

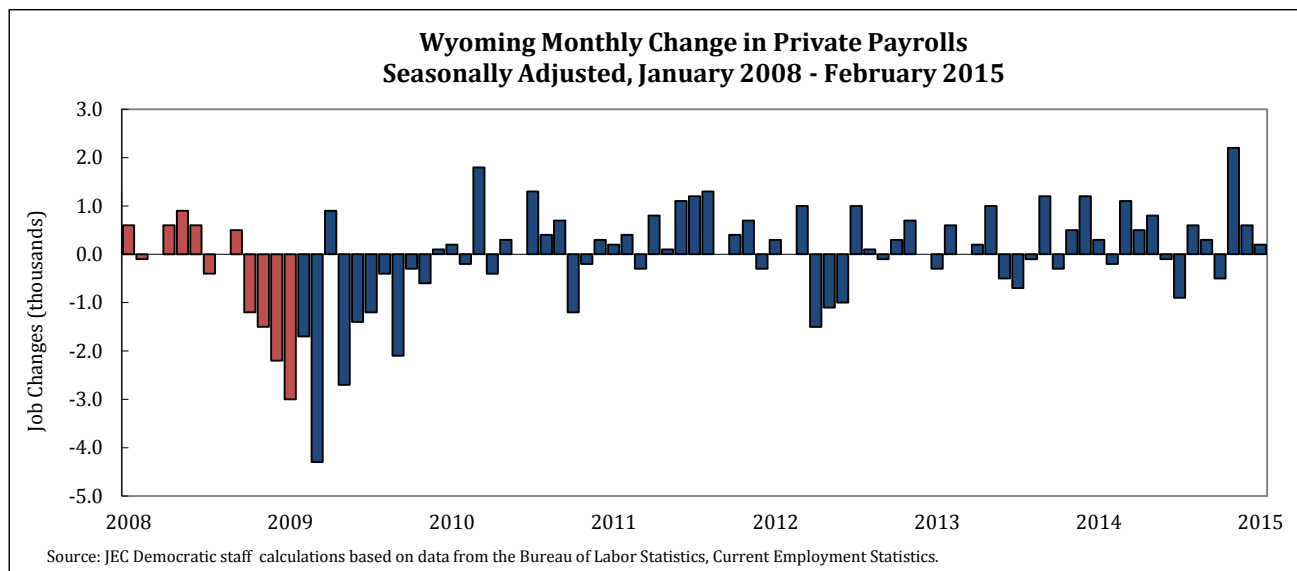


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: WYOMING

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through February 2015

JOBS

- In February, private-sector employment in Wyoming grew by 200 jobs. Over the past year, the Wyoming private sector has added 4,600 jobs. This compares with an increase of 3,400 jobs over the 12 months ending in February 2014.
- Wyoming private-sector employers have added 15,800 jobs (an increase of 7.6 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Wyoming, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: leisure and hospitality (4,700 jobs), trade, transportation and utilities (4,400 jobs) and professional and business services (2,700 jobs).
- The Wyoming sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (16.1 percent), leisure and hospitality (14.6 percent) and manufacturing (14.0 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Wyoming was 4.0 percent in February 2015, holding constant from January. The rate is down 0.3 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 7.2 percent in January 2010.
- 12,100 Wyoming residents were unemployed during February 2015, down from a recent high of 21,600 in January 2010. There are still 3,900 more people unemployed in Wyoming than when the recession began.
- In Wyoming, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 2,597 during February, up 26.4 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 16.3 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Wyoming, exports totaled \$108 million in January and \$1.7 billion over the past year, up 34.1 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2014 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Wyoming exports over the past 12 months are up 69.9 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Wyoming increased by 4.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 15.2 percent since their recent low in the third quarter of 2010 and are now 4.3 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Wyoming totaled 1,140 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 1.7 percent from January.
- Within the West census region, which includes Wyoming, sales of new single-family homes totaled 126,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 6.0 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 7.7 percent to 980,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2015.

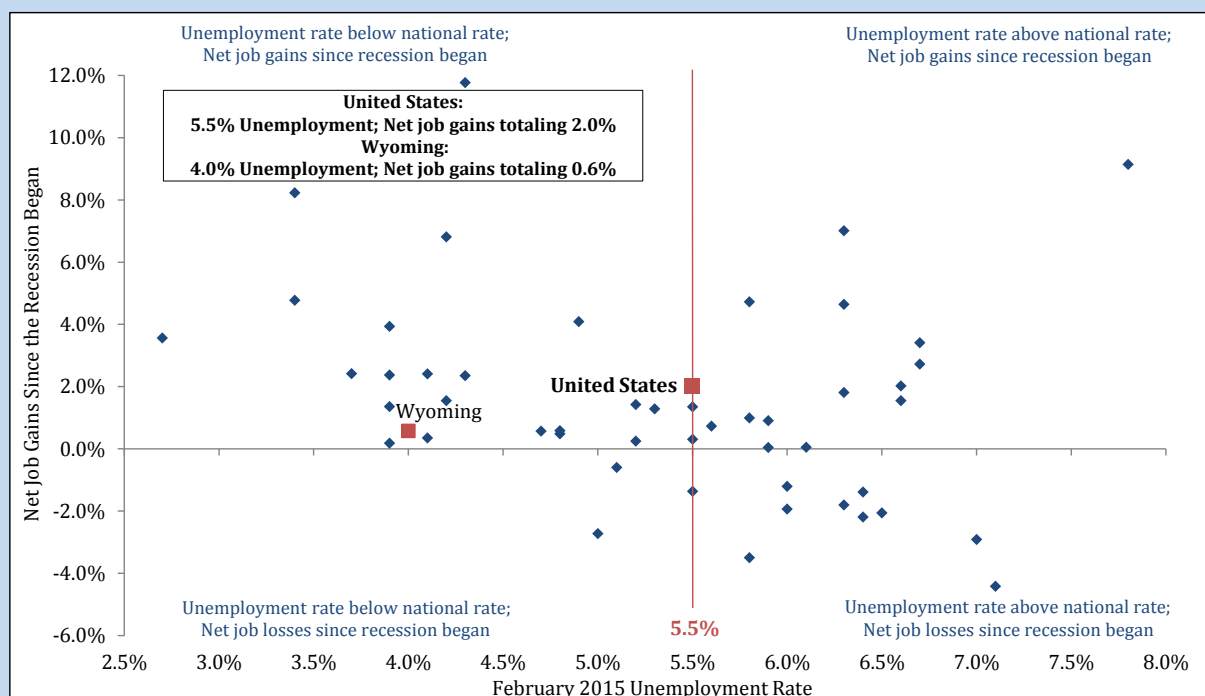
* For Wyoming-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Wyoming office: <http://wydoe.state.wy.us/lmi/bls.htm>

How Does Wyoming Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Wyoming to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Wyoming, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.9% and net job gains totaling 30.2% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

| | | Wyoming | United States |
|---|--|-----------|---------------|
| Unemployment Rate | February 2015 | 4.0% | 5.5% |
| | February 2014 | 4.3% | 6.7% |
| | February 2013 | 4.9% | 7.7% |
| | February 2012 | 5.4% | 8.3% |
| Percent of Population Who Are Veterans | 2014 | 12.4% | 8.9% |
| All Veterans' Unemployment Rate | 2014 | 4.3% | 5.3% |
| Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate | 2014 | 4.4% | 7.2% |
| Median Household Income (2013 \$) | 2013 | \$ 55,700 | \$ 51,939 |
| | (CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007 | \$ 54,763 | \$ 56,436 |
| Poverty Rate | 2013 | 11.8% | 14.5% |
| | (CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007 | 10.9% | 12.5% |
| Percentage Without Health Insurance | 2013 | 13.4% | 14.5% |
| (American Community Survey) | | | |