

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 6.1% in September 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 6.6% in August to 6.1% in September. Wyoming's unemployment rate has steadily decreased since its peak of 9.6% in April. It appears that the state's economy is recovering and individuals are going back to work. Unemployment in Wyoming is much lower than the national average of 7.9%.

From August to September, unemployment rates fell in every county. The largest decreases were seen in Lincoln (down from 5.7% to 4.2%), Campbell (down from 8.2% to 7.2%), and Uinta (down from 7.3% to 6.4%) counties.

Compared to last year, unemployment rates were higher in every county. The counties with the largest increases were Natrona (up from 3.7% to 8.7%), Sweetwater (up from 3.4% to 7.0%), Campbell (up from 3.8% to 7.2%), Converse (up from 2.6% to 5.7%), and Uinta (up from 3.7% to 6.4%). Jobless rates increased only slightly in Albany County (up from 3.0% to 3.1%), Goshen County (up from 3.4% to 4.0%), and Big Horn County (up from 3.7% to 4.3%).

Albany County reported the lowest unemployment rate in September at 3.1%. It was followed by Niobrara County at 3.4%, Weston County at 3.6%, and Crook County at 3.6%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona County at 8.7%, Campbell County at 7.2%, and Sweetwater County at 7.0%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 295,500 in September 2019 to 278,900 in September 2020, a decline of 16,600 jobs (-5.6%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the October unemployment news release for November 24, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Sep 2020 (p)	Aug 2020 (r)	Sep 2019 (b)	Sep 2020 (p)	Aug 2020 (r)	Sep 2019 (b)	Sep 2020 (p)	Aug 2020 (r)	Sep 2019 (b)	Sep 2020 (p)	Aug 2020 (r)	Sep 2019 (b)
Albany	21,831	21,656	20,009	21,150	20,955	19,409	681	701	600	3.1	3.2	3.0
Big Horn	5,413	5,367	5,489	5,182	5,116	5,287	231	251	202	4.3	4.7	3.7
Campbell	24,009	24,108	23,123	22,291	22,132	22,248	1,718	1,976	875	7.2	8.2	3.8
Carbon	7,873	7,826	8,267	7,562	7,497	8,039	311	329	228	4.0	4.2	2.8
Converse	9,229	9,233	8,949	8,700	8,645	8,714	529	588	235	5.7	6.4	2.6
Crook	3,923	3,871	3,884	3,781	3,720	3,778	142	151	106	3.6	3.9	2.7
Fremont	19,355	19,216	18,781	18,240	18,011	18,053	1,115	1,205	728	5.8	6.3	3.9
Goshen	6,829	6,760	6,696	6,559	6,473	6,470	270	287	226	4.0	4.2	3.4
Hot Springs	2,242	2,223	2,160	2,134	2,108	2,089	108	115	71	4.8	5.2	3.3
Johnson	4,262	4,211	4,279	4,040	3,977	4,156	222	234	123	5.2	5.6	2.9
Laramie	48,340	48,701	47,863	45,949	46,194	46,246	2,391	2,507	1,617	4.9	5.1	3.4
Lincoln	8,892	8,934	9,056	8,521	8,426	8,793	371	508	263	4.2	5.7	2.9
Natrona	39,149	39,532	39,108	35,737	35,795	37,663	3,412	3,737	1,445	8.7	9.5	3.7
Niobrara	1,308	1,279	1,276	1,263	1,231	1,245	45	48	31	3.4	3.8	2.4
Park	15,210	15,040	16,161	14,527	14,325	15,634	683	715	527	4.5	4.8	3.3
Platte	4,913	4,881	4,639	4,709	4,647	4,489	204	234	150	4.2	4.8	3.2
Sheridan	16,106	15,956	15,715	15,457	15,287	15,247	649	669	468	4.0	4.2	3.0
Sublette	4,198	4,173	4,292	3,938	3,887	4,130	260	286	162	6.2	6.9	3.8
Sweetwater	21,332	21,410	20,911	19,842	19,745	20,193	1,490	1,665	718	7.0	7.8	3.4
Teton	14,113	13,974	16,399	13,525	13,327	16,067	588	647	332	4.2	4.6	2.0
Uinta	9,088	9,123	8,969	8,510	8,456	8,640	578	667	329	6.4	7.3	3.7
Washakie	3,948	3,907	3,923	3,762	3,704	3,793	186	203	130	4.7	5.2	3.3
Weston	3,878	3,853	3,822	3,738	3,705	3,723	140	148	99	3.6	3.8	2.6
Statewide	295,442	295,240	293,770	279,118	277,366	284,107	16,324	17,874	9,663	5.5	6.1	3.3
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.1	6.6	3.7
U.S.....										7.7	8.5	3.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										7.9	8.4	3.5

(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			
	September-20	August-20	September-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,960	292,304	292,889	2,656	0.9%	2,071	0.7%
Employed	276,990	273,109	281,961	3,881	1.4%	-4,971	-1.8%
Unemployed	17,970	19,195	10,928	-1,225	-6.4%	7,042	64.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.6	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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