

Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 9.2% in April 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 3.8% in March to 9.2% in April. Given the large number of layoffs and other economic disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the increase in unemployment was widely expected. Job losses were seen across all areas of the state and in every major industry with the hardest hit sectors being leisure & hospitality, natural resources & mining, and retail trade. Despite the large increase from March to April, Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than the current U.S. rate of 14.7%.

Unemployment rates rose from year-ago levels in every Wyoming county. The largest increases occurred in Teton (up from 4.0% to 18.3%), Natrona (up from 3.6% to 12.7%), Sublette (up from 4.0% to 11.3%), Campbell (up from 3.1% to 10.2%), and Sweetwater (up from 3.7% to 10.5%) counties. The smallest increases were seen in Niobrara County (up from 2.4% to 4.4%) and Big Horn County (up from 4.6% to 6.6%).

At 18.3% in April, Teton County reported the highest unemployment rate in the state. It was followed by Natrona County at 12.7%, Sublette County at 11.3%, Sweetwater County at 10.5%, and Campbell County at 10.2%. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara County at 4.4%, Albany County at 5.4%, Weston County at 5.7%, and Crook County at 5.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 284,300 in April 2019 to 257,900 in April 2020, a decline of 26,400 jobs (-9.3%). The largest job losses occurred in leisure & hospitality (-13,800 jobs, or -41.4%), natural resources & mining (-2,600 jobs, or -12.6%), retail trade (-1,700 jobs, or -6.0%), and government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals -1,700 jobs, or -2.5%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the May unemployment news release for June 23, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2020 (p)	Mar 2020 (r)	Apr 2019 (b)	Apr 2020 (p)	Mar 2020 (r)	Apr 2019 (b)	Apr 2020 (p)	Mar 2020 (r)	Apr 2019 (b)	Apr 2020 (p)	Mar 2020 (r)	Apr 2019 (b)
Albany	21,227	22,029	20,830	20,084	21,339	20,259	1,143	690	571	5.4	3.1	2.7
Big Horn	5,107	5,189	5,162	4,768	4,903	4,922	339	286	240	6.6	5.5	4.6
Campbell	23,587	23,566	23,133	21,190	22,600	22,410	2,397	966	723	10.2	4.1	3.1
Carbon	7,536	7,655	7,537	7,029	7,328	7,283	507	327	254	6.7	4.3	3.4
Converse	8,782	8,997	8,404	8,221	8,700	8,185	561	297	219	6.4	3.3	2.6
Crook	3,560	3,581	3,547	3,355	3,449	3,435	205	132	112	5.8	3.7	3.2
Fremont	18,930	19,127	18,419	17,173	18,115	17,679	1,757	1,012	740	9.3	5.3	4.0
Goshen	6,312	6,433	6,518	5,923	6,180	6,291	389	253	227	6.2	3.9	3.5
Hot Springs	2,157	2,227	2,146	2,008	2,130	2,079	149	97	67	6.9	4.4	3.1
Johnson	4,109	4,033	4,054	3,706	3,849	3,902	403	184	152	9.8	4.6	3.7
Laramie	50,631	49,303	48,719	46,103	47,371	47,143	4,528	1,932	1,576	8.9	3.9	3.2
Lincoln	8,846	8,992	8,580	8,061	8,588	8,302	785	404	278	8.9	4.5	3.2
Natrona	39,924	39,310	39,423	34,837	37,489	38,000	5,087	1,821	1,423	12.7	4.6	3.6
Niobrara	1,169	1,183	1,205	1,117	1,148	1,176	52	35	29	4.4	3.0	2.4
Park	14,864	14,646	14,544	13,456	13,894	13,964	1,408	752	580	9.5	5.1	4.0
Platte	4,621	4,549	4,824	4,295	4,349	4,680	326	200	144	7.1	4.4	3.0
Sheridan	15,770	15,795	15,546	14,431	15,091	15,031	1,339	704	515	8.5	4.5	3.3
Sublette	4,014	4,050	3,923	3,559	3,785	3,766	455	265	157	11.3	6.5	4.0
Sweetwater	21,198	21,297	21,472	18,978	20,097	20,684	2,220	1,200	788	10.5	5.6	3.7
Teton	15,531	14,961	13,995	12,696	14,527	13,434	2,835	434	561	18.3	2.9	4.0
Uinta	8,936	9,026	9,030	8,104	8,589	8,672	832	437	358	9.3	4.8	4.0
Washakie	3,775	3,840	3,894	3,496	3,638	3,745	279	202	149	7.4	5.3	3.8
Weston	3,722	3,816	3,819	3,511	3,691	3,701	211	125	118	5.7	3.3	3.1
Statewide	294,311	293,605	288,723	266,103	280,851	278,743	28,208	12,754	9,980	9.6	4.3	3.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										9.2	3.8	3.5
U.S.....										14.4	4.5	3.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										14.7	4.4	3.6

(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			
	April-20	March-20	April-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	297,653	295,500	291,796	2,153	0.7%	5,857	2.0%
Employed	270,295	284,302	281,644	-14,007	-4.9%	-11,349	-4.0%
Unemployed	27,358	11,198	10,152	16,160	144.3%	17,206	169.5%
Unemployment Rate	9.2	3.8	3.5				
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
Research & Planning**

May 26, 2020

Internet Address: <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>

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

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