

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.3% in December 2021

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.7% in November to 3.3% in December. Wyoming's unemployment rate has been trending downward for several months and is much lower than its December 2020 level of 5.2%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents rose by 913 individuals (0.3%) from November to December as more people went back to work.

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from November to December. Teton County was the exception. Its unemployment rate fell from 2.8% to 1.6% as the ski season got into full swing.

From December 2020 to December 2021, jobless rates fell in every county. These decreases represent a return to more normal levels after the pandemic caused unemployment rates to be unusually high in December 2020. The largest decreases occurred in key energy producing counties. Natrona County's unemployment rate fell from 7.3% to 3.1%, Sweetwater County's rate fell from 6.8% to 2.9%, Sublette County's rate fell from 6.7% to 2.9%, and Converse County's rate fell from 6.0% to 2.4%.

In December, the highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona County at 3.1%, Sublette County at 2.9%, and Sweetwater County at 2.9%. Teton County reported the lowest unemployment rate at 1.6%. It was followed by Weston County at 1.7% and Albany, Crook, Goshen, and Niobrara counties, each at 1.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 271,000 in December 2020 to 275,100 in December 2021, an increase of 4,100 jobs (1.5%). Employment was unusually low in December 2020 because of economic disruptions related to the pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the January unemployment news release for March 7, 2022.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2021 (p)	Nov 2021 (r)	Dec 2020 (b)	Dec 2021 (p)	Nov 2021 (r)	Dec 2020 (b)	Dec 2021 (p)	Nov 2021 (r)	Dec 2020 (b)	Dec 2021 (p)	Nov 2021 (r)	Dec 2020 (b)
										(p)	(r)	(b)
Albany	21,522	21,819	19,212	21,141	21,441	18,471	381	378	741	1.8	1.7	3.9
Big Horn	5,229	5,297	5,280	5,093	5,166	5,031	136	131	249	2.6	2.5	4.7
Campbell	21,946	22,172	22,955	21,364	21,577	21,540	582	595	1,415	2.7	2.7	6.2
Carbon	8,020	8,143	8,077	7,850	7,976	7,712	170	167	365	2.1	2.1	4.5
Converse	7,444	7,518	7,778	7,264	7,337	7,310	180	181	468	2.4	2.4	6.0
Crook	3,735	3,733	3,814	3,669	3,663	3,680	66	70	134	1.8	1.9	3.5
Fremont	18,992	19,211	19,187	18,524	18,757	18,141	468	454	1,046	2.5	2.4	5.5
Goshen	6,449	6,419	6,625	6,330	6,296	6,348	119	123	277	1.8	1.9	4.2
Hot Springs	2,288	2,304	2,247	2,242	2,257	2,148	46	47	99	2.0	2.0	4.4
Johnson	4,118	4,163	4,063	4,022	4,069	3,864	96	94	199	2.3	2.3	4.9
Laramie	49,530	49,911	50,684	48,474	48,864	48,397	1,056	1,047	2,287	2.1	2.1	4.5
Lincoln	9,688	9,656	9,327	9,497	9,465	8,931	191	191	396	2.0	2.0	4.2
Natrona	38,855	39,381	40,551	37,645	38,171	37,603	1,210	1,210	2,948	3.1	3.1	7.3
Niobrara	1,244	1,242	1,246	1,222	1,220	1,198	22	22	48	1.8	1.8	3.9
Park	14,620	14,687	14,697	14,263	14,328	13,941	357	359	756	2.4	2.4	5.1
Platte	4,433	4,425	4,595	4,335	4,331	4,376	98	94	219	2.2	2.1	4.8
Sheridan	15,971	16,066	16,119	15,617	15,725	15,361	354	341	758	2.2	2.1	4.7
Sublette	3,849	3,886	3,890	3,737	3,775	3,628	112	111	262	2.9	2.9	6.7
Sweetwater	19,201	19,459	20,645	18,641	18,906	19,248	560	553	1,397	2.9	2.8	6.8
Teton	16,331	14,931	14,654	16,062	14,506	14,033	269	425	621	1.6	2.8	4.2
Uinta	8,948	9,065	9,332	8,721	8,835	8,819	227	230	513	2.5	2.5	5.5
Washakie	4,012	4,019	4,012	3,925	3,933	3,827	87	86	185	2.2	2.1	4.6
Weston	3,801	3,831	3,818	3,735	3,764	3,687	66	67	131	1.7	1.7	3.4
Statewide	290,223	291,339	292,809	283,371	284,363	277,297	6,852	6,976	15,512	2.4	2.4	5.3
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.3	3.7	5.2
U.S.....										3.7	3.9	6.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.9	4.2	6.7

(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			
	December-21	November-21	December-20	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	292,216	292,429	294,630	-213	-0.1%	-2,414	-0.8%
Employed	282,499	281,586	279,346	913	0.3%	3,153	1.1%
Unemployed	9,717	10,843	15,284	-1,126	-10.4%	-5,567	-36.4%
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.7	5.2				
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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