

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.8% in December 2016

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly from 4.9% in November to 4.8% in December (not a statistically significant change). Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly from November to December, rising by an estimated 1,091 individuals (0.4%; not a statistically significant change). However, employment was lower than a year earlier (down 2,248 individuals, or -0.8%) and Wyoming's labor force fell slightly (down 829 individuals, or -0.3%).

From November to December, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased in nearly every county. As colder weather sets in, employment often falls in construction and other sectors. The largest unemployment rate increases occurred in Johnson (up from 4.4% to 5.3%), Crook (up from 3.7% to 4.5%), and Sheridan (up from 3.7% to 4.5%) counties. Teton County's unemployment rate fell from 5.7% to 3.6% as the start of the ski season resulted in more jobs.

From December 2015 to December 2016, unemployment rates fell in nine counties, rose in 12 counties, and were unchanged in Laramie and Park counties. The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increases occurred in Campbell (up from 4.4% to 6.0%), Weston (up from 3.3% to 4.5%), Converse (up from 4.4% to 5.4%), and Natrona (up from 5.6% to 6.6%) counties. Unemployment rates fell in Lincoln (down from 4.9% to 4.4%), Teton (down from 4.0% to 3.6%), and Big Horn (down from 4.8% to 4.4%) counties.

Natrona County (6.6%) posted the highest unemployment rate in December. It was followed by Fremont (6.4%), Campbell (6.0%), and Sublette (5.8%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were seen in Niobrara (2.8%), Albany (2.8%), and Goshen (3.0%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 283,900 in December 2015 to 276,200 in December 2016, a decrease of 7,700 jobs (or -2.7%; a statistically significant decrease).

Research & Planning has scheduled the January employment news release for March 14, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2016 (p)	Nov 2016 (r)	Dec 2015 (b)	Dec 2016 (p)	Nov 2016 (r)	Dec 2015 (b)	Dec 2016 (p)	Nov 2016 (r)	Dec 2015 (b)	Dec 2016 (p)	Nov 2016 (r)	Dec 2015 (b)
Albany	22,372	22,502	21,889	21,738	21,913	21,259	634	589	630	2.8	2.6	2.9
Big Horn	5,566	5,704	5,414	5,323	5,473	5,152	243	231	262	4.4	4.0	4.8
Campbell	24,015	24,127	25,444	22,568	22,707	24,314	1,447	1,420	1,130	6.0	5.9	4.4
Carbon	8,271	8,437	8,609	7,921	8,118	8,270	350	319	339	4.2	3.8	3.9
Converse	7,910	7,981	8,255	7,480	7,575	7,894	430	406	361	5.4	5.1	4.4
Crook	3,597	3,728	3,565	3,436	3,590	3,429	161	138	136	4.5	3.7	3.8
Fremont	20,457	20,609	20,223	19,156	19,406	18,988	1,301	1,203	1,235	6.4	5.8	6.1
Goshen	7,220	7,422	7,224	7,007	7,217	6,999	213	205	225	3.0	2.8	3.1
Hot Springs	2,458	2,474	2,369	2,353	2,370	2,269	105	104	100	4.3	4.2	4.2
Johnson	4,178	4,256	4,020	3,955	4,070	3,813	223	186	207	5.3	4.4	5.1
Laramie	49,041	49,162	48,877	47,051	47,443	46,891	1,990	1,719	1,986	4.1	3.5	4.1
Lincoln	8,780	8,678	8,250	8,396	8,350	7,848	384	328	402	4.4	3.8	4.9
Natrona	41,260	41,432	42,099	38,549	38,943	39,727	2,711	2,489	2,372	6.6	6.0	5.6
Niobrara	1,308	1,356	1,257	1,272	1,321	1,221	36	35	36	2.8	2.6	2.9
Park	15,478	15,606	15,073	14,704	14,925	14,321	774	681	752	5.0	4.4	5.0
Platte	4,706	4,810	4,839	4,506	4,611	4,629	200	199	210	4.2	4.1	4.3
Sheridan	16,347	16,386	15,747	15,612	15,777	15,021	735	609	726	4.5	3.7	4.6
Sublette	4,158	4,293	4,368	3,918	4,070	4,118	240	223	250	5.8	5.2	5.7
Sweetwater	22,349	22,359	22,744	21,160	21,198	21,586	1,189	1,161	1,158	5.3	5.2	5.1
Teton	15,145	13,908	14,221	14,597	13,122	13,655	548	786	566	3.6	5.7	4.0
Uinta	9,658	9,686	9,491	9,162	9,219	8,986	496	467	505	5.1	4.8	5.3
Washakie	4,341	4,359	4,330	4,164	4,201	4,158	177	158	172	4.1	3.6	4.0
Weston	3,994	4,038	3,948	3,814	3,859	3,816	180	179	132	4.5	4.4	3.3
Statewide	302,608	303,315	302,254	287,842	289,479	288,362	14,766	13,836	13,892	4.9	4.6	4.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.8	4.9	4.4
U.S.										4.5	4.4	4.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.7	4.6	5.0

(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			
	December-16	November-16	December-15	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	303,420	302,379	304,249	1,041	0.3%	-829	-0.3%
Employed	288,746	287,655	290,994	1,091	0.4%	-2,248	-0.8%
Unemployed	14,674	14,724	13,255	-50	-0.3%	1,419	10.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.9	4.4				
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: <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>

Access R&P's monthly publication on Wyoming's labor market at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends.htm>

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