

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.9% in August 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.2% in July to 4.9% in August. Available data suggests that the August decrease in unemployment was related to individuals dropping out of the labor force. Wyoming's unemployment rate was slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.2% and much lower than its August 2020 level of 6.2%.

From July to August, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Sweetwater (down from 5.8% to 4.7%), Niobrara (down from 4.0% to 2.9%), Converse (down from 4.9% to 3.9%), and Hot Springs (down from 4.0% to 3.1%) counties.

Unemployment rates fell in every county from August 2020 to August 2021. Jobless rates were elevated in August 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest over-the-year decreases were seen in Natrona (down from 9.0% to 5.0%), Campbell (down from 8.4% to 4.6%), Converse (down from 7.5% to 3.9%), and Sweetwater (down from 8.0% to 4.7%) counties.

In August 2021, the highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona County at 5.0%, Sweetwater County at 4.7%, and Campbell County at 4.6%. The lowest rates were reported in Teton County at 2.4%, Weston County at 2.7%, and Crook County at 2.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 274,900 in August 2020 to 280,400 in August 2021, an increase of 5,500 jobs (2.0%). Nonfarm employment was unusually low in August 2020 because of economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the September unemployment news release for October 25, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2021 (p)	Jul 2021 (r)	Aug 2020 (b)	Aug 2021 (p)	Jul 2021 (r)	Aug 2020 (b)	Aug 2021 (p)	Jul 2021 (r)	Aug 2020 (b)	Aug 2021 (p)	Jul 2021 (r)	Aug 2020 (b)
Albany	19,291	19,334	19,215	18,657	18,583	18,518	634	751	697	3.3	3.9	3.6
Big Horn	5,741	5,850	5,499	5,548	5,617	5,252	193	233	247	3.4	4.0	4.5
Campbell	21,505	21,597	23,143	20,523	20,420	21,190	982	1,177	1,953	4.6	5.4	8.4
Carbon	8,310	8,375	8,644	8,047	8,066	8,319	263	309	325	3.2	3.7	3.8
Converse	7,445	7,477	7,770	7,152	7,108	7,188	293	369	582	3.9	4.9	7.5
Crook	4,174	4,221	4,045	4,057	4,085	3,894	117	136	151	2.8	3.2	3.7
Fremont	19,126	18,913	19,367	18,367	18,003	18,183	759	910	1,184	4.0	4.8	6.1
Goshen	6,801	6,836	6,721	6,606	6,598	6,436	195	238	285	2.9	3.5	4.2
Hot Springs	2,297	2,350	2,291	2,225	2,255	2,174	72	95	117	3.1	4.0	5.1
Johnson	4,598	4,681	4,337	4,454	4,522	4,104	144	159	233	3.1	3.4	5.4
Laramie	50,171	50,861	51,100	48,506	48,845	48,618	1,665	2,016	2,482	3.3	4.0	4.9
Lincoln	9,579	9,655	9,463	9,285	9,304	8,956	294	351	507	3.1	3.6	5.4
Natrona	39,817	40,359	40,891	37,814	38,017	37,208	2,003	2,342	3,683	5.0	5.8	9.0
Niobrara	1,373	1,398	1,266	1,333	1,342	1,220	40	56	46	2.9	4.0	3.6
Park	17,220	17,500	16,534	16,699	16,882	15,831	521	618	703	3.0	3.5	4.3
Platte	4,641	4,684	4,700	4,488	4,494	4,471	153	190	229	3.3	4.1	4.9
Sheridan	16,378	16,557	16,426	15,822	15,890	15,761	556	667	665	3.4	4.0	4.0
Sublette	4,181	4,240	4,183	3,995	4,023	3,898	186	217	285	4.4	5.1	6.8
Sweetwater	19,448	19,229	20,612	18,535	18,122	18,973	913	1,107	1,639	4.7	5.8	8.0
Teton	15,968	15,783	16,461	15,588	15,350	15,816	380	433	645	2.4	2.7	3.9
Uinta	9,030	9,015	9,527	8,664	8,576	8,869	366	439	658	4.1	4.9	6.9
Washakie	4,068	4,144	3,983	3,929	3,976	3,785	139	168	198	3.4	4.1	5.0
Weston	3,765	3,757	3,777	3,664	3,641	3,631	101	116	146	2.7	3.1	3.9
Statewide	294,925	296,818	299,955	283,956	283,720	282,294	10,969	13,098	17,661	3.7	4.4	5.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.9	5.2	6.2
U.S.....										5.3	5.7	8.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.2	5.4	8.4

(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			
	August-21	July-21	August-20	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,759	295,672	296,712	-913	-0.3%	-1,953	-0.7%
Employed	280,238	280,242	278,278	-4	0.0%	1,960	0.7%
Unemployed	14,521	15,430	18,434	-909	-5.9%	-3,913	-21.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.2	6.2				
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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