

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 5.1% in November 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.5% in October to 5.1% in November. Wyoming's unemployment rate has been steadily decreasing since its peak of 9.6% in April and is currently much lower than the U.S. rate of 6.7%. It appears that the state's economy is recovering from the pandemic related closures seen earlier in the year and that many individuals have returned to work. Wyoming's jobless rate is considerably higher than its November 2019 level of 3.7%.

From October to November, unemployment rates increased in seven counties, decreased in 11 counties and remained unchanged in five counties. Teton County posted the largest increase, rising from 4.4% to 5.8%. Unemployment often increases in Teton County in November as the summer tourist season has ended and the ski season has not begun. Unemployment rates fell sharply in Campbell (down from 6.5% to 5.8%) and Natrona (down from 7.7% to 7.0%) counties.

From November 2019 to November 2020, unemployment rates rose in almost every county. The largest increases occurred in Natrona (up from 4.0% to 7.0%), Campbell (up from 3.2% to 5.8%), Converse (up from 2.8% to 5.1%), and Sweetwater (up from 4.2% to 6.0%) counties. Big Horn County's unemployment rate fell from 4.0% to 3.8%.

Albany County reported the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.0% in November. It was followed by Weston and Crook counties, each at 3.3%, and Niobrara County at 3.4%. The highest rates were found in Natrona County at 7.0%, Sweetwater County at 6.0%, and Campbell and Teton counties, each at 5.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 285,300 in November 2019 to 271,300 in November 2020, a decline of 14,000 jobs (-4.9%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the December unemployment news release for January 26, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2020 (p)	Oct 2020 (r)	Nov 2019 (b)	Nov 2020 (p)	Oct 2020 (r)	Nov 2019 (b)	Nov 2020 (p)	Oct 2020 (r)	Nov 2019 (b)	Nov 2020 (p)	Oct 2020 (r)	Nov 2019 (b)
Albany	21,736	21,896	20,984	21,081	21,252	20,388	655	644	596	3.0	2.9	2.8
Big Horn	5,259	5,364	5,410	5,058	5,160	5,193	201	204	217	3.8	3.8	4.0
Campbell	23,609	23,975	23,713	22,241	22,423	22,950	1,368	1,552	763	5.8	6.5	3.2
Carbon	7,728	7,836	8,070	7,434	7,561	7,803	294	275	267	3.8	3.5	3.3
Converse	9,131	9,246	9,024	8,668	8,749	8,768	463	497	256	5.1	5.4	2.8
Crook	3,732	3,866	3,768	3,607	3,728	3,652	125	138	116	3.3	3.6	3.1
Fremont	19,079	19,296	18,906	18,072	18,265	18,115	1,007	1,031	791	5.3	5.3	4.2
Goshen	6,586	6,749	6,787	6,326	6,501	6,535	260	248	252	3.9	3.7	3.7
Hot Springs	2,211	2,234	2,137	2,114	2,136	2,062	97	98	75	4.4	4.4	3.5
Johnson	4,117	4,206	4,149	3,935	4,015	4,009	182	191	140	4.4	4.5	3.4
Laramie	48,870	48,929	48,745	46,811	46,740	47,086	2,059	2,189	1,659	4.2	4.5	3.4
Lincoln	8,828	8,901	8,691	8,471	8,546	8,394	357	355	297	4.0	4.0	3.4
Natrona	39,950	39,629	39,651	37,145	36,586	38,081	2,805	3,043	1,570	7.0	7.7	4.0
Niobrara	1,243	1,285	1,241	1,201	1,240	1,202	42	45	39	3.4	3.5	3.1
Park	14,914	15,112	14,907	14,242	14,480	14,261	672	632	646	4.5	4.2	4.3
Platte	4,762	4,864	4,515	4,570	4,677	4,375	192	187	140	4.0	3.8	3.1
Sheridan	15,884	16,130	15,700	15,237	15,455	15,183	647	675	517	4.1	4.2	3.3
Sublette	4,018	4,139	4,204	3,800	3,904	4,000	218	235	204	5.4	5.7	4.9
Sweetwater	21,155	21,300	21,418	19,882	20,006	20,527	1,273	1,294	891	6.0	6.1	4.2
Teton	14,191	14,147	13,871	13,371	13,521	13,123	820	626	748	5.8	4.4	5.4
Uinta	8,990	9,076	9,012	8,503	8,568	8,654	487	508	358	5.4	5.6	4.0
Washakie	3,878	3,905	3,974	3,695	3,751	3,840	183	154	134	4.7	3.9	3.4
Weston	3,826	3,877	3,845	3,701	3,748	3,752	125	129	93	3.3	3.3	2.4
Statewide	293,696	295,966	292,723	279,164	281,013	281,952	14,532	14,953	10,771	4.9	5.1	3.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.1	5.5	3.7
U.S.....										6.4	6.6	3.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.7	6.9	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			
	November-20	October-20	November-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,919	295,492	292,684	-1,573	-0.5%	1,235	0.4%
Employed	278,914	279,141	281,856	-227	-0.1%	-2,942	-1.0%
Unemployed	15,005	16,351	10,828	-1,346	-8.2%	4,177	38.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.5	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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