

TRENDS

Comparing Employment Distributions Among 22 Major Occupational Groups for the U.S., Wyoming, and Bordering States

by: *Deana Hauf, Economist and Craig Radden Henderson, BLS Program Supervisor*

“Comparisons with bordering states and the U.S. indicate the percentages of employment distribution are higher in Wyoming for 4 of the 22 major occupational groups.”

Geographical differences in employment among states largely reflect patterns of industry distribution.¹ When an industry represents a proportionally larger share of state employment than U.S. employment (e.g., Mining in Wyoming), the industry’s staffing pattern exerts greater influence on the overall occupational mix of the workforce. For example, construction and extraction workers represent a proportionally higher percentage of Wyoming’s workforce compared to the U.S.

Occupational distribution is also influenced when firm sizes in a state vary considerably from the national average for an industry. In 1996 research showed that “across Wyoming, approximately 89.5 percent of all firms fit into the small category [fewer than 20 employees]. This leaves only approximately 10.5 percent of businesses with 20 or more employees.”² These small firms accounted for approximately one-third of Wyoming employment. Approximately five years later, small businesses still accounted for 89.5

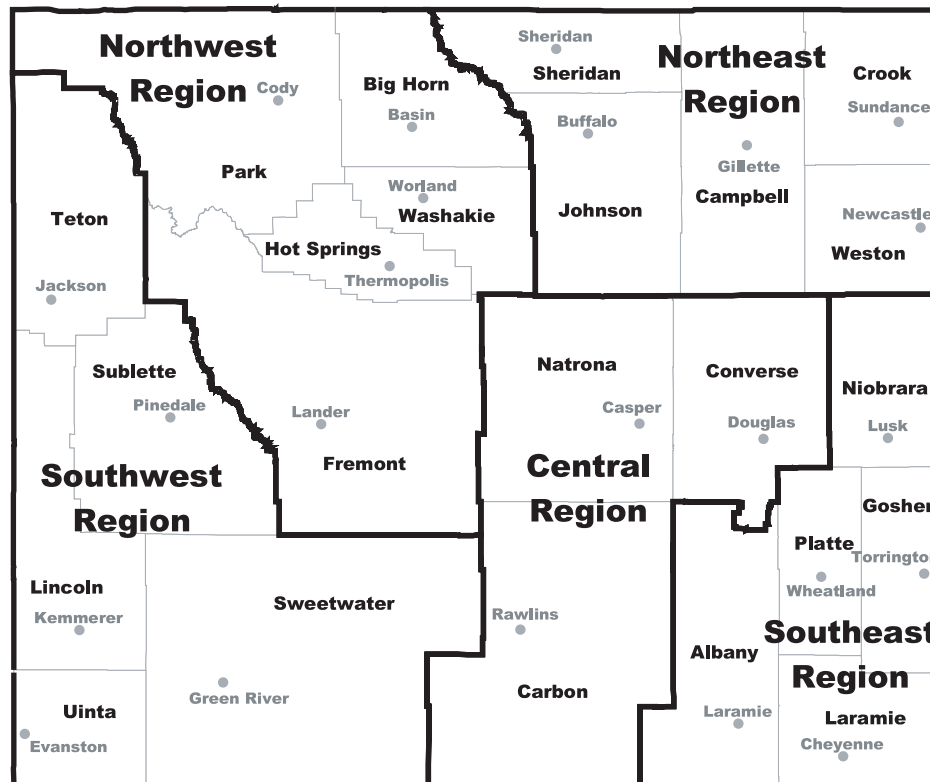
percent of Wyoming firms and 34.1 percent of employment.³ Smaller firms tend to hire more ‘generalists’ (e.g., an office manager) and need fewer in-house occupational specialists (e.g., receptionist, bookkeeper,

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Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Cynthia A. Pomeroy, Director.

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ISSN 0512-4409

sales clerk, payroll clerk, customer service representative). A small company needing an occupational specialist (e.g., environmental engineer, hydrologist, computer programmer) may contract with a self-employed individual rather than hire a full-time, permanent employee. All of these considerations provide a general context for us to examine how Wyoming's occupational distribution differs from that of bordering states and the U.S. and what these differences may suggest about future occupational demand.

In this article we compare Wyoming, regional (i.e., Wyoming's six bordering states), and national occupational employment distributions among 22 major occupational groups⁴ to demonstrate geographical variances in the demand for labor. Furthermore, we identify some potential risks and opportunities for Wyoming employers related to these trends. Where Wyoming's demand for labor converges with regional or national demand, competition for skilled workers may increase should the national or regional economy regain momentum.⁵ Because the economic health of Wyoming appears steadier and stronger than that of the nation, the present situation may hold a window of opportunity for Wyoming employers and economic developers to recruit workers in higher-demand occupational groups.

Data Collection

This article compares employment and wage information collected through the 2001 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey (published in 2003). Each state conducts an identical OES wage survey using standard techniques, which facilitates comparison of data among states and with national data. Employment and wage estimates for the U.S. and all 50

states are located on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website, <<http://stats.bls.gov/oes/>>.

The OES Wage Survey uses the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system allows government statistical agencies and others to produce comparable data using common occupational categories and definitions. Prior to the adoption of the SOC system in 2000, federal agencies collecting occupational data used a variety of coding systems that were not necessarily comparable to one another.

In the SOC system, all workers are classified in one of over 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate analysis, occupations are combined to form 22 major, 96 minor, and 449 broad groups of occupations based on similarity of job duties, skills, education, or experience. This article is based on three years of data (1999, 2000, and 2001) representing the 22 major occupational groups.

The OES survey defines employment as the number of full-time or part-time employees, including workers on paid vacations or other types of leave; workers on unpaid short-term absences; salaried officers, executives, and staff members of incorporated firms; employees temporarily assigned to other units; and employees for whom the reporting unit is their permanent duty station regardless of whether that unit prepares their paycheck. The survey excludes the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and owners of unincorporated firms. Employees are reported in the occupation in which they are working, regardless of training or education.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) files provide the universe from which the OES

survey draws its sample. The employment benchmarks are obtained from reports submitted by employers to the UI program.⁶ In some nonmanufacturing industries, supplemental sources are used for establishments not reporting to the UI program.

Geographic Comparisons of Employment and Hourly Wage Data

As shown in Table 1, Wyoming has lower total employment than its bordering states, likely a reflection of our smaller population. Additionally, Wyoming has the third lowest hourly wage (\$14.17), exceeding both South Dakota (\$12.93) and Montana (\$13.27). The U.S. mean hourly wage (\$16.35) is 15.4 percent higher than Wyoming’s wage. In our seven-state analysis, only Colorado (\$17.32) tops the U.S. wage. Colorado also surpasses the other states in total employment.

Table 1: Employment and Mean Hourly Wage for the U.S., Wyoming, and Bordering States, 2001

	Employment	Mean Wage	Percent of Wyoming Wage
U.S.	127,980,410	\$16.35	115.4%
Wyoming	238,640	14.17	100.0%
Colorado	2,159,370	17.32	122.2%
Idaho	558,050	14.49	102.3%
Montana	383,510	13.27	93.6%
Nebraska	881,280	14.38	101.5%
South Dakota	361,870	12.93	91.2%
Utah	1,047,120	15.04	106.1%

Geographic Comparisons of Occupational Employment Distributions

Table 2 shows the employment distributions among the 22 major occupational groups for the U.S., Wyoming, and Wyoming’s bordering states. The percentage of employment distributions are

Table 2: Employment Distribution Among Major Occupational Groups for the U.S., Wyoming, and Bordering States, 2001

Standard Occupational Classification Code (SOC) and Title	U.S.	Wyoming	Colorado	Idaho	Montana	Nebraska	South Dakota	Utah
Total	127,980,410	238,640	2,159,370	558,050	383,510	881,280	361,870	1,047,120
11-0000 Management occupations	7,212,360	13,770	127,980	36,890	25,080	46,360	14,200	59,340
13-0000 Business and financial operations occupations	4,676,680	5,710	87,660	16,600	10,520	30,370	11,490	34,770
15-0000 Computer and mathematical occupations	2,825,870	1,890	84,540	9,060	4,300	21,140	5,160	28,680
17-0000 Architecture and engineering occupations	2,489,070	3,390	56,100	18,000	5,540	12,230	3,770	18,570
19-0000 Life, physical, and social science occupations	1,067,730	3,340	23,430	7,220	4,810	7,180	2,970	10,880
21-0000 Community and social services occupations*	1,523,890	3,120	23,230	6,970	6,560	11,780	4,110	13,660
23-0000 Legal occupations	909,370	1,240	14,290	3,190	2,730	3,580	1,330	7,020
25-0000 Education, training, and library occupations	7,658,480	15,440	115,900	33,400	26,650	50,370	21,950	58,170
27-0000 Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	1,508,790	1,840	28,190	5,590	4,320	9,640	3,910	14,870
29-0000 Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	6,118,970	10,520	84,420	25,800	19,810	45,570	19,930	41,060
31-0000 Healthcare support occupations	3,122,870	5,160	41,080	14,660	10,370	23,030	10,380	21,780
33-0000 Protective service occupations	2,957,990	5,060	45,210	11,190	6,190	12,190	5,850	20,540
35-0000 Food preparation and serving related occupations*	9,917,660	24,210	185,780	45,300	38,990	67,040	34,650	76,700
37-0000 Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations*	4,275,340	9,850	74,180	19,920	16,240	28,500	14,150	35,400
39-0000 Personal care and service occupations	2,802,050	5,280	47,070	7,570	8,950	15,290	8,880	19,660
41-0000 Sales and related occupations	13,418,240	22,540	248,910	55,120	39,600	95,140	40,160	121,880
43-0000 Office and administrative support occupations	22,798,590	32,940	384,600	89,420	63,410	164,320	67,240	188,140
45-0000 Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	453,050	710	3,650	6,330	2,140	3,280	1,410	2,460
47-0000 Construction and extraction occupations	6,239,430	23,210	137,690	32,900	22,690	41,690	19,890	70,770
49-0000 Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,323,070	14,440	90,620	25,000	17,670	35,830	15,240	46,070
51-0000 Production occupations**	11,270,210	12,840	119,090	41,700	17,730	88,220	28,710	84,630
53-0000 Transportation and material moving occupations	9,410,660	22,150	135,770	46,200	29,220	68,550	26,490	72,060

*Denotes occupational groups where Wyoming’s employment is overrepresented compared to all states in the analysis except Montana.
 **Denotes occupational groups where Wyoming’s employment is underrepresented compared to all states in the analysis except Montana.

shown in Table 3. Comparisons with bordering states and the U.S. indicate the percentages of employment distribution are higher in Wyoming for 4 of the 22 major occupational groups. These four groups (lightly shaded) include construction and extraction occupations; transportation and material moving occupations; installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; and life, physical, and social science occupations. These patterns largely reflect the importance of Mining in Wyoming and related industries such as trucking and equipment repair services. It also reflects the need for natural resources expertise in both the private and the public sectors.

Wyoming trails all bordering states and the U.S. in the percentage of employment distribution for five major occupational groups (darkly shaded), notably office and

administrative support occupations; computer and mathematical occupations; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations.

The Figure (see page 6) illustrates, for selected occupational groups, Wyoming's disproportionate percentages of employment distribution as compared to the U.S. and three bordering states. Montana was selected because, in many respects, it is more similar to Wyoming in population and industry distribution than other bordering states. Colorado and Utah, having large urban centers in close proximity to Wyoming, serve as comparisons of competitive demand for labor in certain occupational groups.

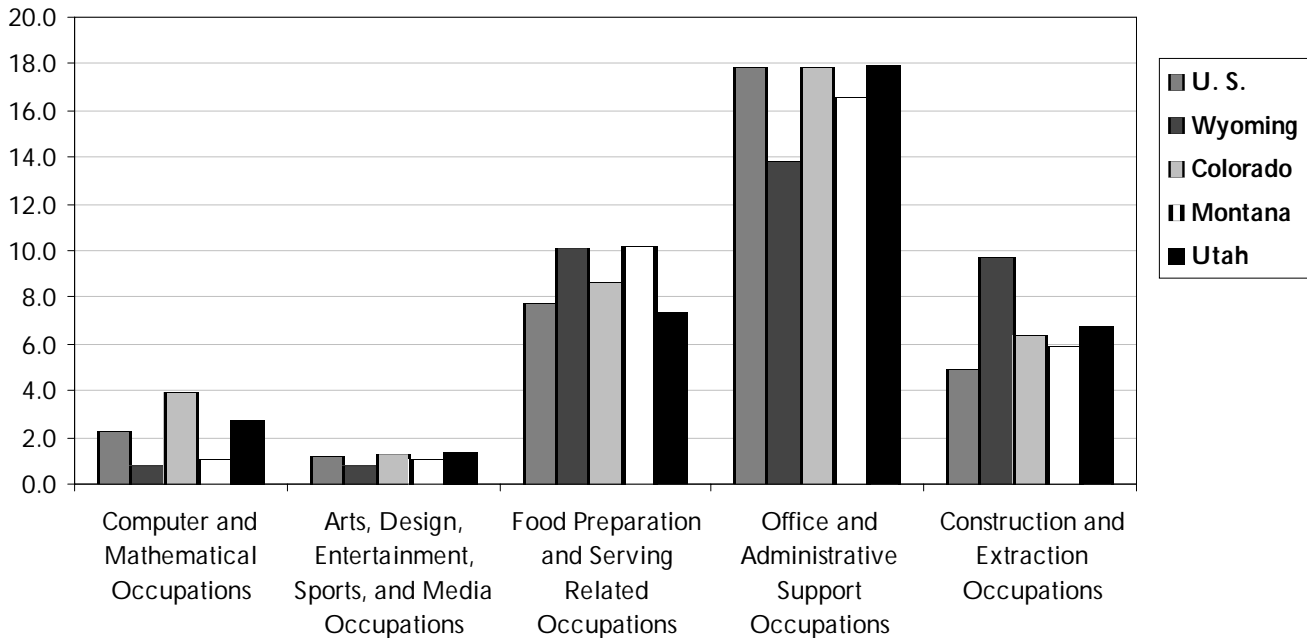
Both Table 3 and the Figure show that Wyoming has occupational employment

Table 3: Percentage of Total Employment Distribution Among Major Occupational Groups for the U.S., Wyoming, and Bordering States, 2001

Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code and Title	U.S.	Wyoming	Colorado	Idaho	Montana	Nebraska	South Dakota	Utah
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
11-0000 Management occupations	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.6	6.5	5.3	3.9	5.7
13-0000 Business and financial operations occupations	3.7	2.4	4.1	3.0	2.7	3.4	3.2	3.3
15-0000 Computer and mathematical occupations	2.2	0.8	3.9	1.6	1.1	2.4	1.4	2.7
17-0000 Architecture and engineering occupations	1.9	1.4	2.6	3.2	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.8
19-0000 Life, physical, and social science occupations	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.0
21-0000 Community and social services occupations*	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.3
23-0000 Legal occupations	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.7
25-0000 Education, training, and library occupations	6.0	6.5	5.4	6.0	6.9	5.7	6.1	5.6
27-0000 Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4
29-0000 Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.5	3.9
31-0000 Healthcare support occupations	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.1
33-0000 Protective service occupations	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.6	2.0
35-0000 Food preparation and serving related occupations*	7.7	10.1	8.6	8.1	10.2	7.6	9.6	7.3
37-0000 Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations*	3.3	4.1	3.4	3.6	4.2	3.2	3.9	3.4
39-0000 Personal care and service occupations	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.7	2.5	1.9
41-0000 Sales and related occupations	10.5	9.4	11.5	9.9	10.3	10.8	11.1	11.6
43-0000 Office and administrative support occupations	17.8	13.8	17.8	16.0	16.5	18.6	18.6	18.0
45-0000 Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2
47-0000 Construction and extraction occupations	4.9	9.7	6.4	5.9	5.9	4.7	5.5	6.8
49-0000 Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4.2	6.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.4
51-0000 Production occupations**	8.8	5.4	5.5	7.5	4.6	10.0	7.9	8.1
53-0000 Transportation and material moving occupations	7.4	9.3	6.3	8.3	7.6	7.8	7.3	6.9

Light shading denotes occupational groups where Wyoming's employment is overrepresented compared to all other states in the analysis.
 Dark shading denotes occupational groups where Wyoming's employment is underrepresented compared to all other states in the analysis.
 *Denotes occupational groups where Wyoming's employment is overrepresented compared to all states in the analysis except Montana.
 **Denotes occupational groups where Wyoming's employment is underrepresented compared to all states in the analysis except Montana.

Figure: Employment Distributions (Percentage of Total Employment) for Selected Occupational Groups in the U.S., Wyoming, and Three Bordering States, 2001



distributions which generally stand on the periphery of regional and U.S. trends. In addition to the percentages of employment distribution for the nine occupational groups shaded in Table 3, only Montana has a higher distribution than Wyoming in three additional occupational groups: food preparation and serving related occupations; community and social services occupations; and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations. Montana also has a lower distribution in production occupations. Most of the occupational groups which are seemingly overrepresented in Wyoming consist of occupations which require some form of on-the-job training. The exceptions include community and social services occupations (e.g., counselors, social workers, probation officers) and education,

training, and library occupations. Some jobs within these occupational groups require extensive academic training. These two occupational groups are probably represented in greater relative numbers in Wyoming (and Montana) than other states, because Local Government, the industry which primarily consists of these occupations, is a presence in even the smallest communities.

The occupations found in Wyoming tend to require different skills than those found elsewhere. In particular, many of Wyoming's largest occupations rely on more on-the-job training than post-secondary training or education. As a result, experience may be more valuable than education for many occupations. Even among occupations requiring education,

experience may still be necessary to gain employment. However, how can workers gain experience with fewer in-state opportunities available within so many occupational groups? This is one dilemma facing Wyoming's labor market.

Also, less occupational diversity increases Wyoming's dependence on fewer experienced workers. Presumably, this dependence leaves the state more vulnerable to unexpected shifts in the regional or national labor demand. Without strategic planning, economic growth outside of Wyoming could result in higher costs and other risks (e.g., a loss of institutional memory) for some businesses when competition for skilled workers increases.

The current analysis does not reflect data about the actual training and educational characteristics of Wyoming workers, but many workers may hold jobs unrelated to their education or job training. These workers may be poised to seek jobs when openings in their chosen field do occur. As the Figure indicates (see page 6), a larger proportion of Wyoming's workforce is employed in food preparation and serving related occupations than most of its neighbors. This count is likely a reflection of limited industry and occupational diversity rather than the aspirations and skill sets of the Wyoming workforce.

The presence of several overrepresented occupational groups in our state may serve as an insurance policy of sorts for the status quo. Wyoming businesses and communities who fear labor shortages could hire workers without prior industry experience and train them to meet standard requirements for employment. The practice of hiring less experienced local individuals for lower wages may be a better

economic strategy than recruiting more experienced workers from outside the state. On-going studies using employer wage records to track the sources of labor supply for coal bed methane development, for example, have shown that many laborers have work experience in Retail Trade or food services immediately prior to securing their jobs in the Mining industry.⁷

From a job seekers perspective, overrepresentation in some occupational groups may also signify a source of secondary employment or a safety net when primary seasonal employment (e.g., substitute teaching, skiing instruction) ends. This is a practice which presumably helps retain seasonal workers in Wyoming.

Though there is a perception that Wyoming has too few good jobs, perhaps a more accurate statement would be that the higher concentration of employment within fewer occupational groups limits the scope, diversity, and attractiveness of available *career paths* that are more plentiful elsewhere. For example, one could imagine a scenario where workers begin employment in food preparation and serving related occupations; then transition to a job or a series of jobs in sales and related occupations; and then move into a higher paying job in business and financial services occupations. In Colorado, South Dakota, and Utah, sales and related occupations exceed 11.0 percent of the work force (Wyoming has 9.4%). Business and financial operations occupations, too, hold a significantly larger proportion of workers than in Wyoming. Both the scale of employment and diversity of opportunities in these states offer workers a broader platform for moving among occupations within an occupational group, moving between occupational groups, and perhaps more avenues to eventually enter higher paying industries.

The degree to which Wyoming employers, particularly small employers, have been successful in keeping their highly skilled labor continuously employed is a topic for future quantitative study. A particularly interesting inquiry would be to examine through interstate, administrative, and demographic databases how strategies for the retention of skilled labor may unintentionally limit career growth opportunities for younger or less experienced workers. Until that time, employers and economic developers can use the analysis of OES occupational distributions as one more tool for assessing Wyoming's bid for skilled labor in light of the competition.

¹Mark Harris, "Identifying Potential Living-Wage Employment Growth Opportunities in Wyoming," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, May 2003, pp. 1-11.

²Carol Toups, "One-Third of Wyoming Employment in Small Business," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, January 1996, pp. 1-4.

³Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Where Are the Jobs? What Do*

They Pay?: 2000 Annual Covered Employment and Wages, August 2002, p. 27.

⁴Twenty-two major occupational groups are described in the *Standard Occupational Classification Manual* (2000).

⁵Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning, *Employment Outlook: 2010*, April 2003, p. xii.

⁶Approximately 85-90 percent of all workers in Wyoming are covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Some exceptions include the self-employed and many agricultural workers.

⁷William Glover, Research Analyst, Research & Planning, Wyoming Department of Employment, personal interview, May 30, 2003. Interview related data on Wyoming industry origins represented by "Figure 8: Individuals Transitioning from 1999 to 2000 from Another Industry or State to Wyoming's Oil and Gas Extraction Industry by State of Origin," data and presentation for the Powder River Coalbed Methane Information Council, (June 7, 2002), <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/w_r_research/CBM_Presentation6_07_2002.pdf>, May 30, 2003.



Local Area Unemployment Statistics for First Quarter 2003

by: Brad Payne, Economist

During first quarter 2003, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) employment increased statewide by 3,854 jobs (1.5%) when compared to first quarter 2002 (see Table, page 9). While employment rose between first quarter 2002 and 2003, employment declined 0.5 percent between first quarter 2001 and 2002. The labor force increased by 3,797 (1.4%) between first quarter 2002 and 2003 while unemployment decreased by 57 (0.4%) over the same time period. The 0.4 percent decrease in unemployment is in

stark contrast to the increase posted between first quarter 2001 and 2002 (when unemployment increased 7.1%). The average unemployment rate during first quarter 2003 was 5.1 percent while unemployment rates during first quarters 2002 and 2001 were 5.1 and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Each of Wyoming's five regions experienced positive over-the-year employment growth. The Southwest Region recorded the highest rate of growth (2.9%)

by adding 1,439 jobs. Employment growth in Lincoln (216 jobs), Sublette (96 jobs), Sweetwater (63 jobs), Teton (696 jobs), and Uinta (369 jobs) counties contributed to the regional growth.

Decreased unemployment in the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast Regions offset a 14.3 percent unemployment increase in the Northeast Region. In the Northeast Region the number of unemployed in Campbell County grew by 181 individuals (21.8%). Conversely, the largest decline in unemployment was found in Sweetwater County where the number of unemployed individuals fell by 141 (12.5%). The Northeast Region was the only to show

rising unemployment in each of its underlying counties.

The most dramatic quarter to quarter increases in unemployment rates were found in Niobrara, Johnson, and Converse counties. Niobrara County's over-the-year unemployment rate change was 1.5 percent (up from 4.0% in the first quarter 2002 to 5.5% in the first quarter 2003). Johnson County's unemployment rate increased from 3.6 percent in the first quarter 2002 to 4.6 percent in the first quarter 2003 (a change of 0.9%). Converse County's unemployment rate increased from 5.1 percent to 5.9 percent (a change of 0.8%). In Niobrara, Johnson, and Converse counties, large increases in

Table: Change in Wyoming's Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rates by Region and County, First Quarter 2003

REGION/ County	Labor Force				Employment				Unemployment				Unemployment Rate		
	First Quarter 2003	2002	Change Number	%	First Quarter 2003	2002	Change Number	%	First Quarter 2003	2002	Change Number	%	First Quarter 2003	2002	Percent Change
NORTHWEST	45,841	45,808	34	0.1	42,843	42,591	252	0.6	2,998	3,217	-219	-6.8	6.5	7.0	-0.5
Big Horn	5,763	5,749	13	0.2	5,408	5,338	70	1.3	355	411	-56	-13.7	6.2	7.2	-1.0
Fremont	18,754	18,712	42	0.2	17,288	17,290	-2	0.0	1,466	1,422	44	3.1	7.8	7.6	0.2
Hot Springs	2,228	2,367	-139	-5.9	2,130	2,213	-82	-3.7	98	154	-56	-36.6	4.4	6.5	-2.1
Park	14,595	14,474	121	0.8	13,764	13,554	210	1.5	831	919	-89	-9.6	5.7	6.4	-0.7
Washakie	4,502	4,506	-4	-0.1	4,253	4,196	58	1.4	249	310	-62	-19.9	5.5	6.9	-1.4
NORTHEAST	47,620	46,937	683	1.5	45,337	44,939	397	0.9	2,283	1,998	286	14.3	4.8	4.3	0.5
Campbell	23,101	23,048	53	0.2	22,090	22,218	-128	-0.6	1,011	830	181	21.8	4.4	3.6	0.8
Crook	2,849	2,749	100	3.6	2,693	2,603	90	3.4	156	146	10	7.1	5.5	5.3	0.2
Johnson	3,879	3,773	106	2.8	3,702	3,638	64	1.8	178	135	42	31.3	4.6	3.6	1.0
Sheridan	14,444	14,109	335	2.4	13,668	13,384	285	2.1	776	726	50	6.9	5.4	5.1	0.2
Weston	3,347	3,257	89	2.7	3,184	3,096	87	2.8	163	161	2	1.2	4.9	4.9	-0.1
SOUTHWEST	53,590	52,228	1,362	2.6	50,784	49,345	1,439	2.9	2,806	2,883	-77	-2.7	5.2	5.5	-0.3
Lincoln	6,637	6,418	219	3.4	6,108	5,892	216	3.7	529	526	3	0.6	8.0	8.2	-0.2
Sublette	3,337	3,240	97	3.0	3,236	3,140	96	3.0	101	100	1	1.0	3.0	3.1	-0.1
Sweetwater	19,998	20,076	-78	-0.4	19,012	18,949	63	0.3	986	1,127	-141	-12.5	4.9	5.6	-0.7
Teton	12,104	11,352	752	6.6	11,653	10,957	696	6.3	451	394	56	14.3	3.7	3.5	0.2
Uinta	11,515	11,142	372	3.3	10,776	10,407	369	3.5	739	736	3	0.5	6.4	6.6	-0.2
SOUTHEAST	74,225	73,176	1,049	1.4	71,368	70,255	1,113	1.6	2,857	2,921	-64	-2.2	3.8	4.0	-0.1
Albany	19,381	19,649	-267	-1.4	18,979	19,187	-209	-1.1	403	461	-59	-12.7	2.1	2.3	-0.3
Goshen	6,137	6,130	7	0.1	5,835	5,825	10	0.2	302	305	-3	-1.1	4.9	5.0	-0.1
Laramie	43,231	42,047	1,183	2.8	41,372	40,181	1,191	3.0	1,859	1,867	-8	-0.4	4.3	4.4	-0.1
Niobrara	1,135	1,121	14	1.2	1,072	1,076	-4	-0.3	63	45	17	38.2	5.5	4.0	1.5
Platte	4,341	4,229	112	2.7	4,110	3,986	124	3.1	232	243	-11	-4.7	5.3	5.7	-0.4
CENTRAL	50,148	49,482	666	1.3	47,476	46,825	651	1.4	2,672	2,657	15	0.6	5.3	5.4	0.0
Carbon	7,869	7,913	-45	-0.6	7,356	7,380	-24	-0.3	513	534	-21	-3.9	6.5	6.7	-0.2
Converse	6,198	6,125	73	1.2	5,829	5,810	19	0.3	368	315	53	16.9	5.9	5.1	0.8
Natrona	36,081	35,444	638	1.8	34,291	33,635	655	1.9	1,791	1,808	-18	-1.0	5.0	5.1	-0.1
STATEWIDE	271,427	267,630	3,797	1.4	257,809	253,955	3,854	1.5	13,618	13,675	-57	-0.4	5.0	5.1	-0.1

unemployment (38%, 31%, and 17%, respectively) with small increases in the labor force contributed to the rise in the unemployment rates.

The largest declines in unemployment rates between the first quarters of 2002 and 2003 were posted in Hot Springs, Washakie, and Big Horn counties. The unemployment rates fell from 6.5 to 4.4 percent in Hot Springs County (a difference

of 2.1 percentage points), 6.9 to 5.5 percent in Washakie County (difference of 1.4 percentage points), and 7.2 to 6.2 percent in Big Horn County (difference of 1.0 percentage points). The decreases in the unemployment rates for Hot Springs, Washakie, and Big Horn counties were driven by large decreases in unemployment (37%, 20%, and 14%, respectively).



An Examination of the Fluid Nature of Wyoming's Labor Supply

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

The following article is adapted from Research & Planning's employment projections publication, ***Employment Outlook 2010***. The complete publication is available in limited supply from our office or on our website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/outlTOC/EmpOutlook2010.pdf>.

In a given year, many individuals who appear in Wyoming's Wage Records¹ database enter Wyoming's labor market from or exit to one of the states with which Wyoming has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Thus, enumeration of Wyoming's potential labor supply should extend beyond the resident population. Given that the available pool of labor extends beyond the governmentally defined borders of the state, projected population shortages relative to employment growth may not be as great a concern in Wyoming. A larger concern may be competition for labor in the regional or national market, particularly if the U.S. economy rebounds strongly in the near future.

The following analysis is based upon the Wyoming Wage Records database. Wage Records provides a dynamic, rather than static, examination of labor supply. Current Population Survey (CPS) and Census based estimates of labor supply

produce a "snapshot" of available labor from household or residency measures.² Wage Records data come from firms or place-of-work measures. In both cases the state is the focus of analysis, meaning that estimates of labor supply are generally derived for the state as a whole.

Census estimates, because of the foundation in place-of-residency, are inherently limited in capturing the dynamic aspects of labor supply. To illustrate, if the Census indicates a resident population growth of 1,000 persons between 2000 and 2010 and separate employment projections indicate a growth of 2,000 jobs, we might assume there will be a shortage of 1,000 persons to fill the anticipated employment increase, thus restricting future employment growth. However, what if during the same time period we have an additional 1,000 nonresidents who either commute or temporarily relocate to Wyoming? If so, there is no labor supply

shortage. Because of the static nature of the Census estimates and the fact that they are based upon place of residence, these estimates are unable to capture the additional 1,000 workers and include them as part of Wyoming’s labor pool. Although the Bureau of the Census respects state boundaries, individuals seeking employment opportunities may not. Alternatively, Wage Records data are not limited to the resident population because they measure employment at the place-of-work and capture employment in Wyoming regardless of an employee’s residency.

The following analysis of Wage Records does not produce or provide labor supply projections, although it may be possible for Research & Planning (R&P) to produce these in the future. R&P is in the process of developing the methodology to examine labor supply dynamics as part of the analysis of Wage Records. The current analysis is an examination of the entire set of 1999-2000 Wage Records data. It illustrates nicely what is hidden when analyzing labor supply by place of residence.

As shown in Table 1, 305,868 total persons appeared in Wage Records as working in Wyoming at any time during 1999. In 2000 there were 307,452 persons. This represents a net increase of 1,584 persons between the two time periods. However, this does not mean that there were only 1,584 new workers appearing in Wage Records.

Table 2 (see page 12) presents a change analysis over the same time period using 1999 totals as the comparison base. As shown in Table 2, 69,425 individuals appeared in Wage Records in 1999 but did not appear in 2000, a 22.7 percent loss.³ Conversely, there were 71,009 new individuals who appeared in 2000 who had

Table 1: Wyoming Employment Based on Wage Records Data, 1999 and 2000

	1999	2000	Change	
			Number	Percent
Total Workers	305,868	307,452	1,584	0.5%

not appeared in 1999, a 23.2 percent gain. The outcome of the churning within Wyoming’s labor market is that nearly one-quarter of Wyoming’s workforce exited and was replaced within the span of one year.

Some industries are comprised more of seasonal and short-term workers than are other industries. Of all industries, Construction and Services are the industries most dependent upon seasonal and short-term workers. For example, of all persons working in heavy construction in 2000, 38.4 percent did not work in Wyoming in 1999. Within Services, 42.3 percent of all who worked in 2000 in hotels & lodging places did not work in Wyoming the previous year. Eating & drinking places within the Retail Trade industry (with a 35.4% rate of replacement) are also highly dependent on workers with limited attachment to Wyoming’s labor market. Industries with the smallest concentration of workers with minimal attachment to Wyoming’s labor market are Government and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Of the individuals who appeared in Wage Records in 2000 but did not appear in 1999, some are residents entering employment for the first time or residents re-entering Wyoming’s workforce after being absent for at least one year. Others are nonresidents taking a job in Wyoming (e.g., college students moving into Wyoming, persons who begin commuting from MOU states, and persons temporarily

Table 2: Dynamic Analysis of Wage Records Data, 1999 and 2000

	Employed in Wyoming					
	In 1999 but Not 2000 (Losses)	Percent of Losses	Percent of 1999 Total	In 2000 but Not 1999 (Additions)	Percent of Additions	Percent of 1999 Total
Number of Workers Number Found in Other States*	69,425	100.0%	22.7%	71,009	100.0%	23.2%
	17,533	25.3%	5.7%	15,600	22.0%	5.1%

*Found in Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

or permanently relocating to the state). It appears that in 2000 there was a net gain of a mere 1,584 new workers. However, because of churning, Wyoming actually had 71,009 new workers (according to Wage Records), or roughly one-quarter of the 1999 total workforce. Given the magnitude of this number, it is not likely that all of the additions in 2000 are residents of the state.

To explore this possibility, R&P tracked both the losses and additions to Wage Records into states with which we have data sharing agreements (MOU states), specifically, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah. Table 2 indicates that of the 69,425 workers who left Wyoming's workforce between 1999 and 2000, 17,533 (25.3%) re-emerged as workers in one of these seven states. Of those new to the 2000 Wyoming workforce, we know that 15,600 (22.0%) previously appeared in the Wage Records of the MOU states. Given these findings it appears that a significant portion of labor supply is shared jointly between Wyoming and the MOU states. However, until we secure data sharing agreements with additional states, we cannot identify the origins of a large segment of Wyoming's workforce.

Another way of examining the dynamic nature of labor supply is to estimate the

number of individuals working in Wyoming who are not likely to be residents of the state. One way to do this is by examining the number of individuals appearing in Wyoming's Wage Records database but for whom we do not have demographic information (i.e., age and gender). Missing demographic information can be explained in the following ways. First, when individuals do not appear in Wyoming Wage Records long enough (i.e., four quarters) to have sufficient historical information we are not able to impute (a statistical method for assigning demographic characteristics) their demographic characteristics. Second, workers who do not obtain a Wyoming driver's license do not appear in the Driver's License database obtained from the Wyoming Department of Transportation (i.e., age and gender are recorded when the license is obtained). Either of these factors would seem to indicate that these individuals are nonresidents.⁴ However, even though they may not reside in Wyoming or only temporarily reside in the state, they do form part of Wyoming's labor pool and theoretically they should be included in estimates of the available labor pool even if their "availability" is more tenuous than that of residents. The initial question, however, is what proportion of the labor pool is made up of nonresidents and from what states do they primarily come.

Table 3: Individuals Working in Wyoming (Primary Employment)* in Fourth Quarter 1999 (99Q4) With Missing Demographics by State of Work Six Quarters Before and Six Quarters After the Reference Quarter

	State		Quarter												
			98Q2	98Q3	98Q4	99Q1	99Q2	99Q3	99Q4	00Q1	00Q2	00Q3	00Q4	01Q1	01Q2
Agreement States**	Colorado	Number	283	309	299	297	335	236		274	382	394	373	374	394
		Row %	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.7	2.6		3.0	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.3
	Idaho	Number	118	123	124	115	112	81		80	131	134	139	128	139
		Row %	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.9		0.9	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5
	Nebraska	Number	84	81	81	70	90	78		69	90	93	98	104	104
		Row %	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9		0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
	New Mexico	Number	73	60	73	54	60	38		72	66	67	81	69	62
		Row %	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.4		0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7
	South Dakota	Number	80	81	76	71	76	55		50	73	88	81	74	72
		Row %	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6		0.5	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
	Texas	Number	296	267	265	243	218	166		190	264	309	295	318	306
		Row %	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.4	1.8		2.1	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.3
	Utah	Number	205	202	185	189	208	150		136	211	214	211	194	197
		Row %	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.6		1.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.2
Agreement States Total	Number	1,139	1,123	1,103	1,039	1,099	804		871	1,217	1,299	1,278	1,261	1,274	
	Row %	12.5	12.3	12.1	11.4	12.0	8.8		9.5	13.3	14.2	14.0	13.8	13.9	
Unknown	Number	7,896	7,853	7,858	7,982	7,026	5,463		6,651	7,219	7,551	7,624	7,784	7,614	
	Row %	86.4	85.9	85.9	87.3	76.8	59.7		72.7	78.9	82.6	83.4	85.1	83.3	
Wyoming	Number	109	168	183	123	1,019	2,877	9,144	1,622	708	294	242	99	256	
	Row %	1.2	1.8	2.0	1.3	11.1	31.5	100.0	17.7	7.7	3.2	2.6	1.1	2.8	
Total Missing	Number	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	9,144	
	Row %	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	
Total	Individuals	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	228,413	

*Includes primary employer only (the employer contributing the largest portion of an individual's wages) - individuals could have worked in Wyoming during fourth quarter 1999 but are not included in total because primary employment was not in Wyoming.

**Data from states having data sharing agreements with Wyoming.

Table 3 presents data on individuals whose primary employer (i.e., the employer that paid the largest proportion of an individual's wages) was in Wyoming but who have missing demographic information for the fourth quarter of 1999 (1999Q4). This quarter was chosen for illustrative purposes and the general findings apply across other quarters. For 1999Q4 a search of Wage Records indicates that 9,144 individuals (4.0%) out of 228,413 have no demographic information. A search of additional Wyoming Wage Records data indicates that only a fraction of these individuals appear in the data six quarters prior and subsequent to the reference quarter (1.2% and 2.8%, respectively). A number of these individuals can be located in the Wage Records data of states with which we have

data sharing agreements (again, indicating that Wyoming's labor pool extends well beyond state boundaries in all directions). Specifically, looking backward and forward six quarters from the reference period, we can locate 1,139 (12.5%) and 1,274 (13.9%), respectively of the initial 9,144 individuals.

We currently seek data sharing agreements with Montana and Oklahoma and with these will be able to locate even more of the additions and losses to Wyoming's labor supply. Montana is an important source of Wyoming labor, particularly for the coal bed methane and coal mining industries in northeastern Wyoming and the tourism industry in the northwestern corner of Wyoming. Oklahoma is also an important oil and gas

producing state. Obtaining these data sharing agreements will improve our ability to track individuals in a multi-state labor market and understand the labor supply framework.

In sum, it would appear that a large portion of persons in Wage Records enter or exit in a given year and that many of them come from MOU states. This illustrates the fluid nature of Wyoming's labor supply and shows that the consideration of labor supply has to extend beyond static snapshots of resident population in the state. Thus, projected population shortages relative to employment growth may not be a great concern in Wyoming. A larger concern may be competition for labor in the regional or national market particularly if the U.S. economy rebounds strongly in the near future. As such, analyses of labor supply should extend beyond the borders of Wyoming.

¹Wage Records is an administrative database. Each employer in the state that has employees

covered under Unemployment Insurance, by law, must submit quarterly tax reports to the state showing each employee's Social Security Number and wages earned. Research & Planning uses the data for statistical analysis.

²The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducts the Current Population Survey (CPS) each month as a sample of 50,000 households. The Census is conducted once every ten years.

³This 22.7 percent loss on an annual basis is another way of examining the issue of turnover. In most circumstances turnover is measured in terms of worker exits from an employer with multiple exits possible (see Tony Glover, "Turnover Analyses; Definitions, Process, and Quantification," <<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/staff/Turnover.pdf>>, especially Table 1). The current chapter defines exits in terms of persons leaving the market entirely.

⁴Sylvia Jones, "Defining Residency for the Wyoming Workforce," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, November 2002, pp. 1-9.



Wyoming Unemployment Falls in April

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.1 percent in March to 4.0 percent in April. U.S. unemployment rose to 6.0 percent in April, a full two percentage points higher than Wyoming. Nonagricultural employment in Wyoming continued to grow at a very slow pace, adding 700 jobs (0.3%) when compared to April 2002. U.S. nonagricultural employment remained below year-ago levels (-330,000 jobs or -0.3%).

From March to April 2003, Wyoming added 2,500 jobs or 1.0 percent. This level

of over-the-month growth is consistent with seasonal patterns seen in previous years. As expected, Construction added 1,500 jobs (8.5%), Retail Trade added 300 jobs (1.0%) and Professional & Business Services added 400 jobs (2.7%). No industries experienced significant job losses from March to April.

Wyoming nonagricultural employment grew by 700 jobs or 0.3 percent when compared to April 2002. During the past six months, over-the-year job growth has ranged from 0.0 to 0.6 percent. Job losses occurred in Natural Resources & Mining

(-300 jobs or -1.7%), Manufacturing (-300 jobs or -3.3%), and Transportation & Utilities (-300 jobs or -2.7%). Substantial job gains were reported in Financial Activities (300 jobs or 3.1%), Educational & Health Services (300 jobs or 1.5%), and Government (1,400 jobs or 2.2%). According to April estimates, Federal Government added 300 jobs (4.4%), State Government added 200 jobs (1.4%) and Local Government (including schools and hospitals) added 900 jobs (2.2%). Construction employment was unchanged from April 2002.

According to information provided by the U.S. Department of Defense for April, a total of 440 military reservists from Wyoming had been called into active duty. In concept, persons on active military duty for the entire survey reference period are not included on employer payrolls. To the extent that Wyoming employers do not replace these reservists with new workers, payroll counts will be lower than normal. Consequently, overall payroll job growth of 0.3 percent may have been constrained.

Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate in April (6.5%). It was followed closely by Teton County (6.2%) and Fremont County (6.1%). Teton County's unemployment rate follows a different seasonal pattern from the rest of Wyoming's counties, and usually peaks in April and November. Albany County recorded the lowest unemployment rate in April (1.7%). From March to April, unemployment rates fell in every county except Teton, which increased from 4.0 percent to 6.2 percent. From April 2002 to April 2003, unemployment rates fell in 19 of Wyoming's 23 counties. The largest decreases occurred in the Northwest region of the state (especially Hot Springs, Washakie, Big Horn, and Park counties).



State Unemployment Rates April 2003 (Seasonally Adjusted)

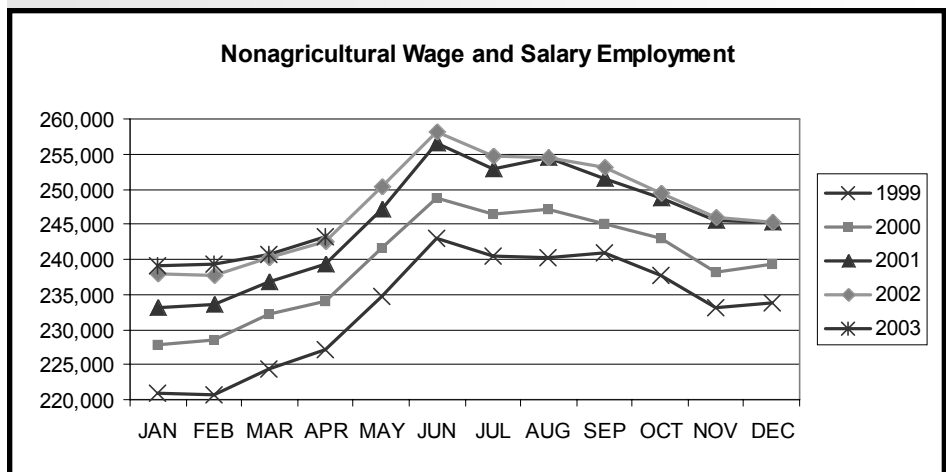
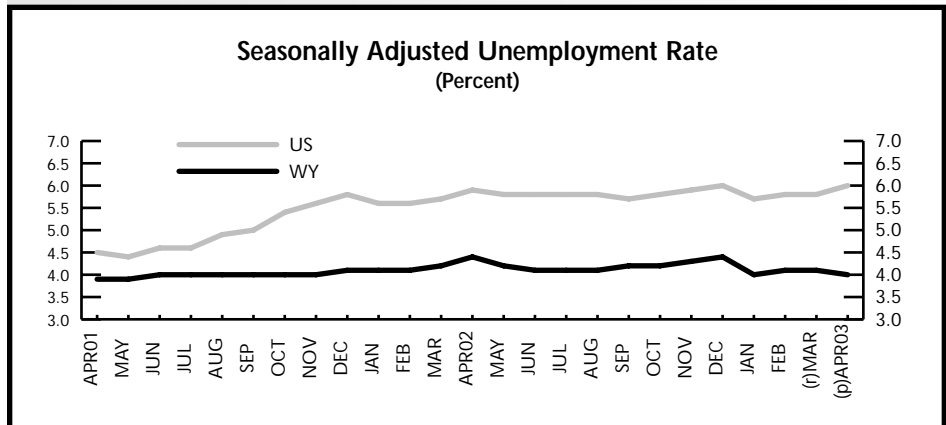
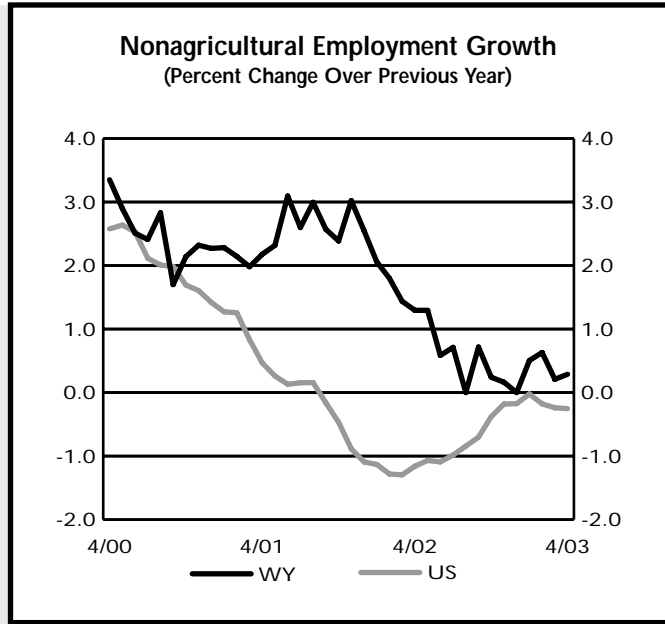
State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.5
Oregon	8.0
District of Columbia	7.3
Washington	7.3
Alaska	7.2
California	6.7
Michigan	6.6
Texas	6.6
Mississippi	6.5
North Carolina	6.4
Illinois	6.3
Louisiana	6.2
Ohio	6.2
New York	6.1
South Carolina	6.1
Arizona	6.0
Colorado	6.0
United States	6.0
West Virginia	6.0
New Mexico	5.9
Pennsylvania	5.9
Alabama	5.8
New Jersey	5.8
Idaho	5.7
Kentucky	5.7
Nevada	5.5
Massachusetts	5.4
Wisconsin	5.4
Arkansas	5.3
Connecticut	5.3
Florida	5.3
Rhode Island	5.3
Utah	5.3
Indiana	5.1
Oklahoma	5.1
Missouri	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
Kansas	4.8
Maine	4.8
Georgia	4.7
Maryland	4.4
Delaware	4.3
Minnesota	4.3
Vermont	4.3
Virginia	4.3
Iowa	4.1
Montana	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Nebraska	3.9
Hawaii	3.8
North Dakota	3.4
South Dakota	3.1

Attention: Readers

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

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

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.3
Oregon	8.0
Alaska	7.4
Washington	7.3
California	6.6
District of Columbia	6.5
Michigan	6.5
Texas	6.2
Illinois	6.1
North Carolina	6.1
Ohio	6.1
West Virginia	6.1
Idaho	6.0
Mississippi	6.0
Colorado	5.9
New York	5.9
United States	5.8
Wisconsin	5.8
South Carolina	5.7
Arizona	5.6
Kentucky	5.6
Louisiana	5.6
New Mexico	5.6
Nevada	5.5
New Jersey	5.5
Pennsylvania	5.5
Alabama	5.4
Maine	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Connecticut	5.2
Utah	5.2
Florida	5.1
Indiana	5.1
Arkansas	5.0
Rhode Island	5.0
Missouri	4.9
Oklahoma	4.9
Kansas	4.8
Tennessee	4.8
Minnesota	4.6
Vermont	4.6
Georgia	4.4
New Hampshire	4.3
Iowa	4.2
Wyoming	4.2
Maryland	4.1
Delaware	4.0
Montana	4.0
Hawaii	3.7
Nebraska	3.7
Virginia	3.7
North Dakota	3.6
South Dakota	3.2



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Substantial job gains were reported in Financial Activities, Educational & Health Services, and Government.”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Apr03(p)	Mar03(r)	Apr02	Mar 03	Apr 02		Apr03(p)	Mar03(r)	Apr02	Mar 03	Apr 03
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	243.2	240.7	242.5	1.0	0.3	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.7	38.4	38.6	0.8	0.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	178.8	176.5	179.5	1.3	-0.4	TOTAL PRIVATE	26.4	26.0	26.6	1.5	-0.8
GOODS PRODUCING	45.4	43.8	46.0	3.7	-1.3	GOODS PRODUCING	3.7	3.6	4.0	2.8	-7.5
Natural Resources & Mining	17.4	17.4	17.7	0.0	-1.7	Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.3	2.2	2.5	4.5	-8.0
Mining	17.4	17.4	17.6	0.0	-1.1	Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-6.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	SERVICE PROVIDING	35.0	34.8	34.6	0.6	1.2
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.5	7.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.2	8.1	7.8	1.2	5.1
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1	Wholesale Trade	0.6	0.7	0.6	-14.3	0.0
Support Activities for Mining	6.6	6.7	6.9	-1.5	-4.3	Retail Trade	5.5	5.4	5.2	1.9	5.8
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	4.7	4.8	5.0	-2.1	-6.0	Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	19.1	17.6	19.1	8.5	0.0	Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Construction of Buildings	4.9	4.4	4.6	11.4	6.5	Professional & Business Services	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.0	-2.9
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	4.9	4.4	5.1	11.4	-3.9	Educational & Health Services	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.3	8.8	9.4	5.7	-1.1	Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.0	4.2	2.5	-2.4
Manufacturing	8.9	8.8	9.2	1.1	-3.3	Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.8	0.0	-4.2	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.3	12.4	12.0	-0.8	2.5
Non-Durable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.4	2.4	-2.3	Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
SERVICE PROVIDING	197.8	196.9	196.5	0.5	0.7	State Government	3.8	3.9	3.7	-2.6	2.7
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	46.8	46.6	47.2	0.4	-0.8	Local Government	5.9	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	7.0	7.1	7.0	-1.4	0.0	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Merchant Whlsr., Durable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.1	-2.4	0.0	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.7	33.3	33.2	1.2	1.5
Retail Trade	29.0	28.7	29.1	1.0	-0.3	TOTAL PRIVATE	27.9	27.5	27.6	1.5	1.1
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.2	4.2	-2.4	-2.4	GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.4	5.4	1.9	1.9
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.6	2.4	2.5	8.3	4.0	Natural Resources & Mining	1.9	2.0	1.8	-5.0	5.6
Food & Beverage Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0	Construction	2.1	1.9	2.1	10.5	0.0
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6	Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Gasoline Stations	4.0	3.9	4.3	2.6	-7.0	SERVICE PROVIDING	28.2	27.9	27.8	1.1	1.4
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.3	5.4	3.8	1.9	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.8	7.8	8.0	0.0	-2.5
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9	Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	10.8	10.8	11.1	0.0	-2.7	Retail Trade	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Transportation & Warehousing	8.7	8.7	9.0	0.0	-3.3	Information	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Truck Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1	Financial Activities	2.0	1.9	1.8	5.3	11.1
Information	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4	Professional & Business Services	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.6	-3.3
Financial Activities	10.1	10.1	9.8	0.0	3.1	Educational & Health Services	4.3	4.2	4.2	2.4	2.4
Finance & Insurance	6.7	6.7	6.5	0.0	3.1	Leisure & Hospitality	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0	Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	15.4	15.0	15.5	2.7	-0.6	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.5	7.4	7.5	1.4	0.0	Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.3	2.2	2.1	4.5	9.5	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	Local Government	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.0	4.7
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	7.2	6.9	7.3	4.3	-1.4	Local Education	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9
Educational & Health Services	19.9	20.0	19.6	-0.5	1.5						
Educational	1.7	1.8	1.8	-5.6	-5.6						
Health Care & Social Assistance	18.2	18.2	17.8	0.0	2.2						
Ambulatory Health Care	6.8	6.7	6.5	1.5	4.6						
Offices of Physicians	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6						
Hospitals	2.7	2.8	2.8	-3.6	-3.6						
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0						
Social Assistance	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.0	4.7						
Leisure & Hospitality	27.4	27.2	27.6	0.7	-0.7						
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.3	2.4	2.2	-4.2	4.5						
Accommodation & Food Services	25.1	24.8	25.4	1.2	-1.2						
Accommodation	8.4	8.4	8.5	0.0	-1.2						
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	16.7	16.4	16.9	1.8	-1.2						
Other Services	9.5	9.5	9.6	0.0	-1.0						
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-9.1						
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	64.4	64.2	63.0	0.3	2.2						
Federal Government	7.1	7.0	6.8	1.4	4.4						
State Government	14.8	14.8	14.6	0.0	1.4						
State Govt. Education	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6						
Local Government	42.5	42.4	41.6	0.2	2.2						
Local Govt. Education	22.7	22.8	22.2	-0.4	2.3						
Hospitals	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8						

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*

“In April an average of 38 drilling rigs were operating in Wyoming, an increase of 18.8 percent from a year earlier.”

	Apr 2003 ____(p)____	Mar 2003 ____(r)____	Apr 2002 ____(b)____	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force ¹	274,177	273,634	269,905	0.2	1.6
Unemployed	11,629	13,144	12,520	-11.5	-7.1
Employed	262,548	260,490	257,385	0.8	2.0
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.2%/4.0%	4.8%/4.1%	4.6%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.8%/6.0%	6.2%/5.8%	5.7%/5.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,181,000	7,385,000	7,336,000	-2.8	-2.1
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.4%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	437,000	474,000	320,000	-7.8	36.6
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,609,000	4,748,000	4,018,000	-2.9	14.7
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$959.62	\$970.97	\$966.49	-1.2	-0.7
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	43.6	45.1	1.1	-2.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$774.58	\$775.32	\$750.48	-0.1	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	42.6	42.4	0.2	0.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$723.93	\$699.73	\$678.20	3.5	6.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	39.6	38.6	3.3	6.0
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$629.43	\$633.29	\$620.16	-0.6	1.5
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.7	40.8	-0.7	-1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated ²	23,870	23,029	18,034	3.7	32.4
Benefits Paid	\$5,553,344	\$5,376,589	\$4,061,577	3.3	36.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$232.65	\$233.47	\$225.22	-0.4	3.3
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	220,527	217,909	219,230	1.2	0.6
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.8%	2.2%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	183.8	184.2	179.8	-0.2	2.2
Food & Beverages	179.0	179.2	176.7	-0.1	1.3
Housing	184.1	184.3	179.5	-0.1	2.6
Apparel	123.9	123.6	128.8	0.2	-3.8
Transportation	159.3	161.0	153.7	-1.1	3.6
Medical Care	294.6	294.2	283.2	0.1	4.0
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	107.4	107.4	106.5	0.0	0.8
Edu. & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	109.0	109.4	106.2	-0.4	2.6
Other Goods & Services	298.1	297.3	292.9	0.3	1.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	136.8	141.4	130.8	-3.3	4.6
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	293	164	228	78.7	28.5
Valuation	\$34,763,000	\$22,080,000	\$31,820,000	57.4	9.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	38	40	32	-5.0	18.8

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“Albany County recorded the lowest unemployment rate in April (1.7%).”

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2003 (p)	Mar 2003 (r)	Apr 2002 (b)	Apr 2003 (p)	Mar 2003 (r)	Apr 2002 (b)	Apr 2003 (p)	Mar 2003 (r)	Apr 2002 (b)	Apr 2003 (p)	Mar 2003 (r)	Apr 2002 (b)
NORTHWEST	46,401	46,283	46,087	44,124	43,374	43,300	2,277	2,909	2,787	4.9	6.3	6.0
Big Horn	5,803	5,784	5,790	5,574	5,456	5,465	229	328	325	3.9	5.7	5.6
Fremont	18,919	19,016	18,719	17,761	17,560	17,499	1,158	1,456	1,220	6.1	7.7	6.5
Hot Springs	2,309	2,258	2,389	2,239	2,175	2,265	70	83	124	3.0	3.7	5.2
Park	14,860	14,749	14,682	14,230	13,936	13,839	630	813	843	4.2	5.5	5.7
Washakie	4,510	4,476	4,507	4,320	4,247	4,232	190	229	275	4.2	5.1	6.1
NORTHEAST	48,390	48,153	47,412	46,450	45,898	45,458	1,940	2,255	1,954	4.0	4.7	4.1
Campbell	23,248	23,283	22,878	22,326	22,290	22,029	922	993	849	4.0	4.3	3.7
Crook	2,983	2,898	2,830	2,841	2,737	2,679	142	161	151	4.8	5.6	5.3
Johnson	4,016	3,937	3,859	3,890	3,772	3,735	126	165	124	3.1	4.2	3.2
Sheridan	14,743	14,672	14,557	14,130	13,895	13,878	613	777	679	4.2	5.3	4.7
Weston	3,400	3,363	3,288	3,263	3,204	3,137	137	159	151	4.0	4.7	4.6
SOUTHWEST	54,038	53,961	52,349	51,256	51,265	49,522	2,782	2,696	2,827	5.1	5.0	5.4
Lincoln	6,831	6,661	6,540	6,384	6,149	6,099	447	512	441	6.5	7.7	6.7
Sublette	3,405	3,359	3,337	3,318	3,264	3,221	87	95	116	2.6	2.8	3.5
Sweetwater	20,211	20,183	19,972	19,361	19,290	18,996	850	893	976	4.2	4.4	4.9
Teton	12,080	12,227	11,204	11,334	11,734	10,580	746	493	624	6.2	4.0	5.6
Uinta	11,511	11,531	11,296	10,859	10,828	10,626	652	703	670	5.7	6.1	5.9
SOUTHEAST	74,959	74,649	74,515	72,638	71,982	71,994	2,321	2,667	2,521	3.1	3.6	3.4
Albany	19,645	19,714	19,955	19,311	19,346	19,510	334	368	445	1.7	1.9	2.2
Goshen	6,363	6,163	6,234	6,149	5,892	5,998	214	271	236	3.4	4.4	3.8
Laramie	43,201	43,199	42,670	41,662	41,442	41,066	1,539	1,757	1,604	3.6	4.1	3.8
Niobrara	1,202	1,157	1,141	1,156	1,100	1,095	46	57	46	3.8	4.9	4.0
Platte	4,548	4,416	4,515	4,360	4,202	4,325	188	214	190	4.1	4.8	4.2
CENTRAL	50,383	50,585	49,542	48,077	47,969	47,110	2,306	2,616	2,432	4.6	5.2	4.9
Carbon	8,007	7,978	7,920	7,560	7,436	7,492	447	542	428	5.6	6.8	5.4
Converse	6,298	6,266	6,155	5,991	5,894	5,878	307	372	277	4.9	5.9	4.5
Natrona	36,078	36,341	35,467	34,526	34,639	33,740	1,552	1,702	1,727	4.3	4.7	4.9
STATEWIDE	274,177	273,634	269,905	262,548	260,490	257,385	11,629	13,144	12,520	4.2	4.8	4.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.0	4.1	4.4
U.S.....										5.8	6.2	5.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										6.0	5.8	5.9

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/03. Run Date 5/03.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

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

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

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