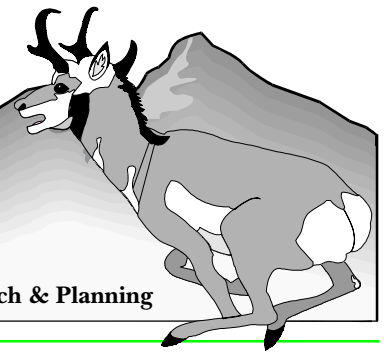


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Industry Variations in Wyoming's Steady Workers

by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

" ... there is a significant pattern in the annual wages for individuals who retained steady work, showing a 19.3 percent increase in wages over the six-year period [from 1992 to 1997] ... "

For the past two months, the Research & Planning Section has utilized Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records to characterize Wyoming's labor market transactions. Approximately 18 percent of UI covered employees separated¹ from the Wyoming labor market each year from 1992 to 1997. Another 40 percent of the labor market remained job attached to Wyoming employers but were categorized either as a multiple job holder, job changer or steady worker/different employer². This article focuses on those individuals who worked for the same employer between 1992 and 1997 (**steady workers**) and also compares demographic and wage data by industry.

How is the information in this article useful? It can help answer such questions as: what is the likelihood that an individual who is starting a new career can find gainful employment as a steady employee? Data obtained in this analysis indicate that, for example, a person has a 5.9 percent chance of finding steady work in the Construction industry compared to a 22.4 percent chance in the Mining industry.

To identify steady workers, the analyst combined UI wage records from 1992 to 1997 and matched social security numbers (SSN's) and the employers' UI numbers. Two criteria were used to filter the database. Individuals had to work for the same employer during or

before 1992, and they had to continue working for this employer for six years without an exit. Out of the total number of UI wage record SSN's from 1992-97 (531,106), the matching criteria found 44,265 (8.3%) who held steady employment with the same employer during the six year period. The database was then matched to the Wyoming driver's license and Employment Services databases to obtain demographic data. There were 2,434 (5.5%) unmatched SSN's without demographic data. These are labeled "unknown" for this analysis (see Table 1, page 2).

In October 1995, steady workers with the same employer from 1992 to 1994 were analyzed³. The study,

(Continued on page 2)

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which covered a three-year period, showed 67,829 individuals maintaining steady work for the same employer compared to the 44,265 from 1992-97, a difference of 23,564 workers. Holding the variables constant, the effect of a continuous decline in the percentage of steady workers, largely members of the baby boom generation, may lead to a labor shortage within ten years when these workers reach retirement age.

In March 1998, 45.2 percent of the 1996 labor force were found to be steady workers with the same employer during a one-year period⁴. Research & Planning has compiled a reliable demographic master file during the last three years. Therefore, the following analysis will examine the steady worker in Wyoming's labor market grouped by sex, age and major industry.

of steady workers by major industry and gender. There were 22,551 (50.9%) males and 19,280 (43.6%) females. Both had an average age of 41. These percentages are similar to those of Wyoming's total labor force found in a study on the relation of age and gender to employment⁵ in **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, May 1996. The average age was calculated for the

Table 1 illustrates the distribution

(Continued on page 3)

Table 1: Steady Workers by Gender, Age and Major Industry

	Gender						Total	Average Age in 1992	
	Male	Row %	Female	Row %	Unknown	Row %		Male	Female
Agriculture	276	70.1	93	23.6	25	6.3	394	42	41
Mining	3,809	84.1	511	11.3	207	4.6	4,527	40	40
Construction	1,284	82.6	208	13.4	62	4.0	1,554	39	42
Manufacturing	2,024	72.0	642	22.8	146	5.2	2,812	39	41
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	1,883	75.3	503	20.1	114	4.6	2,500	41	40
Wholesale Trade	1,223	74.3	331	20.1	91	5.5	1,645	40	41
Retail Trade	1,872	43.2	2,133	49.2	331	7.6	4,336	39	40
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	479	27.0	1,175	66.3	119	6.7	1,773	44	40
Services	1,794	32.5	3,308	59.8	426	7.7	5,528	41	41
Local Government	4,692	35.4	7,934	59.9	622	4.7	13,248	41	41
State Government	3,215	54.1	2,442	41.1	291	4.9	5,948	41	41
Total	22,551	50.9	19,280	43.6	2,434	5.5	44,265	41	41

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reference year of 1992. Like the gender distribution, the industry breakout followed the May 1996 findings as well. Females were highly represented in Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE), Services and Local Government. The only exception was Retail Trade where the number of females was below the May 1996 findings.

Table 2 compares steady workers

to the total 1997 Wyoming labor market. The labor market is defined as all employees who worked in UI covered employment whose unique SSN's were found in UI wage records. This table shows that almost 16 percent of Wyoming's labor market was comprised of steady workers during 1997. Table 3 compares the annual wage of the steady workers by industry to the total statewide covered wage for the

reference years of 1993, 1995 and 1997. The covered wage is the total ES-202 (UI) covered wage for all industries including all jobs. Even though 1992 was the beginning of the reference period, 1993 was used to produce a more accurate annual wage. The criterion for the sample was that an individual had to start work in or before 1992. Therefore, certain individuals were not employed for the entire 1992 calendar year. The following major industry discussions will illustrate a more detailed analysis and all references to employment or wages are found in Tables 2 and 3.

Agriculture

The Agriculture industry in Wyoming contains the greatest percentage of employees that are not covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). A majority of farms and ranches in the state are small; their workers are comprised of only family members and temporary help, thus not subject to UI laws. Therefore, the number of steady

Table 2: Steady Workers in the 1997 Labor Market by Major Industry

	Steady Workers	Row %	1997 Labor Market
Agriculture	394	7.7	5,093
Mining	4,527	22.4	20,216
Construction	1,554	5.9	26,406
Manufacturing	2,812	21.8	12,922
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	2,500	17.6	14,225
Wholesale Trade	1,645	16.4	10,026
Retail Trade	4,336	6.2	69,482
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,773	19.4	9,142
Services	5,528	8.8	62,905
Local Government	13,248	32.1	41,308
State Government	5,948	45.2	13,173
Unknown	0	0.0	27
Total	44,265	15.5	284,925

(Continued on page 4)

Table 3: 1993, 1995 and 1997 Wages for Steady Workers by Major Industry

	1993 Annual Wages	1995 Annual Wages	% Change 93-95	1997 Annual Wages	% Change 95-97
Agriculture	20,593.00	22,392.38	8.7	24,112.17	7.7
Mining	44,947.56	50,001.19	11.2	55,575.49	11.1
Construction	29,852.36	34,836.00	16.7	37,617.87	8.0
Manufacturing	32,313.93	35,172.83	8.8	38,301.61	8.9
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	35,269.26	38,776.35	9.9	41,905.04	8.1
Wholesale Trade	31,909.37	35,752.61	12.0	39,853.48	11.5
Retail Trade	20,604.29	22,892.58	11.1	24,904.89	8.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30,884.68	33,285.78	7.8	37,923.93	13.9
Services	28,603.68	31,776.36	11.1	33,961.58	6.9
Local Government	24,956.10	26,956.56	8.0	28,531.65	5.8
State Government	26,740.79	30,190.84	12.9	32,032.00	6.1
Total Steady Workers (All Industries)	\$28,948.18	\$31,957.21	10.4	\$34,542.76	8.1
Total Statewide (All Industries)*	\$21,745.00	\$22,351.00	2.8	\$23,861.00	6.8

*Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning Section, *Annual Covered Employment and Wages*, 1993, 1995 & 1997, p. 10, 13 & 13, respectively. **Total Statewide Wages (All Industries)** is calculated by dividing Total Payroll by Annual Average Employment.

workers is difficult to determine. The Agriculture industry has 394 steady workers, which accounts for only 7.7 percent of the covered labor market with the majority found in agricultural production - livestock and animal specialties. Some of the reasons for this small percentage are due to high seasonality and low wages. The Agriculture industry is one of only two industries whose annual wage fell below the statewide UI covered wage of \$21,745.00 in 1993. However, in 1995 and 1997 the annual wages were above the statewide average, growing at rates of 8.7 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively.

Mining

The Mining industry has been a major contributor to Wyoming's economy for many years. This contribution includes occupations that warrant specialized skills (e.g., earth drillers, blasters & explosives workers and dragline operators) and pay high wages to many individuals. There were 4,527 steady workers or 22.4 percent of the labor market employed in 1997. The Mining industry has the third highest number of steady workers, evenly distributed among the coal, oil & gas extraction and non-metallic minerals industries, and ranks at the top in annual wages. In 1993, steady workers averaged \$44,947.56 in annual wages, double the statewide covered wage. The Mining industry was one of two industries that maintained an even growth in annual wages during the six-year period at just over 11.0 percent.

Construction

Wyoming's Construction industry is highly seasonal and is based on short-term special projects, thus producing high job turnover and a

low rate of steady workers. Factors influencing this project-based environment are interest rates, housing starts/building permits, federal monies (e.g., highway funds) and new business or population segments. All these factors make it difficult to maintain steady work with the same employer. Table 2 (see page 3) shows that there were only 1,554 (5.9%) individuals who worked for the same employer in the Construction industry from 1992-97. Out of the 1,554 steady workers, over half (52%) were found in special trades construction. The Construction industry annual wage of \$29,852.36 ranked sixth in 1993. Construction saw a 16.7 percent increase in wages from 1993-95 compared to the statewide covered wage increase of 2.8 percent. This was the largest increase of any industry. The 1995-97 increase was more modest at 8.0 percent, but it still remained above the statewide increase of 6.8 percent.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is only a small part of Wyoming's economy. The industry averaged 12,922 covered employees or 4.5 percent of the jobs in 1997. However, it ranked fourth in the number of steady workers as a percentage of the labor force. The high number of steady workers is attributable to high wages and the specialized skills required by the majority of the industry's occupations (e.g., machinists, maintenance repairers and petroleum refinery operators). Of the 2,812 steady workers, the industries that accounted for the majority are printing & publishing (389), chemicals (387) and petroleum refining (441). These employees earned an average of \$32,313.93 annually in 1993 with an average increase of 8.9 percent over the next four years. Chemical

manufacturing had the highest annual wage (\$46,752.57) while apparel and other products retained the lowest annual wage (\$12,261.86).

Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU)

Wyoming's TCPU industry contains nine different industry groups that accounted for 14,225 jobs in 1997. These groups are influenced by different external factors. Transportation consists of local and urban transit, motor freight transportation, water & air transportation and pipelines, except natural gas, which all have unique seasonal employment patterns. On the other hand, Communication & Public Utilities are affected by increases or decreases in the state's population. There were 2,500 steady workers in 1997, of which two-thirds were found in the motor freight transportation (857) and electrical services (834) industries. TCPU had the second highest annual wage throughout the reference period, starting at \$35,269.26 in 1993 and ending at \$41,905.04 in 1997.

Wholesale Trade

The Wholesale Trade industry, categorized into durable goods and nondurable goods, has a covered labor market of 10,026. Durable goods account for 56 percent (5,594) of the covered employment and 62 percent (1,023) of the steady workers. The remaining 44 percent (4,432) of covered employment and 38 percent of steady workers are found in nondurable goods. Out of the 1,023 steady workers in durable goods, 63 percent (649) were located in machinery, equipment and supplies. These are establishments primarily engaged in

(Continued on page 5)

the wholesale distribution of construction & mining (except petroleum), farm & garden and industrial machinery and equipment. The majority of the 622 steady workers in nondurable goods were found in groceries and related products. In 1993, the Wholesale Trade industry had the fourth highest annual wage (\$31,909.37); however, it had the third highest in 1997 (\$39,853.48).

Retail Trade

The Retail Trade industry supports the largest covered employment of all the major divisions. Of its 69,482 covered employees, there were 4,336 (6.2%) individuals who remained attached to the same employer for the six-year period. The major factors affecting steady work are high seasonality and a high proportion of lower paid and part-time employees. Motor vehicle dealers had 1,114 steady workers with an annual wage of \$27,146.60, the highest of all nine major industry groups within Retail Trade. Eating & drinking establishments had an annual wage of \$13,701.99, the lowest, but recorded the second highest level of steady workers with a total of 696. Retail Trade, like Agriculture, had an annual wage that fell below the statewide covered wage of \$21,745 in 1993. However, in 1995 and 1997 the industry posted a higher percentage increase in annual wages compared to the statewide UI covered wage.

Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE)

The FIRE industry accounted for 9,142 jobs in 1997. While this is slightly more than three percent of UI covered employment, these industries play an important role in Wyoming's economy. The sample produced 1,773 steady workers for

the reference period, which account for 19.4 percent of covered employment. The FIRE industry also recorded the lowest number of job separations¹ in 1995. The reasons for this type of environment are competitive wages and the additional training and skills that are required for licensing, such as for insurance representatives and real estate and stock brokers. The wages for the industry rank in the middle at a level of \$30,884.68. From 1995 to 1997, the FIRE industry recorded a 13.9 percent increase in annual wages, which was the highest of all the industries. Annual wages for steady workers range from \$19,002.20 (Real Estate) to \$82,889.16 (security and commodity brokers, dealers exchanges & services).

Services

The Services industry supports the second largest covered employment of all the major divisions. Out of the 62,905 covered employees, there were 5,528 (8.8%) individuals who remained attached to the same employer. The factors dictating such a small number of steady workers are numerous. The sixteen industries within Services have different seasonal fluctuations in employment and some of the industries are composed of a high proportion of lower paid and part-time employees. Health services (2,001), social services (689) and engineering, accounting & management (577) are the top industries in the number of steady workers. The industry wage of \$28,603.68 in 1993 and \$33,961.58 in 1997 ranked seventh among all industries. Twelve out of the sixteen major industry groups in Services had an annual wage less than \$23,600.00. The highest annual wages were found in legal services (\$40,171.36), health services

(\$37,147.95) and engineering, accounting & management (\$38,608.93).

Government

The Government sector employed the majority of the steady workers in the sample. Some of the reasons why individuals remain job attached in Government are competitive benefits, set work schedules and in some cases, nontransferable job skills. Local Government reported 13,248 (32.1%) steady workers with the majority found in local education (9,790) and executive/legislative (3,006). The executive/legislative group contains all the city and town clerks, manager offices, county commissions and accounting offices. State Government reported 5,948 (45.2%) steady workers with the majority employed in administration of human resource programs. The wages for State and Local Government ranked near the bottom for all industries, eighth and ninth respectively. Following the annual wages in Table 3 throughout the study period, both State and Local Government showed a significant increase in wages between 1993-95. However, between 1995-97 these industries were the only two whose annual wage percent growth fell below the statewide UI covered percentage of 6.8.

The overall findings of this analysis confirm that there is a significant pattern in the annual wages for individuals who retained steady work, showing a 19.3 percent increase in wages over the six-year period. Second, certain industries (Agriculture, Construction, Retail Trade and Services) have lower percentages of steady workers because of high

(Continued on page 6)

seasonality and part-time employment. Third, those industries with a high percentage of steady workers have low seasonality and higher wages. Earlier research compiled by Research & Planning stated that changing jobs pays off⁶. This holds true for individuals who are at the beginning of their career. However, the analysis here shows significant increases in wages for individuals (average age of 41) who have a continuous tenure with the same employer.

1 G. Lee Saathoff, "Separation from the Wyoming Labor Market," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, March 1999, pp. 1-5.

2 Krista R. Shinkle, "Wyoming-Attached Workers: Living and Working in Wyoming," **Trends**, April 1999, pp. 1-6.

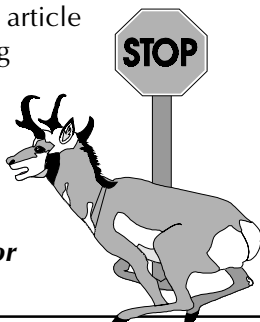
3 Gayle C. Edlin, "Steady Work Pays Off: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Records Revisited," **Trends**, October 1995, pp. 1-6.

4 Brett Judd, "The Wyoming Wage Record Classification System," **Trends**, March 1998, pp. 1-3.

5 Brett Judd and Gregg Detweiler, "The Relation of Age and Gender to Employment in Wyoming: A New Analysis Utilizing Wage Records," **Trends**, May 1996, pp. 1-4.

6 Gayle C. Edlin, "Changing Jobs Pays Off," **Trends**, October 1996, pp. 1-6.

Watch for the final two installments of this five-part article series analyzing labor force attachment coming in the June and July issues of **Wyoming Labor Force Trends!**



Total Payroll as a Tool for Identifying Business Cycles in Wyoming

by: David Bullard, Economist figure by: Gayle C. Edlin, Economist
 data provided by: Nancy Brennan, Economist

"... real total payroll ... suffered a four-quarter decline in late 1995 and 1996."

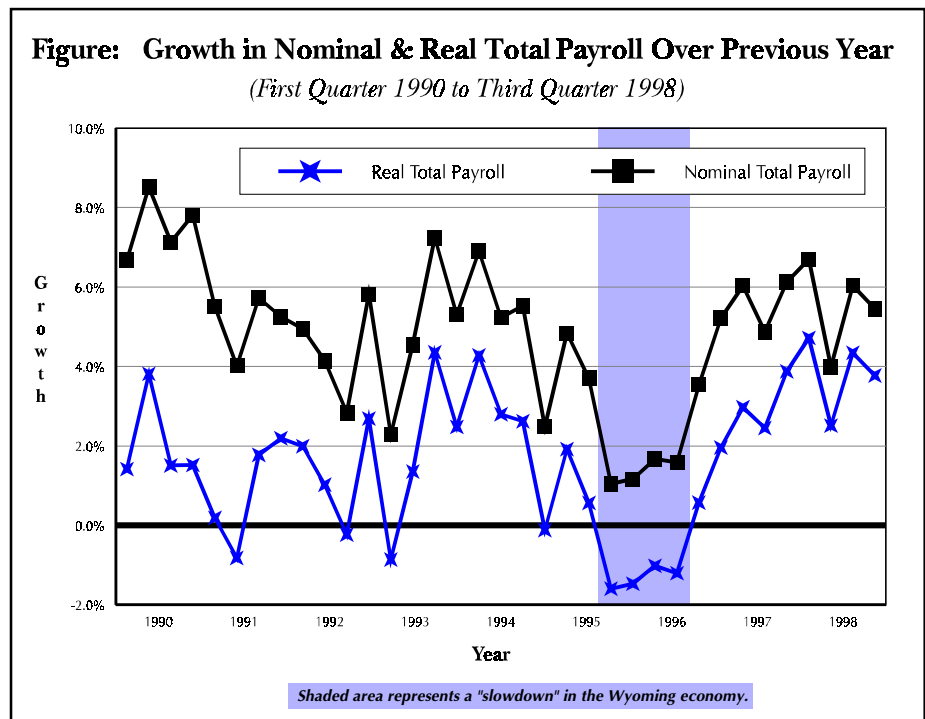
How do professional economists define a recession? Has Wyoming suffered a recession since 1990? This article will use total covered payroll data from first quarter 1990 to third quarter 1998 to help answer these questions. While it does not appear that Wyoming has suffered a recession in recent years, a large drop in real total payroll occurred in 1995 and 1996 that could be characterized as an economic "slowdown."

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defines a recession as "a recurring period of decline in total output, income, employment and trade, usually lasting from six months to a year, and marked by widespread contractions in many sectors of the

economy¹." That is, a recession is seen in several measures of economic health and it affects many different industries. From the currently available data, there have not appeared to be any recessions in Wyoming since 1990. Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment has been growing steadily in the 1990's. Other measures including Gross State Product (GSP) also show growth. However, **real**² total payroll, a measure of economic performance available on a more timely basis than GSP, suffered a four-quarter decline in late 1995 and 1996.

The average growth rate of real total payroll over the period shown

(Continued on page 7)



in the Figure (see page 6) is 1.7 percent. The shaded areas of the Figure and Table represent a "slowdown" in the Wyoming economy. From third quarter 1995 to second quarter 1996, real total payroll growth was negative, averaging -1.3 percent. However, it appears that real payroll growth has improved since the end of the "slowdown" and is now averaging 3.0 percent.

1 Refer to the National Bureau of

Economic Research (NBER)'s "U.S. Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions" webpage: <http://www.nber.org/cycles.html>

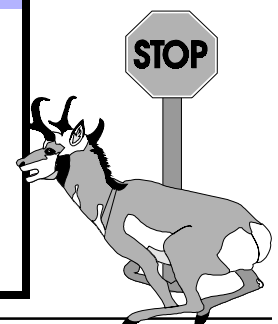
2 **Real** and **nominal** total payroll are distinctly different numbers (see the Table). Nominal total payroll is the payroll in current dollars. In other words, payroll figures in 1990 are expressed in 1990 dollars and payroll in 1998 are expressed in 1998 dollars. Real total payroll is expressed in constant dollars which

do not vary over time. That is, real total payroll dollars are adjusted for inflation using values from the Consumer Price Index (CPI)³. As can be clearly seen in the Figure (see page 6), real payroll is below nominal payroll, but the two series generally move together.

3 Gordon Wolford, "How the Consumer Price Index Measures Changes in Consumer Prices," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, November 1995, pp. 1-3.

Table: Quarterly Nominal and Real Total Payroll for Wyoming

	<u>Nominal Total Payroll</u>		<u>Real Total Payroll</u>	
	Value	Change Over Previous Year	Value	Change Over Previous Year
1990Q 1	\$881,202,982	6.7%	\$688,439,830	1.4%
Q 2	970,449,944	8.5	750,541,333	3.8
Q 3	958,369,939	7.1	728,244,634	1.5
Q 4	1,014,934,910	7.8	759,113,620	1.5
1991Q 1	\$929,775,528	5.5%	\$689,744,457	0.2%
Q 2	1,009,384,387	4.0	744,383,766	-0.8
Q 3	1,013,198,564	5.7	741,184,026	1.8
Q 4	1,068,211,204	5.2	775,752,508	2.2
1992Q 1	\$975,753,509	4.9%	\$703,499,286	2.0%
Q 2	1,051,271,552	4.1	751,982,512	1.0
Q 3	1,041,925,742	2.8	739,478,880	-0.2
Q 4	1,130,369,041	5.8	796,595,519	2.7
1993Q 1	\$998,028,658	2.3%	\$697,434,422	-0.9%
Q 2	1,099,030,495	4.5	762,157,070	1.4
Q 3	1,117,393,185	7.2	771,680,376	4.4
Q 4	1,190,233,907	5.3	816,346,987	2.5
1994Q 1	\$1,066,914,792	6.9%	\$727,276,613	4.3%
Q 2	1,156,421,014	5.2	783,483,072	2.8
Q 3	1,179,167,959	5.5	791,919,381	2.6
Q 4	1,219,778,627	2.5	815,360,045	-0.1
1995Q 1	\$1,118,511,676	4.8%	\$741,227,088	1.9%
Q 2	1,199,195,063	3.7	787,907,400	0.6
Q 3	1,191,530,696	1.0	779,287,571	-1.6
Q 4	1,234,017,827	1.2	803,397,023	-1.5
1996Q 1	\$1,137,186,635	1.7%	\$733,668,797	-1.0%
Q 2	1,218,210,583	1.6	778,409,318	-1.2
Q 3	1,233,647,606	3.5	783,765,950	0.6
Q 4	1,298,293,406	5.2	819,112,559	2.0
1997Q 1	\$1,205,725,473	6.0%	\$755,467,088	3.0%
Q 2	1,277,554,075	4.9	797,474,454	2.4
Q 3	1,309,171,410	6.1	814,161,325	3.9
Q 4	1,385,232,516	6.7	857,729,112	4.7
1998Q 1	\$1,253,814,338	4.0%	\$774,437,516	2.5%
Q 2	1,354,683,927	6.0	832,115,434	4.3
Q 3	1,380,576,671	5.5	844,906,163	3.8



Employment Service Utilization for Individuals with Multiple Employers

by: Tony Glover, Senior Statistician

The current feature article series in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* discusses the impact of labor and job turnover on Wyoming’s labor market. These articles separate the labor force into several distinct categories which define each employee’s interaction with the labor market. This article demonstrates the impact of working for multiple employers on the utilization of services provided by the Department of Employment (DOE). For the period 1992-97, our analysis reveals that the more employers a person had, the more likely they were to use at least one of the services provided by the DOE.

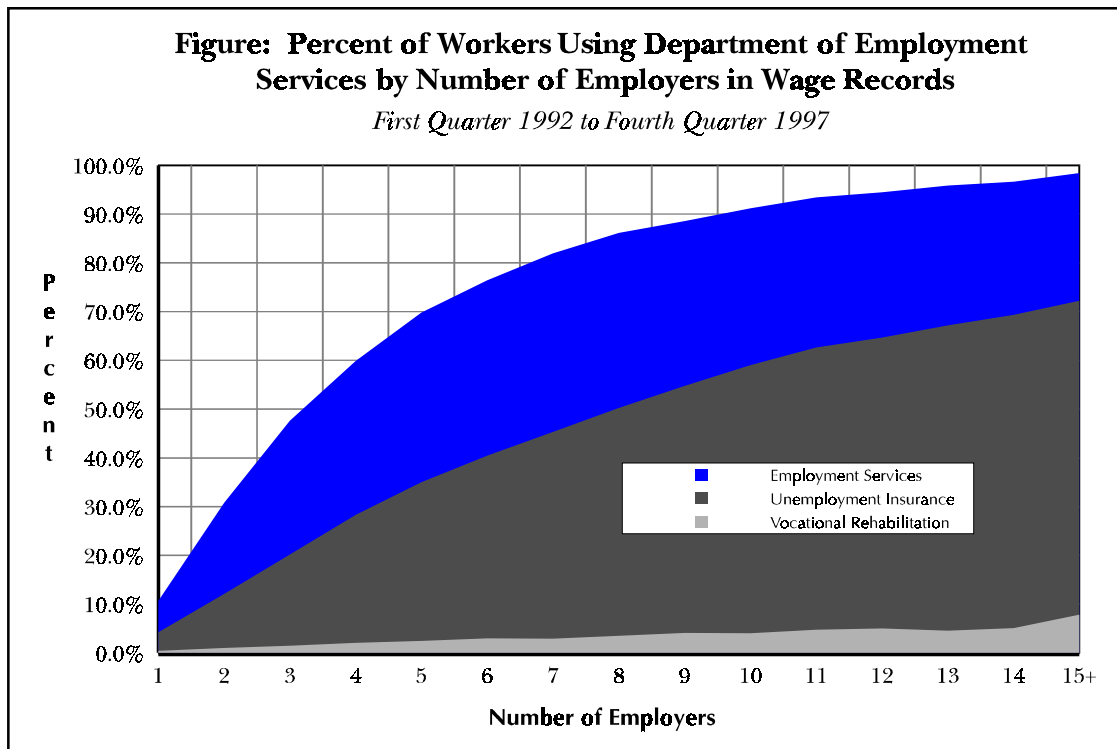
The Wage Record database from 1992 to 1997 (WR) was combined with the following three DOE services’ databases: Employment Services 1994 to 1998 (ES), Unemployment Insurance Claims

1992 to 1998 (UI) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to produce this brief report. This combined database allowed us to track the number of employers for each person and contacts with DOE services. The Figure presents the percentage of people utilizing the services by the number of employers for whom each person worked during the period 1992 to 1997. An individual was considered to have used the service if they appeared at least once during the period covered by the database.

A review of the Figure indicates a positive relationship between the number of employers an individual worked for and his/her likelihood of utilizing services provided by the Department of Employment. As mentioned in last month’s feature article, “Wyoming-Attached Workers: Living and Working in Wyoming,” multiple job holders

have developed skills and experience necessary to find new employment. Perhaps the skills developed are attributable to a knowledge of both the services available to attain employment (ES & VR) and those provided to assist the individual during times of unemployment (UI).

Further research in this area could reveal the relationships between the demographic characteristics of the individuals, multiple employers and the services utilized; the individual’s attachment to Wyoming’s labor market and interactions with services available; and the relationship of geographic area, multiple employers and service utilization. These are only a few of the possibilities that become available using linked database research.



Wyoming Mining Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County: Maps Can Reveal More Information

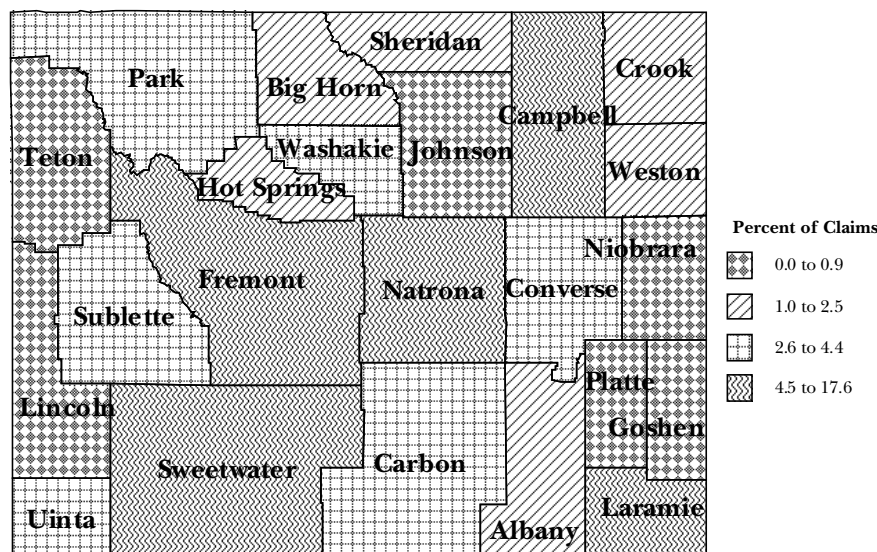
by: Valerie A. Davis, Senior Statistician

The recent increases in the number of continued claims in the Mining industry have prompted much analysis¹. Unemployment

Insurance (UI) continued claims in Mining show that out of 23 counties, 19 increased the number of continued claims in the Mining industry and two decreased over

the previous year (from February 1998 and 1999; see Maps 1 and 2). Only two counties had the same number of continued claims for both years (no change).

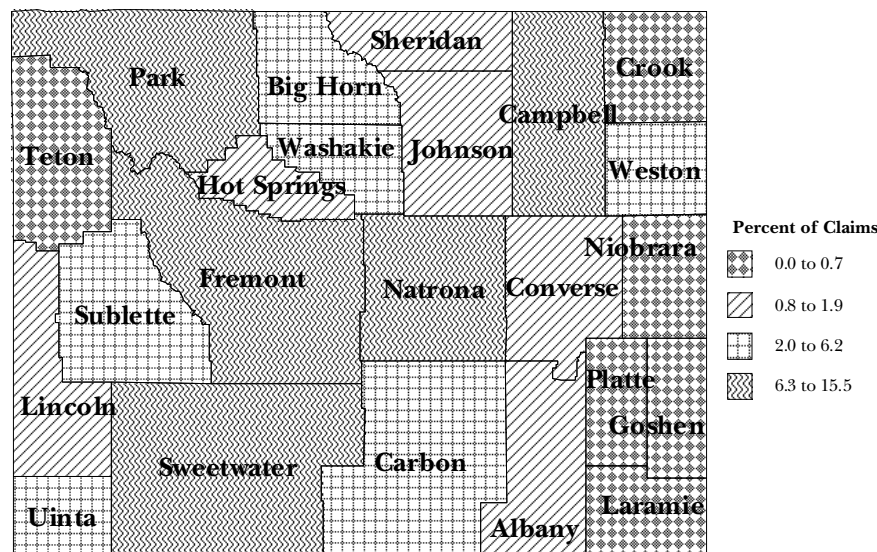
Map 1: Percent of Total Mining Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims in February 1998 by County



The greatest increase occurred in Fremont County (+316), followed by Natrona (+263), Campbell (+261), Sweetwater (+177), Park (+152) and Uinta Counties (+142). The rest ranged from +2 to +53. Decreases occurred in Laramie (-60) and Converse Counties (-3).

Map 1 shows the percent of the total continued claims in Mining for February 1998 by county in Wyoming and Map 2 shows the same data for February 1999. These maps show that 15 counties are in the same relative position. For example, Niobrara County was in the group of counties with the lowest percent of claims in both February 1998 and 1999.

Map 2: Percent of Total Mining Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims in February 1999 by County



However, examination of the numbers related to these percent changes (i.e., the actual number of claims filed) in conjunction with maps like these would show a more complete picture of what is or is not occurring in the industry. For example, while we have just observed that most of Wyoming's counties are in the same relative position in terms of the percent of continued claims filed in February 1998 and 1999, Maps 1 and 2 do not indicate if the actual number of claims filed is remaining relatively constant over this time. In fact, the total number of continued claims in Mining filed statewide for these months were 1,438 and 3,318, respectively (see page 11).

Each portion of the analysis of a

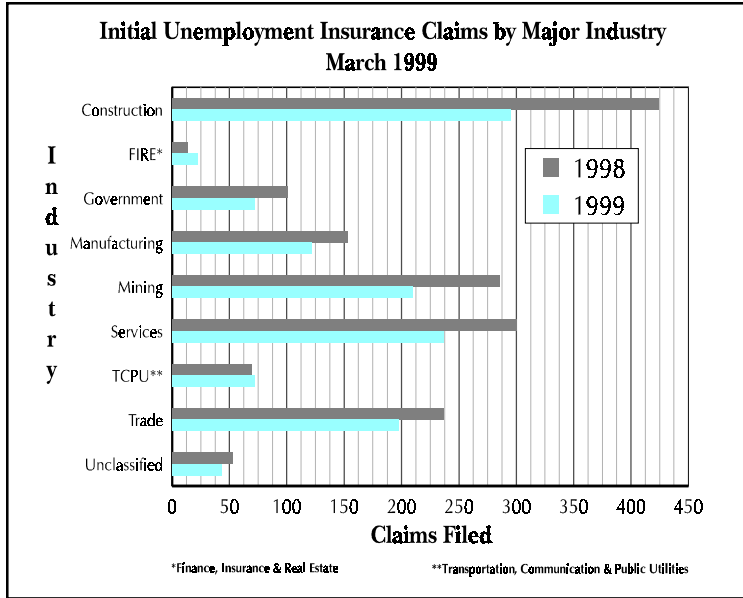
Source: Monthly Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims
 Maps created on Atlas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Incorporated (ESRI).

(Continued on page 16)

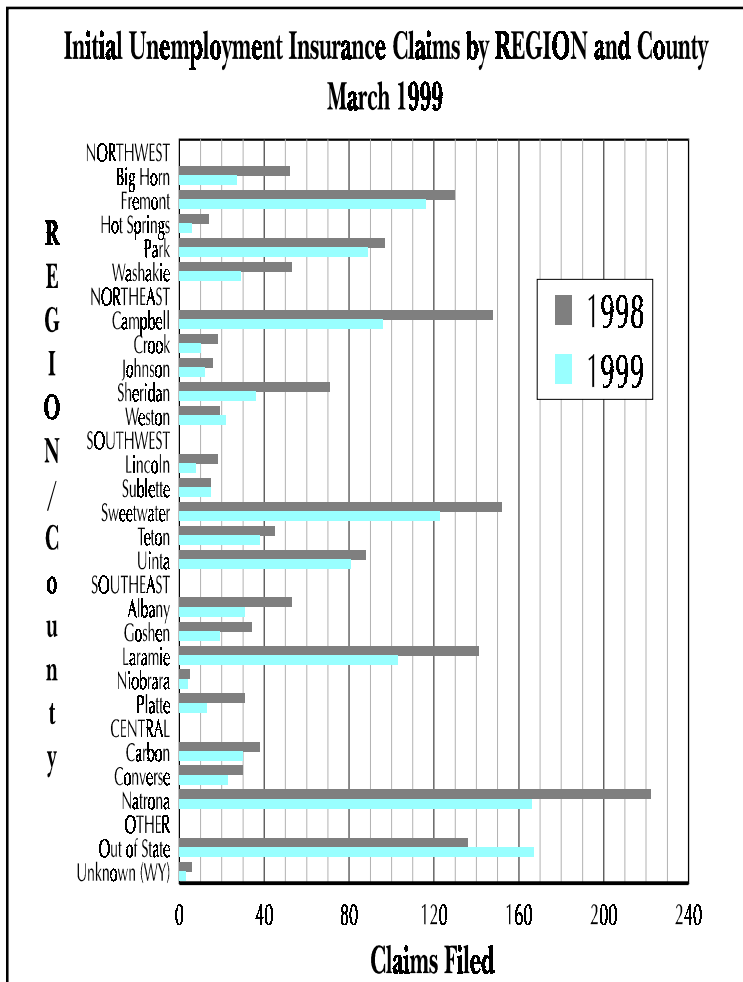
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"A large percent change does not always mean that claims have increased dramatically. For example, Finance, Insurance & Real Estate initial claims increased 57.1 percent from March 1998 to 1999; the number of claims filed only increased from 14 to 22."



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change	
	MAR 99	FEB 99	MAR 98	MAR 99	MAR 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,269	1,607	1,637	-21.0	-22.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	627	890	862	-29.6	-27.3
Manufacturing	122	150	153	-18.7	-20.3
Mining	210	265	285	-20.8	-26.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	206	252	272	-18.3	-24.3
Construction	295	475	424	-37.9	-30.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	599	642	722	-6.7	-17.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	72	68	70	5.9	2.9
Transportation	56	58	57	-3.4	-1.8
Communications & Public Utilities	16	10	13	60.0	23.1
Trade	197	223	236	-11.7	-16.5
Wholesale Trade	34	37	42	-8.1	-19.0
Retail Trade	164	186	194	-11.8	-15.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	22	17	14	29.4	57.1
Services	236	261	301	-9.6	-21.6
Personal & Business Services	60	74	80	-18.9	-25.0
Health Services	34	43	43	-20.9	-20.9
Government	72	73	101	-1.4	-28.7
Local Government	28	30	42	-6.7	-33.3
Local Education	8	6	15	33.3	-46.7
UNCLASSIFIED	43	75	53	-42.7	-18.9



LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	104	136	140	-23.5	-25.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	29	59	53	-50.8	-45.3
Manufacturing	3	8	11	-62.5	-72.7
Mining	1	3	3	-66.7	-66.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	3	3	-66.7	-66.7
Construction	25	48	39	-47.9	-35.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	69	69	82	0.0	-15.9
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	10	9	6	11.1	66.7
Transportation	8	5	5	60.0	60.0
Communications & Public Utilities	2	3	1	-33.3	100.0
Trade	22	22	25	0.0	-12.0
Wholesale Trade	6	2	4	200.0	50.0
Retail Trade	16	19	21	-15.8	-23.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5	3	3	66.7	66.7
Services	22	29	35	-24.1	-37.1
Personal & Business Services	11	12	11	-8.3	0.0
Health Services	4	6	8	-33.3	-50.0
Government	10	6	13	66.7	-23.1
Local Government	3	2	5	50.0	-40.0
Local Education	1	0	3	N/A	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	6	8	5	-25.0	20.0

NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	166	220	222	-24.5	-25.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	84	104	104	-19.2	-19.2
Manufacturing	9	24	9	-62.5	0.0
Mining	46	38	40	21.1	15.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	45	35	37	28.6	21.6
Construction	29	42	55	-31.0	-47.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	79	108	114	-26.9	-30.7
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	6	11	6	-45.5	0.0
Transportation	4	10	5	-60.0	-20.0
Communications & Public Utilities	2	1	1	100.0	100.0
Trade	25	44	35	-43.2	-28.6
Wholesale Trade	7	16	9	-56.3	-22.2
Retail Trade	18	28	26	-35.7	-30.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5	4	4	25.0	25.0
Services	40	45	60	-11.1	-33.3
Personal & Business Services	10	13	21	-23.1	-52.4
Health Services	10	10	14	0.0	-28.6
Government	3	4	9	-25.0	-66.7
Local Government	2	3	4	-33.3	-50.0
Local Education	2	1	1	100.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	3	8	4	-62.5	-25.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"After two months of small increases, Wyoming statewide continued claims decreased slightly (down 2.3% from March 1998 to 1999). Total unique claimants decreased over the year as well (down 14.3% percent)."

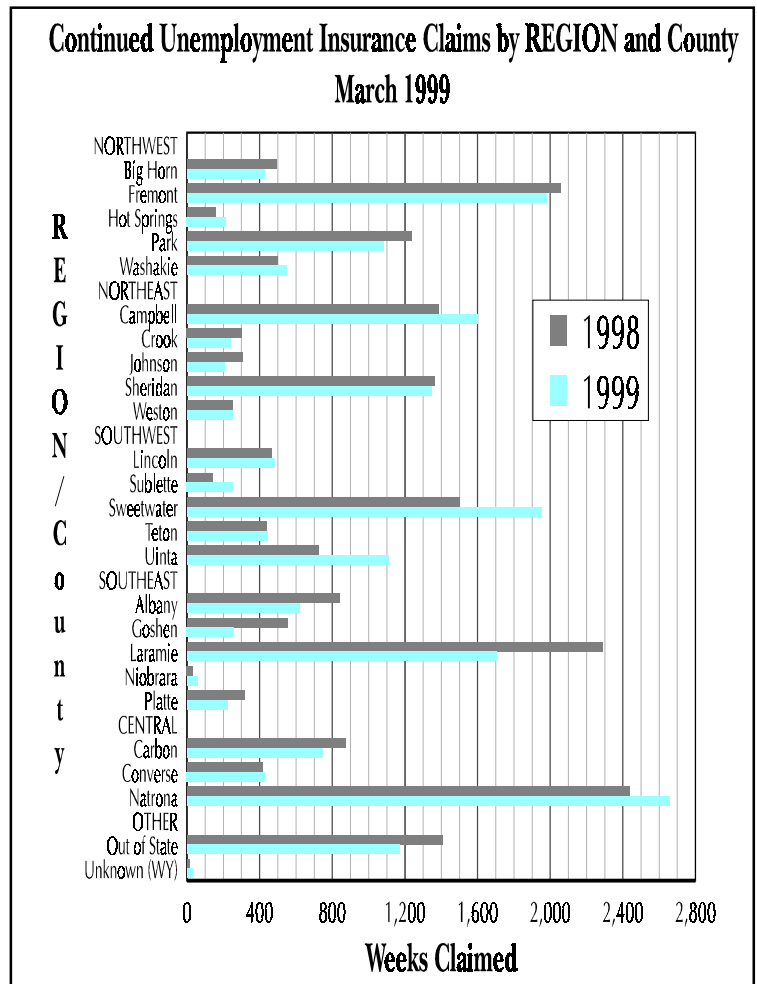
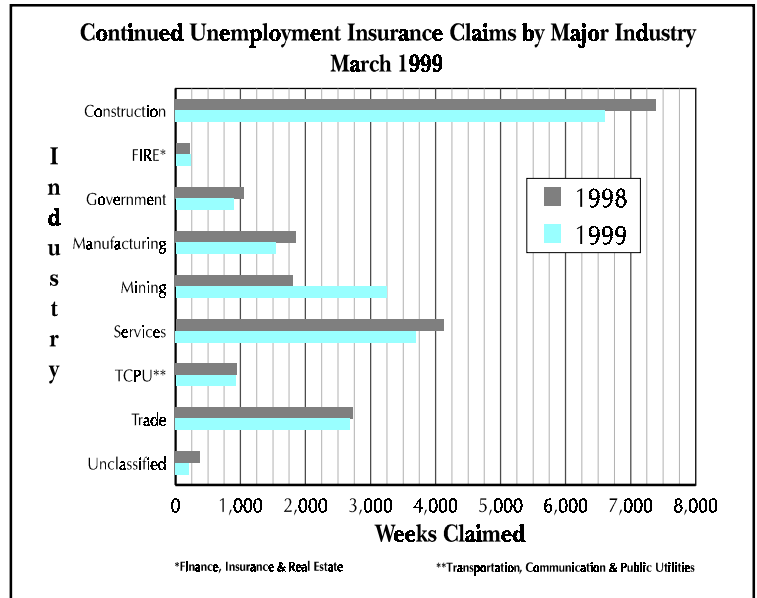
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	MAR 99	FEB 99	MAR 98	MAR 99	MAR 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	20,018	21,644	20,493	-7.5	-2.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,262	6,526	6,142	-19.4	-14.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING					
Manufacturing	1,538	1,220	1,850	26.1	-16.9
Mining	3,248	3,318	1,809	-2.1	79.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	3,034	3,027	1,671	0.2	81.6
Construction	6,600	7,602	7,391	-13.2	-10.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	8,428	9,252	9,066	-8.9	-7.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	921	897	952	2.7	-3.3
Transportation	782	756	786	3.4	-0.5
Communications & Public Utilities	139	142	166	-2.1	-16.3
Trade	2,686	2,799	2,731	-4.0	-1.6
Wholesale Trade	456	439	369	3.9	23.6
Retail Trade	2,231	2,360	2,362	-5.5	-5.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	229	289	217	-20.8	5.5
Services	3,701	4,103	4,116	-9.8	-10.1
Personal & Business Services	1,064	1,158	1,038	-8.1	2.5
Health Services	398	406	450	-2.0	-11.6
Government	891	1,164	1,050	-23.5	-15.1
Local Government	557	665	566	-16.2	-1.6
Local Education	113	130	170	-13.1	-33.5
UNCLASSIFIED	204	252	377	-19.0	-45.9

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,700	1,943	2,287	-12.5	-25.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	455	603	685	-24.5	-33.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING					
Manufacturing	78	86	77	-9.3	1.3
Mining	17	11	27	54.5	-37.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	14	6	27	133.3	-48.1
Construction	822	1,000	1,212	-17.8	-32.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	759	815	952	-6.9	-20.3
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	120	115	90	4.3	33.3
Transportation	86	75	75	14.7	14.7
Communications & Public Utilities	35	40	15	-12.5	133.3
Trade	256	280	358	-8.6	-28.5
Wholesale Trade	29	28	37	3.6	-21.6
Retail Trade	228	252	322	-9.5	-29.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	42	47	26	-10.6	61.5
Services	301	298	389	1.0	-22.6
Personal & Business Services	105	102	176	2.9	-40.3
Health Services	66	76	24	-13.2	175.0
Government	40	75	89	-46.7	-55.1
Local Government	16	28	28	-42.9	-42.9
Local Education	14	11	22	27.3	-36.4
UNCLASSIFIED	24	31	19	-22.6	26.3

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,656	2,864	2,437	-7.3	9.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	716	869	746	-17.6	-4.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING					
Manufacturing	222	120	168	85.0	32.1
Mining	448	480	279	-6.7	60.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	397	418	235	-5.0	68.9
Construction	694	943	848	-26.4	-18.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	1,264	1,293	1,107	-2.2	14.2
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	126	108	77	16.7	63.6
Transportation	113	93	58	21.5	94.8
Communications & Public Utilities	14	15	18	-6.7	-22.2
Trade	472	415	318	13.7	48.4
Wholesale Trade	129	113	65	14.2	98.5
Retail Trade	343	302	253	13.6	35.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	52	52	31	0.0	67.7
Services	544	599	631	-9.2	-13.8
Personal & Business Services	182	193	202	-5.7	-9.9
Health Services	123	127	150	-3.1	-18.0
Government	70	119	50	-41.2	40.0
Local Government	57	97	32	-41.2	78.1
Local Education	23	37	2	-37.8	1,050.0
UNCLASSIFIED	28	28	35	0.0	-20.0



Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Annual Averages

by: David Bullard, Economist

"From 1997 to 1998, labor force increased in all 23 of Wyoming's counties."

At right are the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) annual average data for 1996-1998 (see Table, page 13). During the first quarter of the calendar year, data from the three previous years are "benchmarked" or updated using newly available data. The complete series is available on the Internet at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/laus/toc.htm>.

Figure 1 shows annual average unemployment rates for Wyoming and the United States (for a graphic representation of monthly unemployment rates, see page 14). While the U.S. experienced a recession earlier in the decade and unemployment soared above seven percent, Wyoming's unemployment rate has stayed low from 1990 to 1998. In the 1990's, the Wyoming unemployment rate peaked in 1992 at 5.7 percent, and its lowest level was 4.8

percent in both 1995 and 1998. Only in 1997 and 1998 was the U.S. unemployment rate below Wyoming's. However, in the past three years, Wyoming's unemployment rate has not been significantly different from the U.S. rate.

Wyoming's labor force is shown in Figure 2. Labor force is defined as the number of individuals either working or available and looking for work (i.e., the sum of the employed and unemployed). Labor force grew rapidly from 1991 to 1995, was almost flat between 1995 and 1996, and then fell in 1997. In 1998, labor force again grew rapidly and more than made up all of its losses during 1997.

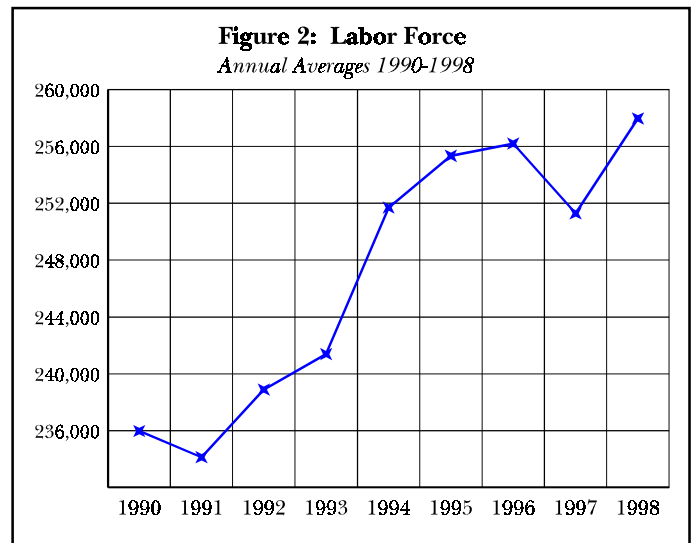
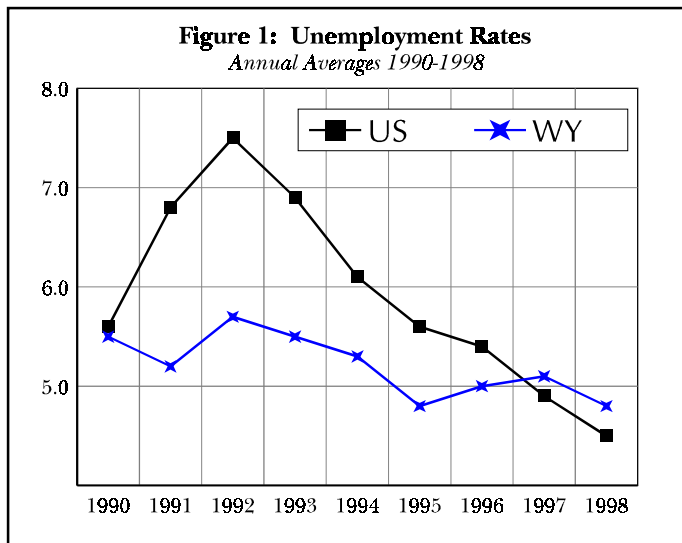
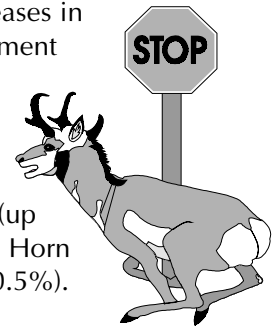
County Labor Force and Unemployment Trends

From 1997 to 1998, labor force

increased in all 23 of Wyoming's counties. The largest increases were in Laramie (+845 or 2.2%), Sweetwater (+799 or 3.9%), Natrona (+781 or 2.4%) and Campbell Counties (+640 or 3.5%).

In 1998, the unemployment rate decreased in 14 counties including the two metropolitan areas, Casper and Cheyenne. Large decreases in the unemployment rate occurred in Converse (down 0.9%), Weston (down 0.8%), Uinta (down 0.6%) and Natrona Counties (down 0.5%).

Large increases in the unemployment rate occurred in Niobrara (up 0.7%), Platte (up 0.6%), Crook (up 0.5%) and Big Horn Counties (up 0.5%).



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For more information, please contact Carol Kjar at 307-473-3807.**

Table: Wyoming Annual Average Local Area Unemployment Statistics (1996 - 1998)

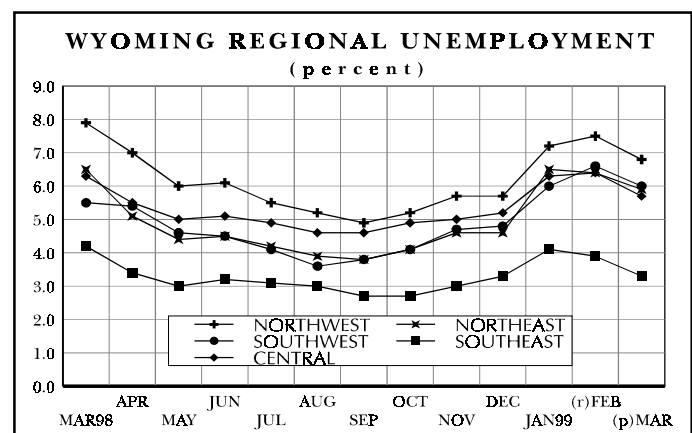
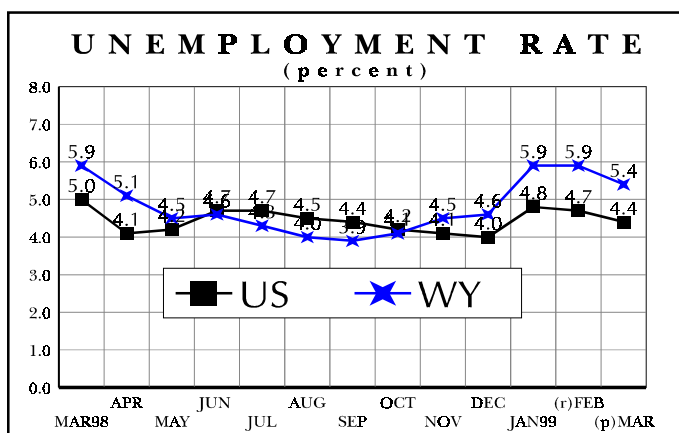
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>		<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
WYOMING				LINCOLN COUNTY			
Labor Force	256,198	251,288	257,968	Labor Force	6,425	6,236	6,245
Employment	243,343	238,520	245,607	Employment	5,992	5,831	5,850
Unemployment	12,855	12,768	12,361	Unemployment	433	405	395
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	4.8	Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.5	6.3
ALBANY COUNTY				NATRONA COUNTY			
Labor Force	16,984	16,590	16,975	Labor Force	32,693	32,387	33,168
Employment	16,664	16,243	16,607	Employment	30,611	30,460	31,382
Unemployment	320	347	368	Unemployment	2,082	1,927	1,786
Unemployment Rate	1.9	2.1	2.2	Unemployment Rate	6.4	5.9	5.4
BIG HORN COUNTY				NIOBRARA COUNTY			
Labor Force	5,371	5,493	5,819	Labor Force	1,293	1,199	1,278
Employment	5,048	5,174	5,452	Employment	1,263	1,174	1,242
Unemployment	323	319	367	Unemployment	30	25	36
Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.8	6.3	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.1	2.8
CAMPBELL COUNTY				PARK COUNTY			
Labor Force	18,571	18,534	19,174	Labor Force	15,176	14,794	15,115
Employment	17,695	17,555	18,246	Employment	14,521	14,092	14,414
Unemployment	876	979	928	Unemployment	655	702	701
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.3	4.8	Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.7	4.6
CARBON COUNTY				PLATTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	8,525	8,207	8,368	Labor Force	4,257	4,283	4,499
Employment	8,075	7,786	7,921	Employment	4,090	4,100	4,280
Unemployment	450	421	447	Unemployment	167	183	219
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.1	5.3	Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.3	4.9
CONVERSE COUNTY				SHERIDAN COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,521	6,505	6,563	Labor Force	13,607	13,357	13,756
Employment	6,170	6,102	6,217	Employment	12,955	12,649	13,049
Unemployment	351	403	346	Unemployment	652	708	707
Unemployment Rate	5.4	6.2	5.3	Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.3	5.1
CROOK COUNTY				SUBLETTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,055	2,948	2,999	Labor Force	3,060	2,945	3,051
Employment	2,916	2,806	2,839	Employment	2,949	2,858	2,954
Unemployment	139	142	160	Unemployment	111	87	97
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.8	5.3	Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.0	3.2
FREMONT COUNTY				SWEETWATER COUNTY			
Labor Force	17,804	17,272	17,561	Labor Force	21,126	20,568	21,367
Employment	16,425	15,829	16,172	Employment	19,796	19,349	20,223
Unemployment	1,379	1,443	1,389	Unemployment	1,330	1,219	1,144
Unemployment Rate	7.7	8.4	7.9	Unemployment Rate	6.3	5.9	5.4
GOSHEN COUNTY				TETON COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,454	6,321	6,440	Labor Force	10,621	10,565	10,921
Employment	6,128	6,004	6,138	Employment	10,324	10,292	10,691
Unemployment	326	317	302	Unemployment	297	273	230
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.0	4.7	Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.6	2.1
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY				UINTA COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,530	2,384	2,419	Labor Force	11,033	10,551	10,917
Employment	2,424	2,278	2,309	Employment	10,217	9,898	10,301
Unemployment	106	106	110	Unemployment	816	653	616
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	4.5	Unemployment Rate	7.4	6.2	5.6
JOHNSON COUNTY				WASHAKIE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,747	3,682	3,744	Labor Force	4,870	4,758	4,917
Employment	3,604	3,512	3,590	Employment	4,597	4,492	4,628
Unemployment	143	170	154	Unemployment	273	266	289
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.6	4.1	Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	5.9
LARAMIE COUNTY				WESTON COUNTY			
Labor Force	39,151	38,492	39,337	Labor Force	3,327	3,214	3,336
Employment	37,729	37,001	37,927	Employment	3,152	3,035	3,176
Unemployment	1,422	1,491	1,410	Unemployment	175	179	160
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.9	3.6	Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6	4.8

Wyoming Economic Indicators

"Wyoming's labor force grew 1.6 percent over the year while the number of unemployed fell 7.9 percent."

	March 1999 ----- (p) -----	February 1999 ----- (r) -----	March 1998 ----- (b) -----	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	259,313	256,792	255,147	1.0	1.6
Unemployed	13,881	15,278	15,071	-9.1	-7.9
Employed	245,432	241,514	240,076	1.6	2.2
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.4%/4.3%	5.9%/4.6%	5.9%/4.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.4%/4.2%	4.7%/4.4%	5.0%/4.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,027,000	8,044,000	7,987,000	-0.2	0.5
As a percent of all workers	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	295,000	271,000	343,000	8.9	-14.0
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,703,000	3,594,000	4,011,000	3.0	-7.7
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$856.08	\$832.46	\$821.86	2.8	4.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.5	43.2	43.6	-0.9	-3.0
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$729.17	\$731.43	\$733.03	-0.3	-0.5
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	42.5	43.4	-0.9	-3.0
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$623.50	\$608.70	\$591.48	2.4	5.4
Average Weekly Hours	40.2	39.5	40.1	1.8	0.2
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$568.97	\$564.16	\$561.70	0.9	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	41.5	41.3	41.7	0.5	-0.5
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	21,726	19,641	20,710	10.6	4.9
Benefits Paid	\$4,013,221	\$3,607,040	\$3,598,781	11.3	11.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$184.72	\$183.65	\$173.77	0.6	6.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	201,065	199,832	198,111	0.6	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	165.0	164.5	162.2	0.3	1.7
Food & Beverages	163.7	163.8	160.1	-0.1	2.2
Housing	162.8	162.3	159.2	0.3	2.3
Apparel	132.7	129.7	134.9	2.3	-1.6
Transportation	140.6	139.8	141.4	0.6	-0.6
Medical Care	248.3	247.7	239.8	0.2	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	101.8	101.8	101.0	0.0	0.8
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	100.8	100.9	99.9	-0.1	0.9
Other Goods & Services	253.3	255.0	232.4	-0.7	9.0
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	122.8	122.4	124.7	0.3	-1.5

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

data produced by: David Bullard, Economist

"While Wyoming's unemployment rate fell from 5.9 to 5.4 percent in March, Washakie and Lincoln Counties experienced increases of 1.1 and 0.9 percentage points, respectively."

REGION COUNTY	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Mar 1999 (p)	Feb 1999 (r)	Mar 1998 (b)	Mar 1999 (p)	Feb 1999 (r)	Mar 1998 (b)	Mar 1999 (p)	Feb 1999 (r)	Mar 1998 (b)	Mar 1999 (p)	Feb 1999 (r)	Mar 1998 (b)
Northwest	45,049	44,772	44,882	41,971	41,402	41,338	3,078	3,370	3,544	6.8	7.5	7.9
Big Horn	5,963	5,990	5,819	5,524	5,548	5,371	439	442	448	7.4	7.4	7.7
Fremont	17,672	17,522	17,646	16,294	15,892	15,981	1,378	1,630	1,665	7.8	9.3	9.4
Hot Springs Park	2,441	2,355	2,399	2,313	2,217	2,261	128	138	138	5.2	5.9	5.8
Washakie	13,941	13,813	14,087	13,213	13,002	13,203	728	811	884	5.2	5.9	6.3
	5,032	5,092	4,931	4,627	4,743	4,522	405	349	409	8.0	6.9	8.3
Northeast	43,320	43,110	42,396	40,760	40,358	39,637	2,560	2,752	2,759	5.9	6.4	6.5
Campbell	19,685	19,513	19,236	18,533	18,319	18,054	1,152	1,194	1,182	5.9	6.1	6.1
Crook	2,792	2,836	2,789	2,617	2,627	2,552	175	209	237	6.3	7.4	8.5
Johnson	3,547	3,533	3,549	3,406	3,360	3,343	141	173	206	4.0	4.9	5.8
Sheridan	13,851	13,728	13,569	12,991	12,819	12,646	860	909	923	6.2	6.6	6.8
Weston	3,445	3,500	3,253	3,213	3,233	3,042	232	267	211	6.7	7.6	6.5
Southwest	52,584	51,960	51,152	49,407	48,554	48,329	3,177	3,406	2,823	6.0	6.6	5.5
Lincoln	6,154	5,984	6,242	5,643	5,542	5,711	511	442	531	8.3	7.4	8.5
Sublette	2,933	2,903	2,784	2,767	2,752	2,665	166	151	119	5.7	5.2	4.3
Sweetwater	22,314	21,814	21,488	20,817	20,211	20,199	1,497	1,603	1,289	6.7	7.3	6.0
Teton	10,077	10,137	9,955	9,881	9,859	9,730	196	278	225	1.9	2.7	2.3
Uinta	11,106	11,122	10,683	10,299	10,190	10,024	807	932	659	7.3	8.4	6.2
Southeast	69,569	68,761	68,812	67,290	66,103	65,909	2,279	2,658	2,903	3.3	3.9	4.2
Albany	17,408	17,186	17,103	17,050	16,741	16,599	358	445	504	2.1	2.6	2.9
Goshen	6,385	6,395	6,329	6,085	6,033	5,929	300	362	400	4.7	5.7	6.3
Laramie	39,961	39,324	39,782	38,609	37,786	38,076	1,352	1,538	1,706	3.4	3.9	4.3
Niobrara	1,299	1,300	1,169	1,254	1,256	1,135	45	44	34	3.5	3.4	2.9
Platte	4,516	4,556	4,429	4,292	4,287	4,170	224	269	259	5.0	5.9	5.8
Central	48,792	48,185	47,904	46,004	45,095	44,863	2,788	3,090	3,041	5.7	6.4	6.3
Carbon	8,265	8,246	8,091	7,724	7,615	7,500	541	631	591	6.5	7.7	7.3
Converse	6,397	6,470	6,393	6,016	6,059	5,964	381	411	429	6.0	6.4	6.7
Natrona	34,130	33,469	33,420	32,264	31,421	31,399	1,866	2,048	2,021	5.5	6.1	6.0
Statewide	259,313	256,792	255,147	245,432	241,514	240,076	13,881	15,278	15,071	5.4	5.9	5.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.3	4.6	4.9
U.S.....										4.4	4.7	5.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.2	4.4	4.7

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/99. Run Date 04/99.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1998 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.8 percent.
The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.2 to 5.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

State Unemployment Rates March News

March 1999

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

by: David Bullard, Economist

"Construction, aided by mild winter weather, showed a gain of 500 jobs ... "

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.7
West Virginia	7.4
Alaska	7.2
District of Columbia	7.1
Oregon	6.4
Montana	6.3
New Mexico	6.3
California	5.8
Idaho	5.8
Hawaii	5.7
New York	5.5
Wyoming	5.4
Mississippi	5.1
Washington	5.0
Louisiana	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
New Jersey	4.7
Arkansas	4.6
Kentucky	4.5
Michigan	4.5
Maine	4.4
Tennessee	4.4
Texas	4.4
United States	4.4
Ohio	4.3
Georgia	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Illinois	4.0
Alabama	3.9
Florida	3.9
Wisconsin	3.9
Arizona	3.7
Maryland	3.7
Kansas	3.6
Rhode Island	3.6
Nevada	3.5
Delaware	3.4
North Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Connecticut	3.3
Iowa	3.3
Massachusetts	3.3
New Hampshire	3.3
South Carolina	3.3
North Carolina	3.1
South Dakota	3.1
Missouri	3.0
Indiana	2.9
Colorado	2.8
Minnesota	2.6
Virginia	2.6
Nebraska	2.5

Led by gains in Construction and business services, Wyoming's economy produced 1,900 new jobs in March (see page 19). This translates into an annual growth rate of 0.9 percent, a level of growth similar to the state's experience for the past six months. The employment growth graphic at the bottom of page 19 shows that U.S. job growth has remained between 2.0 and 2.4 percent during this same period.

Business services, the industry which includes telemarketing firms, added 200 jobs over the month, for an increase of 700 jobs or 12.1 percent over the year. Construction, aided by mild winter weather, showed a gain of 500 jobs or 3.8 percent over March 1998.

Once again, the largest job losses occurred in the Mining sector. Over-the-year comparisons show a loss of 600 jobs or 3.6 percent. Coal mining employment is flat, oil & gas extraction is down by 400 jobs (-4.7%) and nonmetallic minerals (including trona) is down 200 jobs (-6.3%). Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims also indicate relatively large job losses in Mining. Contin-

ued claims in Mining were up 79.5 percent over the year (see page 11).

Despite comparatively slow job growth and a troubled Mining industry, unemployment data were positive. The unemployment rate fell from 5.9 percent in February to 5.4 percent in March (see page 14). Civilian labor force increased by 4,166 individuals or 1.6 percent. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) annual averages show that labor force increased in all 23 counties in 1998, and the unemployment rate fell in 14 counties (see page 13).

Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims were down 22.4 percent over the year (see page 10). The largest drops in claims were in Construction (down 30.4%), Services (down 21.6%) and Trade (down 16.5%). Continued claims were down 2.3 percent (see page 11). Practically all of the industries, except Mining, had decreases in continued claims.

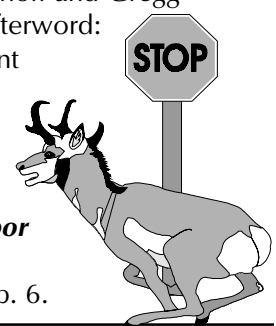


"Wyoming Mining Claims by County" -- Continued from page 9)

complex, real-world subject such as Unemployment Insurance claims in the Mining industry is important. It yields interesting and valuable information about the subject at hand. However, as this article reminds us, each portion is just that; one more puzzle piece which is, by itself, less meaningful than when it

is set against more of the pieces.

1 G. Lee Saathoff and Gregg Detweiler, "Afterword: Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Mining Industry," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, March 1999, p. 6.



Wyoming Employment 1994 - 1998: A Tale of Two Series

by: David Bullard, Economist, Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist and Gayle C. Edlin, Economist

Research & Planning, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces two employment series. The Current Employment Statistics (CES) or payroll series uses a monthly sample-based survey of Wyoming employers to estimate nonagricultural wage and salary employment each month. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) series is based on the Current Population Survey (CPS)--a monthly household survey of Wyoming residents and other data.

The question that many people first ask when comparing these two series is, "Why are the numbers so

different if both of them are about employment?" The simple answer is, LAUS and CES are indeed both measures of employment, but LAUS is a count of employed individuals and CES is a count of jobs (i.e., multiple jobholding will affect CES but not LAUS). These and other differences between the series have been the subject of several articles¹ where they are explained in detail.

So why is it useful to have these two employment series? Each series has its merits, and each provides a unique snapshot which, when compared and contrasted to the other, helps to produce a more complete and detailed picture of

Wyoming's economy.

The Figure shows the annual average employment levels for these two series from 1994 to 1998. Perhaps the most noticeable difference between the two series is the drop in LAUS employment from 1996 to 1997. During the period shown in the Figure, CES employment has been growing steadily. The Table shows the annual levels and the percent change over the previous year for each series. During the 1994-1998 period, LAUS employment grew the fastest (3.0%) in 1998, while CES grew at 1.5 percent in both 1997 and 1998. The slowest growth occurred at different times in each series. As already noted, the LAUS series fell in 1997 (-2.0%). The CES series grew by 0.8 percent in 1996, its slowest growth for the 1994 - 1998 time period.

Data are currently available for the first three months of 1999. The March estimates show LAUS employment at 245,432 (2.2% over March 1998). The CES estimates for March 1999 show employment at 221,100 (0.9% ahead of March 1998).

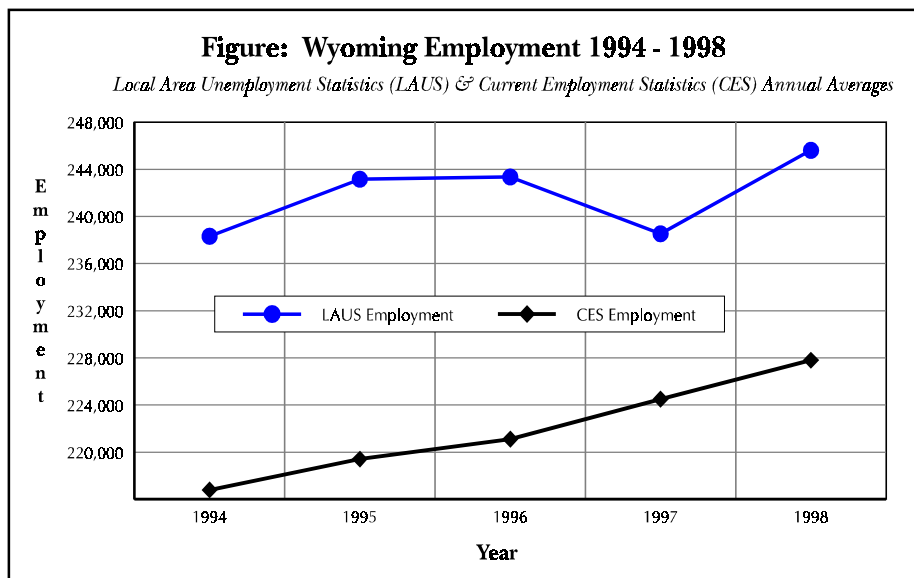


Table: Wyoming Annual Average Employment 1994 - 1998

	Local Area Unemployment Statistics		Current Employment Statistics	
	Employment	Percent Change Over Previous Year	Employment	Percent Change Over Previous Year
1994	238,307		216,800	
1995	243,152	2.0%	219,400	1.2%
1996	243,343	0.1%	221,100	0.8%
1997	238,520	-2.0%	224,500	1.5%
1998	245,607	3.0%	227,800	1.5%

1 Mike Evans, "Understanding the Different Employment Measures," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, April 1998, pp. 1-4; David Bullard, "Employment Series Differences: Explanation and Interpretation," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, June 1998, p. 12.



March Analysis of Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

What can be learned from feature tables such as the one that appears on page 19? Each month, economists analyze this data (and data from the other monthly tables that appear in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*) along with historic data. This close examination provides valuable insights into Wyoming's economy. The following is a summary of the March analysis of "Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment."

Overview, Wyoming Total Nonagricultural Employment [+1,200 (+0.5%) over the month; +1,900 (+0.9%) over the year]

Wyoming's total nonagricultural employment continued to produce annual growth by posting a 1,900 job growth from March 1998. The predominant industries showing annual growth are Services and Construction. Wyoming's total nonagricultural employment produced typical seasonal employment gains throughout March, except for the Mining industry. Since third quarter 1998, Mining has lost an average of 400 jobs over the year.

Mining [-100 (-0.6%) over the month; -600 (-3.6%) over the year]

Throughout 1998, Wyoming's Mining industry has shown significant annual employment gains as well as some declines. Mining seems to be surviving on special projects and federal legislation on the energy industry. Oil & gas extraction made the largest contribution to the overall growth in the Mining sector until the last five months. Coal, uranium, and nonmetallic metal mining have also declined during the same time period. This contrasts with last year when Wyoming's Mining industry was averaging 600 new jobs¹.

Construction [+400 (+3.0%) over the month; +500 (+3.8%) over the year]

March's Construction employment

gains have been carried over from the third and fourth quarters of 1998. General building contractors and special trades account for the total annual growth. As the building sector grows, it is natural that the special trades would also grow because most general contractors hire subcontractors to do the specialty work. With the mild winter weather, some construction companies have gotten an earlier start on projects that were scheduled to begin in April and May 1999.

Manufacturing [-100 (-0.9%) over the month; +200 (+1.9%) over the year]

Employment levels have stabilized throughout the Manufacturing industry. Wyoming could possibly see a drop in manufacturing levels within the next few months due to the completion and loss of contracts in the durable goods industry. However, if the weather remains mild, the sugar beet campaign could start a month earlier compared to past years.

Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU) [+0 (+0.0%) over the month; +100 (+0.7%) over the year]

Wyoming's Transportation employment has remained stable for the past three months; however, the industry continues to show annual gains. Like the coal industry, mergers and buyouts have accounted for the majority of the loss. Employment in Communications & Public Utilities has remained stable for the past two years. The major component that affects these industries is the increase or decrease in the state's population. Recently released Census Bureau figures show net domestic migration at a level of -2,204 from July 1997 to July 1998.

Trade [+200 (+0.4%) over the month; +200 (+0.4%) over the year]

March's over-the-month employment level within the Trade

industries (Retail and Wholesale Trade) produced its normal seasonal gains. Natrona and Laramie Counties have contributed to the majority of the growth found in the Trade industry. The growth is occurring in department stores, food stores and apparel & accessories.

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) [+0 (+0.0%) over the month; +100 (+1.2%) over the year]

Wyoming's Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industry has seen nothing but corporate mergers, buyouts and reorganizations for the last two to three years. The result of these tactics slowed the growth within the industry, however, in the past eleven months there has been an average gain of 100 jobs over the year. The majority of the growth can be found in Real Estate, particularly in northwestern Wyoming.

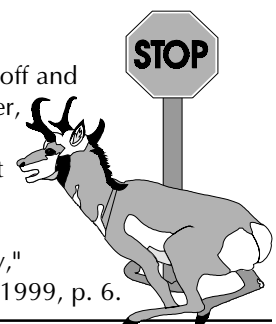
Services [+300 (+0.2%) over the month; +1,300 (+2.8%) over the year]

The Services sector had the largest annual gain throughout the last six months. The gain can be attributed to telemarketing companies located in Laramie, Cheyenne and Casper. Social services has added approximately 300 new jobs in the last three months.

Government [+500 (+0.8%) over the month; +100 (+0.2%) over the year]

Wyoming's Government sector increased by 500 jobs from February 1999. Local education (statewide) accounted for the majority of the growth while federal and state government employment remained stable.

1 G. Lee Saathoff and Gregg Detweiler, "Afterword: Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Mining Industry," *Trends*, March 1999, p. 6.



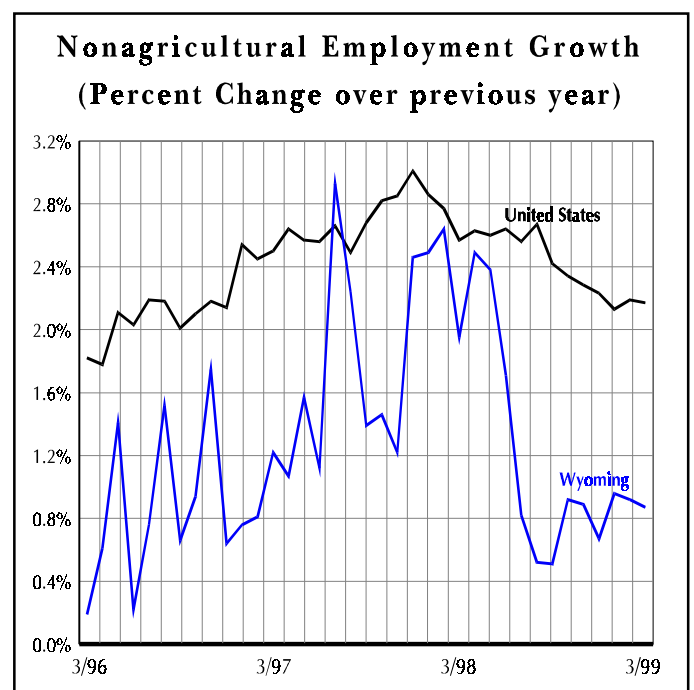
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

"Wyoming's total nonagricultural employment produced typical seasonal employment gains throughout March, except for the Mining industry."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAR 99(p)	FEB 99(r)	MAR 98	MAR 99	MAR 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	221.1	219.9	219.2	0.5	0.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	40.7	40.5	40.6	0.5	0.2
Mining	16.3	16.4	16.9	-0.6	-3.6
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.2	8.3	8.6	-1.2	-4.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.7	0.0	-7.4
Oil & Gas Field Services	5.7	5.8	5.9	-1.7	-3.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-6.3
Construction	13.8	13.4	13.3	3.0	3.8
General Building Contractors	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.9	5.9
Heavy Construction	3.5	3.2	3.3	9.4	6.1
Special Trade Construction	6.7	6.7	6.6	0.0	1.5
Manufacturing	10.6	10.7	10.4	-0.9	1.9
Durable Goods	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.8	5.5	-1.7	3.6
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.6	1.6	6.3	6.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	180.4	179.4	178.6	0.6	1.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.7	13.7	13.6	0.0	0.7
Transportation	8.6	8.6	8.5	0.0	1.2
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.0	-3.4
Trucking & Warehousing	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Trade	50.4	50.2	50.2	0.4	0.4
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	42.7	42.5	42.5	0.5	0.5
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3
General Merchandise Stores	4.6	4.5	4.6	2.2	0.0
Department Stores	4.0	3.8	3.8	5.3	5.3
Food Stores	5.3	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	7.8	7.8	7.7	0.0	1.3
Gas Stations	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15.4	15.3	15.5	0.7	-0.6
Miscellaneous Retail	4.7	4.8	4.7	-2.1	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.6	8.6	8.5	0.0	1.2
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Insurance	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Services	48.1	47.8	46.8	0.6	2.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.4
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Business Services	6.5	6.3	5.8	3.2	12.1
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Health Services	10.2	10.2	10.2	0.0	0.0
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Social Services	5.5	5.6	5.3	-1.8	3.8
Membership Organizations	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Engineering & Management	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Government	59.6	59.1	59.5	0.8	0.2
Total Federal Government	6.5	6.5	6.6	0.0	-1.5
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	13.7	13.6	13.6	0.7	0.7
State Education	5.5	5.4	5.5	1.9	0.0
Total Local Government	39.4	39.0	39.3	1.0	0.3
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0
Local Education	22.5	22.1	22.4	1.8	0.4

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAR 99(p)	FEB 99(r)	MAR 98	MAR 99	MAR 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.3	35.0	34.8	0.9	1.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.6	3.7	5.6	2.7
Mining & Construction	2.1	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Manufacturing	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.2	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	31.6	31.3	31.3	1.0	1.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Trade	8.2	8.2	8.2	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.4	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Services	7.3	7.2	7.3	1.4	0.0
Total Government	11.3	11.1	11.2	1.8	0.9
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Local Government	5.5	5.4	5.5	1.9	0.0
NATRONA COUNTY*					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	30.3	29.9	1.0	2.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.0	1.9
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Mining	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.3	25.0	24.7	1.2	2.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Trade	12.2	12.1	11.1	0.0	9.1
Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	8.3	8.2	8.2	1.2	1.2
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.9	5.8	5.8	1.7	1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Services	8.4	8.3	8.1	1.2	3.7
Personal & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.0	13.3
Health Services	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.8	0.0
Government	5.6	5.5	5.5	1.8	1.8
Local Government	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.9	2.4
Local Education	3.1	2.9	3.0	6.9	3.3



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

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

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