

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.0% in August 2017

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged from July to August at 4.0%. Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than its August 2016 level of 5.2%, and slightly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.4%. From August 2016 to August 2017, Wyoming's labor force decreased by an estimated 7,526 people (-2.5%; a statistically significant decrease) suggesting that unemployed individuals have left the state or dropped out of the labor force.

From July to August, county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and fell modestly. The largest decreases were seen in Niobrara (down from 3.1% to 2.4%), Fremont (down from 5.4% to 4.7%), Sweetwater (down from 4.4% to 3.8%), and Hot Springs (down from 3.7% to 3.1%) counties.

From August 2016 to August 2017, unemployment rates fell in all of Wyoming's 23 counties. The largest decreases occurred in Campbell (down from 6.9% to 4.2%), Natrona (down from 6.7% to 4.5%), Converse (down from 6.0% to 3.8%), and Sublette (down from 5.3% to 3.2%) counties.

Fremont County (4.7%) reported the highest unemployment rate in August. It was followed by Natrona (4.5%), Campbell (4.2%), Converse (3.8%), and Sweetwater (3.8%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were seen in Teton (1.6%), Niobrara (2.4%), and Crook (2.6%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 285,500 in August 2016 to 284,600 in August 2017, a decrease of 900 jobs (or -0.3%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the September employment news release for October 24, 2017.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2017 (p)	Jul 2017 (r)	Aug 2016 (b)	Aug 2017 (p)	Jul 2017 (r)	Aug 2016 (b)	Aug 2017 (p)	Jul 2017 (r)	Aug 2016 (b)	Aug 2017 (p)	Jul 2017 (r)	Aug 2016 (b)
Albany	18,682	18,654	19,597	18,176	18,081	18,971	506	573	626	2.7	3.1	3.2
Big Horn	5,526	5,525	5,719	5,336	5,316	5,474	190	209	245	3.4	3.8	4.3
Campbell	23,306	23,269	24,173	22,320	22,176	22,500	986	1,093	1,673	4.2	4.7	6.9
Carbon	8,164	8,222	8,973	7,911	7,935	8,643	253	287	330	3.1	3.5	3.7
Converse	7,611	7,611	7,808	7,319	7,281	7,341	292	330	467	3.8	4.3	6.0
Crook	3,872	3,842	3,981	3,770	3,733	3,829	102	109	152	2.6	2.8	3.8
Fremont	19,461	19,462	20,111	18,541	18,420	18,839	920	1,042	1,272	4.7	5.4	6.3
Goshen	7,171	7,127	7,236	6,969	6,912	7,004	202	215	232	2.8	3.0	3.2
Hot Springs	2,387	2,436	2,518	2,314	2,346	2,416	73	90	102	3.1	3.7	4.1
Johnson	4,390	4,423	4,416	4,257	4,272	4,229	133	151	187	3.0	3.4	4.2
Laramie	48,167	48,911	48,571	46,607	47,224	46,721	1,560	1,687	1,850	3.2	3.4	3.8
Lincoln	8,940	8,974	8,914	8,688	8,701	8,588	252	273	326	2.8	3.0	3.7
Natrona	38,878	39,134	40,689	37,136	37,193	37,973	1,742	1,941	2,716	4.5	5.0	6.7
Niobrara	1,397	1,392	1,456	1,364	1,349	1,409	33	43	47	2.4	3.1	3.2
Park	16,990	17,323	17,635	16,486	16,747	17,014	504	576	621	3.0	3.3	3.5
Platte	4,764	4,757	4,874	4,596	4,585	4,658	168	172	216	3.5	3.6	4.4
Sheridan	16,034	16,169	16,264	15,548	15,611	15,636	486	558	628	3.0	3.5	3.9
Sublette	4,438	4,429	4,436	4,294	4,263	4,200	144	166	236	3.2	3.7	5.3
Sweetwater	21,600	21,364	21,956	20,772	20,417	20,746	828	947	1,210	3.8	4.4	5.5
Teton	17,508	17,776	17,589	17,223	17,473	17,257	285	303	332	1.6	1.7	1.9
Uinta	9,301	9,285	9,340	8,968	8,901	8,858	333	384	482	3.6	4.1	5.2
Washakie	4,202	4,255	4,317	4,067	4,101	4,132	135	154	185	3.2	3.6	4.3
Weston	3,816	3,777	3,940	3,689	3,649	3,752	127	128	188	3.3	3.4	4.8
Statewide	296,602	298,116	304,511	286,348	286,686	290,189	10,254	11,430	14,322	3.5	3.8	4.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.0	4.0	5.2
U.S.....										4.5	4.6	5.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.4	4.3	4.9

(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			
	August-17	July-17	August-16	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	294,318	295,187	301,844	-869	-0.3%	-7,526	-2.5%
Employed	282,601	283,467	286,039	-866	-0.3%	-3,438	-1.2%
Unemployed	11,717	11,720	15,805	-3	0.0%	-4,088	-25.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0	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

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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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