

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 7.1% in July 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 7.6% in June to 7.1% in July. Wyoming's unemployment rate peaked at 9.6% in April and has steadily decreased since then as some businesses have reopened and individuals have returned to work. It appears that the state's economy is gradually recovering from the large disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic conditions improved somewhat around the state as unemployment rates fell in all 23 counties from June to July. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Teton County (down from 9.4% to 5.7%), Lincoln County (down from 6.7% to 5.4%), Carbon County (down from 5.8% to 4.7%), Sublette County (down from 8.4% to 7.5%), and Laramie County (down from 6.7% to 5.8%).

Compared to last year, unemployment rates were higher in every county. The largest increases were seen in Natrona County (up from 3.7% to 10.2%), Sweetwater County (up from 3.9% to 8.8%), Converse County (up from 2.6% to 7.0%), and Uinta County (up from 3.9% to 8.0%). The smallest increases occurred in Albany County (up from 3.6% to 3.9%), Goshen County (up from 3.7% to 4.7%), and Crook County (up from 3.4% to 4.4%).

Albany County's unemployment rate of 3.9% was the lowest in the state. It was followed by Niobrara County at 4.3%, Crook County at 4.4%, and Weston County at 4.6%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona County at 10.2%, Campbell and Sweetwater counties, both at 8.8%, and Uinta County at 8.0%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 297,200 in July 2019 to 276,700 in July 2020, a decline of 20,500 jobs (-6.9%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the August unemployment news release for September 22, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jul 2020 (p)	Jun 2020 (r)	Jul 2019 (b)	Jul 2020 (p)	Jun 2020 (r)	Jul 2019 (b)	Jul 2020 (p)	Jun 2020 (r)	Jul 2019 (b)	Jul 2020 (p)	Jun 2020 (r)	Jul 2019 (b)
										(p)	(r)	(b)
Albany	21,965	22,019	19,294	21,100	21,026	18,591	865	993	703	3.9	4.5	3.6
Big Horn	5,473	5,400	5,579	5,195	5,099	5,355	278	301	224	5.1	5.6	4.0
Campbell	24,387	24,562	23,326	22,246	22,210	22,091	2,141	2,352	1,235	8.8	9.6	5.3
Carbon	7,947	7,949	8,568	7,573	7,488	8,318	374	461	250	4.7	5.8	2.9
Converse	9,352	9,347	8,816	8,702	8,660	8,584	650	687	232	7.0	7.3	2.6
Crook	3,984	3,872	3,918	3,808	3,681	3,783	176	191	135	4.4	4.9	3.4
Fremont	19,592	19,578	18,463	18,211	18,043	17,667	1,381	1,535	796	7.0	7.8	4.3
Goshen	6,916	6,756	6,676	6,594	6,426	6,432	322	330	244	4.7	4.9	3.7
Hot Springs	2,265	2,249	2,263	2,129	2,111	2,189	136	138	74	6.0	6.1	3.3
Johnson	4,317	4,258	4,418	4,049	3,962	4,280	268	296	138	6.2	7.0	3.1
Laramie	49,070	49,919	49,052	46,206	46,571	47,398	2,864	3,348	1,654	5.8	6.7	3.4
Lincoln	8,987	9,051	9,099	8,502	8,448	8,819	485	603	280	5.4	6.7	3.1
Natrona	40,065	40,362	39,751	35,975	35,972	38,297	4,090	4,390	1,454	10.2	10.9	3.7
Niobrara	1,327	1,281	1,286	1,270	1,219	1,253	57	62	33	4.3	4.8	2.6
Park	15,395	15,277	17,139	14,538	14,301	16,588	857	976	551	5.6	6.4	3.2
Platte	4,998	4,896	4,715	4,726	4,623	4,546	272	273	169	5.4	5.6	3.6
Sheridan	16,300	16,220	15,873	15,458	15,285	15,354	842	935	519	5.2	5.8	3.3
Sublette	4,278	4,215	4,341	3,956	3,860	4,172	322	355	169	7.5	8.4	3.9
Sweetwater	21,696	21,895	20,859	19,791	19,836	20,054	1,905	2,059	805	8.8	9.4	3.9
Teton	14,318	14,722	17,904	13,502	13,343	17,564	816	1,379	340	5.7	9.4	1.9
Uinta	9,227	9,268	9,025	8,493	8,489	8,669	734	779	356	8.0	8.4	3.9
Washakie	4,011	3,961	3,975	3,760	3,699	3,812	251	262	163	6.3	6.6	4.1
Weston	3,916	3,903	3,744	3,737	3,708	3,635	179	195	109	4.6	5.0	2.9
Statewide	299,787	300,957	298,084	279,521	278,059	287,451	20,266	22,898	10,633	6.8	7.6	3.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										7.1	7.6	3.7
U.S.....										10.5	11.2	4.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										10.2	11.1	3.7

(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			
	July-20	June-20	July-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,918	295,786	292,785	-868	-0.3%	2,133	0.7%
Employed	273,901	273,334	281,998	567	0.2%	-8,097	-2.9%
Unemployed	21,017	22,452	10,787	-1,435	-6.4%	10,230	94.8%
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.6	3.7				
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>

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