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Comparing Unemployment Insurance Statistics of Wyoming and Neighboring States

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

"Wyoming has not shown any mass layoffs or increases in Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims through the second quarter of 2001, while the U.S. and most neighboring states have experienced large increases in UI initial claims for three consecutive quarters. This indicates that Wyoming's economy has been in very good shape and has not yet been impacted by the nation's economic downturn."

Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims data are among the most frequently consulted indicators of labor market performance. This article examines several UI statistics for Wyoming, its neighboring states and the U.S. to see if or how much Wyoming has been affected by the national economic recession.

The U.S. economy has been slowing since mid-2000. The growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slowed significantly from 5.7 percent in the second quarter of 2000 to 0.3 percent in the second quarter of 2001.[1] Nonfarm employment declined by 232,000 from 132.5 million in the first quarter of 2001 to 132.3 million in the third quarter of 2001.[2] According to the Federal Reserve, as of September 2001 industrial production had fallen for 12 straight months, representing the longest decline since World War II.[3] So, how has Wyoming fared during this national economic downturn?

UI Initial Claims

One action firms commonly take when facing economic difficulties is to lay off workers. A newly unemployed worker often responds by filing a UI initial claim[4] in order to receive UI benefits, although not all of the claimants will be eligible for benefits. The number of UI initial claims is the only statistic, available for each state and the U.S.,[5] that reflects how many workers have recently lost their jobs. However, this

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statistic does not include unemployed workers not choosing to file a claim for UI benefits or those who may have found jobs right away.

Figures 1a and 1b (see page 3) show UI initial claims filed by calendar quarter for the past three years (1998Q1 to 2001Q2). In general, the seasonality of UI initial claims is consistent across the states and the nation, although some quarterly changes are more significant than others. Initial claims peak in the fourth quarter reflecting the onset of winter, and drop to the lowest level in the following third quarter.

For the U.S., UI initial claims showed a slight trend-based decline between the first quarter of 1998 and the second quarter of 2000, then turned upward starting in the third quarter of 2000 and continued to increase for three more quarters. Compared with their levels in the previous year, UI initial claims increased 16.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2000, 27 percent in the first quarter of 2001 and 40.5 percent in the second quarter of 2001 (see the Table, page 4). These figures clearly reflect the economic downturn being experienced by the U.S. economy.

In large part, Wyoming's neighboring states demonstrated a trend similar to the U.S. in their UI initial claims number. This is especially true for Colorado and Utah. Colorado experienced a 62.6 percent increase in UI initial claims in the second quarter of 2001 compared to the year before, and Utah experienced a 43.9 percent increase.

Over the same time period, Wyoming had the opposite experience of its neighbors and the U.S. UI initial claims decreased more than 10 percent in both the first and second quarters of 2001 compared to the previous year. These decreases strongly indicate that Wyoming's economy has been performing

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Figure 1a: Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims for Wyoming, Neighboring States and the U.S.
1998Q1 - 2001Q2
Mountain States

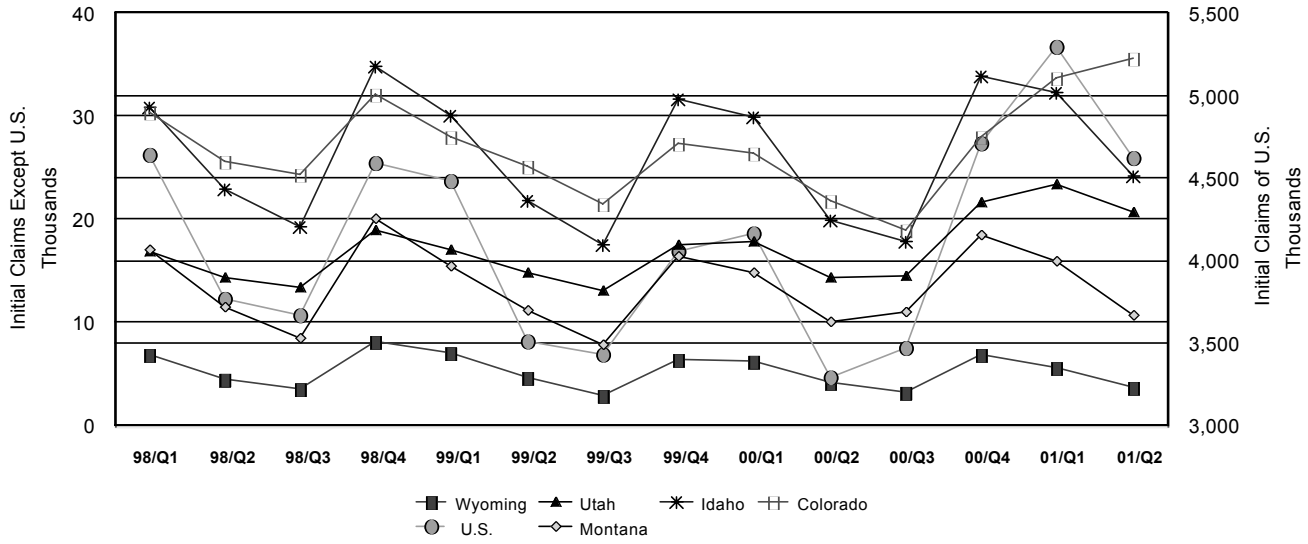
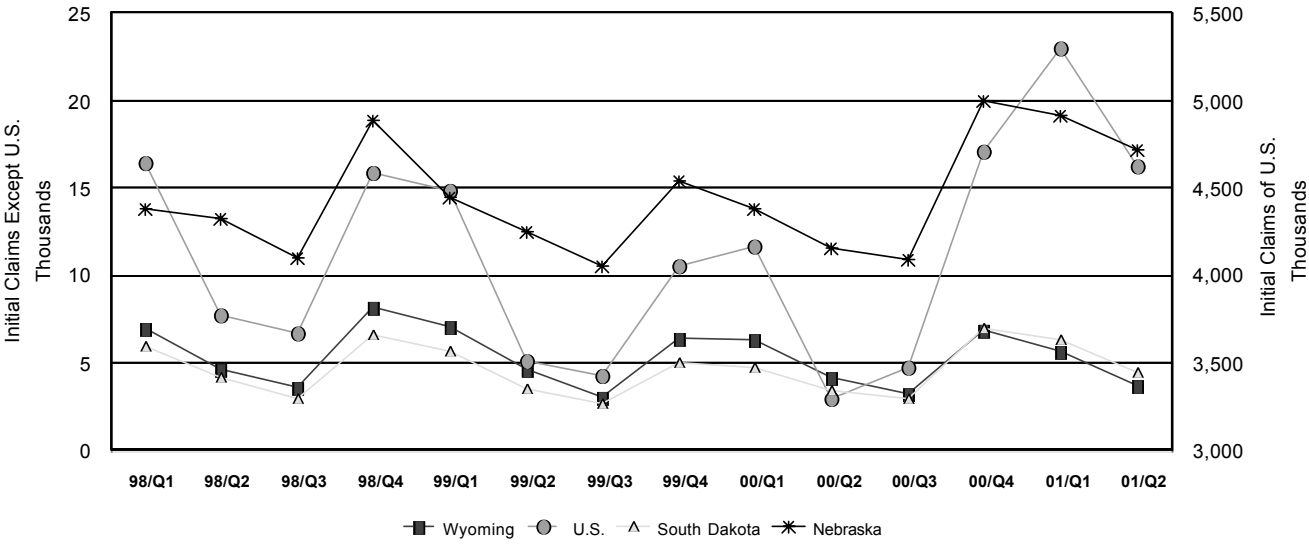


Figure 1b: Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims for Wyoming, Neighboring States and the U.S.
1998Q1 - 2001Q2
Plains States



very well and, at least as of yet, has not been impacted by the national economic crisis. The relative size of industries in Wyoming, neighboring states and the U.S. economy may be the key reason for this opposite economic movement. The current economic downturn centered in the high-tech and manufacturing industries, which have lost more than one million jobs since July 2000.[6] These industries only accounted for 0.5 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively, of the total UI covered jobs in

Table: Percentage Changes in Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims Compared to the Previous Year for Wyoming, Neighboring States, and the U.S., 1999Q1-2000Q2

Quarter	Colorado	Idaho	Montana	Nebraska	South Dakota	Utah	Wyoming	U.S.
1999Q1	-7.5%	-2.3%	-9.3%	4.7%	-4.0%	0.4%	1.2%	-3.4%
1999Q2	-2.2%	-4.7%	-3.2%	-5.4%	-16.1%	3.9%	1.2%	-6.9%
1999Q3	-12.1%	-8.9%	-7.2%	-4.6%	-10.5%	-2.1%	-16.1%	-6.6%
1999Q4	-14.6%	-9.0%	-17.6%	-18.7%	-24.1%	-7.9%	-21.2%	-11.7%
2000Q1	-5.7%	-0.8%	-4.0%	-4.5%	-16.0%	5.1%	-10.6%	-7.1%
2000Q2	-13.0%	-8.9%	-10.3%	-7.5%	-2.8%	-3.6%	-10.7%	-6.3%
2000Q3	-11.2%	1.8%	41.2%	3.9%	13.8%	10.9%	5.9%	1.4%
2000Q4	2.1%	6.9%	12.6%	29.8%	38.7%	24.3%	7.2%	16.3%
2001Q1	27.3%	8.3%	8.2%	38.5%	31.9%	31.3%	-10.8%	27.0%
2001Q2	62.6%	21.9%	6.6%	48.8%	29.9%	43.9%	-10.2%	40.5%

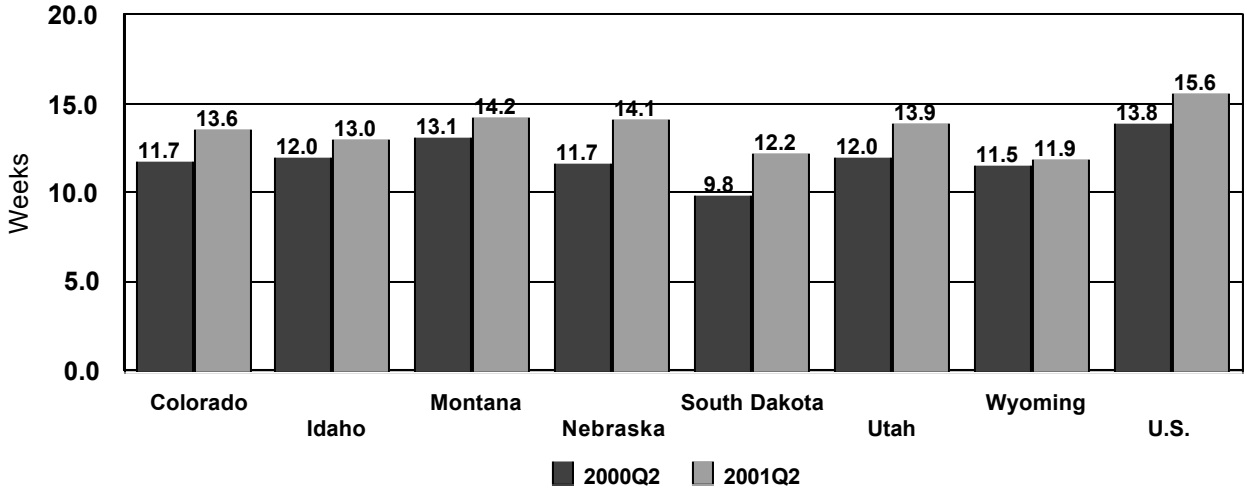
Wyoming in the second quarter of 2000 (the quarter before the national economy started to slow down).[7] In comparison, high-tech accounted for 3.9 percent and manufacturing accounted for 14.2 percent of the total U.S. UI covered jobs in 2000.[8]

UI Average Duration

Usually, economic growth triggers a demand for labor. Growth increases the chances for the unemployed workers to be re-employed by their former employer or find alternative employment. As a result, UI benefit recipients may receive benefits for shorter durations than they would otherwise. In contrast, a declining economy restricts the labor market and unemployed workers will more likely receive benefits longer. The UI average duration is defined as the average number of weeks that UI claimants have collected UI benefits during the year. It is calculated by dividing the total weeks compensated (with UI benefits) for the year by the annual total number of first payments.[9] In order to allow for the normal flow of claimants through the program, the numerator lags the denominator by 26 weeks. For example, the average duration of the second quarter of 2001 is computed by dividing the total number of weeks compensated in the 12 months ending June 30, 2001 by the annual number of first payments made in the year ending December 31, 2000.

Figure 2 (see page 5) shows that among all of the states there was an increase in UI average duration for the 12 months ending June 2001 compared with the 12 months ending June 2000. Most of the surrounding states and the U.S. experienced about a two week increase in this statistical measure. Montana and Idaho increased by only one week. Wyoming, again, outperformed its neighbors by showing an increase of less than one half of one week. These longer UI average durations indicate, overall, the labor market ran short of labor demand. Even in Wyoming, which had no increase in layoffs and UI initial claims, it appeared to take longer for already unemployed workers to regain employment during this time period. This may be affected by an increased number of unemployed workers from surrounding states entering Wyoming's labor

Figure 2: Average Duration of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Collection for Wyoming, Neighboring States and the U.S. for the Year Ending June 2000 (2000Q2) and Year Ending June 2001 (2001Q2)



market and successfully competing with the local labor force.

UI Exhaustion Rate

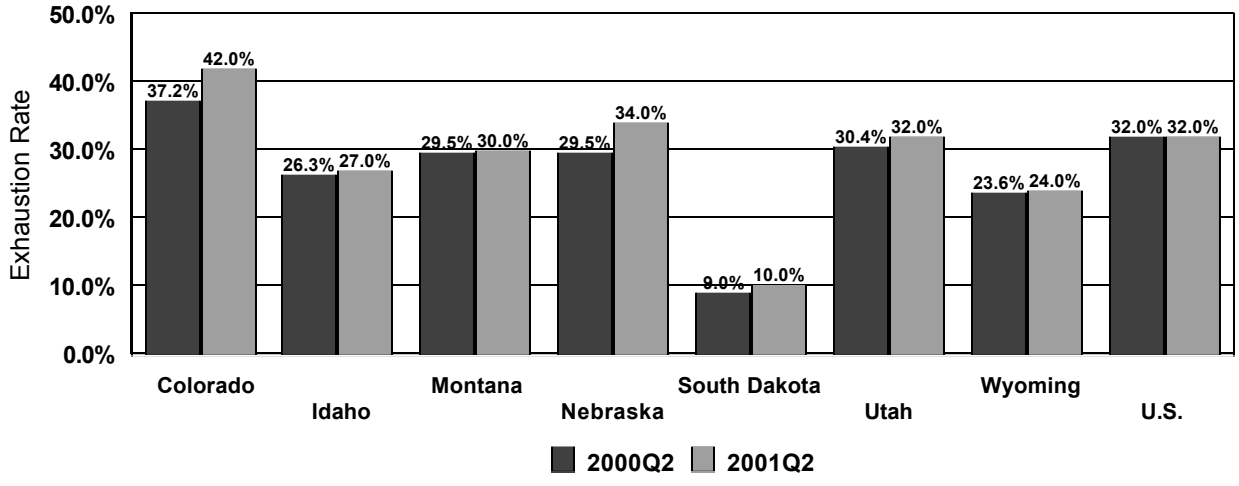
Similar to the average UI duration, when the economy is in decline and labor demand is contracting, more unemployed workers tend to collect Unemployment Insurance until they exhaust their entitled UI benefits. UI exhaustion rates show what proportion of UI claimants exhausted their benefits during the year. This rate is computed by dividing the average monthly exhaustions (number of claimants who exhausted benefits) by the average number of monthly first payments. Again, the denominator has a 26 week time lag. For example, the exhaustion rate for the second quarter of 2001 is computed by dividing the average monthly exhaustions for the 12 months ending June 2001 by the average monthly first payments for the 12 months ending December 2000.

Figure 3 (see page 6) shows that in Wyoming, 24.0 percent of UI claimants exhausted their benefits during the 12 months ending June 2001. This is the second lowest UI exhaustion rate among the surrounding states and the U.S. (31.7%). South Dakota (historically) had the lowest exhaustion rate, only 10.0 percent. Colorado had the highest with 42.0 percent of UI recipients exhausting their benefits during the same time period. Most of the states experienced a slight increase in the exhaustion rate compared to the previous year's level. The U.S. average stayed the same. This UI exhaustion rate is expected (or more likely) to change significantly in the next two quarters (Q3 and Q4) of 2001, since nationally the highest number of mass layoffs were initiated in the first two quarters of 2001. Most of the corresponding UI claimants may have not exhausted their benefits by the end of June 2001.

Conclusion

Wyoming has not shown any mass layoffs or increases in UI benefit claims through the second quarter of 2001, while the U.S. and most neighboring states have experienced large increases in UI initial claims for three consecutive quarters. This indicates that Wyoming's economy has been in very good shape and has not yet been impacted by the nation's economic downturn.

Figure 3: Comparison of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Exhaustion Rates for Wyoming, Neighboring States and the U.S. for the Year Ending June 2000 (2000Q2) and Year Ending June 2001(2001Q2)



[1]U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, ***BEA News Release***, September 28, 2001,<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/gdp201f.htm> (October 18, 2001).

[2]U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, ***Archived News Releases for Employment Situations***, November 5, 2001, <http://www.bls.gov/schedule/archives/empsit_nr.htm> (October 18, 2001).

[3]Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, ***Federal Reserve Statistical Release***, "Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization," October 16, 2001, <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/G17/20011016/> (November 26, 2001).

[4]Xiaohong (Sherry) Yu, "The Uses of Unemployment Insurance Claims Information," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, February 1996, pp. 12-13.

[5]U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, ***ETA Unemployment Insurance***, "UI Data Summary," n.d., <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data.asp> (November 16, 2001).

[6]Leigh Strope, "Unemployment Rate Soars," ***Casper Star-Tribune***, September 8, 2001.

[7]These numbers are calculated based on Unemployment Insurance covered employment data using the high-tech industry definition published in David Bullard's "High-Tech Industry in Wyoming: Small, but Growing Fast," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, February 1998, pp. 1- 4.

[8]U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, ***Covered Employment and Wages***, n.d., <http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=ew> (November 26, 2001).

[9]First payments represent the first week of compensation for UI initial claimants actually receiving UI benefits.

An Adaptation of "A Look at Worker Exits by Region of Minnesota and Type of Firm"*

by: **Mustapha Hammida, Research Analysis Specialist, *Minnesota Employment Review*, Minnesota Department of Labor Security, Research and Statistics Office**
adaptation by: **Julie Barnish, Statistician, Research & Planning**
introduction by: **Krista R. Shinkle, Economist, Research & Planning**

This article is an adaptation of "A Look at Worker Exits by Region of Minnesota and Type of Firm." This adaptation offers an example of another state's use of administrative databases for labor market research. Administrative databases contain information collected for the purpose of conducting business, but they are also used for statistical analysis. Research & Planning uses several administrative databases to study the Wyoming labor market. The previous article, "Comparing Unemployment Insurance Statistics of Wyoming and Neighboring States," uses data from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) database. Another example of how Wyoming uses administrative databases is found in the July 2001 issue of ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***. The article, "The Effect of a College Degree on Wages: The Different Experiences of Men and Women," contains information gathered from Wyoming's Wage Records database. The use of administrative databases in compiling data for analysis allows for more timely information with a greater degree of accuracy.

The movement of workers into and out of employment, or new hires and worker exits,[1] is a natural outcome of the dynamic processes inherent in the labor market. These processes have at least two dimensions, which can be defined as temporal and spatial. In a temporal sense, jobs taken by new hires may not keep pace with the decline of jobs. Such a situation may occur when displacement is sudden and large, as in a mass layoff event. In a spatial sense, new hires and worker exits may not happen in the same location, and this can cause imbalances across counties and regions of the state.

When regional and local imbalances in new hires and worker exits occur, they may impact earnings or the job structure of an area. For example, it has been observed that the displacement component of industrial development is biased towards unskilled occupations and declining industries and is usually geographically concentrated. Similarly, job creation has been biased towards skilled employment and to areas different from the ones with a heavy concentration of declining industries.

How businesses differ in their contribution to job creation and job loss across industry classifications and geography is an important question for regional economic development and for effective public policy. Having measures of job creation and job loss and knowing the behavior of job creation and job loss in the different sections of the state is key to keeping each region economically healthy and attractive for new businesses.

Distribution of Firms and Jobs by Region

The 1997 distribution of firms and

quarterly jobs by region in Minnesota reveal two striking points. First, the Twin Cities' share of the total number of firms and the total quarterly jobs are much larger than those of the other five regions. The Twin Cities account for over half of firms and quarterly jobs.

Second, the shares of the total number of firms and the total quarterly jobs of the five regions located in Greater Minnesota were fairly similar.

Distribution of Worker Exits by Region

The distribution of worker exits between the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota seems to be proportional to their shares in the total number of firms and quarterly jobs. Thus, in absolute terms, firms in the twin cities had the largest role in worker exits in Minnesota.

The ratio of worker exits to total jobs showed small differences among the six regions of the state. In other words, the range of variation of the ratio of worker exits to total jobs across regions was small, between 21 percent and 18 percent. This result indicates that no significant regional differences seem to exist in the extent of worker exits in total jobs.

Like the ratio of worker exits to total jobs, the average number of worker exits by firm shows little variation across the six regions.

Thus, the pattern of worker exits seems to show no major differences across the six regions of the state. As expected, firms in the Twin Cities Region were found to be slightly more active in worker exits than firms in greater Minnesota.

Distribution of Firms and Jobs by Firm Type

So far, the analysis of worker exits across geographical regions has used all firms, regardless of type. In other words, the patterns of worker exits from seasonal firms and from non-seasonal firms are mixed together. The extent of worker exits from these firms is certainly not of the same magnitude. Also, the distribution of these firms may be different across regions, and this may mask regional differences in worker exits. To account for the effect of differing employment patterns over time on the relationship between geographical regions and worker exits, firms were further segregated into three types;[2]

1. Long-lived firms are firms who were in business (here measured by no zero employment) in 1997 and were still in business in 1998.
2. Short-lived firms are firms who have ceased employment activity in 1998.
3. Returning firms are firms with zero employment in two or more consecutive quarters during the twelve quarters spanning 1996 to 1998.

The distributions of firm type in each region and in the state as a whole show that long-lived firms accounted for the majority of firms and jobs in 1997. As can be inferred from their definition, long-lived firms are characterized by a regular and continuous employment activity in the labor market. This means that worker exits at long-lived firms should provide an excellent indicator of the fundamental linkages between worker exits and geographical regions.

In addition to the distributions of firms and quarterly jobs, the state and regional distributions of worker exits by firm type were developed. Thus, the share of worker

exits by firm type does not seem to vary across the six regions of the state.

Conclusion

Firms in the Twin Cities dominated the 1997 Minnesota labor market. These firms accounted for over half of the firms and over three-fifths of the quarterly jobs. Moreover, these firms seemed to play an important role in worker exits in Minnesota. About two-thirds of worker exits were from firms in the Twin Cities. However, in spite of this dominance, firms in the Twin Cities seemed to exhibit a pattern of worker exits similar to that of firms in all other regions of the state. In fact, no significant differences were present in the pattern of worker exits across regions in Minnesota.

[1]The methodology followed to obtain new hires and worker exits in this study has been discussed in earlier issues of ***Minnesota Employment Review***. For new hires, see the February 2000 issue; for worker exits, see the June 2001 issue. Current and back issues of this publication can be accessed online at <http://www.MnWorkForceCenter.org /lmi/review/archive.htm>.

[2]For a detailed definition of the three types of firms used in this study, see the Supplement to the June 2001 issue of ***Minnesota Employment Review***, "A Look at Worker Exits by Firm Type." Available at <http://www.MnWorkForceCenter .org/>.

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State Unemployment Rates
September 2001
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.6
District of Columbia	6.5
Oregon	6.0
New Mexico	5.6
Washington	5.5
Louisiana	5.3
South Carolina	5.3
Alaska	5.2
California	5.2
Illinois	5.2
Mississippi	5.2
Alabama	5.1
Texas	5.1
Arizona	5.0
North Carolina	4.9
Nevada	4.8
New York	4.8
Michigan	4.7
United States	**4.7**
Florida	4.5
Hawaii	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.5
Kentucky	4.4
New Jersey	4.4
Arkansas	4.3
Ohio	4.3
West Virginia	4.3
Georgia	4.0
Idaho	4.0
Maryland	4.0
Missouri	4.0
Rhode Island	4.0
Indiana	3.9
Massachusetts	3.9
Tennessee	3.9
Utah	3.9
Colorado	3.7
Montana	3.7
New Hampshire	3.7
Kansas	3.6
Maine	3.6
Minnesota	3.4
Wisconsin	3.4
Oklahoma	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Wyoming	**3.3**
Connecticut	3.1
Delaware	3.1
Vermont	2.9
Iowa	2.8
Nebraska	2.6
South Dakota	2.5
North Dakota	1.4

State Unemployment Rates
September 2001
(Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.3
District of Columbia	6.6
Alaska	6.5
Oregon	6.4
Washington	6.1
New Mexico	5.7
Illinois	5.5
Louisiana	5.5
California	5.4
Mississippi	5.4
South Carolina	5.3
North Carolina	5.2
Michigan	5.1
Alabama	5.0
Texas	5.0
Arkansas	4.9
Idaho	4.9
New York	4.9
United States	**4.9**
West Virginia	4.9
Nevada	4.7
Arizona	4.6
Kentucky	4.6
Montana	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.6
New Jersey	4.5
Hawaii	4.4
Florida	4.3
Maine	4.3
Ohio	4.3
Indiana	4.2
Missouri	4.2
Utah	4.2
Maryland	4.1
New Hampshire	4.1
Tennessee	4.0
Wisconsin	4.0
Wyoming	**4.0**
Massachusetts	3.9
Rhode Island	3.9
Georgia	3.8
Kansas	3.8
Colorado	3.7
Connecticut	3.6
Minnesota	3.4
Oklahoma	3.4
Delaware	3.2
Iowa	3.2
Vermont	3.2
South Dakota	3.1
Virginia	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
North Dakota	1.7

Employment Growth Continues, but Unemployment Rises Slightly in September

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming employment growth continued in September as 5,300 jobs were created, an increase of 2.2 percent over the year. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 3.8 percent in August to 4.0 percent in September (not a statistically significant increase). The U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.9 percent and U.S. job growth dropped to 0.1 percent.

Strong job growth was seen in several industries in September. Mining added 2,000 jobs or 11.4 percent, with the vast majority of gains in oil & gas extraction. Employment in Retail Trade grew by 700 jobs or 1.4 percent. Services gained 1,500 jobs or 2.6 percent, with the largest growth in health services (400 jobs or 3.6%), social services (500 jobs or 8.6%) and engineering & management services (400 jobs or 10.5%). Government employment grew by 600 jobs or 1.0 percent, mostly as a result of gains in local government education and hospitals.

Small job losses occurred in Manufacturing (-100 jobs or 0.9%), Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (-300 jobs or -2.1%) and Federal Government (-200 jobs or -2.5%).

Labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) increased by 2,951 or 1.1 percent when compared with September 2000. The number of unemployed grew by 305 individuals or 3.5 percent. Wyoming's unemployment rate has been below the U.S. rate for the past twelve months.

September unemployment rates were quite low in Wyoming counties. Uinta County's unemployment rate (5.1%) was the highest in the state and the only rate above 5.0 percent. Teton County posted the lowest unemployment rate (1.5%) and Johnson County was the second lowest (1.7%). Natrona County's unemployment rate of 3.5 percent was lower than September 2000 (4.0%). Laramie County's rate increased over the year from 2.6 percent in September 2000 to 3.2 percent in September 2001.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment[1]

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Strong job growth was seen in several industries in September. Mining added 2,000 jobs or 11.4 percent, with the vast majority of gains in oil & gas extraction."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment AUG 01 SEP 00	
	SEP01(p)	AUG01(r)	SEP 00	SEP 01	SEP 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	250.3	251.7	245.0	-0.6	2.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	50.5	50.7	48.4	-0.4	4.3
Mining	19.6	19.5	17.6	0.5	11.4
Coal Mining	4.7	4.8	4.6	-2.1	2.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	11.8	11.6	9.8	1.7	20.4
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.4	11.1
Oil & Gas Field Services	8.8	8.7	7.1	1.1	23.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Construction	19.6	19.8	19.4	-1.0	1.0
General Building Contractors	4.6	4.8	4.3	-4.2	7.0
Heavy Construction	6.2	6.2	6.5	0.0	-4.6
Special Trade Construction	8.8	8.8	8.6	0.0	2.3
Manufacturing	11.3	11.4	11.4	-0.9	-0.9
Durable Goods	5.1	5.2	5.2	-1.9	-1.9
Nondurable Goods	6.2	6.2	6.2	0.0	0.0
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
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	199.8	201.0	196.6	-0.6	1.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.1	14.4	14.4	-2.1	-2.1
Transportation	9.3	9.5	9.4	-2.1	-1.1
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.1	3.3	-3.2	-9.1
Trucking & Warehousing	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.7	2.7
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Telephone Communications	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.6	2.7	2.8	-3.7	-7.1
Electric Services	1.8	1.9	1.9	-5.3	-5.3
Trade	57.7	58.8	56.5	-1.9	2.1
Wholesale Trade	8.3	8.1	7.8	2.5	6.4
Durable Goods	4.9	4.8	4.5	2.1	8.9
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.0
Retail Trade	49.4	50.7	48.7	-2.6	1.4
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.2	2.3	2.0	-4.3	10.0
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	6.1	5.9	-3.3	0.0
Department Stores	4.7	4.6	4.6	2.2	2.2
Food Stores	5.3	5.4	5.5	-1.9	-3.6
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.5	8.6	8.4	-1.2	1.2
Gas Stations	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.3	1.3	-7.7	-7.7
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	18.6	19.2	18.3	-3.1	1.6
Miscellaneous Retail	6.1	6.1	5.7	0.0	7.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.4	4.2	-2.3	2.4
Depository Institutions	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	58.6	62.1	57.1	-5.6	2.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	10.6	12.6	10.8	-15.9	-1.9
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Business Services	8.6	8.8	8.4	-2.3	2.4
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.8	4.5	3.7	-15.6	2.7
Health Services	11.4	11.5	11.0	-0.9	3.6
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.7	2.8	2.5	-3.6	8.0
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Social Services	6.3	6.2	5.8	1.6	8.6
Membership Organizations	3.6	3.8	3.6	-5.3	0.0
Engineering & Management	4.2	4.4	3.8	-4.5	10.5
Government	61.1	57.4	60.5	6.4	1.0
Total Federal Government	7.7	8.0	7.9	-3.8	-2.5
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	13.4	13.1	13.2	2.3	1.5
State Education	4.7	4.4	4.9	6.8	-4.1
Total Local Government	40.0	36.3	39.4	10.2	1.5
Local Hospitals	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8
Local Education	21.7	16.6	21.3	30.7	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.

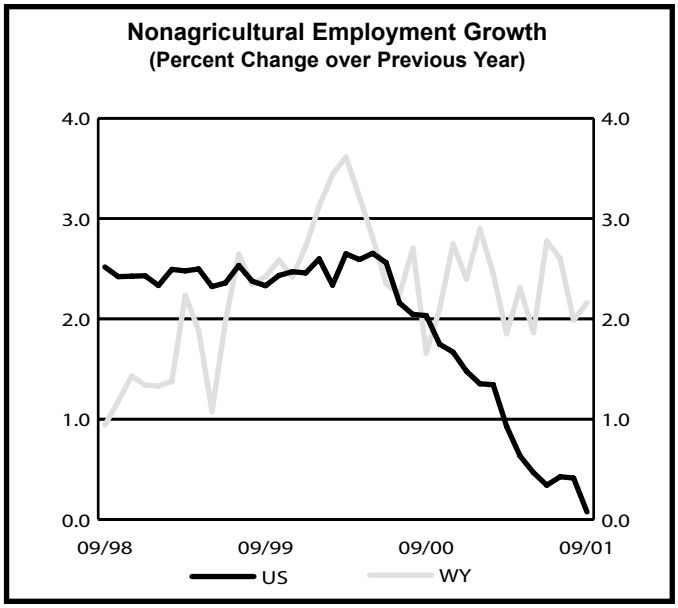
(p) Subject to revision. (r) Revised.

LARAMIE COUNTY

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment AUG 01 SEP 00	
	SEP01(p)	AUG01(r)	SEP 00	SEP 01	SEP 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.9	39.1	37.8	-0.5	2.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8
Mining & Construction	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.0	8.0
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	34.5	34.7	33.6	-0.6	2.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9
Trade	9.1	9.1	9.0	0.0	1.1
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Retail Trade	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Services	8.5	8.6	8.5	-1.2	0.0
Total Government	12.1	12.2	11.6	-0.8	4.3
Federal Government	2.4	2.5	2.4	-4.0	0.0
State Government	3.6	3.6	3.4	0.0	5.9
Local Government	6.1	6.1	5.8	0.0	5.2

NATRONA COUNTY*

TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.5	32.6	32.2	-0.3	0.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.8	5.9	5.7	-1.7	1.8
Mining	2.3	2.4	2.1	-4.2	9.5
Construction	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.7	26.7	26.5	0.0	0.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	-11.8
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
Communications & Public Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	-20.0
Trade	9.1	9.1	8.8	0.0	3.4
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
Retail Trade	6.5	6.5	6.4	0.0	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Services	9.6	9.9	9.4	-3.0	2.1
Personal & Business Services	1.9	2.1	2.0	-9.5	-5.0
Health Services	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	6.7
Government	5.3	5.0	5.4	6.0	-1.9
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	3.9	3.6	4.0	8.3	-2.5
Local Education	2.7	2.2	2.7	22.7	0.0



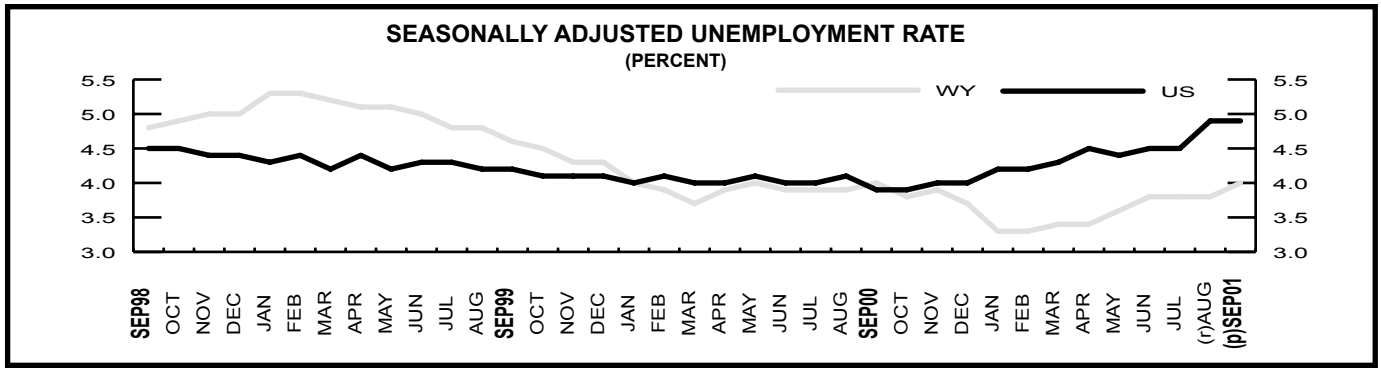
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistician

"Due in part to the mild temperatures, the number of Wyoming building permits authorized in September 2001 reached a three-year high of 195 compared to 140 in 2000 and 137 in 1999."

	September 2001 (p)	August 2001 (r)	September 2000 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	270,508	274,179	267,557	-1.3	1.1
Unemployed	8,967	9,076	8,662	-1.2	3.5
Employed	261,541	265,103	258,895	-1.3	1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.3%/4.0%	3.3%/3.8%	3.2%/4.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.7%/4.9%	4.9%/4.9%	3.8%/3.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,246,000	6,963,000	7,471,000	4.1	-3.0
As a Percent of All Workers	5.4%	5.2%	5.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	280,000	335,000	250,000	-16.4	12.0
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,765,000	3,289,000	2,854,000	14.5	31.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$955.88	$884.53	$882.11	8.1	8.4
Average Weekly Hours	46.2	44.9	46.5	2.9	-0.6
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$780.13	$765.19	$751.61	2.0	3.8
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	40.8	43.8	0.2	-6.6
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$688.28	$640.26	$624.29	7.5	10.3
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	38.5	38.8	3.6	2.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$613.50	$607.51	$606.52	1.0	1.2
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	43.7	43.8	1.1	0.9
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	5,140	6,811	5,821	-24.5	-11.7
Benefits Paid	$1,094,988	$1,405,598	$1,168,376	-22.1	-6.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$213.03	$206.16	$200.72	3.3	6.1
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	225,723	223,697	222,681	0.9	1.4
Insured Unemployment Rate	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	178.3	173.7	177.5	2.6	0.5
Food & Beverages	174.6	174.4	169.4	0.1	3.1
Housing	177.4	178.0	171.4	-0.3	3.5
Apparel	126.8	122.6	130.4	3.4	-2.8
Transportation	155.5	153.3	154.7	1.4	0.5
Medical Care	275.0	274.4	263.1	0.2	4.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	105.2	105.1	103.8	0.1	1.3
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	106.6	105.8	102.9	0.8	3.6
Other Goods & Services	287.8	283.3	274.7	1.6	4.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	133.4	134.7	133.5	-1.0	-0.1
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	195	140	140	39.3	39.3
Valuation					

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

"September unemployment rates were quite low in Wyoming counties. Uinta County's unemployment rate (5.1%) was the highest in the state and the only rate above 5.0 percent."

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
REGION	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep
County	2001	2001	2000	2001	2001	2000	2001	2001	2000	2001	2001	2000
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	**48,024**	**48,913**	**47,547**	**46,082**	**46,887**	**45,591**	**1,942**	**2,026**	**1,956**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**4.1**
Big Horn	6,120	6,001	6,060	5,890	5,762	5,788	230	239	272	3.8	4.0	4.5
Fremont	18,355	18,098	18,274	17,448	17,153	17,332	907	945	942	4.9	5.2	5.2
Hot Springs	2,475	2,471	2,444	2,396	2,388	2,394	79	83	50	3.2	3.4	2.0
Park	16,329	17,600	16,073	15,809	17,036	15,586	520	564	487	3.2	3.2	3.0
Washakie	4,745	4,743	4,696	4,539	4,548	4,491	206	195	205	4.3	4.1	4.4
NORTHEAST	**45,785**	**46,366**	**45,301**	**44,502**	**45,101**	**43,988**	**1,283**	**1,265**	**1,313**	**2.8**	**2.7**	**2.9**
Campbell	20,562	21,074	20,280	19,961	20,495	19,683	601	579	597	2.9	2.7	2.9
Crook	3,371	3,359	3,309	3,287	3,281	3,224	84	78	85	2.5	2.3	2.6
Johnson	4,241	4,337	4,177	4,168	4,262	4,105	73	75	72	1.7	1.7	1.7
Sheridan	14,249	14,289	14,139	13,824	13,868	13,727	425	421	412	3.0	2.9	2.9
Weston	3,362	3,307	3,396	3,262	3,195	3,249	100	112	147	3.0	3.4	4.3
SOUTHWEST	**54,462**	**55,602**	**54,208**	**52,480**	**53,706**	**52,315**	**1,982**	**1,896**	**1,893**	**3.6**	**3.4**	**3.5**
Lincoln	6,847	6,761	6,846	6,555	6,483	6,566	292	278	280	4.3	4.1	4.1
Sublette	3,486	3,563	3,436	3,421	3,498	3,369	65	65	67	1.9	1.8	1.9
Sweetwater	19,625	19,330	19,786	18,748	18,494	18,949	877	836	837	4.5	4.3	4.2
Teton	13,654	15,166	13,275	13,456	14,979	13,138	198	187	137	1.5	1.2	1.0
Uinta	10,850	10,782	10,865	10,300	10,252	10,293	550	530	572	5.1	4.9	5.3
SOUTHEAST	**73,009**	**73,175**	**71,473**	**70,970**	**71,051**	**69,842**	**2,039**	**2,124**	**1,631**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.3**
Albany	18,257	17,452	18,116	17,910	17,125	17,876	347	327	240	1.9	1.9	1.3
Goshen	6,732	6,722	6,616	6,551	6,514	6,459	181	208	157	2.7	3.1	2.4
Laramie	41,619	42,681	40,456	40,281	41,281	39,399	1,338	1,400	1,057	3.2	3.3	2.6
Niobrara	1,403	1,405	1,369	1,376	1,369	1,344	27	36	25	1.9	2.6	1.8
Platte	4,998	4,915	4,916	4,852	4,762	4,764	146	153	152	2.9	3.1	3.1
CENTRAL	**49,229**	**50,126**	**49,019**	**47,509**	**48,360**	**47,157**	**1,720**	**1,766**	**1,862**	**3.5**	**3.5**	**3.8**
Carbon	8,436	8,543	8,498	8,127	8,260	8,213	309	283	285	3.7	3.3	3.4
Converse	7,109	7,229	7,043	6,879	6,995	6,796	230	234	247	3.2	3.2	3.5
Natrona	33,684	34,354	33,478	32,503	33,105	32,148	1,181	1,249	1,330	3.5	3.6	4.0
STATEWIDE	**270,508**	**274,179**	**267,557**	**261,541**	**265,103**	**258,895**	**8,967**	**9,076**	**8,662**	**3.3**	**3.3**	**3.2**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.0	3.8	4.0
U.S.										4.7	4.9	3.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.9	4.9	3.9

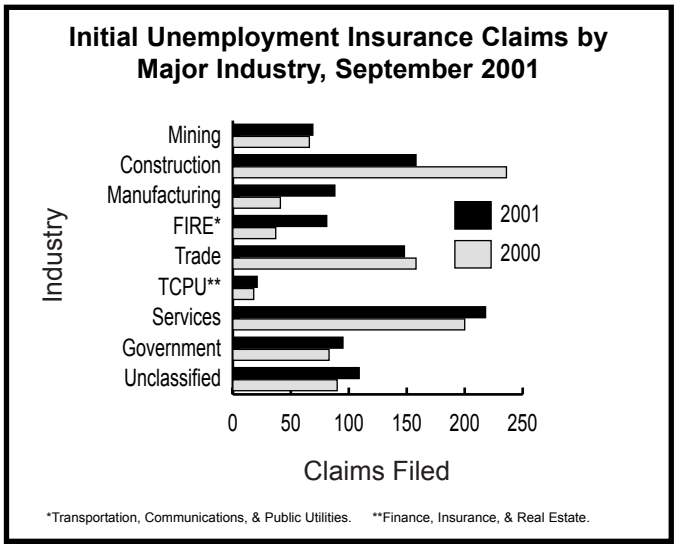
Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/01. Run Date 10/01.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

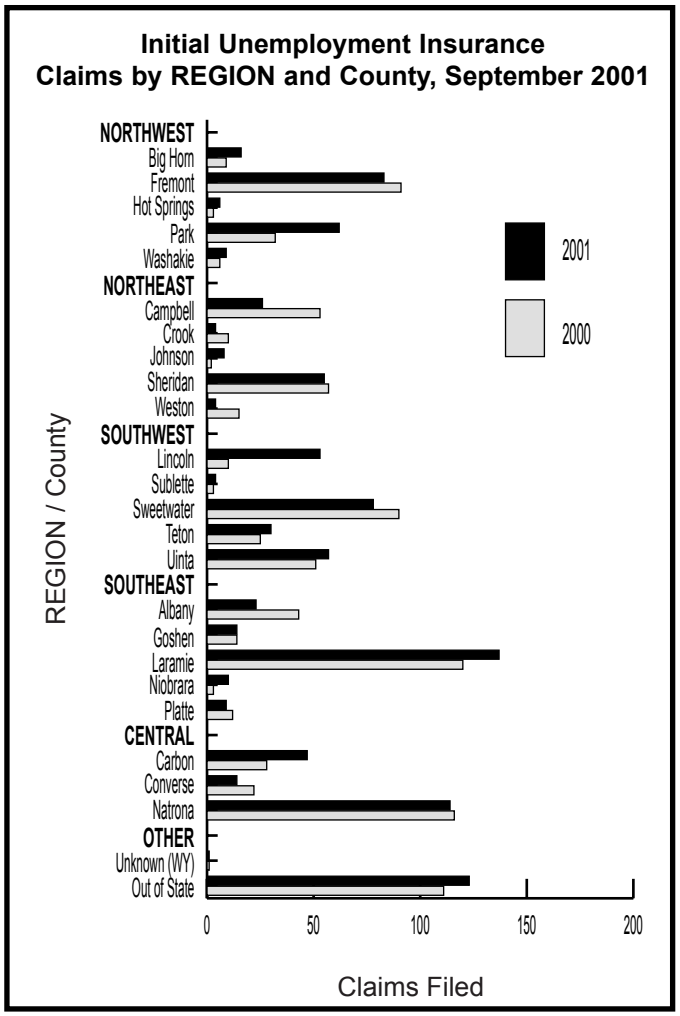
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2000 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.
The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.4 to 4.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

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

"Statewide total initial claims for September 2001 were up from both the previous month (24.0%) and previous year (6.2%)."





WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed Sep 01	Aug 01	Sep 00	Percent Change Claims Filed Aug 01 Sep 01	Sep 00 Sep 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	987	796	929	24.0	6.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	315	252	343	25.0	-8.2
Mining	69	60	66	15.0	4.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	52	50	37	4.0	40.5
Construction	158	133	236	18.8	-33.1
Manufacturing	88	59	41	49.2	114.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	563	429	496	31.2	13.5
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	81	34	37	138.2	118.9
Transportation	70	22	27	218.2	159.3
Communications & Public Utilities	11	12	10	-8.3	10.0
Trade	148	133	158	11.3	-6.3
Wholesale Trade	26	23	26	13.0	0.0
Retail Trade	122	110	132	10.9	-7.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	21	17	18	23.5	16.7
Services	218	170	200	28.2	9.0
Personal & Business Services	64	48	51	33.3	25.5
Health Services	27	24	23	12.5	17.4
Government	95	75	83	26.7	14.5
Local Government	50	39	31	28.2	61.3
Local Education	16	10	12	60.0	33.3
UNCLASSIFIED	109	115	90	-5.2	21.1
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	137	124	119	10.5	15.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	13	29	37	-55.2	-64.9
Mining	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	11	18	34	-38.9	-67.6
Manufacturing	2	11	2	-81.8	0.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	116	82	68	41.5	70.6
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	39	14	8	178.6	387.5
Transportation	35	10	6	250.0	483.3
Communications & Public Utilities	4	4	2	0.0	100.0
Trade	19	20	12	-5.0	58.3
Wholesale Trade	5	5	1	0.0	400.0
Retail Trade	14	15	11	-6.7	27.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	9	5	8	80.0	12.5
Services	32	31	31	3.2	3.2
Personal & Business Services	13	13	11	0.0	18.2
Health Services	6	3	2	100.0	200.0
Government	17	12	9	41.7	88.9
Local Government	3	2	3	50.0	0.0
Local Education	2	0	2	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	8	13	14	-38.5	-42.9
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	111	111	113	0.0	-1.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	31	33	44	-6.1	-29.5
Mining	6	7	11	-14.3	-45.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	6	5	11	20.0	-45.5
Construction	19	16	30	18.8	-36.7
Manufacturing	6	10	3	-40.0	100.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	68	65	64	4.6	6.3
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	7	6	5	16.7	40.0
Transportation	6	3	3	100.0	100.0
Communications & Public Utilities	1	3	2	-66.7	-50.0
Trade	27	19	29	42.1	-6.9
Wholesale Trade	10	3	12	233.3	-16.7
Retail Trade	17	16	17	6.3	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4	3	2	33.3	100.0
Services	22	30	19	-26.7	15.8
Personal & Business Services	8	10	9	-20.0	-11.1
Health Services	2	5	4	-60.0	-50.0
Government	8	7	9	14.3	-11.1
Local Government	5	6	3	-16.7	66.7
Local Education	2	2	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	13	5	-7.7	140.0

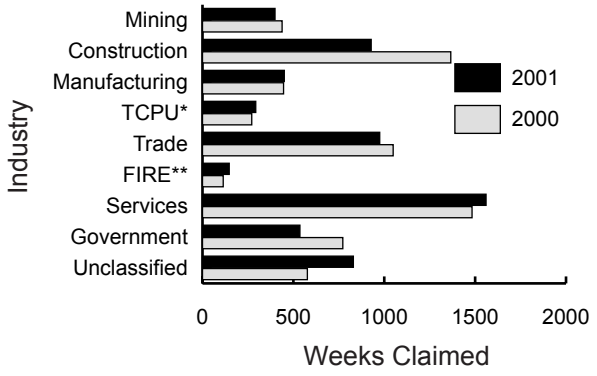
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

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

"Statewide total continued claims in September 2001 were down from both the previous month (-15.7%) and previous year (-6.1%)."

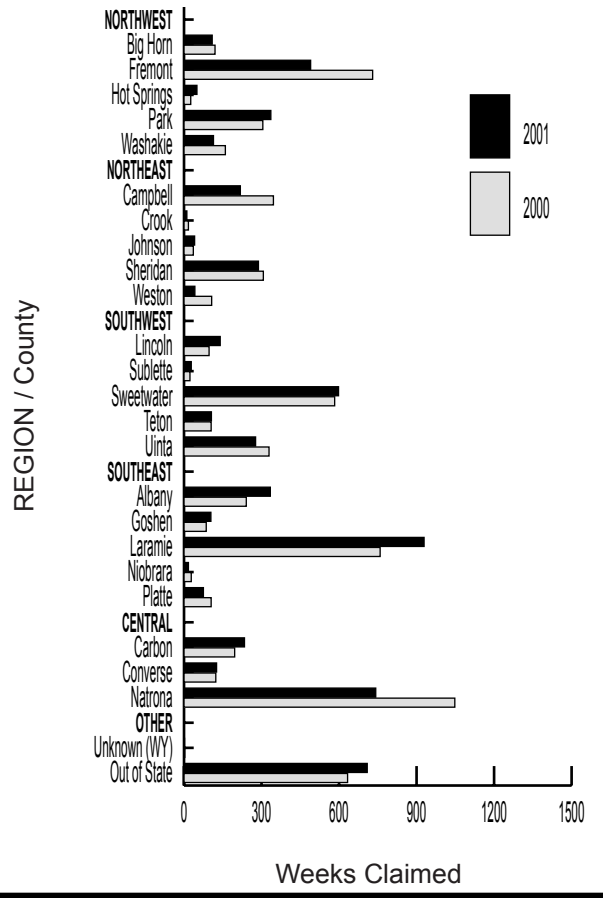
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed Sep 01	Claims Filed Aug 01	Claims Filed Sep 00	Percent Change Claims Filed Aug 01 Sep 01	Percent Change Claims Filed Sep 00 Sep 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	6,118	7,261	6,516	-15.7	-6.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**1,971**	**1,952**	**2,176**	**1.0**	**-9.4**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,777	1,759	2,250	1.0	-21.0
Mining	399	408	438	-2.2	-8.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	281	287	296	-2.1	-5.1
Construction	928	941	1,366	-1.4	-32.1
Manufacturing	450	410	446	9.8	0.9
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	3,511	4,514	3,689	-22.2	-4.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	293	320	271	-8.4	8.1
Transportation	188	213	178	-11.7	5.6
Communications & Public Utilities	105	107	93	-1.9	12.9
Trade	975	1,314	1,049	-25.8	-7.1
Wholesale Trade	146	201	215	-27.4	-32.1
Retail Trade	829	1,113	834	-25.5	-0.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	147	139	114	5.8	28.9
Services	1,560	2,191	1,483	-28.8	5.2
Personal & Business Services	523	598	428	-12.5	22.2
Health Services	206	226	207	-8.8	-0.5
Government	536	550	772	-2.5	-30.6
Local Government	303	340	348	-10.9	-12.9
Local Education	109	163	213	-33.1	-48.8
UNCLASSIFIED	830	988	577	-16.0	43.8
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	927	993	757	-6.6	22.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**283**	**273**	**264**	**3.7**	**7.2**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	202	175	160	15.4	26.3
Mining	0	2	0	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	116	107	132	8.4	-12.1
Manufacturing	86	66	28	30.3	207.1
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	628	732	506	-14.2	24.1
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	89	109	60	-18.3	48.3
Transportation	58	75	38	-22.7	52.6
Communications & Public Utilities	31	34	22	-8.8	40.9
Trade	139	176	125	-21.0	11.2
Wholesale Trade	24	24	19	0.0	26.3
Retail Trade	115	152	106	-24.3	8.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	45	44	31	2.3	45.2
Services	266	318	175	-16.4	52.0
Personal & Business Services	110	103	62	6.8	77.4
Health Services	36	34	38	5.9	-5.3
Government	89	85	115	4.7	-22.6
Local Government	32	49	34	-34.7	-5.9
Local Education	16	28	32	-42.9	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	97	86	91	12.8	6.6
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	743	985	1,047	-24.6	-29.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**240**	**259**	**343**	**-7.3**	**-30.0**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	186	228	352	-18.4	-47.2
Mining	52	49	74	6.1	-29.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	50	44	60	13.6	-16.7
Construction	99	129	227	-23.3	-56.4
Manufacturing	35	50	51	-30.0	-31.4
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	497	690	664	-28.0	-25.2
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	44	41	58	7.3	-24.1
Transportation	26	31	26	-16.1	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	18	10	32	80.0	-43.8
Trade	131	203	192	-35.5	-31.8
Wholesale Trade	31	60	38	-48.3	-18.4
Retail Trade	100	143	154	-30.1	-35.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	22	24	13	-8.3	69.2
Services	245	370	310	-33.8	-21.0
Personal & Business Services	76	78	110	-2.6	-30.9
Health Services	54	61	63	-11.5	-14.3
Government	55	52	91	5.8	-39.6
Local Government	41	35	27	17.1	51.9
Local Education	28	26	17	7.7	64.7
UNCLASSIFIED	60	67	31	-10.4	93.5

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry, September 2001



*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities. **Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by REGION and County, September 2001



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