

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 2.9% in August 2023

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.0% in July to 2.9% in August. Wyoming's unemployment rate was much lower than its August 2022 level of 3.7% and lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 3.8%.

From July to August, most county unemployment rates remained fairly stable. The largest decreases were seen in Washakie (down from 3.2% to 2.9%), Sweetwater (down from 3.5% to 3.2%), Goshen (down from 2.7% to 2.4%), and Albany (down from 2.8% to 2.5%) counties. Niobrara County's unemployment rate rose from 1.8% in July to 2.2% in August.

From August 2022 to August 2023, unemployment rates fell in every county, suggesting a continuing tightening in the state's labor market. The largest decreases occurred in Crook (down from 4.0% to 2.3%), Washakie (down from 3.9% to 2.9%), Niobrara (down from 3.2% to 2.2%), and Carbon (down from 3.6% to 2.6%) counties.

Teton County, at 1.5%, had the lowest unemployment rate in August. It was followed by Converse, Niobrara, and Weston counties, each at 2.2%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont County at 3.3%, and Big Horn and Sweetwater counties, each at 3.2%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 290,200 in August 2022 to 298,500 in August 2023, an increase of 8,300 jobs (2.9%).

September unemployment data will be released on October 23, 2023.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2023 (p)	Jul 2023 (r)	Aug 2022 (b)	Aug 2023 (p)	Jul 2023 (r)	Aug 2022 (b)	Aug 2023 (p)	Jul 2023 (r)	Aug 2022 (b)	Aug 2023 (p)	Jul 2023 (r)	Aug 2022 (b)
Albany	20,972	20,781	20,373	20,442	20,204	19,717	530	577	656	2.5	2.8	3.2
Big Horn	5,196	5,386	5,315	5,032	5,226	5,106	164	160	209	3.2	3.0	3.9
Campbell	23,299	23,277	22,388	22,677	22,667	21,607	622	610	781	2.7	2.6	3.5
Carbon	7,408	7,501	7,654	7,213	7,299	7,382	195	202	272	2.6	2.7	3.6
Converse	7,813	7,842	7,681	7,644	7,652	7,454	169	190	227	2.2	2.4	3.0
Crook	3,901	4,073	4,083	3,811	3,988	3,918	90	85	165	2.3	2.1	4.0
Fremont	19,287	19,211	19,030	18,660	18,548	18,273	627	663	757	3.3	3.5	4.0
Goshen	6,404	6,638	6,593	6,251	6,461	6,412	153	177	181	2.4	2.7	2.7
Hot Springs	2,296	2,351	2,299	2,235	2,288	2,229	61	63	70	2.7	2.7	3.0
Johnson	4,400	4,588	4,360	4,290	4,475	4,223	110	113	137	2.5	2.5	3.1
Laramie	50,008	50,181	49,089	48,584	48,769	47,362	1,424	1,412	1,727	2.8	2.8	3.5
Lincoln	9,900	10,083	9,709	9,660	9,828	9,415	240	255	294	2.4	2.5	3.0
Natrona	40,323	40,102	39,362	39,099	38,868	37,830	1,224	1,234	1,532	3.0	3.1	3.9
Niobrara	1,145	1,218	1,203	1,120	1,196	1,165	25	22	38	2.2	1.8	3.2
Park	16,743	17,276	16,604	16,337	16,848	16,091	406	428	513	2.4	2.5	3.1
Platte	4,255	4,430	4,452	4,132	4,302	4,293	123	128	159	2.9	2.9	3.6
Sheridan	16,513	16,826	16,425	16,109	16,421	15,908	404	405	517	2.4	2.4	3.1
Sublette	3,962	4,086	4,017	3,838	3,964	3,866	124	122	151	3.1	3.0	3.8
Sweetwater	20,003	19,555	19,627	19,370	18,878	18,850	633	677	777	3.2	3.5	4.0
Teton	19,129	19,506	18,593	18,835	19,214	18,249	294	292	344	1.5	1.5	1.9
Uinta	9,277	9,174	8,951	9,001	8,894	8,613	276	280	338	3.0	3.1	3.8
Washakie	3,871	4,003	3,894	3,757	3,873	3,743	114	130	151	2.9	3.2	3.9
Weston	3,851	3,842	3,753	3,766	3,760	3,662	85	82	91	2.2	2.1	2.4
Statewide	299,957	301,929	295,456	291,864	293,622	285,369	8,093	8,307	10,087	2.7	2.8	3.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										2.9	3.0	3.7
U.S.										3.9	3.8	3.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										3.8	3.5	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

	August-23	July-23	August-22	Change		Change	
				Month		Year	
				absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	299,070	299,178	293,347	-108	0.0%	5,723	2.0%
Employed	290,330	290,295	282,507	35	0.0%	7,823	2.8%
Unemployed	8,740	8,883	10,840	-143	-1.6%	-2,100	-19.4%
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.0	3.7				

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**

September 20, 2023

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>

Contacts:

David Bullard, Senior Economist
Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

david.bullard@wyo.gov
carola.cowan@wyo.gov

307-473-3810
307-473-3804

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
Research & Planning
PO Box 2760
Casper WY 82602-2760