

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.7% in February 2022

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly from 3.8% in January to 3.7% in February. Wyoming's unemployment rate has been trending downward since its peak of 8.6% in May 2020. From January to February, seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased by 630 individuals (0.2%) as people returned to work.

From January to February, most county unemployment rates changed very little. Jobless rates increased slightly in Big Horn (up from 4.8% to 5.0%), Park (up from 4.2% to 4.4%), Platte (up from 3.6% to 3.8%), and Weston (up from 2.9% to 3.1%) counties. Unemployment rates fell in Niobrara (down from 3.3% to 2.7%), Carbon (down from 4.1% to 3.8%), and Hot Springs (down from 3.4% to 3.2%) counties.

Unemployment rates decreased from year-ago levels in every county. The largest decreases occurred in Natrona (down from 8.3% to 5.0%), Converse (down from 7.1% to 3.8%), and Sublette (down from 8.0% to 4.8%) counties. County unemployment rates were elevated during most of 2020 and 2021 and recent decreases suggest that unemployment rates are returning to more normal levels.

The highest unemployment rates in February were found in Big Horn, Natrona, and Sweetwater counties (each at 5.0%). The lowest rates were reported in Teton County at 2.5% and Niobrara County at 2.7%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 268,100 in February 2021 to 278,700 in February 2022, an increase of 10,600 jobs (4.0%). Employment was lower than normal in February 2021 because of economic disruptions related to the pandemic.

Research & Planning has scheduled the March unemployment news release for April 18, 2022.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2022 (p)	Jan 2022 (r)	Feb 2021 (b)	Feb 2022 (p)	Jan 2022 (r)	Feb 2021 (b)	Feb 2022 (p)	Jan 2022 (r)	Feb 2021 (b)	Feb 2022 (p)	Jan 2022 (r)	Feb 2021 (b)
Albany	21,044	20,877	21,112	20,391	20,233	20,294	653	644	818	3.1	3.1	3.9
Big Horn	5,083	5,064	5,244	4,827	4,820	4,917	256	244	327	5.0	4.8	6.2
Campbell	21,947	22,043	22,416	20,995	21,083	20,827	952	960	1,589	4.3	4.4	7.1
Carbon	7,629	7,664	7,476	7,341	7,353	7,072	288	311	404	3.8	4.1	5.4
Converse	7,542	7,549	7,509	7,255	7,258	6,978	287	291	531	3.8	3.9	7.1
Crook	3,782	3,703	3,686	3,662	3,583	3,525	120	120	161	3.2	3.2	4.4
Fremont	18,776	18,750	18,908	17,939	17,916	17,736	837	834	1,172	4.5	4.4	6.2
Goshen	6,530	6,389	6,533	6,325	6,194	6,249	205	195	284	3.1	3.1	4.3
Hot Springs	2,177	2,189	2,281	2,108	2,114	2,162	69	75	119	3.2	3.4	5.2
Johnson	4,083	4,058	4,176	3,912	3,890	3,927	171	168	249	4.2	4.1	6.0
Laramie	50,201	50,508	49,567	48,347	48,657	47,001	1,854	1,851	2,566	3.7	3.7	5.2
Lincoln	9,427	9,454	9,412	9,100	9,125	8,947	327	329	465	3.5	3.5	4.9
Natrona	39,326	39,316	39,412	37,367	37,297	36,125	1,959	2,019	3,287	5.0	5.1	8.3
Niobrara	1,226	1,210	1,251	1,193	1,170	1,193	33	40	58	2.7	3.3	4.6
Park	14,688	14,596	14,814	14,045	13,976	13,935	643	620	879	4.4	4.2	5.9
Platte	4,450	4,401	4,505	4,282	4,242	4,267	168	159	238	3.8	3.6	5.3
Sheridan	15,922	15,844	15,902	15,332	15,243	14,949	590	601	953	3.7	3.8	6.0
Sublette	3,867	3,815	3,931	3,683	3,629	3,616	184	186	315	4.8	4.9	8.0
Sweetwater	19,190	19,318	19,847	18,223	18,337	18,434	967	981	1,413	5.0	5.1	7.1
Teton	15,678	15,811	15,387	15,291	15,423	14,803	387	388	584	2.5	2.5	3.8
Uinta	8,533	8,567	9,009	8,155	8,184	8,414	378	383	595	4.4	4.5	6.6
Washakie	3,931	3,971	3,937	3,767	3,804	3,740	164	167	197	4.2	4.2	5.0
Weston	3,738	3,740	3,765	3,623	3,631	3,604	115	109	161	3.1	2.9	4.3
Statewide	288,769	288,837	290,079	277,162	277,163	272,713	11,607	11,674	17,366	4.0	4.0	6.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.7	3.8	5.0
U.S.....										4.1	4.4	6.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.8	4.0	6.2

(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			
	February-22	January-22	February-21	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	290,293	290,102	290,883	191	0.1%	-590	-0.2%
Employed	279,693	279,063	276,229	630	0.2%	3,464	1.3%
Unemployed	10,600	11,039	14,654	-439	-4.0%	-4,054	-27.7%
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.8	5.0				
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 28, 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>

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