

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.1% in May 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.3% in April to 4.1% in May (a statistically significant decrease). Wyoming's labor force decreased by an estimated 3,001 individuals (-1.0%) from a year earlier, suggesting that the decline in unemployment is at least partially related to unemployed individuals leaving the state and/or dropping out of the labor force.

From April to May, unemployment rates fell in 16 counties, rose slightly in four counties, and were unchanged in three counties. Unemployment rates often decrease in May as seasonal jobs are added in leisure & hospitality, construction, government, and retail trade. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Teton (down from 4.9% to 3.8%), Park (down from 4.4% to 3.9%), Lincoln (down from 4.1% to 3.7%), and Johnson (down from 4.3% to 3.9%) counties. County unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

From May 2016 to May 2017, unemployment rates fell in every county and labor force declined in 17 counties. The largest unemployment rate decreases were seen in Campbell (down from 8.7% to 5.1%), Converse (down from 6.8% to 4.1%), Sublette (down from 6.9% to 4.4%), Weston (down from 6.1% to 3.8%), Natrona (down from 7.7% to 5.4%), and Fremont (down from 7.6% to 5.3%) counties.

Niobrara County (2.7%) posted the lowest unemployment rate in May. It was followed by Goshen (2.8%), Albany (2.8%), and Platte (3.4%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona (5.4%), Fremont (5.3%), and Campbell (5.1%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 283,200 in May 2016 to 279,000 in May 2017, a decrease of 4,200 jobs (or -1.5%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the June employment news release for July 25, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2017 (p)	Apr 2017 (r)	May 2016 (b)	May 2017 (p)	Apr 2017 (r)	May 2016 (b)	May 2017 (p)	Apr 2017 (r)	May 2016 (b)	May 2017 (p)	Apr 2017 (r)	May 2016 (b)
Albany	20,938	21,367	21,360	20,354	20,810	20,713	584	557	647	2.8	2.6	3.0
Big Horn	5,600	5,478	5,636	5,364	5,246	5,363	236	232	273	4.2	4.2	4.8
Campbell	23,148	23,486	24,752	21,978	22,290	22,594	1,170	1,196	2,158	5.1	5.1	8.7
Carbon	8,195	8,029	8,449	7,879	7,701	8,051	316	328	398	3.9	4.1	4.7
Converse	7,677	7,721	7,990	7,359	7,391	7,444	318	330	546	4.1	4.3	6.8
Crook	3,732	3,575	3,845	3,602	3,438	3,643	130	137	202	3.5	3.8	5.3
Fremont	19,947	20,076	20,123	18,888	18,963	18,594	1,059	1,113	1,529	5.3	5.5	7.6
Goshen	6,924	6,865	7,107	6,731	6,678	6,846	193	187	261	2.8	2.7	3.7
Hot Springs	2,428	2,415	2,400	2,331	2,320	2,278	97	95	122	4.0	3.9	5.1
Johnson	4,287	4,166	4,223	4,119	3,988	3,998	168	178	225	3.9	4.3	5.3
Laramie	49,039	49,912	48,407	47,326	48,208	46,422	1,713	1,704	1,985	3.5	3.4	4.1
Lincoln	8,726	8,603	8,724	8,405	8,252	8,312	321	351	412	3.7	4.1	4.7
Natrona	38,763	39,951	41,510	36,669	37,775	38,327	2,094	2,176	3,183	5.4	5.4	7.7
Niobrara	1,352	1,311	1,360	1,315	1,274	1,317	37	37	43	2.7	2.8	3.2
Park	16,099	15,288	16,228	15,471	14,614	15,510	628	674	718	3.9	4.4	4.4
Platte	5,091	4,920	5,122	4,916	4,741	4,900	175	179	222	3.4	3.6	4.3
Sheridan	16,212	16,213	16,294	15,642	15,596	15,555	570	617	739	3.5	3.8	4.5
Sublette	4,260	4,119	4,186	4,071	3,926	3,896	189	193	290	4.4	4.7	6.9
Sweetwater	21,959	22,315	22,244	21,009	21,325	20,797	950	990	1,447	4.3	4.4	6.5
Teton	14,857	14,199	14,546	14,286	13,499	13,874	571	700	672	3.8	4.9	4.6
Uinta	9,289	9,273	9,632	8,877	8,845	9,044	412	428	588	4.4	4.6	6.1
Washakie	4,186	4,176	4,220	4,007	3,985	4,023	179	191	197	4.3	4.6	4.7
Weston	3,923	3,945	4,027	3,775	3,790	3,782	148	155	245	3.8	3.9	6.1
Statewide	296,629	297,399	302,387	284,372	284,652	285,285	12,257	12,747	17,102	4.1	4.3	5.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.3	5.6
U.S.....										4.1	4.1	4.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.3	4.4	4.7

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

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

Labor Force = Employment + Unemployment Number

Unemployment Rate = Unemployment Number/Labor Force

	Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates			Change			
	May-17	April-17	May-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	300,046	302,212	303,047	-2,166	-0.7%	-3,001	-1.0%
Employed	287,811	289,335	285,985	-1,524	-0.5%	1,826	0.6%
Unemployed	12,235	12,877	17,062	-642	-5.0%	-4,827	-28.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.3	5.6				
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

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Research & Planning

Internet Address: <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>

Access R&P's monthly publication on Wyoming's labor market at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends.htm>

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