

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 3.7% in December 2019

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady from November to December at 3.7%. Wyoming's unemployment rate was lower than its December 2018 level of 4.1%, but slightly higher than the current U.S. rate of 3.5%. Wyoming's labor force increased by an estimated 3,204 people or 1.1% from December 2018 to December 2019.

From December 2018 to December 2019, unemployment rates fell in 17 counties and rose in six counties. The largest decreases occurred in Big Horn (down from 5.4% to 3.7%), Washakie (down from 4.2% to 3.4%), Lincoln (down from 4.2% to 3.4%), Sheridan (down from 4.0% to 3.3%), and Campbell (down from 3.8% to 3.1%) counties. Unemployment rates rose in Niobrara (up from 2.5% to 3.2%), Goshen (up from 3.0% to 3.4%), and Hot Springs (up from 3.7% to 4.0%) counties.

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from November to December. Teton County was an exception. Its unemployment rate fell from 5.2% in November to 2.9% in December as the winter tourist season got into full swing. In other areas of the state, unemployment rates were likely affected by seasonal job losses in construction and other sectors. Platte County's unemployment rate rose from 2.9% in November to 3.9% in December and Fremont County's unemployment rate rose from 4.1% to 4.7%.

Weston County reported the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5% in December. It was followed by Albany County at 2.7%, and Teton and Crook counties, each at 2.9%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Sublette County at 4.9% and Fremont County at 4.7%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 286,000 in December 2018 to 282,500 in December 2019, a decline of 3,500 jobs (-1.2%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the January unemployment news release for March 10, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2019 (p)	Nov 2019 (r)	Dec 2018 (b)	Dec 2019 (p)	Nov 2019 (r)	Dec 2018 (b)	Dec 2019 (p)	Nov 2019 (r)	Dec 2018 (b)	Dec 2019 (p)	Nov 2019 (r)	Dec 2018 (b)
Albany	20,428	20,795	21,096	19,882	20,217	20,449	546	578	647	2.7	2.8	3.1
Big Horn	5,257	5,406	5,203	5,062	5,192	4,922	195	214	281	3.7	4.0	5.4
Campbell	23,538	23,778	22,615	22,816	23,031	21,755	722	747	860	3.1	3.1	3.8
Carbon	7,925	8,115	7,551	7,644	7,850	7,254	281	265	297	3.5	3.3	3.9
Converse	8,654	8,759	7,636	8,396	8,508	7,384	258	251	252	3.0	2.9	3.3
Crook	3,673	3,785	3,555	3,566	3,671	3,445	107	114	110	2.9	3.0	3.1
Fremont	18,835	19,018	18,673	17,955	18,242	17,752	880	776	921	4.7	4.1	4.9
Goshen	6,708	6,818	6,802	6,483	6,571	6,595	225	247	207	3.4	3.6	3.0
Hot Springs	2,162	2,161	2,135	2,076	2,087	2,056	86	74	79	4.0	3.4	3.7
Johnson	4,160	4,238	4,108	4,011	4,101	3,945	149	137	163	3.6	3.2	4.0
Laramie	47,964	48,531	47,663	46,360	46,917	45,794	1,604	1,614	1,869	3.3	3.3	3.9
Lincoln	8,811	8,802	8,524	8,513	8,515	8,170	298	287	354	3.4	3.3	4.2
Natrona	39,222	39,612	39,143	37,620	38,077	37,414	1,602	1,535	1,729	4.1	3.9	4.4
Niobrara	1,244	1,272	1,226	1,204	1,233	1,195	40	39	31	3.2	3.1	2.5
Park	14,876	15,074	14,749	14,238	14,440	14,019	638	634	730	4.3	4.2	4.9
Platte	4,611	4,645	4,509	4,431	4,508	4,344	180	137	165	3.9	2.9	3.7
Sheridan	15,666	15,840	15,304	15,148	15,333	14,698	518	507	606	3.3	3.2	4.0
Sublette	4,137	4,245	4,172	3,935	4,045	3,975	202	200	197	4.9	4.7	4.7
Sweetwater	21,789	21,976	21,144	20,844	21,101	20,259	945	875	885	4.3	4.0	4.2
Teton	15,025	13,924	14,635	14,591	13,193	14,131	434	731	504	2.9	5.2	3.4
Uinta	9,224	9,365	8,743	8,880	9,014	8,389	344	351	354	3.7	3.7	4.0
Washakie	4,040	4,066	4,059	3,901	3,935	3,888	139	131	171	3.4	3.2	4.2
Weston	3,805	3,860	3,711	3,711	3,771	3,595	94	89	116	2.5	2.3	3.1
Statewide	291,756	294,086	286,957	281,269	283,554	275,430	10,487	10,532	11,527	3.6	3.6	4.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.7	3.7	4.1
U.S.....										3.4	3.3	3.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.5	3.5	3.9

(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			
	December-19	November-19	December-18	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	292,408	291,447	289,204	961	0.3%	3,204	1.1%
Employed	281,690	280,546	277,292	1,144	0.4%	4,398	1.6%
Unemployed	10,718	10,901	11,912	-183	-1.7%	-1,194	-10.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	4.1				
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**

January 28, 2020

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