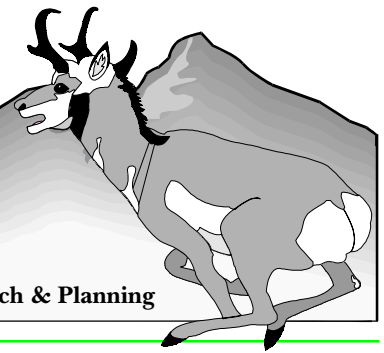


# Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

Vol. 36 No. 8 © Copyright 1999 by the Wyoming Employment Resources Division, Research & Planning



## Wyoming's Labor Force Participation Rate:

*What does it imply about Labor Supply in the State?*

by: David Bullard, Economist

**"Wyoming's labor force participation rate has been well above the national average for the past 20 years."**

Several mountain and plains states have been experiencing tight labor markets in recent years, but so far, Wyoming has not faced the wage pressures and recruitment difficulties characterizing some labor markets in states south and east of us. This article examines the labor force participation rate

in an attempt to assess the state of Wyoming's labor market. It finds that Wyoming's labor force participation rate has been consistently higher than the U.S. average, but is currently lower than other states in the region. At the state level, high participation rates are associated with high levels of

education and agricultural self-employment. It appears that Wyoming's participation rate could go higher, and labor force could increase without significant upward pressure on wages.

The labor force participation rate is defined as the percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over that is in the labor force. Labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed, or in other words, the number of people either working or available and looking for work. While a high participation rate is generally seen as a sign of a healthy economy, in conjunction with a low unemployment rate, it also suggests a tight labor market. Thus, if a state has persistently low unemployment and a high participation rate, employers will probably have difficulty hiring additional workers without bidding up wages.

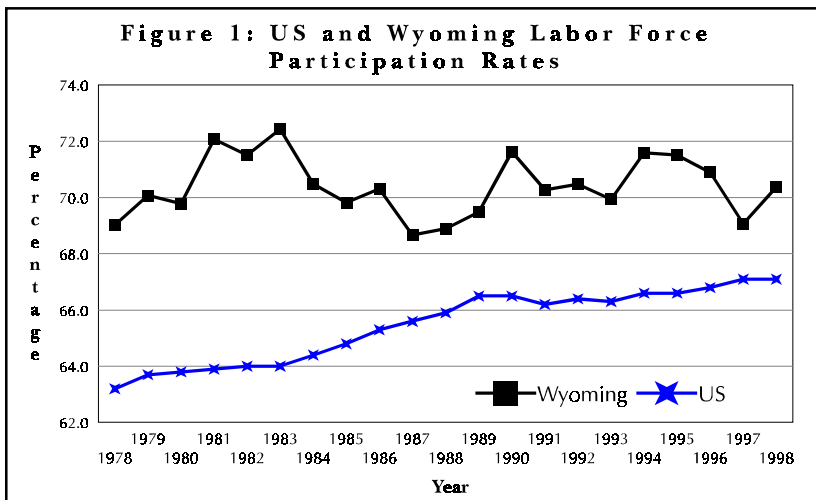


Figure 1 shows a 20-year history of the labor force participation rate in Wyoming

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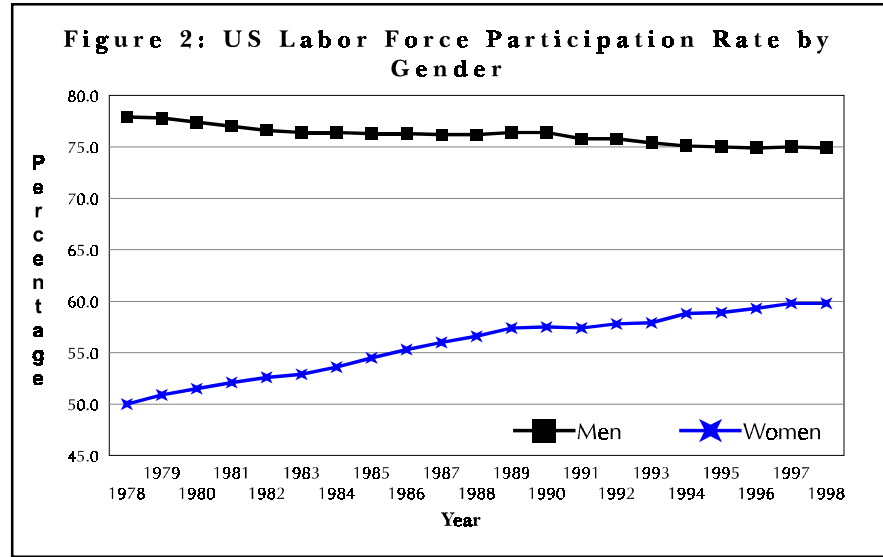
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and the United States. Studying Figure 1 reveals two facts: first, Wyoming's participation rate has consistently been above the U.S. participation rate. Second, the U.S. participation rate has been increasing steadily over the last 20 years.

Why has the labor force participation rate for the U.S. been increasing? Figure 2 shows the U.S. participation rate broken out by gender. It is clear that men's participation rates have fallen while women's rates have increased. Thus, much of the increase in the U.S. participation rate is due to greater participation by women in formal labor market activities.

Why is Wyoming's participation rate higher than the U.S. rate? One possibility is that the demographic composition of Wyoming's population could be skewed towards age-groups which tend to have higher participation rates. Another possibility is that Wyoming residents in all age groups could have different characteristics or face different labor market opportunities than the U.S. population as a whole.

Table 1 (see page 3) provides labor force participation rates by age-group



and gender for the United States. People in their prime working years (age 25 to 54) have much higher participation rates than younger or older people. Table 2 (see page 3) contains similar figures for Wyoming in 1997. Comparing Tables 1 and 2 reveals that when both genders are combined, Wyoming has higher labor force participation rates in every age category except 25 to 34 year olds. Men in Wyoming have higher participation rates in every age category. Wyoming women have

higher participation rates than U.S. women in four age groups and lower participation rates in two age groups.

Table 3 (see page 3) shows the age distribution of the civilian non-institutional population in the United States and Wyoming. Comparing the column percent figures for Wyoming and the U.S. reveals that in many respects Wyoming has a similar age

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**Table 1: U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates by Age and Gender, 1997 Annual Average (data in thousands)**

Total	Civilian Noninstitutional Population		Participation Rate
	Population	Labor Force	
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>203,133</b>	<b>136,297</b>	<b>67.1</b>
16 to 19 years	15,365	7,932	51.6
20 to 24 years	17,442	13,532	77.6
25 to 34 years	39,559	33,380	84.4
35 to 44 years	43,883	37,326	85.1
45 to 54 years	33,391	27,574	82.6
55 to 64 years	21,505	12,665	58.9
65 years and over	31,989	3,887	12.2
<b>Men</b>			
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>97,715</b>	<b>73,261</b>	<b>75.0</b>
16 to 19 years	7,836	4,095	52.3
20 to 24 years	8,706	7,184	82.5
25 to 34 years	19,478	18,110	93.0
35 to 44 years	21,669	20,058	92.6
45 to 54 years	16,276	14,564	89.5
55 to 64 years	10,282	6,952	67.6
<b>Women</b>			
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>105,418</b>	<b>63,036</b>	<b>59.8</b>
16 to 19 years	7,528	3,837	51.0
20 to 24 years	8,736	6,348	72.7
25 to 34 years	20,081	15,271	76.0
35 to 44 years	22,214	17,268	77.7
45 to 54 years	17,115	13,010	76.0
55 to 64 years	11,224	5,713	50.9

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, January 1998.

**Table 2: Wyoming Labor Force Participation Rates by Age and Gender, 1997 Annual Average (data in thousands)**

Total	Civilian Noninstitutional Population		Participation Rate
	Population	Labor Force	
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>69.0</b>
16 to 19 years	35	21	58.7
20 to 24 years	30	24	77.9
25 to 34 years	64	54	83.6
35 to 44 years	82	71	86.7
45 to 54 years	60	51	85.1
55 to 64 years	37	23	61.8
65 years and over	55	8	14.5
<b>Men</b>			
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>76.2</b>
16 to 19 years	19	12	61.0
20 to 24 years	15	12	83.6
25 to 34 years	31	29	93.1
35 to 44 years	41	38	93.6
45 to 54 years	31	29	91.9
55 to 64 years	19	13	70.6
<b>Women</b>			
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>62.0</b>
16 to 19 years	16	9	56.1
20 to 24 years	16	11	72.6
25 to 34 years	33	25	74.6
35 to 44 years	41	33	79.9
45 to 54 years	29	22	77.6
55 to 64 years	18	10	52.6

Source: Unpublished Bureau of Labor Statistics data from the Current Population Survey.

**Table 3: U.S. and Wyoming Civilian Noninstitutional Population by Age, 1997 Annual Average (data in thousands)**

Total	U.S.	Column%	Wyoming	Column%
<b>16 years and over</b>	<b>203,133</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
16 to 19 years	15,365	7.6%	35	9.6%
20 to 24 years	17,442	8.6%	30	8.3%
25 to 34 years	39,559	19.5%	64	17.6%
35 to 44 years	43,883	21.6%	82	22.6%
45 to 54 years	33,391	16.4%	60	16.5%
55 to 64 years	21,505	10.6%	37	10.2%
65 years and over	31,989	15.7%	55	15.2%

structure to the U.S. For example, in Wyoming, 56.7 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population is in the prime working years of 25 to 54. The same figure for the U.S. is 57.5 percent, less than one percentage point different. One noticeable difference, however, is found when looking at the 20 to 34 age group. Only 25.9 percent of Wyoming's population is found in this age group while 28.1 percent of the nation's population is in this group. A possible explanation for this difference in younger age groups could be the out-migration that Wyoming has experienced during the past three years<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, both explanations of Wyoming's high participation rates appear consistent with the data. Wyoming's population does have a different age structure than the United States, but Wyoming also has higher participation rates within most of the demographic groups.

How does Wyoming's participation rate compare to other states' rates? Table 4 (see page 4) shows that Wyoming ranked 14th in 1998 annual average participation rates. Several neighboring states, including South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho and Utah ranked above Wyoming, while Montana ranked below. Noting that states in the region are ranked near Wyoming seems to give anecdotal support to the second hypothesis about why Wyoming's participation rate is higher than the national average. As noted in an earlier *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* article about multiple jobholding<sup>2</sup>, the states in this region share a common history that may be reflected in such labor market activity as high participation rates.

A linear regression model was used in an attempt to explain differences in labor force participation rates across states. The 1998 annual average participation rate was the dependent variable. The model summarized in Table 5 (see page 5) explains over 60 percent of the variation in participation rates across states ( $R^2=.628$ ). The independent

(Continued on page 4)

**Table 4: Labor Force Participation Rate by State, 1998 Annual Average (data in thousands)**

Rank	State	Civilian		Participation Rate
		Noninstitutional Population	Labor Force	
1	Minnesota	3,556	2,682	75.4%
2	Colorado	3,016	2,246	74.5%
3	Wisconsin	3,968	2,952	74.4%
4	Alaska	427	317	74.2%
5	Nebraska	1,241	916	73.8%
6	South Dakota	547	398	72.8%
7	North Dakota	480	347	72.3%
8	Iowa	2,181	1,570	72.0%
9	Utah	1,477	1,063	72.0%
10	Kansas	1,962	1,411	71.9%
11	New Hampshire	910	652	71.6%
12	Vermont	461	330	71.6%
13	Idaho	917	653	71.2%
<b>14</b>	<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>70.3%</b>
15	Washington	4,325	3,039	70.3%
16	Maryland	3,941	2,756	69.9%
17	Georgia	5,758	4,021	69.8%
18	Nevada	1,319	920	69.7%
19	Missouri	4,109	2,857	69.5%
20	Texas	14,611	10,118	69.2%
21	Oregon	2,550	1,762	69.1%
22	Indiana	4,481	3,088	68.9%
23	Massachusetts	4,750	3,273	68.9%
24	Montana	682	468	68.6%
25	Illinois	9,082	6,223	68.5%
26	Delaware	574	392	68.3%
27	Virginia	5,159	3,488	67.6%
28	Connecticut	2,530	1,709	67.5%
29	Michigan	7,461	5,029	67.4%
30	Hawaii	886	597	67.4%
	<b>United States</b>	<b>205,220</b>	<b>137,673</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
31	North Carolina	5,680	3,794	66.8%
32	South Carolina	2,942	1,959	66.6%
33	New Jersey	6,248	4,155	66.5%
34	California	24,559	16,329	66.5%
35	Maine	980	651	66.4%
36	Ohio	8,561	5,678	66.3%
37	Rhode Island	751	498	66.3%
38	Tennessee	4,212	2,760	65.5%
39	Oklahoma	2,521	1,627	64.5%
40	Arizona	3,525	2,272	64.5%
41	New Mexico	1,295	831	64.2%
42	Alabama	3,356	2,153	64.2%
43	Pennsylvania	9,274	5,936	64.0%
44	Kentucky	3,020	1,924	63.7%
45	New York	14,037	8,870	63.2%
46	Louisiana	3,274	2,063	63.0%
47	Arkansas	1,941	1,215	62.6%
48	Florida	11,610	7,228	62.3%
49	Mississippi	2,059	1,269	61.6%
50	West Virginia	1,452	800	55.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics News Release, "State and Regional Unemployment," February 26, 1999.

employment farm income.

Data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) suggest a positive correlation between educational attainment and labor force participation (see Table 6, page 5). The higher a person's level of education, the more likely he or she is to be in the labor force. The regression model shows that this relationship also holds at the state level. States whose residents have completed high school and college tend to have higher participation rates. Figure 3 (see page 5) is a scatterplot of the percent of state residents age 25 and over with at least a high school diploma and the states' labor force participation rates. Notice how the states seem to group around the regression line, suggesting a positive relationship.

Thus, Wyoming's high labor force participation rate appears to be associated with factors that make the state similar to neighboring states, but different from many other states and the nation as a whole. High levels of education and opportunities for agricultural self-employment in the economy combine to give Wyoming its labor force participation rate.

What can we expect from the participation rate in the near future? Figure 1 (see page 1) shows that the Wyoming participation rate peaked in 1983 at 72.4 percent. Its lowest level (68.7%) was during the "bust" in 1987. Generally, the participation rate has stayed between 70 and 72 percent. The 1998 participation rate was 70.3 percent. If the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over were to stay at its current level of 367,000 and participation increased by one percentage point to 71.3 percent, there would be 3,671 more individuals in the labor force in 1999. If participation increased two percentage points to 72.3 percent, this would translate into an increase of 7,341 in the labor force. Holding population constant, labor force could increase by 2.8 percent in 1999.

However, in any discussion of the labor force, population shouldn't be held constant. In the past few years, Wyoming's civilian noninstitutional population has been increasing by about 3,000 people each year. Thus, in projecting the 1999 labor force, it is reasonable to assume a civilian noninstitutional population of 370,000. Continuing the example in the previous paragraph, an increase

variables included in the model are: the percent of high school graduates, the percent of college graduates and the percent of households with self-

(Continued on page 5)

in participation of one percentage point would lead to an increase in labor force of 5,810 individuals. Similarly, an increase in participation of two percentage points would translate into 9,510 more individuals in the labor force. If population continues to increase, we could expect labor force to go up 3.7 percent in 1999.

Traditional economic theory suggests that the labor supply curve is upward-sloping. That is, as wages increase, more individuals will enter the labor force. Recently, Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment data show significant increases in the average wage (1998 fourth quarter data show an increase in the average weekly wage of 4.9 percent<sup>3</sup>). Economic theory suggests that such increases will tend to draw more individuals into the labor force. Thus, if wages continue to increase, actual participation rates may go even higher than suggested in the previous paragraph.

Wyoming's labor force participation rate has been well above the national average for the past 20 years. Compared with other states, Wyoming ranks 14th out of 50. Wyoming's high participation rate may be related to high levels of

educational attainment and numerous opportunities for agricultural self-employment. From a geographic and historical context, it seems reasonable to expect Wyoming's participation rate to increase even further in the next few years, especially if wages continue to outpace inflation. Thus, it appears that there is room for growth in Wyoming's labor force.

**Table 5: Regression Analysis/Predictive Model (R<sup>2</sup>=.628 N=50)**

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Value	Significance
Constant	0.17100	0.075	2.300	0.026
Percent High School Graduates	0.00521	0.001	5.179	0.000
Percent College Graduates	0.00239	0.001	2.505	0.016
Percent of Households with Farm Self-Income	0.44700	0.121	3.691	0.001

**Table 6: Labor Force Participation Rates by Educational Attainment for U.S. Residents Age 25 and Over, 1998 Annual Average (data in thousands)**

Educational Attainment of U.S. Residents Age 25 Years and Over	Civilian Noninstitutional Population		Participation Rate
	Population	Labor Force	
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,982</b>	<b>115,780</b>	<b>67.3%</b>
Less than High School	29,375	12,561	42.8%
High School graduate or more	142,607	103,219	72.4%
Bachelor's Degree or more	42,822	34,342	80.2%

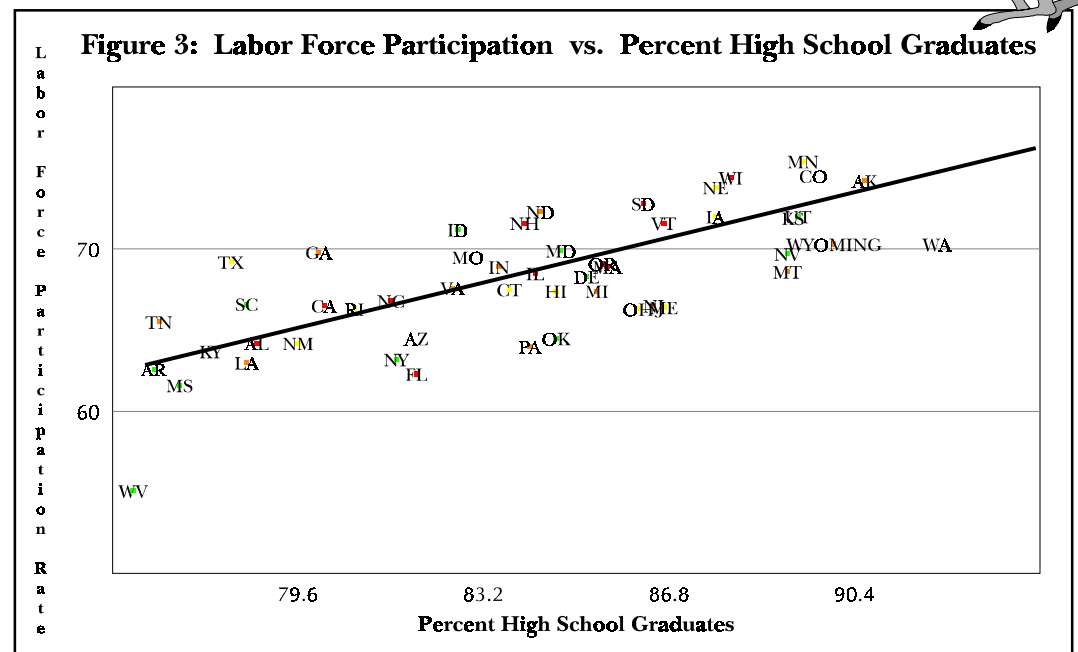
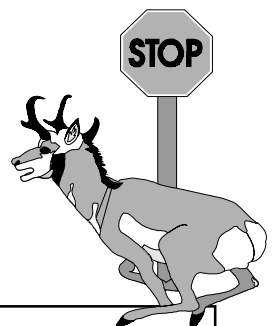
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, January 1999.

1 According to Census Bureau figures, Wyoming experienced a negative net domestic migration of 2,204 individuals from July 1997-1998 and 2,966 individuals from July 1996-1997. Similarly, Wyoming's net domestic migration

in 1995 was also negative.

2 Tom Gallagher, "Multiple Jobholding: The Measurement Issue," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, December 1997, p. 5.

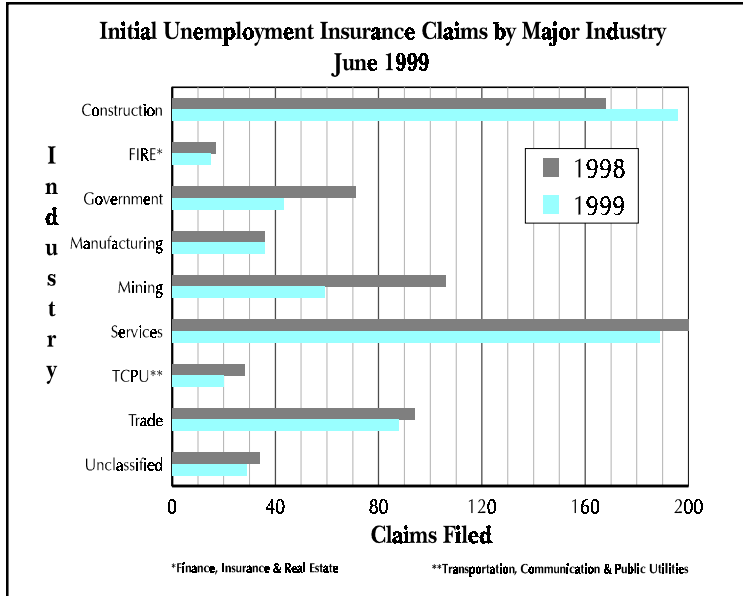
3 Gayle Edlin, "Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 1998," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, July 1999, pp. 12-13.



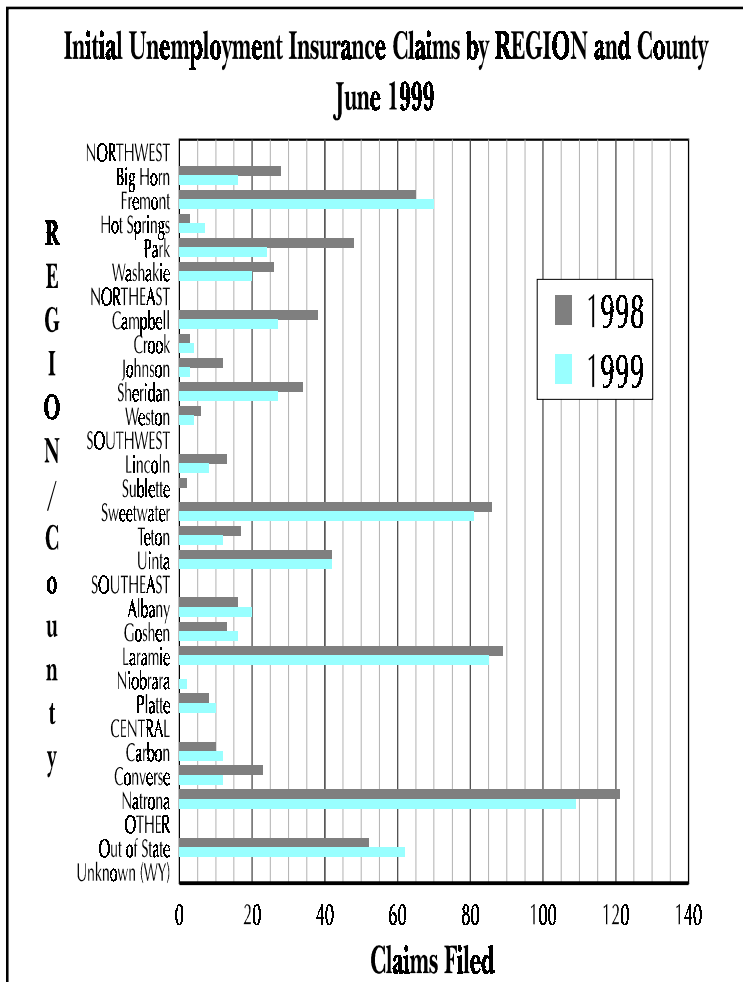
# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

**"Wyoming's total initial unemployment insurance claims decreased 10.5 percent from June 1998 to June 1999. Construction was the only industry that had increased claims during the same time period."**



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	JUN99	MAY99	JUN98	JUN99	JUN98
<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	675	699	754	-3.4	-10.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	291	286	310	1.7	-6.1
Manufacturing	36	58	36	-37.9	0.0
Mining	59	78	106	-24.4	-44.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	54	70	99	-22.9	-45.5
Construction	196	150	168	30.7	16.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	355	382	410	-7.1	-13.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	20	39	28	-48.7	-28.6
Transportation	15	27	22	-44.4	-31.8
Communications & Public Utilities	5	12	6	-58.3	-16.7
Trade	88	128	94	-31.3	-6.4
Wholesale Trade	14	27	14	-48.1	0.0
Retail Trade	74	101	80	-26.7	-7.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	15	15	17	0.0	-11.8
Services	189	170	200	11.2	-5.5
Personal & Business Services	36	50	44	-28.0	-18.2
Health Services	16	17	18	-5.9	-11.1
Government	43	30	71	43.3	-39.4
Local Government	26	12	56	116.7	-53.6
Local Education	23	2	32	1050.0	-28.1
UNCLASSIFIED	29	31	34	-6.5	-14.7



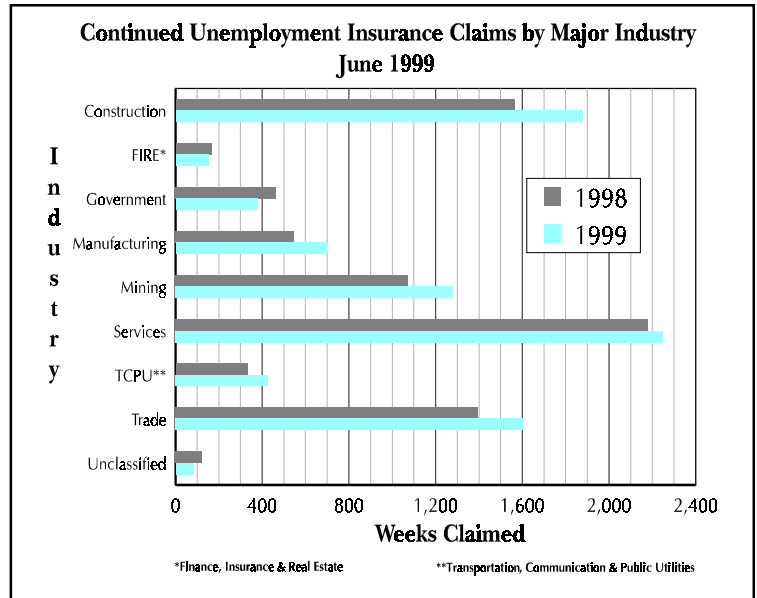
	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	JUN99	MAY99	JUN98	JUN99	JUN98
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	85	87	88	-2.3	-3.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	22	26	31	-15.4	-29.0
Manufacturing	7	6	2	16.7	250.0
Mining	0	2	0	-100.0	N/A
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	2	0	-100.0	N/A
Construction	15	18	29	-16.7	-48.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	60	59	52	1.7	15.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	5	9	2	-44.4	150.0
Transportation	5	4	2	25.0	150.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0	4	0	-100.0	N/A
Trade	16	23	11	-30.4	45.5
Wholesale Trade	1	2	0	-50.0	N/A
Retail Trade	16	21	11	-23.8	45.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4	5	4	-20.0	0.0
Services	29	14	27	107.1	7.4
Personal & Business Services	3	4	4	-25.0	-25.0
Health Services	3	1	2	200.0	50.0
Government	6	8	8	-25.0	-25.0
Local Government	2	2	4	0.0	-50.0
Local Education	2	0	1	N/A	100.0
UNCLASSIFIED	3	2	5	50.0	-40.0
<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	110	91	121	20.9	-9.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	50	30	53	66.7	-5.7
Manufacturing	4	4	2	0.0	100.0
Mining	10	11	26	-9.1	-61.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	10	9	25	11.1	-60.0
Construction	36	15	25	140.0	44.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	57	56	63	1.8	-9.5
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	4	9	6	-55.6	-33.3
Transportation	3	6	4	-50.0	-25.0
Communications & Public Utilities	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Trade	13	17	12	-23.5	8.3
Wholesale Trade	2	4	4	-50.0	-50.0
Retail Trade	11	13	8	-15.4	37.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2	1	2	100.0	0.0
Services	34	28	34	21.4	0.0
Personal & Business Services	11	10	9	10.0	22.2
Health Services	3	5	8	-40.0	-62.5
Government	4	1	9	300.0	-55.6
Local Government	3	0	5	N/A	-40.0
Local Education	3	0	2	N/A	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	3	5	5	-40.0	-40.0

# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

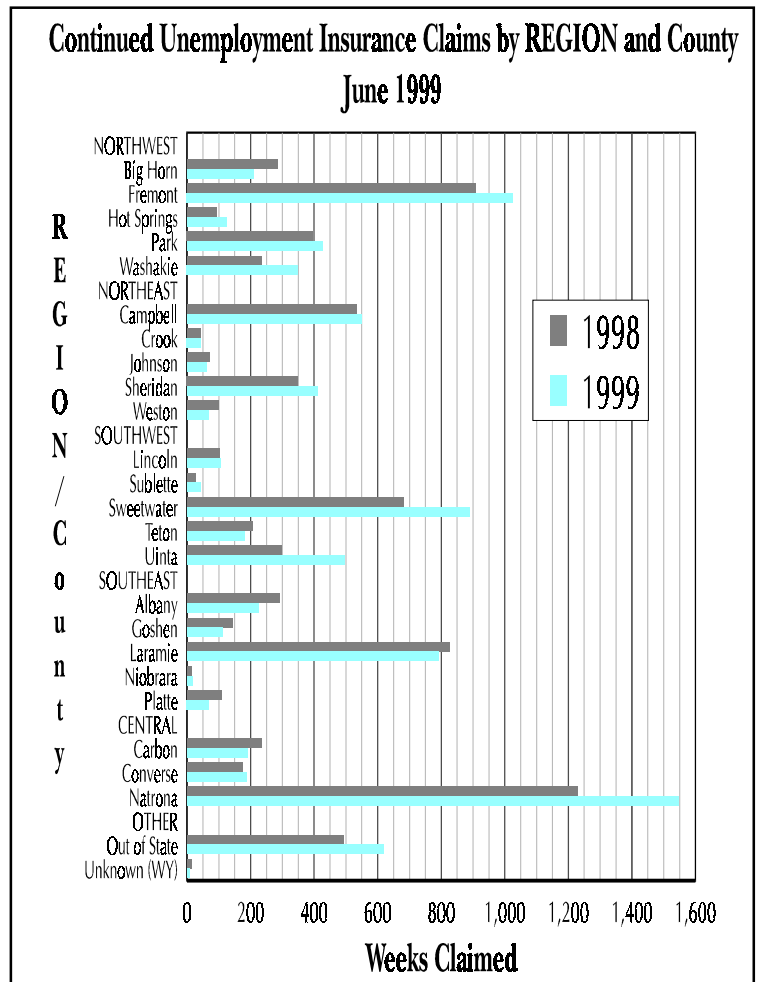
*data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician*

**"Statewide total continued unemployment insurance claims increased 11.5 percent from June 1998 to June 1999. Wholesale Trade (39.6%) and Manufacturing (27.7) were among the industries whose claims numbers increased."**

	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	JUN99	MAY99	JUN98	JUN99	JUN98
	<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>				
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	8,745	11,522	7,844	-24.1	11.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,572	3,898	2,712	-34.0	-5.2
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>					
Manufacturing	700	986	548	-29.0	27.7
Mining	1,278	2,122	1,074	-39.8	19.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,188	2,012	999	-41.0	18.9
Construction	1,877	2,774	1,564	-32.3	20.0
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>					
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	428	612	333	-30.1	28.5
Transportation	315	494	260	-36.2	21.2
Communications & Public Utilities	113	118	74	-4.2	52.7
Trade	1,603	2,051	1,395	-21.8	14.9
Wholesale Trade	314	327	225	-4.0	39.6
Retail Trade	1,289	1,724	1,170	-25.2	10.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	152	184	165	-17.4	-7.9
Services	2,248	2,312	2,181	-2.8	3.1
Personal & Business Services	449	527	537	-14.8	-16.4
Health Services	296	302	266	-2.0	11.3
Government	378	384	462	-1.6	-18.2
Local Government	260	223	323	16.6	-19.5
Local Education	124	61	139	103.3	-10.8
UNCLASSIFIED	81	97	122	-16.5	-33.6



	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	JUN99	MAY99	JUN98	JUN99	JUN98
	<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>				
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	791	896	827	-11.7	-4.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	229	320	299	-28.4	-23.4
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>					
Manufacturing	44	52	17	-15.4	158.8
Mining	20	26	23	-23.1	-13.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	16	26	23	-38.5	-30.4
Construction	168	304	208	-44.7	-19.2
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>					
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	86	86	17	0.0	405.9
Transportation	50	47	11	6.4	354.5
Communications & Public Utilities	36	39	6	-7.7	500.0
Trade	183	199	178	-8.0	2.8
Wholesale Trade	28	31	9	-9.7	211.1
Retail Trade	155	168	169	-7.7	-8.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	37	48	34	-22.9	8.8
Services	204	142	290	43.7	-29.7
Personal & Business Services	49	52	95	-5.8	-48.4
Health Services	37	37	40	0.0	-7.5
Government	36	28	51	28.6	-29.4
Local Government	14	11	19	27.3	-26.3
Local Education	10	6	13	66.7	-23.1
UNCLASSIFIED	13	11	9	18.2	44.4



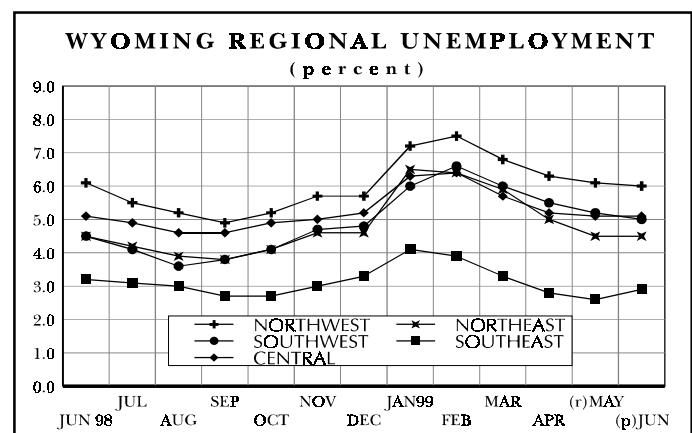
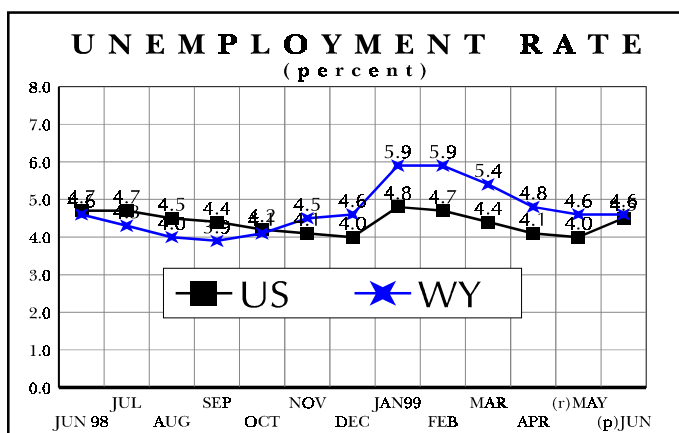
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	JUN99	MAY99	JUN98	JUN99	JUN98
	<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>				
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,547	1,824	1,228	-15.2	26.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	443	582	414	-23.9	7.0
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>					
Manufacturing	87	142	65	-38.7	33.8
Mining	226	371	209	-39.1	8.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	214	338	194	-36.7	10.3
Construction	341	421	186	-19.0	83.3
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>					
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	879	875	759	0.5	15.8
Transportation	73	73	47	0.0	55.3
Communications & Public Utilities	55	55	21	0.0	161.9
Trade	17	17	26	0.0	-34.6
Wholesale Trade	321	322	266	-0.3	20.7
Retail Trade	87	71	68	22.5	27.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	235	250	198	-6.0	18.7
Services	26	44	43	-40.9	-39.5
Personal & Business Services	411	395	356	4.1	15.4
Health Services	119	104	88	14.4	35.2
Government	87	101	99	-13.9	-12.1
Local Government	48	41	47	17.1	-2.1
Local Education	29	32	36	-9.4	-19.4
UNCLASSIFIED	9	11	12	-18.2	-25.0
UNCLASSIFIED	14	15	9	-6.7	55.6

# Wyoming Economic Indicators

**"Wyoming's total civilian labor force increased 3,083 (1.2%) from June 1998 to June 1999. The number of employed increased by the same percentage."**

	June 1999 (p)	May 1999 (r)	June 1998 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	267,298	260,701	264,215	2.5	1.2
Unemployed	12,166	11,879	12,077	2.4	0.7
Employed	255,132	248,822	252,138	2.5	1.2
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.6%/4.9%	4.6%/4.9%	4.6%/4.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.5%/4.3%	4.0%/4.2%	4.7%/4.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,492,000	7,895,000	7,712,000	-5.1	-2.9
As a percent of all workers	5.6%	5.9%	5.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	220,000	256,000	311,000	-14.1	-29.3
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,641,000	3,281,000	4,033,000	11.0	-9.7
<b>Hours &amp; Earnings for Production Workers</b>					
<b>Wyoming Mining</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$838.20	\$852.59	\$820.79	-1.7	2.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	43.7	44.2	-0.7	-0.2
<b>U.S. Mining</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$746.74	\$750.96	\$733.92	-0.6	1.7
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	44.2	44.0	-0.7	-0.2
<b>Wyoming Manufacturing</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$591.79	\$629.84	\$517.09	-6.0	14.4
Average Weekly Hours	39.4	40.4	41.5	-2.5	-5.1
<b>U.S. Manufacturing</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$579.63	\$577.55	\$561.79	0.4	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	41.7	41.7	41.8	0.0	-0.2
<b>Wyoming Unemployment Insurance</b>					
Weeks Compensated (2)	10,614	11,639	8,767	-8.8	21.1
Benefits Paid	\$1,958,554	\$2,152,076	\$1,522,035	-9.0	28.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$184.53	\$184.90	\$173.61	-0.2	6.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	220,809	213,788	216,790	3.3	1.9
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.2%	1.5%	1.1%	N/A	N/A
<b>Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Items	166.2	166.2	163.0	0.0	2.0
Food & Beverages	164.1	164.2	160.6	-0.1	2.2
Housing	164.1	163.0	160.6	0.7	2.2
Apparel	130.9	134.2	132.5	-2.5	-1.2
Transportation	143.4	144.2	141.7	-0.6	1.2
Medical Care	250.2	249.5	242.0	0.3	3.4
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	102.2	102.2	101.2	0.0	1.0
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	100.3	100.4	100.1	-0.1	0.2
Other Goods & Services	255.9	255.8	236.4	0.0	8.2
<b>Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Commodities	125.1	124.5	124.8	0.5	0.2

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





# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

data produced by: David Bullard, Economist

**"Wyoming's statewide unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, of 4.6 percent for June 1999 is at the same level as June 1998. It is slightly above the U.S. rate of 4.5 percent."**

REGION COUNTY	<u>Labor Force</u>			<u>Employed</u>			<u>Unemployed</u>			<u>Unemployment Rates</u>		
	June 1999 (p)	May 1999 (r)	June 1998 (b)	June 1999 (p)	May 1999 (r)	June 1998 (b)	June 1999 (p)	May 1999 (r)	June 1998 (b)	June 1999 (p)	May 1999 (r)	June 1998 (b)
<b>Northwest</b>	<b>47,502</b>	<b>46,429</b>	<b>47,646</b>	<b>44,657</b>	<b>43,581</b>	<b>44,738</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Big Horn	5,874	5,867	5,926	5,501	5,489	5,489	373	378	437	6.4	6.4	7.4
Fremont	17,545	17,884	17,389	16,213	16,586	16,057	1,332	1,298	1,332	7.6	7.3	7.7
Hot Springs	2,572	2,474	2,569	2,435	2,349	2,430	137	125	139	5.3	5.1	5.4
Park	16,658	15,162	16,987	16,000	14,479	16,282	658	683	705	4.0	4.5	4.2
Washakie	4,853	5,042	4,775	4,508	4,678	4,480	345	364	295	7.1	7.2	6.2
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>44,981</b>	<b>43,533</b>	<b>44,385</b>	<b>42,974</b>	<b>41,567</b>	<b>42,385</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Campbell	20,036	19,546	19,530	19,041	18,575	18,598	995	971	932	5.0	5.0	4.8
Crook	3,129	2,965	3,214	3,004	2,847	3,070	125	118	144	4.0	4.0	4.5
Johnson	4,056	3,770	4,122	3,938	3,659	3,983	118	111	139	2.9	2.9	3.4
Sheridan	14,309	13,842	14,159	13,709	13,244	13,535	600	598	624	4.2	4.3	4.4
Weston	3,451	3,410	3,360	3,282	3,242	3,199	169	168	161	4.9	4.9	4.8
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>56,380</b>	<b>53,056</b>	<b>54,972</b>	<b>53,589</b>	<b>50,297</b>	<b>52,508</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Lincoln	6,455	6,122	6,624	6,067	5,756	6,200	388	366	424	6.0	6.0	6.4
Sublette	3,408	3,112	3,365	3,285	2,975	3,272	123	137	93	3.6	4.4	2.8
Sweetwater	22,263	22,374	21,338	20,938	21,121	20,194	1,325	1,253	1,144	6.0	5.6	5.4
Teton	12,841	10,403	12,602	12,655	10,100	12,441	186	303	161	1.4	2.9	1.3
Uinta	11,413	11,045	11,043	10,644	10,345	10,401	769	700	642	6.7	6.3	5.8
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>68,888</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>68,402</b>	<b>66,904</b>	<b>67,197</b>	<b>66,198</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Albany	16,888	17,279	16,520	16,592	16,981	16,176	296	298	344	1.8	1.7	2.1
Goshen	6,408	6,346	6,580	6,194	6,162	6,309	214	184	271	3.3	2.9	4.1
Laramie	39,794	39,266	39,460	38,520	38,120	38,101	1,274	1,146	1,359	3.2	2.9	3.4
Niobrara	1,311	1,336	1,291	1,282	1,301	1,259	29	35	32	2.2	2.6	2.5
Platte	4,487	4,798	4,551	4,316	4,633	4,353	171	165	198	3.8	3.4	4.4
<b>Central</b>	<b>49,543</b>	<b>48,658</b>	<b>48,811</b>	<b>47,004</b>	<b>46,181</b>	<b>46,308</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Carbon	8,814	8,265	8,787	8,441	7,863	8,355	373	402	432	4.2	4.9	4.9
Converse	6,436	6,412	6,571	6,147	6,126	6,225	289	286	346	4.5	4.5	5.3
Natrona	34,293	33,981	33,453	32,416	32,192	31,728	1,877	1,789	1,725	5.5	5.3	5.2
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>267,298</b>	<b>260,701</b>	<b>264,215</b>	<b>255,132</b>	<b>248,822</b>	<b>252,138</b>	<b>12,166</b>	<b>11,879</b>	<b>12,077</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										4.9	4.9	4.9
U.S.....										4.5	4.0	4.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.3	4.2	4.5

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/99. Run Date 07/99.  
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1998 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.8 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.2 to 5.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

# State Unemployment Rates June News

June 1999

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

by: David Bullard, Economist

"The large increases in claims from the Mining industry appear to have dropped off."

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.6
New Mexico	7.3
District of Columbia	7.0
Hawaii	6.2
West Virginia	6.2
Alaska	6.0
Mississippi	5.5
Oregon	5.5
Alabama	5.4
Texas	5.4
California	5.3
Louisiana	5.3
New York	5.0
New Jersey	4.9
Montana	4.8
Arizona	4.7
Arkansas	4.7
Idaho	4.7
Illinois	4.7
Kentucky	4.6
Nevada	4.6
Washington	4.6
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Ohio	4.5
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Pennsylvania	4.3
South Carolina	4.2
Florida	4.1
Georgia	4.1
Maine	4.1
Maryland	4.0
Michigan	4.0
Missouri	3.9
Delaware	3.8
Utah	3.8
Colorado	3.7
Connecticut	3.6
Oklahoma	3.6
Tennessee	3.6
Kansas	3.4
Rhode Island	3.4
Virginia	3.2
Massachusetts	3.1
Wisconsin	3.1
Minnesota	3.0
North Carolina	3.0
North Dakota	3.0
Indiana	2.9
Nebraska	2.8
Iowa	2.6
New Hampshire	2.6
Vermont	2.6
South Dakota	2.4

**W**oming nonagricultural employment increased by 900 jobs in June. This represents a 0.4 percent annual growth rate (see page 11). In contrast, U.S. employment grew at a much faster pace of 2.2 percent. Employment in Wyoming's metropolitan areas of Casper and Cheyenne grew at 1.3 and 0.5 percent, respectively. Casper's employment growth was concentrated in Construction, Transportation and Services. Growth was strong in these same industries in Cheyenne, but these jobs gains were offset by job losses in State Government and Retail Trade.

Construction continues to produce a large part of the new jobs in the state. The June employment report showed an increase of 600 jobs in this industry. Manufacturing added 300 jobs in over-the-year comparisons. Employment declines were seen in Mining (down 200 jobs or 1.2%), Trade (down 200 jobs or 0.4%) and Government (down 200 jobs or 0.3%).

In June, the Wyoming unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) held steady at 4.9 percent (see page 9). This is the same rate as June 1998. Labor Force (or the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) increased by 3,083 or 1.2 percent (see page 8). The U.S. unemployment rate, at 4.3 percent remained below Wyoming's.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) continued claims were up 11.5 percent (see page 7). The increase was seen in all industries except Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) and Government. Continued claims were also up in fourteen of Wyoming's 23 counties. The large increases in claims from the Mining industry appear to have dropped off. Mining claims in June were up 19.0 percent over the year, well below the 50-100 percent increases observed in earlier months.



## Now Available from Research & Planning: Wyoming Benefits Survey

This publication gives the results to this year's first ever survey on what types of benefits companies give their employees in Wyoming. To receive your copy of this publication, or for more information, please contact Carola Cowan (Telephone: 307-473-3804 Email: ccowan@missc.state.wy.us).

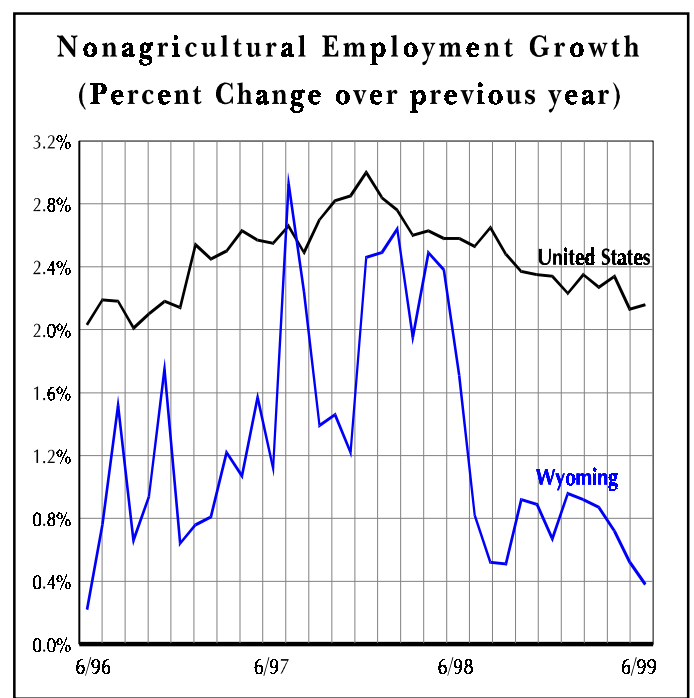
This publication is also available on the Internet at: <http://lmi.state.wy.us/benefits/toc.htm>

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment<sup>1</sup>

data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

**"Wyoming's total nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased 0.4 percent from June 1998 to June 1999. Some of the increases occurred in Construction (3.4%) and Manufacturing (2.7%)."**

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	JUN 99(p)	MAY 99(r)	JUN 98	MAY 99	JUN 98		JUN 99(p)	MAY 99(r)	JUN 98	JUN 99	JUN 98
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	239.0	233.6	238.1	2.3	0.4	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	36.7	36.4	36.5	0.8	0.5
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	46.4	45.5	45.7	2.0	1.5	<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	4.3	4.2	4.1	2.4	4.9
Mining	17.0	16.7	17.2	1.8	-1.2	Mining & Construction	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Coal Mining	4.7	4.6	4.6	2.2	2.2	Manufacturing	1.8	1.7	1.7	5.9	5.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.5	8.3	8.6	2.4	-1.2	<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	32.4	32.1	32.3	0.9	0.3
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.7	2.6	2.5	3.8	8.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.0	5.8	6.0	3.4	0.0	Trade	8.4	8.3	8.6	1.2	-2.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	18.1	17.7	17.5	2.3	3.4	Retail Trade	7.6	7.5	7.8	1.3	-2.6
General Building Contractors	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.7	7.1	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Heavy Construction	5.4	5.3	5.2	1.9	3.8	Services	7.8	7.7	7.8	1.3	0.0
Special Trade Construction	8.2	8.1	8.1	1.2	1.2	Total Government	11.2	11.2	11.2	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	11.3	11.1	11.0	1.8	2.7	Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.2	5.1	5.2	2.0	0.0	State Government	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-2.9
Nondurable Goods	6.1	6.0	5.8	1.7	5.2	Local Government	5.4	5.5	5.4	-1.8	0.0
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0						
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	192.6	188.1	192.4	2.4	0.1	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	32.1	32.0	31.7	0.3	1.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.3	14.0	14.1	2.1	1.4	<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	6.1	5.9	6.0	3.4	1.7
Transportation	9.0	8.9	9.0	1.1	0.0	Manufacturing	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	Mining	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.6	3.7	2.8	0.0	Construction	2.5	2.4	2.3	4.2	8.7
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.0	0.0	10.0	<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	26.0	26.1	25.7	-0.4	1.2
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	0.0	Transportation	1.3	1.2	1.2	8.3	8.3
Electric Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	55.1	53.2	55.3	3.6	-0.4	Trade	8.5	8.6	8.5	-1.2	0.0
Wholesale Trade	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	Retail Trade	6.1	6.2	6.1	-1.6	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	47.1	45.2	47.3	4.2	-0.4	Services	8.8	8.7	8.7	1.1	1.1
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	Personal & Business Services	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
General Merchandise Stores	4.9	4.7	5.2	4.3	-5.8	Health Services	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Department Stores	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0	Government	5.5	5.7	5.4	-3.5	1.9
Food Stores	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0	Local Government	4.1	4.3	4.0	-4.7	2.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.4	8.1	8.2	3.7	2.4	Local Education	2.7	3.0	2.7	-10.0	0.0
Gas Stations	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.7	2.3						
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.6	1.5	1.7	6.7	-5.9						
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.5	1.5	6.7	6.7						
Eating & Drinking Places	17.7	16.6	17.8	6.6	-0.6						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.2	5.1	5.2	2.0	0.0						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.9	8.8	8.8	1.1	1.1						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0						
Depository Institutions	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0						
Insurance	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3						
Services	55.3	51.0	55.0	8.4	0.5						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	12.1	9.1	12.6	33.0	-4.0						
Personal Services	1.9	1.8	1.9	5.6	0.0						
Business Services	7.2	7.0	7.0	2.9	2.9						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.6	0.0						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.6	3.1	3.6	16.1	0.0						
Health Services	10.4	10.3	10.4	1.0	0.0						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.3	2.2	2.3	4.5	0.0						
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0						
Social Services	5.5	5.7	5.3	-3.5	3.8						
Membership Organizations	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	0.0						
Engineering & Management	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.9	2.9						
Government	59.0	61.1	59.2	-3.4	-0.3						
Total Federal Government	7.5	7.1	7.6	5.6	-1.3						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	13.3	13.8	13.4	-3.6	-0.7						
State Education	5.0	5.5	5.0	-9.1	0.0						
Total Local Government	38.2	40.2	38.2	-5.0	0.0						
Local Hospitals	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0						
Local Education	19.6	22.4	19.7	-12.5	-0.5						



(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.

*After 5 Days Return to:*  
**Wyoming Department of Employment  
Employment Resources Division  
Research & Planning  
P.O. Box 2760  
Casper, WY 82602**

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