

TRENDS

State Employee Compensation: A Comparison to the Local Market

by: *Mark A. Harris, Ph.D., Sociologist*

The Central States Compensation Association (CSCA) survey data compare occupational wages in Wyoming state government to the same occupation's average in other participating states. CSCA data, however, do not allow wage comparisons between state employees and individuals employed in the same occupations within Wyoming. In this study, we compared Wyoming state employees to Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data for Wyoming to determine whether underpayment relative to the local market may contribute to employees leaving state government. Results indicate underpaid state employees account for a higher percentage of turnover than do those paid above market.

Use of the Central States Compensation Association (CSCA) survey data provides a means of comparing an occupational wage in Wyoming state government to the same occupation's average in other participating states ("Central States," n.d.). The CSCA data provide a useful market evaluation tool for state administrators and legislators.

CSCA data, however, do not allow comparison of state employees to individuals employed in the same occupations in different industries within Wyoming. State employees work in a local market and knowing how their wages

compare to those of the local market may also be important. For example, an accountant's wages may compare favorably to other accountants in the CSCA, but they may be low compared to the average paid to accountants in Wyoming. In this situation, Wyoming would appear to have minimal risk of losing this accountant to other state governments in the CSCA but may have substantial risk of turnover to private entities within the local market.

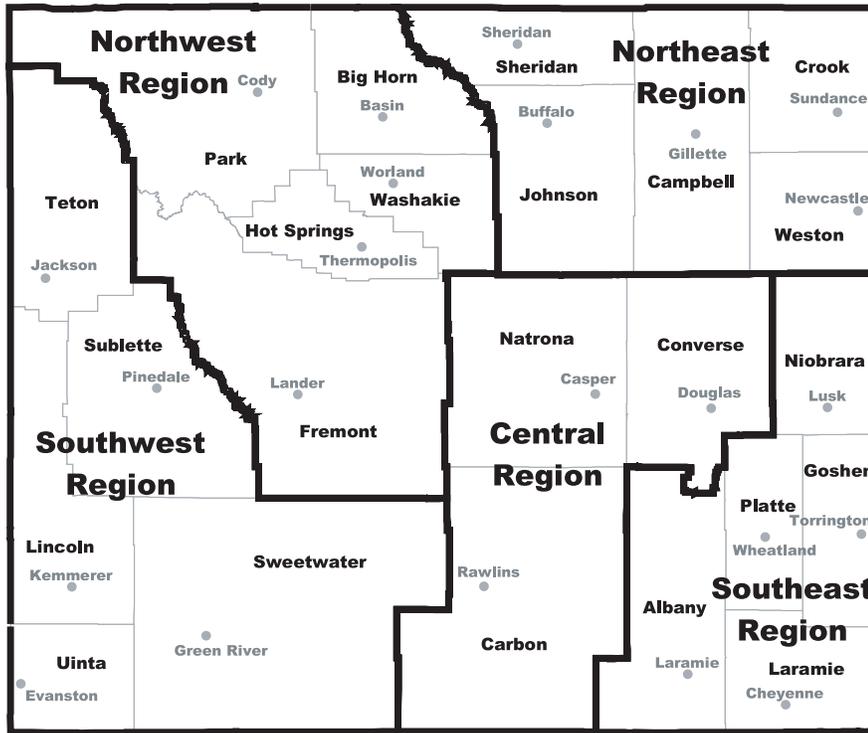
In this study, we compared the 2003 cohort of Wyoming state employees to 2003 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Deaths attributable to highway incidents in 2004 were the highest since the CFOI program began monitoring Wyoming occupational fatalities....page 9
- Research & Planning now tracks customer contacts to better judge customer needs....page 12

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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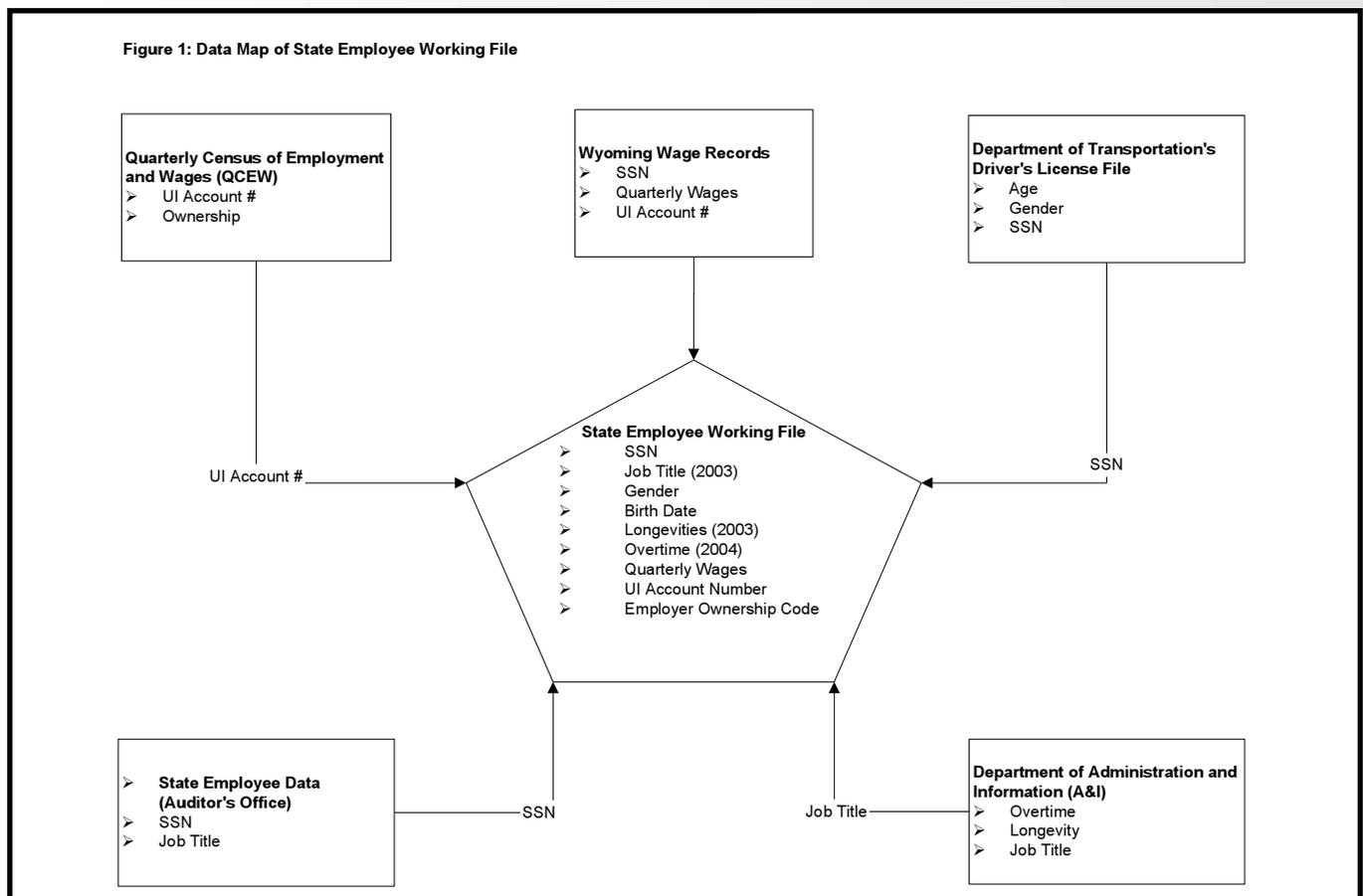
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data for Wyoming (for the most current data see <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS/>). OES data serve as the premier data source for Wyoming occupational wages. Specifically, we compared wage rates for employees who left state government employment in 2003 to the OES market pay range for their occupation. The purpose of this study is to determine whether underpayment relative to the local market may contribute to employees leaving state government. The study also aims to determine wage differences between 2003 and 2004.

Data and Methods

The 2003 state employee file was provided to Research & Planning (R&P) by the Wyoming State Auditor's Office. The

data include the social security number (SSN) and job title of each state employee who worked at any time during 2003. Confidentiality requirements do not permit disclosure of individuals' identities. Wage data come from the Wyoming Wage Records database. It contains the SSN, quarterly wages, and Unemployment Insurance (UI) employer account number. Employer ownership codes (e.g., state, local, private) were obtained from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Gender and birth date of state employees were obtained from the Wyoming Department of Transportation Driver's License database. These separate data files were combined into a working file. Figure 1 shows the data sources used to create the working file. Variables shown within the arrows indicate the match key for merging data into the working file.

Figure 1: Data Map of State Employee Working File



State job titles included in the working file were converted to associated six-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes by the Wyoming analyst responsible for the OES program (Hauf & Cowan, 2005). As an example of the conversion, the state job title FS01A Financial/Statistical Specialist 1 corresponds to SOC 13-2011 Accountants and Auditors. A full listing of the job titles and their SOC match is posted on our website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0306/TableA1.htm>.

Of the 10,939 persons appearing on the state payroll, 8,638 were assigned a valid SOC code. Those without an SOC code (2,301) were excluded from the comparative analysis presented here. They include 795 at-will contract employees (AWEC), 730 special classified employees (TP01) who do not carry a specific state job title, 69 employees with a state job title lacking the track designation (FS01A Accountants and Auditors compared to FS01D Economists) necessary to convert to SOC, and 7 miscellaneous employees. Those without an SOC code also include 700 members of boards, commissions, the legislature (including session staff), and the judiciary.

Total wages in 2003 were calculated for each SOC code using Wage Records data

(see Table). Wages were then adjusted downward to eliminate longevities paid in 2003 (\$40 per month for each 60 months worked) and the estimated overtime paid in 2003 (overtime paid in 2004 adjusted to 2003 dollars using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers [CPI-U]). This procedure brings wages reported in Wage Records into parity with wages reported in the OES survey. OES captures the base rate of pay only and does not include longevity or overtime. The reasonableness of this procedure was examined. For occupations where state employees make up all of the employment in the state, the average wage (as calculated from wage records) is nearly identical to the OES estimate.

OES data came from the semiannual (May and November) 2003 collection from state personnel. Data provide an estimate of Wyoming total employment by occupation, the average wage, and relative standard error for the average wage. A 95% confidence interval was calculated for the OES average wage for each occupation. This highly-reliable interval was used as the market pay range.

The wage record average hourly wage for state employee SOC codes were sorted into

Table: Sample of Wage Comparison Between All Wyoming Employees and Wyoming State Government Employees, 2003

Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code and Title	All Wyoming Employees			Wyoming State Government Employees			Comparison of State Employee Wages to Market Pay
	Number of Employees	Average Hourly Wage	Market Pay Range ^a	Number of State Employees	Average Quarterly Wage	Estimated Hourly Wage ^b	
13-2011 Accountants & auditors	1,270	\$20.82	\$19.39 -- \$22.25	357	\$9,089	\$17.48	below
23-1011 Lawyers	720	\$41.20	\$31.42 -- \$50.97	141	\$14,631	\$28.14	below
43-9061 Office clerks, general	2,920	\$9.96	\$9.76 -- \$10.16	336	\$4,961	\$9.54	below

^aA 95% confidence interval was calculated for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) average wage for each occupation. This highly-reliable confidence interval was used as the market pay range.

^bAssuming 40 hours per week.

those that fell below, within, and above the OES market pay range. Theoretically, state employees who fall below the range are underpaid relative to the local market, those within the range are being paid at market, and those above the range are being paid better than market.

Turnover categories utilized in this analysis were adapted from Glover (2001). In this case, a turnover transaction is defined as an entry or exit (or both) between state government and either local government or the private sector with respect to the reference quarter, the quarter before, and the subsequent quarter. Turnover can be calculated at the employer, ownership (state government, local government, or the private sector), or market levels (job changing between states). Continuous employment is defined as three consecutive quarters of employment (i.e., the reference quarter and the prior and subsequent quarters) within the same ownership. Past turnover studies conducted by R&P reflect turnover between firms rather than between ownerships (Glover & Leonard, 2003). For this methodology, state employees can change jobs within state government without the change counting as a turnover transaction

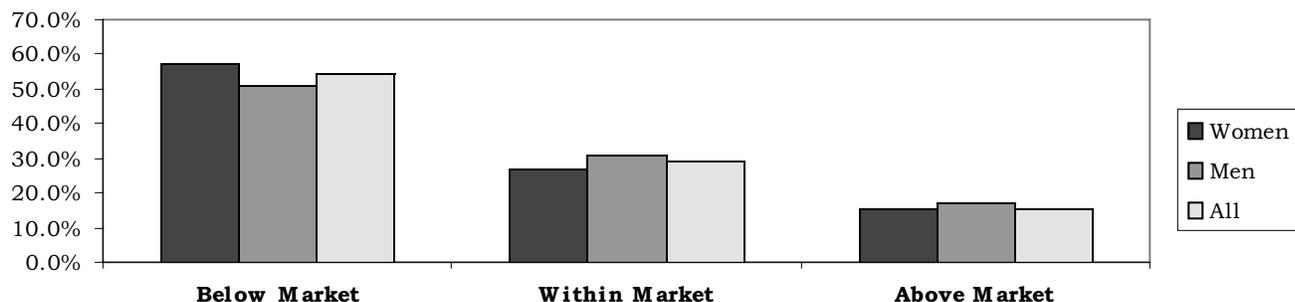
(e.g., employment in the Wyoming Department of Health followed by a job change to the Wyoming Department of Family Services). Theoretically, changing jobs between state agencies does not represent a loss of skill and talent to the state. Changing to the private sector or local government does.

Results

Figure 2 shows the percentage of average quarterly turnover transactions during 2004 among the cohort of 2003 state employees by market pay range. State employees who are underpaid relative to the local market account for a higher percentage (55.4%) of turnover transactions. The percentage is higher for women than men by about seven percentage points. Those paid above market account for the smallest percentage of turnover transactions (15.7%). Of those experiencing turnover from state government, a higher percentage of men than women fall within and above the market pay range for their occupation.

Figure 3 (see page 6) shows the wage increase between 2003 and 2004 for the 2003 cohort of state employees who left

Figure 2: Comparison of Earnings of Persons Who Left State Government to Work in the Private Sector or Local Government During 2004



Note: A 95% confidence interval was calculated for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) average wage for each occupation. This highly-reliable confidence interval was used as the market pay range.

state government. Turnover employees who were below market for their occupation experienced the largest percentage increase in wages between 2003 and 2004 (7.9%). Those within market experienced a small increase, while those above experienced a decrease in wages. Exploring differences by gender reveals that women earning below the market pay range for their occupation experienced a much larger percentage increase between 2003 and 2004 than did men (9.7% compared to 5.0%). Men who were earning within and above market and who left state government in 2003 experienced a decrease in wages in 2004. Additional analysis not reported here indicates that a higher percentage of males than females who left state government in 2003 were older. Some may have retired from the state and taken post-retirement jobs that pay substantially less. Official retirement status was not explored in this analysis.

Discussion

A portion of those paid at or above the local market exited state government. Wages are not the only contributing factor to turnover; however, over half of those

who left state government employment were paid below market. If we can generalize from these results, bringing underpaid occupations into parity with the local market rates may reduce the likelihood that individuals will leave state government.

An examination of gender differences reveals not only are underpaid women a higher percentage of those who exit, but when they leave state government they experience a larger increase in pay than do men. Well-paid, highly educated women employed in Wyoming state government may have fewer alternatives outside state government than do men. Bringing underpaid state employees into parity with the market may reduce turnover—particularly for women. It should be noted that this study reviews wages prior to state employee equity adjustments implemented in 2004, and continuing in 2005 and 2006. These equity adjustments have targeted employees earning below their competitive market range, and as a matter of gender, have been particularly beneficial to women who are more likely to fill these jobs. In the future, R&P could examine the effect of the equity adjustments.

Figure 3: Change in Earnings Between 2003 and 2004 of Employees Who Left State Government to Work in the Private Sector or Local Government



Note: A 95% confidence interval was calculated for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) average wage for each occupation. This highly-reliable confidence interval was used as the market pay range.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that an examination of state employees relative to the local market provides useful information about state employee turnover and pay. A regional state government comparison of occupations such as that provided by the CSCA, although important, cannot illuminate the local economic context in which state employees work. Only by explicitly examining local context and its consequences can these questions be addressed. Consequently, we conclude that individuals paid less than a competitive market wage are more likely to exit state government to earn higher wages elsewhere.

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Made in China

by: Roy Azar, Economist

This article is a summary of a report entitled, “Manufacturing Employment and Compensation in China.” The report was prepared by Judith Banister, a consultant with Beijing Javelin Investment Consulting Company. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) funded the original paper. It can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/fls/chinareport.pdf>.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the quality of data that the Chinese government published on manufacturing employment and labor compensation between the years 1990 and 2002. The statistics the Chinese government released on annual wages and labor-related employer expenditures are just enough to calculate 2002 annual pay for 30 million city manufacturing employees and 71 million non-city

manufacturing employees. By using published partial data and some assumptions, Banister was able to approximate average 2002 hourly wages for these two groups and for China as a whole. Wages were converted into U.S. dollars at the 2002 exchange rate and adjusted for the international purchasing power parity (PPP). The PPP allows for a standard comparison of real price levels between China and the U.S. According to the report,

all of China's manufacturing employees in 2002 received an average of \$0.57 per hour worked.

The study also discusses some of the major problems that occur with the concentrated data collection on city manufacturing workers, rather than the more numerous manufacturing workers outside cities. Furthermore, the data collection techniques on city workers need revision. The Chinese Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the National Bureau of Statistics concentrate their data collection greatly on the declining state-owned and urban collective-owned manufacturing firms. China is slow to adapt its data gathering methods to effectively reflect the flourishing private manufacturing sector. Most of China's manufacturing workers live and work outside cities, and the responsibility for collecting data on this group lies with the Ministry of Agriculture. The government-mandated economy (i.e., command economy) of pre-1978 is responsible for this separation of statistical duties in China.

Banister mentions some of the problems that are linked with certain Chinese governmental policies and their data collection system which often lead to skewed results. There are several financial reasons why a Chinese manufacturing firm would underreport total wages and employee counts. Manufacturing companies underreport this data in order to evade taxes and to reduce government-required employer payments to social insurance and employee housing programs.

Manufacturing employment in China was growing throughout the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s. Not until the mid-1990s did manufacturing employment begin to decrease. This decrease in employment was due to privatization,

which in turn led to a restructuring of the entire manufacturing industry. Privatization in the manufacturing industry led to massive layoffs and a great increase in productivity. The newly privatized factories are outperforming the state-owned and collective-owned factories, and therefore, are more competitive in the global and domestic markets. Manufacturing employment began to increase again in 2002. This recent increase is due to more investments by foreign and domestic businesses.

The report ends with factors that help make China both more and less competitive in the global market. It also suggests areas of future research for the Chinese government regarding ways to improve their data. China has many advantages that make the country suitable for foreign investment: It has very inexpensive labor costs, low land prices, and low-cost parts suppliers. China also has a stable government that offers favorable tax policies to foreign investors. Some factors hindering China's competitiveness in the future include electric power shortages, raw material shortages, and a lack of trademark, copyright, and patent protection. In addition, China has an ineffective legal system that is slow to enforce business contracts. Banister believes a higher priority should be placed on collecting more accurate data on the actual hours worked by manufacturing workers and researching wages received by rural workers in the manufacturing sector. Lastly, Banister contends China needs to adopt a labor force survey, based on international standards, that covers the entire country. Due to the quality of labor data published by China, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will not include China in its comparative foreign labor statistics program.



Wyoming Occupational Fatalities Reach Record Level in 2004

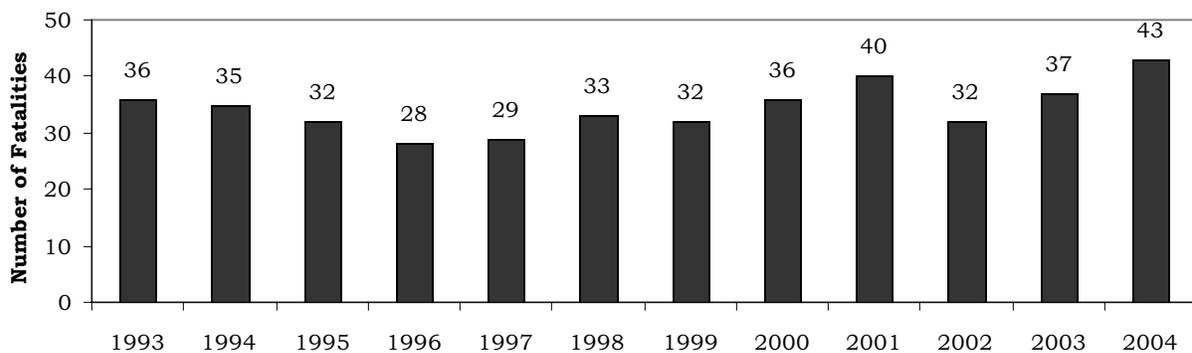
by: Sara Saulcy, Senior Economist

Wyoming occupational fatalities reached a record high in 2004 with 43 work-related deaths. The number is the highest for Wyoming since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program began tracking work-related deaths in 1993 (see Figure 1).

Additionally, the state's fatality rate per 100,000 workers reached a 5-year high of 15.5 (see Figure 2).

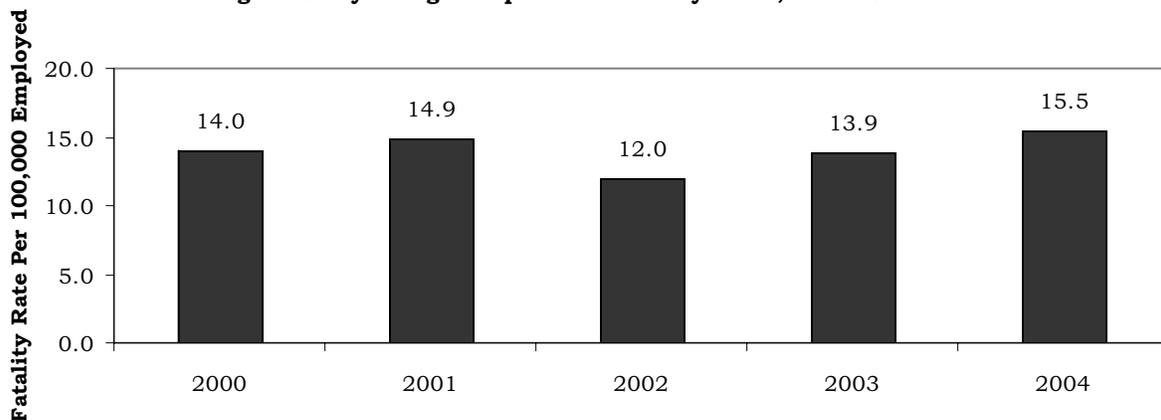
Men constituted 38 of the fatalities (88.4%), while 5 women died on the job (11.6%; see Table 1, page 10). Deaths of

Figure 1: Total Wyoming Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1993-2004



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Figure 2: Wyoming Occupational Fatality Rates, 2000-2004



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Table 1: Wyoming Fatal Occupational Injuries by Gender and Age, 2004

	n	Percent of Total Fatalities	Change from 2003
Gender			
Men	38	88.4%	5
Women	5	11.6%	1
Age Group			
25-34	7	16.3%	2
35-44	9	20.9%	-2
45-54	11	25.6%	1
55-64	8	18.6%	4
All Other Ages	8	18.6%	1
Total	43	100.0%	6

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

men increased by five over 2003, while women's deaths increased by one. By age group, individuals age 45-54 were the most

frequent victims with 11 fatalities (25.6%). The largest increase in fatalities occurred among workers age 55 to 64. Fatalities for this age group doubled from four in 2003 to eight in 2004.

Transportation incidents dominated all other event types with 28 deaths (65.1%; see Table 2). In particular, highway incidents continued to be the most common, contributing 58.1% of all fatalities (25 deaths). Five more highway deaths were recorded in 2004 than in 2003. Deaths attributable to highway incidents in 2004 were the highest since the CFOI program began monitoring Wyoming occupational fatalities (see Table 3, page 11).

Construction & extraction and transportation & material moving occupations accounted for the majority of deaths by occupational category with 13 each or a combined 60.5% of all work-related deaths in 2004 (down from 64.9%

Table 2: Wyoming Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure, 2004

Event or Exposure ^a	n	Percent of Total Fatalities	Change from 2003
Transportation Incidents	28	65.1%	2
Highway Incidents	25	58.1%	5
Collision Between Vehicles, Mobile Equipment	13	30.2%	10
Noncollision Incident	8	18.6%	-7
Jack-Knifed or Overturned -- No Collision	8	18.6%	-7
Contact with Objects and Equipment	6	14.0%	2
Struck by Object	4	9.3%	1
Falls	3	7.0%	0
Fall to Lower Level	3	7.0%	0
Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments	4	9.3%	1
ND^b	2	4.7%	1
Total	43	100.0%	6

^aBased on the 1992 Bureau of Labor Statistics Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

^bND - Not disclosable due to confidentiality of data.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Table 3: Wyoming Fatal Occupational Injuries Due to Highway Incidents, 1993-2004

Year	Number of Incidents	Change from Prior Year	
		n	%
1993	11	n/a	n/a
1994	11	0	0.0%
1995	11	0	0.0%
1996	ND	ND	ND
1997	7	ND	ND
1998	16	9	128.6%
1999	12	-4	-25.0%
2000	11	-1	-8.3%
2001	17	6	54.5%
2002	12	-5	-29.4%
2003	20	8	66.7%
2004	25	5	25.0%

n/a - Not applicable.

ND - Not disclosable due to confidentiality of data.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

in 2003). The remaining 17 fatalities in 2004 occurred in a variety of other occupations.

By industry, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities reported the highest number of deaths (16 or 37.2%) and the largest increase from the previous year (up by 6; see Table 4). The number of deaths in both Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting and Mining held steady from 2003 to 2004 (three and eight deaths, respectively, in each year). Deaths in Construction rose from five in 2003 to six in 2004, while deaths in Public Administration grew from two in 2003 to five in 2004.

Through the Wyoming Department of Employment's Occupational Safety and Health programs, the state works directly to reduce threats to workers' lives. The state also acts indirectly to improve worker safety by reduced tax rate incentives (up to 10% of the base rate) in the Workers' Compensation program for employers who

Table 4: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities by Industry, 2004

Industry ^a	n	Percent of Total Fatalities	Change from 2003
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	3	7.0%	0
Mining ^b	8	18.6%	0
Construction	6	14.0%	1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	16	37.2%	6
Public Administration ^c	5	11.6%	3
All Other Industries	5	11.6%	-4
Total	43	100.0%	6

^aClassified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

^bIncludes fatalities at all establishments classified as Mining (Sector 21) in NAICS, including establishments not governed by Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting such as those in Oil & Gas Extraction.

^cIncludes fatalities to workers employed by government organizations regardless of industry.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

strive for and maintain safe work environments (Wyoming Department of Employment, Workers' Safety & Compensation Division, Occupational Safety & Health, n.d.). Given the frequency with which workers die on Wyoming's roads and highways, improved safety (especially the importance of wearing seatbelts) should not be dismissed. Regardless of work location, occupational safety is ultimately a joint responsibility of employers and employees. For additional Wyoming-specific CFOI information, go to

Research & Planning's website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/CFOI/toc.htm>.

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Wyoming Department of Employment, Workers' Safety & Compensation Division, Occupational Safety & Health. (n.d.). *Safety Discount Program*. Retrieved August 19, 2005, from <http://wydoe.state.wy.us/doe.asp?ID=243>



R&P Customer Contact Annual Report for Program Year 2005

by: *Jodi Davey, Administrative Specialist*

In order to better understand and anticipate our customers' needs, Research & Planning (R&P) began tracking customer contacts from the public in September 2004. A contact is defined as any phone call, letter, or email received by R&P from a customer requesting labor market information or R&P products, as well as any visit to the Labor Market Information or ANSWERS websites.

We have used the Webtrends product for several years to track contacts (visits) made to our LMI website, but only began using it for ANSWERS after ANSWERS first went online in March 2005. R&P did not begin tracking customer contacts made by telephone, letters, or emails until September 2004.

The types of data tracked continued to evolve over the 2005 program year; therefore, the numbers reported do not reflect a complete year of contacts. Because different types of data began to be tracked at different times, the numbers may not always correlate. For example, while

customer contacts were tracked beginning in September 2004, the types of customers making the contacts were not tracked until February 2005.

Data show that 81,383 unique visitors (individuals who visited the website at least once) made 161,679 visits to the LMI website during the reporting period. The average length of time spent on each of the 20 pages with the highest number of visits was 37 minutes and 48 seconds.

A review of the most frequently retrieved files shows our customers are very interested in R&P projections (the demand side) as evidenced by the downloading of over 11,000 files related to either *Employment Outlook: 2010* or *Occupational Outlook: 2010* (see Table 1, page 13). High interest in the supply side is demonstrated by the retrieval of approximately 6,000 files from *Where Are They Now? Community College Graduates' Outcomes*.

Medical care continues to be a hot-button issue as shown by 1,949 downloads

Table 1: Most Frequently Downloaded Files From Research & Planning Websites, 2005

Website Address (URL)	Page Title	Number of Visits
http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/		
EmpOutlook2010.pdf	Employment Outlook: 2010	5,594
outltoc.htm	Occupational Outlook: 2010	5,586
CollegeReport2004.pdf	Where Are They Now? Community College Graduates' Outcomes	3,231
CollegeReport2003.pdf	Connecting Business and the Wyoming Community College System	2,668
staff/RNsWY.pdf	Nursing: Supply Shortage or Retention Issue?	1,949
w_r_research/MarketDynamics1202.pdf	Market Dynamics From Administrative Records	1,232
OESBenPub.pdf	Wages and Benefits in Wyoming	1,186
wylarge/toc.htm	Wyoming's Largest Employers June 1997	1,101
0200exp/exp2000.pdf	Wyoming Career Explorer 2000-2001	871
MW/MWReport.htm	Assessing the Impact of Raising Wyoming's Minimum Wage	832

of data regarding the supply of nurses. Not surprisingly, compensation is important to visitors as a total 2,018 files pertaining to employee compensation were retrieved. An unexpected interest was shown in Wage Records research with the downloading of 1,232 *Market Dynamics From Administrative Records* files.

Although projections and college outcome data are most frequently downloaded, most visitor searches focus on turnover and wages (see Table 2). Perhaps these files are not as readily accessible

Table 2: Most Common Search Phrases Used on Research & Planning's Websites, 2005

Phrase	Number of Visits
employee turnover calculation	612
average annual income	492
turnover calculation	382
teachers wages	301
turnover rate calculation	251
highest paying professions	245
employee turnover rate	221
calculating employee turnover	182
hierarchical regressions	164
how to calculate employee turnover	142

from our home page or their locations are less intuitive than those of projections and college outcomes.

County Fact Sheets contain data including, but not limited to, the demographics, earnings, and labor force statistics for each county. The five most requested counties are shown in Table 3.

Although ANSWERS only went online March 1, 2005, 1,227 unique visitors visited the site 10,940 times before June 30, 2005. The average amount of time spent on one of the top 20 pages was 12 minutes and 24 seconds. ANSWERS consists of *dynamic pages*, pages generated from a database using values selected by a

Table 3: Most Frequently Downloaded Wyoming County Fact Sheets, 2005

County	Number of Downloads
Converse	620
Sweetwater	576
Campbell	522
Albany	515
Natrona	412

visitor. They are created using variables and do not exist anywhere in a static predictable form. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the exact downloaded files or requested data.

In addition to contacts made through our websites, R&P also tracks contacts made through the distribution of our publications and other products. Our monthly publications, *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* and the news release, have the largest total distribution (see Table 4).

Annual publications such as *Wages and Benefits in Wyoming* also have wide distributions. One of R&P's newer products are the *Occasional Papers*, which have experienced increasing popularity with each succeeding issue. Data also show we distributed 355 copies of the college outcomes publication by mail, but more than nine times that were downloaded.

Contacts to R&P are also made via telephone, email, and regular mail by various groups of customers (see table 5).

Table 4: Research & Planning Publications Distributed Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005

Publications Distributed	Number Distributed
Wyoming Labor Force Trends	17,050
Where Are They Now? Wyoming Community College Graduates' Labor Market Outcomes 2004	355
Occasional Paper #1 - Evaluation of Federal Training & Education Programs	193
Occasional Paper #2 - An Analysis of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance	207
Occasional Paper #3 - Workforce Development Training Fund Evaluation at the Macro and Micro Levels	226
Occupational Posters	62
County Fact Sheets	297
News Releases	2,144
Private Sector Employee Access to Health Insurance and the Potential Wyo-Care Market	450
Wages and Benefits in Wyoming	858
Occupational Outlook: 2010 and Employment Outlook: 2010	30
Other R&P Data	38

Table 5: Research & Planning Customer Contacts by Customer Group, July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Customer Group	Number of Contacts
Job Seekers, Job Counselors	8
Businesses, Business Services	114
Researchers, Economists, Economic Developers	11
Administrators, Planners, Policy Makers	3
Students, Teachers, Counselors	1
Libraries, Legislature, Legislative Services, State Archives	1
All Other Groups	38
Total (February 2005 through June 2005 only)	200
Estimated Annual Total	480

**Table 6: Research & Planning Customer Contacts by Contact Topic,
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005**

Contact Topic	Number of Contacts
Industry Classification	28
Foreign Labor	225
Wages and Benefits	103
Current Employment Statistics (CES)	35
Wyo-Care/Employee Access to Health Insurance	4
News Release	44
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Report	14
County Fact Sheets	23
One-Stop	161
Projections	14
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)	12
Total Contacts	663

Customers making these types of contacts are typically seeking one of our products or need assistance with statistical data. Table 6 lists the products or issues related to these requests for information.

R&P will continue tracking the use and distribution of labor market information.

The feedback generated will help us understand the needs of our customers and assist us in continuing to provide top quality labor market statistics and products.



Wyoming Job Growth Rises to 3.3% in January 2006

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Bolstered by employment gains in Natural Resources & Mining, Wyoming job growth rose to 3.3% in January 2006 (an increase of 8,300 jobs from a year earlier). In contrast, U.S. employment rose by 1.6%, less than half of Wyoming's growth rate. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.3% in December to 3.1% seasonally adjusted in January and remained well below U.S. unemployment of 4.7%.

From December 2005 to January 2006, employment fell by 5,700 jobs or 2.2%. This level of decrease is consistent with normal patterns associated with seasonal employment fluctuations. Seasonal job losses occurred in Construction (-1,300 jobs or -6.6%), Retail Trade (-1,300 jobs or -4.2%), Professional & Business Services (-300 jobs or -2.0%), Leisure & Hospitality (-700 jobs or -2.3%), and Government (-1,700 jobs or -2.6%).

From January 2005 to January 2006, Wyoming added 8,300 jobs or 3.3%. Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) continued to dominate job gains (3,200 jobs or 15.2%). Construction employment also grew at a rapid pace, with 1,500 new jobs (8.8%). Other notable increases occurred in Retail Trade (400 jobs or 1.4%), Transportation & Utilities (700 jobs or 5.8%), Professional & Business Services (500 jobs or 3.4%), Educational & Health Services (400 jobs or 1.8%), and Leisure & Hospitality (700 jobs or 2.4%). Employment remained unchanged in the Manufacturing and Information industries.

County unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Platte County posted the highest

unemployment rate in January (6.1%), followed by Fremont (5.6%) and Big Horn (5.5%) counties. The lowest unemployment rate was found in Sublette County (2.0%) with the second lowest in Campbell County (2.9%).

Note: Through the annual benchmark process, employment levels for 2004 and 2005 have been revised to reflect more complete source data. Revised employment figures have been posted to our website at <http://wydoe.state.wy.us/LMI/ces/toc.htm> and the ANSWERS website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS/>. Revisions to 2004 were very small. On an annual average basis, employment estimates for 2005 were revised upward by approximately 1,200 jobs or 0.5%.



ANSWERS 101: Find Your Answers With My ANSWERS

Research & Planning's new website, ANSWERS, has several features designed to make data retrieval fast and easy. One of these features is called My ANSWERS. It is a user-defined storage area for information you frequently access. In addition, the information is automatically updated as soon as new data become available. For example, if you use ANSWERS to find the current unemployment rate each month, you can set My ANSWERS to automatically display the most recently updated unemployment rate on your personalized ANSWERS page.

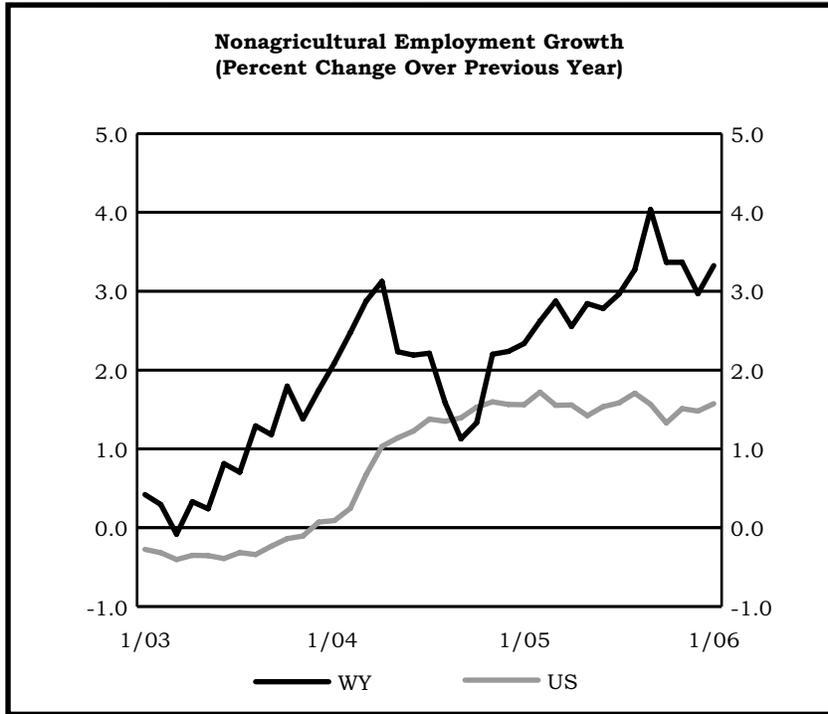
To access My ANSWERS, you must first set up a user account. You will be asked to fill out and submit a simple registration form. Once that step is complete, you will

be able to save your data requests and other inquiries.

Simply select any of the tabs at the top of the ANSWERS home page containing the data you want. Move through the data selection pages until the data is retrieved, then click on the Save Results button. Give your search results a unique title and hit Save. Your search results will be displayed on your ANSWERS page the next time you log on.

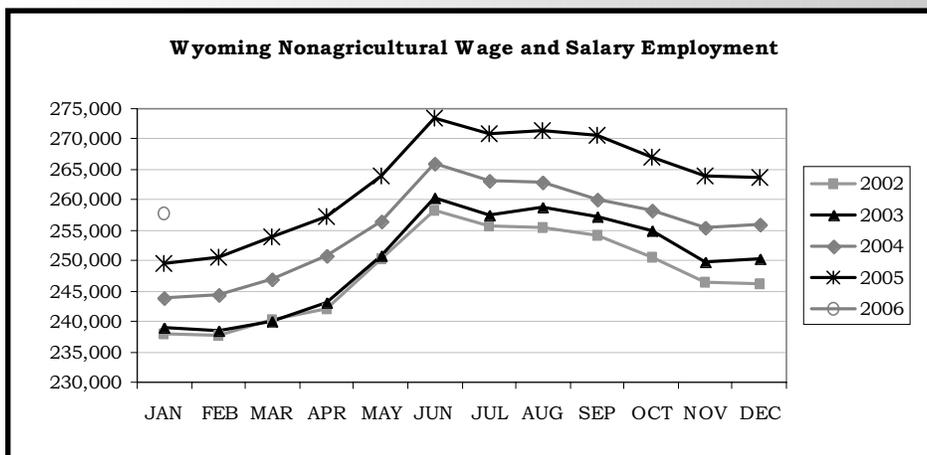
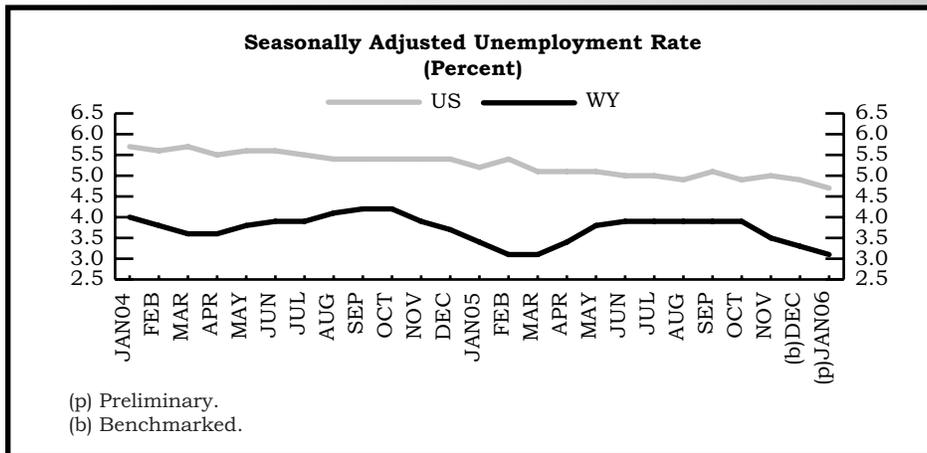
Visit <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS> to set up your user account today. If you have any questions, please call us at (307) 473-3807 and we will walk you through the process.





State Unemployment Rates January 2006 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.6
Mississippi	8.4
Alaska	6.7
Kentucky	6.3
Michigan	6.2
South Carolina	6.2
District of Columbia	5.4
Ohio	5.3
Oregon	5.3
Illinois	5.2
Tennessee	5.1
Texas	5.0
New Mexico	4.9
Arizona	4.8
California	4.8
Georgia	4.8
Louisiana	4.8
Colorado	4.7
Indiana	4.7
Missouri	4.7
Rhode Island	4.7
United States	4.7
Connecticut	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
New York	4.6
Washington	4.6
Kansas	4.5
Maine	4.5
New Jersey	4.5
Wisconsin	4.5
Arkansas	4.3
North Carolina	4.3
Pennsylvania	4.3
Iowa	4.1
Minnesota	4.1
Delaware	3.9
Oklahoma	3.9
Utah	3.9
Alabama	3.8
Montana	3.8
West Virginia	3.8
Maryland	3.6
Nevada	3.6
Nebraska	3.4
South Dakota	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Idaho	3.3
New Hampshire	3.3
North Dakota	3.1
Wyoming	3.1
Florida	3.0
Virginia	3.0
Hawaii	2.4



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Through the annual benchmark process, employment levels for 2004 and 2005 have been revised to reflect more complete source data.

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		
	Jan06(p)	Dec05(b)	Jan05(b)	Jan06	Jan06	Dec05	Jan05	Jan06(p)	Dec05(b)	Jan05(b)	Jan06	Jan06	Dec05	Jan05	
WYOMING STATEWIDE								LARAMIE COUNTY							
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	257.9	263.6	249.6	-2.2	3.3			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.9	41.8	40.0	-2.2	2.3		
TOTAL PRIVATE	193.1	197.1	184.9	-2.0	4.4			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.3	28.9	27.5	-2.1	2.9		
GOODS PRODUCING	52.3	53.7	47.6	-2.6	9.9			GOODS PRODUCING	4.2	4.3	4.0	-2.3	5.0		
Natural Resources & Mining	24.2	24.2	21.0	0.0	15.2			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.6	2.7	2.5	-3.7	4.0		
Mining	24.1	24.0	20.9	0.4	15.3			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7		
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.9	3.9	3.6	0.0	8.3			SERVICE PROVIDING	36.7	37.5	36.0	-2.1	1.9		
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.8	7.9	7.4	-1.3	5.4			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.8	9.0	8.4	-2.2	4.8		
Coal Mining	5.1	5.1	4.8	0.0	6.3			Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3		
Support Activities for Mining	12.4	12.2	9.9	1.6	25.3			Retail Trade	5.4	5.7	5.3	-5.3	1.9		
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	8.4	8.3	6.8	1.2	23.5			Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	2.6	2.5	2.4	4.0	8.3		
Construction	18.5	19.8	17.0	-6.6	8.8			Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0		
Construction of Buildings	4.0	4.2	3.9	-4.8	2.6			Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0		
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	4.7	5.2	4.0	-9.6	17.5			Professional & Business Services	3.1	3.2	3.0	-3.1	3.3		
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.8	10.4	9.1	-5.8	7.7			Educational & Health Services	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0		
Manufacturing	9.6	9.7	9.6	-1.0	0.0			Leisure & Hospitality	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0		
Durable Goods	5.0	5.1	5.0	-2.0	0.0			Other Services	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0		
Non-Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.6	12.9	12.5	-2.3	0.8		
SERVICE PROVIDING	205.6	209.9	202.0	-2.0	1.8			Federal Government	2.5	2.6	2.6	-3.8	-3.8		
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	49.6	51.2	48.2	-3.1	2.9			State Government	3.8	3.9	3.9	-2.6	-2.6		
Wholesale Trade	7.6	7.8	7.3	-2.6	4.1			Local Government	6.3	6.4	6.0	-1.6	5.0		
Merchant Whlsrsls., Durable	4.8	4.9	4.4	-2.0	9.1			Local Education	3.2	3.3	3.1	-3.0	3.2		
Retail Trade	29.3	30.6	28.9	-4.2	1.4			NATRONA COUNTY							
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.4	4.2	-2.3	2.4			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.1	37.6	35.8	-1.3	3.6		
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.5	2.6	2.3	-3.8	8.7			TOTAL PRIVATE	31.3	31.7	30.2	-1.3	3.6		
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.7	4.6	-2.1	0.0			GOODS PRODUCING	7.8	7.9	7.1	-1.3	9.9		
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0			Natural Resources & Mining	3.8	3.8	3.2	0.0	18.8		
Gasoline Stations	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0			Construction	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0		
General Merchandise Stores	5.8	6.1	5.5	-4.9	5.5			Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9		
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	2.0	1.7	-10.0	5.9			SERVICE PROVIDING	29.3	29.7	28.7	-1.3	2.1		
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.7	12.8	12.0	-0.8	5.8			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.4	8.6	8.2	-2.3	2.4		
Utilities	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5			Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.5	2.3	-4.0	4.3		
Transportation & Warehousing	10.4	10.5	9.8	-1.0	6.1			Retail Trade	4.8	5.0	4.8	-4.0	0.0		
Truck Transportation	3.8	3.9	3.4	-2.6	11.8			Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.2	1.1	1.1	9.1	9.1		
Information	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0			Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	10.7	10.6	10.5	0.9	1.9			Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0		
Finance & Insurance	6.9	6.8	6.8	1.5	1.5			Professional & Business Services	2.7	2.8	2.6	-3.6	3.8		
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	2.7			Educational & Health Services	4.8	4.7	4.7	2.1	2.1		
Professional & Business Services	15.0	15.3	14.5	-2.0	3.4			Leisure & Hospitality	3.5	3.6	3.4	-2.8	2.9		
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	8.0	8.1	8.0	-1.2	0.0			Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9		
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.8	5.9	5.6	-1.7	3.6		
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0			Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	6.2	6.4	5.7	-3.1	8.8			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Educational & Health Services	22.1	22.1	21.7	0.0	1.8			Local Government	4.4	4.5	4.2	-2.2	4.8		
Educational	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.8	4.8			Local Education	2.9	3.1	2.9	-6.5	0.0		
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.9	20.0	19.6	-0.5	1.5										
Ambulatory Health Care	7.5	7.5	7.3	0.0	2.7										
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3										
Hospitals	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6										
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.4	4.5	4.3	-2.2	2.3										
Social Assistance	5.1	5.1	5.2	0.0	-1.9										
Leisure & Hospitality	29.4	30.1	28.7	-2.3	2.4										
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0										
Accommodation & Food Services	27.2	27.8	26.5	-2.2	2.6										
Accommodation	9.8	9.9	9.5	-1.0	3.2										
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.4	17.9	17.0	-2.8	2.4										
Other Services	9.7	9.8	9.4	-1.0	3.2										
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.2	3.0	-3.1	3.3										
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	64.8	66.5	64.7	-2.6	0.2										
Federal Government	6.8	7.0	7.0	-2.9	-2.9										
State Government	15.5	15.8	15.5	-1.9	0.0										
State Govt. Education	6.5	6.9	6.4	-5.8	1.6										
Local Government	42.5	43.7	42.2	-2.7	0.7										
Local Govt. Education	22.3	23.1	22.1	-3.5	0.9										
Hospitals	6.1	6.1	5.7	0.0	7.0										

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in		Percent Change		
	Thousands		Total Employment		
	Jan06(p)	Dec05(b)	Jan05(b)	Jan06	Jan06
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.0	24.2	22.2	-0.8	8.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.0	20.2	18.2	-1.0	9.9
GOODS PRODUCING	9.8	10.0	8.8	-2.0	11.4
Natural Resources & Mining	6.9	7.0	6.3	-1.4	9.5
Construction	2.3	2.4	1.9	-4.2	21.1
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.2	14.2	13.4	0.0	6.0
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.5	4.5	4.1	0.0	9.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.3	22.9	21.3	-2.6	4.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.1	18.5	17.1	-2.2	5.8
GOODS PRODUCING	7.6	7.8	7.0	-2.6	8.6
Natural Resources & Mining	5.0	5.0	4.5	0.0	11.1
Construction	1.4	1.6	1.4	-12.5	0.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.7	15.1	14.3	-2.6	2.8
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.7	4.9	4.5	-4.1	4.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Professional & Bus. Services	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	4.4	4.2	-4.5	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	16.2	16.3	15.8	-0.6	2.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	14.0	14.0	13.6	0.0	2.9
GOODS PRODUCING	2.0	2.2	2.0	-9.1	0.0
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.8	2.0	1.8	-10.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.2	14.1	13.8	0.7	2.9
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.2	2.3	2.3	-4.3	-4.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Professional & Bus. Services	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.0	15.4
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.5	1.8
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0

State Unemployment Rates January 2006 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.5
Mississippi	9.1
Alaska	7.7
Michigan	7.1
Kentucky	6.9
South Carolina	6.6
Ohio	6.1
Oregon	6.0
Illinois	5.8
Rhode Island	5.7
Tennessee	5.7
Louisiana	5.5
District of Columbia	5.4
California	5.3
Indiana	5.3
Maine	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Texas	5.3
Washington	5.3
Colorado	5.2
Missouri	5.2
New York	5.2
Arkansas	5.1
Connecticut	5.1
United States	5.1
Arizona	5.0
Georgia	5.0
Iowa	5.0
Kansas	5.0
Minnesota	5.0
New Jersey	5.0
New Mexico	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Montana	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
North Carolina	4.8
West Virginia	4.8
Idaho	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Delaware	4.3
Wyoming	4.2
Alabama	4.1
Maryland	4.1
Nebraska	4.1
Nevada	4.1
Utah	4.1
Vermont	4.1
South Dakota	4.0
North Dakota	3.9
New Hampshire	3.8
Virginia	3.3
Florida	3.1
Hawaii	2.2

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming increased 15.8% over the year.

	Jan 2006 (p)	Dec 2005 (b)	Jan 2005 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	282,579	285,000	277,658	-0.8	1.8
Unemployed	11,912	9,298	12,327	28.1	-3.4
Employed	270,667	275,702	265,331	-1.8	2.0
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.2%/3.1%	3.3%/3.3%	4.4%/3.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.1%/4.7%	4.6%/4.9%	5.7%/5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,428,000	7,665,000	7,225,000	-3.1	2.8
As a percent of all workers	5.3%	5.4%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	396,000	451,000	515,000	-12.2	-23.1
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,597,000	4,183,000	4,903,000	9.9	-6.2
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,129.57	\$1,139.52	\$1,087.51	-0.9	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	48.5	48.0	45.2	1.0	7.3
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$917.20	\$904.70	\$873.18	1.4	5.0
Average Weekly Hours	46.3	46.3	46.2	0.0	0.2
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$693.30	\$698.98	\$662.99	-0.8	4.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	40.9	39.3	3.4	7.6
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$684.22	\$695.93	\$666.65	-1.7	2.6
Average Weekly Hours	40.8	41.4	40.6	-1.4	0.5
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	16,709	13,182	18,272	26.8	-8.6
Benefits Paid	\$4,116,331	\$3,156,293	\$4,415,577	30.4	-6.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$246.35	\$239.44	\$241.66	2.9	1.9
State Insured Covered Jobs	239,083	245,048	230,507	-2.4	3.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	198.3	196.8	190.7	0.8	4.0
Housing	194.5	193.2	189.5	0.7	2.6
Apparel	200.0	198.3	191.8	0.9	4.3
Transportation	114.9	117.5	116.1	-2.2	-1.0
Medical Care	175.9	172.7	164.0	1.9	7.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	329.5	328.4	316.8	0.3	4.0
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	109.9	109.7	108.9	0.2	0.9
Other Goods & Services	115.7	115.3	112.7	0.3	2.7
Other Goods & Services	318.2	317.3	309.3	0.3	2.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	164.6	163.0	150.9	1.0	9.1
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	167	161	146	3.7	14.4
Valuation	\$28,363,000	\$22,919,000	\$19,579,000	23.8	44.9
Single Family Homes	137	129	119	6.2	15.1
Valuation	\$25,914,000	\$20,590,000	\$17,114,000	25.9	51.4
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	88	90	76	-2.2	15.8

(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Roy Azar, Economist

Benchmarked employment figures are located on R&P's website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/laus/toc.htm> and our ANSWERS website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS/>.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2006 (p)	Dec 2005 (b)	Jan 2005 (b)									
NORTHWEST	43,981	44,852	43,513	41,640	42,993	41,153	2,341	1,859	2,360	5.3	4.1	5.4
Big Horn	5,488	5,532	5,297	5,186	5,310	4,983	302	222	314	5.5	4.0	5.9
Fremont	18,022	18,366	17,839	17,014	17,562	16,788	1,008	804	1,051	5.6	4.4	5.9
Hot Springs	2,281	2,290	2,322	2,164	2,200	2,220	117	90	102	5.1	3.9	4.4
Park	13,753	14,112	13,698	13,044	13,539	12,998	709	573	700	5.2	4.1	5.1
Washakie	4,437	4,552	4,357	4,232	4,382	4,164	205	170	193	4.6	3.7	4.4
NORTHEAST	49,754	50,070	48,056	47,955	48,646	46,129	1,799	1,424	1,927	3.6	2.8	4.0
Campbell	24,316	24,014	22,884	23,613	23,464	22,153	703	550	731	2.9	2.3	3.2
Crook	3,228	3,344	3,162	3,105	3,247	3,011	123	97	151	3.8	2.9	4.8
Johnson	3,746	3,904	3,633	3,601	3,785	3,461	145	119	172	3.9	3.0	4.7
Sheridan	15,216	15,571	15,132	14,540	15,027	14,408	676	544	724	4.4	3.5	4.8
Weston	3,248	3,237	3,245	3,096	3,123	3,096	152	114	149	4.7	3.5	4.6
SOUTHWEST	60,323	61,002	58,361	58,113	59,320	56,068	2,210	1,682	2,293	3.7	2.8	3.9
Lincoln	7,756	7,774	7,735	7,363	7,481	7,349	393	293	386	5.1	3.8	5.0
Sublette	5,342	5,774	4,591	5,233	5,690	4,488	109	84	103	2.0	1.5	2.2
Sweetwater	22,773	22,784	22,132	21,945	22,169	21,286	828	615	846	3.6	2.7	3.8
Teton	13,562	13,521	13,265	13,144	13,175	12,801	418	346	464	3.1	2.6	3.5
Uinta	10,890	11,149	10,638	10,428	10,805	10,144	462	344	494	4.2	3.1	4.6
SOUTHEAST	73,314	73,776	73,516	69,980	71,248	70,078	3,334	2,528	3,438	4.5	3.4	4.7
Albany	19,940	20,528	20,036	19,235	20,011	19,348	705	517	688	3.5	2.5	3.4
Goshen	5,778	5,934	5,833	5,500	5,714	5,532	278	220	301	4.8	3.7	5.2
Laramie	42,483	42,228	42,424	40,427	40,659	40,283	2,056	1,569	2,141	4.8	3.7	5.0
Niobrara	1,110	1,103	1,128	1,058	1,067	1,073	52	36	55	4.7	3.3	4.9
Platte	4,003	3,983	4,095	3,760	3,797	3,842	243	186	253	6.1	4.7	6.2
CENTRAL	55,206	55,299	54,214	52,979	53,495	51,904	2,227	1,804	2,310	4.0	3.3	4.3
Carbon	7,590	7,619	7,630	7,218	7,326	7,268	372	293	362	4.9	3.8	4.7
Converse	6,925	7,075	6,695	6,626	6,831	6,391	299	244	304	4.3	3.4	4.5
Natrona	40,691	40,605	39,889	39,135	39,338	38,245	1,556	1,267	1,644	3.8	3.1	4.1
STATEWIDE	282,579	285,000	277,658	270,667	275,702	265,331	11,912	9,298	12,327	4.2	3.3	4.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.1	3.3	3.4
U.S.										5.1	4.6	5.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.7	4.9	5.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/06. Run Date 03/06.

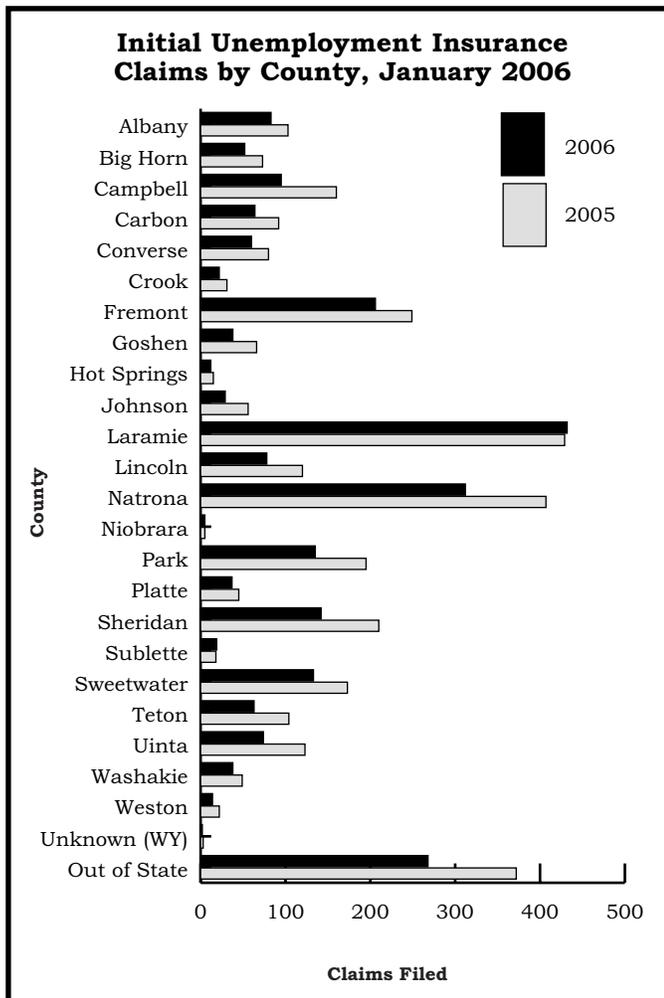
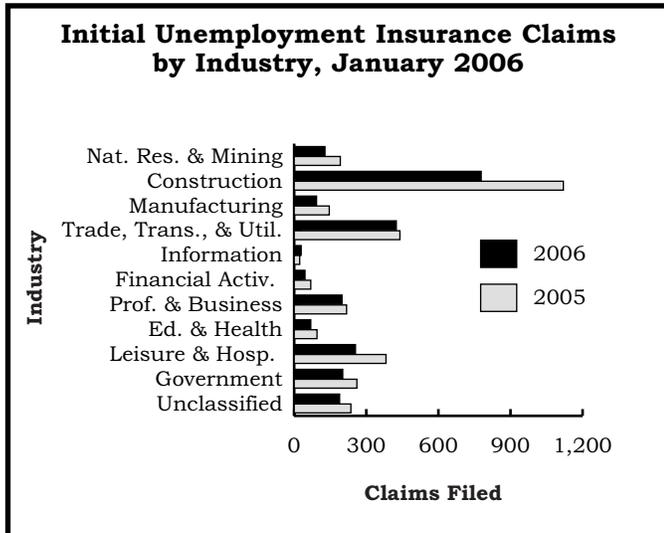
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Initial claims declined by 10.4% over the month and by nearly one quarter over the year. January's claims level of 2,412 was the lowest for the month of January in 9 years.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Jan06	Dec05	Jan05	Dec05	Jan06
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,412	2,693	3,200	-10.4	-24.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	999	1,552	1,458	-35.6	-31.5
Natural Resources and Mining	128	168	192	-23.8	-33.3
Mining	113	154	173	-26.6	-34.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	14	15	13	-6.7	7.7
Construction	778	1,188	1,120	-34.5	-30.5
Manufacturing	93	196	146	-52.6	-36.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,067	768	1,290	38.9	-17.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	425	227	440	87.2	-3.4
Wholesale Trade	51	32	39	59.4	30.8
Retail Trade	286	118	267	142.4	7.1
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	88	77	134	14.3	-34.3
Information	29	11	23	163.6	26.1
Financial Activities	45	23	69	95.7	-34.8
Professional & Business Serv.	199	191	218	4.2	-8.7
Educational & Health Services	69	77	95	-10.4	-27.4
Leisure & Hospitality	255	212	382	20.3	-33.2
Other Services	45	27	63	66.7	-28.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	202	215	261	-6.0	-22.6
Federal Government	102	121	128	-15.7	-20.3
State Government	22	17	32	29.4	-31.3
Local Government	78	77	101	1.3	-22.8
Local Education	17	19	17	-10.5	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	144	158	191	-8.9	-24.6

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	431	453	426	-4.9	1.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	182	292	216	-37.7	-15.7
Construction	157	223	195	-29.6	-19.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	201	130	173	54.6	16.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	105	33	76	218.2	38.2
Financial Activities	10	3	21	233.3	-52.4
Professional & Business Serv.	35	43	31	-18.6	12.9
Educational & Health Services	14	11	14	27.3	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	21	32	20	-34.4	5.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22	17	25	29.4	-12.0
UNCLASSIFIED	26	14	12	85.7	116.7

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	309	364	406	-15.1	-23.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	142	240	206	-40.8	-31.1
Construction	118	192	156	-38.5	-24.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	151	109	179	38.5	-15.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	63	33	53	90.9	18.9
Financial Activities	8	4	10	100.0	-20.0
Professional & Business Serv.	33	42	50	-21.4	-34.0
Educational & Health Services	15	6	20	150.0	-25.0
Leisure & Hospitality	20	16	33	25.0	-39.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	8	11	9	-27.3	-11.1
UNCLASSIFIED	8	4	12	100.0	-33.3

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Continued claims increased 10.4% over the month and declined by 21.0% over the year.

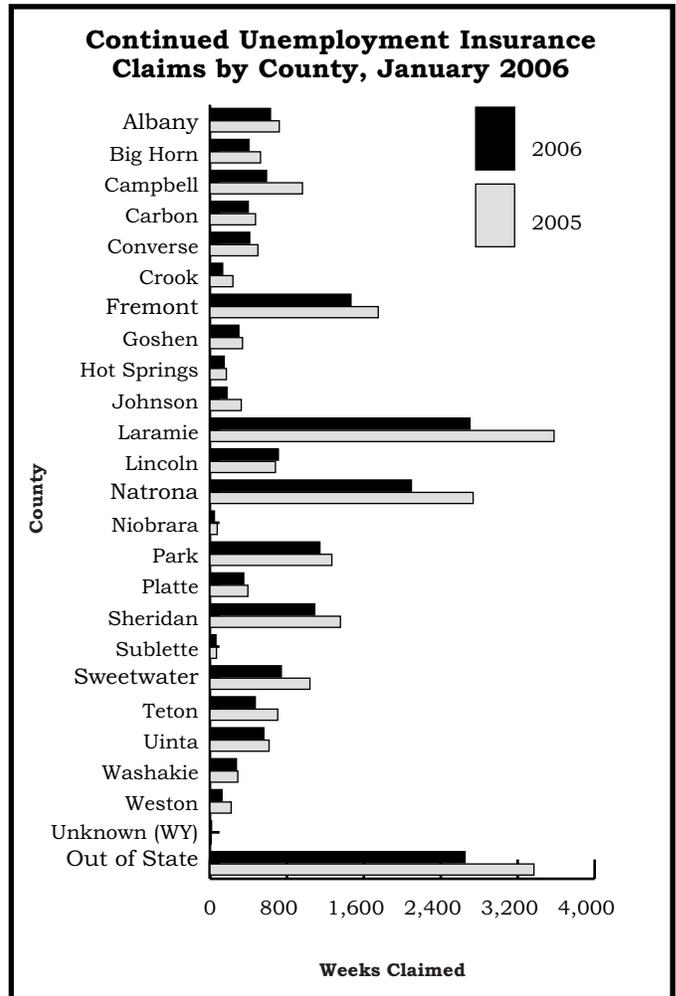
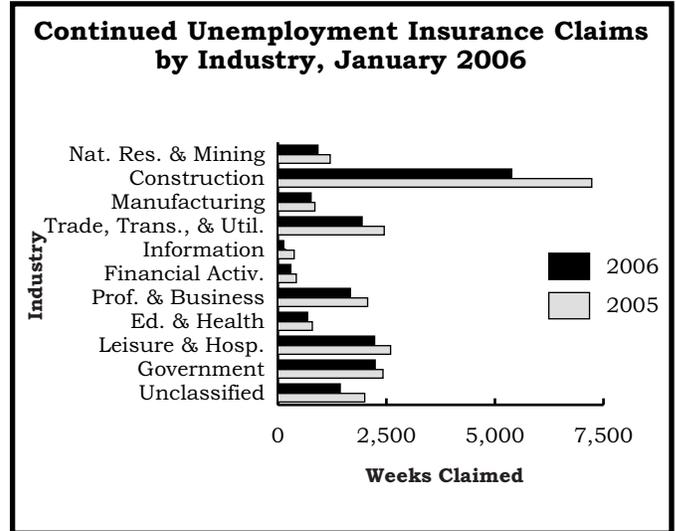
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed		Percent Change		
	Jan06	Dec05	Weeks Claimed		Jan06
			Jan05	Jan06	
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	17,716	16,041	22,421	10.4	-21.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,364	4,948	6,763	8.4	-20.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	7,077	5,670	9,288	24.8	-23.8
Natural Resources and Mining	924	797	1,205	15.9	-23.3
Mining	776	652	887	19.0	-12.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	79	52	109	51.9	-27.5
Construction	5,387	4,346	7,230	24.0	-25.5
Manufacturing	766	527	853	45.4	-10.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	7,317	7,250	9,042	0.9	-19.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,941	1,635	2,450	18.7	-20.8
Wholesale Trade	291	247	393	17.8	-26.0
Retail Trade	1,222	1,013	1,368	20.6	-10.7
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	428	375	689	14.1	-37.9
Information	135	132	376	2.3	-64.1
Financial Activities	299	311	425	-3.9	-29.6
Professional & Business Serv.	1,671	1,450	2,068	15.2	-19.2
Educational & Health Serv.	685	665	794	3.0	-13.7
Leisure & Hospitality	2,229	2,764	2,597	-19.4	-14.2
Other Services	357	293	332	21.8	7.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,242	2,163	2,422	3.7	-7.4
Federal Government	1,211	1,238	1,439	-2.2	-15.8
State Government	255	245	232	4.1	9.9
Local Government	776	680	751	14.1	3.3
Local Education	145	170	127	-14.7	14.2
UNCLASSIFIED	1,080	958	1,669	12.7	-35.3

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,703	2,150	3,578	25.7	-24.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	853	711	1,110	20.0	-23.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,214	890	1,582	36.4	-23.3
Construction	1,005	804	1,366	25.0	-26.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,133	946	1,613	19.8	-29.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	357	258	463	38.4	-22.9
Financial Activities	59	69	95	-14.5	-37.9
Professional & Business Serv.	306	236	449	29.7	-31.8
Educational & Health Services	147	163	168	-9.8	-12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	194	160	142	21.3	36.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	215	205	262	4.9	-17.9
UNCLASSIFIED	141	109	121	29.4	16.5

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,096	1,889	2,736	11.0	-23.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	712	609	898	16.9	-20.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	973	911	1,393	6.8	-30.2
Construction	773	723	1,166	6.9	-33.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	976	827	1,124	18.0	-13.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	298	271	359	10.0	-17.0
Financial Activities	64	65	110	-1.5	-41.8
Professional & Business Serv.	292	223	326	30.9	-10.4
Educational & Health Services	63	61	99	3.3	-36.4
Leisure & Hospitality	152	130	178	16.9	-14.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	105	94	109	11.7	-3.7
UNCLASSIFIED	42	57	110	-26.3	-61.8



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