

Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 4.3% in November

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.2% in October to 4.3% in November (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than its November 2016 level of 4.9%, but slightly higher than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1%. The state's labor force decreased significantly from a year earlier, falling by an estimated 8,196 people (or 2.7%). A decreasing labor force suggests that individuals may have moved to other states or given up their job search.

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased slightly from October to November. Unemployment rates usually rise in November as job losses are seen in construction, leisure & hospitality, and professional & business services. Teton County's unemployment rate rose from 3.1% to 6.1%, Park County's rate rose from 3.8% to 4.7%, and Lincoln County's rate rose from 3.2% to 3.9%.

Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates fell in 15 counties and rose in eight counties. The largest decreases were seen in Campbell (down from 6.0% to 4.3%), Converse (down from 5.3% to 4.0%), Sublette (down from 5.2% to 4.0%), Natrona (down from 6.2% to 5.1%), and Sweetwater (down from 5.2% to 4.2%) counties. Unemployment rates increased in Teton (up from 5.7% to 6.1%), Carbon (up from 3.8% to 4.0%), Park (up from 4.5% to 4.7%), and Washakie (up from 3.7% to 3.9%) counties.

Teton County's unemployment rate of 6.1% was the highest in the state. The next highest rates were reported in Fremont (5.1%), Natrona (5.1%), and Park (4.7%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara (2.3%), Goshen (2.7%), and Albany (2.8%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 274,100 in November 2016 to 273,100 in November 2017, a decrease of 1,000 jobs (or -0.4%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the December employment news release for January 23, 2018.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2017 (p)	Oct 2017 (r)	Nov 2016 (b)	Nov 2017 (p)	Oct 2017 (r)	Nov 2016 (b)	Nov 2017 (p)	Oct 2017 (r)	Nov 2016 (b)	Nov 2017 (p)	Oct 2017 (r)	Nov 2016 (b)
Albany	21,338	21,023	21,829	20,740	20,451	21,235	598	572	594	2.8	2.7	2.7
Big Horn	5,509	5,545	5,588	5,298	5,345	5,354	211	200	234	3.8	3.6	4.2
Campbell	22,916	22,739	24,218	21,921	21,783	22,775	995	956	1,443	4.3	4.2	6.0
Carbon	7,928	8,027	8,442	7,612	7,739	8,121	316	288	321	4.0	3.6	3.8
Converse	7,531	7,516	7,816	7,226	7,218	7,405	305	298	411	4.0	4.0	5.3
Crook	3,737	3,741	3,748	3,626	3,631	3,610	111	110	138	3.0	2.9	3.7
Fremont	19,688	19,552	20,181	18,690	18,629	18,971	998	923	1,210	5.1	4.7	6.0
Goshen	7,138	7,057	7,357	6,945	6,868	7,151	193	189	206	2.7	2.7	2.8
Hot Springs	2,297	2,267	2,466	2,213	2,188	2,363	84	79	103	3.7	3.5	4.2
Johnson	4,158	4,228	4,184	4,005	4,071	3,997	153	157	187	3.7	3.7	4.5
Laramie	48,061	47,838	49,402	46,326	46,127	47,667	1,735	1,711	1,735	3.6	3.6	3.5
Lincoln	8,585	8,766	8,694	8,250	8,483	8,361	335	283	333	3.9	3.2	3.8
Natrona	38,748	38,779	40,387	36,771	36,922	37,875	1,977	1,857	2,512	5.1	4.8	6.2
Niobrara	1,341	1,357	1,352	1,310	1,326	1,316	31	31	36	2.3	2.3	2.7
Park	15,042	15,454	15,439	14,334	14,869	14,746	708	585	693	4.7	3.8	4.5
Platte	4,766	4,779	4,738	4,595	4,614	4,538	171	165	200	3.6	3.5	4.2
Sheridan	15,871	15,779	16,148	15,250	15,230	15,534	621	549	614	3.9	3.5	3.8
Sublette	4,315	4,347	4,275	4,142	4,185	4,052	173	162	223	4.0	3.7	5.2
Sweetwater	21,549	21,365	22,425	20,638	20,476	21,254	911	889	1,171	4.2	4.2	5.2
Teton	13,752	15,059	13,878	12,914	14,594	13,085	838	465	793	6.1	3.1	5.7
Uinta	9,243	9,166	9,458	8,848	8,814	8,988	395	352	470	4.3	3.8	5.0
Washakie	4,197	4,171	4,342	4,034	4,028	4,183	163	143	159	3.9	3.4	3.7
Weston	3,797	3,749	4,046	3,645	3,612	3,865	152	137	181	4.0	3.7	4.5
Statewide	291,505	292,305	300,414	279,333	281,202	286,447	12,172	11,103	13,967	4.2	3.8	4.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.3	4.2	4.9
U.S.....										3.9	3.9	4.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.6

(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			
	November-17	October-17	November-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	292,802	293,413	300,998	-611	-0.2%	-8,196	-2.7%
Employed	280,314	281,191	286,289	-877	-0.3%	-5,975	-2.1%
Unemployed	12,488	12,222	14,709	266	2.2%	-2,221	-15.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.2	4.9				
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>

Contacts:

David Bullard, Senior Economist	david.bullard@wyo.gov	307-473-3810
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor	carola.cowan@wyo.gov	307-473-3804

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 Research & Planning
 PO Box 2760
 Casper WY 82602-2760