

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 2.8% in February 2024

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from January to February at 2.8%. Wyoming's unemployment rate was lower than its year-ago level of 3.1% and much lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 3.9%.

From January to February, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and remained stable or decreased slightly. The largest decreases occurred in Niobrara (down from 3.8% to 3.0%), Big Horn (down from 4.8% to 4.4%), Platte (down from 3.6% to 3.3%), and Crook (down from 3.4% to 3.1%) counties. Jobless rates increased modestly in Washakie (up from 3.9% to 4.5%) and Hot Springs (up from 3.2% to 3.5%) counties.

From February 2023 to February 2024, unemployment rates fell in 14 counties, rose in six counties, and remained unchanged in three counties. The largest decreases were seen in Niobrara (down from 4.5% to 3.0%), Fremont (down from 4.8% to 4.2%), and Carbon (down from 4.2% to 3.7%) counties. Unemployment rates rose slightly in Hot Springs (up from 3.0% to 3.5%), Converse (up from 2.7% to 3.0%), and Washakie (up from 4.2% to 4.5%) counties.

In February, Washakie County had the highest unemployment rate at 4.5%. It was followed by Big Horn County at 4.4%, and Fremont, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties, each at 4.2%. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Teton County at 2.1% and Weston County at 2.8%.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates show that total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 282,400 in February 2023 to 285,900 in February 2024, an increase of 3,500 jobs (1.2%).

March unemployment data will be released on April 22, 2024.

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

County	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployed Number			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2024 (p)	Jan 2024 (r)	Feb 2023 (b)	Feb 2024 (p)	Jan 2024 (r)	Feb 2023 (b)	Feb 2024 (p)	Jan 2024 (r)	Feb 2023 (b)	Feb 2024 (p)	Jan 2024 (r)	Feb 2023 (b)
										(p)	(r)	(b)
Albany	22,124	21,517	21,910	21,459	20,838	21,187	665	679	723	3.0	3.2	3.3
Big Horn	4,920	4,898	5,086	4,703	4,663	4,862	217	235	224	4.4	4.8	4.4
Campbell	23,392	23,222	23,477	22,606	22,435	22,683	786	787	794	3.4	3.4	3.4
Carbon	6,793	6,769	7,132	6,544	6,523	6,833	249	246	299	3.7	3.6	4.2
Converse	7,540	7,526	7,797	7,317	7,292	7,587	223	234	210	3.0	3.1	2.7
Crook	3,690	3,625	3,769	3,577	3,502	3,650	113	123	119	3.1	3.4	3.2
Fremont	18,860	18,656	19,046	18,062	17,854	18,141	798	802	905	4.2	4.3	4.8
Goshen	6,238	6,111	6,557	6,038	5,904	6,354	200	207	203	3.2	3.4	3.1
Hot Springs	2,305	2,288	2,328	2,224	2,215	2,259	81	73	69	3.5	3.2	3.0
Johnson	4,168	4,121	4,304	4,010	3,962	4,144	158	159	160	3.8	3.9	3.7
Laramie	48,894	48,776	48,900	47,067	46,918	47,030	1,827	1,858	1,870	3.7	3.8	3.8
Lincoln	9,689	9,635	9,701	9,330	9,269	9,314	359	366	387	3.7	3.8	4.0
Natrona	39,277	39,050	39,484	37,766	37,518	37,845	1,511	1,532	1,639	3.8	3.9	4.2
Niobrara	1,103	1,084	1,189	1,070	1,043	1,135	33	41	54	3.0	3.8	4.5
Park	14,838	14,614	15,085	14,237	14,024	14,468	601	590	617	4.1	4.0	4.1
Platte	4,069	4,022	4,459	3,936	3,879	4,293	133	143	166	3.3	3.6	3.7
Sheridan	16,094	15,854	16,356	15,527	15,299	15,732	567	555	624	3.5	3.5	3.8
Sublette	3,802	3,717	3,926	3,644	3,559	3,751	158	158	175	4.2	4.3	4.5
Sweetwater	20,283	20,210	20,104	19,439	19,367	19,216	844	843	888	4.2	4.2	4.4
Teton	17,125	17,032	16,693	16,766	16,655	16,293	359	377	400	2.1	2.2	2.4
Uinta	8,919	8,900	9,156	8,569	8,539	8,789	350	361	367	3.9	4.1	4.0
Washakie	3,754	3,718	3,954	3,584	3,573	3,786	170	145	168	4.5	3.9	4.2
Weston	3,862	3,841	3,856	3,755	3,737	3,753	107	104	103	2.8	2.7	2.7
Statewide	291,740	289,185	294,269	281,231	278,568	283,106	10,509	10,617	11,163	3.6	3.7	3.8
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										2.8	2.8	3.1
U.S.....										4.2	4.1	3.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										3.9	3.7	3.6

(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			
				Month		Year	
	February-24	January-24	February-23	absolute	percent	absolute	percent
Total Civilian Labor Force	293,404	293,897	295,388	-493	-0.2%	-1,984	-0.7%
Employed	285,044	285,524	286,202	-480	-0.2%	-1,158	-0.4%
Unemployed	8,360	8,373	9,186	-13	-0.2%	-826	-9.0%
Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.8	3.1				
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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