

TRENDS

Measuring the Impact of Wyoming's Workforce Development Training Fund

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

“Research findings indicate that Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) participants experience an average hourly wage increase following training.”

The primary purpose of this article is to introduce the Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) while providing an examination of the basic descriptive characteristics of WDTF grants and training participants. Additional objectives of this study include demonstrating whether WDTF participants remain within Wyoming after training and if they show a wage increase over time.

Research & Planning (R&P) identified WDTF participants in Wyoming Wage Records¹ and conducted a one-group pretest-posttest wage examination. Defined simply, our one-group pretest-posttest compares wages of program participants before and after training. Primary findings indicate that the demand for the WDTF has grown over time both in the number and total dollar value of grants awarded. Research findings also indicate that WDTF participants tend to be young, female, employed in the Services and Retail Trade industries, remain in Wyoming after training (at least for one year), and experience an average hourly wage increase following training.

Background Information

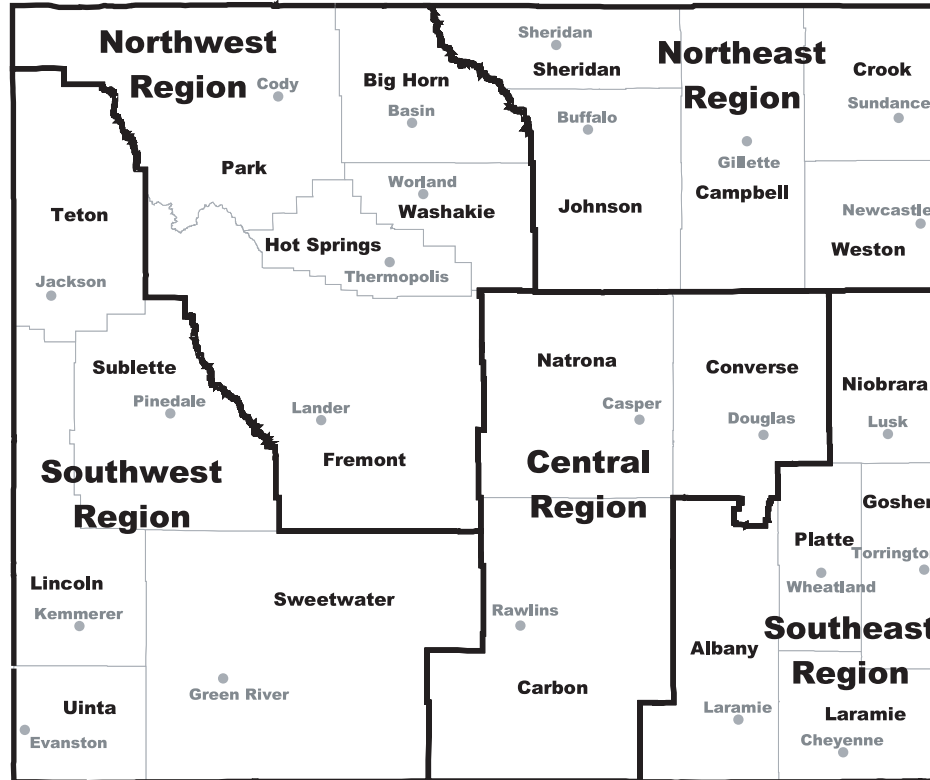
The Wyoming Workforce Development Council (WWDC)² is charged with creating a workforce development system that serves the needs of all Wyoming residents, students, and employers by integrating economic development, training, education, and

employment opportunities. Among other duties, the Council has oversight responsibilities for workforce programs in Wyoming. The WDTF is a major training program supported by the WWDC. The WDTF was created under Wyoming Statute §27-3-210 in 1997. Revenues to the fund are generated by the interest earned on deposits to the State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund³ and legislative appropriation. In 2001, the State Legislature appropriated \$3 million to this fund. The WDTF is responsible for assisting new and existing employers with the training needs of their employees.

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General Program Information

All employers, with the exception of governmental agencies, are eligible to apply for WDTF grants, including county hospitals. To qualify for a WDTF grant, an employer must be registered with the Wyoming UI program. Potential employers that are not yet registered with Wyoming UI may also qualify, but they must first register with the Secretary of State. The employer contractually agrees to provide jobs in Wyoming for the trainees at the end of the training program. These job holders must be paid at least 75 percent of either the county (in which the establishment is located or will locate) or the industry average weekly wage (as determined by the Department of Employment). In order to receive full reimbursement of the training expenses, the employer must retain the trainees for at least 90 days after the completion of training.

The grant application process is competitive. Published guidelines⁴ indicate that priority is given to employers that offer benefits and wages equal to or greater than the State average weekly wage. The Workforce Development Training Fund Training Grant Application and the regulations governing the training fund are available on the Department of Employment's web site at <<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/doe.asp?ID=342>>.

Data for the Study

Employer or firm level data used for this particular study focus on the 70 employer grant contracts that ended in fiscal years 1999 (FY99), 2000 (FY00), and 2001 (FY01).⁵ Fiscal year dates are from July 1 to June 30. To illustrate, FY99 ran from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999. Trainee level data for this study focus on the 862 reported WDTF trainees who completed participation during FY99 and FY00 only. This cutoff is used so that there are comparable Wage Records data for a period of one year after the quarter that participants ended their training (i.e., the second quarter of 2001). Wage Records data are used to determine if each trainee had wages in Wyoming and the amount of those wages.⁶

Distribution of Program Grants

The WDTF has grown steadily since its inception. Research conducted by R&P indicates that the number of training grants completed has more than doubled each year; 6 grants in FY99, 17 in FY00, and 47 in FY01. The dollar value of grants has also grown steadily from roughly \$225,000 for contracts ending in FY99 to almost \$700,000 for contracts ending in FY01. Figure 1 (see page 4) shows the growth in the number and dollar value of WDTF contracts for the three years.

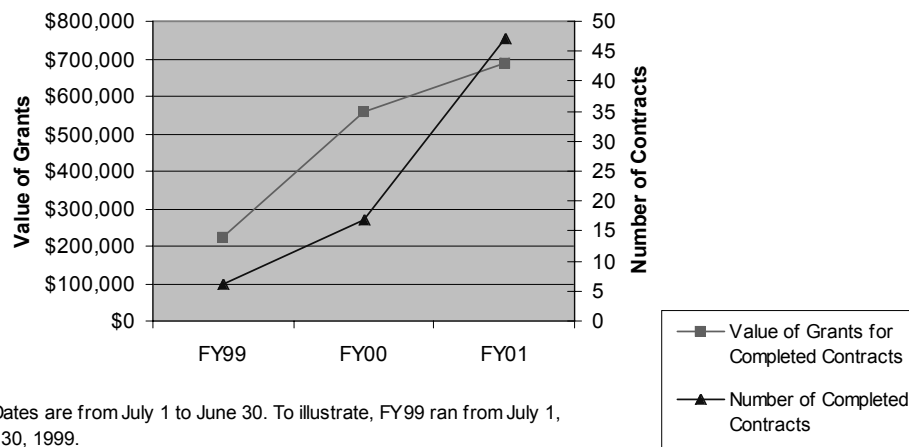
Table 1 (see page 5) illustrates the dollar value of WDTF grants awarded by county for contracts ending in fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001. Employers in more than half (13) of Wyoming's counties received WDTF grants during these three years. No employers in Carbon, Converse, Crook, Hot Springs, Johnson, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Washakie, or Weston counties received WDTF grants that ended during the FY99 to FY01 period.⁷ Of the total dollar value of grants for FY99 through FY01 (\$1,473,917), Uinta and Natrona counties received the most (29.5% and 26.5%, respectively). Albany County obtained 18.0 percent, and each of the other counties received less than 8 percent of the total grant value. At the regional level, the Southwest (30.1%), Southeast (26.7%), and Central (26.5%) regions all received fairly similar shares of the total value of WDTF grant dollars. In contrast, the Northwest (12.1%) and Northeast (4.6%) regions were awarded much smaller amounts of WDTF dollars in the same time period.

The variation in fund distribution may be due to the higher concentration of employers in the population centers in the Central (i.e., Casper) and Southeast (i.e., Cheyenne) regions. However, given that the WDTF is a relatively new program, the unbalanced distribution of awarded grants may be due to a lack of awareness of WDTF grant availability.

Study of Program Participants

A total of 862 individuals participated in work-related training supported by the WDTF

**Figure 1: Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund Grant Summary
Information for Contracts Ending in Fiscal Years* 1999, 2000, and 2001**



in FY99 to FY00. As shown in Table 2 (see page 5), these participants tended to be young, and more than half of them (54.8%) were female.⁸ Over one-third (37.0%) of these participants were less than 25 years old, another 26.3 percent were between 25-34 years old, and only 2.9 percent were 55 or older. More male participants (45.1%) were in the youngest group (under 25) than females (32.4%). Alternatively, more female participants (24.2%) were in the middle age group (35-44) than males (15.5%).

Figure 2 (see page 6) illustrates the industry profile for these WDTF training participants. Industry classifications are based on the participant's primary employer (i.e., the employer that pays the largest portion of the individual's quarterly wages). Primary employers are identified in Wage Records during the first quarter after the quarter training ended. As can be seen in Figure 2, of the 862 participants, most were concentrated in two industries, Services (39.4%) and Retail Trade (36.0%). The next largest industry was Manufacturing with 7.3 percent. Each of the remaining known industries had less than 5.0 percent of the trainees.

Although these initial descriptive results are informative, given the fact that the WDTF is still a relatively new program, it is possible that the basic demographic distributions of WDTF

participants by gender, age, and industry may change as outstanding contracts end and more participant data become available.

Results from a Search of Wage Records

As mentioned previously, a primary focus of this study is to determine whether WDTF participants remain in Wyoming's labor market. Retention of training participants in Wyoming is important because, theoretically, it increases the pool of skilled labor available in the State, which is attractive to employers that want to remain in or relocate to Wyoming. R&P's interest is in whether the participant remained in Wyoming with any employer. As such, our search of Wage Records includes both employers that received WDTF grants and those that did not.

Results of a Wage Records search indicate that 95.0 percent of the 862 WDTF participants earned Wyoming wages one quarter (three months) after the training ended (see Table 3, page 6). Six months after the quarter training ended 86.2 percent of participants (743) were found in Wyoming Wage Records, and 79.9 percent (689) still remained one year after the quarter training ended. This result indicates that the majority of WDTF participants remained in Wyoming UI covered employment for at least one year following training.

Table 1: Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund Grants by Region and County for Contracts Ending in Fiscal Years 1999, 2000, and 2001

Region/ County	Value in Dollars	Percent of Total Dollar Value
Total	\$1,473,917	100.0
Northwest	\$177,676	12.1
Big Horn	10,000	0.7
Fremont	104,766	7.1
Hot Springs	0	0.0
Park	62,910	4.3
Washakie	0	0.0
Northeast	\$68,246	4.6
Campbell	46,565	3.2
Crook	0	0.0
Johnson	0	0.0
Sheridan	21,681	1.5
Weston	0	0.0
Southwest	\$443,415	30.1
Lincoln	1,812	0.1
Sublette	0	0.0
Sweetwater	5,000	0.3
Teton	1,862	0.1
Uinta	434,741	29.5
Southeast	\$394,080	26.7
Albany	265,620	18.0
Goshen	10,500	0.7
Laramie	117,960	8.0
Niobrara	0	0.0
Platte	0	0.0
Central	\$390,500	26.5
Carbon	0	0.0
Converse	0	0.0
Natrona	390,500	26.5

One quarter after the quarter training ended is used as the initial search quarter because WDTF training fund regulations do not require the employer to hire the trainee participant until after the training is completed. Once the training contract is completed the employer must demonstrate that employees are retained on their payroll for at least 90 days in order to receive remaining grant monies. Thus, we would expect all participants to show up in Wage Records during the quarter after training ended. However, 43 participants (5.0%) were not found. Some wage information was inaccurately reported for a few employees as part of the employer's Quarterly Contributions Report (QCRs)⁹ or it was not reported on time, which may account for the missing records.¹⁰

Results from a One-group Pretest-posttest

One of the primary goals of the Wyoming Workforce Development Council (WWDC), which has oversight responsibilities for the WDTF, is to "increase the economic opportunity and self sufficiency for all Wyoming workers..."¹¹ One strategy the WWDC proposes for accomplishing this is to "take advantage of programs with demonstrated success in wage progression."¹² Given this thrust, R&P sought to determine the wage experience of WDTF participants.

We conducted a one-group pretest-posttest wage study.¹³ This study is based on the 712 trainees who had wages in both the quarters before and after the training ended. Mathematically, the formula for calculating average hourly wages is the sum of total quarterly wages for all individuals divided by total quarterly hours worked. Total quarterly hours worked

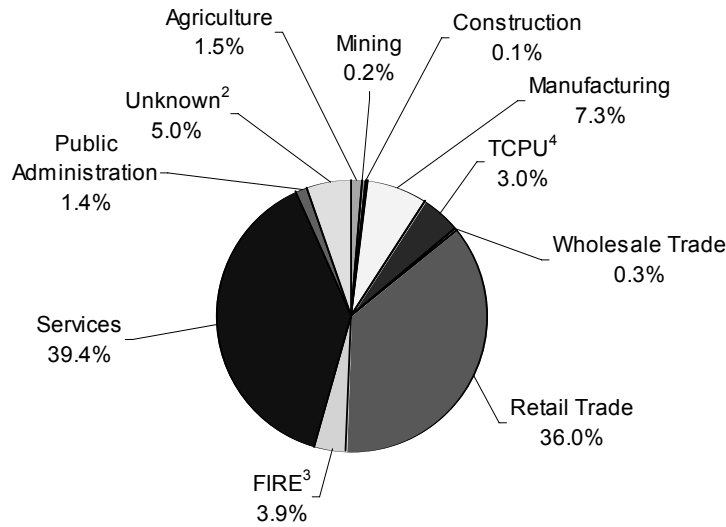
Table 2: Age* and Gender Profile for Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund Participants Associated with Contracts Ending in Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000**

	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and Over	Unknown	Total	Percent
Females	153	120	114	73	12	0	472	54.8
Males	166	107	57	25	13	0	368	42.7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	22	22	2.6
Total	319	227	171	98	25	22	862	100.0
Percent	37.0	26.3	19.8	11.4	2.9	2.6	1.0	

*Demographics derived from the Wyoming Driver's License Database.

**Some demographics are imputed. For technical information on the imputation process, see Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis through Imputation: Part One," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, April 2001, pp. 9-12 and Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis through Imputation: Part Two," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, June 2001, pp. 1-6.

Figure 2: Employment of Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund Participants by Industry,¹ Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000



¹Based on the participant's primary employer identified in Wage Records during the first quarter after the quarter training ended. This may not be the same employer as the training employer.

²Participants who did not appear in Wage Records during the first quarter after the training ended.

³Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

⁴Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

may increase or decrease depending upon the assumptions made about how many hours, on average, individuals work on a weekly basis. In this data set, we have no way of determining how many hours were actually worked by individuals in a week. Thus, we present average hourly wages calculated for both 35- and 40-hour work weeks. Total quarterly wages of the participants are used here, instead of wages from the training employer only, because skills gained from the training employer may lead to an increase in wages at their other jobs as well.

Table 4 (see page 7) indicates that, for a 35-hour work week, WDTF participants received

\$8.95 an hour one quarter before the training ended and \$9.96 an hour one quarter after training ended. To place these average hourly wages within a larger context of Wyoming wages, Table 5 (see page 7) provides statewide hourly wage data from the Estimates Delivery System (EDS)¹⁴ for the fourth quarter of 2000. Since 75.4 percent of the FY99 and FY00 WDTF participants were employed in either Retail Trade or Services, we focus on comparative information from EDS for these two industries. As shown in Table 5, the mean hourly wages for Retail Trade and Services are \$8.78 and \$12.78, respectively. Average hourly wages for WDTF participants fall between these figures.

Table 3: Workforce Development Training Fund Participants Found in Wyoming Wage Records, Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000

	Three Months After Training Ended		Six Months After Training Ended		One Year After Training Ended	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participants Found	819	95.0	743	86.2	689	79.9
Participants Not Found	43	5.0	119	13.8	173	20.1
Total	862	100.0	862	100.0	862	100.0

Table 4: Average Hourly Wage* Change Analysis for Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund Participants, Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000

	Total Trainees**	One Quarter Before	One Quarter After	Difference	Percent Increase
Assuming a 35-hour Week	712	\$8.95	\$9.96	\$1.01	11.3
Assuming a 40-hour Week	712	\$7.83	\$8.71	\$0.88	11.2

*The formula for calculating average hourly wages is the sum of total quarterly wages for all individuals divided by total quarterly hours worked. Total quarterly hours worked may increase or decrease depending upon the assumptions made about how many hours, on average, individuals work on a weekly basis. In this data set, we have no way of determining how many hours were actually worked by individuals in a week. Thus, we present average hourly wages calculated for both 35- and 40-hour work weeks. Total quarterly wages are used here, instead of wages from the training employer only, because skills gained from the training employer may lead to an increase in wages at other jobs.

**Based on the 712 Trainees who had Wyoming wages both one quarter before and one quarter after the quarter that training ended.

Table 5: Wyoming Statewide Hourly Wage Estimates from the Estimates Delivery System (EDS),* Fourth Quarter 2000

	Mean Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Retail Trade	\$8.78	\$5.89	\$10.22
Services	\$12.78	\$6.70	\$15.81

* For full details on the EDS see
<<http://LMI.state.wy.us/eds2000/TOC001.htm>>.

Results of the one-group pretest-posttest wage examination (see Table 4) indicate an average hourly wage increase of 11.3 percent after training (from \$8.95 before training to \$9.96 after training for a 35-hour work week; and from \$7.83 before training to \$8.71 after training for a 40-hour work week). This means that, on average, participants earned approximately \$1.00 an hour more in the quarter after training ended than in the quarter before the training ended, which would seem to indicate training provided through the Workforce Development Training Fund led to an increase in the wages of participants.

What we do not know yet is how the WDTF participants' wage experience compares to a group of individuals with similar demographic and earnings characteristics who did not participate in WDTF training. For instance, the experience of participants could simply mirror a matched control group, or they may have done better or worse than a matched set of individuals who did not participate in the training. Having a matched control group will

help isolate programmatic effects from other factors, such as inflation or changes in hours worked. All we can say for sure at this point is that, as a group, WDTF participants experience an average hourly wage increase. Future research by R&P will use a matched control group.

Conclusion

The WDTF has grown since its inception, and the number of contracts and dollars expended has increased over the life of the program. Demographic analysis of individual participants indicates that they tend to be young, female, and employed in the Services and Retail Trade industries. Substantive research results show that the bulk of WDTF participants can be found in Wyoming Wage Records up to four quarters after the quarter training ended. Moreover, results of a one-group pretest-posttest study design show that, as a group, participants experience about a \$1 per hour increase in wages subsequent to training. However, additional research needs to be conducted to determine if wage increases are similar to the experience of a matched control group.

¹Wage Records is an administrative database. Each employer in the State who has employees covered under Unemployment Insurance, by law, must submit quarterly tax reports to the State showing each employee's Social Security Number (SSN) and wages earned in the quarter. Wage Records has a two-quarter time lag (e.g., wage information for first quarter 2001 employees is generally not available until third quarter

2001). For more information, see Wayne M. Gosar, "Insurance Wage Record Summary: A New Way to Look at Wyoming," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, May 1995, pp. 4-8.

²For more information regarding the organizational structure, mission, and goals of the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, see <<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/wfd/wwdc.htm>>.

³The Wyoming State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund was created in 1997 under W.S. §27-3-209 for paying UI benefits. For more information on the UI Trust Fund, see the State's website at <<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/titles/title27/chapter03.htm>>.

⁴Vicky Lynn Hawn, *Wyoming's Workforce Development Training Fund: Does Your Business Qualify?*, Wyoming Department of Employment, September 2001.

⁵Fiscal year 1998 data are excluded because they include only one contract with four trainees.

⁶Workforce Development Training Fund administrators verify employment of training participants by requiring employers to submit a list of Social Security numbers and associated hourly wage rates on trainees who were retained for 90 days after training. This is a separate verification process than the one used by Research & Planning.

⁷Since the Workforce Development Training Fund is ongoing, employers may have received grants in these counties at the time of publication.

⁸Demographics for the Workforce Development Training Fund participants are derived from the Wyoming Driver's License Database. Some of the demographics are imputed. For information on the imputation process see Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part One," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, April 2001, pp. 9-12 and Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part Two," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, June 2001, pp. 1-6.

⁹This is also known as the Quarterly UI/Workers' Compensation Summary Reports, form WYO056.

¹⁰Other reasons for missing participants in Wage Records include death (three of these individuals were listed as deceased on the Social Security Death Index with death dates prior to the start of the WDTF), withdrawing from the labor market to care for children or parents, moving caused by a spousal relocation, joining the military, or going to work for an employer that is not covered by Unemployment Insurance.

¹¹Alfrieda Gonzales, *Strategic Plan Vision Statement*, Wyoming Workforce Development Council, June 2001.

¹²Alfrieda Gonzales, *Goals of the Wyoming Workforce Development System*, Wyoming Workforce Development Council, June 2001.

¹³Earl Babbie, *The Basics of Social Research*, 2002.

¹⁴See Research & Planning's website at <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/eds2000/toc001.htm>>.



Wyoming's Labor Market in 2001

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

Total nonagricultural employment has steadily grown since 1996. Total annual average nonagricultural employment for 2001 is estimated at 245,600 jobs (see Table 1, page 9), which is 6,200 more jobs than were estimated in 2000.¹ The increase in employment is due to an increase in Goods Producing industries from 46,200 jobs in 2000 to 48,400 jobs in 2001 and an increase in Service Producing industries of 3,900 jobs (193,200 jobs in 2000 to 197,100 in 2001). Growth in Goods Producing industries is

credited mainly to an overall increase in Mining employment with oil & gas extraction contributing the largest share (up 2,400 jobs). Service Producing industries' growth can be attributed to small increases across the board.

Natrona County's average annual employment for 2001 was 32,800 jobs (see Table 2, page 10). Total employment in Goods Producing industries grew by 500 jobs from 2000 to 2001, and Service Producing industries showed an increase of 300 jobs.

Table 1: Wyoming Statewide Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2001

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	233.8	234.1	237.6	238.8	247.5	256.8	252.9	254.0	252.5	250.3	244.9	243.8	245.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	43.9	44.0	44.9	46.3	48.4	50.6	51.6	52.4	51.5	51.6	49.1	47.0	48.4
Mining	17.6	17.9	18.5	18.6	19.2	20.0	20.3	20.5	20.5	20.6	20.1	19.7	19.5
Coal Mining	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	10.2	10.5	11.0	11.2	11.6	12.1	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.6	12.3	11.9	11.8
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.3
Oil & Gas Field Services	7.3	7.5	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.4	8.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7
Construction	15.0	14.8	15.3	16.6	18.3	19.5	20.2	20.7	20.0	19.5	17.5	16.1	17.8
General Building Contractors	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.1
Heavy Construction	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.6	5.4	5.9	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.4	5.1	4.5	5.3
Special Trade Contractors	7.2	7.2	7.5	8.1	8.8	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.1	8.8	8.4	7.8	8.4
Manufacturing	11.3	11.3	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.2
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1
Nondurable Goods	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.1
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	189.9	190.1	192.7	192.5	199.1	206.2	201.3	201.6	201.0	198.7	195.8	196.8	197.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.2	13.8	13.8	14.0	14.1	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.2	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1
Transportation	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Trade	52.7	52.4	53.4	53.6	55.5	57.6	57.9	57.9	56.4	55.2	54.6	54.8	55.2
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.1	7.9	8.0
Durable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3
Retail Trade	44.9	44.6	45.4	45.7	47.5	49.4	49.7	49.7	48.3	47.2	46.5	46.9	47.2
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7
Department Stores	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.7
Food Stores	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Gas Stations	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	16.0	16.0	16.4	16.5	17.1	18.3	18.7	18.8	18.1	17.3	16.5	16.6	17.2
Miscellaneous Retail	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	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	54.0	54.4	55.0	54.7	57.9	62.4	63.0	63.1	60.1	57.3	55.2	55.9	57.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.3	9.6	12.6	13.0	12.4	10.7	8.3	7.2	7.3	9.2
Personal Services	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Business Services	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.5
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.2
Amusements (Rec. Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.0	3.2	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.4	2.9	3.6	3.7
Health Services	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.5
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Social Services	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5
Membership Organizations	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7
Engineering & Management	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4
Government	60.9	61.4	62.4	62.0	63.3	63.4	57.5	57.8	61.9	63.7	63.4	63.6	61.8
Total Federal Government	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	7.2	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.1	7.2	7.4
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total State Government	14.0	14.0	14.2	14.2	14.4	14.0	13.6	13.3	13.6	14.3	14.4	14.3	14.0
State Education	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.2
Total Local Government	40.2	40.8	41.5	41.1	41.7	41.3	35.7	36.4	40.2	41.8	41.9	42.1	40.4
Local Hospitals	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4
Local Education	22.5	23.1	23.6	23.2	23.2	21.5	16.1	16.6	21.6	23.4	23.5	23.6	21.8

Note: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2: Natrona County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2001

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.6	31.9	32.3	32.4	32.9	33.6	32.8	33.0	33.2	33.5	33.2	33.4	32.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9
Mining	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.1	26.3	26.7	26.8	27.1	27.5	26.7	26.9	27.1	27.3	27.3	27.5	26.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Communications & Public Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Trade	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.9	8.8
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	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	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.9
Personal & Business Services	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2
Health Services	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Government	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.6	4.8	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.5
Total Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Total State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.2	3.4	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.2
Local Education	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8

Note: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Laramie County shows overall growth in average annual employment from 2000 to 2001 of 300 jobs (see Table 3). The increase in employment is due to the 400 job increase in Service Producing industries offsetting the 100 job loss in Goods Producing .

Wyoming's unemployment rate remained steady at 3.9 percent in 2001 (see Table 4,

page 11). The county reporting the lowest unemployment rate in the state for 2001 was Albany County (2.0%). Fremont County had the highest unemployment rate in 2001 (6.4%). Campbell County's large decrease in its unemployment rate from 5.2 percent in 1999 to 2.9 percent in 2001 was due to the continued increase in employment throughout the Mining industry.

Table 3: Laramie County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data (in Thousands), 2001

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.9	36.9	37.3	37.5	37.9	38.7	38.5	38.5	38.2	38.2	38.3	38.3	38.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.9
Mining & Construction	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	33.2	33.2	33.5	33.6	34.0	34.6	34.4	34.4	34.1	34.2	34.4	34.6	34.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9
Trade	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.9
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Retail Trade	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Services	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.3
Total Government	11.8	11.9	12.0	12.0	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.2
Total Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Total State Government	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Total Local Government	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1

Table 4: Wyoming Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Annual Averages, 1999-2001

	1999	2000	2001		1999	2000	2001
WYOMING				LINCOLN COUNTY			
Labor Force	262,069	266,945	271,262	Labor Force	6,615	6,570	6,797
Employment	249,323	256,568	260,596	Employment	6,209	6,226	6,433
Unemployment	12,746	10,377	10,666	Unemployment	406	344	364
Unemployment Rate	4.9	3.9	3.9	Unemployment Rate	6.1	5.2	5.4
ALBANY COUNTY				NATRONA COUNTY			
Labor Force	18,246	18,660	19,187	Labor Force	33,736	34,333	35,239
Employment	17,908	18,361	18,808	Employment	31,900	32,840	33,810
Unemployment	338	299	379	Unemployment	1,836	1,493	1,429
Unemployment Rate	1.9	1.6	2.0	Unemployment Rate	5.4	4.3	4.1
BIG HORN COUNTY				NIobrara COUNTY			
Labor Force	5,783	5,994	5,948	Labor Force	1,326	1,297	1,244
Employment	5,403	5,659	5,652	Employment	1,288	1,262	1,203
Unemployment	380	335	296	Unemployment	38	35	41
Unemployment Rate	6.6	5.6	5.0	Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.7	3.3
CAMPBELL COUNTY				PARK COUNTY			
Labor Force	19,638	20,617	22,360	Labor Force	15,359	15,440	15,436
Employment	18,618	19,923	21,706	Employment	14,652	14,811	14,756
Unemployment	1,020	694	654	Unemployment	707	629	680
Unemployment Rate	5.2	3.4	2.9	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.1	4.4
CARBON COUNTY				PLATTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	8,389	8,324	8,222	Labor Force	4,647	4,665	4,465
Employment	7,944	7,986	7,858	Employment	4,439	4,496	4,292
Unemployment	445	338	364	Unemployment	208	169	173
Unemployment Rate	5.3	4.1	4.4	Unemployment Rate	4.5	3.6	3.9
CONVERSE COUNTY				SHERIDAN COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,652	6,773	6,575	Labor Force	13,691	14,126	14,048
Employment	6,308	6,470	6,298	Employment	13,017	13,540	13,485
Unemployment	344	303	277	Unemployment	674	586	563
Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.5	4.2	Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.1	4.0
CROOK COUNTY				SUBLETTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,062	3,153	2,995	Labor Force	3,141	3,233	3,347
Employment	2,907	3,023	2,881	Employment	3,022	3,152	3,278
Unemployment	155	130	114	Unemployment	119	81	69
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.1	3.8	Unemployment Rate	3.8	2.5	2.1
FREMONT COUNTY				SWEETWATER COUNTY			
Labor Force	17,996	18,191	18,547	Labor Force	20,625	20,213	20,388
Employment	16,620	17,020	17,360	Employment	19,333	19,233	19,447
Unemployment	1,376	1,171	1,187	Unemployment	1,292	980	941
Unemployment Rate	7.6	6.4	6.4	Unemployment Rate	6.3	4.8	4.6
GOSHEN COUNTY				TETON COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,517	6,624	6,407	Labor Force	11,630	12,284	12,633
Employment	6,270	6,423	6,175	Employment	11,369	12,072	12,349
Unemployment	247	201	232	Unemployment	261	212	284
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.0	3.6	Unemployment Rate	2.2	1.7	2.2
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY				UINTA COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,431	2,450	2,466	Labor Force	10,513	10,579	11,005
Employment	2,306	2,367	2,361	Employment	9,778	9,997	10,453
Unemployment	125	83	105	Unemployment	735	582	552
Unemployment Rate	5.1	3.4	4.3	Unemployment Rate	7.0	5.5	5.0
JOHNSON COUNTY				WASHAKIE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,906	3,956	3,853	Labor Force	4,882	4,740	4,599
Employment	3,770	3,843	3,735	Employment	4,564	4,491	4,391
Unemployment	136	113	118	Unemployment	318	249	208
Unemployment Rate	3.5	2.9	3.1	Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.3	4.5
LARAMIE COUNTY				WESTON COUNTY			
Labor Force	39,922	41,336	42,186	Labor Force	3,361	3,389	3,316
Employment	38,524	40,137	40,692	Employment	3,174	3,238	3,173
Unemployment	1,398	1,199	1,494	Unemployment	187	151	143
Unemployment Rate	3.5	2.9	3.5	Unemployment Rate	5.6	4.5	4.3

Wyoming's labor force and employment each grew 1.6 percent from 2000 to 2001 (see Table 4, page 11). The largest labor force increase occurred in Natrona County (34,333 individuals in 2000 to 35,239 in 2001).

¹Estimates for 2000 can be found on our website at <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/ces/toc.htm>> and <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/laus/toc.htm>>.



Wyoming Wage Record Summary Statistics Update

by: Sylvia Jones, Statistical and Research Analyst

Based on the numbers for the third quarter of 2000 and 2001, there was a small increase in total records (jobs) and in unique Social Security Numbers (SSNs) over the year (see Table). The number of total

records increased by .08 percent while the number of unique SSNs increased by .90 percent. This is a slow-down in the percent increase in both total records and SSNs over the first quarter which had a 1.33 percent

Table: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Record Summary Statistics

SECOND QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	283,829							
Total SSNs	242,821	100.0	\$1,551,337,513	100.0	\$6,389	17,003	729,400	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	207,779	85.6	\$1,366,156,647	88.1	\$6,575			In Records 1.33
Two Jobs	29,986	12.3	160,670,540	10.4	5,358			In SSNs 1.47
Three Jobs	4,303	1.8	21,097,314	1.4	4,903			Total Wages 8.95
Four or More Jobs	753	0.3	3,413,012	0.2	4,533			New SSNs 2.10

THIRD QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	290,318							
Total SSNs	248,843	100.0	\$1,578,405,728	100.0	\$6,343	17,047	749,156	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	213,335	85.7	\$1,392,117,561	88.2	\$6,526			In Records 0.08
Two Jobs	30,420	12.2	162,832,544	10.3	5,353			In SSNs 0.90
Three Jobs	4,375	1.8	20,264,977	1.3	4,632			Total Wages 9.06
Four or More Jobs	713	0.3	3,190,646	0.2	4,475			New SSNs 1.14

FOURTH QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	254,948							
Total SSNs	223,445	100.0	\$1,562,638,647	100.0	\$6,993	16,485	760,103	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	196,059	87.7	\$1,403,077,951	89.8	\$7,156			In Records -5.33
Two Jobs	23,860	10.7	141,809,872	9.1	5,943			In SSNs -3.75
Three Jobs	3,034	1.4	15,512,833	1.0	5,113			Total Wages 2.31
Four or More Jobs	492	0.2	2,237,991	0.1	4,549			New SSNs -2.42

increase in records and a 1.47 percent increase in SSNs. Total wages rose by 9.06 percent in the third quarter and 8.95 percent in the second quarter. Unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) accounts increased by 1.14 percent in the third quarter as well as increased by 2.10 percent in the second quarter.

Preliminary data for the fourth quarter of 2000 and 2001 show losses in total records (-5.33%), unique SSNs (-3.75%), and unique UI accounts (-2.42%). Total wages are shown to increase by 2.31 percent.

General Definitions

Total Records - Total number of records received for this year and quarter in the latest wage record download.

Total SSNs - Total number of unique individuals found in this quarter.

One Job - Those individuals who had only one job in this quarter.

Two Jobs - Those individuals who had only two jobs in this quarter.

Three Jobs - Those individuals who had only three jobs in this quarter.

Four or More Jobs - Those individuals who had four or more jobs in this quarter.

Total Wages - The sum of all wages for each category listed under the job rows.

Percent of Total Wages - The percent of the total wages earned by each class of job holder.

Mean Wages Per Quarter - The average total wages per quarter for each category of job. Calculated by dividing the total wages by the count of individuals.

New SSNs This Quarter - The number of Social Security numbers (SSNs) appearing for the first time this quarter.

Total Unique SSNs to Date - A running total of unique individuals to date, beginning in 1992 (the date Wage Records became a statistical program).

Percent Change over Previous Year - The percent change over the previous year and quarter (for example, the percent change from the first quarter of 2000 to the first quarter of 2001).



State Unemployment Rates March 2002 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.3
Oregon	8.7
Alaska	7.4
Washington	7.3
Mississippi	6.9
North Carolina	6.6
California	6.5
Idaho	6.5
Michigan	6.5
Wisconsin	6.5
District of Columbia	6.4
Illinois	6.4
West Virginia	6.4
New York	6.2
United States	6.1
Utah	6.1
New Mexico	5.9
Ohio	5.9
Pennsylvania	5.9
Colorado	5.8
Nevada	5.7
Tennessee	5.7
Kentucky	5.6
Texas	5.6
Alabama	5.5
Montana	5.5
New Jersey	5.5
South Carolina	5.5
Arizona	5.4
Arkansas	5.4
Louisiana	5.4
Indiana	5.3
Missouri	5.3
Maryland	5.1
Florida	4.9
Maine	4.9
Massachusetts	4.8
Minnesota	4.7
Georgia	4.6
Kansas	4.6
Rhode Island	4.6
Wyoming	4.6
New Hampshire	4.5
Vermont	4.4
Hawaii	4.3
Iowa	4.2
Oklahoma	4.1
Virginia	4.0
Delaware	3.9
North Dakota	3.9
Connecticut	3.7
Nebraska	3.7
South Dakota	3.7

State Unemployment Rates March 2002 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.5
Oregon	7.9
Washington	6.8
District of Columbia	6.6
Mississippi	6.6
North Carolina	6.6
Alaska	6.5
California	6.4
Illinois	6.1
Alabama	6.0
Michigan	6.0
New Mexico	6.0
South Carolina	6.0
New York	5.9
Utah	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
Arizona	5.8
Nevada	5.8
Texas	5.8
Ohio	5.7
United States	5.7
Wisconsin	5.7
Colorado	5.6
Idaho	5.6
Louisiana	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.6
Tennessee	5.6
New Jersey	5.5
Kentucky	5.3
Arkansas	5.2
Florida	5.2
Maryland	5.2
Missouri	5.2
Indiana	4.9
Montana	4.7
Georgia	4.6
Hawaii	4.6
Kansas	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
Minnesota	4.3
Maine	4.2
Rhode Island	4.2
Virginia	4.2
New Hampshire	4.1
Oklahoma	4.0
Vermont	3.9
Wyoming	3.9
Delaware	3.8
Nebraska	3.6
Connecticut	3.5
Iowa	3.4
South Dakota	3.2
North Dakota	3.1

Job Growth Slows Slightly in March

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Over-the-year Wyoming job growth slowed slightly in March, falling from 2.0 percent in February to 1.6 percent in March. This slowdown was largely the result of job losses in oil & gas extraction. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 3.6 percent to 3.9 percent. It remains well below U.S. unemployment of 5.7 percent. U.S. job growth was down 1.0 percent in March.

Overall, from February to March, Wyoming gained 2,500 jobs or 1.0 percent. However, this increase was smaller than in previous years. An estimated 3,500 jobs were gained in March 2001, and 3,600 jobs in March 2000. From February to March, large gains were seen in Construction (1,400 jobs or 9.2%) and Government (700 jobs or 1.1%). Oil & gas extraction employment fell by 200 jobs or 1.8 percent.

When compared to March 2001, Wyoming added 3,700 jobs or 1.6 percent. The majority of these job gains occurred in three industries: Construction (1,300 jobs or 8.5%), Services (1,600 jobs or 2.9%), and Local Government (700 jobs or 1.7%). Within Services, strong job gains appeared in auto & miscellaneous repair (400 jobs or 12.9%), health services (500 jobs or 4.4%), and social services (400 jobs or 6.3%). Local Government gains occurred in hospitals (200 jobs or 3.8%) and education (300 jobs or 1.3%).

Over-the-year job losses were seen in Manufacturing (-200 jobs or -1.8%), Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (-100 jobs or -0.7%), and Retail Trade (-400 jobs or -0.9%). Within Retail Trade, employment fell by 200 jobs or 3.9 percent in food stores. Employment also fell slightly in department stores and eating & drinking places.

Across Wyoming's counties, unemployment rates were mixed in March. When compared to March 2001, the unemployment rate increased in Teton County from 1.8 percent to 3.0 percent. Washakie County's unemployment rate increased from 5.6 percent to 6.7 percent as a result of layoffs in Manufacturing. Fremont County's unemployment rate fell significantly from March 2001 to March 2002, decreasing from 7.9 percent to 6.9 percent.

From February to March, unemployment fell in 16 Wyoming counties. The largest decrease occurred in Carbon County, where unemployment fell from 6.6 percent to 5.4 percent. Unemployment also fell significantly in Goshen and Platte Counties.

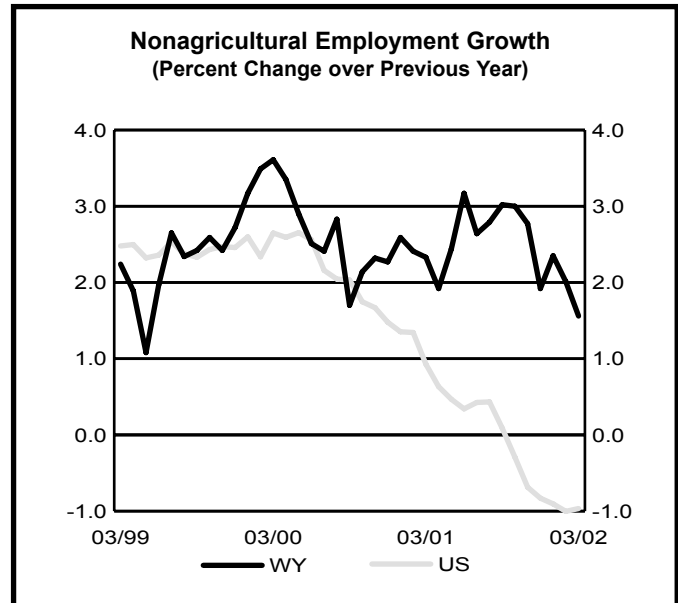


Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Within Services, strong job gains appeared in auto & miscellaneous repair (400 jobs or 12.9%), health services (500 jobs or 4.4%), and social services (400 jobs or 6.3%).”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	MAR02(p)	FEB02(r)	MAR 01	MAR 02		MAR02(p)	FEB02(r)	MAR 01	MAR 02	
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	241.3	238.8	237.6	1.0	1.6	37.8	37.8	37.4	0.0	1.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	46.3	45.1	44.9	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.8	0.0	-5.3
Mining	18.8	19.0	18.5	-1.1	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Coal Mining	4.9	5.0	4.5	-2.0	8.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	11.1	11.3	11.0	-1.8	0.9	34.2	34.2	33.6	0.0	1.8
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	6.2	2.8	2.9	2.9	-3.4	-3.4
Oil & Gas Field Services	7.7	7.9	7.8	-2.5	-1.3	8.8	8.8	8.7	0.0	1.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.5	2.6	4.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.6	15.2	15.3	9.2	8.5	7.9	7.9	7.8	0.0	1.3
General Building Contractors	3.9	3.7	3.7	5.4	5.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Heavy Construction	4.6	4.1	4.1	12.2	12.2	8.5	8.4	8.3	1.2	2.4
Special Trade Construction	8.1	7.4	7.5	9.5	8.0	12.3	12.3	12.0	0.0	2.5
Manufacturing	10.9	10.9	11.1	0.0	-1.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.1	5.0	5.1	2.0	0.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	2.8
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.9	6.0	-1.7	-3.3	6.2	6.2	6.0	0.0	3.3
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0					
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.1	1.2	9.1	0.0					
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	195.0	193.7	192.7	0.7	1.2					
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.7	13.8	13.8	-0.7	-0.7					
Transportation	9.0	9.1	9.1	-1.1	-1.1					
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0					
Trucking & Warehousing	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0					
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0					
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0					
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8					
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0					
Trade	53.2	52.7	53.4	0.9	-0.4					
Wholesale Trade	8.2	7.9	8.0	3.8	2.5					
Durable Goods	4.8	4.7	4.6	2.1	4.3					
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.2	3.4	6.2	0.0					
Retail Trade	45.0	44.8	45.4	0.4	-0.9					
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0					
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.1	5.4	3.9	-1.9					
Department Stores	4.5	4.4	4.6	2.3	-2.2					
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.0	-3.9					
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.0	8.0	8.1	0.0	-1.2					
Gas Stations	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0					
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1					
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0					
Eating & Drinking Places	16.3	16.2	16.4	0.6	-0.6					
Miscellaneous Retail	5.6	5.7	5.6	-1.8	0.0					
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5					
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0					
Depository Institutions	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9					
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0					
Services	56.6	56.4	55.0	0.4	2.9					
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.3	7.3	7.4	0.0	-1.4					
Personal Services	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0					
Business Services	8.4	8.4	8.3	0.0	1.2					
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	12.9					
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6					
Health Services	11.8	11.8	11.3	0.0	4.4					
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.9	2.9	2.6	0.0	11.5					
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0					
Social Services	6.8	6.8	6.4	0.0	6.2					
Membership Organizations	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.7	2.7					
Engineering & Management	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3					
Government	63.2	62.5	62.4	1.1	1.3					
Total Federal Government	6.8	6.8	6.7	0.0	1.5					
Department of Defense	0.9	0.8	0.9	12.5	0.0					
Total State Government	14.2	14.1	14.2	0.7	0.0					
State Education	5.5	5.4	5.5	1.9	0.0					
Total Local Government	42.2	41.6	41.5	1.4	1.7					
Local Hospitals	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8					
Local Education	23.9	23.4	23.6	2.1	1.3					



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.

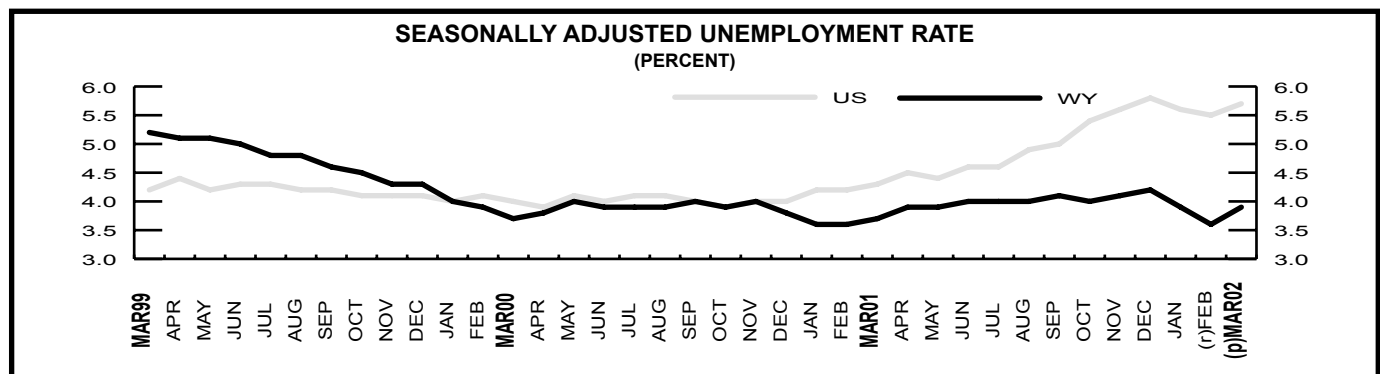
Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Average weekly earnings in Wyoming Mining increased 4.0 percent over the year, while average weekly hours remained the same (41.6 hours).”

	March 2002 (p)	February 2002 (r)	March 2001 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	270,259	267,255	268,600	1.1	0.6
Unemployed	12,437	12,939	12,115	-3.9	2.7
Employed	257,822	254,316	256,485	1.4	0.5
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.6%/3.9%	4.8%/3.6%	4.5%/3.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	6.1%/5.7%	6.1%/5.5%	4.6%/4.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,392,000	7,398,000	7,609,000	-0.1	-2.9
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.5%	5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	319,000	371,000	350,000	-14.0	-8.9
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,129,000	4,414,000	3,338,000	-6.5	23.7
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$879.01	\$909.91	\$844.90	-3.4	4.0
Average Weekly Hours	41.6	42.9	41.6	-3.0	0.0
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$762.70	\$761.34	\$757.27	0.2	0.7
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.7	43.1	0.2	-0.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$616.05	\$632.98	\$616.52	-2.7	-0.1
Average Weekly Hours	37.0	37.3	37.8	-0.8	-2.1
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$620.86	\$610.95	\$597.72	1.6	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	40.3	40.8	1.5	0.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	18,643	18,114	15,564	2.9	19.8
Benefits Paid	\$4,154,550	\$4,006,238	\$3,256,216	3.7	27.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$222.85	\$221.16	\$209.21	0.8	6.5
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	214,603	212,341	212,360	1.1	1.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.4%	1.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	178.8	177.8	176.2	0.6	1.5
Food & Beverages	176.6	176.4	172.2	0.1	2.6
Housing	179.1	178.5	175.4	0.3	2.1
Apparel	128.2	123.5	132.2	3.8	-3.0
Transportation	150.5	148.4	153.9	1.4	-2.2
Medical Care	282.0	281.0	270.0	0.4	4.4
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	106.1	105.9	104.3	0.2	1.7
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	106.6	107.3	104.3	-0.7	2.2
Other Goods & Services	288.5	290.2	277.2	-0.6	4.1
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	129.9	128.6	135.9	1.0	-4.4
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	151	117	158	29.1	-4.4
Valuation	\$20,407,000	\$19,531,000	\$25,209,000	4.5	-19.0

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

“Fremont County's unemployment rate fell significantly from March 2001 to March 2002, decreasing from 7.9 percent to 6.9 percent.”

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2002 (p)	Feb 2002 (r)	Mar 2001 (b)	Mar 2002 (p)	Feb 2002 (r)	Mar 2001 (b)	Mar 2002 (p)	Feb 2002 (r)	Mar 2001 (b)	Mar 2002 (p)	Feb 2002 (r)	Mar 2001 (b)
NORTHWEST	45,655	45,303	46,154	42,681	42,247	43,135	2,974	3,056	3,019	6.5	6.7	6.5
Big Horn	5,810	5,825	5,949	5,423	5,415	5,550	387	410	399	6.7	7.0	6.7
Fremont	18,664	18,437	18,572	17,369	17,102	17,105	1,295	1,335	1,467	6.9	7.2	7.9
Hot Springs	2,438	2,398	2,398	2,293	2,251	2,277	145	147	121	5.9	6.1	5.0
Park	14,282	14,167	14,663	13,436	13,287	13,888	846	880	775	5.9	6.2	5.3
Washakie	4,461	4,476	4,572	4,160	4,192	4,315	301	284	257	6.7	6.3	5.6
NORTHEAST	47,008	46,407	45,558	45,115	44,503	43,653	1,893	1,904	1,905	4.0	4.1	4.2
Campbell	23,646	23,271	21,660	22,839	22,485	20,947	807	786	713	3.4	3.4	3.3
Crook	2,777	2,764	2,834	2,634	2,627	2,681	143	137	153	5.1	5.0	5.4
Johnson	3,568	3,533	3,652	3,455	3,417	3,508	113	116	144	3.2	3.3	3.9
Sheridan	13,738	13,571	14,128	13,058	12,859	13,424	680	712	704	4.9	5.2	5.0
Weston	3,279	3,268	3,284	3,129	3,115	3,093	150	153	191	4.6	4.7	5.8
SOUTHWEST	53,148	52,605	52,603	50,543	49,849	50,311	2,605	2,756	2,292	4.9	5.2	4.4
Lincoln	6,714	6,701	6,362	6,230	6,190	5,922	484	511	440	7.2	7.6	6.9
Sublette	3,073	3,067	3,070	2,979	2,976	2,995	94	91	75	3.1	3.0	2.4
Sweetwater	20,456	20,078	20,696	19,450	19,008	19,689	1,006	1,070	1,007	4.9	5.3	4.9
Teton	12,058	11,974	11,847	11,697	11,575	11,628	361	399	219	3.0	3.3	1.8
Uinta	10,847	10,785	10,628	10,187	10,100	10,077	660	685	551	6.1	6.4	5.2
SOUTHEAST	74,304	73,349	74,256	71,727	70,558	71,679	2,577	2,791	2,577	3.5	3.8	3.5
Albany	19,884	19,187	20,012	19,443	18,748	19,561	441	439	451	2.2	2.3	2.3
Goshen	5,997	6,100	6,338	5,765	5,798	6,053	232	302	285	3.9	5.0	4.5
Laramie	42,966	42,627	42,457	41,316	40,866	40,903	1,650	1,761	1,554	3.8	4.1	3.7
Niobrara	1,118	1,110	1,186	1,073	1,073	1,134	45	37	52	4.0	3.3	4.4
Platte	4,339	4,325	4,263	4,130	4,073	4,028	209	252	235	4.8	5.8	5.5
CENTRAL	50,144	49,594	50,025	47,757	47,161	47,704	2,387	2,433	2,321	4.8	4.9	4.6
Carbon	7,847	7,898	7,883	7,425	7,376	7,480	422	522	403	5.4	6.6	5.1
Converse	6,237	6,209	6,550	5,952	5,925	6,206	285	284	344	4.6	4.6	5.3
Natrona	36,060	35,487	35,592	34,380	33,860	34,018	1,680	1,627	1,574	4.7	4.6	4.4
STATEWIDE	270,259	267,255	268,600	257,822	254,316	256,485	12,437	12,939	12,115	4.6	4.8	4.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.9	3.6	3.7
U.S.....										6.1	6.1	4.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.7	5.5	4.3

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/02. Run Date 04/02.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

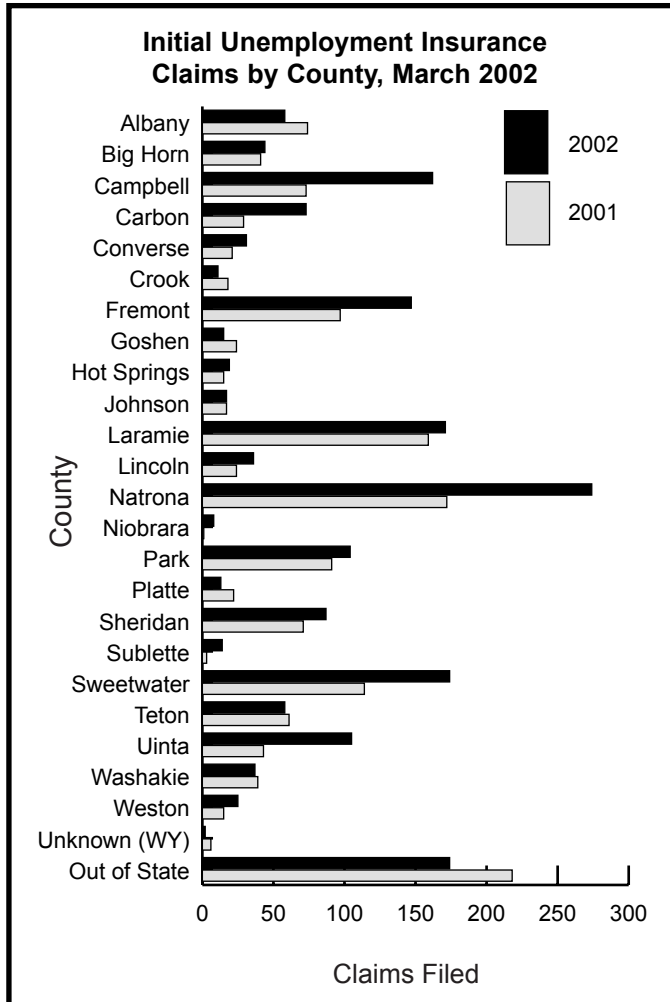
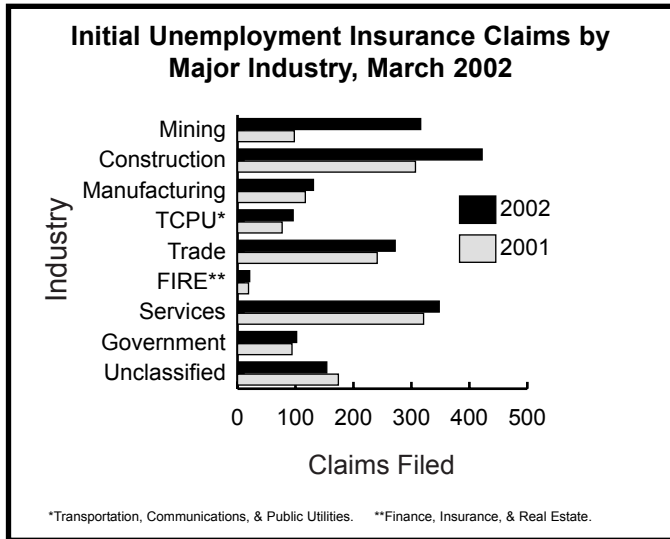
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2001 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.

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

“Total statewide initial claims for March show a 28.6 percent increase over the prior year.”



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 02	Feb 02	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,862	2,184	1,448	-14.7	28.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	869	1,227	522	-29.2	66.5
Mining	316	382	98	-17.3	222.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	294	360	83	-18.3	254.2
Construction	422	670	307	-37.0	37.5
Manufacturing	131	175	117	-25.1	12.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	839	809	752	3.7	11.6
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	96	100	77	-4.0	24.7
Transportation	79	86	64	-8.1	23.4
Communications & Public Utilities	17	14	13	21.4	30.8
Trade	272	302	241	-9.9	12.9
Wholesale Trade	40	51	30	-21.6	33.3
Retail Trade	232	251	211	-7.6	10.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	21	30	19	-30.0	10.5
Services	348	286	321	21.7	8.4
Personal & Business Services	105	82	75	28.0	40.0
Health Services	26	32	27	-18.8	-3.7
Government	102	91	94	12.1	8.5
Local Government	40	36	31	11.1	29.0
Local Education	14	4	9	250.0	55.6
UNCLASSIFIED	154	148	174	4.1	-11.5

LARAMIE COUNTY					
LARAMIE COUNTY	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 02	Feb 02	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	169	197	156	-14.2	8.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	53	84	51	-36.9	3.9
Mining	2	5	0	-60.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2	5	0	-60.0	0.0
Construction	42	67	45	-37.3	-6.7
Manufacturing	9	12	6	-25.0	50.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	103	94	93	9.6	10.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	22	13	15	69.2	46.7
Transportation	13	10	10	30.0	30.0
Communications & Public Utilities	9	3	5	200.0	80.0
Trade	34	35	30	-2.9	13.3
Wholesale Trade	6	6	2	0.0	200.0
Retail Trade	28	29	28	-3.4	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	5	5	6	0.0	-16.7
Services	31	33	34	-6.1	-8.8
Personal & Business Services	12	16	14	-25.0	-14.3
Health Services	2	3	4	-33.3	-50.0
Government	11	8	8	37.5	37.5
Local Government	5	2	2	150.0	150.0
Local Education	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	13	19	12	-31.6	8.3

NATRONA COUNTY					
NATRONA COUNTY	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 02	Feb 02	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	271	322	172	-15.8	57.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	134	179	58	-25.1	131.0
Mining	51	65	13	-21.5	292.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	51	57	13	-10.5	292.3
Construction	66	96	37	-31.3	78.4
Manufacturing	17	18	8	-5.6	112.5
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	131	134	100	-2.2	31.0
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	13	11	10	18.2	30.0
Transportation	12	8	9	50.0	33.3
Communications & Public Utilities	1	3	1	-66.7	0.0
Trade	48	61	46	-21.3	4.3
Wholesale Trade	5	17	12	-70.6	-58.3
Retail Trade	43	44	34	-2.3	26.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	5	6	3	-16.7	66.7
Services	63	49	37	28.6	70.3
Personal & Business Services	30	13	11	130.8	172.7
Health Services	4	8	4	-50.0	0.0
Government	2	7	4	-71.4	-50.0
Local Government	1	4	2	-75.0	-50.0
Local Education	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	6	9	14	-33.3	-57.1

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Mark A. Harris, Sociologist, Ph.D.

“Total statewide continued claims for March are up 21.8 percent over the prior year.”

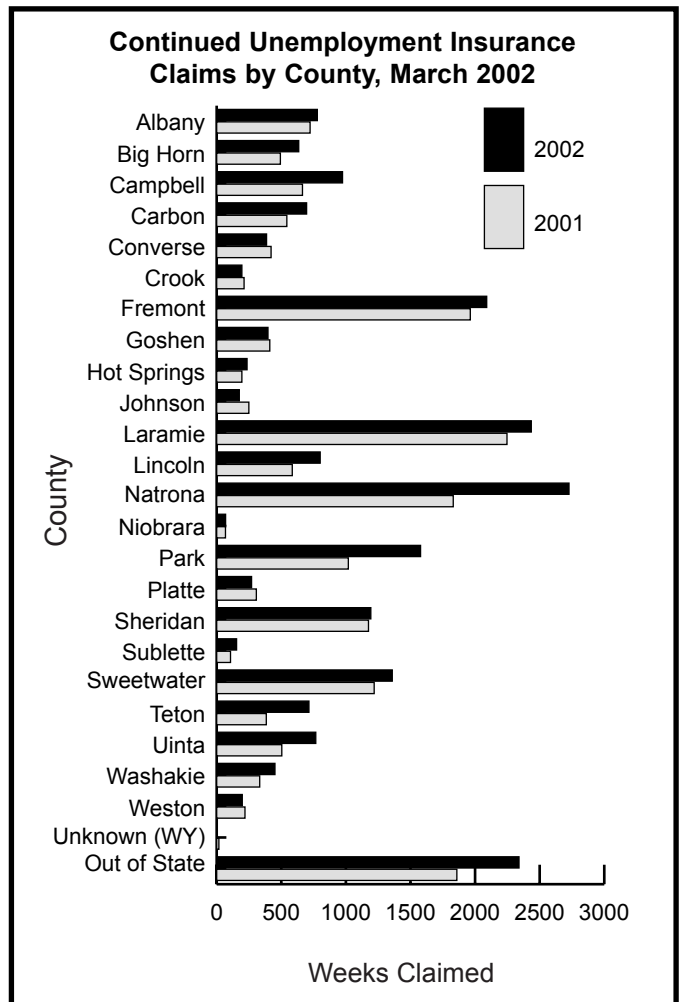
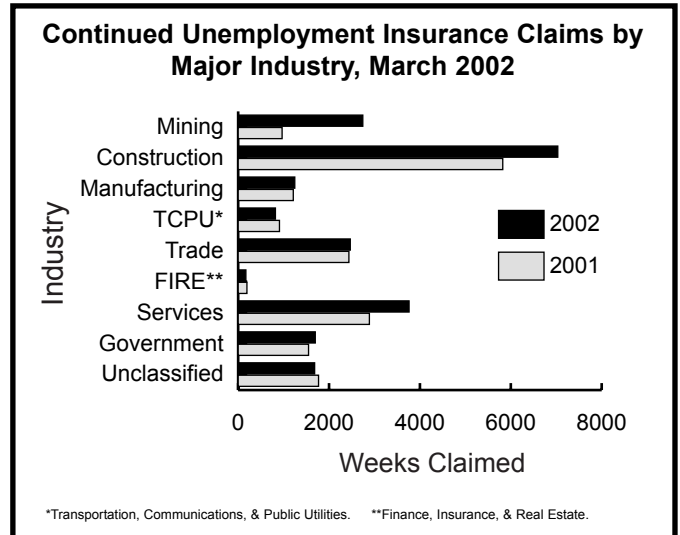
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	Mar 02	Feb 02	Mar 01	Feb 02	Mar 02
	Mar 02	Feb 02	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 02
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	21,621	22,110	17,748	-2.2	21.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,668	6,759	5,561	-1.3	19.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	11,023	10,714	8,003	2.9	37.7
Mining	2,743	2,291	967	19.7	183.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,489	1,993	581	24.9	328.4
Construction	7,034	7,149	5,823	-1.6	20.8
Manufacturing	1,246	1,274	1,213	-2.2	2.7
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	8,915	9,518	7,976	-6.3	11.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	820	891	909	-8.0	-9.8
Transportation	644	685	639	-6.0	0.8
Communications & Public Utilities	176	206	270	-14.6	-34.8
Trade	2,467	2,509	2,437	-1.7	1.2
Wholesale Trade	404	376	352	7.4	14.8
Retail Trade	2,063	2,133	2,085	-3.3	-1.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	170	161	193	5.6	-11.9
Services	3,761	4,038	2,888	-6.9	30.2
Personal & Business Services	1,217	1,344	818	-9.4	48.8
Health Services	226	246	220	-8.1	2.7
Government	1,697	1,919	1,549	-11.6	9.6
Local Government	545	590	458	-7.6	19.0
Local Education	100	102	113	-2.0	-11.5
UNCLASSIFIED	1,683	1,878	1,769	-10.4	-4.9

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,435	2,585	2,246	-5.8	8.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	739	761	690	-2.9	7.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,061	1,132	1,037	-6.3	2.3
Mining	24	23	31	4.3	-22.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	12	6	0	100.0	0.0
Construction	920	976	928	-5.7	-0.9
Manufacturing	117	133	78	-12.0	50.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,189	1,247	1,062	-4.7	12.0
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	154	193	232	-20.2	-33.6
Transportation	89	115	105	-22.6	-15.2
Communications & Public Utilities	65	78	127	-16.7	-48.8
Trade	375	393	298	-4.6	25.8
Wholesale Trade	58	61	45	-4.9	28.9
Retail Trade	317	332	253	-4.5	25.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	30	36	52	-16.7	-42.3
Services	452	442	348	2.3	29.9
Personal & Business Services	239	225	139	6.2	71.9
Health Services	36	37	55	-2.7	-34.5
Government	178	183	132	-2.7	34.8
Local Government	56	51	45	9.8	24.4
Local Education	9	13	17	-30.8	-47.1
UNCLASSIFIED	185	206	147	-10.2	25.9

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,727	2,598	1,830	5.0	49.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	869	832	618	4.4	40.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,529	1,372	868	11.4	76.2
Mining	505	368	150	37.2	236.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	469	339	108	38.3	334.3
Construction	894	889	617	0.6	44.9
Manufacturing	130	115	101	13.0	28.7
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,102	1,121	865	-1.7	27.4
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	108	107	83	0.9	30.1
Transportation	83	81	56	2.5	48.2
Communications & Public Utilities	25	26	27	-3.8	-7.4
Trade	412	406	302	1.5	36.4
Wholesale Trade	88	77	90	14.3	-2.2
Retail Trade	324	329	212	-1.5	52.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	26	25	36	4.0	-27.8
Services	491	505	320	-2.8	53.4
Personal & Business Services	198	187	114	5.9	73.7
Health Services	30	24	43	25.0	-30.2
Government	65	78	124	-16.7	-47.6
Local Government	38	46	25	-17.4	52.0
Local Education	10	5	6	100.0	66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	96	105	97	-8.6	-1.0



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