

TRENDS

Nursing in Wyoming, Part Three: Net Flow of Employment

by: *Tony Glover, Senior Research Analyst*

“While the net flow still shows more RNs entering Wyoming than leaving, it appears that within the next few years these trends will converge with the number of exits equaling the number of entries.”

In Part Three of our “Nursing in Wyoming” series,¹ we explore two issues related to the flow of Registered Nurses (RNs) inside and outside of Wyoming’s labor market. First, we demonstrate the flow of labor by focusing on RNs working in Wyoming hospitals in 1999. We attempt to answer the questions, Where did they come from? and Where did they go? Section I uses data from our Interstate Wage Records² database. Section II returns our focus to all RNs working in Wyoming over the past decade. It demonstrates that due to a decrease of new RNs entering and an increase in those leaving our labor market, Wyoming could soon face a statewide nursing shortage.

RNs who worked in Wyoming hospitals (SIC 806)⁴ in 1999. We then determined their state and industry origin in 1998 and, likewise, their labor market destination in 2000. In 1999, 375 RNs began working in Wyoming hospitals. Of these, 74 (19.7%) had an origin in one of the seven states⁵ with which Wyoming has a data sharing agreement. In this analysis, the seven

(Text continued on page 3)

Section I

Figure 1³ (see page 3) was created by first restricting our analysis to the 2,152

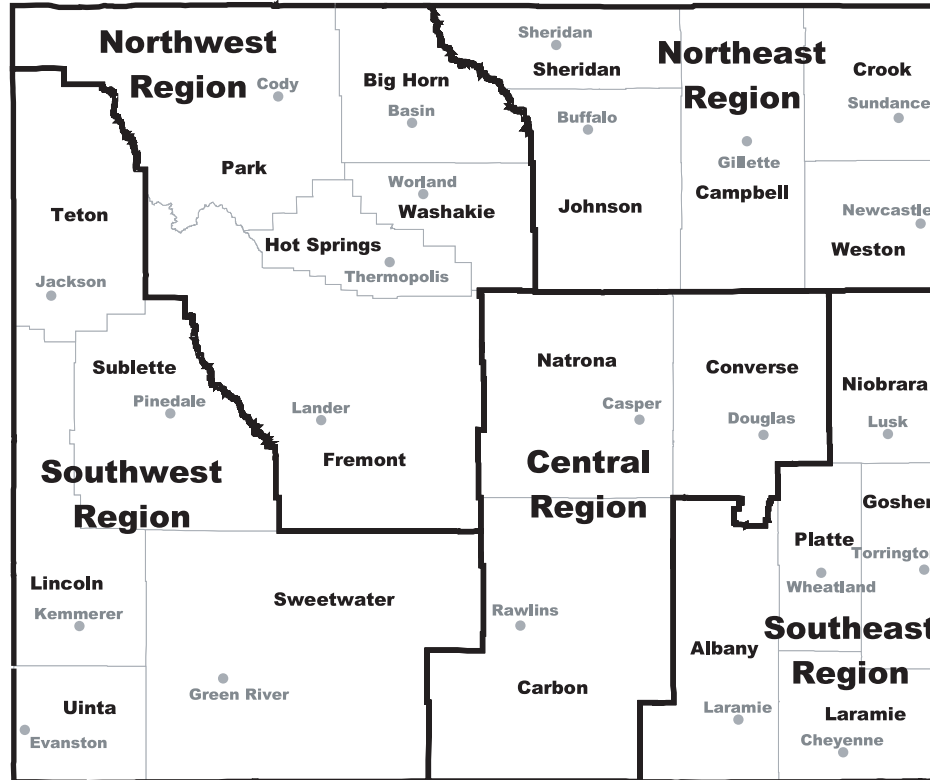
Attention: Readers

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims data is not included in this month’s issue. Please look for the return of this regular feature next month. We are sorry for any inconvenience. - *ed.*

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Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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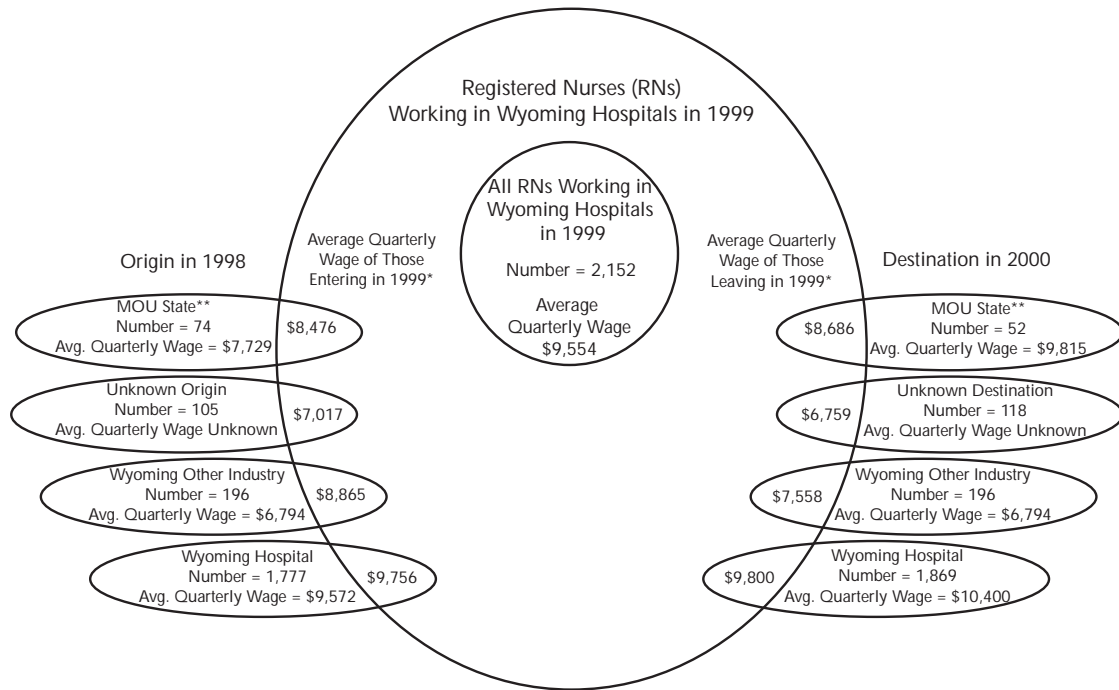
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Figure 1: Origin, Destination, and Average Quarterly Wage of Registered Nurses Working in Wyoming Hospitals in 1999



*RNs entering are not necessarily the same RNs leaving.
**States with which Wyoming has data sharing agreements.

states are referred to as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) states. Those entering Wyoming from MOU states increased their average quarterly wage from \$7,729 in 1998 to \$8,476 in 1999. Conversely, from 1999 to 2000, we see that 52 RNs left employment in Wyoming hospitals for employment in one of our MOU states and increased their average quarterly wage from \$8,686 in 1999 to \$9,815 in 2000. The majority of RNs entering employment in Wyoming hospitals from another state in 1999 were classified as “unknown origin.” Similarly, a majority of those leaving the state were not found in MOU states and are identified as “unknown destination.” These workers remain an enigma that may be cleared up with cooperation of additional states (i.e., Montana and California). However, we do

know that those who leave tend to have more nursing experience.⁶

The largest group (52.3%) of RNs entering the hospital industry in 1999 worked in another Wyoming industry in 1998. This group is dominated by RNs with three or more years of experience who have transitioned from other health care industries, particularly nursing care facilities and offices & clinics.⁷ Furthermore, a sizeable portion (39.9%) of those leaving hospital employment in 2000 had a destination of another industry within Wyoming in 2000.

Section II

In this section we expand our analysis to all licensed RNs working in all Wyoming

industries from 1993 to 2000. We also shift our focus to those either entering Wyoming's labor market as an RN for the first time or permanently exiting Wyoming employment. A first time entry is comprised of two types of individuals. The first group are those who have worked in Wyoming in the past but appear for the first time in Wage Records as RNs after gaining a nursing license. Second are individuals who have never before appeared in Wage Records and enter Wyoming's labor market as an RN. A permanent exit is an RN who has worked in Wyoming as an RN, but whose employment never again appears in Wage Records.

Table 1 and Figure 2 show the first time entries, permanent exits, and the net flow of RNs who entered and left employment in Wyoming during the last decade. Specifically, Table 1 shows licensed RNs who appeared in Wage records for the first time in the given year (i.e., either relocated to Wyoming or became a licensed RN), licensed RNs who appear to have permanently exited Wyoming's labor force,

Table 1: First Time Entries, Permanent Exits, and Net Flow of Registered Nurses Working in Wyoming in All Industries, 1993-2000

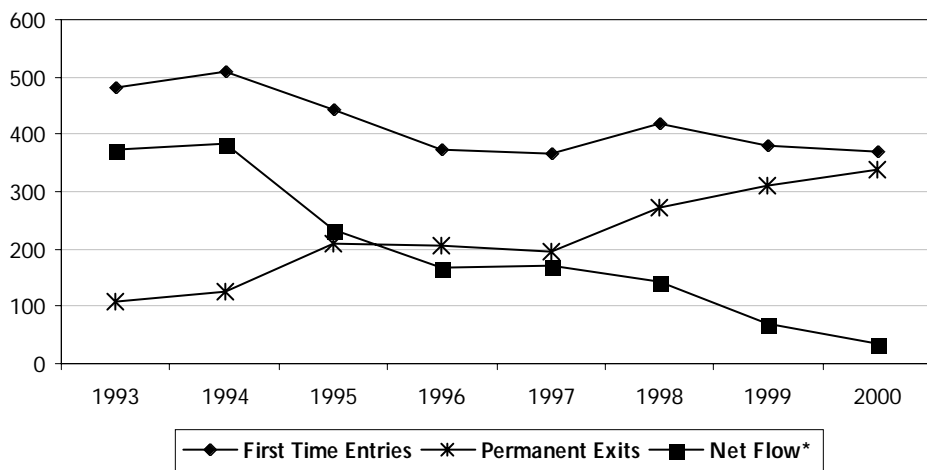
Year	First Time Entries	Permanent Exits	Net Flow*
1993	483	109	374
1994	508	125	383
1995	442	208	234
1996	372	205	167
1997	368	197	171
1998	417	273	144
1999	379	310	69
2000	371	337	34

*Net Flow is defined as initial entries minus permanent exits.

and the net flow (defined as initial entries minus permanent exits).

Table 1 indicates that the number of entries of RNs in the state from 1993 to 2000 has gradually declined, while the number of RNs leaving the state has steadily increased. While the net flow still

Figure 2: First Time Entries, Permanent Exits, and Net Flow of Registered Nurses Working in Wyoming in All Industries, 1993 - 2000



*Net Flow is defined as initial entries minus permanent exits.

shows more RNs entering than leaving, it appears that within the next few years these trends will converge with the number of exits equaling the number of entries. As discussed in Part One of this series,⁸ from 1998 to 2008 the number of RNs is expected to increase approximately 13 percent, requiring an average of 48 new RN positions per year. The national RN shortage will continue to impact Wyoming, due to decreasing supply and an increase in projected demand.

Conclusions

The findings suggest that Wyoming's nursing shortage is likely to worsen due to multiple factors. Declining nursing program enrollments nationwide and, specifically, the decline in the number of graduates with RN degrees from Wyoming-based institutions mean that fewer new RNs will enter Wyoming's workforce. Meanwhile, the increased demand for RNs throughout the country and vacancies due to retirements will make it more difficult to retain RNs in Wyoming. These trends are further supported by Section II of this article, which shows a decline in the number of RNs entering Wyoming and an increase in the number leaving the state over the last decade. If current trends continue, more Wyoming RNs will leave than enter Wyoming employment.

While this series only serves as a beginning, our intention is to demonstrate the power of using administrative databases to explore a current labor market issue. In sum, the findings support many of the conclusions of a General Accounting Office (GAO) report⁹ and extend the analysis using several methods developed by Research & Planning.

⁸Tony Glover, "Nursing in Wyoming, Part One: Supply and Retention," *Wyoming Labor Force*

Trends, September 2002, pp. 9-15 and "Nursing in Wyoming, Part Two: Turnover," *Trends*, October 2002, pp. 1-7.

²Wage Records is an administrative database. Each employer in the state that has employees covered under Unemployment Insurance, by law, must submit quarterly tax reports to the state showing each employee's Social Security Number and wages earned. Wage Records does not include employees of federal hospitals.

³Figure 1 of this article summarizes data from a much more detailed table in "Nursing: Supply Shortage or Retention Issue?" available on our website at <<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/staff/RNsWy.pdf>>. The detailed table includes data on prior industry of employment as well as the experience level of the Registered Nurses.

⁴Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 806 includes medical and surgical hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and other speciality hospitals providing extensive medical treatment and continuous nursing services.

⁵The other states used in this analysis are Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

⁶Experience is documented in the article "Nursing: Supply Shortage or Retention Issue?" at <<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/staff/RNsWy.pdf>>.

⁷Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 801 through 805. These include offices and clinics of doctors of medicine and osteopathy; offices and clinics of dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, and other health practitioners; and nursing and personal care facilities.

⁸Tony Glover, "Nursing in Wyoming, Part One: Supply and Retention," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, September 2002, pp. 9-15.

⁹U.S. General Accounting Office, "Nursing Workforce: Emerging Nurse Shortages Due to Multiple Factors," *GAO Report GAO-01-944*, July 10, 2001, <<http://www.gao.gov>> (September 10, 2002).



Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2002

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

tables by: *Nancy Brennan, Economist*

“The largest increase in average weekly wage occurred in Professional & Technical Services (\$59 or 9.8%).”

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment¹ increased by 1,583 jobs or 0.6 percent during third quarter 2002 compared to third quarter 2001. Third quarter's employment increase is significantly lower than the five-year average growth of 1.8 percent, signaling a slowdown in job growth in Wyoming (see Table 1). Job losses occurred primarily in Mining (especially support activities for mining) and Manufacturing. This overall slowdown in job growth has been seen in the Current Employment Statistics data for several months (see table on page 17). Total payroll increased by 3.4 percent, well below the five-year average of 5.9 percent. Average weekly wage increased by \$14 or 2.7 percent, also below its five-year average of 4.0 percent.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Sector

Each year approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they

have been assigned the correct North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. If it is found that an employer has changed primary business activity, a new NAICS code is assigned to reflect that change. Research staff also review employers' NAICS codes if the business is sold, incorporated, or otherwise changes ownership. In this manner, Research & Planning continuously ensures that employers are assigned to the correct sector category. However, such changes also make direct comparisons across years difficult, as large employers may have moved from one NAICS sector to another.

Table 2 (see page 7) shows that Accommodation & Food Services, Finance & Insurance, Administrative & Waste Services, and Health Care & Social Assistance created the largest number of jobs in third quarter. Accommodation & Food Services gained 1,437 jobs or 4.7 percent, although part of this increase was due to a non-economic code change. A firm that was previously classified in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (NAICS 71)

Table 1: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter, 1998-2002

	Average Monthly Employment		Total Wages		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
98Q3	1.0	2.0	5.5	2.0	5.1	0.5
99Q3	1.8	2.3	7.5	5.1	5.1	2.8
00Q3	2.4	1.8	3.8	1.5	1.3	-0.3
01Q3	3.1	2.2	9.0	2.3	5.7	0.1
02Q3	0.6	1.9	3.4	0.9	2.7	-1.0
5 Year Average for Q3	1.8	2.0	5.9	2.4	4.0	0.4

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2002 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	
	2001	2002	No.	%	2001	2002	Amount	%	2001	2002	Amt.	%
Total, All Sectors	245,145	246,728	1,583	0.6	\$1,681,611,150	\$1,738,113,485	\$56,502,335	3.4	\$528	\$542	\$14	2.7
Total Private	191,037	191,942	906	0.5	\$1,283,250,666	\$1,318,062,029	\$34,811,363	2.7	\$517	\$528	\$12	2.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting (11)	2,670	2,549	-121	-4.5	14,258,933	13,824,784	-434,149	-3.0	411	417	6	1.6
Mining (21)	18,993	18,169	-824	-4.3	243,325,696	241,511,898	-1,813,798	-0.7	985	1,022	37	3.8
Utilities (22)	2,089	2,134	45	2.2	30,107,746	31,275,552	1,167,806	3.9	1,109	1,128	19	1.7
Construction (23)	21,613	21,887	274	1.3	172,184,030	174,398,697	2,214,667	1.3	613	613	0	0.0
Manufacturing (31-33)	10,063	9,515	-548	-5.4	90,598,192	87,570,638	-3,027,554	-3.3	693	708	15	2.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	6,936	7,054	118	1.7	62,333,111	64,411,864	2,078,753	3.3	691	702	11	1.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	31,150	31,206	56	0.2	147,018,232	152,589,983	5,571,751	3.8	363	376	13	3.6
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	6,539	6,699	160	2.5	50,325,114	53,022,410	2,697,296	5.4	592	609	17	2.8
Information (51)	4,045	4,113	67	1.7	27,802,589	28,600,407	797,818	2.9	529	535	6	1.2
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,150	6,627	477	7.8	52,762,272	55,164,339	2,402,067	4.6	660	640	-20	-3.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,619	3,696	77	2.1	19,533,986	21,661,081	2,127,095	10.9	415	451	36	8.6
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,818	7,484	-334	-4.3	60,866,792	63,991,938	3,125,146	5.1	599	658	59	9.8
Management of Companies & Enterprises (55)	798	712	-86	-10.7	7,812,171	6,935,898	-876,273	-11.2	753	749	-4	-0.5
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	7,592	8,048	456	6.0	37,532,109	38,847,156	1,315,047	3.5	380	371	-9	-2.4
Educational Services (61)	1,111	1,146	35	3.1	6,054,256	6,219,823	165,567	2.7	419	417	-2	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	17,513	17,917	404	2.3	117,323,213	127,231,023	9,907,810	8.4	515	546	31	6.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	3,759	3,158	-601	-16.0	13,796,391	11,045,469	-2,750,922	-19.9	282	269	-13	-4.7
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	30,660	32,097	1,437	4.7	88,187,807	98,956,253	10,768,446	12.2	221	237	16	7.2
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	7,921	7,731	-189	-2.4	41,428,026	40,802,816	-625,210	-1.5	402	406	4	0.9
Total Government	54,108	54,786	678	1.3	\$398,360,484	\$420,051,456	\$21,690,972	5.4	\$566	\$590	\$23	4.1
Federal Government	8,130	8,265	135	1.7	82,543,364	85,526,922	2,983,558	3.6	781	796	15	1.9
State Government	12,218	12,510	292	2.4	106,689,021	113,204,364	6,515,343	6.1	672	696	24	3.6
Local Government	33,760	34,010	250	0.7	209,128,099	221,320,170	12,192,071	5.8	476	501	24	5.1

was reclassified into Accommodation & Food Services (NAICS 72). Finance & Insurance added 477 jobs or 7.8 percent. A significant part of this increase is due to code changes and does not reflect an actual increase in the number of jobs. Sector codes are changed because businesses sometimes find a more profitable niche in the economy, diversify as they grow, or become more specialized.

On the other hand, real employment increases were seen in the finance sector. Also, Administrative & Waste Services grew by 456 jobs or 6.0 percent, although part of this increase was due to a non-economic code change. Health Care & Social Assistance grew by 404 jobs or 2.3 percent during third quarter. Strong gains were seen in two sub-sectors, ambulatory health care services (150 jobs) and social assistance (150 jobs).

Wholesale Trade grew significantly during third quarter, adding 118 jobs or

1.7 percent, part of which was related to the reclassification of a firm from Manufacturing to Wholesale Trade.

Manufacturing employment decreased by 548 jobs or 5.4 percent because of job losses in many subsectors, especially food manufacturing and chemical manufacturing. Manufacturing employment also fell because of the reclassification of firms into other sectors, such as Wholesale Trade.

Mining employment fell by 824 jobs or 4.3 percent during third quarter. Strong gains in coal mining were overshadowed by job losses in support activities for mining (-900 jobs) and oil & gas extraction (-300 jobs).

The employment decrease in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (-601 jobs or 16.0 percent) was primarily the result of reclassification of firms to other sectors (such as Accommodation & Food Services,

which increased by 1,437 jobs or 4.7 percent) rather than layoffs or other economic events. Similarly, Professional & Technical Services, Management of Companies & Enterprises, Administrative & Waste Services, Private Educational Services, and Other Services were affected by the reclassification of relatively large firms.

Average weekly wage increased \$14 or 2.7 percent. The largest increase in average weekly wage occurred in Professional & Technical Services (\$59 or 9.8%). Within Professional & Technical Services, the largest wage increases were in legal services and computer systems design & related services. Wages in Mining increased by \$37 (3.8%), partly as a result of employment increases in the higher-paying coal mining sector and employment decreases in the slightly lower-paid support activities for mining. Real Estate & Rental & Leasing wages increased by \$36 (8.6%) during third quarter.

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 3 (see page 9), employment increased in 16 of Wyoming's 23 counties during third quarter. In an effort to increase data quality, the Covered Employment and Wages unit has recently contacted many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within counties. This has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation (-3,401 jobs or -30.7 percent), and corresponding increases in many counties throughout the state. While the long-run result will be higher-quality data, initially some of the employment increases at the county level may simply be interpreted as more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs.

Laramie County employment grew by 1,871 jobs or 5.1 percent. Significant job gains occurred in State Government, Construction, Retail Trade, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services. Manufacturing employment fell slightly.

Natrona County added 742 jobs or 2.3 percent when compared to third quarter 2001. Job gains in Construction, Retail Trade, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services were partially offset by losses in Local Government, Mining, and Manufacturing.

Sheridan County grew by 609 jobs or 5.5 percent as jobs were added across the economy. Growth was particularly strong in Local Government, Mining, Administrative & Waste Services, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Uinta County added 552 jobs or 6.4 percent during third quarter mainly because of job gains in Mining, Construction, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Campbell County grew more slowly than in previous quarters, adding 416 jobs or 2.0 percent. Mining, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, and Professional & Technical Services all added jobs, while Construction employment fell significantly.

Employment fell by 124 jobs or 2.9 percent in Converse County. Job losses in Mining and Local Government were only partially offset by gains in Construction, Manufacturing, and Retail Trade.

Albany County lost 89 jobs or 0.6 percent during third quarter. Employment fell in Construction and Retail Trade, but

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2002 by Region and County

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2001	2002	No.	%	2001	2002	Amount	%	2001	2002	Amt.	%
TOTAL	245,145	246,728	1,583	0.6	\$1,681,611,150	\$1,738,113,485	\$56,502,335	3.4	\$528	\$542	\$14	2.7
NORTHWEST	37,478	37,935	458	1.2	\$222,037,031	\$229,620,456	\$7,583,425	3.4	\$456	\$466	\$10	2.2
Big Horn	4,158	4,100	-57	-1.4	27,541,743	27,552,605	10,862	0.0	510	517	7	1.4
Fremont	14,574	14,713	139	1.0	83,563,572	87,171,265	3,607,693	4.3	441	456	15	3.3
Hot Springs	2,097	2,018	-79	-3.8	10,891,057	10,886,456	-4,601	0.0	400	415	15	3.9
Park	13,194	13,551	357	2.7	78,112,094	81,306,914	3,194,820	4.1	455	462	6	1.4
Washakie	3,456	3,554	98	2.8	21,928,565	22,703,216	774,651	3.5	488	491	3	0.7
NORTHEAST	38,824	40,190	1,366	3.5	\$299,836,735	\$313,110,797	\$13,274,062	4.4	\$594	\$599	\$5	0.9
Campbell	20,836	21,252	416	2.0	193,833,979	198,094,306	4,260,327	2.2	716	717	1	0.2
Crook	1,963	2,028	65	3.3	11,780,244	12,512,055	731,811	6.2	462	475	13	2.8
Johnson	2,807	3,023	216	7.7	14,611,884	15,890,744	1,278,860	8.8	400	404	4	1.0
Sheridan	11,007	11,616	609	5.5	66,024,161	71,686,568	5,662,407	8.6	461	475	13	2.9
Weston	2,210	2,270	60	2.7	13,586,467	14,927,124	1,340,657	9.9	473	506	33	7.0
SOUTHWEST	55,509	56,219	709	1.3	\$399,134,281	\$414,181,037	\$15,046,756	3.8	\$553	\$567	\$14	2.5
Lincoln	5,631	5,628	-3	-0.1	34,318,023	34,373,887	55,864	0.2	469	470	1	0.2
Sublette	2,589	2,764	175	6.8	15,595,776	17,505,619	1,909,843	12.2	463	487	24	5.1
Sweetwater	18,861	18,804	-57	-0.3	165,002,428	166,143,295	1,140,867	0.7	673	680	7	1.0
Teton	19,858	19,900	42	0.2	128,221,381	134,312,740	6,091,359	4.8	497	519	22	4.5
Uinta	8,570	9,122	552	6.4	55,996,673	61,845,496	5,848,823	10.4	503	522	19	3.8
SOUTHEAST	58,984	60,802	1,818	3.1	\$386,000,881	\$416,856,042	\$30,855,161	8.0	\$503	\$527	\$24	4.8
Albany	14,216	14,128	-89	-0.6	89,509,464	94,108,566	4,599,102	5.1	484	512	28	5.8
Goshen	3,864	3,891	27	0.7	20,720,466	21,987,710	1,267,244	6.1	412	435	22	5.4
Laramie	36,797	38,669	1,871	5.1	252,300,546	275,700,256	23,399,710	9.3	527	548	21	4.0
Niobrara	810	785	-25	-3.1	3,873,722	3,942,887	69,165	1.8	368	387	19	5.1
Platte	3,296	3,329	33	1.0	19,596,683	21,116,623	1,519,940	7.8	457	488	31	6.7
CENTRAL	43,265	43,899	634	1.5	\$286,891,297	\$295,387,983	\$8,496,686	3.0	\$510	\$518	\$8	1.5
Carbon	6,609	6,626	17	0.3	39,614,366	40,087,992	473,626	1.2	461	465	4	0.9
Converse	4,340	4,215	-124	-2.9	28,072,819	27,219,130	-853,689	-3.0	498	497	-1	-0.2
Natrona	32,316	33,058	742	2.3	219,204,112	228,080,861	8,876,749	4.0	522	531	9	1.7
Nonclassified*	11,085	7,683	-3,401	-30.7	\$87,710,925	\$68,957,170	-\$18,753,755	-21.4	\$609	\$690	\$82	13.4

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

increased significantly in Accommodation & Food Services.

Hot Springs County employment fell by 79 jobs or 3.8 percent in third quarter. Jobs were lost in Construction, Manufacturing, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Big Horn County lost 57 jobs or 1.4 percent during third quarter. Employment fell in Mining and Manufacturing.

Average weekly wage increased in all but one Wyoming county. The largest increase occurred in Weston County where wages increased by \$33 or 7.0 percent. Transportation & Warehousing was the largest contributor to higher wages. Platte County average wages increased by \$31 or 6.7 percent.

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



Employment Outcomes for [Nebraska] College Graduates*

by: Mary Findlay, *Economic Trends*, Nebraska Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Center

Last month Research & Planning presented an article called “The Community College Connection: Labor Market Outcomes.” It explored how Wyoming community colleges meet the educational and employment goals of their graduates. The article is a summary of the publication ***Connecting Business and the Wyoming Community College System: A Study of Employment Outcomes of 2001 Graduates from Wyoming Community Colleges***. Wyoming is not the only state interested in employment outcomes of college graduates. The following article looks at some of the research results from Nebraska’s Employment Outcomes Project.

How much are recent graduates of Nebraska community and state colleges making? This is one question many people in the state would like to have answered. Prospective students planning their education need information to help select a college. Colleges and regulating commissions need the information to improve education and training programs in the state. Workforce Investment Boards, economic developers, and policy makers need information on labor supply to help meet the needs of businesses in Nebraska.

Results from the Employment Outcomes Project are giving a clearer picture of recent graduates’ earnings, industry employment, and work location. Questions answered by the project include:

- Which majors produce graduates most likely to be employed in Nebraska?
- Which majors produce graduates with the highest wages?
- What industries employ recent graduates?
- In which counties are graduates employed?

The Workforce Investment Act provided the impetus for the partnership that

developed between the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education [CCPE], Nebraska Workforce Development, and Nebraska’s state and community colleges. The Workforce Investment Act requires states to develop a system of consumer information and the outcomes information fills that bill. Now that processes have been worked out, other education and training providers are being invited to participate.

All of Nebraska’s community colleges and Wayne and Chadron State Colleges participated in the initial Employment Outcomes Project. Unemployment Insurance wage files were queried to see how many graduates from July 1999 - June 2000 were found working in Nebraska during January through March of 2001. Annual earnings estimates were calculated from this snapshot and reported in the aggregate to protect individuals’ privacy.

- Overall, 77% of community college graduates and 55% of state college graduates were located in Nebraska wage records
- For state college graduates, General Business Administration & Management and Elementary

Teacher Education were the majors producing the highest number of Bachelors Degree graduates with 228 and 140 graduates respectively. Business Administration graduates earned an estimated average annual wage of \$22,319 while Elementary Education graduates averaged \$18,034. At the Masters level, Business Administration graduates averaged \$50,869 and Elementary Education graduates earned an average of \$40,939.

- Elementary, Middle & Secondary Education Administration Post-Masters graduates earned the highest estimated average annual wages (\$52,378) of the state college graduates.
- For community colleges, Liberal Arts & Sciences produced the highest number (387) of Associate Degree graduates. General Business Administration & Management produced the second highest number (346) of Associate Degree graduates. Liberal Arts & Sciences graduates earned an estimated average annual wage of \$11,167 while the Business Administration graduates earned

\$18,275. Liberal Arts & Sciences programs are generally for transfer to four-year colleges and universities rather than being career entry degrees.

- Community college graduates in health professions, including Surgical/Operating Room Technician, Respiratory Therapy Technician, Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant, Clinical and Medical Social Work, and Nursing (R.N. Training) are very likely to remain working in Nebraska. In each of these majors, 90% or more of the graduates were found working in Nebraska.
- Community college graduates in eight different fields of study earned average annual wages of \$30,000 or more. Three Industrial/Manufacturing Technology/Technician graduates earned [an] average of \$46,001.
- Graduates from the community colleges are likely to be working in the county where the college is located. The largest number of Western Nebraska Community College graduates were working in

Degree	Graduates	Found in Nebraska Wage Records		Estimated Average Annual Wage
		Number	Percent	
Less Than One Year Award	376	282	75%	\$16,884
Between One and Two Year Award	503	397	79%	\$17,741
Associates Degree	3,565	2,763	78%	\$21,346
Total All Community Colleges	4,444	3,442	77%	--
Bachelors Degree	923	500	54%	\$20,355
Masters Degree	134	78	58%	\$35,429
Post Masters Degree	5	4	80%	\$52,378
Total Chadron and Wayne State Colleges	1,062	582	55%	--

The majority of graduates from Nebraska's community colleges and Chadron and Wayne State Colleges were found in Nebraska wage records. Those with higher levels of education tend to earn higher average wages. One exception is that graduates with an associates degree average slightly higher annual earnings than those with a Bachelor's degree.

Scotts Bluff County, MidPlains graduates were working in Lincoln County, Central graduates were working in Hall and Adams counties, Northeast graduates were working in Madison County, Southeast graduates were working in Lancaster County, and Metropolitan graduates were working in Douglas County.

- In general, as the level of education increases, wages increase. One exception was that graduates with Associates Degrees earn approximately \$1,000 more per year than Bachelors Degrees graduates. [See Table, page 11.]

What are our plans for the future?

Possibilities include future wage matches on this cohort of graduates to find out how many are staying in Nebraska and earnings gained over a specific amount of time. Mapping the counties of employment illustrates the need to obtain employment and wage information from our neighboring states. This is an option that may be pursued in the future. Some files have included demographic information and this could be mined to produce reports that incorporate gender, race and ethnic background.

This consumer reports system includes education and training programs plus outcomes information on as many programs as possible. The Workforce Investment Act specifically identifies using Unemployment Insurance wage records as an accurate, inexpensive, and confidential source of outcomes data. Concerns about individual student privacy were addressed and resolved in the procedures for outcomes measurement.

Confidentiality:

The U.S. Departments of Education and

Labor published a joint memorandum on the interpretation that sharing individual student social security numbers with state labor agencies was permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The memo, while allowing educational authorities, such as CCPE to share the data with state labor agencies, explained the limitations on the exception:

- allowing limited use of data [for] Workforce Investment Act (WIA) purposes only;
- utilizing privacy protections of data during the handling and manipulation processes,
- destroying the data when no [longer] needed,
- (educational institutions) placing a record into each graduate/completer student file that the data had been released for WIA purposes.

An agreement between the Commission and the Department of Labor defines the procedures for protecting individually identifiable information. Information on the employment outcomes project methodology may be obtained by contacting Mary Findlay at mfindlay@dol.state.ne.us. Limitations of the data may be obtained by clicking on **Stuff You Should Know in Nebraska** TrainingLink.

*Used with permission. Originally published in the January 2003 edition of **Economic Trends**, a monthly publication produced by the Nebraska Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Center. The original article can be viewed at http://www.dol.state.ne.us/nwd/pdf/lmitrends/ET_Jan2003.pdf.



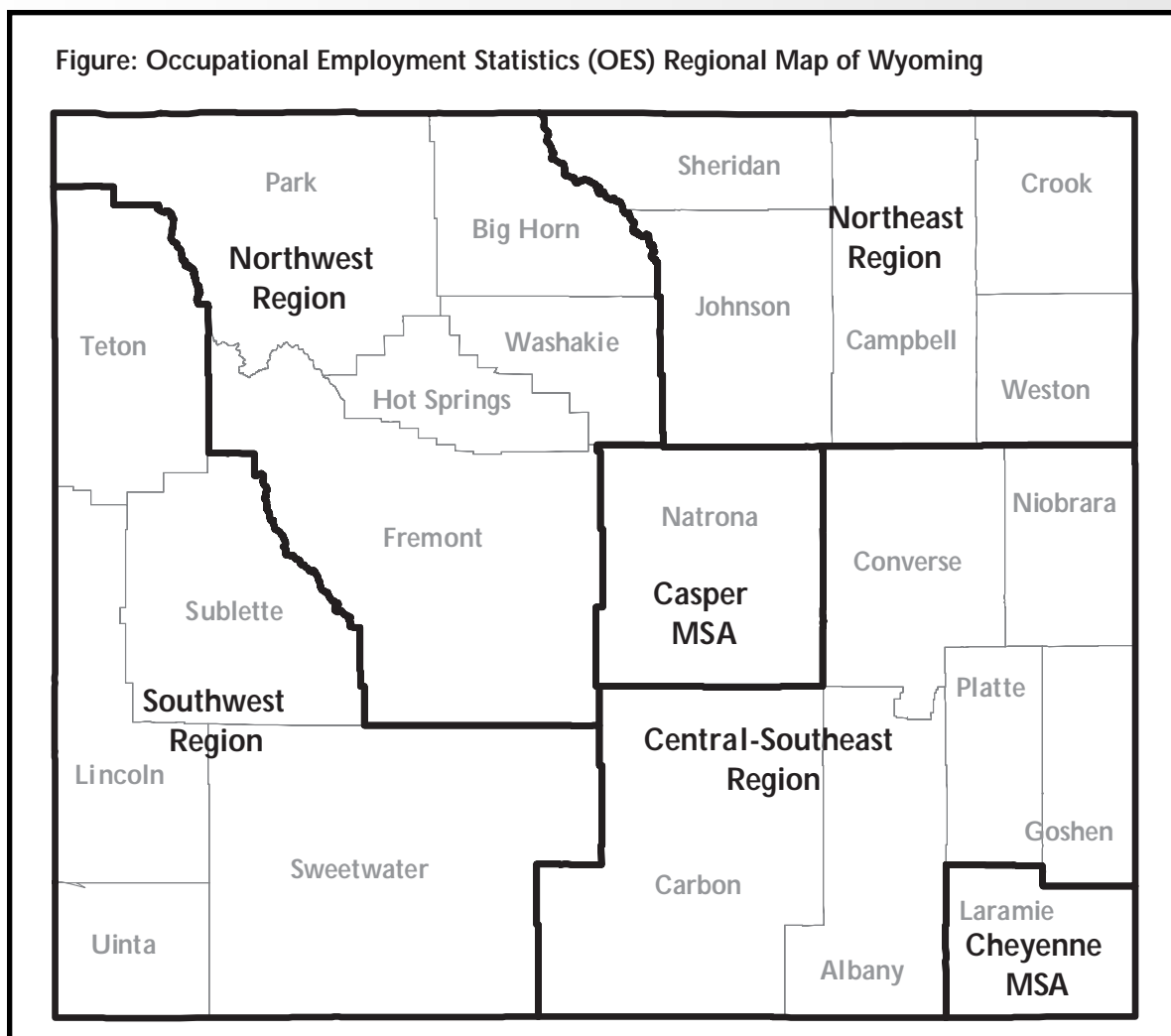
A Preview of Our New Projections Publication

by: Susan Murray, Statistical Technician

Research & Planning's (R&P) forthcoming biannual projections publication **Employment Outlook: 2010** presents baseline statewide and regional employment and population projections. New to this publication are sub-state regional projections, and projections for Wyoming's two Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Casper and Cheyenne (see Figure). The following employment data are a summary of the sub-state labor market information contained in the publication.

Analysis of Casper MSA and Cheyenne MSA Growth

During most of the 1990s, employment in the Casper MSA was nearly stagnant (0.8% annual growth), but it grew steadily during the latter part of the decade (2.1% annual growth from 1997 to 2000). Annual employment growth in the Cheyenne MSA was rapid in the early 1990s (2.2% from 1990 to 1995), relatively inactive from approximately 1996 to 1997 (0.5%), and then resumed its previous growth rate of



2.2 percent from 1998 to 2000. The Cheyenne MSA is projected to have the highest annual growth rate (1.8%) of any region through the 2000 to 2010 forecast period because of its sizable population base and proximity to larger metropolitan areas in Colorado (see Table). From 1990 to 2000 the Cheyenne MSA employment mirrored the annual growth rate of the state as a whole (1.9%). However, the statewide average annual growth is projected to slow slightly to 1.5 percent, closely echoed by the Casper MSA (1.6% projected annual growth).

While overall industry growth rates in the Casper and Cheyenne MSAs are similar, the Cheyenne MSA growth rates in Manufacturing and TCPU outpace the Casper MSA's. The MSAs are two of three regions projected to exceed the statewide Manufacturing annual average employment growth. Growth prospects for both of the

MSAs are better than the statewide average in two of the fastest growing divisions, Retail Trade and Services. Casper MSA employment is expected to increase by 5,436 jobs to 36,753 in 2010. Of those new jobs, 3,587 or 65.9 percent are expected to be in the Services industry. Employment in the Cheyenne MSA is projected to increase by 6,977 jobs to 43,074, with 3,634 jobs added in Services (52.1% of the increase) and 1,526 in Retail Trade (21.8% of the increase).

Conclusion

The complete publication, planned for release in May, will include further analysis of employment and industry growth statewide and by region. In addition it will contain historical and projected data on Wyoming's resident population, and an examination of the fluid nature of Wyoming's labor supply.



Table: Wyoming Regional Employment Forecast, 1990 to 2010

Region	1990 Level	2000 Level	2010 Level	Difference 1990-2000	Difference 2000-2010	Annual Change 1990-2000	Annual Change 2000-2010
Statewide	190,400	229,886	266,149	39,486	36,263	1.9%	1.5%
Central-Southeast	29,517	32,939	34,651	3,422	1,712	1.1%	0.5%
Northeast	29,418	36,378	42,877	6,960	6,499	2.1%	1.7%
Northwest	29,546	34,680	38,525	5,134	3,845	1.6%	1.1%
Southwest	41,871	50,059	58,744	8,188	8,685	1.8%	1.6%
Casper MSA*	27,730	31,317	36,753	3,587	5,436	1.2%	1.6%
Cheyenne MSA*	29,860	36,097	43,074	6,237	6,977	1.9%	1.8%

*Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Reminder:

Current and back issues of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, as well as many of our other publications, are available on our website at <<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/>>.

Wyoming Employment Growth Rate Inches Upward in February

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming employment growth (measured on an over-the-year basis) increased to 0.8 percent in February, while the U.S. continued to lose jobs (-206,000 jobs or -0.2%).* Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged at 4.1 percent in February, well below U.S. unemployment of 5.8 percent. Wyoming's civilian labor force (the sum of all employed and unemployed individuals) grew by a healthy 1.6 percent over the year.

From January to February, Wyoming added 400 jobs (0.2%). Seasonal decreases appeared in Construction (-200 jobs or -1.1%), Manufacturing (-400 jobs or -4.3%), and Retail Trade (-500 jobs or -1.7%). As expected, employment increased in Government (800 jobs or 1.3%), Leisure & Hospitality (500 jobs or 1.9%), and Professional & Business Services (300 jobs or 2.1%).

Wyoming employment grew by 1,800 jobs or 0.8 percent when compared to February 2002. During the previous six months, over-the-year employment growth has ranged from 0.0 to 0.7 percent. Despite a slow national economy and job losses in Natural Resources & Mining (-800 jobs or -4.4%), Manufacturing (-200 jobs or -2.2%), and Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities (-200 jobs or -1.8%), many sectors added jobs in February. The largest over-the-year gains were in Construction (800 jobs or 4.7%), Retail Trade (500 jobs or 1.8%), Financial Activities (400 jobs or 4.1%), and Government (1,000 jobs or 1.6%). After years of rapid growth, Educational & Health Services job gains slowed to a mere 100 workers or 0.5 percent in February.

Most county unemployment rates changed little in February. However, large increases in unemployment were seen in Niobrara County (up from 3.5% in February 2002 to 5.3% in February 2003), Johnson County (up from 3.4% to 4.9%), Converse County (up from 5.0% to 6.2%), and Campbell County (up from 3.7% to 4.7%). Unemployment decreased significantly in Hot Springs County (down from 6.7% to 4.9%), Big Horn County (down from 7.7% to 6.2%), and Washakie County (down from 6.8% to 5.6%). Lincoln and Fremont counties posted the highest unemployment rates (both 7.9%).

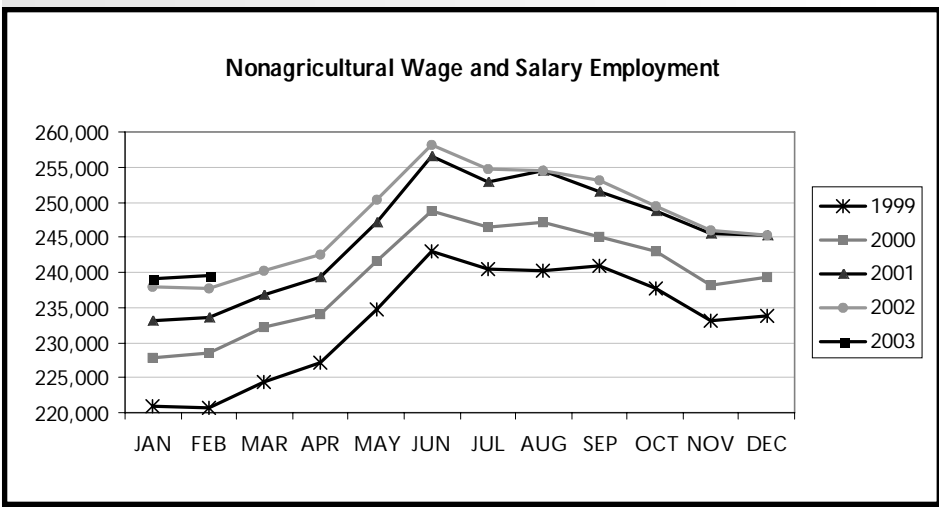
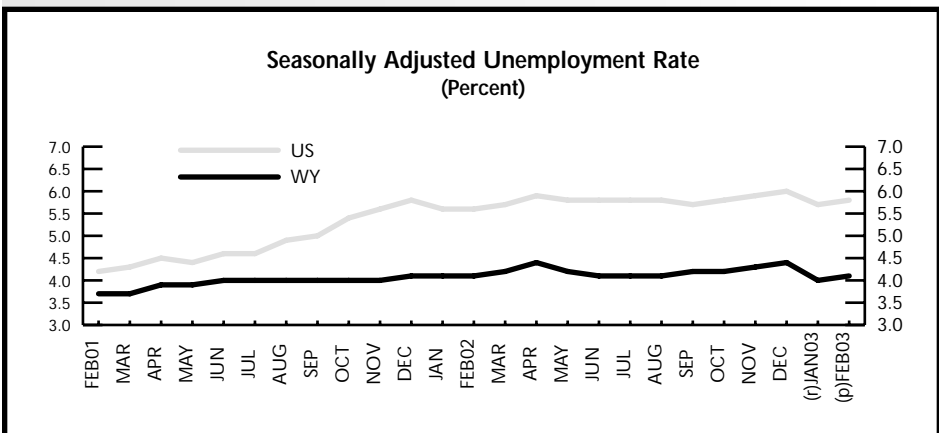
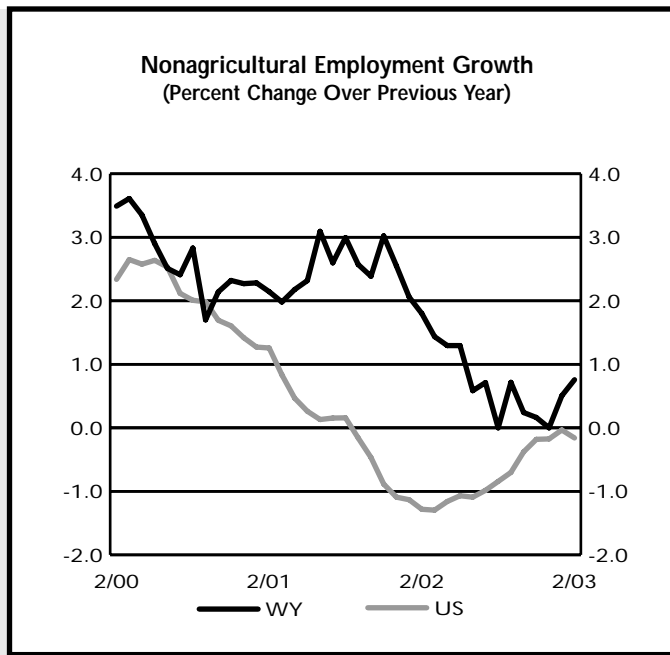
*For details on U.S. employment, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <<http://stats.bls.gov/>>.

State Unemployment Rates February 2003 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.0
Oregon	7.3
Alaska	7.0
Washington	6.8
California	6.6
Michigan	6.6
Texas	6.6
District of Columbia	6.5
Illinois	6.5
Pennsylvania	6.2
South Carolina	6.2
New York	6.1
Mississippi	6.0
Ohio	6.0
West Virginia	5.9
New Mexico	5.8
North Carolina	5.8
United States	5.8
Arizona	5.7
Louisiana	5.7
New Jersey	5.7
Kentucky	5.6
Alabama	5.5
Colorado	5.5
Idaho	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Utah	5.3
Wisconsin	5.3
Florida	5.2
Oklahoma	5.1
Rhode Island	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
Nevada	5.0
Arkansas	4.9
Indiana	4.9
Missouri	4.7
Tennessee	4.7
Kansas	4.6
Maine	4.6
Georgia	4.5
Minnesota	4.3
Maryland	4.2
Virginia	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Iowa	4.0
Montana	4.0
Vermont	4.0
New Hampshire	3.8
Delaware	3.7
North Dakota	3.6
Nebraska	3.5
South Dakota	3.3
Hawaii	3.0

**State Unemployment Rates
February 2003
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.5
Alaska	8.7
Oregon	8.6
Washington	7.5
Michigan	7.2
Illinois	7.1
District of Columbia	7.0
Pennsylvania	7.0
California	6.9
West Virginia	6.8
Idaho	6.7
New York	6.7
Ohio	6.6
South Carolina	6.6
Texas	6.6
Kentucky	6.5
United States	6.4
Wisconsin	6.4
North Carolina	6.3
Rhode Island	6.2
Mississippi	6.1
New Jersey	5.9
Colorado	5.8
Louisiana	5.8
Utah	5.8
Arkansas	5.7
Massachusetts	5.7
New Mexico	5.7
Alabama	5.6
Oklahoma	5.6
Arizona	5.5
Connecticut	5.5
Indiana	5.5
Maine	5.5
Nevada	5.3
Montana	5.2
Vermont	5.2
Wyoming	5.2
Missouri	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Florida	5.0
Kansas	5.0
Minnesota	4.9
Iowa	4.8
Maryland	4.6
Georgia	4.5
Delaware	4.4
North Dakota	4.4
Virginia	4.3
New Hampshire	4.1
Nebraska	3.9
South Dakota	3.8
Hawaii	3.0



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“After years of rapid growth, Educational & Health Services job gains slowed to a mere 100 workers or 0.5 percent in February.”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Feb03(p)	Jan03(r)	Feb02	Jan 03	Feb 02
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	239.5	239.1	237.7	0.2	0.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	176.2	176.6	175.4	-0.2	0.5
GOODS PRODUCING	44.0	44.6	44.2	-1.3	-0.5
Natural Resources & Mining	17.3	17.3	18.1	0.0	-4.4
Mining	17.2	17.2	17.9	0.0	-3.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	-3.0
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.5	7.5	7.4	0.0	1.4
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1
Support Activities for Mining	6.5	6.6	7.2	-1.5	-9.7
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	4.7	4.8	5.2	-2.1	-9.6
Construction	17.8	18.0	17.0	-1.1	4.7
Construction of Buildings	4.4	4.6	4.4	-4.3	0.0
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	4.3	4.4	4.0	-2.3	7.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.1	9.0	8.6	1.1	5.8
Manufacturing	8.9	9.3	9.1	-4.3	-2.2
Durable Goods	4.7	4.9	4.7	-4.1	0.0
Non-Durable Goods	4.2	4.4	4.4	-4.5	-4.5
SERVICE PROVIDING	195.5	194.5	193.5	0.5	1.0
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	46.6	47.1	46.4	-1.1	0.4
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.8	7.0	1.5	-1.4
Merchant Whlsrs., Durable Goods	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0
Retail Trade	28.9	29.4	28.4	-1.7	1.8
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.4	2.5	2.1	-4.0	14.3
Food & Beverage Stores	4.9	5.0	4.9	-2.0	0.0
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Gasoline Stations	3.9	4.0	4.2	-2.5	-7.1
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.4	5.2	-1.9	1.9
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	10.8	10.9	11.0	-0.9	-1.8
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	8.7	8.8	8.9	-1.1	-2.2
Truck Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	6.5
Information	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0
Financial Activities	10.1	10.0	9.7	1.0	4.1
Finance & Insurance	6.7	6.7	6.5	0.0	3.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	6.2
Professional & Business Services	14.7	14.4	14.8	2.1	-0.7
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.2	7.2	7.4	0.0	-2.7
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.1	2.0	2.2	5.0	-4.5
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	6.8	6.5	6.7	4.6	1.5
Educational & Health Services	19.8	20.0	19.7	-1.0	0.5
Educational	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	18.0	18.2	17.8	-1.1	1.1
Ambulatory Health Care	6.7	6.8	6.5	-1.5	3.1
Offices of Physicians	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6
Hospitals	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0
Social Assistance	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality	27.3	26.8	27.0	1.9	1.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.3	2.2	2.1	4.5	9.5
Accommodation & Food Services	25.0	24.6	24.9	1.6	0.4
Accommodation	8.6	8.4	8.6	2.4	0.0
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	16.4	16.2	16.3	1.2	0.6
Other Services	9.5	9.4	9.4	1.1	1.1
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	63.3	62.5	62.3	1.3	1.6
Federal Government	6.8	6.8	6.7	0.0	1.5
State Government	14.6	14.7	14.3	-0.7	2.1
State Govt. Education	5.6	5.7	5.4	-1.8	3.7
Local Government	41.9	41.0	41.3	2.2	1.5
Local Govt. Education	22.3	21.8	22.2	2.3	0.5
Hospitals	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Feb03(p)	Jan03(r)	Feb02	Jan 03	Feb 02
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.2	38.4	37.5	-0.5	1.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	26.0	26.2	25.5	-0.8	2.0
GOODS PRODUCING	3.7	3.9	3.6	-5.1	2.8
Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.3	2.4	2.1	-4.2	9.5
Manufacturing	1.4	1.5	1.5	-6.7	-6.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	34.5	34.5	33.9	0.0	1.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.2	8.2	7.6	0.0	7.9
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Retail Trade	5.4	5.6	5.0	-3.6	8.0
Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-3.0
Educational & Health Services	2.5	2.6	2.6	-3.8	-3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0
Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.2	12.2	12.0	0.0	1.7
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
State Government	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6
Local Government	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0

NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Feb03(p)	Jan03(r)	Feb02	Jan 03	Feb 02
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.0	32.7	32.5	0.9	1.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	27.3	27.2	26.9	0.4	1.5
GOODS PRODUCING	5.3	5.4	5.4	-1.9	-1.9
Natural Resources & Mining	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Construction	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	27.7	27.3	27.1	1.5	2.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.7	7.8	7.7	-1.3	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4.5	4.6	4.4	-2.2	2.3
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.7	0.0	11.8
Professional & Business Services	2.9	2.7	2.8	7.4	3.6
Educational & Health Services	4.2	4.1	4.2	2.4	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.0	7.1
Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.7	5.5	5.6	3.6	1.8
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.8	2.3
Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0

¹Current 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.

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Consumer prices (as measured by CPI-U) increased 3.0 percent from February 2002 to February 2003.”

	Feb 2003 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2002 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force ¹	271,588	269,126	267,219	0.9	1.6
Unemployed	14,070	13,623	13,915	3.3	1.1
Employed	257,518	255,503	253,304	0.8	1.7
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.2%/4.1%	5.1%/4.0%	5.2%/4.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	6.4%/5.8%	6.5%/5.7%	6.1%/5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,620,000	7,180,000	7,463,000	6.1	2.1
As a percent of all workers	5.6%	5.3%	5.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	450,000	449,000	375,000	0.2	20.0
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	5,061,000	5,135,000	4,514,000	-1.4	12.1
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$955.28	\$944.75	\$939.72	1.1	1.7
Average Weekly Hours	43.6	43.1	44.6	1.2	-2.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$767.90	\$755.04	\$761.90	1.7	0.8
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	41.9	42.9	0.5	-1.9
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$747.63	\$715.97	\$673.04	4.4	11.1
Average Weekly Hours	40.5	39.6	37.6	2.3	7.7
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$628.62	\$629.78	\$610.95	-0.2	2.9
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.5	40.3	-0.2	0.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated ²	23,866	24,794	18,114	-3.7	31.8
Benefits Paid	\$5,548,822	\$5,718,278	\$4,006,238	-3.0	38.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$232.50	\$230.63	\$221.16	0.8	5.1
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	215,747	215,827	215,273	0.0	0.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	183.1	181.7	177.8	0.8	3.0
Food & Beverages	178.9	178.1	176.4	0.4	1.4
Housing	183.2	182.3	178.5	0.5	2.6
Apparel	120.6	118.1	123.5	2.1	-2.3
Transportation	158.9	155.5	148.4	2.2	7.1
Medical Care	293.7	292.6	281.0	0.4	4.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	107.2	106.9	105.9	0.3	1.2
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	109.7	109.7	107.3	0.0	2.2
Other Goods & Services	297.5	296.5	290.2	0.3	2.5
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	137.8	135.5	128.4	1.7	7.3
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	105	93	117	12.9	-10.3
Valuation	\$16,466,000	\$14,055,000	\$19,531,000	17.2	-15.7
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	41	33	45	24.2	8.9

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“From February 2002 to February 2003, unemployment decreased significantly in Hot Springs, Big Horn, and Washakie counties.”

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2003 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2002 (b)	Feb 2003 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2002 (b)	Feb 2003 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2002 (b)	Feb 2003 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2002 (b)
NORTHWEST	45,855	45,407	45,716	42,827	42,342	42,429	3,028	3,065	3,287	6.6	6.8	7.2
Big Horn	5,767	5,739	5,722	5,408	5,360	5,284	359	379	438	6.2	6.6	7.7
Fremont	18,733	18,519	18,704	17,256	17,052	17,265	1,477	1,467	1,439	7.9	7.9	7.7
Hot Springs	2,235	2,193	2,353	2,125	2,092	2,195	110	101	158	4.9	4.6	6.7
Park	14,623	14,420	14,477	13,795	13,566	13,530	828	854	947	5.7	5.9	6.5
Washakie	4,497	4,536	4,460	4,243	4,272	4,155	254	264	305	5.6	5.8	6.8
NORTHEAST	47,701	47,007	46,927	45,289	44,837	44,876	2,412	2,170	2,051	5.1	4.6	4.4
Campbell	23,154	22,861	23,030	22,071	21,917	22,187	1,083	944	843	4.7	4.1	3.7
Crook	2,858	2,792	2,742	2,697	2,645	2,595	161	147	147	5.6	5.3	5.4
Johnson	3,889	3,814	3,745	3,697	3,637	3,618	192	177	127	4.9	4.6	3.4
Sheridan	14,424	14,237	14,129	13,627	13,487	13,360	797	750	769	5.5	5.3	5.4
Weston	3,376	3,303	3,281	3,197	3,151	3,116	179	152	165	5.3	4.6	5.0
SOUTHWEST	53,481	53,347	52,166	50,603	50,502	49,200	2,878	2,845	2,966	5.4	5.3	5.7
Lincoln	6,609	6,645	6,411	6,086	6,091	5,868	523	554	543	7.9	8.3	8.5
Sublette	3,338	3,316	3,220	3,236	3,209	3,120	102	107	100	3.1	3.2	3.1
Sweetwater	19,913	19,900	20,051	18,914	18,838	18,899	999	1,062	1,152	5.0	5.3	5.7
Teton	12,110	11,978	11,373	11,634	11,594	10,942	476	384	431	3.9	3.2	3.8
Uinta	11,511	11,508	11,111	10,733	10,770	10,371	778	738	740	6.8	6.4	6.7
SOUTHEAST	74,293	73,748	73,023	71,331	70,816	70,024	2,962	2,932	2,999	4.0	4.0	4.1
Albany	19,428	19,008	19,513	19,000	18,597	19,042	428	411	471	2.2	2.2	2.4
Goshen	6,168	6,085	6,130	5,853	5,763	5,805	315	322	325	5.1	5.3	5.3
Laramie	43,210	43,286	41,988	41,297	41,391	40,096	1,913	1,895	1,892	4.4	4.4	4.5
Niobrara	1,132	1,115	1,139	1,072	1,045	1,099	60	70	40	5.3	6.3	3.5
Platte	4,355	4,254	4,253	4,109	4,020	3,982	246	234	271	5.6	5.5	6.4
CENTRAL	50,258	49,616	49,390	47,469	47,005	46,777	2,789	2,611	2,613	5.5	5.3	5.3
Carbon	7,916	7,716	7,877	7,338	7,296	7,317	578	420	560	7.3	5.4	7.1
Converse	6,233	6,091	6,140	5,847	5,749	5,835	386	342	305	6.2	5.6	5.0
Natrona	36,109	35,809	35,373	34,284	33,960	33,625	1,825	1,849	1,748	5.1	5.2	4.9
STATEWIDE	271,588	269,126	267,219	257,518	255,503	253,304	14,070	13,623	13,915	5.2	5.1	5.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.1	4.0	4.1
U.S.....										6.4	6.5	6.1
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.8	5.7	5.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/03. Run Date 4/03.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2002 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.2 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.7 to 4.7 percent would contain the actual rate.

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