

TRENDS

Workforce Investment Act Customer Satisfaction: Lessons from the Field

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

“A ‘one size fits all’ approach has very little utility, especially when considering the barriers faced by states with small populations. States must be given enough leeway so that reaching specified goals is not precluded by the procedures used to achieve them.”

Reaching federal program performance targets can be difficult. With every new program, rules and procedures are developed to give states guidance. However, the rules can sometimes hinder the performance measurement process. State characteristics may complicate both the performance of the program and the survey processes aimed at measuring that performance. One challenge is to develop a survey system that helps the state reach its federally defined performance measurement goals. More importantly, implementation of the survey process and subsequent analysis can illuminate weaknesses in the federal performance methodology. Legislation should be driven by information obtained through empirical observation.

Why measure performance? We measure performance because it allows us to make judgments about program effectiveness and return on investment. Programs judged to be ineffective through objective scientific methodologies could be modified or eliminated, while those judged successful might be expanded and improved. Before the development of programs like the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), accountability focused on the process (e.g., how the service was delivered, how many were served) instead of results (e.g., do program benefits exceed costs?).¹ In theory, performance measurement should lead to more effective program fiscal

decisions, thereby reducing waste and providing better service to all stakeholders.

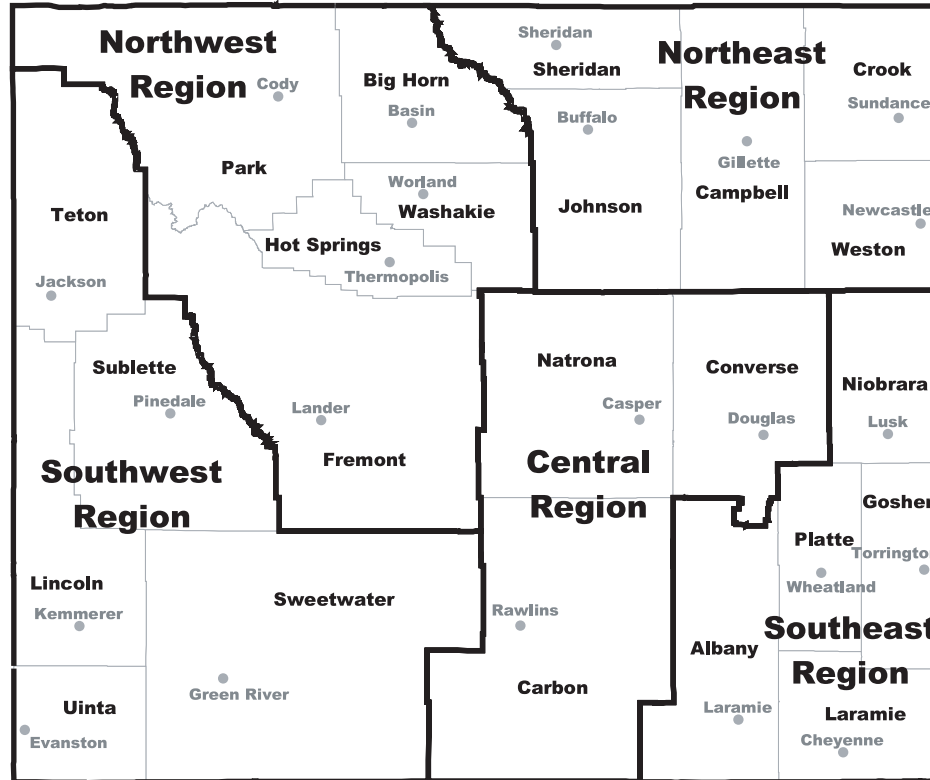
This article examines the implementation of customer satisfaction data collection and reporting procedures for WIA job seekers and employers. In particular, we address challenges associated with meeting federal targets for the collection of customer satisfaction surveys. Initial results show a marked improvement in WIA survey response rates.

(Text continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Workforce Investment Act Customer Satisfaction: Lessons from the Field	1
Economic Growth Slows in 2002	10
Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Third Quarter 2002	12
State Unemployment Rates	13
Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged in October	14
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	15
Economic Indicators	16
County Employment Rates	17
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	18

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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

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

Tom Gallagher, Manager

e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us

307-473-3801

Krista R. Shinkle, Editor

e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us

307-473-3808

Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Mark A. Harris, Craig Radden Henderson, and Krista R. Shinkle.

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: Nancy Brennan, David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Douglas W. Leonard, Brad Payne, Krista R. Shinkle, and Sherry Wen.

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

© Copyright 2002 by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.

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

Department of Employment Nondiscrimination Statement

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

ISSN 0512-4409

Background Information

WIA requires states to collect performance data for three customer satisfaction measures.² It specifies that customer satisfaction data are to be collected from both persons participating in the programs and their employers “...through surveys conducted after the conclusion of participation in the workforce investment activities.”³ To aid in this effort, the Employment Resources Division of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services contracted with Research & Planning (R&P) to collect survey data. The separation of the statistical and program functions guarantees respondent confidentiality.

Figure 1 describes the workflow of the entire WIA training process. Column A illustrates employer and job seeker interaction with the One-Stop system through the local employment offices. In this step, job seekers apply for training under WIA. Employers and training providers either list employment or coordinate training opportunities. In Column B (Training/Service Provided), job seekers are matched to employers or training providers and the estimated dates when job seekers will exit the program are negotiated and set (agreement end dates). Once the job seeker exits the program (see Column C), either on or before the originally negotiated date, records for that job

seeker and the associated employer are transferred to the data management system. These data are then used in the customer satisfaction data collection efforts through the interface box shown in Column D. Column D is shown in additional detail in Figure 2 (see page 4).

The measure used to evaluate customer satisfaction for both job seekers and employers is the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) from the University of Michigan.⁴ The range of values with this instrument is 0 to 100, where 100 equals total satisfaction. The minimum acceptable score is 80 percent of the target score. The target scores for Wyoming in 2000 were 68.0 for job seekers and 66.0 for employers.

The U.S. Department of Labor applies monetary performance incentives (rewards) and sanctions (penalties) to state agencies responsible for the program in relation to how well the negotiated WIA performance targets are met. States are ineligible for performance incentives unless they achieve at least 80 percent of negotiated target levels on all measures (including customer satisfaction). Conversely, sanctions are applied if a state fails to achieve 80 percent of negotiated performance for two consecutive years.⁵

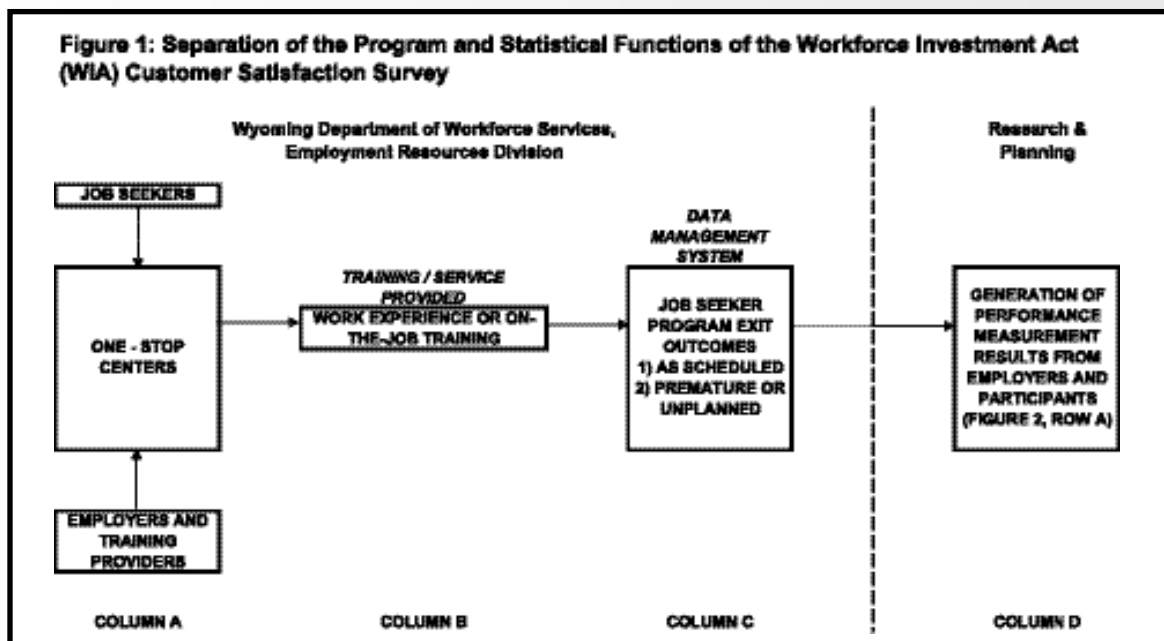
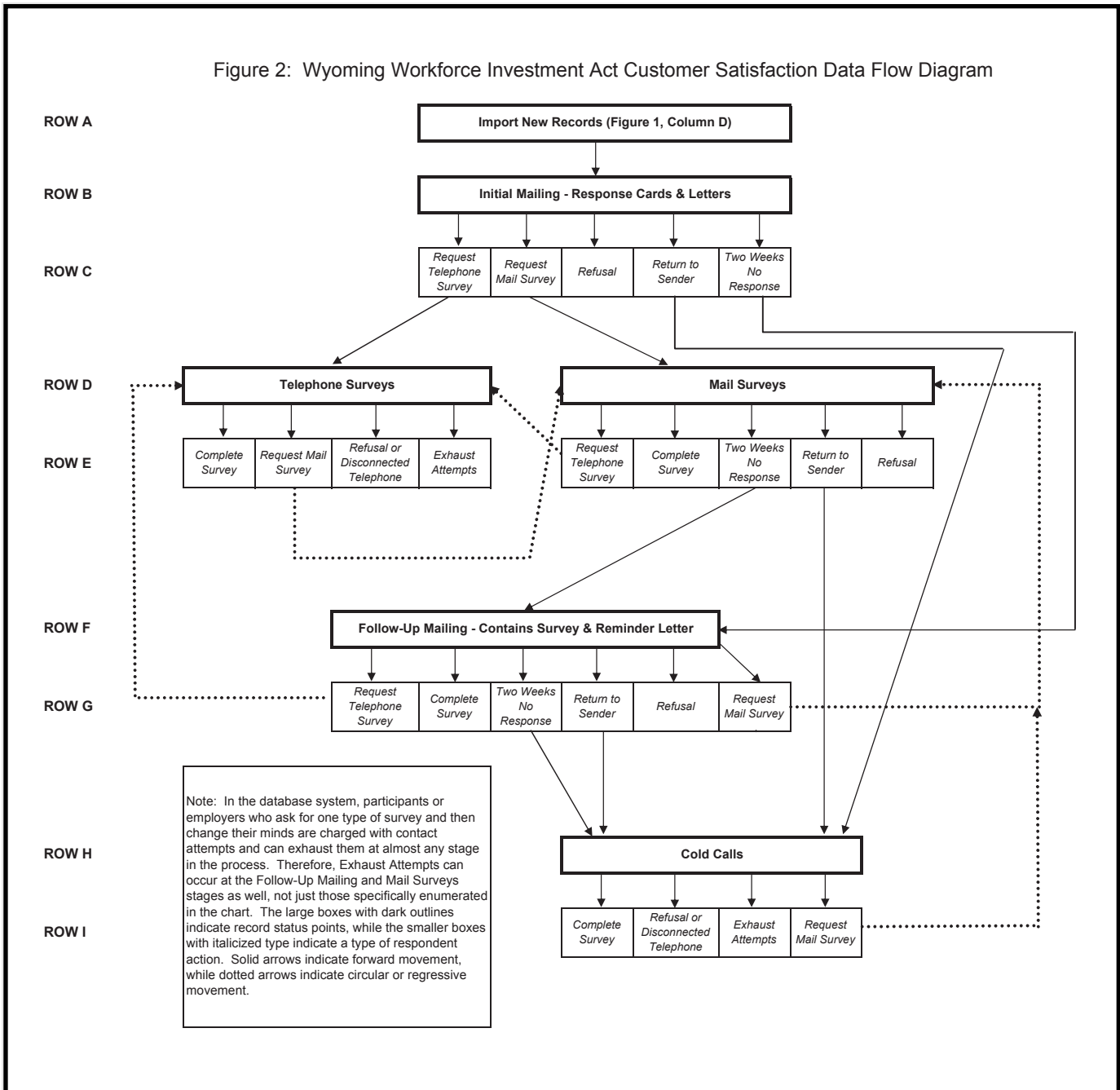


Figure 2: Wyoming Workforce Investment Act Customer Satisfaction Data Flow Diagram



Response rates play a critical role in the accurate determination of customer satisfaction levels. The U.S. Department of Labor requests that states achieve rates of no less than 50 percent for employer and job seeker surveys (for WIA satisfaction), regardless the size of the population or sample surveyed.⁶ The 50 percent initial response rate target is optimal, because response rates of less than 50 percent bring into question the validity of the survey results. While sanctions are not necessarily tied to

response rates, higher response rates are generally viewed as providing more reliable customer satisfaction scores. U.S. Department of Labor guidelines specify a telephone survey with a minimum of five attempted telephone contacts per respondent.

Survey Results

What follows is a discussion of the results and findings for employers and job seekers in

Wyoming during the 2000 and 2001 WIA program years. These data do not contain any comparisons of State and national results, but instead describe how well Wyoming's results compare to the performance targets negotiated with the U.S. Department of Labor. Data collection and reporting efforts for Program Year (PY) 2000 (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001) both commenced and concluded in November 2001. Delays in receiving the target respondent list prevented R&P from collecting data earlier.

In PY2000, employer and job seeker records were received by R&P less than 30 days prior to the reporting deadline, leaving R&P little time to collect data. Additionally, records were received several months after job seeker exit and employer agreement end dates (see Figure 1, Column C, page 3). These delays ran counter to a fundamental directive of U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 7-99, which states that "...participants should be contacted within 60 days of *exit date*" [*italics added for emphasis*] and "employers should be contacted 60 days following completion of service or 30-60 days after a job order has been listed where no referrals have been made."⁷ The employer-specific dates defined here are also known as agreement end dates, the estimated dates when the job seeker will complete the program. Even though response rates were increased somewhat by giving employers and job seekers the option of responding to mail surveys (something not encouraged under the original TEGLs), response rates were still insufficient to yield "valid" results (i.e., the 50 percent minimum response rate criterion was not met).

There was quite a difference in response rates between job seeker and employer groups in PY2000 (see sidebar, page 6). Of the 489 surveys mailed to job seekers in the initial mailing, only 55 were returned as of November 26, 2001 for a response rate of 11.3 percent. The employer surveys had a much better response rate (125 out of 272 or 46.0%). Even though the 50 percent response rate criterion was not met by the job seeker survey for PY2000, the ACSI composite scores for both the job seeker (78.2) and employer (78.8) groups

exceeded their respective target scores (68.0 for job seekers and 66.0 for employers).

Response Issues and Macro-Level Data Flow

Although ACSI customer satisfaction scores were acceptable for PY2000, the challenge of extremely low response rates remained. Following an analysis of PY2000 results, we determined that three factors hurt response rates:

- 1) Record availability
- 2) Delays in initial mailings of survey notifications due to poor data quality
- 3) Insufficient time for follow-up⁸

These were particularly problematic for the job seeker group because of the additional difficulty in contacting individual job seekers.

To address the issue of low response rates, R&P developed a survey data flow system to help contact program job seekers and employers in a more timely manner. The Wyoming WIA survey data flow system provides consistent data collection that goes well beyond that required by the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines.

Data Quality and Timeliness

A data quality issue arose with agreement end dates (see Figure 1, Column C, page 3). Many WIA job seekers exited (completed or left training prematurely) the program prior to the estimated date, leaving incorrect values in the employer table. This resulted in the assignment of employer records to incorrect time periods, which corrupted the output statistics and required manual data correction. A method is being developed to update the agreement end date field before record transfer to R&P.⁹

Another challenge to incoming data quality was with employer primary contact names (see Figure 1, Column A, page 3). For example, several records had no employer contact name, incomplete names (first name only), or unusable data such as "Ask for Uncle Bob." While it is possible to mail correspondence and make telephone survey attempts with this data, incomplete data present a highly unprofessional

How Difficult is it to Contact Workforce Investment Act Job Seekers?

The State of Wyoming’s Interstate Wage Records database was used to answer the above question.¹ We can infer the difficulty of contacting job seekers by using job seeker exits from the first two quarters of Program Year (PY) 2001 matched to Wage Records. The Table shows that the first quarter after program exit, 44.3 percent of eligible respondents were not found in Interstate Wage Records. This means that more than two-fifths of the job seeker population who exited during the first two quarters of PY2001 were neither working in Wyoming, nor in any state with whom Wyoming shares Wage Records. Although respondents under the age of 24 (high school and some college students) influence data in the Table, this result is indicative of the difficulty in establishing contact.

¹The Unemployment Insurance Wage Records database consists of all employers submitting UI tax records to the Wyoming Department of Employment (DOE), and contains work behavior information on individuals working for employers that are required to pay unemployment taxes. See Tony Glover, “Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part One,” *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, April 2001, pp. 9-12.

Table: Wyoming Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Job Seekers Not Found in Interstate Wage Records by Age Group*

Program Year 2001 Exit Period	Age Group at Time of WIA Registration	Program Exits**	One Quarter After Exit	
			Number Not Found in Wage Records	Proportion
Quarter 1	<24	189	93	49.2%
	25-34	36	12	33.3%
	35-44	32	15	46.9%
	45+	30	13	43.3%
	Total	287	133	46.3%
Quarter 2	<24	79	38	48.1%
	25-34	16	4	25.0%
	35-44	22	4	18.2%
	45+	23	10	43.5%
	Total	140	56	40.0%
Total	<24	268	131	48.9%
	25-34	52	16	30.8%
	35-44	54	19	35.2%
	45+	53	23	43.4%
	Total	427	189	44.3%

*Includes Wage Records from Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

**Excludes job seekers who exited prematurely due to known illness, death, or incarceration.

image to employer survey respondents and increase the probability of nonresponse. Some employer contacts did not wish to give their first and last names because this information could appear on job orders, potentially resulting in employer contacts receiving job request telephone calls at their private residences.¹⁰ To remedy this situation, employment center staff were instructed to enter a title (i.e., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) and last name only for each employer contact.¹¹

Data quality was also compromised when records were received too late (see Figure 1, Column C, page 3). For example, in Table 1 (see page 7), a column called “Extract Date Range” identifies the dates that records were entered for job seekers in a particular program year and quarter. To ensure participants are assigned to the proper year and quarter, the latest extract date cannot be later than one week following the end of the respective quarter in the program year. The correct extract date ranges for each quarter are shown below:

Quarter 1: July 1 - September 30

Quarter 2: October 1 - December 31

Quarter 3: January 1 - March 31

Quarter 4: April 1 - June 30

Only one quarter in PY2001 (fourth quarter) met this criterion (see Table 1). Consequently, some job seekers were surveyed much later than prescribed by the program. The fact that some job seekers moved following program exit increased the difficulty of contacting those individuals, further depressing response rates. Extract date range errors also occur in the employer data, but the problem is not as severe (see Table 2, page 8). Perhaps the most significant negative impact of incorrect date assignment is recall bias (responses can change when several months have elapsed between program exit and the survey date).

All of the issues described in this section contributed to delays in processing and increased costs. Exacerbating this situation is the difficulty in making contact with respondents. Therefore, every effort must be made to reach every respondent as early as possible. Since the original survey management system was unable to do so, the new system

shown in Figure 2 (see page 4) was developed.

Improvements for Evaluating Program Year 2001 Data

Using the system shown in Figure 2 for PY2001, new job seeker and employer information was transmitted every two weeks from the Department of Workforce Services data management system to R&P (see Row A). Once new employer and job seeker records were downloaded, an initial mailing containing an introductory letter and response card was sent to target respondents (see Row B). When response cards are sent, five outcomes are possible (see Row C). Three outcomes (Request Telephone Survey, Refusal, and Request Mail Survey) require some sort of action on the part of the respondent. The remaining two actions (Return To Sender and Two Weeks No Response) are passive actions that result in either follow-up mailings (see Row F) or cold calls (see Row H). Cold calls are defined as telephone calls made without respondent request because of inaction or an incorrect address.

Respondents receive either scheduled telephone calls (left box, Row D), or mail surveys (right box, Row D). Row E details possible mail or telephone survey responses. New outcomes introduced at this stage include Complete Survey and Exhaust Attempts. Complete Survey occurs when a respondent answers all survey questions. Exhaust Attempts occurs when five or more attempts have been made to reach a respondent without result, not including the initial response card mailing. Respondents can also exhaust attempts by repeatedly requesting a different type of survey instead of answering questions. For those respondents requesting a telephone survey, no additional follow-up activity takes place. Those requesting a mail survey are given two weeks to complete the survey before a follow-up package is sent (see Row F).

Follow-up packages contain a letter (reminding respondents that they agreed to be surveyed upon program exit), the survey, and a reply envelope. The possible courses of action from this step are shown in Row G. From this stage, respondents can get a telephone or mail

Table 1: Wyoming Workforce Investment Act Participant Customer Satisfaction Summary Statistics, Program Year (PY) 2001*

Period	Valid Participant Records	Excluded**	Net Survey Records	Completed Surveys	Response Rate
Quarter 1					
Extract Date Range 11/2/2001 - 6/9/2002	303	16	287	159	55.4%
Quarter 2					
Extract Date Range 11/2/2001 - 6/9/2002	158	18	140	87	62.1%
Quarter 3					
Extract Date Range 1/6/2002 - 6/23/2002	176	14	162	93	57.4%
Quarter 4					
Extract Date Range 4/7/2002 - 6/30/2002	136	10	126	84	66.7%
Total PY 2001					
Extract Date Range 11/2/2001 - 6/30/2002	773	58	715	423	59.2%

*Data current as of August 12, 2002.

**Program rules allow exclusion of participants from the sample who cannot be contacted due to known illness, death, or incarceration.

survey, refuse to complete the follow-up survey, answer all questions and return it, or take no action. If no action is taken or if the package is returned to R&P, the respondent receives cold calls until the survey was completed or the respondent's contact attempts were exhausted.

Our goal in establishing this process was to develop systematic guidelines for conducting surveys, thereby increasing data accuracy. Examples of the types of job seeker and employer correspondence are shown in Appendixes 1 through 4 on our website.¹² The identification numbers shown in the examples (Appendixes 1 through 4) were printed on each correspondence and survey component to ensure correct delivery and data entry.

Results of New System Implementation

Response rates for both job seeker (see Table 1, page 7) and employer (see Table 2) groups increased dramatically in PY2001 compared to PY2000. The job seeker response rate increased from 11.3 percent to 59.2 percent and the employer response rate increased from 46.0 percent to 88.0 percent. The job seeker response rate would likely have been higher if nearly one-third of all job seekers had not reached the Exhaust Attempts stage before survey completion. Table 1 (see page 7) shows that there were 715 job seeker records available for survey data collection. There were 773 potential job seeker respondents. However, the program rules (established by WIA and TEGE directives) allow exclusion of job seekers from the sample who cannot be contacted because of a known illness, death, or incarceration (58 potential job seeker respondents fit into this category). We found that several individuals had moved without leaving forwarding addresses. In addition, many job seekers had disconnected telephone numbers, further depressing response rates. In spite of these challenges, our success rate was very high for respondents with whom we actually made contact (423 completed surveys out of 463 valid and contacted respondents or 91.3%). Our inability to reach respondents was not an issue with employers (see Table 2), as contacting them at work was much more likely to yield a completed survey.

Table 2: Wyoming Workforce Investment Act Employer Customer Satisfaction Summary Statistics,* Program Year (PY) 2001

Period	Valid Employer Records	Completed Surveys	Response Rate
Quarter 1			
Extract Date Range 3/3/2002 - 5/19/2002	5	4	80.0%
Quarter 2			
Extract Date Range 11/2/2001 - 4/28/2002	76	73	96.1%
Quarter 3			
Extract Date Range 1/6/2002 - 5/19/2002	82	69	84.1%
Quarter 4			
Extract Date Range 4/7/2002 - 6/30/2002	86	73	84.9%
Total PY 2001			
Extract Date Range 11/2/2001 - 6/30/2002	249	219	88.0%

*Data current as of August 12, 2002.

Conclusion

WIA customer satisfaction data collection poses challenges for state agencies, several of which are left to the states to sort out themselves without the benefit of clear and consistent guidelines. However, if flexibility exists, especially when considering the lower number of participants in states with small populations, many pitfalls can be avoided. A "one size fits all" approach has very little utility. States must be given enough leeway so that reaching specified goals is not precluded by the procedures used to achieve them.

¹105th Congress, "Workforce Investment Partnership Act of 1997," **Report 105-109**, October 15, 1997.

²105th Congress, "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," n.d., <http://usworkforce.org/wialaw.htm> (May 30, 2001).

³105th Congress, "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," n.d., <http://usworkforce.org/wialaw.htm> (May 30, 2001), Section 136A(B).

⁴The properties of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) are described in the following Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) locations, 7-99, pp. 39-40; 6-00, pp. 8-16; and 6-00 Change 1, pp. 5-7.

ACSI scores are calculated using mean (average) question response values according to the procedures outlined in U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, **Training and Employment Guidance Letter 6-00**, September 21, 2000.

⁵U.S. Department of Labor, **Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 8-99**, March 3, 2000, pp. 6-10.

⁶U.S. Department of Labor, **Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 7-99**, March 3, 2000, p. 34.

⁷U.S. Department of Labor, **Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 7-99**, March 3, 2000, pp. 34-37.

⁸In addition to receiving record data little more than one month before the report deadline, the survey period was further shortened by the Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

⁹As of September 12, 2002, another data field suitable for this purpose was located and will be used for PY2002 employer survey management.

¹⁰Colleen Anderson, Program Manager, Employment Resources Division, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, personal conversation July 11, 2002.

¹¹The contact information gathering procedure was further modified in September 2002 so that a first and last name (i.e., John Smith, Mr. Smith) had to be entered to complete registration. In addition, two-word department names were also acceptable if the first and last name fields were filled.

¹²Appendix 1: Job Seeker Introductory Letter Example <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/app1.htm>>; Appendix 2: Job Seeker Telephone Survey Example <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/app2.htm>>; Appendix 3: Employer Follow-up Letter Example <http://LMI.state.wy.us/app3.htm>>; Appendix 4: Employer Follow-up Survey Example <http://LMI.state.wy.us/app4.htm>>.

Is Satisfaction a Useful Evaluation Tool?

WIA program participants may be satisfied with the services provided, but fail to show wage increases or job stability after training. Conversely, participants may express dissatisfaction with WIA services, but still experience increases in wages or job stability as a result of training. Our collection of customer satisfaction data sets the stage for examining customer satisfaction as an evaluation tool. R&P will conduct analyses that show whether satisfaction with training is correlated with outcomes such as increased wages. If no correlation exists, more direct measures of outcomes such as Wage Records analysis could be used. This type of evaluation may prove a less expensive, less invasive means of tracking training program outcomes.

Recent Workforce Investment Act Customer Satisfaction Data Collection Developments

For several months following the end of the 2001 Program Year (June 30, 2002), R&P continued to receive PY2001 job seeker records. Without fully understanding the validity of these additional records, R&P did not analyze them until the Employment Resources Division of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services could confirm their status. It was determined in late October 2002 that these individuals were in fact, program "soft exits." That is, individuals who stopped receiving services (e.g., quit training, started or returned to school) prior to their planned exit date. Generally, these individuals are exited from the program after 90 days of inactivity unless local office caseworkers expect them to return to training. However, in some cases, the delay between the actual exit date and the exit date reported for survey purposes was as much as 407 days.¹ Although this pool of 156 job seekers is not shown in the survey results tables (see Tables 1 and 2, pages 7 and 8), R&P is collecting satisfaction data from this participant group in accordance with the procedures shown in Figure 2 (see page 4).

¹The average delay between actual program exit and the exit date reported for survey purposes for individuals in this group was 143 days. The current process of "exiting" WIA job seekers appears to be a manual one that must be initiated by local caseworkers. No apparent software methods are presently used to ameliorate the issue of lengthy data availability delays associated with soft exits.

Economic Growth Slows in 2002

by: Nancy Brennan, David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Brad Payne, Krista R. Shinkle, and Sherry Wen

Table 1: CPS Population, Labor Force, Establishment Jobs, Unemployed Individuals, and Annual UI Recipients, 1998-2001 and Projections for 2002

			Percent Change		Percent Change		Percent Change		Percent Change	
	1998	1999	1998-1999	2000	1999-2000	2001	2000-2001	2002 ⁽¹⁾	2001-2002	
CPS Population⁽²⁾	364,750	367,500	0.8%	371,250	1.0%	375,083	1.0%	378,854	1.0%	
Labor Force	256,386	261,713	2.1%	267,127	2.1%	271,263	1.5%	268,525	-1.0%	
Jobs Worked⁽³⁾	228,300	233,100	2.1%	239,400	2.7%	245,400	2.5%	247,100	0.7%	
Unemployed⁽⁴⁾	12,285	12,728	3.6%	10,381	-18.4%	10,666	2.7%	11,304	6.0%	
UI Recipients⁽⁵⁾	15,661	15,583	-0.5%	14,519	-6.8%	14,541	0.2%	17,694	21.7%	

⁽¹⁾ Projected.

⁽²⁾ The Current Population Survey (CPS) population is an estimate of all noninstitutional residents age 16 and over.

⁽³⁾ Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates by place of work.

⁽⁴⁾ Number of unemployed individuals (12-month average).

⁽⁵⁾ Total number of individuals who received Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits at any time during the calendar year.

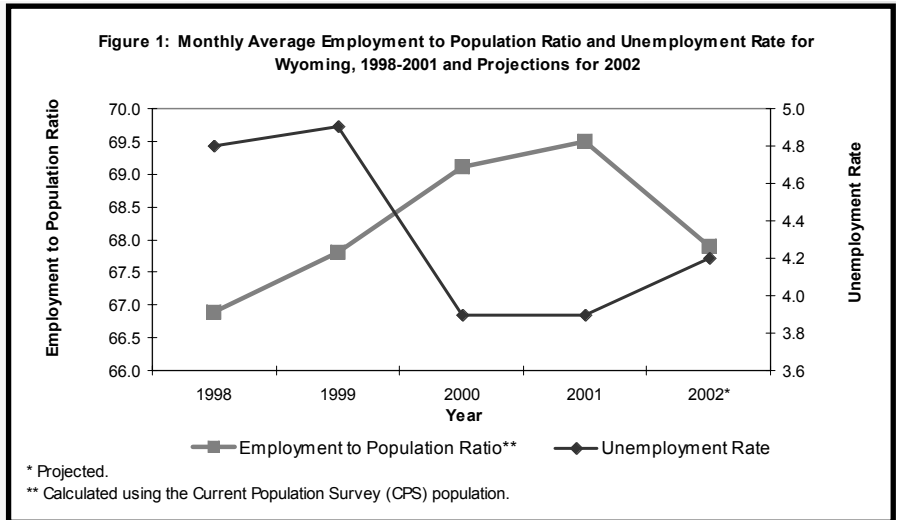
Table 1 contains annual average data for the Current Population Survey (CPS) population, labor force, establishment jobs, unemployed individuals, and annual Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients. The percentage changes for the period 2001 to 2002 indicate that job growth has slowed considerably and unemployment has increased in Wyoming. However, some slowing of Wyoming's economy is expected as the nation is in a recession and energy prices have fallen. Between 2001 and 2002, the labor force is estimated to decrease 1.0 percent. The number of jobs worked will only rise 0.7 percent, compared to 2.5 percent in 2001. The number of unemployed persons is estimated to increase by 6.0 percent and an increase in the number of UI recipients is expected at 21.7 percent.

Table 2: Wyoming Statewide Covered Employment and Total Wages, First and Second Quarters 2001 and 2002

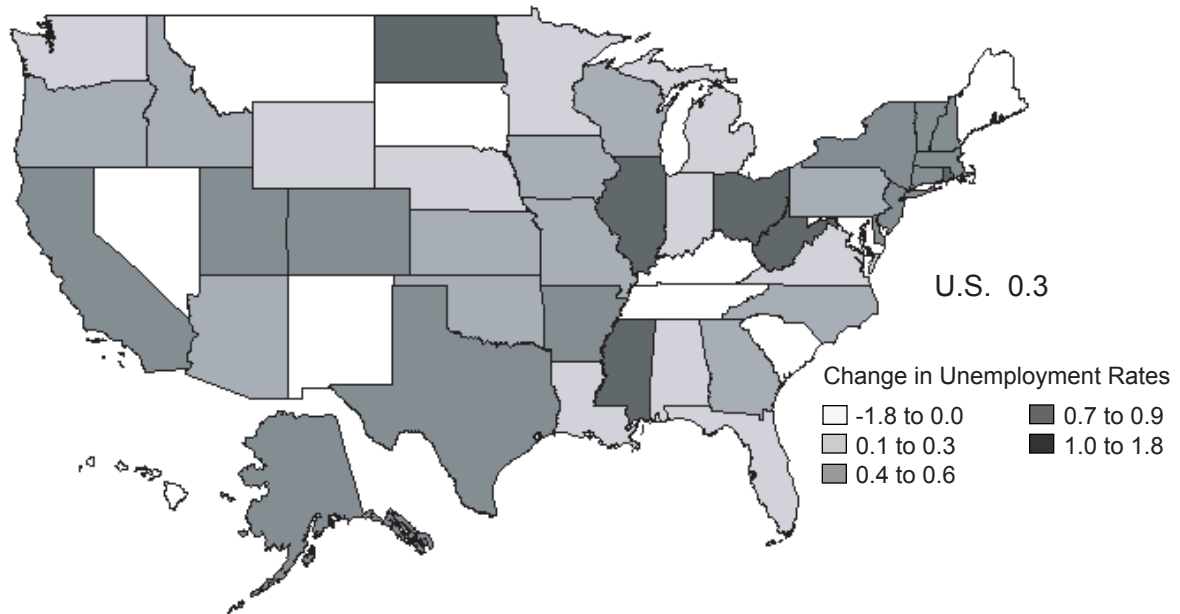
Average Monthly Employment					Total Wages				
First Quarter		Change			First Quarter		Change		
2001	2002	Number	Percent		2001	2002	Amount	Percent	
226,099	230,167	4,068	1.8		\$1,533,505,459	\$1,636,186,080	\$102,680,621	6.7	
Average Monthly Employment					Total Wages				
Second Quarter		Change			Second Quarter		Change		
2001	2002	Number	Percent		2001	2002	Amount	Percent	
239,822	242,023	2,201	0.9		\$1,643,190,461	\$1,720,614,849	\$77,424,388	4.7	

In first quarter 2002 Wyoming statewide covered employment grew by 4,068 jobs or 1.8 percent (see Table 2). However, by second quarter 2002, growth slipped to 0.9 percent. Total wages for first quarter increased 6.7 percent, while second quarter total wages showed a smaller increase of 4.7 percent over the year.

Figure 1 illustrates the shift in Wyoming's economic condition. Following strong economic growth in Wyoming for the period 1997 through 2001, Wyoming is now experiencing a slowdown. Wyoming's employment-to-population ratio decreased from 69.5 percent in 2001 to 67.9 percent in 2002. While this ratio decreased, the unemployment rate increased from 3.9 percent in 2001 to 4.2 percent in 2002.



Change in the Unemployment Rate by State
October 2001 to October 2002, Seasonally Adjusted



The map above identifies which states and regions have experienced the greatest over-the-year changes in unemployment from October 2001 to October 2002. The states with the darkest shading indicate the largest unemployment increases. As a whole, the U.S. experienced little change in seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (5.4% in 2001 and 5.7% in 2002) for a difference of only 0.3 percentage points. Both the largest over-the-year increase (West Virginia) and decrease (Nevada) equaled 1.8 percentage points. Wyoming experienced a slight over-the-year increase, from 3.8 percent in October 2001 to 3.9 percent in October 2002.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Third Quarter 2002

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

During third quarter 2002, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) employment decreased statewide by 551 jobs or 0.2 percent when compared to third quarter 2001. Employment declined between third quarters 2001 and 2002, although employment grew 1.5 percent between third quarters 2000 and 2001. Similarly, the labor force decreased by 1,284 or 0.5 percent between third quarter 2001 and third quarter 2002 while unemployment decreased by 733 or 7.6 percent over the same time period. The 7.6 percent decrease in unemployment is in

stark contrast to the 5.4 percent increase in unemployment between third quarters 2000 and 2001. Consequently, the unemployment rate during third quarter 2002 was 3.2 percent while the unemployment rate during third quarter 2001 was 3.5 percent.

Within Wyoming, the Central, Southeast, and Southwest regions experienced negative employment growth while the two northern regions posted positive over-the-year employment growth. Of the regions showing growth, the Northwest region

Table: Change in Wyoming's Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rates by Region and County, Third Quarter 2002

REGION/ County	Labor Force				Employment				Unemployment				Unemployment Rate		
	Third Quarter 2002	2001	Change Number	Percent	Third Quarter 2002	2001	Change Number	Percent	Third Quarter 2002	2001	Change Number	Percent	Third Quarter 2002	2001	Percent Change
NORTHWEST	48,659	48,622	37	0.1	46,755	46,458	297	0.6	1,904	2,165	-260	-12.0	3.9	4.5	-0.5
Big Horn	5,766	5,969	-204	-3.4	5,519	5,709	-190	-3.3	247	260	-14	-5.2	4.3	4.4	-0.1
Fremont	18,799	18,673	127	0.7	17,900	17,648	251	1.4	900	1,024	-125	-12.2	4.8	5.5	-0.7
Hot Springs	2,402	2,547	-144	-5.7	2,327	2,455	-128	-5.2	75	92	-16	-17.8	3.1	3.6	-0.5
Park	17,226	16,871	355	2.1	16,728	16,294	433	2.7	499	577	-78	-13.6	2.9	3.4	-0.5
Washakie	4,465	4,562	-97	-2.1	4,281	4,351	-70	-1.6	184	211	-27	-12.9	4.1	4.6	-0.5
NORTHEAST	47,489	47,416	73	0.2	46,197	46,042	155	0.3	1,292	1,374	-82	-6.0	2.7	2.9	-0.2
Campbell	23,008	22,967	41	0.2	22,321	22,314	7	0.0	687	653	34	5.2	3.0	2.8	0.1
Crook	2,981	3,116	-135	-4.3	2,912	3,032	-120	-4.0	69	84	-15	-17.5	2.3	2.7	-0.4
Johnson	4,198	4,033	165	4.1	4,122	3,955	168	4.2	76	78	-3	-3.4	1.8	1.9	-0.1
Sheridan	14,050	13,987	63	0.5	13,672	13,539	134	1.0	378	449	-71	-15.8	2.7	3.2	-0.5
Weston	3,251	3,313	-62	-1.9	3,169	3,203	-34	-1.1	82	110	-28	-25.2	2.5	3.3	-0.8
SOUTHWEST	56,200	56,690	-491	-0.9	54,273	54,650	-377	-0.7	1,927	2,040	-113	-5.6	3.4	3.6	-0.2
Lincoln	6,741	7,135	-394	-5.5	6,435	6,831	-396	-5.8	306	303	3	0.9	4.5	4.3	0.3
Sublette	3,729	3,642	88	2.4	3,652	3,575	76	2.1	78	66	11	17.1	2.1	1.8	0.3
Sweetwater	19,927	20,140	-213	-1.1	19,138	19,218	-80	-0.4	789	922	-133	-14.4	4.0	4.6	-0.6
Teton	14,571	14,562	8	0.1	14,354	14,370	-16	-0.1	217	193	24	12.6	1.5	1.3	0.2
Uinta	11,232	11,212	20	0.2	10,694	10,655	39	0.4	538	556	-19	-3.4	4.8	5.0	-0.2
SOUTHEAST	72,740	73,027	-288	-0.4	70,734	70,837	-103	-0.1	2,006	2,190	-184	-8.4	2.8	3.0	-0.2
Albany	18,668	18,381	286	1.6	18,384	18,027	358	2.0	283	355	-71	-20.1	1.5	1.9	-0.4
Goshen	6,208	6,306	-98	-1.6	6,018	6,106	-88	-1.4	190	201	-11	-5.3	3.1	3.2	-0.1
Laramie	42,211	42,455	-244	-0.6	40,875	41,003	-128	-0.3	1,336	1,452	-116	-8.0	3.2	3.4	-0.3
Niobrara	1,243	1,314	-70	-5.4	1,211	1,281	-70	-5.5	33	33	0	0.0	2.6	2.5	0.1
Platte	4,410	4,571	-161	-3.5	4,246	4,421	-175	-4.0	164	150	14	9.1	3.7	3.3	0.4
CENTRAL	49,516	50,131	-615	-1.2	47,730	48,253	-523	-1.1	1,786	1,878	-92	-4.9	3.6	3.7	-0.1
Carbon	8,259	8,504	-245	-2.9	8,022	8,197	-175	-2.1	236	306	-70	-22.9	2.9	3.6	-0.7
Converse	6,566	6,629	-63	-1.0	6,340	6,384	-44	-0.7	226	245	-19	-7.9	3.4	3.7	-0.3
Natrona	34,692	34,998	-306	-0.9	33,368	33,671	-304	-0.9	1,324	1,327	-3	-0.2	3.8	3.8	0.0
STATEWIDE	274,602	275,887	-1,284	-0.5	265,687	266,239	-551	-0.2	8,915	9,648	-733	-7.6	3.2	3.5	-0.3

recorded the highest rate of growth (0.6%) by adding 297 jobs. Employment growth in Fremont (251 jobs) and Park (433 jobs) counties offset employment losses in the remaining counties of the region.

The statewide decrease in unemployment was driven by the Northwest region where job losses decreased from third quarter 2001 to third quarter 2002 by 260 or 12.0 percent. Fremont County led the region with decreased unemployment of 125 or 12.2 percent. Fewer job losses were the result of large construction projects.

The most dramatic over-the-year decreases in the unemployment rates were found in Weston, Carbon, and Fremont counties. Weston County's over-the-year change in the unemployment rate was 0.8 percent (down from 3.3% in third quarter 2001 to 2.5% in third quarter 2002). Carbon County's unemployment rate decreased from 3.6 percent in third quarter 2001 to 2.9 percent in third quarter 2002 (a change of 0.7 percentage points). Fremont County's unemployment rate decreased from 5.5 percent to 4.8 percent (a change of 0.7 percentage points). In Weston and Carbon counties, decreases in the labor force, number employed, and the number of unemployed contributed to the decline in the unemployment rate. In Fremont County, an increase in both the number employed and the labor force, and a decrease in the number of unemployed contributed to the decrease in the unemployment rate.

Platte, Sublette, and Lincoln counties were among only seven counties in Wyoming showing an increase in the quarterly unemployment rates. The unemployment rate rose from 3.3 percent to 3.7 percent in Platte County (a difference of 0.4 percentage points), 1.8 to 2.1 percent in Sublette County (a difference of 0.3 percentage points), and 4.3 to 4.5 percent in Lincoln County (a difference of 0.2 percentage points). While the increases in the unemployment rates for Platte and Lincoln counties were driven by increases in unemployment with corresponding decreases in the labor force, Sublette County's unemployment rate increase was due to a 17.0 percent increase in unemployment and only 2.4 percent growth in the labor force.



State Unemployment Rates October 2002 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.0
Mississippi	6.6
Oregon	6.4
Washington	6.4
Alaska	6.3
California	6.2
District of Columbia	6.0
Illinois	6.0
Alabama	5.9
Arizona	5.9
North Carolina	5.9
Texas	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
New Mexico	5.6
New York	5.6
West Virginia	5.5
South Carolina	5.4
Florida	5.3
New Jersey	5.3
Ohio	5.3
United States	5.3
Michigan	5.1
Colorado	5.0
Massachusetts	5.0
Pennsylvania	5.0
Rhode Island	4.9
Kentucky	4.8
Utah	4.8
Georgia	4.7
Indiana	4.7
Idaho	4.6
Kansas	4.6
Missouri	4.5
Nevada	4.5
New Hampshire	4.4
Tennessee	4.3
Arkansas	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
Hawaii	4.0
Connecticut	3.8
Maryland	3.8
Montana	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Maine	3.7
Delaware	3.6
Minnesota	3.5
Vermont	3.4
Wyoming	3.4
Iowa	3.3
Nebraska	3.0
South Dakota	2.5
North Dakota	2.4

State Unemployment Rates October 2002 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Oregon	7.0
Alaska	6.8
Illinois	6.7
Mississippi	6.7
Washington	6.7
California	6.4
Texas	6.2
West Virginia	6.2
District of Columbia	6.0
North Carolina	6.0
Louisiana	5.8
New Mexico	5.8
Arizona	5.7
New York	5.7
United States	5.7
Alabama	5.6
Michigan	5.6
Ohio	5.6
Idaho	5.5
New Jersey	5.5
South Carolina	5.5
Pennsylvania	5.3
Colorado	5.2
Massachusetts	5.2
Rhode Island	5.2
Arkansas	5.1
Florida	5.1
Utah	5.1
Indiana	5.0
Kentucky	4.9
Missouri	4.9
Wisconsin	4.9
New Hampshire	4.8
Georgia	4.6
Kansas	4.6
Nevada	4.5
Tennessee	4.5
Montana	4.3
Connecticut	4.2
Maine	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Hawaii	4.0
Iowa	4.0
Delaware	3.9
Maryland	3.9
Minnesota	3.9
Vermont	3.9
Wyoming	3.9
Virginia	3.8
North Dakota	3.7
Nebraska	3.2
South Dakota	2.7

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged in October

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.9 percent in October 2002, but job growth continued to slow. In October, over-the-year job growth in Wyoming stood at 0.1 percent, a gain of 200 jobs. The U.S. continued to lose jobs (-0.4%), and U.S. unemployment increased slightly from 5.6 percent in September to 5.7 percent in October.

From September to October, Wyoming lost 2,400 jobs or 0.9 percent. This seasonal decrease is seen most years, as tourist-related activity falls. Retail Trade, including eating & drinking places, lost 1,100 jobs or 2.3 percent over the month, while Services, including hotels & other lodging places, lost 3,100 jobs or 5.1 percent. Local government gained 1,800 jobs or 4.5 percent as public schools and community colleges added workers.

In over-the-year comparisons, job growth slowed to 0.1 percent in October. Job losses in Mining (-500 jobs or -2.4%), Manufacturing (-500 jobs or -4.3%), and Retail Trade (-200 jobs or -0.4%), were offset by job gains in Construction (500 jobs or 2.6%), Wholesale Trade (400 jobs or 5.0%), and Services (500 jobs or 0.9%). Within Mining, gains in coal mining (200 jobs or 4.0%) were overshadowed by large job losses in oil & gas extraction (-600 jobs or -4.8%).

Unemployment rates in Wyoming counties were stable and low in October. Fremont County posted the highest unemployment rate (5.2%). It was followed by Lincoln (5.0%) and Uinta (4.9%) counties. Albany County recorded the lowest unemployment rate (1.5%). Most unemployment rates changed little from September to October. However, Teton County, which is heavily dependent on tourism, saw unemployment increase from 1.5 to 2.1 percent. Large decreases in unemployment occurred in Washakie County (down from 4.2% to 3.4%) and Big Horn County (down from 4.1% to 3.6%), where sugar manufacturing typically adds workers at this time of year.

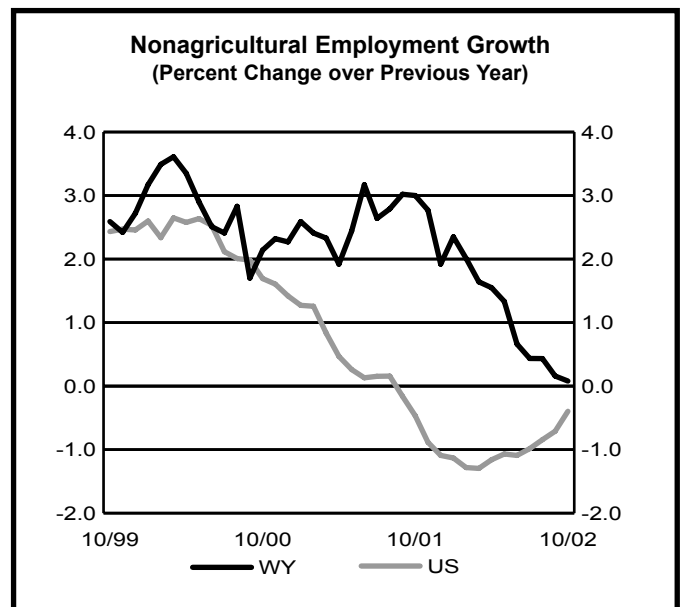


Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“In over-the-year comparisons, job growth slowed to 0.1 percent in October. Job losses in Mining and Manufacturing were offset by gains in Construction and Services.”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	OCT02(p)	SEP02(r)	OCT01	SEP 02	OCT 01		OCT02(p)	SEP02(r)	OCT01	SEP 02	OCT 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	250.5	252.9	250.3	-0.9	0.1	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.9	38.8	38.2	0.3	1.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	51.1	50.8	51.6	0.6	-1.0	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.5
Mining	20.1	20.1	20.6	0.0	-2.4	Mining & Construction	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	4.2
Coal Mining	5.2	5.3	5.0	-1.9	4.0	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	12.0	12.1	12.6	-0.8	-4.8	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	34.8	34.8	34.2	0.0	1.8
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-5.7	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	8.7	8.8	9.1	-1.1	-4.4	Trade	9.3	9.3	8.9	0.0	4.5
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-3.7	Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Construction	20.0	20.1	19.5	-0.5	2.6	Retail Trade	8.4	8.4	8.0	0.0	5.0
General Building Contractors	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Heavy Construction	6.3	6.4	6.4	-1.6	-1.6	Services	8.4	8.4	8.3	0.0	1.2
Special Trade Construction	9.4	9.5	8.8	-1.1	6.8	Total Government	12.3	12.3	12.3	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	11.0	10.6	11.5	3.8	-4.3	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	-2.0	State Government	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	5.6
Nondurable Goods	6.0	5.6	6.4	7.1	-6.3	Local Government	6.0	6.0	6.2	0.0	-3.2
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	NATRONA COUNTY*					
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	199.4	202.1	198.7	-1.3	0.4	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.8	33.0	33.5	2.4	0.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.0	14.1	14.1	-0.7	-0.7	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	6.0	6.0	6.2	0.0	-3.2
Transportation	9.2	9.3	9.3	-1.1	-1.1	Mining	2.0	2.0	2.4	0.0	-16.7
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.9	3.0	-3.4	-6.7	Construction	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Trucking & Warehousing	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	27.8	27.0	27.3	3.0	1.8
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	Communications & Public Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Trade	55.4	56.4	55.2	-1.8	0.4	Trade	8.8	8.8	8.7	0.0	1.1
Wholesale Trade	8.4	8.3	8.0	1.2	5.0	Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Durable Goods	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	2.1	Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.2	0.0	9.4	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Retail Trade	47.0	48.1	47.2	-2.3	-0.4	Services	10.2	10.1	10.1	1.0	1.0
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0	9.5	Personal & Business Services	2.3	2.2	2.2	4.5	4.5
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.7	5.5	-3.5	0.0	Health Services	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Department Stores	4.6	4.5	4.6	2.2	0.0	Government	5.9	5.2	5.7	13.5	3.5
Food Stores	5.0	5.1	5.2	-2.0	-3.8	Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.2	8.2	8.3	0.0	-1.2	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Gas Stations	4.2	4.2	4.4	0.0	-4.5	Local Government	4.5	3.8	4.3	18.4	4.7
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.3	1.3	-7.7	-7.7	Local Education	3.2	2.4	3.0	33.3	6.7
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9						
Eating & Drinking Places	17.4	18.0	17.3	-3.3	0.6						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.8	5.9	5.8	-1.7	0.0						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.3	8.4	8.4	-1.2	-1.2						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0						
Depository Institutions	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0						
Insurance	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	11.1						
Services	57.8	60.9	57.3	-5.1	0.9						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8.7	11.1	8.3	-21.6	4.8						
Personal Services	2.1	2.1	1.9	0.0	10.5						
Business Services	8.5	8.7	8.6	-2.3	-1.2						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-5.7						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.1	3.5	3.4	-11.4	-8.8						
Health Services	11.8	11.7	11.7	0.9	0.9						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4						
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0						
Social Services	7.0	6.9	6.7	1.4	4.5						
Membership Organizations	3.6	3.7	3.7	-2.7	-2.7						
Engineering & Management	4.5	4.6	4.4	-2.2	2.3						
Government	63.9	62.3	63.7	2.6	0.3						
Total Federal Government	7.5	8.3	7.6	-9.6	-1.3						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	14.7	14.1	14.3	4.3	2.8						
State Education	5.7	5.0	5.6	14.0	1.8						
Total Local Government	41.7	39.9	41.8	4.5	-0.2						
Local Hospitals	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0						
Local Education	23.2	21.1	23.4	10.0	-0.9						



¹Current 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.

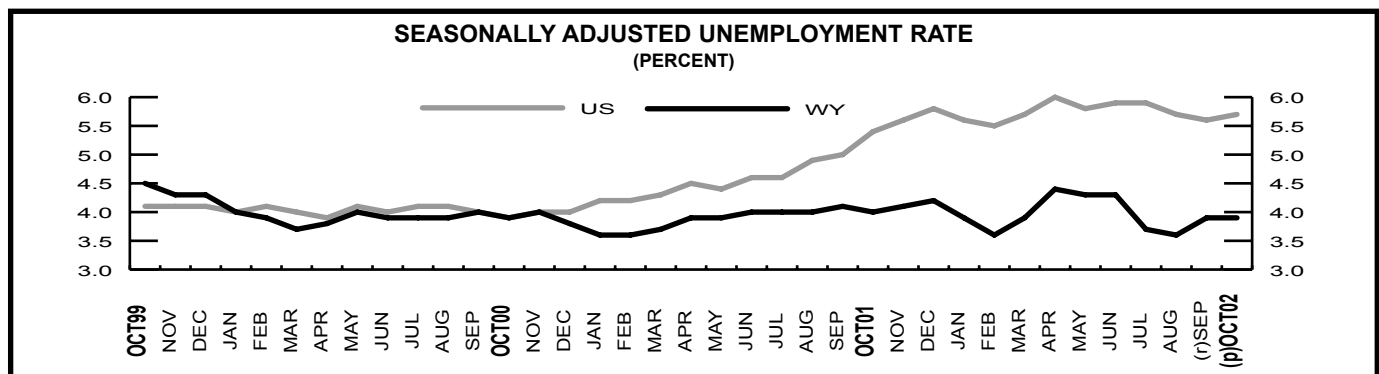
Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“The number of residential building permits issued in October 2002 was up 18.8 percent from October 2001.”

	Oct 2002 (p)	Sep 2002 (r)	Oct 2001 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	272,697	271,743	273,606	0.4	-0.3
Unemployed	9,232	9,042	9,424	2.1	-2.0
Employed	263,465	262,701	264,182	0.3	-0.3
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.4%/3.9%	3.3%/3.9%	3.4%/4.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.3%/5.7%	5.4%/5.6%	5.0%/5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,236,000	7,232,000	7,112,000	0.1	1.7
As a percent of all workers	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	355,000	387,000	330,000	-8.3	7.6
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,891,000	3,854,000	3,954,000	1.0	-1.6
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$895.64	\$932.97	\$880.99	-4.0	1.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.6	41.3	41.4	-1.7	-1.9
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$752.80	\$764.21	\$772.59	-1.5	-2.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	43.2	43.6	-1.2	-2.1
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$629.88	\$650.37	\$631.79	-3.2	-0.3
Average Weekly Hours	36.9	38.1	37.9	-3.1	-2.6
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$630.27	\$636.85	\$607.78	-1.0	3.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	41.3	40.6	-1.0	0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	12,044	8,659	6,900	39.1	74.6
Benefits Paid	\$2,756,230	\$2,001,181	\$1,471,224	37.7	87.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$228.85	\$231.11	\$213.22	-1.0	7.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	226,143	230,255	222,473	-1.8	1.6
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	181.3	181.0	177.7	0.2	2.0
Food & Beverages	177.1	176.9	175.3	0.1	1.0
Housing	181.4	181.5	176.7	-0.1	2.7
Apparel	126.8	124.6	129.5	1.8	-2.1
Transportation	154.9	154.0	152.3	0.6	1.7
Medical Care	289.2	287.7	275.9	0.5	4.8
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	106.4	106.2	105.3	0.2	1.0
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	109.4	109.5	107.1	-0.1	2.1
Other Goods & Services	295.4	297.0	285.6	-0.5	3.4
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	133.1	132.0	130.3	0.8	2.1
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	202	245	170	-17.6	18.8
Valuation	\$27,332,000	\$28,099,000	\$19,065,000	-2.7	43.4

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

“Most unemployment rates changed little from September to October 2002. However, Teton County, which is heavily dependent on tourism, saw a moderate increase.”

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2002 (p)	Sep 2002 (r)	Oct 2001 (b)	Oct 2002 (p)	Sep 2002 (r)	Oct 2001 (b)	Oct 2002 (p)	Sep 2002 (r)	Oct 2001 (b)	Oct 2002 (p)	Sep 2002 (r)	Oct 2001 (b)
NORTHWEST	47,181	48,099	47,248	45,259	46,144	45,336	1,922	1,955	1,912	4.1	4.1	4.0
Big Horn	5,920	5,873	6,085	5,705	5,631	5,852	215	242	233	3.6	4.1	3.8
Fremont	18,965	19,075	18,815	17,987	18,130	17,922	978	945	893	5.2	5.0	4.7
Hot Springs	2,399	2,391	2,493	2,326	2,310	2,408	73	81	85	3.0	3.4	3.4
Park	15,308	16,330	15,190	14,807	15,829	14,634	501	501	556	3.3	3.1	3.7
Washakie	4,589	4,430	4,665	4,434	4,244	4,520	155	186	145	3.4	4.2	3.1
NORTHEAST	48,384	46,739	47,509	46,959	45,420	46,046	1,425	1,319	1,463	2.9	2.8	3.1
Campbell	23,825	22,446	23,069	23,086	21,760	22,428	739	686	641	3.1	3.1	2.8
Crook	2,930	2,976	3,064	2,857	2,901	2,974	73	75	90	2.5	2.5	2.9
Johnson	4,087	4,101	3,963	4,005	4,017	3,845	82	84	118	2.0	2.0	3.0
Sheridan	14,247	13,923	14,026	13,811	13,537	13,541	436	386	485	3.1	2.8	3.5
Weston	3,295	3,293	3,387	3,200	3,205	3,258	95	88	129	2.9	2.7	3.8
SOUTHWEST	52,969	55,520	54,217	51,024	53,625	52,054	1,945	1,895	2,163	3.7	3.4	4.0
Lincoln	6,632	6,863	7,122	6,299	6,516	6,763	333	347	359	5.0	5.1	5.0
Sublette	3,576	3,662	3,513	3,503	3,576	3,444	73	86	69	2.0	2.3	2.0
Sweetwater	19,921	20,180	20,348	19,171	19,453	19,485	750	727	863	3.8	3.6	4.2
Teton	11,758	13,532	12,030	11,513	13,324	11,742	245	208	288	2.1	1.5	2.4
Uinta	11,082	11,283	11,204	10,538	10,756	10,620	544	527	584	4.9	4.7	5.2
SOUTHEAST	74,222	72,433	73,988	72,182	70,390	71,921	2,040	2,043	2,067	2.7	2.8	2.8
Albany	20,136	19,178	19,650	19,840	18,899	19,321	296	279	329	1.5	1.5	1.7
Goshen	6,527	6,145	6,680	6,366	5,971	6,507	161	174	173	2.5	2.8	2.6
Laramie	41,949	41,415	41,808	40,561	40,024	40,394	1,388	1,391	1,414	3.3	3.4	3.4
Niobrara	1,252	1,229	1,290	1,222	1,197	1,268	30	32	22	2.4	2.6	1.7
Platte	4,358	4,466	4,560	4,193	4,299	4,431	165	167	129	3.8	3.7	2.8
CENTRAL	49,945	48,952	50,643	48,043	47,122	48,824	1,902	1,830	1,819	3.8	3.7	3.6
Carbon	8,140	8,173	8,395	7,880	7,948	8,039	260	225	356	3.2	2.8	4.2
Converse	6,445	6,576	6,640	6,217	6,336	6,424	228	240	216	3.5	3.6	3.3
Natrona	35,360	34,203	35,608	33,946	32,838	34,361	1,414	1,365	1,247	4.0	4.0	3.5
STATEWIDE	272,697	271,743	273,606	263,465	262,701	264,182	9,232	9,042	9,424	3.4	3.3	3.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.9	3.9	4.0
U.S.....										5.3	5.4	5.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.7	5.6	5.4

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/02. Run Date 11/02.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

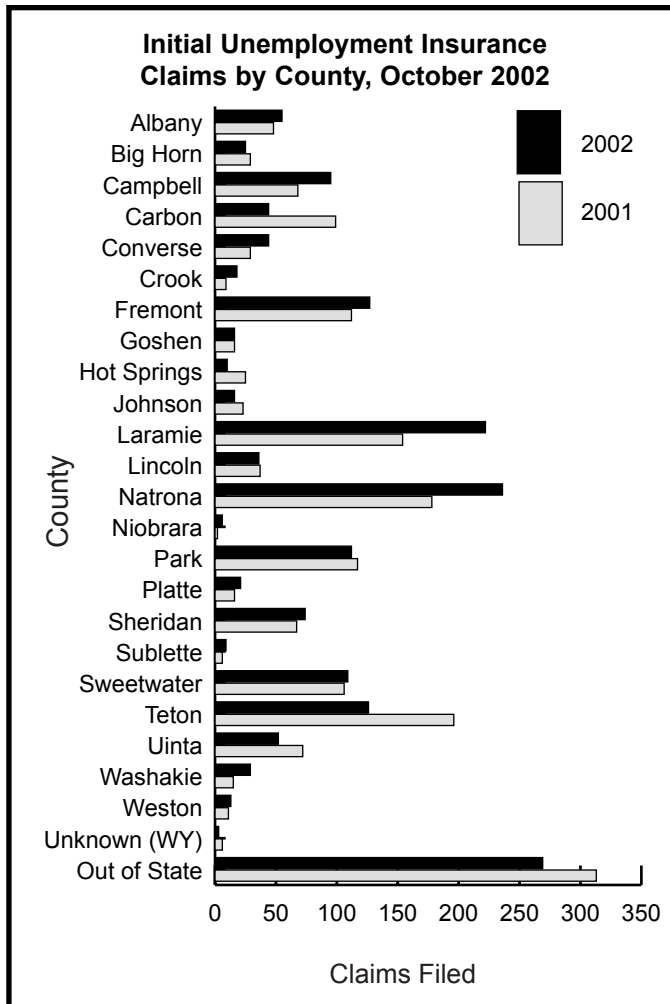
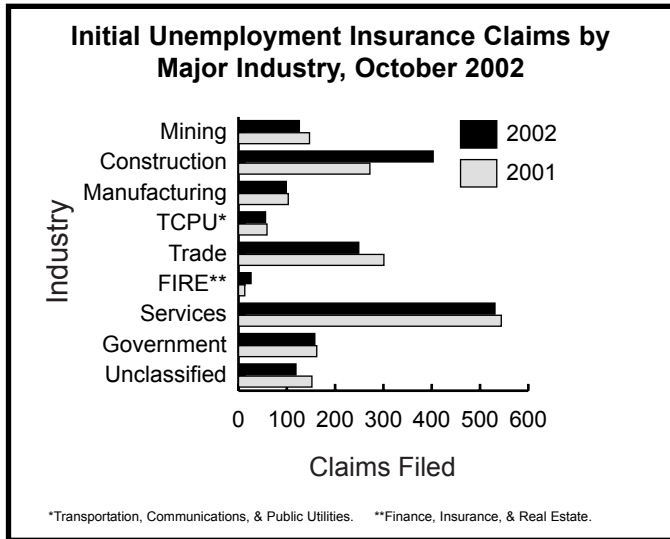
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2001 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.

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: Douglas W. Leonard, Economist

“October initial claims increased 0.8 percent compared to October 2001. This was the smallest over-the-year increase since August 2001.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Oct 02	Sep 02	Oct 01	Sep 02	Oct 02
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,767	1,098	1,753	60.9	0.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	628	366	522	71.6	20.3
Mining	126	114	147	10.5	-14.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	104	97	138	7.2	-24.6
Construction	403	191	272	111.0	48.2
Manufacturing	99	61	103	62.3	-3.9
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,020	661	1,079	54.3	-5.5
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	56	59	59	-5.1	-5.1
Transportation	46	49	49	-6.1	-6.1
Communications & Public Utilities	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Trade	249	210	301	18.6	-17.3
Wholesale Trade	36	29	39	24.1	-7.7
Retail Trade	213	181	262	17.7	-18.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	26	26	13	0.0	100.0
Services	531	257	544	106.6	-2.4
Personal & Business Services	133	94	103	41.5	29.1
Health Services	36	31	38	16.1	-5.3
Government	158	109	162	45.0	-2.5
Local Government	61	49	59	24.5	3.4
Local Education	14	23	9	-39.1	55.6
UNCLASSIFIED	119	71	152	67.6	-21.7

LARAMIE COUNTY					
LARAMIE COUNTY	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Oct 02	Sep 02	Oct 01	Sep 02	Oct 02
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	225	156	154	44.2	46.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	84	22	28	281.8	200.0
Mining	1	0	1	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	73	13	23	461.5	217.4
Manufacturing	10	9	4	11.1	150.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	127	128	116	-0.8	9.5
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	13	17	13	-23.5	0.0
Transportation	9	16	10	-43.8	-10.0
Communications & Public Utilities	4	1	3	300.0	33.3
Trade	32	39	38	-17.9	-15.8
Wholesale Trade	3	3	6	0.0	-50.0
Retail Trade	29	36	32	-19.4	-9.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	3	6	3	-50.0	0.0
Services	59	43	44	37.2	34.1
Personal & Business Services	29	15	14	93.3	107.1
Health Services	3	9	7	-66.7	-57.1
Government	20	23	18	-13.0	11.1
Local Government	5	8	5	-37.5	0.0
Local Education	1	5	2	-80.0	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	14	6	10	133.3	40.0

NATRONA COUNTY					
NATRONA COUNTY	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Oct 02	Sep 02	Oct 01	Sep 02	Oct 02
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	237	169	176	40.2	34.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	104	66	68	57.6	52.9
Mining	19	21	24	-9.5	-20.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	15	18	24	-16.7	-37.5
Construction	74	36	37	105.6	100.0
Manufacturing	11	9	7	22.2	57.1
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	118	95	98	24.2	20.4
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	3	3	6	0.0	-50.0
Transportation	3	1	6	200.0	-50.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0	2	0	0.0	0.0
Trade	37	32	34	15.6	8.8
Wholesale Trade	10	11	11	-9.1	-9.1
Retail Trade	27	21	23	28.6	17.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4	5	3	-20.0	33.3
Services	59	52	45	13.5	31.1
Personal & Business Services	25	14	16	78.6	56.3
Health Services	7	8	8	-12.5	-12.5
Government	15	3	10	400.0	50.0
Local Government	11	3	7	266.7	57.1
Local Education	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	15	8	10	87.5	50.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Douglas W. Leonard, Economist

“Statewide continued claims were 42.4 percent higher than in October 2001. Oil & gas and Construction accounted for a large portion of the difference.”

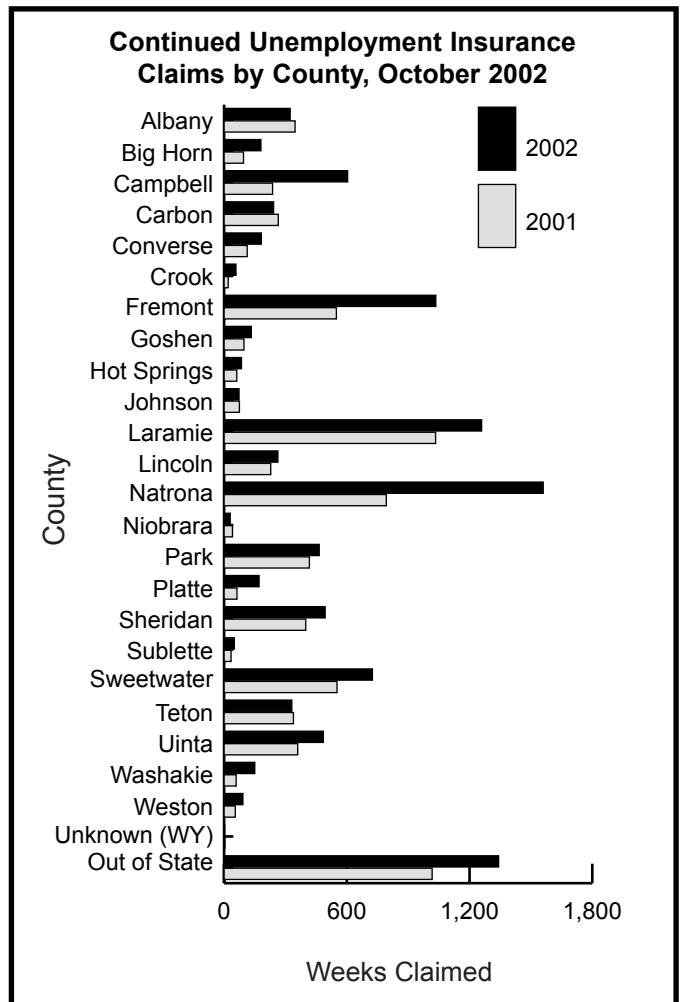
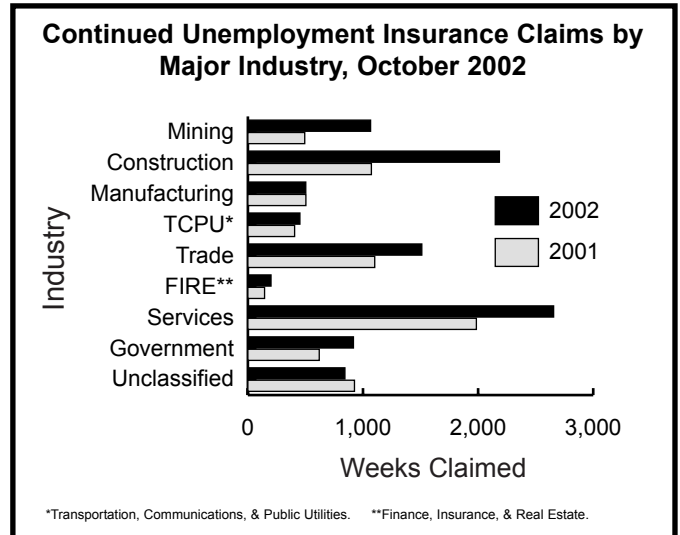
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	Oct 02	Sep 02	Oct 01	Sep 02 Oct 02	Oct 01 Oct 02
	TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	10,334	9,300	7,255	11.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	3,034	3,035	2,168	0.0	39.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3,754	3,474	2,071	8.1	81.3
Mining	1,066	968	494	10.1	115.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	916	844	365	8.5	151.0
Construction	2,185	2,028	1,073	7.7	103.6
Manufacturing	503	478	504	5.2	-0.2
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	5,737	4,969	4,258	15.5	34.7
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	452	389	406	16.2	11.3
Transportation	332	260	290	27.7	14.5
Communications & Public Utilities	120	129	116	-7.0	3.4
Trade	1,511	1,374	1,102	10.0	37.1
Wholesale Trade	307	267	175	15.0	75.4
Retail Trade	1,204	1,107	927	8.8	29.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	201	170	145	18.2	38.6
Services	2,656	2,275	1,985	16.7	33.8
Personal & Business Services	779	661	562	17.9	38.6
Health Services	294	329	198	-10.6	48.5
Government	917	761	620	20.5	47.9
Local Government	449	446	281	0.7	59.8
Local Education	208	217	88	-4.1	136.4
UNCLASSIFIED	843	857	926	-1.6	-9.0

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,259	1,099	1,034	14.6	21.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	349	363	287	-3.9	21.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	252	222	185	13.5	36.2
Mining	3	13	1	-76.9	200.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	3	10	0	-70.0	0.0
Construction	188	170	110	10.6	70.9
Manufacturing	61	39	74	56.4	-17.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	928	800	758	16.0	22.4
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	135	103	133	31.1	1.5
Transportation	74	34	97	117.6	-23.7
Communications & Public Utilities	61	69	36	-11.6	69.4
Trade	206	194	163	6.2	26.4
Wholesale Trade	28	29	36	-3.4	-22.2
Retail Trade	178	165	127	7.9	40.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	29	29	42	0.0	-31.0
Services	393	352	321	11.6	22.4
Personal & Business Services	142	126	133	12.7	6.8
Health Services	73	68	47	7.4	55.3
Government	165	122	99	35.2	66.7
Local Government	48	28	20	71.4	140.0
Local Education	29	17	3	70.6	866.7
UNCLASSIFIED	79	77	91	2.6	-13.2

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,560	1,475	793	5.8	96.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	440	462	246	-4.8	78.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	654	516	260	26.7	151.5
Mining	225	190	68	18.4	230.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	193	171	68	12.9	183.8
Construction	359	260	143	38.1	151.0
Manufacturing	70	66	49	6.1	42.9
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	855	914	467	-6.5	83.1
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	41	44	37	-6.8	10.8
Transportation	27	27	23	0.0	17.4
Communications & Public Utilities	14	17	14	-17.6	0.0
Trade	290	301	144	-3.7	101.4
Wholesale Trade	100	81	42	23.5	138.1
Retail Trade	190	220	102	-13.6	86.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	50	36	17	38.9	194.1
Services	419	479	212	-12.5	97.6
Personal & Business Services	111	103	72	7.8	54.2
Health Services	61	79	39	-22.8	56.4
Government	55	54	57	1.9	-3.5
Local Government	28	30	37	-6.7	-24.3
Local Education	14	17	18	-17.6	-22.2
UNCLASSIFIED	51	45	66	13.3	-22.7



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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. G-12
Cheyenne, WY