

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 5.5% in October 2020

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 6.1% in September to 5.5% in October. Wyoming's unemployment rate has decreased in each of the past six months and is much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 6.9%. Despite several months of decreases, Wyoming's unemployment rate remains higher than its October 2019 level of 3.7%.

From September to October, unemployment rates fell in most counties. The largest decreases were seen in Natrona County (down from 8.9% to 7.8%), Sweetwater County (down from 6.9% to 6.0%), Washakie County (down from 4.7% to 3.9%), and Uinta County (down from 6.3% to 5.5%). Unemployment increased slightly in Teton County (up from 4.2% to 4.4%) and Niobrara County (up from 3.4% to 3.6%). Teton County's unemployment rate often increases in October as the summer tourist season winds down.

From October 2019 to October 2020, unemployment rates rose in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties. The largest increases occurred in areas of the state that are highly dependent on the energy sector. Natrona County's jobless rate rose from 3.8% to 7.8%, Campbell County's rate rose from 3.5% to 6.4%, and Converse County's rate rose from 2.7% to 5.3%. In contrast, Goshen County's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6%, and unemployment rose only slightly in Albany (up from 2.8% to 2.9%) and Big Horn (up from 3.6% to 3.8%) counties.

In October, the highest unemployment rates were reported in Natrona County at 7.8%, Campbell County at 6.4%, and Sweetwater County at 6.0%. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany County at 2.9%, Weston County at 3.3%, and Crook and Carbon counties, both at 3.5%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 290,600 in October 2019 to 277,700 in October 2020, a decline of 12,900 jobs (-4.4%).

Research & Planning has scheduled the November unemployment news release for December 22, 2020.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2020 (p)	Sep 2020 (r)	Oct 2019 (b)	Oct 2020 (p)	Sep 2020 (r)	Oct 2019 (b)	Oct 2020 (p)	Sep 2020 (r)	Oct 2019 (b)	Oct 2020 (p)	Sep 2020 (r)	Oct 2019 (b)
Albany	22,126	21,978	20,899	21,481	21,298	20,308	645	680	591	2.9	3.1	2.8
Big Horn	5,400	5,434	5,429	5,197	5,202	5,232	203	232	197	3.8	4.3	3.6
Campbell	24,227	24,184	23,334	22,678	22,459	22,517	1,549	1,725	817	6.4	7.1	3.5
Carbon	7,902	7,917	8,158	7,629	7,603	7,926	273	314	232	3.5	4.0	2.8
Converse	9,306	9,265	8,968	8,812	8,735	8,729	494	530	239	5.3	5.7	2.7
Crook	3,875	3,927	3,719	3,738	3,782	3,615	137	145	104	3.5	3.7	2.8
Fremont	19,468	19,457	18,833	18,435	18,341	18,080	1,033	1,116	753	5.3	5.7	4.0
Goshen	6,782	6,843	6,646	6,535	6,571	6,405	247	272	241	3.6	4.0	3.6
Hot Springs	2,255	2,256	2,130	2,157	2,145	2,055	98	111	75	4.3	4.9	3.5
Johnson	4,233	4,273	4,183	4,041	4,051	4,059	192	222	124	4.5	5.2	3.0
Laramie	47,985	47,486	48,535	45,802	45,089	46,903	2,183	2,397	1,632	4.5	5.0	3.4
Lincoln	8,984	8,947	8,912	8,633	8,574	8,637	351	373	275	3.9	4.2	3.1
Natrona	38,782	38,452	39,482	35,743	35,034	37,994	3,039	3,418	1,488	7.8	8.9	3.8
Niobrara	1,286	1,305	1,235	1,240	1,260	1,204	46	45	31	3.6	3.4	2.5
Park	15,221	15,270	15,358	14,589	14,584	14,809	632	686	549	4.2	4.5	3.6
Platte	4,893	4,933	4,515	4,707	4,722	4,375	186	211	140	3.8	4.3	3.1
Sheridan	16,268	16,187	15,613	15,593	15,537	15,157	675	650	456	4.1	4.0	2.9
Sublette	4,159	4,209	4,211	3,924	3,945	4,023	235	264	188	5.7	6.3	4.5
Sweetwater	21,547	21,500	21,155	20,255	20,011	20,417	1,292	1,489	738	6.0	6.9	3.5
Teton	14,264	14,183	15,229	13,637	13,591	14,808	627	592	421	4.4	4.2	2.8
Uinta	9,177	9,153	8,985	8,668	8,577	8,653	509	576	332	5.5	6.3	3.7
Washakie	3,933	3,962	3,971	3,778	3,776	3,832	155	186	139	3.9	4.7	3.5
Weston	3,915	3,901	3,814	3,785	3,760	3,719	130	141	95	3.3	3.6	2.5
Statewide	295,987	295,023	293,310	281,057	278,648	283,455	14,930	16,375	9,855	5.0	5.6	3.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.5	6.1	3.7
U.S.....										6.6	7.7	3.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.9	7.9	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			
	October-20	September-20	October-19	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	295,341	294,249	292,785	1,092	0.4%	2,556	0.9%
Employed	279,057	276,399	281,900	2,658	1.0%	-2,843	-1.0%
Unemployed	16,284	17,850	10,885	-1,566	-8.8%	5,399	49.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.1	3.7				
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: <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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