

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 2.8% in January 2024

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 2.9% in December 2023 to 2.8% in January 2024. Wyoming recently completed a comprehensive annual revision of its unemployment data which resulted in the state's unemployment rate being revised down slightly for most of 2023. Wyoming's unemployment rate was lower than its January 2023 level of 3.3% and much lower than the current U.S. rate of 3.7%.

From December to January, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased in every county. Jobless rates usually rise in January as seasonal job losses are seen in many sectors, including construction, retail trade, government, professional & business services, and transportation, warehousing, & utilities. The largest unemployment rate increases occurred in Big Horn (up from 3.4% to 4.8%), Johnson (up from 2.6% to 4.0%), Fremont (up from 3.0% to 4.3%), Park (up from 2.8% to 4.1%), and Sweetwater (up from 2.9% to 4.2%) counties.

From January 2023 to January 2024, unemployment rates fell in 16 counties, remained unchanged in five counties and rose slightly in two counties. The largest decreases occurred in Niobrara (down from 4.8% to 3.5%), Carbon (down from 4.5% to 3.6%), Sweetwater (down from 4.9% to 4.2%), Sheridan (down from 4.1% to 3.5%), and Fremont (down from 4.9% to 4.3%) counties. Unemployment increased very slightly in Goshen (up from 3.3% to 3.4%) and Johnson (up from 3.9% to 4.0%) counties.

Teton County had the lowest unemployment rate in January at 2.2%. It was followed by Weston County at 2.7% and Converse County at 3.1%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Big Horn County at 4.8%, Fremont County at 4.3%, and Sublette County at 4.3%.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates show that total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 281,300 in January 2023 to 285,200 in January 2024, an increase of 3,900 jobs (1.4%).

February unemployment data will be released on March 25, 2024.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2024 (p)	Dec 2023 (b)	Jan 2023 (b)	Jan 2024 (p)	Dec 2023 (b)	Jan 2023 (b)	Jan 2024 (p)	Dec 2023 (b)	Jan 2023 (b)	Jan 2024 (p)	Dec 2023 (b)	Jan 2023 (b)
Albany	21,503	21,705	21,378	20,824	21,222	20,599	679	483	779	3.2	2.2	3.6
Big Horn	4,897	4,980	5,092	4,660	4,813	4,848	237	167	244	4.8	3.4	4.8
Campbell	23,208	23,112	23,548	22,420	22,565	22,674	788	547	874	3.4	2.4	3.7
Carbon	6,764	6,860	7,165	6,518	6,669	6,844	246	191	321	3.6	2.8	4.5
Converse	7,524	7,561	7,864	7,290	7,398	7,621	234	163	243	3.1	2.2	3.1
Crook	3,622	3,710	3,727	3,500	3,622	3,599	122	88	128	3.4	2.4	3.4
Fremont	18,642	18,712	19,036	17,842	18,158	18,099	800	554	937	4.3	3.0	4.9
Goshen	6,108	6,233	6,539	5,900	6,089	6,326	208	144	213	3.4	2.3	3.3
Hot Springs	2,287	2,284	2,359	2,214	2,232	2,284	73	52	75	3.2	2.3	3.2
Johnson	4,124	4,192	4,283	3,959	4,082	4,116	165	110	167	4.0	2.6	3.9
Laramie	48,922	48,693	49,159	47,064	47,360	47,169	1,858	1,333	1,990	3.8	2.7	4.0
Lincoln	9,627	9,618	9,733	9,262	9,363	9,325	365	255	408	3.8	2.7	4.2
Natrona	39,168	39,182	39,650	37,633	38,071	37,923	1,535	1,111	1,727	3.9	2.8	4.4
Niobrara	1,080	1,102	1,175	1,042	1,077	1,119	38	25	56	3.5	2.3	4.8
Park	14,608	14,821	14,995	14,014	14,403	14,347	594	418	648	4.1	2.8	4.3
Platte	4,020	4,092	4,455	3,877	3,981	4,271	143	111	184	3.6	2.7	4.1
Sheridan	15,844	16,013	16,234	15,288	15,634	15,573	556	379	661	3.5	2.4	4.1
Sublette	3,714	3,816	3,856	3,556	3,697	3,674	158	119	182	4.3	3.1	4.7
Sweetwater	20,197	20,230	20,198	19,354	19,641	19,206	843	589	992	4.2	2.9	4.9
Teton	17,022	17,112	16,754	16,644	16,772	16,318	378	340	436	2.2	2.0	2.6
Uinta	8,892	8,972	9,254	8,533	8,710	8,869	359	262	385	4.0	2.9	4.2
Washakie	3,715	3,752	3,971	3,570	3,652	3,797	145	100	174	3.9	2.7	4.4
Weston	3,838	3,873	3,895	3,734	3,790	3,790	104	83	105	2.7	2.1	2.7
Statewide	289,326	290,624	294,324	278,698	283,000	282,393	10,628	7,624	11,931	3.7	2.6	4.1
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										2.8	2.9	3.3
U.S.										4.1	3.5	3.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										3.7	3.7	3.4

(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			
	January-24	December-23	January-23	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,924	294,841	295,150	-917	-0.3%	-1,226	-0.4%
Employed	285,549	286,417	285,530	-868	-0.3%	19	0.0%
Unemployed	8,375	8,424	9,620	-49	-0.6%	-1,245	-12.9%
Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.9	3.3				
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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