

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.8% in January 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from December to January at 4.8%. Wyoming's unemployment rate was slightly lower than its January 2016 level of 5.1%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly from December to January, rising by an estimated 1,309 individuals (0.5%; not a statistically significant change).

From December to January, almost all county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased. Unemployment often increases in January because of seasonal job losses in many sectors, including construction; retail trade; transportation, warehousing, & utilities; professional & business services; and government. The largest unemployment rate increases were seen in Park (up from 5.1% to 6.2%), Fremont (up from 6.5% to 7.5%), Johnson (up from 5.5% to 6.5%), and Sheridan (up from 4.6% to 5.6%) counties. Teton County's unemployment rate fell from 3.7% to 2.9%.

From January 2016 to January 2017, unemployment rates fell in 19 counties, rose in three counties and remained unchanged in Converse County (5.8%). The largest decreases occurred in Lincoln (down from 6.2% to 4.8%), Sublette (down from 7.3% to 6.2%), Sheridan (down from 6.5% to 5.6%), Niobrara (down from 4.2% to 3.3%), and Carbon (down from 5.7% to 4.8%) counties.

Teton County (2.9%) posted the lowest unemployment rate in January. It was followed by Niobrara (3.3%), Goshen (3.3%), and Albany (3.4%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona (7.6%), Fremont (7.5%), and Campbell (6.7%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 278,300 in January 2016 to 269,000 in January 2017, a decrease of 9,300 jobs (or -3.3%; a statistically significant decrease).

Research & Planning has scheduled the February employment news release for March 28, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2017 (p)	Dec 2016 (b)	Jan 2016 (b)	Jan 2017 (p)	Dec 2016 (b)	Jan 2016 (b)	Jan 2017 (p)	Dec 2016 (b)	Jan 2016 (b)	Jan 2017 (p)	Dec 2016 (b)	Jan 2016 (b)
Albany	20,973	21,567	20,909	20,264	20,931	20,125	709	636	784	3.4	2.9	3.7
Big Horn	5,516	5,430	5,343	5,220	5,185	5,010	296	245	333	5.4	4.5	6.2
Campbell	24,207	24,052	25,581	22,587	22,589	24,014	1,620	1,463	1,567	6.7	6.1	6.1
Carbon	8,413	8,253	8,112	8,008	7,901	7,647	405	352	465	4.8	4.3	5.7
Converse	7,839	7,716	8,193	7,384	7,284	7,714	455	432	479	5.8	5.6	5.8
Crook	3,750	3,604	3,651	3,563	3,442	3,455	187	162	196	5.0	4.5	5.4
Fremont	20,151	19,956	19,965	18,638	18,652	18,301	1,513	1,304	1,664	7.5	6.5	8.3
Goshen	7,178	7,129	6,960	6,944	6,916	6,680	234	213	280	3.3	3.0	4.0
Hot Springs	2,498	2,462	2,420	2,373	2,356	2,283	125	106	137	5.0	4.3	5.7
Johnson	4,177	4,091	4,058	3,907	3,867	3,762	270	224	296	6.5	5.5	7.3
Laramie	49,988	49,481	48,668	47,677	47,470	46,178	2,311	2,011	2,490	4.6	4.1	5.1
Lincoln	8,863	8,759	8,514	8,435	8,372	7,988	428	387	526	4.8	4.4	6.2
Natrona	40,273	40,169	42,161	37,230	37,439	39,093	3,043	2,730	3,068	7.6	6.8	7.3
Niobrara	1,348	1,300	1,318	1,303	1,261	1,262	45	39	56	3.3	3.0	4.2
Park	15,500	15,252	14,845	14,540	14,470	13,874	960	782	971	6.2	5.1	6.5
Platte	4,761	4,621	4,703	4,529	4,418	4,434	232	203	269	4.9	4.4	5.7
Sheridan	16,286	16,051	15,873	15,381	15,314	14,841	905	737	1,032	5.6	4.6	6.5
Sublette	4,369	4,124	4,262	4,100	3,885	3,949	269	239	313	6.2	5.8	7.3
Sweetwater	22,264	22,368	22,538	20,902	21,172	21,065	1,362	1,196	1,473	6.1	5.3	6.5
Teton	15,249	15,036	14,452	14,800	14,487	13,924	449	549	528	2.9	3.7	3.7
Uinta	9,317	9,394	9,441	8,750	8,898	8,832	567	496	609	6.1	5.3	6.5
Washakie	4,321	4,308	4,214	4,106	4,131	3,981	215	177	233	5.0	4.1	5.5
Weston	4,018	3,989	3,980	3,817	3,807	3,809	201	182	171	5.0	4.6	4.3
Statewide	301,259	299,114	300,160	284,456	284,248	282,221	16,803	14,866	17,939	5.6	5.0	6.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.8	4.8	5.1
U.S.....										5.1	4.5	5.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.8	4.7	4.9

(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			
	January-17	December-16	January-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	302,223	300,872	303,229	1,351	0.4%	-1,006	-0.3%
Employed	287,642	286,333	287,784	1,309	0.5%	-142	0.0%
Unemployed	14,581	14,539	15,445	42	0.3%	-864	-5.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.8	5.1				
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

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Research & Planning

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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