

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.8% in January 2022

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.0% in December to 3.8% in January. Wyoming has recently completed a comprehensive annual revision of its unemployment data. The new data show that Wyoming's unemployment rate trended downward during 2021, starting the year at 5.1% and ending the year at 4.0%.

From December 2021 to January 2022, seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents rose by 792 individuals (0.3%) as people returned to work.

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Winter weather and the end of the holiday shopping season often bring job losses in January. Some sectors where employment usually falls in January include construction, retail trade, professional & business services, transportation & warehousing, and government. Large unemployment increases were seen in Big Horn (up from 3.6% to 4.8%), Sweetwater (up from 3.9% to 5.1%), and Washakie (up from 3.0% to 4.2%) counties.

From January 2021 to January 2022, unemployment rates fell in every county. These decreases suggest that unemployment rates are returning to more normal levels after being elevated earlier in the pandemic. The largest decreases occurred in Sublette (down from 7.9% to 4.9%), Natrona (down from 8.0% to 5.1%), and Converse (down from 6.6% to 3.9%) counties.

Teton County (2.5%) had the lowest unemployment rate in January. It was followed by Weston County at 2.9%, Goshen County at 3.0%, and Albany County at 3.1%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona and Sweetwater counties (both at 5.1%), Sublette County at 4.9%, and Big Horn County at 4.8%.

Research & Planning has scheduled the February unemployment news release for March 28, 2022.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2022 (p)	Dec 2021 (b)	Jan 2021 (b)	Jan 2022 (p)	Dec 2021 (b)	Jan 2021 (b)	Jan 2022 (p)	Dec 2021 (b)	Jan 2021 (b)	(p)	(b)	(b)
Albany	20,885	21,377	20,192	20,239	20,861	19,385	646	516	807	3.1	2.4	4.0
Big Horn	5,067	5,068	5,290	4,822	4,887	4,983	245	181	307	4.8	3.6	5.8
Campbell	22,054	21,985	22,317	21,090	21,191	20,797	964	794	1,520	4.4	3.6	6.8
Carbon	7,668	7,617	7,600	7,356	7,387	7,190	312	230	410	4.1	3.0	5.4
Converse	7,553	7,497	7,519	7,260	7,252	7,022	293	245	497	3.9	3.3	6.6
Crook	3,707	3,672	3,687	3,585	3,582	3,542	122	90	145	3.3	2.5	3.9
Fremont	18,759	18,745	18,827	17,922	18,107	17,669	837	638	1,158	4.5	3.4	6.2
Goshen	6,390	6,378	6,504	6,196	6,216	6,210	194	162	294	3.0	2.5	4.5
Hot Springs	2,190	2,193	2,274	2,115	2,131	2,156	75	62	118	3.4	2.8	5.2
Johnson	4,059	4,076	4,119	3,891	3,945	3,894	168	131	225	4.1	3.2	5.5
Laramie	50,478	50,117	49,525	48,622	48,671	46,958	1,856	1,446	2,567	3.7	2.9	5.2
Lincoln	9,458	9,394	9,418	9,128	9,131	8,949	330	263	469	3.5	2.8	5.0
Natrona	39,353	39,111	39,220	37,328	37,460	36,071	2,025	1,651	3,149	5.1	4.2	8.0
Niobrara	1,211	1,206	1,261	1,171	1,177	1,201	40	29	60	3.3	2.4	4.8
Park	14,603	14,623	14,718	13,981	14,138	13,869	622	485	849	4.3	3.3	5.8
Platte	4,402	4,349	4,547	4,243	4,216	4,301	159	133	246	3.6	3.1	5.4
Sheridan	15,847	15,876	15,875	15,247	15,392	15,014	600	484	861	3.8	3.0	5.4
Sublette	3,817	3,835	3,896	3,630	3,683	3,589	187	152	307	4.9	4.0	7.9
Sweetwater	19,327	19,331	19,827	18,343	18,569	18,352	984	762	1,475	5.1	3.9	7.4
Teton	15,818	15,504	15,475	15,428	15,140	14,888	390	364	587	2.5	2.3	3.8
Uinta	8,571	8,620	8,941	8,187	8,312	8,391	384	308	550	4.5	3.6	6.2
Washakie	3,974	3,956	3,989	3,806	3,838	3,782	168	118	207	4.2	3.0	5.2
Weston	3,743	3,742	3,754	3,633	3,654	3,618	110	88	136	2.9	2.4	3.6
Statewide	288,934	288,271	288,774	277,222	278,940	271,830	11,712	9,331	16,944	4.1	3.2	5.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.8	4.0	5.1
U.S.....										4.4	3.7	6.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.0	3.9	6.4

(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			
	January-22	December-21	January-21	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	290,122	289,831	290,921	291	0.1%	-799	-0.3%
Employed	279,075	278,283	276,131	792	0.3%	2,944	1.1%
Unemployed	11,047	11,548	14,790	-501	-4.3%	-3,743	-25.3%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.0	5.1				
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**

March 7, 2022

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>

Contacts:

David Bullard, Senior Economist
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

david.bullard@wyo.gov
carola.cowan@wyo.gov

307-473-3810
307-473-3804

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning
PO Box 2760
Casper WY 82602-2760