

Wyoming Unemployment Increases to 5.3% in February 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly from 5.1% in January to 5.3% in February. Despite this increase, Wyoming's unemployment rate remains much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 6.2%.

From January to February, unemployment rates increased in 15 counties, remained unchanged in three counties, and decreased in five counties. The largest increases occurred in Johnson County (up from 6.0% to 6.7%) and Weston County (up from 3.9% to 4.6%). Jobless rates fell slightly in Washakie (down from 5.6% to 5.4%), Sweetwater (down from 7.8% to 7.6%), and Niobrara (down from 5.3% to 5.1%) counties.

Unemployment rates increased from year-ago levels in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties. The largest increases occurred in Converse (up from 3.7% to 7.4%), Natrona (up from 5.2% to 8.9%), Campbell (up from 4.4% to 7.5%), and Uinta (up from 5.0% to 7.1%) counties. Washakie County's unemployment rate fell slightly, decreasing from 5.7% to 5.4%.

The highest unemployment rates in February were found in Natrona County at 8.9%, Sublette County at 8.8%, and Sweetwater County at 7.6%. The lowest rates were reported in Teton County at 4.4%, Albany County at 4.5%, and Crook County at 4.5%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 281,800 in February 2020 to 266,400 in February 2021, a decline of 15,400 jobs (-5.5%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the March unemployment news release for April 19, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2021 (p)	Jan 2021 (r)	Feb 2020 (b)	Feb 2021 (p)	Jan 2021 (r)	Feb 2020 (b)	Feb 2021 (p)	Jan 2021 (r)	Feb 2020 (b)	Feb 2021 (p)	Jan 2021 (r)	Feb 2020 (b)
Albany	19,919	19,384	20,626	19,019	18,506	19,887	900	878	739	4.5	4.5	3.6
Big Horn	5,298	5,295	5,142	4,935	4,961	4,809	363	334	333	6.9	6.3	6.5
Campbell	23,276	23,183	23,853	21,532	21,546	22,798	1,744	1,637	1,055	7.5	7.1	4.4
Carbon	8,057	8,109	7,566	7,613	7,664	7,162	444	445	404	5.5	5.5	5.3
Converse	7,893	7,858	8,777	7,309	7,320	8,450	584	538	327	7.4	6.8	3.7
Crook	3,894	3,881	3,745	3,720	3,726	3,608	174	155	137	4.5	4.0	3.7
Fremont	19,340	19,239	19,306	18,059	17,989	18,133	1,281	1,250	1,173	6.6	6.5	6.1
Goshen	6,667	6,662	6,516	6,353	6,340	6,247	314	322	269	4.7	4.8	4.1
Hot Springs	2,247	2,248	2,219	2,116	2,120	2,111	131	128	108	5.8	5.7	4.9
Johnson	4,100	4,084	4,055	3,825	3,841	3,856	275	243	199	6.7	6.0	4.9
Laramie	50,863	50,766	50,954	48,057	47,999	48,652	2,806	2,767	2,302	5.5	5.5	4.5
Lincoln	9,453	9,436	9,246	8,947	8,936	8,818	506	500	428	5.4	5.3	4.6
Natrona	40,623	40,676	40,892	37,023	37,279	38,769	3,600	3,397	2,123	8.9	8.4	5.2
Niobrara	1,284	1,284	1,245	1,218	1,216	1,195	66	68	50	5.1	5.3	4.0
Park	14,803	14,784	14,689	13,838	13,866	13,849	965	918	840	6.5	6.2	5.7
Platte	4,689	4,713	4,561	4,432	4,449	4,314	257	264	247	5.5	5.6	5.4
Sheridan	16,405	16,183	15,967	15,367	15,260	15,182	1,038	923	785	6.3	5.7	4.9
Sublette	3,928	3,946	4,019	3,583	3,616	3,724	345	330	295	8.8	8.4	7.3
Sweetwater	20,457	20,521	21,221	18,901	18,928	19,895	1,556	1,593	1,326	7.6	7.8	6.2
Teton	14,769	14,899	15,695	14,123	14,263	15,227	646	636	468	4.4	4.3	3.0
Uinta	9,233	9,168	9,178	8,579	8,574	8,716	654	594	462	7.1	6.5	5.0
Washakie	3,987	4,043	3,979	3,773	3,818	3,752	214	225	227	5.4	5.6	5.7
Weston	3,860	3,838	3,911	3,684	3,689	3,770	176	149	141	4.6	3.9	3.6
Statewide	295,046	294,201	297,365	276,009	275,907	282,925	19,037	18,294	14,440	6.5	6.2	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.3	5.1	4.8
U.S.....										6.6	6.8	3.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.2	6.3	3.5

(p) Preliminary, (r) Revised, (b) Benchmarked.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

Labor Force = Employment + Unemployed Number

Unemployment Rate = Unemployed Number/Labor Force

	Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates			Change			
	February-21	January-21	February-20	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	295,331	295,132	298,818	199	0.1%	-3,487	-1.2%
Employed	279,791	280,002	284,507	-211	-0.1%	-4,716	-1.7%
Unemployed	15,540	15,130	14,311	410	2.7%	1,229	8.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.1	4.8				
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**

March 29, 2021

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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