

TRENDS

The Effect of a College Degree on Wages: The Different Experiences of Men and Women

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“Female community college graduates earn 18.9 percent less than women with a University of Wyoming (UW) Bachelor's degree and 12.9 percent more than women with no known college degree. Alternatively, men with no known college education earned 4.2 percent less than men with a UW Bachelor's degree.”

One are the days when hard working individuals could walk straight from high school graduation into a stable, well-paying job. Instead, we are left with the notion that without a college education, one cannot make enough money to adequately support a family. We are led to believe that people with a college degree make significantly more than those without one. After all, that is the image projected to us by the media. Analysis of Wyoming wage information partially supports this view. Women without a known college education earned 29.3 percent less in 2000 than women with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming (UW). Female community college graduates were in the middle, earning 18.9 percent less than women with a UW Bachelor's degree and 12.9 percent more than women with no known college degree. Alternatively, men without known college education earned 4.2 percent less than men with a UW Bachelor's degree. Male community college graduates made 16.4 percent less than university graduates. However, they also made 12.7 percent less than men without a college education. It appears that the effects of holding a college degree on earnings in Wyoming are more pronounced for women than for men.

The study of labor market experiences after graduation is useful to a variety of entities. The Wyoming Workforce Development Council stated that it is necessary to develop an understanding of the detailed interactions between the workforce and the labor market.¹ This includes looking at the effects of education on an individual's earning capacity in

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addition to other factors like age, gender, and experience. The Wyoming Workforce Development Council can use this information to establish workforce policy. Additionally, to receive accreditation, institutions of higher education must have assessment processes that provide meaningful and useful information to students, faculty, and administration.² Research such as this article helps serve this purpose. Students, educators, and administrators can use the information to help determine the efficacy of higher education in Wyoming, even if not institution specific.

Literature Review

Much of the belief that a college education is required for high earnings is fueled by the fact that many high paying jobs in manufacturing, telecommunications, and other industries

have been eliminated.³ Technology has replaced people in recent years, spawning layoffs and the elimination of countless jobs that require minimal education. In addition, rising requirements for some professional, managerial, and other jobs have made entry without a degree difficult.⁴ Experience alone is often not enough, especially when there is an abundance of candidates possessing both experience and education. Since there has been an oversupply of college graduates of late, this effect is more apparent. As an illustration, the number of Bachelor's degrees obtained in the U.S. from 1988 to 1998 grew rapidly despite a decline in the 18 to 24 year old population. During that decade, an estimated 13 million college graduates entered the workforce. The number of degrees is expected to grow by seven percent during the decade 1998-2008, an additional 1.24 million degrees.⁵ Because there are so many people with college

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diplomas, they are displacing those in the same jobs who have work experience but lack the degree.

The question then arises, is the media accurate? Do individuals with a college degree indeed make more money than those without? The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that people with more education have higher earnings and are less likely to be unemployed. For example, the average national wage in 1997 for a full-time worker over 25 with only a high school diploma was \$26,000. The average wage for a full-time worker over 25 with a Bachelor's degree was \$40,100, a difference of 35 percent. The average unemployment rates in 1998 for these two population segments were 4.0 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.⁶

However, nationally, jobs requiring a college degree only account for about 21 percent of all jobs. They are expected to grow more quickly over the decade 1998-2008 than jobs requiring no degree, but they are still expected only to account for approximately 24 percent of the total jobs. Projections for the same period in Wyoming estimate that only 13.5 percent of all new jobs will require a Bachelor's degree or higher.⁷ Wyoming still has an abundance of high paying jobs that require little formal education, especially in Mining. In 2000, the Mining industry employed 21,909 people, or 7.2 percent of the Wyoming workforce, at an average yearly salary of \$38,193.⁸

The newest Census Bureau information suggests that 90.0 percent of Wyoming residents over the age of 25 graduated from high school.⁹ Nationally, only 84.1 percent of those over 25 hold a high school diploma.¹⁰ In addition, 20.6 percent of the same age group in Wyoming hold a Bachelor's degree or higher while

nationally, 25.6 percent earned the same degrees. The difference in these percentages seems to be in line with the fact that Wyoming has fewer jobs requiring post-secondary education than the nation as a whole.

The main purpose of this article is to establish whether or not a college education leads to increased wages in Wyoming. It is well established that nationally, increased education equals increased wages. Does this hold true in Wyoming? This is the type of question we are beginning to look at using the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database. For a detailed explanation on how this database was developed, see "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records through Imputation, Parts One and Two," in the April and June 2001 issues of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*.¹¹ Unfortunately, at this time we do not have information on educational attainment for all Wyoming residents. For the sake of these analyses, samples were compiled from known graduates of the University of Wyoming and four community colleges in Wyoming, as well as directly from Wyoming Wage Records.

The secondary purpose of this article is to attempt to find a useful proxy for college attendance. To do this we actually created two sub-populations: **no known college** and **college proxy**. In this case, we tried to substitute late entry into the workforce (after age 25) for educational attainment. This population segment is labeled in the tables as College Proxy. The age of 25 was chosen for several reasons. The first is that the average age of graduating University of Wyoming Bachelor's degree students in 1997 was 27. It was slightly higher for other degrees awarded. In addition, the UI Wage Records database makes use of the CPS (Current Population

Survey) age groups when actual age is unknown. One of these age groups is 25 to 34. Although the traditional college student graduates at approximately 22 years of age, that age falls into the CPS category including 20 to 24 year olds. Since we were trying to find a proxy for educational attainment, including individuals who entered the workforce at 20 seemed counterintuitive. Starting the sample at age 25 appeared to limit the number of reasons for late entry.

We reasoned that there are several explanations why individuals would not enter the Wyoming workforce until they were over 25 years old. Some, but not all, of these include working in another state and then relocating, family obligation, military service, or attendance in higher education. There is no way to control for those who stayed out of the workforce because of family obligation or military service. In order to eliminate, or at least minimize, the effect of those relocating to Wyoming, only Wyoming-issued Social Security numbers were used in all analyses for this article. While there are obviously many possibilities for late entry into the workforce, it was assumed that the majority delayed entry for education.

The college proxy group was compiled directly from Wyoming UI Wage Records. It consisted of individuals employed in Wyoming in 2000 who entered the Wyoming workforce for the first time when they were between the ages of 25 and 34. Again, only Wyoming-issued Social Security numbers were used.

The second sub-population, the No Known College sample, was compiled directly from the Wage Records database. In essence this served as a proxy for no college education. It consisted of individuals with a Wyoming-issued Social

Security number who entered the Wyoming workforce before they were 20 years old and worked consistently in Wyoming for a minimum of six years. The rationale for six years was based on the idea that this group worked instead of attending college. Assuming it takes four years to complete college, those graduating in 1997 entered in 1993. If they had entered the workforce at that time instead of going to school, by the year 2000, they should have worked seven years. We decreased the minimum to six years in order to give some leeway for those who did not gain permanent employment immediately after high school. Finally, this group was compared to known University of Wyoming and community college graduates. Any individuals found to be in both files were eliminated from the no known college sample. This was done in order to reduce the number of individuals simultaneously working and going to school. We cannot guarantee that this group did not attend college in another institution so they are referred to as the no *known* college group.

Both of the sub-populations described attempt to assert a level of educational attainment. The major difference between the two group definitions is in work history. The no known college group all worked at least six consecutive years in Wyoming, starting before the age of 20. The college proxy group had no work experience in Wyoming before the age of 25. Without knowing actual education levels for individuals, and without a larger sample of individuals with known education, we can only guess at educational attainment through methods of elimination (such as the no known college sample). This is an important factor in interpreting the results.

Method

With the exception of Table 1, all of the

Table 1: Quarterly Wages by Age and Gender, 2000

| | Age | Number | Age % | Gender % | Avg. Wages |
|--------------------|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Women | 00-19 | 9,138 | 7.4 | | \$1,235 |
| | 20-24 | 16,123 | 13.1 | | 2,363 |
| | 25-34 | 24,511 | 20.0 | | 4,087 |
| | 35-44 | 31,337 | 25.5 | | 5,202 |
| | 45-54 | 27,426 | 22.3 | | 5,911 |
| | 55-64 | 11,100 | 9.0 | | 5,186 |
| | 65+ | 3,195 | 2.6 | | 2,907 |
| Total Women | | 122,830 | 100.0 | 40.0 | \$4,504 |
| Men | 00-19 | 8,950 | 6.5 | | \$1,527 |
| | 20-24 | 16,982 | 12.4 | | 3,683 |
| | 25-34 | 30,895 | 22.5 | | 6,436 |
| | 35-44 | 33,440 | 24.3 | | 9,363 |
| | 45-54 | 29,713 | 21.6 | | 11,310 |
| | 55-64 | 13,252 | 9.6 | | 10,164 |
| | 65+ | 4,205 | 3.1 | | 5,540 |
| Total Men | | 137,437 | 100.0 | 44.8 | \$8,069 |
| Total | 00-19 | 18,088 | 6.9 | | \$1,377 |
| | 20-24 | 33,105 | 12.7 | | 3,043 |
| | 25-34 | 55,406 | 21.3 | | 5,404 |
| | 35-44 | 64,777 | 24.9 | | 7,351 |
| | 45-54 | 57,139 | 22.0 | | 8,723 |
| | 55-64 | 24,352 | 9.4 | | 7,897 |
| | 65+ | 7,400 | 2.8 | | 4,391 |
| Total | | 260,267 | 100.0 | | \$6,389 |
| N/A* | N/A | 46,700 | 100.0 | | \$3,076 |
| N/A Total | | 46,700 | 100.0 | 15.2 | \$3,076 |
| Grand Total | | 306,967 | 100.0 | 100.0 | \$6,137 |

* Not available

data presented represent only those aged 25 to 34 in 2000. Table 1 demonstrates that women aged 25 to 34 earned 90.7 percent of the average wages for all women, while men aged 25 to 34 earned only 79.8 percent of the average wages for all men. This is interesting because it appears that women approximate the mean earnings for all women by the time they reach the 25 to 34 year old group and stay there until they reach the age of 65. Men's wages, on the other hand, increase steadily until after the age of 54, when they start to fall slightly. At the age of 65 for men, wages drop by nearly half. This shows that age is associated strongly with wage, especially

for men.

The known college graduate sample was compiled from all students who received Bachelor's degrees from the University of Wyoming from 1996 through 1998. This list of graduates was then matched against the Wyoming UI Wage Records administrative database. A resulting sample of 443 was found to still be working in Wyoming in 2000. The community college graduate sample was compiled from graduation lists from four Wyoming community colleges for the years 1996 through 1998. This combined file was also matched against the Wage Records database and resulted in 936 individuals employed in Wyoming in 2000.

To test the differences between the groups, quarterly average wages were computed for each group. Furthermore, mean wages were broken down by gender and primary industry in each quarter.

Results and Discussion

The available data clearly demonstrate that post-secondary education is an advantage to women. Wages dramatically increase as education increases, following the same trend as the national norm. Women earning a Bachelor's degree make the most money, but community college graduates also show increased earnings over those with no known college degree. However, Wage Records do not differentiate between full-time and part-time work. There is the possibility that after earning a degree, women are simply more likely to work more hours than they did before going to school. Women college graduates also tend to move into Government and Services (the industries that employ teachers and nurses) rather than Retail Trade. These industries tend to pay more than Retail Trade (see Table 2, page 6), so

Table 2: Average Quarterly Wages for Persons Aged 25-34 by Gender, 2000

| | Women | | | Men | | | Total | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Number | Percent | Avg. Wages | Number | Percent | Avg. Wages | Number | Percent | Avg. Wages |
| Agriculture | 326 | 1.3 | \$3,108 | 682 | 2.2 | \$4,578 | 1,008 | 1.8 | \$4,097 |
| Mining | 334 | 1.4 | 7,200 | 3,487 | 11.3 | 9,601 | 3,821 | 6.9 | 9,391 |
| Construction | 635 | 2.6 | 3,899 | 5,412 | 17.5 | 6,087 | 6,047 | 10.9 | 5,869 |
| Manufacturing | 756 | 3.1 | 4,763 | 2,133 | 6.9 | 7,200 | 2,889 | 5.2 | 6,585 |
| TCPU* | 650 | 2.7 | 5,174 | 1,696 | 5.5 | 7,260 | 2,346 | 4.2 | 6,668 |
| Wholesale Trade | 470 | 1.9 | 4,584 | 1,432 | 4.6 | 7,471 | 1,902 | 3.4 | 6,795 |
| Retail Trade | 6,332 | 25.8 | 2,971 | 5,345 | 17.3 | 4,834 | 11,677 | 21.1 | 3,840 |
| FIRE** | 1,417 | 5.8 | 4,956 | 517 | 1.7 | 8,405 | 1,934 | 3.5 | 5,848 |
| Services | 8,479 | 34.6 | 3,986 | 6,616 | 21.4 | 5,328 | 15,095 | 27.2 | 4,566 |
| Government | 5,042 | 20.6 | 4,878 | 3,445 | 11.2 | 6,730 | 8,487 | 15.3 | 5,641 |
| N/A*** | 70 | 0.3 | 3,895 | 130 | 0.4 | 5,849 | 200 | 0.4 | 5,173 |
| Total | 24,511 | 100.0 | \$4,087 | 30,895 | 100.0 | \$6,436 | 55,406 | 100.0 | \$5,404 |

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

*** N/A - Not available.

it seems fair to say women are earning more as they complete their education.

Table 2 shows the quarterly wages for all women aged 25 to 34 in 2000. The industry distribution for all women was very similar to the distribution for women without a known college degree. In addition, the average earnings for all women aged 25 to 34 were higher than the earnings for women without a known college degree (see Table 3, page 7). Female community college graduates and university graduates both earned more than the average for all women and demonstrated different industry distributions.

Table 3 (see page 7) shows the quarterly wages for women. Statistical analysis showed significant differences between all groups.¹² University graduates earned more in every industry. On average, they earned \$1,633 more per quarter than their no known college counterparts. The wage difference was most pronounced for Retail Trade where women with a degree earned \$2,617 more per quarter than those without a degree.

Also in Table 3 (see page 7) are the earnings for female community college graduates. Overall they earned \$584 more per quarter than women without any known post-secondary degree. By industry, community college graduates had higher earnings only in Construction, Mining, Services, and Wholesale Trade than the no known college group. However, most of the group was employed in Services and the wage differential between the two groups was substantial (\$1,470). When compared to women with a Bachelor's degree, community college graduates overall earned \$1,049 less per quarter. In addition, university graduates earned more in every industry although the difference was less than \$224 in Services.

For men, post-secondary education does not seem to have a large impact on earnings, at least in the short interim after graduation. Table 4 (see page 8) includes the quarterly wages for men. Table 4 shows that, in general, men with no known degree (\$6,606) and Bachelor's degree recipients (\$6,895) earned more per quarter than the average for all men in 2000 (\$6,435). Community college graduates

Table 3: Quarterly Wages for Women Aged 25 to 34 by Industry and Educational Attainment, 2000

| | No Known College | | | | | Community College 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Number | Percent of Total | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Number | Percent of Total | Qtrs/SSN |
| Agriculture | \$3,460 | 38 | 10 | 1.0 | 3.8 | \$2,700 | 35 | 11 | 1.8 | 3.2 |
| Mining | 6,227 | 57 | 15 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 7,513 | 60 | 18 | 2.9 | 3.3 |
| Construction | 4,651 | 64 | 17 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 4,841 | 35 | 11 | 1.8 | 3.2 |
| Manufacturing | 4,743 | 102 | 28 | 2.7 | 3.6 | 3,981 | 55 | 20 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| TCPU* | 5,416 | 140 | 42 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 5,288 | 49 | 14 | 2.3 | 3.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 4,317 | 113 | 30 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 5,470 | 54 | 15 | 2.4 | 3.6 |
| Retail Trade | 3,092 | 1,168 | 306 | 29.7 | 3.8 | 2,686 | 331 | 104 | 16.8 | 3.2 |
| FIRE** | 4,570 | 415 | 106 | 10.3 | 3.9 | 3,926 | 107 | 34 | 5.5 | 3.1 |
| Services | 3,770 | 1,168 | 309 | 29.9 | 3.8 | 5,240 | 914 | 263 | 42.4 | 3.5 |
| Government | 4,572 | 647 | 169 | 16.4 | 3.8 | 4,092 | 425 | 130 | 21.0 | 3.3 |
| Total | \$3,932 | 3,912 | 1,032 | 100.0 | 3.8 | \$4,516 | 2,065 | 620 | 100.0 | 3.3 |

| | University of Wyoming 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | | College Proxy | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Number | Percent of Total | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Number | Percent of Total | Qtrs/SSN |
| Agriculture | *** | *** | *** | | | *** | *** | *** | | |
| Mining | *** | *** | *** | | | \$11,390 | 18 | 5 | 2.2 | 3.6 |
| Construction | *** | *** | *** | | | *** | *** | *** | | |
| Manufacturing | \$8,856 | 15 | 4 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 6,474 | 34 | 10 | 4.4 | 3.4 |
| TCPU* | 6,648 | 16 | 5 | 2.0 | 3.2 | 10,371 | 16 | 4 | 1.8 | 4.0 |
| Wholesale Trade | *** | *** | *** | | | 5,238 | 17 | 5 | 2.2 | 3.4 |
| Retail Trade | 5,710 | 80 | 24 | 9.5 | 3.3 | 4,531 | 124 | 31 | 13.7 | 4.0 |
| FIRE** | 6,281 | 52 | 15 | 5.9 | 3.5 | 5,891 | 45 | 12 | 5.3 | 3.8 |
| Services | 5,462 | 270 | 89 | 35.2 | 3.0 | 5,437 | 298 | 79 | 34.8 | 3.8 |
| Government | 5,296 | 376 | 110 | 43.5 | 3.4 | 6,485 | 279 | 75 | 33.0 | 3.7 |
| Total | \$5,394 | 831 | 253 | 100.0 | 3.3 | \$5,900 | 853 | 227 | 100.0 | 3.8 |

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.
** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.
*** Suppressed for confidentiality.
Note: Qtrs/SSN represents the average number of quarters each individual worked in 2000.

earned less (\$5,765). On average, male University of Wyoming graduates earned \$289 per quarter more than the no known college group (\$6,895 compared to \$6,606). Post hoc analysis revealed that this was not a statistically significant difference.¹³ Male graduates earned more money (University of Wyoming graduate earnings minus the no known college earnings) in Manufacturing (by \$1,473), Mining (by \$2,024), Retail Trade (by \$536), Services

(by \$1,307), and Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (by \$1,208).

Table 4 (see page 8) also describes male community college graduates, who, overall, earned less than the no known college group by \$841 per quarter. They earned less in every industry except Construction, Manufacturing, Mining, and Wholesale Trade. They also earned, overall, \$1,130

Table 4: Quarterly Wages for Men Aged 25 to 34 by Industry and Educational Attainment, 2000

| | No Known College | | | | | Community College 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN |
| | | | Number | Number | | | | Number | Number | |
| Agriculture | \$4,898 | 57 | 17 | 1.3 | 3.4 | \$3,380 | 12 | 5 | 1.6 | 2.4 |
| Mining | 8,389 | 841 | 229 | 16.8 | 3.7 | 11,268 | 79 | 22 | 7.0 | 3.6 |
| Construction | 5,794 | 950 | 254 | 18.7 | 3.7 | 5,873 | 109 | 36 | 11.4 | 3.0 |
| Manufacturing | 6,503 | 537 | 134 | 9.9 | 4.0 | 7,137 | 63 | 19 | 6.0 | 3.3 |
| TCPU* | 7,048 | 298 | 76 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 5,513 | 27 | 8 | 2.5 | 3.4 |
| Wholesale Trade | 7,588 | 436 | 114 | 8.4 | 3.8 | 9,190 | 102 | 30 | 9.5 | 3.4 |
| Retail Trade | 4,533 | 1,014 | 255 | 18.8 | 4.0 | 3,291 | 200 | 59 | 18.7 | 3.4 |
| FIRE** | 8,963 | 25 | 8 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 5,949 | 24 | 7 | 2.2 | 3.4 |
| Services | 5,532 | 627 | 167 | 12.3 | 3.8 | 4,639 | 219 | 67 | 21.2 | 3.3 |
| Government | 6,719 | 416 | 106 | 7.8 | 3.9 | 5,256 | 215 | 63 | 19.9 | 3.4 |
| Total | \$6,606 | 5,201 | 1,360 | 100.0 | 3.8 | \$5,765 | 1,050 | 316 | 100.0 | 3.3 |
| | University of Wyoming 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | | College Proxy | | | | |
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN |
| | | | Number | Number | | | | Number | Number | |
| Agriculture | *** | *** | *** | | | \$5,160 | 16 | 5 | 1.7 | 3.2 |
| Mining | \$10,413 | 27 | 8 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 12,959 | 179 | 47 | 15.8 | 3.8 |
| Construction | 5,612 | 50 | 16 | 8.4 | 3.1 | 8,012 | 94 | 27 | 9.1 | 3.5 |
| Manufacturing | 7,976 | 24 | 9 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 11,029 | 118 | 31 | 10.4 | 3.8 |
| TCPU* | 8,256 | 22 | 7 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 9,422 | 52 | 15 | 5.1 | 3.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | *** | *** | *** | | | 9,672 | 74 | 19 | 6.4 | 3.9 |
| Retail Trade | 5,068 | 60 | 17 | 8.9 | 3.5 | 6,854 | 136 | 34 | 11.4 | 4.0 |
| FIRE** | 8,857 | 37 | 13 | 6.8 | 2.8 | 10,682 | 21 | 6 | 2.0 | 3.5 |
| Services | 6,838 | 173 | 54 | 28.4 | 3.2 | 8,318 | 183 | 48 | 16.2 | 3.8 |
| Government | 6,345 | 195 | 59 | 31.1 | 3.3 | 8,764 | 262 | 65 | 21.9 | 4.0 |
| Total | \$6,895 | 616 | 190 | 100.0 | 3.2 | \$9,372 | 1,135 | 297 | 100.0 | 3.8 |

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

*** Suppressed for confidentiality.

Note: Qtrs/SSN represents the average number of quarters each individual worked in 2000.

less per quarter than male university graduates. Male community college graduates earned more than men with a Bachelor's degree in Construction and Mining.

These results are somewhat disappointing because it appears that post-secondary education results in either no change in earnings or perhaps even lower wages for community college graduates. There are several possible explanations for

this. There seems to be an expectation among the public that graduates should gain employment in the area of their degree and earn increased wages immediately upon graduation. This is perhaps not a fair expectation. In the July 2001 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*¹⁴ as well as in a forthcoming Research & Planning report,¹⁵ we argue that Casper College graduates do not show noticeably increased wages until 9 to 18 months post graduation. Given the analysis of data in

Table 5: Quarterly Wages for Persons Aged 25 to 34 by Industry and Educational Attainment, 2000

| | No Known College | | | | | Community College 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN |
| | | | Number | Number | | | | Number | Number | |
| Agriculture | \$3,610 | 95 | 27 | 1.1 | 3.5 | \$2,873 | 47 | 16 | 1.7 | 2.9 |
| Mining | 9,416 | 898 | 244 | 10.2 | 3.7 | 9,647 | 139 | 40 | 4.3 | 3.5 |
| Construction | 6,441 | 1,014 | 271 | 11.3 | 3.7 | \$5,622 | 144 | 47 | 5.0 | 3.1 |
| Manufacturing | 6,828 | 639 | 162 | 6.8 | 3.9 | 5,666 | 118 | 39 | 4.2 | 3.0 |
| TCPU* | 6,373 | 438 | 118 | 4.9 | 3.7 | 5,368 | 76 | 22 | 2.4 | 3.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 6,797 | 549 | 144 | 6.0 | 3.8 | 7,903 | 156 | 45 | 4.8 | 3.5 |
| Retail Trade | 3,881 | 2,182 | 561 | 23.5 | 3.9 | 2,914 | 531 | 163 | 17.4 | 3.3 |
| FIRE** | 4,715 | 440 | 114 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 4,296 | 131 | 41 | 4.4 | 3.2 |
| Services | 4,341 | 1,795 | 476 | 19.9 | 3.8 | 5,123 | 1,133 | 330 | 35.3 | 3.4 |
| Government | 4,885 | 1,063 | 275 | 11.5 | 3.9 | 4,483 | 640 | 193 | 20.6 | 3.3 |
| Total | \$5,459 | 9,113 | 2,392 | 100.0 | 3.8 | \$4,937 | 3,115 | 936 | 100.0 | 3.3 |

| | University of Wyoming 1996-1998 Graduates | | | | | College Proxy | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN | Avg. Wage | Qtrs. | Percent of Total | | Qtrs/SSN |
| | | | Number | Number | | | | Number | Number | |
| Agriculture | *** | *** | *** | | | *** | *** | *** | | |
| Mining | *** | *** | *** | | | \$12,816 | 197 | 52 | 9.9 | 3.8 |
| Construction | *** | *** | *** | | | *** | *** | *** | | |
| Manufacturing | \$8,314 | 39 | 41 | 10.0 | 1.0 | 10,010 | 152 | 41 | 7.8 | 3.7 |
| TCPU* | 7,579 | 38 | 19 | 4.6 | 2.0 | 9,645 | 68 | 19 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Wholesale Trade | *** | *** | *** | | | 8,844 | 91 | 24 | 4.6 | 3.8 |
| Retail Trade | 5,435 | 140 | 65 | 15.9 | 2.2 | 5,746 | 260 | 65 | 12.4 | 4.0 |
| FIRE** | 7,352 | 89 | 18 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 7,415 | 66 | 18 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| Services | 5,997 | 445 | 127 | 31.0 | 3.5 | 6,533 | 481 | 127 | 24.2 | 3.8 |
| Government | 5,654 | 571 | 140 | 34.1 | 4.1 | 7,589 | 541 | 140 | 26.7 | 3.9 |
| Total | \$6,130 | 1,322 | 410 | 100.0 | 3.2 | \$7,882 | 1,988 | 524 | 100.0 | 3.8 |

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

*** Suppressed for confidentiality.

Note: Qtrs/SSN represents the average number of quarters each individual worked in 2000.

Table 1 (see page 5), perhaps in this case, the period for wages to increase is somewhat longer.

The college experience has more than one function. It should not be assumed that all individuals attending post-secondary schools enter the workforce in their new capacity immediately after graduation. Some people use community college as a starting point for a Bachelor's degree. For instance, in 1997, over 80

percent of all Casper College graduates in Engineering, Physical Science, and Mathematics enrolled in the University of Wyoming.¹⁶ It is possible that the different purposes for education are gender related. Men tend to enter the workforce immediately, taking jobs of opportunity in industries such as Construction.¹⁷ While the wages in these industries tend to be high, the individuals employed therein are vulnerable to displacement. To address this question, it would be worthwhile to

conduct a longitudinal study to track individuals after graduation over a period of time, rather than trying to determine what time period is sufficient to show the effects of the education.

Another explanation of the wage differences is the industry distributions. Men without known college degrees are found among Construction, Mining, and Retail Trade. Male community college graduates are distributed among Government, Retail Trade, and the Services industry. Bachelor's degree recipients are distributed mostly in Government and the Services industry. Mining is the highest paid industry in the state, so having a large portion of the no known college degree group employed in that industry raised the mean earnings. It is also possible that in some industries, such as Construction, work experience is more of a premium than education.

Table 5 (see page 9) contains the quarterly wages for all persons aged 25 to 34 combined. For all industries, college graduates earned \$672 more per quarter than those with no known college degree. In addition, college graduates earned \$1,192 more per quarter than those with a community college degree. Bachelor's degree graduates also earned more in every industry than those without college and those with a community college degree. In general, without looking at the obvious gender interactions, it appears that receiving a Bachelor's degree is beneficial to earnings.

When the wages of the college proxy group were compared to the wages of the University of Wyoming group, there was no clear correlation. The proxy group showed the highest wages of all groups, although not by a great deal for women. In general, the industry distribution for women was

similar to the industry distribution in the known Bachelor's degree group. However, this did not hold true for the men. Also, the number of quarters worked for each of the two groups were not similar at all. Overall, there was no meaningful correlation between the groups, especially for men. This suggests that using age of entry into the workforce alone is probably not a good indicator of educational attainment. Perhaps with a larger sample of individuals with known educational attainment, a better proxy can be found.

Conclusion

While there is the possibility that, at least for men, a college education does not ensure higher wages in Wyoming than simply obtaining work experience, it is important not to underestimate the importance of quality of life to career decision making. For many people, wages are not as important as less tangible benefits, such as job security, consistent work hours, or a comfortable work environment. A recent analysis of those who leave the oil and gas industry indicated that most people actually made less money after leaving the industry.¹⁸ This clearly suggests that money is not everything, especially as workers mature. Perhaps then, obtaining higher education allows men to secure work that provides the less tangible benefits and in the end makes them happier than higher wages would.

¹Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply**, 2000, pp. A1-A21.

²North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of

Higher Education, **Handbook of Accreditation**, 1997, p. 66.

³Matthew Mariani, "High-Earning Workers Who Don't Have a Bachelor's Degree," **Occupational Outlook Quarterly**, Fall 1999, pp. 9-15.

⁴Mariani.

⁵Chad Fleetwood and Kristina Shelley, "The Outlook for College Graduates, 1998-2008: A Balancing Act," **Occupational Outlook Quarterly**, Fall 2000, pp. 3-9.

⁶U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Occupational Outlook Quarterly**, Fall 1999, <<http://stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/1999/Fall/oochart.pdf>> (October 12, 2001).

⁷Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply**.

⁸Adapted from: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, "2000 Total for All Industries," September 6, 2001, <<http://lmi.state.wy.us/wfdemog/total00.pdf>> (October 12, 2001).

⁹U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 13. Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, By State, Including Confidence Intervals of Estimates: March 2000," December 19, 2000, <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/education/p20-536/tab13.pdf>> (October 12, 2001).

¹⁰U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 1a. Percent of High School and College Graduates of the Population 15 Years and Over, By Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: March 2000," December 19, 2000, <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/education/p20-536/tab01a.pdf>> (October 12, 2001).

¹¹Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis through Imputation: Part One," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, April 2001, <<http://lmi.state.wy.us/0401/a2.htm>> and "Part Two," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, June 2001, <<http://lmi.state.wy.us/0601/a1.htm>> (October 12, 2001).

¹²An F test showed the following results: $F(1,3) = 383.1$, $p < .001$.

¹³Based on a Tukey HSD test for statistical significance.

¹⁴Tom Gallagher, "When Does Training Pay Off? Challenging the Assumptions of the Workforce Investment Act," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, July 2001, <<http://lmi.state.wy.us/0701/a2.htm>> (October 12, 2001).

¹⁵Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **A Consumer's Guide to Educational Outcomes**, [Forthcoming].

¹⁶Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **A Consumer's Guide to Educational Outcomes**.

¹⁷Anthony P. Carnevale and Donna M. Desrochers, **Help Wanted... Credentials Required: Community College in the Knowledge Economy**, 2001.

¹⁸Tony Glover, Senior Analyst, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, Presentation for Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute [Unpublished].



Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2001

Source: ES-202 Report Run Date: September 2001

Tables by: Nancy Brennan, Economist Text by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Employment increased by 1,040 jobs or 5.9 percent in Campbell County as the result of strong growth in Mining, Construction and Services.”

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment¹ increased by 5,574 jobs or 2.5 percent during the first quarter of 2001 compared to first quarter 2000. First quarter's employment increase is significantly higher than the five-year average growth of 2.1 percent (see Table 1). Total payroll increased by 6.1 percent, just below the five-year average of 6.2 percent.

Average weekly wage increased by \$18 or 3.5 percent, slightly below its five-year average of 4.1 percent.

Statewide Employment by Industry

Table 2 shows that the industries which created the largest number of jobs in first quarter were Services (1,899 jobs or

Table 1: Percent Change in Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter, 1997-2001

| | 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 |
| 97Q1 | 0.9 | -4.3 | 6.0 | -7.1 | 5.0 | -3.0 |
| 98Q1 | 2.4 | -3.7 | 4.0 | -9.5 | 1.6 | -6.0 |
| 99Q1 | 1.9 | -3.0 | 4.1 | -11.3 | 2.1 | -8.5 |
| 00Q1 | 3.1 | -2.4 | 10.9 | -7.4 | 7.6 | -5.1 |
| 01Q1 | 2.5 | -2.2 | 6.1 | -9.1 | 3.5 | -7.1 |
| 5 Year Average for Q1 | 2.1 | -3.4 | 6.2 | -8.8 | 4.1 | -5.7 |

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for First Quarter 2001 by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Industry

| | Average Monthly Employment | | | | Total Payroll | | | | Average Weekly Wage | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | First Quarter | | Change | | First Quarter | | Change | | First Quarter | | Change | |
| | 2000 | 2001 | No. | Percent | 2000 | 2001 | Amount | Percent | 2000 | 2001 | Amount | Percent |
| Total, All Industries | 220,848 | 226,422 | 5,574 | 2.5 | \$1,446,128,553 | \$1,534,446,874 | \$88,318,321 | 6.1 | \$504 | \$521 | \$18 | 3.5 |
| Private | 165,515 | 169,879 | 4,364 | 2.6 | \$1,075,644,404 | \$1,140,633,080 | \$64,988,676 | 6.0 | \$500 | \$516 | \$17 | 3.3 |
| Agriculture | 2,834 | 2,986 | 152 | 5.4 | 12,722,200 | 14,901,644 | 2,179,444 | 17.1 | 345 | 384 | 39 | 11.2 |
| Mining | 16,559 | 17,832 | 1,273 | 7.7 | 210,217,724 | 238,388,486 | 28,170,762 | 13.4 | 977 | 1,028 | 52 | 5.3 |
| Construction | 15,568 | 15,186 | -382 | -2.5 | 110,296,102 | 111,329,995 | 1,033,893 | 0.9 | 545 | 564 | 19 | 3.5 |
| Manufacturing | 11,294 | 11,203 | -91 | -0.8 | 96,623,414 | 100,890,929 | 4,267,515 | 4.4 | 658 | 693 | 35 | 5.3 |
| TCPU* | 10,975 | 10,984 | 9 | 0.1 | 107,677,220 | 101,106,193 | -6,571,027 | -6.1 | 755 | 708 | -47 | -6.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 7,586 | 7,771 | 185 | 2.4 | 62,678,758 | 67,277,305 | 4,598,547 | 7.3 | 636 | 666 | 30 | 4.8 |
| Retail Trade | 43,871 | 45,024 | 1,153 | 2.6 | 159,124,396 | 167,334,378 | 8,209,982 | 5.2 | 279 | 286 | 7 | 2.5 |
| FIRE** | 7,929 | 8,094 | 165 | 2.1 | 66,238,557 | 67,312,260 | 1,073,703 | 1.6 | 643 | 640 | -3 | -0.5 |
| Services | 48,899 | 50,799 | 1,899 | 3.9 | 250,066,033 | 272,091,890 | 22,025,857 | 8.8 | 393 | 412 | 19 | 4.7 |
| Total Government | 55,333 | 56,543 | 1,210 | 2.2 | \$370,484,149 | \$393,813,794 | \$23,329,645 | 6.3 | \$515 | \$536 | \$21 | 4.0 |
| Federal Government | 7,011 | 6,684 | -327 | -4.7 | 67,820,200 | 70,690,435 | 2,870,235 | 4.2 | 744 | 814 | 69 | 9.3 |
| State Government | 11,566 | 11,859 | 293 | 2.5 | 85,932,228 | 93,406,731 | 7,474,503 | 8.7 | 572 | 606 | 34 | 6.0 |
| Local Government | 36,757 | 38,000 | 1243 | 3.4 | 216,731,721 | 229,716,628 | 12,984,907 | 6.0 | 454 | 465 | 11 | 2.5 |

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

3.9%), Mining (1,273 jobs or 7.7%), Local Government (1,243 jobs or 3.4%) and Retail Trade (1,153 jobs or 2.6%).

Health services and business services were the fastest growing sub-industries within Services. During the first quarter they each gained over 600 jobs. Other areas within Services which showed significant growth included private social services (300 jobs) and engineering & management services (400 jobs).

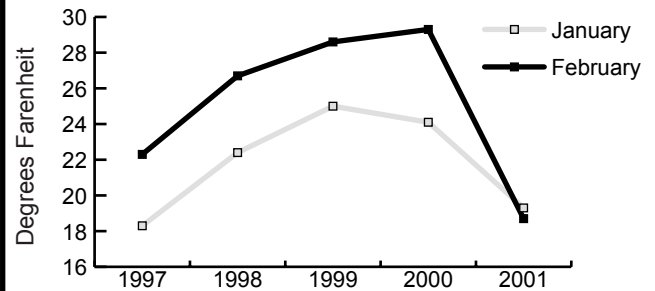
Oil & gas extraction was the only Mining sub-industry to show an employment increase, gaining approximately 1,800 jobs. Employment in metal mining, coal mining and nonmetallic mineral mining all decreased slightly when compared with first quarter 2000.

Part of the employment increase in Local Government is related to the reclassification of Indian Tribal Councils from private sector Services to Local Government.² Job gains in hospitals also helped increase Local Government employment during first quarter.

Within Retail Trade, practically all the job gains occurred in eating & drinking places, department stores and miscellaneous retail (the industry which includes catalog and mail-order houses). Employment in food stores fell by 300 jobs when compared to first quarter 2000.

Construction and Federal Government were the two industries which had significant declines in employment in first quarter 2001. Colder weather during first quarter may account for some of the decline in Construction employment. The Figure shows that the statewide mean temperature in January fell from 24.1 degrees in 2000 to 19.3 degrees in 2001. February's mean temperature fell even

Figure: Wyoming Mean Temperature, January and February 1997-2001



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center, "Climate at a Glance," <<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/climate/research/cag3/WY.html>> (September 24, 2001).

further, from 29.3 degrees in 2000 to 18.7 degrees in 2001. Federal Government employment was 327 jobs lower in first quarter 2001 with the completion of the 2000 Census.

Employment by County

Table 3 (see page 14) shows a mixed employment situation across Wyoming counties. Ten counties lost employment when compared with first quarter 2000, while 13 counties gained jobs.

Employment increased by 1,040 jobs or 5.9 percent in Campbell County as a result of strong growth in Mining, Construction and Services. Within Mining, job losses in coal mining (approximately 100 jobs) were offset by large gains in oil & gas extraction (400 jobs).

Teton County grew by 778 jobs or 5.3 percent during first quarter. Growth was especially strong in Services, Construction and Local Government.

Laramie County added 574 jobs or 1.6 percent, as gains in Retail Trade, Local Government and Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (TCPU)

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for First Quarter 2001 by Region

| | Average Monthly Employment | | | | Total Payroll | | | | Average Weekly Wage | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | First Quarter | | Change | | First Quarter | | Change | | First Quarter | | Change | |
| | 2000 | 2001 | Number | Percent | 2000 | 2001 | Amount | Percent | 2000 | 2001 | Amount | Percent |
| Total | 220,848 | 226,422 | 5,574 | 2.5 | \$1,446,128,553 | \$1,534,446,874 | \$88,318,321 | 6.1 | \$504 | \$521 | \$18 | 3.5 |
| Northwest Region | 33,382 | 33,870 | 488 | 1.5 | \$185,706,222 | \$199,085,112 | \$13,378,890 | 7.2 | \$428 | \$452 | \$24 | 5.7 |
| Big Horn | 4,010 | 3,993 | -17 | -0.4 | 23,633,190 | 24,915,139 | 1,281,949 | 5.4 | 453 | 480 | 27 | 5.9 |
| Fremont | 13,396 | 13,659 | 263 | 2.0 | 73,045,540 | 78,919,808 | 5,874,268 | 8.0 | 419 | 444 | 25 | 6.0 |
| Hot Springs | 1,909 | 1,886 | -23 | -1.2 | 9,284,103 | 9,883,280 | 599,177 | 6.5 | 374 | 403 | 29 | 7.8 |
| Park | 10,545 | 10,836 | 290 | 2.8 | 59,227,338 | 63,876,018 | 4,648,680 | 7.8 | 432 | 453 | 21 | 5.0 |
| Washakie | 3,522 | 3,496 | -26 | -0.7 | 20,516,051 | 21,490,867 | 974,816 | 4.8 | 448 | 473 | 25 | 5.5 |
| Northeast Region | 34,438 | 35,600 | 1,162 | 3.4 | \$241,395,873 | \$256,458,867 | \$15,062,994 | 6.2 | \$539 | \$554 | \$15 | 2.8 |
| Campbell | 17,687 | 18,727 | 1,040 | 5.9 | 146,473,314 | 158,385,514 | 11,912,200 | 8.1 | 637 | 651 | 14 | 2.1 |
| Crook | 1,802 | 1,762 | -40 | -2.2 | 9,728,218 | 10,212,784 | 484,566 | 5.0 | 415 | 446 | 31 | 7.3 |
| Johnson | 2,511 | 2,438 | -74 | -2.9 | 11,793,641 | 12,069,738 | 276,097 | 2.3 | 361 | 381 | 20 | 5.4 |
| Sheridan | 10,267 | 10,551 | 284 | 2.8 | 60,337,440 | 62,181,609 | 1,844,169 | 3.1 | 452 | 453 | 1 | 0.3 |
| Weston | 2,171 | 2,123 | -48 | -2.2 | 13,063,260 | 13,609,222 | 545,962 | 4.2 | 463 | 493 | 30 | 6.5 |
| Southwest Region | 47,255 | 48,559 | 1,304 | 2.8 | \$346,884,632 | \$362,605,094 | \$15,720,462 | 4.5 | \$565 | \$574 | \$10 | 1.7 |
| Lincoln | 4,805 | 4,724 | -81 | -1.7 | 30,559,933 | 32,004,573 | 1,444,640 | 4.7 | 489 | 521 | 32 | 6.5 |
| Sublette | 1,964 | 2,122 | 158 | 8.1 | 11,340,691 | 13,062,552 | 1,721,861 | 15.2 | 444 | 474 | 29 | 6.6 |
| Sweetwater | 18,222 | 18,359 | 137 | 0.8 | 158,266,109 | 161,733,150 | 3,467,041 | 2.2 | 668 | 678 | 10 | 1.4 |
| Teton | 14,626 | 15,403 | 778 | 5.3 | 97,611,220 | 102,700,432 | 5,089,212 | 5.2 | 513 | 513 | -1 | -0.1 |
| Uinta | 7,639 | 7,951 | 312 | 4.1 | 49,106,679 | 53,104,387 | 3,997,708 | 8.1 | 494 | 514 | 19 | 3.9 |
| Southeast Region | 57,233 | 57,807 | 574 | 1.0 | \$349,130,534 | \$367,230,377 | \$18,099,843 | 5.2 | \$469 | \$489 | \$19 | 4.1 |
| Albany | 13,869 | 14,163 | 294 | 2.1 | 77,952,160 | 81,892,958 | 3,940,798 | 5.1 | 432 | 445 | 12 | 2.9 |
| Goshen | 3,906 | 3,962 | 56 | 1.4 | 19,104,222 | 19,604,628 | 500,406 | 2.6 | 376 | 381 | 4 | 1.2 |
| Laramie | 35,343 | 35,916 | 574 | 1.6 | 228,135,016 | 243,398,610 | 15,263,594 | 6.7 | 497 | 521 | 25 | 5.0 |
| Niobrara | 779 | 739 | -39 | -5.1 | 3,532,452 | 3,472,321 | -60,131 | -1.7 | 349 | 361 | 12 | 3.5 |
| Platte | 3,336 | 3,026 | -310 | -9.3 | 20,406,684 | 18,861,860 | -1,544,824 | -7.6 | 471 | 479 | 9 | 1.9 |
| Central Region | 40,815 | 41,168 | 354 | 0.9 | \$262,497,330 | \$275,771,599 | \$13,274,269 | 5.1 | \$495 | \$515 | \$21 | 4.2 |
| Carbon | 6,105 | 5,908 | -198 | -3.2 | 36,154,805 | 36,541,547 | 386,742 | 1.1 | 456 | 476 | 20 | 4.5 |
| Converse | 4,170 | 4,272 | 102 | 2.5 | 27,760,222 | 27,963,787 | 203,565 | 0.7 | 512 | 503 | -9 | -1.7 |
| Natrona | 30,539 | 30,988 | 449 | 1.5 | 198,582,303 | 211,266,265 | 12,683,962 | 6.4 | 500 | 524 | 24 | 4.8 |
| Nonclassified* | 7,725 | 9,418 | 1,693 | 21.9 | \$60,513,962 | \$73,295,825 | \$12,781,863 | 21.1 | \$603 | \$599 | -\$4 | -0.6 |

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

were partially offset by losses in Construction and Federal Government.

Natrona County gained 449 jobs or 1.5 percent. Large employment increases were seen in Mining, Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Services. Employment fell in Federal Government and TCPU.

After many quarters of employment declines, Sweetwater County gained jobs in first quarter 2001. Employment increased by 137 jobs or 0.8 percent as gains in oil & gas and Construction were partially offset by losses in Manufacturing and Local Government.

Platte County had 310 fewer jobs in first quarter 2001 than in 2000, a decline of 9.3 percent. Most of these job losses were associated with the completion of a construction project.

Carbon County lost 198 jobs or 3.2 percent when compared with first quarter 2000. Job losses in Mining, Construction and Retail Trade were only partially offset by gains in State Government.

For more detailed tables on first quarter covered employment and wages, visit our Internet site at:

(Continued on page 17)

BLS Releases *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000*

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

“At all levels of education, women have fared better over time with respect to earnings growth than have men.”

Gender differences in earnings remain an issue of concern for a large segment of the population.

Although women have gained ground in earnings relative to men over the last several decades, large gender gaps in earnings remain. The following article contains excerpts from *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000*.¹

This report is based on earnings data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a nationally representative monthly survey of approximately 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The earnings data are collected on one-fourth of the CPS monthly sample. As such, the data give broad level coverage of comparisons by gender.

Full-time Workers

Among women, 45- to 54-year-olds had the highest [weekly] earnings (\$565), followed by 35- to 44-year-olds (\$520). Men's earnings also peaked among 45- to 54-year-olds (\$777). The difference between women's and men's earnings is larger among middle-aged and older workers than it is among younger ones. For example, among workers aged 45 to 54, women earned 72.7 percent as much as men did and, among those 55 to 64 years old, the women's-to-men's earnings ratio was just 68.5 percent. In contrast, among those 25 to 34 years old, women's earnings were 81.9 percent of those of men, and 20- to 24-year-old women earned 91.9 percent as much as did men.²

Between 1979 and 2000, the earnings gap between women and men narrowed for most major age groups. The women's-to-men's earnings ratio among 35- to 44-year-olds, for example, increased from 58.3 percent in 1979 to 71.1 percent in 2000, and that for 45- to 54-year-olds rose from 56.9 percent to 72.7 percent.³

The ratio of female-to-male earnings varied by State, from a high of 89.3 percent in the District of Columbia to a low of 66.8 percent in Wyoming. The differences among the States reflect in part variations in the occupation, industry, and age composition of State labor forces. In addition, sampling error in the State estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data.⁴

Women's share of employment in occupations typified by high earnings has grown. In 2000, 47 percent of full time wage and salary workers in executive, administrative, and managerial occupations were women, up from 34.2 percent in 1983 (the first year for which comparable data are available). Over the same time period, women's share of employment in professional specialty occupations [e.g., engineers, registered nurses, pharmacists, lawyers] rose from 46.8 percent to 51.9 percent.⁵

In both the managerial and professional occupational categories, women and men tend to work in different specific occupations. In the professional

specialty occupations, where women earned the most, they were much less likely than men to be employed in some of the highest paying occupations, such as engineers and mathematical and computer scientists. Women were more likely to work in relatively lower paying professional occupations, such as teachers (except college and university) and registered nurses.⁶

Median weekly earnings of full-time workers ages 25 and over without a high school diploma were considerably below those persons with college degrees. Among women, those without a high school diploma earned \$303 per week, compared with \$760 for those with college degrees. Among men, [high] school dropouts had earnings of \$409 a week, compared with \$1,022 for college graduates.⁷

At all levels of education, women have fared better over time with respect to earnings growth than have men. Although both women and men without a high school diploma have experienced a decline in inflation-adjusted earnings since 1979, women's earnings have fallen significantly less—9.8 percent, compared with a 26.7-percent drop for men. Earnings for women with college degrees have increased by 30.4 percent since 1979 on an inflation-adjusted basis, while those of male college graduates rose by only 16.7 percent.⁸

Part-time Workers

Median weekly earnings of female part-time workers were \$177, or 36 percent of the median for women who worked full-time. The earnings of male part-time workers (\$156) were somewhat lower than those of female part-timers. This is largely because male part-time

workers, unlike their female counterparts, are highly concentrated in the youngest age group, which typically have low earnings. About 56 percent of male part-time workers were 16 to 25 years old, compared with 32 percent of female part-timers.⁹

Workers Paid by the Hour

About 63 percent of women and 58 percent of men employed in wage and salary jobs were paid by the hour. Women who worked at such jobs had median hourly earnings of \$9.03 in 2000. This was 83.2 percent of the hourly median for men (\$10.85).¹⁰

About 5 percent of women who were paid hourly rates in 2000 reported hourly earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage of \$5.15. This compares with approximately 3 percent of men in jobs paid by the hour.¹¹

Additional information on earnings by gender and other employment related issues can be obtained from the following sources:

U.S. Department of Labor:

<<http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb>> (Women's Bureau Site). There are numerous publications indexed and linked to this site covering a broad range of women's issues.

Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning:

<<http://lmi.state.wy.us/wfdemog/toc.htm>> Contains Wyoming specific comparative information between male and female earnings by age and industry for the period 1997-2000.

¹U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in**

2000, Report 952, August 2001, <<http://www.bls.gov/pdf/cpswom2000.pdf>> (October 3, 2001).

²U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 1, p. 7 and Table 8, p. 19.

³U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 13, pp. 24-25.

⁴U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 4, p. 15.

⁵U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 2, p. 8.

⁶U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 3, pp. 9-13.

⁷U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 7, p. 18.

⁸U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 15, pp. 28-29 and Chart 3, p. 4.

⁹U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 5, p. 16.

¹⁰U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 4, p. 15.10, p. 21, Table 11, p. 22, Table 16, p. 30, and Table 17, p. 32.

¹¹U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000**, Table 12, p. 23, Table 18, p. 35, and Chart 4, p. 4.



(Continued from page 14)

http://lmi.state.wy.us/01Q1_202/toc.htm.

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

²This reclassification was necessitated by a change in federal Unemployment Insurance law, which now treats Indian Tribal Councils similarly to state and local governments. Previously, Indian Tribal Councils were classified as privately owned membership organizations.



State Unemployment Rates August 2001 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.8 |
| District of Columbia | 6.5 |
| Oregon | 6.0 |
| Washington | 5.6 |
| Illinois | 5.5 |
| New Mexico | 5.4 |
| South Carolina | 5.4 |
| California | 5.2 |
| North Carolina | 5.1 |
| Texas | 5.1 |
| Alabama | 5.0 |
| Alaska | 5.0 |
| Mississippi | 5.0 |
| Arizona | 4.9 |
| Nevada | 4.9 |
| United States | 4.9 |
| Louisiana | 4.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.8 |
| Kentucky | 4.7 |
| Michigan | 4.6 |
| West Virginia | 4.6 |
| Arkansas | 4.5 |
| Hawaii | 4.5 |
| New York | 4.5 |
| Rhode Island | 4.5 |
| Florida | 4.4 |
| New Jersey | 4.3 |
| Tennessee | 4.3 |
| Missouri | 4.2 |
| Utah | 4.2 |
| Idaho | 4.1 |
| Indiana | 4.0 |
| Ohio | 4.0 |
| Maryland | 3.9 |
| Wisconsin | 3.9 |
| Georgia | 3.8 |
| Kansas | 3.7 |
| Massachusetts | 3.7 |
| Colorado | 3.6 |
| Montana | 3.6 |
| New Hampshire | 3.6 |
| Connecticut | 3.4 |
| Delaware | 3.4 |
| Wyoming | 3.3 |
| Minnesota | 3.2 |
| Maine | 3.1 |
| Oklahoma | 3.1 |
| Virginia | 3.1 |
| Iowa | 2.8 |
| Nebraska | 2.8 |
| Vermont | 2.8 |
| North Dakota | 2.6 |
| South Dakota | 2.6 |

**State Unemployment Rates
August 2001
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.3 |
| Alaska | 6.7 |
| District of Columbia | 6.4 |
| Oregon | 6.3 |
| Washington | 6.0 |
| Illinois | 5.5 |
| New Mexico | 5.4 |
| California | 5.2 |
| Kentucky | 5.1 |
| Michigan | 5.1 |
| South Carolina | 5.1 |
| North Carolina | 5.0 |
| West Virginia | 5.0 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.9 |
| Texas | 4.9 |
| United States | 4.9 |
| Mississippi | 4.8 |
| Nevada | 4.8 |
| Alabama | 4.7 |
| New York | 4.7 |
| Arkansas | 4.6 |
| Idaho | 4.6 |
| Louisiana | 4.6 |
| Montana | 4.5 |
| Rhode Island | 4.5 |
| New Jersey | 4.3 |
| Wisconsin | 4.3 |
| Arizona | 4.2 |
| Florida | 4.2 |
| Hawaii | 4.2 |
| Indiana | 4.2 |
| Ohio | 4.2 |
| Tennessee | 4.1 |
| Maine | 4.0 |
| Missouri | 4.0 |
| Maryland | 3.9 |
| Massachusetts | 3.9 |
| Kansas | 3.8 |
| New Hampshire | 3.8 |
| Utah | 3.8 |
| Wyoming | 3.8 |
| Georgia | 3.7 |
| Colorado | 3.6 |
| Connecticut | 3.6 |
| Minnesota | 3.6 |
| Delaware | 3.4 |
| Oklahoma | 3.3 |
| Vermont | 3.3 |
| Iowa | 3.1 |
| Nebraska | 3.0 |
| Virginia | 2.9 |
| South Dakota | 2.8 |
| North Dakota | 2.7 |

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged in August

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

“August marks the eleventh straight month that Wyoming’s unemployment has been lower than the national average.”

Even as U.S. unemployment jumped from 4.5 percent in July to 4.9 percent in August, Wyoming’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent. August marks the eleventh straight month that Wyoming’s unemployment has been lower than the national average.

Job growth continued at a relatively rapid pace in Wyoming. Approximately 5,400 jobs were created in August giving the state a growth rate of 2.2 percent. As in recent months, large job growth was seen in oil & gas extraction (2,000 jobs or 20.8%), Services (1,900 jobs or 3.2%) and Retail Trade (800 jobs or 1.6%). U.S. job growth remained at the low level of 0.4 percent mainly because of job losses in Manufacturing and business services.

In Wyoming, small job losses were seen in Manufacturing (-100 jobs or -0.9%), Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (-100 jobs or -0.7%) and Federal Government (-300 jobs or -3.7%).

Among Wyoming’s 23 counties, the lowest unemployment rate was in Teton County (1.2%). Three other counties had rates below 2.0 percent: Sublette County (1.8%), Albany County (1.8%) and Johnson County (1.8%). Fremont County’s unemployment rate (5.2%) was the highest in the state, but down considerably from its August 2000 level of 5.9 percent. Laramie County’s unemployment rate (3.2%) was up slightly from its year-ago level of 2.6 percent, while Natrona County’s rate fell from 4.0 percent in August 2000 to 3.6 percent in August 2001.

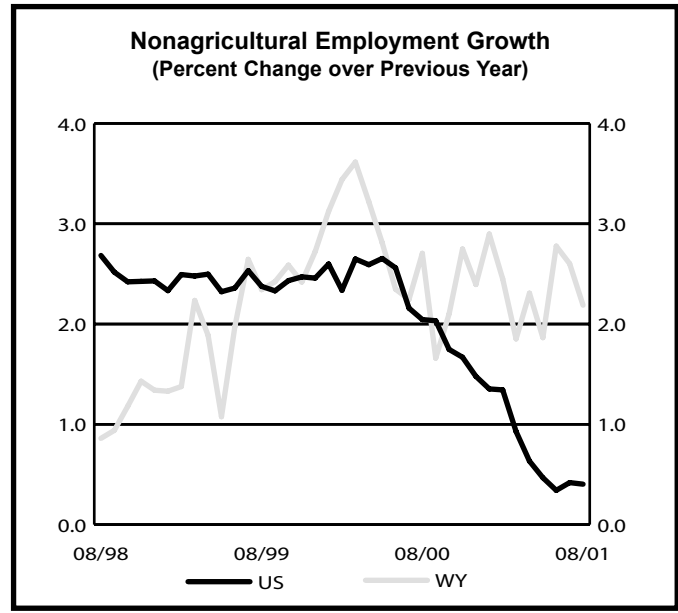


Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Large job growth was seen in oil & gas extraction (2,000 jobs or 20.8%), Services (1,900 jobs or 3.2%) and Retail Trade (80 jobs or 1.6%).”

| WYOMING STATEWIDE* | Employment in Thousands | | | | Percent Change Total Employment | | LARAMIE COUNTY | Employment in Thousands | | | | Percent Change Total Employment | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | AUG01(p) | JUL01(r) | AUG 00 | AUG 01 | JUL 01 | AUG 00 | | AUG01(p) | JUL01(r) | AUG 00 | AUG 01 | JUL 01 | AUG 00 |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 252.2 | 252.4 | 246.8 | -0.1 | 2.2 | | TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 39.1 | 39.3 | 38.2 | -0.5 | 2.4 | |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 51.0 | 50.4 | 49.1 | 1.2 | 3.9 | | TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 2.3 | |
| Mining | 19.6 | 19.4 | 17.8 | 1.0 | 10.1 | | Mining & Construction | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 3.8 | |
| Coal Mining | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 2.1 | | Manufacturing | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 11.6 | 11.6 | 9.6 | 0.0 | 20.8 | | TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING | 34.7 | 34.9 | 33.9 | -0.6 | 2.4 | |
| Crude Petrol-Natural Gas | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.7 | -3.3 | 7.4 | | Transportation & Public Utilities | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Oil & Gas Field Services | 8.7 | 8.6 | 6.9 | 1.2 | 26.1 | | Trade | 9.1 | 9.3 | 9.0 | -2.2 | 1.1 | |
| Nonmetallic Minerals | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | -3.6 | -3.6 | | Wholesale Trade | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.0 | -11.1 | |
| Construction | 20.0 | 19.6 | 19.8 | 2.0 | 1.0 | | Retail Trade | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.1 | -2.4 | 2.5 | |
| General Building Contractors | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 2.1 | 4.3 | | Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Heavy Construction | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | | Services | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 0.0 | 1.2 | |
| Special Trade Construction | 8.9 | 8.8 | 9.1 | 1.1 | -2.2 | | Total Government | 12.2 | 12.2 | 11.6 | 0.0 | 5.2 | |
| Manufacturing | 11.4 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 0.0 | -0.9 | | Federal Government | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Durable Goods | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | State Government | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 5.9 | |
| Nondurable Goods | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 0.0 | -1.6 | | Local Government | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 7.0 | |
| Printing & Publishing | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 6.2 | | | | | | | | |
| Petroleum & Coal Products | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | NATRONA COUNTY* | | | | | | |
| TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING | 201.2 | 202.0 | 197.7 | -0.4 | 1.8 | | TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 32.6 | 32.5 | 31.8 | 0.3 | 2.5 | |
| Transportation & Public Utilities | 14.5 | 14.6 | 14.6 | -0.7 | -0.7 | | TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 5.4 | |
| Transportation | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.5 | -1.0 | 1.1 | | Mining | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 4.3 | 20.0 | |
| Railroad Transportation | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 | -3.0 | 0.0 | | Construction | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | -4.8 | -4.8 | |
| Trucking & Warehousing | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.7 | -2.6 | 0.0 | | Manufacturing | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Communications | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 0.0 | -4.5 | | TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING | 26.7 | 26.6 | 26.2 | 0.4 | 1.9 | |
| Telephone Communications | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | -9.1 | | Transportation & Public Utilities | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | -6.3 | -11.8 | |
| Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 0.0 | -3.4 | | Transportation | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.0 | -8.3 | |
| Electric Services | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | Communications & Public Utilities | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | -20.0 | -20.0 | |
| Trade | 59.0 | 59.0 | 57.9 | 0.0 | 1.9 | | Trade | 9.1 | 9.2 | 8.8 | -1.1 | 3.4 | |
| Wholesale Trade | 8.1 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 1.2 | 3.8 | | Wholesale Trade | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | -3.8 | 4.2 | |
| Durable Goods | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 6.7 | | Retail Trade | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 0.0 | 3.1 | |
| Nondurable Goods | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 0.0 | | Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.0 | -7.7 | |
| Retail Trade | 50.9 | 51.0 | 50.1 | -0.2 | 1.6 | | Services | 9.9 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 1.0 | 3.1 | |
| Building Materials & Garden Supply | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 9.5 | | Personal & Business Services | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | |
| General Merchandise Stores | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.0 | -1.6 | 1.7 | | Health Services | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 6.7 | |
| Department Stores | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 2.2 | | Government | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 4.2 | |
| Food Stores | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 0.0 | -5.2 | | Federal Government | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Auto Dealers & Service Stations | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | State Government | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Gas Stations | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 0.0 | -2.2 | | Local Government | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 5.9 | 5.9 | |
| Apparel & Accessory Stores | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | Local Education | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 15.8 | 10.0 | |
| Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 6.2 | 6.2 | | | | | | | | |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 19.3 | 19.5 | 19.0 | -1.0 | 1.6 | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Retail | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 1.7 | 7.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 0.0 | 1.2 | | | | | | | | |
| Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 0.0 | 4.8 | | | | | | | | |
| Depository Institutions | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 2.9 | | | | | | | | |
| Insurance | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Services | 62.2 | 62.8 | 60.3 | -1.0 | 3.2 | | | | | | | | |
| Hotels & Other Lodging Places | 12.7 | 13.4 | 12.9 | -5.2 | -1.6 | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 5.3 | 5.3 | | | | | | | | |
| Business Services | 8.8 | 8.9 | 8.4 | -1.1 | 4.8 | | | | | | | | |
| Automotive & Misc. Repair Services | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.3 | | | | | | | | |
| Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.) | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.2 | -2.2 | 4.8 | | | | | | | | |
| Health Services | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 3.6 | | | | | | | | |
| Offices of Doctors of Medicine | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 8.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Legal Services | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 8.3 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Social Services | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 6.9 | | | | | | | | |
| Membership Organizations | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 2.7 | | | | | | | | |
| Engineering & Management | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 12.8 | | | | | | | | |
| Government | 57.2 | 57.3 | 56.7 | -0.2 | 0.9 | | | | | | | | |
| Total Federal Government | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.2 | -1.2 | -3.7 | | | | | | | | |
| Department of Defense | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Total State Government | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.0 | -2.2 | 0.8 | | | | | | | | |
| State Education | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 | -4.3 | -4.3 | | | | | | | | |
| Total Local Government | 36.2 | 35.9 | 35.5 | 0.8 | 2.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Local Hospitals | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 0.0 | 3.8 | | | | | | | | |
| Local Education | 16.5 | 16.1 | 16.2 | 2.5 | 1.9 | | | | | | | | |



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.

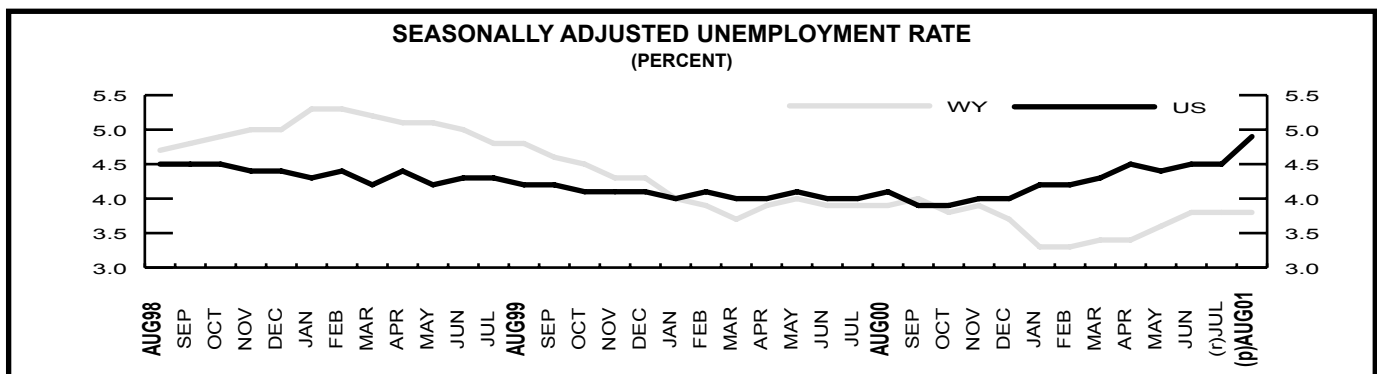
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistician

“When compared to July 2001, benefits paid by Wyoming Unemployment Insurance were down 11.6 percent.”

| | August | July | August | Percent Change | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| | 2001 (p) | 2001 (r) | 2000 (b) | Month | Year |
| Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1) | 274,333 | 276,249 | 272,221 | -0.7 | 0.8 |
| Unemployed | 9,003 | 9,203 | 9,116 | -2.2 | -1.2 |
| Employed | 265,330 | 267,046 | 263,105 | -0.6 | 0.8 |
| Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj. | 3.3/3.8 | 3.3/3.8 | 3.3/3.9 | ---- | ---- |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj. | 4.9/4.9 | 4.7/4.5 | 4.1/4.1 | ---- | ---- |
| U.S. Multiple Jobholders | 6,963,000 | 7,452,000 | 7,084,000 | -6.6 | -1.7 |
| As a percent of all workers | 5.2% | 5.5% | 5.2% | ---- | ---- |
| U.S. Discouraged Workers | 335,000 | 308,000 | 205,000 | 8.8 | 50.2 |
| U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons | 3,177,000 | 3,559,000 | 3,005,000 | -10.7 | 5.7 |
| Hours & Earnings for Production Workers | | | | | |
| Wyoming Mining | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$883.97 | \$893.47 | \$837.90 | -1.1 | 5.5 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 44.6 | 54.4 | 45.0 | -18.0 | -0.9 |
| U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$763.44 | \$773.05 | \$746.87 | -1.2 | 2.2 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 43.6 | 43.7 | 43.6 | -0.2 | 0.0 |
| Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$639.74 | \$656.74 | \$613.43 | -2.6 | 4.3 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 38.4 | 38.7 | 38.8 | -0.8 | -1.0 |
| U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$607.92 | \$599.94 | \$594.50 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.8 | 40.4 | 41.4 | 1.0 | -1.4 |
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance | | | | | |
| Weeks Compensated (2) | 6,818 | 7,725 | 7,627 | -11.7 | -10.6 |
| Benefits Paid | \$1,405,598 | \$1,589,296 | \$1,523,075 | -11.6 | -7.7 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | \$206.16 | \$205.73 | \$199.70 | 0.2 | 3.2 |
| State Insured Covered Jobs (1) | 223,697 | 222,607 | 220,244 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| Insured Unemployment Rate | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.9% | ---- | ---- |
| Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (1982 to 1984 = 100) | | | | | |
| All Items | 177.5 | 177.5 | 172.8 | 0.0 | 2.7 |
| Food & Beverages | 174.4 | 174.0 | 169.2 | 0.2 | 3.1 |
| Housing | 178.0 | 177.6 | 170.9 | 0.2 | 4.2 |
| Apparel | 122.6 | 122.6 | 125.3 | 0.0 | -2.2 |
| Transportation | 153.3 | 154.4 | 153.2 | -0.7 | 0.1 |
| Medical Care | 274.4 | 273.1 | 262.6 | 0.5 | 4.5 |
| Recreation (Dec. 1997=100) | 105.1 | 105.0 | 103.9 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100) | 105.8 | 104.8 | 102.8 | 1.0 | 2.9 |
| Other Goods & Services | 283.3 | 285.8 | 271.6 | -0.9 | 4.3 |
| Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) | | | | | |
| All Commodities | 133.5 | 133.9 | 132.9 | -0.3 | 0.5 |
| Wyoming Building Permits | | | | | |
| New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized | 140 | 144 | 140 | -2.8 | 0.0 |
| Valuation | \$25,075,000 | \$24,281,000 | \$26,374,000 | 3.3 | -4.9 |

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“For the third consecutive month, Wyoming’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained steady at 3.3 percent.”

| REGION | Labor Force | | | Employed | | | Unemployed | | | Unemployment Rates | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Aug 2001 (p) | Jul 2001 (r) | Aug 2000 (b) | Aug 2001 (p) | Jul 2001 (r) | Aug 2000 (b) | Aug 2001 (p) | Jul 2001 (r) | Aug 2000 (b) | Aug 2001 (p) | Jul 2001 (r) | Aug 2000 (b) |
| NORTHWEST | 48,971 | 49,470 | 48,665 | 46,939 | 47,286 | 46,518 | 2,032 | 2,184 | 2,147 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Big Horn | 6,009 | 6,030 | 5,869 | 5,771 | 5,755 | 5,577 | 238 | 275 | 292 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 5.0 |
| Fremont | 18,122 | 18,131 | 18,181 | 17,171 | 17,097 | 17,117 | 951 | 1,034 | 1,064 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 5.9 |
| Hot Springs | 2,475 | 2,518 | 2,456 | 2,391 | 2,421 | 2,393 | 84 | 97 | 63 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 2.6 |
| Park | 17,616 | 17,996 | 17,462 | 17,053 | 17,426 | 16,951 | 563 | 570 | 511 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Washakie | 4,749 | 4,795 | 4,697 | 4,553 | 4,587 | 4,480 | 196 | 208 | 217 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.6 |
| NORTHEAST | 46,418 | 46,568 | 46,042 | 45,153 | 45,277 | 44,682 | 1,265 | 1,291 | 1,360 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| Campbell | 21,102 | 21,044 | 21,022 | 20,518 | 20,476 | 20,399 | 584 | 568 | 623 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| Crook | 3,364 | 3,416 | 3,268 | 3,285 | 3,328 | 3,173 | 79 | 88 | 95 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| Johnson | 4,342 | 4,389 | 4,273 | 4,266 | 4,308 | 4,188 | 76 | 81 | 85 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Sheridan | 14,304 | 14,391 | 14,182 | 13,885 | 13,941 | 13,739 | 419 | 450 | 443 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| Weston | 3,306 | 3,328 | 3,297 | 3,199 | 3,224 | 3,183 | 107 | 104 | 114 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.5 |
| SOUTHWEST | 55,650 | 55,832 | 55,453 | 53,764 | 53,987 | 53,447 | 1,886 | 1,845 | 2,006 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| Lincoln | 6,767 | 6,720 | 6,288 | 6,489 | 6,452 | 6,040 | 278 | 268 | 248 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Sublette | 3,567 | 3,564 | 3,509 | 3,502 | 3,506 | 3,434 | 65 | 58 | 75 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.1 |
| Sweetwater | 19,345 | 19,413 | 19,816 | 18,515 | 18,540 | 18,832 | 830 | 873 | 984 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 5.0 |
| Teton | 15,180 | 15,443 | 15,002 | 14,994 | 15,277 | 14,873 | 186 | 166 | 129 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| Uinta | 10,791 | 10,692 | 10,838 | 10,264 | 10,212 | 10,268 | 527 | 480 | 570 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 5.3 |
| SOUTHEAST | 73,131 | 74,269 | 72,100 | 71,077 | 72,204 | 70,426 | 2,054 | 2,065 | 1,674 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| Albany | 17,458 | 17,906 | 17,497 | 17,146 | 17,581 | 17,268 | 312 | 325 | 229 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.3 |
| Goshen | 6,711 | 6,793 | 6,505 | 6,520 | 6,599 | 6,310 | 191 | 194 | 195 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Laramie | 42,638 | 43,184 | 42,047 | 41,273 | 41,811 | 40,973 | 1,365 | 1,373 | 1,074 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.6 |
| Niobrara | 1,407 | 1,409 | 1,327 | 1,370 | 1,379 | 1,300 | 37 | 30 | 27 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Platte | 4,917 | 4,977 | 4,724 | 4,768 | 4,834 | 4,575 | 149 | 143 | 149 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| CENTRAL | 50,163 | 50,109 | 49,960 | 48,397 | 48,290 | 48,031 | 1,766 | 1,819 | 1,929 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Carbon | 8,561 | 8,501 | 8,419 | 8,275 | 8,236 | 8,141 | 286 | 265 | 278 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| Converse | 7,236 | 7,177 | 7,158 | 7,003 | 6,923 | 6,895 | 233 | 254 | 263 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| Natrona | 34,366 | 34,431 | 34,383 | 33,119 | 33,131 | 32,995 | 1,247 | 1,300 | 1,388 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| STATEWIDE | 274,333 | 276,249 | 272,221 | 265,330 | 267,046 | 263,105 | 9,003 | 9,203 | 9,116 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| U.S..... | | | | | | | | | | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.1 |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted..... | | | | | | | | | | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 |

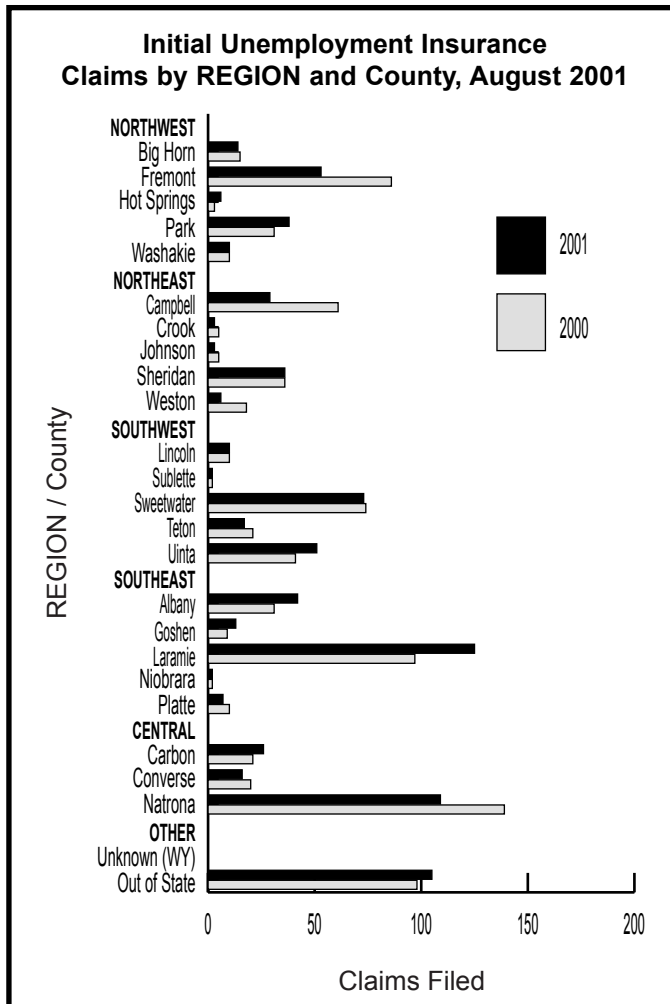
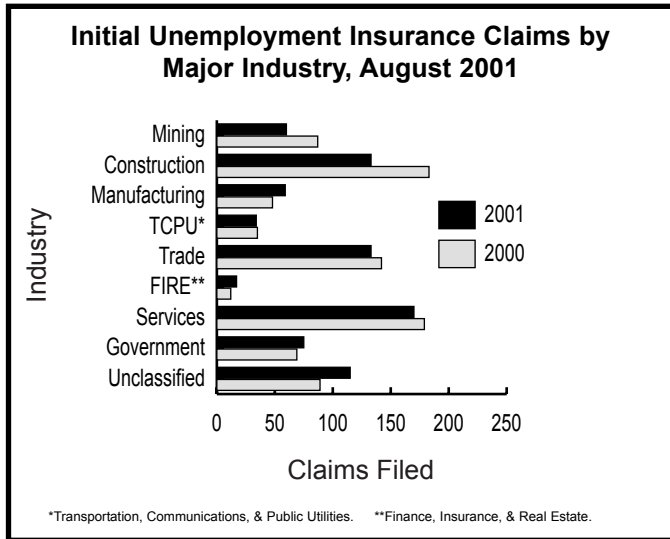
Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/01. Run Date 09/01.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

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

Statewide initial unemployment claims were down in August in comparison to both July 2001 (-10.4%) and August 2000 (-5.7%).”



| WYOMING STATEWIDE | Claims Filed | | | Percent Change | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|---------|--------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Aug 01 | July 01 | Aug 00 | July 01 Aug 01 | Aug 00 Aug 01 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 796 | 888 | 844 | -10.4 | -5.7 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 252 | 250 | 318 | 0.8 | -20.8 |
| Mining | 60 | 65 | 87 | -7.7 | -31.0 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 50 | 51 | 45 | -2.0 | 11.1 |
| Construction | 133 | 132 | 183 | 0.8 | -27.3 |
| Manufacturing | 59 | 53 | 48 | 11.3 | 22.9 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 429 | 522 | 437 | -17.8 | -1.8 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 34 | 46 | 35 | -26.1 | -2.9 |
| Transportation | 22 | 31 | 25 | -29.0 | -12.0 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 12 | 15 | 10 | -20.0 | 20.0 |
| Trade | 133 | 152 | 142 | -12.5 | -6.3 |
| Wholesale Trade | 23 | 23 | 31 | 0.0 | -25.8 |
| Retail Trade | 110 | 129 | 111 | -14.7 | -0.9 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 17 | 17 | 12 | 0.0 | 41.7 |
| Services | 170 | 239 | 179 | -28.9 | -5.0 |
| Personal & Business Services | 48 | 77 | 48 | -37.7 | 0.0 |
| Health Services | 24 | 29 | 20 | -17.2 | 20.0 |
| Government | 75 | 68 | 69 | 10.3 | 8.7 |
| Local Government | 39 | 41 | 30 | -4.9 | 30.0 |
| Local Education | 10 | 17 | 19 | -41.2 | -47.4 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 115 | 116 | 89 | -0.9 | 29.2 |

| LARAMIE COUNTY | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 124 | 125 | 96 | -0.8 | 29.2 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 29 | 20 | 21 | 45.0 | 38.1 |
| Mining | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 18 | 13 | 18 | 38.5 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing | 11 | 6 | 3 | 83.3 | 266.7 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 82 | 86 | 63 | -4.7 | 30.2 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 14 | 13 | 7 | 7.7 | 100.0 |
| Transportation | 10 | 12 | 4 | -16.7 | 150.0 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 4 | 1 | 3 | 300.0 | 33.3 |
| Trade | 20 | 18 | 17 | 11.1 | 17.6 |
| Wholesale Trade | 5 | 3 | 0 | 66.7 | 0.0 |
| Retail Trade | 15 | 15 | 17 | 0.0 | -11.8 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 5 | 6 | 3 | -16.7 | 66.7 |
| Services | 31 | 40 | 23 | -22.5 | 34.8 |
| Personal & Business Services | 13 | 16 | 5 | -18.8 | 160.0 |
| Health Services | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0.0 | -50.0 |
| Government | 12 | 9 | 13 | 33.3 | -7.7 |
| Local Government | 2 | 4 | 3 | -50.0 | -33.3 |
| Local Education | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 13 | 19 | 12 | -31.6 | 8.3 |

| NATRONA COUNTY | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 111 | 124 | 139 | -10.5 | -20.1 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 33 | 50 | 53 | -34 | -37.7 |
| Mining | 7 | 13 | 15 | -46.2 | -53.3 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 5 | 12 | 10 | -58.3 | -50 |
| Construction | 16 | 23 | 35 | -30.4 | -54.3 |
| Manufacturing | 10 | 14 | 3 | -28.6 | 233.3 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 65 | 70 | 79 | -7.1 | -17.7 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 6 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 0 |
| Transportation | 3 | 2 | 3 | 50 | 0 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Trade | 19 | 29 | 28 | -34.5 | -32.1 |
| Wholesale Trade | 3 | 4 | 10 | -25 | -70 |
| Retail Trade | 16 | 25 | 18 | -36 | -11.1 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Services | 30 | 31 | 36 | -3.2 | -16.7 |
| Personal & Business Services | 10 | 10 | 11 | 0 | -9.1 |
| Health Services | 5 | 6 | 6 | -16.7 | -16.7 |
| Government | 7 | 5 | 6 | 40 | 16.7 |
| Local Government | 6 | 2 | 2 | 200 | 200 |
| Local Education | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 100 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 13 | 4 | 7 | 225 | 85.7 |

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

“Statewide total weeks claimed were down in August in comparison to both July 2001 (-8.0%) and August 2000 (-4.2%).”

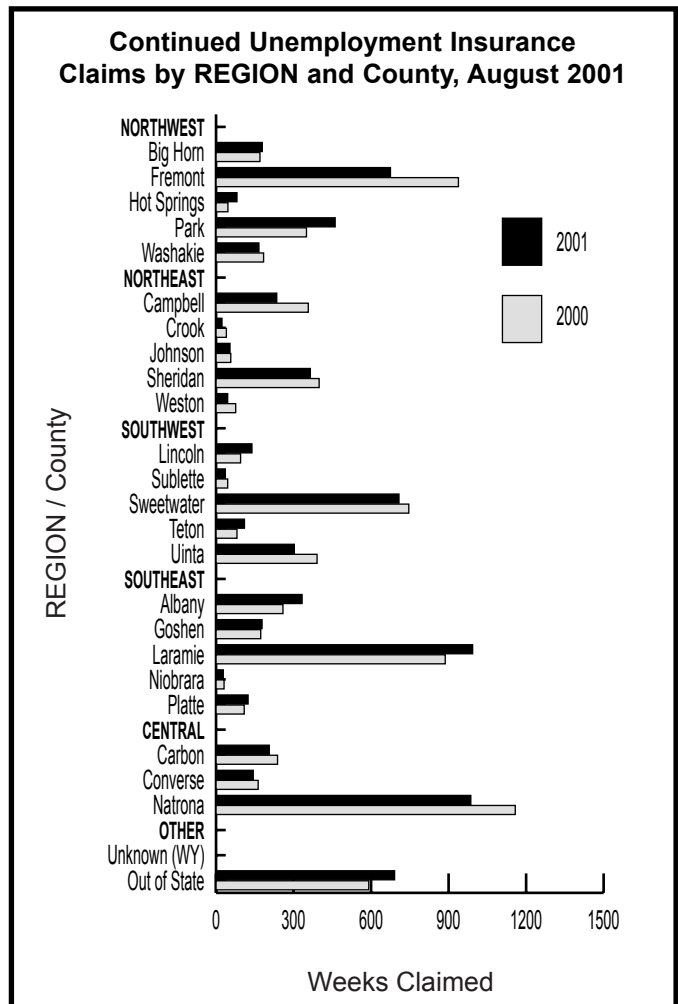
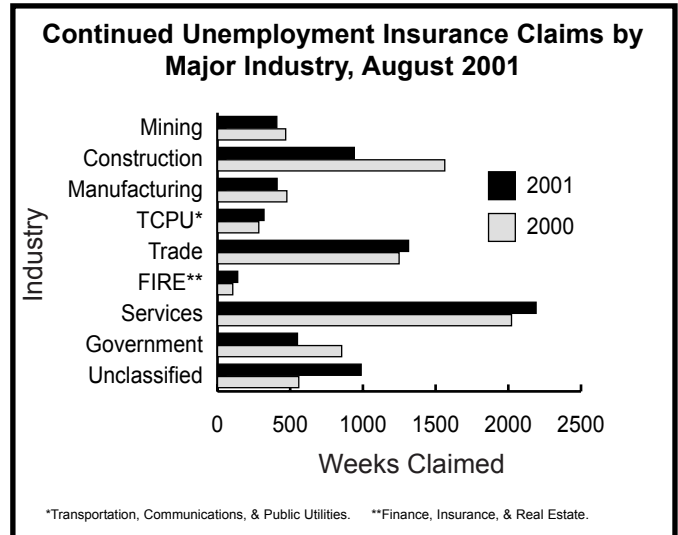
| WYOMING STATEWIDE | Weeks Claimed | | | Percent Change Weeks Claimed | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | Aug 01 | July 01 | Aug 00 | July 01 Aug 01 | Aug 00 Aug 01 |
| | TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 7,261 | 7,891 | 7,582 | -8.0 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 1,952 | 2,506 | 2,106 | -22.1 | -7.3 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 1,759 | 1,991 | 2,509 | -11.7 | -29.9 |
| Mining | 408 | 423 | 469 | -3.5 | -13.0 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 287 | 305 | 337 | -5.9 | -14.8 |
| Construction | 941 | 1,086 | 1,563 | -13.4 | -39.8 |
| Manufacturing | 410 | 482 | 477 | -14.9 | -14.0 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 4,514 | 4,801 | 4,514 | -6.0 | 0.0 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 320 | 385 | 284 | -16.9 | 12.7 |
| Transportation | 213 | 272 | 191 | -21.7 | 11.5 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 107 | 113 | 93 | -5.3 | 15.1 |
| Trade | 1,314 | 1,495 | 1,249 | -12.1 | 5.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 201 | 274 | 276 | -26.6 | -27.2 |
| Retail Trade | 1,113 | 1,221 | 973 | -8.8 | 14.4 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 139 | 148 | 105 | -6.1 | 32.4 |
| Services | 2,191 | 2,263 | 2,022 | -3.2 | 8.4 |
| Personal & Business Services | 598 | 578 | 456 | 3.5 | 31.1 |
| Health Services | 226 | 245 | 201 | -7.8 | 12.4 |
| Government | 550 | 510 | 854 | 7.8 | -35.6 |
| Local Government | 340 | 289 | 448 | 17.6 | -24.1 |
| Local Education | 163 | 174 | 296 | -6.3 | -44.9 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 988 | 1,099 | 559 | -10.1 | 76.7 |

LARAMIE COUNTY

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 993 | 1,112 | 887 | -10.7 | 12.0 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 273 | 356 | 245 | -23.3 | 11.4 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 175 | 235 | 191 | -25.5 | -8.4 |
| Mining | 2 | 6 | 0 | -66.7 | 0.0 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 107 | 140 | 158 | -23.6 | -32.3 |
| Manufacturing | 66 | 89 | 33 | -25.8 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 732 | 797 | 621 | -8.2 | 17.9 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 109 | 156 | 72 | -30.1 | 51.4 |
| Transportation | 75 | 89 | 48 | -15.7 | 56.3 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 34 | 67 | 24 | -49.3 | 41.7 |
| Trade | 176 | 213 | 185 | -17.4 | -4.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 24 | 41 | 28 | -41.5 | -14.3 |
| Retail Trade | 152 | 172 | 157 | -11.6 | -3.2 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 44 | 44 | 20 | 0.0 | 120.0 |
| Services | 318 | 323 | 232 | -1.5 | 37.1 |
| Personal & Business Services | 103 | 105 | 52 | -1.9 | 98.1 |
| Health Services | 34 | 30 | 20 | 13.3 | 70.0 |
| Government | 85 | 61 | 112 | 39.3 | -24.1 |
| Local Government | 49 | 38 | 37 | 28.9 | 32.4 |
| Local Education | 28 | 23 | 29 | 21.7 | -3.4 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 86 | 80 | 75 | 7.5 | 14.7 |

NATRONA COUNTY

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 985 | 1,032 | 1,159 | -4.6 | -15.0 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 259 | 337 | 325 | -23.1 | -20.3 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 228 | 261 | 353 | -12.6 | -35.4 |
| Mining | 49 | 61 | 69 | -19.7 | -29.0 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 44 | 61 | 57 | -27.9 | -22.8 |
| Construction | 129 | 144 | 212 | -10.4 | -39.2 |
| Manufacturing | 50 | 56 | 72 | -10.7 | -30.6 |
| TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING | 690 | 705 | 758 | -2.1 | -9.0 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities | 41 | 36 | 51 | 13.9 | -19.6 |
| Transportation | 31 | 30 | 23 | 3.3 | 34.8 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 10 | 6 | 28 | 66.7 | -64.3 |
| Trade | 203 | 231 | 208 | -12.1 | -2.4 |
| Wholesale Trade | 60 | 73 | 32 | -17.8 | 87.5 |
| Retail Trade | 143 | 158 | 176 | -9.5 | -18.8 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 24 | 29 | 14 | -17.2 | 71.4 |
| Services | 370 | 360 | 369 | 2.8 | 0.3 |
| Personal & Business Services | 78 | 83 | 102 | -6.0 | -23.5 |
| Health Services | 61 | 73 | 64 | -16.4 | -4.7 |
| Government | 52 | 49 | 116 | 6.1 | -55.2 |
| Local Government | 35 | 34 | 55 | 2.9 | -36.4 |
| Local Education | 26 | 26 | 42 | 0.0 | -38.1 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 67 | 66 | 48 | 1.5 | 39.6 |



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