

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 3.7% in March 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from February to March at 3.7%. The unemployment estimates included in this report represent the labor force status of Wyoming residents during the week of March 8-14. Layoffs or other events which took place after March 14 are not reflected in this data. In recent weeks, Wyoming's economy has suffered large disruptions due to the coronavirus. Therefore, economic conditions in April likely differ significantly from the March unemployment estimates presented here.

From March 2019 to March 2020, unemployment rates rose in 17 counties, fell in five counties, and remained unchanged in Washakie County. The largest increases occurred in the Southwest region of the state. Sublette County's unemployment rate rose from 4.9% to 6.3%, Sweetwater County's rate rose from 4.1% to 5.4%, Lincoln County's rate rose from 3.6% to 4.5%, and Uinta County's rate rose from 4.0% to 4.9%. Unemployment rates fell in Crook (down from 4.3% to 3.6%) and Johnson (down from 4.7% to 4.4%) counties.

Most county unemployment rates rose slightly from February to March. The largest increases were seen in Crook (up from 3.3% to 3.6%), Lincoln (up from 4.2% to 4.5%), and Uinta (up from 4.6% to 4.9%) counties. Jobless rates fell in Niobrara (down from 3.6% to 2.8%), Platte (down from 4.7% to 4.3%), and Carbon (down from 4.4% to 4.0%) counties.

The highest unemployment rates in March were reported in Sublette County at 6.3%, Big Horn County at 5.4%, and Sweetwater County at 5.4%. The lowest rates were found in Teton County and Niobrara County, each at 2.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 283,700 in March 2019 to 282,400 in March 2020, a decline of 1,300 jobs (-0.5%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the April unemployment news release for May 26, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (r)	Mar 2019 (b)	Mar 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (r)	Mar 2019 (b)	Mar 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (r)	Mar 2019 (b)	Mar 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (r)	Mar 2019 (b)
Albany	20,696	20,673	20,725	20,016	20,031	20,104	680	642	621	3.3	3.1	3.0
Big Horn	5,279	5,303	5,005	4,996	5,011	4,766	283	292	239	5.4	5.5	4.8
Campbell	23,928	23,789	23,170	22,993	22,875	22,333	935	914	837	3.9	3.8	3.6
Carbon	7,924	7,959	7,547	7,605	7,606	7,262	319	353	285	4.0	4.4	3.8
Converse	9,089	9,061	8,407	8,796	8,776	8,173	293	285	234	3.2	3.1	2.8
Crook	3,601	3,673	3,510	3,471	3,553	3,359	130	120	151	3.6	3.3	4.3
Fremont	19,014	18,958	18,626	18,016	17,928	17,728	998	1,030	898	5.2	5.4	4.8
Goshen	6,561	6,637	6,476	6,309	6,400	6,237	252	237	239	3.8	3.6	3.7
Hot Springs	2,168	2,161	2,195	2,073	2,064	2,112	95	97	83	4.4	4.5	3.8
Johnson	4,069	4,080	4,032	3,889	3,908	3,843	180	172	189	4.4	4.2	4.7
Laramie	49,529	49,166	48,713	47,629	47,167	46,918	1,900	1,999	1,795	3.8	4.1	3.7
Lincoln	8,865	8,856	8,761	8,466	8,485	8,442	399	371	319	4.5	4.2	3.6
Natrona	39,480	39,532	39,514	37,686	37,684	37,881	1,794	1,848	1,633	4.5	4.7	4.1
Niobrara	1,183	1,229	1,199	1,150	1,185	1,163	33	44	36	2.8	3.6	3.0
Park	14,768	14,802	14,359	14,029	14,069	13,630	739	733	729	5.0	5.0	5.1
Platte	4,531	4,558	4,752	4,335	4,343	4,588	196	215	164	4.3	4.7	3.5
Sheridan	15,753	15,734	15,563	15,062	15,055	14,929	691	679	634	4.4	4.3	4.1
Sublette	4,168	4,205	3,935	3,906	3,950	3,743	262	255	192	6.3	6.1	4.9
Sweetwater	21,754	21,483	21,629	20,574	20,317	20,751	1,180	1,166	878	5.4	5.4	4.1
Teton	15,192	15,358	14,898	14,765	14,955	14,539	427	403	359	2.8	2.6	2.4
Uinta	8,894	8,789	9,099	8,459	8,386	8,733	435	403	366	4.9	4.6	4.0
Washakie	3,880	3,917	3,906	3,680	3,720	3,704	200	197	202	5.2	5.0	5.2
Weston	3,826	3,829	3,783	3,703	3,706	3,655	123	123	128	3.2	3.2	3.4
Statewide	294,153	293,750	289,806	281,609	281,172	278,595	12,544	12,578	11,211	4.3	4.3	3.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.7	3.7	3.4
U.S.....										4.5	3.8	3.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.4	3.5	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			
	March-20	February-20	March-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,911	294,176	291,572	735	0.2%	3,339	1.1%
Employed	283,862	283,296	281,521	566	0.2%	2,341	0.8%
Unemployed	11,049	10,880	10,051	169	1.6%	998	9.9%
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.4				
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
Research & Planning**

April 21, 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
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

david.bullard@wyo.gov
carola.cowan@wyo.gov

307-473-3810
307-473-3804

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