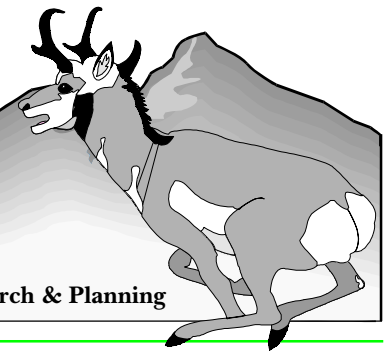


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

Vol. 36 No. 10 © Copyright 1999 by the Wyoming Employment Resources Division, Research & Planning



Employee Benefits Survey: A Pilot Study for Wyoming

by: Carola Cowan, Senior Statistician

"... 60.5 percent of companies offered health insurance to clerical and technical employees but only 4.0 percent offered child day care to these same employees."

Variations in the benefits that employees receive depend on industry, size of the company and the employee occupational category. Beyond conducting an annual wage survey,¹ Research & Planning has expanded its work to include a pilot study of employee benefits. This information assists employers and employees in determining whether or not they are providing and receiving competitive compensation (wages and benefits). We thank the 930 employers who participated in this survey and helped us make it a success.

Results

Companies most often offered health insurance, life

insurance, a retirement plan, a dental plan and employee discounts (see Table 1). Paid paternity and maternity leave as well as child day care were offered by far fewer companies than the top five benefits. For example, 60.5 percent of companies offered health insurance to clerical and technical employees but only 4.0 percent offered child day care to these same employees.

The analysis of benefits paid by companies in different industries reveals that an employer in either Public Administration or Mining is more likely to provide benefits than an employer in Agriculture or Retail Trade (see Table 2, page 2). For example, 95.8 percent of companies in

Table 1: Percent of Companies Providing Selected Benefits to Their Employees by Employee Occupational Category

Benefit Type	Employee Occupational Category		
	Managerial and Professional	Clerical and Technical	Production, Maintenance and Service
Health Insurance	66.6%	60.5%	57.0%
Dental Plan	44.1%	43.5%	40.9%
Vision Plan	17.4%	16.6%	17.3%
Life Insurance	51.8%	49.1%	46.1%
Retirement Plan	47.7%	47.2%	41.3%
Disability Insurance	28.1%	26.3%	25.5%
Long-Term Disability	16.7%	15.6%	14.6%
Cafeteria Style*	16.6%	16.8%	15.7%
Maternity Leave	7.6%	7.4%	6.3%
Paternity Leave	3.9%	3.1%	3.6%
Wellness Program	14.2%	15.5%	14.7%
Child Care	4.5%	4.0%	4.4%
Educational Assistance	33.0%	33.6%	27.0%
Profit Sharing	18.8%	17.4%	14.3%
Employee Discounts	43.4%	45.3%	41.5%
Free Parking	68.8%	71.5%	66.4%

* Employee selects benefits from several options.

Public Administration and 85.7 percent of companies in Mining offered health insurance

(Continued on page 2)

October 1999 Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

Table of Contents

Employee Benefits Survey: A Pilot Study for Wyoming	1
Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 1999	6
Identifying Wyoming's Oil & Gas Dependent Counties	9
Unemployment Insurance Statistics, Initial and Continued Claims	10
Economic Indicators	12
County Unemployment Rates	13
State Unemployment Rates	14
August News	14
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	15

Table 2: Percent of Companies Providing Selected Benefits by Industry and Employee Occupational Category

Benefit Type by Employee Occupational Category	Industry									Public Administration
	Agriculture	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	TCPU*	Wholesale	Retail	FIRE**	Services	
Managerial and Professional										
Health Insurance	70.0%	75.9%	54.2%	76.6%	85.7%	73.7%	53.4%	59.8%	67.9%	91.8%
Dental Plan	23.8%	52.8%	27.9%	44.7%	54.8%	43.6%	33.7%	42.5%	46.4%	88.7%
Vision Plan	9.5%	29.6%	9.0%	10.6%	40.5%	15.8%	11.5%	19.5%	18.1%	29.0%
Life Insurance	55.0%	64.8%	37.4%	51.1%	66.7%	61.1%	38.0%	54.0%	52.8%	77.4%
Retirement Plan	42.1%	47.2%	37.4%	41.7%	50.0%	48.9%	27.2%	44.2%	55.1%	93.5%
Disability Insurance	10.0%	47.2%	19.5%	24.4%	39.0%	40.0%	21.5%	25.9%	30.6%	17.5%
Long-Term Disability	10.0%	31.4%	8.5%	17.8%	22.0%	23.4%	11.2%	18.1%	17.6%	17.5%
Cafeteria Style***	10.5%	29.6%	5.7%	22.7%	19.5%	19.1%	17.2%	13.8%	15.3%	29.0%
Maternity Leave	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	7.4%	7.5%	8.1%	10.8%	15.0%
Paternity Leave	10.0%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	2.1%	2.8%	2.4%	6.4%	3.6%
Wellness Program	0.0%	16.7%	7.0%	19.5%	19.0%	18.5%	7.4%	9.9%	16.2%	30.0%
Child Care	0.0%	14.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	1.7%	3.7%	7.0%	3.3%
Educational Assistance	26.3%	38.9%	24.1%	25.0%	14.3%	42.1%	18.6%	39.0%	38.6%	50.0%
Profit Sharing	26.3%	26.4%	18.4%	22.7%	14.3%	35.5%	10.7%	27.5%	18.2%	0.0%
Employee Discounts	57.9%	9.3%	32.2%	54.5%	28.6%	57.9%	73.8%	20.7%	41.9%	18.3%
Free Parking	73.7%	52.9%	52.6%	84.1%	59.0%	73.7%	75.7%	63.4%	69.7%	80.3%
Clerical and Technical										
Health Insurance	45.5%	79.5%	54.2%	75.0%	82.0%	74.7%	37.0%	53.3%	61.4%	88.7%
Dental Plan	18.2%	63.6%	27.7%	47.7%	60.0%	47.7%	26.6%	45.5%	44.7%	82.3%
Vision Plan	0.0%	38.6%	6.7%	11.4%	38.0%	17.0%	7.6%	17.0%	17.6%	29.0%
Life Insurance	45.5%	79.5%	34.5%	52.3%	66.0%	59.3%	27.6%	47.2%	51.6%	77.4%
Retirement Plan	45.5%	61.4%	38.7%	47.7%	46.0%	47.1%	24.3%	39.8%	54.1%	91.8%
Disability Insurance	0.0%	59.6%	19.8%	25.0%	29.2%	42.5%	16.6%	24.1%	27.4%	18.8%
Long-Term Disability	0.0%	37.2%	8.6%	18.2%	18.8%	25.9%	7.7%	18.3%	15.7%	17.2%
Cafeteria Style***	20.0%	30.4%	5.8%	26.2%	18.8%	20.9%	13.3%	14.3%	16.6%	28.1%
Maternity Leave	0.0%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	5.7%	5.5%	6.1%	11.1%	14.5%
Paternity Leave	0.0%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	1.7%	2.4%	5.3%	3.4%
Wellness Program	0.0%	22.4%	7.3%	24.4%	16.3%	21.7%	7.7%	9.4%	17.9%	29.0%
Child Care	0.0%	16.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	1.2%	2.3%	7.0%	3.2%
Educational Assistance	18.2%	51.0%	22.8%	29.5%	12.5%	44.2%	17.4%	38.8%	38.4%	57.4%
Profit Sharing	27.3%	26.5%	17.7%	25.0%	12.5%	39.3%	7.6%	20.0%	17.3%	0.0%
Employee Discounts	81.8%	12.2%	34.2%	54.5%	29.2%	61.6%	74.2%	20.0%	45.3%	17.7%
Free Parking	81.8%	66.7%	55.9%	84.1%	58.7%	79.1%	78.3%	67.1%	71.6%	77.4%
Production, Maintenance and Service										
Health Insurance	47.8%	85.7%	44.2%	68.8%	85.5%	72.9%	37.2%	60.9%	53.7%	95.8%
Dental Plan	13.0%	66.7%	23.8%	44.7%	60.0%	47.1%	23.9%	46.8%	43.5%	89.4%
Vision Plan	0.0%	40.5%	10.0%	10.6%	37.0%	11.6%	6.9%	20.8%	20.1%	37.5%
Life Insurance	39.1%	78.6%	28.5%	48.9%	63.0%	61.4%	25.5%	53.2%	47.7%	89.4%
Retirement Plan	28.6%	62.8%	33.8%	41.7%	45.5%	40.6%	22.9%	39.1%	45.1%	95.8%
Disability Insurance	0.0%	53.3%	20.5%	23.4%	41.5%	36.8%	16.2%	25.5%	26.5%	22.9%
Long-Term Disability	0.0%	34.1%	10.2%	14.3%	20.8%	17.9%	7.0%	25.5%	14.9%	22.9%
Cafeteria Style***	9.1%	31.8%	2.3%	17.0%	17.6%	17.4%	17.0%	17.4%	16.7%	22.9%
Maternity Leave	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	9.3%	10.3%	5.3%	4.4%	9.5%	10.9%
Paternity Leave	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	2.9%	2.7%	4.3%	5.9%	0.0%
Wellness Program	0.0%	17.4%	8.2%	17.4%	14.8%	22.1%	5.9%	11.1%	18.3%	37.5%
Child Care	0.0%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	1.8%	4.4%	8.9%	4.2%
Educational Assistance	14.3%	41.3%	21.0%	20.4%	15.1%	40.6%	11.2%	40.0%	30.7%	59.6%
Profit Sharing	28.6%	28.3%	13.3%	16.3%	11.3%	38.6%	9.4%	17.8%	10.0%	0.0%
Employee Discounts	50.0%	11.4%	27.2%	51.1%	22.6%	57.1%	68.9%	17.8%	40.4%	18.8%
Free Parking	70.0%	56.8%	50.8%	75.5%	56.0%	73.9%	73.4%	55.6%	69.2%	74.5%

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate.

*** Employee selects benefits from several options.

benefits to their production, maintenance and service employees. On the other hand, only 37.2 percent of companies in Retail Trade and 47.9 percent of companies in Agriculture offered health insurance benefits to their production, maintenance and service employees.

One way to distinguish between the frequency of benefits offered is by employee occupational category. The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program distinguishes between 750 occupations, which are categorized in the following three broad categories: Managerial and

Professional; Clerical and Technical; and Production, Maintenance and Service. Managerial and professional employees are more likely to receive benefits than clerical and technical or production, maintenance and service

(Continued on page 3)

employees. For example, 51.8 percent of companies offered managerial and professional employees life insurance, but only 49.1 percent of companies offered life insurance to clerical and technical and 46.1 percent to production, maintenance and service employees (see Table 1, page 1). In most cases, the analysis showed that if an employer had employees in all three employee occupational categories, they all received the same benefits. The difference lies mostly in the fact that not all companies had employees in all three categories.

Companies offer more paid leave to their managerial and professional employees than to their clerical and technical or production, maintenance and service employees. The average number of days for paid holidays were 5.5 for managerial and professional, 5.1 for clerical and technical and 4.3 for production, maintenance and service employees (see Table 3). Managerial and professional employees had to be with the company on average 2.5 months to receive this benefit. Clerical and technical employees averaged 2.4 months and production, maintenance and service employees averaged 2.6 months (see Table 4).

A look at benefits and firm size shows a significant correlation between the two. The larger the company, the more likely it offers benefits (see Table 5, page 4). Companies with 100 or more employees all offered health insurance, and all companies with 250 or more employees offered life insurance. By contrast, only 41.8 percent, 33.9 percent and 27.8 percent of companies with "1-4" employees offered health insurance benefits to their managerial and professional, clerical and technical or production, maintenance and service employees, respectively.

At this time, we are unable to publish data about the costs of benefits to employers.² Over half of the employers who returned the survey provided no response or were uncertain about the cost of benefits to their companies. Some confusion may have been due to the way the question was phrased. One explanation is that survey respondents may not have access to the data necessary to answer the question. The person in a company that pays the benefits bills may not be the one writing the pay checks. Neither one may have access to the other's

Table 3: Average Number of Days of Leave Benefits

Number of Days for:	Employee Occupational Category		
	Managerial and Professional	Clerical and Technical	Production, Maintenance and Service
Paid Holidays	5.5	5.1	4.3
Paid Sick Leave	4.8	4.5	3.6
Maternity Leave	54.0	47.7	59.8
Paternity Leave	46.3	29.3	46.4

Table 4: Average Number of Months Before Receiving Benefits

Number of Months Before Receiving:	Employee Occupational Category		
	Managerial and Professional	Clerical and Technical	Production, Maintenance and Service
Holiday Pay	2.5	2.4	2.6
One Week Vacation	9.3	9.6	10.6
Two Weeks Vacation	20.0	21.1	21.5
Three Weeks Vacation	57.7	62.7	60.7
Sick Leave	3.1	3.5	3.6
Other Benefits	3.8	3.2	3.3

records or the income statement of the company, which would also contain this data. More importantly, no person may have been assigned the responsibility to complete survey forms.

Data Collection

A sample of 1,500 companies was selected to receive this survey. The sample was drawn from the Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (QUI) employer database for first quarter 1998. This database contains the data reported by employers on a quarterly basis for unemployment insurance purposes. The QUI for the second quarter 1998 was appended to the first quarter to include those employers who may have had staff in the

first quarter but did not report until the second quarter. Companies that reported zero employees for all three months were deleted. To the remaining database of 16,122 companies, we added the following data fields: Average Employment, Class Size, Industry by Major Division and Region (see Map, page 5). We then selected the minimum number of companies with "1-4" employees so that there was a 95.0 percent confidence that the statewide estimates would be within 5.0 percent of the true value. This corresponded to a sample size of n=385, which was randomly selected from the population of companies with "1-4" employees. A random sample was selected from companies

(Continued on page 5)

Table 5: Percent of Companies Providing Selected Benefits by Number of Employees and Employee Occupational Category

Benefit Type by Employee Occupational Category	Number of Employees								
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+
Managerial and Professional									
Health Insurance	41.8%	56.8%	69.5%	83.6%	87.8%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Dental Plan	19.1%	33.6%	46.4%	52.5%	70.0%	68.8%	93.3%	100.0%	86.7%
Vision Plan	8.8%	5.4%	21.9%	23.6%	22.4%	55.6%	56.8%	36.8%	33.3%
Life Insurance	22.5%	36.5%	58.7%	70.7%	77.6%	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Retirement Plan	30.0%	31.2%	45.3%	68.6%	73.5%	88.9%	95.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Disability Insurance	14.5%	17.8%	32.1%	34.1%	40.0%	44.4%	64.0%	44.4%	66.7%
Long-Term Disability	8.3%	8.7%	15.6%	18.8%	24.5%	55.6%	55.6%	29.4%	42.9%
Cafeteria Style*	3.9%	6.8%	16.1%	22.1%	44.0%	29.4%	60.0%	27.8%	33.3%
Maternity Leave	4.0%	2.9%	3.6%	11.4%	15.2%	16.7%	31.0%	20.0%	21.4%
Paternity Leave	1.7%	2.9%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	11.1%	18.1%	12.5%	15.4%
Wellness Program	6.1%	6.9%	8.5%	12.9%	24.0%	62.5%	54.9%	41.2%	78.6%
Child Care	1.8%	2.2%	3.3%	2.1%	4.0%	0.0%	26.8%	10.5%	21.4%
Educational Assistance	21.0%	31.1%	29.1%	29.3%	41.7%	47.1%	65.3%	55.6%	78.6%
Profit Sharing	14.1%	15.0%	19.6%	29.7%	12.8%	50.0%	28.0%	0.0%	13.3%
Employee Discounts	29.6%	50.7%	49.8%	37.9%	30.0%	50.0%	41.3%	27.8%	42.9%
Free Parking	43.9%	72.7%	75.7%	62.0%	75.0%	100.0%	84.3%	73.7%	86.7%
Clerical and Technical									
Health Insurance	33.9%	47.2%	65.2%	85.5%	86.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Dental Plan	18.9%	31.8%	46.1%	56.6%	71.1%	68.8%	93.2%	100.0%	86.7%
Vision Plan	6.8%	5.6%	22.1%	22.6%	22.2%	50.0%	55.4%	36.8%	33.3%
Life Insurance	22.1%	31.5%	56.4%	72.4%	75.0%	88.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Retirement Plan	27.7%	29.9%	45.3%	74.0%	75.0%	88.2%	95.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Disability Insurance	14.0%	14.3%	29.7%	38.8%	41.7%	41.2%	63.5%	47.1%	66.7%
Long-Term Disability	10.8%	6.1%	13.7%	21.7%	25.5%	50.0%	50.7%	33.3%	42.9%
Cafeteria Style*	7.1%	6.8%	15.8%	23.1%	41.7%	20.0%	58.9%	29.4%	33.3%
Maternity Leave	4.3%	2.9%	2.9%	10.7%	15.9%	11.8%	31.9%	23.1%	21.4%
Paternity Leave	1.1%	2.2%	1.5%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	18.6%	14.3%	15.4%
Wellness Program	7.5%	7.4%	9.8%	16.3%	20.8%	66.7%	55.7%	41.2%	78.6%
Child Care	1.2%	1.4%	2.6%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	26.8%	10.5%	23.1%
Educational Assistance	19.6%	30.3%	31.3%	35.0%	41.7%	40.0%	67.1%	55.6%	84.6%
Profit Sharing	14.0%	11.7%	20.9%	30.6%	12.8%	46.7%	25.0%	0.0%	15.4%
Employee Discounts	40.3%	52.8%	49.2%	34.9%	27.1%	46.7%	42.5%	27.8%	50.0%
Free Parking	61.7%	73.5%	74.1%	60.7%	75.0%	100.0%	85.1%	73.7%	86.7%
Production, Maintenance and Service									
Health Insurance	27.8%	42.5%	61.5%	77.2%	79.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Dental Plan	15.2%	29.1%	42.5%	47.0%	61.3%	72.2%	91.8%	100.0%	84.6%
Vision Plan	5.3%	6.1%	20.7%	20.9%	24.4%	44.4%	57.5%	41.2%	38.5%
Life Insurance	20.5%	28.4%	49.2%	61.4%	75.0%	83.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Retirement Plan	17.3%	24.6%	36.3%	59.1%	73.2%	88.9%	95.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Disability Insurance	13.7%	14.9%	25.3%	35.0%	34.9%	36.8%	57.5%	53.3%	76.9%
Long-Term Disability	9.0%	4.6%	15.4%	16.4%	19.5%	44.4%	45.7%	38.5%	23.1%
Cafeteria Style*	4.2%	4.9%	15.7%	23.1%	34.9%	18.8%	58.9%	20.0%	23.1%
Maternity Leave	1.4%	3.0%	2.8%	6.1%	12.8%	16.7%	30.0%	25.0%	15.4%
Paternity Leave	0.0%	3.1%	1.7%	2.7%	0.0%	11.1%	15.7%	16.7%	15.4%
Wellness Program	1.5%	5.9%	10.6%	15.7%	23.3%	62.5%	52.9%	33.3%	76.9%
Child Care	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	11.8%	16.7%
Educational Assistance	9.9%	24.5%	21.3%	24.8%	40.5%	37.5%	60.3%	50.0%	83.3%
Profit Sharing	8.4%	8.9%	19.2%	22.2%	7.3%	50.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Employee Discounts	23.7%	49.1%	48.0%	37.8%	26.2%	50.0%	42.5%	29.4%	45.5%
Free Parking	44.5%	69.1%	69.4%	60.9%	71.4%	100.0%	85.1%	70.6%	84.6%

* Employee selects benefits from several options.

Map: The Five ES-202 (Covered Employment and Wages) Regions of Wyoming

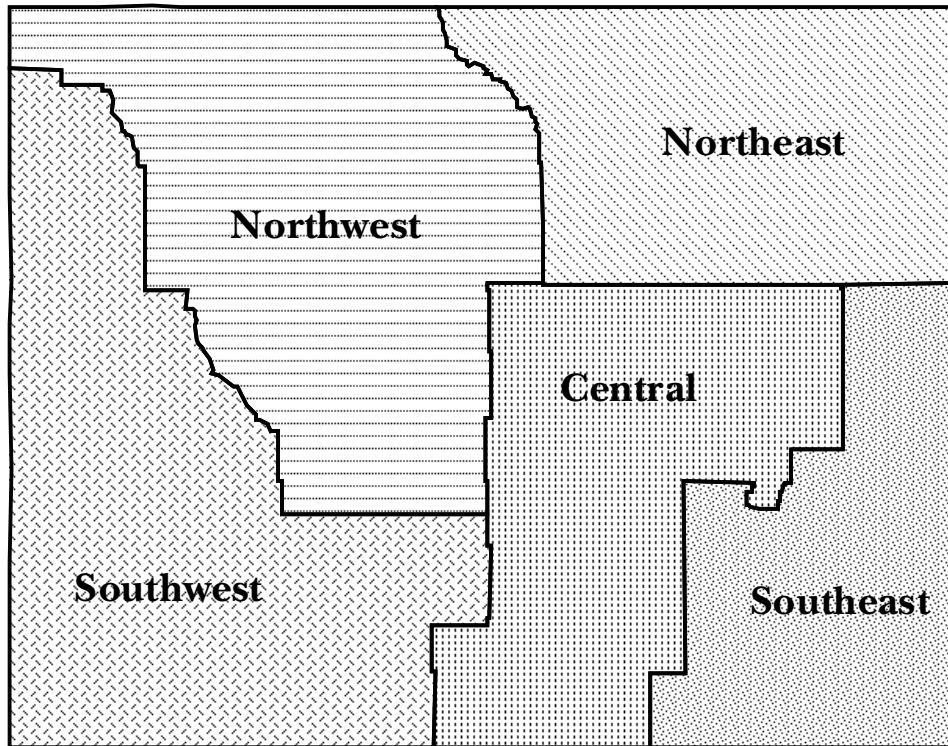


Table 6: Class Size of Employers

Class Size	Number of Employees
1	1-4
2	5-9
3	10-19
4	20-49
5	50-99
6	100-249
7	250-499
8	500-999
9	+1,000

with five to 249 employees and the companies were stratified by Region, Class Size (see Table 6) and Industry. The sample size was n=992. Lastly, 100.0 percent of companies with 250 or more employees were taken because of the small number of companies falling into this category. That sample size was n=123.

Overall, 62.0 percent of the companies surveyed responded. In the analysis, we weighted the replies by the response rate to account for non-respondents. We also eliminated missing values, since many employers left answers blank because they did not have employees in that employee category. This is a problem that often occurs in less populated states with a lot of small companies such as Wyoming.

We are currently working on a parallel track with Nebraska and South Dakota, as they develop their own benefits surveys. The three states communicate on this subject to make

their efforts more efficient and productive by learning from each other's mistakes and successes.

Conclusion

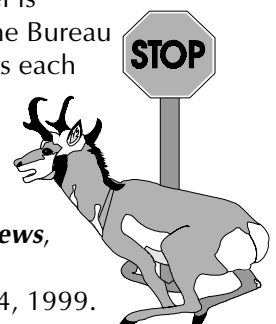
We determined that companies are more likely to provide benefits to managerial and professional employees than to clerical and technical or production, maintenance and service employees. Production, maintenance and service employees are the least likely to receive benefits. The larger the company, the more benefits it offers. There is a relationship between benefits and industries. A higher percentage of companies in Public Administration and Mining offer benefits than other industries. The exceptions include companies which offer profit sharing and employee discounts depending on the nature of the business. Agriculture offers by far the fewest benefits followed by Retail Trade and Construction.

Overall, this pilot survey was a success and we plan to continue this survey in the future, after some revisions. Research & Planning also plans to continue coordinating our efforts with neighboring states, such as South Dakota and Nebraska, since they are currently working on their own benefits surveys.

These data are also available in more detail in Research & Planning's publication, **Wyoming Benefits Survey**. To receive a copy, please call (307) 473-3804 or e-mail me at: ccowan@missc.state.wy.us. This publication is also available on the Internet at: <http://lmi.state.wy.us/benefits/toc.htm>.

1 Deana Hauf, **Wyoming Wage Survey**, January 1999.

2 Detailed information on the cost of benefits to employers on the national level is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics each year. See "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation - March 1999," **News**, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 24, 1999.



Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 1999

Source: ES-202 Report Run Date: August 1999 Prepared: 09/20/99 by Nancy Brennan Text by: David Bullard

"[Natrona County's average weekly wage fell as a] result of high-paying oil & gas jobs being replaced by lower-paying jobs in the Services industry."

Covered employment increased by 3,822 jobs or 1.8 percent over the year in the first quarter of this year. During the same period, total payroll increased 4.0 percent and the average weekly wage (AWW) increased by \$10 or 2.1 percent. Table 1 shows monthly employment by industry for first quarter. The March total employment of 216,198 is 2.5 percent higher than March 1998 employment of 210,851.

As seen in Table 2 (see page 7), employment increased in nine of the twelve industries. The three industries with employment declines were Mining, Wholesale Trade and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE). Employment declined in FIRE because of a "non-economic code change." A firm

which previously was included in FIRE was reclassified into the Services industry.¹

Construction and Services were the industries with the largest job gains. Construction added 1,228 jobs in the first quarter for 9.3 percent growth over the year. Services employment increased by 2,895 jobs or 6.6 percent. As indicated in the previous paragraph, some of the increase in Services employment is the result of movement of jobs from FIRE to Services. Unexpectedly large job losses were seen in Mining, which fell by 1,880 jobs or 11.0 percent (see related article on page 9). Most of the decrease was in the oil & gas extraction industry (SIC 13).²

Table 2 (see page 7) shows that the Average Weekly Wage

Table 1: Wyoming Monthly Employment for First Quarter 1999 by Industry

	1999 Monthly Employment		
	January	February	March
Total	212,813	212,989	216,198
Total Private	159,084	158,834	161,088
Agriculture	2,568	2,616	2,881
Mining	15,585	15,188	14,963
Construction	14,013	14,194	14,896
Manufacturing	10,837	10,704	10,652
TCPU*	11,098	11,056	11,184
Wholesale Trade	7,529	7,504	7,595
Retail Trade	43,051	42,659	43,292
FIRE**	7,902	7,892	7,929
Services	46,501	47,021	47,696
Total Government	53,729	54,155	55,110
State Government	11,384	11,440	11,669
Local Government	35,679	36,132	36,796
Federal Government	6,666	6,583	6,645

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

(AWW) increased in all industries except Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU) and Federal Government. Wages in TCPU fell by 1.7 percent to \$627,

(Continued on page 7)

Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Beth Nelson, Acting Director.

Research & Planning Section, P.O. Box 2760 Casper, WY 82602-2760

Tom Gallagher, Manager

e-mail: tgalla@missc.state.wy.us

307-473-3801

Valerie A. Davis, **Trends** Acting Editor

e-mail: vdavis@missc.state.wy.us

307-473-3838

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: Carola Cowan, Valerie A. Davis (maps), Nancy Brennan, David Bullard, Krista R. Shinkle and Gregg Detweiler.

Subscriptions, additional copies and back issues available free of charge.

© Copyright 1999 by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning

Material contained in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission provided that source credit is given to: **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, Wyoming Department of Employment, Employment Resources Division, Research & Planning Section.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Department of Employment does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability. It is our intention that all individuals seeking services from our agency be given equal opportunity and that eligibility decisions be based upon applicable statutes, rules and regulations.

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for First Quarter 1999 by Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	First Quarter		Change		First Quarter		Change		First Quarter		Change	
	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	No.	Percent
Total	214,000	210,178	3,822	1.8%	\$1,303,482,787	\$1,253,418,538	50,064,249	4.0%	\$469	\$459	10	2.1%
Total Private	159,669	156,614	3,054	2.0%	\$957,669,825	\$919,559,804	38,110,021	4.1%	\$461	\$452	10	2.2%
Agriculture	2,688	2,567	122	4.7%	11,433,489	10,261,454	1,172,035	11.4%	327	308	20	6.4%
Mining	15,245	17,126	-1880	-11.0%	186,727,098	199,501,939	-12,774,841	-6.4%	942	896	46	5.1%
Construction	14,368	13,139	1,228	9.3%	92,791,387	80,170,457	12,620,930	15.7%	497	469	27	5.8%
Manufacturing	10,731	10,554	177	1.7%	83,289,682	81,746,044	1,543,638	1.9%	597	596	1	0.2%
TCPU*	11,113	10,807	306	2.8%	90,630,681	89,686,042	944,639	1.1%	627	638	-11	-1.7%
Wholesale Trade	7,543	7,684	-141	-1.8%	56,893,429	56,711,630	181,799	0.3%	580	568	12	2.2%
Retail Trade	43,001	42,269	732	1.7%	146,994,265	137,750,134	9,244,131	6.7%	263	251	12	4.9%
FIRE**	7,908	8,292	-384	-4.6%	63,516,738	60,121,500	3,395,238	5.6%	618	558	60	10.8%
Services	47,073	44,178	2,895	6.6%	225,393,056	203,610,604	21,782,452	10.7%	368	355	14	3.9%
Total Government	54,331	53,563	768	1.4%	\$345,812,962	\$333,858,734	11,954,228	3.6%	\$490	\$479	10	2.1%
State Government	11,498	11,480	18	0.2%	81,537,812	77,843,111	3,694,701	4.7%	546	522	24	4.6%
Local Government	36,202	35,483	719	2.0%	204,316,089	195,379,821	8,936,268	4.6%	434	424	11	2.5%
Federal Government	6,631	6,601	31	0.5%	59,959,061	60,635,802	-676,741	-1.1%	696	707	-11	-1.6%

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for First Quarter 1999 by Region and County

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	First Quarter		Change		First Quarter		Change		First Quarter		Change	
	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	No.	Percent
Total	214,000	210,178	3,822	1.8%	\$1,303,482,787	\$1,253,418,538	\$50,064,249	4.0%	\$469	\$459	\$10	2.1%
Northwest	33,004	32,450	554	1.7%	\$183,104,801	\$170,696,240	\$12,408,561	7.3%	\$427	\$405	\$22	5.5%
Big Horn	3,663	3,882	-219	-5.7%	19,810,191	21,898,746	-2,088,555	-9.5%	416	434	-18	-4.1%
Fremont	13,248	12,682	565	4.5%	75,202,271	64,390,631	10,811,640	16.8%	437	391	46	11.8%
Hot Springs	1,848	1,860	-12	-0.7%	8,333,803	8,188,288	145,515	1.8%	347	339	8	2.5%
Park	10,558	10,283	275	2.7%	59,462,809	54,813,622	4,649,187	8.5%	433	410	23	5.7%
Washakie	3,688	3,742	-54	-1.5%	20,295,727	21,404,953	-1,109,226	-5.2%	423	440	-17	-3.8%
Northeast	32,392	32,170	222	0.7%	\$212,226,805	\$203,013,701	\$9,213,104	4.5%	\$504	\$485	\$19	3.8%
Campbell	16,235	16,202	33	0.2%	127,481,275	121,902,814	5,578,461	4.6%	604	579	25	4.4%
Crook	1,711	1,646	65	3.9%	9,209,529	8,361,055	848,474	10.1%	414	391	23	6.0%
Johnson	2,360	2,281	79	3.5%	11,166,487	10,582,958	583,529	5.5%	364	357	7	2.0%
Sheridan	9,985	9,962	24	0.2%	52,652,019	51,691,690	960,329	1.9%	406	399	6	1.6%
Weston	2,102	2,079	22	1.1%	11,717,495	10,475,184	1,242,311	11.9%	429	388	41	10.7%
Southwest	46,234	45,914	320	0.7%	\$311,366,535	\$304,924,752	\$6,441,783	2.1%	\$518	\$511	\$7	1.4%
Lincoln	4,542	4,494	48	1.1%	27,401,581	26,675,357	726,224	2.7%	464	457	7	1.6%
Sublette	1,889	1,829	60	3.3%	10,455,662	10,016,977	438,685	4.4%	426	421	4	1.1%
Sweetwater	18,610	18,899	-289	-1.5%	146,629,538	149,751,310	-3,121,772	-2.1%	606	610	-3	-0.6%
Teton	13,638	12,873	766	5.9%	82,565,651	72,334,194	10,231,457	14.1%	466	432	33	7.7%
Uinta	7,555	7,820	-265	-3.4%	44,314,103	46,146,914	-1,832,811	-4.0%	451	454	-3	-0.6%
Southeast	55,879	54,493	1,386	2.5%	\$313,027,070	\$298,289,297	\$14,737,773	4.9%	\$431	\$421	\$10	2.3%
Albany	13,873	13,173	700	5.3%	72,232,760	67,344,665	4,888,095	7.3%	401	393	7	1.8%
Goshen	3,873	3,850	22	0.6%	17,612,936	17,083,000	529,936	3.1%	350	341	9	2.5%
Laramie	34,264	33,557	707	2.1%	202,966,939	193,969,467	8,997,472	4.6%	456	445	11	2.5%
Niobrara	781	749	32	4.2%	3,459,965	3,357,653	102,312	3.0%	341	345	-4	-1.1%
Platte	3,088	3,163	-74	-2.4%	16,754,470	16,534,512	219,958	1.3%	417	402	15	3.8%
Central	40,160	38,827	1,333	3.4%	\$239,892,729	\$234,402,164	\$5,490,565	2.3%	\$459	\$464	-\$5	-1.1%
Carbon	5,980	5,865	115	2.0%	33,299,109	32,818,543	480,566	1.5%	428	430	-2	-0.5%
Converse	4,213	4,038	175	4.3%	26,443,344	24,361,764	2,081,580	8.5%	483	464	19	4.0%
Natrona	29,967	28,924	1044	3.6%	180,150,276	177,221,857	2,928,419	1.7%	462	471	-9	-1.9%
Nonclassified	6,331	6,324	7	0.1%	\$43,864,847	\$42,092,384	\$1,772,463	4.2%	\$533	\$512	\$21	4.1%

while wages in Federal Government decreased by 1.6 percent to \$696. However, wages in these two industries remain well above the statewide AWW of \$469.

in Teton County grew at 5.9 percent, the fastest of all counties. After Construction, the largest number of new jobs in Teton County were in hotels & other lodging places (SIC 70) and amusement & recreation services (SIC 79), suggesting

continued growth in the tourist industry.

Albany County's employment grew by 700 jobs or 5.3 percent.

Table 3 shows that employment

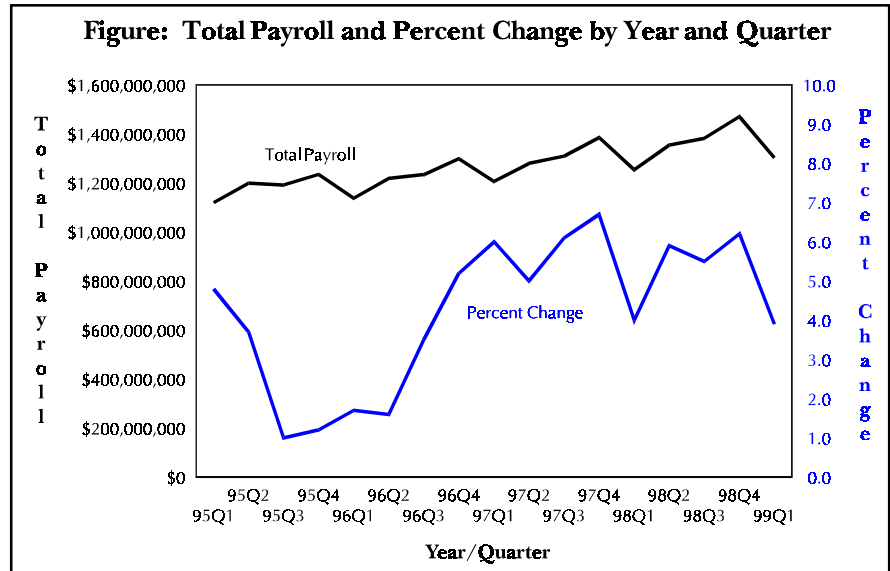
(Continued on page 8)

The majority of new jobs were in the business services industry (SIC 73), which includes telemarketing firms, temporary staffing services and computer related services. Fremont County experienced 4.5 percent growth in first quarter, adding 565 jobs. Following the statewide pattern of growth, most of the jobs created in Fremont County were in the Construction industry.

Despite job losses in oil & gas, Natrona County's employment rose by 1,044 jobs (3.6%) in first quarter. However, its AWW fell by \$9 or 1.9 percent. The drop in AWW is the result of high-paying oil & gas jobs being replaced by lower paying jobs in the Services industry.

In spite of strong growth statewide, six Wyoming counties lost jobs in the first quarter. Three of these counties-- Big Horn, Hot Springs and Washakie-- were in the Northwest Region. Two were in the Southwest Region-- Sweetwater and Uinta Counties. Platte County was in the Southeast Region. With the exceptions of Platte and Hot Springs Counties, it appears that decreases in Mining employment were responsible for the job losses in these counties.

AWW jumped 11.8 percent in Fremont County, but reviewing the firm-specific data reveals that the major part of the increase in payroll was due to a small number of large bonuses. Weston County's AWW increased 10.7 percent or \$41 during the quarter. It appears that this increase is associated



with short-term projects in the Mining industry.

The Figure illustrates total payroll and percent change from first quarter 1995 to first quarter 1999. Total payroll grew at a slower pace this quarter than in the previous three quarters, but remained well above the slow growth experienced from third quarter 1995 to second quarter 1996.³

1 Each year during the refiling survey, approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted to confirm that they have been assigned the correct Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. If it is found that an

employer has changed primary business activity, a new SIC code is assigned to reflect that change.

2 The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code system is a method of classifying firms into industries based on their output. For a complete list of SIC codes and descriptions, see the **1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual**, Office of Management and Budget.

3 For a discussion of the slow growth during 1995 and 1996, see David Bullard, "Total Payroll as a Tool for Identifying Business Cycles in Wyoming," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, May 1999, pp. 6-7.



The large decline in Mining employment during first quarter came as a surprise to many analysts. For example, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates for March 1999 (published in the May 1999 issue of **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**) show Mining employment down by 600 jobs or -3.6 percent, far short of the 1,880 job decline shown in Table 2 (see page 7). This large decline in employment was unexpected because UI claims from the Mining industry and monthly reports from employers included in the CES sample suggested much smaller job losses. After reviewing the Mining employment data produced by the Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202) program, analysts were able to confirm the large job losses by using wage records to track individual employees. This involved the detailed matching of individual wage records by employer account for first quarter 1998 and first quarter 1999.

Identifying Wyoming's Oil & Gas Dependent Counties

by: David Bullard, Economist

"Firms whose primary activity is operating oil & gas wells, exploring for oil & gas, or providing oil & gas field services are included in SIC 13, Mining - oil & gas extraction."

The worldwide decline in oil prices has been in the news frequently during the past year. While some have suggested that this implies economic decline for Wyoming, as a state dependent on extractive industries, the effect will be felt differently in different areas of the state. Which of Wyoming's counties are most dependent on oil & gas related employment? This analysis uses Covered Employment and Wages program data (also known as ES-202) which comes from reports that employers file when they pay unemployment insurance.

Oil & gas field operations support employment in many industries. Firms whose primary activity is operating oil & gas wells, exploring for oil & gas, or providing oil & gas field services are included in SIC 13, Mining - oil & gas extraction. But many employers in other industries such as Wholesale Trade and Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU) depend on business from oil & gas service companies. This article only looks at SIC 13, where firms whose primary business is oil & gas are

Map: Counties in Wyoming by Dependency on Oil & Gas Employment

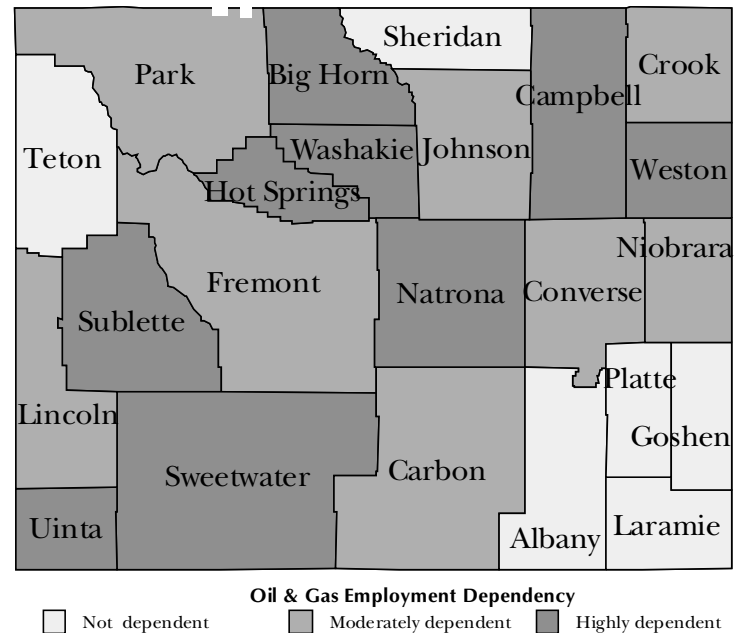


Table: Counties in Wyoming Ranked by Dependence on Oil & Gas Extraction Employment

County	Region	1997 Annual Average Employment SIC 13 (Mining - Oil & Gas Extraction)	1997 Annual Average Total Covered Employment	Oil & Gas Employment Dependence Factor
Sublette	Southwest	310	2,042	15.2%
Big Horn*	Northwest	350	3,812	9.2%
Uinta	Southwest	694	7,996	8.7%
Weston	Northeast	179	2,123	8.4%
Washakie	Northwest	300	3,724	8.1%
Campbell	Northeast	1,094	16,353	6.7%
Natrona	Central	1,867	29,472	6.3%
Sweetwater	Southwest	1,105	19,040	5.8%
Hot Springs	Northwest	106	1,975	5.4%
Park	Northwest	492	11,501	4.3%
Lincoln	Southwest	203	4,802	4.2%
State of Wyoming		8,413	217,060	3.9%
Converse	Central	155	4,238	3.7%
Fremont	Northwest	346	13,200	2.6%
Niobrara	Southeast	20	788	2.5%
Johnson	Northeast	44	2,513	1.8%
Carbon	Central	97	6,348	1.5%
Crook	Northeast	23	1,883	1.2%
Sheridan*	Northeast	29	10,363	0.3%
Laramie	Southeast	26	34,138	0.1%
Albany	Southeast	9	13,565	0.1%
Teton*	Southwest	0	14,095	0.0%
Platte*	Southeast	0	3,184	0.0%
Goshen*	Southeast	0	4,010	0.0%

* Employment in these counties in SIC 13 is estimated. See article for full explanation.

included.

The Table ranks the counties by their dependence on oil & gas employment. The column titled "Oil & Gas Extraction Employment" is the covered employment in SIC 13 in that county. The next column is the total covered employment. Finally, the last column is the percentage of employment within SIC 13. In five counties, employment in SIC 13 is non-disclosable because of confidentiality restrictions on the release of data where there are fewer than three employers or where one employer accounts for 80 percent of the employment within that industry. In one of these cases, Big Horn County, Mining employment less SIC 14 was used. In Sheridan

County, all of Mining employment was used. This may overstate the oil & gas employment in these two counties. In three other cases (Teton, Platte and Goshen Counties) the Mining industry employment was non-disclosable, so SIC 13 employment was estimated to be zero, possibly understating oil & gas employment.

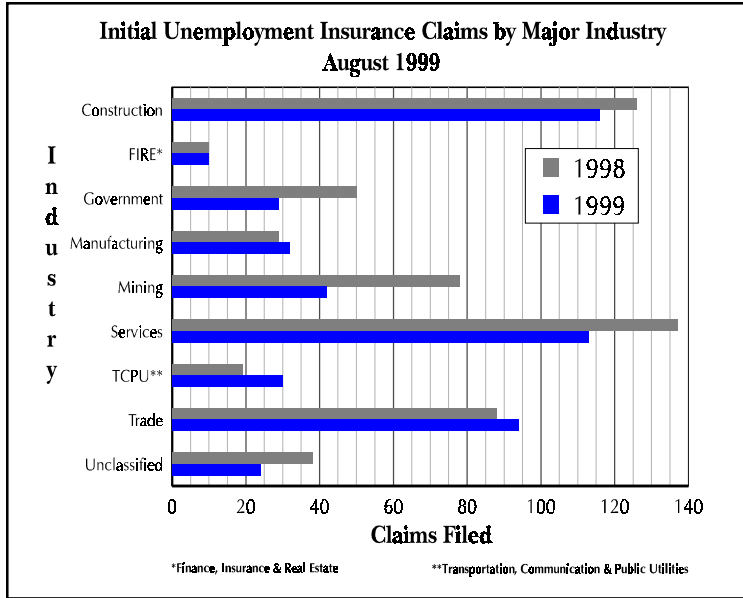
The Map shows which counties are "Highly dependent" (>5.0%), "Moderately dependent" (>1.0%) and "Not dependent" (<1.0%) on oil & gas employment. All but one of the counties in the Southeast Region are not

(Continued on page 14)

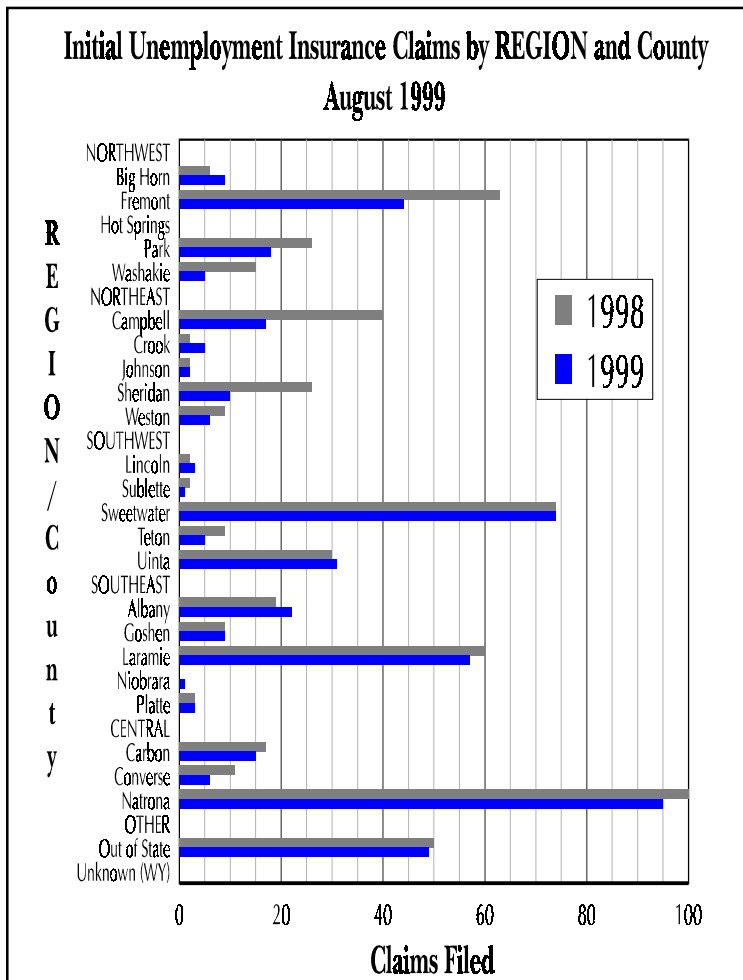
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Statewide initial Unemployment Insurance claims fell 14.8 percent from August 1998 to August 1999."



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	AUG99	JUL99	AUG98	AUG99	AUG98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	490	608	575	-19.4	-14.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	190	275	233	-30.9	-18.5
Manufacturing	32	47	29	-31.9	10.3
Mining	42	39	78	7.7	-46.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	38	35	55	8.6	-30.9
Construction	116	189	126	-38.6	-7.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	276	301	304	-8.3	-9.2
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	30	22	19	36.4	57.9
Transportation	15	17	11	-11.8	36.4
Communications & Public Utilities	15	4	9	275.0	66.7
Trade	94	101	88	-6.9	6.8
Wholesale Trade	15	27	18	-44.4	-16.7
Retail Trade	79	74	69	6.8	14.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Services	113	117	137	-3.4	-17.5
Personal & Business Services	39	32	41	21.9	-4.9
Health Services	19	10	29	90.0	-34.5
Government	29	51	50	-43.1	-42.0
Local Government	15	30	25	-50.0	-40.0
Local Education	4	13	15	-69.2	-73.3
UNCLASSIFIED	24	32	38	-25.0	-36.8



	AUG99	JUL99	AUG98	PERCENT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	57	75	59	-24.0	-3.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	14	28	19	-50.0	-26.3
Manufacturing	3	5	4	-40.0	-25.0
Mining	0	0	1	N/A	-100.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	1	N/A	-100.0
Construction	11	23	14	-52.2	-21.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	41	43	35	-4.7	17.1
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	3	0	3	N/A	0.0
Transportation	2	0	2	N/A	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	1	0	1	N/A	0.0
Trade	14	17	10	-17.6	40.0
Wholesale Trade	1	6	2	-83.3	-50.0
Retail Trade	13	11	8	18.2	62.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
Services	15	14	12	7.1	25.0
Personal & Business Services	5	3	5	66.7	0.0
Health Services	3	0	4	N/A	-25.0
Government	8	11	9	-27.3	-11.1
Local Government	2	3	2	-33.3	0.0
Local Education	1	1	2	0.0	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	2	4	5	-50.0	-60.0

	AUG99	JUL99	AUG98	PERCENT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	95	92	100	3.3	-5.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	29	46	27	-37.0	7.4
Manufacturing	6	18	2	-66.7	200.0
Mining	8	3	14	166.7	-42.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	8	2	10	300.0	-20.0
Construction	15	25	11	-40.0	36.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	65	43	65	51.2	0.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	10	1	2	900.0	400.0
Transportation	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	9	0	1	N/A	800.0
Trade	28	18	21	55.6	33.3
Wholesale Trade	9	5	5	80.0	80.0
Retail Trade	19	13	15	46.2	26.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1	1	4	0.0	-75.0
Services	24	21	29	14.3	-17.2
Personal & Business Services	11	9	11	22.2	0.0
Health Services	5	1	9	400.0	-44.4
Government	2	2	9	0.0	-77.8
Local Government	2	0	5	N/A	-60.0
Local Education	0	0	3	N/A	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	1	3	8	-66.7	-87.5

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Statewide continued Unemployment Insurance claims have stabilized, falling only 4.5 percent over the year."

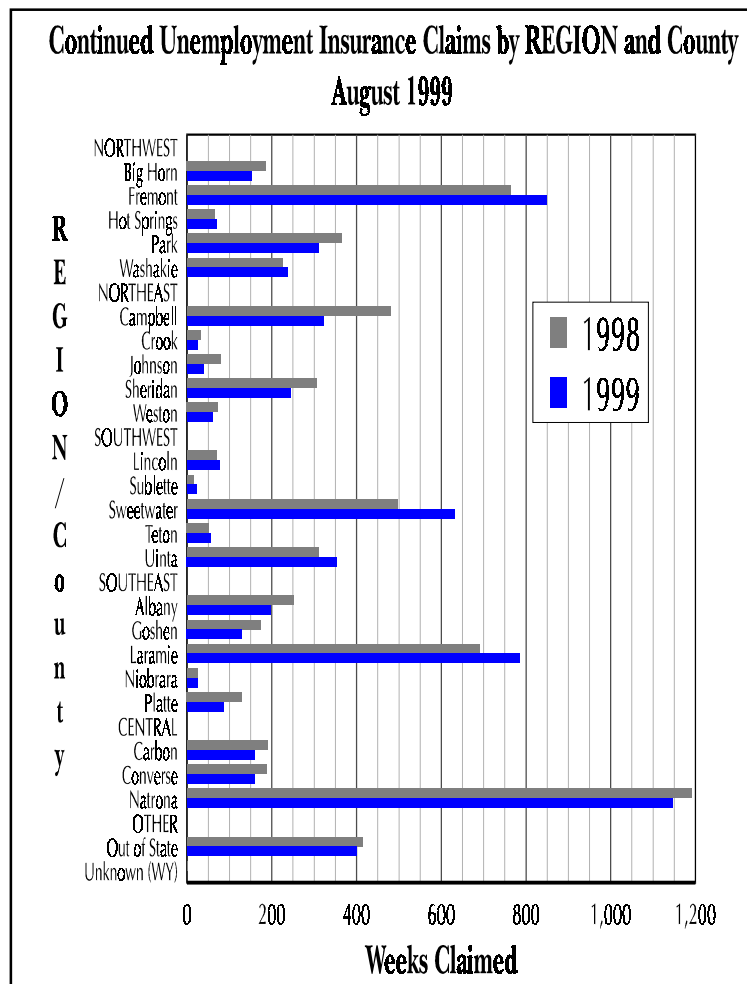
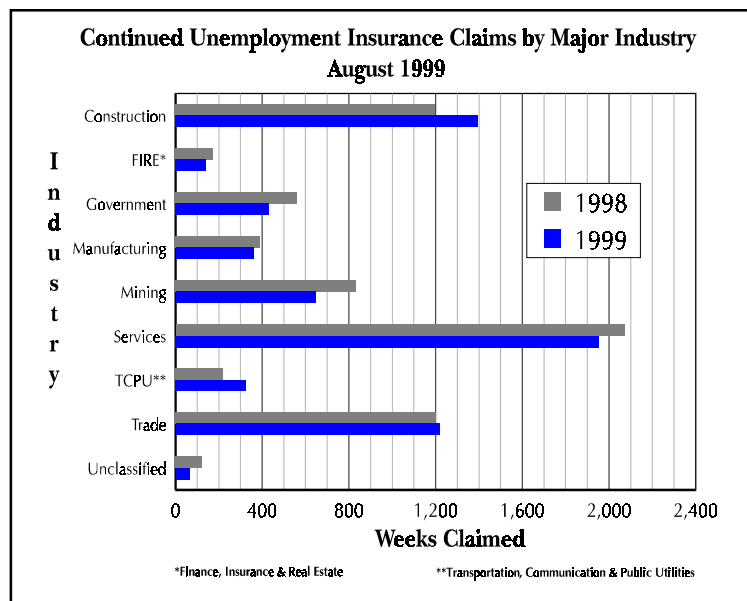
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	AUG99	JUL99	AUG98	AUG99	AUG98
	WYOMING STATEWIDE				
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	6,532	7,608	6,770	-14.1	-3.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,189	2,504	2,291	-12.6	-4.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,399	3,068	2,420	-21.8	-0.9
Manufacturing	360	506	388	-28.9	-7.2
Mining	645	897	835	-28.1	-22.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	590	841	734	-29.8	-19.6
Construction	1,394	1,665	1,197	-16.3	16.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	4,068	4,466	4,229	-8.9	-3.8
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	326	354	221	-7.9	47.5
Transportation	232	255	159	-9.0	45.9
Communications & Public Utilities	94	99	62	-5.1	51.6
Trade	1,217	1,378	1,203	-11.7	1.2
Wholesale Trade	239	283	257	-15.5	-7.0
Retail Trade	977	1,095	946	-10.8	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	139	142	174	-2.1	-20.1
Services	1,955	2,160	2,071	-9.5	-5.6
Personal & Business Services	420	464	438	-9.5	-4.1
Health Services	237	227	281	4.4	-15.7
Government	431	432	560	-0.2	-23.0
Local Government	286	290	390	-1.4	-26.7
Local Education	168	166	245	1.2	-31.4
UNCLASSIFIED	65	74	121	-12.2	-46.3

LARAMIE COUNTY

	786	801	690	-1.9	13.9
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	786	801	690	-1.9	13.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	249	263	251	-5.3	-0.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	197	231	160	-14.7	23.1
Manufacturing	42	54	19	-22.2	121.1
Mining	11	15	5	-26.7	120.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	11	15	5	-26.7	120.0
Construction	144	162	136	-11.1	5.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	584	561	519	4.1	12.5
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	48	67	27	-28.4	77.8
Transportation	35	45	14	-22.2	150.0
Communications & Public Utilities	13	22	13	-40.9	0.0
Trade	217	198	133	9.6	63.2
Wholesale Trade	35	30	13	16.7	169.2
Retail Trade	182	168	120	8.3	51.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	37	39	35	-5.1	5.7
Services	217	215	259	0.9	-16.2
Personal & Business Services	32	44	81	-27.3	-60.5
Health Services	34	27	32	25.9	6.3
Government	65	42	65	54.8	0.0
Local Government	22	15	31	46.7	-29.0
Local Education	17	13	23	30.8	-26.1
UNCLASSIFIED	5	9	11	-44.4	-54.5

NATRONA COUNTY

	1,145	1,389	1,189	-17.6	-3.7
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,145	1,389	1,189	-17.6	-3.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	382	441	392	-13.4	-2.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	406	543	355	-25.2	14.4
Manufacturing	50	84	45	-40.5	11.1
Mining	145	173	170	-16.2	-14.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	130	163	153	-20.2	-15.0
Construction	211	286	140	-26.2	50.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	735	835	820	-12.0	-10.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	63	54	41	16.7	53.7
Transportation	37	41	17	-9.8	117.6
Communications & Public Utilities	26	13	24	100.0	8.3
Trade	248	281	261	-11.7	-5.0
Wholesale Trade	70	88	75	-20.5	-6.7
Retail Trade	178	194	186	-8.2	-4.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	22	22	44	0.0	-50.0
Services	347	408	410	-15.0	-15.4
Personal & Business Services	102	120	126	-15.0	-19.0
Health Services	70	70	86	0.0	-18.6
Government	55	70	64	-21.4	-14.1
Local Government	27	44	47	-38.6	-42.6
Local Education	21	32	28	-34.4	-25.0
UNCLASSIFIED	4	11	14	-63.6	-71.4

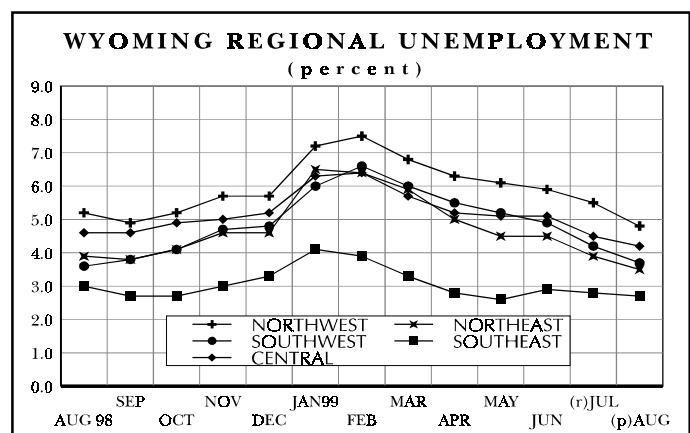
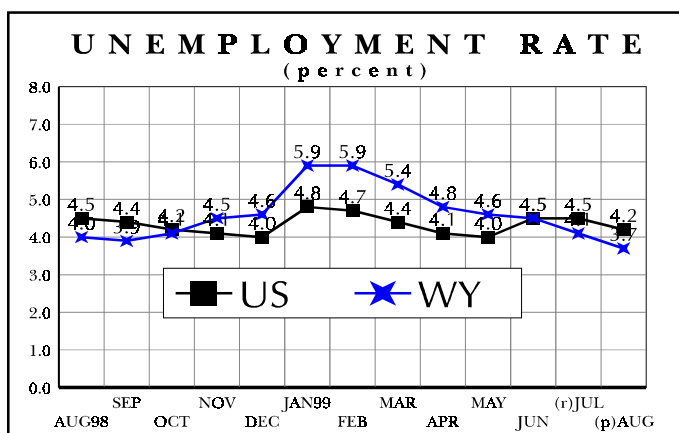


Wyoming Economic Indicators

"U.S. labor markets continued to tighten in August, as the unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent and the number of discouraged workers fell by 5.4 percent."

	August 1999 ----- (p) -----	July 1999 ----- (r) -----	August 1998 ----- (b) -----	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	264,807	267,965	262,521	-1.2	0.9
Unemployed	9,767	10,884	10,407	-10.3	-6.1
Employed	255,040	257,081	252,114	-0.8	1.2
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.7%/4.4%	4.1%/4.5%	4.0%/4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.2%/4.2%	4.5%/4.3%	4.5%/4.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,298,000	7,636,000	7,462,000	-4.4	-2.2
As a percent of all workers	5.4%	5.7%	5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	265,000	290,000	280,000	-8.6	-5.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,238,000	3,537,000	3,508,000	-8.5	-7.7
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$854.88	\$849.23	\$870.42	0.7	-1.8
Average Weekly Hours	45.4	45.1	45.5	0.7	-0.2
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$760.06	\$764.44	\$742.72	-0.6	2.3
Average Weekly Hours	44.5	44.6	44.0	-0.2	1.1
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$590.40	\$575.20	\$585.78	2.6	0.8
Average Weekly Hours	40.3	40.0	39.0	0.7	3.3
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$580.88	\$573.50	\$560.87	1.3	3.6
Average Weekly Hours	41.7	41.2	41.7	1.2	0.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	7,508	7,949	6,655	-5.5	12.8
Benefits Paid	\$1,367,306	\$1,462,136	\$1,141,298	-6.5	19.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$182.11	\$183.94	\$171.49	-1.0	6.2
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	219,639	215,494	215,087	1.9	2.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	0.9%	1.1%	0.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	167.1	166.7	163.4	0.2	2.3
Food & Beverages	164.7	164.2	161.4	0.3	2.0
Housing	165.0	164.7	161.5	0.2	2.2
Apparel	127.5	127.3	131.6	0.2	-3.1
Transportation	145.7	144.7	141.2	0.7	3.2
Medical Care	251.9	251.1	243.5	0.3	3.4
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	102.2	102.2	101.3	0.0	0.9
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	101.2	100.4	100.1	0.8	1.1
Other Goods & Services	257.6	258.3	238.0	-0.3	8.2
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	126.8	125.5	124.2	1.0	2.1
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	175	142	139	23.2	25.9
Valuation	\$26,835,000	\$22,435,000	\$20,157,000	19.6	33.1

(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 unemployment rate remained below the U.S. unemployment rate for the second month in a row."

REGION COUNTY	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	August 1999 (p)	July 1999 (r)	August 1998 (b)	August 1999 (p)	July 1999 (r)	August 1998 (b)	August 1999 (p)	July 1999 (r)	August 1998 (b)	August 1999 (p)	July 1999 (r)	August 1998 (b)
Northwest	47,720	48,392	47,430	45,443	45,748	44,942	2,277	2,644	2,488	4.8	5.5	5.2
Big Horn	5,581	5,558	5,736	5,291	5,204	5,416	290	354	320	5.2	6.4	5.6
Fremont	17,534	17,684	17,439	16,422	16,432	16,226	1,112	1,252	1,213	6.3	7.1	7.0
Hot Springs	2,380	2,486	2,464	2,298	2,370	2,374	82	116	90	3.4	4.7	3.7
Park	17,247	17,635	17,067	16,718	17,027	16,489	529	608	578	3.1	3.4	3.4
Washakie	4,978	5,029	4,724	4,714	4,715	4,437	264	314	287	5.3	6.2	6.1
Northeast	43,590	43,740	43,550	42,053	42,020	41,871	1,537	1,720	1,679	3.5	3.9	3.9
Campbell	19,832	19,744	19,336	19,051	18,886	18,548	781	858	788	3.9	4.3	4.1
Crook	3,020	3,063	3,086	2,931	2,963	2,971	89	100	115	2.9	3.3	3.7
Johnson	3,891	3,988	3,923	3,789	3,869	3,803	102	119	120	2.6	3.0	3.1
Sheridan	13,705	13,753	13,913	13,258	13,238	13,393	447	515	520	3.3	3.7	3.7
Weston	3,142	3,192	3,292	3,024	3,064	3,156	118	128	136	3.8	4.0	4.1
Southwest	55,905	56,322	55,245	53,825	53,968	53,241	2,080	2,354	2,004	3.7	4.2	3.6
Lincoln	6,475	6,504	6,455	6,207	6,181	6,171	268	323	284	4.1	5.0	4.4
Sublette	3,299	3,288	3,416	3,219	3,195	3,324	80	93	92	2.4	2.8	2.7
Sweetwater	20,397	20,812	20,835	19,408	19,703	19,898	989	1,109	937	4.8	5.3	4.5
Teton	14,586	14,560	13,349	14,443	14,420	13,239	143	140	110	1.0	1.0	0.8
Uinta	11,148	11,158	11,190	10,548	10,469	10,609	600	689	581	5.4	6.2	5.2
Southeast	68,835	70,056	67,495	67,004	68,094	65,501	1,831	1,962	1,994	2.7	2.8	3.0
Albany	17,451	17,517	16,495	17,190	17,246	16,180	261	271	315	1.5	1.5	1.9
Goshen	6,108	6,222	6,218	5,915	6,011	5,962	193	211	256	3.2	3.4	4.1
Laramie	39,682	40,653	39,132	38,505	39,380	37,924	1,177	1,273	1,208	3.0	3.1	3.1
Niobrara	1,308	1,305	1,305	1,277	1,281	1,272	31	24	33	2.4	1.8	2.5
Platte	4,286	4,359	4,345	4,117	4,176	4,163	169	183	182	3.9	4.2	4.2
Central	48,754	49,457	48,803	46,714	47,253	46,561	2,040	2,204	2,242	4.2	4.5	4.6
Carbon	8,304	8,449	8,740	8,016	8,133	8,407	288	316	333	3.5	3.7	3.8
Converse	6,746	6,720	6,958	6,490	6,440	6,646	256	280	312	3.8	4.2	4.5
Natrona	33,704	34,288	33,105	32,208	32,680	31,508	1,496	1,608	1,597	4.4	4.7	4.8
Statewide	264,807	267,965	262,521	255,040	257,081	252,114	9,767	10,884	10,407	3.7	4.1	4.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.4	4.5	4.8
U.S.....										4.2	4.5	4.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.2	4.3	4.5

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/99. Run Date 09/99.
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
August 1999
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

August News

by: David Bullard, Economist

"August is the third straight month of employment gains exceeding one percent."

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.1
District of Columbia	6.1
New Mexico	6.1
West Virginia	6.0
Hawaii	5.6
Oregon	5.2
Arizona	5.1
California	5.0
Louisiana	5.0
Mississippi	4.9
New York	4.9
Alabama	4.8
Arkansas	4.8
Alaska	4.6
Illinois	4.6
New Jersey	4.6
Idaho	4.4
Texas	4.4
Nevada	4.3
Pennsylvania	4.3
Washington	4.3
Montana	4.2
United States	4.2
Rhode Island	4.1
Florida	4.0
Kentucky	4.0
Ohio	4.0
South Carolina	4.0
Georgia	3.9
Tennessee	3.7
Utah	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Maryland	3.6
Missouri	3.5
Maine	3.3
North Carolina	3.3
Kansas	3.2
Oklahoma	3.1
Delaware	3.0
Massachusetts	2.9
North Dakota	2.9
Virginia	2.9
Colorado	2.8
Michigan	2.8
Wisconsin	2.6
Indiana	2.5
Iowa	2.5
South Dakota	2.5
Vermont	2.5
Nebraska	2.4
Minnesota	2.3
Connecticut	2.1
New Hampshire	2.1

Wyoming's unemployment rate fell to 3.7 percent in August, below its July level of 4.1 percent and its August 1998 level of 4.0 percent (see page 13). It remained below the national average of 4.2 percent for the second month in a row. Nonagricultural employment increased by 2,700 jobs in August for a growth rate of 1.2 percent (see page 15). July estimates were revised upward by 700 jobs for an even higher growth rate of 1.5 percent. August is the third straight month of employment gains exceeding one percent. However, as seen in the Figure on page 15, Wyoming continues to lag behind the national employment growth of around 2.2 percent.

As in past months, many of the new jobs were concentrated in Construction and Services. Growth was especially strong in Heavy Construction, the industry which includes highway construction, with employers adding 400 jobs over the year (7.3%). Within Services, Hotels and Other Lodging Places added 400 jobs (3.0%),

(Continued from page 9)

dependent on oil & gas employment. This may be a partial explanation as to why this region consistently has lower unemployment than the rest of the state.

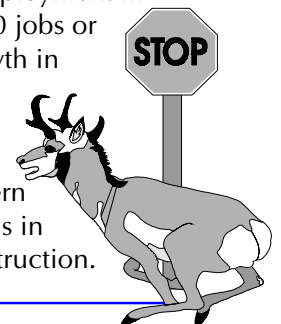
Careful readers may wonder why total employment in Sublette County increased 3.3 percent during the first quarter (see Table 3, page 7), when

suggesting growth in Wyoming's tourist industry. Business Services, the industry which includes telemarketing firms, temporary staffing services and computer related services increased employment by 5.6 percent or 400 jobs. Manufacturing added 300 jobs for growth of 2.7 percent.

Despite last month's positive report, it now appears that job losses in the Mining industry haven't slowed. August estimates show employment in Oil & Gas Extraction down by 600 jobs or -6.7 percent. However, Coal Mining employment increased by 100 jobs (+2.2%) over the same period.

Employment in Wyoming's largest cities, Cheyenne and Casper, grew faster than the state as a whole. Cheyenne added 800 jobs (+2.2%), while employment in Casper was up 900 jobs or 2.9 percent. Growth in these two metropolitan areas appears to follow the statewide pattern with large job gains in Services and Construction.

it was ranked the county most dependent on oil & gas employment (see Table, page 9). Sublette County is home to four major gas fields and may be more dependent on natural gas than oil. Since gas prices haven't fallen dramatically like oil prices during the past year, we don't expect the large job losses seen in oil production.



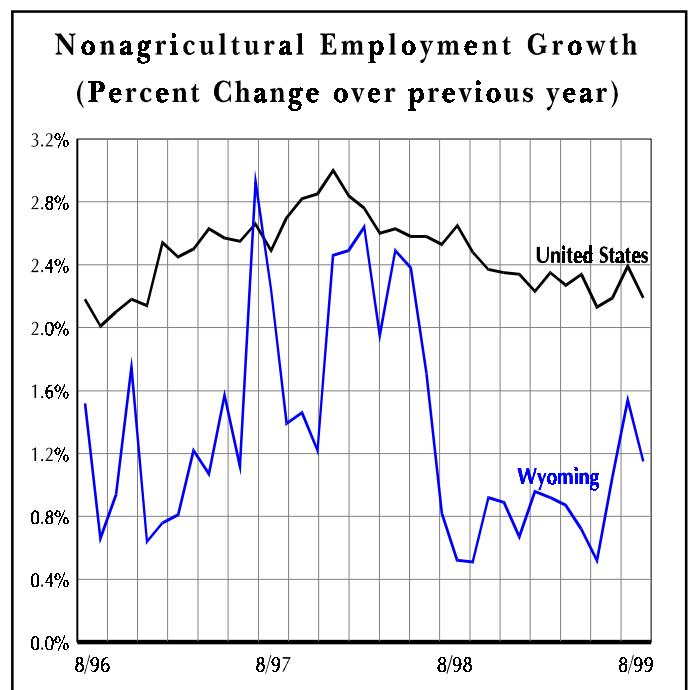
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

"Employment in Wyoming's two metropolitan areas, Laramie County and Natrona County, grew faster (2.2% and 2.9%, respectively) than the statewide average of 1.2 percent."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	AUG 99(p)	JUL 99(r)	AUG 98	JUL 99	AUG 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	236.9	237.5	234.2	-0.3	1.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	47.0	47.0	46.5	0.0	1.1
Mining	16.7	16.9	17.3	-1.2	-3.5
Coal Mining	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	2.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.3	8.4	8.9	-1.2	-6.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8
Oil & Gas Field Services	5.8	5.9	6.3	-1.7	-7.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	18.8	18.7	18.0	0.5	4.4
General Building Contractors	4.7	4.6	4.3	2.2	9.3
Heavy Construction	5.9	5.7	5.5	3.5	7.3
Special Trade Construction	8.2	8.4	8.2	-2.4	0.0
Manufacturing	11.5	11.4	11.2	0.9	2.7
Durable Goods	5.3	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	6.2	6.1	5.9	1.6	5.1
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
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	189.9	190.5	187.7	-0.3	1.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.5	14.5	14.2	0.0	2.1
Transportation	9.2	9.2	9.0	0.0	2.2
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Trucking & Warehousing	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Telephone Communications	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3
Electric Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Trade	56.2	56.6	55.9	-0.7	0.5
Wholesale Trade	7.8	8.0	7.8	-2.5	0.0
Durable Goods	4.4	4.5	4.4	-2.2	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.5	3.4	-2.9	0.0
Retail Trade	48.4	48.6	48.1	-0.4	0.6
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
General Merchandise Stores	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	1.9
Department Stores	4.0	3.9	3.9	2.6	2.6
Food Stores	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.3	8.4	8.4	-1.2	-1.2
Gas Stations	4.4	4.5	4.6	-2.2	-4.3
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.6	1.5	-6.3	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	18.4	18.4	18.3	0.0	0.5
Miscellaneous Retail	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.7	8.7	8.8	0.0	-1.1
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Depository Institutions	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1
Insurance	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Services	57.8	58.1	56.4	-0.5	2.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.6	13.8	13.2	-1.4	3.0
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Business Services	7.5	7.5	7.1	0.0	5.6
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.4
Amusements (Rec.Services & Mot. Pics.)	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Health Services	10.4	10.5	10.3	-1.0	1.0
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Social Services	5.6	5.6	5.4	0.0	3.7
Membership Organizations	3.4	3.5	3.4	-2.9	0.0
Engineering & Management	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Government	52.7	52.6	52.4	0.2	0.6
Total Federal Government	7.8	7.8	7.8	0.0	0.0
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	12.8	13.2	12.9	-3.0	-0.8
State Education	4.5	4.8	4.5	-6.3	0.0
Total Local Government	32.1	31.6	31.7	1.6	1.3
Local Hospitals	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0
Local Education	12.9	12.6	12.9	2.4	0.0

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	AUG 99(p)	JUL 99(r)	AUG 98	AUG 99	AUG 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.7	36.7	35.9	0.0	2.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.4	4.5	4.1	-2.2	7.3
Mining & Construction	2.6	2.7	2.4	-3.7	8.3
Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	32.3	32.4	31.8	-0.3	1.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
Trade	8.6	8.6	8.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.8	7.7	7.8	1.3	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Services	7.9	8.0	7.7	-1.2	2.6
Total Government	10.8	10.8	10.7	0.0	0.9
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Local Government	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0	2.0
NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.9	31.6	31.0	0.9	2.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	6.3	6.3	5.8	0.0	8.6
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Mining	2.0	2.1	2.2	-4.8	-9.1
Construction	2.7	2.6	2.1	3.8	28.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.6	25.3	25.2	1.2	1.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Trade	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	8.5	8.5	8.4	0.0	1.2
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Retail Trade	6.1	6.1	6.1	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.2	1.3	8.3	0.0
Services	9.1	9.0	8.9	1.1	2.2
Personal & Business Services	2.1	2.0	1.9	5.0	10.5
Health Services	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Government	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	2.1
Local Government	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Local Education	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3



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

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

After 5 Days Return to:

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

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

