

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.5% in March 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell significantly from 4.7% in February to 4.5% in March. Wyoming's unemployment rate was also significantly lower than its March 2016 level of 5.5%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly from February to March, rising by an estimated 1,109 individuals (0.4%).

From February to March, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased slightly. Employment often rises in March, with seasonal job gains in construction, professional & business services, and government. The counties with the largest unemployment rate decreases were Natrona (down from 6.8% to 6.1%), Fremont (down from 6.9% to 6.4%), Sweetwater (down from 5.6% to 5.2%), Converse (down from 5.3% to 4.9%), and Campbell (down from 6.1% to 5.7%).

From March 2016 to March 2017, unemployment rates decreased in 21 counties and were unchanged in Niobrara (3.6%) and Weston (4.8%) counties. The largest decreases occurred in Sublette (down from 8.4% to 5.6%), Fremont (down from 8.3% to 6.4%), Campbell (down from 7.6% to 5.7%), and Converse (down from 6.7% to 4.9%) counties.

Teton County posted the lowest unemployment rate in March (2.7%). It was followed by Goshen (3.0%), Albany (3.0%), and Niobrara (3.6%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (6.4%), Natrona (6.1%), and Campbell (5.7%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 278,300 in March 2016 to 272,000 in March 2017, a decrease of 6,300 jobs (or -2.3%; a statistically significant decrease).

Research & Planning has scheduled the April employment news release for May 23, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2017 (p)	Feb 2017 (r)	Mar 2016 (b)	Mar 2017 (p)	Feb 2017 (r)	Mar 2016 (b)	Mar 2017 (p)	Feb 2017 (r)	Mar 2016 (b)	Mar 2017 (p)	Feb 2017 (r)	Mar 2016 (b)
										(p)	(r)	(b)
Albany	21,865	21,733	21,646	21,199	21,116	20,921	666	617	725	3.0	2.8	3.3
Big Horn	5,442	5,392	5,429	5,189	5,139	5,100	253	253	329	4.6	4.7	6.1
Campbell	23,882	23,904	25,536	22,527	22,448	23,600	1,355	1,456	1,936	5.7	6.1	7.6
Carbon	8,363	8,321	8,034	7,971	7,921	7,525	392	400	509	4.7	4.8	6.3
Converse	7,778	7,761	8,072	7,394	7,352	7,531	384	409	541	4.9	5.3	6.7
Crook	3,616	3,607	3,516	3,451	3,436	3,326	165	171	190	4.6	4.7	5.4
Fremont	20,260	20,165	20,228	18,958	18,766	18,549	1,302	1,399	1,679	6.4	6.9	8.3
Goshen	7,037	6,998	6,946	6,826	6,800	6,676	211	198	270	3.0	2.8	3.9
Hot Springs	2,505	2,493	2,412	2,396	2,376	2,283	109	117	129	4.4	4.7	5.3
Johnson	4,126	4,084	4,054	3,902	3,857	3,779	224	227	275	5.4	5.6	6.8
Laramie	50,576	50,622	49,237	48,550	48,569	46,977	2,026	2,053	2,260	4.0	4.1	4.6
Lincoln	8,827	8,829	8,518	8,435	8,421	8,013	392	408	505	4.4	4.6	5.9
Natrona	40,456	40,039	42,218	37,973	37,320	38,972	2,483	2,719	3,246	6.1	6.8	7.7
Niobrara	1,322	1,310	1,283	1,275	1,267	1,237	47	43	46	3.6	3.3	3.6
Park	15,437	15,354	14,937	14,609	14,484	14,039	828	870	898	5.4	5.7	6.0
Platte	4,755	4,681	4,671	4,539	4,467	4,394	216	214	277	4.5	4.6	5.9
Sheridan	16,250	16,196	16,130	15,492	15,379	15,196	758	817	934	4.7	5.0	5.8
Sublette	4,237	4,257	4,174	3,999	4,011	3,823	238	246	351	5.6	5.8	8.4
Sweetwater	22,648	22,519	22,619	21,469	21,263	21,147	1,179	1,256	1,472	5.2	5.6	6.5
Teton	15,015	15,086	14,391	14,603	14,658	13,878	412	428	513	2.7	2.8	3.6
Uinta	9,320	9,284	9,569	8,805	8,752	8,924	515	532	645	5.5	5.7	6.7
Washakie	4,233	4,242	4,153	4,038	4,035	3,900	195	207	253	4.6	4.9	6.1
Weston	4,017	3,992	3,949	3,825	3,804	3,761	192	188	188	4.8	4.7	4.8
Statewide	301,965	300,869	301,721	287,426	285,640	283,549	14,539	15,229	18,172	4.8	5.1	6.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.5	4.7	5.5
U.S.....										4.6	4.9	5.1
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.5	4.7	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			
	March-17	February-17	March-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	303,615	303,084	303,286	531	0.2%	329	0.1%
Employed	289,863	288,754	286,569	1,109	0.4%	3,294	1.1%
Unemployed	13,752	14,330	16,717	-578	-4.0%	-2,965	-17.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.7	5.5				
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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