

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.0% in February

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly from 4.1% in January to 4.0% in February. Wyoming's unemployment rate was down significantly from its year-ago level of 4.5% and was slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1%. From February 2017 to February 2018, Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) fell by 3,834 people (-1.3%).

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from January to February. Rates increased slightly in four counties, were unchanged in four counties, and decreased slightly in 15 counties. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Converse (down from 4.3% to 3.7%), Albany (down from 3.3% to 2.8%), and Sweetwater (down from 4.6% to 4.2%) counties. Unemployment rose slightly in Niobrara (up from 2.1% to 2.6%) and Washakie (up from 4.5% to 5.0%) counties.

From February 2017 to February 2018, unemployment rates remained stable or decreased in every county. The largest decreases were reported in Sublette (down from 6.0% to 4.1%), Campbell (down from 6.1% to 4.3%), Natrona (down from 6.7% to 5.1%), and Converse (down from 5.3% to 3.7%) counties.

In February, Teton County (2.4%) had the lowest unemployment rate. It was followed by Niobrara (2.6%), Goshen (2.7%), and Albany (2.8%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (5.8%), Park (5.3%), Natrona (5.1%), and Sheridan (5.1%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 273,000 in February 2017 to 277,900 in February 2018, an increase of 4,900 jobs (or 1.8%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the March employment news release for April 24, 2018.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2018 (p)	Jan 2018 (r)	Feb 2017 (b)	Feb 2018 (p)	Jan 2018 (r)	Feb 2017 (b)	Feb 2018 (p)	Jan 2018 (r)	Feb 2017 (b)	Feb 2018 (p)	Jan 2018 (r)	Feb 2017 (b)
Albany	20,775	20,112	21,112	20,190	19,457	20,502	585	655	610	2.8	3.3	2.9
Big Horn	5,241	5,274	5,057	4,977	5,012	4,805	264	262	252	5.0	5.0	5.0
Campbell	22,536	22,562	23,383	21,562	21,517	21,948	974	1,045	1,435	4.3	4.6	6.1
Carbon	7,608	7,700	7,730	7,302	7,360	7,335	306	340	395	4.0	4.4	5.1
Converse	7,311	7,365	7,524	7,039	7,047	7,122	272	318	402	3.7	4.3	5.3
Crook	3,532	3,571	3,440	3,404	3,451	3,272	128	120	168	3.6	3.4	4.9
Fremont	19,177	19,110	19,501	18,072	17,924	18,124	1,105	1,186	1,377	5.8	6.2	7.1
Goshen	6,805	6,893	6,779	6,621	6,685	6,583	184	208	196	2.7	3.0	2.9
Hot Springs	2,271	2,259	2,350	2,179	2,168	2,236	92	91	114	4.1	4.0	4.9
Johnson	4,051	4,078	3,974	3,857	3,867	3,751	194	211	223	4.8	5.2	5.6
Laramie	47,874	47,296	49,094	45,919	45,272	47,064	1,955	2,024	2,030	4.1	4.3	4.1
Lincoln	8,524	8,555	8,617	8,166	8,171	8,212	358	384	405	4.2	4.5	4.7
Natrona	39,270	39,195	40,137	37,274	37,075	37,467	1,996	2,120	2,670	5.1	5.4	6.7
Niobrara	1,282	1,283	1,242	1,249	1,256	1,201	33	27	41	2.6	2.1	3.3
Park	14,824	14,822	14,544	14,039	14,008	13,688	785	814	856	5.3	5.5	5.9
Platte	4,712	4,727	4,561	4,507	4,518	4,352	205	209	209	4.4	4.4	4.6
Sheridan	15,532	15,491	15,665	14,744	14,698	14,859	788	793	806	5.1	5.1	5.1
Sublette	4,218	4,302	3,994	4,045	4,117	3,754	173	185	240	4.1	4.3	6.0
Sweetwater	21,208	21,201	21,937	20,308	20,217	20,697	900	984	1,240	4.2	4.6	5.7
Teton	14,875	14,929	14,805	14,519	14,554	14,381	356	375	424	2.4	2.5	2.9
Uinta	8,778	8,803	9,224	8,375	8,400	8,699	403	403	525	4.6	4.6	5.7
Washakie	4,030	4,053	4,079	3,827	3,871	3,876	203	182	203	5.0	4.5	5.0
Weston	3,661	3,669	3,846	3,528	3,528	3,663	133	141	183	3.6	3.8	4.8
Statewide	288,095	287,250	292,598	275,702	274,174	277,592	12,393	13,076	15,006	4.3	4.6	5.1
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.0	4.1	4.5
U.S.....										4.4	4.5	4.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.7

(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			
	February-18	January-18	February-17	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	291,488	291,790	295,322	-302	-0.1%	-3,834	-1.3%
Employed	279,937	279,969	281,962	-32	0.0%	-2,025	-0.7%
Unemployed	11,551	11,821	13,360	-270	-2.3%	-1,809	-13.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.1	4.5				
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: <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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