

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 4.2% in December

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly from 4.3% in November to 4.2% in December (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming's unemployment rate decreased significantly from its year-ago level of 4.8%, but remained slightly higher than the current U.S. rate (4.1%). The state's labor force fell by 8,569 people (-2.8%) from December 2016 to December 2017, suggesting that individuals may have moved to other states or dropped out of the labor force.

Most county unemployment rates fell slightly from November to December. The largest decrease occurred in Teton County, where unemployment fell from 6.1% to 3.4%. This decrease was related to the start of the ski season and the associated increase in tourist activity. Unemployment rates also fell in Weston (down from 4.0% to 3.7%), Hot Springs (down from 3.7% to 3.4%), Washakie (down from 3.9% to 3.7%), Uinta (down from 4.3% to 4.1%), and Sweetwater (down from 4.2% to 4.0%) counties.

Unemployment rates fell from their year-ago levels in all of Wyoming's 23 counties. The largest decreases were seen in areas of the state that had been affected by the downturn in energy prices in 2015 and 2016. Campbell County's unemployment rate fell from 6.1% in December 2016 to 4.1% in December 2017. Unemployment decreased in Sublette County from 5.8% to 3.9%, and in Natrona County from 6.8% to 5.0%.

Niobrara County had the lowest unemployment rate in December (2.2%). It was followed by Goshen and Albany counties (both at 2.6%). The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (5.2%), Natrona (5.0%), and Park (4.6%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 274,500 in December 2016 to 275,100 in December 2017, an increase of 600 jobs (or 0.2%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the January employment news release for March 13, 2018.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2017 (p)	Nov 2017 (r)	Dec 2016 (b)	Dec 2017 (p)	Nov 2017 (r)	Dec 2016 (b)	Dec 2017 (p)	Nov 2017 (r)	Dec 2016 (b)	Dec 2017 (p)	Nov 2017 (r)	Dec 2016 (b)
Albany	20,786	21,337	21,567	20,237	20,738	20,931	549	599	636	2.6	2.8	2.9
Big Horn	5,309	5,510	5,430	5,097	5,297	5,185	212	213	245	4.0	3.9	4.5
Campbell	22,788	22,913	24,052	21,864	21,919	22,589	924	994	1,463	4.1	4.3	6.1
Carbon	7,695	7,928	8,253	7,406	7,612	7,901	289	316	352	3.8	4.0	4.3
Converse	7,351	7,531	7,716	7,056	7,226	7,284	295	305	432	4.0	4.0	5.6
Crook	3,563	3,736	3,604	3,454	3,625	3,442	109	111	162	3.1	3.0	4.5
Fremont	19,174	19,685	19,956	18,186	18,688	18,652	988	997	1,304	5.2	5.1	6.5
Goshen	7,011	7,138	7,129	6,832	6,945	6,916	179	193	213	2.6	2.7	3.0
Hot Springs	2,266	2,297	2,462	2,190	2,213	2,356	76	84	106	3.4	3.7	4.3
Johnson	4,081	4,157	4,091	3,922	4,004	3,867	159	153	224	3.9	3.7	5.5
Laramie	48,333	48,049	49,481	46,630	46,307	47,470	1,703	1,742	2,011	3.5	3.6	4.1
Lincoln	8,502	8,585	8,759	8,183	8,250	8,372	319	335	387	3.8	3.9	4.4
Natrona	38,977	38,761	40,169	37,024	36,786	37,439	1,953	1,975	2,730	5.0	5.1	6.8
Niobrara	1,293	1,341	1,300	1,264	1,310	1,261	29	31	39	2.2	2.3	3.0
Park	14,876	15,040	15,252	14,199	14,333	14,470	677	707	782	4.6	4.7	5.1
Platte	4,699	4,765	4,621	4,536	4,594	4,418	163	171	203	3.5	3.6	4.4
Sheridan	15,507	15,868	16,051	14,879	15,248	15,314	628	620	737	4.0	3.9	4.6
Sublette	4,198	4,313	4,124	4,036	4,141	3,885	162	172	239	3.9	4.0	5.8
Sweetwater	21,518	21,546	22,368	20,657	20,636	21,172	861	910	1,196	4.0	4.2	5.3
Teton	14,917	13,754	15,036	14,411	12,913	14,487	506	841	549	3.4	6.1	3.7
Uinta	9,010	9,242	9,394	8,642	8,847	8,898	368	395	496	4.1	4.3	5.3
Washakie	4,122	4,196	4,308	3,968	4,033	4,131	154	163	177	3.7	3.9	4.1
Weston	3,719	3,795	3,989	3,581	3,644	3,807	138	151	182	3.7	4.0	4.6
Statewide	289,691	291,490	299,114	278,252	279,310	284,248	11,439	12,180	14,866	3.9	4.2	5.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.2	4.3	4.8
U.S.....										3.9	3.9	4.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.7

(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-17	November-17	December-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	292,303	292,796	300,872	-493	-0.2%	-8,569	-2.8%
Employed	279,958	280,305	286,333	-347	-0.1%	-6,375	-2.2%
Unemployed	12,345	12,491	14,539	-146	-1.2%	-2,194	-15.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.3	4.8				
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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