

Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 5.4% in April 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 5.3% in March to 5.4% in April. However, Wyoming's unemployment rate was much lower than the current U.S. rate of 6.1%. Wyoming's labor force, the sum of employed and unemployed individuals, increased by 5,141 people, or 1.8% from a year earlier.

From March to April, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and fell in most counties around the state. Unemployment rates often decrease in April as seasonal job gains occur in construction, retail trade, and professional & business services. The largest unemployment rate decreases were seen in Park (down from 5.9% to 5.1%), Big Horn (down from 6.1% to 5.3%), and Johnson (down from 5.9% to 5.2%) counties. Teton County was the exception. Its unemployment rate rose from 4.2% in March to 7.0% in April as the ski season ended.

From April 2020 to April 2021, jobless rates rose in 16 counties and fell in seven counties. The largest increases occurred in Converse (up from 4.1% to 6.1%), Niobrara (up from 2.6% to 4.1%), Big Horn (up from 3.9% to 5.3%), and Uinta (up from 5.5% to 6.3%) counties. Unemployment rates fell in Teton (down from 12.5% to 7.0%), Park (down from 5.9% to 5.1%), Laramie (down from 5.4% to 4.6%), and Johnson (down from 5.9% to 5.2%) counties.

Natrona County had the highest unemployment rate in April at 7.4%. It was followed by Sublette County at 7.1%, Teton County at 7.0%, and Sweetwater County at 6.8%. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Weston County at 3.9% and Crook and Albany counties, each at 4.0%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 257,100 in April 2020 to 267,900 in April 2021, an increase of 10,800 jobs (4.2%). Nonfarm employment was unusually low in April 2020 because of widespread economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the May unemployment news release for June 21, 2021.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (r)	Apr 2020 (b)	Apr 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (r)	Apr 2020 (b)	Apr 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (r)	Apr 2020 (b)	Apr 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (r)	Apr 2020 (b)
Albany	19,536	19,894	19,970	18,760	19,030	19,285	776	864	685	4.0	4.3	3.4
Big Horn	5,513	5,326	5,191	5,221	5,001	4,986	292	325	205	5.3	6.1	3.9
Campbell	22,692	23,084	23,494	21,265	21,573	22,067	1,427	1,511	1,427	6.3	6.5	6.1
Carbon	7,919	8,071	7,657	7,554	7,659	7,358	365	412	299	4.6	5.1	3.9
Converse	7,823	7,835	8,214	7,342	7,342	7,880	481	493	334	6.1	6.3	4.1
Crook	3,939	3,902	3,722	3,782	3,732	3,599	157	170	123	4.0	4.4	3.3
Fremont	19,263	19,357	18,917	18,133	18,168	17,883	1,130	1,189	1,034	5.9	6.1	5.5
Goshen	6,610	6,679	6,486	6,334	6,397	6,257	276	282	229	4.2	4.2	3.5
Hot Springs	2,281	2,243	2,170	2,178	2,133	2,075	103	110	95	4.5	4.9	4.4
Johnson	4,307	4,084	3,980	4,081	3,845	3,745	226	239	235	5.2	5.9	5.9
Laramie	51,578	51,047	49,732	49,206	48,476	47,035	2,372	2,571	2,697	4.6	5.0	5.4
Lincoln	9,340	9,397	9,005	8,886	8,906	8,540	454	491	465	4.9	5.2	5.2
Natrona	41,265	40,672	39,604	38,204	37,446	36,594	3,061	3,226	3,010	7.4	7.9	7.6
Niobrara	1,328	1,275	1,205	1,273	1,220	1,174	55	55	31	4.1	4.3	2.6
Park	15,132	14,797	14,142	14,360	13,928	13,312	772	869	830	5.1	5.9	5.9
Platte	4,778	4,727	4,511	4,563	4,485	4,317	215	242	194	4.5	5.1	4.3
Sheridan	16,249	16,366	15,681	15,398	15,435	14,877	851	931	804	5.2	5.7	5.1
Sublette	3,913	3,886	3,769	3,634	3,585	3,496	279	301	273	7.1	7.7	7.2
Sweetwater	20,491	20,482	20,681	19,101	19,041	19,368	1,390	1,441	1,313	6.8	7.0	6.3
Teton	12,147	14,408	13,423	11,298	13,810	11,742	849	598	1,681	7.0	4.2	12.5
Uinta	9,267	9,235	8,986	8,685	8,637	8,489	582	598	497	6.3	6.5	5.5
Washakie	4,050	3,966	3,841	3,849	3,758	3,675	201	208	166	5.0	5.2	4.3
Weston	3,952	3,836	3,764	3,799	3,676	3,639	153	160	125	3.9	4.2	3.3
Statewide	293,373	294,569	288,142	276,906	277,285	271,391	16,467	17,284	16,751	5.6	5.9	5.8
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.4	5.3	5.5
U.S.....										5.7	6.2	14.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.1	6.0	14.8

(p) Preliminary, (r) Revised, (b) Benchmarked.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

Labor Force = Employment + Unemployed Number

Unemployment Rate = Unemployed Number/Labor Force

	Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates			Change			
	April-21	March-21	April-20	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	296,101	295,613	290,960	488	0.2%	5,141	1.8%
Employed	280,183	279,888	274,922	295	0.1%	5,261	1.9%
Unemployed	15,918	15,725	16,038	193	1.2%	-120	-0.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.3	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
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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