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TRENDS

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Indicators of Wyoming's Economic Health: Part I

by: Doug Leonard, Senior Economist

The movement of workers from their homes to their places of employment is an integral part of Wyoming's economy. A considerable amount of movement is due to the state's low population density and the existence of work locations in remote areas. The following article examines the relationship of worker commuting to other economic variables such as initial unemployment insurance claims, jobs worked, and oil and gas drilling activity. Research indicated that commuting as a factor in conjunction with other variables can be a leading indicator of employment changes in the state.

"On an over-the-year basis, employment fell by 3,059 jobs (-1.1%) and average weekly wage decreased by $1 (-0.1%) from first quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009. Job losses were reported in more than half of Wyoming counties and in 12 industry sectors." (Bullard & Brennan; October 2009)

As the quote indicates, Wyoming's economy entered a period of contraction during first quarter 2009. This stands in stark contrast to the rapid growth the state experienced from 2005 to 2008. Once a contraction begins, speculation follows as to whether (and to what extent) downturns can be anticipated and what data are available to either predict or confirm these events. Wyoming's rapid growth in recent years also had other effects on workers in the state. The rural nature and sparsely populated open spaces in the state require some type of work-related travel for many people. This increases demand for fuels, automotive repair, and automotive maintenance. More demands are placed on the infrastructure as well when people use public roadways

(Text continued on page 3)

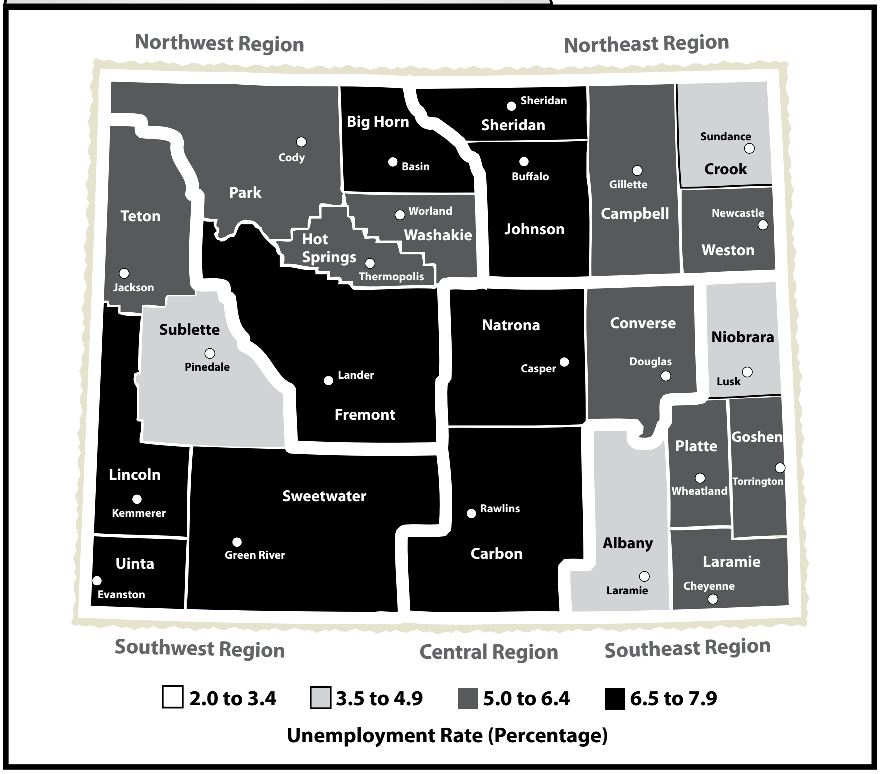
HIGHLIGHTS

- **The recently completed Rockies Express natural gas pipeline, which runs from western Colorado to Ohio, opens new markets for Wyoming natural gas. ...** ***page 8***
- **Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 6.8% in September, as the state's employment decreased by 12,900 jobs from September 2008. ...** ***page 20***

NEW **The Growing and Declining Industries tables for Second Quarter 2009 are now available on the Internet at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/G_DInd/G_D_Industries.htm**

http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, September 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



IN THIS ISSUE

Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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(Text continued from page 1)

for work. As trip distances and frequencies increase, so do the chances traveling workers will be involved in automobile accidents. Additional time on the road means less time spent at home, which may be associated with family life difficulties. Positive impacts of workers commuting may include the ability to secure higher paying and more stable employment while remaining at the same residence.

Prior analyses performed by Research & Planning focused on the socioeconomic impacts associated with commuting during an economic expansion (Leonard, 2008). However, limited research examined what happens to worker commuting during an economic contraction or recession. In addition to commuting effects, what other variables could be used to analyze the severity of, and, if possible to predict economic downturns before they occur?

Methodology

The primary data set and definitions used in this analysis come from the commuting pattern data model (Leonard, 2008). This data set contains information about worker movements, wages, industries, and demographics. Other data sets used include continued and initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2009), rotary drilling rig counts (Baker Hughes, Inc., 2009) and employment levels from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2009).

The base unit of analysis was jobs worked at any time in the state, not individuals working. This means that the analysis of commuting count and distance data includes multiple jobholding. The analysis covers the period from first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2009.

Results

Figure 1 (see page 4) shows the quarterly *intracounty* (short distance, within county) commuting flows from first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2009 along with the percentage change in flow compared with the prior year. The over-the-year percentage change line provides information regarding positive or negative growth in Wyoming's economy. As the positive portion of the growth line shows, changes were small (3.2% or less) until fourth quarter 2003, when intracounty commuting surged 6.7% to 208,850 worker transactions (single and multiple jobs) from 195,679 in fourth quarter 2002. From fourth quarter 2003 until second quarter 2005 (seven quarters) the growth rate in intracounty commuting was nearly equal to or exceeded 4.0%. From third quarter 2005 to fourth quarter 2007, the growth rate slowed but remained steady between 1.8% and 3.1%. However, beginning in first quarter 2008, growth in intracounty commuting slowed rapidly and became negative by second quarter 2008. The last three quarters in the time series show a rapid decline in intracounty commuting through first quarter 2009 as the recession which beset the United States appears to begin substantially affecting Wyoming.

Figure 2 (see page 4) illustrates commuting behavior in a slightly different manner than Figure 1. First, Figure 2 shows commuting behavior between counties (*intercounty* commuting). Second, in addition to Wyoming residents, it

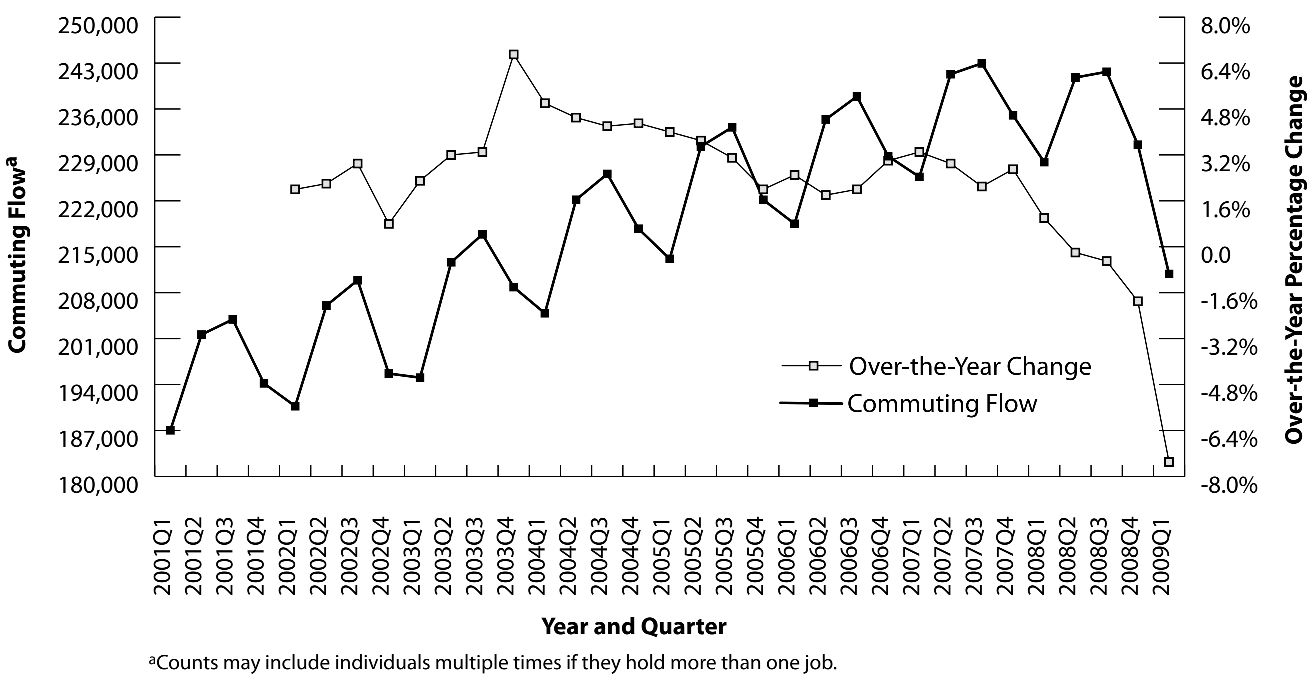

Figure 1: **Wyoming Within-County Commuting Flows and Over-the-Year Change, First Quarter 2001 (2001Q1) to First Quarter 2009 (2009Q1)**

includes people working in the state who do not have a Wyoming driver's license (nonresidents). In 2002 there was a rapid increase in the amount of intercounty commuting, followed by several quarters of contractions occurring in the period shortly following the collapse of Enron. This was followed by a period of growth in the first half of 2005 transitioning back to negative growth from third quarter 2005 until second quarter 2006. From second quarter 2006 until second quarter 2008 growth rates exceeded 12.0% four times. The

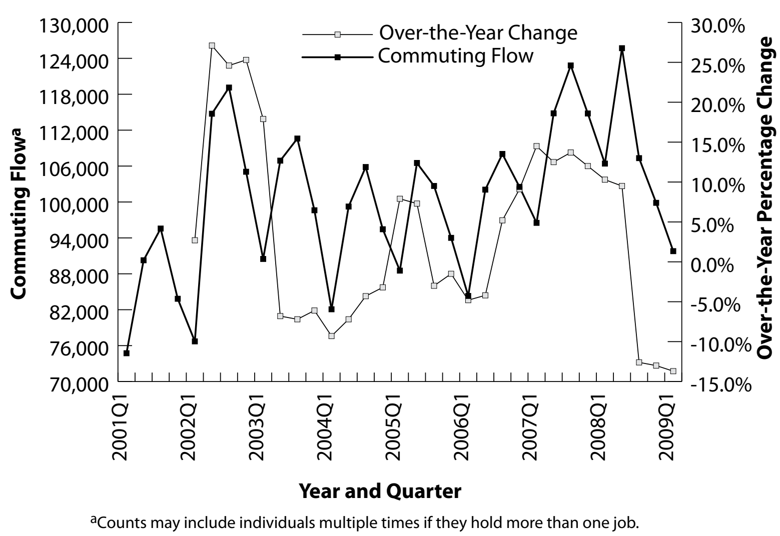

Figure 2: **Wyoming Intercounty Commuting Flows and Over-the-Year Percentage Change, First Quarter 2001 (2001Q1) to First Quarter 2009 (2009Q1)**

effects of the national recession can be seen in third quarter 2008 as intercounty commuting contracted at a pace greater than 12.0%.

A comparison of over-the-year changes in statewide employment (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2009), intercounty commuting, initial (first-time filing) unemployment insurance (UI) claims (Wen & Leonard, 2009), out-of-state UI claimants (Leonard, 2009), and rotary drilling rig counts (Baker Hughes, 2009) is shown in Figure 3 (see page 6). Changes in intercounty commuting, either up or down, do not necessarily precede changes in the employment level. An example of this occurred in 2007, when intercounty commuting increased, yet the employment growth levels declined. Over-the-year percentage changes in initial filings for unemployment insurance and rotary drilling rig counts do appear to precede changes in employment. When initial UI claims and rig counts changed markedly compared to the recent historical trend in 2007 and 2008, the employment growth rate began to decline. It was not until first quarter 2009 that the state began to experience negative employment growth.

Discussion

The rapid decline in intercounty commuting (see Figures 2 and 3) beginning in mid-2008 suggests the over-the-year change statistic (in conjunction with other variables) could be used as a leading indicator of growth or contraction in Wyoming's economy. Intracounty commuting flows (see Figure 1) show that the current recession is much different than the economic downturn Wyoming experienced earlier in the decade. During that downturn, intracounty commuting flows were affected very little, while a much larger downward change was observed in intercounty commuting. Often during economic expansions, Wyoming obtains a large amount of labor from other states (Jones, 2006). When expansions end, these workers generally return to their locations of origin (see Figure 4, page 7). Figure 4 shows that during the current recession, nearly one-quarter of dislocated workers receiving Wyoming unemployment benefits are now living in another state. Based on the data presented in Figures 1 and 4, the current recession is affecting Wyoming's resident workforce in addition to its itinerant or transient workforce.

Although commuting data provide some information regarding economic health, UI claims and rotary drilling rig count data are timelier and tend to be more sensitive to economic changes. This is evidenced in Figure 3 when the rig counts and UI claims began moving in opposite directions beginning in 2007, well before the decline in employment was seen in first quarter 2009. Conversely, the timeliness and sensitivity of these data sets may be early indicators of Wyoming's recovery, while intercounty commuting data may be more confirmatory in nature.

Conclusion

In this first article of a two-part series, we examined the interplay between commuting flows, rotary drilling rig counts, first-time applications for unemployment insurance, and employment levels. The combination of these four data sets showed an early indication of Wyoming's economic downturn. Such indicators may also provide information as to when the state has exited the recession and is on the path toward recovery.

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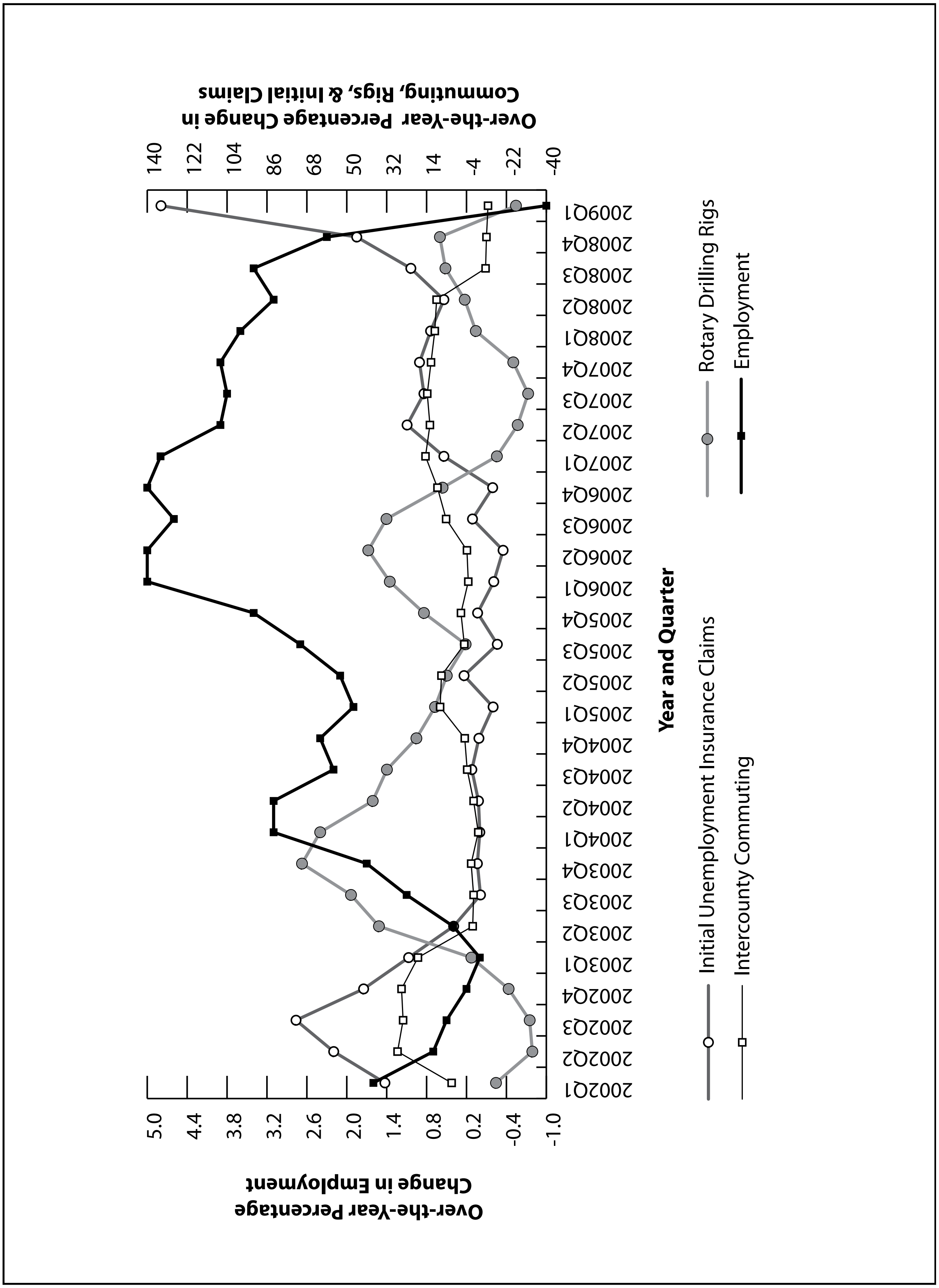

Figure 3: **Wyoming Over-the-Year (OTY) Percentage Changes in Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims, Rig Counts, Employment, and Intercounty Commuting, First Quarter 2002 (2002Q1) to First Quarter 2009 (2009Q1)**

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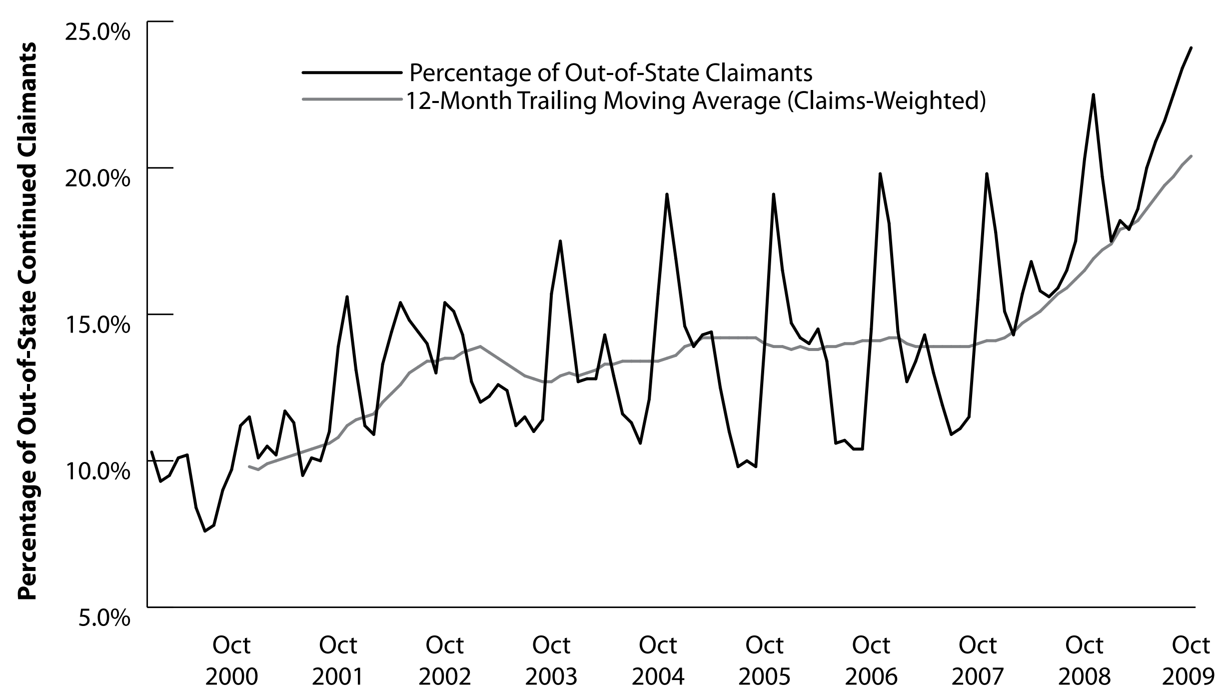
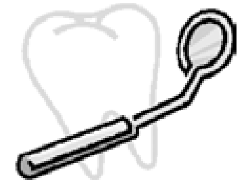


Figure 4: **Percentage of Out-of-State Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants, 2000-2009 (Normalized)**

Occupation Spotlight

Did you know there are an estimated 530 dental assistants in Wyoming?

According to the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, dental assistants in Wyoming earn a mean wage of $13.24 per hour, with an average entry wage of $8.90 per hour. Wage data for specific occupations is available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm. Click on the "County and Regional Wages (estimates for Wyoming wages for September 2009)" link. From there you can select statewide or county-specific data on different occupations in Wyoming.



Dental Assistants

Employment Situation in States Along the Rockies Express Pipeline Route

by: Phil Ellsworth, Information Specialist

Since the earliest days of energy production in pre-statehood Wyoming, producers have been looking for ways to transport their goods to customers without shedding too much of their profit in the process. The delivery system that began as wagon tracks through the sagebrush now forms a spider web of oil and natural gas pipelines throughout the state and beyond. Many of these lines are relatively short intracounty lines, interconnected parts of the gathering system. Others, such as the Wyoming-to-California Kern River Pipeline are mammoth, multi-state conduits. In recent years, limited pipeline capacity has led to lower prices for natural gas produced in Wyoming than for gas produced in areas of the country where pipeline capacity is less competitive (Leonard, 2008).

With the recent completion of the 1,679-mile, Colorado-to-Ohio Rockies Express natural gas pipeline (see Map, page 9), a price differential that at times was as much as $4 per thousand cubic feet has virtually disappeared (Curran & Farquhar, 2009). According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the completion of the three-segment pipeline in 2009 differs from most of the pipeline expansions and capacity-increasing projects of 2008 in that the previous projects had primarily expanded capacity along existing distribution routes. The new pipeline has changed regional distribution dynamics that have been in place since the construction boom following World War II (Energy Information Administration, 2009).

Regression analysis by Research & Planning (R&P) has shown that natural gas prices from 2000 to 2005 were highly correlated with the number of jobs in oil and gas, and crude oil prices explained much of the variation in oil and gas employment from 1971 to 1986 (Wen, 2005).

However, a larger contributor to gas prices is domestic demand, and that demand will be determined in large part by the health of the economies at the eastern end of the pipeline and points beyond. According to the Energy Information Administration, 30 states and the District of Columbia are 85% or more dependent upon the interstate pipeline

Map: **Route of the Rockies Express Pipeline**

network for their natural gas supply (Energy Information Administration, 2007). Generally speaking, these states are in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and along the West Coast.

Because the customer base and geographic distribution of consumption is relatively known, we may well anticipate the rate at which Wyoming's natural gas commodity market can expect to be stimulated as certain regions of the country pull out of the recession.

This article offers a brief look at natural gas consumption and the employment situation in those states along the Rockies Express pipeline. Unless otherwise noted, total nonfarm employment data were collected for each of the states through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics survey custom table creation tool (http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/dsrv?sm) and are seasonally adjusted. For an explanation of seasonal adjustment, see the footnote on page 20. Unemployment insurance claims data were collected via the Employment and Training Administration's Monthly Program and Financial Data tool (http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claimssum.asp).

Natural Gas Consumption

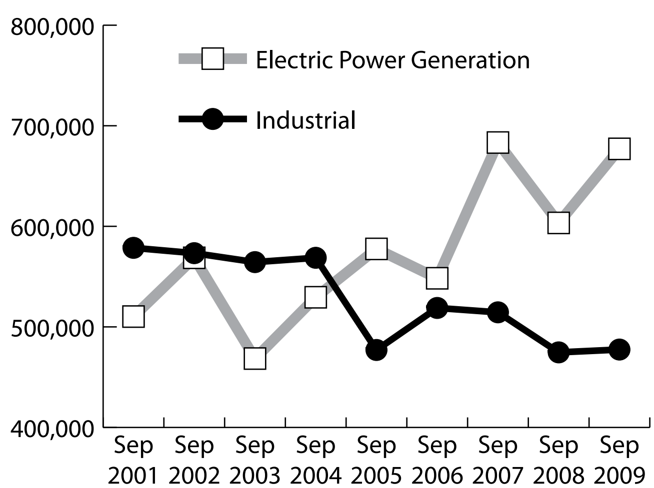
As Table 1 on page 10 shows, the largest consumers of natural gas in the nation are electric power generation and industrial use (28.7% and 28.5% of total consumption for 2008, respectively). Residential use makes up a little more than one-fifth (21.0%) of total consumption. And while use of natural gas for electrical power has increased in the nation over the past decade, industrial use has declined (see Figure 1, page 10; U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2009a). Part of the decline in industrial consumption is due to the decline in manufacturing. As Figure 2 shows (see page 11), manufacturing employment in the states along the Rockies Express pipeline route has declined since 1999.

Table 1: **U.S. Natural Gas Consumption by End User, 2008**

End Use	Million Cubic Feet	Percentage of Total
Total Consumption	**23,195,069**	**100.0%**
Lease and Plant Fuel	1,272,831	5.5%
Pipeline & Distribution Use	626,888	2.7%
Volumes Delivered to Consumers	21,295,350	91.8%
Residential	4,865,691	21.0%
Commercial	3,119,988	13.5%
Industrial	6,618,631	28.5%
Vehicle Fuel	30,094	0.1%
Electric Power	6,660,947	28.7%

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Retrieved December 10, 2009, from http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_nus_m.htm

However, the use of natural gas for electrical power generation and new access to a large percentage of the nation's residential gas customers may bode well for Wyoming and Rocky Mountain gas producers.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Natural Gas Consumption by End Use. Retrieved December 10, 2009, from http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_nus_m.htm
Note: Industrial consumption is defined as natural gas used for heat, power, or chemical feedstock by manufacturing establishments or those engaged in mining or other mineral extractions as well as consumers in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and construction.

Figure 1: **Comparison of September U.S. Consumption of Natural Gas for Electrical Power Generation and Industrial Use, 2001 to 2009**

Electrical Power Generation

Of the top 10 states in terms of natural gas consumption for electrical power, only New York and New Jersey are east of the terminus of the new pipeline. Combined, they represented 8.5% of total consumption for power generation in 2008.

Industrial use

Although industrial consumption of natural gas has been declining nationally, 4 of the top 10 states for natural gas consumption for industrial purposes are along the pipeline or near its terminus. Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Pennsylvania together represent 15.4% of the national consumption for industrial power.

Residential use

Eight of the top 10 states for consumption of natural gas for residential use are within 500 miles of the pipeline or its terminus. Illinois, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, and Wisconsin combined represent 46.2%

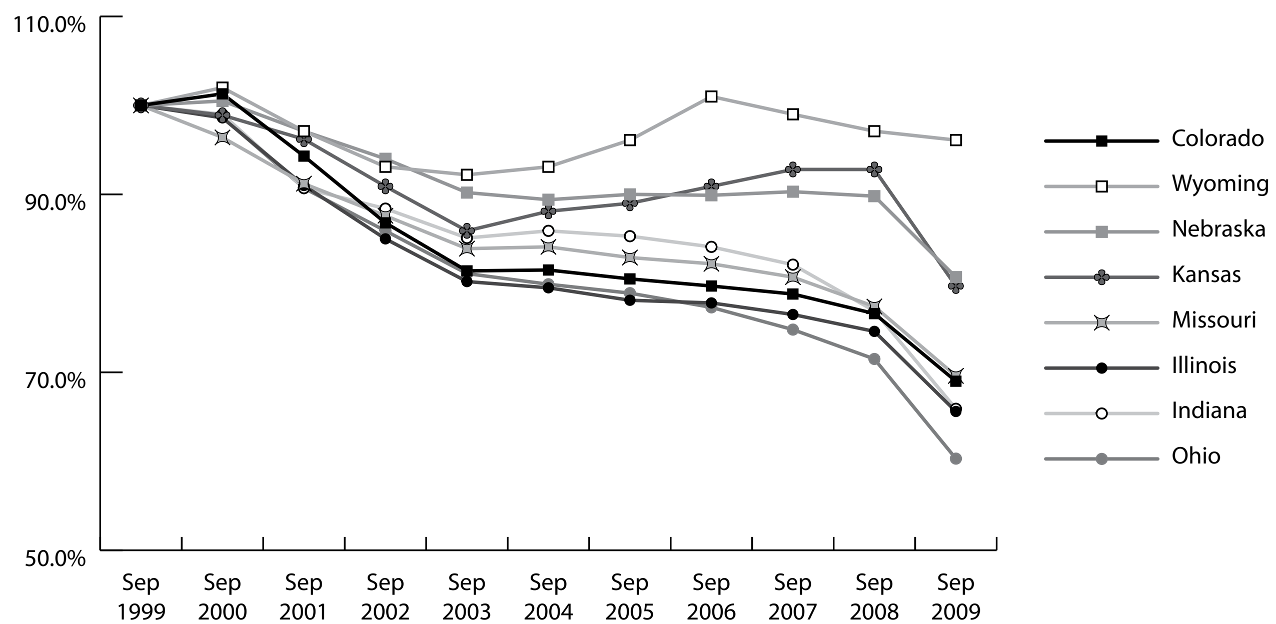


Figure 2: **September Manufacturing Employment in States Along the Rockies Express Pipeline Route as a Percentage of September 1999 Manufacturing Employment Levels, 1999 to 2009**

of the nation's residential consumption of natural gas.

According to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Short-Term Outlook for December 8, 2009, overall natural gas consumption for 2009 is expected to be down by 1.9%, and by an additional 0.4% in 2010 (2009b). EIA expects the Henry Hub spot price for 2010 to be $0.67 higher than the estimated 2009 price, despite record-high working inventories of natural gas and lower consumption due to mild weather in November. The EIA also expects natural gas' share of electrical power generation to fall from 22% to 21% due to lower coal prices and increased capacity from renewable sources, including wind power.

Employment by State: A Measure of Potential Gas Consumption

As Figures 3 and 4 show (see pages 12 and 13, respectively), employment levels in each of the eight states along the new pipeline have declined over the past year, but Wyoming's employment level for September 2009 increased dramatically from 1999 to 2009. Employment levels in the four easternmost states on the pipeline – Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio – were lower in September 2009 than in September 1999. Unemployment insurance claims in most of the states along the pipeline route increased over the year from September 2008 to September 2009, but had decreased over the month from August. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for all but three states declined from August to September but remained higher over the year. In Illinois and Wyoming, the

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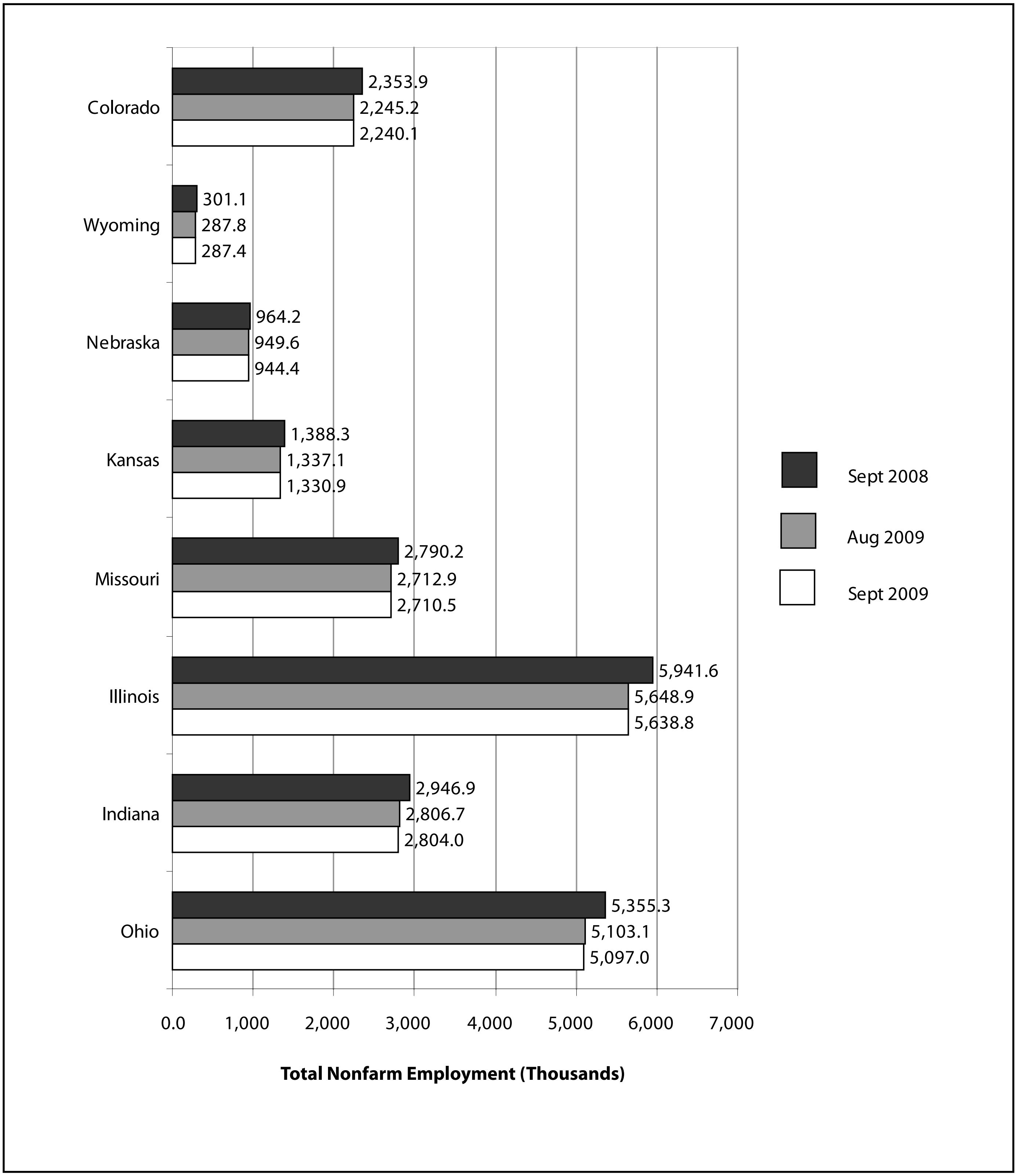

Figure 3: **Total Nonfarm Employment in States Along the Rockies Express Pipeline Route. Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, a joint federal-state cooperative survey of establishments.**

(Text continued from page 11)

unemployment rate increased over the month, and in Missouri it was unchanged. Research & Planning publishes unemployment rates for all states each month in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*; readers may want to watch the following states' rates to gain a better sense of where the natural gas market is headed.

Colorado

From September 2008 to September 2009, total nonfarm payroll employment in Colorado declined by 112,100 jobs. Over that period, the state lost 28,300 jobs in professional & business services and 25,600 jobs in construction. According to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the three slowest growing industries are computer and electronic product manufacturing, support activities for mining, and construction of buildings (Colorado Department of Labor & Employment, 2009a) – all relatively high paying industries.

Employment on Colorado's Western Slope, where the Rockies Express originates, is heavily dependent upon mining and oil and gas development. Local communities likely will see a benefit if the price differential between Rockies Express natural gas and natural gas sold elsewhere remains small. The September 2009 unemployment rate for Colorado was 7.0%, a decrease from August (7.3%; see Figure 5),

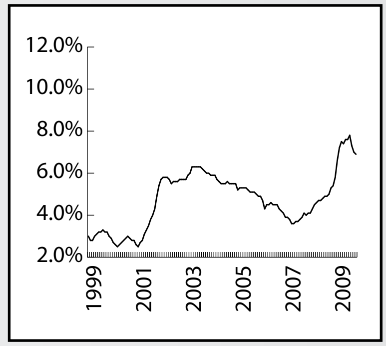

Figure 5: **Colorado seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

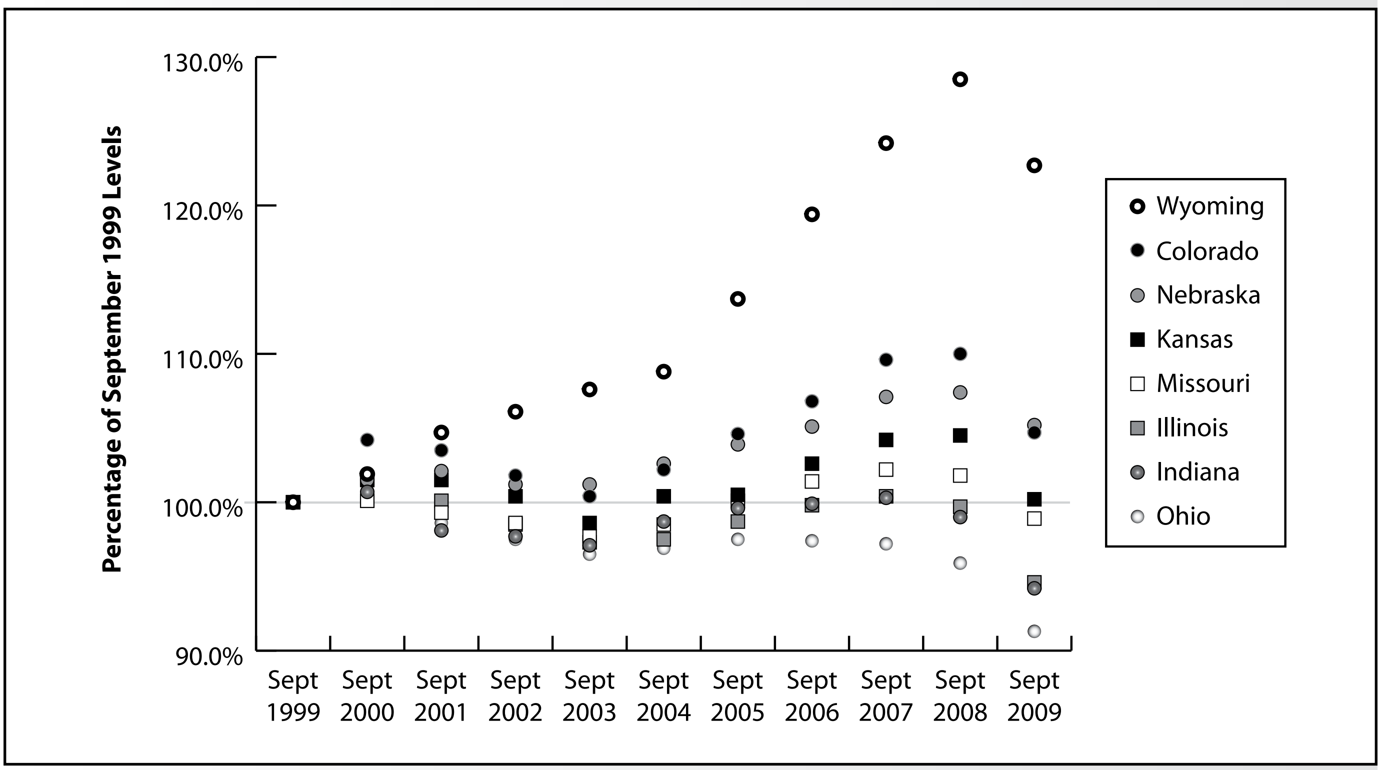

Figure 4: **September Employment in States Along the Rockies Express Pipeline as a Percentage of September 1999 Employment Levels, 1999 to 2009**

but higher than the September 2008 rate, 5.0% (Colorado, 2009b).

Initial unemployment claims were 156.8% higher in September 2009 than they were a year earlier, while continued weeks claimed for the month were 231.3% higher than for September 2008 (Employment & Training Administration, 2009).

Wyoming

From first quarter 1988 through fourth quarter 2008, Wyoming's unemployment insurance-covered employment grew – a stretch of economic expansion in which Wyoming total payroll topped the $3 billion mark in September 2008 and a record was set for number of jobs in the state (294,463). But in first quarter 2009, the 21-year streak of over-the-year growth ended, as the national recession that began in December 2007 began to show effects in Wyoming. Total payroll declined by $36.0 million, and job growth fell to -1.1%. Employment declined by 3,535 jobs in construction, and by 1,121 jobs in retail trade. Job losses were also seen in accommodation & food services, manufacturing, and administrative & waste services. Job gains occurred in state, local and federal government and in health care & social assistance, and other services (Bullard, 2009).

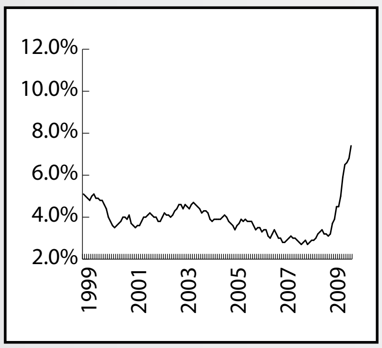

Figure 6: **Wyoming seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Although Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 6.6% in August to 6.8% in September (not a statistically significant increase; see Figure 6), it remained lower than the national rate of 9.8%. Over the year, Wyoming employment decreased by 12,900 jobs (4.2%). The largest job losses were in natural resources & mining (-6,000 jobs, or -19.9%) and construction (-4,600 jobs, or -15.3%). Over the month, seasonal job gains in government (5,300 jobs) were more than offset by job losses in most industry sectors. County unemployment rates for September increased in most counties, and ranged from 8.2% in Big Horn County to 3.6% in Albany County (see page 25).

Initial unemployment insurance claims were 201.9% higher in September 2009 than in September 2008, but the 2,804 claims were far fewer than the 4,796 reported in March 2009. Continued weeks claimed were 335.6% higher in September 2009 than in September 2008. The 29,356 continued claims for September 2009 were considerably lower than the 36,620 for August 2009 and the peak of 43,026 for May 2009. Wyoming unemployment insurance claims are published each month in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*.

Nebraska

From September 2008 to September 2009, Nebraska non-farm employment declined by an estimated 23,434 jobs, including a decline of 9,979 manufacturing jobs. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased over the year from 3.4% to 4.9%, but remained far below the national unemployment rate (see Figure 7, page 15). (Unemployment Rate Information for September 2009)

Nebraska's initial unemployment claims declined from 7,634 in August 2009 to 7,159 in September, but were still higher than the 4,964 initial claims reported in September 2008. Continued claims declined from 91,709 in August to 70,911 in September, but remained nearly double the September 2008 level of 37,738.

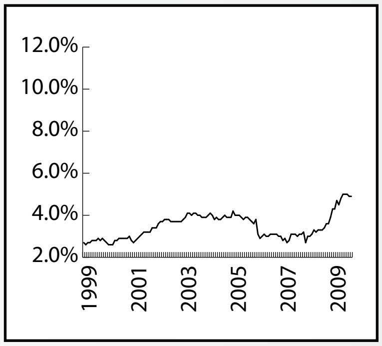

Figure 7: **Nebraska seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Kansas

Kansas lost an estimated 59,700 jobs from September 2008 to September 2009, a 4.3% decrease. Among the sectors with job losses were manufacturing (-26,400 jobs), professional & business services (-13,400), and trade, transportation, & utilities (-8,700). Continued claims for unemployment insurance declined from 222,219 in August to 180,202 in September, but were still substantially higher than the 109,253 claims in September 2008. The state unemployment rate declined from 7.2% in August to 6.9% in September, but was still considerably higher than the 4.6% rate of September 2008 (see Figure 8; Kansas Department of Labor, 2009).

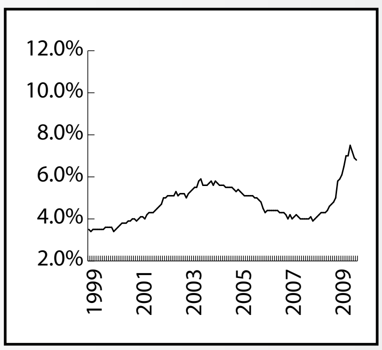

Figure 8: **Kansas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Initial unemployment insurance claims dropped from 20,750 in August 2009 to 17,574 in September, just 1,666 higher than the number for September 2008 (15,908). Continued claims declined by 43,030 over the month, but were 62.5% higher than the September 2008 level.

Missouri

Total nonfarm employment in Missouri declined by an estimated 79,700 jobs from September 2008 to September 2009, and by 2,400 jobs from August 2009 to September 2009. The largest over-the-year losses were in manufacturing (-29,100), construction (-18,800), and professional & business services (-15,000). Gains in educational & health services (8,600) and government (7,300) were more than offset by losses in these and other sectors (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009).

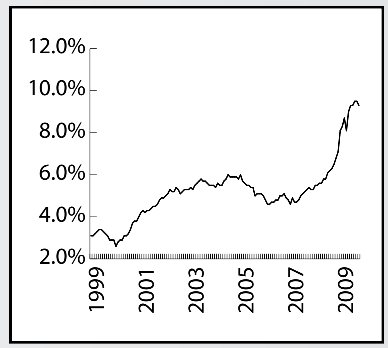

Figure 9: **Missouri seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from August to September (9.5%), and up from 6.3% in September 2008 (see Figure 9; Missouri Department of Economic Development, 2009).

Illinois

Total nonfarm employment in Illinois decreased by 302,800 from September 2008 to September 2009, and by 10,100 from August 2009 to September 2009. The largest over-the-year job losses were in manufacturing (-79,100 jobs), professional & business services (-72,000), and trade, transportation, & utilities (-61,100). Total employment declined from August 2009 to September 2009 by 10,100 jobs despite a gain of 8,200 in government (Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2009a).

Illinois' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 10.0% in August to 10.5% in September. The rate in September 2008 was 6.7% (see Figure 10; Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2009b).

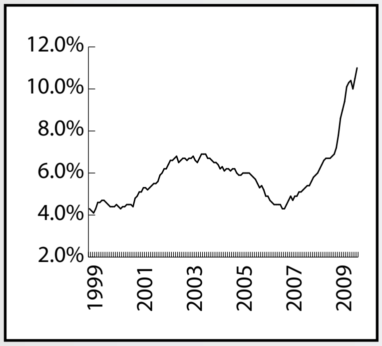

Figure 10: **Illinois seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Initial unemployment insurance claims in Illinois increased by 21,981 from September 2008 to September 2009, but decreased from August to September by 1,924. Continued weeks claimed were up by 506,031 over the year, but down by 86,455 from August to September.

Indiana

From September 2008 to September 2009, Indiana shed an estimated 135,800 jobs, including 73,600 in manufacturing, 24,900 in trade, transportation, & utilities, and 23,800 in construction. Over-the-month job gains were seen in government (3,600 jobs), manufacturing (3,000), and professional & business services (2,900; Indiana Department of Workforce Development, 2009).

Initial unemployment claims declined from 41,012 in September 2008 to 35,627 in September 2009 and far lower than the peak of 108,832 claims the state hit in December 2008. Over-the-month initial claims were lower as well, down 5,469 from August 2009. Continued claims, which peaked at 785,747 in March 2009, increased from 287,663 in September 2008 to 392,016 in September 2009, but declined from August to September by 128,213.

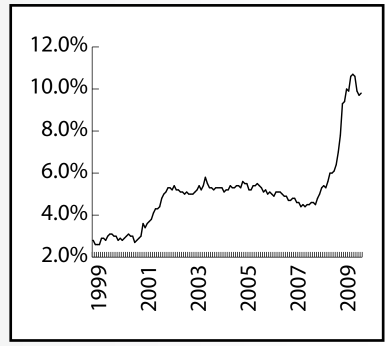

Figure 11: **Indiana seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Indiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 6.1% in September 2008 to 9.7% in September 2009, but declined over the month from 9.9% in August (see Figure 11).

Ohio

Total nonfarm employment in Ohio decreased by 258,100 from September 2008 to September 2009, with the largest job losses in manufacturing (-115,900), professional & business services (-54,100), and trade, transportation, & utilities (-51,700). According to a report by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's employment peaked in 2000, but never fully recovered from the 2001 recession. In both goods-producing and services-providing sectors,

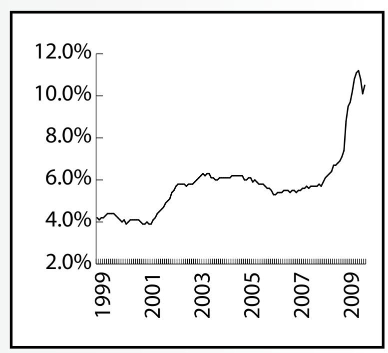

Figure 12: **Ohio seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1999 to 2009**

Ohio has underperformed U.S. averages since 2000 (Horner, 2009).

Ohio's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2009 was 10.1%, down from 10.8% in August 2009, but higher than the September 2008 rate of 6.8%.

Initial unemployment insurance claims in Ohio fell from 75,503 in August 2009 to 67,321 in September 2009, still 1,660 higher over the year, but far lower than the peak of 144,682 from December 2008. Continued claims fell from 1,021,347 in August to 746,758 in September. There were 467,481 continued claims in September 2008.

Summary

The Wyoming economy is closely tied to natural gas production, but Rocky Mountain gas producers have historically been paid less for gas than producers in other markets because they have had to compete for limited pipeline capacity. This disparity will likely be diminished by the addition of the Rockies Express Pipeline to the nation's gas distribution system. This new pipeline opens new markets for Wyoming natural gas, but prices will still be driven by demand in the states along the pipeline and points beyond. Use of natural gas for electrical power generation is expected to decline somewhat in the short term, but has been increasing overall since 2001. Industrial consumption has declined over the same period. Residential use makes up a smaller percentage of overall consumption, but Wyoming gas producers will now have greater access to a larger percentage of the nation's residential gas customers. All of the states along the pipeline have seen effects of the current economic downturn, although several are showing signs of recovery through reductions in unemployment insurance claims and lower unemployment rates. Total nonfarm employment in all of the states along the pipeline was lower in September 2009 than in September 2008.

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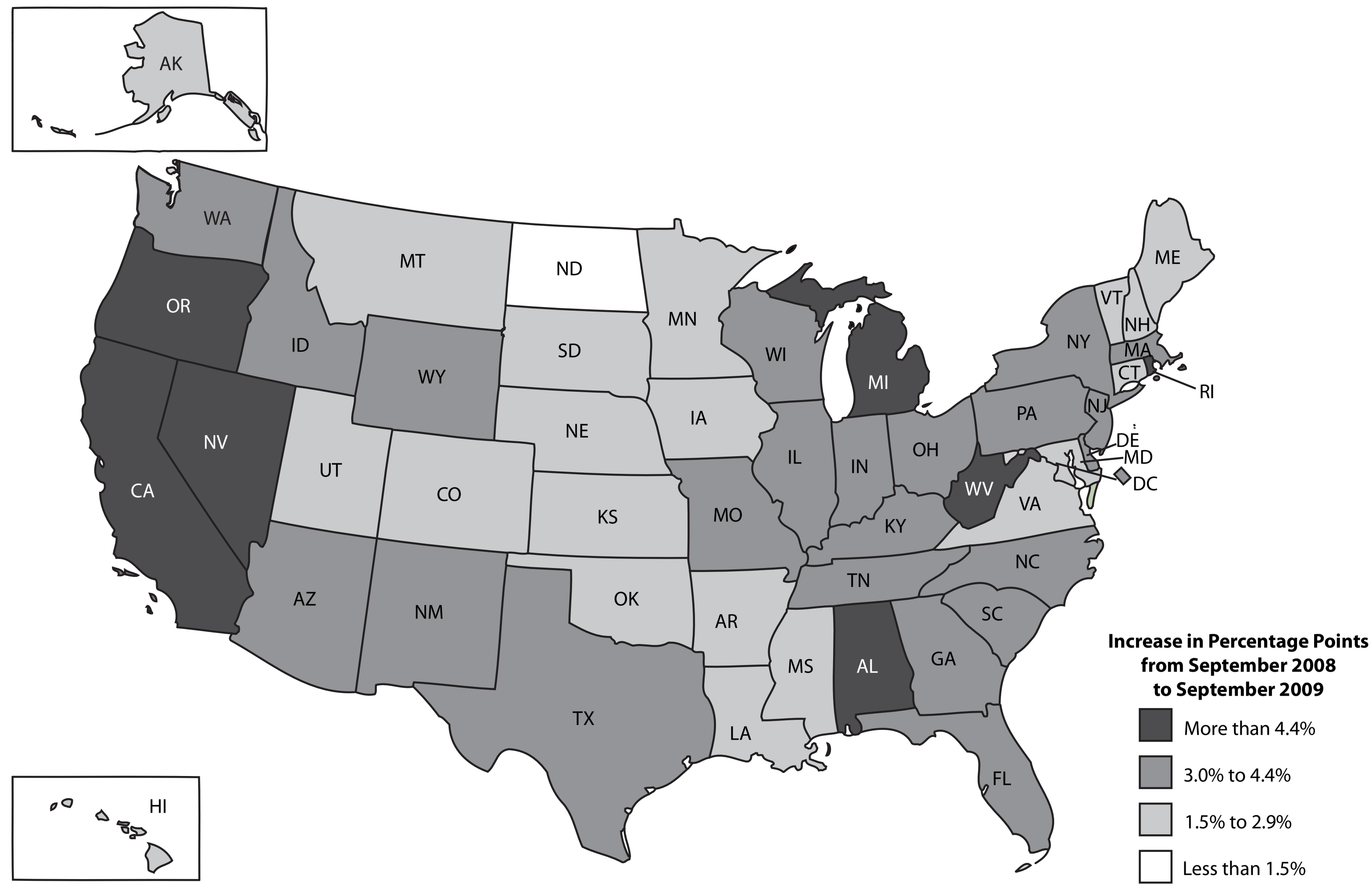
Twelve-Month Percentage Point Increase in Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by State, September 2008 to September 2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. Extracted January 4, 2010.

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Data Online

Wyoming's nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses estimated private industry incidence rate for 2008 (n=9,000) was 4.6 per 100 full-time employees. This was the same rate as last year's (n=8,700), according to the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

The report contains industry-specific data and is available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/OSH/toc.htm.

Wyoming Job Losses Continue in September

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

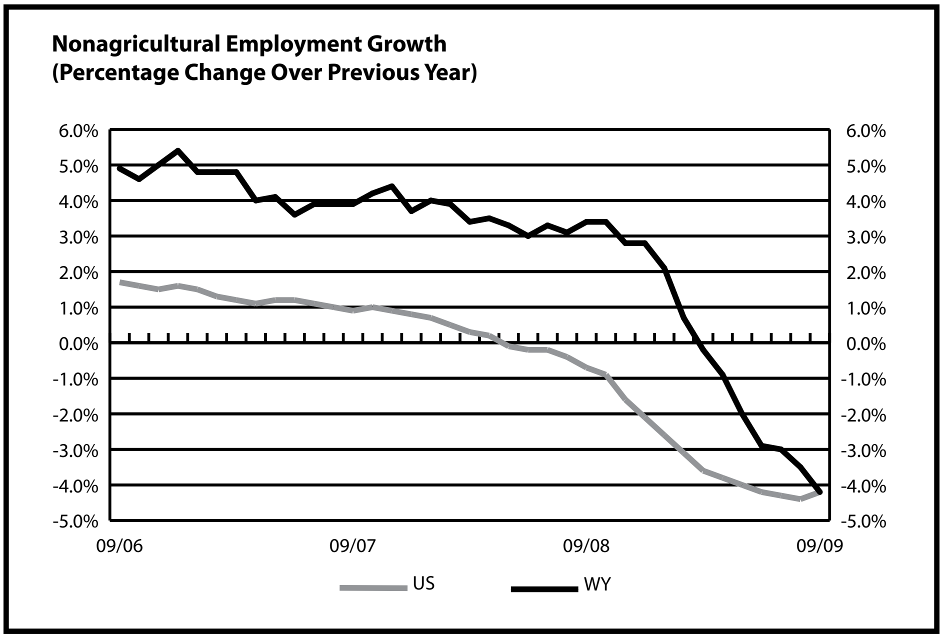
The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Employment has reported that employment in the state decreased by 12,900 jobs (or 4.2%) from September 2008 to September 2009. The state's seasonally adjusted[1] unemployment rate increased from 6.6% in August to 6.8% in September. It remained much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 9.8%.

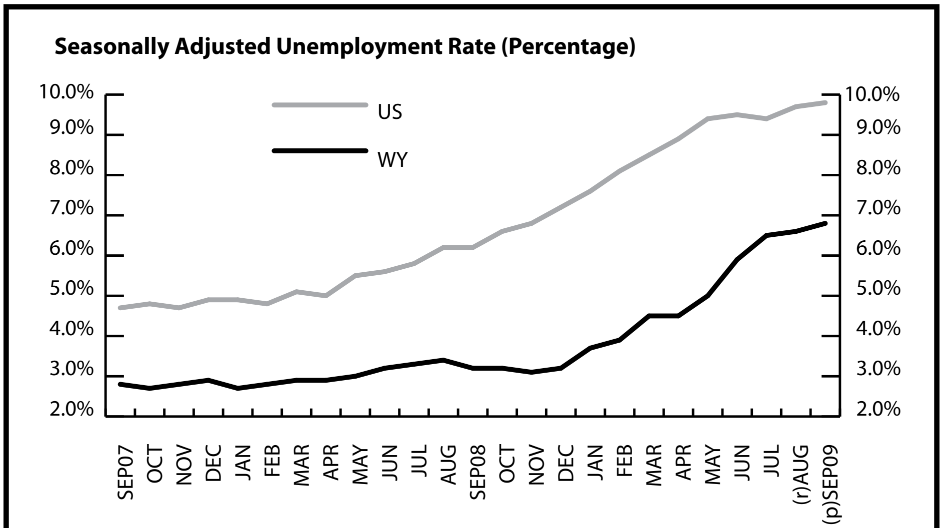
Over the year, Wyoming employment decreased by 12,900 jobs, or 4.2%. As in previous months, the largest job losses occurred in natural resources & mining (-6,000 jobs, or -19.9%) and construction (-4,600 jobs, or -15.3%). Job losses were also seen in leisure & hospitality (-1,300 jobs, or -3.5%), retail trade (-900 jobs, or -2.8%), financial activities (-500 jobs, or -4.2%), transportation & utilities (-400 jobs, or -2.7%), professional & business services (-400 jobs, or -2.1%), and other services (-400 jobs, or -3.3%). Employment increased in government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; 1,100 jobs, or 1.6%), educational & health services (500 jobs, or 2.0%), and wholesale trade (100 jobs, or 1.1%).

From August to September, employment fell by 900 jobs, or 0.3%. This level of decrease is similar to historical seasonal patterns. Seasonal jobs gains in government (5,300 jobs, or 8.0%) were more than offset by job losses in natural resources & mining (-500 jobs, or -2.0%), construction (-900 jobs, or -3.4%), retail trade (-800 jobs, or -2.5%), transportation & utilities (-600 jobs, or -4.0%), financial activities (-200 jobs, or -1.7%), professional & business services (-200 jobs, or -1.1%), leisure & hospitality (-2,600 jobs, or -6.8%), and other services (-200 jobs, or -1.7%).

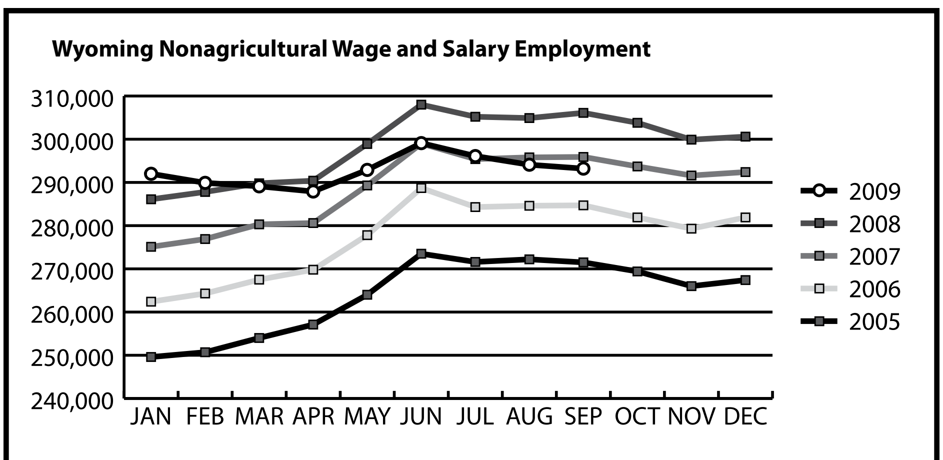
Most county unemployment rates increased slightly from August to September. Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate (8.2%) followed by Sweetwater and Fremont counties (both 7.4%). The lowest unemployment rate was found in Albany County (3.6%) followed by Sublette and Niobrara counties (both 4.5%). Unemployment rates were higher than September 2008 levels in all 23 counties.

[1] Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series in order to obtain a better understanding of changes in economic conditions from month to month.





(r) Revised.
(p) Preliminary.



State Unemployment Rates September 2009 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	16.2
Michigan	15.3
Nevada	13.3
Rhode Island	13.0
California	12.2
South Carolina	11.6
Oregon	11.5
District of Columbia	11.4
Florida	11.0
Kentucky	10.9
North Carolina	10.8
Alabama	10.7
Illinois	10.5
Tennessee	10.5
Georgia	10.1
Ohio	10.1
New Jersey	9.8
United States	**9.8**
Indiana	9.6
Missouri	9.5
Massachusetts	9.3
Washington	9.3
Mississippi	9.2
Arizona	9.1
New York	8.9
West Virginia	8.9
Idaho	8.8
Pennsylvania	8.8
Maine	8.5
Alaska	8.4
Connecticut	8.4
Delaware	8.3
Wisconsin	8.3
Texas	8.2
New Mexico	7.7
Louisiana	7.4
Minnesota	7.3
Hawaii	7.2
Maryland	7.2
New Hampshire	7.2
Arkansas	7.1
Colorado	7.0
Kansas	6.9
Wyoming	**6.8**
Iowa	6.7
Montana	6.7
Oklahoma	6.7
Vermont	6.7
Virginia	6.7
Utah	6.2
Nebraska	4.9
South Dakota	4.8
North Dakota	4.2

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Compared to a year earlier, employment increased in government, educational & health services, and wholesale trade.

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Sep 09(p)	Aug 09(r)	Sep 08	Aug 09 Sep 09	Sept 08 Sep 09
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**293.2**	**294.1**	**306.1**	**-0.3**	**-4.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**221.4**	**227.6**	**235.4**	**-2.7**	**-5.9**
GOODS PRODUCING	**59.5**	**60.9**	**70.2**	**-2.3**	**-15.2**
Natural Resources & Mining	24.2	24.7	30.2	-2.0	-19.9
Mining	24.1	24.5	30.2	-1.6	-20.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.1	4.1	4.8	0.0	-14.6
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.8	9.9	9.8	-1.0	0.0
Coal Mining	7.2	7.3	6.9	-1.4	4.3
Support Activities for Mining	10.2	10.5	15.6	-2.9	-34.6
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	9.3	9.5	11.3	-2.1	-17.7
Construction	25.5	26.4	30.1	-3.4	-15.3
Construction of Buildings	4.1	4.4	5.0	-6.8	-18.0
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	9.7	9.7	10.4	0.0	-6.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.7	12.3	14.7	-4.9	-20.4
Manufacturing	9.8	9.8	9.9	0.0	-1.0
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.2	0.0	-1.9
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**233.7**	**233.2**	**235.9**	**0.2**	**-0.9**
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	55.3	56.8	56.5	-2.6	-2.1
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.1	-1.1	1.1
Merch. Wholesalers, Durable	6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0	3.4
Retail Trade	31.7	32.5	32.6	-2.5	-2.8
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.4	4.5	-2.3	-4.4
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1	-2.1
Grocery Stores	4.0	4.1	4.0	-2.4	0.0
Gasoline Stations	4.2	4.3	4.3	-2.3	-2.3
General Merchandise Stores	6.8	6.9	6.8	-1.4	0.0
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	2.0	2.1	1.9	-4.8	5.3
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	14.4	15.0	14.8	-4.0	-2.7
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Transp. & Warehousing	11.9	12.5	12.3	-4.8	-3.3
Truck Transportation	4.5	4.6	4.6	-2.2	-2.2
Information	4.0	4.1	4.0	-2.4	0.0
Financial Activities	11.3	11.5	11.8	-1.7	-4.2
Finance & Insurance	7.1	7.1	7.3	0.0	-2.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.2	4.4	4.5	-4.5	-6.7
Professional & Business Services	18.6	18.8	19.0	-1.1	-2.1
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	9.9	10.0	9.7	-1.0	2.1
Architect., Engineering, & Rel.	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Mgmt. of Co.s & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
Admin., Support, & Waste Svcs.	8.0	8.1	8.5	-1.2	-5.9
Educational & Health Services	25.2	25.2	24.7	0.0	2.0
Educational Services	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.0	-4.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	22.8	22.8	22.2	0.0	2.7
Ambulatory Health Care	8.5	8.5	8.2	0.0	3.7
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.6	4.7	4.5	-2.1	2.2
Social Assistance	6.4	6.3	6.2	1.6	3.2
Leisure & Hospitality	35.7	38.3	37.0	-6.8	-3.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	3.0	3.5	3.2	-14.3	-6.3
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	32.7	34.8	33.8	-6.0	-3.3
Accommodation	13.4	14.8	13.5	-9.5	-0.7
Food Svcs. & Drinking Places	19.3	20.0	20.3	-3.5	-4.9
Other Services	11.8	12.0	12.2	-1.7	-3.3
Repair & Maintenance	4.1	4.2	4.1	-2.4	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**71.8**	**66.5**	**70.7**	**8.0**	**1.6**
Federal Government	**8.0**	**8.5**	**7.8**	**-5.9**	**2.6**
State Government	16.8	15.2	16.7	10.5	0.6
State Government Education	7.4	5.8	7.4	27.6	0.0
Local Government	47.0	42.8	46.2	9.8	1.7
Local Government Education	23.6	18.8	23.2	25.5	1.7
Hospitals	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Sep 09(p)	Aug 09(r)	Sep 08	Aug 09 Sep 09	Sept 08 Sep 09
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**44.5**	**44.7**	**45.4**	**-0.4**	**-2.0**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**30.7**	**31.2**	**31.7**	**-1.6**	**-3.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	**4.6**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**-2.1**	**-8.0**
Natural Res., Mining, & Const.	3.1	3.2	3.3	-3.1	-6.1
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	-11.8
SERVICE PROVIDING	**26.1**	**26.5**	**26.7**	**-1.5**	**-2.2**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.3	9.5	9.7	-2.1	-4.1
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Retail Trade	5.4	5.5	5.6	-1.8	-3.6
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.1	3.2	3.2	-3.1	-3.1
Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.5	-4.5
Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.3	3.4	-3.0	-5.9
Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.0	3.9	2.5	5.1
Leisure & Hospitality	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1	-2.1
Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**13.8**	**13.5**	**13.7**	**2.2**	**0.7**
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
State Government	4.0	4.1	4.1	-2.4	-2.4
Local Government	7.1	6.7	7.0	6.0	1.4
Local Education	3.7	3.1	3.6	19.4	2.8
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**39.6**	**39.3**	**41.6**	**0.8**	**-4.8**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**33.4**	**33.8**	**35.6**	**-1.2**	**-6.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	**7.5**	**7.6**	**9.0**	**-1.3**	**-16.7**
Natural Resources & Mining	3.0	3.1	3.9	-3.2	-23.1
Construction	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	-9.4
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.0	-15.8
SERVICE PROVIDING	**32.1**	**31.7**	**32.6**	**1.3**	**-1.5**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.8	8.9	9.1	-1.1	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-3.7
Retail Trade	5.1	5.2	5.3	-1.9	-3.8
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.9	3.0	-3.4	-6.7
Educational & Health Services	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.2	4.4	-2.4	-6.8
Other Services	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**6.2**	**5.5**	**6.0**	**12.7**	**3.3**
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	4.8	4.1	4.6	17.1	4.3
Local Education	3.2	2.3	3.1	39.1	3.2

Note: 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 that includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Data for Wyoming, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in Thousands Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	% Change Total Employment Aug 09 Sep 09	Sep 08 Sep 09
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**30.0**	**29.7**	**30.4**	**1.0**	**-1.3**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**25.8**	**26.3**	**26.3**	**-1.9**	**-1.9**
GOODS PRODUCING	**13.0**	**13.2**	**13.6**	**-1.5**	**-4.4**
Natural Resources & Mining	8.1	8.2	8.5	-1.2	-4.7
Construction	4.3	4.4	4.5	-2.3	-4.4
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**17.0**	**16.5**	**16.8**	**3.0**	**1.2**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.8	0.8	-12.5	-12.5
Professional & Bus. Services	1.9	2.0	2.0	-5.0	-5.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.2	2.0	-4.5	5.0
Other Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
GOVERNMENT	**4.2**	**3.4**	**4.1**	**23.5**	**2.4**

	Employment in Thousands Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	% Change Total Employment Aug 09 Sep 09	Sep 08 Sep 09
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**24.4**	**24.5**	**26.8**	**-0.4**	**-9.0**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**19.8**	**20.1**	**22.3**	**-1.5**	**-11.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	**8.5**	**8.4**	**10.0**	**1.2**	**-15.0**
Natural Resources & Mining	5.1	5.1	6.1	0.0	-16.4
Construction	2.1	2.0	2.6	5.0	-19.2
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**15.9**	**16.1**	**16.8**	**-1.2**	**-5.4**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.1	5.2	5.4	-1.9	-5.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.0	1.1	1.3	-9.1	-23.1
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.5	2.6	-4.0	-7.7
Other Services	0.7	0.8	0.8	-12.5	-12.5
GOVERNMENT	**4.6**	**4.4**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**2.2**

	Employment in Thousands Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	% Change Total Employment Aug 09 Sep 09	Sep 08 Sep 09
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**18.7**	**20.4**	**20.3**	**-8.3**	**-7.9**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**16.3**	**18.0**	**18.0**	**-9.4**	**-9.4**
GOODS PRODUCING	**2.4**	**2.5**	**2.9**	**-4.0**	**-17.2**
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.2	2.3	2.7	-4.3	-18.5
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**16.3**	**17.9**	**17.4**	**-8.9**	**-6.3**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.5	2.7	2.7	-7.4	-7.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.7	1.8	2.0	-5.6	-15.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	1.1	0.9	-18.2	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7.2	8.3	7.8	-13.3	-7.7
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	**2.4**	**2.4**	**2.3**	**0.0**	**4.3**

State Unemployment Rates September 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	16.4
Michigan	14.8
Nevada	13.5
Rhode Island	12.3
California	12.0
District of Columbia	11.7
South Carolina	11.7
Florida	11.2
Oregon	10.8
Alabama	10.6
Kentucky	10.4
North Carolina	10.4
Tennessee	10.3
Georgia	10.2
Illinois	10.2
Ohio	9.7
New Jersey	9.6
United States	**9.5**
Arizona	9.3
Massachusetts	9.3
Missouri	9.3
Indiana	9.2
Mississippi	8.8
New York	8.8
Washington	8.8
Pennsylvania	8.3
Texas	8.3
Connecticut	8.2
Delaware	8.2
Idaho	8.1
West Virginia	8.1
Maine	7.8
Alaska	7.7
Wisconsin	7.7
Hawaii	7.5
Louisiana	7.4
New Mexico	7.4
Maryland	7.1
Minnesota	7.1
New Hampshire	7.0
Kansas	6.9
Arkansas	6.7
Colorado	6.7
Virginia	6.6
Oklahoma	6.5
Vermont	6.4
Iowa	6.3
Wyoming	**6.2**
Utah	6.0
Montana	5.9
Nebraska	4.6
South Dakota	4.4
North Dakota	3.4

Economic Indicators

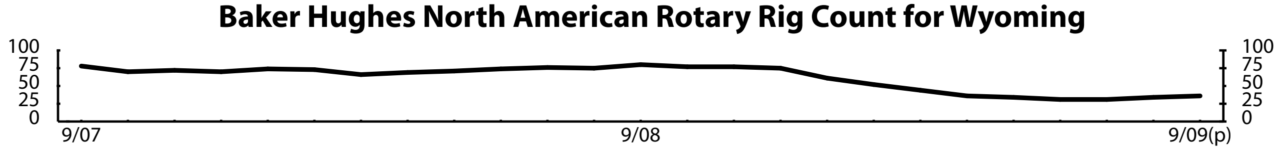
by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed persons) decreased by 0.4% from September 2008 to September 2009.

	Sep 2009 (p)	Aug 2009 (r)	Sep 2008 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force[1]	**292,547**	**294,663**	**293,662**	**-0.7**	**-0.4**
Unemployed	18,235	17,533	7,597	4.0	140.0
Employed	274,312	277,130	286,065	-1.0	-4.1
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	6.2%/6.8%	6.0%/6.6%	2.6%/3.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	9.5%/9.8%	9.6%/9.7%	6.0%/6.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,098,000	6,772,000	7,724,000	4.8	-8.1
As a percent of all workers	5.1%	4.8%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	706,000	758,000	467,000	-6.9	51.2
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	8,255,000	8,835,000	5,701,000	-6.6	44.8
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$836.73	$838.80	$886.19	-0.2	-5.6
Average Weekly Hours	40.5	40.0	42.3	1.3	-4.3
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$733.60	$730.22	$729.66	0.5	0.5
Average Weekly Hours	40.0	40.1	40.9	-0.2	-2.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	37,687	34,666	9,048	8.7	316.5
Benefits Paid	$13,341,108	$12,242,073	$2,835,621	9.0	370.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$354.00	$353.14	$313.40	0.2	13.0
State Insured Covered Jobs[1]	284,585	284,767	278,641	-0.1	2.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.8%	0.7%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	216.0	215.8	218.8	0.1	-1.3
Food & Beverages	217.6	217.7	217.7	0.0	0.0
Housing	217.2	217.8	218.2	-0.3	-0.5
Apparel	122.5	117.1	121.2	4.6	1.1
Transportation	183.9	184.4	203.9	-0.2	-9.8
Medical Care	377.7	376.5	365.0	0.3	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	114.6	114.8	114.0	-0.1	0.5
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	129.0	128.1	125.5	0.7	2.8
Other Goods & Services	374.2	372.7	348.2	0.4	7.5
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	174.6	175.1	196.9	-0.3	-11.3
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	146	324	228	-54.9	-36.0
Valuation	$34,400,000	$45,967,000	$42,425,000	-25.2	-18.9
Single Family Homes	122	133	176	-8.3	-30.7
Valuation	$28,541,000	$32,353,000	$39,474,000	-11.8	-27.7
Casper MSA[2] Building Permits	16	29	16	-44.8	0.0
Valuation	$2,026,000	$3,613,000	$2,006,000	-43.9	1.0
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	15	11	23	36.4	-34.8
Valuation	$1,707,000	$1,909,000	$3,208,000	-10.6	-46.8
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	36	34	80	5.9	-55.0

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
[1]Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.
[2]Metropolitan Statistical Area.
Note: Hours and earnings data for mining have been dropped from the Economics Indicators page as data for Wyoming mining are no longer available.

Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming



(p) Preliminary.

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate (8.2%) followed by Sweetwater and Fremont counties (7.4%).

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
County	Sep 2009 (p)	Aug 2009 (r)	Sep 2008 (b)	Sep 2009 (p)	Aug 2009 (r)	Sep 2008 (b)	Sep 2009 (p)	Aug 2009 (r)	Sep 2008 (b)	Sep 2009 (p)	Aug 2009 (r)	Sep 2008 (b)
NORTHWEST	**45,003**	**46,234**	**44,850**	**42,084**	**43,288**	**43,511**	**2,919**	**2,946**	**1,339**	**6.5**	**6.4**	**3.0**
Big Horn	4,841	4,922	4,930	4,445	4,543	4,768	396	379	162	8.2	7.7	3.3
Fremont	18,732	18,896	18,279	17,348	17,457	17,667	1,384	1,439	612	7.4	7.6	3.3
Hot Springs	2,364	2,362	2,410	2,228	2,229	2,340	136	133	70	5.8	5.6	2.9
Park	14,836	15,754	14,862	14,082	15,019	14,483	754	735	379	5.1	4.7	2.6
Washakie	4,230	4,300	4,369	3,981	4,040	4,253	249	260	116	5.9	6.0	2.7
NORTHEAST	**54,805**	**54,974**	**54,104**	**51,521**	**51,842**	**52,908**	**3,284**	**3,132**	**1,196**	**6.0**	**5.7**	**2.2**
Campbell	27,977	27,618	27,047	26,381	26,116	26,581	1,596	1,502	466	5.7	5.4	1.7
Crook	3,433	3,458	3,505	3,264	3,276	3,408	169	182	97	4.9	5.3	2.8
Johnson	4,044	4,242	4,213	3,774	3,961	4,079	270	281	134	6.7	6.6	3.2
Sheridan	16,172	16,478	16,116	15,111	15,494	15,729	1,061	984	387	6.6	6.0	2.4
Weston	3,179	3,178	3,223	2,991	2,995	3,111	188	183	112	5.9	5.8	3.5
SOUTHWEST	**65,080**	**67,524**	**66,348**	**60,885**	**63,582**	**64,885**	**4,195**	**3,942**	**1,463**	**6.4**	**5.8**	**2.2**
Lincoln	8,584	8,634	8,220	8,025	8,082	7,989	559	552	231	6.5	6.4	2.8
Sublette	7,329	7,614	7,166	7,000	7,282	7,065	329	332	101	4.5	4.4	1.4
Sweetwater	23,429	23,361	23,984	21,694	21,774	23,469	1,735	1,587	515	7.4	6.8	2.1
Teton	14,157	16,064	15,243	13,416	15,403	14,929	741	661	314	5.2	4.1	2.1
Uinta	11,581	11,851	11,735	10,750	11,041	11,433	831	810	302	7.2	6.8	2.6
SOUTHEAST	**72,279**	**70,603**	**72,440**	**68,326**	**66,796**	**70,221**	**3,953**	**3,807**	**2,219**	**5.5**	**5.4**	**3.1**
Albany	19,516	17,837	19,315	18,811	17,117	18,919	705	720	396	3.6	4.0	2.1
Goshen	5,839	5,780	5,987	5,528	5,486	5,791	311	294	196	5.3	5.1	3.3
Laramie	41,738	42,000	41,959	39,102	39,470	40,511	2,636	2,530	1,448	6.3	6.0	3.5
Niobrara	1,212	1,197	1,263	1,157	1,145	1,222	55	52	41	4.5	4.3	3.2
Platte	3,974	3,789	3,916	3,728	3,578	3,778	246	211	138	6.2	5.6	3.5
CENTRAL	**55,383**	**55,329**	**55,920**	**51,497**	**51,623**	**54,541**	**3,886**	**3,706**	**1,379**	**7.0**	**6.7**	**2.5**
Carbon	7,866	8,075	8,206	7,328	7,546	7,975	538	529	231	6.8	6.6	2.8
Converse	7,289	7,350	7,321	6,861	6,935	7,140	428	415	181	5.9	5.6	2.5
Natrona	40,228	39,904	40,393	37,308	37,142	39,426	2,920	2,762	967	7.3	6.9	2.4
STATEWIDE	**292,547**	**294,663**	**293,662**	**274,312**	**277,130**	**286,065**	**18,235**	**17,533**	**7,597**	**6.2**	**6.0**	**2.6**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										6.8	6.6	3.2
U.S.										9.5	9.6	6.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										9.8	9.7	6.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2009. Run Date 10/2009.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

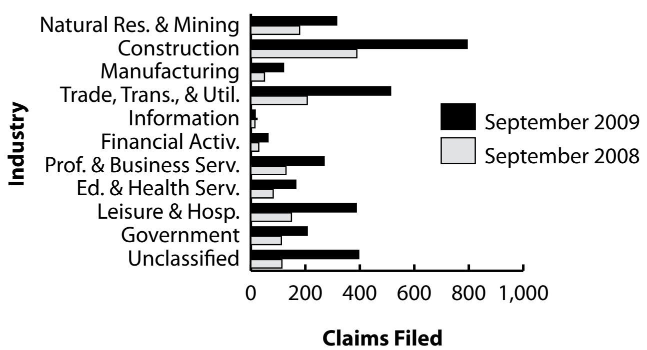
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized[a] Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

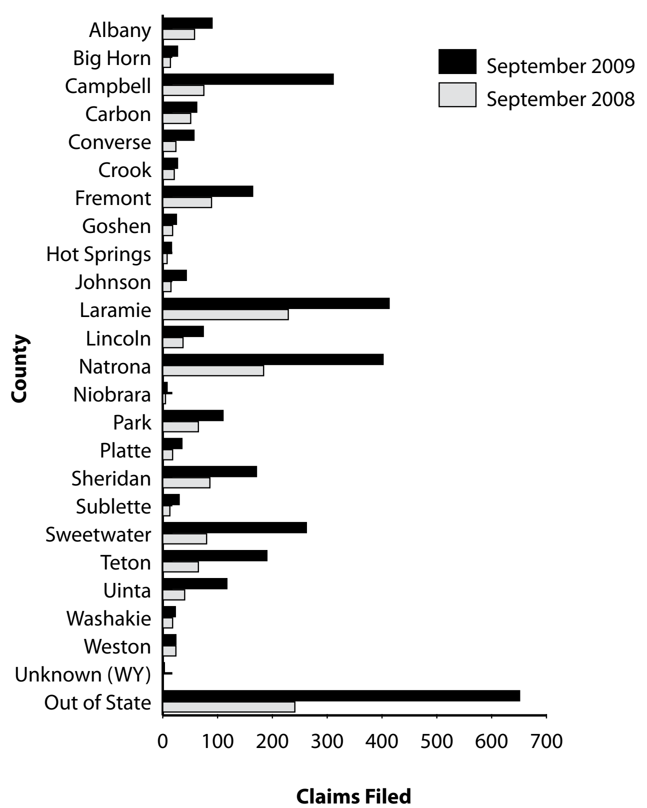
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Initial claims were essentially unchanged compared to August 2009 and 125.6% greater than a year ago. Trade, transportation & utilities, construction, and manufacturing continued to be industries of considerable claims activity.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2009



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2009



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed Sep 09	Claims Filed Aug 09	Claims Filed Sep 08	Percent Change Claims Filed Sep 09 / Aug 09	Percent Change Claims Filed Sep 09 / Sep 08
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**3,337**	**3,321**	**1,479**	**0.5**	**125.6**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,229	1,380	618	-10.9	98.9
Natural Res. & Mining	315	368	179	-14.4	76.0
Mining	302	346	176	-12.7	71.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	22	16	87	37.5	-74.7
Construction	794	791	389	0.4	104.1
Manufacturing	120	221	50	-45.7	140.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,505	1,380	635	9.1	137.0
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	513	497	207	3.2	147.8
Wholesale Trade	77	90	32	-14.4	140.6
Retail Trade	285	252	115	13.1	147.8
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	151	155	60	-2.6	151.7
Information	16	15	15	6.7	6.7
Financial Activities	63	61	29	3.3	117.2
Prof. and Business Svcs.	269	227	129	18.5	108.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	165	173	82	-4.6	101.2
Leisure & Hospitality	387	274	149	41.2	159.7
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	92	133	24	-30.8	283.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	207	182	112	13.7	84.8
Federal Government	70	34	34	105.9	105.9
State Government	19	30	13	-36.7	46.2
Local Government	118	118	65	0.0	81.5
Local Education	34	39	17	-12.8	100.0
UNCLASSIFIED	396	379	114	4.5	247.4
Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**414**	**355**	**226**	**16.6**	**83.2**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	157	109	76	44.0	106.6
Construction	140	80	68	75.0	105.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	212	201	115	5.5	84.3
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	73	80	45	-8.8	62.2
Financial Activities	10	13	4	-23.1	150.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	45	28	31	60.7	45.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	31	37	19	-16.2	63.2
Leisure & Hospitality	35	26	9	34.6	288.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	31	30	17	3.3	82.4
UNCLASSIFIED	14	15	18	-6.7	-22.2
Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**401**	**434**	**183**	**-7.6**	**119.1**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	133	158	80	-15.8	66.3
Construction	87	79	49	10.1	77.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	238	244	94	-2.5	153.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	80	84	32	-4.8	150.0
Financial Activities	10	12	9	-16.7	11.1
Prof. & Business Svcs.	39	24	23	62.5	69.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	29	22	16	31.8	81.3
Leisure & Hospitality	45	44	9	2.3	400.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17	22	0	-22.7	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	13	10	9	30.0	44.4

[a]An average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized[a] Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

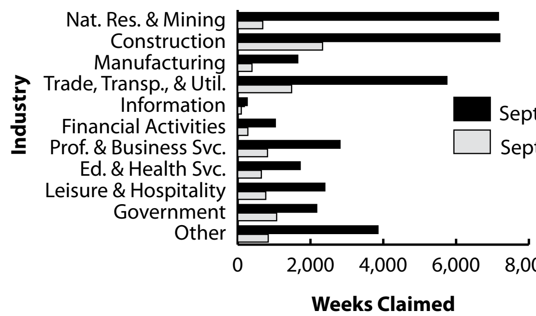
Continued weeks claimed fell by nearly 10 percent compared to August, but were still nearly quadruple the level seen one year ago. The over-the-month decline is contrary to the historic seasonal pattern.

Continued Claims

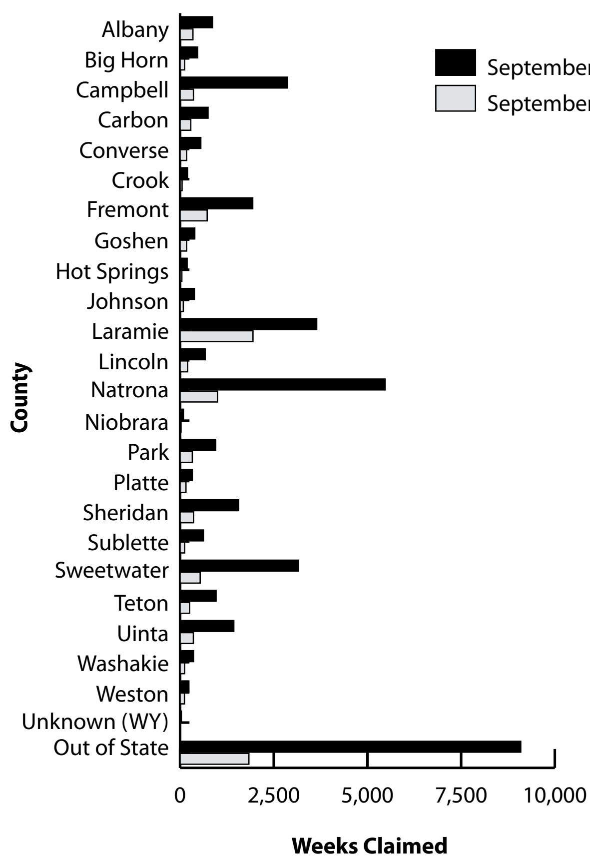
	Continued Weeks Claimed			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	Sep 09 Aug 09	Sep 09 Sep 08
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**37,215**	**41,224**	**9,719**	**-9.7**	**282.9**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**8,875**	**11,544**	**2,804**	**-23.1**	**216.5**
Benefit Exhaustions	1,249	1,341	220	-6.9	467.7
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	14.1%	11.6%	7.8%	2.5%	6.2%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	16,016	18,441	3,415	-13.2	369.0
Natural Res. & Mining	7,164	9,147	689	-21.7	939.8
Mining	6,964	8,860	640	-21.4	988.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	359	408	140	-12.0	156.4
Construction	7,201	7,431	2,332	-3.1	208.8
Manufacturing	1,651	1,863	394	-11.4	319.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	15,172	16,385	4,393	-7.4	245.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	5,748	6,234	1,482	-7.8	287.9
Wholesale Trade	1,431	1,616	246	-11.4	481.7
Retail Trade	2,733	2,830	813	-3.4	236.2
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,584	1,788	423	-11.4	274.5
Information	263	287	100	-8.4	163.0
Financial Activities	1,035	1,090	280	-5.0	269.6
Prof. & Business Services	2,812	2,940	820	-4.4	242.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,718	2,120	651	-19.0	163.9
Leisure and Hospitality	2,395	2,562	772	-6.5	210.2
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	1,201	1,152	288	4.3	317.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,172	2,400	1,071	-9.5	102.8
Federal Government	478	501	270	-4.6	77.0
State Government	382	437	159	-12.6	140.3
Local Government	1,312	1,462	642	-10.3	104.4
Local Education	456	483	196	-5.6	132.7
UNCLASSIFIED	3,855	3,998	840	-3.6	358.9
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**3,645**	**3,911**	**1,944**	**-6.8**	**87.5**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**897**	**1,099**	**564**	**-18.4**	**59.0**
Total Goods-Producing	964	976	567	-1.2	70.0
Construction	689	656	439	5.0	56.9
Total Service-Providing	2,198	2,409	1,021	-8.8	115.3
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	824	872	355	-5.5	132.1
Financial Activities	155	151	73	2.6	112.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	422	455	231	-7.3	82.7
Educational and Health Svcs.	356	438	147	-18.7	142.2
Leisure & Hospitality	268	314	142	-14.6	88.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	329	361	238	-8.9	38.2
UNCLASSIFIED	154	165	118	-6.7	30.5
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**5,470**	**5,982**	**998**	**-8.6**	**448.1**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**1,253**	**1,641**	**297**	**-23.6**	**321.9**
Total Goods-Producing	2,320	2,665	335	-12.9	592.5
Construction	681	627	156	8.6	336.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	2,837	2,953	617	-3.9	359.8
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,145	1,240	185	-7.7	518.9
Financial Activities	198	181	55	9.4	260.0
Professional & Business Svcs.	361	397	109	-9.1	231.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	281	324	91	-13.3	208.8
Leisure & Hospitality	347	379	93	-8.4	273.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	199	194	37	2.6	437.8
UNCLASSIFIED	114	170	9	-32.9	1,166.7

[a]An average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2009



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2009



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