

Wyoming Unemployment Rises Slightly to 2.9% in May 2024

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly from 2.8% in April to 2.9% in May. Wyoming's unemployment rate has remained within the narrow range of 2.8% to 3.0% for 15 months. The U.S. unemployment rate of 4.0% in May was much higher than Wyoming's rate.

From April to May, most unemployment rates increased slightly. This reflects a modest departure from the normal seasonal pattern for May. The largest increases were found in Carbon (up from 2.8% to 3.1%) and Sweetwater (up from 3.0% to 3.3%) counties, while unemployment fell in Washakie (down from 3.2% to 3.0%), Sublette (down from 3.6% to 3.4%), Park (down from 2.9% to 2.7%), Niobrara (down from 2.3% to 2.1%), and Lincoln (down from 3.0% to 2.8%) counties.

From May 2023 to May 2024, unemployment rates rose in 19 counties, remained unchanged in three counties, and fell slightly in Teton County (down from 2.7% to 2.6%). The largest increases occurred in Big Horn (up from 2.8% to 3.4%) and Sublette (up from 2.8% to 3.4%) counties.

The highest unemployment rates in May were found in Big Horn, Sublette, and Uinta counties (each at 3.4%). The lowest unemployment rate was reported in Niobrara County at 2.1%. It was followed by Weston and Crook counties (each at 2.3%).

Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates show that total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 292,300 in May 2023 to 295,200 in May 2024, an increase of 2,900 jobs (1.0%).

June unemployment data will be released on July 22, 2024.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2024 (p)	Apr 2024 (r)	May 2023 (b)	May 2024 (p)	Apr 2024 (r)	May 2023 (b)	May 2024 (p)	Apr 2024 (r)	May 2023 (b)	May 2024 (p)	Apr 2024 (r)	May 2023 (b)
Albany	21,569	22,123	21,397	21,014	21,591	20,895	555	532	502	2.6	2.4	2.3
Big Horn	5,287	5,194	5,265	5,108	5,019	5,118	179	175	147	3.4	3.4	2.8
Campbell	23,174	23,615	23,203	22,502	22,954	22,635	672	661	568	2.9	2.8	2.4
Carbon	7,089	6,893	7,564	6,872	6,697	7,370	217	196	194	3.1	2.8	2.6
Converse	7,606	7,667	7,655	7,415	7,493	7,487	191	174	168	2.5	2.3	2.2
Crook	4,066	3,912	4,132	3,974	3,824	4,045	92	88	87	2.3	2.2	2.1
Fremont	18,992	19,058	19,088	18,416	18,472	18,514	576	586	574	3.0	3.1	3.0
Goshen	6,469	6,446	6,676	6,304	6,288	6,523	165	158	153	2.6	2.5	2.3
Hot Springs	2,246	2,253	2,338	2,186	2,194	2,281	60	59	57	2.7	2.6	2.4
Johnson	4,377	4,248	4,497	4,255	4,131	4,383	122	117	114	2.8	2.8	2.5
Laramie	47,941	48,756	47,964	46,431	47,344	46,627	1,510	1,412	1,337	3.1	2.9	2.8
Lincoln	9,718	9,665	9,663	9,449	9,375	9,405	269	290	258	2.8	3.0	2.7
Natrona	38,751	39,329	38,993	37,536	38,148	37,893	1,215	1,181	1,100	3.1	3.0	2.8
Niobrara	1,214	1,178	1,240	1,188	1,151	1,215	26	27	25	2.1	2.3	2.0
Park	16,090	15,147	16,273	15,662	14,707	15,880	428	440	393	2.7	2.9	2.4
Platte	4,363	4,313	4,407	4,251	4,208	4,294	112	105	113	2.6	2.4	2.6
Sheridan	16,157	16,182	16,284	15,726	15,783	15,882	431	399	402	2.7	2.5	2.5
Sublette	3,936	3,829	4,086	3,803	3,693	3,970	133	136	116	3.4	3.6	2.8
Sweetwater	19,644	20,034	19,927	19,002	19,425	19,326	642	609	601	3.3	3.0	3.0
Teton	16,329	15,741	16,405	15,902	15,331	15,960	427	410	445	2.6	2.6	2.7
Uinta	8,883	8,913	9,182	8,583	8,624	8,920	300	289	262	3.4	3.2	2.9
Washakie	3,788	3,796	3,842	3,676	3,673	3,726	112	123	116	3.0	3.2	3.0
Weston	3,858	3,872	3,859	3,770	3,792	3,789	88	80	70	2.3	2.1	1.8
Statewide	291,548	292,163	293,940	283,026	283,916	286,138	8,522	8,247	7,802	2.9	2.8	2.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										2.9	2.8	2.8
U.S.....										3.7	3.5	3.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.0	3.9	3.7

(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			
	May-24	April-24	May-23	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,079	293,098	295,556	-19	0.0%	-2,477	-0.8%
Employed	284,717	284,892	287,345	-175	-0.1%	-2,628	-0.9%
Unemployed	8,362	8,206	8,211	156	1.9%	151	1.8%
Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.8	2.8				
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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