Wyoming Economic Indicators

WYOGOV

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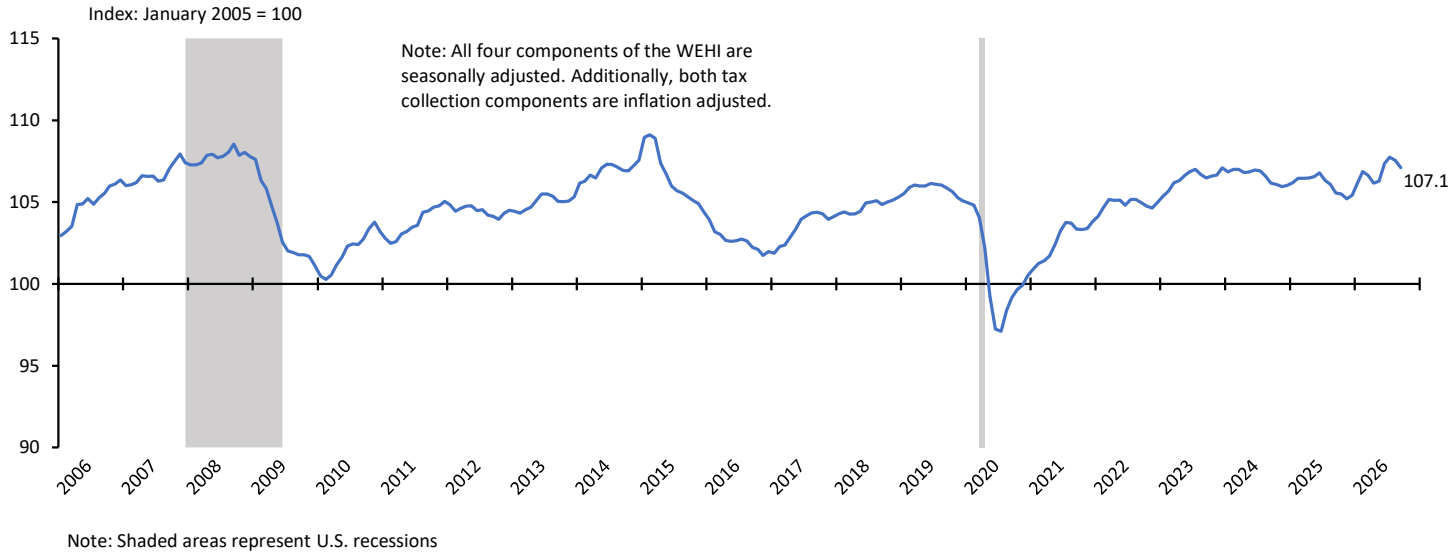
Figure 1: Wyoming Economic Health Index (WEHI) as of September 2026



Note: Shaded areas represent U.S. recessions

Figure 2: Change in WEHI - Last 6 Months

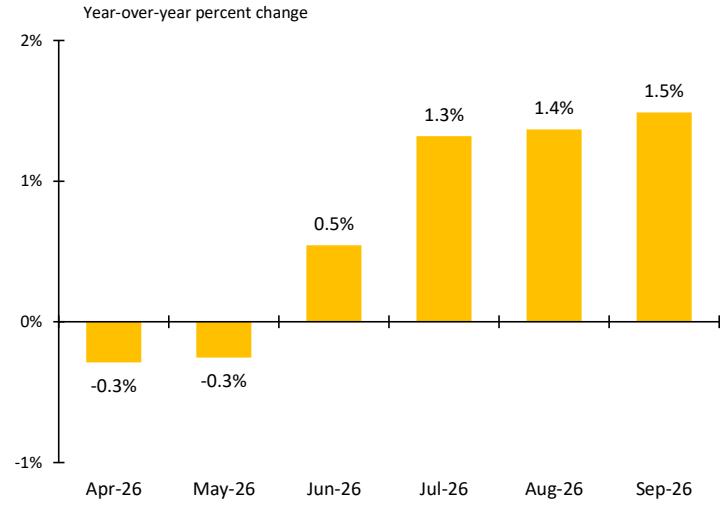
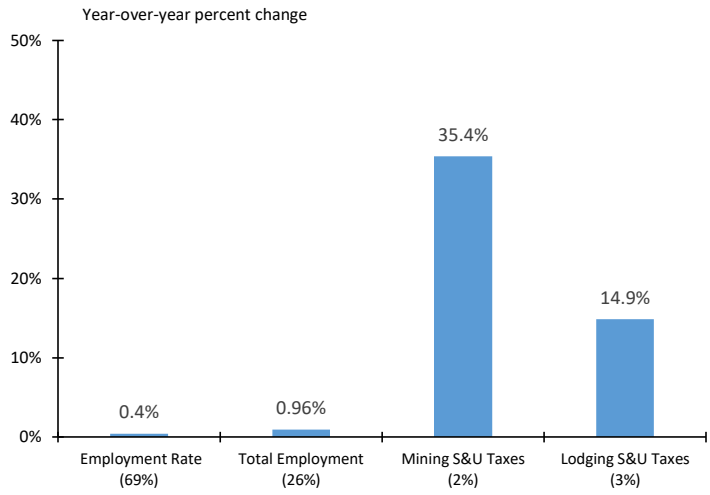
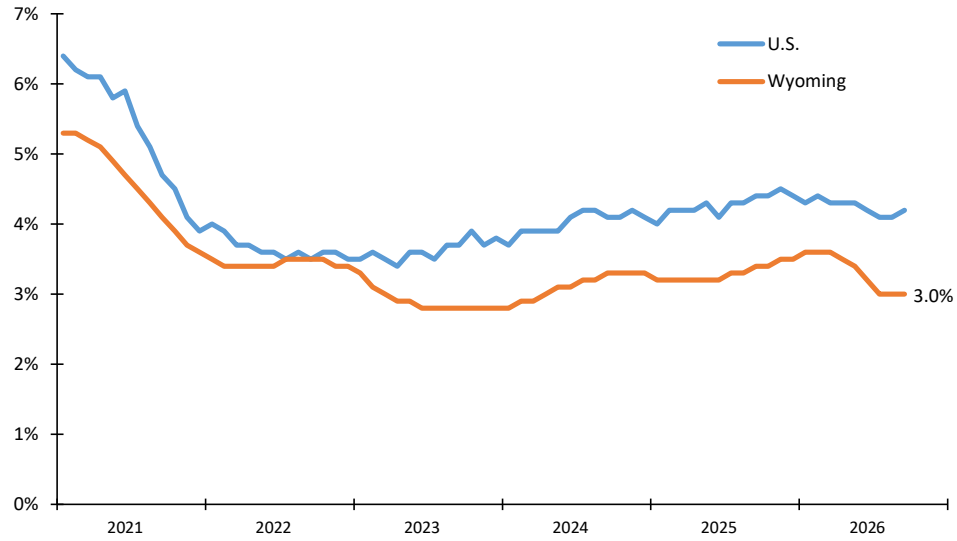


Figure 3: Change in Components of WEHI - September 2026



Note: Values in parantheses are the weights for each component of the WEHI.

Figure 4: Wyoming and United States Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted or SA)



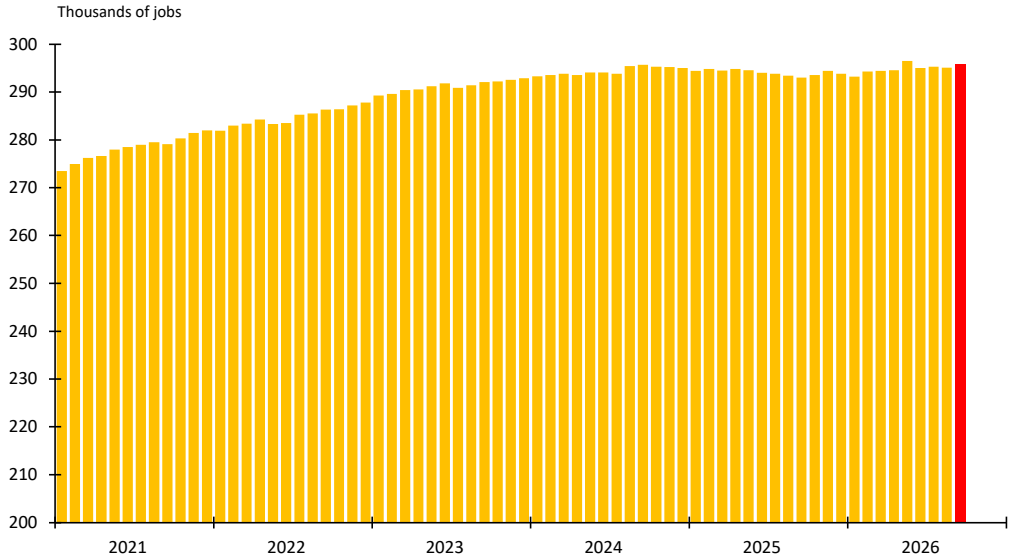
⏩ SUMMARY: The Wyoming Economic Health Index (WEHI) reported a value of 107.1 in September 2026 (see Figure 1). This value is higher than the September 2025 value of 105.5.

⏩ As seen in Figure 2, in four of the past six months (April 2026 - September 2026), the WEHI reported year-over-year increases, with the largest increase occurring in September (+1.5%).

⏩ All four WEHI components improved in September compared to September 2025 (see Figure 3). Mining sales & use tax collections saw the largest year-over-year increase, up 35.4%.

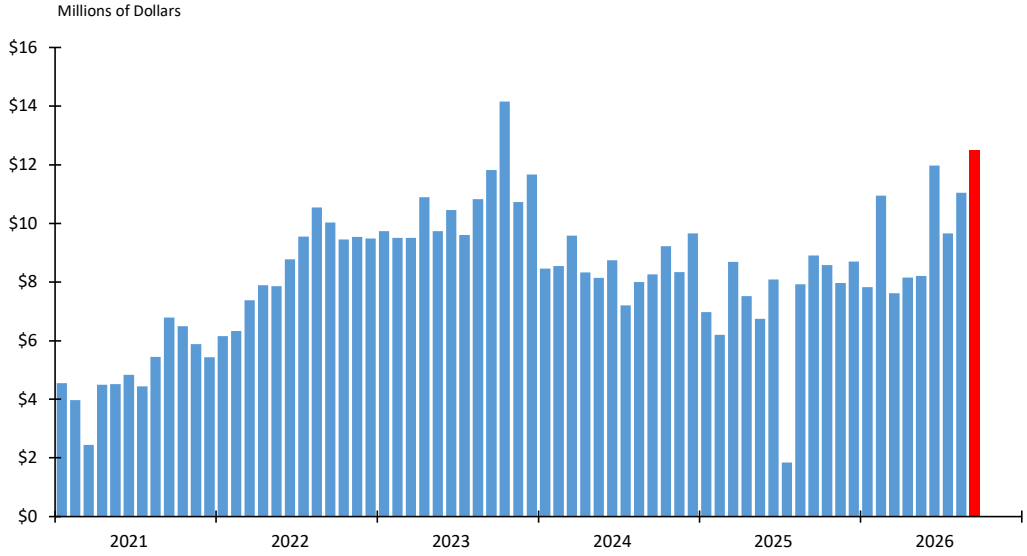
⏩ The unemployment rate (SA) for Wyoming in September was 3.0%, lower than the statewide September 2025 rate (3.4%) and the September 2026 national unemployment rate (4.2%) (see Figure 4).

Figure 5. Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)



The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs in September was 295,800, higher than the September 2025 number by 2,800 (+1.0%) (see Figure 5). Total employment has increased year-over-year in each of the past six months.

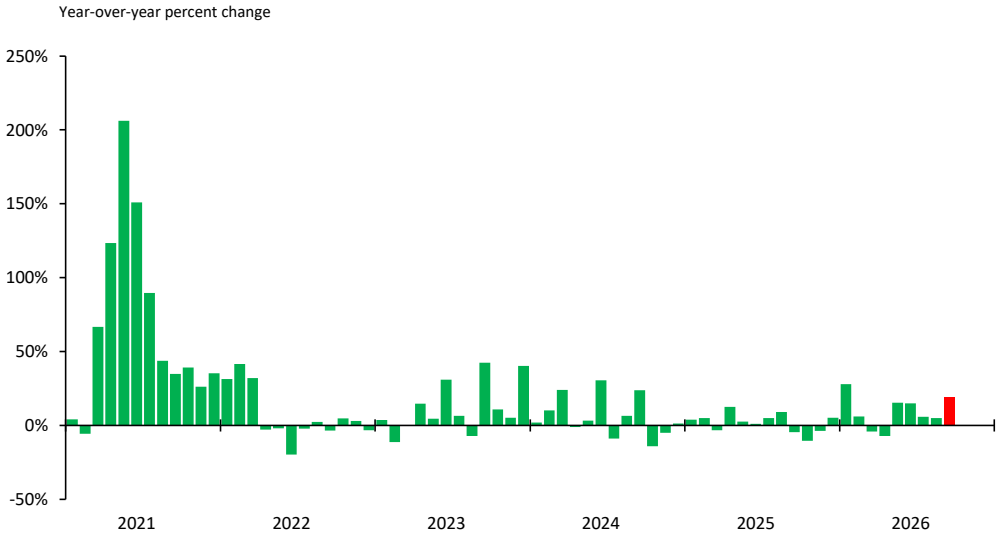
Figure 6. Wyoming 4% Sales and Use Tax Collections - Mining Sector (1-Month Lag) - Nominal Dollars



Wyoming's collection of the 4% sales and use tax from the mining sector was $12.5 million in September 2026, $3.6 million more (+40.4%) than September 2025 (see Figure 6).

Note: The value for September 2026 in Figure 6 is actually based on collections from October 2026 because there is approximately a 1-month lag between collections and sales activity.

Figure 7. Change in Wyoming 4% Sales and Use Tax Collections - Lodging (1-Month Lag) - Nominal Dollars



Wyoming's collection of the 4% sales and use tax from lodging was $8.3 million in September, 19.2% higher than September 2025 (see Figure 7).

Note: The value for September 2026 in Figure 7 is actually based on collections from October 2026 because there is approximately a 1-month lag between collections and sales activity.

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Wyoming Economic Health Index Addendum

The Wyoming Economic Health Index (WEHI) is a coincident economic indicator designed to provide a current assessment of the state's economy. There are four components of the WEHI. The first two components, unemployment rate and total nonfarm employment, are included to capture overall labor market activity for Wyoming. The third component, sales and use tax collections related to the mining sector, captures economic activity related to mineral production in the state. The fourth component, sales and use tax collections related to lodging, serves as a proxy for tourism activity in the state.

Unemployment Rate: The first component of the WEHI is the unemployment rate. This statistic measures the percentage of people in Wyoming actively looking for work but do not have jobs. In the WEHI model, the employment rate (100% minus the unemployment rate) is indexed rather than the unemployment rate because an increase in the employment rate, similar to an increase in total employment, mining activity, and tourism activity, is considered to be a positive for the state's economy. The unemployment rate is available monthly, seasonally adjusted, from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total Nonfarm Employment: The second component of the WEHI is total nonfarm employment. This statistic measures the number of people who have wage or salary jobs in Wyoming. The total nonfarm employment is available monthly, seasonally adjusted, from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mining Sales & Use Tax: The third component of the WEHI is the sales and use tax collected from the mining sector (including oil and gas extraction). Because sales and use tax collections the state receives for a given month represent transactions that took place 4 to 6 weeks prior, the data is lagged one month in the WEHI model. This statistic is available monthly from the State of Wyoming's Department of Revenue. The data is adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data is also seasonally adjusted.

Lodging Sales & Use Tax: The fourth component of the WEHI is sales and use tax collections from lodging. Again, because sales and use tax collections received by the state for a given month of transactions represent transactions that took place 4 to 6 weeks prior, the data is lagged one month in the WEHI model. This statistic is available monthly from the State of Wyoming's Department of Revenue. The data is adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data is also seasonally adjusted.

Methodology: Each series for the components discussed above are standardized starting in January 2005, resulting in a value of 100 for each component and the WEHI. As each component changes from month to month, the WEHI value changes. Next, the standard deviation of each component's standardized series values is calculated, followed by the calculation of the inverse of each component's standard deviation. Next, the individual inverse standard deviations are standardized, resulting in weights that sum to 1. The rationale for this weighting approach is that the components that are more stable over time will have a smaller standard deviation and thus, a larger inverse standard deviation and weight. A large shift in a typically stable data series would provide a better signal of a change in the economy than a large shift in a data series that typically has large fluctuations. Therefore, this weighting approach allows the WEHI to put a larger weight on the more stable components so that if they do experience a large shift, the WEHI's value will be affected more to represent the change in the state's economic conditions. Lastly, a 3-month moving average is used in order to smooth out the index. This helps eliminate large "spikes" that may occur due to a certain component recording an unusually high or low value in a given month.

Prepared by: Economic Analysis Division, Dept. of Administration and Information, WY State Government