

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.5% in September 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.9% in August to 4.5% in September. In each of the past three months, unemployment has trended downward as individuals have dropped out of the labor force. Wyoming's unemployment rate remained lower than the current U.S. rate of 4.8% and was much lower than its September 2020 level of 5.7%.

From August to September, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and fell in every county. Unemployment sometimes decreases in September as schools and colleges staff up for the start of a new school year. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Sweetwater (down from 4.7% to 3.4%), Natrona (down from 5.0% to 3.7%), and Campbell (down from 4.6% to 3.4%) counties.

Compared to last year, unemployment rates decreased in all of Wyoming's 23 counties. Unemployment rates were higher than normal in September 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest over-the-year decreases occurred in energy producing areas of the state. Natrona County's unemployment rate fell from 8.5% to 3.7%, Campbell County's rate fell from 7.5% to 3.4%, Converse County's rate fell from 6.8% to 2.9%, and Sweetwater County's rate fell from 7.2% to 3.4%.

In September, the lowest unemployment rates were found in Teton County at 1.8%, and Crook and Weston counties (both 2.0%). The highest rates were reported in Natrona County at 3.7%, and Campbell, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties (all 3.4%).

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 275,700 in September 2020 to 277,600 in September 2021, an increase of 1,900 jobs (0.7%). Employment was unusually low in September 2020 because of economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the October unemployment news release for November 22, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Sep 2021 (p)	Aug 2021 (r)	Sep 2020 (b)	Sep 2021 (p)	Aug 2021 (r)	Sep 2020 (b)	Sep 2021 (p)	Aug 2021 (r)	Sep 2020 (b)	Sep 2021 (p)	Aug 2021 (r)	Sep 2020 (b)
Albany	19,307	19,304	19,769	18,863	18,673	19,087	444	631	682	2.3	3.3	3.4
Big Horn	5,691	5,743	5,590	5,550	5,552	5,360	141	191	230	2.5	3.3	4.1
Campbell	21,466	21,521	22,947	20,727	20,541	21,231	739	980	1,716	3.4	4.6	7.5
Carbon	8,180	8,315	8,513	7,980	8,054	8,200	200	261	313	2.4	3.1	3.7
Converse	7,449	7,442	7,827	7,236	7,151	7,298	213	291	529	2.9	3.9	6.8
Crook	4,020	4,177	4,083	3,938	4,060	3,936	82	117	147	2.0	2.8	3.6
Fremont	19,159	19,137	19,584	18,615	18,383	18,475	544	754	1,109	2.8	3.9	5.7
Goshen	6,666	6,806	6,801	6,517	6,612	6,530	149	194	271	2.2	2.9	4.0
Hot Springs	2,282	2,298	2,282	2,226	2,227	2,172	56	71	110	2.5	3.1	4.8
Johnson	4,485	4,601	4,342	4,385	4,458	4,123	100	143	219	2.2	3.1	5.0
Laramie	50,066	50,276	50,409	48,792	48,614	48,009	1,274	1,662	2,400	2.5	3.3	4.8
Lincoln	9,821	9,586	9,595	9,607	9,293	9,218	214	293	377	2.2	3.1	3.9
Natrona	39,423	39,536	40,201	37,968	37,541	36,797	1,455	1,995	3,404	3.7	5.0	8.5
Niobrara	1,349	1,374	1,331	1,317	1,334	1,286	32	40	45	2.4	2.9	3.4
Park	16,575	17,234	16,353	16,184	16,714	15,672	391	520	681	2.4	3.0	4.2
Platte	4,586	4,644	4,766	4,475	4,492	4,559	111	152	207	2.4	3.3	4.3
Sheridan	16,122	16,388	16,214	15,719	15,836	15,566	403	552	648	2.5	3.4	4.0
Sublette	4,059	4,184	4,187	3,919	3,999	3,921	140	185	266	3.4	4.4	6.4
Sweetwater	19,488	19,457	20,551	18,823	18,551	19,076	665	906	1,475	3.4	4.7	7.2
Teton	15,677	15,980	16,088	15,398	15,602	15,491	279	378	597	1.8	2.4	3.7
Uinta	9,018	9,034	9,331	8,744	8,672	8,758	274	362	573	3.0	4.0	6.1
Washakie	4,071	4,070	4,064	3,970	3,932	3,881	101	138	183	2.5	3.4	4.5
Weston	3,843	3,768	3,836	3,768	3,667	3,697	75	101	139	2.0	2.7	3.6
Statewide	292,802	294,877	298,662	284,720	283,960	282,342	8,082	10,917	16,320	2.8	3.7	5.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.5	4.9	5.7
U.S.....										4.6	5.3	7.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.8	5.2	7.8

(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			
	September-21	August-21	September-20	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,654	294,747	296,176	-1,093	-0.4%	-2,522	-0.9%
Employed	280,427	280,237	279,179	190	0.1%	1,248	0.4%
Unemployed	13,227	14,510	16,997	-1,283	-8.8%	-3,770	-22.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.9	5.7				
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**

October 25, 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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