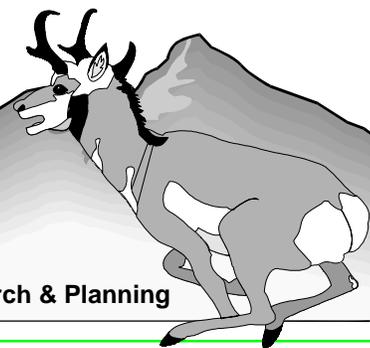


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Revised Employment Numbers Show More Job Growth!

by: Mike Evans, BLS Program Supervisor

"Employment growth in 2000 was revised upward to 2.7 percent, the best showing since 1994, 1988, and 1981."

Wyoming's job growth is looking better due to major revisions in employment numbers released in April 2000 (see article "Wyoming's Labor Market in 2000" on page 4). According to the new numbers from administrative data, job growth was much stronger in 2000 than originally estimated. Employment growth in 2000 was revised upward to 2.7 percent, the best showing since 1994, 1988, and 1981.

Reasons for Revisions

Every month, the Current Employment Statistics (CES), based on an employer survey, and Local

Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), based on a household survey, provide preliminary data for the current month, revised data for the previous month, and benchmarked data from the previous year (see pages 19 and 21).¹ Yearly benchmarks are performed to adjust the data with more current information than was available initially.² Each month's CES and LAUS estimates are eventually revised two more times in subsequent years.

Actual Revisions

Figures 1 and 2 (see page 2) show the difference between the

preliminary and initial benchmarked estimates. If the estimates match exactly, the difference is zero (0). If the preliminary estimates were underestimated, the difference is above zero (0). Overestimated estimates are below zero (0). As reflected in Figure 1, the CES estimates are typically underestimated, so the majority of the differences are above zero (0). Initial benchmark LAUS estimates are usually closer to the preliminary estimates than CES estimates, but frequently tend to be overestimated (see Figure 2); however, Decennial Census numbers will push the

(Text continued on page 3)

April 2001 Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Figure 1: Number of Jobs in Wyoming Adjusted Monthly from Preliminary to Initial Benchmark for Current Employment Statistics (CES) Total Nonagricultural Employment

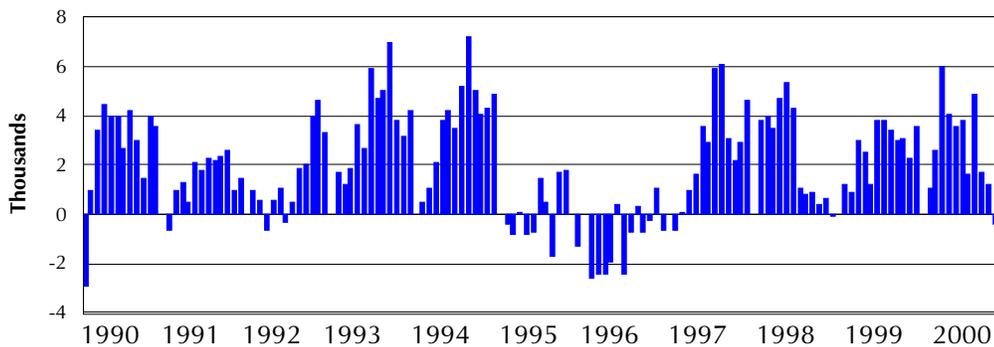
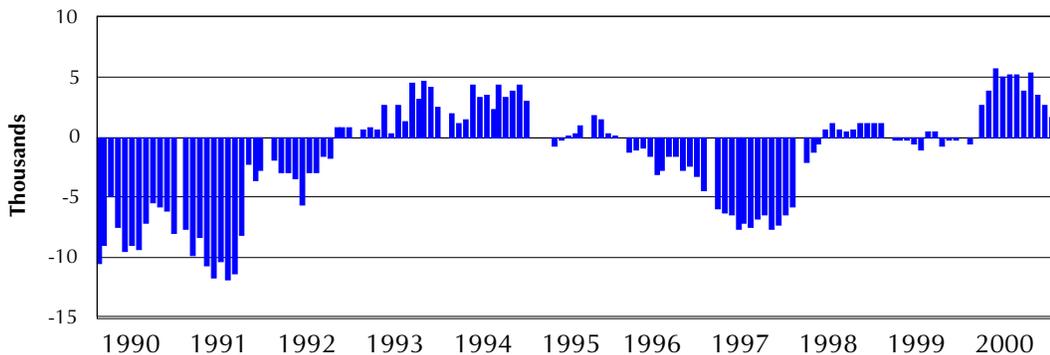


Figure 2: Wyoming Monthly Employment Adjusted at Initial Benchmarking for Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



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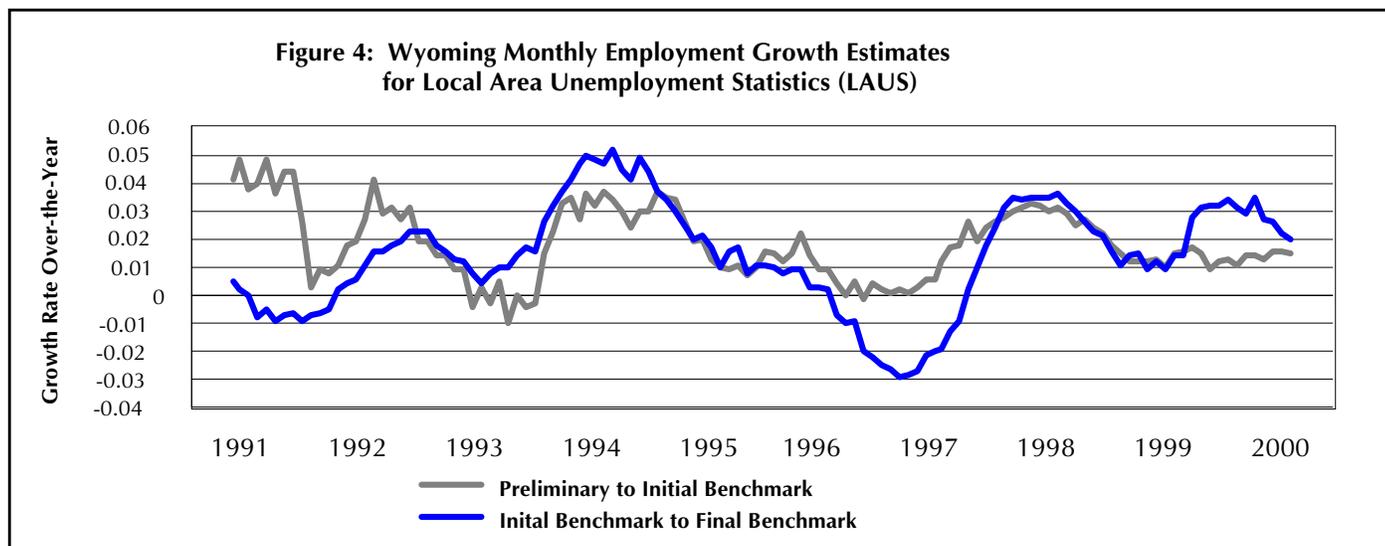
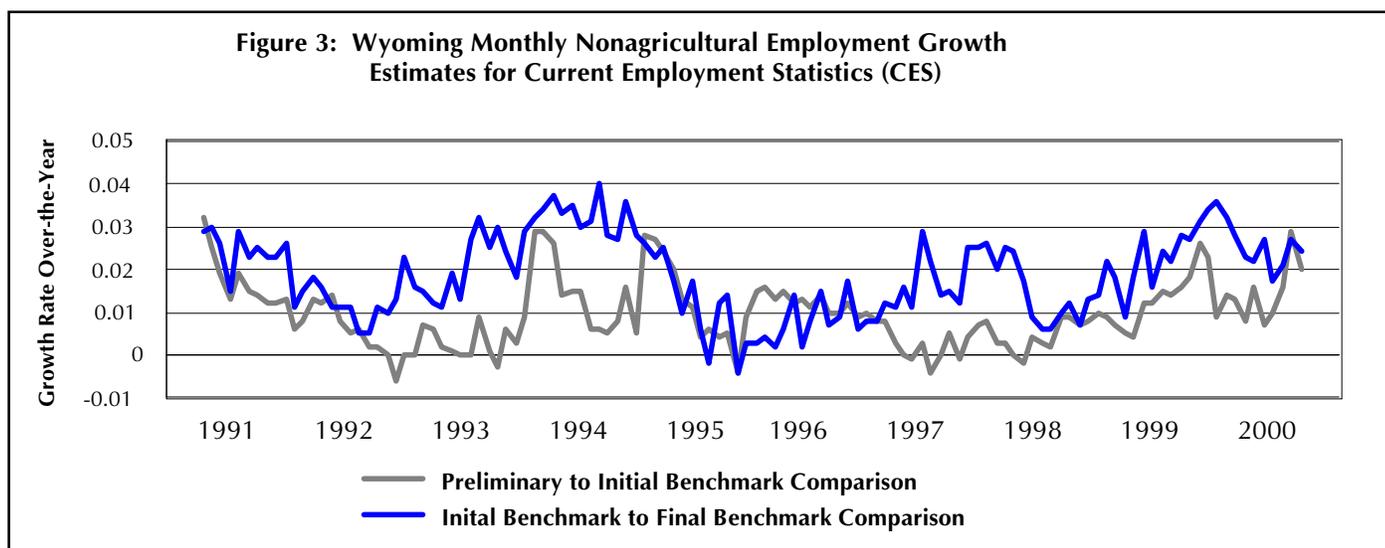
numbers upwards and closer to the preliminary estimates. Overall, preliminary estimates for both CES and LAUS were revised and initially benchmarked by as much as 3.0 percentage points downward and as much as 3.5 percentage points upward. Normally, when the economy is slowing down, preliminary estimates are overestimated due to the time lag between the time of the actual turn in the economy and the time the data reflecting the turn are received. If the economy is growing, preliminary estimates are underestimated and are

revised upward. Keeping that in mind, Figure 1 indicates that the economy was growing in all years except 1995 and 1996.

One major problem with using preliminary data, especially at the county level, is the comparison of over-the-year numbers to determine percent changes because preliminary numbers are usually compared to benchmarked numbers (i.e., apples to oranges). Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the difference between the revision from preliminary to initial benchmark and initial benchmark to final benchmark to

final benchmark for both CES and LAUS. Making a comparison between the preliminary numbers from one year and the final benchmarked numbers several revisions later would result in substantially incorrect growth data. However, if you compare benchmarked to benchmarked or preliminary to preliminary data, you get a more accurate picture of the actual percent growth occurring. For example, labor force and employment were substantially

(Continued on page 4)



revised up for Albany County for 2000 (see Table 4, page 8), along with 1998 and 1999, so over-the-year growth comparisons have changed dramatically.

CES and LAUS are Working To Reduce Revisions

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is currently updating the CES sample survey to eliminate biased and inaccurate estimates, and LAUS is changing the way benchmarks are done. Trying to predict growth accurately is difficult. Therefore, to improve the accuracy of the benchmarks for the CES estimates, we revise the preliminary estimates by using covered Unemployment Insurance (UI) data (see related articles on pages 13 and 16), which has a time lag of only five months.

The LAUS program is also benchmarked every ten years to the Decennial Census numbers. Preliminary Census data for 2000 recently showed population in Wyoming had exceeded original estimates by more than 13,000 people. This population gain is approximately equivalent to the addition of another Lincoln County

to our state in a ten-year period. In the next year or two, BLS will adjust labor force and employment numbers up substantially with the final benchmark, showing even more growth. As shown in Figure 2, page 2 during 1991 to 1993, the 1990 Census adjusted the LAUS employment numbers down, while total nonagricultural employment (CES) was adjusted up (see Figure 1, page 2). Part of the reason for the change in both sets of numbers is that one of the elements used to calculate the LAUS estimate is the CES estimate. In other words, revisions to the LAUS estimate are further compounded by revisions to the CES estimate. However, changes to the CES estimate only affect the monthly growth and seasonal patterns of LAUS, not annual average employment.

Conclusion

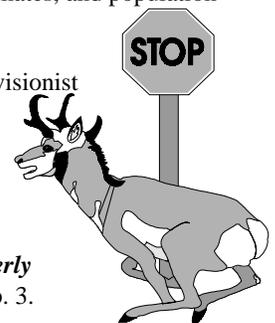
An unanswered question is what effect the revisions have on the conduct and understanding of economic and labor policy in the state.³ The preliminary data available provide neither an accurate nor an unbiased prediction of the revised and benchmarked data (i.e., at the time of the first release of the data, they do

not provide an accurate picture of how the economy is actually performing). Using preliminary data rather than final benchmarked data misleads anyone trying to understand the historical relationship between the economy's performance and economic policy decisions. In order to get more reliable numbers, users may want to wait for the final benchmarked data.

¹Both the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) programs are managed and funded by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

²Yearly benchmarks on Current Employment Statistics (CES) data are performed using employer tax records from the covered Unemployment Insurance (UI) database. Benchmarks for Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) are calculated using a variety of sources and methods including the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates, and population controls.

³David Runkle, "Revisionist History: How Data Revisions Distort Economic Policy Research," *Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Quarterly Review*, Fall 1998, p. 3.



Wyoming's Labor Market in 2000

by: Krista R. Shinkle, Economist

data prepared by: David Bullard, Senior Economist and Brad Payne, Senior Statistician

Total nonagricultural employment has steadily grown since 1996, and Wyoming's employment growth rate has surpassed the growth rate of the nation. Total annual average nonagricultural employment for 2000 is estimated at 239,300 jobs (see Table 1, page 5), which is

6,200 more jobs than were estimated in 1999.¹ The increase in employment is due to an increase in Goods Producing industries from 44,300 jobs in 1999 to 46,300 jobs in 2000 and an increase in Service Producing industries of 4,200 jobs (188,800 jobs in 1999 to 193,000 in 2000). Growth in Goods Producing industries is

credited mainly to an increase in oil & gas extraction (up 1,400 jobs). Service Producing industries' growth can be attributed to small increases across the board.

Wyoming's employment growth

(Text continued on page 7)

Table 1: Wyoming Statewide Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2000

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	227.8	228.5	232.2	234.0	241.4	248.5	246.0	246.8	245.0	242.9	239.3	239.5	239.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	43.0	43.1	43.9	44.8	46.3	47.8	48.2	49.1	48.4	48.2	46.8	46.3	46.3
Mining	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.3	16.6	17.0	17.3	17.8	17.6	17.8	17.8	17.9	17.2
Coal Mining	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.5	8.6	9.1	9.4	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.1	9.3
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	6.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Construction	15.2	15.2	16.1	17.4	18.6	19.4	19.4	19.8	19.4	18.6	17.3	16.8	17.8
General Building Contractors	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
Heavy Construction	4.0	4.2	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.5	5.8	4.8	4.5	5.3
Special Trade Contractors	7.3	7.2	7.6	8.1	8.4	8.9	9.0	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.2	8.0	8.2
Manufacturing	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.4
Durable Goods	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Nondurable Goods	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	184.8	185.4	188.3	189.2	195.1	200.7	197.8	197.7	196.6	194.7	192.5	193.2	193.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.3	14.4	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.2	14.4
Transportation	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.3
Railroad Transportation	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
Trucking & Warehousing	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Telephone Communications	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Trade	51.6	51.2	51.5	52.4	54.4	56.7	57.9	57.9	56.5	55.5	54.8	54.8	54.6
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Durable Goods	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Retail Trade	44.1	43.6	43.9	44.7	46.7	48.8	50.1	50.1	48.7	47.7	47.0	47.0	46.9
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
General Merchandise Stores	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.3
Department Stores	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.2
Food Stores	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3
Gas Stations	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.3
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15.8	15.8	16.2	16.5	17.4	18.7	19.2	19.0	18.3	17.7	16.9	17.0	17.4
Miscellaneous Retail	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.1
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2
Depository Institutions	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Services	51.0	51.6	52.5	52.5	54.6	59.9	60.6	60.3	57.1	54.7	52.9	54.0	55.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.4	9.0	12.9	13.4	12.9	10.8	8.9	7.4	7.6	9.4
Personal Services	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Business Services	7.4	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.1
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Amusements (Rec. Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.9	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.7
Health Services	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.2	10.9
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Social Services	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9
Membership Organizations	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Engineering & Management	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8
Government	60.1	60.6	62.3	62.0	63.6	61.3	56.5	56.7	60.5	62.0	62.2	62.0	60.8
Total Federal Government	6.7	6.7	7.6	7.5	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.6
Department of Defense	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total State Government	13.6	13.7	13.9	13.8	13.9	13.5	13.2	13.0	13.2	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.6
State Education	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.9	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.3
Total Local Government	39.8	40.2	40.8	40.7	41.5	39.7	32.0	35.5	39.4	40.8	41.1	41.1	39.6
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2
Local Education	22.7	23.0	23.4	23.3	23.7	20.9	15.9	16.2	21.3	23.3	23.3	23.5	21.7

Figure: Total Nonagricultural Employment for Wyoming and the U.S. (Percent Change over Previous Year)

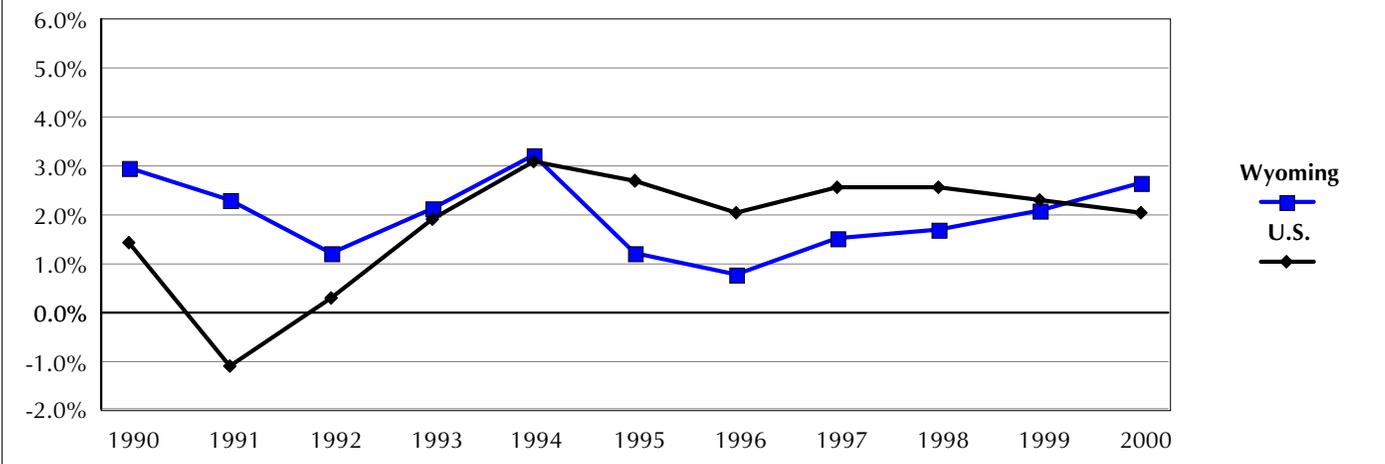


Table 2: Natrona County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2000

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.9	31.2	31.6	31.9	32.4	32.2	31.8	31.8	32.2	32.3	32.5	32.5	31.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4
Mining	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.8	26.0	26.4	26.7	27.1	26.8	26.2	26.2	26.5	26.6	26.9	27.0	26.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Communications & Public Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Trade	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.7
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4
Retail Trade	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2
Services	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.4
Personal & Business Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0
Health Services	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Government	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.5
Total Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	3.4	3.4	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1
Local Education	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.8

Table 3: Laramie County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2000

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.1	36.2	37.3	37.5	38.1	38.4	38.4	38.2	37.8	37.9	37.8	37.6	37.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.1
Mining & Construction	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.4
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	32.3	32.5	33.4	33.5	34.0	34.2	34.1	33.9	33.6	33.7	33.7	33.7	33.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9
Trade	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.1	9	8.8
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Retail Trade	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
Services	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4
Total Government	11.4	11.6	12.2	12.0	12.2	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.8
Total Federal Government	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6
Total State Government	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Total Local Government	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8

rate has exceeded that of the nation for the first time since 1994 (see the Figure, Page 6). After a slump in 1996, Wyoming's employment growth rate has increased every year to reach 2.7 percent in 2000. The nation's growth rate for 2000 tops out at only 2.1 percent.

Natrona County's average annual employment for 2000 was 31,900 jobs (see Table 2, page 6). Total employment in Goods Producing industries grew by 300 jobs from 1999 to 2000, and Service Producing industries showed an increase of 100 jobs. The largest increase (200 jobs) from 1999 to 2000 occurred in health services.

Laramie County shows an increase in average annual employment from 1999 to 2000 of 1,100 jobs (see Table 3). The increase in employment is due almost exclusively to increases in Service Producing industries. An

increase in Government employment accounted for 600 jobs and Retail Trade made up another 200 jobs.

Wyoming's unemployment rate dropped significantly from 4.9 percent in 1999 to 3.9 percent in 2000 (see Table 4, page 8). The lowest unemployment rate in the state for 2000 was for Teton County (1.6%). Fremont County had the highest unemployment rate in 2000 (6.4%), but still showed a marked decrease from its 1999 rate (7.6%). Sweetwater County's large decrease in its unemployment rate from 6.3 percent in 1999 to 4.9 percent in 2000 was due to the large layoffs in 1999 in the Construction and oil & gas extraction industries.

Wyoming's labor force increased 1.9 percent, while employment grew 2.9 percent from 1999 to 2000 (see Table 4, page 8). Increases in labor force were seen in all counties except Carbon, Lincoln, Niobrara,

Sweetwater, and Washakie. The greatest labor force increases occurred in Teton and Campbell counties (5.6 and 4.5%, respectively). Labor force growth in Campbell County corresponds to the large job increase in the oil & gas extraction industry.

Overall, Wyoming showed strong growth in 2000 with increases in both employment and labor force. Further evidence of Wyoming's prosperity was the continued upward trend in Wyoming's growth rate, which enabled the state to best the U.S. growth rate in 2000.

¹Estimates for 1999 can be found on our website at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/ces/toc.htm> and <http://lmi.state.wy.us/laus/toc.htm>.

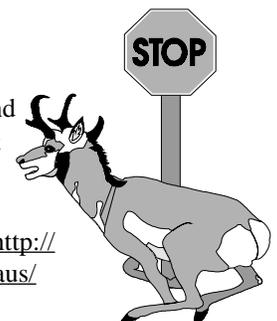


Table 4: Wyoming Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Annual Averages, 1998-2000

	1998	1999	2000		1998	1999	2000
WYOMING				LINCOLN COUNTY			
Labor Force	256,563	262,069	266,945	Labor Force	6,283	6,615	6,539
Employment	244,269	249,323	256,568	Employment	5,889	6,209	6,195
Unemployment	12,294	12,746	10,377	Unemployment	394	406	344
Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.9	3.9	Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.1	5.3
ALBANY COUNTY				NATRONA COUNTY			
Labor Force	17,418	18,247	18,601	Labor Force	32,963	33,736	34,198
Employment	17,052	17,908	18,303	Employment	31,182	31,900	32,706
Unemployment	366	339	298	Unemployment	1,781	1,836	1,492
Unemployment Rate	2.1	1.9	1.6	Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	4.4
BIG HORN COUNTY				NIobrara COUNTY			
Labor Force	5,734	5,783	6,031	Labor Force	1,273	1,326	1,320
Employment	5,371	5,403	5,696	Employment	1,238	1,288	1,285
Unemployment	363	380	335	Unemployment	35	38	35
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.6	5.6	Unemployment Rate	2.7	2.9	2.7
CAMPBELL COUNTY				PARK COUNTY			
Labor Force	19,072	19,638	20,522	Labor Force	15,120	15,359	15,466
Employment	18,150	18,618	19,830	Employment	14,421	14,652	14,837
Unemployment	922	1,020	692	Unemployment	699	707	629
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.2	3.4	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.6	4.1
CARBON COUNTY				PLATTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	8,237	8,389	8,367	Labor Force	4,429	4,647	4,807
Employment	7,794	7,944	8,028	Employment	4,212	4,439	4,636
Unemployment	443	445	339	Unemployment	217	208	171
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.3	4.1	Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.5	3.6
CONVERSE COUNTY				SHERIDAN COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,567	6,653	6,919	Labor Force	13,558	13,692	14,099
Employment	6,221	6,308	6,614	Employment	12,855	13,017	13,513
Unemployment	346	345	305	Unemployment	703	675	586
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	4.4	Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.9	4.2
CROOK COUNTY				SUBLETTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,970	3,062	3,214	Labor Force	3,024	3,141	3,243
Employment	2,810	2,907	3,083	Employment	2,927	3,022	3,162
Unemployment	160	155	131	Unemployment	97	119	81
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.1	4.1	Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.8	2.5
FREMONT COUNTY				SWEETWATER COUNTY			
Labor Force	17,478	17,996	18,191	Labor Force	21,009	20,625	20,007
Employment	16,098	16,620	17,021	Employment	19,874	19,333	19,030
Unemployment	1,380	1,376	1,170	Unemployment	1,135	1,292	977
Unemployment Rate	7.9	7.6	6.4	Unemployment Rate	5.4	6.3	4.9
GOSHEN COUNTY				TETON COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,406	6,517	6,649	Labor Force	10,978	11,630	12,281
Employment	6,106	6,270	6,448	Employment	10,749	11,369	12,069
Unemployment	300	247	201	Unemployment	229	261	212
Unemployment Rate	4.7	3.8	3.0	Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.2	1.7
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY				UINTA COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,389	2,432	2,454	Labor Force	10,699	10,512	10,606
Employment	2,280	2,306	2,371	Employment	10,090	9,778	10,024
Unemployment	109	126	83	Unemployment	609	734	582
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.2	3.4	Unemployment Rate	5.7	7.0	5.5
JOHNSON COUNTY				WASHAKIE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,729	3,906	4,060	Labor Force	4,891	4,882	4,751
Employment	3,575	3,770	3,946	Employment	4,603	4,564	4,501
Unemployment	154	136	114	Unemployment	288	318	250
Unemployment Rate	4.1	3.5	2.8	Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.5	5.3
LARAMIE COUNTY				WESTON COUNTY			
Labor Force	39,091	39,923	41,216	Labor Force	3,246	3,361	3,406
Employment	37,684	38,524	40,019	Employment	3,088	3,174	3,254
Unemployment	1,407	1,399	1,197	Unemployment	158	187	152
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.5	2.9	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.6	4.5

Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis through Imputation: Part One

by: Tony Glover, Research Analyst

"A complete and comprehensive set of demographic data enables a better understanding of the diverse nature of labor force churning."

Much of Research & Planning's (R&P) analyses of labor market dynamics are based on Wage Records¹ collected by the Unemployment Insurance Tax section of Wyoming's Department of Employment. One of the limitations of using Wage Records to address labor market issues is that while Wage Records collects detailed work behavior of individuals working for employers required to pay Unemployment Insurance Tax, it lacks demographic information of individuals. To overcome this shortcoming, R&P uses several other administrative databases (e.g., Driver's License, Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance Claims) which collect gender, date of birth, and race and combines these with Wage Records. While the combined database approach works for the majority of the records in Wage Records (88.2% from 1992Q1 to 2000Q2), it leaves 1,007,723 records without demographic data attached. This article discusses the method R&P used to impute gender and age to records without demographic data.

Two areas of research conducted by R&P are particularly sensitive to missing demographic data. The first is our research on labor market dynamics in the form of turnover. A complete and comprehensive set of demographic data enables a better understanding of the diverse nature of labor force churning.² The second is our evaluation research³ where it is necessary to select large control groups from the Wage Records data. The demographic characteristics of age and gender are the two most important matching characteristics for control group selection.

There are several methods of handling records with missing data and consequently an extensive body of literature on the subject. However, for the sake of brevity only a few are discussed here.⁴

1) Procedures based on completely recorded units – This method deletes records for which data are missing, and only complete records are used for analysis. This is the easiest approach to handling missing data, but it often leads to biased results. For example, a large number of

individuals for whom R&P has no gender and date of birth information all worked in SIC 70 "Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps and Other Lodging Places." Deleting the records from SIC 70 with missing data would lead to an inappropriate representation of this industry.

2) Imputation-based procedures – The missing values are filled in and the resultant completed data are analyzed by standard methods.

a) Hot deck imputation – Missing data are replaced with data from a complete record that is characteristically similar on the known values. For example, if we were analyzing data about the characteristics of individuals working in SIC 70 and we had a record missing age, the unknown age value would be replaced with the age of the last record for which we had data.

b) Mean imputation – The missing value is replaced with the mean value of similar records. This method is similar to hot deck imputation in that instead of using the age of the known record, the mean age of all known records would replace the missing value.

c) Regression imputation – The missing values are estimated based on a predicted value from a regression model of the known data. Mean imputation takes one characteristic (i.e., working in SIC 70), calculates the mean age of the records with data, and substitutes the missing data with the mean age. Regression models take into account several variables (i.e., working in SIC 70, wages received, county of residence, quarters worked in the industry) to predict the age of an individual using a mathematical formula.

3) Model-based procedures – The characteristics of the individuals with complete records are used to calculate the likelihood that an individual with missing data falls in a specific age group. For example, if 85 percent of the individuals working in SIC 70 for four quarters with a quarterly wage between \$3,000 and \$3,500 are 16 to 19 years old, then it is inferred that the age of an individual (for whom we are missing data) with

(Continued on page 10)

the same characteristic work behavior is 16 to 19 years old.

Both “regression imputation” and “model-based procedures” were explored as methods to calculate the missing demographic data in Wyoming. The model-based procedure had a higher degree of reliability and was used in the subsequent analysis. Gender was imputed first and the result was used in the subsequent age group imputation.

Gender Imputations

Several combinations of variables were used to determine the best model, in other words, the model with the highest percentage of actual gender matching imputed gender. The combination of 4-digit SIC, quarters worked, and average quarterly wage, assigned the correct gender approximately 80 percent of the time. Analysis of the data where the incorrect gender was assigned

revealed that using the employer account number in place of SIC increased the overall percent correct. For example, a full-service dining establishment may predominately hire females. On the other hand, a fast food restaurant may be more likely to have an equal distribution of males and females. Both of these establishments are assigned to SIC 5812 “Eating Places.” By using the firm specific model, rather than the SIC based model, 95.3 percent of the records with a known gender were assigned the correct imputed gender.

All 7,494,215 records in the Wage Records database with a known gender were used. The data were aggregated on employer account number, quarters worked for employer, and average quarterly wage group for all occurrences in the Wage Records database. The number of males and females were counted. The probability that an individual — working for the same employer, for the same number of

quarters, in the same average wage group — was a male was added to the record. A typical result for an employer account appears in Table 1.

A review of the first row of data in Table 1 shows there were 5 males and 25 females who worked for Employer 1 earning an average quarterly wage from \$2,501 to \$3,000. The probability of being a male in this case would be 16.7 percent (5 males divided by 30 employees).

Tabular data representing the probability of being a male were merged with the Wage Records database. Because 47 percent of the individuals appearing in Wage Records have worked for more than one employer, the probability of being a male would appear more than once. The average of the probability of being a male is the last step in imputing gender; an example for an

(Continued on page 11)

Table 1: Example of Probability Results for an Employer Account

Employer Number	Quarters Worked for Employer	Average Quarterly Wage Group	Number of Males	Number of Females	Probability of Being a Male
Employer1	10	\$2,501-3,000	5	25	0.167
Employer1	15	3,001-3,500	4	32	0.111
Employer1	25	10,000-11,000	10	2	0.833

Table 2: Example of Probability Results for an Individual

Social Security Number (SSN)	Employer Number	Quarters Worked with Employer	Average Quarterly Wage with Employer	Probability of Being a Male
SSN1	Employer1	4	\$501-1,000	0.85
SSN1	Employer2	2	1,001-1,500	0.50
SSN1	Employer3	20	2,001-2,500	0.72
Average probability of being a male based on 3 employers (p > .50 = M)				0.69

Table 3: Gender Imputation Results

Actual Gender	Imputed Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Male	3,756,777	201,923	3,958,700
Female	153,003	3,382,512	3,535,515
Unknown	572,972	434,751	1,007,723
Total	4,482,752	4,019,186	8,501,938

Of the records with a known gender (first two rows):
 Percent males correct = 94.9
 Percent females correct = 95.7
 Percent known records correct = 95.3

individual is given in Table 2 (see page 10). A quick review of Table 3 shows that the individual’s Social Security Number (SSN) was reported by three employers in Wage Records. Table 2 shows that the individual worked for Employer 1 for four quarters and had an average quarterly wage of \$501 to \$1,000. The probability of being male for an individual working for Employer 1 for four quarters and earning an average quarterly wage between \$501 and \$1,000 is .85 (in other words 85% of the individuals falling in this group are males). The same data appear in Table 3 for the other two employers. The average probability (in this case of the three individual/employer interactions) was used to determine gender. An average probability of .50 and above was assigned the gender of male, while an average probability less than .50 was assigned the gender of female.

As shown in Table 3, of the records with a known gender, 94.9 percent of the males, 95.7 percent of the females, and 95.3 percent of all records were assigned the correct imputed gender. To assess the

overall impact on future calculations using Wage Records, it is important to remember that the imputed gender is only used in the absence of a known gender. There are 8,501,938 records in Wage Records; of these, 7,494,215 have a known gender. For the remaining 1,007,723 records, with no gender attached, we assume (based on Table 3) that 95.3 percent (960,360) are assigned the correct gender after imputation. Therefore, the overall error associated with future calculations is .6 percent, the number incorrect (1,007,723 minus 960,360) divided by the total number of records, 8,501,938.

Age Group Imputation

Gender is dichotomous (male or female), but age changes across time and is measured as a continuous variable. A few major differences between gender and age imputations are discussed and presented in a table of results similar to Table 3.

The first major difference is that instead of grouping across all records (1992 to 1999) on the employer account number, quarters worked, wages, and gender (added for age

imputations), the data were first grouped by year. The second major difference is that the age group with the highest probability of being correct for a given year was used to determine the individual’s age group for all years. For example, if an individual had an imputed age of 25 to 34 years in 1992 and the average age of this age group is 29 years, then for each subsequent year in Wage Records one year was added to the average age. In this example, the individual would make a transition from the 25 to 34 age group to the 35 to 44 age group in 1998.

Table 4 (see page 12) shows the age groups and associated percentage of known records that are correct. Note that the age group that was most difficult to correctly impute was the 20–24 year olds, and the age group with the most known records correctly imputed was the 35–44 year olds. To assess the overall impact on future calculations using Wage Records, it is important to remember, as with the imputed gender, the imputed age group is only used in the absence of a known age. There are 8,501,938 records in Wage Records; of these, 7,420,459 have a known age. For the remaining 1,081,479 records, with no age information attached, we assume (based on Table 4) that 68.6 percent (741,894) are assigned to the correct age group. Therefore, the overall error associated with future calculations is 4.0 percent, the number incorrect (1,081,479 minus 741,894) divided by the total number of records, 8,501,938.

Conclusions

As discussed in the introduction to this article, there are many imputation methods. The method

(Continued on page 12)

Table 4: Age Group Imputation Results

	15 and Under	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and Above	Unknown	Total
15 and Under	18,490	8,967	699	566	426	74	14	6	25	29,267
16-19	36,572	389,110	69,243	9,861	6,280	1,163	142	95	120	512,586
20-24	2,637	129,931	554,932	182,399	20,492	3,210	287	141	301	894,330
25-34	2,106	11,732	127,726	1,245,344	290,263	21,436	1,255	234	521	1,700,617
35-44	1,879	8,317	15,555	243,145	1,602,022	198,916	2,945	423	524	2,073,726
45-54	1,539	5,902	11,612	52,064	438,837	874,940	54,908	826	388	1,441,016
55-64	1,359	3,831	6,148	27,577	96,739	146,778	298,752	27,427	290	608,901
65 and Above	749	2,571	3,075	6,951	15,095	6,313	21,200	103,891	171	160,016
Unknown	12,395	121,260	180,519	309,545	255,475	114,488	35,587	14,171	38,039	1,081,479
Total	77,726	681,621	969,509	2,077,452	2,725,629	1,367,318	415,090	147,214	40,379	8,501,938
Percent of 15 and Under correct			63.2							
Percent of 16-19 correct			75.9							
Percent of 20-24 correct			62.1							
Percent of 25-34 correct			73.2							
Percent of 35-44 correct			77.3							
Percent of 45-54 correct			60.7							
Percent of 55-64 correct			49.1							
Percent of 65-Up correct			64.9							
Percent of known records correct			68.6							

chosen for this article appears to work best with the data available. R&P currently downloads several data sets with demographic information attached to individuals and as data becomes available, the imputed values will be replaced with the actual data. For the time being, R&P will adopt a regimen of imputing values to missing data on an annual basis, as it is a time consuming process. In the future, R&P intends to use the knowledge gained from this process to apply imputation techniques to other areas of interest (i.e., imputing occupations to Wage Records data). Next month's *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* will present tables and figures demonstrating the impact of the imputed demographic data on future analysis of labor market activity using Wage Records.

¹Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Wyoming Wage Records 1992-1998: A Baseline Study*, 1999.

²G. Lee Saathoff, "Separation from the Wyoming Labor Market," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, March 1999, pp. 1-5. Krista R. Shinkle, "Wyoming-Attached Workers: Living and Working in Wyoming," *Trends*, April 1999, pp. 1-6. Gregg Detweiler, "Industry Variations in Wyoming's Steady Workers," *Trends*, May 1999, pp. 1-6. Mike Evans, "Job Turnover and Hire Rates in Wyoming," *Trends*, June 1999, pp. 1-5. Valerie A. Davis, "Who Are Wyoming's New Hires?," *Trends*, July 1999, pp. 1-6.

³Tony Glover, "The Flow of Labor in Wyoming: Department of Family Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Job Training Partnership Act Clients," *Wyoming*

Labor Force Trends, March 2000, pp. 1-8. Tony Glover "Performance Accountability in the Workforce Investment Act: An Application with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Data Part One," *Trends*, November 1999, pp. 1-7. Tony Glover, "Performance Accountability in the Workforce Investment Act: An Application with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Data Part Two," *Trends*, December 1999, pp. 1-7.

⁴R. J. Little & D. B. Rubin, *Statistical Analysis with Missing Data*, 1987. D.B. Rubin, *Multiple Imputation for Nonresponse in Surveys*, 1987.



Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2000, Part 1: Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Only two major industries experienced a decrease in employment during the third quarter. Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities fell by 145 jobs or 1.3 percent and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate fell by 72 jobs or 0.9 percent."

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment¹ increased by 5,230 jobs or 2.3 percent during the third quarter of 2000 compared to third quarter 1999. Third quarter's employment increase is significantly higher than the five-year average growth of 1.6 percent (see Table 1). Total payroll increased by 3.7 percent, below the five-year average of 5.3 percent. The average weekly wage increased by \$7 or 1.4 percent, well below its five-year average of 3.6 percent. It appears that some of the slowdown in wage growth during third quarter 2000 was related to large one-time bonus payments made during third quarter 1999 in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) in Teton County. Periodically, a change in Teton County can affect the state total wage and salary growth in ways that can lead to misinterpretation of overall change affecting the state.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

Table 2 (see page 14) shows that the industries which created the largest number of jobs in third quarter were Retail Trade (1,432 jobs or 3.0%), Mining (1,285 jobs or 7.9%) and Local Government (1,149 jobs or 3.8%).

Within Retail Trade, employment gains were concentrated in a relatively small number of industries. Practically all the job gains occurred in department stores, eating & drinking places and miscellaneous retail (the industry which includes catalog and mail-order houses).

Oil & gas extraction was responsible for nearly all the employment increase in the Mining industry. It appears that higher oil and gas prices as well as coal bed

methane exploration and production have resulted in rapid employment growth in Wyoming.

Only two major industries experienced a decrease in employment during the third quarter. Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (TCPU) fell by 145 jobs or 1.3 percent and FIRE fell by 72 jobs or 0.9 percent. Within TCPU, job gains in air transportation were more than offset by losses in trucking & warehousing, transportation services, and electric, gas & sanitary services. In FIRE, gains in depository institutions were more than offset by losses in real estate and holding companies.

Employment by County

Laramie County added the largest

(Continued on page 14)

Table 1: Percent Change in Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter, 1996-2000

Year and Quarter	Average Monthly Employment		Total Payroll		Average Weekly Wage	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
96Q3	0.9	2.4	3.5	1.3	2.4	-1.2
97Q3	2.2	3.2	6.1	2.3	4.0	-0.9
98Q3	1.0	2.0	5.5	2.0	4.5	0.0
99Q3	1.8	2.3	7.5	5.1	5.6	2.7
00Q3	2.3	1.7	3.7	1.4	1.4	-0.4
5 Year Average for Q3	1.6	2.3	5.3	2.4	3.6	0.1

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2000 by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	1999	2000	No.	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent
Total	232,109	237,339	5,230	2.3	\$1,485,928,797	\$1,540,805,052	\$54,876,255	3.7	\$492	\$499	\$7	1.4
Total Private	182,234	185,827	3,592	2.0	\$1,146,690,425	\$1,178,621,901	\$31,931,476	2.8	\$484	\$488	\$4	0.8
Agriculture	3,908	4,007	99	2.5	17,323,994	18,756,721	1,432,727	8.3	341	360	19	5.6
Mining	16,332	17,618	1,285	7.9	192,759,041	213,960,620	21,201,579	11.0	908	934	26	2.9
Construction	19,268	19,565	297	1.5	137,320,928	141,824,670	4,503,742	3.3	548	558	9	1.7
Manufacturing	11,178	11,431	253	2.3	90,989,225	96,204,901	5,215,676	5.7	626	647	21	3.4
TCPU*	11,547	11,402	-145	-1.3	99,929,782	108,533,328	8,603,546	8.6	666	732	67	10.0
Wholesale Trade	7,727	7,840	113	1.5	60,753,312	64,337,122	3,583,810	5.9	605	631	26	4.4
Retail Trade	48,345	49,778	1,432	3.0	178,009,812	182,385,396	4,375,584	2.5	283	282	-1	-0.5
FIRE**	8,206	8,134	-72	-0.9	89,591,295	60,883,670	-28,707,625	-32.0	840	576	-264	-31.4
Services	55,722	56,052	330	0.6	280,013,036	291,735,473	11,722,437	4.2	387	400	14	3.6
Total Government	49,875	51,512	1,637	3.3	\$339,238,372	\$362,183,151	\$22,944,779	6.8	\$523	\$541	\$18	3.4
Federal Government	7,829	7,913	84	1.1	74,910,442	83,850,312	8,939,870	11.9	736	815	79	10.7
State Government	11,675	12,080	405	3.5	87,162,878	92,150,125	4,987,247	5.7	574	587	13	2.2
Local Government	30,371	31,520	1149	3.8	177,165,052	186,182,714	9,017,662	5.1	449	454	6	1.3

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

number of jobs during third quarter (1,189 or 3.3%). A significant part of this gain was in state and local government, including education and healthcare. Other industries which grew in Laramie County were Manufacturing, TCPU and Retail Trade. Construction employment decreased when compared with third quarter 1999.

Campbell County added 924 jobs or 5.2 percent making it the fastest growing county (in percentage terms). Well over half of the new jobs were in Mining, including oil & gas extraction. Local Government, Retail Trade and Services also had significant job gains in third quarter.

Teton County grew by 4.4 percent or 831 jobs in third quarter. The majority of job growth was found in Construction and Retail Trade.

Employment in hotels & lodging places may have fallen because of tourist concerns over forest fires in the West.

Albany County gained 480 jobs or 3.5 percent during third quarter. The largest increase was seen in Construction, which added over 250 jobs. Employment also increased in State Government and Retail Trade.

Natrona County grew somewhat slower than the state, adding 349 jobs or 1.1 percent. Job gains in Mining, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade and Services were partially offset by losses in Construction and TCPU.

Employment fell in 7 of Wyoming's 23 counties during third quarter. The largest decrease occurred in Sweetwater County

where employment fell by 388 jobs or 2.0 percent. This decrease is the result of job losses in Mining and Construction.

Lincoln County's employment fell by 325 jobs or 5.9 percent, mostly as the result of the completion of a construction project. Small job losses were also seen in Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Services.

Carbon County lost 178 jobs or 2.7 percent as small job gains in State and Local Government were more than offset by losses in Retail Trade, Manufacturing and TCPU.

Washakie County had job losses in many industries. Total employment fell by 107 jobs or 3.0

(Continued on page 15)

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2000 by Region

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Qtr		Change	
	1999	2000	No.	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent
Total	232,109	237,339	5,230	2.3	\$1,485,928,797	\$1,540,805,052	\$54,876,255	3.7	\$492	\$499	\$7	1.4
Northwest Region	36,617	36,710	93	0.3	\$204,369,507	\$208,315,707	\$3,946,200	1.9	\$429	\$437	\$7	1.7
Big Horn	3,880	3,967	87	2.2	23,738,217	24,960,288	1,222,071	5.1	471	484	13	2.8
Fremont	13,920	14,041	121	0.9	76,131,744	76,084,785	-46,959	-0.1	421	417	-4	-0.9
Hot Springs	2,037	2,040	2	0.1	9,449,817	10,083,432	633,615	6.7	357	380	23	6.6
Park	13,171	13,160	-10	-0.1	73,193,085	75,674,078	2,480,993	3.4	427	442	15	3.5
Washakie	3,609	3,502	-107	-3.0	21,856,644	21,513,124	-343,520	-1.6	466	473	7	1.4
Northeast Region	35,424	36,810	1,387	3.9	\$234,894,525	\$253,523,806	\$18,629,281	7.9	\$510	\$530	\$20	3.9
Campbell	17,752	18,676	924	5.2	141,261,513	151,553,469	10,291,956	7.3	612	624	12	2.0
Crook	1,932	1,975	42	2.2	10,263,831	11,528,164	1,264,333	12.3	409	449	40	9.9
Johnson	2,793	2,833	41	1.5	13,344,036	13,455,562	111,526	0.8	368	365	-2	-0.6
Sheridan	10,798	11,148	349	3.2	58,171,531	62,393,728	4,222,197	7.3	414	431	16	3.9
Weston	2,149	2,179	30	1.4	11,853,614	14,592,883	2,739,269	23.1	424	515	91	21.4
Southwest Region	53,774	54,017	243	0.5	\$392,504,356	\$374,185,797	-\$18,318,559	-4.7	\$561	\$533	-\$29	-5.1
Lincoln	5,461	5,136	-325	-5.9	31,664,783	30,349,432	-1,315,351	-4.2	446	455	8	1.9
Sublette	2,337	2,395	57	2.5	12,363,468	13,982,523	1,619,055	13.1	407	449	42	10.4
Sweetwater	19,101	18,713	-388	-2.0	155,493,353	155,718,069	224,716	0.1	626	640	14	2.2
Teton	18,861	19,693	831	4.4	145,366,996	124,932,134	-20,434,862	-14.1	593	488	-105	-17.7
Uinta	8,013	8,081	68	0.8	47,615,756	49,203,639	1,587,883	3.3	457	468	11	2.5
Southeast Region	57,556	59,125	1,569	2.7	\$347,180,507	\$365,502,870	\$18,322,363	5.3	\$464	\$476	\$12	2.5
Albany	13,728	14,209	480	3.5	77,558,809	85,079,984	7,521,175	9.7	435	461	26	6.0
Goshen	3,867	3,900	33	0.8	19,377,349	20,113,775	736,426	3.8	385	397	11	2.9
Laramie	35,795	36,984	1,189	3.3	227,292,156	238,011,643	10,719,487	4.7	488	495	7	1.3
Niobrara	792	747	-45	-5.6	3,525,826	3,302,549	-223,277	-6.3	343	340	-3	-0.7
Platte	3,374	3,286	-88	-2.6	19,426,367	18,994,919	-431,448	-2.2	443	445	2	0.4
Central Region	41,759	41,955	196	0.5	\$256,423,727	\$268,528,812	\$12,105,085	4.7	\$472	\$492	\$20	4.2
Carbon	6,555	6,377	-178	-2.7	36,382,277	39,088,581	2,706,304	7.4	427	472	45	10.4
Converse	4,370	4,395	26	0.6	27,073,429	27,602,558	529,129	2.0	477	483	6	1.4
Natrona	30,834	31,183	349	1.1	192,968,021	201,837,673	8,869,652	4.6	481	498	16	3.4
Nonclassified*	6,980	8,721	1,741	24.9	\$50,556,175	\$70,748,060	\$20,191,885	39.9	\$557	\$624	\$67	12.0

* The employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

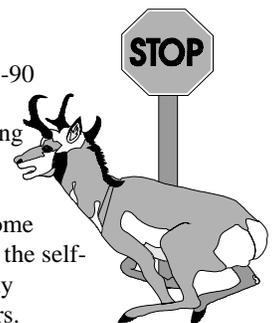
percent as jobs were lost in Mining, Manufacturing, TCPU and Retail Trade.

Niobrara County's employment fell by 45 jobs or 5.6 percent during third quarter. This employment decrease is related to the closure of

the Niobrara County Hospital in May 2000.

For more detailed tables on third quarter covered employment and wages, visit our Internet site at: http://lmi.state.wy.us/00Q3_202/toc.htm.

¹ Approximately 85-90 percent of all workers in Wyoming are covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Some exceptions include the self-employed and many agricultural workers.



Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2000, Part 2: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

by: Mike Evans, BLS Program Supervisor

"Growth in wage and payroll were slower in the third quarter compared to the prior four quarters, but last year's growth in wage and payroll exceeded the growth for any year since the boom in 1981."

The most recent employment data for Wyoming are listed below by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector. For comparison, on page 13 are employment data for the same quarter using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The production-oriented focus of NAICS reinterprets the employment structure of the economy to the point where straight comparisons between NAICS and SIC are difficult.¹ For the next year, we will publish both the NAICS and SIC employment levels to enable readers to cross-reference and adapt to the new classification system. The unavailable sector codes are due to the timing of the downloads and to delinquency in employer reporting.

(Continued on page 17)

Table: Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage in Wyoming for Third Quarter 2000 by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Sector

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	1999	2000	No.	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent
Total	232,109	237,339	5,230	2.3%	\$1,485,928,797	\$1,540,805,052	\$54,876,255	3.7%	\$492	\$499	\$7	1.4%
Total Private	182,234	185,827	3,593	2.0%	\$1,146,690,425	\$1,178,621,901	\$31,931,476	2.8%	\$484	\$488	\$4	0.8%
Agriculture	2,210	2,509	299	13.5	13,587,079	13,082,984	-\$504,095	-3.7	473	401	-72	-15.2
Mining	16,141	17,582	1,441	8.9	206,772,996	213,634,847	\$6,861,851	3.3	985	935	-50	-5.1
Utilities	2,207	2,194	-13	-0.6	32,640,559	31,132,849	-\$1,507,710	-4.6	1,138	1,092	-46	-4.0
Construction	18,118	19,705	1,587	8.8	146,931,130	143,020,587	-\$3,910,543	-2.7	624	558	-66	-10.6
Manufacturing	11,392	10,382	-1,010	-8.9	100,206,970	89,581,609	-\$10,625,361	-10.6	677	664	-13	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	5,834	6,183	349	6.0	53,361,653	54,500,375	\$1,138,722	2.1	704	678	-26	-3.7
Retail Trade	30,614	32,074	1,460	4.8	143,082,273	145,006,057	\$1,923,784	1.3	360	348	-12	-3.3
Transportation	6,429	6,342	-87	-1.4	50,907,037	47,708,842	-\$3,198,195	-6.3	609	579	-30	-4.9
Information	4,255	4,216	-39	-0.9	46,806,259	36,012,858	-\$10,793,401	-23.1	846	657	-189	-22.3
Finance & Insurance	6,132	6,184	52	0.8	52,538,248	50,512,234	-\$2,026,014	-3.9	659	628	-31	-4.7
Real Estate & Rental	3,060	3,097	37	1.2	16,633,949	15,787,755	-\$846,194	-5.1	418	392	-26	-6.2
Professional Serv.	6,532	6,774	242	3.7	61,565,287	51,351,687	-\$10,213,600	-16.6	725	583	-142	-19.6
Management of Co.	159	86	-73	-45.9	3,107,066	1,367,271	-\$1,739,795	-56.0	1,503	1,223	-280	-18.6
Administrative Serv.	7,122	7,603	481	6.8	31,543,629	33,178,558	\$1,634,929	5.2	341	336	-5	-1.5
Educational Services	895	1,113	218	24.4	4,336,369	5,513,655	\$1,177,286	27.2	373	381	8	2.1
Health Care	16,126	16,670	544	3.4	114,140,394	109,443,364	-\$4,697,030	-4.1	544	505	-39	-7.2
Arts/Entertainment	2,813	3,675	862	30.6	10,390,662	13,727,767	\$3,337,105	32.1	284	287	3	1.1
Accommodations	24,039	31,453	7,414	30.8	61,901,475	87,658,619	\$25,757,144	41.6	198	214	16	8.1
Other Services	7,185	7,404	219	3.0	34,271,945	33,744,151	-\$527,794	-1.5	367	351	-16	-4.4
Public Administration	556	581	25	4.5	2,371,218	2,655,832	\$284,614	12.0	328	352	24	7.3
Code Unavailable*	10,415	0	-10,415	N/A	-40,405,773	0	\$40,405,773	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Government	49,875	51,512	1,637	3.3%	\$339,238,372	\$362,183,151	\$22,944,779	6.8%	\$523	\$541	\$18	3.4%
Federal Government	7,829	7,913	84	1.1	74,910,442	83,850,312	\$8,939,870	11.9	736	815	79	10.7
State Government	11,675	12,080	405	3.5	87,162,878	92,150,125	\$4,987,247	5.7	574	587	13	2.3
Local Government	30,371	31,520	1,149	3.8	177,165,052	186,182,714	\$9,017,662	5.1	449	454	5	1.1

* The unavailable sector codes are due to the timing of the downloads and delinquency in employer reporting.

W yoming average monthly employment grew in 2000,² by 5,230 jobs (2.3%) in the third quarter of 2000 compared with the third quarter of 1999. Total payroll grew 3.7 percent and average weekly wage grew 1.4 percent (see the Table, page 16).³ Growth in wage and payroll were slower in the third quarter compared to the prior four quarters, but last year's growth in wage and payroll exceeded the growth for any year since the boom in 1981. Also, the year 2000 brought the lowest unemployment level since the boom.

The largest job gains came in the Accommodations sector with 7,414 more jobs (30.8%), while the Construction, Retail Trade, and Mining sectors added 1,587; 1,460; and 1,339 more jobs than the previous year, respectively.

Employment increased (2.3%) in Manufacturing under the SIC system, but decreased under NAICS (-8.9%). Finance & Insurance, along with Real Estate increased (0.8 and 1.2%, respectively) under the NAICS system, but Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE)

decreased under SIC (-0.9%). The Accommodations (8.1%) and Public Administration (7.3%) sectors had substantial gains in average weekly wage, while the Management (-18.6%), Professional Services (-19.6%), and Information (-22.3%) sectors declined substantially.

¹For example, industries formerly coded into the Services industry under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system are now split among several different sectors under the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). A complete breakdown of how SIC industries are distributed among NAICS sectors is included in the article by Mike Evans, "New Industrial Classification System Will Affect All Industry Statistics," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, October 2000, pp. 7-11.

²Mike Evans, "Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2000, Part 2: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, October 2000, pp. 11-13.

³The unavailable sector codes are due to the timing of the downloads and delinquency in employer reporting.



State Unemployment Rates February 2001 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Alaska	7.5
West Virginia	6.4
Washington	6.3
District of Columbia	6.0
Idaho	6.0
Oregon	5.9
Louisiana	5.6
Montana	5.6
Illinois	5.4
New Mexico	5.3
Pennsylvania	5.2
Alabama	5.1
Arkansas	5.1
Michigan	5.1
Wisconsin	5.1
Mississippi	5.0
California	4.9
New York	4.8
North Carolina	4.8
Rhode Island	4.7
Kentucky	4.6
United States	4.6
Wyoming	4.6
Nevada	4.4
Tennessee	4.4
Delaware	4.3
Hawaii	4.3
Ohio	4.3
Maryland	4.1
Missouri	4.1
Kansas	4.0
South Carolina	4.0
New Jersey	3.9
Texas	3.8
Arizona	3.7
Minnesota	3.7
Utah	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Florida	3.6
Indiana	3.5
Maine	3.5
Georgia	3.4
Iowa	3.3
Nebraska	3.2
Oklahoma	3.2
Massachusetts	3.0
North Dakota	2.9
Colorado	2.7
South Dakota	2.7
Connecticut	2.5
New Hampshire	2.5
Virginia	2.4

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**State Unemployment Rates
February 2001
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Alaska	5.8
District of Columbia	5.6
Louisiana	5.6
New Mexico	5.5
Washington	5.5
West Virginia	5.4
Mississippi	5.0
Alabama	4.9
Illinois	4.9
Oregon	4.9
Idaho	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.6
California	4.5
Michigan	4.5
Arkansas	4.4
Hawaii	4.4
Montana	4.4
Nevada	4.4
North Carolina	4.4
Wisconsin	4.3
New York	4.2
United States	4.2
Tennessee	4.1
Arizona	4.0
Kentucky	4.0
Florida	3.8
Missouri	3.8
Kansas	3.7
Ohio	3.7
South Carolina	3.7
Texas	3.7
Delaware	3.6
Maryland	3.6
New Jersey	3.6
Rhode Island	3.5
Georgia	3.4
Utah	3.4
Wyoming	3.3
Minnesota	3.1
Indiana	3.0
Nebraska	2.8
Vermont	2.8
Colorado	2.7
Massachusetts	2.7
Oklahoma	2.7
Iowa	2.6
North Dakota	2.6
Maine	2.4
Virginia	2.3
South Dakota	2.1
New Hampshire	2.0
Connecticut	1.9

Strong Employment Growth Continues in February

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.3 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 4.2 percent, and below its February 2000 level of 3.9 percent."

Wyoming's employment growth continued at a relatively rapid pace in February as 6,100 jobs were created, giving the state a growth rate of 2.7 percent. In comparison, U.S. job growth stood at 1.3 percent. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.3 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 4.2 percent, and below its February 2000 level of 3.9 percent.

Strong employment growth was seen in many industries in February. Mining added 1,600 jobs or 9.6 percent as a result of double-digit gains in oil & gas extraction (1,800 jobs or 20.7%). Retail Trade increased by 1,600 jobs or 3.7 percent with the largest gains in department stores (700 jobs or 18.9%) and eating & drinking places (400 jobs or 2.5%). Services added 1,600 jobs or 3.1 percent, with 500 jobs (4.7%) created in health services.

Because of job losses in the telephone communications industry, employment in Transportation,

Communications & Public Utilities fell by 100 jobs or 0.7 percent.

Natrona County added 1,100 jobs or 3.5 percent when compared with February 2000. Large gains were seen in Mining (300 jobs or 15.8%) and Services (300 jobs or 3.3%). In Laramie County, employment grew by 700 jobs or 1.9 percent. Retail Trade gained 300 jobs or 4.0 percent, and Government grew by 300 jobs or 2.6 percent.

The lowest unemployment rate in February 2001 was in Teton County (1.7%) and the highest rate was in Femont County (8.3%). The largest decrease in unemployment rate between February 2000 and February 2001 occurred in Washakie County where unemployment fell from 7.1 percent to 3.9 percent. Sweetwater County also experienced a significant decline in unemployment, falling from 6.5 percent in February 2000 to 4.9 percent in February 2001.



Wyoming Labor Force Trends
is also available online at
<http://lmi.state.wy.us/>

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

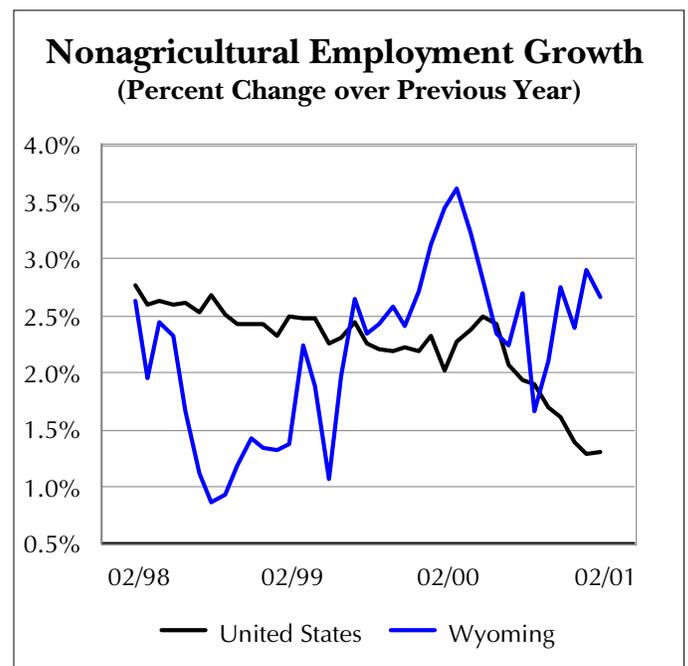
"Mining added 1,600 jobs or 9.6 percent as a result of double-digit gains in oil & gas extraction (1,800 jobs or 20.7%)."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB01(p)	JAN01(r)	FEB 00	JAN 01	FEB 01		FEB01(p)	JAN01(r)	FEB 00	JAN 01	FEB 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	234.6	234.4	228.5	0.1	2.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.9	37.0	36.2	-0.3	1.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	45.0	45.3	43.1	-0.7	4.4	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	2.7
Mining	18.2	18.1	16.6	0.6	9.6	Mining & Construction	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Coal Mining	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-2.1	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	10.5	10.4	8.7	1.0	20.7	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	33.1	33.2	32.5	-0.3	1.8
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Oil & Gas Field Services	7.8	7.7	6.1	1.3	27.9	Trade	8.6	8.8	8.3	-2.3	3.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.4	15.8	15.2	-2.5	1.3	Retail Trade	7.8	8.0	7.5	-2.5	4.0
General Building Contractors	4.0	4.0	3.8	0.0	5.3	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9
Heavy Construction	4.1	4.3	4.2	-4.7	-2.4	Services	8.3	8.2	8.1	1.2	2.5
Special Trade Construction	7.3	7.5	7.2	-2.7	1.4	Total Government	11.9	11.8	11.6	0.8	2.6
Manufacturing	11.4	11.4	11.3	0.0	0.9	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	State Government	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Nondurable Goods	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6	Local Government	5.9	5.8	5.7	1.7	3.5
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1						
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	189.6	189.1	185.4	0.3	2.3	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.0	14.1	14.1	-0.7	-0.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.3	31.9	31.2	1.3	3.5
Transportation	9.2	9.3	9.0	-1.1	2.2	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.6	5.5	5.2	1.8	7.7
Railroad Transportation	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1	Mining	2.2	2.1	1.9	4.8	15.8
Trucking & Warehousing	3.6	3.7	3.5	-2.7	2.9	Construction	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	-9.1	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Telephone Communications	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.0	-18.2	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.7	26.4	26.0	1.1	2.7
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	Transportation	1.1	1.2	1.1	-8.3	0.0
Trade	52.9	53.1	51.2	-0.4	3.3	Communications & Public Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.6	7.6	1.3	1.3	Trade	8.8	8.8	8.4	0.0	4.8
Durable Goods	4.5	4.4	4.4	2.3	2.3	Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3
Retail Trade	45.2	45.5	43.6	-0.7	3.7	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3	Services	9.4	9.1	9.1	3.3	3.3
General Merchandise Stores	5.1	5.3	4.5	-3.8	13.3	Personal & Business Services	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Department Stores	4.4	4.4	3.7	0.0	18.9	Health Services	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Food Stores	5.4	5.5	5.5	-1.8	-1.8	Government	5.7	5.6	5.7	1.8	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.0	8.1	7.9	-1.2	1.3	Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Gas Stations	4.1	4.2	4.1	-2.4	0.0	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.3	1.4	1.2	-7.1	8.3	Local Government	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.7	1.6	1.6	6.2	6.2	Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	16.2	16.2	15.8	0.0	2.5						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.5	5.5	5.2	0.0	5.8						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.1	8.1	7.9	0.0	2.5						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.1	0.0	4.9						
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0						
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0						
Services	53.2	53.1	51.6	0.2	3.1						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.6	7.5	7.4	1.3	2.7						
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0						
Business Services	7.9	7.9	7.7	0.0	2.6						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0						
Amusements (Rec.Services & Mot.Pics.)	3.9	3.9	3.7	0.0	5.4						
Health Services	11.1	11.0	10.6	0.9	4.7						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3						
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0						
Social Services	6.1	6.0	5.9	1.7	3.4						
Membership Organizations	3.6	3.5	3.6	2.9	0.0						
Engineering & Management	3.9	3.9	3.7	0.0	5.4						
Government	61.4	60.7	60.6	1.2	1.3						
Total Federal Government	6.8	6.8	6.7	0.0	1.5						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5						
Total State Government	13.7	13.6	13.7	0.7	0.0						
State Education	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	-1.9						
Total Local Government	40.9	40.3	40.2	1.5	1.7						
Local Hospitals	5.3	5.3	5.1	0.0	3.9						
Local Education	23.4	22.8	23.0	2.6	1.7						

1 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.

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Subject to revision. (r) Revised.



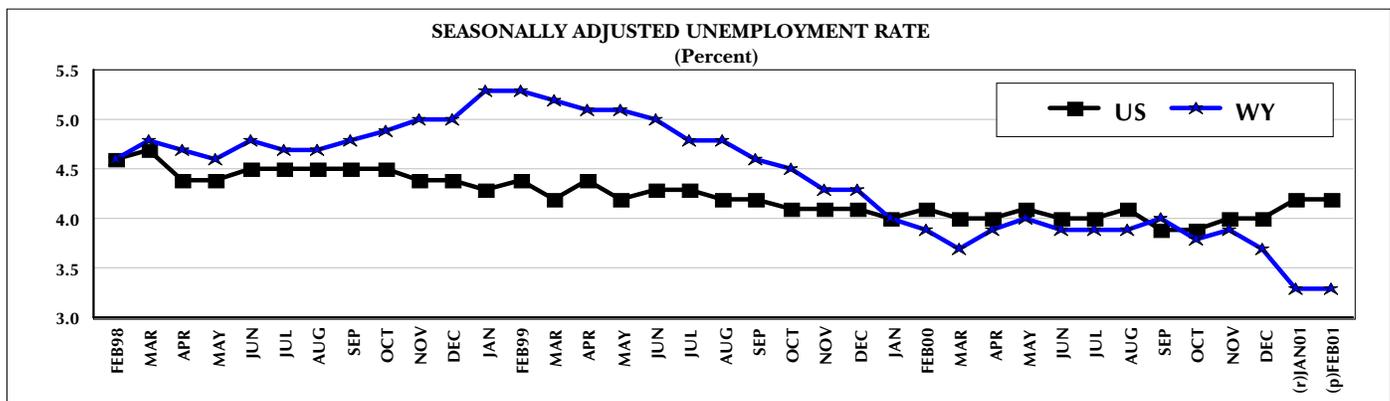
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistical Technician

"When compared to February 2000, the number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming is down 12.9 percent."

	February 2001 ----- (p)-----	January 2000 ----- (r)-----	February 2000 ----- (b)-----	Percentage Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	263,104	261,185	262,435	0.7	0.3
Unemployed	12,023	11,909	13,796	1.0	-12.9
Employed	251,081	249,276	248,639	0.7	1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.6%/3.3%	4.6%/3.3%	5.3%/3.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.6%/4.2%	4.7%/4.2%	4.4%/4.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,592,000	7,134,000	7,735,000	6.4	-1.8
As a percent of all workers	5.6%	5.3%	5.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	289,000	303,000	262,000	-4.6	10.3
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,424,000	3,693,000	3,296,000	-7.3	3.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$856.48	\$850.16	\$853.55	0.7	0.3
Average Weekly Hours	44.4	43.8	44.9	1.4	-1.1
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$770.85	\$771.46	\$758.52	-0.1	1.6
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	44.8	44.1	0.4	2.0
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$591.09	\$621.01	\$615.43	-4.8	-4.0
Average Weekly Hours	36.6	38.5	39.4	-4.9	-7.1
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$590.40	\$594.63	\$588.89	-0.7	0.3
Average Weekly Hours	40.3	40.7	41.5	-1.0	-2.9
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	16,154	17,937	18,402	-9.9	-12.2
Benefits Paid	\$3,394,032	\$3,725,351	\$3,499,963	-8.9	-3.0
Average Weekly Benefits Payment	\$210.10	\$207.69	\$190.19	1.2	10.5
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	207,084	207,331	205,573	-0.1	0.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	175.8	175.1	169.8	0.4	3.5
Food & Beverages	171.8	171.4	166.8	0.2	3.0
Housing	174.7	174.1	167.1	0.3	4.5
Apparel	128.4	125.4	129.2	2.4	-0.6
Transportation	154.9	154.4	149.7	0.3	3.5
Medical Care	268.9	267.1	257.0	0.7	4.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	104.3	104.1	102.5	0.2	1.8
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	104.0	103.9	102.2	0.1	1.8
Other Goods & Services	277.2	275.9	266.7	0.5	3.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	136.5	138.8	129.8	-1.7	5.2
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	83	90	90	-7.8	-7.8
Valuation	\$15,089,000	\$10,275,000	\$10,774,000	46.9	40.1

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked. (1) Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. (2) Not normalized.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Statistician

"The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February 2001 remained unchanged from the January rate of 3.3 percent."

REGION County	Labor Force		Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates			
	Feb 2001 (p)	Jan 2001 (r)	Feb 2000 (b)									
NORTHWEST	45,057	44,817	45,420	42,162	41,939	42,127	2,895	2,878	3,293	6.4	6.4	7.3
Big Horn	5,846	5,842	6,006	5,480	5,511	5,562	366	331	444	6.3	5.7	7.4
Fremont	18,082	17,913	17,980	16,588	16,426	16,435	1,494	1,487	1,545	8.3	8.3	8.6
Hot Springs	2,376	2,346	2,369	2,274	2,245	2,263	102	101	106	4.3	4.3	4.5
Park	14,216	14,133	14,230	13,462	13,350	13,377	754	783	853	5.3	5.5	6.0
Washakie	4,537	4,583	4,835	4,358	4,407	4,490	179	176	345	3.9	3.8	7.1
NORTHEAST	44,414	44,190	44,443	42,543	42,297	42,072	1,871	1,893	2,371	4.2	4.3	5.3
Campbell	20,367	20,278	20,338	19,716	19,601	19,422	651	677	916	3.2	3.3	4.5
Crook	3,004	2,990	3,013	2,857	2,849	2,829	147	141	184	4.9	4.7	6.1
Johnson	3,819	3,793	3,787	3,655	3,646	3,626	164	147	161	4.3	3.9	4.3
Sheridan	13,900	13,799	13,901	13,174	13,068	12,994	726	731	907	5.2	5.3	6.5
Weston	3,324	3,330	3,404	3,141	3,133	3,201	183	197	203	5.5	5.9	6.0
SOUTHWEST	50,775	50,443	51,229	48,569	48,335	48,342	2,206	2,108	2,887	4.3	4.2	5.6
Lincoln	6,336	6,274	6,509	5,906	5,889	5,994	430	385	515	6.8	6.1	7.9
Sublette	2,937	2,963	3,012	2,856	2,891	2,894	81	72	118	2.8	2.4	3.9
Sweetwater	19,590	19,498	20,259	18,634	18,490	18,936	956	1,008	1,323	4.9	5.2	6.5
Teton	11,709	11,524	11,076	11,513	11,363	10,854	196	161	222	1.7	1.4	2.0
Uinta	10,203	10,184	10,373	9,660	9,702	9,664	543	482	709	5.3	4.7	6.8
SOUTHEAST	72,997	72,555	72,024	70,317	69,893	69,523	2,680	2,662	2,501	3.7	3.7	3.5
Albany	18,930	18,734	18,865	18,519	18,291	18,492	411	443	373	2.2	2.4	2.0
Goshen	6,453	6,525	6,470	6,134	6,202	6,151	319	323	319	4.9	5.0	4.9
Laramie	41,741	41,457	40,758	40,096	39,836	39,223	1,645	1,621	1,535	3.9	3.9	3.8
Niobrara	1,213	1,231	1,286	1,151	1,165	1,239	62	66	47	5.1	5.4	3.7
Platte	4,660	4,608	4,645	4,417	4,399	4,418	243	209	227	5.2	4.5	4.9
CENTRAL	49,863	49,179	49,319	47,491	46,812	46,574	2,372	2,367	2,745	4.8	4.8	5.6
Carbon	7,923	7,931	8,240	7,499	7,500	7,836	424	431	404	5.4	5.4	4.9
Converse	6,803	6,723	6,680	6,435	6,381	6,252	368	342	428	5.4	5.1	6.4
Natrona	35,137	34,525	34,399	33,557	32,931	32,486	1,580	1,594	1,913	4.5	4.6	5.6
STATEWIDE	263,104	261,185	262,435	251,081	249,276	248,639	12,023	11,909	13,796	4.6	4.6	5.3
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.3	3.3	3.9
U.S.....										4.6	4.7	4.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.2	4.2	4.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/01. Run Date 03/01.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

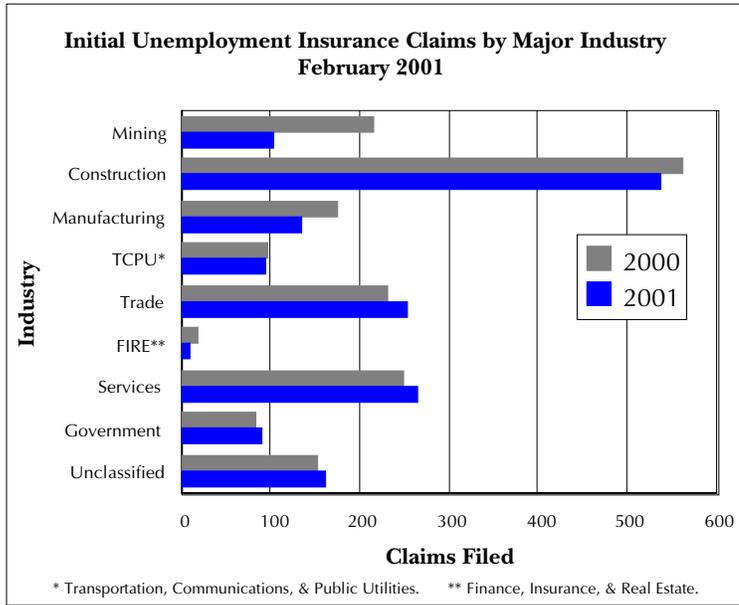
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2000 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.
The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.4 to 4.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

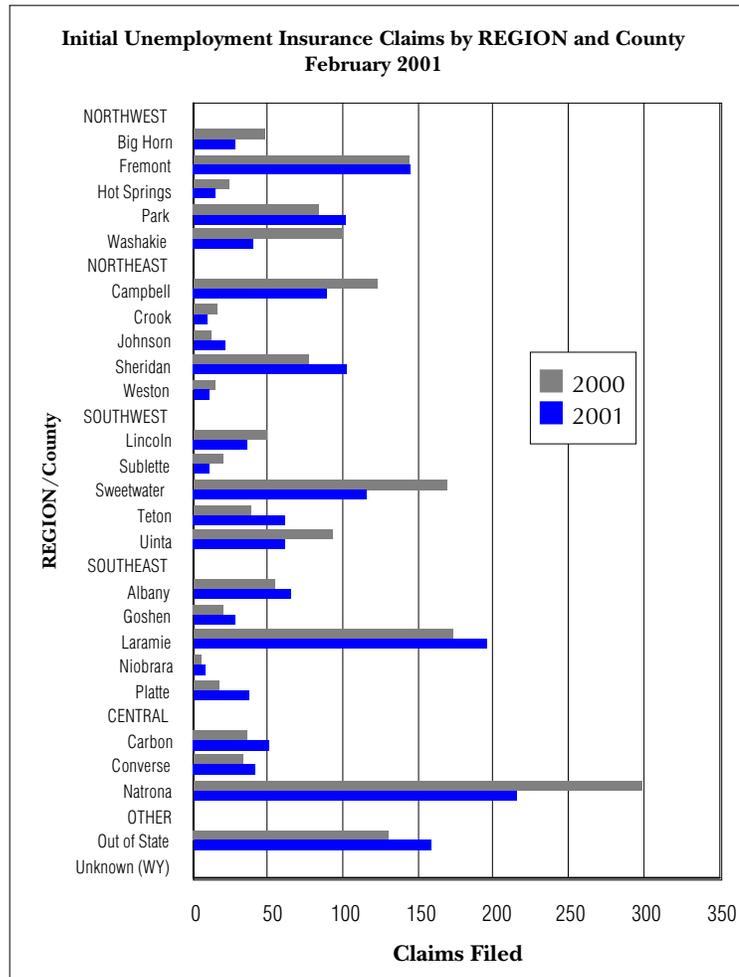
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

"Initial claimant numbers were down for February 2001, 7.7 percent over the year, due to a 4.4 percent increase in Goods Producing employment."



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB.01	JAN.01	FEB.00	FEB.01	FEB.00
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,654	2,492	1,792	-33.6	-7.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	776	1,155	957	-32.8	-18.9
Mining	103	156	217	-34.0	-52.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	82	104	176	-21.2	-53.4
Construction	538	824	564	-34.7	-4.6
Manufacturing	135	175	176	-22.9	-23.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	715	1141	682	-37.3	4.8
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	96	143	98	-32.9	-2.0
Transportation	82	107	87	-23.4	-5.7
Communications & Public Utilities	14	36	11	-61.1	27.3
Trade	254	391	231	-35.0	10.0
Wholesale Trade	52	47	27	10.6	92.6
Retail Trade	202	344	204	-41.3	-1.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	10	23	18	-56.5	-44.4
Services	265	399	250	-33.6	6.0
Personal & Business Services	79	112	83	-29.5	-4.8
Health Services	30	37	26	-18.9	15.4
Government	90	185	85	-51.4	5.9
Local Government	33	63	31	-47.6	6.5
Local Education	10	23	10	-56.5	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	163	196	153	-16.8	6.5



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB.01	JAN.01	FEB.00	FEB.01	FEB.00
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	195	355	172	-45.1	13.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	92	146	68	-37.0	35.3
Mining	1	3	5	-66.7	-80.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	4	0.0	0.0
Construction	80	122	60	-34.4	33.3
Manufacturing	11	21	3	-47.6	266.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	89	179	83	-50.3	7.2
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	14	51	20	-72.5	-30.0
Transportation	10	22	17	-54.5	-41.2
Communications & Public Utilities	4	29	3	-86.2	33.3
Trade	35	64	25	-45.3	40.0
Wholesale Trade	9	4	2	125.0	350.0
Retail Trade	26	60	23	-56.7	13.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1	2	4	-50.0	-75.0
Services	28	46	23	-39.1	21.7
Personal & Business Services	16	23	14	-30.4	14.3
Health Services	3	9	3	-66.7	0.0
Government	11	16	11	-31.3	0.0
Local Government	2	7	3	-71.4	-33.3
Local Education	0	3	1	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	14	30	21	-53.3	-33.3

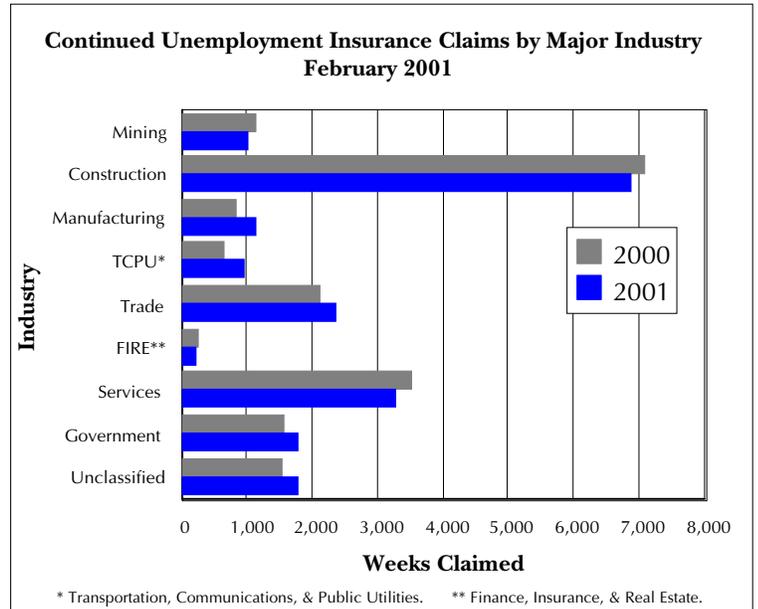
	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB.01	JAN.01	FEB.00	FEB.01	FEB.00
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	214	297	297	-27.9	-27.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	101	153	149	-34.0	-32.2
Mining	10	26	29	-61.5	-65.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	8	22	26	-63.6	-69.2
Construction	79	110	106	-28.2	-25.5
Manufacturing	12	17	14	-29.4	-14.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	100	134	135	-25.4	-25.9
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	6	15	14	-60.0	-57.1
Transportation	6	12	13	-50.0	-53.8
Communications & Public Utilities	0	3	1	0.0	0.0
Trade	48	47	65	2.1	-26.2
Wholesale Trade	17	12	9	41.7	88.9
Retail Trade	31	35	56	-11.4	-44.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1	5	4	-80.0	-75.0
Services	40	54	47	-25.9	-14.9
Personal & Business Services	15	16	26	-6.3	-42.3
Health Services	8	6	5	33.3	60.0
Government	5	13	5	-61.5	0.0
Local Government	0	3	2	0.0	0.0
Local Education	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	13	10	13	30.0	0.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

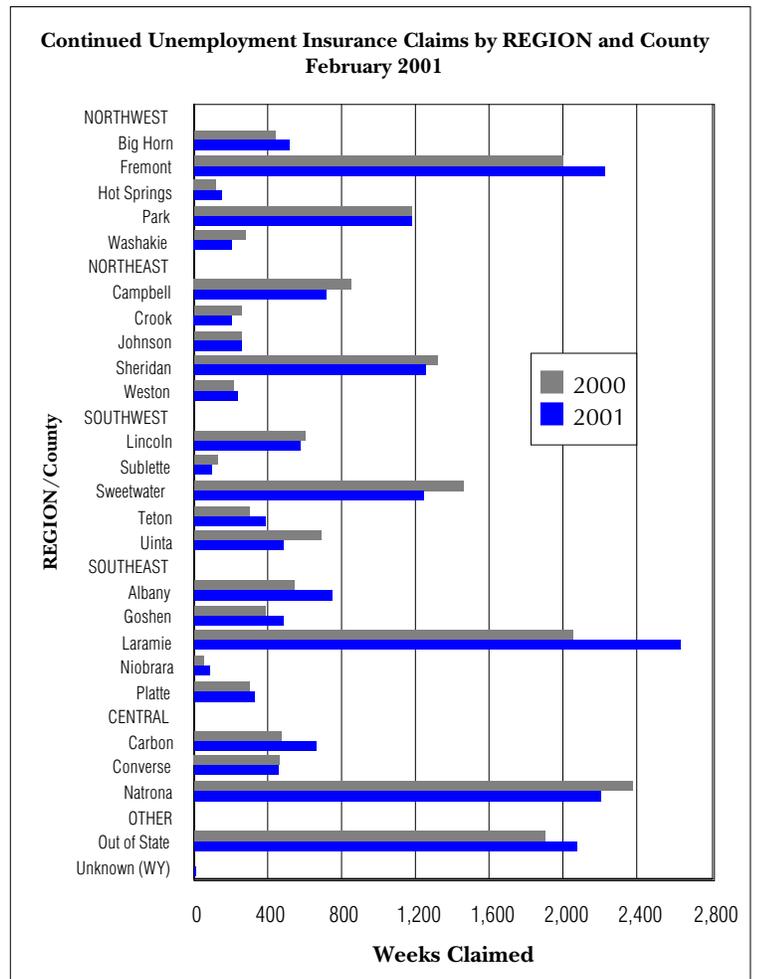
by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

"Weeks claimed were up 778 in February 2001 due to large layoffs in Communications and Manufacturing."

	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB 01	JAN 01	FEB 00	JAN 01	FEB 01
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	19,499	18,741	18,763	4.0	3.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,890	5,362	5,744	9.8	2.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	9,084	8,858	9,116	2.6	-0.4
Mining	1,029	1,020	1,156	0.9	-11.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	600	551	798	8.9	-24.8
Construction	6,900	6,784	7,107	1.7	-2.9
Manufacturing	1,155	1,054	853	9.6	35.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	8,631	8,304	8,101	3.9	6.5
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	967	787	648	22.9	49.2
Transportation	669	545	534	22.8	25.3
Communications & Public Utilities	298	242	114	23.1	161.4
Trade	2,376	2,244	2,119	5.9	12.1
Wholesale Trade	304	290	299	4.8	1.7
Retail Trade	2,072	1,954	1,820	6.0	13.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	227	255	245	-11.0	-7.3
Services	3,286	3,282	3,530	0.1	-6.9
Personal & Business Services	1,015	979	1,061	3.7	-4.3
Health Services	266	246	258	8.1	3.1
Government	1,775	1,736	1,559	2.2	13.9
Local Government	482	476	502	1.3	-4.0
Local Education	116	117	134	-0.9	-13.4
UNCLASSIFIED	1,784	1,579	1,546	13.0	15.4



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB 01	JAN 01	FEB 00	JAN 01	FEB 01
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,637	2,328	2,052	13.3	28.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	766	688	628	11.3	22.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,250	1,113	1,075	12.3	16.3
Mining	37	50	20	-26.0	85.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	16	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,100	944	997	16.5	10.3
Manufacturing	113	119	58	-5.0	94.8
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	1,213	1,073	767	13.0	58.1
Transportation, Communications & P ublic Utilities	275	213	86	29.1	219.8
Transportation	104	101	65	3.0	60.0
Communications & Public Utilities	171	112	21	52.7	714.3
Trade	347	289	196	20.1	77.0
Wholesale Trade	42	36	29	16.7	44.8
Retail Trade	305	253	167	20.6	82.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	50	59	51	-15.3	-2.0
Services	417	407	331	2.5	26.0
Personal & Business Services	175	170	148	2.9	18.2
Health Services	69	62	29	11.3	137.9
Government	124	105	103	18.1	20.4
Local Government	35	24	33	45.8	6.1
Local Education	13	10	9	30.0	44.4
UNCLASSIFIED	174	142	210	22.5	-17.1



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	FEB 01	JAN 01	FEB 00	JAN 01	FEB 01
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,207	2,275	2,373	-3.0	-7.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	706	687	747	2.8	-5.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,152	1,170	1,300	-1.5	-11.4
Mining	173	171	188	1.2	-8.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	129	129	141	0.0	-8.5
Construction	872	912	1,028	-4.4	-15.2
Manufacturing	107	87	84	23.0	27.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	944	1,017	936	-7.2	0.9
Transportation, Communications & P ublic Utilities	113	111	83	1.8	36.1
Transportation	66	56	62	17.9	6.5
Communications & Public Utilities	47	55	21	-14.5	123.8
Trade	288	289	302	-0.3	-4.6
Wholesale Trade	76	59	67	28.8	13.4
Retail Trade	212	230	235	-7.8	-9.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	40	36	56	11.1	-28.6
Services	358	415	407	-13.7	-12.0
Personal & Business Services	130	154	171	-15.6	-24.0
Health Services	48	52	52	-7.7	-7.7
Government	145	166	88	-12.7	64.8
Local Government	35	33	43	6.1	-18.6
Local Education	9	12	5	-25.0	80.0
UNCLASSIFIED	111	88	137	26.1	-19.0

After 5 Days Return to:
**Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

