



Economic Summary: 2Q2026



Wyoming Department of Administration & Information

Economic Analysis Division

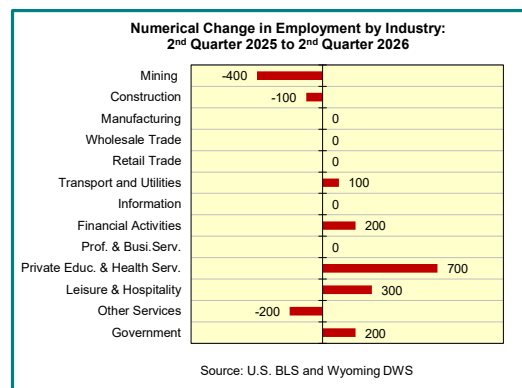
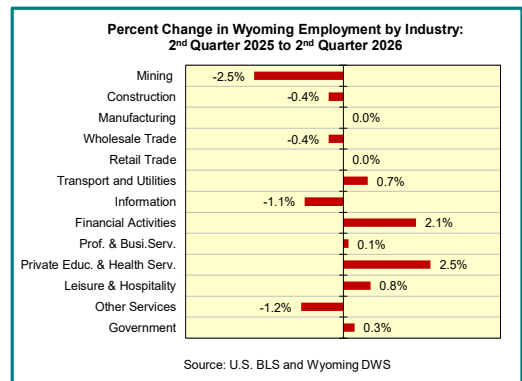
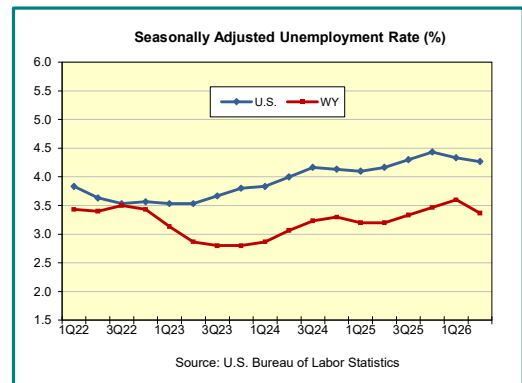
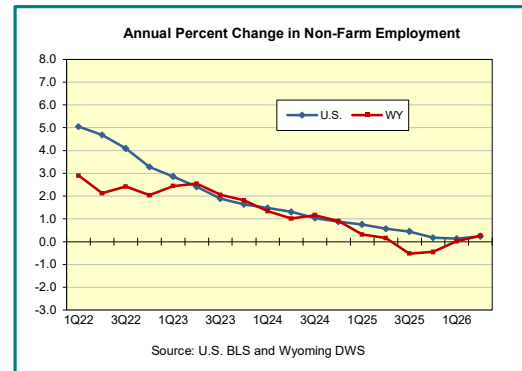
Current Global and U.S. Economy

The global economy is demonstrating remarkable resilience despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. A significant factor contributing to this stability is the surge in data center construction worldwide, which is bolstering trade and factory output. In contrast, economies with limited connections to the AI boom are more vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions. Although Mexico excels in AI server production, worries about the future of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement are stifling investment and hindering growth. Modest monetary tightening this year has sought to contain inflation expectations amid the Middle East strife and rising energy prices. Moody's Analytics forecasts global GDP growth slowing to 2.7 percent in 2026, but 2.8 percent in 2027. As growth becomes increasingly concentrated, the global economy is at risk of faltering. An escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, coupled with rising energy prices, could compel central banks to take more aggressive action. Meanwhile, elevated equity valuations, anxious bond markets, and volatile exchange rates are constraining their ability to respond effectively.

Since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, energy prices have surged and then fluctuated at an elevated level as the shipping of significant quantities of oil and liquefied natural gas has been severely impacted. Higher energy prices escalate transportation costs for both businesses and consumers. Suppliers facing these increased costs eventually pass them on to customers through higher prices. Driven by higher income households, consumer spending remains resilient, though confidence is anticipated to stay low throughout 2026. The U.S., as the largest producer of both oil and natural gas in the world, is projected to achieve a real GDP growth of 2.2 percent in 2026 and 2.0 percent in 2027. The labor market remains weak, averaging around 50,000 new jobs each month, with the unemployment rate expected to reach 4.6 percent in 2027. Additionally, the U.S. consumer price index is forecasted to decelerate to 2.5 percent in 2027.

Employment

Wyoming's labor market showed improvement in the second quarter of 2026, with a moderate decrease in the unemployment rate and increase in job numbers. Total employment grew 0.3 percent (or 800 jobs) compared to the previous year, while the annual growth in the U.S. improved to 0.2 percent. The state's unemployment rate dropped to 3.4 percent, still significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent. The state's payroll jobs increased in about half of the economic sectors, with private education & health services leading the way, growing 2.5 percent, or 700 jobs, followed by leisure & hospitality, 300 jobs. Wyoming's pivotal industry, mining, continued to shed employment, decreasing by 2.5 percent, or -400 jobs. Construction and other services experienced a loss of 100 and 200 payroll employment, respectively.



Personal Income and Earnings

Wyoming's total personal income increased 4.3 percent in the second quarter of 2026 compared to the second quarter of 2025. U.S. personal income increased 4.4 percent during the same period. Personal income is the income received by all residents from all sources. It is the sum of wage, salary, and proprietors' earnings; property income (dividends, interest, and rent); and personal transfer receipts such as Social Security income, Medicare and Medicaid benefits, unemployment insurance compensation, and other income benefits and assistance.

Total earnings in the state grew 5.1 percent annually in the quarter, while dividends, interest, and rent grew 3.4 percent, but transfer receipts grew 4.2 percent. Earnings in nearly all major industries demonstrated expansion from a year ago, led by the farm sector (20.6%), followed by professional & business services (10.2%) and education & health services (9.1%).

Housing

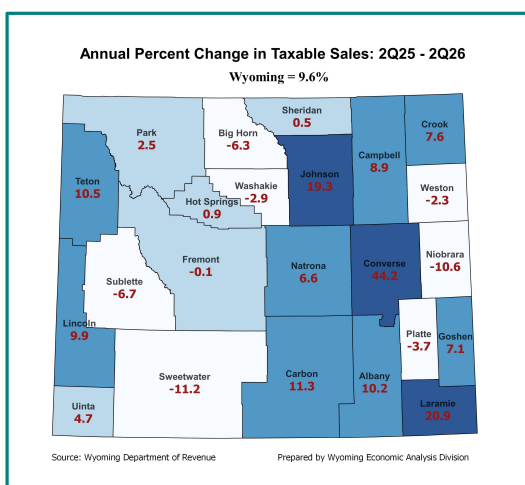
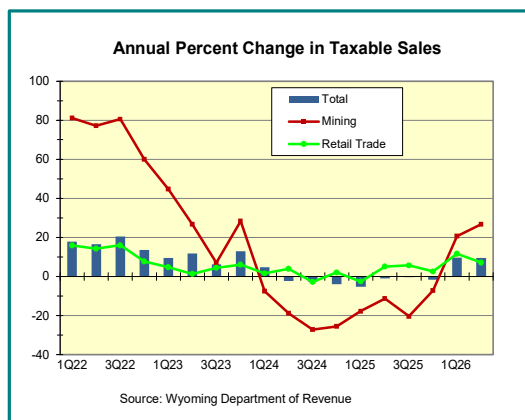
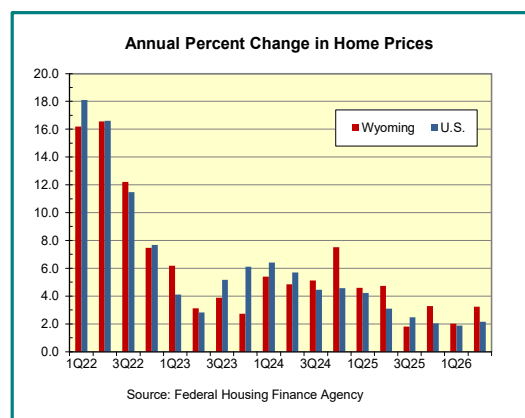
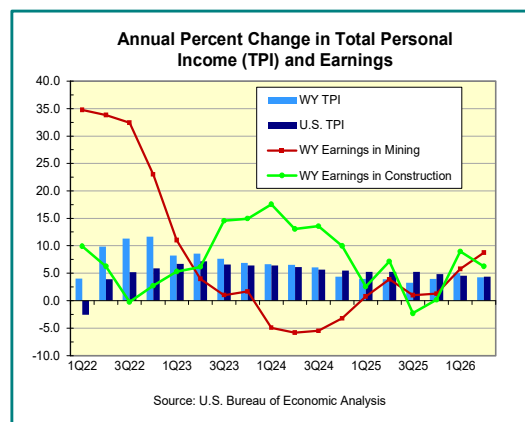
The statewide single-family home price increased 3.2 percent in the second quarter of 2026 compared to one year ago, higher than the previous quarter. In contrast, the national average price appreciation accelerated slightly to 2.1 percent during the same period. Additionally, single-family building permits for new privately-owned residential construction in Wyoming for the second quarter declined to 476 (-6.5%) from the previous year, while multi-family units increased to 97 (47.0%).

Both the U.S. and Wyoming housing prices continued to rise, albeit at a moderate speed, and the overall housing market remains overpriced. The current market conditions have resulted in existing home sales being still among the slowest since the 2008 financial crisis as low affordability and economic uncertainty weigh on housing demand. The inventory of homes for sale has been rising, leading builders to offer incentives to reduce excess supply. The combination of overheated valuation and an elevated inventory is exerting downward pressure on prices. However, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage has reached its highest level since May 2024. Additionally, rising input costs are increasingly limiting the ability to lower prices. These factors, in turn, hinder affordability and efforts to stimulate demand.

Taxable Sales

Based on sales and use tax collections, total taxable sales in the state increased by 9.6 percent to \$6.4 billion in the second quarter of 2026 compared to the previous year. This marks the second consecutive quarter of year-over-year near double-digit growth. The strong performance was primarily attributed to the mining industry (26.7%) and retail trade services (7.1%). Indeed, increases occurred in nearly every major economic sector, including construction (20.2%), utilities (16.1%), accommodation and food services (8.2%), as well as automotive, machinery, and equipment leasing and repair (9.4%). Information decreased 6.4 percent.

Across the state, 15 out of 23 counties experienced increases in taxable sales in a year-over-year comparison, led by Converse



(44.2%), followed by Laramie (20.9%) and Johnson (19.3%). Robust sales in retail trade and/or strong activities in the mining are mostly responsible for these expansions. Sweetwater (-11.2%) and Niobrara (-10.6%) showed steepest decreases in comparison to the second quarter of 2025.

Tourism

The number of recreational visitations to Yellowstone National Park reached 1,545,790 in the second quarter of 2026, representing a 1.7 percent decrease from the previous year. In comparison, Grand Teton National Park recorded 1,111,046 visits, showing a growth of 1.0 percent. The visitation figures for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton were the second highest for the second quarter. Lodging sales for the second quarter were 20.0 percent higher than a year ago in Teton County, while the state as a whole experienced an increase of 11.1 percent. In general, the primary reasons for the fluctuation in lodging sales are visits to the national parks and mineral activities. But the change of sales in Teton County's winter season mainly depends on recreational activities such as skiing, snowmobiling, snow coaching, and ice fishing.

Agriculture

After falling to its lowest level in nearly 10 years, the index of prices received by farmers for all U.S. livestock and products rebounded quickly and has been surging since the third quarter of 2020. In the second quarter of 2026, the index increased significantly to 198.1 and was 14.1 percent higher than the previous year's level. Farm earnings in Wyoming mostly experienced little change from 2022 to 2025. However, they demonstrated robust upward trend in 2026. Helped by the strong livestock prices, earnings in the second quarter were 20.6 percent higher than the prior year.

With sustained elevated cattle prices alongside low inventories and limited signs of herd building, livestock growers' revenues nationwide were strong. According to the Kansas City Fed, strength in the cattle sector has boosted incomes in many areas but ongoing challenges in the crop sector continue to weigh on the outlook for the farm economy. Volatility in commodity and energy markets will always raise concerns about spikes in fuel and fertilizer costs.

Revenue

In the second quarter of 2026, the amount of investment income distributed to the state general fund reached \$666.4 million. This includes income from the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund and state agency pooled income accounts, representing an increase of 2.9 percent from the amount recorded a year ago. It is important to note that the boosts in the second quarters were due to net realized capital gains. These gains are distributed at the end of each fiscal year, which is on June 30. The \$191.4 million in mineral severance taxes generated in the second quarter was the highest amount since the fourth quarter of 2023, and it increased 18.6 percent from the previous year, primarily reflecting the surging oil prices since March due to the supply restrictions from the military conflict in the Middle East.

