | | | | | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.9 |

(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

| | Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates | | | Change | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | July-17 | June-17 | July-16 | Month | | Year | |
| | | | | absolute | percent | absolute | percent |
| Total Civilian Labor Force | 295,205 | 297,469 | 302,271 | -2,264 | -0.8% | -7,066 | -2.3% |
| Employed | 283,489 | 285,791 | 285,942 | -2,302 | -0.8% | -2,453 | -0.9% |
| Unemployed | 11,716 | 11,678 | 16,329 | 38 | 0.3% | -4,613 | -28.3% |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.0 | 3.9 | 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

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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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