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TRENDS

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Occupational Projections -- A Decision-Making Tool

by: Mark A. Harris, Ph.D., Sociologist
figure by: Sylvia D. Jones, Statistical and Research Analyst

"It is important that growth in Wyoming take place in underrepresented high-wage industries that are not so closely tied to mineral commodities."

The following article is an excerpt from Research & Planning's upcoming occupational projections publication, ***Occupational Outlook: 2010****. The publication examines short- and long-term employment projections for specific occupations through 2010. Included in the publication are the 25 occupations with the highest projected growth that pay a living wage. An analysis of industry turnover rates as applied to occupational categories studies potential replacement need. Also included are data on occupational projections for nurses. The data provide a case study and measure of both projected turnover in nursing as well as the change in demand.*

Employment projections, in large part, reflect a continuation of past trends. Past trends, although important, are not necessarily deterministic of future employment levels. Projections by themselves can affect the future by stimulating thought and discussion on the likelihood and alterability of the baseline forecast.

Among other factors, significant social effort may alter undesirable projected employment trends. For example, concerted effort in developing well-paying industries and their associated occupations, and providing qualified applicants for those positions may change the projected outcomes. Thus, even occupations projected to decline by time series methods may actually experience growth over the projected timeline.[1] Additionally, we cannot completely predict how the development of, as yet unknown,

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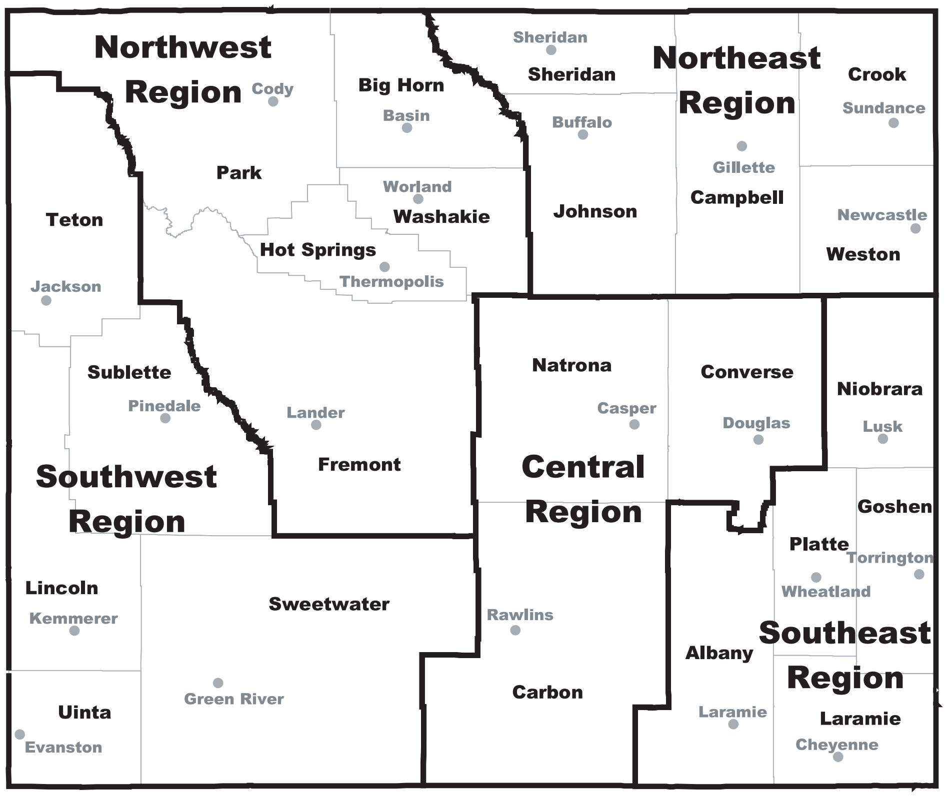

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Research & Planning Section, P.O. Box 2760 Casper, WY 82602-2760
Tom Gallagher, Manager e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us 307-473-3801
Krista R. Shinkle, Editor e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us 307-473-3808
Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Mark A. Harris, Craig Radden Henderson, Susan J. Murray, and Krista R. Shinkle.

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: David Bullard, Nancy Brennan, Mark A. Harris, Sylvia D. Jones, and Brad Payne.

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technology will create, eliminate, reduce, or expand occupational categories.[2]

Policy makers and developers need not feel constrained from pursuing increased employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations regardless of whether projections indicate future growth. If policy makers are to achieve the goal "...to diversify and strengthen Wyoming's per capita income and job creation base,"[3] they will need to break with past trends and alter projected outcomes.

Wyoming's Economy in Broad Context

With the exception of a downturn during mid-decade, Wyoming's employment and population grew slowly during the 1990s while the nation was experiencing the most impressive 10-year period of economic growth in its history. Evidence would seem to indicate, therefore, that Wyoming's economy can grow (albeit in a limited manner) within the context of stiff external competition.

However, during this period of relatively slow growth in Wyoming a significant segment of younger workers (25 to 39) left Wyoming presumably in pursuit of more attractive economic opportunities.[4] The decrease in this demographic segment may affect employee shortages in Wyoming as older workers reach retirement age over the coming decades. Such shortages may hinder economic development if individuals age 25 to 39 cannot be retained or attracted back into the state.

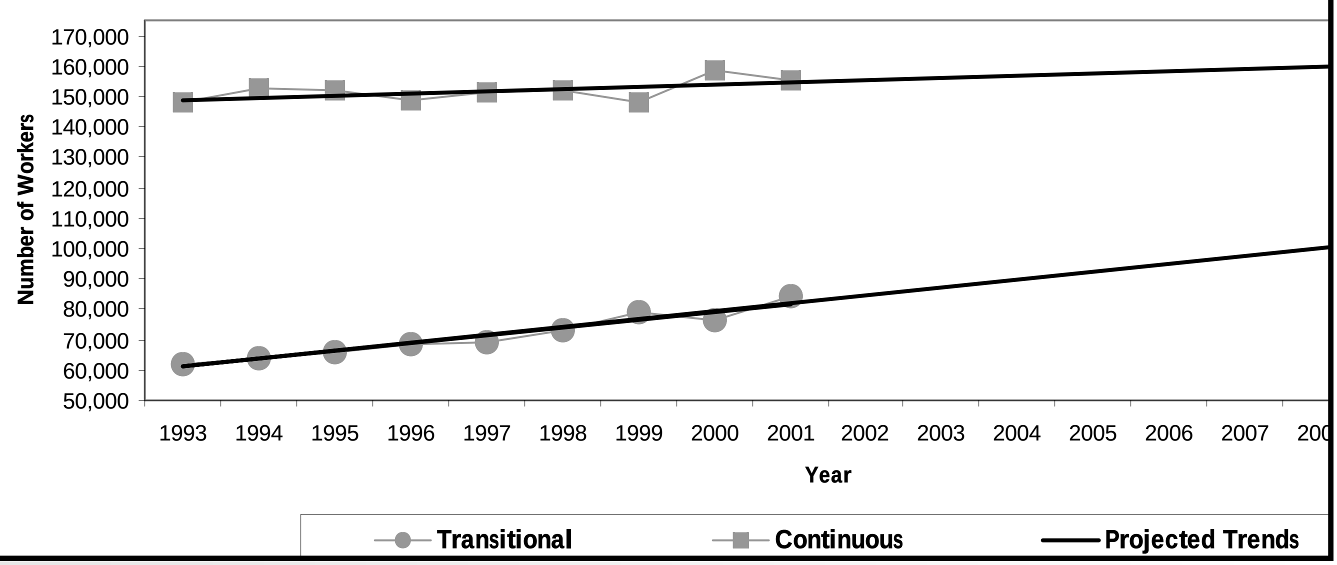
Generally speaking, Wyoming's economy is more strongly tied to circumstances surrounding the worldwide mineral commodities market than to national economic developments. Given that Wyoming's Mining employment is proportionately overrepresented relative to the rest of the nation,[5] the economy is vulnerable to swings in commodities prices and global price competition. When the U.S. is doing well, the state has more economic difficulties. Because of stiff external competition, workers tend to disproportionately leave the state to take advantage of more promising opportunities elsewhere.

The Link Between Occupational Growth and Industry

Occupational growth in Wyoming will always be defined by industry growth. For example, the state will not increase the number of electrical engineers unless growth takes place in industries that typically employ electrical engineers. Growth in high-wage, full-time employment providing insurance and retirement benefits will not take place in the state unless firms in industries that typically provide these types of jobs also increase. Economic development must first and foremost be industry directed in order to obtain desired occupational growth.

Unfortunately, over the last decade the norm in Wyoming has been growth in industries with a general concentration of low-wage occupations[6] that provide limited or no benefits[7] and typified by short employment tenure and high employee turnover.[8] As seen in the Figure (see page 4), the proportion of transitional employment increased from 1993 to 2000 and, left unchecked, is projected to continue through 2010. Transitional employees begin or end (or both) employment during a given quarter. Such high turnover is associated with industries generally offering part-time opportunities, typified by low wages and fewer benefits. Failure to halt or reverse this trend means these types of jobs will comprise a larger share of the state's occupational

Figure: Projected Employment Trends of Transitional and Continuous Workers in Wyoming, 1993-2



distribution and must be relied upon more heavily by those wanting to remain in Wyoming.

From both a sociological and economic standpoint this situation is problematic because private charitable and public entities will need to pick up the slack created by low wages and a lack of benefits among a growing portion of the population. Communities will increasingly be threatened with social disorder and decay because of low wages and high employee turnover.

Failure to infuse the economy with high-wage, full-time occupations means that individuals who become skilled through the state's workforce development system (i.e., K-12, community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and other training entities and programs) will encounter the dilemma of limited occupational opportunity in the state. In the coming years these workers may face the decision whether to accept an occupation for which they are overqualified or leave the state in search of better opportunities elsewhere. It is unlikely that emerging or skilled labor would accept low-wage, unstable employment in Wyoming when quality employment opportunities exist in the regional or national economy.

A Window of Opportunity

The current national recession and weakened regional economies of bordering states appear to provide a window of opportunity to expand Wyoming's economy through the retention of young people and in-migration of former and new residents. It is important that growth in Wyoming take place in underrepresented high-wage industries that are not so closely tied to mineral commodities.[9] This type of growth will help the state become less vulnerable to worldwide developments and more competitive even during times when the national and regional economies are strong. This does not mean that proportionately overrepresented industries (e.g., Mining in particular) cannot also continue to grow (even at fairly expansive rates) but only that growth among underrepresented industries and their associated occupations must take place at a faster rate. Proportional redistribution of Wyoming's industry and occupational employment base will help protect the economy from the instability that comes from an underdiversified economic base and better position Wyoming to retain its skilled workforce when the national and surrounding regional economies rebound.

[1]Even occupations that experience a decline in absolute numbers over time may still offer new employment opportunities due to replacement need caused by various factors such as retirement. For example, absolute employment in Production Occupations may decline from 10,000 to 9,000, representing a net loss of 1,000 jobs over the period. However, if 5,000 of the original 10,000 retire there will still be 4,000 jobs to fill at some point during the forecast period.

[2]One would assume that a workforce with broad competencies in mathematics and science provide the safest skill set with which to adjust and adapt to the way occupations react to new technology. However, Wyoming is unlikely to maintain a highly skilled but underutilized and underpaid workforce in the face of robust regional and national economic competition.

[3]Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, ***Wyoming Unified Plan***, p. 13.

[4]Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Employment Outlook: 2010***, Chapter 3, pp. 41-46. <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/outlTOC.htm>.

[5]Mark Harris, "Is Wyoming's Economy Diversifying and Is Economic Diversity in Wyoming Desirable?" ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, September 2002, pp. 1-9. <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/0902/toc.htm>.

[6]Mark Harris, "Is Wyoming's Economy Diversifying and Is Economic Diversity in Wyoming Desirable?" ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, September 2002, pp. 1-9. <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/0902/toc.htm>. See also, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Employment Outlook: 2010***, <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/outlTOC.htm>.

[7]Mark Harris, "Who Has Access to Employer-Provided Benefits in Wyoming?" ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, February 2003, pp. 1-9. <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/0203/toc.htm>. See also, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Employee Benefits in Wyoming: 2001*** <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/benefits/2001BenefitsPub/Ben2001toc.htm>.

[8]Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Market Dynamics from Administrative Records***, December 2002. <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/w_r_research/MarketDynamics1202.pdf>.

[9]Mark Harris, "Identifying Potential Living-Wage Employment Growth Opportunities in Wyoming," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, May 2003, pp. 1-12. See also, Deana Hauf and Craig Radden Henderson, "Comparing Employment Distributions Among 22 Major Occupational Groups for the U.S., Wyoming, and Bordering States," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, June 2003, pp. 1-8.

Occupational Outlook: 2010 is due for release later this summer. To receive a copy, contact Research & Planning at (307) 473-3808 or send an e-mail to kshink@state.wy.us.

Occupational Outlook: 2010, is a companion to ***Employment Outlook: 2010***. ***Employment Outlook: 2010*** reports industry projections for Wyoming and its sub-state areas. It is available on Research & Planning's website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/EmpOutlook2010.pdf>.

Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 2002

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist
tables by: Nancy Brennan, Economist

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment[1] increased by 910 jobs or 0.4 percent during fourth quarter 2002 compared to fourth quarter 2001. Fourth quarter's employment increase is significantly lower than the five-year average growth of 1.8 percent, marking a slowdown in Wyoming job growth (see Table 1). Total private employment fell by 541 jobs or 0.3 percent, but job gains in Government (1,450 jobs or 2.5%) more than made up the difference. Job losses occurred primarily in Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing. This overall slowdown in job growth has been seen in the Current Employment Statistics data for several months (see the table on page 13 and line chart on page 12). Total payroll increased by 2.4 percent, well below the five-year average of 5.8 percent. Average weekly wages increased by $12 or 2.0 percent, also below its five-year average of 3.9 percent.

Table 2 and the Figure (see page 7) show that growth in employment and total wages has been slowing since first quarter 2002. In first quarter, employment grew by 1.5 percent, and the growth rate fell each successive quarter until reaching 0.4 percent in fourth quarter. Payroll growth stood at 6.5 percent in first quarter, and fell to 2.4 percent in fourth quarter.

Some industries followed the statewide trend in employment and payroll, while others were unaffected. Mining and Construction saw payroll growth decline from over 10 percent in first quarter to negative figures in fourth quarter. Transportation & Warehousing and Administrative & Waste Services bucked the trend and payroll growth increased steadily during 2002. Payroll growth in Accommodations & Food Services and Health Care & Social Assistance was stable during 2002.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

Each year approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they have been assigned the correct North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. If it is found that an

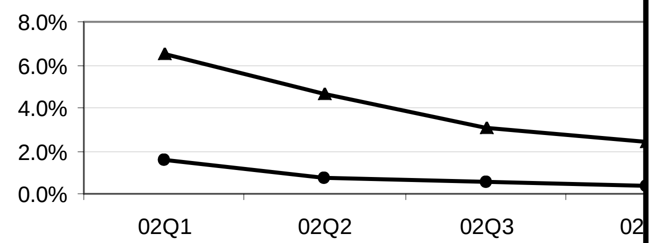
Table 1: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter, 1998-2002

	Average Monthly Employment		Total Wages		Average Weekly Wage	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
98Q4	1.2	-3.6	6.2	6.5	4.9	9.9
99Q4	2.6	-2.4	6.5	5.4	3.9	8.1
00Q4	2.2	-2.6	7.8	9.5	5.5	12.4
01Q4	2.8	-3.1	6.4	6.6	3.4	10.0
02Q4	0.4	-3.3	2.4	5.4	2.0	8.9
5 Year Average for Q4	**1.8**	**-3.0**	**5.8**	**6.7**	**3.9**	**9.9**

Table 2: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for First Through Fourth Quarters 2002

	Average Monthly Employment Over the Previous Year	Total Wages Over the Previous Year
02Q1	1.5%	6.5%
02Q2	0.7%	4.7%
02Q3	0.5%	3.1%
02Q4	0.4%	2.4%

Figure: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employme and Wages for First Through Fourth Quarters 2002



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

Table 3 shows that Accommodation & Food Services, Local Government, Retail Trade, Administrative & Waste Services, and State Government created the largest number of jobs in fourth quarter.

Accommodation & Food Services gained 1,398 jobs or 5.7 percent, although part of

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Fourth Quarter 2002 by Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll		
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		
Industry Title and Sector	2001	2002	No.	%	2001	2002	A
Total, All Industries	**238,053**	**238,963**	**910**	**0.4**	**$1,795,823,012**	**$1,838,472,259**	**$42,6**
Total Private	**180,253**	**179,712**	**-541**	**-0.3**	**$1,362,186,134**	**$1,371,509,522**	**$9,3**
Agriculture (11)	2,315	2,251	-64	-2.8	$15,052,994	$14,314,807	-$7
Mining (21)	19,108	17,497	-1,611	-8.4	$259,754,530	$251,825,745	-$7,9
Utilities (22)	2,094	2,117	23	1.1	$30,545,057	$34,912,869	$4,3
Construction (23)	20,519	19,841	-678	-3.3	$180,003,232	$174,139,016	-$5,8
Manufacturing (31-33)*	10,203	9,670	-533	-5.2	$95,374,857	$87,928,932	-$7,4
Wholesale Trade (42)	6,891	7,015	125	1.8	$69,809,240	$67,831,609	-$1,9
Retail Trade (44-45)	29,813	30,376	563	1.9	$149,178,054	$152,633,675	$3,4
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	6,432	6,759	328	5.1	$51,371,226	$55,096,014	$3,7
Information (51)	3,977	4,068	90	2.3	$31,255,567	$30,890,627	-$3
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,208	6,602	394	6.3	$67,723,714	$61,582,528	-$6,1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,385	3,358	-27	-0.8	$21,335,688	$22,998,571	$1,6
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,826	7,591	-235	-3.0	$84,548,695	$88,629,459	$4,0
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)*	738	696	-41	-5.6	$7,379,186	$13,148,187	$5,7
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	6,744	7,246	502	7.4	$36,293,964	$37,384,775	$1,0
Educational Services (61)	1,152	1,036	-116	-10.1	$5,693,879	$5,690,787	-
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	17,730	18,067	337	1.9	$134,159,893	$146,323,675	$12,1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

this increase was due to a "noneconomic code change." A firm that was previously classified in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (NAICS 71) was reclassified into Accommodation & Food Services (NAICS 72). Industry codes are changed because businesses sometimes find a more profitable niche in the economy, diversify as they grow, or become more specialized.

Local Government grew by 695 jobs or 1.8 percent. Gains were seen throughout local government, including publicly-owned hospitals, educational services (school districts and community colleges), and public administration (offices of cities, towns, and counties).

Retail Trade added 563 jobs or 1.9 percent during fourth quarter. Within Retail Trade the employment situation was mixed. Several subsectors lost jobs, such as gasoline stations (-200 jobs) and nonstore retailers (-100 jobs), while others grew rapidly including building material & garden equipment & supplies dealers (500 jobs) and general merchandise stores (150 jobs).

State Government added 450 jobs or 3.7 percent during fourth quarter. Gains were seen in educational services (150 jobs) and public administration.

Mining employment fell by 1,611 jobs or 8.4 percent during fourth quarter. Strong gains in coal mining were overshadowed by job losses in drilling oil & gas wells (-700 jobs), oil & gas extraction (-350 jobs), and support activities for oil & gas operations (-550 jobs).

Employment in Construction fell by 678 jobs or 3.3 percent during fourth quarter. Part of this decrease may be related to the completion of a gas plant project earlier in 2002.

The employment decrease in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation was primarily the result of reclassification of firms to other industries (such as Accommodation & Food Services) rather than layoffs or other economic events. Similarly, Professional & Technical Services; Management of Companies & Enterprises; Administrative & Waste Services; Private Educational Services; and Other Services were affected by the reclassification of relatively large firms.

Manufacturing employment decreased by 533 jobs or 5.2 percent because of job losses in many subsectors, especially food manufacturing and chemical manufacturing. Manufacturing employment also fell because of the reclassification of firms into other industries, such as Wholesale Trade.

Average weekly wage increased $12 or 2.0 percent. The largest increase in average weekly wage occurred in Management of Companies & Enterprises, where wages increased by $683 or 88.8 percent. This was the result of the reclassification of a small company from Manufacturing and the payment of large bonuses during fourth quarter.

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 4 (see page 9), employment increased in 15 of Wyoming's 23 counties during fourth quarter. In an effort to increase data quality, the Covered Employment and Wages unit has recently contacted many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within counties. This has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation, and corresponding increases in many counties throughout the state. While the long-run result will be

Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Fourth Quarter 2002 by Region and County

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
REGION/	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
County	2001	2002	No.	%	2001	2002	Amount	%	2001	2002	Amt.	%
TOTAL	**238,053**	**238,963**	**910**	**0.4**	**$1,795,823,012**	**$1,838,472,259**	**$42,649,247**	**2.4**	**$580**	**$592**	**$12**	**2.0**
NORTHWEST	**36,229**	**36,130**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**$233,646,379**	**$238,435,495**	**$4,789,116**	**2.0**	**$496**	**$508**	**$12**	**2.3**
Big Horn	4,203	4,175	-27	-0.7	29,926,070	29,542,997	-383,073	-1.3	548	544	-3	-0.6
Fremont	14,957	14,579	-378	-2.5	94,252,491	92,880,566	-1,371,925	-1.5	485	490	5	1.1
Hot Springs	2,012	1,947	-65	-3.2	12,008,689	11,897,290	-111,399	-0.9	459	470	11	2.4
Park	11,523	11,854	331	2.9	73,645,789	79,456,518	5,810,729	7.9	492	516	24	4.9
Washakie	3,535	3,575	40	1.1	23,813,340	24,658,124	844,784	3.5	518	531	12	2.4
NORTHEAST	**38,311**	**39,375**	**1,064**	**2.8**	**$310,274,834**	**$327,999,828**	**$17,724,994**	**5.7**	**$623**	**$641**	**$18**	**2.9**
Campbell	20,505	20,686	181	0.9	193,876,064	203,578,489	9,702,425	5.0	727	757	30	4.1
Crook	1,852	1,957	106	5.7	11,912,077	12,824,648	912,571	7.7	495	504	9	1.8
Johnson	2,733	2,798	65	2.4	15,301,071	16,586,953	1,285,882	8.4	431	456	25	5.9
Sheridan	10,952	11,696	744	6.8	73,723,406	80,501,990	6,778,584	9.2	518	529	12	2.2
Weston	2,270	2,238	-32	-1.4	15,462,216	14,507,748	-954,468	-6.2	524	499	-25	-4.8
SOUTHWEST	**50,356**	**50,822**	**466**	**0.9**	**$425,011,304**	**$431,781,920**	**$6,770,616**	**1.6**	**$649**	**$654**	**$4**	**0.7**
Lincoln	5,243	5,235	-7	-0.1	36,253,942	37,552,561	1,298,619	3.6	532	552	20	3.7
Sublette	2,409	2,538	129	5.3	16,714,993	19,352,594	2,637,601	15.8	534	587	53	9.9
Sweetwater	19,253	18,718	-535	-2.8	178,464,609	175,338,453	-3,126,156	-1.8	713	721	8	1.1
Teton	14,824	15,323	498	3.4	134,945,345	132,801,431	-2,143,914	-1.6	700	667	-34	-4.8
Uinta	8,626	9,008	382	4.4	58,632,415	66,736,881	8,104,466	13.8	523	570	47	9.0
SOUTHEAST	**59,184**	**61,761**	**2,577**	**4.4**	**$408,307,535**	**$444,976,845**	**$36,669,310**	**9.0**	**$531**	**$554**	**$24**	**4.4**
Albany	14,597	14,917	320	2.2	92,855,966	100,980,785	8,124,819	8.7	489	521	31	6.4
Goshen	4,206	4,270	64	1.5	23,292,068	24,008,654	716,586	3.1	426	433	7	1.5
Laramie	36,443	38,532	2,089	5.7	268,171,043	294,262,851	26,091,808	9.7	566	587	21	3.8
Niobrara	753	777	24	3.2	3,901,211	4,134,980	233,769	6.0	399	409	11	2.7
Platte	3,185	3,265	80	2.5	20,087,247	21,589,575	1,502,328	7.5	485	509	23	4.8
CENTRAL	**42,773**	**43,478**	**705**	**1.6**	**$317,677,513**	**$325,126,411**	**$7,448,898**	**2.3**	**$571**	**$575**	**$4**	**0.7**
Carbon	6,313	6,274	-39	-0.6	41,261,393	41,954,443	693,050	1.7	503	514	12	2.3
Converse	4,339	4,217	-121	-2.8	30,760,137	28,995,588	-1,764,549	-5.7	545	529	-16	-3.0
Natrona	32,121	32,987	866	2.7	245,655,983	254,176,380	8,520,397	3.5	588	593	4	0.8
Nonclassified*	**11,200**	**7,397**	**-3,803**	**-34.0**	**$100,905,447**	**$70,151,760**	**-$30,753,687**	**-30.5**	**$693**	**$730**	**$37**	**5.3**

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

higher-quality data, initially some of the employment increases at the county level may simply be interpreted as more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs in the counties.

Laramie County added 2,089 jobs (5.7%) during fourth quarter. Employment grew at all levels of government, but especially in Federal Government (100 jobs) and State Government (180 jobs). Within State Government, the largest gains were in administration of human resource programs (including health and education) and administration of economic programs (including transportation). Significant job gains were also seen in Construction, Retail Trade, Finance & Insurance, Accommodation & Food Services, and Health Care & Social Assistance.

Natrona County added 866 jobs or 2.7 percent during fourth quarter. Job losses in Mining (-250 jobs), Manufacturing (-90 jobs), and Transportation & Warehousing (-80 jobs) were more than offset by substantial job gains in Construction, Retail Trade, Real Estate & Rental & Leasing, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Sheridan County grew by 744 jobs or 6.8 percent during fourth quarter. The largest gains were in Administrative & Waste Services (80 jobs), Health Care & Social Assistance (200 jobs), Accommodation & Food Services (120 jobs), and Local Government (70 jobs).

In Teton County, 498 jobs (3.4%) were created in fourth quarter 2002. Employment growth appeared in many industries, including Retail Trade, Transportation & Warehousing, Administrative & Waste Services, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Sweetwater County lost 535 jobs (-2.8%) when compared to fourth quarter 2001. Significant job losses occurred in Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing.

Employment fell by 378 jobs (2.5%) in Fremont County. The largest job losses occurred in Mining, Construction, Transportation & Warehousing, and Retail Trade.

Average weekly wage increased in 19 Wyoming counties. The largest increase was seen in Sublette County where the average weekly wage grew by $53 or 9.9 percent. Uinta County's average wage also increased substantially, growing by $47 or 9.0 percent.

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

Wyoming Employment Falls Slightly in May

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming nonagricultural employment fell slightly (down 300 jobs or 0.1%) from May 2002 to May 2003. However, Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained low (4.0%). The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 6.0 percent in April to 6.1 percent in May (its highest level in over eight years). The U.S. continued to lose jobs on an over-the-year basis (-361,000 jobs or -0.3%).

From April to May, Wyoming added 7,000 jobs (an increase of 2.9%). However, this over-the-month increase is slightly lower than the average of the four previous years (7,750 jobs), signaling a slowdown in job growth. Not surprisingly, Construction (1,300 jobs), Retail Trade (1,400 jobs), Professional & Business Services (500 jobs), Leisure & Hospitality (2,400 jobs), and Government (700 jobs) all gained jobs. In Construction and Government, however, the job gains were smaller than in previous years.

From May 2002, employment fell by 300 jobs or 0.1 percent. This marks the first time employment has fallen in over-the-year comparison since November 1995. May's employment decline reflects a continuation of the slow employment growth Wyoming has been seeing since June 2002 when employment growth fell below 1.0 percent. In recent months, employment growth (or decline) has not been significantly different from zero.

Employment in all three goods-producing industries fell in May. Natural Resources & Mining lost 200 jobs or 1.1 percent, Construction lost 500 jobs or 2.4 percent, and Manufacturing lost 600 jobs or 6.4 percent. Local Government (including public school districts, community colleges, and public hospitals) gained 500 jobs or 1.2 percent. Leisure & Hospitality added 200 jobs or 0.7 percent.

According to information provided by the U.S. Department of Defense for May, a total of 444 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, the over-the-year payroll job decline of 0.1 percent may have been exaggerated.

As expected, unemployment rates in almost all of Wyoming's 23 counties fell from April to May. The two exceptions were Natrona County where the unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.3 percent to 4.4 percent and Sublette County where the unemployment rate was unchanged at 2.6 percent. Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate in May (5.5%). It was followed by Uinta County (5.3%) and Fremont County (5.2%). The lowest unemployment rate was found in Albany County (1.5%).

Attention: Readers

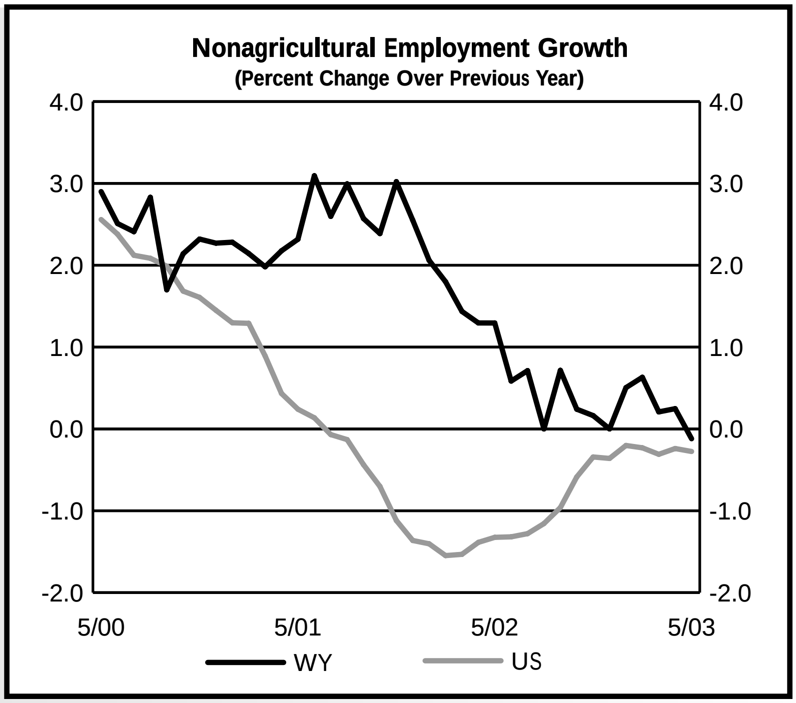
Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims data are not included in this month's issue. Please look for the return of these regular features soon. We are sorry for any inconvenience. - ***ed.***

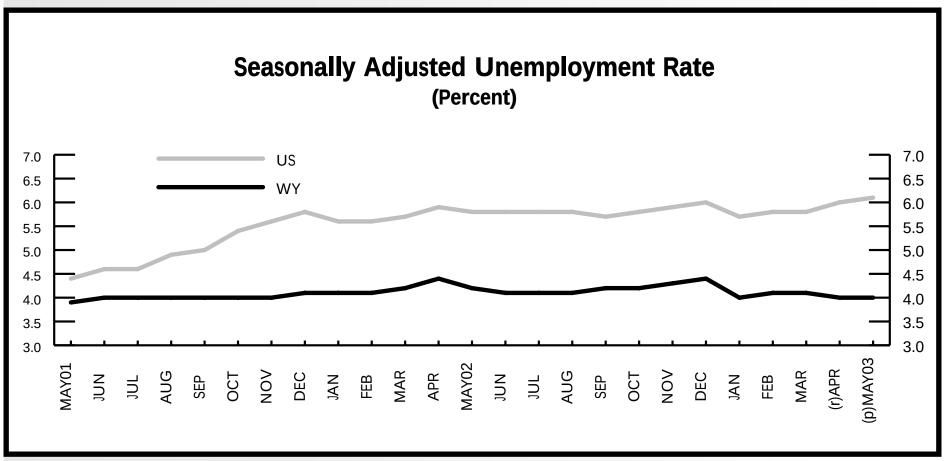
State Unemployment Rates
May 2003
(Seasonally Adjusted)

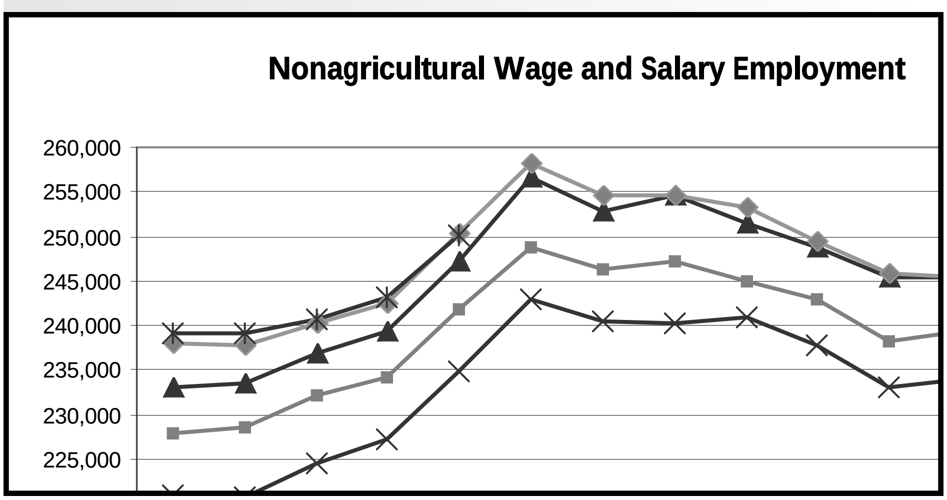
State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.1
Oregon	8.2
Alaska	7.3
Washington	7.3
Texas	6.8
Michigan	6.7
California	6.6
District of Columbia	6.4
Louisiana	6.3
Mississippi	6.3
South Carolina	6.2
Illinois	6.1
New York	6.1
North Carolina	6.1
Ohio	6.1
United States	**6.1**
New Mexico	6.0
Arizona	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
Colorado	5.8
Alabama	5.7
Kentucky	5.7
New Jersey	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
Massachusetts	5.5
Oklahoma	5.5
Nevada	5.4
Rhode Island	5.4
Utah	5.4
Wisconsin	5.4
Missouri	5.3
Idaho	5.2
Florida	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Connecticut	4.9
Indiana	4.9
Georgia	4.8
Kansas	4.6
Iowa	4.5
Maine	4.5
Maryland	4.4
Minnesota	4.3
Montana	4.2
Vermont	4.1
Wyoming	**4.0**
Hawaii	3.9
Nebraska	3.9
New Hampshire	3.9
Virginia	3.9
Delaware	3.7
North Dakota	3.5
South Dakota	3.2

State Unemployment Rates May 2003 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.0
Oregon	7.8
Alaska	7.1
Washington	7.1
Mississippi	6.5
Texas	6.5
Michigan	6.4
California	6.3
South Carolina	6.2
District of Columbia	6.0
North Carolina	6.0
Illinois	5.9
New Mexico	5.9
Arizona	5.8
Louisiana	5.8
New York	5.8
Ohio	5.8
United States	**5.8**
West Virginia	5.8
Pennsylvania	5.7
Colorado	5.5
Kentucky	5.5
Oklahoma	5.5
New Jersey	5.4
Utah	5.4
Arkansas	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Alabama	5.2
Rhode Island	5.1
Wisconsin	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
Florida	4.9
Idaho	4.9
Missouri	4.9
Nevada	4.9
Indiana	4.8
Georgia	4.6
Tennessee	4.6
Kansas	4.4
Maine	4.4
Maryland	4.2
Nebraska	3.9
Virginia	3.9
Wyoming	**3.9**
Hawaii	3.8
Iowa	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Montana	3.7
New Hampshire	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Delaware	3.4
North Dakota	2.9
South Dakota	2.9







Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment[1]

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Employment in all three goods-producing industries fell in May. Natural Resources & Mining lost 200 jobs, Construction lost 500 jobs, and Manufacturing lost 600 jobs.”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	May03(p)	Apr03(r)	May02	Apr 03 May 03	May 02 May 03
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**250.1**	**243.1**	**250.4**	**2.9**	**-0.1**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**185.4**	**179.1**	**186.3**	**3.5**	**-0.5**
GOODS PRODUCING	**46.9**	**45.4**	**48.2**	**3.3**	**-2.7**
Natural Resources & Mining	17.7	17.4	17.9	1.7	-1.1
Mining	17.7	17.4	17.7	1.7	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.6	7.5	7.5	1.3	1.3
Coal Mining	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	2.1
Support Activities for Mining	6.8	6.6	7.0	3.0	-2.9
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	4.8	4.7	4.9	2.1	-2.0
Construction	20.4	19.1	20.9	6.8	-2.4
Construction of Buildings	5.0	4.9	4.8	2.0	4.2
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	5.5	4.9	5.9	12.2	-6.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.9	9.3	10.2	6.5	-2.9
Manufacturing	8.8	8.9	9.4	-1.1	-6.4
Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	5.0	0.0	-8.0
Non-Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.4	-2.3	-4.5
SERVICE PROVIDING	**203.2**	**197.7**	**202.2**	**2.8**	**0.5**
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	48.4	46.7	48.5	3.6	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.9	7.0	0.0	-1.4
Merchant Whlslrs., Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	30.5	29.1	30.4	4.8	0.3
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.0	4.2	2.5	-2.4
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.8	0.0
Food & Beverage Stores	5.0	4.9	4.9	2.0	2.0
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.8	4.0	2.6	-2.5
Gasoline Stations	4.2	4.0	4.3	5.0	-2.3
General Merchandise Stores	6.2	5.5	6.0	12.7	3.3
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.7	1.9	5.9	-5.3
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	11.0	10.7	11.1	2.8	-0.9
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	8.9	8.6	9.0	3.5	-1.1
Truck Transportation	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.0
Information	4.2	4.3	4.1	-2.3	2.4
Financial Activities	10.1	10.1	10.0	0.0	1.0
Finance & Insurance	6.7	6.7	6.5	0.0	3.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.4	3.4	3.5	0.0	-2.9
Professional & Business Services	15.9	15.4	15.8	3.2	0.6
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.6	7.5	7.4	1.3	2.7
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	7.6	7.2	7.8	5.6	-2.6
Educational & Health Services	20.0	20.0	19.9	0.0	0.5
Educational	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	18.3	18.3	18.1	0.0	1.1
Ambulatory Health Care	6.8	6.8	6.6	0.0	3.0
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	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.2	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	30.2	27.8	30.0	8.6	0.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.5	2.3	2.5	8.7	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	27.7	25.5	27.5	8.6	0.7
Accommodation	10.0	8.6	10.0	16.3	0.0
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.7	16.9	17.5	4.7	1.1
Other Services	9.7	9.4	9.8	3.2	-1.0
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-9.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**64.7**	**64.0**	**64.1**	**1.1**	**0.9**
Federal Government	7.3	7.0	7.2	4.3	1.4
State Government	14.8	14.7	14.8	0.7	0.0
State Govt. Education	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Local Government	42.6	42.3	42.1	0.7	1.2
Local Govt. Education	22.6	22.6	22.3	0.0	1.3
Hospitals	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	May03(p)	Apr03(r)	May02	Apr 03 May 03	May 02 May 03
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**39.6**	**38.7**	**39.2**	**2.3**	**1.0**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**27.1**	**26.4**	**27.2**	**2.7**	**-0.4**
GOODS PRODUCING	**3.9**	**3.7**	**4.2**	**5.4**	**-7.1**
Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.4	2.3	2.7	4.3	-11.1
Manufacturing	1.5	1.4	1.5	7.1	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**35.7**	**35.0**	**35.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.4	8.2	8.1	2.4	3.7
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.6	5.5	5.4	1.8	3.7
Information	1.1	1.0	1.0	10.0	10.0
Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	4.2	4.0	4.4	5.0	-4.5
Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**12.5**	**12.3**	**12.0**	**1.6**	**4.2**
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
State Government	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	5.4
Local Government	6.0	5.9	5.9	1.7	1.7

NATRONA COUNTY*	May03(p)	Apr03(r)	May02	Apr 03 May 03	May 02 May 03
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**34.3**	**33.7**	**33.7**	**1.8**	**1.8**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**28.5**	**28.0**	**28.0**	**1.8**	**1.8**
GOODS PRODUCING	**5.7**	**5.5**	**5.6**	**3.6**	**1.8**
Natural Resources & Mining	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3
Construction	2.2	2.1	2.3	4.8	-4.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	**28.6**	**28.2**	**28.1**	**1.4**	**1.8**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.9	7.8	8.0	1.3	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.0	1.1	10.0	0.0
Information	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Professional & Business Services	3.1	2.9	3.0	6.9	3.3
Educational & Health Services	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2
Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.8	5.7	5.7	1.8	1.8
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	4.5	4.4	4.4	2.3	2.3
Local Education	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	0.0

[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.

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) grew by 1.8 percent from May 2002 to May 2003."

	May 2003 (p)	Apr 2003 (r)	May 2002 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force[1]	274,052	274,181	269,305	0.0	1.8
Unemployed	10,670	11,624	10,880	-8.2	-1.9
Employed	263,382	262,557	258,425	0.3	1.9
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.9%/4.0%	4.2%/4.0%	4.0%/4.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.8%/6.1%	5.8%/6.0%	5.5%/5.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,338,000	7,181,000	7,247,000	2.2	1.3
As a percent of all workers	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	482,000	437,000	414,000	10.3	16.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,409,000	4,609,000	3,942,000	-4.3	11.8
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$954.85	$954.84	$949.53	0.0	0.6
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.6	44.6	0.2	-2.0
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$789.66	$789.87	$766.06	0.0	3.1
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	44.3	43.7	-1.4	0.0
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$703.34	$714.56	$677.64	-1.6	3.8
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	40.6	38.7	1.7	6.7
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$629.53	$625.20	$615.60	0.7	2.3
Average Weekly Hours	40.2	40.0	40.5	0.5	-0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated[2]	15,771	23,870	13,154	-33.9	19.9
Benefits Paid	$3,624,938	$5,553,344	$2,949,194	-34.7	22.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$229.85	$232.65	$224.21	-1.2	2.5
State Insured Covered Jobs[1]	228,169	220,527	226,859	3.5	0.6
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.9%	2.4%	1.7%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	183.5	183.8	179.8	-0.2	2.1
Food & Beverages	179.4	179.0	176.4	0.2	1.7
Housing	184.5	184.1	179.7	0.2	2.7
Apparel	122.5	123.9	127.1	-1.1	-3.6
Transportation	157.2	159.3	153.8	-1.3	2.2
Medical Care	295.5	294.6	284.1	0.3	4.0
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	107.6	107.4	106.4	0.2	1.1
Edu. & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	108.6	109.0	106.6	-0.4	1.9
Other Goods & Services	298.1	298.1	291.5	0.0	2.3
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	136.7	136.8	130.8	-0.1	4.5
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	235	293	229	-19.8	2.6
Valuation	$38,549,000	$34,763,000	$39,987,000	10.9	-3.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	48	38	36	26.3	33.3

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

"From April to May 2003 the unemployment rate fell in 21 of Wyoming's 23 counties."

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unempl
REGION County	May 2003 (p)	Apr 2003 (r)	May 2002 (b)	May 2003 (p)	Apr 2003 (r)	May 2002 (b)	May 2003 (p)	Apr 2003 (r)	May 2002 (b)	May 2003 (p)
NORTHWEST	**47,061**	**46,433**	**46,885**	**45,096**	**44,144**	**44,492**	**1,965**	**2,289**	**2,393**	**4.2**
Big Horn	5,805	5,806	5,782	5,593	5,577	5,486	212	229	296	3.7
Fremont	18,746	18,929	18,617	17,774	17,769	17,589	972	1,160	1,028	5.2
Hot Springs	2,319	2,314	2,397	2,260	2,240	2,287	59	74	110	2.5
Park	15,705	14,868	15,515	15,155	14,236	14,869	550	632	646	3.5
Washakie	4,486	4,516	4,574	4,314	4,322	4,261	172	194	313	3.8
NORTHEAST	**48,337**	**48,407**	**47,203**	**46,551**	**46,470**	**45,633**	**1,786**	**1,937**	**1,570**	**3.7**
Campbell	23,084	23,259	22,581	22,183	22,336	21,802	901	923	779	3.9
Crook	3,065	2,984	3,008	2,946	2,842	2,919	119	142	89	3.9
Johnson	4,141	4,016	4,013	4,020	3,892	3,899	121	124	114	2.9
Sheridan	14,674	14,749	14,316	14,136	14,136	13,845	538	613	471	3.7
Weston	3,373	3,399	3,285	3,266	3,264	3,168	107	135	117	3.2
SOUTHWEST	**54,819**	**54,069**	**52,767**	**52,372**	**51,280**	**50,289**	**2,447**	**2,789**	**2,478**	**4.5**
Lincoln	6,925	6,834	6,715	6,547	6,387	6,361	378	447	354	5.5
Sublette	3,556	3,407	3,518	3,463	3,320	3,432	93	87	86	2.6
Sweetwater	20,179	20,218	19,581	19,377	19,370	18,694	802	848	887	4.0
Teton	12,551	12,094	11,736	11,995	11,339	11,263	556	755	473	4.4
Uinta	11,608	11,516	11,217	10,990	10,864	10,539	618	652	678	5.3
SOUTHEAST	**73,633**	**74,835**	**73,085**	**71,428**	**72,527**	**70,835**	**2,205**	**2,308**	**2,250**	**3.0**
Albany	18,984	19,660	18,966	18,699	19,320	18,610	285	340	356	1.5
Goshen	6,237	6,353	6,171	6,043	6,152	5,981	194	201	190	3.1
Laramie	42,528	43,070	42,020	41,022	41,536	40,517	1,506	1,534	1,503	3.5
Niobrara	1,215	1,203	1,212	1,183	1,157	1,158	32	46	54	2.6
Platte	4,669	4,549	4,716	4,481	4,362	4,569	188	187	147	4.0
CENTRAL	**50,203**	**50,439**	**49,365**	**47,935**	**48,136**	**47,176**	**2,268**	**2,303**	**2,189**	**4.5**
Carbon	8,124	8,011	8,040	7,710	7,564	7,686	414	447	354	5.1
Converse	6,292	6,304	6,270	6,013	5,994	6,041	279	310	229	4.4
Natrona	35,787	36,124	35,055	34,212	34,578	33,449	1,575	1,546	1,606	4.4
STATEWIDE	**274,052**	**274,181**	**269,305**	**263,382**	**262,557**	**258,425**	**10,670**	**11,624**	**10,880**	**3.9**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.0
U.S.										5.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										6.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/03. Run Date 6/03.

Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602