

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.5% in May 2019

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.6% in April to 3.5% in May. Wyoming's unemployment rate was lower than its year-ago level of 4.0% and slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 3.6%.

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from April to May. Slight increases were seen in Niobrara (up from 2.2% to 2.7%), Albany (up from 2.6% to 3.0%), and Goshen (up from 3.3% to 3.6%) counties. Unemployment fell in Teton (down from 3.8% to 3.0%), Big Horn (down from 4.5% to 4.0%), and Park (down from 3.9% to 3.5%) counties.

From May 2018 to May 2019, unemployment rates fell in 21 counties, and rose slightly in two counties. The largest unemployment rate decreases were seen in Fremont (down from 4.8% to 3.8%), Teton (down from 3.8% to 3.0%), Washakie (down from 4.2% to 3.5%), Natrona (down from 4.4% to 3.7%), and Converse (down from 3.5% to 2.8%) counties. Goshen County's unemployment rate increased from 3.3% to 3.6% and Niobrara County's unemployment rate increased from 2.4% to 2.7%.

In May, the highest unemployment rates were reported in Big Horn County at 4.0%, Sublette County at 3.9%, and Fremont County at 3.8%. The lowest rates were seen in Niobrara County at 2.7%, Converse County at 2.8%, and Weston and Crook counties, both at 2.9%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) increased from 286,500 in May 2018 to 290,800 in May 2019, a gain of 4,300 jobs (1.5%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the June unemployment news release for July 23, 2019.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2019 (p)	Apr 2019 (r)	May 2018 (b)	May 2019 (p)	Apr 2019 (r)	May 2018 (b)	May 2019 (p)	Apr 2019 (r)	May 2018 (b)	May 2019 (p)	Apr 2019 (r)	May 2018 (b)
Albany	20,481	20,805	20,578	19,871	20,264	19,941	610	541	637	3.0	2.6	3.1
Big Horn	5,082	5,050	5,191	4,877	4,822	4,956	205	228	235	4.0	4.5	4.5
Campbell	22,662	22,820	23,002	21,934	22,132	22,134	728	688	868	3.2	3.0	3.8
Carbon	7,622	7,499	7,802	7,390	7,255	7,533	232	244	269	3.0	3.3	3.4
Converse	7,917	7,953	7,438	7,692	7,744	7,177	225	209	261	2.8	2.6	3.5
Crook	3,527	3,480	3,637	3,423	3,373	3,526	104	107	111	2.9	3.1	3.1
Fremont	18,239	18,340	18,675	17,552	17,635	17,772	687	705	903	3.8	3.8	4.8
Goshen	6,480	6,513	6,722	6,245	6,297	6,497	235	216	225	3.6	3.3	3.3
Hot Springs	2,188	2,178	2,225	2,117	2,113	2,146	71	65	79	3.2	3.0	3.6
Johnson	4,168	4,108	4,101	4,032	3,965	3,957	136	143	144	3.3	3.5	3.5
Laramie	47,328	47,611	47,308	45,815	46,117	45,570	1,513	1,494	1,738	3.2	3.1	3.7
Lincoln	8,658	8,508	8,618	8,388	8,245	8,302	270	263	316	3.1	3.1	3.7
Natrona	38,580	39,125	38,924	37,170	37,770	37,196	1,410	1,355	1,728	3.7	3.5	4.4
Niobrara	1,214	1,213	1,250	1,181	1,186	1,220	33	27	30	2.7	2.2	2.4
Park	15,140	14,435	15,782	14,605	13,879	15,177	535	556	605	3.5	3.9	3.8
Platte	4,677	4,585	4,739	4,538	4,448	4,574	139	137	165	3.0	3.0	3.5
Sheridan	15,411	15,445	15,526	14,930	14,955	14,955	481	490	571	3.1	3.2	3.7
Sublette	4,075	4,002	4,130	3,917	3,853	3,962	158	149	168	3.9	3.7	4.1
Sweetwater	20,947	21,170	21,025	20,209	20,418	20,158	738	752	867	3.5	3.6	4.1
Teton	14,452	13,912	14,634	14,023	13,377	14,081	429	535	553	3.0	3.8	3.8
Uinta	8,900	8,837	8,954	8,572	8,497	8,581	328	340	373	3.7	3.8	4.2
Washakie	3,855	3,869	3,991	3,719	3,727	3,823	136	142	168	3.5	3.7	4.2
Weston	3,728	3,739	3,763	3,621	3,628	3,643	107	111	120	2.9	3.0	3.2
Statewide	285,329	285,196	288,015	275,821	275,698	276,880	9,508	9,498	11,135	3.3	3.3	3.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.5	3.6	4.0
U.S.....										3.4	3.3	3.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.6	3.6	3.8

(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			
	May-19	April-19	May-18	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	289,004	289,529	289,558	-525	-0.2%	-554	-0.2%
Employed	278,974	279,239	278,001	-265	-0.1%	973	0.3%
Unemployed	10,030	10,290	11,557	-260	-2.5%	-1,527	-13.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	4.0				
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
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>

Contacts:

David Bullard, Senior Economist	david.bullard@wyo.gov	307-473-3810
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor	carola.cowan@wyo.gov	307-473-3804

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning
PO Box 2760
Casper WY 82602-2760