

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 4.1% in January

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1% in January (unchanged from December). Wyoming's unemployment rate decreased significantly from its year-ago level of 4.7% and matched the current U.S. rate of 4.1%. The state's labor force fell significantly from a year earlier, decreasing by 4,330 people (-1.5%). A decreasing labor force suggests that individuals may have moved to other states or given up their job search.

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Seasonal job losses are often seen in January in many sectors, including construction, retail trade, transportation & warehousing, professional & business services, and government. The largest unemployment rate increases occurred in Johnson (up from 4.0% to 5.2%), Sheridan (up from 4.1% to 5.2%), and Fremont (up from 5.2% to 6.2%) counties.

From January 2017 to January 2018, unemployment rates fell in every county. The largest decreases were seen in the energy producing areas of the state. Campbell County's unemployment rate fell from 6.9% to 4.6%, Sublette County's rate fell from 6.5% to 4.3%, and Natrona County's rate fell from 7.5% to 5.4%.

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, the highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (6.2%), Park (5.5%), and Natrona (5.4%) counties. The lowest rates were reported in Niobrara (2.3%), Teton (2.5%), Goshen (3.2%), and Albany (3.2%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 272,000 in January 2017 to 275,700 in January 2018, an increase of 3,700 jobs (or 1.4%; not a statistically significant change).

Research & Planning has scheduled the February employment news release for April 3, 2018.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2018 (p)	Dec 2017 (b)	Jan 2017 (b)	Jan 2018 (p)	Dec 2017 (b)	Jan 2017 (b)	Jan 2018 (p)	Dec 2017 (b)	Jan 2017 (b)	Jan 2018 (p)	Dec 2017 (b)	Jan 2017 (b)
Albany	20,083	20,808	20,422	19,433	20,249	19,708	650	559	714	3.2	2.7	3.5
Big Horn	5,269	5,309	5,179	5,006	5,093	4,882	263	216	297	5.0	4.1	5.7
Campbell	22,531	22,782	23,414	21,491	21,846	21,800	1,040	936	1,614	4.6	4.1	6.9
Carbon	7,688	7,701	7,905	7,351	7,408	7,497	337	293	408	4.4	3.8	5.2
Converse	7,362	7,360	7,598	7,041	7,063	7,147	321	297	451	4.4	4.0	5.9
Crook	3,575	3,566	3,563	3,447	3,455	3,375	128	111	188	3.6	3.1	5.3
Fremont	19,084	19,181	19,567	17,901	18,177	18,059	1,183	1,004	1,508	6.2	5.2	7.7
Goshen	6,895	7,012	6,913	6,677	6,831	6,680	218	181	233	3.2	2.6	3.4
Hot Springs	2,258	2,261	2,351	2,166	2,184	2,228	92	77	123	4.1	3.4	5.2
Johnson	4,077	4,070	4,097	3,863	3,909	3,831	214	161	266	5.2	4.0	6.5
Laramie	47,278	47,661	49,159	45,262	45,922	46,836	2,016	1,739	2,323	4.3	3.6	4.7
Lincoln	8,543	8,530	8,600	8,161	8,201	8,170	382	329	430	4.5	3.9	5.0
Natrona	39,252	39,476	40,161	37,145	37,495	37,134	2,107	1,981	3,027	5.4	5.0	7.5
Niobrara	1,283	1,282	1,283	1,254	1,253	1,240	29	29	43	2.3	2.3	3.4
Park	14,810	14,893	14,752	13,990	14,206	13,792	820	687	960	5.5	4.6	6.5
Platte	4,722	4,683	4,667	4,513	4,519	4,436	209	164	231	4.4	3.5	4.9
Sheridan	15,485	15,530	15,834	14,680	14,889	14,928	805	641	906	5.2	4.1	5.7
Sublette	4,297	4,192	4,107	4,112	4,026	3,841	185	166	266	4.3	4.0	6.5
Sweetwater	21,170	21,518	22,032	20,192	20,644	20,669	978	874	1,363	4.6	4.1	6.2
Teton	14,909	14,928	14,887	14,536	14,412	14,434	373	516	453	2.5	3.5	3.0
Uinta	8,792	9,011	9,272	8,390	8,639	8,706	402	372	566	4.6	4.1	6.1
Washakie	4,048	4,116	4,141	3,867	3,958	3,925	181	158	216	4.5	3.8	5.2
Weston	3,668	3,720	3,859	3,524	3,580	3,659	144	140	200	3.9	3.8	5.2
Statewide	287,074	289,592	293,765	273,998	277,960	276,978	13,076	11,632	16,787	4.6	4.0	5.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.7
U.S.....										4.5	3.9	5.1
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.8

(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			
	January-18	December-17	January-17	Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	291,757	292,305	296,087	-548	-0.2%	-4,330	-1.5%
Employed	279,936	280,200	282,136	-264	-0.1%	-2,200	-0.8%
Unemployed	11,821	12,105	13,951	-284	-2.3%	-2,130	-15.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.7				
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: <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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