

Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 4.2% in October

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.0% in September to 4.2% in October (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than its October 2016 level of 5.0%, but slightly higher than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1%. The state's labor force decreased by 7,789 people (-2.6%) from October 2016 to October 2017, suggesting that unemployed workers may have moved to other states or given up their job search.

From September to October, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased. As colder weather sets in, job losses are typically seen in leisure & hospitality, construction, retail trade, and other sectors. The largest unemployment rate increases occurred in Teton (up from 1.9% to 3.1%), Park (up from 3.2% to 3.8%), Carbon (up from 3.2% to 3.6%), and Johnson (up from 3.3% to 3.7%) counties. Campbell County's unemployment rate fell slightly in October, declining from 4.3% to 4.2%.

From October 2016 to October 2017, unemployment fell in 21 counties, remained unchanged in Laramie County (3.6%), and increased slightly in Teton County (up from 2.9% to 3.1%). The largest unemployment rate decreases were reported in Campbell (down from 6.1% to 4.2%), Natrona (down from 6.2% to 4.8%), Sublette (down from 5.1% to 3.7%), and Fremont (down from 6.0% to 4.7%) counties.

In October, Niobrara County's unemployment rate of 2.4% was the lowest in the state. It was followed by Goshen (2.6%), Albany (2.7%), and Crook (2.9%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona (4.8%), Fremont (4.7%), Campbell (4.2%), and Sweetwater (4.2%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 280,000 in October 2016 to 278,600 in October 2017, a decrease of 1,400 jobs (or -0.5%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the November employment news release for December 22, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2017 (p)	Sep 2017 (r)	Oct 2016 (b)	Oct 2017 (p)	Sep 2017 (r)	Oct 2016 (b)	Oct 2017 (p)	Sep 2017 (r)	Oct 2016 (b)	Oct 2017 (p)	Sep 2017 (r)	Oct 2016 (b)
Albany	21,028	20,461	21,558	20,455	19,941	20,954	573	520	604	2.7	2.5	2.8
Big Horn	5,547	5,434	5,610	5,346	5,246	5,399	201	188	211	3.6	3.5	3.8
Campbell	22,743	22,766	24,049	21,788	21,797	22,577	955	969	1,472	4.2	4.3	6.1
Carbon	8,027	8,022	8,555	7,741	7,765	8,227	286	257	328	3.6	3.2	3.8
Converse	7,515	7,509	7,781	7,219	7,225	7,376	296	284	405	3.9	3.8	5.2
Crook	3,742	3,712	3,759	3,632	3,611	3,618	110	101	141	2.9	2.7	3.8
Fremont	19,553	19,387	20,037	18,632	18,526	18,842	921	861	1,195	4.7	4.4	6.0
Goshen	7,055	7,025	7,272	6,869	6,850	7,062	186	175	210	2.6	2.5	2.9
Hot Springs	2,267	2,334	2,449	2,188	2,260	2,346	79	74	103	3.5	3.2	4.2
Johnson	4,229	4,254	4,243	4,071	4,112	4,065	158	142	178	3.7	3.3	4.2
Laramie	47,872	47,551	48,817	46,168	45,979	47,065	1,704	1,572	1,752	3.6	3.3	3.6
Lincoln	8,768	8,877	8,890	8,484	8,611	8,581	284	266	309	3.2	3.0	3.5
Natrona	38,736	38,308	40,429	36,877	36,568	37,928	1,859	1,740	2,501	4.8	4.5	6.2
Niobrara	1,359	1,358	1,372	1,327	1,327	1,334	32	31	38	2.4	2.3	2.8
Park	15,458	15,971	15,877	14,872	15,462	15,262	586	509	615	3.8	3.2	3.9
Platte	4,780	4,731	4,746	4,615	4,581	4,561	165	150	185	3.5	3.2	3.9
Sheridan	15,782	15,877	16,080	15,233	15,367	15,484	549	510	596	3.5	3.2	3.7
Sublette	4,348	4,297	4,319	4,186	4,143	4,098	162	154	221	3.7	3.6	5.1
Sweetwater	21,369	21,194	22,198	20,480	20,351	21,072	889	843	1,126	4.2	4.0	5.1
Teton	15,057	16,200	15,231	14,597	15,894	14,785	460	306	446	3.1	1.9	2.9
Uinta	9,167	9,298	9,385	8,815	8,962	8,925	352	336	460	3.8	3.6	4.9
Washakie	4,172	4,150	4,324	4,029	4,011	4,164	143	139	160	3.4	3.3	3.7
Weston	3,749	3,838	3,998	3,612	3,707	3,820	137	131	178	3.7	3.4	4.5
Statewide	292,325	292,553	300,979	281,238	282,295	287,543	11,087	10,258	13,436	3.8	3.5	4.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.2	4.0	5.0
U.S.....										3.9	4.1	4.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.2	4.8

(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			
	October-17	September-17	October-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,421	293,821	301,210	-400	-0.1%	-7,789	-2.6%
Employed	281,205	281,939	286,228	-734	-0.3%	-5,023	-1.8%
Unemployed	12,216	11,882	14,982	334	2.8%	-2,766	-18.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.0	5.0				
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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